Archaeology in Lincolnshire and South Humberside, 1976

Compiled by A. J. White

As in 1975, 'Archaeology in Lincolnshire and South Humberside' is divided into three parts: a resume of the more important discoveries, summaries of excavations which have taken place in the area; and short notes considering in greater detail some of the year's discoveries. Following the precedent of recent years, no Ordnance Survey grid references are quoted, in case they should lead to looting of sites, but full details can be obtained by bona fide researchers on application to the Keeper, City and County Museum, Lincoln.

Acknowledgements for all contributions are indicated in the text.

SITES AND FINDS

EBA ) Early, Middle IA Iron Age
MBA ) and Late RB Roman-British
LBA ) Bronze Age AS Anglo-Saxon
DMV Deserted Mediaeval Village

Palaeolithic (Acheulian) hand-axes were found at West Keal ¹ (see below) and Seaford,² the latter some 40 years ago and only identified this year. Neolithic stone axes included examples from Barneveth³, Baston, Billingborough,⁴ Broxholme, and Chapel St. Leonards⁵ (flint), Ewerby and Evedon⁶ (group VI), Grantham (group XVIII), Saxby-with-Ingleby, Skellingthorpe (flint), South Ormsby (flint), and Stixwould⁷ (group not yet identified). Leaf-shaped flint arrowheads were found at Fiskerton and Skendleye.⁸

An EBA perforated axe-hammer was found at East Keal⁹, and a bronze flat axe at Tattershall, while MBA palettes were reported from Langtoft and Ropsley and Humby. LBA finds included socketed axes from Kirkstead, South Kyme,¹⁰ and Tattershall Thorpe, the latter accompanied by a socketed spearhead (see below). Among IA finds was a carinated cup from Old Seaford and Coritanian silver coins from Owmby and Ludford.¹¹

Salterns were reported at Adlethorpe,¹² Ingoldmells¹³ (two sites) and Little Steeping (a possible site, now destroyed). RMB occupation material was noted at Branston and Mere,¹⁴ Burgh-le-Mars,¹⁵ (two sites), Fishoft,¹⁶ Frampton,¹⁷ Freiston,¹⁸ Horbling¹⁹ (two sites), Kirmond-le-Mire²⁰ (two sites, one with Parisian ware), Langriville,²¹ Low Toynaby,²² Pointon and Sempsoningham,²³ Reepham (two sites with Parisian ware), Scrivelsby, Sibsey,²⁵ Seaford (probably a farmstead), Tattershall Thorpe (much distinctive greyware and possible kiln material), West Ashby,²⁶ and Willoughby and Sloothby²⁷ (two sites). A new site at Londonthorpe and Harrowby,²⁸ produced the second coin hoard of the year, 420 silver denarii (Mark Antony—Antonius Pius). Isolated finds of RB material were made at Billinghay and Dowdsby²⁹ (quern-stones), Horsington (sealing), Legby³⁰ (an almost complete carinated cup), and West Deeping³¹ (part of a Roman inscription found in rubble, probably of fairly local origin). Continued fieldwork on known sites revealed a new area to the south of Stamford, Hacconby, sites in and just south of Horncastle³² (one producing a silver ring with a possible 'TOT' inscription, the first from the area), and a further site at Ludford at the source of the Bain (might this be a shrine?). Three areas of settlement were recorded at Waddington and on part of the known site a hoard of Constantinian folles was found (see below). A number of brooches of early type were also found here and these fit in with the trend for the major Roman sites in the county to produce evidence of early Roman metalwork and Celtic coins (for which see above).

Several sites produced AS material, among them being Billingborough,⁶ Burgh-le-Mars,¹³ (plain domestic-type pottery), Low Toynaby (girdle-hanger), North Witham (loomweight), and Osbournby²⁴ (girdle-hanger, bone comb and 'braided' pottery sherds).

Medieval material was found at Billingborough⁶ (including much Stamford ware), Bannbrooke, Braceborough and Wilsithorpe,²⁵ Fishoft,²⁶ (Stamford ware), Freiston,²⁷ Scrivelsby (including a grotesque head in pottery fragments of a bronze bowl), Stamford²⁸ (Playing Field extension—Stamford ware including wasters), Thorpe St. Peter³⁹ (almost complete Toynaby-ware jug), and Welton-by-Lincoln³⁸ (Shelly ware). Fieldwork on DMV sites after ploughing produced dating evidence for individual croftts at Broxholme⁶ and Saxby-with-Ingleby.⁸

A new site, possibly a hamlet (Easthorpe?) was located at Great Gonerby.²⁰ A programme of fieldwalking on monastic sites, to complement the work being done on DMVs, revealed a further pottery waster heap, probably c.1550-1600, within the precinct at Kirkstead, and surface material was collected at Bullington, Markby, and Tuxholme. At Castley Abbey, Waltham, tiles (both roof and floor) and fragments of kiln structure were found in the field S. of the main site. Minor finds of metalwork etc. were made at Edlington (lead token), Fishoft²⁵ (pilgrim badge), Fleet (stone basin, possibly from the church), Glenworth (much metalworking including four lead wool-seals), Horncastle (lead token), Lincoln (West Common—lead token), Low Toynaby (unusually large lead ampulla), Mareham-le-Fen (lead weight bearing Royal Arms), Reepham (spindle whorl), Scawby, Welton-by-Lincoln (iron arrowhead), and Yarburgh²⁷ (lead mortuary cross). At Lincoln cutting of a gas trench near the West Front of the Cathedral revealed two stone coffins and two slab-lined tombs. Aerial photography at Binbrook²⁹ confirmed that the visible linchets extended south of the road, where they are ploughed out. Post-medieval sites were found at Billingborough (brick-kilns and pottery, 17th–18th century), Ingoldmells (salterns), and Skegness (three sites with much pottery). Work in the church at Wainfleet St. Mary²⁹ revealed a number of plain glazed floor tiles. Isolated finds came from Edenhall (almost complete 'D' ware jug), Lincoln (bronze apothecary's mortar of 1583 found in High Street in 1925, only identified in 1976), and Swaton (bronze seal-ring).

A very large number of sites produced evidence of several periods of occupation, among them being: Alvingham⁶ (RB—Medieval); Burgh-le-Mars,²⁸ (three sites one RB—Post-Medieval and others Medieval and Post-Medieval); Burwell¹⁰ (RB, Medieval, sherds of Raeren panelled jug c.1600); Dunholme (RB, AS, Medieval and Post-Medieval); Folkingham⁶ (AS and Medieval pottery and a whetstone); Grantham²⁰ (Hall's Hill—IA, RB and Medieval); Great Gonerby² (RB—Medieval); Heckington²⁹ (RB with evidence of mosaics, AS and Medieval hall site), Hogsteadhorpe¹¹ (RB and Medieval); Little Caistor²⁴ (Medieval and Medieval); Osbournby²⁴ (Roman coin and Medieval coins and brooch); Scopwick¹¹ (IA, RB and Medieval), Stickney³² (probable Hall site, Medieval—Post-Medieval); Threake³⁶ (Stow Green Fair site—mainly Post-Medieval finds and possible Chapel site); Torksey (RB jet toggle, Medieval and later pottery); and Ulceby-with-Fordington³⁴ (four areas on and near the DMV site, Neolithic—Post-Medieval).

Undated sites and finds included Osbournby²⁴ (carved stones from a frieze), Wainfleet²⁷ (bone needle) and Westborough and Dry Doddington (six human skeletons). 'Celtic' type stone heads, with all their problems of dating, were found at Ropsley and Humby³⁴ and at Kirton Lindsey,³⁵

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the latter associated with two carved animals.

