Risby Warren, an Occupation Site Dating from the Mesolithic to the Early Bronze Age

D. N. Riley

For many years interest has been aroused by the flint tools found on Risby Warren, a large tract of sandy land three kilometres north of Scunthorpe on the prominent Lincolnshire limestone escarpment. The late Harold E. Dudley, who described the Warren in both his books, often discussed the place with me in the 1930's and 1940's, and the present account is based on his information and on my notes of the results of frequent visits in those years to search for flints. Dudley's published accounts were rather brief, and the additional facts now given, inadequate as they may be after the lapse of time, add considerably to the data available, and will, it is hoped, be valuable to future workers.

The remains of early occupation were exposed as the wind gradually eroded the sand of the upper parts of the north-west to south-east ridge on which the Warren is located. Removal of the sand took place very unevenly, and deep holes were cut in some places, while wide expanses were steeped bare elsewhere, and between the areas of erosion sand dunes were piled high by wind action, and covered with bracken and marram grass. In places from which all sand had been removed there were exposures of the underlying limestone rock, partly masked by a thin layer of clay.

The sand in this region has been wind blown for a long time, at least since 1697, when de la Pryme mentioned the ‘flying sand hills’, to borrow a quotation from one of Dudley’s books². Early in the present century, marram grass was introduced in order to stabilise the sand at Risby, but it only partially succeeded in preventing erosion, until about ten years ago, when movement of the sand largely ceased, and most of the ground became covered by vegetation.

The acid conditions in the deposits of sand have unfortunately not permitted the survival of bone or other organic matter, and no traces of structures were seen in the parts of the site where remains of early occupation were frequent. The evidence from the Warren therefore has its limits, but it deserves considerable further study, both in respect of the large collections of flints and pottery, now mostly preserved in the Scunthorpe Museum, and of environmental history, which could still be elucidated from the undisturbed parts of the stratified layers of sand.

**STRATIFICATION**

The surface deposits varied greatly in thickness, but the following sequence was observed in most places:

1. Upper layer of yellow blown sand
   - Thickness variable, up to about 150cm.
2. Light grey sand
   - About 30cm.
3. Hard dark brown sand
   - About 15cm.
4. Lower layer of yellow blown sand
   - Variable, up to about 150cm.
5. Sandy clay and limestone rubble
   - About 15 to 30cm.

When searching the Warren I recorded where possible the layer from which the early material was derived. Most of the flint and pottery came from the lower part of the grey sand (layer 2), and a certain amount from the brown sand (layer 3); surface finds generally appeared only after the wind had removed a little more of these layers, which were always closely scrutinised by collectors. The small microliths, for which Risby Warren is well known, were not easy to trace to their source, because of the way in which they could be blown away by strong winds, but eventually it was concluded that they also came from the lower part of the grey layer, at the same approximate level as flints of later type and early bronze age pottery.

On only two occasions are implements recorded by my notes as being in situ in the lower yellow sand (layer 4) — a mesolithic type core, a core trimming and some flakes of white flint. It is possible that there were remains of an early mesolithic occupation of the Warren, dating from before the formation of the grey layer, but the evidence is not conclusive.

Two interesting artefacts of palaeolithic date, a handaxe³, and a penknife point (Fig. 2, No. 1), were found on the surface of the clay at places from which the sand had long been eroded. It seemed that they belonged to a period before the deposition of the lower yellow sand (layer 4).

H. E. Dudley mentions the occurrence of remains of different dates in a succession of stratified layers in certain parts of Risby Warren⁴, but in conversation he informed me that the evidence had been obtained by the late A. L. Armstrong, who has left no detailed information.² Both Dudley and Armstrong refer also to the concentration of material in a single layer, but they assume that the relics of different periods were concentrated in one level as the result of a process of denudation like that witnessed recently, an explanation which does not fit all the facts observed, since most of the fragments of beaker and other early pottery were in good condition and could not have been subjected to the action of blowing sand for the time necessary to lower them to the common level. It is likely that the surface was kept stable by vegetation for a long period when the grey layer was being formed and that objects accumulated at the same level, perhaps assisted by the action of earthworms.

