Archaeology in Lincolnshire and South Humberside, 1975

Compiled by A. J. White

1975 has seen a number of changes in the archaeological organisation of Lincolnshire and South Humberside. New policies at the Department of the Environment towards the sponsoring of 'Units' – full-time excavation and survey teams with responsibility for larger territorial areas than a single town or monument – have led to the formation of the South Lincolnshire Unit, based on the former Stamford Archaeological Trust and the Car Dyke Research Committee, and the North Lincolnshire Unit, which had no pre-existing basis. Both have received grants from Lincolnshire County Council, but at the time of writing, it remains to be seen what government funding there will be, particularly in the case of the latter.

The Lincoln Archaeological Trust remains responsible for rescue excavation in Lincoln itself and in South Humberside the existing Humberside Archaeological Committee and the M180 Joint Archaeological Committee (formed late in 1974) are likely to merge in the near future, and local authority representation will play a significant part. Despite the new organisation of archaeology, the role of the amateur seems unlikely to diminish and much valuable work will undoubtedly be carried out, particularly in the field of survey.

In 1974 Lincolnshire County Museums were set up, centred on the two existing Museums and Art Gallery in Lincoln, and Grantham and Stamford Museum. Staff are based at Lincoln and a programme of improvements to storage and recording is at present under way.

Financial problems are beginning to affect policy regarding excavation and there is increased emphasis on the collection of post-excavation data. This is partially due to the cost of protection of ancient monuments by scheduling. To make this policy effective, there is a need for vigilance at a local level in order to report sites under threat before they are destroyed or to prevent progressive and insidious destruction. A scheme is now being set up by Lincolnshire County Museums under which it is intended that a voluntary correspondent will be found for every parish in the new county, to report new sites and damage to such sites as they are found. The same emphasis on non-destructive recording of sites has led to the joint appointment by Lincolnshire County Council, Nottingham University and the Royal Commission on Historic Monuments, of Mr. P. Everson on a five-year contract to record and plan the sites and monuments of the county on a systematic basis.

For several years now there has been concern at the irreparable losses to knowledge caused by unconsidered alterations and 'improvements' to churches and it is therefore gratifying to know that the diocese of Lincoln now has as advisers on the archaeology of churches Mr. G. F. Bryant in the north and Miss C. Mahany in the south.

Contributions to Archaeology in Lincolnshire and South Humberside are divided into three sections: a résumé of the more significant discoveries of 1975, summaries of excavations carried out during the year, and notes on a few objects and sites worthy of individual consideration. As in the last two years, grid references are not quoted for fear of damage to the sites reported, but full information can be obtained by bono fide researchers on application to the Keeper of the City and County Museum, Lincoln. Acknowledgements are given for each contribution to this article.

SITES AND FINDS

MBA — Middle Bronze Age
LBA — Late Bronze Age
IA — Iron Age
RB — Romano-British

A partially-finished Mesolithic flint axe was found at Holton-cum-Beckering, while Neolithic polished axes were recorded from Asgarby and Howell, Bourne, Brantston, Long Bennington, North Owersby and Tattershall Thorpe, with Group VI types from Nettleton, Ewerby and Evedon,

A partially-finished flint axe was found at Billingborough, Osbarby, and Osbarby, (both found in 1974 but not recorded until 1975) and Thornton Curtis

(both found in 1974) and Thorpe.

A partially-finished flint axe was found at Stainby. Bronze Age metalwork included a part of a halberd from Redbourne, a MBA side-looped spearhead from Great Sturton, and LBA socketed knives from Nettleton and Nettleton (see below), while flintwork was represented by an unfinished barbed and tanged arrowhead from Nettleham.

No Iron Age finds have been reported except for Nettleton (see below), but several sites were excavated at Billingborough and Helpringham (see below).

Two probable and one certain Roman villa sites were discovered, at Sapperton and Leasingham and at Kirmond-le-Mire (see below). That such large sites can remain totally unrecorded until now is indicative of how little we can usefully say yet about their distribution and economy. At Swanpool, Lincoln a possible further kiln site was located to the north of the known group by the presence of a large pottery scatter, and two further tile-kilns were recorded at Heighington.

In Burg-Le-Marsh trenching for GPO cables to the north of the main road produced much Roman pottery of the 1st-4th centuries in circumstances which suggested a sharp fall eastwards in the Roman ground surface, probably a ditch. New occupation sites were recorded at Blankney, Brantston, Elsham (two sites), Glenham, Ingoldmells, Laughton (two sites), Long Bennington, where RB material and some Anglo-Saxon sherds were recorded, a double-ditched enclosure, and Sandtoft (see below). Burials were found in Alfred Street and the Newport Cemetery at Leconfield (cremations in urns) and inhumations at Ancaster, on the north side of the village, with pottery and harnails, and Stainton-by-Langworth (see below). Casual finds of RB material were made at Alford, (Belgic-derivative jar with perforation), Humby, (stone head), Legby (mortarium stamp and small bronze and silver object in the form of a human head with a cow's head), Sleaford (Black-burnished jar and bone awl). A hoard of c.20,000 coins was found at Coleby (see below). Seven saltern sites were located from surface scatter and briquetage at Orby, (not all necessarily Roman), while hand-bricks found some years ago between Burgh and Westwell and at Hadleigh but never recorded seemed to indicate another site. Saltern material was also noted at Wrangle.

