Archaeology in Lincolnshire and South Humberside, 1981

Compiled by A. J. White

This year's article underlines, by its reduced size, the slackening of archaeological activity, especially on the excavation front. However, 'Archaeology in Lincolnshire and South Humberside' is very much concerned with interim statements in advance of full publication and the general movement towards writing-up of results is leading to a steady flow of more detailed reports; in particular where the fascicle series of the Lincoln Archaeological Trust is concerned. It is encouraging, too, to see the work of Lincoln Civic Trust's Survey of Ancient Houses moving gradually towards publication of results, and we await developments with interest.

In the south of the county a new Fenland Project is under way, the effects of which should begin to show during 1982. As one of the few areas of growth — or perhaps we should say redistribution — in archaeology at the moment this Project serves to underline the immense significance of the Fenland at all times in history; we hope that Lincolnshire's Fenland areas, already brought into prominence by the work of the South Lincolnshire Archaeological Unit, will take their rightful place in tomorrow's textbooks.

Our deepest sympathies go to Brian Simmons on his bereavement late in 1981; early 1982 has robbed us of two archaeologists in the tragic deaths of Mark Gregson, who was engaged in the archaeological work connected with the British Gas pipeline, and of Ken Wood, whose work for this Society is well known and whose meticulous techniques put him in the forefront of amateur archaeologists. An appreciation of his life and work appears above.

'Archaeology 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. 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.

All sites and finds, with the exception of those acknowledged below, are drawn from the Sites and Monuments Record at the City and County Museum.

The following abbreviations have been used:

BA (EBA, MBA, LBA) : Bronze Age (Early, Middle, Late)
IA : Iron Age
RB : Romano-British
AS : Anglo-Saxon
AWA : Anglian Water Authority
CCM : Lincolnshire Museums; City and County Museum, Lincoln

DoE : Department of the Environment
LAO : Lincolnshire Archives Office
LHA : Lincolnshire History and Archaeology
NLAU : North Lincolnshire Archaeological Unit
OD : Ordnance Datum (height above sea level)
RCHM : Royal Commission on Historical Monuments
SM : Stamford Museum
SLAU : South Lincolnshire Archaeological Unit

SITES AND FINDS

No significant finds of Palaeolithic or Mesolithic date were reported. Polished stone and flint axes of Neolithic date were found at Aswarby and Swarby, Brachebridge Heath, Claxby, Market Deeping, Nettleton, Owbersy, Ropsey and Humby (2), Saxby, and West Keal, while Neolithic and BA flintwork was reported from Brachebridge Heath, West Keal and Welton le Marsh.

Barbed and tanged flint arrowheads were found at Grantham (Saltersford), (South Common) Lincoln, and South Carlton, and a fragment of a battle-axe was discovered at Ropsey and Humby.

The only item of Bronze Age metalwork recorded during the year was a MBA spearhead found at Temple Bruer in 1927 (purchased for CCM).

Two names perhaps indicative of former BA barrow sites were noted in manuscript sources at Nettleham ('Deadhills Furlong':— 1724 Glebe Terrier) and at Branston and Mere ('Cringledyke':— PRO SC6/Hen VIII/2062).

IA or Roman saltern material was found at Addelthorpe, Great Hale, Hogsthorpe, and Ingoldmells, while a beehive quern was found at Billingborough.

Celtic coins recorded included one from Grantham (found c.1965) and two from Osbournby.

Roman metalwork was recorded from the following sites: Burgh le Marsh (brooch), Easton, Ketton (brooch), Newport, Lincoln (gold ring-bezel), Yarborough Crescent Allotments, Lincoln (brooch), Londonthorpe and Harrowby Without (4 sites—brooch, arrowhead and buckle, brooch, 3 brooches respectively), Navenby (recut brooch), and Skellingthorpe (lock fragment). Pottery came from Billingborough, Boothby Pagnell, Doddington, Grantham (2 sites), Great Gonerby, Ingoldmby, (together with a jet roundel), Langriville (3 sites on the north bank of the Witham), Saxby with Ingleby, Sleaford, and Torksey. Evidence for Roman cremation burials came from 2 sites in Lincoln, at South Common (with pottery, mirror, lamp, molten glass, and iron fragments) and at Wragby Road (2 jars with lids, actually found c.1980 but not reported).

Of the Anglo-Saxon period an elaborate cruciform brooch found at Alford at an unknown date was sold at Sotheby's. A loomweight was found at Fillingham. On the boundary between Welbourn and Wellingore were found 3 pennies and a cut halfpenny, the latter of Aethelred II, and all probably part of a scattered hoard.