The yellow blown sand, on the other hand, much have been deposited at a time when there was little vegetation growing. The upper layer may be, at least in part, quite recent, but the lower layer is evidently of very early date, since it lies below the grey layer which contained microliths. The lower layer was no doubt transported by wind action at the same time as the bulk of the post-glacial blown sands, which now mask the solid rock in many parts of the country between Kirton-in-Lindsey and the Humber, and the time of their deposition must have been a phase of extremely unpleasant living conditions in this part of England.

Deposits of sand of similar description have been observed at many other places in the vicinity, the most noteworthy being Manton Warren, where quantities of flint implements have been found, many coming from a grey layer like that at Risby. The sequence at the neolithic site at Normanby Park was again similar, and flints and pottery were numerous there in a layer of pale brown sand, which was interposed between two thick layers of yellow blown sand.⁴
DESCRIPTION OF IMPORTANT AREAS
The distribution of early remains on Risby Warren, as far as I am able to record it, can best be dealt with by describing the areas from which flints and pottery were collected according to my knowledge. These areas are marked on the map reproduced on Figure 1 and are identified by the numbers 1 to 11; they are also shown on the air photograph taken by Professor J. K. St. Joseph in 1957 (Plate).
Plate

Risby Warren from the air, March 28th, 1957. The locations of Areas 1 to 7 are shown.

Photograph by Professor J. K. St. Joseph and reproduced by permission of the University of Cambridge Committee for Air Photographs (Copyright reserved).

Area 1

Immediately below the crest of the ridge, on the south-western slope, was an area in which erosion was active for a long time. A large patch of grey sand was being gradually removed in the 1930's and 1940's, exposing flint implements of all types, pottery fragments of early date, and occasional fragments of Roman pottery.

To judge from the relative frequency of obliquely blunted points (Fig. 2, nos. 3-6) in the north-eastern part of the area, there had been an occupation site of makers of 'broad blade' microliths at this locality; large triangles (Fig. 2, nos. 8, 9) also occurred occasionally. The mesolithic flints were mixed with much material of later date, for example the beaker and neolithic potsherds and the arrowheads drawn on Fig. 3. An impression of the material collected in this vicinity can be obtained from the following list of finds made on 21 October 1942, when wartime conditions had prevented people from visiting the Warren and much had accumulated in the north-east part of Area 1.

5 obliquely blunted points
1 small triangular microlith
3 arrowheads (Fig. 3, Nos. 3-5)
20 scrapers (including Fig. 3, Nos. 6, 8)
5 knives made from flakes with trimmed edges (including Fig. 3, No. 9)
1 small flake from a polished flint axe
several cores

20 fragments of beaker pottery (including Fig. 3, No. 1)
30 fragments of pottery with rusticated decoration
3 rim fragments of food-vessel type

All these objects apparently came from the grey sand layer.

Activities connected with ironstone mining have now destroyed the archaeological interest of this part of the Warren.

Area 2

At the highest part of the Warren was what may be termed the 'main site', where H. E. Dudley made his most important discoveries in the years between 1904 and 1920. Flint collecting on the Warren began in 1899 or 1900, shortly before he came to the district, and it seems that the main site was very productive until 1918, when he published the plan which was reproduced again in both his books, and is given here on Fig. 1, map III. It is likely that other early collectors obtained much of their material from this part of the Warren and that it was the source, for example, of much of the collection of the Revd. R. A. Gatty, now in the Sheffield Museum.

The Warren is here crossed by the ruins of a double wall, which was apparently built as a trap for rabbits. Pieces of stone from the wall, assisted by the marram grass, have prevented the sand from blowing away, so that the wall ruins are now on top of a high bank of sand, which is illustrated well by the air photograph (Plate). Inside this
bank a sample of the original sand deposits of the Warren is still preserved intact.

