Archeology in Lincolnshire and South Humberside, 1977

Compiled by A. J. White

As in the previous two years ‘Archeology in Lincolnshire and South Humberside’ is divided into three parts; a resume of the more important finds, summaries of excavations and fieldwork, and short notes considering in greater detail some of the more significant of the year’s discoveries. As usual Ordnance Survey grid references are not given, because of the danger of 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, IA Iron Age
MBA Middle and RB Romano-British
LBA Late Bronze Age AS Anglo-Saxon DMV Deserted Medieval Village

No finds were made of Palaeolithic material, but a Mesolithic mace-head was found at Wyville and Hungerston, 1 and a rather unusual flint implement, possibly Neolithic, at Billingborough. Polished stone axes were found at Alkborough, 2 Caistor (a reused grg VI type), Fiskerton (grg VI), Grantham area, 1

Haxey, 3 Leasingham (grg VI), North Kyme, Redbourne (grg VI), 4 Somersby, South Kyme (2 axes) and Stixwould (2 axes), 5 Flint axes were recorded from Kettlethorpe, Linwood, Tealby (a completely polished example) 6 and Welton-le-Marsh, 7 while other flint-work of Neolithic/BA type was found at three sites in Ludford 8 and at West Ashby. 9 Two EBA low-flanged bronze axes were found in adjacent fields at Stixwould 10 and MBA palettes at Hatton and Thurby near Bourne, 11 while a fine MBA/LBA pegged socket spearhead was recorded from Navenby and a socketed axe from Partney, 12 (1976 and 1975 finds respectively). A cremation pit, excavated in a quarry at West Ashby probably relates in some way to the Beaker/EBA barrow there (see below).

A single IA silver-denomination coin was reported from the RB/Medieval site at Claxby-by-Alford 5 and two saltern sites of IA or RB date at Hogsthorpe 12 and Orby. 13

Numerous RB sites, mainly indicated by pottery scatterings, were recorded at Belton-and-Manthorpe, 14 Bilshby, 15 Bythorpe, Burton (2 sites), Caistor (Fonaby), 16 Claxby-by-Alford, 17 Fillingham (2 areas of the Owney Cliff site), 18 Grange-de-Lings (2 sites), 19 Great Gonerby, Lenton, Keisby and Osibody, 1 Londonthorpe and Harrowby Without (2 sites), 10 Ludford, Osibody (3 sites), Redbourne, Riseholme (4 sites), South Carlton, Stamford (rear of Conduit Road), Waddingham, Welton and West Rasen.

At Ingoldby a possible iron-wrought site was located, 1 while at Silk Willoughby a tessellated pavement was recorded as being found some years ago, in making a cattle grid. 13 A number of RB coins were found in gardens on Uffington Road, Stamford. 14 Minor finds of RB material were made at Burton (spindle whorl), Kirmington (‘Nauheim derivative’ brooch fragment), 2 Viking House, Lincoln (small complete pottery flasket), Dragonby, Scunthorpe (dragonesque brooch), 3 Thorpe in the Fallow (‘melon’ head), Ulceby-with-Fordington (3 brooches) 6 and Winteringham (pin with a pierced spatulate head). 2

At Grantham 2 AS spearheads and a small pot were found on a new school site on the Manthorpe Estate, evidence perhaps of a single inhumation burial, though no bones were recovered, while part of an AS annular brooch was found at Nettleham, and a silver penny of Edward the Confessor was recovered from the grounds of the Usher Gallery, Lincoln.

Pottery finds of medieval/post-medieval date were reported from Bigby, 1 Burton (2 areas), 2 Croft, Grange-de-Lings, 1 Ingoldby (together with evidence of fish ponds), 1 Riseholme (4 areas), 4 South Carlton, 3 Stixwould (below the Witham embankment), Thurby and Waddingham. 2 At Fiskerton half a Lincoln ware jug was recovered from a garden, while at Edlington and Willoughby-with-Sloothby 4 were found respectively a humanoid figure from a roof finial and an aquamanile spout in the form of a dog’s head. Medieval jetons were recorded from Bardney, Carlton-le-Moorland and Fiskerton, and other minor finds were made at Gainsborough (thimble), Holton-cum-Beckering (rondel dagger found in 1934), 1 North Kelsey (brooch pin), and Wood Endby (bronze seal-matrix). One of the most significant architectural discoveries of the year was that of a base-crumbed timber frame of medieval date during modernization of a house in Saxby.

At Claxby-by-Alford 4 ploughing up of an enclosure previously under pasture (partially excavated in 1906 and 1948) produced plentiful metalwork and pottery, and fresh evidence of medieval occupation was recovered adjacent to the villages of Langton-by-Horncastle, 11 Low Toynton, 14 and Mareham-on-the-Hill. 14 Ploughing and draining on both surviving and deserted sites also revealed building materials and ranges of datable pottery, at Cherry Willingham 15 (including some AS sherds), Donington-on-Bain, 1 Haythby, 11 Lissington, 14 and Scaife. 14

Several large groups of post-medieval pottery etc., were recorded, including pit groups of c. 1730 and 1750 from Rowley Road, Boston 14 and one of c. 1780-1800 from Scorthorn, while a substantial deposit was recovered from a building site in High Street, Grantham. Areas of clay pits and brick wasters probably representing early post-medieval brickyards were reported from Doddington-and-Whisby 17 and two areas at Tattershall Thorpe. 18 Minor post-medieval finds were made at Barrowby (Bourne waregraftio sherid), Bottesford (‘Bellarmine’ jug), 2 Lincoln Castle (forge of Geo. IV shilling in a stoneware beer bottle), Rock House, Scotgate, Stamford (pair of wine bottles), 12 Winteringham (17th century rapier pommet), 1 and Wyberton 19 (an almost complete Westerwald jug, c. 1600). At Kirkstead 19 and Potterhanworth 18 mounds were reported which possibly related to post-mills, though the latter, now levelled, was known as ‘the Barrows’.

A single find of a 6d piece of Elizabeth I (1564) from Whaplode, taken together with an earlier coin find with a date of 1566 may indicate the presence of a hoard.

As usual several human skeletons were brought to light in building and farm work, and were examined for dating evidence. Two were found in Lincoln at the Technical
College and at Ruston's works on Waterside South, while another was discovered at Westborrough and Dry Doddington. The former had RB sherds in the grave fill, the latter two medieval, providing in each case only a *terminus post quem*.

Acknowledgement is given below to the following for their contributions; where no acknowledgement is stated the source is the Sites and Monuments Record at the City and County Museum, Lincoln, where further information on all the above sites, including grid references, is held.

1. P. Hardon 11. D. Gregory
2. M. Knowles 12. G. Tilt
3. P. Wheateley 13. C. Ellis
5. F. T. Baker 15. P. Eversen
7. N. Field 17. A. Jarvis
8. P. Chowns 18. M. Hodgson
10. J. Dable

**EXCAVATION AND FIELDWORK**

**THORNHOLME PRIORY, APPLEBY**

G. Coppack

Excavation continued within the Outer Court of the priory, and concentrated on the further excavation of the bakehouse and the area to the south of the kiln house and dovecote. Part of the great gatehouse was also examined, and excavation of this building will continue in 1978. In addition to the Outer Court excavation, a further area of the priory church was examined on behalf of the Thornholme Priory Group.

The early 14th century bakehouse revealed in 1976 was dismantled, and was found to be a rebuilding of a mid-13th century structure of similar layout, again with a substantial floor of pitched limestone with substantial drains beneath it. When this floor was removed, the original use of the building, which is dated to c. 1180 by architectural detail, was found to be domestic, with opposed doors in the north and south walls, and a substantial hooded fireplace inserted in the east wall. The west wall was in fact the 12th century precinct wall, and part of the contemporary gatehouse lies immediately to the north. The building seems to have had an upper storey, reached by a timber stair against the inner side of the north wall. Two possible uses are suggested: the almonry or a guest house. Either use would be appropriate in such a position. The gatehouse to the north was of two phases, the earlier being apparently of late 12th century date, and was demolished late in the 13th century, a new gatehouse being built further west, its east wall lying over the west wall of its predecessor. This new gate was later altered to provide a room for the porter on its south side, with outer and inner gate halls to the north. When the gate was moved westwards, a new precinct wall was built, providing a small yard west of the bakehouse. A range of timber buildings outside the gate most probably comprise the 14th century almory.