At Kirmond-le-Mire a rectangular crop mark site was observed from the air near the Caistor High Street, while an extensive occupation site similar to many Fenland RB sites was recorded at Wildworth. Possible cultivation terraces were reported immediately west of Spalding.

Acknowledgement is given to the following for contributions; where no acknowledgement is stated, information is from the records at the City and County Museum, Lincoln.

1 J. Enderby
2 G. Ellis
3 M. Knowles
4 B. Simmons
5 R. Rutland
6 R. H. Healey
7 N. Hogg
8 P. Everson
9 P. Chowse
10 D. Davidson
11 E. Kirkham
12 M. Darling
13 M. Boulton
14 P. Grant
15 G. Bullivant
16 J. Sleight
17 J. Marjoram
18 N. Lincoln
19 P. Kime
20 J. Dale
21 K. Farrot
22 C. Hughes
23 F. Wheatley
24 G. Anyan
25 M. Warby
26 G. Till
27 A. Friddington
28 G. Allington
29 D. Wales
30 M. Boulton and R. H. Healey
31 Z. Soley
32 E. Rudkin
33 M. James, D. Willey and K. Miller
34 M. Felcey

THORNHOLME PRIORY, APPLEBY
G. Coppack and R. Williams

Two separate excavations were carried out within the western part of the Outer Court of the priory in 1976. At Easter, the area to the west of the bowerhouse, excavated in 1974-1975, was examined, revealing that all pre-fourteenth century deposits had been destroyed by the cutting of a ditch 5 m wide and 4 m deep. The ditch was dug after the final rebuilding of the bowerhouse, and seems to date to the latter part of the fourteenth century. It was defensive, with a row of vertical wooden stakes in the bottom. After being in commission for only a few years, it was allowed to fill up with sod, or was intentionally backfilled. The line of the ditch was traced running north—south up to the road leading into the site, where it stopped. The site first examined in 1975 at the east end of the northern road bank, was further excavated to reveal the priory bakehouse (Plate I) built between 1290 and 1300, dates attested by four coins from construction deposits. The principal features of the building are its substantial pitched stone floor, underfloor drains, and a large bake-oven. Further buildings lie below this and will be excavated in 1977.

In the Autumn, the area to the south of the bowerhouse was excavated to reveal a hitherto unexpected series of buildings. The two latest phases, dated provisionally to the fifteenth and early sixteenth centuries, were timber framed buildings on stone wall-walls, with clay floors. There was no immediate indication of the function of these buildings, which overlaid a strongly built range of rooms which were contemporary with the latest phase of the bakehouse. Major buildings of the thirteenth century lie beneath, and the quantity of residual Roman pottery would suggest the existence of Roman features below them. This area will be completed in 1977.

BILLINGBOROUGH
P. Chowne

Excavation of this important Bronze Age site has now been completed. The site is situated on the west edge gravels 16 km south of Seaford. Although only a very small part of the settlement area was investigated, several important features were discovered. The latest features on the site were a pair of hearths of a type normally found on saltmaking sites. In and around the hearths a quantity of briquetage was found and underlying one of them was a regular shaped gulley which had cut into a large pit. Two hearths of a domestic nature were also discovered. There is some evidence for structures, including a group of four large post holes, a regular shaped sunken feature, and several other post holes of varying size and plan. Running across the northernmost limit of the site there were two ditches; associated with the larger ditch were a number of small pits, possibly for posts. Large quantities of pottery were found, animal bones, three bone awls, and several flint tools.

1 B. B. Simmons, 'Saltmaking in the silt fens of Lincolnshire in the Iron Age and Roman Periods', in K. W. de Brissy and K. A. Evans (eds) Salt, the study of an ancient industry, (Colchester, 1975), pp. 33-36.

BOSTON
G. Harden

A watching brief has been kept on the construction of the Inner Relief Road through Boston since July 1976. Approximately 300 m passes through the known area of occupation of the medieval town, crossing the possible site of the Franciscan Friary and the Bar Ditch (the drain and eastern boundary of the settlement in the Middle Ages). 190 m of the ditch were piped in preparation for the road foundations. This commercial excavation resulted in the discovery of an unstratified sample of pottery, leather, tile and bone from the sludge and seawage in the Bar Ditch. Pottery types from Lincoln, Toynon All Saints and Potter Hanworth formed a large percentage of the sample. Significant quantities of wares imported from South-West France, Germany and the Low Countries were also found. The majority of the finds date from the 12th - 17th centuries, although there are also forms dating to the 19th century.

The Bar Ditch was an open drain until the 17th century, when it was gradually bricked over — a task which was completed by the mid 1800s. 190 m of this brick culvert were destroyed but the lengths of masonry found beneath the brickwork were left in situ. The most substantial was a
butressed wall 94 m long on the west side of the ditch, at
the eastern end of the known site of the Dominican Friary.
70 m to the south of this, masonry was noted on both sides
of the Bar Ditch for a length of 15 m. However, the relation
of the walls to the medieval properties in the area is not
known. (Plate II).

Plate II  Boston. Masonry revetment of Bar Ditch.  G. Harden

No substantial structures were found across the suggested
site of the Franciscan Friary. A stone footing to a brick
wall, at the side of an existing road, was noted and a small
quantity of medieval pottery sherd was collected from the
surface of the site.

COCK HILL, BURGH-LE-MARSH
A. J. White
Cock Hill is a prominent mound beside the main Skegness
road in Burgh-le-Marsh. Excavations were carried out here
in 1933 by Rev. G. Swalwell1 and the evidence from these
suggested to the excavator that a low mound with an
Anglo-Saxon primary burial had been enlarged and
heightened in the post-medieval period for the purposes of
cockfighting.

During the construction of a raised footpath over the
northern flank of Cock Hill in April 1976, the opportunity
 arose for cleaning up a 9 m section to a depth of c. 1 m, on
an east-west axis, at the junction of the mound and the
present field surface. At the bottom of the section a buried
turf line could be discerned, containing only medieval
sherd. Above this was a thick stratum of sand overlain
by a thin belt of cobbles, below the present topsoil, both
containing residual medieval sherds and clearly re-deposited.

From this, it will be seen that further evidence for the
suggested post-medieval enlargement of Cock Hill is
supplied. However, recent discoveries in Burgh-le-Marsh
indicate that there is much residual Roman and some Anglo-
Saxon material to be found in this area of the village. With
this in mind, the very disturbed and incomplete skeletal
remains should be looked at more critically, since none of the
finds need necessarily be inconsistent with the
construction of the mound at one time in the post-medieval
period,2 with the concomitant disturbance of the
surrounding ground surface and the incorporation of earlier
material. Its interpretation, therefore, as an Anglo-Saxon
barrow must now be considered in doubt.

1 MS notebook in the City and County Museum, Lincoln
2 It is first mentioned in 1724.

ELSHAM
G. C. Knowles
Excavation, begun in 1975, continued and the full extent
of the cemetery established on all but the west side.
Approximately 600 cremation burials and 4 inhumations
were located. To the west, excavation of the continuation
of the cemetery was prevented by the existence of a road,
Middlegate Lane, which is the modern successor to an
ancient route following the escarpment of the Wolds from
the Humber to South Ferriby. During the excavation two
prehistoric beakers, one associated with an inhumation,
were discovered and two lengths of ditch, one terminating,
were found lying approximately at right angles to Middlegate
Lane. The ditches, cut 2 m into the chalk, were apparently
prehistoric for a number of Anglo-Saxon urns were found
buried in their upper fill. Excavation has had to stop during
the construction of the southern approach road for the
Humber Bridge but it is hoped that following the diversion
of the adjoining section of Middlegate Lane, further work
may establish the possible relationship of both ditches and
cemetery with the road.

