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LINDSEY ARCHAEOLOGICAL SERVICES

**Bank Farm, Marsh Lane,
Tattershall Thorpe, Lincs.**

Archaeological Evaluation

Site Code: TTBF02

LCNCC Museum Accession No: 2002.497

NGR: TF 1905 5850

Planning Application: S/176/1751/02

Report

for

Mr & Mrs Morrell

by

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LAS Report No. 632
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Summary

Evaluation at Bank Farm, Tattershall Thorpe failed to identify any archaeological activity within the application site. The only thing of note was a layer of water washed sand from previous flooding of the site.

Introduction

Lindsey Archaeological Services was commissioned by T. J. Morrell & Sons in accordance with the requirements of the Archaeological Section Of Lincolnshire County Council in the brief dated August 2002, to undertake an archaeological evaluation at the above site. The work was carried out in accordance with the guidance from *Archaeology and Planning* (PPG16), Department of the Environment, 1990; *Management of Archaeological Projects*, English Heritage (1991); *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluations*, Institute for Field Archaeologists (1993, revised 1999). Fieldwork took place December 3rd to December 4th 2002.

Site Location and Description

Tattershall is located in the Witham valley on the west side of its confluence with the River Bain c. north-west of Boston. It is proposed to build a fishing lake close to the banks of the river, just north of Bank Farm. The proposed development site comprises a parcel of land c.5ha in extent, bounded on its south side by modern housing, to the west by the River Witham and to the east by open fields. The proposed development site is currently under grass.

Planning Background

The archaeological evaluation was carried out prior to the determining of any planning application to be made to East Lindsey District Council.

Archaeological Background

The river Witham runs through the centre of the county and was an important trading route until the end of 19th century, connecting Lincoln and Boston. The land adjacent to the river was drained at various point though the Middle Ages up to the 19th century. Cropmark evidence from aerial photographs has revealed the remains of barrows (at TF 1963 57810, PRN No. 401714 and TF 1975 57780, PRN No. 82338) and enclosures (at TF 19500 58400, PRN no. 40448 and TF 19700 57820, PRN No. 40550) immediately east and south-east of the proposed development site. The barrows are probably Bronze Age in date and the enclosures and other cropmarks Iron Age or Roman.

Aims and Objectives

The purpose of the evaluation was to

- establish the presence or absence, quality and extent of archaeological remains and their location within the development area
- gather sufficient information to enable an assessment of the potential and significance of any archaeological remains to be made and the impact which development will have upon them
- enable an informed decision to be made regarding the future treatment of any archaeological remains and consider any appropriate mitigatory measures either in advance of and/or during development.

The Evaluation Trenches

Method

Two trenches, measuring 15m x 1.8m, were opened, using a toothless ditching bucket, to the top of the first recognisable archaeological horizon. Each trench was machine excavated, using a JCB excavator. All machine excavation was supervised by an experienced archaeologist.

The trenches were hand-cleaned to reveal features in plan and carefully selected cross-sections through the features were excavated to enable sufficient information about form, development date and stratigraphic relationships to be recorded without prejudice to more extensive investigations should these prove to be necessary.

A temporary bench mark was set up on the western most post marking the gas pipeline but could not be related to any known spot height or bench mark owing to the isolated position of the site.

Results

Trench 1

The topsoil, **1**, was up to 0.25m thick and dark grey/brown, very humic almost peaty in consistency. Burnt flint was noted throughout the topsoil but was not collected because it was unworked and therefore non-diagnostic. The subsoil, **2**, consisted of a light grey/brown sand very loose in consistency with iron staining throughout, up to 0.12m thick. This was interpreted as a layer of water washed sand from previous flooding of the site. One small anomaly, **4**, was noted in the middle of the trench which could have been a posthole. It was 0.33m in diameter and 0.22m deep but the edges were poorly defined there were no finds from this feature. The natural, **3**, consisted of an orange sandy gravel with angular flints throughout.

Trench 2

Trench 2 was very similar to Trench 1. The topsoil, **10**, and subsoil, **11**, were the same thickness as in the Trench 1, no finds were noted. The natural, **12**, was the same orange sandy gravel. No features

were noted.

Discussion

Both trenches had been positioned to locate evidence for occupation relating to the prehistoric and Roman landscape in the vicinity of the proposed development site. No evidence was found for the archaeology continuing into the proposed development site.