Finds of medieval date were reported from Bardney (pottery), Billingborough (pottery), Burgh-le-Marsh (3 sites, Limoge enamelled fragment, ever-spool, and bronze bowl rim), Crowland (pottery), Fenton (pilgrim ampulla), Granthorpe (pilgrim ampulla), Harmston (bronze fitting).
Holbeck (stone mortar), Technical College, Lincoln (medieval slabbed grave), Osgodby (pottery) and Bag Enderby, Somersby (15th-cent. 'ballock' dagger). A waster-pit containing some 15-20 almost complete 15th-century pots was found at Toofton All Saints. 11

17th-century tradesmen's tokens were found at Lincoln (John Smith/Horncastle), Lincoln (Nathaniel Gray/Lincoln) and Wickenby (Richard Cater/Horncastle), while other post-medieval items came from Mablethorpe (pewter baluster-knop spoon) and Orby 1 (lead cloth-seals).

Pottery of Roman—post medieval date was recovered from sites at Dodington 1 and Waddington.

Information from the following, indicated in the text, is gratefully acknowledged:
1 SLAU (Stafford)
2 Mrs J. M. Lewis
3 Mr A. Jarvis
4 SM
5 Mrs B. Kirkham
6 Mr J. Dible
7 Mr C. W. Anyan
8 Mrs M. Boulton
9 Mr P. Hardon
10 Mr G. Benton
11 Mrs E. H. Rudkin

EXCAVATIONS AND FIELDWORK

FIKERTON

F.N. Field

Part of an IA causeway was excavated south of the village at Fiskerton on the north bank of the River Witham. Over 100m of causeway was traced, of which 20m was excavated. Posts were set vertically into the soft ground in clusters forming two roughly parallel lines, about 4m apart, perpendicular to the river. Some 180 posts were recorded in the excavated area most of which were oak. Some still retained their bark, others had been stripped and trimmed. A few were completely removed during excavation and varied between 2.50m and 4.60m in length. The tips had been sharpened to a fine point with an axe.

Lying between the posts were horizontal timbers which had been pegged into the ground forming a firm walkway over the boggy ground. There were two major phases of repair where vertical timbers had been replaced and when the horizontals rotted they had been consolidated with a layer of limestone chips.

Radiocarbon dates from two of the timbers have been received; 510 b.c. ± 80 and 330 b.c. ± 80.

The river and fen area would have provided a rich source of food and raw materials such as reeds which were used for weaving baskets and thatching roofs.

Fish was an important part of the diet and many bones were found during excavation. The causeway probably provided access for villagers who lived on the dryer, higher land to the north, down to the river where boats were moored. 67 bone needles were found, similar to ones discovered at Dragonby and Billingborough, which may have been used for weaving fishing nets.

There were also various types of pottery dating to the IA and Roman periods including some IA material which has no known parallels.

The waterlogged conditions at Fiskerton were ideal for environmental work and samples of seeds, plant remains, pollen, snails and beetles will be examined.

Waterlogging has also helped to preserve metal objects both domestic and military. Four axes and a hammer, perhaps used for raising metal, a file with a decorated bone handle and a pruning hook were found. More difficult to explain is the quantity of military equipment from the site which included four iron swords, two of which were in iron scabbards, three socketed iron spearheads, and various items of horse furniture. This leads to speculation about the importance of the causeway. Was it a main route across the river which needed defending?

LINCOLN, BISHOP'S PALACE

G. Hey

Work has commenced at the Bishop's Palace to record the structure. The Photogrammetric Unit of the Institute of Advanced Architectural Studies at the University of York has undertaken a survey and the fieldwork has been completed by A. J. Waywell. The final drawings are expected in 1982. All the mouldings are being recorded; profiles drawn at 1:1 and elevations of important detail at 1:10.

Excavation 1 (started 8 December 1981) is also in progress on the oratory roof, the east end of Bishop Alnwick's chapel. 2

The asphalt roof, probably laid down before 1954, was cracked and water coming through the vault of the oratory was threatening its stability. Excavation is in advance of re-roofing.

Beneath the asphalt were two deposits of demolition debris. The upper layer of grey brown loam with much yellow mortar and limestone chippings and blocks was up to 30cm thick. Finds from this deposit included tile (some with yellow glaze), bones, a few clay pipe stems, some window glass, some moulded stone and a rim sherd with dark green brown glaze of 18th-century date. A George II halfpenny was also retrieved. There was a great deal more mortar in the lower deposit, which was up to 10cm in depth. Much window glass with painted decoration and some text was discovered in this layer, most of it near the east wall. There was also much moulded stone, including several pieces from a mullion (part of the east window?) and a mullion from a cupboard in the east or north wall.

