Archeology in Lincolnshire and South Humberside, 1978

Compiled by A. J. White

Last year marked the completion of twenty-five years of 'Archeology in Lincolnshire and South Humberside' and its predecessor 'Archaeological Notes' which were first published in the Reports and Papers of the Lincolnshire Archæological and Archaeological Society. It therefore seems appropriate to consider the achievement and review the progress made in this time.

The Society may be justifiably proud of its record in the regular reporting of finds both major and minor which can be matched by few other county societies. The result has been a large scale published resource available to local historians and students alike and it serves as a monument to the tireless work of the many enthusiastic field workers both amateur and professional who have contributed to its pages.

It is important to pay tribute to the work of successive members of staff of the City and County Museum in editing and compiling these articles. The series began with the publication of 'Archaeological Notes for 1952 and 1953' in 1954 under Hugh Thompson, and was continued by Dennis Petch (1956-62), Ben Whitwell (1963-9), Catherine Wilson (1968-72), (two years' issues were jointly produced), John Marjoram (1973-4) and Nicholas Moore (1975). The present writer has been privileged to compile the last four issues to date (1976-9).

There have obviously been considerable changes in the form and contents of the articles, not the least of which has been the growth from 10 pages octavo (1954) to 15 pages A4 (1978). One could also pick out the vast increase in the number of field workers contributing, the attempt to publish comprehensively offset by the effects of inflation on printing costs, and the widening spectrum of interests of archaeologists which extend now into the post-medieval period and into churches and standing buildings. Perhaps the most far-reaching effects have been caused by the growth of professionalism in archaeology in recent years, with a corresponding rise in the number of excavations, and the appearance of the metal detector, which has caused the demise of grid references in this journal, at the cost of considerable inconvenience to readers. These notes have in many cases preserved brief reports on excavations which all too often constitute the only published reference. The use of metal detectors has, apart from its deleterious effect on many sites, resulted in the unrecovered sale or dispersal of an unknown but almost certainly enormous quantity of material of which a proportion with weak or dubious provenance, if any, reaches the dealers' catalogues. One can but deplore the loss of information, a loss to our common heritage.

'Archeology in Lincolnshire and South Humberside' is divided into three parts: a resume of the more important finds (in general only single finds of coins or flints are omitted), summaries of excavation and fieldwork, and short notes on some of the more outstanding discoveries.

As indicated above no Ordnance Survey grid references are quoted, but full details can be obtained by bona fide researchers on application to the writer at the City and County Museum, Lincoln.

The following abbreviations have been used:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Abbreviation</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>BA (EBA, MBA, LBA)</td>
<td>Bronze Age (Early, Middle, Late)</td>
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<tr>
<td>IA</td>
<td>Iron Age</td>
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<tr>
<td>RB</td>
<td>Romano-British</td>
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<tr>
<td>AS</td>
<td>Anglo-Saxon</td>
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<tr>
<td>AASRP</td>
<td>Associated Architectural Societies Reports and Papers</td>
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<tr>
<td>AWA</td>
<td>Anglian Water Authority</td>
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<td>CBA</td>
<td>Council for British Archaeology</td>
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<tr>
<td>CCM</td>
<td>Lincolnshire Museums: City and County Museum, Lincoln</td>
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<tr>
<td>DMV</td>
<td>Deserted Medieval Village</td>
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<tr>
<td>DoE</td>
<td>Department of the Environment</td>
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<tr>
<td>JCP</td>
<td>Job Creation Programme</td>
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<tr>
<td>LAO</td>
<td>Lincolnshire Archives Office</td>
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<tr>
<td>LAASRP</td>
<td>Lincolnshire Architectural and Archaeological Society Reports and Papers</td>
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<tr>
<td>LHA</td>
<td>Lincolnshire History and Archaeology</td>
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<tr>
<td>MHLG</td>
<td>Ministry of Housing and Local Government</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OD</td>
<td>Ordnance Datum (height above sea level)</td>
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<tr>
<td>RCHM</td>
<td>Royal Commission on Historical Monuments</td>
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<tr>
<td>SM</td>
<td>Scunthorpe Borough Museum and Art Gallery</td>
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<tr>
<td>SMV</td>
<td>Shrunken Medieval Village</td>
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SITES AND FINDS

No finds of Palaeolithic or Mesolithic date were reported in 1978. Neolithic polished stone axes were found at Branston and Mere, Glantworth, Improvingham,1 Kettlethorpe (chalk, see below), Kirkby-on-Bain2 (4 axes), Lea, North Kelsey, Roxby,3 Thoresway, and Tumby, with flint examples from Mareham-le-Fen and Salmonsby. Worked flints have been recorded at Alkborough4 (2 sites), Billingborough,5 East Kirkby, Grantham, Ludford,6 Owby-by-Spitall,7 Scotton (2 sites), Salmonsby, and Tumby.8

Very little BA metalwork was found in comparison with previous years. Finds recorded were a socketed axe found c. 1965 at Caythorpe, a MBA dirk at Normanby-by-Spitall, an unlopped palstave at Toynby St. Peter, and a small hoard of two socketed axes and a spearhead found c. 1940 at West Halton.1 Flint barbed-and-tanged arrowheads were noted at Branston, Green (Western Avenue), and Scotton, and an EBA scraper at Grantham. Fieldwalking took place on the site of the former Hoe Hills barrow group at Dowby,9 and a survey with soil sampling was carried out on a possible barrow cemetery at Walcot near Billinghay.10

No specifically IA finds were made, other than in excavations (see Billingborough below), but two beehive querns of IA or RB date were recorded at Barlings and Nocton. Two RB burials were found in building work near the Waddington RB settlement; a greyware jar containing a cremation at Waddington and an inhumation burial just over the parish boundary in Bracebridge Heath. A small hoard of mid-4th century coins was recorded at Grantham11 while a group of RB jewellery, subsequently declared Treasure Trove, came to light at Owby-by-Spital. Other RB finds
of pottery, coins, metalwork etc. were made at a very large number of sites; (items of special interest included in brackets), including Ancaster, Aslackby and Laughton, Barton-upon-Humber, Boston, Brant Broughton and Stragglethorpe (2 sites), Burton, Cherry Willingham, Coningsby, Dalby (silver ring), Dowby, Dunby (RB well), Glentham, Great Gonerby, Haconby, Hainton, Hibaldstone, Horblin, Horn Castle (1st century pot sherds), Kirkington (votive bronzes), Langriville, South Common Lincoln, Newport Lincoln, St. Helen's Cemetery, Boultham Lincoln (complete waster pot from kiln), Little Ponton, Londdonthorpe and Harrowby, Ludford, Market Rasen, Navenby, many finds including items of early military equipment and a patera handle), Newball, Normanby-by-Spital (silvered spoon and bronze key), Owmbly-by-Spital, Roxby, Scroberthorpe (including a bronze terret), Stow (2 sites), Sturton-by-Stow, Thriplingham, Washington (potsherds from one on the north bank of the Witham), and West Terrington.

Finds of AS material were made at Hibaldstone (brooch fragment), Horblin (brooch fragment), Horncastle (brooch fragment), Brandon, Hough-on-the-Hill (spine), Ingham (wrist-clasp and brooch fragment), Kirkington (wrist-clasp and brooch fragment), North Scarle (blue glass bead), and Seaham (brooch fragment).

For the medieval period there were reports of finds from Bardney (reused Abbey stonework), Boston, Burston-on-Stather (bronze clasp), Friskney, Horncastle (spine whorls from two separate sites), Lincoln (bronze needle), Lincoln (a late medieval window head from the mound called 'Haw Hill' at Spoonwell), Ponton and Sempingham, finds from the Priory fishpond area, Potterhanworth (shells were produced in the village, from ten separate sites), Scotton (lead crucifix pendant), Suterton (pottery including Stamford ware from AWA pipeline), Topholme (collection from DMV of Burreth), and Wrangle (extensive pottery finds). Examples of limestone net sinkers were recorded in the Witham Valley at Barlings, Nocton, and Stainfield (eleven, found in 1960).

Post-medieval finds were represented by material from Aslackby and Laughton (harness bells), Branston (bronze weight box), Cleethorpes (harness bells), Donington (thimbles and two lead seals), Heckington (bronze seal ring), Horblin (harness bell), Lee (lead token), Nettleham Road Lincoln (18th century button), Greetwell Road Lincoln (18th century debris from later rubbish tip), Greestone House Lincoln (very large group of late 18th century pottery from fill of cellar), Louth (cloth-seal), Mablethorpe (buckle), South Ormsby and Ketby, Torsey, and Walcot (16th century timber from site of Catley Priory). Undatable finds were made at Caythorpe (parallel wall foundations) and Grantham (lead handle from area of Arnoldfield House).

Very many sites produced evidence of more than one period, and a number are included above, under separate headings. Further sites of this character were recorded at Caunley (Roman-post-medieval), Great Hale (similar), Laughton (similar), Lee (medieval-post-medieval), and Scotton (neolithic-post-medieval, two sites).

All information unless otherwise stated is gathered from the City and County Museum's Site and Monuments Index. Grateful acknowledgement is given to those individuals and organizations who have provided information, including those recorded below.

1 Scunthorpe Museum
2 South Lincolnshire Archaeological Unit and its correspondents
3 North Lincolnshire Archaeological Unit
4 M. Hodgson
5 J. Dable
6 G. Cooper
7 K. Wood
8 P. Fairweather
9 J. Anyan
10 G. Benton
11 J. East
12 D. Robson

EXCAVATIONS AND FIELDWORK

BARROW-UPON-HUMBER
J. M. Boden and J. B. Whitwell

Further excavations by the Humberside Joint Archaeological Committee have taken place at Barrow-upon-Humber since June 1977 in an attempt to give greater archaeological support to the identification of part of Barrow, traditionally known as St. Chad, with the 'Ad Barvae' of Bede, where in 669 A.D. land was reputedly granted to St. Chad by Wulfere, King of Mercia, in order to establish a monastery.

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Fig. 1 Block plan of the church, Barrow-upon-Humber. J. Boden.

An area of approximately 2 acres (1 ha.) became available for excavation on the east side of St. Chad, where Grindon Borough Council proposed housing development, eventually to commence in early 1978. Human burials had been observed some twenty years previously during construction of a sewer main along the northern perimeter of this property, and accordingly trial trenching began immediately south of this and adjacent to the road. Further burials, along with chalk rubble foundations were discovered, prompting the opening of an area of some 250 sq. m. Gardening activity and 19th century house building had unfortunately disturbed much of the site down to natural clay, leaving, however, the chalk rubble foundations cut into natural clay, of a building orientated east-west and 19.5 m long by 8.5 m wide with accompanying groups of burials.

