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**ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF
OF A SERVICE TRENCH AT
TATTERSHALL CASTLE,
TATTERSHALL,
LINCOLNSHIRE
(TCCT 06)**



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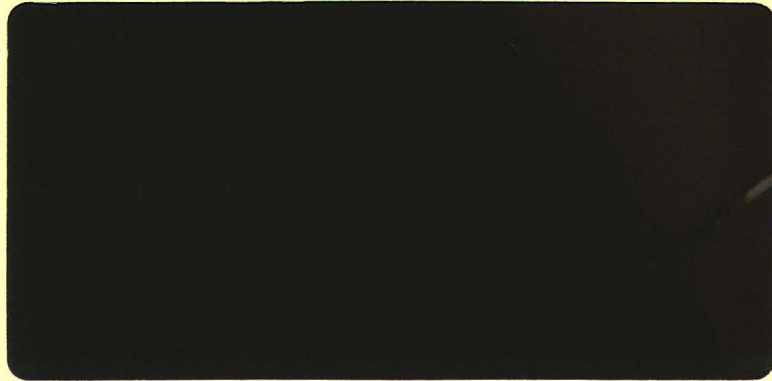
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**ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF
OF A SERVICE TRENCH AT
TATTERSHALL CASTLE,
TATTERSHALL,
LINCOLNSHIRE
(TCCT 06)**

**Work Undertaken For
The National Trust**

September 2006

Report Compiled by
Paul Cope-Faulkner BA (Hons) AIFA

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ARCHAEOLOGICAL PROJECT SERVICES



APS Report No. 135/06

Quality Control
Tattershall Castle,
Tattershall
TCCT 06

Project Coordinator	Denise Drury
Supervisor	Mary Nugent
Finds Processing	Denise Buckley
Illustration	Paul Cope-Faulkner
Photographic Reproduction	Sue Unsworth
Post-excavation Analyst	Paul Cope-Faulkner

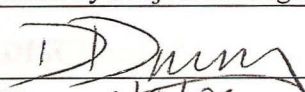
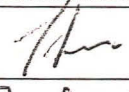
Checked by Project Manager	Approved by Senior Archaeologist
 Denise Drury	 Tom Lane
Date: 6/9/06	Date: 7-9-06

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1. SUMMARY

A watching brief was undertaken during groundworks at Tattershall Castle, Tattershall, Lincolnshire. The watching brief monitored the excavation of a new cable trench through the outer moat.

Tattershall Castle is of the medieval period (AD 1066-1540) with the earliest portions dating to 1231 and the brick tower keep of mid 15th century construction. To the east lies Holy Trinity church, also of mid 15th century date, and part of a former college, of which a single building remains close to the Market Place. Neolithic (4000-2200 BC) stone and flint tools have also been found in the vicinity.

The watching brief revealed the silt infill of the outer moat and sand and gravel, perhaps redeposited natural to raise the ground level. Pottery of medieval to early post-medieval date was retrieved during the investigation.

2. INTRODUCTION

2.1 Definition of a Watching Brief

An archaeological watching brief is defined as "a formal programme of observation and investigation conducted during any operation carried out for non-archaeological reasons. This will be within a specified area or site on land, inter-tidal zone or underwater, where there is a possibility that archaeological deposits maybe disturbed or destroyed." (IFA 1999).

2.2 Planning Background

Archaeological Project Services was commissioned by The National Trust to undertake an archaeological watching brief during groundworks associated with a new cable trench at Tattershall Castle, Tattershall, Lincolnshire. The watching

brief was carried out on the 11th August 2006 in accordance with a specification prepared by The National Trust Regional Office (Appendix 1).

2.3 Topography and Geology

Tattershall is located 27km southeast of Lincoln and 18km northwest of Boston in the administrative district of East Lindsey, Lincolnshire (Fig. 1).

Tattershall Castle is located south of the village, adjacent to the Collegiate Church of Holy Trinity at National Grid Reference TF 0211 5753 (Fig. 2). The cable trench is located adjacent to the northeast bridge to the Middle Ward. The castle is situated at a height of 6-7m OD on generally level ground close to the confluence of the Rivers Bain and Witham.

Local soils are of the Blackwood Association, typically sand and coarse loamy soils (Hodge *et al.* 1984, 127). These soils are developed upon a drift geology of Lower River Terrace sands and gravels which in turn seal a solid geology of Jurassic Kimmeridge or Ampthill Clay formations (BGS 1995).