Dudley’s plan (copied on Fig. 1, Map III) shows a number of ‘hearth sites’ in Area 2, which lies to the west of the wall. His description 10 states that the hearths, in which much burnt matter still remained, were in a layer of peaty sand. Below them the sand was burnt hard and near them were scattered flint artefacts and pottery fragments of beaker and rusticated wares. He informed me in conversation that no post holes or traces of structures were seen and that the peaty sand was the grey and dark brown layers described in this account (layers 2 and 3 mentioned above).

The plan also shows a patch where pottery fragments were particularly common and another patch where ‘pigmy flints’ (geometric microliths of narrow blade type) were very frequent.

In the 1930’s the sand had disappeared from most of Area 2, but a few patches still remained and were being eroded. To the south of the Area I obtained flints and some well preserved beaker 11 and rusticated pottery from the grey layer. The total thickness of sand here, near the crest of the ridge, was much less than a short distance down the slope on either side. Some erosion was also in progress to the west and north of Area 2, but finds were few, and it was evident that artefacts were only abundant in the central, eastern and southern parts of Area 2 on a piece of ground perhaps 100m across.

In the north-eastern part of Area 2, on a spot from which all sand had long been removed, J. H. Walshaw found, lying on the clay, the upper palaeolithic point already referred to (Fig. 2, No. 1). There could be very little doubt that this point was earlier than the lower yellow sand (layer 4).

Areas 3, 4, 5 and 6

Much sand had gone from Areas 3 and 4 in the 1930’s, and part of 3 and 5 was a hollow with banks of sand on the east and west sides and a floor of clay, embedded in which was the palaesolithic flint handaxe found by H. E. Dudley in 1944 11.

At an earlier stage in the erosion of the sand, Areas 3 and 4 were prolific in early relics, and Dudley’s plan (Fig. 1, Map III) shows three hearths, and also a mound where he states that rough implements of white flint were common 12. From these Areas and from Areas 5 and 6 came much of the collection made in the years after 1916 by the late E. C. Fearon and now in the Scunthorpe Museum.

In the 1930’s there was an exposure of grey sand in Area 5, which yielded flints of all types, but little pottery. At this time microliths were quite frequent on the surface of the lower yellow sand (layer 4) in Area 6, though it seemed likely that they originated from a higher layer, which had been eroded previously.

The most interesting discovery made in Area 6 was the lower parts of the filling of fifteen small pits, some of which were dug a little way into the limestone. There was a patch of sand burnt red near the centre of the group of pits, which resembled the red sand below Dudley’s hearth. The sandy filling of the pits contained much fragmentary beaker and rusticated pottery and a considerable amount of burnt clay daub, which probably came from some wooden structure. The material was published in detail by the writer 14 and the account need not be repeated here. For the record, however, it may be stated that the position of the pits shown on Dudley’s plan 15 is not correct; there was only one group of pits and they were at the place shown on Fig. 1, Map III.

Areas 7 and 8

To the north of another ruined wall, a large patch of grey sand, exposed in the 1930’s and 1940’s, yielded examples of most types of flint implements found on the Warren, including many microliths. In this area there was no doubt that the grey sand was the source of many microliths found on the surface after a strong wind. When the ground had been searched and any artefacts removed, there was no more to be found until a wind had blown away a little more sand, when flints again appeared, including microliths. A small patch of the grey sand also yielded collared urn fragments.

South of the wall was the area illustrated in a photograph published by A. L. Armstrong 16, which, he stated, contained levels of mesolithic, neolithic and bronze age dates. I searched this area in the 1930’s, but unfortunately did not obtain much there.

Areas 10 and 11

Wind action is less severe in this part, which lies well below the top of the ridge, but much erosion has still taken place. Flints and pottery occurred sparingly, except in one small patch (marked A on Fig. 1, Map II), which was littered with flint artefacts and fragments of beaker pottery on two occasions when I visited it in May 1945 and April 1946. This spot was peripheral to the Risby Warren occupation sites and there was nothing else to be found in the immediate vicinity. The material from this small patch seems likely to belong together, and, if so, is the only group of objects from the Warren, except for the pottery from the pits in Area 6, unmixied with earlier or later remains; it is therefore listed below in detail.