Beneath, to the north and south, was a mortar bedding layer with stone flag implementations. Two parallel rows of stone blocks, 0.50m wide and 1.20m apart projected 1.50m from the eastern wall on a line from the inside of each of the cupboards in the east wall. It is possible these formed a base for the altar of Bishop Alnwick's chapel. The mortar bedding layer appears to post-date the stone structure.

Much work remains to be done and any conclusions drawn at this stage must be tentative. Excavation will continue in the New Year.

The development of the street system is also being built up.2

The first Roman buildings on the site were two early military timber buildings of post-in-trench construction. The more northerly of the two consisted of two walls of a 'rampart building' of uncertain function, which lay immediately behind the legionary defences. The building about 8m south of this consisted of one external wall and three possible internal partitions. There were no floor levels or datable finds associated with this structure. Late in the 1st century it was rebuilt on similar lines. Floors of compacted clay were found associated with this phase. Finds from its demolition layers suggest a date of demolition late in the same century. These structures may have been part of a barracks block, but other interpretations are possible. The excavation produced many interesting early types of legionary pottery, but none of them could be closely dated. The most likely place for the military intervalium road would have been between these two buildings; however, no trace of any road surface was found.

Sometime in the early 2nd century this part of the colonia was re-developed. The legionary timber buildings were demolished and a stone building replaced the possible barracks block. The north wall of the new building followed the same line as that of its timber predecessor, and another stone wall ran parallel to it, 4m to the south. It was not possible to determine whether this south wall was the external wall of a courtyard house (rare in Roman towns in Britain before the late 2nd century). At the same time as the stone building was constructed, a cambered road surface was laid immediately to the north of the building, approximately 3.80m wide and running parallel to the defences. Beneath the centre of the road was a covered drain, obviously constructed at the same time as the road. The drain was made of rough unmortared limestone walls supporting flat limestone slabs. Apart from a small amount of silt in its bottom, the drain was still completely open when discovered and could be seen to run for some considerable distance to east and west beyond the limits of the excavation. The drain had a fall of approximately 1 in

Plate 1  Lincoln, East Bight. Drain beneath Roman street. K. Camidge.

40 to the east and its base was elliptical in cross section, which would have minimized silting up. The stone building, road, and drain had all been constructed at roughly the same time as the first stone defensive wall (a narrow refronting of the legionary rampart). A large, deep pit north of the street may well have served as a quarry pit, providing stone for part of this major building programme.

The road underwent major repair at regular intervals and was resurfaced at least five times during its life. In the meantime the building to the south was modified internally, and widened by demolition of the south wall which was presumably rebuilt further south (outside the excavated area). In the mid-2nd century the colonia rampart was heightened by about 1m.

Sometime shortly after the penultimate road resurfacing (late 3rd century) a 'ramp' feature was constructed on the rampart. It was probably used to transport building materials from the road to the top of the rampart for the thickening and heightening of the colonia wall which took place at this time. The ramp was subsequently buried beneath a final phase of rampart heightening.

It was not possible in the limited space available for excavation to locate a further interval-tower and thereby determine their spacing along the northern wall. The Roman levels are, however, well preserved and this is a site of great potential for future archaeologists.

The early levels produced some interesting metalwork, including the decorated sheath for a legionary dagger (pugio).3

1 See 'Archaeology in Lincolnshire and South Humberside 1980', LHA 16, 1981, pp.73-4.
2 Further discussed in Current Archaeology 81, 1982.

LINCOLN, GRANTHAM PLACE
G. Tann and M.J. Jones
In the autumn of 1981 a small site at the corner of
Grantham Street and Grantham Place, immediately west of the Flaxengate excavation site, was investigated by the Lincoln Archaeological Trust. The primary objective of the work was to recover more of the plan of the late Roman building whose north-east corner was found at the western end of the Flaxengate trench, and which has been tentatively interpreted as a church. It was also hoped to recover more information about the medieval structures along the line of Grantham Street.

Nineteenth century house cellars had removed the medieval layers from the south end of the site, but these layers remained in part at the northern end. The cellar walls incorporated a number of re-used architectural fragments, including some late medieval window mullions. A north-south stone wall foundation, associated with covered drains and floor remains, probably of 14th-century date, was especially solid; the massive roughly hewn blocks of stone rested on a tightly packed layer of small pitched stone within a trench 1m wide. The wall appeared to be based on a foundation of timber piles. These structures probably formed an added rear wing to an earlier stone house on the Grantham Street frontage, built no later than the early 13th century.

Beneath the stone building were the remains of several periods of timber structures going back to the late 9th century. Owing to both the nature of the evidence and the size of the trench, only a limited number of structural features belonging to these buildings was revealed.