2.4 Archaeological Setting

Tattershall is located in an area of known archaeological remains dating from the Neolithic to the present day. This early prehistoric activity takes the form of occasional finds of flint and stone axes.

Tattershall is first mentioned in the Domesday Survey of c. 1086. Referred to as *Tatesala* the name is derived from the Old English and means 'the nook of land (*halh*) belonging to *Tāthere*' (Cameron 1998, 123). The Domesday Survey records little about Tattershall, though sokeland in Skirbeck was held by Eudo, son of Spirewic (Foster and Longley 1976). The subsequent Lindsey Survey of c. 1115 records that Eudo's son, Hugh, held the manor (*ibid.*). It is probable that land at

Tattershall was recorded under Tattershall Thorpe.

The first castle at Tattershall was built in stone by Robert de Tateshall in 1231 AD under licence from Henry III (Avery 2002, 5). It comprised a number of towers strengthening a polygonal curtain wall of which some remnants are still visible (Pevsner and Harris 1989, 745).

The brick built keep, the two moats and various other buildings were constructed by Ralph, Lord Cromwell, in 1434 and 1435.

During the 16th and 17th centuries, the castle was occupied by the Earls of Lincoln, but they abandoned it as a residence in 1693 and subsequently it gradually became ruinous.

Tattershall Castle is considered to be one the three most important surviving mid 15th century brick castles in England (Avery 2002, 21). The castle is a scheduled ancient monument.

A Charter was granted to Cromwell in 1439 to establish a college in Tattershall. All that survives is the Collegiate Church of the Holy Trinity that replaced the earlier church of SS. Peter and Paul (Parsons 1989, 2). The gatehouse to the college was excavated in 1967 and demonstrates that the college, which also had to provide shelter for poor people, was enclosed. The building known as 'Old College' south of the Market Place, was also part of the college but its location away from the main centre suggests that its role was as a grammar school. The college was dissolved in 1545, although the school continued in use for some time.

3. AIMS

The aim of the archaeological investigation was to ensure that any archaeological features exposed during the

groundworks should be recorded and, if present, to determine their date, function and origin.

4. METHODS

The cable trench was excavated by hand to depths of between 0.3m and 0.4m below the present ground level. The sides of the trench were then cleaned and rendered vertical. Selected deposits were excavated further to retrieve artefactual material and to determine their function. Each deposit was allocated a unique reference number (context number) with an individual written description. A list of all contexts and their descriptions appears as Appendix 2. A photographic record was compiled and sections were drawn at a scale of 1:10. Recording was undertaken according to standard Archaeological Project Services practice.

Following excavation finds were examined and a period date assigned where possible (Appendix 3). The records were also checked and a stratigraphic matrix produced. Phasing was assigned based on the nature of the deposits and recognisable relationships between them and supplemented by artefact dating.

5. RESULTS

Archaeological contexts are listed below and described. The numbers in brackets are the context numbers assigned in the field.

Located within the moat was a deposit of grey/black silt (001). This was in excess of 0.3m thick (Fig. 4, Section 1) and contained pottery of 15th - 17th century date.

To the west was a 0.4m thick (Fig. 4, Section 2) levelling deposit of greyish brown sandy silt with frequent gravel (002).

6. DISCUSSION

Two deposits were encountered during the watching brief. A dark silt deposit represents the fill contained within the outer moat and sandy silt with gravel, perhaps redeposited natural, for raising the ground level.

Finds retrieved during the investigation comprise locally produced pottery of between 15th and 17th century date.

7. CONCLUSION

An archaeological watching brief was undertaken at Tattershall Castle as the possibility existed of archaeological deposits associated with the castle might be disturbed.

However, a silt fill of the moat and redeposited natural sand and gravel were the only deposits encountered during the watching brief. Finds retrieved from the investigation include four sherds of locally produced pottery of 15th – 17th century date.

8. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Archaeological Project Services wishes to acknowledge the assistance of Jo Bell of the National Trust for commissioning the fieldwork and post-excavation analysis. The work was coordinated by Denise Drury who edited this report along with Tom Lane. Dave Start kindly allowed access to the parish files and library maintained by Heritage Lincolnshire.