Early Bronze Age Flint Implements and Pottery from Area 10

The following list comprises everything recovered from the small site on two visits. Two further visits were made in succeeding years, but no more was found.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Pottery</th>
<th>No. of pieces</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Beaker with notched decoration, all fragments probably from the same vessel (Fig. 3, No. 10)</td>
<td>19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Beaker with lines of finger tip impression (No. 13)</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Beaker rim, turned, with horizontal line decoration</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thick rusticated ware, with finger tip impressions (No. 11)</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thick ware with rows of stabs (No. 12)</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Undecorated</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Flint Work

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Length:</th>
<th>Width:</th>
<th>Thickness:</th>
<th>Figure 3:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>mm</td>
<td>mm</td>
<td>mm</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Disc scrapers</td>
<td>17-22</td>
<td>17-22</td>
<td>3.5-6.5</td>
<td>Nos. 16, 19, 20. 11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>End scrapers</td>
<td>24-34</td>
<td>18-26</td>
<td>6-9</td>
<td>Nos. 18. 5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Side scrapers</td>
<td>19-33</td>
<td>13-25</td>
<td>4-10</td>
<td>Nos. 14, 15, 17. 12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Broken scrapers</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>6-10</td>
<td></td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Burnt scraper</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td></td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Broken knives</td>
<td>?</td>
<td>12 &amp; 17</td>
<td>4.5</td>
<td>No. 21. 2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Unfortunately I did not remove the waste flakes, so details can be given only of finished tools.

The flint included about 80% of black or brown translucent qualities, the balance being white, opaque material.

NOTES ON THE MATERIAL FOUND

H. E. Dudley stated 17 that ‘each little locality had its own particular type of implement... horse-shoe scrapers, or
“thumb-flints” . . . pointed borers . . . rough scrapers of quite a different type . . .” and quoted Armstrong’s explanation that the different types are of different dates and their locations are the sites of settlements of various periods. Unfortunately, neither he, nor the other early collectors kept separate the objects from different places, and much information has thereby been lost.

The purpose of the present paper is to record the circumstances in which the early material from Risby Warren was recovered, and a full study of the large surviving collections is outside its scope. A brief description, however, must be given of the principal types of flint implements and pottery occurring, in order to ensure the correct interpretation of this account.

**Late Upper Palaeolithic**

The large penknife point from Area 2, illustrated on Fig. 2, No. 1, is an unusual object for the Warren. Dr. P. A. Mellars informs me that it is of a type current in northwestern Europe during the late-glacial period, and that perhaps the closest analogues are to be found in the industry excavated by A. L. Armstrong from the ‘basal’ and ‘lower middle’ zones at Mother Grundy’s Parlour in Cresswell Crags. 18

**Mesolithic**

It has long been apparent that both ‘broad blade’ and ‘narrow blade’ microliths were present, and the latter, once called ‘pigmy flints’, were perhaps the principal interest of the first collectors.

A few typical broad blade points and large microliths are shown on Fig. 2, Nos. 2-9, all of which come from Area 1. The form most frequently seen is the point obliquely blunted at one end (Nos. 3-5), and similar points blunted at both ends also occur (Nos. 6, 7). A notched blade (No. 2) illustrates the technique by which the point was made from long flakes; it has not been finished and the end has still to be twisted off to produce the point and a ‘microburin’. In length, the points are often from 3 cm to 4 cm, and they are normally made from opaque white flint. A large triangular microlith illustrated (No. 9) is also of broad blade type.

The term microlith may be applied more appropriately to the tiny narrow blade types, a sample of which are shown on Fig. 2, Nos. 10-24. Small scalene triangle under 2 cm in length were the variety most frequently found (Nos. 12-15, 17-19), and the occasional crescent forms (No. 20) are similar in shape and size. There are many elongated forms usually described as rods (Nos. 22-24), some of which have one end finished at an angle like the scalene triangles (Nos. 11, 16); rods are often in the length range of 2 to 3 cm, though smaller examples occur. Some remarkably small microliths have been found, for example No. 21, which is only 7 mm long.

The type of flint used to make narrow blade microliths is often difficult to determine because of the heavy patina on many examples, but a translucent variety was frequently employed, in contrast to the opaque white variety commonly used for broad blade points.

