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TATTERSHALL CASTLE

ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF JUNE 1989

LINDSEY ARCHAEOLOGICAL SERVICES

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TATTERSHALL CASTLE

Location of electric cable trench
dig in June 1989

0569
30.116ha
74.42

The Grange

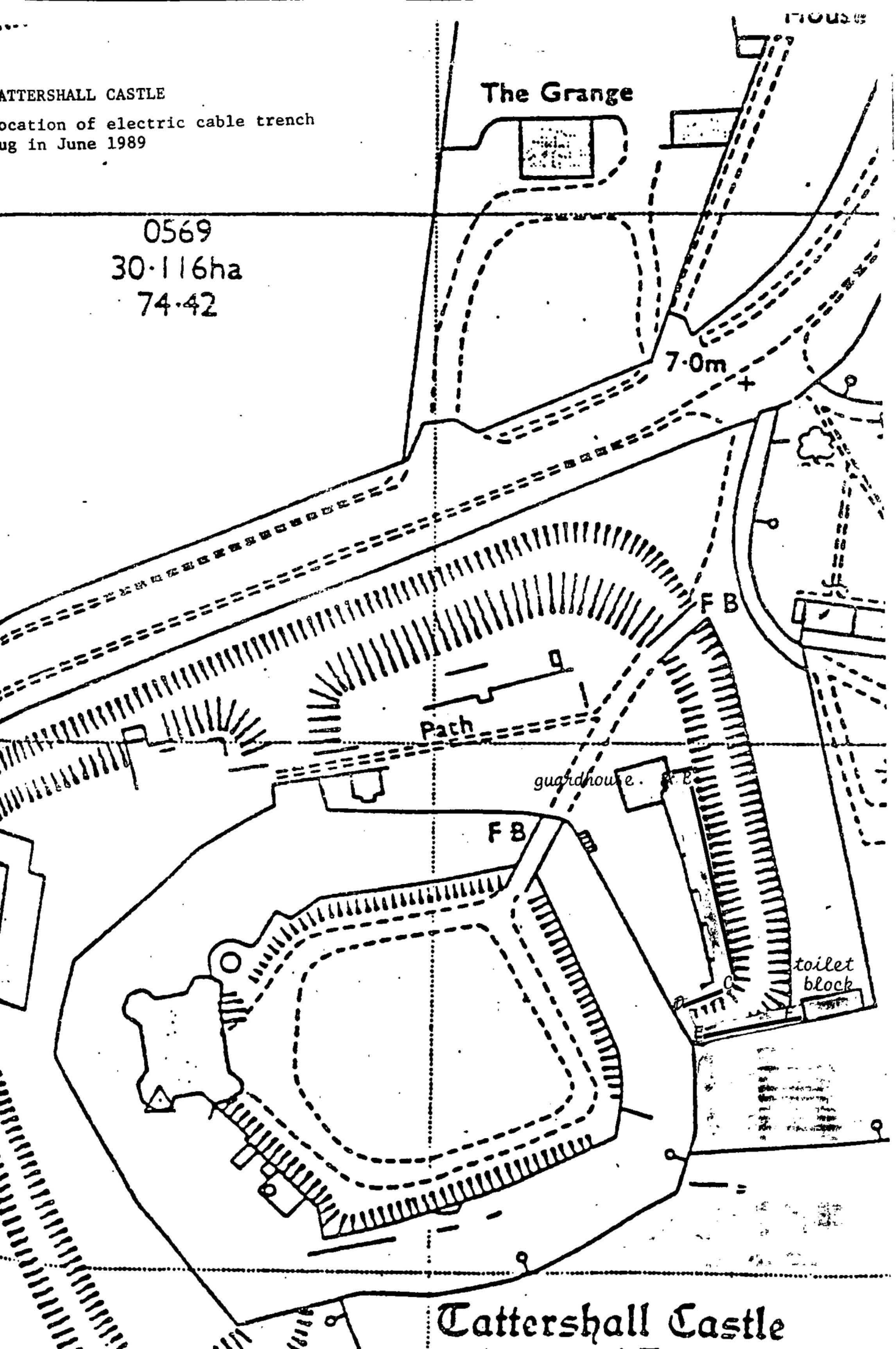
7.0m

Path

guardhouse

toilet
block

Tattershall Castle



TATTERSHALL CASTLE
Archaeological Watching Brief, June 1989

Introduction

In June 1989 electricity was supplied to the new toilet block at Tattershall Castle. Cable trenches were hand-dug by the electrical contractors between the guardhouse and the toilet block. An archaeological watching brief was kept on the earthmoving phase of the operation.