The majority of the Anglo-Saxon urns were found to have
been damaged by ploughing but there was evidence
that some had been broken at the time of their burial.
A number of vessels had evidently been used in a domestic
context before burial and a preliminary examination of the
complete collection is revealing a wide variation in forms,
decoration and date. It is hoped that it will be possible,
in due course, to distinguish the parts of the cemetery which
were in current use at different phases in its history.

Outstanding among the urns found at Elsham is a
‘window-urn’, one of a very small number of Anglo-Saxon
vessels from Britain which have small pieces of broken glass
set into the clay before firing to create a small ‘window’.
The Elsham urn seems to be distinguished from others in
Britain in that instead of having one or two such ‘windows’,
it had five which were positioned on alternate bosses
around the shoulder. Other pots from Elsham were decorated
with impressions made by the same stamp and have other
features in common, which suggest strongly that they were
made by the same person.

FISHTOFT
G. Bullivant
Excavations continued in 1976 on the Romano-British
hut site and a complete plan was obtained. The hut 11.25 m
by 3.45 m showed clearly as light brown clay wall bases
against the dark-brown ashy floor deposits. At opposite
ends of this structure were two hearths, one of which at the
western end (H1) was circular with a clay lining surrounding
a heavily reddened area. This was possibly used for boiling
shelffish, which were plentiful on the site. The other hearth
was probably domestic in nature, and both hearths were
separated from the central bay by stub walls. This bay
contained three post holes disposed along the centre,
presumably for posts to carry the ridge-pole. Among the
finds was a small bone pipe with four finger-holes.

Fig. 1  Plan of Romano-British building, Fishtoft.  G. Bullivant

FISKERTON
A. J. White
Excavations continued at Short Ferry on an area of
approx. 45m² immediately south of the area excavated in
1975. A sequence of construction from the 11th to the
late 13th centuries was revealed. The principal feature was a thick dump of sand and gravel, deposited in two stages, revetted by a substantial wall of pitched limestone slabs on the northern side, clearly designed to raise the site above the water level of the Witham and perhaps to act as a quay. The southern (river) side is inaccessible under the present embankment (the principal buildings no doubt lay in this area). At a date probably in the late 13th century, the revetting wall was demolished and a thick layer of woodash and broken stone roof tiles dumped in its place. There was no sign of further activity on the site, although much pottery of the 16th - 18th centuries has been found nearby. Among the deposit of sand and gravel were the remains of some four or more T-shaped kiln props, presumably brought from elsewhere in ballast. A number of limestone net-sinkers were found and these, together with the substantial quantity of fish-vertebrate, help to confirm the identification of this site with one of the fisheries obtained by Stainfield Priory in 1196-1200 A.D. at 'Darlingmuth', for which the Prioress was later reported for obstructing the river. Large quantities of stratified medieval pottery were obtained, predominantly in Lincoln ware and local Shelly wares. Two exceptional vessels similar to curfewes, but with central chimneys, are interpreted as devices possibly for smoking fish.

1 Lincolnshires History and Archaeology Vol. II. (1976), p.58.
2 ibid., p.64, fig. 4.1

HEIGHINGTON

K. F. Wood and M. J. Darling

The Society and the Lincoln Archaeological Trust collaborated in the excavation of a Roman tile kiln east of Washingborough in the parish of Heighington. The site lies about six miles east of Lincoln, only c. 200 m south of the Car Dyke, the kiln being located by a proton gradiometer survey. The rectangular tile built kiln measured 5.4 m x 7.1 m and contained six cross flues at right angles to the main flue which faced north-north-west. It was similar to a number of tile kilns of approximately the same date, but there was evidence to suggest unusual construction using quantities of ‘green’ tiles and waste tile fragments, the latter presumably from another kiln in the vicinity. There were traces of collapse and subsequent repair before the kiln went out of use and was backfilled with broken tiles and c.s.v. A probable clay pit was located in the same field and there were traces suggestive of another kiln adjacent to the Car Dyke. Products included the standard roofing tiles, tegulae and imbrices, in addition to combed flue tiles, vousoir box tiles, hypocaust and bonding tiles. Fragments of quarter-round tiles also occurred, presumably intended for engaged columns. Part of a probable chimney pot/ventilator was also found.

Pottery found in the demolition debris indicated a 4th century date. Field work in the area identified another tile kiln c. 1 km away, with an adjacent building. The market for the tiles from the kiln remains to be established.

HIBALSTOW, STANWELLS FARM

R. F. Smith

The area excavated, 1980 m² immediately to the west of Ermine Street, extended across the bottom and lower slopes of the valley. The buildings examined were set at an angle to Ermine Street, their alignment being determined by the valley contours.

Two strip buildings sited on the southern slope, one with an apsidal end, may have combined agricultural and industrial usage with domestic accommodation. Both buildings had undergone structural alterations. A side road ran between the buildings and appeared to continue in a westerly direction along the valley. A possible bow-sided structure had been built on the levelled site of one of the strip buildings. Finds from the area included a bronze zoomorphic belt buckle. A building on the south facing slope had projecting rooms which flanked a courtyard. The latter gave access to Ermine Street. An earlier underlying building had a similar plan.

A stone built drain on the valley bottom was adjacent to the south side of the building.

To the north, a neighbouring building, which overlay at least two earlier buildings, continued beyond the excavated area.

LANGRIVILLE

J. Sleight

Following a report of quantities of stone and tile ploughed up in a field at Langrick, the site was investigated and a trial trench dug across the section of high ground. This produced a large amount of Ancaster type limestone in the form of squared facing stonework and rubble, together with plain clay tiles and 16th century pottery sherds. Two wall foundations were found at a depth of 0.6 m and at one end of the second wall the stonework had sunk into a ditch or pit of 13th - 14th century date, which contained a layer of wood ash and shelly pottery, with an almost complete cooking pot of a 'Staxton type' ware probably made in north

Plate III Heighington. Roman tile-kiln from north-east. H. N. Hawley

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Lincolnshire. In the area adjoining the first wall, a large squared stone had been used as a hearth, with quantities of burnt material scattered around the sides. Below one corner of this stone was an upper quern stone of German lava, shaped to accommodate a metal frame.

The pottery from this site was mainly local, lead glazed, 16th century kitchen ware; with some Midlands black, 15th and 16th century unglazed Bourne ware, Dutch sherds, one French 13th century and a number of 13th-14th century Shelly cooking pot sherds, some with very thin walls. One coin in very poor condition was found, possibly of Navarre c. 1580.

Excavations will continue in 1977. The owners of the land, Messrs. R. and B. Grant, were extremely helpful in providing excavating equipment and practical help during the work. The quern was donated by the owners to the City and County Museum, Lincoln.

LINCOLN, ROMAN AQUEDUCT
K. F. Wood
Work in 1976 was concentrated on tracing the 2.75 m wide platform first located during the previous year. Two trenches at 87 Nettleham Road and an exploratory pit together with probing at number 83A confirmed its presence at points 10 and 30 m to the north and 30 m to the south of the 1975 excavation.

The purpose of the platform is at present open to conjecture but its proximity to the line of the aqueduct, together with the absence of any pipe or robber trench, suggests that it was associated with the Roman water supply. Perhaps the most likely use was to carry the pipe over a natural depression. However, as the width is more than sufficient for the dimension of the known aqueduct, the possibility of further pipelines converging on this point must be considered.

In the two trenches at number 87 and below the platform, the rutted surface of the road was uncovered. As, in both cases, this road extended beyond the limits of the excavation, it was not possible to determine its exact direction. Clearly it is converging on to the line of the present Nettleham Road with an incline to the north.

LINCOLN, BISHOP GROSSETESTE COLLEGE
P. Rollin
Excavations continued in 1976, removing the levelling layer of sand on the southern side of the site to establish the nature of the third successive Roman building. Only the northern side of this was found in the area under excavation, which consisted of a small wall of approximately 3 m in length and an entrance into a building indicated by four postholes, and a further piece of wall 2 m in length.