This structure appears consistent in plan with a church of mid-late Saxon date, and comprises three cells, which have tentatively been labelled nave, square chancel, and apsidal sanctuary at the east end. As regards building phases, the apse, cross wall and square chancel are of one build, as the clay bonding courses are continuous within the relevant portions of the south wall. The apse and chancel appear to have been completely uncovered last century and some of the chalk burnt for building line within the apse.
The north wall of the nave and chancel had been completely robbed out, and unfortunately the junction of nave and chancel on the south side had been disturbed to the base of the foundation trench, but the lack of any sign of removal of a former east nave wall suggests that all three cells of the structure were contemporary. There was no evidence of the position of entrances to the church at foundation level.

Although the site has produced insufficient finds to indicate a close date for the building, the groups of burials have given a sequence of cemeteries prior to the building of the church. All burials found were aligned east-west with the head at the west in the characteristic Christian manner, and in all some 75 partial or complete skeletons were represented within the cutting. Two were found in slab built stone coffins, an adult laid on charcoal, which may provide a radiocarbon date, and a child aged 6-10. A significant group of burials, including the adult in the stone coffin were found to pre-date the construction of the apse and chancel. A further group of burials pre-dated the nave at the west end of the site, including three cut by the west nave wall. The child’s stone coffin and a chalk slab ossuary were set against the south chancel wall and seem to have been built in with it.

Below the area of the apse, five pits were discovered of which the largest were post pits with stone packing, lying approximately north-south, with two shallower pits to their west. A further five pits were on an east-west alignment, but although approximately at right angles to the other three, the two sets do not appear to belong to the same structure.

Two ditches appear to define the area of the main cemetery to the east and south of the church, though a further half a dozen burials were noted to their east. The filling of the ditches contained late Saxon and medieval pottery. Disturbed soil above the burials produced two coins of c. 870.

A series of intersecting ditches were located further east. These seem to have been in use over a considerable period of time, and at least two contained middle Saxon pottery; and fragments of crucibles, moulds and other finds. Though they are presumed from their filling to be close to domestic quarters, the ditches do not themselves make structural sense as such.

BARTON-UPON-HUMBER, ST. PETER’S CHURCH

K. and W. Rodwell

St. Peter’s Church is redundant and has been vested in the DoE, for public guardianship and display. It is a building of outstanding architectural and archaeological interest, and is best known for its Anglo-Saxon tower and western annexe. These are both incorporated into the fabric of the large medieval church, below the floor of which are known to be the remains of further parts of the early building.

The DoE is in the process of undertaking a long-term programme of repairs and improvements, which provides both the opportunity and the need to carry out an archaeological investigation at the same time. This investigation, which involves survey, excavation and architectural recording, began in 1978 and is expected to continue, at intervals, for several years.

Excavation was begun inside the western annexe, tower and west end of the nave (in the area formerly occupied by the Anglo-Saxon chancel). The complexity of the archaeological levels, and the fact that they survived in a much better state of preservation than was anticipated, added greatly to the significance of the first season, but it also meant that the excavation of these areas could not be completed as scheduled. A detailed interim report cannot therefore be fully compiled until the excavation of the interior of the Anglo-Saxon church has been completed next season. The following notes outline the principal discoveries and problems being investigated.

Although there is a Roman settlement just east of St. Peter’s, no features of Roman date have yet been encountered beneath the church. There is, however, a low earth mound, or platform, on which the earliest stone church was built, and which has yielded a small quantity of Roman and Saxon pottery. There are also burials which appear to antedate the erection of the first stone church. It may well be that the earthworks were a platform on which an earlier timber church, or other buildings, once stood. This is a feature of considerable interest which will be explored more fully in due course.

In the later Saxon period the church comprised an axial tower, with a square nave below, a chancel to the east and a small annexe of uncertain function to the west. But it is far from clear that this was the form of the first stone built church, and there are various structural reasons for suspecting that the tower is not of the same date as the chancel and annexe. It is just possible that they are elements of an early two cell church to which the tower was introduced as a third element, probably in the 10th century. The sequence should be resolved in 1979.

Excavation has shown that the tower was originally floored with lime mortar, and that in each of its ground floor openings there were slightly raised cills of stone and mortar. These have been found intact under the east and west archways and in the north doorway. The floor, which was worn away by the passage of feet, particularly around the south doorway, was patched and raised many times over the centuries.

Three features of particular interest were found in the tower: a 16th century bell casting pit; a brick-built furnace, probably associated with bell foundry (this was previously known, but thought to be a 'charnel box'); and a soakaway for an early (7th?) font. The modern plaster has been stripped from the lower parts of the walls and much of the infill has been removed from the blocked north doorway, enabling these features to be studied more closely.

Work on the upper part of the tower has included the unblocking of the Saxon east belfry window, the discovery of an early stoup in the wall behind the clock weight box, and the recognition in the roof of the base frame of an early medieval spire. The architectural study of the tower has been continued by Dr. H. M. Taylor.

Excavation of the western annexe has revealed a complex mass of hearths, furnaces and floor levels, all associated with the working of lead. At present there is no evidence for this part of the church having served any liturgical use in the medieval period; it appears to have been the semi-permanent workshop for plumbers undertaking roof repairs.

The Anglo-Saxon chancel, a small square structure, was found beneath the floor of the west end of the present nave, exactly where limited excavations many years ago indicated that it lay. The internal arrangements were somewhat disturbed by later activities, but it is nevertheless clear that the chancel was divided by a north-south screen or railing and had different types of flooring in the two parts. To the west of the division, and close to the chancel/tower arch was a rubble foundation which may plausibly be interpreted as the setting for the altar. Beneath this a pit, not yet fully excavated, contained a collection of bones which might have been buried as relics.

This chancel was short lived, and was probably demolished in the Norman period to make way for a much more
extensive nave and chancel, of which nothing now survives above the ground. The foundations of the new nave have been located but not investigated in detail. By the end of the 12th century the church possessed one or more aisles, of which there are some reused capitals and bases in the existing piers of the north arcade.

During the 14th and 15th centuries, however, the whole of the early medieval church was replaced, in stages, by the present nave, chancel and aisles. It is evident that there is still a great deal to learn about the early medieval church from further excavation in the interior.

Only a small part of the archaeology of the successive medieval churches has been glimpsed from the work so far undertaken at the west end of the nave. For example, three more, successive, font drains have been located, and a second bell foundry has been excavated, in which part of the bell mould was preserved in situ. The survival of earth, mortar and glazed tile floors, and evidence for funereal (such as aisle benches and screens) associated with them, will enable reconstructions of the church's interior at various periods to be attempted.

Alongside the excavation, a very detailed ground survey of the church, graveyard and all the memorials is being undertaken. The recording of tomstones is being undertaken by a team of volunteers from local WEA classes.

BELLEAU MANOR

P. Everson

In July 1978, listed building consent was granted for the demolition of the manor house at Belleau, which lies some 11.5km south of Louth on the eastern fringe of the Wolds. This was a late 17th century house, very considerably altered probably early in the 19th century and again reorganised since the last war to provide less spacious and more convenient accommodation. It was believed, as the MHLG list noted, to incorporate earlier structures, probably of medieval date. The Manor Barn, standing at right angles to the house, was a former great hall of 16th century or earlier date and was not included in the demolition; part of the stables incorporating a reset archway with a Wild Man figure of similar date was also exempt. Together with the brick dovecote, these formed the visible remains of what was evidently a grand medieval moated manorial site. For much of the 14th and 15th centuries at least it was held by the Welles family, who were kin by marriage to the Yorkist dynasty.

During routine recording by RCHM buildings investigators, it was found that the main inner wall of the house incorporated a section of chalk walling, at least 2m long and 4.2m high, with a complete 14th century splayed window in situ (Pl. I). The consistent exceptional thickness of the same wall over its whole length of 16m suggested that the whole wall might be early fabric.

As an extension of the routine recording, therefore, plaster was stripped from either face of this main wall wherever it was possible, and the vertical elevations drawn. This revealed a complex sequence of alterations that have yet to be fully assessed. There were further surviving sections of chalk walling with parts of original openings. These had been incorporated, when evidently in a ruinous state, into brick walling, in which there were blocked brick dressed openings that were not all contemporary. All this pre-dated the late 17th century Manor House, whose walls butted against the inner wall at every point. The recorded remains appear to represent the east wall of a 14th century hall and solar range, which was replaced by the great hall and chambers at right angles to it that is now the Manor barn. The earlier range was refurbished to form ancillary buildings. The late 17th century Manor House in turn demoted the barn to an ancillary function.

It proved possible during demolition to expose and record the western face of the chalk splayed window, which had been sealed behind a chimney stack. During demolition too, and in the construction of a large prefabricated barn in the adjacent yard, a substantial quantity of moulded stonework was recovered, and a large series of late medieval moulded and rubbed bricks. It is hoped to combine the evidence of these fragments with the architectural recording, topographical drawings and documentary evidence to produce a fuller picture of this neglected site.

In the short stretch of wall where the Manor House formerly abutted the barn, a second late medieval window lighting the (later) great hall was exposed and remains for inspection. The sun dial, dated 1661, from the front of the Manor House has been removed to Rookery Farm, Castle Carlton, and a (reset) late 17th century staircase was also recovered for renovation and re-use in a suitable building elsewhere.

1 N. Pevsner and J. Harris, The Buildings of England: Lincolnshire, Harmondsworth, 1964, p. 187 calls this 'c. 1500 or indeed earlier'.
2 The gateway with its vaulted carriage-way survived, built into the stabling, at least until 1891 (LAO 2 ANC 5/3) and probably until cleared away for the present stabling in 1904, and topographical drawings and paintings show a polygonal tower of brick with stone details and machicolated curtain wall still standing in the early 19th century.
3 The work was carried out by Paul Everson, Naomi Field and members of the North Lincolnshire Archaeological Unit's JCP scheme.
4 The chalk window, some of the stonework, and a large series of late medieval cut and moulded bricks were collected for the CCM by A. J. White and have the accession no. 20578. It is hoped to include a study of these in a further publication of the site.

BILLINGBOROUGH

P. Chowne

During 1978 the excavations were extended to the south and west of the area shown in the recently published plan, thus enabling the remainder of the three sided enclosure, the square enclosure and part of the field system to be investigated. Part of a third enclosure was discovered in the south-west corner of the excavation. Finds of a triangular loom weight and parts of La Tène brooches imply a date in the Iron Age for the use of the enclosure. One of the field
system ditches cuts this enclosure and is possibly later in date. The square enclosure from the ditch suggests a date in the later part of the Bronze Age. Evidence has been found for an internal bank to the three sided enclosure which had been levelled by the constructors of the square enclosure.

Features found within the enclosures include pits, post holes, gullies and a grave which contained the skeleton of a female.

Analysis of the snails in the three sided enclosure ditch has established beyond doubt that a marine transgression took place and was complete by c. 200 b.c.

Finds from the excavations include pottery, bone tools, animal bone, human skull fragments, metalworking debris, jet beads, part of a stone axe-hammer and a La Tène Iron Age pectoral. 1


I am grateful to R. Hilary Healey for her drawing of the pectoral.