Conclusion

The evaluation established that the proposed development of the site into a fishing lake would have minimal impact on any archaeology.

Acknowledgements

The author and LAS would like to thank Mr and Mrs Morrell for their help and assistance. Dr Beryl Lott provided help at short notice regarding information held at the Lincolnshire Sites and Monuments Record. Fieldwork was carried out by Dave Marshall and Mick McDaid. The report was collated by Jane Frost.

Mick McDaid and Dave Marshall
Lindsey Archaeological Services
December 2002

References

Sites and Monuments Record PRNs (Primary Record Numbers)

Archive

Site plans and sections

Levels

Context register and sheets

Environmental register

Correspondence

Photographs. LAS Film Negative.No's: 02/132/1-18

Appendix 1

APPENDIX 1

Bank Farm, Tattershall Thorpe (TTBF 02)

Context Summary

Context	Type	Trench	Description	Length	Width	Depth	Date
1	Layer	1	Topsoil	15m +	1.80m+	0.25m	Modern
2	Layer	1	Subsoil	15m +	1.80m+	0.12m	Undated
3	Layer	1	Natural	15m +	1.80m+	n/a	
4	Cut	1	Posthole?	0.33m	0.33m	0.22m	
5	Fill	1	Fill of 4	0.33m	0.33m	0.22m	Undated
10	Layer	2	Topsoil	15m +	1.80m+	0.25m	Modern
11	Layer	2	Subsoil	15m +	1.80m+	0.12m	Undated
12	Layer	2	Natural	15m +	1.80m+	n/a	

