Archaeology in Lincolnshire, 1974

Compiled by C. N. Moore

It is with some reluctance that the old format of the Archaeological Notes, which have appeared in this journal and its predecessor since 1952, has been abandoned. However, the wind of change has swept through this journal, and the gazetteer format of the Archaeological Notes no longer seemed appropriate. Also there has been the increasing possibility that the information contained in the Archaeological Notes might be subject to misuse by the owners of metal detectors. This has prompted the change of name to Archaeology in Lincolnshire, which will concentrate on short notes on the more important excavations, discoveries, fieldwork and research projects that were being carried out during the year in Lincolnshire and South Humberse. To maintain the continuity of the Archaeological Notes, the City and County Museum has produced a duplicated gazetteer of all archaeological discoveries made during the year, which is available as a limited circulation.

The contributions to Archaeology in Lincolnshire have been arranged in a chronological order and acknowledgement is given to each contribution. It is to be hoped that these notes give an adequate reflection of both the considerable amount of archaeological activity taking place in Lincolnshire and South Humberse and also the wealth of discoveries that are being made. At the same time a most rapid and very worrying erosion and destruction of archaeological sites and monuments is taking place. These are mainly medieval grassland sites, which farmers are now either ploughing up to turn into arable fields or re-seeding to give better returns. It is most important that threats to both scheduled and un-scheduled sites are reported at once to avoid their destruction. Recently the City and County Museum has produced a hand list of all the scheduled sites in Lincolnshire and South Humberse and this is freely available from the Keeper of the Museum. Any suggestion for additional scheduling or the notification of threat will be welcomed by the Keeper or by Mr. F.T. Baker, Local Correspondent for the Department of the Environment, 210 Burton Road, Lincoln.

AN IRON AGE STRAP-UNION FROM THE GREETWELL VILLA, LINCOLN

C. N. Moore

The Lincoln City and County Museum possesses a book of watercolour illustrations of finds made on the site of the Greetwell Villa during the course of ironworking. This was compiled by Mr. B. Ramsden, the resident engineer, in 1891. The drawings are mainly concerned with the pavements and other Roman finds, but also illustrated is an Iron Age strap-union. The strap-union is now lost and this is the only record of the find. For this reason it seems worth publishing a copy of the drawing (Fig. 1) and making comparison with other similar examples.

Strap-unions appear to have formed part of the standard equipment of an Iron Age chariot. The recently discovered chariot burial at Garton Slack in Yorkshire was accompanied by two strap-unions. It seems likely that leather straps would have gone round the two parallel strap bars, and the straps could be adjusted round these, possibly by the means of a buckle. The exact position of these strap-unions on a chariot harness has yet to be determined.

A total of about twenty strap-unions are known from England. Apart from the strap-unions from the Garton Slack burial, all the other examples have been found to the south-east of a line drawn from the Humber to the Severn. The majority of strap-unions are of the Greetwell type a 'figure of eight' arrangement of two conjoined rings with two parallel strap bars on either side. They were normally made of bronze. A rather different but similar strap-union comes from Caythorpe and is in Grantham Museum. The Greetwell strap-union appears to have been a much more elaborate strap-union than the other surviving examples. The drawing suggests that the two central areas of the 'figure of eight' were ornamented with a white paste imiation of coral and that red (?) enamel was used to decorate the two small circles on either side of the 'figure of eight', and on two bosses on the larger circles. The use of 'coral' ornament on items found in the Yorkshire chariot burials is well known, and can probably be dated to the second century B.C. However, strap-unions of the 'figure of eight' type may have survived almost until the Roman conquest. The Greetwell strap-union is probably an early example in the series, so that its discovery would suggest that it was already of some antiquity when it was brought to the villa. However, without knowing the exact context of its discovery it is difficult to make any useful observation on how it may have come to the villa. There is little doubt that this is a most interesting addition to the known examples of Iron Age Art from the county of Lincolnshire.

2. These have been listed with references in H. St. Gray and A. Buller The Moore Lake Village Volume II (1955), 216-217.
3. Archaeological Journal XCI (1934), 107, pl. XXII, B.
4. The use of imitation coral is discussed in L. Sted The La Tène Cultures of Eastern Yorkshire (1968), 83-86.