A possible Anglo-Saxon cemetery was recorded at Westborough and a spearhead ploughed up at Carlton Scoop may relate to a cemetery farm 15 miles from the town c.1900.

A white and blue glass bead from Wrangle was also probably Anglo-Saxon.

Fieldwalking was carried out over several deserted and shrunken village sites. At Binbrook and Kirmond-le-Mire the settlement pattern was elucidated after ploughing and levelling. Two sites are now known: two house-platforms associated with the lynchets of the north of the B120, and extensive earthworks with associated pottery to the south.
of the road. The former may be part of Beckfield DMV, while the latter is possibly a deserted part of Kirmond. At Holton-cum-Beckering 16 building revealed a scatter of material and a house site with pottery, of medieval-post-medieval date, while at Bratton 14th-18th century pottery was recovered from a previously unrecorded hamlet or village with clearly marked house-platforms and hollowways. Earthworks were located at Fotherby 17 (including fish-ponds) and Sedbrook. 15

Other medieval-post-medieval occupation sites were recorded at Beltoft, 15 St. Catherine's Road, Grantham (possibly a chantry chapel), two sites in Hogsthorpe, Salmonby, Swinethorpe and Thorpe St. Peter. Medieval and later pottery was found after flooding and landslips at three places in Stamford, 16 and 17th-century pottery was recovered from East Kirkby, 20 with suggestions of later products of the Old Bolingbrooke kilns.

Other individual finds of the medieval period included a bronze cwer-spout (15th century) from Binbrook (see below), a 15th-century pottery bottle from Lincoln (see below), an annular brooch with meaningless (magical?) inscription from Tathwell, a complete 'bellarmine' jug from the Cowpaddles, Lincoln, and a cannon-ball from Long Bennington. 21 A chalk road-surface at Great Limber 1 in a recently levelled field was identified with one on the 1815 Enclosure Map, and medieval pottery was also found. Dismantled wells were discovered in ploughing at Candlesby and Welton-le-Marsh, in the open fields, and in Exchequer-gate, Lincoln, during road alterations.

Increasingly, sites are being recognised and recorded as 'multi-period' and in many cases surface scatters include material of all dates from disturbed occupation layers, rubbish tipping, or manuring. Such was the case at Barrow-on-Humber 18 (RB-post-medieval), Blythe (RB-medieval pottery), Burgh-le-Marsh 19 (Neolithic flints, Roman coins), Fillingham (Mesolithic and Neolithic flints, two polished axes, Roman coins, Anglo-Saxon brooch and medieval and later bronze-work), another site in the same parish with Bronze Age flints and Roman coins, Lenton (Roman coin, Roman and Anglo-Saxon pottery, late medieval tile), and Nettleton (see above), where a LBA socketed knife and a sherd of an IA carinated bowl were found (unassociated) at 3 metres depth in a sandpit — clear evidence that other sites in the area may have been overwhelmed by sand in the past and thus be out of reach or aerial photography. At Scotton flints, RB and medieval pottery were noted, while at Waddington the known Roman site also produced Neolithic flints and medieval pottery. Roman and medieval finds were reported from Muckton, 22 Whiploe Drove, Wickenby, and Willoughby with Sleaford. 13

A great deal of survey work has been carried out in the vicinity of the Car Dyke, 23 the results of which illustrate how radically an apparently well-known pattern can be altered by intensive fieldwork and documentary research. Finally, aerial photography has revealed a ring-ditch at Tallington 19 while an extension to the line of the Roman aqueduct to Lincoln has also been suggested. 23

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EXCAVATIONS IN 1975

APPLEBY — THORNOLME PRIORY

G. Coppock and R. Williams

Work continued on the buildings revealed in 1974 in the western part of the outer court of this small Augustinian house.

The two banks flanking the western approach to the precinct were further examined. The northern bank was found to consist of six superimposed roadways of pitched or laid limestone, all of which were heavily worn and rutted. A fourteenth century building overlay the uppermost road surface, and was examined in 1974. An earlier building was found to overlie the third roadway down. At least two of the roads had been of 'dual carriageway' type with two sets of ruts. The brick kiln dug into the southern bank was further examined and was dated by pottery to the first half of the fourteenth century. A paleomagnetic date of c.AD 1300-1310 has now been suggested. To the south of the kiln was a narrow path or roadway of pitched limestone following the outer edge of the bank.

Both buildings within the precinct excavated in 1974 were further examined. The large building was identified as the brewhouse, and was removed to reveal a longer but slightly narrower structure below. This building consisted of a range of four rooms running from north to south and had been demolished to floor level early in the fourteenth century when the later building replaced it. Although most of the internal fittings had been removed, the presence of benches or thralis in the southernmost room would suggest the earlier building had also been a brewhouse. There is a possibility that the earlier building, which seems to have been two storied, was erected in the late twelfth century. There was no evidence of a timber building below it. Both brewhouses had paved yards to the east, in which the other building examined lay. When the later brewhouse was erected, this yard was enlarged to the south, and was served by a drain. The small square building was found to have three phases of development. The final phase, partially examined in 1974, is now interpreted as the base for a post-mill, an adaption of an earlier building by thickening the walls on the inside, and filling it with rubble. The earlier building had been a dovecote, with nesting boxes built into all four walls, with a socket for a potence in the centre of the floor.