9. PERSONNEL

Project Coordinator: Denise Drury
 Site Supervisor: Mary Nugent
 Finds processing: Denise Buckley
 Photographic reproduction: Sue Unsworth
 Illustration: Paul Cope-Faulkner

Post-excavation analysis: Paul Cope-Faulkner

10. BIBLIOGRAPHY

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IFA, 1999, *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Briefs*

Parsons, B., 1989, *The Collegiate Church, Tattershall*

Pevsner, N. and Harris, J., 1989, *Lincolnshire*, The Buildings of England (2nd edition, revised Antram, N.)

11. ABBREVIATIONS

APS Archaeological Project Services
 BGS British Geological Survey
 IFA Institute of Field Archaeologists

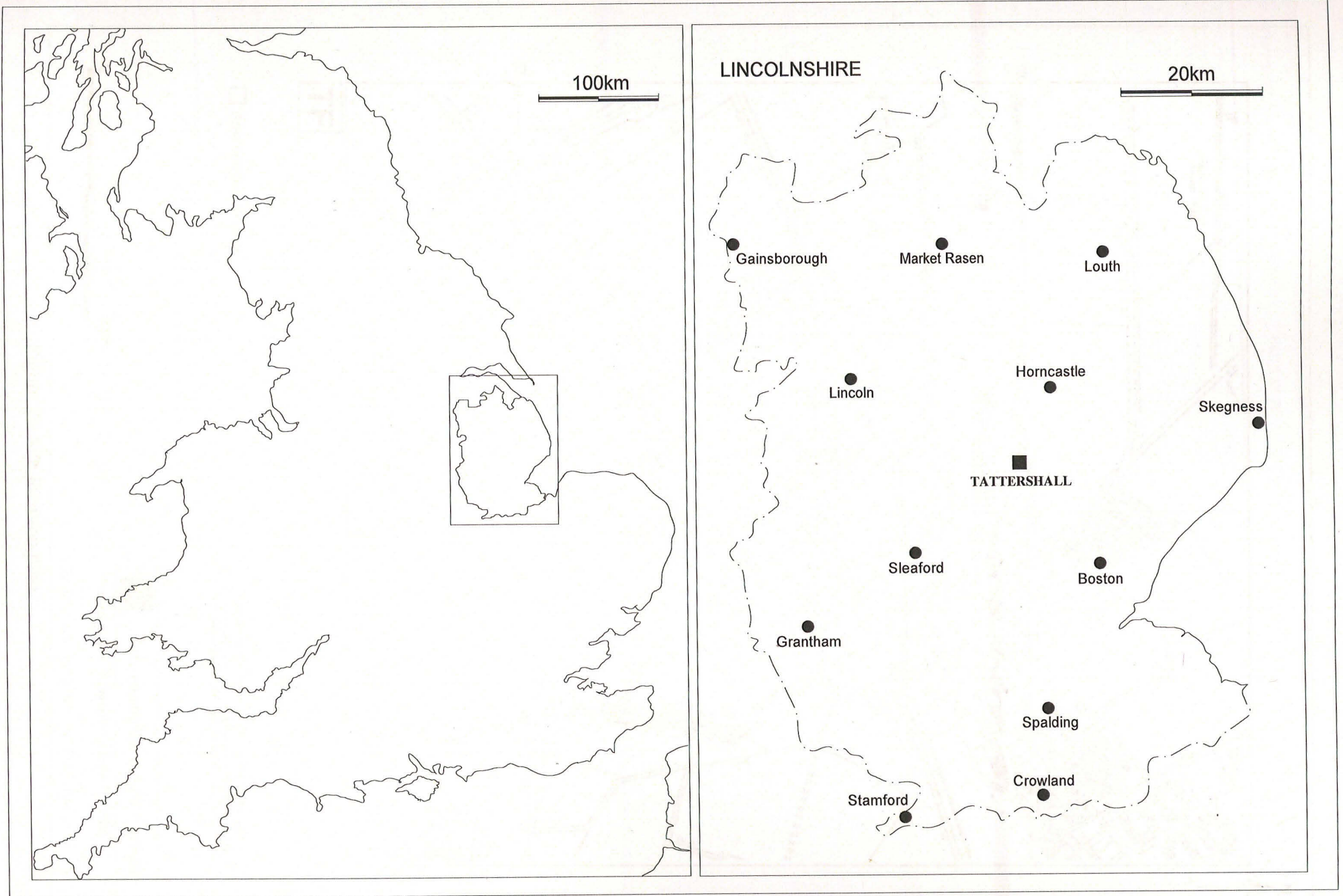
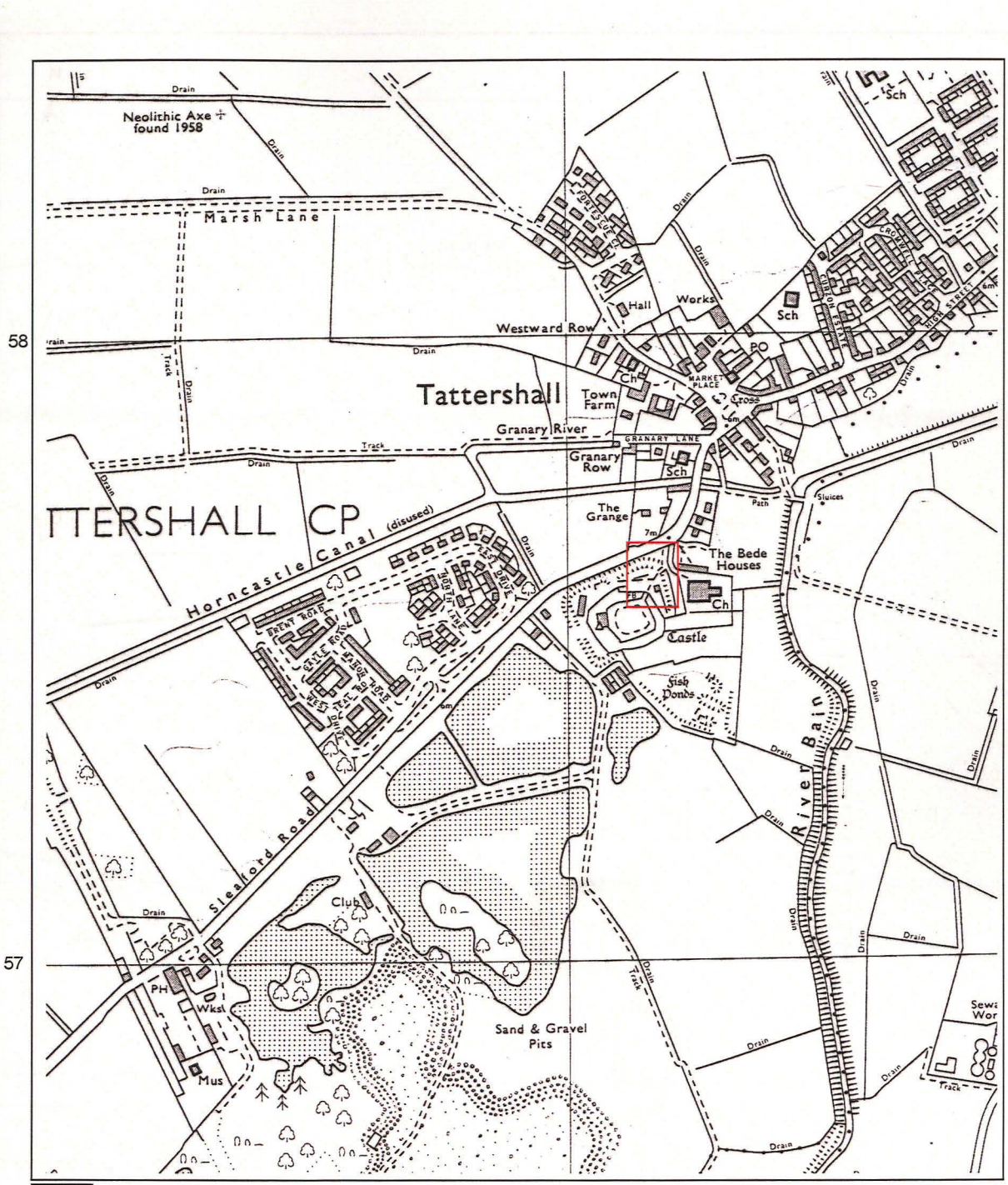