South of the kiln house, excavation revealed a complex series of structures built into the south-western corner of the precinct. The latest phase was represented by a large aised building, almost entirely of timber, with its north wall butting the south gable of the kiln house. A hearth in the northern bay suggests living accommodation, partitioned off from what must have been a barn. At the south end, running east-west, were a range of workshops with stone sill-walls and substantial stone floors. There was evidence for an upper storey, most probably a granary. Although very few artifacts were found associated with this phase, it would seem to date from the late 15th century, and replace an earlier series of buildings of general 15th century date. Below the southern half of the barn, and the workshop range, excavation revealed a substantial and important aised hall, butting the precinct wall at its west end, and with a service room to the east. It had been rebuilt at least twice since its construction early in the 13th century, when a chamber block was provided outside the precinct wall, and the stylobates for the aile posts were altered. It must be the successor to the hall and chamber of late 12th century date below the kiln house, and probably served as accommodation for the lay steward, who must have been a person of rank. The hall had ceased to be used for domestic purposes by the second quarter of the 14th century, when it was altered to act as a barn and workshop.

Further work on the church revealed the north side of the quire, showing it to be unalised, and together with the eastern part of the north transept to be a rebuilding of later 13th century date. The footing of the late 15th century church-stalls were revealed, as was the base of the rood screen, built largely out of the re-used mouldings of its late 13th century date. The footings of the late 15th century others will be removed in 1978. A small section of the nave was also examined and found to be unalised, of late 12th century date and contemporary with the west wall of the north transept.

**ST. CHAD’S, BARROW-ON-HUMBER**

J. B. Whitwell

Chalk and flint foundations of a building with an apsidal east end have been found on the east side of the street known as St. Chad’s. The building is 19.5m east-west and approximately 8.5m north-south, though the northern wall of the building is missing. Three burial pits cut by the cross wall of the apse, and two by the west wall. Several others lie grouped close to the north so the south wall. The plan of the building and the associated burials strongly suggest that this is a Saxon church. As yet there are no finds to confirm a specific date.

The area is traditionally associated with the Saxon monastery of St. Chad, and ground to the south of the building described above will be cleared ahead of the planning for the site to see whether there are any further structures. Excavation is being carried out for the Humberside Joint Archaeological Committee by Mr. J. Boden.

**HUMAN BONES AND POTTERY FROM GRAYINGHAM**

M. Harman and J. Samuels

In late November 1976 building contractors working in Grayingham reported to the police the finding of a human skull and other human bones in a pipe trench. The police were anxious to know the date of the deposit of the bones and we visited the site to see if this could be ascertained. The pipe trench was beside a house which faced the main road through the village with a garden backing onto the churchyard. The distance from the pipe trench where the bones were discovered to the nearest point of the present churchyard boundary is approximately 50m. Examination of the trench led to the recovery of more pieces of human bones, as well as animal bones and pottery. The human bones were fragmentary and scattered along the trench and...
did not seem to come from an articulated skeleton or skeletons. The bones were from adults and must represent at least two people. The pottery, of 12th century date, came from two distinct areas where perhaps pits or ditches had been cut into the natural subsoil. One of these disturbances had packed in its side three limestone blocks which could represent the remains of a wall foundation. The circumstances of the deposition of the human bones are not certain. The topsoil in the side of the trench in the vicinity of the features mentioned above seemed to have been made-up ground; and it is possible that soil from the nearby churchyard was used for this purpose.

The illustrated pottery was all found together, and might be assumed to have formed one deposit:

Fig. 1 Medieval pottery from Grayingham. J. Samuels

1 A Cooking Pot. Red-brown, fine shell-gritted fabric with grey core.
2 A Cooking Pot. Lighter red-brown but otherwise as No. 1.
4 D Jug. Orange sandy fabric with olive-green to brown splashed glaze outside.2

There is a lack of well stratified groups of early 12th century pottery in South Humberside and North Lincolnshire. However, on typological grounds and comparison with unpublished material from Epworth and Thornholme Priory, a date in the first half of the 12th century would seem reasonable for this group.

1 We are grateful to C. Hayfield, who has seen and commented on the pottery and on whose information this pottery report is based.
2 Fabric types are based on those of C. Hayfield in J. Samuels, 'Cherry Lane, Barrow-upon-Humber, South Humberside' Lincolnshire History and Archaeology, Vol. 12, 1977, pp.31-2.

GREAT GONERBY
J. Dable

The site is situated to the east of Manor Farm on the gradual northern slope of a valley running down towards the village of Manthorpe and was first noticed by the farmer, Mr. G. Thompson, in the dry summer of 1975, who brought it to the notice of the writer. After a brief survey, it was established that there existed the foundations of a number of buildings occupying two fields of permanent pasture, adjacent to the garden on the east side of the 19th century farmhouse known as 'Manor Farm'. The fields run concurrently being bisected by a thick hawthorn hedge. To the north the site is bounded by a large ditch which shows evidence of stone revetting contemporary with the site. To the south there is a stream which has its source at a spring in Great Gonerby village and to the south of the modern farmhouse there is a partially filled-in pond on the course of the stream. At its eastern extremity there is a dam which formerly had a sluice to regulate the water level. It is feasible that the area was a fish pond contemporary with the site and was constructed in the early medieval period (there is a parallel at Silverstone, Northamptonshire).

It was decided to survey and partially excavate the site. An area in the first field lying parallel to the dividing hedge was chosen. A grid of 5m boxes was laid down and levels were ascertained at all intersections. The first year of the excavation has uncovered parts of two buildings of dry stone construction, which are numbered for convenience 1 (south) and 2 (north); these buildings were served by a roadway running partially beneath the existing hedge and in the same general direction. At its south end, from Building 1 to the stream, it becomes a long mound which is constructed of the same material as the building foundations (i.e. the local oolitic limestone). The road at this point is revetted on its west side. Where it joins the stream there are the foundations of a bridge which would have given access to the southern pasture land.

The site as a whole is covered by thick demolition layer, many of the stones showing signs of burning, especially in the area of Building 1. There is very little evidence of roofing material, save for a few small fragments of Westmorland slate, which are quite rare in this area. It is likely that the main roofing material was of thatch and the slate may have been used to surround the louvred smoke hole at the apex of the roof, for the fragments were found near the centre of the building. At the south end of Building 1 a horseshoe shaped hearth was uncovered. Its construction followed the general pattern of the rest of the building showing that it was an integral part of the original building and not of later construction. The filling of the hearth differed from the layers surrounding it, insofar as the filling material was mainly sandy loam covering a burnt layer which contained small grains of carbonized barley towards its outer wall, and small fragments of early Stamford ware towards the centre. The sandy loam contained iron nails and shells. The hearth has a flue at its southern extremity which passes through the south end of the foundations of Building 1. The pottery from other parts of this building although very sparse, suggest an early medieval date.

Building 2 is dissected by a modern sewer pipe which has destroyed much evidence, but there are still fairly good stretches of foundation discernable. The floor is constructed of coursed rubble like Building 1 but differs in that there are less signs of burnt stone. At the south end there is a drain which shows signs of blocking during the occupation period of the building; the drain has an outflow to the east onto the road mentioned formerly, and also an outflow at the west corner of the building. In Building 1, the pottery evidence is very sparse and dates from within the period of the 9th to the 14th centuries. There are also a number of residual sherds of Roman pottery, brought perhaps from elsewhere with the construction material.

GRIMSBY, WEELSBY AVENUE
J. A. Sills and G. Kinsley

Excavations during 1977 on a small Iron Age enclosure in Grimsby have yielded important new evidence about later prehistoric metalworking in England. The site lies on a spur of chalky boulder clay overlooking a stream and is roughly 40m square, enclosing an area of some 1,600 sq m of which 250 sq m have so far been excavated. The enclosure ditch where examined is 3.5m wide and 1.25m deep on average, and it is clear from the ditch silts that
originally there was a bank on its inner lip. In the lee of the bank near the north-west corner a roundhouse drainage gully 9m in diameter has been excavated.

In a short stretch of the enclosure ditch at the back of the roundhouse, a heavy concentration of debris from a bronze foundry was located, including broken crucibles — many with bronze scoriae — mould fragments, slag and baked clay. On preliminary analysis most of the moulds appear to have been used for casting horse trappings. The large quantity of debris recovered means that the site is of great interest for the study of Iron Age metalworking, and detailed analysis is eagerly awaited. Bronze melting slag was also recovered from the drainage gully of the roundhouse, which in addition has produced several complete profiles of coarse jars which show some affinities with pottery both from the East Midlands and Yorkshire. Finer wheel-thrown wares are present in the enclosure ditch along with coarse pottery: the relationship between the two is not yet clear. Shards of Roman pottery from the upper fill of the enclosure ditch show that it was still partly open into the Roman period; a small side ditch cut at this time may be part of a Roman field system or enclosure. Medieval plough furrows up to 25cm deep still remain after modern ploughing and levelling of the medieval field system. Several years ago about a third of the Iron Age settlement was eradicated when soil was needed for a school playing field. Excavations are continuing.

HECKINGTON VILLAGE TRUST — FIELD SURVEY
J. Pinchbeck
A field by field survey of the parish is being made by members of the Trust and in the first winter's field walking several new sites were found. These include Bronze Age pottery (over about 60 acres) two Pagan Saxon sites and large Romano-British settlements (both with tesselated, tiles and building stone). Some worked flints have also been located, and a new Bronze Age barrow group has been noted close to the Bronze Age pottery, but in the parish of Asgarby-and-Howell. A survey of all ridge and furrow has been made, both on the ground and from aerial photographs, and this information has been plotted on to maps.