It had succeeded an earlier structure which had been rectangular in plan, and which had been demolished in the thirteenth century. The east and south walls were retained, the north wall rebuilt on old foundations and the west wall rebuilt inside its original line. The earliest building was apparently contemporary with the orgy with two. Below both buildings was a pathway of mortar and gravel of twelfth century date which must belong to the earliest occupation of the priory. It had subsided into a large undated ditch which had been apparent in the twelfth century and levelled up at that period.

A further building was examined at the eastern end of the north bank. It had been heavily robbed, and modern building had removed part of the north side. The building was apparently a stable and had a fine cobbled floor, apparently a secondary feature. The building had no foundations, and must have been timber-framed. Two earlier buildings are known to underlie this structure.

Excavation will continue in 1976 on buildings visible on aerial photographs in the outer court, threatened by deep ploughing.
ASLACKBY FEN – ROMAN SALT MAKING AND POSSIBLE SEA BANK
B. B. Simmons
Following extensive drainage work an important area of Roman salterns was examined and a long section through a possible Roman sea bank was recorded for the first time. The drainage work revealed dumped briquetage, and a series of pits, or ditches together with the Midford all of which were in association with each other.

BILLINGBOROUGH – LATE BRONZE AGE/EARLY IRON AGE SALT MAKING
B. B. Simmons
A large, elliptical shaped mound, one acre (0.4 hectare) in area has been located by excavation and geophysical survey in advance of earth moving. The mound appears to be surrounded by a shallow ditch with possible side channels. Remains of four hearths have, so far, been found on the mound, and in association with late BA/early IA domestic pottery and briquetage.

BOSTON
A. J. White
A pottery kiln was located during the cutting of foundation trenches for an eastward extension of Boston Grammar School in August 1975. It consisted of a circular stone-floored chamber of average diameter 2.7 metres internally, with three equally-spaced stone built flues radiating from it. The stonework was largely re-used medieval material from the site of the Franciscan Friary, on the edge of the former precinct of which the kiln lay. Considerable quantities of 14th century tiles in the destruction deposit suggest their possible re-use in the kiln superstructure.

Below the stone floor lay the remains of a slightly earlier kiln, of much cruder baked clay construction: this was only partially sampled as it was possible to preserve the later kiln in situ beneath foundations. It is probable that the earlier kiln was abandoned because of problems with the high water table, which may also account for the care taken in sealing the later floor.

The products, many of which can definitely be attributed to this particular kiln, as they were sealed in the deep ash layer from the last firing, included the standard 17th century forms; bung-hole jars, pancheons, pipkins, chamber-pots and one very early example of a roaster or Dutch oven. Fabrics were fine sandy both reduced and (more typically) oxidised with glazes ranging from clear brown to green. There are possibilities of some connection with the Toynton and Bolingbroke wares, with which numerous points of similarity occur.

Associated with both the use and destruction of the kiln were quantities of imported stonewares from the Rhine-land, English and Dutch delft, and some sherds of North Italian marbled ware. Clay tobacco pipes, of which seventeen marked examples occurred, including both London and Dutch types, dated the kiln to the first half of the seventeenth century.

The excavation was carried out by Mr. J. Sleight of Boston and A. J. White for the Lincolnshire County Museums. The finds are in the City and County Museum, Lincoln.

CARLBY
G. Till
Site stripped of soil on Plots 1 and 2 High Street, Carlby. Twenty feet back from the road much dressed stone turned up together with sherd of Bourneware. A small rubbish pit destroyed by the machine contained bones of pig and cattle with sherd of Bourneware.

EPWORTH
R. Williams
The Vinearth, an arable field to the south of the parish church, is thought to have been the site of a manor house belonging to the Mowbray family, lords of the manor of Epworth, and, later, of a monastic establishment until the Dissolution. A large house is recorded as standing there in 1749. The 1975 trial excavations were centred on an area adjacent to the churchyard. Here several periods of insubstantial foundations built of local marl-stone were uncovered dating from the twelfth to early sixteenth centuries. No later signs of occupation were discovered. The buildings may have been ancillary to a larger establishment. It is hoped that further excavations in 1976 will reveal the site of the main manorial building prior to the development of the field for council building.

FISHTOFT
G. Bullivant
Excavations revealed a rectangular hut of wattle and daub construction, one side of which was c. 4.3 metres long. In one corner was a hearth. Coins of the late 3rd century were found in association with it, as well as samian ware, mortarium sherds, worked jet and bone.

Work will continue on the site in 1976.
A. J. WHITE
FISKERTON
A. J. White
A small trial excavation was carried out on the edge of the Marina at Short-Ferry, in the construction of which large quantities of medieval pottery including Stamford, Bourne, Bolingbrooke, Lincoln, and imported wares had come to light. The excavation revealed traces of a substantial building of uncertain purpose with wattle and daub walls and a stone-tiled roof. Associated with it were shelly wares and thirteenth-century Lincoln-type jugs which formed a high proportion of the total sherds. It is possible that the site represents a transshipping point on the Witham for goods bound for one of the three monastic sites in the vicinity.