The remains of a clay floor covered a cess pit packed with stone inside the building. Another two cess pits, one sealed with clay, extended outside this building. Just outside the building a pit was excavated containing fragments of five 2nd century pots with the skull of an ox. This building was still above the level of the lower road surface and it was found that another deliberate levelling of the site had been carried out using the natural red sand and brash.

A start has been made to remove this level and the remains of a fourth building, probably contemporary with the lower road surface, are in the process of excavation.

LINCOLN, FLAXENGATE
C. Colyer and R. H. Jones
Excavation of the post-Roman levels was completed in 1976. Taken together with the evidence from the 1975 season, the investigations here provided much new information about the revival of this part of the city as a commercial and urban centre under Scandinavian influence. It can now be seen that the street of Flaxengate was first laid down in the late 9th century, and that Grantham Street, which runs at right angles, is of similar date: these facts have implications.
both for the layout of the lower Roman city and for the impact of the Danes on the physical aspect of the town. Plans of several timber structures of early Anglo-Scandinavian date were recovered, plus a wealth of evidence about the various industrial processes which were taking place on the site in this period. Further finds of stratified coins have helped to confirm the dating, and to demonstrate that glazed pottery was being made locally by the end of the 9th century.

Much of the site may have been free of structures in the Roman period. Only fragmentary evidence was found of occupation dating to the 1st-3rd centuries. At the western end of the site, however, part of a late Roman structure, possibly a public building, in Mediterranean style, was found. Its floor was based on about 2 m of made-up ground.

LINCOLN, ST. MARK’S CHURCH
M. J. Jones and B. J. J. Gilmour
Remains of four successive churches and earlier occupation were uncovered. The large Victorian church which had stood on the site until its demolition in 1972 had been built in 1871 to replace a small Georgian structure. The latter, erected in 1786, consisted of a nave and small apsidal chancel. Excavations showed that it had (in part) a tiled floor, and, more importantly, that its walls were largely based on those of its predecessor, a medieval church. This had been built in the 13th century in Early English style and had incorporated a 12th century west tower. It had acquired various additions — a north aisle, north chapel and two-storey south porch — late in the medieval period. The first stone church, which had originally consisted of a narrow nave and small square chancel, can be dated to the late 11th century. Evidence was found in the chancel for the two successive positions of the altar, in line with changing liturgical practice.

Several hundred graves from the associated burial ground were excavated, and the earliest of these predated the first stone church. In addition, a large number of decorated gravestones were found, mainly of pre-Conquest date, nearly all of which had been re-used in later foundations.

No evidence was found for a timber church associated with the stones, but any such evidence could have been obliterated by later features. There was evidence of other post-Roman activity in the form of a timber post-built structure, underlying the burial ground, associated with pottery which may be Middle Saxon in date. One of the late Roman buildings on the site may also have been re-used in the 9th-10th century.

It is hoped to excavate the Roman levels in 1977.

LINCOLN, MINOR SITES
C. Colyer
Minor programmes of work were carried out at a number of other sites. Trial trenches at Brayford Wharf North revealed medieval timber and later stone waterfronts, and to the north, Saxo-Norman timber structures. Fragments of the north wall of the Roman city were exposed at Cecil Street and Newport Cottage. On Westgate, foundation trenches for a new house revealed one wall and floors of a Roman stone building of unknown function. Observations of similar trenches at nearby West Right, however, showed that here any upstanding Roman structures had been badly damaged by later occupation.

LONG BENNINGTON
H. Wheeler
Excavations were carried out for the Trent Valley Archaeological Research Committee on a Romano-British farm at Long Bennington. A rectangular building of two phases, one 6.5 m wide and more than 17 m long, and a second, re-using the same south wall, 5.5 m wide and more than 11.5 m long, was revealed. This building appeared to have been plastered both inside and out and had mortar flooring. An extension was added to the south, probably between phases 1 and 2.

To the south again, a line of stone-packed post holes and a length of stone wall indicated other occupation, probably of later date. Two post pits, approximately 1 m in diameter and carefully packed with stone, could be dated.
to the mid-4th century A.D. Evidence of industrial activity to the east was examined and it is hoped to continue excavation.

SAPPERTON
B. B. Simmons

Work has continued, with the assistance from students of the University of Evansville, Harlaxton Manor, on the Romano-British settlement lying alongside the Ancestor – Bourne road (locally known as Long Hollow). Beneath the various phases of late stone building which fronted onto a road were a number of fragmentary walls, including part of a north-south wall aligned parallel to the road. This wall, constructed of substantial stone but with very poor foundations, was associated with a partly paved, partly concreted area and two grain drying ovens. Below these features a consistent layer of black, ash-filled material, covering the entire site west of the road, suggested a period of intense industrial activity. There was a concentrated spread of iron slag and fired clay furnace fragments here, but none of the furnace remains appeared to be in situ. This industrial level overlay a depth of some 20 cm of ploughsoil which in turn overlay a series of irregular shaped pits cut into gravel. On a surviving ridge of gravel, several plough marks were noted. A considerable quantity of late Iron Age pottery occurred in these early levels, which also produced a Claudian coin, but no specifically Iron Age features have yet been recognised.

STAMFORD CASTLE
C. M. Mahany

The fifth, and final, session of work in the bailey concentrated on the hall complex, and the area to the north of it. The phasing of the hall is now thought to be as follows:

I Beneath the hall was a group of three small rectangular stone buildings containing ovens, perhaps to be associated with a bakery.

II The first hall was a double aisled building of almost square plan, with the roof supported on four large irregular piers.

III An additional room, subsequent to form the undercroft to a solar, was added to the west. In this period the well was probably open from ground level to the roof. A cellar, an underground building approached by steps from the courtyard, was added to the east, and the hall itself acquired two extra piers, perhaps to buttress the northern part of the roof. There was a central hearth.

IV The hall was narrowed by rebuilding the north wall further south and the south wall further north, and the piers were reduced in size and re-sited. The solar was improved by the addition of a first floor with its own fireplace and a porch. The ground floor now incorporated a garde-robe pit.

V An extra building was now added to the west of the solar, and a courtyard or garden added to the north. The cellar was filled in and the hall was extended over it to the east and transformed into a single aisled structure, again of three bays. At the east end of the hall an arcade was constructed, presumably leading to a screens passage. This partially survives but unfortunately no evidence exists for what happened further east.

VI The walled courtyard, or garden, was subdivided to provide a room on the west with a wooden floor. A porch was added to the hall.

North of the cellar, and cut by it, was a building with slight foundations and a plaster floor, which overlay the layers associated with a pottery kiln. The kiln, producing coarse Stamford ware, is of the greatest importance for it occupies a pivotal position in the pre- and post-Conquest stratification of the site. The kiln itself was a single-flued updraught structure of four main phases and associated with these phases was a series of waster heaps and a puddling pit. The products of the kiln are not dissimilar to those wares found at the Wharf Road kiln, excavated in 1969, but the cooking pots do not show rouletting on the shoulder and the profiles are more similar to Northampton ware. More surprising is the presence of some two dozen sherds, representative of six storage vessels or pitchers, decorated with red paint in the manner more usually associated with Beavais. These vessels have strap handles and one is internally glazed. The group seems certainly to be a local product and, indeed, one of the vessels is a certain waster.

Features ante-dating the kiln and its waster heaps included a U-shaped ditch with an internal palisade and another concentric palisade or ditch some 5 m further out, roughly following the contours of the small hill on which the castle stands. The ditch contained Stamford ware and a coin of Alfred. The function of the enclosure formed by any likely extension of the palisades and ditch is not at present unambiguously evident. The scale and area enclosed appear far too small for the Danish Borough itself and perhaps too large for a property boundary round an ordinary dwelling such as might have been destroyed by the building of the castle. The most likely explanation seems to be of a late Saxon precursor of the castle, a semi-fortified knoll.

