

# **Witham** Archaeology

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A Report to the National Trust  
October 2017



## **LAND AT RICHMOND LODGE, TATTERSHALL CASTLE, TATTERSHALL, LINCOLNSHIRE**

### **Archaeological Monitoring and Recording**

*V Mellor*

# LAND AT RICHMOND LODGE, TATTERSHALL CASTLE, TATTERSHALL, LINCOLNSHIRE

Site Code: TTRL17  
Planning Reference: Pre-planning  
NGR: TF 2096 5752  
OASIS ID: withamar1-297891

## *Archaeological Monitoring and Recording*

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# **LAND AT RICHMOND LODGE, TATTERSHALL CASTLE, TATTERSHALL, LINCOLNSHIRE**

## **ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING AND RECORDING**

### ***SUMMARY***

*This report presents the results of a programme of archaeological monitoring and recording undertaken during groundworks associated with the construction of a new car park at Richmond Lodge, Tattershall Castle, Tattershall, Lincolnshire. Richmond Lodge is a 20<sup>th</sup> century house located to the west of the castle and outside the limits of the area protected as a nationally important Scheduled Monument (No: SM22720) (NHLE 1215317). An access road separates Richmond Lodge from Castle Cottage, the grade II listed building presently used as office accommodation by the National Trust.*

*The development comprised the renovation of the existing dwelling at Richmond Lodge and construction of a new car park and access to the southeast of the building. The renovated building will be used as new offices by the National Trust.*

*Tattershall Castle was constructed in the 13<sup>th</sup> century by Robert of Tattershall. During the 15<sup>th</sup> century it came into the ownership of Ralph, First Lord Cromwell who rebuilt the castle as a fortified house. The castle is now in the ownership of the National Trust.*

*A simple sequence of topsoil and subsoil overlying natural geology was recorded during the investigation. A modern brick-built structure was probably a soakaway or septic tank serving Richmond Lodge. No evidence of activity contemporary with the nearby castle was revealed and no artefacts were retrieved.*

### **1.0 INTRODUCTION**

This report presents the results of a programme of archaeological supervision and recording undertaken at Tattershall Castle, Tattershall, Lincolnshire (SM22720) (NHLE 1215317). The project was commissioned by the National Trust in order to monitor groundworks associated with construction of a car park to the southeast of Richmond Lodge, Tattershall Castle, Tattershall, Lincolnshire. Fieldwork was carried out between the 7<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> of August 2017.

### **2.0 SITE LOCATION, TOPOGRAPHY & GEOLOGY (see Fig. 1)**

The village of Tattershall is located 17.2 miles southeast of Lincoln and 10 miles northwest of Boston, in the administrative district of East Lindsey. The castle is centred on National Grid Reference TF 21098 57545 and located on the western outskirts of the modern village on the south side of the A153 Sleaford Road, approximately 2km north of the confluence of the Witham and Bain rivers. Approximately 1.75km to the south and west of the castle the River Witham flows in a broad arc around Tattershall, while the River Bain follows a north to south course around 300m to the east of Richmond Lodge. Local geology comprises river terrace gravels overlying Amphill clay formation mudstone (British Geological Survey, Solid & Drift, 1:50 000). Standing at an elevation of around 6m OD on the edge of the Lincolnshire Fens, the castle dominates the low-lying surrounding land.

The investigation site, centred on National Grid reference TF 2096 5752, lies to the southwest of the castle grounds and outside the area of the Scheduled Monument. The site is bounded to the northwest by the A158, to the southwest by Tattershall Lakes, and to the northeast by an access road.

### **3.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL & HISTORICAL BACKGROUND**

Scheduled Monument SM22720 (NHLE 1215317) includes the remains of Tattershall Castle and the remains of a college founded in the 15<sup>th</sup> century and located further to the east in the core of village of Tattershall on the west bank of the River Bain.

The original castle was built in the 13<sup>th</sup> century by Robert of Tattershall and is characterised as an enclosure castle in the scheduling description. During the 15<sup>th</sup> century the castle came into the ownership of Ralph, First Lord Cromwell (English Heritage, 1998).

Ralph rebuilt the castle as a fortified house and founded the college on the adjacent site. The college was partially dismantled after closure in 1545, but all four walls still stand. The castle continued to be occupied until 1693 but thereafter the building fell into disrepair until a restoration in 1912, passing into National Trust ownership in 1925.