GRIMSBY, WEELSBY AVENUE

J. Sills and G. Kinsley

An area of over 300 sq. m was stripped in the north-east corner of the Iron Age enclosure. 2 This revealed an overflow gulley some 25 m long leading away from the roundhouse excavated in 1977. As well as draining water from the roundhouse, the gulley would also have divided the northern part of the site into a sub-enclosure. A later north-south ditch cutting the overflow channel suggests that the internal layout of the settlement may have changed as time progressed.

LEGSBY, CIRCULAR EARTHWORK NEAR CLUMP HILL FARM

P. Everson

This slight earthwork consists of a low earthen bank with shallow external ditch, almost perfectly circular in configuration, 40-41 m in overall diameter. The bank has a very soft profile and stands no more than 20 cm high, and the ditch has only a similar depth again. There is a gap in the bank on the northern side that is perhaps original; a second gap on the east may be the result of cattle trampling. The earthwork lies in a prominent position on the east end of a narrow east-west ridge, at just over 62 m above OD.

The earthwork has been urged on the City and County Museum at various times as possibly a ritual site of Bronze Age date, and local belief offers the alternative explanation of a Roman signal station, because of the direct view it commanded of Lincoln Cathedral away to the west. It has entered the standard archaeological literature 1 as an undated but potentially interesting site, and is classified by the Ordnance Survey as an enclosure of problematical date and purpose, possibly a tree ring.

The last suggestion is certainly correct. The earthwork stands amidst a sea of medieval ridge and furrow, and quite clearly on air photographs and to ground inspection and survey (Fig. 3) lies on top of the abandoned arable remains and thus is of later date. The unevenness within the circle, which has removed the ridges in that area, is plausibly
explained by the removal of trees. The nearby farm name, Clump Hill, combines with the field observations to make the interpretation convincing; but final confirmation is given by an estate plan of 1814 in the Lincolnshire Archives Office that conveniently depicts the circle with a stand of mature trees in it.\(^2\) The tree clump may have formed a distant element in the landscaping of Hainton Park by Capability Brown c. 1763, and since it does not appear on the Legby Tithe Award of 1846\(^3\) may have been removed by that date.

The field survey was carried out by a Job Creation Project team under the direction of B. Induni.

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2. LAO HEN 8/1/9, 'Plan of an Estate the Property of Geo. Robt. Henseage Esq., situated at Sixhills, Torrington and Legby in the County of Lincoln, 1814'; 6 chains = 1 inch.
3. LAO D543.

**LINCOLN AQUEDUCT**

**K. F. Wood**

During 1978 further trenches were cut across the inferred line of the aqueduct at 63, 87, 95 and 101 Nettleham Road. Work at 63 and 101 together with two exploratory excavations at 59 and 75 were under the supervision of Mr. P. Rollins.

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**101 Nettleham Road**

The 1977 excavation was re-opened and extended to expose more road surface and aqueduct. At this point the construction trench for the aqueduct had been cut into solid limestone bedrock.

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**95 Nettleham Road**

A box opened across the line of the aqueduct exposed the rutted road surface. Following the removal of the latter the lower half of the aqueduct jacket and pipe was found, the upper half having been demolished to permit the construction of the road.

Work at 95 and 101, together with that done during 1977 at the Playing Field site, had located the aqueduct at four points, thus enabling its level and alignment to be established. With this information it became possible to project, with a high degree of certainty, the line south to the garden of 87.

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**87 Nettleham Road**

The 1976 trench on the northern side was re-opened and an extension cut to the north. The road surface was reached and removed to reveal a narrow masonry causeway, two courses high and 80 cm wide. This lay on the aqueduct alignment and, in one place, had traces of pink mortar similar to that used for the aqueduct jacket. Similar stonework found in the 1975 trench on the southern side of 87 had, at the time, been identified incorrectly as a road kerb. A re-examination of section drawings and photographs, together with a correct alignment provides evidence for the causeway having reached the southern boundary of 87. It is likely that this causeway carried the aqueduct, at the correct level, over a natural depression at this point on Nettleham Road.

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**63 Nettleham Road**

In a narrow east-west trench a road of poor construction, bearing some resemblance to that found between 87 and 101 was uncovered. Below this was a further road with a well-made and cambered surface, 3 m wide and apparently of Roman workmanship. There were no remains of the aqueduct or any evidence for it having passed through this area.

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**75 Nettleham Road**

Work of an exploratory nature only across the inferred line of the aqueduct gave no evidence for its existence at this point. Natural limestone brash was reached at a depth of 25 cm.

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**39 Nettleham Road**

The exploratory excavation at this point proved inconclusive due mainly to recent disturbance of levels.

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**LINCOLN, ST. PAUL-IN-THE-BAIL**

Excavations recommenced on the site in the autumn of 1978 and are still continuing. All the churches and those Roman levels underlying the churches have now been excavated. Currently the graveyard and Roman features to the east of the churches (i.e. towards the Bailgate frontage) are under investigation. The following should be seen as a preliminary statement on work to date.

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**ROMAN LEVELS**

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

The Roman levels on the area of the site so far excavated consisted of four main ground surfaces and associated buildings. In all, they were only about 60 cm deep, and the fact that later graves and church foundations had badly disturbed remains of all Roman periods made it difficult to link the surviving layers across the site. Provisional interpretation of discoveries to date suggests the following sequence:

i. structures, later repaired, of the Neronian legionary fortress;

ii. a gravelled courtyard and at least one timber structure at the western end built in the late 1st/early 2nd century;
a paved courtyard, with other stone features, as yet not satisfactorily explained;

iv a second courtyard, associated with a solid stone wall, presumably the base for a colonnade, not built before the late 2nd century.

The Legionary Occupation

The principal evidence for the earliest period of occupation of the site took the form of a series of large post pits, varying between 1 and 2m across, which had formerly contained squared posts about 30cm by 20cm (12 by 8 Roman inches). These occurred mainly in two rows about 5m apart centre to centre, each of at least five posts, with a possible further row about 8m further west. Distances between the posts in each row varied between 2.25m and over 3m. At the northern end there was further evidence for a range of similar post pits running eastwards. Wall trenches, presumably representing partition walls, linked some of the posts in both phases. A sunken timber-lined feature was found at the western end of the site. It was 95cm wide and at least 4.3m long, and may have been the remains of some sort of water tank or channel. The ground surface was made of levelled topsoil capped by metal containing pebbles, which extended eastwards from the central line of post pits.

The evidence as a whole suggests that the remains represent part of the western (rear) range and the fringes of the northern range of the legionary principia, or headquarters building. One double row of posts is best interpreted as part of the large crosshall (basilica principiorum), which served several functions, and the posts to the north of the colonnade fronting the northern range, its courtyard being gravelled. The closest parallels to the Lincoln evidence are provided by the early 1st century examples at Neuss and Haltern in Germany. This identification is further corroborated by the location of the site, on the western side of the presumed via principalis (roughly followed by the line of modern Bailgate) and more or less opposite the porta praetoria, or main gate (East Gate), i.e. where the principia might be expected.

Little dating evidence has been recovered from these levels, so that it is as yet impossible to solve the difficult question of the date of the foundation of the fortress. It is, however, hoped that investigation of the front range of buildings in the coming months will throw light on this matter and confirm the provisional interpretation set out above.

Early Colonia Period

The posts of the legionary structure were variously removed or sawn off above ground level when the fortress was dismantled. Over a large part of the site the subsequent deposit of fine pebbles, 5cm thick, produced a fine surface. Apparently contemporary with the use of the new surface was the construction of a timber building of unknown function which projected eastwards into the western part of the site. It was represented by a series of wall trenches and post holes, and the backfilling of these contained much unpainted wall plaster and some sherds of 2nd century pottery. Interpretation of these remains is premature until the eastern part of the site has been examined.

First Paved Courtyard

The next surface above the gravel was probably formed of stone flags, but only the bedding layer for these survived. Associated with this building was a large rectangular foundation of pitched rubble and mortar, 5.20m by 2.60m, possibly the base for a large monument in the courtyard.

There was also a trench, backfilled on abandonment with limestone rubble, running diagonally north-west to south-east across the western part of the site. Perhaps its function was connected with the supply of water. Again, interpretation of this phase of activity is difficult. It may represent an earlier form of the next phase.

Later Stone Phase

It was only in this final structural phase that a stone wall was found within the confines of the excavation. It ran north-south and lay at the extreme eastern end of the excavated area. To its west was another paved courtyard, a few flagstones of which remain in situ, many having apparently been re-used in the foundations of the early churches. Those flagstones still in position had been dressed and set at right angles to the wall, indicating the original uniform quality of the courtyard surface. Since no walls were found elsewhere on the site, the courtyard presumably extended west of the excavated area, as did the church which was later built on it.

The stone wall at the eastern end of the site was 1.35m thick. To its east a small area was uncovered of a thick concrete floor. The floor level was c. 80cm higher than that of the courtyard. Immediately to the west of the wall, medieval robbing had taken place of what may have been a stone-lined drain. It was clear from the stratigraphic evidence that the wall had been built first, then the drain, and subsequently the flagstones laid over the top. Some late 2nd century pottery was found beneath the flagstones. If the paving had not been disturbed subsequent to its original laying, this should provide a date, however imprecise, after which the whole complex was laid out.

The excavated remains, together with some evidence which has been known for many years, strongly suggest the interpretation of this area as the forum of the Roman city. The so-called ‘Bailgate colonnade’ to the east and the ‘Mint Wall’ to the north presumably mark the northern and eastern limits of this public building complex. It does not seem unreasonable to identify the Mint Wall as that of the basilica (town hall) lying to the north of the forum courtyard. In this context, the finding of the fragments of an inscription at the St. Paul site (reused in later church foundations) recording the rebuilding of a temple by a newly-appointed priest of the imperial cult (Sevir Augustalis) is interesting. Together with the existence of the Bailgate colonnade, and the location of the excavated stone wall some 25m west of the colonnade, it might indicate that here at Lincoln is a rare example of a Continental forum complex of the type known in Gaul—at, for instance, Paris and Aix — and other provinces. The arrangement of such civic centres consisted of basilica, forum and a temple precinct across an enclosed street. This is still speculation, however, and much is still to be excavated at the eastern part of the site.

THE CHURCHES

C. Colyer, B. J. J. Gilmour, and M. J. Jones

The Seventh Century Church

Mystique has surrounded the site of the church of St. Paul-in-the-Ball since at least as early as the 12th century, when Ralph de Dicto (Dean of St. Paul’s London in 1180) was the first recorded person to claim that this was the site of the first church of Lindsey, founded by St. Paulinus (of York). The Venerable Bede, writing in the 8th century, said that Paulinus came to the Province of Lindsey, and came first to Lincoln where he converted the royal official, a man called Blecca and his household. Bede says that St.
Paulinus built at Lincoln a stone church ‘of remarkable workmanship’ and that although the church was ruinous in his own day miracles of healing still occurred there. There is every reason to believe that this church has been found here. The dedication to St. Paul, an uncommon one without St. Peter, was popular in the 7th century because St. Paul, a great missionary saint himself, was an appropriate dedication in a period of conversion. The church excavated here was built of stone and consisted of a large apsidal eastern end with a division between the apse and nave marked by a screen consisting of four arches. It was large, at least 21m long, and its western end lies under the modern pavement of St. Paul’s Lane. Churches of this type and plan were based on Roman models (St. Augustine was, after all, sent to convert the English peoples by Pope Gregory the Great) and Paulinus likewise came from Rome. The style and plan of the early 7th century church at Lincoln are paralleled by examples of this period in Kent—at Canterbury, Rochester, Reculver and Lyminge—and it is thought to be the earliest church excavated to date north of the Thames.