TATTERSHELL THORPE
F. N. Field

While harvesting in 1976, a farmer discovered a scatter of Romano-British pottery in a field to the west of the village of Tattershall Thorpe. The finds were given to the City and County Museum, Lincoln, where it was felt that the site merited further investigation. Photographs of the site are included in an aerial survey of the county and a large number of features were identified confirming that a settlement of some size had been discovered.

The site was field-walked by members of the North Lincolnshire Archaeological Unit in early October and, although it was still under stubble, a quantity of pottery and fired clay was recovered. The presence of fired clay raised the possibility of there being a kiln on the site and it was thought that a geophysical survey of the area might provide some interesting results. This work, the results of which are not yet available, was carried out by Bradford University.

A preliminary analysis of the pottery points to a 3rd-4th century date for the site.
TOYNTON ALL SAINTS
A. J. White

In April 1976 the construction of a drive to a new bungalow in the field immediately north of the church revealed a large area of reddening and much pottery in the natural sandy subsoil, which was noticed by Mrs. E. H. Rudkin. Limited excavation proved that this was the remains of a large irregular waster pit, some 6 m in diameter with an extension of approximately 2.5 m to the south. Bulldozing had removed the greater part of it, leaving only a few centimetres of deposits in the bottom, the full depth surviving only in the sections, and a post-medieval disturbance had taken away part of the centre. The original waster pit had cut through the sand to underlying clay, so it is possible that it began as a clay pit.

The contents of the pit consisted of ash and baked clay, fragments of kiln structure and tile, and a wide range of pottery, some items being represented by a single sherd. The range included water-pipes, 'butter-pots', jugs in several sizes, a flask or bottle, cooking pots (both plain and with a thumbed strip below the rim), pipkins, pancheons, bung-hole jars, a lid, a funnel and a urinal. A date in the 15th century is suggested by the nature of the products, which are comparable with other finds from Toynton. A kiln must exist close by, and probably other waster dumps also. Few of the sherds join and only one jug can be restored to any degree of completeness. A number of sherds are classic wasters, exhibiting over- and under-firing defects, cracking and surface blowing, and several appear to have been used as 'parting-shers' in the kiln.

The finds are in the City and County Museum, Lincoln, acc. no. 51.76.


PALAEOLITHIC HAND-AXE, WEST KEAL
J. M. Enderby

A Palaeolithic Acheulian hand-axe was found while walking at Hall Hill, West Keal. It was lying on the surface of the ground close to the border of the field where ploughing had recently taken place, in all probability for the first time.

Fig. 3 West Keal. Palaeolithic hand-axe. J. Enderby

The hand-axe is of medium grey flint, with small areas of cortex present on both faces. The edges are sharp and show no evidence of rolling. The patina is of moderate density and uniform on both sides. It is ovate in shape, 10.5 cm by 6 cm, and bifacially flaked. Some secondary retouch is present.

Hall Hill, West Keal has long been known as a Mesolithic and Bronze Age settlement site. This is the first indication that man was also present there in the Palaeolithic period.

WINTERTON
R. Goodburn

An area of c. 0.2 hectares was excavated immediately east of and contiguous with that examined in 1974: that is, immediately south of the south end of the winged corridor building. A robbed-out wall was found, forming the west side of the enclosure whose east side was dug in 1973; it defined the western edge of a road or area of metallising. A rather earlier fence, on a similar line, ran a few feet to the west; this apparently relates to an east-west wall running west from aIsled building B. A further wall was found, running east-west on a high level, and an area of metallising was found nearby. A further wall was found, running east-west on a high level, and an area of metallising was found nearby.

More post holes, pits and enclosure ditches were examined. One enclosure of probable Antonine date was shown to measure c. 24 m x 51 m. Angles and sub-divisions of others were examined. One steeply-profiled ditch was of crescent shape with horns some 24 m apart — perhaps it relates to a fence designed as a wind-break. More late Iron Age material was recovered in this area than elsewhere. Several ring-shaped ditches, c. 7.5 m to 9 m in diameter, some intersecting, were revealed but not fully excavated. Indications are that these represent a series of circular timber structures and are situated c. 48 m south of the nearest stone circular building (l). Some 120 m north of the north side of the main courtyard, a localised stone scatter on the steeply sloping, west-facing hillside was investigated. It proved to represent a well-preserved, stone-built corn-drying oven with flues of T-shaped plan, having a return on either end of the T-arm. It measured c. 6 m x 4 m and was aligned with the slope to catch the prevailing winds. There was an associated flimsy wooden structure and the oven was protected from water draining off the hill by a broad arc of ditch. The structure was of late fourth century date.

2 Ibid., pp.71-2.

TWO SHERDS OF NEOLITHIC POTTERY FROM OSBOURNBURY
P. Chowne

Two sherds of late Neolithic pottery have recently been recovered from a field in Osbornbury. Sherd 1 is part of a rim from a Peterborough Ware bowl, in the Mortlake style. External decoration is in the form of a series of stamps around the shoulder, which were impressed with a piece of pointed bone or similar implement. Internally, there is a double row of stamps made with a jagged-ended tool. A double row of stamps of the same character, though obviously made with a smaller tool, decorate the rim top. The fabric is dark reddish-brown in colour and has a core of dark grey. Filler is not apparent, although several small cavities do suggest that some material had been added.

Fig. 4 Osbornbury. Neolithic pottery. P. Chowne

Unlike Sherd 1 which was hard fired, Sherd 2 is soft and friable. This is a fragment of Pengate Ware, probably from the rim of a collared urn. Ornamentation is in the form of vertical and diagonal twisted cord impressions. The fabric is dark brown with a grey core and contains greg and sand as a filler.
DUG-OUT BOATS FOUND AT SCOTTER

R. G. Smith

Published reports of a dug-out boat found at Scotter are confused but as only one find-site, near the church, is described, it has been assumed that only one boat was found. However, manuscript *Topographical Notes of Lincolnshire* c.1820 by John Cragg describes a boat found in 1810, during the enclosure, 'digging earth to form a Barrier Bank in the low lands here 300 yards from the River Trent'.

If two boats were found, some anomalies are explained. Cragg's boat must have been the one inspected by Sir Joseph Banks (died 1820), and the second boat must have been found near the church c.1836, as stated in White's *Directory*. Cragg's boat may have been mentioned in Peck's *Axholme*. If so, it was unconnected with the 1903 East Ferry find.

1. Microfilm in Lincolnshire Archives Office.

DUG-OUT BOATS FROM BRANSTON AND STAINFIELD

A. J. White

During the autumn ploughing after the 1976 drought, two dug-out boats were unearthed in the Witham peat within half a mile of one another. They were found in Stainfield Fen, not far from the Barlingley Eau, and on Branstom Island, close to the old course of the Witham.

The Stainfield boat, when first seen, consisted of eight fragments of timber scattered along the field margin, having been dragged piecemeal from their original resting place. When the fragments were reassembled, it could be seen that virtually the whole of the bottom was present, the gunwhales and bow having been destroyed by past ploughing. Part of the stern survived, but not sufficient to indicate whether a separate stern-board had ever existed. In the bottom, spaced out at irregular intervals, were three plug-holes, one of which still contained part of its plug. The total surviving dimensions were approx. 9.3 x 0.75 m while the bottom reached a maximum thickness of 0.15 m.

![Plate VI](Image)

B. BRONZE AGE BARROW GROUP, WYVILLE AND HUNGERTON

A. J. White

It is increasingly clear that a number of ploughed out barrow groups remain to be located in the county from existing aerial photographs. However, the group described here is not topographically susceptible to aerial photography and evidence is mainly to be sought on the ground.