The fortified house is a brick-built structure incorporating stone dressings and string-courses, and takes the form of four storeys and a basement on a rectangular plan with octagonal corner turrets. It lies within an inner moated enclosure which lies to the south of two outer moated enclosures.

Richmond Lodge was purchased by the National Trust in 2014. Prior to purchase, the site had been used as a residential property. Prior to the redevelopment, a 1950s property was positioned in the centre of the plot.

### **4.0 AIMS & OBJECTIVES**

The principal objectives of the project were to:

- Allow the preservation by record of any surviving archaeological deposits and artefacts exposed by the development groundwork within the constraints imposed by the contractor's working methods, programme and development design.
- Produce a project archive for deposition with the National Trust together with a client report.
- Provide information for accession to the Lincolnshire Historic Environment Record.

### **5.0 METHODOLOGY**

The project comprised the monitoring of all sensitive groundworks associated with construction of the car park.

An archaeological record was made of any remains revealed by the excavations. The record comprises written context descriptions on *pro forma* recording sheets, together with monochrome print and colour digital photographs. The latter include overall views detailing general site circumstances as well as specific views of individual archaeological deposits and/or features. Section drawings, showing the general stratigraphic sequence were produced at a scale of 1:10.

### **6.0 RESULTS**

The footprint of the new car parking area was excavated to depths of approximately 0.45m to 0.53m below the existing ground level (Figure 2, Plate 1 and Plate 2).

The earliest identified deposit was (003), a loose mid to light yellowish-brown sand and gravel, which was naturally deposited. This was overlain by subsoil (002), a 0.20m thick deposit of soft, mid brown

sand with angular flint. Sealing this was topsoil (001), a 0.30m thick soft dark blackish-brown clayey sandy silt with frequent angular flints and occasional mid-20<sup>th</sup> century rubbish (Plate 4, Figure). All of these deposits were recorded across the site. Part of a circular brick structure (004) was revealed in plan. It was 1.10m in diameter, comprising a course of header bricks above a course of stretcher bricks (Plate 3, Figure 3). The bricks were machine-made and the structure may have been a soakaway or septic tank serving Richmond Lodge. Two pipes were noted connecting to the structure, one to the northwest, presumably an inlet from Richmond Lodge, one to the southwest, presumably an outlet to or towards the adjacent lake.

Small quantities of mid-20<sup>th</sup> century domestic debris were noted during the monitoring, but were not retained. These presumably represent small-scale dumping associated with occupation of Richmond Lodge.

No further deposits or features were observed during the monitoring and no artefacts were retrieved from the site.

## **7.0 DISCUSSION & CONCLUSION**

Archaeological monitoring and recording of stripping for a car parking area revealed a simple sequence of topsoil and subsoil overlying natural geology. A modern brick-built structure was probably a soakaway or septic tank serving Richmond Lodge.

No evidence of activity contemporary with the nearby castle was identified. No artefacts were retrieved during the monitoring.

## **8.0 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

The author of this report would like to thank Rachael Hall of the National Trust for support in ensuring that the project was brought to successful conclusion.

## **9.0 PROJECT/ ARCHIVE DETAILS**

### **9.1 Project Information**

SITE CODE: TTRL17

PLANNING APPLICATION NUMBER: n/a

FIELD OFFICERS: D Trimble and Chris Ayers

NGR: TF 2094 5751

CIVIL PARISH: Tattershall

DATE OF INTERVENTION: 7<sup>th</sup> to 11<sup>th</sup> August 2017

TYPE OF INTERVENTION: Monitoring and Recording

UNDERTAKEN FOR: The National Trust

### **9.2 Archive Details**

PRESENT LOCATION: Witham Archaeology, 2 High Street, Ruskington, Sleaford, Lincolnshire NG34 9DT

FINAL LOCATION: National Trust Archives

MUSEUM ACCESSION No.: NA

ACCESSION DATE: TBC

#### ***The Site Archive Comprises:***

Context Records	4
Sheets containing scale drawings	2
Black and White photographs	15
Digital Photographs	48
Set of Site Notes	1

*It is intended that transfer of the archive in accordance with current published requirements will be undertaken following completion of this project.*

## ***COLOUR PLATES***



*Plate 1: General view of site before topsoil stripping for car park, looking northwest*