LINCOLN ARCHAEOLOGICAL TRUST EXCAVATIONS 1974

C. C. Colyer

Excavations in 1974 have been carried out on three major sites within the lower town, Flaxengate, Dunes Terrace and Steep Hill. Earlier in the year some work was carried out on the site of St. Paul-in-the-Bail, the excavation of which has been financed by a generous grant from Lloyds Bank Ltd.

1. Flaxengate

Two previous seasons of work here, in 1972 and 1973, were concerned with the excavation of a series of Medieval and later houses and associated occupation (see last year's report). In 1974, three months were spent on the careful excavation and recording of the underlying timber buildings, dating from c. AD 950 to c. 1200.

The excavation of these deposits was an extremely complicated process. Many fragments of evidence were found: daub, nails, post-holes, stake-holes, clay hearths, clay floors, ash floors, together with some beam slots and
ground-sills, all representing evidence for the walls and internal features of the houses. In addition, there were stone surfaces which appeared to have been external features, some associated with bronze-working and other activities. There were also large quantities of animal bone and pottery, and, more importantly, a series of coins which included issues of Edgar, Edward the Confessor, William I and William II.

The nature of the evidence was such, however, that no complete building-plan was recoverable. It seems likely that the latest (12th century) houses measured approximately 8 metres by 3.50 metres, their long axis parallel to the street, but these buildings may also have possessed extensions at the rear. It is difficult to make any definite statements about the plans of the 10th and 11th century buildings.

At the western end of the site, a late Roman stone building appears to have survived until about the 11th century, and possibly to have been used during that time as the basis for timber structures. Excavations of the Roman and earlier Anglo-Saxon levels will take place in 1975.

2 Danes Terrace
Two areas have been investigated here, just north of the Flaxengate site, and on the presumed northern boundary of the insula of which the Flaxengate site forms the southern extremity. Work so far has dealt with a series of stone buildings, mostly houses, dating from c. AD 1200. The 13th and 14th century buildings were well-built, with mortar or clay floors, hearths of stone or pitted roof-tiles, and some had plaster renderings on internal walls. Three of the houses had cellars or undercours. A Roman stone wall which had survived into the 13th century, presumably having been incorporated into Anglo-Saxon timber buildings, was utilised as part of the foundations for one of the Medieval walls.

Later Medieval buildings on the site, and the 16th century rebuilding were both symptomatic of the decline of the city's prosperity by that time. One house was built largely of reused architectural fragments from a demolished house or church. Away from the main north-south route, through the city, there appears to have been a period of dereliction from the sixteenth to the eighteenth century. There was continuous occupation on the frontage. Remaining levels will be excavated in 1975.

3 Steep Hill
Concurrently with work on the Danes Terrace sites, a small excavation is taking place near the bottom of Steep Hill, just north of the 12th century Jew's House. The topography of this site, with terracing both north-south and east-west, made interpretation of the surviving remains difficult.

Many of the earlier features had been removed by later terracing.

It was however possible to recover the plans of two 13th century houses, one fronting on to the street, the other, at a higher level, set back. These were largely demolished in the late 16th century and replaced by a less well-built structure which incorporated some elements of one of the earlier houses. At the same time, the higher ground to the rear of the property was drained by the laying of a brick-lined drain covered with stone slabs. This was not totally successful - the line of the drain was moved three times before the 18th century remodelling of the site.

There were few traces of Anglo-Saxon occupation, presumably because of terracing operations. At the time of writing, excavations are uncovering a late Roman house with a fragmentarily preserved polychrome mosaic in one room. Work continues.

THE ROMAN AQUADUCT, LINCOLN
K. J. Wood
The line of the aqueduct is known from the Roaring Meg spring to a point some distance south of the Longdalen Road - Nettleham Road junction. Hence its course is uncertain but has been assumed to continue south towards the N.E. corner of the Roman town.

During 1974 a geophysical survey was made to locate the aqueduct beyond its most southerly known point. The change in electrical resistivity recorded across a known length of aqueduct gives a clear indication of its presence. A similar change was noted in the garden of 87 Nettleham Road but bad weather has prevented this being tested by excavation. Further south at 77 Nettleham Road the resistivity readings suggested that the aqueduct is turning S.W. onto a line which, if projected, would strike the town defences somewhere between the East Bight tower and Newport Arch. However, until excavation can confirm this it would be unwise to assume that the aqueduct does anything but continue south as previously thought. Unfortunately the garden of No. 77 was not available for excavation and a dig across the projected line some distance towards the south-west failed to give any conclusive results.

