

ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF REPORT

**CASTLE VIEW
TATTERSHALL**

PRE-CONSTRUCT ARCHAEOLOGY (LINCOLN)

**Site Code = CVT 95
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NEGATIVE

CASTLE VIEW, TATTERSHALL

AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF REPORT

FOR

JACKSON HOMES LIMITED

BY

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1.0 Abstract

An intermittent archaeological watching brief took place between March and August 1995 during construction trenching for new residential dwellings at Castle View, Tattershall, Lincolnshire (Fig. 1). On occasions when the site was visited, no archaeological deposits of any period were exposed. Therefore, Pre-Construct Archaeology (Lincoln), acting on behalf of the clients, sought approval from the County Archaeological Officer for an early termination of the brief. The request was approved and the archaeological condition removed.

The site central national grid reference is TF 2088 5808.

2.0 Introduction

Jackson Homes Ltd were granted full planning permission to construct 27 new dwellings in March 1994. The site lies within a demonstrably sensitive archaeological landscape, areas of which have produced settlement evidence associated with several major cultural periods (site-specific information did not form part of the County Sites and Monuments Record). In consequence, a condition requiring an archaeological watching brief was attached to the planning permission.

As part of the planning requirement, Jackson Homes commissioned Pre-Construct Archaeology (Lincoln) to undertake a standard watching brief; to the end that archaeological deposits, if disturbed during development, could be recorded and interpreted to standards set by the County Archaeological Officer.

A copy of this report will be deposited with the County Sites and Monuments Record, effectively placing the information in the public domain and adding to the data available for future resource management. Copies will also be forwarded to the Lincolnshire Archives Office.

3.0 Location and description

Tattershall is located in the valley of the River Bain, in the district of East Lindsey, approximately 16 miles south-east of Lincoln. The upper geological deposits date to the Devensian glaciation. An organic silt bed within the gravel complex corresponds to the Upton Warren interstadial, a time when temperatures rose to those comparable with those in southern Britain today. Overlying sands and gravels are fluvial in origin.

The development site lies to the west of the village, off Marsh Lane, in a rural landscape which lies at a point approximately 4.0 m. above modern sea level. The development area covers approximately 1.2 ha.