One particular oven, in the rear part of a timber house, was especially well-preserved, set into a hollow. Clay and daub walls within this depression were supported by slender twigs which survived, carbonised, in a horizontal position. Two small broken staves at the opening to the oven may have supported a fired daub structure associated with the oven; the crushed daub with wattle impressions had filled the interior and spread outside on to a contemporary floor surface. Some of the daub fragments showed imprints of smearing by hand; there were some indications that a lightly pecked cover or roof may have been used rather than the vertical daub structures which it has been suggested protected hearths on the Flaxengate excavations. The oven, as with other timber phase hearths located on the site, appeared to have been used solely for domestic purposes. Three fragments of crucible vessels and a few pieces of slag were the only signs of industrial activity, not necessarily on this site.

Underlying the earliest timber structure was a considerable accumulation of dumped organic soil with stones and much domestic refuse, below which remained Roman demolition deposits and pits not thought to be later than the 3rd century. There was no trace of any 4th century building, or of later robber trenches. Such unexpected results suggest two possible interpretations which only further excavation may clarify: either the building was of a much smaller size than the eastern apsidal end had suggested (this seems unlikely), or substantial earth-moving operations removed all trace of the building and its construction at this point.

1 C. Thomas, *Christianity in Roman Britain to AD 500*, 1980, fig. 37.

SAPPERTON
B.B. Simmons

Excavations on the Romano-British roadside settlement, carried out by the South Lincolnshire Archaeological Unit in conjunction with the University of Evansville, have continued. The area currently under excavation has been extended northwards to reveal more of one of the buildings fronting onto the metalled road. This building is the only one on the site which has well cut, regular shaped limestone blocks in situ along its facade.

A trial trench measuring 11m x 2m laid down some 70m east of the excavation to investigate a pronounced crop mark produced evidence of a road surface and, from a rubble spread, a small limestone altar 41cm high.

TATTERSHELL THORPE
P. Chowne

The Neolithic site at Tattershall Thorpe was discovered as a result of fieldwalking in the area of the lower Bain valley threatened by sand and gravel quarrying. Approximately 1,000 pieces of worked flint were found on the field surface. No particular concentrations of flint were discernible, there being a scatter of tools and waste over the whole field, an area of 7.5 ha. As planning permission had been granted for mineral extraction, a study of the 549 intact flints was undertaken in an attempt to determine whether there was more than one industry present and to establish possible date ranges. The results obtained from an analysis of the flint waste and scrapers suggested an early to middle Neolithic industry, which was further implied by the presence of two leaf-shaped arrowheads in the collection. This work was followed by a gradiometer survey over that part of the field which was due to be quarried in 1981. The wet conditions of winter 1980/81 prevented more than 4,500 sq. m from being surveyed, but some anomalies were recorded which suggested the presence of archaeological features. Gravel extraction began in January 1981 and the DoE responded by granting £1,000 to the NLAU to carry out a trial excavation in the immediately threatened area. The purpose of this excavation was to see if any Neolithic features had survived years of arable farming.

Neolithic features

**Pits**
Four pits, cut into clay, were found. The fillings of these pits were extremely rich in flint waste, tools, pottery, charcoal, carbonised grain, and hazel nut shells.

**Foundation trenches**
The best evidence for a structure was obtained from an L-shaped clay-lined trench which possibly contained a row of posts averaging 25cm in diameter. Charcoal from the trench has been submitted for radiocarbon dating.

**Postholes**
Only one definite posthole not directly related to a foundation trench was discovered.

**Flints**
The flint assemblage consists of bifacially retouched leaf-shaped arrowheads, a transverse arrowhead, scrapers, knives, cores and flakes. Many of these were well stratified and in association with charcoal and pottery.
Pottery
The pottery sherd s were all of a coarse flint-filled fabric. Only one sherd shows signs of decoration, in this instance an incised line.

Romano-British features
Several pits contained small amounts of Romano-British pottery. A grave was found cutting through the Neolithic foundation trench described above. This appears to have been the burial of a Roman bronze smith or tinker. At the eastern end of the grave a mass of corroded bronze, iron, lead, glass and wood was found. X-rays of this material have made possible the identification of a tool kit containing snips, tongs, punches and files, together with bags of scrap metal, some of which upon first examination appears to be military in origin. At the western end of the grave were pieces of bronze, iron and a small amount of bone.

Work resumed in October 1981 and continued until February 1982 as a Department of the Environment project. The three aims of the project were to provide a context for the Romano-British burial, to locate Neolithic structures and to establish a radiocarbon chronology and environmental setting for the site.