The long needed study of the Risby Warren microliths has recently been undertaken by R. M. Jacobi and the published account of his work is awaited with interest.

**NEOLITHIC**

Occupation of the Warren in neolithic times, on a small scale at least, is demonstrated by the occurrence of small amounts of grooved ware and Peterborough ware. 19 Further evidence is provided by a few pieces of recurred rims from undecorated pots made of a soft and very porous fabric, probably to be classed as Grimston ware (for example Fig. 3, No. 2). Fragments of similar pots occurred at the Normanby Park neolithic site. 20

Flint implements of neolithic date cannot be isolated from the material of other dates. Among the arrowheads, the leaf-shaped, a neolithic type, are most abundant, but this type seems to have lasted into the beaker phase at some places. 21 H. E. Dudley mentions a mound in Area 3 (see Fig. 1, Map III), where quantities of rough implements of white flint were found, 22 a description which suggests comparison with the flintwork from the Normanby Park neolithic site, but the material has not been kept separate. Occasional flakes from polished axes and a few complete axes and large fragments of axes have been found, 23 but their relatively small numbers seem to indicate only a small neolithic settlement on the Warren.
Early Bronze Age — Food Vessel and Collared Urn

It is possible that the few food vessel rim fragments found in Area 1 came from pots in use at the same date as beakers, because the lower part of a pot much resembling a food vessel was found in one of the pits in Area 6, together with a fragment of rusticated ware. The collared urn fragments found on a small patch of ground in Area 7 indicate a separate occupation, however, because no beaker was found in this vicinity.

Later Periods

After the early bronze age, occupation of Risby Warren appears to have ceased and the occasional objects of late bronze age or Roman date listed by H. E. Dudley were probably deposited or lost by individuals using the trackway which is reputed to have crossed the Warren, following a route along the Lincoln Cliff.

STATISTICAL INFORMATION

Detailed notes kept by the writer about visits to Risby Warren, made very often in 1933, occasionally in 1934-5, and infrequently between 1937 and 1946, enable useful statistics to be prepared about the occurrence of different types of flint artefacts on the Warren. Further detailed information is available from the notes of the late Stanley Jackson about his collection, which is now kept in the Scunthorpe Museum, and from records made by the late Alastair Henderson about his small collection, which is now in the Sheffield Museum.

The flint artefacts listed in the sources mentioned above are summarised in Table 1. Broken specimens are included.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>TABLE 1</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Area Nos.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Broad Blade</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>---</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 &amp; 3</td>
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<tr>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5 &amp; 6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7 &amp; 8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10 &amp; 11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Totals</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

These figures show that arrowheads and scrapers were distributed more evenly than the microliths, which were concentrated in Area 1 (broad blade), and Area 7 (narrow blade).

Specimens of both leaf and barbed and tanged arrowheads were recorded from most parts of the Warren, but transverse derivative types were not common. The following table gives some additional information about the arrowheads listed in Table 1.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>TABLE 2</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Area Nos.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>---</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 &amp; 3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5 &amp; 6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7 &amp; 8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10 &amp; 11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The difference between the totals of arrowheads in Tables 1 and 2 is because the former includes some fragments of unidentifiable type and several arrowheads listed, but not described, in S. Jackson’s notebook and which cannot now be found. There have unfortunately been some serious losses,
and it is no longer possible to trace part of the material described above, which at one time was in the Scunthorpe Museum.

An estimate of the total quantity of flint tools removed from the Warren by known collectors may be attempted by using H. E. Dudley’s figure of 114 leaf arrowheads from Risby and Crosby Warrens — they were largely from Risby — in the Scunthorpe Museum when he wrote his second book. 18 To this number must be added at least 30 to allow for the leaf arrowheads of other known collectors (A. L. Armstrong, E. H. Rudkin, A. H. Henderson and a few others), making over 140, or at least ten times the number of leaf arrowheads given in Table 2. As a rough approximation therefore, the totals of Table 1 might be multiplied by a factor of ten to obtain the numbers of flints removed by known collectors.