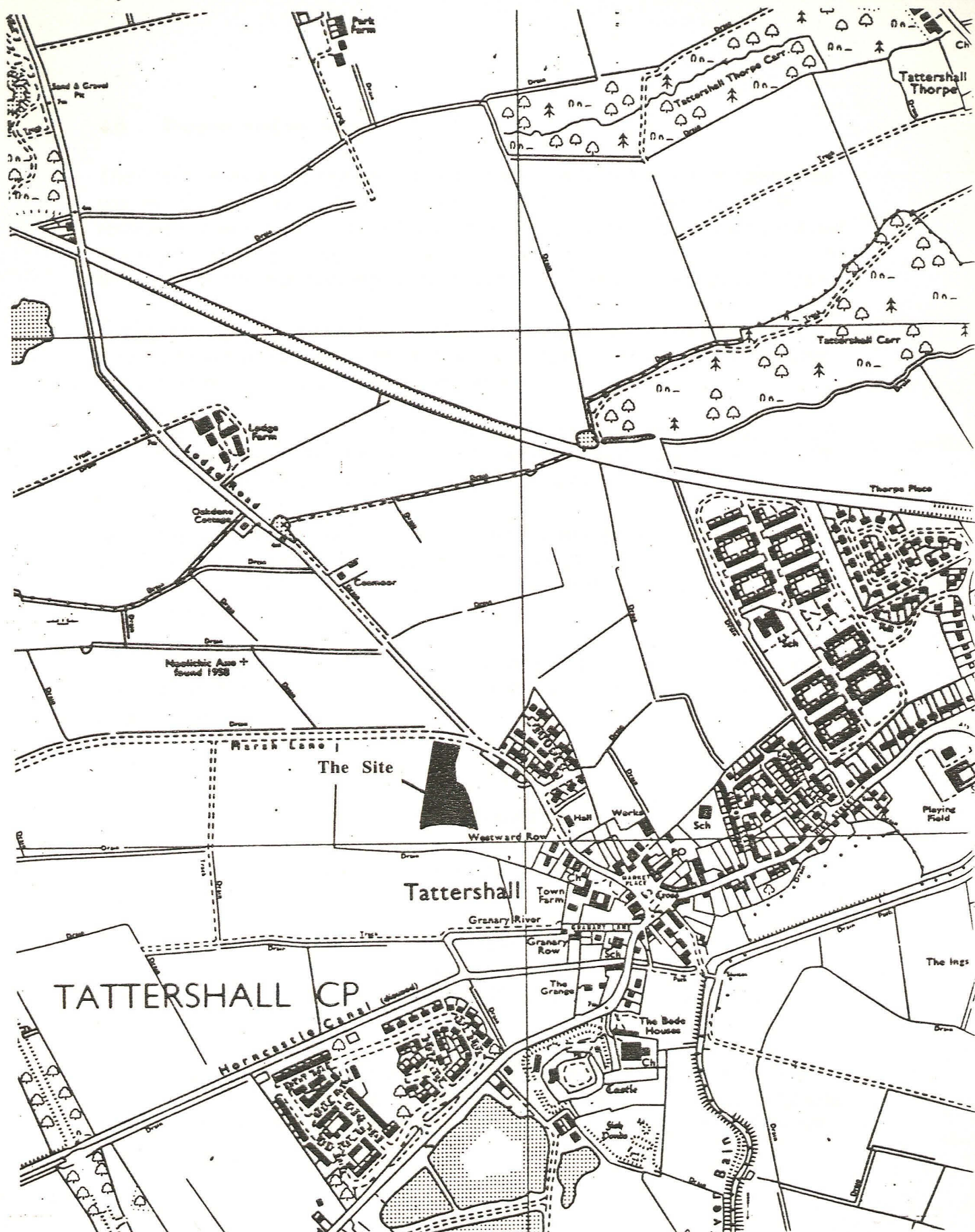


Fig. 1: Site Location Map, scale 1:10,000

4.0 Purpose and methods

The County Sites and Monuments Record (SMR) contains entries which indicate the potential for significant archaeological remains within the development area. In response to a perceived threat, the District Council issued an archaeological condition as a requirement of planning. The level of recording considered to be appropriate on this occasion was an archaeological watching brief. This may be defined as follows:

*'An archaeological watching brief is defined as a programme of observation and investigation conducted during the destruction of archaeological deposits, resulting in the preparation of a report and ordered archive'*¹

It was requested of Jackson Homes Ltd. that suitable advance notice be given to PCA (Lincoln) regarding all foundation and service trenching, so that arrangements could be made to ensure the presence of an archaeological officer.

Recording was undertaken using standard watching brief daily log sheets and proforma context sheets; supplemented with photography and measured sketch drawings. Scale drawings at 1:10 and 1:20 were not, on this occasion, considered to be appropriate.

Observation points were plotted on 1:500 development plans supplied by the client, and these, along with the rest of the paper element, will form part of the long-term project archive.

5.0 Archaeological and Historic Background

The name Tattershall derives from the Old English *Tateshale*, translating 'nook of land of a man called Tathere'.²

The earliest evidence of human occupation dates from the Palaeolithic (Old Stone Age): Acheulian hand axes have been recovered, as chance finds, from secondary contexts (following their transportation and subsequent deposition during the Pleistocene).

The area appears to have been attractive for long term settlement from at least the Neolithic period (New Stone Age; c. 4000BC - 2500BC): stone axes found in the area are consistent with the view of early agriculturists clearing woodland in the Lincoln

¹Institute of Field Archaeologists draft on Standard Guidance for Archaeological Watching Briefs, 1993.

²Mills, 1993, pp322

Vale with the up-land areas to the west supporting an economy orientated more towards pastoralism³.