HIBALDSTOW, STANIELWS FARM
R. F. Smith
Work continued on the area extending across the Stanwell valley bottom adjacent to and west of Ermine Street. A 2m wide section through the sediment of a pond recovered pottery of the second half of the 1st century. The pond was perhaps a deliberate creation formed by the construction of a road which acted as a dam across the Stanwell valley. However, it must be emphasised that the association of pond and road is unproven. Only the southern margin of the pond was established by excavation. The limited marginal area exposed was lined with limestone rubble. Post holes, a rubble alignment and a hearth, south of the pond, may either be contemporary with or later than it.

The presence of the pond may account for the alignment of the later buildings (exposed in 1976) which are not perpendicular to the road. The alignment of these buildings reflects the continuation of the earliest established property boundaries. The latter were represented by two parallel ditches which flanked a lane and contained pottery of the late 1st to 2nd century. The later surfaces of the lane were exposed in 1976 and ran between two strip buildings both of which post-date the ditches. The southern ditch was a recut of an earlier ditch which turned and continued in a southerly direction running parallel with and adjacent to Ermine Street. The pond was drained and filled with earth and rubble and the stream channelled. A rectangular building was constructed on the pond site and had gable end frontage upon Ermine Street. The dating of its construction together with that of its northern neighbour must await an assessment of the evidence. Both buildings were, however, demolished before the end of the 3rd century. The latter date represents a preliminary assessment of the coin evidence. The sites of both buildings were reused with the replacement buildings overlying the remains of their predecessors.

The rectangular building was replaced by a smaller building of different character exposed in 1976. It was set back from the road to which it presented with projecting corner rooms an elaborate facade facing a courtyard. A wall was constructed along the southern boundary separating the new residential building from its southerly neighbour. The stream was now channelled within a limestone built drain, to the north of the wall.

Useful evidence for the construction date of the two strip buildings sites to the south of the stream was obtained from the two pre-building lane side ditches. The pottery has yet to be studied in detail, however a Saxon potters stam recovered from a ditch bottom may be dated AD. 140-170. Both buildings continued in use into the 4th century. Structural alterations were made and both buildings were extended towards Ermine Street. A reconnaissance excavation in the adjacent field to the north extended across the width of four buildings. The objective of this limited area was to establish the nature and state of preservation of building remains and thus aid planning of future excavations. The southern strip building had wall courses surviving to a height of 70cm. It was flanked to the north by a narrow lane. The adjacent building plot was occupied by two closely set buildings with a c. 45cm gap between. One building was apparently residential. The clay floor littered with the sherds of broken pots, was covered by fallen wall plaster, painted and unpainted. The other building may have survived as either a workshop or barn. A preliminary assessment of the pottery and coins suggests usage of each building during the 4th century.

1 Lincolnshire History and Archaeology, Vol. 12, 1977, Plate IV, and p. 74.
2 Report by Brenda M. Dickinson.

KIRKSTEAD
A. J. White
Within the precinct of Kirkstead Abbey the only surface disturbance is due to mole activity. This has thrown up archaeological evidence in certain areas — notably the presence of pottery waster heaps from kilns of immediate post-Dissolution date on the extreme north and west. The main area of the Abbey proper, however, has produced few surface finds, except for roof tile fragments, so the occurrence of plentiful bone and shell fragments in a limited area due east of the standing fragment of wall deserves comment. This is approximately where the 'Abbott's Lodging' is marked on Stukeley's plan of 1716, a likely identification anyway on the basis of other monastic plans. The faunal remains could well come from the Abbott's kitchen, which in many monastic houses had become one of the 'households' by the later Middle Ages. Bone, etc. was collected from the surface over an area of about 10 sq m, which represented the greatest concentration. Three sherd's of associated pottery all belonged to the late 15th or 16th century, and some small fragments of metal and a single piece of painted window glass probably came from the destruction deposit (c. 1537).
It is likely that the bones are from the latest deposits and so are listed here (see Appendix) as a comment on the monastic diet in the latter days of Kirkstead.

Finds are in City and County Museum, Lincoln.

APPENDIX

Animals:
- Bovidae (Ox) — minimum 1 individual
- Sus (Pig) — minimum 1 individual

Birds:
- Perdix perdix (Partridge) — minimum 1 individual

Fish:
- Gadus morhua (Cod) — 4 vertebrae 15-20mm dia.

Marine Shells:
- Buccinum undatum (Whelk) — 3
- Cardium edule (Cockle) — 4
- Mytilus edulis (Mussel) — 5
- Ostrea edulis (Oyster) — 12

1 Probably due to the activities of Francis Moodie, porter of 'Christendom' who died in 1610. (Inventory in Lincolnshire Archives Office, LCC Adon 1610/197). W. Stukeley Itinerary Curiosum, 1776 edn., Fig. 28.

2 Division of the catering and refectory accommodation into several small units, e.g. at Bardney, see Abbeys, R. Gigybeer, H.M.S.O., 1959, p.48.

3 Bourne 'D' ware, Cisterian ware, and a fragment of a small drinking jug of 15th century type.

4 Accession No. 13.77.

5 I should like to thank Maurice Johnson, Assistant Keeper of Natural History, City and County Museum, for identifying these remains.

LINCOLN, AQUEDUCT

K. F. Wood

The short excavation early in 1977 which located the western edge of the masonry platform of the northern boundary was expected to conclude the work at Nettleham Road. During the two years spent on this site the platform, exposed in four trenches, was proved to be of a uniform width of 2.75m. It seems probable that it is of a continuous length rather than a series of piers, although the latter cannot be ruled out. In every trench, and below the platform, a road was found with a badly ruddled surface.

Christ's Hospital Playing Field

This site is approximately 45m to the north of No 87 and cuts the projected line of the platform. Two trenches, one on either side of the playing field driveway, exposed a rudded road surface and the aqueduct jacket with its enclosed pipe. In appearance the road was similar to that at No 87. The aqueduct was, in construction, identical to the lengths found further to the north, first by Lincoln Archaeological Research Committee and later by the Lincoln Archaeological Trust. On the southern side the aqueduct had been damaged, possibly by tree planting earlier this century. On the north it had been sliced horizontally half way up, in order to prevent it standing proud of the road surface. This would suggest that the aqueduct had gone out of use when the road was laid down. Nevertheless, sufficient of the aqueduct remained for its alignment and level to be established. The southern trench was cut westwards from the Nettleham Road boundary for 21m but the road extended in both directions beyond its limits. Nowhere was the platform located, and clearly it does not reach the playing field on its No 87 alignment, if at all.

No 101 Nettleham Road

An exploratory dig conducted by P. Rollin located the road surface and aqueduct below at a point some 55m to the north of the playing field.

No site provided sufficient evidence for the dating of any of the three features - aqueduct, road and platform. In appearance the aqueduct and platform are of Roman construction but it is difficult to associate the two as they are clearly separated in time by the road. Further work is required on all three sites and on adjoining properties before sufficient levels and alignments are available for an overall assessment to be made.


LINCOLN, BISHOP GROSSETESTE COLLEGE

P. Rollin

Excavations were continued and it was found that the third successive Roman building was the earliest on the site. Alongside the substantial cambered road was a shallow ditch which had been filled with clay. A section was cut through this road and revealed two earlier road surfaces, the lower one contemporary with the ditch. With this area completely excavated a trial trench was opened to the north to find the extent of the medieval buildings discovered previously and two were found with substantial walls remaining. The earliest of these was directly above the foundation of a Roman wall 2m thick with a destruction layer containing a mass of coloured wall plaster above a clay floor. Under this the cambered road surface still continued to the limit of the trial trench, giving it a total width of 12m.

LINCOLN, FLAXENGATE

R. M. Jones and D. Perring

Apart from the substantial late Roman building at the west of the site, there were few surviving traces of Roman occupation. It is difficult to know to what factors this can be attributed, but it is possible that later levelling or terracing operations had removed much of the evidence of earlier Roman features. Slight remains were uncovered of timber structures of 2nd century date, whose functions could not be identified.

LINCOLN, ST. MARK'S

M. J. Jones and B. J. J. Gilmour

The excavations of 1976 had been concerned with the investigation of ecclesiastical buildings and features dating from the 10th century, and the site had been left at the top of the Roman levels. In April 1977 work was resumed, and continued down through a sequence of Roman structures to the undisturbed subsoil. It is possible at this stage to give only a brief preliminary account of the development of the site from the time of its first occupation. Again we are grateful to the Church Commissioners and to Lincoln City Council for allowing excavations to take place.