![Diagram of St. Paul-in-the-Bail, the early church](image)

**Fig. 4** St. Paul-in-the-Bail, Lincoln. The early church.

Inside the church, where the altar would probably have been, was found what has been interpreted as the grave of a very important person, whose body had been exhumed and removed (perhaps to the Cathedral See of Lindsey). Although the body had been removed, an object buried with it was not. This was a hanging bowl of late 6th to early 7th century type elaborately decorated and inlaid with enamel and millefiori. Hanging bowls of this type have usually been found in pagan burials and this is the first to have been found unambiguously in the context of a Christian (parish) church.

**The Later Pre-Conquest Churches**

This church may have been later replaced with a smaller church built of timber. The next stone church was a small rectangular building with internal dimensions of about 7.5m east-west, by 4.5m north-south. Its foundations included re-used Roman building materials, but the date of construction is uncertain and must await the results of Carbon-14 dating from samples of associated skeletons. A 10th or 11th century date is perhaps the most likely. A stone founded chancel was added to the single cell probably in the later 11th century. Fragmentary foundation remains were found to the south of this nave and chancel, and the superstructure associated with these footings may have taken the form of a two or three side chapels which later became an aisle.

**The Norman and Gothic Churches**

After the Norman Conquest and during the 12th and 13th centuries the church was expanded to the east, west and south. (By 1232 it had come into the possession of Trentham Priory, and previously had belonged to a leading Lincoln family, the de la Hayes, who had close connections with the Castle.) The nave was extended eastwards by some 5.5m. The only surviving floor remains of the church were found within this nave extension. Sometime later, possibly in the later 12th century, two masonry structures were added to the western face of the nave extension. These survived only as substantial foundations just over 1m sq. in area. It is probable that their primary function was to form bases for buttresses, although they may also have supported a porch at ground floor level. Their existence pre-determined the plan of the late 14th century tower which incorporated them. The south wall of the extended nave was pierced for an arcade c. 1200, one arch of which is shown blocked on two 18th century drawings. This formed part of a south aisle which spanned the length of the nave, and incorporated the earlier footings of the side chapels or aisle into its construction. The position of the south door was also found.

The chancel was enlarged twice during the latter part of the 13th century. Firstly it was widened and later it was extended eastwards doubling its length. The eastern wall of this extended chancel was on an odd alignment as a result of its having been built directly on top of a Roman wall.

**The Later Medieval Church**

In 1301 much of the church collapsed and orders for its re-erection were issued in the same year. When the church came to be rebuilt it was also largely replanned. Of the earlier church the west wall of the nave and the adjoining bay of the south aisle were retained, the latter being blocked in. The eastern part of the earlier (pre-1301) chancel may have been left standing, but rebuilt or not the chancel stood on the same foundations after 1301. The chancel arch was moved about 2m to the east, the nave north wall built about 1m north of its predecessor and a new (and wider) aisle and chapel were built to the south of the nave and chancel. The tower seems to have been added somewhat later, perhaps towards the end of the 14th century. At some date perpendicular windows were inserted in the nave and south aisle. In 1644, the church was damaged together with the Cathedral and other city churches in the turmoil of the Civil War. Probably as a result of this, the chancel and chapel were demolished in 1700 and only the chancel rebuilt. In 1715, on 1 February, a severe gale blew down the spire and by the later 18th century the church seems to have been in a general state of disrepair.

**LINCOLN, DANES TERRACE**

R. H. Jones

In advance of redevelopment for housing along the southern frontage of Danes Terrace, a short rescue excavation was undertaken on the south corner of the Strait and Danes Terrace, immediately to the north of a site previously excavated in 1974.1 The findings from the excavation confirmed that the initial construction of the stone founded buildings occurred in the late 12th century, succeeding a complex series of Anglo-Scandinavian and Saxo-Norman timber buildings. Investigation was completed of a structure whose southern half had been excavated in 1974. In its entirety, this building was found to be over 13m in length, with its long axis parallel to the eastern side of the Strait, and furnished with a single entrance, via a passage from the Strait flanked by stout walls on north and south sides. The
northern half of the building accommodated an undercroft, probably occupying the full area of this part of the building. Both the north and south walls had been built on to surviving Roman walls, aligned east-west, oblique to the medieval alignment.

Unlike the southern half of the building, which was extensively modified in the 16th century, the northern half seems to have remained virtually intact until the undercroft was filled in in the 18th or 19th century when properties of stone and brick were constructed, re-using some of the surviving Roman and medieval walls.

To the east, traces of another building were uncovered, with its long axis parallel to Danes Terrace and, like the buildings against the Strait, constructed c. 1200 or slightly earlier. Part of a mortar floor was found, but no other features were uncovered within this building. This, too, followed a Roman alignment, although no Roman walls were found surviving in this area. This might suggest that Danes Terrace was on a Roman alignment in the medieval period, and it may be postulated that Danes Terrace is the successor to a Roman street on approximately the same line.

In contrast to the Strait frontage where there was continuous occupation until the 20th century, this building was demolished in the late 15th or early 16th century, and the area remained derelict until the 18th or 19th century. This adds weight to the view that the extent of occupation was much reduced after the 16th century, and largely confined to the main access routes until the 19th century.

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LINCOLN, VICARS’ COURT

A. J. White

Excavations within the eastern garderobe tower of No. 3 Vicars’ Court were completed in 1978.1 The eastern half of the shaft contained a series of drains which appear to have carried kitchen waste; at no time after c. 1600-20 did the garderobe function as had originally been intended and an alternative system must have been used.

Medieval deposits appear to have been removed, probably on a regular basis. The lowest surviving deposit, containing two lattened slabs, glass, pottery and clay pipes, of no later than c. 16402 together with ash, coal and large quantities of animal bones, was succeeded by a carefully constructed stone drain which emerged from a hole roughly hacked in the outer (southern) face of the house wall and percolated out through the half blocked clearance arch. With this latter phase were associated pottery, glass and clay pipes of no earlier than c. 1660 which may belong to the period of the reconstruction of Vicars’ Court after 1665.

Later on, probably towards the end of the century, another drain was constructed above its predecessor, which for all the care in its construction had failed to function after a fairly brief period, and the later drain was provided with a much reduced fall. For two-thirds of its length it was built of brick but the last third was a medieval fluted grey stone slab, re-used by the expedient of cutting a deep channel in its upper surface and covering it with bricks. This led through the wall to the outer clearance chamber where it must have simply spilled its contents from a height of c. 3 m above ground level.

A number of constructional features were noted during the excavation. A series of offsets were left on the outer wall of the house within the attached garderobe, but omitted outside. Likewise, the putlog holes had been left open inside the garderobe tower but carefully disguised elsewhere. The evidence of the drains emerging from the house suggests, but does not prove, the possibility that the space under the main part of the house, which gains a storey from north to south because of the slope of the hill, is wholly or partly a void.

Thanks are due to the Cathedral authorities and to Dr. and Mrs. A. C. Fraser (tenants of No. 3) for their help and co-operation.


2 This deposit can now be dated to rather before the Siege of Lincoln in 1644 (ibid. n. 4) and can be seen as the result of carelessness in the kitchen rather than destruction in war.

3 One piece of vessel glass can be dated to post 1667. For the rebuilding of Vicars’ Court in the time of Dean Honeywood see LAO, Honeywood Papers in Dean and Chapter Records Dvii/13 and Dvii/3 A/2.

4 Because of the change in levels north-south across the Court it is likely that surface water will have presented a problem, no doubt aggravated by the spillage from pumice roofs which lay along the southern and western ranges. It is probable that drains carried the water under the southern range, though their points of emergence are not known if so.

MESSINGHAM, PIT ALIGNMENTS

J. Laskey

Following D. Riley’s location by aerial photography of five pit alignments at Messingham trial excavations were commenced in August 1978, ahead of sand quarrying being carried out on the site by British Industrial Sand.

Much of the area had already been stripped of topsoil by BIS pending sand extraction, and three alignments showed on the surface of the bared sand. Two further alignments, however, were still beneath topsoil and it was decided to open up trial trenches on these two. The depth of topsoil being approximately 40 cm, the trenches were initially opened by J. C. B. excavator and the sand surface beneath subsequently cleaned by hand.

In the first area seven pits in all showed up, pit 22 being the last pit at the south end of the alignment. The average distance between centres of the pits was 3 m. Average dimensions of the pits were 1.80 m x 1.50 m x 0.4 m deep.

Pit 9 was a small narrow ditch (of similar fill to the pits) cutting pits 3, 4, 5 and 6 and it did not extend any further south of pit 3, while ditch 10 (showing evidence of recutting) cut pit 3 and ended 1 m east of it, and its recut may have formed the same ditch as 9.

Fills of the pits were by and large black, organic and mainly homogeneous, with little to no stratification. The natural sand was yellow/white in colour. In the second area five pits (1, 2, 3, 4, 10) of alignment 2 showed up, again as in Area 1 cut by a small shallow ditch 15. This ditch, however, showed along its length bright orange staining, which could possibly indicate recutting.

At the south end of the alignment in pit 10, 8 branched into three segments i.e., 11, 12, 13, whose purpose remains a mystery, although they did cut the fill of 10. Ploughing has been discounted as a reason for 8, 11, 12 and 13, as there is no orange coloured sand in the immediate locality, the natural sand being white.

Pits 5 and 6 were shallow (20 cm deep) depressions full of black organic material. The pits in general were shallower than those of Area 1, although the fill was the same.

The remaining three alignments were not treated in such detail as Areas 1 and 2.

One pit from each of alignments 3, 4, 5 was excavated. Details of these alignments are as follows:

Alignment 3. A line of 5 pits aligned north-south.

Distance between centres averaged 3.00 m and the average size (on surface) was 1.80 m x 2.00 m. The depth
of the pit excavated was 65cm. The fill was black, moist organic material, largely homogenous with little to no stratification.

Alignment 4. A long alignment of pits stretching for 100m. Distance between centres averaged 3.00m and the average size (on surface) was 1.80m x 1.50m. The depth of the pit excavated was 40cm. The fill was of largely moist, black, organic material, but with some stratification showing blocks of black organic material in the centre and lenses of white, grey sand near the edges. Alignment north 4° east.