*Plate 2: Car park area after turf stripping, looking northeast, Scale 1m*

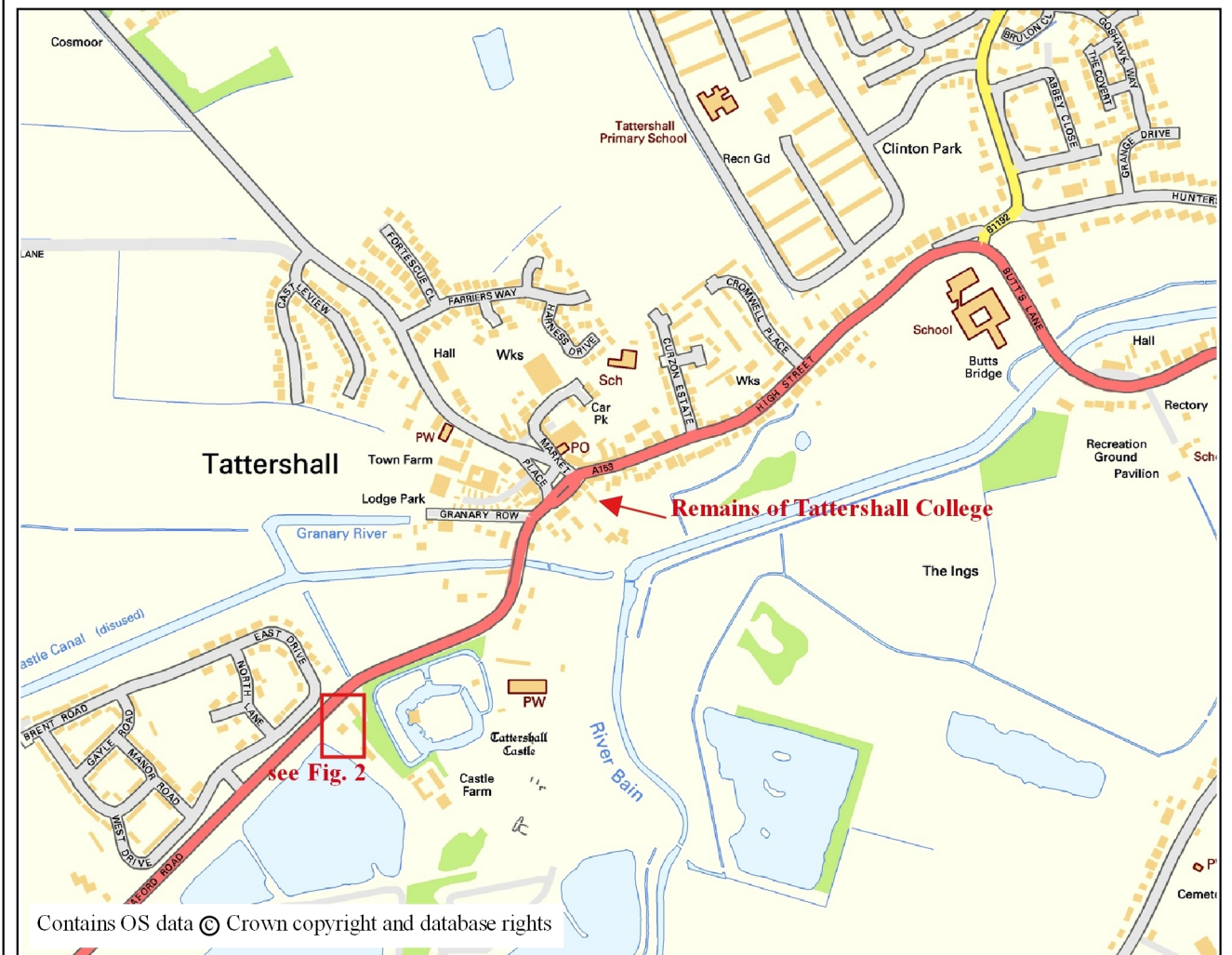
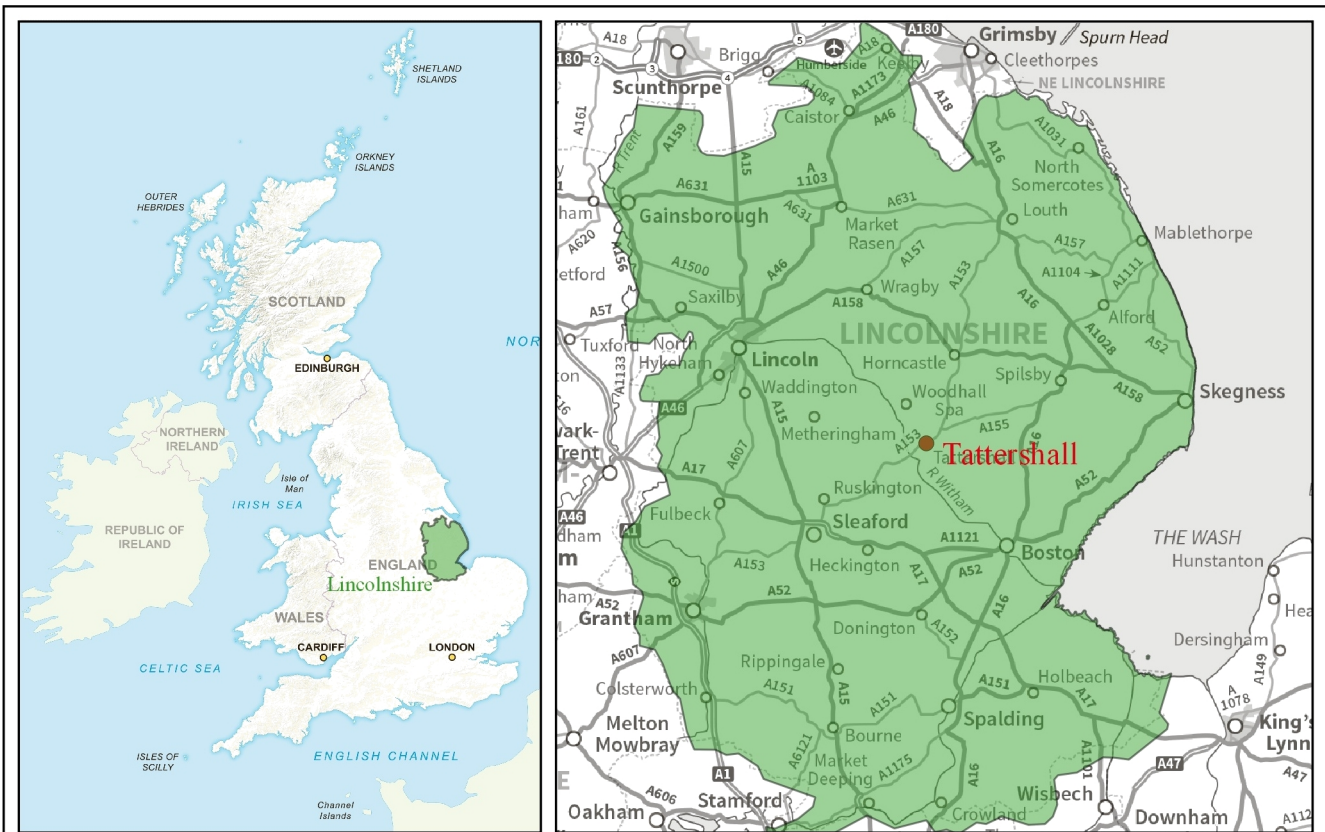