Continuity of settlement into the succeeding Bronze and Iron Ages is patchily reflected in the current archaeological record. Of (flamboyant) note are the high status metal goods recovered from, or near to, the River Witham: for example, two Hallstatt *Grundlingen* type swords which point towards Continental trading links and, possibly, the existence of "individuals or groups of taste, wealth and power [living] locally".⁴ A dug out canoe, of a type relatively common to eastern Lincolnshire, indicates the importance of river transport from at least the Bronze Age for communication, hunting and trade.

Excavations at an Iron Age defended enclosure at nearby Tattershall Thorpe resulted in the retrieval of substantial organic remains, allowing an encouraging reconstruction to be made of the local environment and development of an economic model based on cultivation and grassland management.⁵

In contrast, there appears to be little evidence of substantial settlement during the Roman and Saxon periods. The area appears, to a great extent, to have been covered with dense woodland vegetation in the Roman period⁶. A localised Roman road has been proposed by extrapolation from an eighteenth century description of a "gravel causeway" across Ewerby Waithe.⁷

The medieval development of Tattershall is inextricably linked with the Cromwell family; the premier member, Ralph, became Treasurer of England in 1433 and was responsible for re-building of the castle and the founding of the church and college.⁸ The castle itself was built by Sir Robert de Tattershall under a licence granted in 1231, originally having no keep. Only the base of two round towers remain extant. Cromwell's rebuilding, principally in brick from local kilns, added not only the keep but also an extensive range of outer and inner moats and baileys with associated buildings such as guard houses, stables and a kitchen.⁹

The town enjoyed reasonable prosperity as a market centre in a region which accounted for more trade, through Lincoln and Boston, than even London. The influence of the county began to waver towards the end of the middle-ages with the development of alternative trade routes, but Tattershall appears to have fared reasonably well with a strong local agrarian economy which continues to sustain the town to the present day.

³May, 1976, pp57

⁴Rogers, 1985, pp24

⁵Chowne *et al*, 1886, pp159-88

⁶Whitwell, 1992, pp 4

⁷*ibid* pp54

⁸Pevsner & Harris, 1989, pp 743

⁹*ibid*

6.0 Results

The site was inspected by C Palmer-Brown, in March 1995, at a time when 8 dwellings (No's 33-40) had already been constructed. Recording comprised the monitoring of service trenches associated with these plots, together with large soakaway pits to the rear of plots 33-41. Trenches were cut to a depths ranging between 80cm-1.4m.

The site was again inspected in August 1995 by SC Johnson who recorded the foundation trenches of plots 59, 59a, 58 and 57. The cuttings were excavated to a width of c. 60cm. and to a depth of c. 65cm.

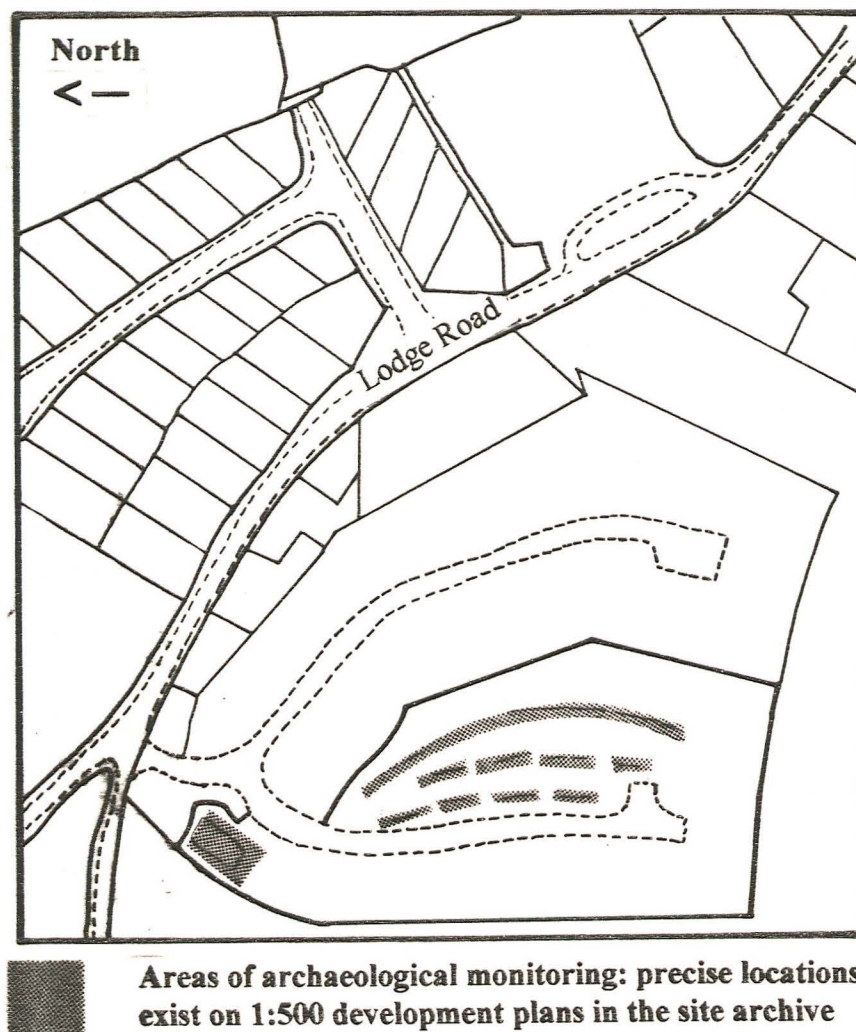
No archaeological features, artefacts or ecofacts were observed or recorded during both visits. The natural stratigraphy may be summarised as follows:

- | | | |
|------|---------|--|
| [01] | Topsoil | Partially truncated by vegetation stripping: Light to mid-brown moderately sorted coarse sand with c. 25% small to medium sized angular flint inclusions. Depth to c. 20cm. |
| [02] | ? | As above, but greyish fawn in colour; change probably due to oxidation/leaching from topsoil. Appeared in section only intermittently. Depth c. 15cm. |
| [03] | Layer | Mid-brown well sorted coarse grained sand with c. 10% small to medium angular flint inclusions with predominantly red or white paternation. Possibly represents a previous land surface but completely sterile of cultural remains. Depth c. 30cm. |
| [04] | Natural | Layer of firm to compact coarse grained sand with poorly sorted inclusions of sub-rounded and angular flints of medium size up to 6cm. Natural fluvial deposits. |

Following the second site visit, it was the considered opinion of PCA(Lincoln) that there was little chance of archaeological remains being exposed on the site: on the basis that the transgressional sample monitored had failed to yield any traces of cultural activity. Continued work was difficult to justify.

The County Archaeological Officer was approached on behalf of Jackson Homes Ltd, and a request made for a termination of the project. After consultation with the planning authority, the request was approved.

Fig. 2: Development Site, scale 1:2,500



6.1 Conclusions

The watching brief at Castle View did not identify any archaeological deposits, even though the development lies within a potentially rich cultural environment. The negative result is somewhat surprising, given the proximity of several ?prehistoric cropmark sites.

7.0 Acknowledgements

Sincere thanks are expressed to the clients, Jackson Homes Ltd, for commissioning Pre-Construct Archaeology (Lincoln) to undertake the watching brief. Thanks are also expressed to County Archaeology Section, Lincoln, for allowing access to the Sites and Monuments Record and for reassessing the value of the brief in the light of the results obtained.

8.0 Appendices:

8.1 Colour photographs

8.2 Site archive

8.3 Information derived from the County Sites & Monuments Record

8.4 References

Appendix 8.1 Colour Plates



Plate 1: Working shot during excavation of service trench to the rear of plots 33-41, looking south.