Figure 1 - General location plan



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Area detailed in Figure 3

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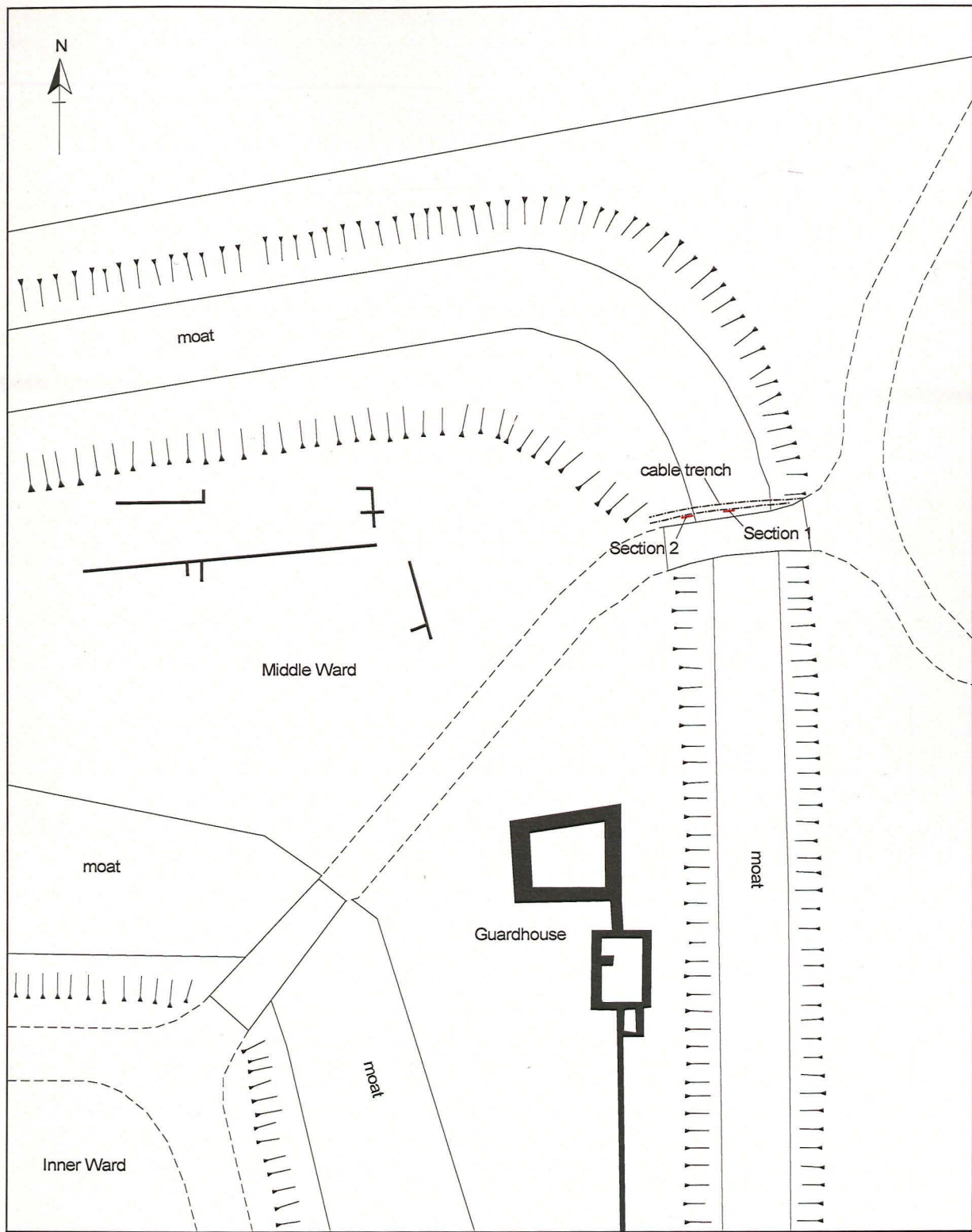
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Figure 2 - Site location plan



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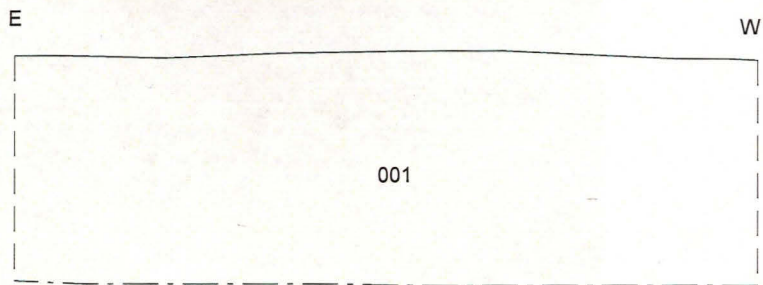