Alignment 5. A line of 7 pits aligned north 4° east. Due to sand erosion by wind, these pits actually stood above the natural sand. Distance between centres averaged 3.00m. Average size of pits (on surface) was 1.20m x 1.50m and the depth of the pit excavated was 40cm and the fill largely black and organic, but with much lamination with white/grey sand. Pits on Area 1 were initially excavated using the quadrant method, however, once the actual shape of the pits was ascertained it was found best to half-section them. The shape of the pits was common throughout all the alignments; that is oblong and taking the shape of short lengths of V-profiled ditches. Some of the pits were more square and took the shape, internally, of inverted, four sided pyramids.

Environmental, soil and pollen samples were taken from all pits and features excavated. Some wood fragments were found in several of the pits which may give an indication as to their purpose. No datable artifacts were found whatsoever in any of the features excavated although cropmarks found in neighboring fields seem to indicate the local settlement was Iron-Age/Roman.

Experimental Pits

In order to gain further information on the nature of the fill of the pits and perhaps their initial shape prior to silting up or infilling, two experimental pits were dug, through topsoil and away from the wind blown stripped areas.

One pit was dug to the same shape as the ones excavated and another dug with vertical sides and flat bottom. These pits will be left over autumn and winter and the filling up process monitored. Samples will then be taken and compared with those taken from the excavated pits. It is hoped that this may answer the question whether the pits were open and left to silt up or whether they were dug and subsequently backfilled to hold perhaps a post or bush.

RUSKINGTON
R. Hilary Healey

Further limited rescue work on the site of the Anglo-Saxon cemetery took place on two occasions in 1978. Remains of five inhumations were found, one very fragmentary. Two of the burials were of children, and all were aligned east-west. Part of a possible Roman ditch, on the same north-west alignment as nearby King Street, was again located and as in 1977 there was a grave cut into the filling of this ditch. There was a further shallow ditch east of the burials with a large post-hole adjoining its east side, but no dating evidence of any kind was associated with either of these features. Grave goods were found with two of the burials and included an unusual silver buckle. An unstratified Roman brooch has been dated c. 50 to c. 100 AD.

WINTERTON
R. Goodburn

Work continued on the area of enclosures south of the main courtyard and north of the aisled Building P. More ditch systems and fences were examined: the shapes and relative sizes of successive enclosures are now clearer, the fences being represented partially by post holes and partially by slots, proving to be contemporaneous with some of the ditches. Several right-angled fence junctions are now known, but the overall shapes and sizes remain to be determined. A series of about forty sub-rectangular and oval pits was found in one limited area; these had been dug through the Roman topsoil and into the sand beneath, but not into underlying gravel. They are thought to have been building sand pits, perhaps utilized as cess pits. A number of small hearths was examined; two small corn driers, each with a bowl and longitudinal flue, were found to have been simply excavated into the subsoil and were not lined. The line of the western wall of the southern farm yard was located; a muffled area lay adjacent to this.


PRE-ROMAN LINEAR BOUNDARIES NORTH OF LINCOLN
P. Everson

In last year's 'Archaeology in Lincolnshire and South Humberside', I reported briefly on the recording through aerial reconnaissance and photography in 1977 of sections of triple linear ditches and related linear features on the limestone ridge north of Lincoln. 1

These features, and others like them across the Midlands, have been brought to wider public attention by articles in the newspapers, and especially by one that appeared in the *Sunday Times* for 8 October 1978. It has therefore been thought desirable to illustrate a section of triple ditch, and to say a little more about the variety and survival of these features in north Lincolnshire. 2

Arguably the longest continuous stretch of triple ditch so far recorded in this area skirts the eastern boundary of Lincoln, running approximately north-south through the parishes of Greetham and Nettleham (Fig. 5). The southern portion was first recorded by Derrick Riley in 1971, and is visible also on RAF and commercial vertical coverage. The same portion together with the remainder were seen during normal all-purpose reconnaissance in July 1977. The alignment is discontinuous because of variations in soil and crop conditions from field to field; at no point in any of the linear boundaries of this sort has an original entrance or gap yet been convincingly observed. In this instance, as in all the others in this area, there are absolutely no surface traces surviving of these large monuments.

This stretch of triple ditch has a number of characteristic features whose presence in double or even single linear ditches can serve to pick them out from the complex areas of linear crop marking (much of which is geological or of recent date) 3 that is observable from the air and to suggest that they should be considered in the same context. The overall width appears to be about 15m or wider, but it is not consistent even over a short stretch. The ditches themselves give a notably wide crop mark, compared for example with Roman trackways, and their line is noticeably irregular, even wiggly. Occasionally the boundary goes off line in a shallow arc, evidently to avoid or make allowance for other features in the landscape: slight dog legs have been observed, as at Cammeringham, which perhaps suggest the point of junction of two construction parties. The longer stretches are by no means straight over a distance but they do appear to travel across the countryside generally without respect for topography. Sometimes, one of the ditches is rather narrower, and presumably
The dating, social and historical context of these boundaries is a matter for informed speculation in the present state of knowledge. Excavation of random sections across them has in the past produced little useful information, and that is hardly surprising with non-settlement features. What is required is the recording of further examples through aerial reconnaissance, and analysis of relationships with other archaeologically datable remains. In such chosen locations, and in the recovery of environment samples, excavation can carry the story a stage further.

2 All photography referred to in this note is the work of J. T. Hayes and P. Leverett unless otherwise specified. Comparable features recorded in the south of the county derive from the reconnaissance of Mr. J. Pickering, who is making a special study of these monuments and through his enthusiasm and insight has made us all alive to their potential importance.
3 For example, see Notes and Documents above pp.
4 This corrects the contradictory statement that entered last year's report, A. J. White, op. cit.

EARTHWORK SURVEYS, 1978

P. Everson

Measured surveys of earthworks generally in West Lindsey were carried out throughout the summer, under a JCP scheme sponsored by the North Lincolnshire Archaeological Unit. The work was supervised by P. Everson, and the field team led by B. Induni. Earthworks at the following places were surveyed: North Ingleby, South Ingleby, Heapham, Broxholme, Burton-by-Lincoln, Harpswell, Coates-by-Stow, Thorpe-in-the-Fallows, Hackthorn, Dunholme, Greetwell, Cold Hanworth, Bardney, Stainfield, Apley, Legby, Sixhills, Claxby, North Kelsey.

In the autumn further surveys were undertaken or completed at Stallington (for the Humberside Joint Archaeological Committee), Bleasby, Sudbrooke, Legby village, Burgh-le-Marsh, Legbourne and Nocton Priory, with the help of various individuals.

The remains surveyed covered the normal range of medieval sites, including monastic sites, villages, and water mill and fishpond complexes, and some post-medieval sites, for example the extensive formal gardens associated with the former Whitchcote house at Harpswell. In size they vary from a number in the 30-40 acre (12-16 ha) bracket down to features as small as the circle at Clump Hill Farm discussed separately above.

An instructive, though admittedly not entirely typical, example of the value of such surveys is the earthworks at Stainfield near Bardney. Here, planning of over 40 acres (16 ha) of earthworks has enabled us for the first time to identify, disentangle and see the relationships between the precise and fishponds of the Benedictine nunnery, a medieval village which was perhaps displaced and resettled by the creation of the nunney, a 16th century formal garden associated with the Tyrewright's post-Dissolution house, and an early 18th century formal garden within which the present church of St. Andrew (dated 1711) forms an essential and planned feature. The location of the pre-monastic village can perhaps be suggested. Neither of the two 'moats' highlighted for the site is a moat as the term is normally applied: one is part of the monastic precinct boundary (rather altered), the other is a set of ponds of uncertain function lying within the closes of the later medieval village.

In September, a practical weekend course led by Christopher Taylor and Paul Everson surveyed two...
earthworks in Scrivelsby Park near Horncastle. One was a pair of fishponds, the other village remains lying in front of Scrivelsby Court, a moated manorial site with later medieval standing remains. A timber framed farmhouse, perhaps dating c. 1600, which stands outside the park to the west is the last surviving building from this medieval village. There is a second set of medieval village earthworks outside the park to the east, and the church of St. Benedict stands to the south-west, separated from Scrivelsby Court and its village earthworks by an area of surviving ridge and furrow. This is just the sort of polyfocal medieval settlement that Christopher Taylor has described elsewhere, and it is not uncommon in Lincolnshire too. The date and context of it in this instance awaits further work.


SHORT NOTES

A NEOLITHIC CHALK AXE FROM KETTLETHORPE

T. M. Ambrose

In December 1977 a Neolithic axe was discovered in the parish of Kettlethorpe, at a point some three km east of the River Trent, and was later brought into the City and County Museum for identification. The axe has been carefully smoothed and finished, and has a clearly defined blade end, rounded butt and faceted sides. One corner of the blade, and one side of the butt are slightly damaged. It measures 12.2 cm in overall length, 5.6 cm in maximum width and 2.9 cm in maximum thickness (Fig. 6). Its most unusual feature, however, is that it is made neither of stone, nor of flint, but of hard weathered chalk. In form it resembles some of the smaller polished stone axes of Group VI which are found widely in South Humber and Lincolnshire. Faceted sides are a distinctive feature of axes of this Group, although they are also commonly found on axes of polished flint.

The area from which the axe comes is one of some interest. Extensive field walking over the years in Kettlethorpe and the neighbouring parishes of Newton-on-Trent and Hardwick has located a considerable number of worked flints of Neolithic and Bronze Age date, together with a scatter of polished stone and flint axes, and it would seem that the area was fairly intensively occupied throughout the Neolithic period and Bronze Age.

Chalk axes are extremely uncommon in Britain, and only two examples have been previously recorded from Lincolnshire. One was found before 1952 at Louth Park, and the other was discovered in 1953 in the parish of Hardwick, a little under three km from the finds spot of the Kettlethorpe example. Such axes are normally viewed along with other carved chalk objects of Neolithic date, as being of votive or religious significance, as their practical applications seem somewhat limited. The fact that two of the very small number of known examples were found in excavations at Woodhenge, and another was found at Stonehenge, lends some support to the above suggestion, and it is perhaps permissible, if not necessarily fashionable, to view the Kettlethorpe axe in the same light.

The lack of archaeological context and the general dearth of similar finds from dated contexts make it difficult to assign a precise date to the new example from Kettlethorpe. The three chalk axes from Woodhenge and Stonehenge are the only examples at present to have come from secure archaeological contexts — the find spot of those from Woodhenge can be approximately dated by analogy with the South Circle of Durrington Walls to the mid-third millennium BC, while the Stonehenge example comes from the base of a stonehole for a Trilithon erected within Stonehenge Phase IIIa currently viewed as dating to the end of the third millennium BC. None of these three axes, however, are at all similar to the two Lincolnshire axes. As noted above these in fact are much closer in form to polished flint axes or stone axes of Group VI, which are currently viewed as belonging to the mid-late Neolithic period. Until more evidence is forthcoming, it is wisest perhaps to view the Kettlethorpe and Hardwick chalk axes from a typological point of view as falling within this broad dating bracket.