The main site in Area 2 covered perhaps 10,000 square metres, and the other areas, less prolific in early remains, covered at least another 40,000 square metres. The very complete way in which the wind uncovered everything in areas marginal to the main occupation site makes it difficult to compare Risby Warren with excavated sites, but it may be instructive to consider the neolithic site at Hurst Fen, Mildenhall, Suffolk 18 the intensively occupied part of which probably covered about 15,000 square metres. The excavated area at the centre of this site measured about 1800 square metres, from which were obtained 59 arrowheads and 736 scrapers.

PERIOD OF OCCUPATION

An interesting point about Risby Warren is that it was an important occupation site both in the mesolithic and early bronze periods. The same coincidence of periods of occupation occurred at other places in the district, notably Manton Warren and Bagmoor. 19 After the early bronze age, the factors which made Risby Warren suitable as a living place can have applied no more, and only a few objects of later date have been found.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

In conclusion, I must acknowledge the help given by G. C. Knowles, formerly Curator of Scunthorpe Museum, Mrs. E. H. Rudkin, and the late A. H. Henderson. H. E. Dudley, knowledgeable, shrewd and kindly, has long gone, but all who are interested in the study of the prehistory of his former district are still greatly in his debt.

The Society is indebted to the Council for British Archeology for a grant towards the publication of this paper.

FOOTNOTES

1 History and Antiquities of Scunthorpe and Freedingham, Scunthorpe, 1931, and Early Days in North-West Lincolnshire, Scunthorpe, 1949, subsequently referred to as History and Antiquities and Early Days, respectively.
2 Early Days, pp. 5 and 142.
3 Ibid., p. 27.
4 Ibid., p. 18.
7 History and Antiquities, pp. 7-10, and Early Days, pp. 16-18 and 59-60.
10 Early Days, p. 60.
11 Proceedings of the Prehistoric Society, Vol. XXIII, 1957, p. 49 and fig. 5, nos. 26, 29 and 31, for example.
12 Early Days, p. 27.
13 History and Antiquities, p. 8.
15 Early Days, p. 59.
17 History and Antiquities, p. 9.
18 Another interesting object found at the same level as the penknife point, was the handaxe found by H. E. Dudley in 1944 in Area 3 or 5. Jeffrey May has made the following comment on this in a recent letter to the writer: ‘the Risby Warren specimen is an example of a middle palaeolithic bout coupé handaxe, often found on higher ground in Britain, as opposed to the gravel deposits in which most lower palaeolithic handaxes occur; probably its relatively late dating in the earlier part of the Devensian makes the handaxe less of a surprise in a layer which also contained an upper palaeolithic point’.
20 Lincolnshire History and Archaeology, Vol. 8, 1973, p. 58, no. 11.
22 History and Antiquities, p. 8.
23 Early Days, p. 51.
27 Ibid., p. 56.
28 Early Days, pp. 107, 112, etc.
29 Ibid., p. 43.
31 Early Days, pp. 18, 19.

Book Reviews


Many local historians, both amateur and professional, will have found Dr. Stephens’s book Sources for English Local History (Manchester U.P., 1973) of considerable value. His new book is offered as a practical guide to teachers of history who are interested in either the study of their locality or the selection of local illustrations for national themes. The first three chapters deal with the place of local history in the curriculum, and some problems of theory and practice facing the teacher as he prepares his presentation of the subject. Two chapters each are devoted to ‘Local history in its own right’ and ‘Local history to illustrate national history’. The subject of the final chapter is ‘Fieldwork and archaeology’.

Dr. Stephens leaves the intending teachers of local history in no doubt that the subject requires wide knowledge and mature scholarship. He warns of the dangers of antiquarianism, of overdoing practical work which requires little thought, and of the pretence at ‘research’ undertaken by pupils without the necessary background knowledge or specialist skills. ‘The pupil will get more out of the use of documents...if they are used within a varied teaching structure where the guiding and explanatory role of the teacher is well developed’. Because many teachers, especially in junior and middle schools, have a poor grasp of those aspects of social and economic history which are required for the study of local history,