Examination of the subsoil by Mr. Philip Taylor, a soil scientist, working for the Department of the Environment, has shown that the land here was marshy in pre-Roman times. At some date in the middle of the late 2nd century, the ground level was raised by an average 50cm before the construction of a range of long narrow buildings (strip-houses) set closely adjacent to one another. Over the next two centuries, these buildings, originally of timber, were rebuilt at least twice, and internal arrangements were altered frequently.

The area available for excavation contained large portions of two adjacent structures (Buildings II and III),
and trial work to the north and south allowed us to establish the presence of similar buildings which went through similar developments (Buildings I and IV). Building II was about 9m wide, and after being rebuilt in the 3rd century with stone footings, was 25m long. Building III was narrower, but longer, c. 7m by 30m. Both, however, fell within the normal range of sizes of such buildings, which are known from several Roman towns in Britain. They are commonly interpreted as traders' houses, and usually consisted of shop (on the street front), with a workshop behind, and living quarters at the rear or above. Certainly the details of those found at St. Mark's accord well with this interpretation, although the sites of the shops themselves lay outside the excavated area to the east, beneath the modern pavement. What was revealed, however, in both Buildings II and III, was a remarkable sequence of workshops, with flagged or earthen floors and large ovens, and parts of the living rooms. Often evidence survived for partition walls and corridors between the rooms, which allowed a reconstruction of the internal arrangements. Until the late 3rd century, the buildings had aisle posts to take the weight of the roofs. Excellent evidence survived in both structures for the construction and decoration of internal walls. Careful removal of these features has thrown light on details of the wattle and daub walls, which were based on horizontal beams, and on the types of painted decoration. The site has produced the largest yield so far of painted wall plaster from any site in Roman Lincoln.

There are, however, many problems which at present remain unsolved, the most important being the identification of the functions of the large ovens which were invariably provided in each phase of workshop. This is a notorious problem, because of the many functions to which ovens could be put and leave no archaeological trace. It should be possible to eliminate some of the possibilities. Samples of soil are being analysed at the University of York for clues. The site has also provided an important stratified sequence of pottery and other finds which will be useful as a basis for dating finds from other Roman sites.

The historical implications too are most interesting. This is a site lying nearly half a mile from the south gate of the original colonia, and about a quarter of a mile from the southern defences of the lower town whose walls had not been built at the time when the shops were first laid out. Does this mean that by the mid-late 2nd century there was continuous ribbon development over such an area, or was this a separate nucleus? Who was responsible for the development, and what was the status of the traders? Further research may or may not throw light on these and other problems. At the very least, the new evidence uncovered is strong testimony to the rapid commercial growth of the Roman city and to its continued prosperity.

Through the kindness of the owner, Mr. G. Silverthorne, several days were available during which the features uncovered were recorded and the trenches deepened in places. There were some traces of medieval occupation in the form of rubbish pits of 12th-15th century date, probably associated with a house fronting onto Westgate to the south. The most substantial feature discovered, however, was a north-south wall and two successive floors of a Roman stone building, which was probably a large structure fronting on the Roman street to the east now followed by the line of West Bight. It was first erected in the 2nd century AD, presumably as the area of the colonia was developed, and later remodelled. The wall was well-built, with solid foundations and tile bonding courses at ground level. The original floor to the west was of mortar, but at some later date its level was raised considerably and a new floor of slates laid on a concrete matrix.

The identification of the purpose of the building highlights one of the problems which has been faced in an area where areas available for archaeological work are much smaller than those covered by ancient structures. Building plans will therefore have to be pieced together from the results of the investigations in a number of small areas. Another interesting fact was the absence of any traces of occupation dating to the 9th–11th centuries—this could be taken to suggest that the building continued to be used in some form and its floors cleaned, but recent experience of Anglo-Danish structures at Flaxengate shows that structures of this date are not easy to detect unless large areas are exposed.

LINCOLN, MISCELLANEOUS SITES

M. J. Jones

Minor programmes of observation and/or investigations were possible on a number of sites in advance of or during redevelopment, by prior negotiation with Lincoln City Council. The Westgate site, described above, falls into this category. Others produced negative results, but at the time the effort was justified. For instance, a new housing development entails the cutting of foundation and service-trenches at Little Bargate Street might have provided, with the minimum cost to the Trust, important information about the extent, date and layout of the suburban occupation at the southern end of Wigford. As it turned out, no identifiable archaeological remains were revealed. This information in itself will be useful in evaluating other sites in that area which may become available, and also adds a little more information to our growing stock of knowledge of the archaeological subsoils and land contours of the ancient city.

Similarly useful but negative results were obtained by trial excavations on the site of Walnut House, Motherby Hill. Our work here confirmed that the line of the Roman city wall must indeed lie beneath Motherby Hill itself to the east, so that the development site was cleared from any archaeological constraints.

A new departure for the Trust involved fieldwalking a large area to be developed for housing on the north-eastern fringes of the city, at Nettleham Green. No finds of any clear significance were made.

With an eye to the future, small areas were investigated to the rear of the Old City School, to establish the depth of disturbances in relation to archaeological levels. While 19th century cellars on this particular site have removed the archaeological evidence, the land immediately to the east, which is to be developed in the next few years, contains little cellarrage and would repay archaeological investigation.
LINCOLN, ST. PAUL-IN-THE-BEΛ

M.J. Jones
The site of the church of St. Paul-in-the-Bel was examined by the Lincoln Archaeological Trust in 1974 and 1975, and work was resumed in the autumn of 1977. During the earlier seasons the remains of the Victorian (1877-1971) and Georgian (built 1786) churches were excavated, and the western part of the medieval church was investigated. The eastern end of the church was uncovered in 1977.

The late medieval church, as shown on surviving 18th century drawings, consisted of a west tower, nave, chancel and south aisle. It is known from documentary evidence that the south aisle was rebuilt in the early 14th century. Excavation has shown that the earlier aisle, probably of 12th century date, was narrower than its successor, and was itself an addition to an earlier nave. The foundations of the original nave incorporated a large amount of reused Roman building materials. No walls of Roman date are yet visible — the site lies within the presumed area of a major public building fronted on the east by the Bailgate colonnade and defined to the north by the 'Mint Wall'. It is hoped to investigate the earlier churches and the underlying Roman structures during 1978.

LINCOLN, VICARS' COURT

A.J. White
Vicars' Court, or the College of the Vicars Choral, lies immediately to the south of the Cathedral, and consists of four ranges of buildings surrounding a grassed quadrangle. The oldest and least altered part of the southern range, consisting now of two houses (Nos 3 and 3a) of early 14th century date, heavily buttressed on the south side because of the rapid slope of the hillside. Two massive garderobe towers also project from this face, and following the discovery of quantities of 17th century material in the easternmost tower in 1973, staff of the City and County Museum commenced the systematic excavation of the remaining fill towards the end of 1977.

The fill of the garderobe shows three phases of deposition, two of which appear to be closely datable from documentary evidence. The lowest deposit consisted of pottery, clay pipes, etc., of the mid-17th century, together with a mass of cinders and unburnt coal, probably representing the immediate clearance of rubbish after the Earl of Manchester's siege of the upper city in May 1644. Above this was a partial slab floor and a low wall built directly on the fill. Whatever its function, it was soon superseded by a further dumping of rubbish and building debris probably associated with the reconstruction of Vicars' Court soon after 1665. Further deposits may belong to the end of the century.

Such close dating of the varied remains helps to provide much needed information on this period in Lincoln's history. Dry sieving of the deposit has produced a very full range of faunal evidence, down to the smallest mammal and fish bones. Large quantities of brass pins from these contexts also present new dating evidence for these little-understood artefacts.

Excavation continues. I am most grateful to the Dean and Chapter of Lincoln Cathedral and to Dr. and Mrs. A.C. Fraser (tenants of No. 3) for their kind permission to excavate and for their subsequent help.

1 Associated Architectural Societies' Reports and Papers, XVII, 1883-4, pp.235-50 and plan.
2 See ME Wood 'Measuring a medieval house', The Lincolnshire Historian, No. 7, Spring 1951, pp.281-6 and plates.

SAPPERTON

B.B. Simmons
Excavation on this Romano-British site has continued in conjunction with the University of Evansville, Harlaxton Manor. At the lowest levels, Iron Age pottery and some flint work has been found in pits, apparently dug for gravel, possibly in the early Roman period. In a newly opened area immediately to the north of the first site is a rectangular building, size 23m x 79m. This now gives three buildings on the same alignment fronting onto a street. At least three hearths or corn dryers in this latest phase of occupation can be compared with similar features in the latest phase of the site during the first stages of excavation.


ST. LAWRENCE CHURCH, BURNHAM, THORNTON CURTIS

G. Coppock
Excavation within the deserted village of Burnham located and examined the village church, which was found to have five major phases of development, starting early in the 10th century and ending with the destruction of the building in the mid-16th century (Fig. 2).