HEALING
H. Bishop
Excavations took place in September 1975 on the south side of the church in advance of extension work and footings of the aisle and the substructures of the south walls of the nave and chancel were revealed. The aisle is known to have existed until 1774 when it was taken down, being in a ruinous condition. At one point the foundations were found to overlie those of the chancel, and as the pottery suggested a 13th century date for the aisle the footings of the chancel must be earlier. Pre-Conquest pottery was found in association with them and the foundations of the present chancel may have originally formed part of an Anglo-Saxon building.

Full publication is envisaged in a future volume of this journal.

ST. PETER & ST. PAUL, HEALING

HELIDINGHAM - IRON AGE SALT-MAKING
B. B. Simmons
The remains of four mounds with associated hearths, ditches, gullies and post holes were discovered in this excavation. Salt making and domestic pottery, together with kiln furniture were found in relationship with the structures.

HIBALDSTOW - STANIWELLS FARM
R. F. Smith
A reconnaissance excavation on the route of the proposed A15 (South) dual-carrigeway immediately to the west of Ermine Street. Two areas with a combined total of 1045 square metres were excavated within the Romano-British settlement.

A rectangular building 20.20 m by 9.30 m was examined. It was perpendicular to Ermine Street, along which it had frontage. The surviving wall courses were of limestone construction. Several 'phases' of structural alteration were evident. The building had four rooms with hearths, ovens and 'mudstone' flooring.

A neighbouring parallel structure c. 5 m to the south was partially excavated. This building continued beyond the area of excavation. Much of the exterior limestone wall footing had been robbed.

The second area examined, in the valley bottom, contained limestone wall footings of four structures which extended beyond the excavated area. Several structural phases were represented. The floors consisted of 'mudstone', clay and limestone paving. The structures were not perpendicular to Ermine Street. Their alignment instead followed that of the valley.

Post building demolition/collapse occupation was indicated by hearths extending over wall footings and 'tumble'. An infant had been buried in a robber trench.

The pottery associated with the rubble and earth sealing the structures may be assigned to the third and fourth centuries.

HOLTON-LE-CLAY
J. Sills and F. A. Heath
Excavations around the Saxon and later church of Holton-Le-Clay by a group of local amateur archaeologists have included the digging of small areas north of the tower and chancel, and the cutting of a trench 10 m x 4 m across the boundary of the churchyard west of the tower. From the very limited area excavated, and from structural analysis of the existing church, it is now possible to reconstruct the history of the church and its site in some detail.

Several sherds of 3rd/4th century greyware and part of a flue tile, all unstratified, indicate Roman occupation of the glacial moraine on which the church stands. No evidence of early Anglo-Saxon occupation has been found, but over thirty sherds of middle to late Anglo-Saxon pottery found to date suggest that the Saxon settlement at Holton was probably founded during the 7th century. The siting of the village on land previously farmed by the Romans, on sandy soil close to a natural spring retains several of the characteristic features of pagan settlement suggesting that Holton was one of the first of the 'new' villages to be founded during the movement away from the pagan settlements on the spring-line of the Wolds, around the time of the conversion to Christianity. This in turn suggests a relatively early date for the 'Jutun' place-name element, perhaps around the middle of the 7th century in the case of Holton-le-Clay.

Unfortunately, most of the middle Saxon pot was unstratified, but three sherds were sealed along with oyster shells and animal bone by a fragmentary crushed chalk surface north of the tower, which had been destroyed on all sides by later Saxon grave cuts. This surface bore no apparent relation to the existing church, and may indicate domestic activity on the site before it was used as a place of worship.

North of the tower and chancel, part of a late Saxon inhumation cemetery, apparently in use well before the stone church was built c.1060, was uncovered. All of the fourteen burials excavated were buried from 0.6 - 0.75 m below the late Saxon ground surface and were buried close together without interfering with other graves, suggesting that the graves were marked in some way. No trace of any markers was noticed, although a late Saxon memorial stone with interlaced decoration was incorporated into the Saxon tower arch when it was built. Two of the burials had been disturbed when the tower foundations were dug, showing conclusively that they pre-date the late Saxon tower. Any early wooden church with which the cemetery may have been associated presumably lies inside the present building.

One of the most important results of the excavations has been to establish the relative dates of the tower, nave and chancel. Dr. H. M. Taylor considers the foundations and much of theWalling of the nave and chancel to be contemporaneous with the lower stage of the tower. In 1975, however, it was established that the foundations of the nave are later than those of the tower, and this summer that the chancel foundations are in turn later than the nave.
foundations. The plinth, fabric and thickness of the north nave wall suggests Norman rather than Saxon work, and it appears that the original late Saxon nave was built on an eastward continuation of the massive tower foundation base, only to be replaced by a larger Norman nave not long after it was built.