Work during the season has indicated that a clear resistivity profile is obtainable over surviving sections and that it should be possible to establish the line by the robber trench in those places where the aqueduct has been removed. Much more work can be done as new areas become available for survey and excavation.

Thanks are due to the many people who have given their gardens for survey and excavation.

EAST BIGHT, EXCAVATION, LINCOLN 1974
K. J. Wood
The 1974 season's work continued into the construction and purpose of the stone platform first located in excavations directed by J. B. Whitwell. Debris from its destruction, now being recovered, supports the suggestion, first made by the late Professor Richmond, that this was the base for a water tank.

The two northern corners have been exposed to give an east-west length of 55 feet 5 inches but as the tower had been robbed along its entire southern face (down to the depth of recent excavations) it is not yet possible to give its north-south extent.

Except for one small piece of mortar in situ, the whole of the water container has gone. Fortunately sufficient pieces remain within the destruction levels to permit a possible reconstruction. Dating evidence is scanty, but it can be said with some certainty that the construction of the tower falls between the first stone defences and the widening and heightening of the wall at this point, possibly within the second century.

POTTERY SCATTER EXPERIMENT
K. J. Wood
On most kiln sites it is usual to find a scatter of sherds and debris over an area at varying distances from the source. Does this result from the activities of the potter and, perhaps, measure the intensity and life of the industry or is it partially or wholly due to later cultivation?

In an attempt to answer these questions 100 marked sherds of sizes between 4 and 11 cms. were buried on a fenland site in December 1973 at a depth of 0.16 - 0.24 m. A close watch is being kept for the emergence of sherds and each movement will be recorded for several years.

During 1974 potatoes were grown on the field. Despite intensive but not extra deep cultivation not one sherd has been seen on the surface. The field will be deep ploughed after the 1975 corn crop has been harvested.

A ROMAN PHALIC CARVING FROM LONG BENNINGTON
C. N. Moore
The limestone carving illustrated (Plate I) was found while field-walking by Mr. John Dable at Shire Bridge Farm, Long Bennington. The carving is almost trapezoid in shape measuring 94 cms. from top to bottom and 35 cms. at the
widest part. Parts of the carving have been scarred as a result of having been hit by the plough.

The carving depicts a two legged phallus which has a figure sitting astride it. The figure is wielding a whip and is dressed in a skirt or form of kilt. Beneath the phallus is a cusine inscription EMIT. S. Phallic carvings are far from common in Britain and possibly the nearest parallel is the carving of a two legged phallus pulling a cart from Wroxeter. There is a double phallus carving set into the wall in the cottage next to the Newport Arch in Lincoln,² one on the Roman Wall at the East Bight, and another phallus carving was discovered on the base of the Eastgate in Lincoln.³ The shape of the Long Bennington carving suggests that it would have been set in a niche in a temple or shrine.

1 The carving is on loan to the City and County Museum. Accession No. 99.74.
2 Archaeological Journal 111 (1947) pl. VIIIG.
3 Archaeologia CIV (1975), 140.

A ROMAN CANDLESTICK FROM BRANSTON
C. N. Moore

The Roman candlestick found on Moor Farm, Branstoun late in 1975 (Plate II) is one of the most remarkable finds of Roman metalwork to have been discovered in Lincolnshire for many years. The candlestick was found by potato-pickers, and through the offices of Mr. A. Battle, the owner of the land, it was possible for the City and Country Museum to acquire the candlestick.¹

When found, the candlestick only had two of the tripod feet and these had been bent under the stem, apparently in antiquity. In order to restore it to its original shape, the legs were bent back by Mr. Nimmo of the British Museum Research Laboratory, and an additional electrotyping leg was fitted to replace the missing one. When the earth was cleaned out of the lily-shaped drip-pan two bronze coins of Constantine II (335 - 340 AD) were found wedged against the pricket.