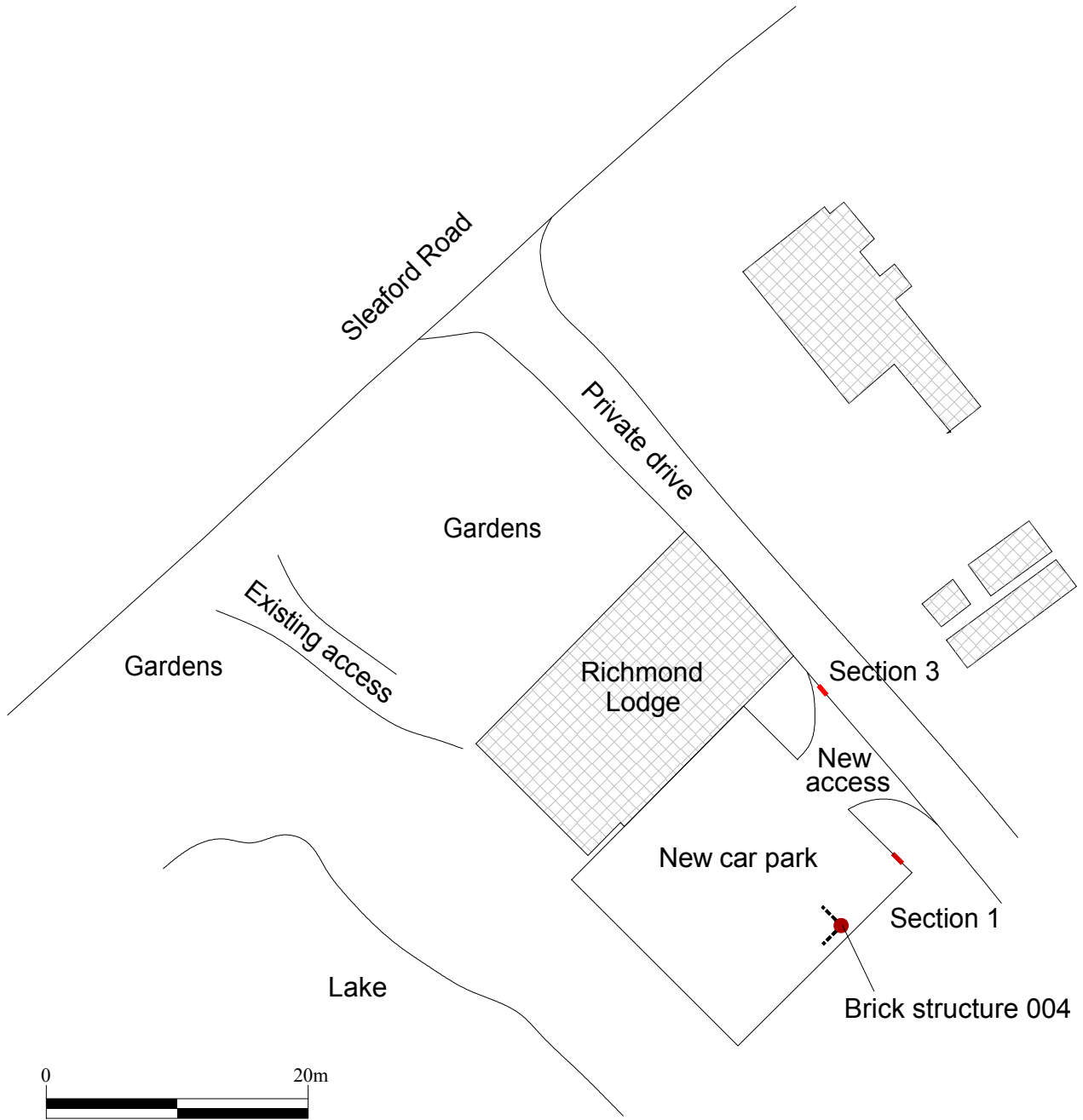
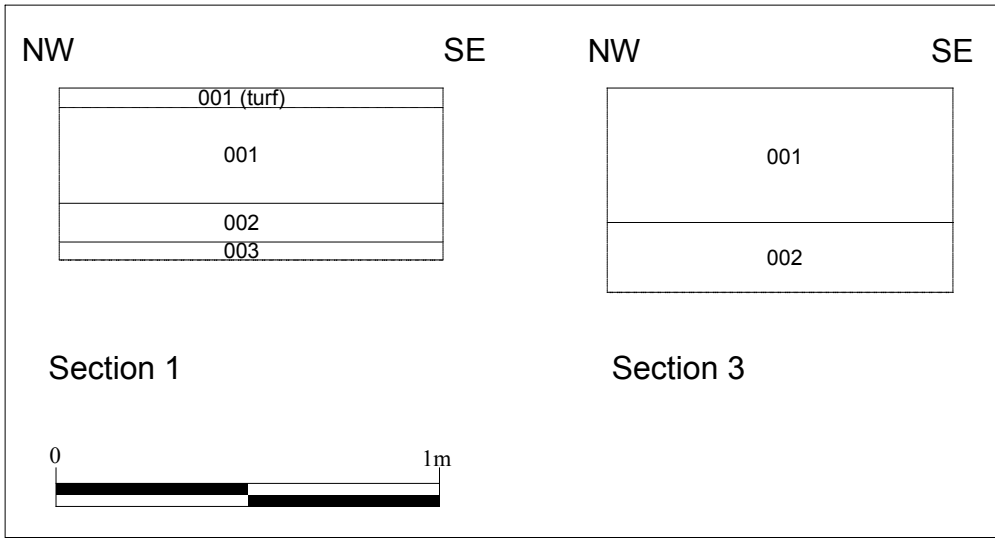
*Plate 3: Brick structure 004, possible septic tank, looking northeast, Scales 1m*