Description

The trenches were 0.25m wide and 0.45m deep (± 0.10 m) and their total length was c.87 metres. A length of 59.50m was dug east of the guardhouse (A-B) and south, c.2m from the inner lip of the outer moat (B-C-D) of the castle. The second trench was dug parallel to the brick wall south of the moat (E-F). (The electric cable runs above ground between point E and F.)

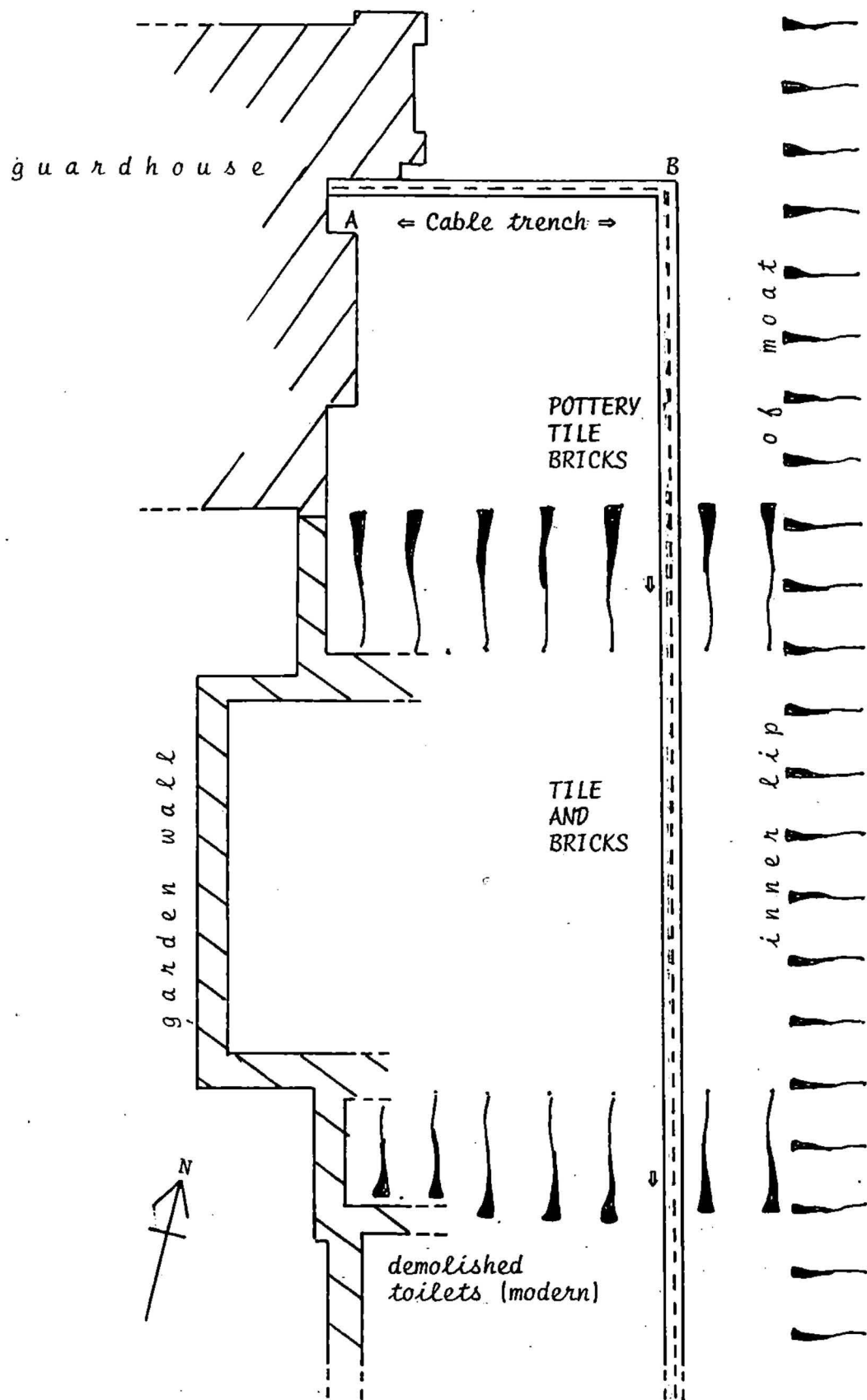
The topsoil was very dark brown sandy loam, 0.20m deep below the turf. The subsoil was only a little paler in colour than the topsoil. It was soft and sandy and contained a lot of natural flint. There was no evidence for any stratified deposits or any different soil layers apart from the two described above. However, at point F by the toilet block is a concrete platform 2m wide. Beneath this was a layer 0.20m deep, of brick and tile rubble used as hardcore. At no point was the natural sand encountered and the whole of the cable trench appeared to have been dug through disturbed ground.