The site lies south-east of the junction between Sewston Lane and the Roman road between Croxton Kerrial and Grantham. Sewston Lane here forms the boundary between Lincolnshire and Leicestershire. During the last war, the landowner ploughed out a mound here which was examined by the Vicar of Knipton, Rev. J. Wood. In the body of the mound he discovered the skeleton of a woman with a flint implement, covered by two capping stones, each 'about 3 feet square'. In a neighbouring field, a further mound was identified but no work is recorded on this. The farm (lately demolished) at the cross roads was known as 'Three Queens'. While this name may indicate its former use as a roadside inn — Sewston Lane was once an important drover road — the attested existence of two mounds close by makes it equally likely to refer to a prominent barrow-group.

A recent visit to the site revealed that a number of trees forming a shelter belt to the farm had been blown down in the gales of January 1976. Under the roots of one of the southernmost trees a sherd of Bronze Age pottery was found, and on a subsequent visit further sherds were recovered from the roots themselves. While most of the diagnostic features were missing, enough survived to indicate that this was a biconical urn with a prominent cordon at the change of profile. No mound survived here and the trees must have been planted at least a century ago to reach their present state of growth.

It would seem that at least three barrows formerly existed at Three Queens and others may have existed nearby on the Leicestershire side of the boundary. The importance of the site is underlined by the fact that this area falls within the limits of the proposed Belvoir Coafield.

2. I am indebted to Sir Denis and Lady Le Marchant for information and access to correspondence.
3. Information from files at Leicester Museum, by courtesy of Mr. R. A. Rutland.
4. Cf. the folklore surrounding the name of Threckingham.
A FLAT AXE FROM SOUTH WITHAM
P. Davey

In 1966, during the excavation of the Preceptory of the Knights Templar at South Witham, a bronze axe was recovered from the garderobe fill of the Great Hall. The axe, which is 97 mm long, c. 65 mm wide and 9 mm maximum thickness, was made in an open mould and the blade sharpened by hammering. It was not annealed. The implement has been damaged in antiquity, part of the butt being missing and the blade being partly broken. The whole object has been bent slightly out of shape and its entire surface is very corroded. Post excavation analysis has necessitated the removal of another small portion of the butt. At the time of writing, the axe is being retained by the excavator.

Fig. 5 South Witham. Bronze Age flat axe. B. Sale

The axe belongs to Britton’s Migdale-Marnoch tradition of the British Early Bronze Age and to Harbison’s Type Ballyvalley of the Irish Early Bronze Age. Damage to the butt, which would originally have been thin and narrow, and the blade, which would have been sharpened to a fine edge, are common features of examples from both areas, almost certainly being the result of use. A close comparison to the form and condition of the South Witham specimen is provided by the axe from Co. Antrim. Datable contexts for this type of axe in either Britain or Ireland are rare, but associations with Wessan hoards in Southern England would suggest a date around 1650-1500 B.C. for its production.

Flat axes are particularly common in Ireland and the quantity of moulds found there has prompted the suggestion that the British finds are of Irish origin. However, a number of moulds have been recovered from Britain, including one from the Fens, one from Yorkshire, two or five axes from Durham and one for two axes from Northumberland. These, and the wide distribution of such axes in Eastern England, seem to reflect contemporary population densities rather than trading movements. There are no moulds from Lincolnshire itself, but the finds from Round Hills Farm, Digby may constitute an association from the county. But the probable contemporaneity of the decorated and undecorated forms in the axe type in Lincolnshire is not particularly informative. Of the twenty-one Migdale-Marnoch finds from the county, twelve are of Harbison’s Type Ballyvalley and, as with most bronze finds, are more common in the north of the area. The South Witham axe is from an area relatively impoverished in finds from all periods of the Bronze Age.

Although the finding of a Early Bronze Age implement in a Medieval garderobe is surprising, this is by no means the only example of such a discovery. In Cumbria alone, at least three examples of Bronze Age metalwork have been recovered from Medieval contexts. The basal-looped spearhead from Dalton Castle, Dalton-in-Furness, the leaf-shaped spearhead from Piel Castle, and the socketed axe from Gleason Castle were all found in Medieval structures. Bronzes also occur from time to time on excavations of later date, a local example being the rapier from Little Ponton (Salterford), Lincolnshire, which was recovered from a Romano-British settlement. Nevertheless, the sequence of events which led to the South Witham flat axe being deposited in a Medieval garderobe must leave room for some speculation.

Acknowledgements
The writer is grateful to Mr. P. Mayes, the excavator of the site, for permission to publish this note in advance of his final publication, and to Mr. B. Sale for his drawing of the axe.

3 Ibid., no. 1282.
5 Britton, op. cit., pp. 320-4.
7 Ibid., p. 30 fig. 1.
8 E. H. Cowper, Some Miscellaneous Finds, Transactions of the Cambro-Brabant and Kentish Archaeological Society, N.S. vii (1905), pp. 185-186, Fig. 4.
10 P. J. Davey and E. F. Foster, Bronze Age Metalwork from Lancashire and Cheshire—Work Notes, 1 (1975), no. 82.

BRONZE AGE HOARD, TATTERTSHALL THORPE
A. J. White

Over recent years, a number of items of Bronze Age metalwork have been found in a single field at Tattershall Thorpe, although some have not been closely located within it. The discovery during potato lifting of two further items, a socketed axe and a socketed spearhead with a stepped blade, suggests a reappraisal of the earlier finds and the interpretation of the whole as a hoard with Wilburton (LBA I) affinities. The purpose of this note is to draw attention to this possible hoard.

The items are as follows:

Two leaf-shaped swords, one fragmentary, 1959
Two spearheads, one fragmentary, 1974
One ‘stepped blade’ spearhead, partially hollow cast, 1976
One plain socketed axe, 1976

The area has recently been subjected to geophysical survey (see above), with a view to establishing a context for the metalwork, and also the Roman material. It would appear that a certain amount of earth-moving has been carried out in recent years, to fill in hollows in the field; it may well be that the bronzes have been scattered by these means. Certainly, the hoard is potentially most important in charting the distribution of Wilburton-influenced metalwork and full publication will be desirable when it is reasonably certain that the full hoard and any associated finds have been located.

1 Cf Savory, Archaeologia Cambrensis CVII, (1958), pp. 28-34.
2 Burgess, Bronze Age Metalwork in Northern England, (1968), passim.
4 Unpublished; one in Tattershall Castle Museum, another in private possession.
5 In the City and County Museum, Lincoln, acc. no. 91.76.
6 In the City and County Museum, Lincoln, acc. no. 116.76.

ROMAN INSCRIPTION, LINCOLN
A. J. White

During grave digging in the north-east corner of the Newport Cemetery, Lincoln early in 1976, a fragment of a Roman inscription was discovered. The findspot was
very close to that of the two cremation burials found in 1975 and is probably related to them, since all the Roman finds, including coins, have been made in a very limited area, suggesting either a private burial ground (a burial club or a family mausoleum perhaps) or else the extreme tip of a cemetery extending from Nettleham Road.

The fragment is from the top right hand side of a tombstone in Lincoln stone, heavily reddened by burning. Other inscribed fragments were apparently found but not reassembled at the time and so lost. The surviving piece reads: [TVS[ ] and is probably part of a personal name. The final letter is uncertain and could be an O, but C would fit quite well as eg. C(ai filus) 'son of Gaius'. It is unusual but not unparalleled for the name of the deceased to be placed in the nominative case. This would be ungrammatical following the usual D.M. ('Dis Manibus') which requires the genitive, but alternatively it could relate to the heir who set up the tombstone. The fragment, as it stands, is too small for certainty and only the recovery of further fragments will provide a fuller text.