The chancel is difficult to date precisely, as its walls, like those of the nave, have been extensively rebuilt above the plinth, and because no original openings survive. From the form of the plinth, however, it is probable that the chancel dates from the 13th or 14th century. Two features of the church which have so far escaped notice are the western jamb of a window in the south wall of the chancel, which may be original, and a small blocked doorway, perhaps 16th century, revealed by the stripping of rendering from the north nave wall in 1973.2

The trench cut across the boundary of the churchyard west of the tower this summer revealed a complex of ditches, paths and postholes. Broadly, it was established that the boundary of the churchyard had extended outwards by about 6 m from the 12th century to the present day; four ditches and two rows of postholes marked successive boundaries. A post medieval cobbled footpath, continuing along the western edge of the churchyard with a side path leading westwards, yielded considerable quantities of 16th and 17th century pottery from its surface.

2 For a more detailed discussion of the architecture of the church see Bulletin of the CBA Churches Committee, September 1975, pp.10-12.

LINCOLN — ROMAN AQUEDUCT
K. F. Wood

During the early part of the year excavation work on the south side of the East Bight water tower removed material filling the void left by stone robbing: several large pieces of concrete were exposed. These pieces, which had formed part of the water container, had collapsed following the removal of the supporting masonry, and now rest on what may be unrobbed tower foundations.

Early in June, a small trench was opened in the garden of 87 Nettleham Road where a resistivity survey had previously given a positive reading. It was intended that this excavation, to locate the aqueduct, would be of short duration. This was not to be, as unsuspected features made necessary an extension both in area and time. On the assumed line of the aqueduct, at a depth of 0.35 m, a masonry platform of some 2.75 m was encountered. Below this was a sandy clay fill extending throughout the area excavated. Still lower, at a depth of 1.1 m a badly rutted road ran from north to south. Material evidence, although limited, is sufficient to date all levels to the Roman period.

The purpose of the platform is not clearly understood; one possibility is that it carried the aqueduct over a natural depression. The road, pre-dating the aqueduct, may have serviced its construction. Further excavation is possible, from such come may a better understanding of the present work.

The Society thanks Mr. and Mrs. Malthby and their sons, not only for permission to dig but for the help, encouragement and refreshments so freely given throughout the excavation.

LINCOLN — BISHOP GROSSETESE COLLEGE
P. Rollin

Excavations continued in 1975 with the removal of the remains of the earliest medieval building. This was found to have been built on a very heavy-pitched Roman foundation over 1 m in thickness.

This Roman building was approximately 6 m x 12 m in size with a possible extension to the west (unexcavated). It had a clay floor and in turn was built over another Roman building. This building extended out of the area excavated and was associated with the upper Roman cobbled surface, which was very extensive and covered the whole northern half of the site.

The remains of these two buildings were removed and a third building was excavated below a deliberate levelling of the site using sand and rough limestone.

The site was extended to the west to establish the position of the road surfaces outside the medieval and Roman buildings. A surface at the western extremity produced some post-medieval sherds. A very good medieval surface was under this, immediately outside the buildings. The upper Roman cobbled surface continued to the western end of the extension.

LINCOLN — OLD BISHOPS PALACE
D. J. Freke

From 17 August to 1 September 1975, an excavation was carried out in the chapel court of the Bishops Palace, Lincoln, by D. J. Freke for the D.O.E. The intention was to confirm the existence of an undercroft vault at the southern end of the court. Its presence was suggested by the remains of a springing of a vault in the south west corner, a ‘hanging’ stair in the south east corner and a fragment of wall revealed by a previous excavation.

The robbed remains of the wall of the conjectured vault were found. It had been built directly on to solid rock 3 m below the present level of the courtyard, but had been robbed in the 15th century. The wall, roughly at right angles to the boundary wall of Vicars Court, encloses an irregular quadrilateral approximately 9 m by 2 m x 9 m x 3 m.

There were no undisturbed Roman layers despite a great preponderance of Roman pottery.


LINCOLN — FLAXENGATE
C. Colyer

Painstaking examination of remains of 9th-11th century levels here is revealing unprecedented information about the revival of the town as an urban centre in the period of Danish control. Fragmentary traces have appeared of timber buildings, and of the manufacture of objects of copper, iron, jet and possibly bone and glass/enamel in varying quantities at various times.

LINCOLN — ST. PAUL-IN-THE-BAIL
C. Colyer

Work is continuing on the excavation of a series of churches on this site in the centre of the upper city. Remains of the Victorian and Georgian churches have been removed, and the medieval church is now being examined. This went through a number of modifications from its foundation (at least as early as the 12th century) until its demolition in 1786. Fragments of painted wall plaster and stained glass have been found, and careful removal of various floor levels and intra-building burials is taking place.

LONG BENNINGTON
H. Wheeler

Work was continued on two sites initially examined by J. Dable. A Bronze Age unfilled was excavated, producing a minimum of thirty bucket urns (Ardleigh type) containing cremation burials. There was no trace of any covering mound or barrow.

Excavation was also carried out on a substantial stone-built structure of Roman date. Finds gave evidence of occupation from the 2nd-4th century. In one of the rooms was a corn-dryer.
stratified graves. On the natural gravel the graves, though tightly packed, were carefully cut so as not to disturb their neighbour. However, three of the four burials that cut into the quarry fill disturbed earlier burials. The fine silt possibly did not leave such a permanent mound as the gravel did to serve as a marker.