The earliest church, or chapel, was a timber structure, some 4m x 5m, lying below the church of the later church, and partly destroyed by it. To the west a large pit, 4m long, and cut at least 1m into natural chalk, had a mortar lining and seems to have been associated with the church, perhaps as a baptistry. It was filled with the same material that sealed the timber church at its destruction in the later 10th century. An infant burial was found within the first church, against the east wall.

In the late 10th century, the site was levelled and a twocell church of chalk with an outer facing of sandstone built.
It had opposed doors in the nave, a narrow chancel arch whose plain imposts with chamfered bases survived, and a slightly elevated floor in the chancel still bearing the impression of the altar which stood forward of the east wall. Two post bases suggested the position of a timber structure on the south side of the chancel. In the second half of the 12th century the church was extended and repaired. The principal alteration was the extension of the nave to the west, the blocking of the old nave doors, and the provision of a new door in the south wall. The church was refloored throughout but its ritual arrangements remained unaltered. The first quarter of the 14th century saw a more drastic restoration. The chancel floor was raised, with an altar platform set with printed tiles, the base of a bench placed against the north wall, and the altar itself set against the east wall. Below the altar step the chancel was floored in brick, with benches to the north and south. The whole building was refenestrated and glazed, and was replastered throughout. In the east wall of the nave, to the south of the chancel arch, a statue of St. Lawrence was set in a rather rustic niche. The west end of the nave was walled off to create a vestry, which necessitated the re-opening of the old south door, and against the west wall a timber belfry was raised on flint sill walls. In the 15th century, the belfry was removed and a small tower built within the west end of the nave, where the walls were widened to support it. An interesting feature of the wall widening, which was built of knapped flint blocks set in mortar, was the provision of nesting boxes for pigeons in the lower stage which was not accessible from the church. The church was demolished in the mid 16th century and robbed intermittently until the late 19th century.

WEST ASHBY

N. Field

Excavation of an EBA barrow, half of which had been quarried away, located the three ditches identified from aerial photographs and established a sequence of at least six constructional phases for the barrow which are thought to be as follows:

I A circular ditch, 9m in diameter, with a causeway in the north-east quadrant was dug. In the centre of this area is what is assumed to be the primary burial (to be investigated next season).

II A mound was constructed over the burial and within the ditched area.

III The mound was enlarged soon afterwards but still remained within the ditched area. At this stage a large oval pit was dug through the centre of the mound which contained a coffin, possibly dating from the Beaker period.

IV The mound was enlarged for a third time extending beyond the ditch which had now silted up. This mound lay eccentrically over the earlier construction, slightly more to the east.

V A ditch was cut to surround the enlarged mound. It filled up quickly with wind blown sand and was re-cut. There then followed a slower silting of the ditch containing organic material, indicating that the ditch lay open for some time. The ditch was re-cut again and continued to silt up. The remains of a late Beaker cremation were recovered from the silt layer of this ditch in its S.W. quadrant.

VI A third ditch 45m in diameter was cut to surround the middle ditch and some of the resulting upcast was used to fill in the middle ditch. It can be seen that no ditch was contemporary with any other.

At some point after phase IV was completed a collared urn containing cremated bone, two flint arrowheads and a bronze razor was deposited in the centre of the mound.

Plate I Excavation of barrow ring-ditches at West Ashby, looking north, J. Samuels

Further work remains to be done in the centre of the barrow. However, it is already apparent that this barrow was an important monument in the Early Bronze Age and important enough to be altered to cater to the changing needs of a society over a considerable period of time. It is of note that the barrow lies less than 1km north-west of a henge monument and south of an area rich in finds of the Neolithic/ Bronze Age period and should be considered in this context as possibly being part of a larger area of special importance at that time.

1 Cambridge University Collection BCG 287.
2 Scheduled as Lincolnshire Monument 265 A.

WEST ASHBY, CREMATION PIT

N. Field

A cremation pit was discovered on land which had been stripped of topsoil in preparation for gravel extraction. The pit was oval in shape and measured 80cm x 60cm and was 20cm deep. It lay immediately below the plough soil and the southern half was disturbed by dragline activity and the site itself has now been quarried away.

The fill of the pit was of charcoal, heat shattered flint and some cremated bone. There was no trace of any pottery. The burnt material lay in a hollow dug into the natural yellow flinty sand. Intense burning had caused the lining of the pit to turn red. The pit lay one field north of an early Bronze Age barrow and finds in the vicinity of the pit include many flints and some pottery of Neolithic/ Bronze Age date.

AERIAL RECONNAISSANCE IN NORTH LINCOLNSHIRE

P. Everson

A total of six flights were made by P. Everson and J. T. Hayes, on behalf of the North Lincolnshire Archaeological Unit, during the peak cropmark season in late July and early August, amounting to about ten hours flying time. The North Lincolnshire Unit is grateful to West Lindsey District Council and Lincolnshire County Council whose grants have financed this work.

Despite gloomy forecasts during the spring and early summer suggesting that it had been too wet for any marks to develop, results were very good and on some subsoils, particularly limestone, excellent. Crop maturity was not only much later than of recent years but was also spread over a relatively long time. An important consequence was that, though the Wolds valleys produced a large number of sites, with the Lymn Valley outstanding, the top of the
Wolds fared relatively poorly, for most of the cereals on top were just coming up to maturity when adverse weather set in and precluded any further useful sowing from the second week in August. Work on the Wolds therefore remains the highest priority for the future.

Something approaching 200 sites new to local and national archaeological aerial photographic cover, or material additions to known sites were recorded, all but a handful of cropmarks. These include many single or multiple enclosures, usually thought to be Iron Age or Roman farmsteads, some of them with traces of circular buildings within. There may be examples, too, of the type of ditched enclosures attached to linear boundaries, identified in South Lincolnshire as Bronze Age. Extensive multi-phase complexes of ditched trackways, fields and enclosures were also newly recorded at Woodhall Spa, Tattershall Thorpe, Saxby, Somersby, Blyton and elsewhere. The major Roman and earlier site on Ermine Street at Owby produced notable cropmarking this year, some of it recorded for the first time ever on the west of the street. Pit alignments appear at Spridlington and Bishop Norton. Ring-ditches were also seen frequently; many were located in low-lying situations, and others were additions to earlier recordings, increasing the number of substantial groups now known to exist.

Of outstanding importance from this year’s work is the recording of several sections of triple linear ditches and related linear boundaries on the limestone ridge north of Lincoln. All sections so far recorded appear to run approximately north-south. On the eastern boundary of Lincoln itself, a triple ditch was traced for some 4km in length. In Blyborough, Greasley and Waddingham parishes, about 32km north of the city, three sections were recorded at about 3km apart, two running north-south and the third between them running east-west. Though strictly undated except as pre-medieval, these monuments are taken by some authorities as major early prehistoric boundaries.

On Roughton Moor near Woodhall Spa a cropmark similar in plan to the henge monument at Dorchester-on-Thames was photographed. A very similar site (recorded by both Professor St. Joseph and Mr. B. Hayes) exists at Willoughby-cum-Sloshby, and perhaps relates to the major Bronze Age cemetery at Bitterdell.


SHORT NOTES

A BRONZE AGE URN FROM CAISTOR

J. B. Whitwell

The urn (Fig. 3) was found during construction work on the site of a new housing estate opposite the school playing field in Navigation Lane, Caistor, and was seen only when it fell, complete, out of the bucket of a mechanical excavator. It remains in the possession of the finder, Mr. Johnson of Crowle, according to whom various other pots, ash, and knobs of red burnt clay were found at the same time in sand blown off the hills.

Maximum height of the urn is 114mm, and maximum diameter at the collar is 120mm. The collar is decorated with a simple chevron pattern produced by a twisted cord, while a stabbed pattern appears both below the collar and on the rim. It is very probable that the urn contained a cremation and that some sort of urn cemetry was discovered, but due to the circumstances of the find it is unlikely that much more evidence will come to light.

A CELTIC DUCK-RING FROM CLAXBY-BY-ALFORD

Timothy Ambrose

In May 1977, a copper-alloy ring (Plate II) in the form of a swimming duck was brought into the City and County Museum by Mrs. R. Emery of Claxby-by-Alford, who had found the ring in the parish.

Plate II Celtic duck-ring, Claxby-by-Alford. A. J. White

The duck is portrayed in a semi-naturalistic manner, with its wings, which are in light relief, folded at its sides and scored with shallow, parallel lines in a crude attempt to represent the primary feathers. Its tail feathers are shown by a single, faint line 3mm long between the tips of the wings, which run the whole length of the back. The front of the left wing is markedly more curved than its counterpart and runs back to meet the base of the duck some 6mm behind the right angle formed by the base and the rear edge of the hoop. The front of the right wing meets the base at a right angle, immediately above the point at which the front edge of the hoop meets the base. The duck’s head is pleasantly shaped above a short neck, with the eyes standing out in bold relief. Its beak is slightly flattened on both sides, with the nostril on either side represented by a
tiny, shallow hole, c. 0.5mm in diameter half-way down the beak. The mouth is shown by a single incised line, which on the right hand side is slightly downturned, giving the duck a somewhat lugubrious expression. Its breast is rounded and prominent. The duck has a maximum length of 38mm, a maximum height from top of head to base, of 21mm, and a maximum width of 21mm. 