This is the first nearly complete Roman candlestick to have been found in Britain, and the design appears to be without parallel, though a number of detached legs possibly from candlesticks have been found. Dr. M. Hennig notes that the candlestick is sufficiently unusual for it to be of British, rather than Italian or Gaulish manufacture, and it would probably have been made in the 3rd or early 4th centuries A.D.

¹ The candlestick has the City and County Museum Accession No. 28.74. A grant towards the purchase of the candlestick was given by the Victoria and Albert Museum. A fuller description of this candlestick will be appearing in Britannia VI (1975).

Plate II Roman Candlestick from Branstoun

ROMAN BRONZE SKILLET FROM THE RIVER WITHERN
C. N. Moore

Among the Roman collections in Sheffield Museum is a fine bronze skillet or saucepan dredged from the River Witham,¹ (Plates III and IV). According to the published account it is stated to have been found at Aubourn,² but a re-examination of the Sheffield Museum records shows this can hardly be the case. The record card states that it was 'brought up by a dredger in the river Witham (sic) 4 1/2 miles above Lincon in 1900. Purchased from Thos. Thompson, Fiskertion (sic), Nr. Lincoln 20/-.' Though this statement is a little ambiguous, there can be little doubt that this skillet must have been found close to Fiskerton, and indeed Fiskerton Church is almost exactly 4 1/2 miles down the Witham from the High Bridge in Lincoln. An approximate grid reference of TF 050715 is likely for the findspot of the skillet.

Both the Fiskerton skillet and another found in the River Witham at Tattershall Ferry (TF 197563) in 1768 are interesting specimens and deserve further consideration. Sir Joseph Banks records that the Tattershall skillet was appropriately used as bale for the Ferry before he purchased it.³ He later allowed Dr. Pearson to undertake a series of experiments to determine the composition of the metal in the skillet.⁴ This is one of the earliest records of chemical analysis being applied to archaeology. Shortly after this Sir Joseph Banks presented his collection of antiquities to the Dean and Chapter of Lincoln Cathedral, and in 1811 Stark records that in the small museum they had in the Medieval Library there was a 'bronce saucepan.'⁵ Unfortunately this skillet had disappeared when the Dean and Chapter transferred their collection to the City and County Museum in 1906, but a good illustration of it, probably by John Claude Nattes, exists in the Banks drawings in Lincoln Cathedral Library. Both the skillets were marked with the makers stamp on the handle, and in both cases the stamp is unusual. The Fiskerton skillet is stamped FLORVSF (i.e. Florus Fecit, or Florus made it), and the Tattershall skillet is said to have been stamped CARAT. It is difficult to say from these names whether they were manufactured in the area round Capua in Southern Italy, which was famous in the 1st century A.D. for its bronze working, or if they were produced in Roman Gaul. There is little doubt, however, that the Fiskerton skillet is an early example. There is no exact parallel for it in Britain, but there is another with a similar handle by the maker Silvius from the Roman Fort at Valkenburg at the mouth of the Rhine. The Valkenburg specimen is generally dated as being earlier than 49 AD, and certainly earlier than 69 AD.⁶

Another skillet by the Tattershall maker stamped
C. N. MOORE
CARATVSV is known from Aszár in Hungary and another fragment stamped CARATVVS comes from Sigmaringen in Germany. This was found with a legionary veteran diploma dated to 148 AD. On this evidence it seems likely that this maker was working either late in the 1st century or in the earlier part of the 2nd century AD.

Skillet types of the Tattershall and Fiskerton types are generally regarded as being part of the Roman legio- nary’s equipment and such discoveries can provide evidence for the early military occupation of Lincolnshire. It is noticeable that the Tattershall and Fiskerton skillets were both found at possible fording sites of the River Witham, and they could have been lost when an army unit was crossing the river. The fact that the Fiskerton skillet might have been lost at a comparatively early date, perhaps around 50 AD, could suggest that the Romans were using the Fiskerton ford, rather than the Lincoln ford, which developed where the Ermine Street and Legionary fort was. However, this can be little more than surmise.