Closely datable material from the burials was rare although the bulk of the finds fit within a sixth century context. Two of the most notable pieces of metalwork — a Cruciform IVb brooch and a Great Square Headed brooch (of unusual form, bearing closest comparison to Leed’s A4, Ipswich type) — would seem to be mid-late sixth century. One of the cremation urns has been regarded as a late fifth century type. Apart from the above, other finds include four pairs of annular brooches, wrist clasps (including two pairs of gilt-bronze), bronze and iron buckles, two sets of iron keys, seven knives, two spearheads, a bone comb, amber and paste necklaces, and one complete accessory vessel.

The finds have been deposited at Lincoln City and County Museum. It is hoped to present a full report of the excavations, with the publication of the previous finds from the cemetery in a future issue of Lincolnshire History and Archaeology.

SAPPERTON — ROMAN SETTLEMENT
B. B. Simmons
The excavation, in its second year, has revealed further buildings, workshops, furnaces and hearths. The buildings lie in a shallow valley, subject to flooding in the Roman period, and are restricted to ‘ribbon development’ along a two-period Roman road. There is evidence for boundaries containing the settlement in a narrow strip about 900 m long. A large Roman building, possibly a villa, has been found 880 m to the east of the main settlement. (See above.)

STAINTON-BY-LANGWORTH
A. J. White
A stone coffin was discovered on land belonging to Manor Farm, owned by Mr. P. Bower, in the course of deep ploughing in September 1975. It consisted of a monolithic hollowed block of sandstone with a roughly hewn lid, which was broken in half by the impact of the plough. The coffin was internally 1.90 m long by 0.47 m wide at the foot and 0.51 m at the head, with a uniform depth of 0.58 m. The sides were about 0.10 m thick on average, but the thickness of the base could not be estimated owing to the fact that the lower part was set in natural clay. Indeed the top of the lid had originally been level with the surface of the clay, c. 0.50 m below ground surface.

It contained an extended inhumation burial in an advanced state of decay. The long bones in general were sound but the pelvis, lower spine and part of the rib cage had crumbled to dust. Part of the damage was due to the collapse of half the lid into the coffin, which had also smashed the right foot. The skull lay forward on the chest and had been completely crushed. The spine was slightly bent, which together with the position of the skull would suggest a height of about 1.70 m originally. The body appeared to have been placed in a somewhat huddled position, partly on its right side, with the feet to the right and the hands under the hips.

Subsequent to decomposition of the body, clay had seeped in under the lid, completely encasing the lower limbs and the rib cage, overlying the phosphate products which formed a thin layer on the floor of the coffin.

The coffin was orientated east-west, the head to the west, and there were no grave-goods. The coffin was, as far as can be seen until it can be lifted, entirely plain but for chisel-marks and was evidently intended for its present usage (burial) rather than as a coffin to be seen, in a vault.

No dating evidence was obtained from the coffin or its surrounds and no sites are known from the area to suggest
any context. The orientation and absence of grave-goods suggest a Christian burial: the absence of any recorded chapel etc. nearby tends to rule out a medieval context, while the form of the coffin, without a shaped head-piece, suggest a Roman date.

Therefore, as far as can be seen in the absence of clear proof, the burial is likely to date from the late (Christian) Roman period.

The human remains are being examined by Dr. Spencer (Pathologist), at Lincoln County Hospital.

STEMFORD (CASTLE)
C. Mahany
Excavations on the Castle Hall took place during the whole of 1975, revealing several earlier periods of Hall beneath the ailed Hall. Beneath these and the Solar were several stone buildings with ovens, possibly kitchens. North of the Hall area was a ditch system which possibly represents the outer limits of the Norman castles. Cutting through the ditches were post-holes of a very substantial timber structure.

STEMFORD (WATER STREET)
G. Till
Building work in Water Street resulted in a large pit being dug in the old Burghley Estate yard. The pit was 3 m deep by 6 m square. The site was waterlogged at a depth of 2.7 m. The natural limestone crops out 50 m to the south, but at the site of the pit the natural was not proved. The area investigated consisted entirely of building debris with medieval pottery, possibly dumped into or on the river bank. Later deposits consisted of 17th to 18th century pottery together with brick, stone and soil. Foundations on the site were all of brick, possibly of the late 18th century, no trace of medieval foundations appeared. It is quite possible that during the medieval period much of the north side of Water Street was reclaimed from the river and remained saturated. Buildings of medieval date have yet to be proved on this side of the street.

Pottery recovered – Medieval
32 Sherds of Bourne (body)
57 Sherds of developed Stamford (body)
15 Sherds of Lyveden (body)

Pottery – 17th and 18th century
3 Sherds of midland black
2 Sherds of midland yellow
23 Sherds of English stoneware

WINTERTON
R. Goodburn
Three areas totalling c. ½ acre (0.2 hectares) were excavated south and west of the main Villa courtyard.

The examination of ailed Building P was completed. It was originally 31 m long by 11.2 m wide, the longer north and south walls resting on shallow sand subsoil, although the end walls had deep foundations. Part of the north wall had collapsed at some time and was replaced by a post-built wall. Later still, the building was extended westwards to give a length of 51 m: the extension walls were better built than the earlier ones. Spreads of mortar and poor quality opus signinum floors and some areas of substantial floor-foundations may suggest some domestic accommodation, but not of a high standard. Internal post holes, linear slots and several furnaces indicate a building devoted mainly to animal accommodation and working purposes. Excavation of the well and its pit just north of the building was concluded and the timbers removed for full examination.