Archaeological Project Services

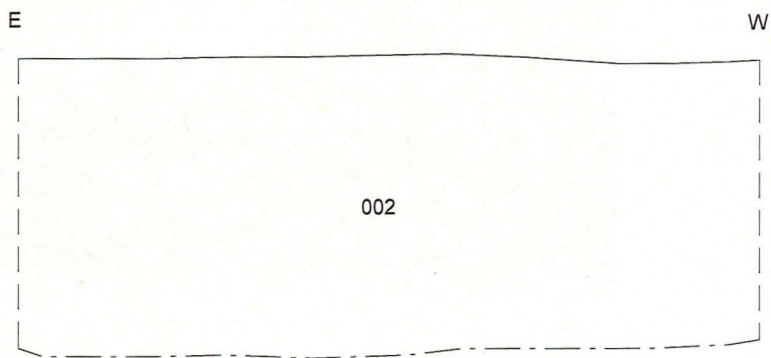
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Figure 3 - Plan showing location of cable trench and section locations



Section 1



Section 2



Archaeological Project Services

Project Name: Tattershall Castle TCCT06

Scale 1:10

Drawn by: PCF

Report No: 135/06

Figure 4 - Sections 1 and 2



Plate 1 - View showing the excavation of the cable trench, looking southeast



Plate 2 - Section 1, looking south



Plate 3 - Section 2, looking south

Appendix 1

SPECIFICATION FOR A WATCHING BRIEF AT TATTERSHALL CASTLE, LINCOLNSHIRE

Introduction:

In connection with work which will soon be undertaken in at Tattershall Castle in an area where we are trenching for cables, an archaeological watching brief is necessary to record and interpret any archaeological evidence which may emerge. This work is to start at a date specified by the House and Visitor Services Manager, Shelley Garland who can be contacted on 01526 342543.

Archaeological Watching Brief

The work will consist of:

- a) Liaison with Shelley Garland to arrange an appropriate time and date for the work, to coincide with contractors cutting trenches.
- b) Supervision of trench-cutting by contractors who will be instructed to stop if the archaeologist deems it necessary.
- c) Hand-cleaning of trench floor and sections, as and when necessary to clarify and record archaeological features.
- d) Recording of all anthropogenic subsurface features, to professional standards in accordance with IFA guidelines. This will include:
 - An overall plan at 1:50 showing trench locations in relation to the present farm buildings
 - Plans and sections at a scale of 1:20 to record significant features.
 - A full photographic record of the watching brief showing the general aspect of each trench, with sample sections and trench-floor shots.
 - A photo list describing the subject and orientation of each shot.
 - Field notes and sketches
- e) A report detailing the findings of the watching brief, will include the following:
 - A general map locating the property in its regional setting
 - A 1:10 000 map locating the area investigated
 - A description of the work undertaken and its findings
 - An interpretative account of features, the relationships between them and their relationship to existing farm buildings
 - Plans, sections and illustrations as described above
 - Photographs of salient features to IFA standards
 - Photo lists, giving each photo a number corresponding to its digital version, a title which locates it as clearly as possible, and orientation
 - List of finds, giving a summary description of any significant finds
- e) Preparation of a finished project archive to include the following, delivered to the NT's Clumber Park office within three months of the project's completion:
 - Three hard copies of the report (two bound, one unbound).
 - One digital copy of the report and photographs on CD. Note that digital photographs are welcome, but should be supported by film negatives.

- All archival materials including field notes and sketches, finds and photographs to be presented in containers suitable for long-term storage.
- Any digital survey data on CD as both raw data and AutoSketch-compatible CAD files.

Timescales

This work is considered urgent and contractors must be able to start work imminently. We apologise for this short notice and hope you will be able to accommodate us.

General conditions

For issues relating to professional standards and the archaeological requirements of the work, you will be accountable to Jo Bell, East Midlands Archaeologist (01909 511064, 07881 637812, e-mail jo.bell@nationaltrust.org.uk)

The National Trust will retain copyright over all materials arising from this project.