1 The skillet is in Sheffield Museum Accession No. J 1901.47. I must thank Mr. John Marjoram for providing me with the details and photographs of the skillet.
2 J. B. Whitwell Roman Lincolnshire (1970) pp. 13-14 Fig. 1.
3 Lincolnshire Notes and Queries IV (1895), 240.
4 Philosophical Transactions (1799-6), 400. PI. XIII.
5 J. Stark A History of Lincoln (1811).
6 M. H. P. Den Boestor, The Bronze Vessels in the Rijksmuseum G. M. Kam at Nijmegen (1956), XXI.
7 H. Willers Neue Unteruchungen über die römische Bronzeg- industrie von Capua und von Nidergermanien (1907), 90 nos. 153 and 164.
8 Proceedings of the Society of Antiquaries of Scotland LXII (1927-28), 255.
9 There is another skillet stamped MLNFEC in Louth Museum Journal of Roman Studies LIV (1964), 180. There is no known parallel to this stamp and the skillet is not a certain Lincolnshire find. An unstamped skillet handle has also been found at Normanby Park near Scunthorpe Britannia II (1971), 299.

EXCAVATIONS AT THORNHOLME PRIORY, APPLEBY 1974
Glyn Coppack
The first season’s work on this small Augustinian Priory was concentrated on the western part of the outer court, and outer works of the main gateway. Approximately half the site is at present being ploughed damaged, and the excavation is intended to record areas which will not ultimately be preserved and to examine the domestic buildings of the priory.

Two earthen banks flanking the entrance to the site were examined. The southern bank had been almost obliterated by bulldozing and ploughing, but sufficient remained of the northern bank to show that it was made up of alternating deposits of sand and rubble. One building, apparently outside the priory precinct, on the surface of the northern bank, was partly examined, and found to be late medieval in date. The northern bank produced only a few sherds of Roman pottery, and it is most likely that the banks were raised in the mid-twelfth century when the abbey was founded. A machine-trench inside the presumed line of the precinct wall showed that the banks continued inside the outer court, and had originally been approximately 2 m high. Their eastern ends were cut away by a nineteenth century drain. A spread of burned rubble and brick on the surface of the southern bank was examined and proved to be a circular brick-kiln of fourteenth century date. Although much of the upper structure had been bulldozed in 1975, enough remained to show that it was of ‘bottle’ shape, was loaded from the north, and had flues on the east and west sides. Samples have been lifted by the Ancient Monuments Laboratory for geophysical dating.

Within the precinct, two buildings were examined. Neither appeared on the aerial photographs, and both were heavily robbed. The main building lay about 12 m inside

Plate III Roman Skillet from Fiskerton

Plate IV Detail of Skillet Handle

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the presumed precinct wall south of the gatehouse, and was part of the baking and brewing complex. The building contained an inserted malting kiln of the fourteenth century, the flue of which was lined with bricks apparently made in the brick kiln. Two mill-stones were set in the floor. The actual malting kiln was exceptionally well preserved, whilst the outer walls of the building were almost totally robbed. An earlier building with ovens lies below the building, but the kiln could not be excavated in 1978. Both buildings are dug into the southern bank. The other structure, a small, square building with a door in its north wall, lay to the east. No floor levels survived, and no use can be ascribed to the building at the moment. A fragment of late thirteenth century knight's jug was associated with its construction. This building also seals an earlier building of approximately the same proportions, which will be excavated in 1979.

EXCAVATIONS AT GOLTHO 1974
Guy Beresford

Guy Beresford completed the excavation of the manor site for the Department of the Environment and the Deserted Medieval Village Research Group. The 11th century levels, excavated in 1973, were removed to reveal four superimposed manorial houses and their associated buildings dating from the 9th century. The houses, cameral and other out-buildings stood round three sides of a courtyard. The houses were built on an east to west alignment in the southern part of the site. The earlier two stood on the same foundation and their positions were clearly defined by post-trenches. Each house, excluding the end pentice, was 67 ft. long, 18 ft. wide at the ends and 20 ft. wide in the middle - the side walls were slightly bowed. Access was gained by way of two opposing doors set in the side walls of a room, partitioned off from the hall at the western end of the building. The eastern half of the hall floor was raised some 13 ins., forming a long dais, on which there was a central hearth. The positions of the third and fourth houses built on the site were defined by post-holes and post-trenches. They showed a gradual development of a single aisled hall. They measured 52 ft. by 22 ft. and 48 ft. by 23 ft. respectively.