1 Now in the City and County Museum, Lincoln, acc. no. 54.76.
2 Lincolnshire History and Archaeology, Vol. II (1976), p.55;
4 Eg. Inscriptions to Volusia Faustina (RIB 250); F1. Helius (RIB 251); and C. Valerius (RIB 257) all from Lincoln.

ROMAN COIN HOARD, WADDINGTON
R. W. Higginbottom

A pot containing a hoard of about 2,900 Roman coins was unearthed in a field near Waddington in April 1976, only a year after the large Coleby hoard found. Fortunately, the Waddington hoard was reported promptly to the police and not dispersed. Subsequently, a Coroner's Inquest held in Lincoln in June 1976 pronounced the hoard 'Treasure Trove' and the coins reverted to the British Museum, as representative of the Crown.

The coins from this hoard are generally well preserved and are all silver-alloyed bronze folles issued during the period A.D.309 to 317. Apart from a small proportion of issues of Licinius I (A.D.308-24) and Maximinus II (A.D.309-313), co-emperors of Constantine I (A.D.305-337), the bulk of the coins were struck in the name of Constantine I himself, with some specimens issued for his two eldest sons, Crispus and Constantine II, and his deified father, Constantius I. On present evidence, it is assumed that the hoard was concealed or buried about A.D.317 or 318.

It appears that most of the hoard coins were struck at the mints of London and Trier, not surprisingly for a British hoard of this period, especially as the London mint was operative until A.D.326, while Trier was the main Continental mint supplying Britain with coin in the 4th century. Reverse types also indicate a considerable degree of uniformity in the composition of the hoard. The common SOLI INVICTO COMITI reverse type, much favoured by Constantine I in the early part of his reign, is well represented in the hoard series, and types such as GENIO POP ROM, MARTI CONSERVATORI and COMITI AVG NN recur quite frequently. The following tables result from examination of a random sample of 100 coins by the British Museum:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Rulers</th>
<th>Mints</th>
<th>Coins</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Divus Constantius</td>
<td>Britain</td>
<td>60</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Constantine I</td>
<td>London</td>
<td>79</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Licinius I</td>
<td>Gaul</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Maximinus II</td>
<td>Lyon</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Crispus</td>
<td>Arles</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Italy</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

All the coins have now been cleaned by the Department of Coins and Medals at the British Museum, in advance of thorough analysis and eventual publication. However, from recent research, it is becoming clearer that the follis was always intended as a silver denomination rather than a bronze one, for although the basic metallic component of the follis was bronze, silver (at first about 3.5%) was alloyed with the bronze from the introduction of the denomination in A.D.294. Despite progressive debasement of the silver alloy, as well as general weight reduction of the coin, the follis maintained a silver content of more than 1% until about A.D.320. In the Waddington hoard, many of the folles retain their silver coating, while assaying of a sample of seven coins has revealed a silver content ranging from 1.41% to 1.88%.

The container in which the hoard was found is a large, thick walled greyware jar of 4th century type and probably of local make. The top section of the pot had been shattered by ploughing, but the vessel has been restored to about half of its original size.

AN ANGLO-SAXON BROOCH FROM LINCOLN
P. Everson

During the drought of the summer 1976, the illustrated Anglo-Saxon small-long brooch (Fig. 6) was found in the silt of the Fosse Dyke in the western outskirts of Lincoln, behind the grandstand on Carholme racecourse. The brooch is bronze, 68 mm long overall, with a height of bow above a projected pin of approximately 8 mm; the pin is missing. The head-plate is of trefoil form, the foot widens into a triangular shape, rather battered by use as is the whole piece; simple small punched circles edge both areas. Between the bow and the foot are the vestiges of a pair of raised eyes above a triple raised collar, and this section has slight chamfering of the edges.

Fig. 6 Lincoln, Anglo-Saxon small-long brooch. P. Everson

The brooch would be placed in the categorisation of Leeds among his trefoil-headed classes, or in Aberg's earlier work among his 'long brooches with triangular or shovel-shaped foot'. The close links of this brooch type with the contemporary cruciform series, which the studies of Leeds and Aberg both stress (Leeds refers to the small-long class as 'a cheap variant of a cruciform brooch'), are underlined in this new piece by the surviving traces of the horse's head motif of the foot, which is so characteristic of the cruciforms.

The brooch-type belongs to the 8th century A.D. Leeds considered examples where the square centre of the headplate had been eliminated and the trefoil character accentuated by the substitution of round notches, as precisely in this example, to be typologically late in the class. This is perhaps counterbalanced by the foot's direct link to the cruciform series.
Other finds in the north-east Midlands of trefoil-headed small-long brooches with simple triangular or sub-triangular feet include examples from Ancaster (LM 129.56), Bracebridge (LM 2.27), Brough, 5 Candleby (LM 268.08), Fonaby (SM), Holme Pierpoint (BM), unprovenanced Nottinghamshire (NM), Sleaford (BM, six examples), and South Ferriby (HM). 7 The link between the cruciform and small-long series is well illustrated by further local finds such as the small cruciforms from North Oversby and Hatton (LM 42.47), respectively only 74 and 84 mm overall, the small-long brooches with horse-head feet from Fallow Lane, Foston (LM 96.74) and Ruskinston (LM 35.56). This new and welcome discovery adds a further isolated find to the still scanty body of evidence for pre-Christian Saxon Lincoln. This comprises:

1. A complete pot of funerary type and early (5th century) date, with a questionably Lincoln provenance (LM 18.35). 8
2. A small undecorated hand-made vessel found before 1880 in Lincoln or its neighbourhood (YM) 9
3. A complete pot of early Saxon date from the site of the Greetwell Roman Villa (LM 9271.06) 10

(Numbers 1, 2, and 3, are conveniently illustrated together and discussed by J. N. L. Myres). 11

4. A stamped pot sherd of sixth century type from excavations on the Colonia wall in East Bight, 1959 12
5. A complete pot with stamped decoration suggesting a 7th century date, found on the Roman kiln site at Rookley Lane in 1947 (LM 38.47) 13
6. A bronze girdle-hanger found before 1906 in Lincoln, perhaps within the Cathedral close (LM 970/4.06) 14
7. A bronze spiral-headed pin, provenanced only to Lincoln (LM 9.15) 15
8. An iron spearhead, Swanton type E2 (BM 66.12.3-198) 16

A sugar-loaf shield boss, (LM 9758.06) sometimes referred to Lincoln, was recovered from the Witham during 18th century dredging operations, and may be from as far downstream as Kirkstead. 17

The brooch shares with the majority of these uncertainty about the significance of its find context — casual loss (as seems most likely), or evidence of settlement or cemetery site. The potential for real advances in our understanding of this period in Lincoln's history seem to lie in two main areas:

(a) In the post-Roman and pre-9th century levels of urban excavation sites, where, for example, both the Flesyngate and St. Marks sites have produced relevant evidence, difficult of interpretation though it is 18

(b) In the late Roman cemeteries and the appearance in them of Germanic elements.

1. In the City and County Museum, Lincoln, acc. no. 80.76.
2. E. T. Leeds, 'The Distribution of the Angles and Saxons archaeologically considered', Archaeologia XCI, (1945), pp.8-14, esp. fig. 4.
6. Ibid., p.196.
7. Leeds, op. cit., see map fig. 6.
10. Ibid., p. 86.

(5M = British Museum; NM = Hull Museum; LM = City and County Museum, Lincoln; NM = Newark Museum; SM = Scunthorpe Museum; YM = Yorkshire Museum, York; Numbers are accession numbers).