*Plate 4: Representative Section 1, looking northeast, 1m Scale*



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## APPENDIX A - CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS

<i>Context</i>	<i>Interpretation</i>	<i>Description</i>
001	Topsoil	Soft, dark blackish-brown clayey sandy silt with frequent angular flints and occasional mid-20 <sup>th</sup> century rubbish, 0.30m thick
002	Subsoil	Soft, mid brown sand with angular flint, 0.20m thick
003	Natural	Loose mid to light yellowish-brown sand and gravel
004	Brick structure, possible septic tank or soakaway	Circular brick structure c.1.10m diameter, only two courses exposed. Of machine-made brick with header course at top of exposed portion and stretcher course below

## **APPENDIX B – OASIS FORM**

# OASIS DATA COLLECTION FORM: England

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## Printable version

**OASIS ID: withamar1-297891**

### Project details

Project name	Archaeological monitoring and recording at Richm
Short description of the project	A programme of archaeological monitoring and recording was undertaken during groundworks associated with the construction of a new car park at Richmond Lodge, Tattershall Castle, Tattershall, Lincolnshire. Richmond Lodge is a 20th century house located to the west of the castle and outside the limits of the area protected as a nationally important Scheduled Monument (No: SM22720) (NHLE 1215317). An access road separates Richmond Lodge from Castle Cottage, the grade II listed building presently used as office accommodation by the National Trust. The development comprised the renovation of the existing dwelling at Richmond Lodge and construction of a new car park and access to the southeast of the building. The renovated building will be used as new offices by the National Trust. Tattershall Castle was constructed in the 13th century by Robert of Tattershall. During the 15th century it came into the ownership of Ralph, First Lord Cromwell who rebuilt the castle as a fortified house. The castle is now in the ownership of the National Trust. A simple sequence of topsoil and subsoil overlying natural geology was recorded during the investigation. A modern brick-built structure was probably a soakaway or septic tank serving Richmond Lodge. No evidence of activity contemporary with the nearby castle was revealed and no artefacts were retrieved.
Project dates	Start: 07-08-2017 End: 11-08-2017
Previous/future work	No / No
Any associated project reference codes	TTLR17 - Sitecode
Any associated project reference codes	S/175/00055/16 - Planning Application No.
Type of project	Recording project
Site status	None
Current Land use	Other 5 - Garden
Monument type	NONE None
Monument type	NONE None
Significant Finds	NONE None
Significant Finds	NONE None
Investigation type	"Watching Brief"
Prompt	Voluntary/self-interest

### Project location

Country	England
Site location	LINCOLNSHIRE EAST LINDSEY TATTERSHALL Tattershall, Richmond Lodge

Postcode	LN4 4LS
Study area	0.13 Hectares
Site coordinates	TF 20960 57520 53.100840066004 -0.193125593184 53 06 03 N 000 11 35 W Point

### Project creators

Name of Organisation	Witham Archaeology
Project brief originator	National Trust
Project design originator	Dale Trimble
Project director/manager	Dale Trimble
Project supervisor	Chris Ayers
Type of sponsor/funding body	National Trust

### Project archives

Physical Archive Exists?	No
Digital Archive recipient	National Trust
Digital Archive ID	TBC
Digital Contents	"Stratigraphic"
Digital Media available	"Images vector","Text"
Paper Archive recipient	National Trust
Paper Archive ID	TBC
Paper Contents	"Stratigraphic"
Paper Media available	"Context sheet","Drawing","Photograph","Plan","Report","Section"

### Project bibliography 1

Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title	Land at Richmond Lodge, Tattershall Castle, Tattershall, Lincolnshire
Author(s)/Editor(s)	Mellor, V.
Other bibliographic details	218
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