The remains of four superimposed cameral lay on the same alignment to the east of the halls. The post-holes and post-trenches were so confused that it was not possible to identify the individual chambers. Other principal buildings associated with the houses included the kitchens and a substantial out-building, 60 ft. long and 15 ft. wide, which was built twice on the same foundations. Some of the ditches, which crossed the site, probably ran to water storage cisterns, which were later destroyed by the excavation of the ring-work moat.

The excavation of the Saxon Boundary revealed that the manor was originally surrounded by a timber palisade. During the 10th century it was replaced by an earthen bank, built within the earlier boundary. Before the beginning of the 11th century the area of occupation was increased. The egg-shaped enclosure, approximately 350 ft. long and 250 ft. wide, was surrounded by a bank and outer ditch. In the south-east corner of the site near the gate, the ditch was 18 ft. wide and 5 ft. deep. The bank 24 ft. wide still stood 5 ft. high at the commencement of the excavation. The bank and ditch were smaller further from the entrance.

The Saxon remains overlay a Roman-British homestead occupied from circa 50-200 AD. It was surrounded by a timber palisade, enclosing an area of 220 ft. wide and over 230 ft. long. Early in the 2nd century the enclosure was divided to provide space for a house, garden and farm-yard. Excavation of these levels revealed a sequence of three circular houses. The foundations of the earliest, 29 ft. in diameter, were well preserved. Access was gained from the east and a partition formed a small inner room. The second house was of similar size, but its remains had been considerably defaced by the later development of the site. Much of the last house, over 40 ft. in diameter, had been destroyed by the ring-work moat, but sufficient remained to show that it had been divided into two rooms. A doorway led to the southern part of the house from the east.

The northern room was heated from a hearth close to the partition. Pottery, coins, flue and roofing tiles and a section of a stone pillar indicated that there had been a substantial building (in the 3rd and 4th centuries) close to the area reserved for excavation.

EXCAVATIONS AT STAMFORD CASTLE 1974
G. M. Mahany (For Stamford Archaeological Research Committee)

There were two main projects.

a. The completion of the central courtyard area. The aisled barn discovered in 1973 was found to overlie a building of which the surviving portion was a southward facing apse. This was too slight to be associated with the defences, and wrongly orientated for a chapel, and its function remains obscure. The motte ditch was sectioned twice more. It was cut by a large quarry, interpreted previously as a ditch, and sealed by a thirteenth century courtyard. This also sealed other smaller ditches, presumably associated with drainage, rather than defence.

b. The excavation of the area west of the surviving thirteenth century arcade confirmed its function as part of the screens passage between the hall and the buttery. The excavation of the hall is continuing. Provisionally it consists of four main periods.

Period I An aisleless structure, at the moment incompletely excavated. The western end was provided with at least one window to the south, through the curtain wall, and at least three windows to the north, opening onto a courtyard. A fine thirteenth century fireplace was added when this part of the hall became the basement to the solar, in Period II.

Period II The hall was shortened, and widened to form an aisled hall of four bays, with a solar to the west. The floor possibly overlies a filled in cellar.

Period III The roof posts were re-aligned and slightly reset. The floor was slightly raised and the west and south walls rebuilt. At this period the fire place was central.

Period IV The building was completely re-roofed, and the side walls rebuilt, apparently following a fire. The new hall was a single aisled structure of three bays. The raising of the floor by a foot brings it to the level of the base of the screens passage arcade.

Other structures, a yard and outbuildings, adjacent to the hall were examined.

DISCOVERIES IN THE STAMFORD AREA
G. M. Till, M. J. Warby and G. Musgrove

1. The Black Friary
The Black Friary is known to have been in existence in the year 1241. It ceased to exist in 1558, and the following year some of the buildings were pulled down. All traces of substantial buildings appear to have vanished by the late 17th century.

During 1909 a late 14th century lead coffin was discovered during work in Adelaide Street. It was discovered under the present road near to Number 7 at a depth of five to six feet.

On 28 June 1974 clearance work was started on the site of old allotments facing Adelaide Street. During the course of the work the contractors collected a few sherds of medieval pottery. It was therefore decided at the week-end that a close watch would be kept on their activities.

The north-west corner of the site revealed extensive stonework unfortunately badly mutilated by the machines. Footings were found to stand to a height of three feet, approximately twelve feet in from the west wall. On clearance it was found that two walls ran together with a
of stoneware bellarmine. This fill also produced a clay pipe bowl dating to 1650. The second fill contained soil building debris and much pottery dating no earlier than the mid 19th century.