The piece appears to have been cast in one with the hoop, one end of which has been bent round and then welded inside the casting immediately behind the front of the right wing. The hoop varies from 4-5mm in width and is c. 3mm thick, while the front and back edges have been squared off with a small file, the marks of which can be clearly seen. The inside of the casting has been left roughly finished. The lower edge of the base is rounded and slightly worn towards the tail end. The precise date of the piece is problematical. It is of extremely unusual type and any stylistic appreciation is bedevilled by a lack of close parallels. Stylized and semi-naturalistic representations of ducks and other birds occur sporadically throughout the European Iron Age and the duck appears in Romano-British contexts along with a variety of other water birds. The significance of birds in Iron Age art and mythology has been recently examined by Ross and there seems little doubt that water birds were closely associated with certain elements within Celtic mythology. This association is equally likely to have held good for the Romano-British period, and the relevance of the different species of waterbird to the Roman and Romano-Celtic pantheon has been much discussed. It seems possible that the Claxby-by-Alford ring has religious overtones, although of precisely what kind it is difficult to judge.

The closest parallel in Britain would seem to be the little bronze duck found in the excavations at the Iron Age hill-slope fort of Milber Down in Devon. Its simplicity, and vitality moved Fox to call it 'essential duckery'. He assigned it a broad date range of the first century AD. The Claxby-by-Alford duck is modelled with a closer eye for detail and in a somewhat more naturalistic style, with the wings and the beak clearly defined, but nevertheless retaining the simplicity of form so attractive in the little duck from Milber Down. It is this elegant simplicity which makes it so difficult to assign a precise date to the ring, but a date somewhere in the first or second century AD would seem to be appropriate.

1 I am most grateful to Mrs. Emery for permission to publish this find, which she retains.
2 The scored lines start just behind the front edge of the wing and stop immediately in front of the back edge. There are five lines, fairly evenly spaced on each wing.
3 The right eye is some 2.5mm in diameter, the left eye is rather worn but of similar size.
4 I am most grateful to Ms. Kate Foley of the Lincoln Archaeological Trust for examining this piece. Ms. Foley writes 'The ring was examined under a low powered binocular microscope, X-rayed in several positions and tested micro-chemically. The chemical tests were strongly positive for lead and zinc, but only fairly positive for tin. The X-rays were rather inconclusive because there were several cracks in the structure due possibly to corrosion. This made it impossible to say definitely that the line partially defining the edge of the offset shoulder was due to the ring being attacked after casting, although this seems a plausible explanation of the plate. Justin Bayley, of the Department of Environment's Ancient Monuments Laboratory, was of the opinion that this was a likely explanation which only further examination might confirm.'
5 I would like to thank Dr. Martin Henig and Professor B. W. Cunliffe of the Institute of Archaeology, University of Oxford and Dr. Jeffrey May of the Department of Archaeology, University of Nottingham, for discussing this item with me, and Ms. Catherine Johns of the Department of Prehistoric and Romano-British Antiquities, British Museum, for her comments.
6 See for example J. V. S. Megaw, Art of the European Iron Age, Bath, 1970, plate 20 and pp. 50-1; plate 23 and pp. 51-2; plate 60 and pp. 68-9; and references therein.
11 Its function is even more difficult to determine. Its hoop can accommodate either a man’s or a woman’s finger, or toe, although its form would make it awkward to wear for any length of time. It may of course not have been worn. It is extremely tempting to see the ring as belonging to a priest or priestess and being used in a ritual connected with a water-cult.
13 C. Fox, op. cit., p. 79.

AROMAN EAGLE’S HEAD TERMINAL FROM WALESBY

T. M. Ambrose

In 1973 a cast bronze bird’s head terminal was found by Mr. A. J. Burton during field walking on the site of a known Roman villa at Walesby. The terminal is in the form of an eagle’s head with the bird holding an object, possibly a berry, in its beak. It has been broken across the neck and the back of the head, and is bent and contorted on either side of the face. The top of the head which is flat has been decorated with incised lines in a diamond pattern, imitation of feathers. A rivet, 2-3mm in length has been driven through the top of the head, the remains of which are still visible inside the casting. The terminal would originally have been attached to the top of a long cylindrical or hexagonal socket, probably with a hook projecting upwards from the base.

Objects of this type are widely known and have been discussed by Webster and more recently by Painter, who follows earlier writers in suggesting that they were the decorative finials of brackets fixed to the axle beam on either side of the carriage of a cart or wagon. The main
distribution of these vehicle mounts with a single arm is along the Rhine and Danube frontier zones, and it has been suggested that their source of manufacture may have been at Eisenberg. They have been variously assigned in date from the 1st to the 4th century and in fact seem to have been in use throughout this period. Vehicle mounts of similar type have been found in Britain at Silchester, Cirencester, Leicester, High Rochester, Chesterfield, Little Cressingham, Norfolk, and Vindolanda/Chesterholm. Eagle's head terminals are also found on similar mounts which lack the upward curving hook. It is unfortunate that the new find from Walesby does not come from a securely dated context.

1 I am extremely grateful to Mrs. J. M. Lewis for bringing this object to the attention of the City and County Museum and to Mr. A. J. Burton for permission to publish it. Mr. Burton retains the find.
3 G. Webster, 'The Roman military advance under Ostiorus Scapula', Archaeological Journal, CXV, 1960, pp. 74-75.
5 For references to the continental examples see Painter, op. cit.
7 Examples cited in Webster, op. cit., pp. 74-5.
8 Painter, op. cit.
9 Information from Dr. M. Henig, Institute of Archaeology, University of Oxford.
10 Cf. for example J. P. Bush-Fox, 'Excavations on the site of the Roman town at Wroxeter, Shropshire in 1912', Reports of the Research Committee of the Society of Antiquaries, 1913, p. 28, fig. 10, no. 15.

TWO HOARDS OF SILVER DENARI

A. J. White

During 1977 two Roman coin hoards, both of silver denarii of the early Empire, were adjudged Treasure Trove in Coroner's Inquests held on 14 January 1977 and 10 August 1977 respectively at Grantham and Lincoln.

The first hoard was found at Lowthorpe near Grantham by Mr. J. Doble. It consisted of 420 coins together with fragments of the base of a small grey flagon which judging from its size and the marks of corrosion on the inside had originally contained the whole hoard. Rulers represented ranged from a single coin of Mark Antony (d. 30 BC), through to 17 of Antoninus Pius (d. 161 AD), and three of Marcus Aurelius as Caesar. It is probable that the latter date represents that of the deposition of the hoard.

The second hoard, found at Waddington near Lincoln, is the second from that site and was found with the aid of a metal-detector. It comprised only 16 coins ranging from one of Vespasian [cos III] (71 AD) to a posthumous issue of Antoninus Pius (c. 161 AD), which again probably represents the date of deposition. The coins show progressively less wear from earliest to latest issues. Although the coins were scattered over an area of approximately 7 x 13 metres, interpretation as a hoard is strengthened by the above factors and by the evidence of bronze corrosion on 12 of the coins, possibly caused by contact with a bronze container or other coins, and it is on the basis of the intrinsic value of the hoard that a verdict of Treasure Trove was brought in.

1 Lincolnshire History and Archaeology, Vol. 12, 1977, p. 71.
2 A complete list of the rulers represented is held at the Department of Coins and Medals, British Museum, and by the City and County Museum, Lincoln.
3 See Lincolnshire History and Archaeology, Vol. 12, 1977, p. 61, for the earlier hoard.

A NEW ROMAN RIDER-RELIEF FROM STRAGGLETHORPE

T. M. Ambrose

In late November 1977, a limestone relief sculpture was discovered during drainage work at Stragglethorpe (Plate IV). It is 74.0 cm in height, 58.5 cm in maximum width and 9.0 - 15.0 cm thick. It is of extremely unusual type and depicts a mounted horseman, wearing a plumed helmet and dressed in a long-sleeved, belted tunic and a cloak. He is carrying a round shield on his left arm, and is in the act of spearing a serpent-like creature coiled beneath his horse's belly.

Plate IV. Roman rider-relief, Stragglethorpe. T. M. Ambrose

The identity of the horseman is something of a mystery, but the rider may perhaps be a local version of Mars. The figure he is spearing is unparalleled in similar contexts. Full publication of this sculpture will appear in a future volume of Britannia.

1 I am extremely grateful to the owner, Mr. D. F. Dobson, for bringing this sculpture to the attention of the City and County Museum, Lincoln, and for his kind permission to publish a brief description of this piece.
2 I am greatly indebted to Professor J. M. C. Toynbee and Dr. Martin Henig for discussing this relief with me.