No further evidence for Romano-British occupation was found.
Although almost 1 ha. was investigated no traces of Neolithic buildings were located. Approximately 2,500 sq. m were subjected to intensive excavation which revealed pits, and postholes similar to those encountered on the trial area and several hearths. One of the pits contained sherd s of grooved ware pottery.

Plate II Tattershall Thorpe. Section adjacent to the River Bain: the layer containing Neolithic artifacts is arrowed. P. Chowne.

A small excavation was carried out adjacent to the River Bain to obtain material suitable for environmental studies (Plate II). At a depth of 110 cm a layer rich in Neolithic pottery, flints and bone was encountered. Below this was a layer of clay and at 150 cm peat which had formed on top of the natural sands. Samples were taken for the study of pollens, plant remains, insect remains and sedimentation.

WINTERTON ROMAN VILLA
R. Goodburn
Further excavation was carried out south of Corridor-building G 1 immediately east of the area examined in 1979 2 and north of that excavated in 1980 3.
A slightly cambered road of oolite, c. 4.3 m wide, ran north-east/south-west across the site. It probably connected Aisleed Buildings P and B during the 4th century.

The north/south fence known to run from the north-east end of Building P was found to link the south-west corner of Building G, i.e. dividing the areas to the west and to the east of the two buildings; another fence ran eastwards from the first, from near Building G, to connect with the west end of Building B. Parts of other fences were discovered. A palisade of closely-spaced squared posts (at least some replaced) formed an enclosure, c. 27 m east-west by c. 21 m, with rounded corners; part of another east-west palisade lay 9 m to the north. The palisades were probably of 2nd or 3rd century date (little pottery was found). The south side of the more complete palisade cut the trench of a rectangular timber structure measuring 16 m north-south by 5 m and with a possible entrance in its west side; possible internal features were restricted to one or two post-holes.

The eastern sides of several enclosures were examined and the overall sizes and shapes of a number can now be ascertained. A gradual increase in size from late IA through the Roman period is discernible. A circular evenspirl gully c. 8 m in diameter, with a short gap in its north side, was located rather more than 30 m east south-east of the group of IA hut-gullies already known; it is not known whether it stands alone. A few small hearths were added to the number already known.

A Roman 'crouched' inhumation burial aligned north/south had been inserted on the line of the palisade, beneath the line of the road. There were no grave-goods except perhaps a broken dice-box disturbed by ditch-digging.


EARTHWORK SURVEYS IN LINDSEY
P. Everson
Measured earthwork surveys carried out during 1981 on behalf of RCHM(E) for a project on medieval and later settlement in West Lindsey included moated earthworks in woodland at Bullington, Newball, and Chapel Hill at Tealby; the moated monastic grange of Seney Place at Southrey; settlement remains at Owersby; moat, park pale and formal gardens at Golitho; Thonock castle; village remains at Rischolme; Nettleham bishop's palace; moats at Lea; moat, fishponds, formal gardens and village remains at Ketleby; village remains and formal gardens at Knaith, Somerby and Croxby; village remains at Cabbage, Swallow and Stanton-le-Vale; monastic site, village and gardens at Orford; and a supposed monastic grange at Great Limber.

HATTON—PETERBOROUGH: GAS PIPELINE ARCHAEOLOGY, 1981
M. Gregson* and J. Monaghan
The 42 inch gas pipeline from Hatton to Peterborough, which was built in the summer of 1981, was routed through the north of Cambridgeshire and up through southern Lincolnshire, passing to the west of Bourne and the east of Sleaford, crossing the Witham 18 km east of Lincoln.

The pipeline was constructed through four major blocks of landscape; the east-west low-lying and broad
Welland valley to the south; the mainly limestone uplands between there and Seaford, dissected by various ranks of drainage, including dry valleys; the complex Slea valley silts and the ‘peats’ of the Witham; and finally the clay north of the Witham. Apart from this latter stretch, there were archaeological finds from each of these natural divisions, some suspected before and some new.

In the last issue of *Lincolnshire History and Archaeology*, we discussed some of the aims and methods that have been developed over six years of carrying out archaeology on gas pipeline routes, and their application to the Hatton—Peterborough project. We are now (December 1981) bringing this work to full publication, which involves a wider treatment of the development of the local settlement patterns as well as a basic discussion of the individual sites recorded. Two lines that we are pursuing are an analysis of the geomorphological development of the silt and ‘peat’ ten sections of the route, and an investigation of the constraints and opportunities offered by the pipeline corridor as a way of looking at historical and prehistoric landscapes in Lincolnshire.