Running south from Broad Street was an open channel built of rough stone walling 2 ft. 9 inches deep and 4 ft. wide. This channel discharged itself into the main body of the cesspit. Facing the channel was a large stone built arch, badly eroded. This arch supported the outside wall of the building above the pit. The arch is contemporary with the whole cesspit structure but the building above would appear to be later. Behind the arch a chamber approximately 3 ft. 4 inch diameter was found. This appears to have had barrel vaulting in the past but had been lowered to take the floor of the building above. The arch spanned the pit excavated to a depth of 12 ft. On the west wall 9 ft. below a smaller arch was discovered. Behind the arch was a small barrel vaulted pit. It was found to be unsafe to remove the fill from this but a rod was pushed into the fill and showed it to continue down. The arch stood 3 ft. high above the remaining fill.

Conclusion
The cesspit was certainly known in the 19th century. Brick arches of this period were built over it to take a brick floor, after it had been filled in. The earliest remains recovered are of the mid 17th century and it is doubtful if the structure is much earlier than this. The whole complex appears to be of contemporary build. Construction material was mostly of rough limestone although thick Collyweston slate appears in the lower levels.

In the circular chamber behind the large arch were noted a few re-used dressed limestone blocks, certainly of medieval date. The cesspit is so far back from High Street that it probably belonged to a tenement facing Broad Street. In fact, it is from this direction that the channel draining into the pit comes.

3 Sewerage Works
Contractors working at the Borough Sewerage Works put down a trench in June 1974 between the River Welland and the Works. During the work a large amount of timber obstructed the trench much of it was 6" x 6" oak beams. These required cutting by mechanical saw before the excavation could continue. On close inspection it was found that the trench ran along a length of the old 17th century canal and this would appear to be a lock door that allowed barges across to the Welland. The base of the canal was lined with blue clay and a few 17th century sherd of slip ware were obtained. The canal had finally been backfilled and levelled off during the late 19th century.

4 King Street
Site stripping for gravel beside King Street turned up a large quantity of Samian Pottery from June 1974 onwards. The pottery has now been traced to a possible enclosure surrounded by a ditch. Forms so far identified are DR37 freestyle and normal design and DR30. Amongst the sherds some interesting marked examples have been found.

5 Barnack Road
Stripping for gravel on Barnack Road has turned up sherds of Bronze Age and early Saxon pottery, Roman coins and evidence of Bronze working. In June 1974 in a flight over the area three large circles one with a double ditch, various enclosures and a sequence of pit alignments were observed. (Fig. 3)

6 High Street
During the course of re-landscaping the garden at the rear of Abbeygate Travel, High Street in June 1974 a large stone construction was discovered. On excavation it was found to be a grain dryer, in a fine state of preservation. The dryer is complete with stoke hole and stepped access, flue and drying area. It dates from the mid 14th century.
NORMAN CORBEL, MAREHAM-LE-FEN
C. N. Moore

The limestone corbel head illustrated below (Plates V, VI and VII), was found late in 1973 during pipe-trenching near the moated site of Birkwood Hall, Mareham-le-Fen.1 Other stonework and building debris were found at the same time and it seems possible that this was the site of a medieval chapel. There is a record that Henry II in 1158 confirmed to Durham Priory the Church of Kirkby ‘cum capella de Birchewda’; 2

The corbel is a most important addition to the small number of Romanesque figure carvings already known from Lincolnshire. Best known are the carvings on the west front of Lincoln Cathedral, but the closest parallels may be the two, now much eroded, corbels above the outer arch of the St. Mary Guildhall in Lincoln High Street. Otherwise parallels are difficult to cite, and one has the strong impression that the mason who carved this had been trained in a continental, possibly French, school of carving. The treatment of the hair strongly resembles the head of an angel from the monastery of St. Maximin near Trier 3 while the eyes are similar to the sculpture of an apostle from Châlons-sur-Marne. The Mareham-le-Fen corbel may well be intended to depict the head of an angel. The way that the eyes have been drilled to show the irises does not appear to be continental, and is often encountered on later Gothic sculpture in the Midlands (see also the way the eyes are depicted in the bifacial ridge tile from Lincoln in the accompanying note).