1 The precise find spot is held on the County Sites and Monuments Index at the City and County Museum, Lincoln. The designated county number for the axe is Li 436.
A BEAKER FROM GRAINTHORPE

A. J. White

Among a number of archaeological finds from the Grainthorpe area presented to the City and County Museum, Lincoln, by Mrs. Sowby of Hall Cross, Grainthorpe, were a number of sherds from a Neolithic Beaker. 2 They were found in 1894 by the late Mr. C. B. R. Minnitt for bringing the axe to the attention of the City and County Museum.


6 Cummins and Moore, op. cit., p. 57.

5 Information held on the County Sites and Monuments Index at the City and County Museum.

6 E. F. Thompson, 'Archaeological Notes for 1952 and 1953', LASRSP, Vol. 5, part 11, 1954, p. 5. Neither of these axes is at present available for study. The CBA record card for the Hardwick axe, however, gives a sketch which shows a smaller axe, 11.4 cm in length and 8.4 cm in width. Its handle and the drawn section is 2.6 cm. This axe also has faceted sides. I would like to thank Mr. T. H. M. Clough of Rutland County Museum for providing me with these details.


A ROMANO-BRITISH MOTHER GODDESS FROM OWMBY

T. Ambrose

In April 1978 staff of the City and County Museum in Lincoln examined and recorded a collection of Iron Age and Roman material which had been found by Mr. T. Cook and his son during field walking over the known Iron Age and Romano-British settlement site at Owmbly Cliff, in the parish of Owmbly-by-Spit. The small Roman bronze figure which is the subject of this note was amongst the collection, which consisted for the most part of small bronze items and coins of Roman date. 1

The site at Owmbly lies some 8 miles (13.5 km) due north of Lincoln on either side of the Roman road, Ermine Street, and has been known for a number of years. 2 No archaeological excavation has been carried out here, although the site has been extensively field walked and surveyed. 3 It is one of a series of settlements along the line of Ermine Street in Lincolnshire and South Humberside. Their regular spacing and the known Roman military origins of several of these sites have led to the suggestion

Fig. 7 Beaker, Grainthorpe 1894. Scale 1:1. A. J. White
that the Owmsby site may also have begun life in the Roman period as a military establishment. That the origins of the settlement may well be even earlier is hinted at by the number of Iron Age finds which have been made here over the years.

Fig. 8 Roman figurine, Owmsby. Scale 2:1. R. Marchant.

The little figurine found at Owmsby is 2.0cm high and was cast in bronze using the cire perdue process. On one face the upper part of a female figure is represented with sloping, rounded shoulders, long neck and crudely modelled head. Her breasts are shown by the simple expedient of opposed finger nail impressions, and the nose is defined by a single pinched line running down the middle of the face from forehead to chin. There is no further indication of any other features.

When first examined the reverse side of the head had the appearance of having been modelled as a face and it was thought that the head was in fact janiform. On closer examination, however, it seems that the maker has simply squeezed the wax of the original model between thumb and forefinger in the moulding and deemed it unnecessary to further model the back of the head. This suggests that the front of the figure was the only side meant to be viewed. On both sides of the head running from the crown to the base of the neck is a slightly raised line which is the result of poor finishing, rather than of any intention to show ears, as might be first suspected. The figure as a whole is in fact extremely crudely made, and roughly finished. The base has been squared off and visual examination under a binocular microscope shows that it has not been broken off, but cast and finished as such.

The identification of this little votive Roman figure as a particular member of the Romano-Celtic pantheon is complicated by a lack of attributes and by its very crude manufacture. The fact that the maker has gone to some pains to outline the figure's femininity does, however, suggest that she is perhaps best seen as of localized Mother Goddess type. The Mother Goddess, viewed as a source of fertility and prosperity, is found widely throughout the Romano-Celtic world. Elsewhere in Lincolnshire the Mother Goddess is represented in triple form in stone at both Ancaster and Lincoln, and referred to again at Lincoln in a different guise on an inscribed altar. I have been unable to find any close parallels in bronze for the Owmsby figure, although the nature of its modelling is very reminiscent of the female figures depicted on Roman terracotta antefixes from York. It is nevertheless a welcome addition to the small corpus of Romano-British votive bronze figures found in Lincolnshire.

AN ANGLO-SAXON CRUCIFORM BROOCH FROM OWMBY-BY-SPITAL

N. Kerr

The brooch fragment (Fig. 9) which forms the basis of this note was found recently at Owmsby; the finder, who remains anonymous, is a collector and dealer in antiquities and the object was sold to another collector in Newport, Gwent. By chance, I was conducting a series of adult education classes in Newport, and was invited to view a collection of which this brooch formed part. The owner knew only that the piece came from Lincolnshire, and, fortunately, the owner agreed to contact the original finder, who was able to state that it came from Owmsby; no other information was forthcoming.

This is a further example of the way in which the growing trade in British antiquities is destroying archaeological evidence by divorcing finds from their rightful contexts. As far as I know, no other archaeologist has examined this piece, and it is entirely unrecorded. The Newport collector believed it to be Roman.

The surviving fragment is part of the lower portion of a bronze cruciform brooch, the eyes of the stylised horse's head terminal being clearly visible. The only other decoration consists of two moulded horizontal lines above the eyes. The piece is much abraded, and was broken in antiquity; the roundness of the upper break suggests that it might have been subject to intense heat, which resulted in some melting of the bronze.

Fig. 9 Anglo-Saxon brooch fragment, Owmsby. Scale 1:1. N. Kerr

The absence of distinguishing features renders precise identification difficult, but Aberg's Group II seems most probable. The dating of this Group is normally set in the
PAGAN SAXON POTTERY FROM CHERRY WILLINGHAM AND MIDDLE CARLTON VILLAGES

P. Everson

This note records the recovery by field walking of substantial quantities of pagan Anglo-Saxon pottery from the sites of two later medieval villages, Cherry Willingham and Middle Carlton, each about 5-6km from the centre of Lincoln.

Cherry Willingham is a thriving commuter village east of the city, and in this case about 40 sherds were collected from a very small area of land under plough lying immediately beyond the eastern end of the churchyard and its modern extension. The present church of SS. Peter and Paul is Georgian, but stands on an earlier church site that occupies a small knoll or eminence above the Witham flood plain. The sherds are certainly of pagan Saxon date and include that illustrated in Fig. 10. They are probably settlement material rather than deriving from a cemetery, though confirmation of this by excavation would be welcome. The site is under destructive threat from continuing burial in the churchyard extension and from permitted suburban house building. A few Roman sherds came from the same location, and larger quantities have previously come from the village itself and from a large Roman site lying 0.5km further to the east. Later medieval material was also picked up and a set of medieval fishponds formerly lay immediately adjacent.

Middle Carlton is a deserted medieval village situated on the spring line of the limestone scarps of Lincoln, between North and South Carlton. The village is named variously as Middle or Little Carlton, Carlton Mackerel, Barton and Barkestone. On the basis of its medieval pottery, it has been judged to have come to an end remarkably abruptly in the late 14th century, but pottery from the site indicates some survival into the 16th century. Here, some 200 sherds of early Saxon pottery were found on the southern fringe of the later settlement. Their presence more extensively may have been masked by the mass of pottery and building stone of the later village. Here, too, Roman pottery was present; and the medieval collection included a few sherds that might be shelly or sandy ware of Middle Saxon type, and certain some Saxon-Norman wares. Complete continuity of settlement therefore seems possible.

Early Saxon pottery found in these circumstances (on the site of a later village) is still not commonly reported. Standard text books tend to give the impression, however unwillingly, either (by listing deserted settlements of the Saxon period or their building types) that settlements of this date had no continuity of site into later centuries, 1 or that all later settlements (or at least those with certain categories of place-name) may be assumed to have early origins. This assumption at least would benefit from many more instances where archaeology supports it, and, in fact, the circumstances in different places seem likely to be very varied.

A second reason for publishing this note is to add to the evidence for early Saxon occupation in the immediate vicinity of Lincoln. Much of what has been found of this date in the city itself is of casual discovery or uncertain context. 2 But these two sites, taken in conjunction with limited finds from the village of Netley and the recently excavated cemetery on the edge of Welton village, 3 make it clear that by the 6th century at least there was no zone of Romano-British survival associated with Lincoln that need be thought to have excluded or controlled incoming Anglo-Saxon settlers. 4 Distinctive and unequivocal later 5th century material is so rarely identifiable except in the context of larger cemetery groups that it is difficult to assess the situation at an earlier date, but it must be in doubt whether any control lasted long if it ever existed. On the present evidence it seems possible to view the development of the Lincoln area by the 6th century as similar to that so cogently outlined by Martin Biddle for Winchester, with a relative concentration of rural settlements around a royal and subsequently ecclesiastical focus within the Roman walls. 5 On the other hand, this may simply represent a stage (and an early one at that) in our growing understanding of the overall density of early Anglo-Saxon settlement.

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1. Who retains the find?
4. Roman material from the site is reviewed in J. B. Whitwell, Roman Lincslnshire, Lincoln, 1970, passim.

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Fig. 10 Pagan Saxon sherd, Cherry Willingham. Scale 1:2 (sherd), 1:15 (stamps). P. Everson

A final reason for the note is to continue the process of making available through publication decorated pagan Saxon pottery for use in comparative studies. In particular, research into links in the use of stamps is now beginning to bring interesting results in identifying the work of individual potters and tracing the distribution of their
products. The illustrated sherd (Fig 10) is in a finely burnished black ware and evidently belongs to a biconical vessel. It is decorated in a style akin to examples in Myres's classificatory groups II.1 and II.6, respectively horizontal and rectangular schemes. The well-organised decorative scheme rests on the carination, and employs blocks of short vertical lines that alternate with stamping along the maximum girth; above are horizontal necklines and a band of stamps that apparently contains an alternation of groups of stamps perhaps reflecting the alternation below.

1 J. Golson in the records of the Deserted Medieval Village Research Group.
9 Myres, op. cit., in note 8.

RECENT SAXON FINDS FROM SOUTH LINCOLNSHIRE

R. Hilary Healey

Middle Saxon Pottery in the Fenland Area

Over the last few years, a number of discoveries of Middle Saxon Pottery have been made in six villages in the former Holland division of Lincolnshire.

Several types of pottery are represented, including grass tempered, shell gritted (Maxey type) and sandy fabrics.

Ipswich ware of the 7th century has not yet been found on all these sites although it seems probable that it will be in due course. The significance of these finds lies in the fact that they appear to be our first archaeological evidence for the date of post-Roman re-settlement of the area, although it has been suggested that there are one or two 7th century place names in the district. Despite intensive fieldwork over the last 20 years or so there have not been any finds in Holland of Pagan Saxon pottery or artifacts from the 5th or 6th centuries. All the sites noted are more or less at the heart of the medieval settlement on the higher ground, or townland, i.e. close to the later medieval church (in some instances adjoining it) or, at most, less than 1 km away. In the case of Burtoft, where there is no church and now no village, the site is approximately opposite the present Manor House in the presumed shrunken village area. In order to see whether this pattern is consistent throughout the Wash villages other potential sites, where these are still available for field walking, will be examined during 1979.