All archaeological information derived from the season’s work will be reported in detail to the appropriate Sites and Monuments Records, and the finds returned to their owners, or deposited in the CCM (for the Lincolnshire material).

*It is our sad task to record the tragic death of Mark Gregson in a road accident early in 1982.*


**WATCHING BRIEFS CARRIED OUT BY THE SOUTH LINCOLNSHIRE ARCHAEOLOGICAL UNIT**

**R.H. Healey and T. Lane**

**Harrowby to Sutersford. AWA Pipeline**

August 1981. Features observed after mechanical removal of topsoil:

- **Londonthorpe and Harrowby Without**
  - 1 Circular burnt feature, possibly a hearth, c. 40cm diameter, 12cm deep, formed from a shallow depression cut into the natural limestone. The feature contained a quantity of charcoal but no other associated finds. Burning had affected the area immediately around.
  - 2 Pipeline trench cut through a well-metalled road running approx. east-west towards Heath Farm. Since this road cuts a known RB site and is close to large area of RB activity, it had been suggested as RB in origin.
    - Ruts in the centre of the road were 7 feet 6 ins. (2.28m) apart. A local farmworker commented that the road had been in constant use until quite recently. Two post-medieval sherds were found between the metallage and old ground level.

**Boston**

February 1981. The top of a brick culvert over the Barditch was exposed in the small yard at the rear of the Carpenters Arms, Union Street, Boston. The culvert was approx. semi-circular (different curve on either side) and only one brick thick on upper part but double this where the vertical sides appeared. Pottery and glass from over and around top of culvert was entirely 18th-century in date, including apothecaries’ bottles, Daffy’s Elixir, Willow pattern, tin-glazed and brown glazed wares. Some timbers were seen at lower levels, but the work concerned was not taken down much beyond the vault of the culvert.

**Great Hale**

March 1981. In response to a call from the CCM the site of a new bungalow was visited, which was the findspot of human remains. Over a weekend remains of about five individuals all aligned east-west were recovered from builders’ trenches and by additional rapid excavation. It was evident that these were part of quite an extensive cemetery; the bodies were only 20-25cm below the surface, resting on natural sand and gravel. The ground had formerly been cultivated and some skulls had been badly damaged or even removed altogether, although against the west side of the site there was a greater depth of humus and no bodies were observed within a depth of 60cm. No finds were made apart from a badly corroded iron buckle, undatable. All the teeth were extremely worn, suggesting a gritty diet which one would not expect to be consistent with recent burials; the skulls appeared remarkably thick in comparison with those from AS burials seen at Ruskington and Roman ones at Ancaster. The site lies to the east of the present churchyard and 6m north of the Methodist Chapel which did not have a burial ground. To suppose that these are outliers from the churchyard is not very satisfactory, since it would suggest an enormous area originally in use, therefore for the present the significance of these inhumations remains a mystery.

**Seaford Castle**

June 1981. A watching brief was carried out during erection of a children’s slide on the west side of the castle site. The slide is just inside the probable west outer wall of the fortified area. Two holes exposed stone rubble but no further finds.

**Boston**

September 1981. An extension to Hillards’ premises to the north of the main store to provide increased storage as well as a car park and some landscaping was watched. The foundation trench work was not seen, but was not extensive. The remainder of the site, c.600 square m, close to the bank of the Witham, was excavated to c.100cm revealing post-medieval and modern drains. Brick rubble and cobbles were seen but no pottery. A layer of very dark silt some 30cm thick appeared over most of the area at a depth of c.20cm from the surface, but no other features were seen.

**SHORT NOTES**

**WEST ASHBY, HENGE MONUMENT**

F. N. Field

Nothing is known about the henge monuments in Lincolnshire but recent aerial photographic survey has located cropmarks which may represent ploughed out examples. One of the first to be recognised lies at the south-west corner of the wolds in West Ashby parish. It was scheduled in 1975 (no. 265A, Lincs.), but has not been noted in recent literature on henges. The
purpose of this short note is to draw attention to its existence.

A henge may normally be defined as a circular area enclosed by a bank with an external ditch, broken by one or more entrances. The two main categories are Class I with a single entrance and Class II with two or more. Class II henges tend to be sited close to water and are more oval than circular in plan. The West Ashby henge falls into the latter category and lies some 150m east of the River Bain on the edge of the flood plain on glacial sands and gravels, at a height of 40m OD. The oval cropmark encloses an area about 25m in diameter and has a distinct, broad, entrance facing north-west. A smaller, less distinct entrance lies opposite; the cropmark is obscured here because a plough furrow crosses at a critical point. Further less prominent breaks in the ditch near the south-east entrance suggest a segmented ditch construction. The photographs show no sign of a bank but the ditch is encircled by a series of pits, at least 24 in number; some of these are obscured by geological markings, but they appear to be evenly spaced and do not respect the entrances. The pits may have accommodated wooden posts or, perhaps, upright stones but there are no visible remains on the ground as the monument is ploughed out. However, fieldwalking has produced some flintwork in the vicinity of the henge which has been examined by Peter Chowne who offers the following remarks. 41 pieces of local glacial gravel flint include 32 flakes, 4 cores, 2 horse-shoe scrapers, 1 side ended scraper and 2 notched flakes. This collection would not be out of place within a Neolithic industry of the type associated with henge monuments in other parts of the country.