Another point of interest is the way in which the corbel has weathered. One side of the face must have been exposed to the elements for a period of time, but the other side is very fresh and crisply carved. The chipping on the cheek seems to have occurred at the time of discovery. Stylistically, there seems little doubt that the corbel belongs to the latest phase of Romanesque art and can probably be dated to the last half of the 12th century.

1 The corbel head is City and County Museum Accession No. 11.74. It was purchased from Master John Major with a grant from the National Art Collections Fund.

4 Ibid. Pl. 1, No. 5

Plate V Side View of Mareham-le-Fen Corbel.
AN AQUAMANILE FROM BOSTON

Hilary Healey

Fragments of an aquamanile in the form of a horse and rider were found during structural work on the site of Lloyds Bank, Boston Market Place in the late 1960s. (Fig. 4). These eventually came into the possession of Mr. B. Goddard, who has kindly loaned them for recording. The sherds fit together and make up most of the front part of the vessel (it is understood that some breakage occurred at the time of the discovery and a few fragments are missing) which represents the most complete example of an aquamanile found in Lincolnshire. It is manufactured in a hard, sandy fabric, the upper part being covered in a thick, dark, copper green glaze. The lower, unglazed areas have a light, reddish buff surface and the entire vessel a reduced grey core. The front end of the body appears to have been a wheel thrown shape to which the various modelled parts have been added, and the top aperture was probably also wheel made. On the front of the belly is a circular mark where another vessel, probably a jug, has adhered during firing, and there is also a glaze-filled crack in the horse’s neck, but as neither flaw would impair the function of the vessel it cannot with certainty be regarded as a waster. The fabric, the form of twisted handle and the style of the applied decoration are consistent with a Lincoln origin, and can be paralleled amongst items in the Trollope collections in the British Museum and Lincoln Museum. It is known that Arthur Trollope collected material from a kiln site in the city in 1848, although it cannot be proved that all his modelled pieces necessarily originate from there.
MEDIEVAL RIDGE TILE FROM LINCOLN
J. Marjoram and C. N. Moore

One of the most outstanding acquisitions by Lincoln City and County Museum during 1974, was a Medieval ridge tile (Plates VIII and IX) with a bifacial finial. The ridge tile is likely to have been discovered before 1848 when it is noted that Mr. T. M. Keyworth exhibited a 'singular ridge tile, surmounted by a grotesque head' at the meeting of the Archaeological Institute in Lincoln in that year. The tile was re-discovered with other archaeological finds in the cellars of the Roman house in the Bail in 1945, and was published in the meeting report of the Archaeological Institute when it visited Lincoln in 1946. Since then it has been assumed that the tile was found in the Bail in Lincoln, but there does not appear to be adequate evidence to confirm this.

Plate VIII  Lincoln Ridge Tile (side 1)

Plate IX  Lincoln Ridge Tile (side 2).

Dr. G. C. Dunning kindly contributed the following note for us about this tile:-

Although still rather an exceptional thing, it is now possible to give some parallels for it, and so to place it in context. Comparable bi-facial finials are known from two places. First, there is the famous separate finial from Nottingham; still wrongly called a louver. Secondly, a smaller finial from Kings Lynn. I know of nothing of this kind elsewhere in England, so one can say that this type of finial arose in the Midlands, and the style was carried thence into East Anglia.

These finials can also be brought into relationship with the human faces on jugs. Here again, faces on opposite sides of the rim or on lateral handles, are regional in the Midlands. In the southern regions there is normally only one mask on the jug, below the lip or spout, hence the term face-on-front jug.

It is difficult to place an exact date on such an unusual object as the Lincoln ridge tile, but it seems to represent a late stage in the development of ornamental finials and may well date from the fifteenth century. It would surmount the gable end of a house and the masks would have been visible from both sides of the roof.

1. It has the City and County Accession Number 11875.
2. It was purchased from Mestra. Christie's, the London auctioneers, and had come from Mrs. A. Harding of Lincoln. The money for the purchase was kindly provided by the Halkes Trust of Lincoln.
3. Proceedings of the Archaeological institute, Lincoln Meeting (1850) XLIII.
7. B. Rackham op. cit. pl. 82.