Fig. 11 Map showing find spots of Middle-Saxon pottery in Lincolnshire. R. H. Healey

Ipswich ware: Algarkirk
Burtoft
Fishtoft
Fleet
Other wares: Fleet
Gedney
Frampton

Saxon pottery from Osbournby

Fig. 12 Saxon pottery from Osbournby. Scale 1:2. R. H. Healey
The important multi-period site at Osbournby has yielded a number of interesting Saxon items. Recent finds by Mr. C. W. Anyan include two pieces of pottery of a kind hitherto unrecorded in Lincolnshire. These fragments (representing two separate vessels) are of a type of bowl which has a pair of suspension holes, each protected by an outer lip of clay, although in both instances the actual lip has broken away. These are evidently related to the so-called ‘bar-lip’ pottery in which the lip has been pushed out from the main wall of the vessel and a bar of clay inserted, around which a thong would have been fastened.1 In the Osbournby examples a hole has been made in the side of the bowl itself through a lug and the lip then added in the manner of a swallow’s nest. Bar-lip pottery is of Frisian origin, dating between the 9th and 11th centuries AD and has a limited distribution in eastern England with a more concentrated one in Cornwall. The nearest examples to Lincolnshire, those from East Anglia, are in a shell-filled fabric. The Osbournby sherds are in a hard grey-brown fabric tempered with coarse sand and bear a closer resemblance to the Middle and Pagan Saxon wares from the same site than to any of the Saxon-Norman material. The two pieces can be described thus:

1 Dark grey sandy fabric with quartz and limestone inclusions. The external surface shows signs of burnishing.
2 Medium to reddish-grey fabric with very coarse quartz sand and ironstone inclusions.

1 I am most grateful to the following farmers who have allowed myself and others to walk on their fields: Mr. A. Bannister, Mr. N. Cooper, Clifton Farms Ltd.; Mr. W. Leggett, Mr. D. Waltham. I am also indebted to Mr. R. Clark for loan of material from Fishtoft.

A MEDIEVAL STATUE FROM UPTON
M. J. Swanton

Some time during the 1860’s a man digging in a garden adjacent to the churchyard wall at Upton recovered a small, heavily weathered stone statue (Plate II). The piece measures some 20cms overall, and is carved from local limestone. It represents a slightly bowed female figure, standing on a pedestal, clothed in a headshawl and a long dress stopping short of the feet, which are carved free standing. The lower garment is carved with folds of drapery. The general style of the piece, insofar as it can be made out, conforms with late medieval small statuary, although in its present condition no closer dating is possible. It may possibly represent a ‘weeper’ or, more likely, a saint or similar figure from a screen or reredos niche. As commonly occurs, no further identifying features are sculptured — or none that remain.

Since little or nothing survives of the medieval interior of All Saints, Upton, it is worthwhile placing this battered fragment on record. In all probability it came from the church and was no doubt turned out into the churchyard at the Reformations. Its heavily weathered state suggests that if it originally came from the interior of the church, it was not immediately buried but lay unprotected on the surface. The weathering is evenly distributed however, and it may well have come from a niche on the exterior of the building, perhaps over the porch.

After its discovery the statue passed through the hands of a local dealer, the late Mr. M. J. Harpham, from whom the information as to provenance derives. It is now in the possession of Mrs. E. H. Rudkin, of Tooton All Saints, Spilsby, kindly consented to its publication here.

EARLY ISLAMIC POTTERY FROM FLAXENGATE, LINCOLN
L. Adams

One of the liveliest accounts of Scandinavian traders of the Viking Age was related by the Arab Ibn Fadaan, who penetrated far up the Volga early in the 10th century AD.1 The discovery of six sherds of an early Islamic vessel during the 1975 excavations of the Viking period settlement on Flaxengate in Lincoln now links the Viking ‘Arab connection’ with the Danelaw.

The first timber buildings of the Anglo-Scandinavian settlement on the Flaxengate site were built toward the end of the 9th century. Two of the sherds were found stratified in contexts relating to the earliest period of occupation,
one in the open area behind the earliest houses, a second in a
pit with a coin of c. 905 AD. Three further sherds came
from the upper part of the accumulation separating
Roman and Anglo-Scandinavian levels, into which they
must have been trampled; and the sixth, a fragment,
appeared resolutely in a pit relating to the third phase of
building in the mid-10th century. 1

The six sherds, of which the four largest are illustrated,
are non-joining fragments of a coarse walled, handmade,
straight sided jar, in a hard fabric consisting of fine
subangular quartz in a cream matrix. 2 One sherd bears the
impression of a piece of grass or straw. The interior is
coated with a haematite rich slip, and haematite blooms
have formed in firing where the slip was thickest, above
the low ridge on the interior of the shoulder (Pl. III upper left).
The jar was partly covered with an opaque alkaline glaze of
rich turquoise which appears to have been painted on,
more thinly below (see Pl. III lower, where an attempt has
been made to place the sherds in their correct relative
positions on the basis of thickness of wall, slip and glaze).

The sherds were recognized as Early Islamic by Dr. D. B.
Whitehouse, whose excavations at Siraf on the Persian
Gulf produced some thousands of alkaline glazed sherds of
jars, jugs and bowls among the rubbish built up on the
platform of a mosque erected in 803-4 AD. 3 The Siraf
pottery has a finer fabric and more iridescent glaze typical of
the alkaline glazed wares of the Persian Gulf area,
whereas the sandier fabric of the Flaxengate sherds and the
matte quality of the glaze resemble the products of the
contemporary industry in North Syria. Pottery identical to
these sherds was produced at Samarra in the 9th century,
and at Apamea from the 10th century. 4 Both centres
produced finer, decorated plates and bowls as well as the
coarser utilitarian 'bad wares' which the Flaxengate sherds
resemble.

Why should Syrian 'bad wares' have been traded so far
abroad? Microscopic examination 6 revealed specks of iron
pyrites embedded both in the glaze along the fracture of
one sherd and in the slip with which the interior of the
vessel was coated. This may not have been so 'bad' a ware
after all, but one specially treated to protect costly
contents. More important, the lar would appear to be a
prototype of the Syrian tin glazed albarrellos or drug jars
which circulated widely in medieval Europe, 7 and as such,
may have arrived in the city still containing the precious
substances with which it was filled in the Middle East.

The connection of the Flaxengate settlement with the
Scandinavian invasions of the late 9th century was amply
demonstrated by the 1975-76 excavations. Contemporary
with their incursions into eastern England was the much
more remarkable thrust by the Scandinavians down the
Volga to the Caspian, one result of which was the
foundation of the Russian state. (Interestingly, there are
very similar Early Islamic alkaline glazed drug jars in the
collections of the Hermitage Museum, Leningrad, 8
whether imported from the Middle East, or produced
locally in imitation, is not known.) The lure was silver, rich
mines in Afghanistan and elsewhere being exploited by the
Caliphate of Baghdad from the late 9th century. 9 Kufic
silver flooded Scandinavia, especially Sweden, reaching a
peak in the period 890-950. 10 Scandinavian and Baltic
traders travelled far down the Volga to offer furs and slaves in
exchange, as described by Ibn Fadlan. Both at the bend in the
Volga and at its mouth in the Caspian, the
Scandinavian trade route linked up with the major
overland trade routes for Middle Eastern commodities. 11

Along the Volga, in settlements such as Birka in Sweden
and Hedeby in Schleswig, 12 and also at York, 13 the traders
of the Viking Age established centres of a common pattern:
defended, with good access by water, containing both
market areas and craftsmen's quarters where trinkets were
produced, presumably to exchange for the foreign goods
arriving. Lincoln itself fits this pattern, with excellent river
communications and Roman defences surviving into the
medieval period. Excavations on the Flaxengate site revealed
evidence of an active craftsmen's quarter. It is
difficult not to wonder whether already by c. 900 AD a well
established merchants' quarter, where traders from
Scandinavia and beyond could establish themselves for
some weeks to trade, may have existed close by.

1 Translations in Gwyn Jones, A History of the Vikings, Oxford,
1973, p. 184 and note 2; and in R. R. Ellis Davidson, The Viking Road to
2 Information on the structures of the Anglo-Scandinavian period at
Flaxengate from Dominic Perring, and on the coins from Jenny
Mann and R. H. M. Dolley; the results are to be published in the
Lincoln Archaeological Trust monograph series. The coin is a St.
Edmund memorial silver penny.
3 I owe this and the following observations on mineralogy to
Malcolm Fenton.
4 Information from Sarah Jennings of the Norwich Survey.
5 Identification by J. M. Rogerson, Department of Oriental Antiquities,
British Museum, who is to publish the Samarra material. For the
Apamean pottery, see his 'Apamea. The Medieval Pottery'.
6 Preliminary Report', in J. C. and J. Bailey (eds.), Colloque Apamée de
report on the Islamic pottery of Susa Bibliotheque Orientalis, 33, 1976,
pp. 370-74, discusses the difficulties in dating and typology of
Early Islamic pottery from excavations in the Middle East. The
close dating of the Flaxengate jar should prove of interest to students
of Middle Eastern pottery.
7 Confirmation of this identification by the Ancient Monuments
Laboratory of the Dept. of the Environment.
Fig. 57, for types of jars c. 1300 AD in a French illustration of an
apothecary's shop.
9 Where they were sited by Dafyld Kidd, Department of Medieval
and Later Antiquities, British Museum.
10 Ellis Davidson, op. cit., p. 52.
11 Gwyn Jones, op. cit., p. 265; also pp. 157 and 171-2.
12 Ibid., p. 254, map 10, for the probable route of the sherds between
Syria and Scandinavia.
13 Ibid., pp. 168-81 for summaries of these sites.
14 Jeffrey Radley in Medieval Archaeology, 15, 1971, pp. 37-8,
48ff; R. A. Hall in Viking York and the North, London, 1978,
p. 34.

A CARVED TUDOR PANEL FROM
MAREHAM-LE-FEN

A. J. White

In the course of cleaning out the moat which lies to the
north of Mareham-le-Fen village a carved oak panel which
had been preserved in anaerobic conditions in the bottom
silt, came to light. 1 The moat was last cleared out some
seventy years ago, but obviously the cleaning was not very
thorough, as the panel had escaped detection.

The panel, 34.5cm high by 24cm wide and 2cm max
thickness is decorated with a roundel and has six petalled
flowers filling the spandrels. Within the roundel are the
profile head and shoulders of a young man in a costume of
about 1520. 3 On his head is a bonnet covering medium length
curled hair, and he wears a tight fitting doublet under a
fur lined gown. Human figures on paneling or furniture are
most uncommon before 1500, 4 but are widespread by the
middle of the century. A similar taste for figures in
roundels can be seen on imported stoneware from the
Rhine and on metal items of the same period.