There are less than a hundred known henges across the country and their distribution leaves many blank areas on the map. So it is useful to record that Lincolnshire is not really devoid of such monuments. In a county with a high proportion of arable land it is unlikely that new, upstanding, monuments will be discovered but there is a hope that new henges will be identified (together with other ploughed out features in the landscape) if aerial coverage of the county can be continued.

1 Cambridge University Collection, photo numbers BCG 82-4 and BIN 014.

RECENT RESULTS FROM AERIAL RECONNAISSANCE

P. L. Everson

The cropmark feature at West Ashby discussed above by Naomi Field is the one unequivocal identification of a henge in northern Lincolnshire to date. At the same time, both excavations and aerial photography in various parts of Britain have revealed sites that in plan or details may fall outside the classic categories of class I and class II henges, yet may be related in date or function (i.e. ritual or ceremonial) to henges proper. Some have been accommodated under the category or term 'hengi-form' sites: but inevitably any identifications beyond clear examples of classes I and II must be tentative and liable to be shown either right or wrong only through excavation. A number of interesting features have come to light in recent aerial reconnaissance in northern Lincolnshire that may, with further study, prove to fall within the same context. Notice of them in print may provoke local fieldwork or lead to valid analogies being advanced with better-documented examples elsewhere in the country.

Two or three possible examples have already been referred to more or less tentatively in recent publication or are currently subject to study. They are a hengiform cropmark at Beltoft in the Isle of Axholme, and two cases of a square cropmark closely enclosing a large circle at Roughton and Willoughby-with-Sloothby, for which a possible analogy of plan-form with excavated late Neolithic monuments at Dorchester-on-Thames (Oxon.) has been pointed out.

Two further sites now seem worth illustrating for the first time: both lie on the chalk wolds and were observed as sollmarks in winter aerial reconnaissance, and whatever their date and function they illustrate well the high potential for new discoveries of burial pre-medieval sites by this means. The first is at Calceby, sited just below 200 feet (61m) OD and overlooking the valley of the CaIceby Beck just where the Bluestone Heath Road crosses it. It appears as a
very broad-ditched circle of perhaps 50m overall diameter with a single wide gap to the east and proportionally small area enclosed by the ditch (Plate III). An impression of a levelled external bank may result only from the deposition of deeper downwashed soils against modern field hedges to west and south.

A group of ring-ditches lies nearby to the south. To judge from such sites as Maiden’s Grave at Burton Fleming in the east Yorkshire wolds, henges may be expected in the Lincolnshire chalk uplands, and in size and form Calceby finds analogies among the larger class I henges, though the proximity of the earthworks of Calceby medieval village may raise the apprehension that the soilmark represents a (rather large) medieval or later post-mill. The second site is at Gayton-le-Wold, and occupies a prominent spur at 300 feet (91m) OD overlooking one of the feeder streams of the river Bain not far from its source. The aerial photograph shows (Plate IV) a narrow ditch apparently forming a subcircular or oval enclosure about 140m across, within which lies fairly centrally a large ring ditch of some 20m diameter: a smaller ring ditch and perhaps further features lie within the enclosing ditch and other generally rectangular marks stretch back eastwards along the spine of high land. The enclosure could possibly mark out an occupation site, though it is perhaps surprising if for that purpose the opportunity was not taken to cut off the spur with a straight ditch from one steep valley to the next. The analogy that comes to mind is with the enclosure that has recently been identified surrounding the great Neolithic burial mound at Duggleby Howe in the Yorkshire Wolds, though that is both considerably larger and causewayed.

Of course, neither of these sites may prove to belong to the suggested early prehistoric context. The difficulty without associated fieldwork and excavation of making clear-cut identifications from air photographic evidence, especially at the smaller end of the range,
may perhaps be illustrated by an example from the parish of Owby on the limestone ridge north of Lincoln. Here a cropmark of a ring ditch of about 20m or less diameter has apparently rather broad ditches broken by two gaps to east and west that do not precisely face one another. On this evidence it could as well be, for example, a normal round barrow ditch with causeways, as have not uncommonly been found in excavation; it might even possibly be a more recent feature such as a post-mill. The closes immediately to the north until recently contained Normanby windmill, which was preceded by a wooden post-mill shown on the enclosure award map of 1790.