The Figures

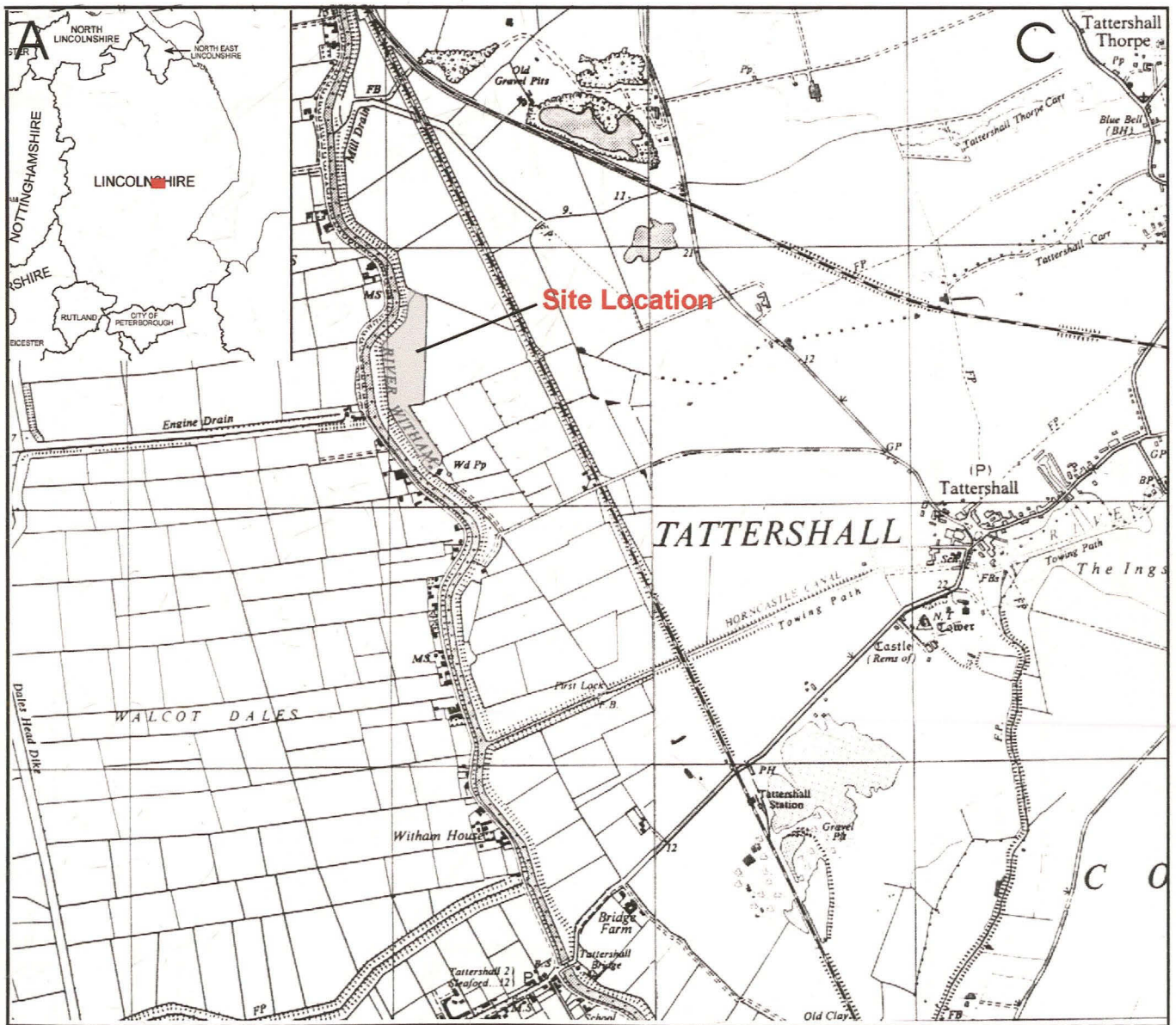


Fig.1 Location of Tattershall Thorpe (insert C based on the Ordnance Survey 1:25,000 maps TF15 and 25. Crown Copyright, reproduced with the permission of the Controller of HMSO Crown copyright. LAS Licence No. A1100002165)