**MEDIEVAL FIGURINE FROM BRATTOFT**

**A. J. White**

This figurine (Fig. 7), was found on the small settlement site already recorded 1 in Bratoft parish, by Mrs. E. V. Farnery of Croft. It is carved from a single piece of bone 96 mm x 25 mm overall and represents a lady in medieval dress. The bone is a longitudinal slice taken from one of the long bones of a large animal, possibly an ox, providing a roughly flattened back on the 'narrow' side for attachment and a slightly curved front face which carries the carving. The artistry is of very high quality and the impression of a fully three dimensional figure is given by a relatively shallow carving.

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Fig. 7 Bratoft. Medieval bone figurine. A. J. White

The lady is standing, looking slightly to her left. Her left forearm supports a fold of the tunic, which is gathered up to reveal a pleated under-tunic. In her right hand she holds an unidentifiable object, probably a bag or a brush. Her hair is gathered up in bunches, plaits or 'curls' at the sides to frame the face and is parted in the middle. The combination of clothes, though very simple, and hairstyle date the figure to the mid to late 14th century. 2

It is possible that the context of the piece might throw some light on the identity of the lady and the nature of the object which she holds. In general appearance the figure is very similar to many ivory carvings which were made individually to form scenes on caskets. 3 The craftsmanship is of a similar standard and one can only wonder at the somewhat unusual choice of bone. If it does belong to a casket, then the figure may be allegorical or biblical. The fixing would usually be by glue to the wooden panel and thus the presence of two roughly-cut rivet holes at the middle and bottom of the piece may point to a secondary use, possibly as a knife-handle. 4

The figurine is on loan to the City and County Museum, Lincoln, acc. no. CL5.75.
AERIAL RECONNAISSANCE IN NORTH LINCOLNSHIRE
P. Everson

During 1976, the North Lincolnshire Archaeological Unit funded a series of flights over East and West Lindsey, undertaken by J. T. Hayes and P. Everson. The work was financed partly by a grant specifically for that purpose from West Lindsey District Council and partly by Lincolnshire County Council. For unfortunate practical reasons, the earliest flights were not until late July; in this extraordinary year, this was too late for observing the effects on the main cereal crop, though many sites were recorded as crop-density marks or 'reversals' in a fully ripe crop. Compensation was available in a series of fine sites recorded in sugar beet and yet more strikingly as cropmarks in grass pasturage.

Though they obviously allowed a proper examination of only a minute fraction of the area in a single set of weather and crop conditions, these flights confirmed that ancient buried sites exist in large numbers and can be recorded by aerial reconnaissance on a wide variety of soil types in North Lincolnshire. These include the sandy areas along the Lincolnshire Trent bank, the limestone Edge north of Lincoln and the heavier soils below its western escarp slope, the sand and gravel areas of the Bain valley especially in the Tattershall area, the Blown Sand areas below the Wolds between Market Rasen and Caistor, the chalk of the Wolds, the coastal Marshlands and the Spilsby Sandstone of the southern Wolds. Even in claylands east of Gainsborough and south of Market Rasen, levelled Medieval sites reappeared as cropmarks. No flight so much as looked at the Lindsey Fens and the Louth area was untouched.

Individual sites of exceptional importance and interest included closes and a trackway associated with the well-known Roman villa at Scampton, no part of which had hitherto been recorded by air photography. The parishes west of Ermine Street from Waddingham south to Spalding, revealed extensive traces of settlements of Iron Age and Roman type, which are gradually adding to our knowledge of the rural background to the Roman city of Lincoln. On North Kelsey Moor, two pairs of straight parallel ditches extending for approximately 1 km are reminiscent of the Bronze Age boundaries excavated at Fentor, near Peterborough. At Stenigot, a group of at least four ring-ditches were recorded in grass, situated in the valley bottom rather than on top of the Wolds; further ring-ditches appeared in similar locations elsewhere in Stenigot and at nearby Scamblesby. On top of the Wolds near Bimbrook, an extensive site of rectangular closes and buildings was recorded in pasture, sealed below medieval ridge and furrow. If it is a Roman site undamaged by modern ploughing, it is a rare survival indeed. Throughout the length of the Lymn Valley, many complex and extensive areas of settlement of Iron Age/Roman type, plus numbers of ring-ditches, at last begin to fill in the background to Geoffrey Taylor's diligent fieldwork in that area.

In all, about sixty new sites were identified and extra detail added to perhaps half as many again which were already known. Incidentally, excavation sites were photographed at Washingborough, Short Ferry and Skendley, for the benefit of those working on them.

The Unit intends to augment its three mid-summer sorties with further flights spaced through the winter and spring, in order to complete a preliminary assessment of the area in all seasonal conditions. Already, in early November, a handful of soilmark sites have been recorded on the Wolds, together with an excellent series of earthwork photographs. The Unit hopes to see this year's initiative on its part as the basis for a long-term programme of reconnaissance, with special attention to the Lincolnshire Wolds.

Book Review

THE ENGLISH MEDIEVAL TOWN by Colin Platt, 219 pp., illus., Secker and Warburg, 1976, £6.00.

There are formidable difficulties in the way of the proper study of medieval urban history. The records, where they exist, require a considerable knowledge of Latin, paleography and medieval French and English for their proper interpretation. And some of the histories are travesties of what they should be. Yet to ignore them altogether — it must be emphasised that he was a D.D. with not the slightest claim to learning — is still revered by a few in Lincolnshire though in a long life he produced no fewer than three town histories which are almost entirely apocryphal. This horrible example is mentioned to show what progress has been made in recent years, of which Dr. Colin Platt's work is a splendid illustration. Beginning with his studies of Southampton history he has made himself a master of most of our sources of information and many of the secondary studies of the medieval borough — a formidable task which has deterred most of the rest of us working in this field.

In researching into the history of the borough one is always aware that so small a proportion of the population was urban and that much of the population even of the towns was rural. On the broadest definition the 1777 population of Lincolnshire towns hardly reaches one tenth of the population of the county. Yet in certain senses it was in the towns that the new ways of life were taking shape — that, broadly speaking, contract was taking the place of status, that people lived off what they earned, not off what they grew, that a good many of them lived in houses far more substantial than those to be found in a rural society still partly characterised by villeinage. Indeed in such places as Boston and Lincoln, to quote our most eminent local examples, a form of society was taking shape which had never before existed. Nothing could be more different from the classical urbani characterised by a poor but leisureed and privileged proletariat (the Codex Theodosianus is littered with examples) than the English town of the middle ages based on trades, crafts, and the market, with a legal procedure which eventually, through the statute merchant, was to penetrate the whole of English society.

In over two hundred closely printed but highly legible pages Dr. Platt deals with virtually every aspect of the medieval town from the Anglo-Saxon beginnings to the changes in urban society in the era of the Reformation. The range of the sources which he cites shows the command which a polished scholar can have of his subject. Indeed the book is so good that it seems unfair to the author to make any comment which is less than favourable; and the only criticism which the present reviewer has to make is that it might have been possible to produce this book for a good deal less than $6 if it had been less lavishly illustrated. Since the advent of television publishers seem convinced that nothing will sell unless it has pretty pictures. We therefore have a splendid book jacket with a lovely reproduction of a fifteenth century illustration of the building and the fall of Troy — a thing of beauty which adds little to our understanding of the subject; and to take two illustrations at random on page 167 we have a whole-page illustration of the Doom mural in St. Thomas's at Salisbury, and on page 169 an illustration of a Flemish celebration of mass with a street scene more appropriate for The Cloister and the Hearth than to this brilliant contribution to medieval scholarship. Perhaps the pictures could have been cut by fifty per cent without any real loss; but in fairness to the publishers and the author it must also be said that the remaining fifty per cent (if we include the maps, drawings and diagrams) not only help to recreate the atmosphere of medieval towns but also at a good many points add value to the text.

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