TWO ANGLO-SAXON CRUCIFORM BROOCHES

P. Everson

In 1977, two Anglo-Saxon cruciform brooches (one a fragment only, the other complete) were recorded by the City and County Museum, Lincoln from the area north and west of Lincoln.
The first comes from Newton-on-Trent. It consists of the footprint of a brooch probably of Aberg's group II. The piece is bronze, in the usual form of a stylised horse's head, with half-round nostrils and prominent eyes. The lines of the nostrils, ridge of the face and forehead are picked out with linear decoration, faintly beaded. The nostrils terminate in a small added loop (now broken); better preserved examples show that small rings or clappers might be suspended from this. On conventional typological dating, the piece belongs to the last part of the 5th or the first half of the 6th century. 1 The location of the find lies on the sandy ridge or cliff overlooking the east bank of the Trent, in an area very prolific in infant artefacts and evidence of flint working. Less than one km to the north, the 1st century Roman fort located in 1962 by Professor C. St. Joseph occupies a similar topographical situation commanding the Trent. 2 The find spot lies within 50m of the parish boundary and county border, but there is as yet no further evidence to confirm whether this is a find from a cemetery, settlement or casual loss.

Though in itself unpretentious, this brooch is a useful addition to knowledge for this south-western corner of Lindsey, from which the only other early Saxon finds are parts of two pots of probable late 6th century date from Torksey. These were taken by J. N. L. Myres to be settlement remains. 3

The second piece, from Glentham, is a cruciform of Aberg's group I and is of rather wider significance, being typologically one of the earliest examples of this brooch-type in England and the first of this group to be recorded in Lincolnshire. The brooch is bronze and complete except for its iron pin; this survives only as a corroded lump where it hooks into the back of the head-plate. It has a single fully-rounded knob attached to a tiny head-plate, which is no wider than the bow. The bow itself is high arched in a complete semi-circle: the foot is a mere 4mm wide at maximum, and decorated with three neat grooved transverse ribs and a streamlined animal head. The pin catch is of the long almost cylindrical form which tends to be found on early examples. The overall length is 68mm.

Examples of group I cruciforms are still not numerous anywhere in England. Their distribution, particularly of the early examples with very small head-plate, high bow, and undeveloped animal features, is centred in East Anglia. Absolutely the earliest is probably that from the famous burials at Dorchester-on-Thames, Oxon. It is associated in Grave II there with the base-plate of an applied brooch and a buckle of Hawkes and Dunning's Type B. 4 The Glentham brooch exhibits early features in respect of its overall size, small head-plate, bow and animal head. It is perhaps most closely comparable with an example from Ixworth, Suffolk, 5 from which it differs only in the additional ribbing on its foot, and it could be as early as any in England, saving that from Dorchester and one from Mildenhall, Suffolk.

This brooch was identified among a collection of Roman material from a well-authenticated Roman site at the eastern, low lying end of Glentham parish towards the River Ancholme. 6 Building stone has been ploughed up and a large collection of Roman pottery and coins amassed over several years by the farmer, Mr. Cooper. The main period of occupation seems to be the 3rd and 4th centuries, but there is some evidence of settlement earlier, perhaps by the 1st century AD, represented by a Nauheim derivative brooch. There is to date no later post-Roman material. In view of the association of the Dorchester finds, it is possible that this brooch too should be considered in the context of Germanic 'soldiers and settlers' in the late 4th and early 5th centuries. Indeed, almost all of the metalwork with early Germanic associations so far recorded in Lincolnshire comes from well-established Roman sites of some substance — villas or major settlements. 7

1 I am grateful to A. J. White, Keeper of Archaeology, City and County Museum for arranging the opportunity for me to study the brooches. That from Newton has been returned to its finder, Mr. R. Minnis; that from Glentham has the City and County Museum accession number 14-78. 2 N. Aberg, The Anglo-Saxons in England, Uppsala, 1926, pp.36-9. 3 J. K. St. Joseph, 'Air Reconnaissance in Britain, 1961-4', Journal of Roman Studies, 55, 1965, pp.74-6. 4 J. N. Myres, 'The Anglo-Saxon Pottery of Lincolnshire', Archaeological Journal, CVIII, 1952, p.99 and figs. 9.5, 12.6. The pots are not accepted by Audrey Meaney as burial evidence in her Gazetteer of Early Anglo-Saxon Burial Sites, London, 1964, pp.151-66. 5 J. R. Kirk and E. T. Leed's, 'Three Early Saxon Graves from Dorchester, Oxon', Oxoniensia, XVII-XVIII, 1952-3, figs. 27, 14; S. C. Hawkes and G. C. Dunning, 'Soldiers and Settlers in Britain, fourth to fifth century: with a catalogue of animal-ornamented buckles and related belt-fittings', Medieval Archaeology, V, 1961, pp.1-70. 6 Aberg, op. cit., fig. 48. 7 Aberg, op. cit., figs. 12 and 44. 8 Glentham has also produced a cruciform brooch of group IVA (City and County Museum 42.36), very similar to Aberg, op. cit., fig. 74 from Brooke, Norfolk and to an example from Ruslington (City and County Museum 35.56); but from a site at the western end of the parish. 9 See, P. Everson and G. C. Knowles, 'Early Germanic Finds from Kirklington, South Hamberside (Lincoln)', Medieval Archaeology forthcoming. For the relationship of the earliest Anglo-Saxon pottery to Roman towns in the area J. N. Myres, Anglo-Saxon Pottery and the Settlement of England, Oxford, 1969, p.76.

MEDIEVAL GRIMSTON WARE FROM SOUTH LINCOLNSHIRE

R. Hilary Healey

During the 13th and early 14th centuries jugs with elaborate anthropomorphic decoration were manufactured at a number of klin sites, especially in eastern England. 1 Recent fieldwork in south-east Lincolnshire has produced a number of such pieces originating from kilns at Grimston, near Kings Lynn, which seem worth publishing as a group since they constitute the largest group of these highly decorated vessels from this area. The examples illustrated include an aquamanile as well as jug fragments. None of the pieces is from a dated context. 2
2. Holbeach, recorded 1973. Found near Barrington House, formerly a moated site. Top of jug in grey sandy ware with pale olive green glaze. This is not strictly a face-jug as it consists only of six arms, but it is clearly in the same tradition and may have had faces lower down on the shoulder. O-shaped bridge spout.

3. Spalding 1977. Found during works on sewerage scheme at the junction of Double Street and Westlode Street. Top of jug in grey sandy ware with very dark olive to black glaze. This dark colouring, often combined with a lustrous glaze surface, appears to be a characteristic of pottery deposited in damp, organic layers. Two lateral long-bearded faces on rim (both beards broken), both with a pair of arms, and a third face-mask showing on the shoulder, as indicated in the perspective view. O-shaped bridge spout.


5. Algarkirk 1975. Site of Rector's Farm, possibly Shrunken Medieval Village area. Short-bearded face very similar to the previous fragment (no 4, above).

6. Spalding, 1977. Found with no 3 above during works on sewerage scheme. Front part of aquamanile in the form of a ram, although the head is actually missing. The wool effect is done by applied clay scales. The fabric and glaze are as no 3, but a number of the scales are broken.

Not illustrated:
1. Arm from a face-jug found in medieval levels during excavation at Harrington House, Spalding, 1967.

2. Grimston ware jug in Spalding Gentleman's Society Museum, provenance unknown. This jug is decorated with plain brown vertical strips but has no anthropomorphic features.

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The Pottery

1. Boston Museum. Thought to have been found in Boston Dock. Jug, complete except for handle, in medium grey sandy fabric with light olive green glaze and decoration on the body of vertical brown notched strips. Two lateral short-bearded faces on rim, each with a pair of arms. O-shaped bridge spout and thumbed base. Height 29 cm.

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Fig. 5 Medieval Grimston ware. R. Hilary Healey

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APPLIQUE FACE-JUG FROM MOTHERBY HILL, LINCOLN

I. Adams

Excavations by the Lincoln Archaeological Trust in early spring 1977 on the site of Walnut House, Motherby Hill, Lincoln failed to uncover the west wall of the extended *colonia*, but retrieved a noteworthy piece of medieval pottery from the eighteenth century upper fill of the Roman ditch to its west.

The sherd illustrated below (Fig. 6) comes from the shoulder of a late medieval jug in Lincoln ware. The hard reduced fabric, the wall of considerable thickness compared with Lincoln jugs of the 13th and early 14th centuries, the dull olive green to brown glaze and the presence of slip (in drips on the interior) are all indications of a late medieval date, and characteristics of 15th century Humber wares.
Fig. 6 Face-jug from Motherby Hill, Lincoln. L. Adams

The head on the shoulder of the jug, stamp-moulded from self-clay, is the first parallel actually to be excavated in Lincoln for the Trollope collection of Lincoln sherds with moulded heads taken to the British Museum in the last century. British Museum B67, apparently a kiln waster, shows a man’s head with identical heart-shaped outline, broad forehead, hair swept to the sides of a central parting and falling in S-curves, long moustache and forked beard. The waster resembles Lincoln wares of the 13th and early 14th centuries in fabric and thin section of wall and the beard and hair are like several heads on bosses in the early thirteenth century nave and later thirteenth century Angel Choir of Lincoln Cathedral. The new head from Motherby Hill, while identical in type, has the broadened and slurred forms suggestive of a degenerated mould. It would appear that head types continued to be used by local potters for many years, fresh moulds being taken from the positives of the original moulds.