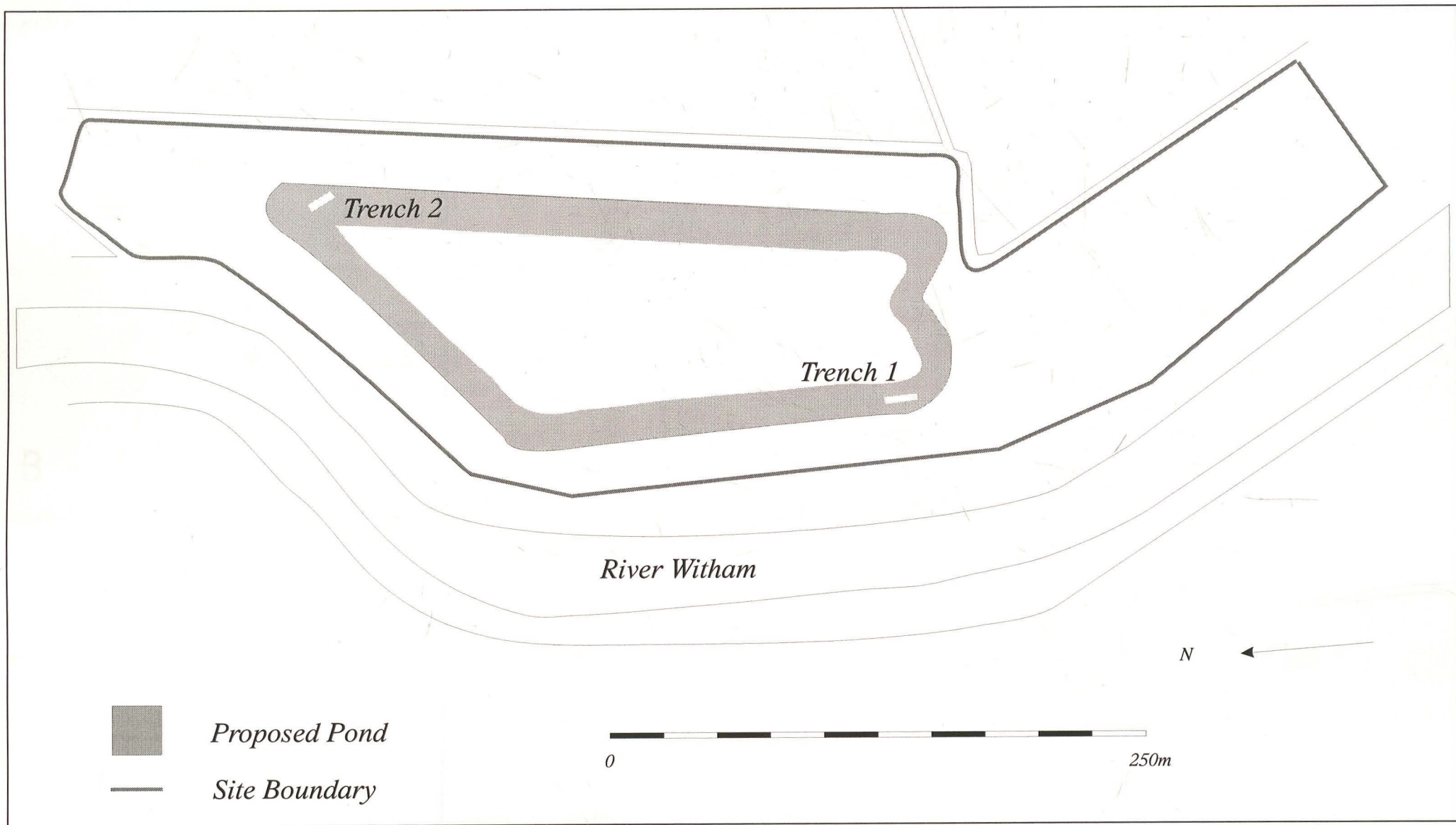
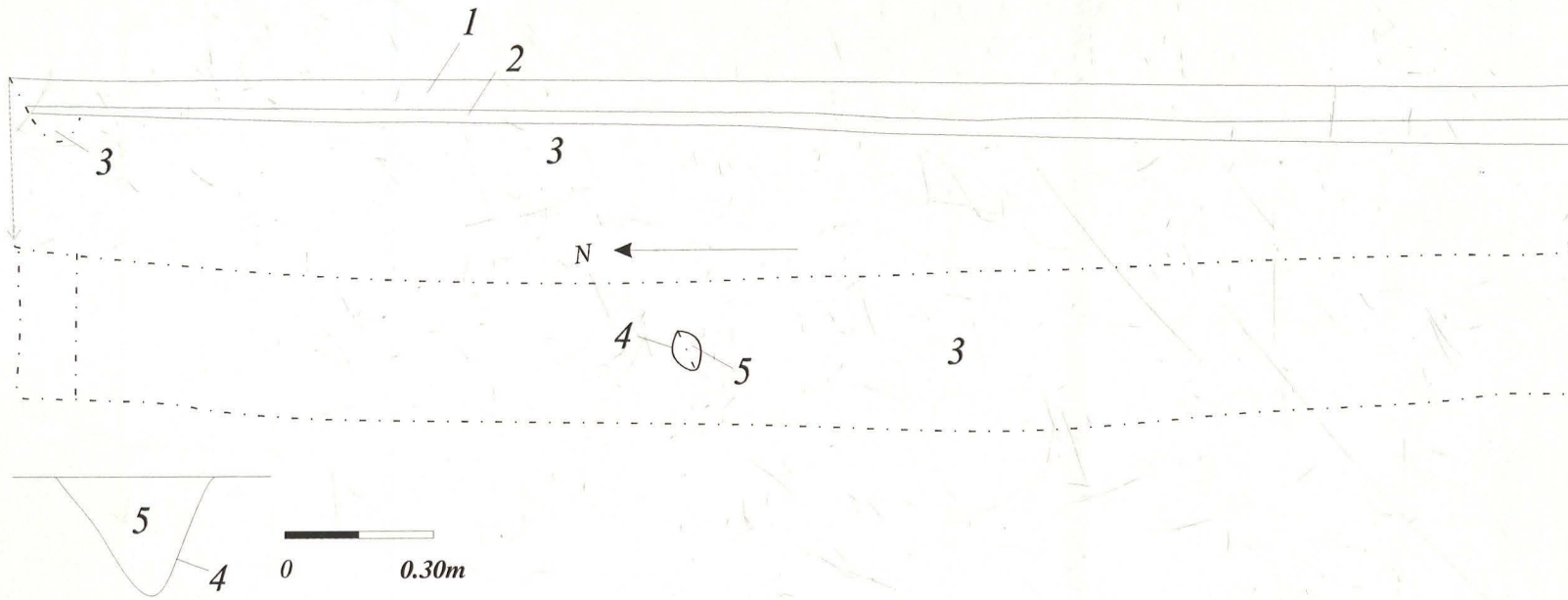


Fig. 2. Site location and position of trenches.