A 500 square m area of enclosures, post holes and pits was excavated some 15 m west of Building P. The ditches included two main phases of south western, right-angled corners of enclosures and among several lines of palisade-posts were indications of at least one further south western enclosure-angle. These features are linked with those excavated immediately to the north in 1970, 1971 and 1974. A wooden coffin burial of a young person was found in this area. Some 250 m to the west, a further 500 square m area containing major enclosure ditch intersections was examined.


SHORT NOTES
TWO BRONZE AGE SOCKETED KNIVES
A. J. White
It is a remarkable coincidence that two such examples of one of the rarer classes of Bronze Age metalwork should come to light in the county within the space of two weeks. The first (Fig. 2, 1) was found after ploughing at High Toyneton, while the latter (Fig. 2, 2) was discovered in the face of a sandpit 3 m below the surface at Nettleton. Both are on loan to the City and County Museum, Lincoln, accession nos. CL1.75 and CL2.75 respectively.

![Fig. 2 Bronze socketed knives from High Toyneton and Nettleton.](image-url)
Sample analysis at the British Museum suggests that the hoard was deposited early in the 280's A.D. since the coin date range is circa A.D. 260-281. About ten Emperors are represented, with a high proportion of Gallic Empire coins, particularly issues of Victorinus (A.D. 268-270) and the Tetrici (A.D. 270-273). The Gallic Empire issues in the hoard are products of the mints of Cologne and Trier, while those of the Central Empire, with issues of Gallienus (A.D. 260-268) and Claudius II (A.D. 268-270) predominating, seem to have been struck mostly at Rome. Further research awaits the recovery of the remainder of the hoard, which was dispersed soon after discovery.

An extensive Roman pottery scatter in the same field and the recording of much Roman material here prior to 1975 indicates that some sort of Roman settlement existed in the area near the findsplot of the hoard.

ROMAN VILLA, KIRMOND-LE-MIRE

A. J. White

The villa site at Kirmond-le-Mire was discovered by D. Davidson of Louth while field walking. The field had recently been dragged and quantities of pottery and tile were exposed on the surface, as well as a few loose tesserae. Although the site extends to about 10 acres (c. 5 hectares) it had never been recorded before. Ridges and hollows in the surface suggested buried walls and rooms and in one of these Mr. Davidson cleared away c. 20 cm of topsoil to reveal a substantially complete mosaic floor, about 8 square m of which were eventually exposed.

The site was examined and photographed by staff of the City and County Museum, Lincoln, and subsequently the process of scheduling the site as an Ancient Monument was begun by S. Johnson of the Department of the Environment, and the owner, Mr. F. Parks, agreed to leave it under permanent grass. The mosaic was then covered in once more.

Gridded fieldwalking of part of the site was later carried out by P. Ewerson and the writer, revealing something of the layout and use of the buildings, including ironworking. It is probable that the villa was of corridor type with a number of projecting wings.

Pottery and coin finds indicate a date in the fourth century A.D., though some earlier sherds were also found, including samian ware. Other tesserae and fragments of painted wall plaster suggest that this was a building of some importance, perhaps the centre of a great estate.

Although its position is unusually low-lying (in the valley-bottom beside a stream) it should be seen as a companion to the Wold top villas at Worlaby, Claxby and Walesby, great houses of the fourth century 'renaissance' some of which have connotations of Christian ownership.

THE COLEYBOY HOARD

R. W. Higginbottom

Early in 1975, a Roman pot of Swanpool type containing between 15,000 and 20,000 third century Roman coins was unearthed in a field near Coleby village. This hoard, probably one of the largest of its kind found in Britain, consists of small washered or alloyed bronze antoniniani. Following recent trends in case law relating to late Roman coin hoards, the Coleby hoard was declared Treasure Trove at the Coroner's Court in Lincoln on 27 August, 1975.

The mosaic seems to have formed the floor of a small room or a corridor having a total area of approximately 6 m x 3 m. The pattern consists of a central panel of circular guilloche flanked by two panels each containing a star of eight lozenges with four blackbirds, one in each

Plate II Roman Mosaic, Kirmond-le-Mire. (scale division =50cm) (City & County Museum, Lincoln).
corner. Along the long axis lies a border of guilloche, stepped squares, triangles, fine white tesserae, coarse red tesserae and coarse white tesserae (working outwards), while the short axis is bordered by a red and white chequer-pattern followed by guilloche, etc., as above. Three types of tesserae were used to create these patterns; blocks of chalk for the white, cubed tile for red, and cubes of reduced clay from the centres of incompletely oxidized tiles for blue/black.

Dr. J. J. Smith of Newcastle University suggests parallels with the mosaics from Greetwell and to a lesser extent Scampston, in the 'Durobrivian school', and also with Roxby where a representation of a small bird was found in an otherwise entirely geometric mosaic, indicating that the 'Durobrivian school' was not exclusively geometric, and that Fowler's engravings do not always tell the whole story.