It has been suggested that the original moat extended southwards beyond the bend in the present line and west of the toilet block. The trench (E-F) did not reveal any change in soil deposits to suggest the presence of a filled-in moat. However, the excavations may not have been deep enough and further evidence is required before dismissing this theory.

The Finds

A scatter of pottery and building materials, together with a few animal bones, was found in the soil along the length of the trenches. There was one area, 5m south of B, which produced large

TATTERSHALL CASTLE WATCHING BRIEF JUNE 1989
 SKETCH PLAN OF THE CABLE TRENCH ROUTE NEAR GUARDHOUSE 1:100



quantities of roof tiles with square pegholes and brick fragments together with assorted pieces of pottery. This area of dense finds coincided with a dip in the ground level marking the location of a demolished building, referred to as a 'tower' on some plans.

Animal Bones

The animal bones recovered during the excavations were clearly domestic refuse, comprising mainly sheep and cattle, with butchering marks visible on one fragment. Two pieces of antler were also found. It is of note that so many antlers have been found at the castle over the years. The examples in the Castle museum have been sawn and are offcuts from the manufacture of handles or similar objects indicating that their manufacture was within the castle precincts.

Pottery

The pottery was scrappy and of types already recorded elsewhere in the castle. It was mainly 16th-18th century in date and included Midlands Black and Yellow wares, two pieces of Staffordshire slip wares, Bourne wares and a few pieces of Victorian pottery. One rim of a shelly pot was also found which perhaps dates to the 12th or 13th century.

The museum collection holds fragments much larger in size than those recovered from the cable trench. In addition, it is suspected that all the ground has been previously disturbed, perhaps most recently as upcast when the moat was dredged by Lord Curzon. It is therefore not proposed to provide any analysis of the sherds. All finds have been washed and labelled.

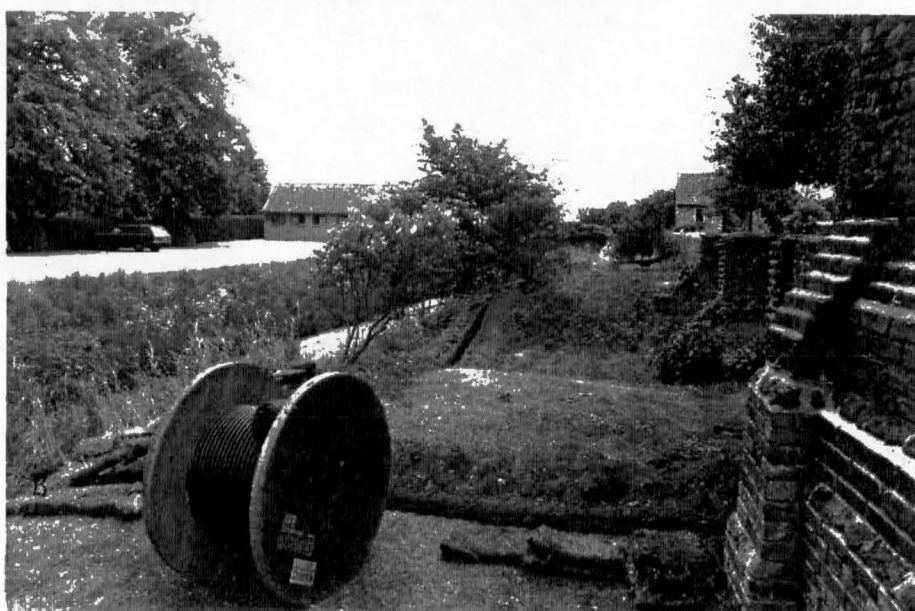
Conclusion and Recommendations

1. The digging of the electric cable trench caused a minimum of disturbance to archaeological deposits because the areas affected comprised made-up ground.
2. The pottery finds were not stratified but should be retained. If there is space available the best location for storage would be at the museum in the Guardhouse.

Naomi Field
November 1989



*Route of cable trench from
Guardhouse to toilet block.
View from Keep looking East.*



*Northern end of cable trench
looking South. Points A and
B in foreground.*



*Southern end of cable
trench. Points C, D
and E marked.*