A
Trench 1



B
Trench 2

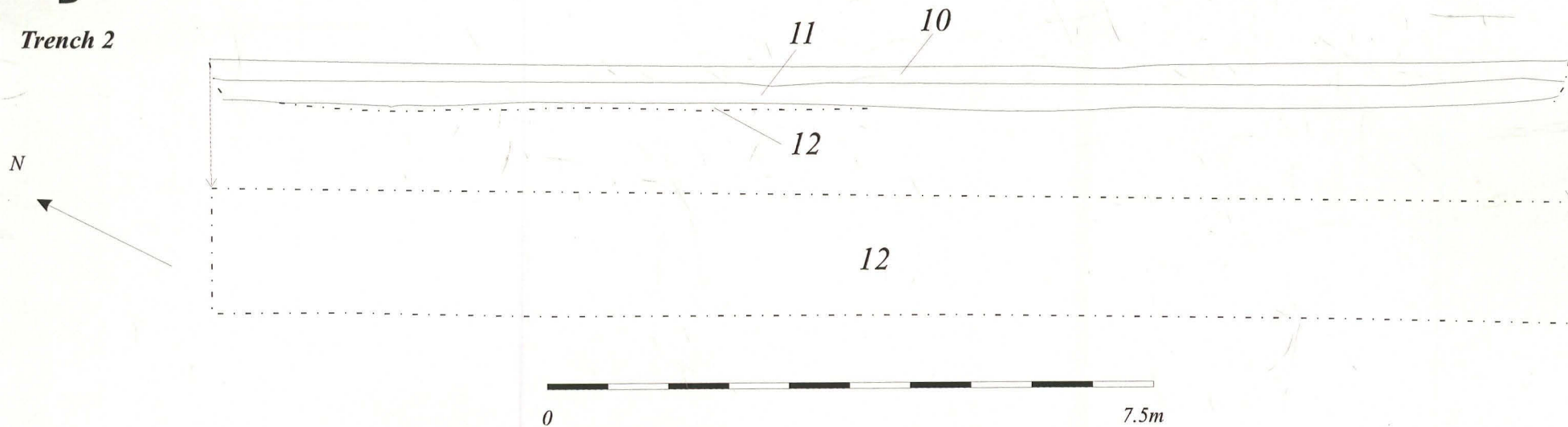


Fig. 3. A) Trench 1 plan and sections.
B) Trench 2 plan and section.

The Plates

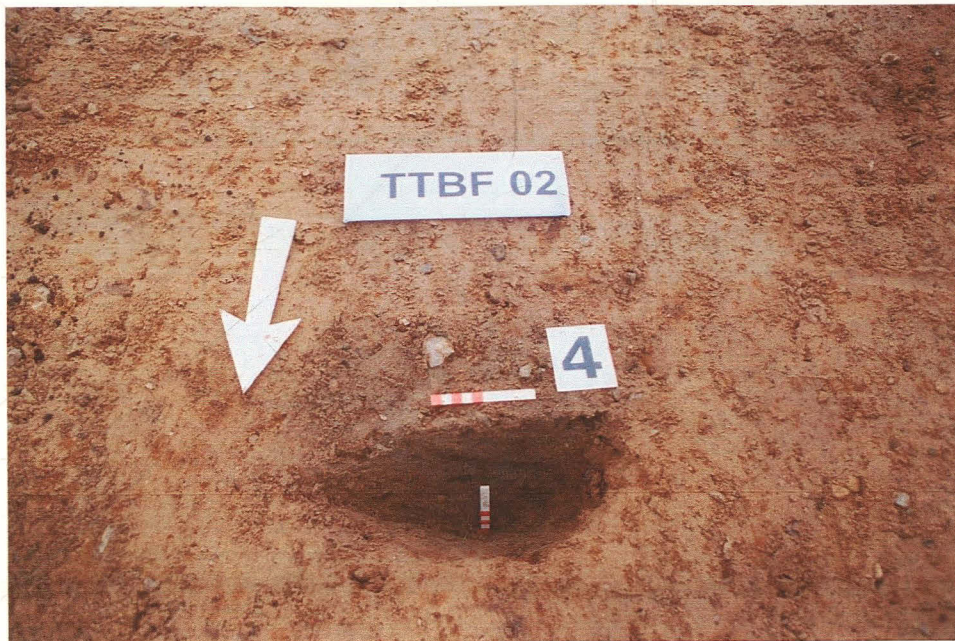
Plates



Pl. 1. The site at Tattershall Thorpe.



Pl. 2. Trench 1, looking north east. Scales 1m and 2m.



Pl. 3. Trench 1. Posthole 4, north facing section.



Pl. 4. Trench 2, looking south east. Scales 1m and 2m.