Appendix 2

CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS

No.	Description	Interpretation
001	Soft (moist) dark grey/black silt, 0.3m thick	Fill of moat
002	Loose mid greyish brown sandy silt with frequent gravel, >0.4m thick	Levelling deposit

Appendix 3

THE FINDS

by Anne Boyle and Gary Taylor

Recording of the pottery was undertaken with reference to guidelines prepared by the Medieval Pottery Research Group (Slowikowski *et al.* 2001) and the pottery was quantified using the chronology and coding system of the Lincolnshire ceramic type series. Four fragments of pottery weighing 492g were recovered from a single context. No other artefacts or faunal remains were retrieved.

Provenance

The material was recovered from moat fill (001).

Most of the pottery was made in moderate proximity to Tattershall, at Toynton All Saints or Old Bolingbroke, 20km to the northeast, and also in Bourne, 40km to the south.

Range

The range of material is detailed in the table.

Table 1: Pottery

Context	Fabric Code	Description	No.	Wt (g)	Context Date
001	BOU	Bourne D ware, jug? 15 th -17 th century	1	102	16 th -17 th century
	TOY/TOYII	Toynton All Saints ware, or late medieval ware, jug? 13 th -16 th century	1	257	
	TB	Toynton-Bolingbroke ware bung-hole cistern, 16 th -17 th century	1	67	
	CIST	Cistercian ware mug, late 15 th -mid 17 th century	1	66	

All the recovered pottery could have been in use at the same time in the 16th century.

Condition

All the material is in good condition and presents no long-term storage problems. Archive storage of the collection is by material class.

Documentation

There have been previous archaeological investigations at Tattershall Castle that are the subjects of reports. Details of archaeological sites and discoveries in the area are maintained in the Lincolnshire County Council Sites and Monuments Record.

Potential

The collection of early post-medieval pottery fragments is of moderate local potential and significance. A coherent, if small, group, the artefacts reflect habitation of probable 16th century date at the site or, more probably, actions involving dumping into the moat at that time.

The lack of any material earlier than the 13th century is informative and suggests that archaeological deposits dating from prior to this period are absent from the area, or were not disturbed by the development, or were of a nature that did not involve artefact deposition. Similarly, the absence of any artefacts later than the 17th century would tend to suggest that the site was abandoned at that time.

References

Slowikowski, A., Nenck, B. and Pearce, J., 2001 *Minimum Standards for the Processing, Recording, Analysis and Publication of Post-Roman Ceramics*, Medieval Pottery Research Group Occasional Paper 2

Appendix 4

GLOSSARY

- Context** An archaeological context represents a distinct archaeological event or process. For example, the action of digging a pit creates a context (the cut) as does the process of its subsequent backfill (the fill). Each context encountered during an archaeological investigation is allocated a unique number by the archaeologist and a record sheet detailing the description and interpretations of the context (the context sheet) is created and placed in the site archive. Context numbers are identified within the report text by brackets, *e.g.* (004).
- Fill** Once a feature has been dug it begins to silt up (either slowly or rapidly) or it can be back-filled manually. The soil(s) which become contained by the 'cut' are referred to as its fill(s).
- Layer** A layer is a term to describe an accumulation of soil or other material that is not contained within a cut.
- Medieval** The Middle Ages, dating from approximately AD 1066-1500.
- Neolithic** The 'New Stone Age' period, part of the prehistoric era, dating from approximately 4500-2250 BC.

Appendix 5

THE ARCHIVE

The archive consists of:

- | | |
|---|---------------------------|
| 2 | Context records |
| 1 | Photographic record sheet |
| 2 | Sheets of scale drawings |
| 1 | Stratigraphic matrix |
| 1 | Bag of finds |

All primary records and finds are currently kept at:

Archaeological Project Services
The Old School
Cameron Street
Heckington
Sleaford
Lincolnshire
NG34 9RW

The ultimate destination of the project archive is:

The National Trust
National Trust Regional Office
Clumber Park Stableyards
Worksop
Nottinghamshire
S80 3BE

Archaeological Project Services Site Code:

TCCT 06

The discussion and comments provided in this report are based on the archaeology revealed during the site investigations. Other archaeological finds and features may exist on the development site but away from the areas exposed during the course of this fieldwork. *Archaeological Project Services* cannot confirm that those areas unexposed are free from archaeology nor that any archaeology present there is of a similar character to that revealed during the current investigation.

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