This panel is probably from wainscoting, judging by the
traces of rebate all round and the roughly finished back,
and is likely to date from the second quarter of the
16th century. 5 There are a number of reasonably close
parallels for the design such as the panelling from
Waltham 5 in the Victoria and Albert Museum or the choir
stalls at Christchurch Priory in Hampshire 6 of c. 1528, and

82
SOME RECENT FINDS OF GERMAN STONEWARE
A. J. White

From the last quarter of the 15th century large quantities of stoneware drinking vessels, mainly from the Rhineland, began to enter this country. Most of those imported into Lincolnshire probably came via the port of Boston, where the size of the shipments can be estimated from the Port Books for the period 1601-40. Three recent finds of German stoneware from Lincolnshire prompt this note; two comparable pieces from an earlier excavation are also considered, but much more work remains to be done on the dating of early stonewares and the plotting of their distribution.

The first four pieces are products of the Cologne/Frechen workshops around the mid 16th century, when the Renaissance style began to take root. In 1520 the potters of Frechen immigrated to nearby Cologne and the fusion of the two industries created a period of great artistic and technical achievement. A similar movement of potters from Siegburg and Raeren (near Aachen) c. 1590 resulted in the revival of the potting centres in the Westerwald area, based on Höhr, Grenzau, and Grenzhausen. The most obvious distinguishing mark of stoneware from the Westerwald is the cobalt blue decoration (developed in the last years of Raeren) and the use of overall moulded patterns. No. 5 represents one of the earlier products of the new centre.

1 Probable Granthorpe area. Grey fabric with uneven dark brown salt glaze inside, outside, and underbase. Lower part of bearded face with helmeted busts in medallions and acanthus leaves alternating above and below central triple band with debased foliage motifs, cf., Cologne, Komödienstrasse c. 1550.
2 Sempringham, DMV site, 1978. White/grey fabric, mottled brown salt glaze outside, white inside. Part of laureate bust in medallion and acanthus leaf above fragmentary gothic inscription restorable as follows: (Des Heser w)art bleibt in evickeit) "The Lord's word lives on forever." Frechen, mid 16th cent.
A. J. White


1 Evidence from Port Books at Southampton, see S. Moorhouse, ‘Findings from Basing House, Hampshire, c. 1540-1645 Part One’, Post-Medieval Archaeology, 4, 1970, p. 76. The products of Siegburg and Langerwehe however, appear in this country in the 13th and 14th centuries respectively.  


5 K. Koetschau, Rheinisches Steinzeug, Munich, 1924, pp. 46-53.  

6 Ibid., in note 3, p. 47.  

7 From the collection of the late Mr. Sowby of Granthorpe Hall, now in CCM (acc. no. 225.78).  


9 Cf. Reineking-Von Bock, op. cit., pp. 209 no. 254, 210 no. 285, and 224 nos. 318-9. For an example from Newark see G. Fairclough, ‘Excavations of two Medieval and Post-Medieval sites at Newark 1975’, Transactions of the Thoroton Society of Nottinghamshire, LXXX, 1976, pp. 19-21, Fig. 9, p. 79. The legend is a German version of the Latin inscription ‘Verbum Domini Manet in Asternum’ which appears on many 16th century Nuremberg jetons.  

10 This and the following piece are in the CCM (acc. no. 38.72).  

11 Reineking-Von Bock, op. cit., p. 211 no. 288. Mrs. E. H. Rudkin has a single medallion of similar type. This trick, known as an ‘oho’, was much used on 18th century tobacco boxes.  


A CIVIL WAR ARMOUR FIND FROM SCRAFIELD  
A. J. White

While engaged in ploughing up old pasture at Scrafield in the parish of Marcham on the Hill, Mr. D. Harness and Mr. R. Houghton brought to light two pieces of armour which had lain just below the surface of the field. Realising the significance of their find they contacted the farmer, Mr. S. Read, who informed the City and County Museum in Lincoln.  

The proximity of the Civil War battlefield of Winceby immediately suggests a context for the find, though battlefield trophies appear to be uncommon in this country, probably due to the immediate and thorough looting usually carried out by the victorious side and/or neighbouring villagers.  

The two pieces were a peascod breastplate and a backplate with scalloped flange. Both were found in the correct relative positions for wear, breast plate uppermost, and as there were no bones inside or nearby a possible explanation may be that the armour was thrown off in a hurry to aid flight. The position of the latches retaining the shoulder pieces may be significant here: one was in the shut position, the other opened — possibly one side was undone so that the armour could be wrenched off.  

It is likely that the armour was made late in the 16th or early in the 17th century. The very deep central ridge to the breastplate is certainly a feature of that date, but conservatism of style can account for many late survivals. In the turmoil of the Civil War much old armour must have been taken down from walls and reused, often for different functions than had been originally intended. The present pieces would appear to be part of a cuirassier’s armour, as there are traces of attachments for the rassettes on the lower flange of the breastplate. However, it is impossible to ascertain whether these were in fact in use, or whether the armour belonged to cavalryman or footsoldier.  

The battle of Winceby, named from the neighbouring parish, took place on 11 October 1643. Parliamentary forces under the Earl of Manchester were besieging Bolingbroke Castle when a Royalist force under General Henderson advanced to its relief via Lincoln and Horncastle. A running battle ensued on the high ground to the west of Winceby village. The Royalist cavalry were swiftly driven back upon their own infantry and in the rout which followed they were pursued all the way to Horncastle. An old road called Slash Lane marked on the 1874 Ordnance Survey map of 1824, may have been the route followed. This led past the site of the village of Scrafield, where the armour was found.

1 Mr. Read has most kindly donated the armour to the Museum. Its acc. no. is 178.78.  

2 Very little for instance survives from the battlefields of Shrewsbury or Marston Moor. A cannon ball alleged to be from Winceby is in the Museum (acc. no. 9754.06), but there is no evidence that cannons were actually used there. A better-authenticated find is that of a sword from ‘Candle Bag’ at Lea in the 1930’s, probably a relic of the 1643 skirmish there. It is in the possession of Mrs. E. H. Rudkin.  

3 An example of a similar cuirass can be seen in a painting of Sir Edward Massey by Lely c. 1661, now in the National Gallery of Canada, Ottawa. I am deeply indebted to Mr. Claude Blair, Keeper of the Dept. of Metalwork, Victoria and Albert Museum, for this example and for other useful comments.  

4 A True Relation of the Late Fight — The Battlete being neere Horncaste in Lincolnshire (anon), London, 1643. A more accessible discussion of this account can be found in Revd. F. C. Masingberd, “The Battle of Winceby” in Memoirs — of the Archaeological Institute of Great Britain and Ireland, Lincoln, 1848.
A 17th CENTURY COIN FIND FROM LUSBY
A. J. White

Among a group of metallic objects found in 1978 at Lusby, near Horncastle, by Mr. J. Spittlehouse of Mablethorpe, the most important was a small copper alloy box which contained two 17th century silver coins.

The coins were as follows:

1. A silver shilling of James I (1603-25)
   **Obv.** IACOBVS DG ANG SCO FRA(ET HIB) REX bust r. XII behind head.
   **Rev.** EXVRG(AT DE)VS DISSIPENTVR INIMICI quartered shield
   Probably 1st coinage (1603-4) 2nd bust — North type 2073. ¹

2. A silver half crown of Charles I (1625-49)
   **Obv.** CAROLVS DG MAG BRI FRA ET HIB R.EX
   **Rev.** CHRISTO AUSPICE REGNO quartered shield.
   i.m. triangle-in-circle.
   Group IV (1641-3) — North type 2214. ²

Both coins exhibit a fair degree of wear consistent with deposition c. 1650. ³ The total contemporary value would not have been great — perhaps half a week's wages to a labourer — and the coins are, therefore, unlikely to represent a hoard buried with the intent of recovery.

² Information kindly supplied by Mr. B. Spencer, Senior Keeper of the Dept. of Medieval Antiquities, Museum of London.
³ For a discussion of wages see W. G. Hoskins, Two Thousand Years in Exeter, Chichester, 1963, p. 52.

Plate VII Coins and container from Lusby, A. J. White

The small box is interesting in view of its association with the coins. It is circular and in two pieces; the lower part is flat bottomed with a male thread on its upper edge, the upper part has a female thread and is in the form of a flattened dome with a concentric dot and circle in high relief on top. Maximum diameter is 3.5 cm, maximum height 2.4 cm.

There are a number of parallels for the box, if not its contents. A small hoard of twenty-one 17th century tradesmen's tokens and a groat of Mary was found in a similar container at Spalding in 1917, while an example in the Museum of London originally contained three tradesmen's tokens. The surviving London token is undated (although not later than 1672) but the latest dated tokens in the Spalding hoard are 1670 issues from Crowland and Holbeach.

The association between these little boxes and coins and tokens of c. 1650-72 suggests that even if not originally made for carrying coins they had at least a widespread use as such. Possibly they were a by-product of the watchmakers' trade.

Mr. Middleton-Smith, H. M. Coroner for Horncastle District, has decided that there is insufficient evidence to bring in a verdict of Treasure Trove on the coins.

2. Ibid., p. 129.
3. I am grateful to Dr. J. C. Kent of the Dept. of Coins and Medals, British Museum, for discussing the coins informally with me.
6. Information kindly supplied by Mr. B. Spencer, Senior Keeper of the Dept. of Medieval Antiquities, Museum of London.
7. The date of the first official issue of copper halfpence and farthings. Tokens did, however, continue to circulate for a further three or four years, but on a much reduced scale.
8. As note 6.

Book Reviews


William Albert's The Turnpike Road System of England 1663-1840, published in 1972, was a turning point in the study of road history, and it has now achieved the accolade of success by inspiring imitations. Though it began life as a Ph.D. thesis, it does not show it; but Pawson's book does, in every aspect of language and approach. His writing, always earnest and heavy, is sometimes couched in the severest technical vocabulary — one might say jargon — of the New Geography. Who but a historical geographer or economic historian would make much of this: 'The deterministic approach implicit in these general models of the spatial diffusion process must be relaxed in favour of a probabilistic one'? But this is not to say that only the academic will find information of value here, for anyone prepared to delve and hammer will be rewarded too.

Pawson has worked extensively on turnpike Acts and records, and expands on themes which Albert skipped over. In particular, there is useful background on the parish system of road repair. Maps and graphs (43 of them) and tables (51) proliferate, and on the whole illuminate. Though there is much duplication, a direct comparison between Albert and Pawson is unfair, since the latter embraces only the eighteenth century and ostensibly covers Wales and Scotland (though in practice giving them short shrift) as well as England. One might complain that there is no real comparison of the relative roles played by the turnpikes and by alternative forms of transport — rivers, canals and coasting. And there are signs of carelessness — references in the text to sources absent from the bibliography, lack of agreement between the maps and the list of turnpikes, and a number of misprints. With these qualifications, a useful book, whose publication once again underlines the crying need for a serious study of Lincolnshire turnpikes.

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