3 For the dating, Nicholas Pevsner and John Harris, Buildings of England: Lincolnshire, Harmondsworth, 1964, pp. 98, 105.

A GROUP OF FUNERARY CHALICES FROM WALMSGATE

A. J. White

Among the most interesting archaeological rediscoveries of 1977 was that of a hitherto unrecorded group of medieval funerary chalices and a paten in the possession of Mrs. Ward of Osbournby, who most kindly donated them to the City and County Museum, Lincoln. The only information that came with them was they were found 'in the year 1901 when the old Burial Ground at Walmsgate was explored by Thomas Yorke Dallas-Yorke': no further details of the circumstances of discovery have since come to light. The Dallas-Yorkes lived at Walmsgate Hall from time to time and perhaps the investigations were no more than a swift foray to entertain a house-party, a common enough practice at the time. Only slight remains of Walmsgate Old Church now survive in the Park; no doubt this is the site referred to.

There are four chalices, one complete but distorted, the remaining three represented only by fragments, and in addition an almost complete paten. All are in a lead alloy, characteristic of funerary chalices, and one of the chalices and the paten bear traces of linen fabric preserved in the corrosion products. The chalices are all of the circular-footed type with a hemispherical bowl, and two of them also bear a knop in the form of an applied ring, halfway up the stem. Such items were regularly buried with priests from c. 1230 onwards, and are not in themselves closely datable, being stylistically very simple and clearly not to be related to the changing fashions of the gold or silver mass chalice. They may indeed have been kept 'in stock' for long periods by their manufacturers. Numerous examples of priestly burials with chalice and paten are known and in the case of Bishop Sutton, buried in Lincoln Cathedral, these items (in gold) were found on the right hand side of the skeleton, wrapped in linen, which might explain the Walmsgate cloth impressions, while in another case the chalice was actually held in the right hand.

The number of chalices requires some explanation; in a great church such as Lincoln Cathedral such numbers can be well understood, but in a simple parish church it is less easy to find an answer. Perhaps chance led the diggers to a group of priestly burials immediately outside the church wall, or even inside the chancel. A useful terminus ante quem for the burials in question is given by the union of Walmsgate parish with that of Burwell in 1435. Burial of priests at Walmsgate after that date is highly unlikely, and in any case the union probably marks a point of serious decline in Walmsgate's population.

1 Accession no. 75.77. I am most grateful to Miss R. H. Healey for informing me of their existence in the first place. Other items such as pottery, window glass and a key were found at the same time.
2 Eg. the digging of Bull Hill barrow, Kirkand-le-Mere, by Charles Tenison d'Eyncourt and company in 1857 (Lincolnshire Archives Office, TdlE/H/142/62).
3 Archaeological Journal, LXIII, 1886, p.138, quoting Constitutions of William de Blois, Bishop of Worcester, '... duo calices... allius stannius non benedictus, cum quo sacros sanctis altaris sepedulatu.'
5 Chalice now in City and County Museum (Trollope Collection) acc. no. 88.50 found in a slab coffin during excavations 'near the reservoir' (probably the site of St. Clement-in-the-Bail) in 1847; Lincoln, Radland and Stamford Mercury, 17 December 1847.
6 See R. Bruce-Mitford, 'The Chapter House Vestibule Graves at Lincoln and the Body of St. Hugh of Avalon' in Emnison and Stephens (eds), Tribute to an Antiquary (Essays presented to Marc Fitch), passim, esp. pl.5 and fig. 7.
8 Ibid., p.361. 30 paid poll tax 1377, 8 families only in 1563.

A PILGRIM BADGE FROM NETTLEHAM

A. J. White

A small bronze badge (Plate V) was found in North Street, Nettleham, by Mrs. A. Leedham, and is now on loan to the City and County Museum, Lincoln. It consists of a roughly-moulded female figure in a draped tunic with a halo over her head. In her hand she holds a box-like object and over her left shoulder a palm-branch. She is flanked on her right by a conventionalized tower. The piece is in low relief, with a plain flat back and small loop for attachment, probably to a garment or a hat, and measures 25mm maximum height, by 20mm maximum width and 2mm thickness excluding the loop. Some of the attributes of this figure are common to many saints, for example the halo and the palm, a symbol of martyrdom but also occasionally of virginity. Other attributes enable us to identify the particular saint with some precision. A tower is commonly the symbol of St. Barbara since the legend, possibly spurious and not older than the 7th century, relates that because of her beauty she was imprisoned by her father in a tower to keep her from the attentions of suitors. Her refusal to marry any of the husbands chosen for her, her persistence in Christianity, and her desecration of her pagan shrine, so infuriated her father that he killed her, and was immediately struck down by lightning.
The place of the tower in the story is quite clear, but that of the box-like object is less obvious. Possibly it is a lantern, symbolizing the lightning which also plays a key role. Because of the many elements in the story St. Barbara was revered for an unusually wide range of powers by people whose work they affected, such as architects, stonemasons, miners and gravediggers (the tower, and thereby building and digging in general) and by firework makers, artillerymen and founders (lightning and explosions). She was held to offer protection against being struck by lightning and particularly against sudden death without benefit of receiving the last sacrament. St. Barbara's place of martyrdom is given variously as Tuscany, Rome, Antioch, Heliopolis, and Nicomedia. Clearly this badge is a memento of a visit to her shrine, wherever that may have been, and a possible explanation of its presence in Nettleham may be that it belonged to one of the foreign visitors who must continually have been in attendance on the bishop of Lincoln at his manor there. Comparison with other badges of this type would make a 15th century date likely for this example.  

1 Acc. no. 156. 77.  
4 As note 2.  
5 Information from Mr. J. Cherry, Dept. of Mediaeval and Later Antiquities, British Museum.

AN UNUSUAL QUERN FROM LANGRIVILLE
A. J. White

During excavations at Langriville in 1976 the upper stone of an unusual quern was discovered inverted under a hearth, iron stained and cracked by the heat of the fire. The hearth belonged to the late 16th century phase and all that can be said stratigraphically of the date of the quern is that it must pre-date this phase. The quern is of Mayen lava 27.5cm in maximum diameter and 14.7cm maximum height; the grinding surfaces are only 8.5cm wide. On the upper surface are four rectangular projections with holes in them, perhaps to take and locate a wooden capping through which the 'drive' could be transmitted. On a plane with the lower surface (the cutting edge) are seatings for a square-sectioned iron cross bar which no doubt served to centre the upper stone on its spindle. The stone has been worn right down to the bar, and this is probably the reason for it being discarded.

Several details point to the use of the quern. First of all the projections on the upper surface indicate a concern to exert and equalize downwards pressure; the same idea may be seen behind the cross bar which would help to maintain a rigid contact between the very narrow grinding surfaces. The surface in addition bears a very high polish, and all these factors suggest that the material being ground was of a very fine consistency and considerable hardness requiring great pressure in grinding. Support is, therefore, given to the view that this is a mustard quern, references to which occur frequently in inventories, e.g., of the 16th century. No examples appear to have been recorded before. The quern is now in the City and County Museum, Lincoln.

1 Lincolnshire History and Archaeology, Vol. 12, 1977, pp. 74-5.  
2 Kindly identified by Dr. W. A. Cummins, Dept. of Geology, University of Nottingham.  
4 Acc. no. 210.76, kindly donated by Mr. R. Grant.

BOOK REVIEWS

CANALS IN TOWNS by Lewis Braithwaite, xiv + 146pp, illus., A. and C. Black, 1976, £4.75; CANAL ARCHITECTURE IN BRITAIN, 40pp., illus., British Waterways Board, no date (1977), £1.50; CANALS AND RIVERS OF BRITAIN by Andrew Darwin, 270pp., illus., Dent, 1976, £6.95; A PICTORIAL HISTORY OF CANALS by D. D. Gladwin, 143pp., illus., Batsford, 1977, £4.50.

The fact that there are four books on British canals under review is an indication of the current popularity of inland waterways amongst many groups of people. The value of canals for amenity and recreational purposes is now generally acknowledged and their historical importance has not been neglected. These books all treat the subject from different viewpoints though there is, of course, some duplication. For example all mention of the Anderton lift on the Trent and Mersey Canal and three of them illustrate it. The same three also illustrate the Pontcysyllte aqueduct on the Llangollen Canal. But these are two of the 'wonders' of the canal world and their appearance in any