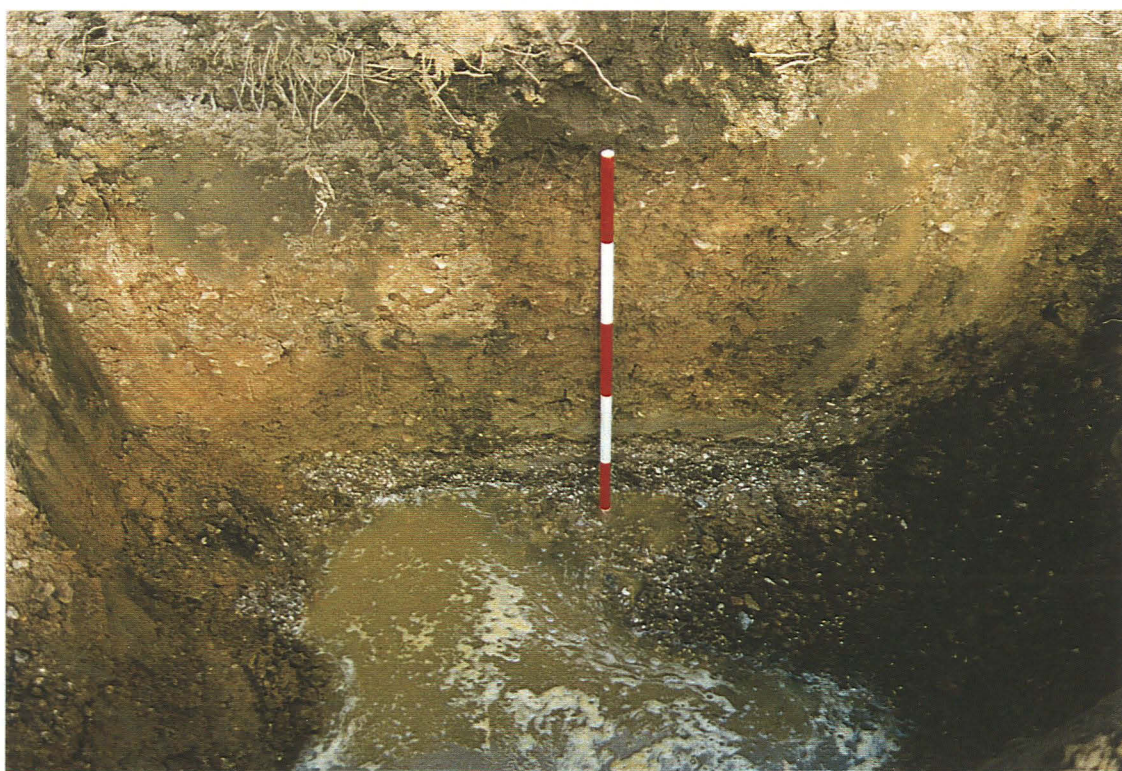


Plate 2: Natural deposits exposed in soakaway to rear of plot 38, looking north.

Appendix 8.2 Site Archive

The site archive comprises:

x1 watching brief record sheet

x3 context sheets

x2 colour print films

x1 architect plan

x2 copies of this site report

Misc. correspondence and notes

Primary records are currently with Pre-Construct Archaeology (Lincoln), but a complete ordered archive will be deposited at the City and County Museum, Lincoln within six months following the completion of this report.

Appendix 8.3 Information derived from The County Sites and Monuments Record

PRN code	NGR	Description
40440	TF 2046 5832	Irregular enclosure and linear ditches shown on aerial photographs. Neolithic axe found in 1958.
40153	TF 2045 5835	Late Bronze Age looped palstave axe with three ridges below the stop-ridge. Found in 1960.
40441	TF 2020 5810	Two pairs and two single parallel ditches. Three ditches at 90° forming a rectangular enclosure. Undated.
40442	TF 2000 5000	Undated double linear ditch with a single linear ditch to the west.
40443	TF 2035 5770	Four parallel ditches seen as two pairs, undated.
40155	TF 2129 5711	Neolithic polished stone axe found in 1957.
40168	TF 21205790	Medieval roof finial in the form of a house with three key-hole shaped windows; stands on the roof of a more recent house near the market place.

Appendix 8.4 References

Chowne, P, Girling M & Greig J 1986 Excavations at an Iron Age Defended
Enclosure at Tattershall Thorpe, Lincolnshire
(PPS . 52)

May, J 1976 *Prehistoric Lincolnshire*

Mills, AD 1993 *English Place-Names* (Oxford)

Pevsner, N and Harris, J 1989 *The Buildings of England: Lincolnshire*

Rogers, A 1985 *A History of Lincolnshire*

Whitwell, JB 1992 *Roman Lincolnshire*