As suggested earlier the discovery of such a large and hitherto unknown site raises questions about the distribution of settlement and the economy of the Wolds in the later Roman period, and clearly there will be more such sites to be found.

5 Re-excavated 1972 by G. C. Knowles.
6 The bird does not appear in Fowler's engraving.

A MEDIEVAL BRONZE SPOUT FROM BINBROOK

A. J. White

This complete vessel (Fig. 3) was found near the old Bishops Palace in 1975 by Miss N. Southgate of Lincoln and presented to the City and County Museum (accession no. 58.75).

Plate III Medieval bronze spout from Binbrook (G. K. Benton).

The use of such a spout is indicated by an example in the British Museum, a bronze hanging lavar with four doghead spouts, considered to date from the 15th century, which probably contained water for hand-washing at table. The association of animal forms with aquamaniles in both pottery and metal is well known.

Another type of vessel employing the same motif is a bronze vessel from Battersea, but in both cases the head is less prominent and the spout is relatively much thicker. Two other spouts more closely comparable with the Binbrook example are in the City and County Museum, Lincoln (accession nos. 736.09 and 510.07). The former, found at Woolsthorpe (possibly among the material recovered from iron-workings along Sewstern Lane in 1882) is of a simpler form, with no crest and less modelling of the features, while the latter, dug up on West Common, Lincoln, in 1907, is much more elaborate. Eyes, nostrils and
eyebrows are added after casting, by the method of chip-carving. The impression is of a much more 'finished' product. These examples are much more elaborate than the two vessels noted above and may be from jugs rather than lavers, judging by the curve of the back. It therefore seems that these spouts form a distinct group with many features in common, suggesting a common origin, if some variation in quality. It is less clear why the three Lincolnshire examples should survive in isolation while the parent vessels did not, but it is possible that the spouts were easily detached by careless handling, being merely soldered on, and if jugs or lavers carried several such spouts casual losses are more easily understood.

I should like to thank J. F. Russell (British Museum) for drawing my attention to this example.

London Museum Medieval Catalogue (1940), p. 200, Pt. LIII.

2. Cf. O.S. record card SK 38 SW 3. The general range of the objects found seem to be paralleled by acclaisions 700-99.09 and other (unrecorded) finds were clearly made at the time (associated). See Architectural and Archaeological Societies Reports and Papers, Vol. 18, (1885), pp. 132-4.

THREE IMPORTED CHAFING-DISHES FOUND IN LINCOLNSHIRE

R. Hilary Healey and A. J. White

In his recently published article on the Sixteenth and Seventeenth Century imported pottery from the Saintonge John Hurst gives an account of the various forms, the best known and most common being the chafing-dishes (used for keeping food hot at table). He illustrates both those of the Saintonge and other contemporary French examples and amongst the former is the Type V dish from Lincoln, previously discussed in this journal.

This note draws attention to several other fragments of French chafing-dishes of the period found in Lincolnshire.

Fig. 4.1. Part of the wall and handle of a type la chafing-dish, of which complete examples show four handles and eight knobs to support the dish to be heated, glazed alternately green and yellow. This sherd is missing the upper part of the knob. A crudely modelled head is attached to the outer surface and the whole of the upper portion bears smooth apple-green glaze, while a patch of yellow glaze is visible at the junction with the handle. The interior of the vessel is stained grey/black, presumably from the use of charcoal or oil as a heating medium and three small holes mark the position of pegs used to attach the head. Fabric is fine off-white. It was found with two other sherds of chafing-dish (not illustrated), one of which may not be from the same vessel, during dredging for the Marina at Short Ferry, Fiskerton, and all are in possession of the owners, Mr. and Mrs. Shooter.

Fig. 4.2. Knob and upper part of handle junction of a type la chafing-dish. The fabric and green glaze are as Fig. 4.1 above, and the interior bears similar marks of use. Below the knob is the typical moulded face and head-dress and the less usual feature of modelled breasts. There is stabbed combing on either side of the figure, a common feature of Saintonge chafing-dishes. This piece was found during excavations on the medieval Bar Ditch at Boston conducted by M. W. Barley in 1957, and is now in Boston Museum.

Fig. 4.3. Moulded rosette from the much rarer type IV (elaborate open-work) chafing-dish. This has characteristics of the Saintonge vessels but is in a coarser fabric and probably originates from a different source. Hurst illustrates the four fragments known in England, all of which are parts of the angular corner from this type of chafing-dish and all of which include at least one rosette. The largest fragment, from London, shows a rosette at both top and bottom of this angular corner and the rosette illustrated here is evidently from a similar vessel. From the good quality and covering of the yellow glaze it is probably from the rim of the dish and there is also some green glaze showing to the left of the rosette. The fabric is white and of rather gritty texture.

This piece comes from the unstratified levels in an excavation at Freiston near Boston on the site of the former Benedictine Priory and is now in the possession of the excavator G. Bullivant.

Dating Nos. 1 and 2 probably date from the first half of the 16th century, while No. 3 is likely to be somewhat later, but as yet there are few dated contexts from which to work.


2. Lincolnshire History and Archaeology 1 (1966), pp. 54-6 and figs.


Fig. 4. Imported chafing-dishes.