2. *LHA* 13, 1978, pp.82-3, and B. Beeby’s studies in connexion with his excavations at Butterbump.

### A ROMAN BRONZE BOWL FROM NEWTON AND HACEBY

**T.M. Ambrose**

In August 1980, a bronze bowl in a very battered condition was brought into the CCM for identification and recording purposes. It had been found on ploughed land at Newton, in the parish of Newton and Haceby, near Grantham. The bowl, which has much of its rim twisted and broken away presumably by the plough, has an overall diameter of c.160mm, and an overall depth of c.40mm. It has been cast and then completed by lathe-turning, and its base which is 83mm in diameter has a number of deeply cut concentric grooves, a common feature of bronze bowls and samian jugs of the first and second centuries AD. Bronze vessels of 1st/2nd century type are not uncommon finds in Lincolnshire. Examples discovered to date include the stamped bronze skilet from the River Witham near Tattershall Ferry in 1768, and the stamped skilet found in the Witham reputedly at Aubourn but perhaps at Fiskerton in 1900. A further vessel of this type is known from Lincoln, 

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**Fig. 3** Roman bronze bowl from Haceby. *M. Clark.*

### A ROMAN SILVER RING FROM FENTON, NEAR TORKSEY

**T.M. Ambrose**

In late 1980 a Roman silver finger-ring was brought into the CCM for purposes of identification. The ring had been discovered near to the known RB settlement site of Little London, near Torksey on farmland in the parish of Fenton on the south side of the Foss Dike at its junction with the River Trent. The ring is of third-century type with triangular shoulders and a hexagonal bezel set with an oval cornelian. The gemstone is engraved with a male charioteer in the guise of a cupid driving a *biga* (two-horse chariot) to the right, although the chariot itself is hardly depicted. As a theme this is uncommon on gems. A number of gems depicting two- 

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**Plate VI** Fenton. Roman silver ring. *G. Young.*
bare leg and the proportions of the body would seem to be male, and the representation is more likely to be of a cupid than of Sol, who drives a quadriga. The gem is executed in the third-century manner characterised by Maassakt-Kleibrink as the ‘Incoherent Grooves Style’ and is cut in a rather haphazard way. It represents another addition to the corpus of Roman silver rings found in Lincolnshire.

1 I would like to thank Lt. L. T. Cevasikus for bringing this find to my attention, and Dr Martin Henig for his help and advice on a number of points.

2 Information on the NGR and findspot is held on Lincolnshire Museum Sites and Monuments Index.

3 Henig Type VIII, the characteristic ring type of the third century. British ringstick size: O/1. Total weight: 13.67 gm.


ROMAN SCULPTURE FROM NEWLAND, LINCOLN
A.J. White

Among the small number of Roman sculptures found in Lincoln is a part of a monument said to have been found in Newland. It is a four-sided base, badly weathered, and on three of the sides sculptured figures remain; one male and two females.

It has been variously described in the past; Richmond identified the male figure as "a sort of genius, perhaps Bonus Eventus", and this idea is followed by Toynbee and Green. German scholars, however, see the whole as an element in a Jupiter Column. Whatever the interpretation of the sculpture, its findspot is now clarified by a letter from George Betham, a Lincoln architect, to Sir Edward Bromhead of Thurby Hall, dated 1845. This letter is given here in full:

Honoured Sir

Knowing your attachment to the history of the Arts and Sciences in all ages of our country, and also to the antiquities of our own locality, I feel the more pleasure in obliging Miss Tillyhope by forwarding to you some account of the so called "Roman Altar" which was presented to the cathedral dignitaries, some two months ago, as worthy of a place in their Cloister Museum by Hon. Wm. Hutton and Thos. Hutton Esquires.

It was purchased by the late H. Hutton Esq. of Lincoln from some excavators employed on the site of the ancient City west wall, that wall which was continued from the south west corner of Roman Lindum to "Lucy Tower" so styled, on the north side of Brayford.

The Altar with many other of similar relics had evidently been used for the derogatory purpose of filling in the "subtle masonry" of the Conqueror's City wall. The block of stone is 2 ft. 6 in. x 1 ft. 5 in. and is "aslar". The device is very rude—and I think it may be Saxon, tho' it is the fashion to say "Roman". It is a semicircular arch on pilasters 1/8 of an inch raised from a surface on which appear a quantity of similarly raised Cornucopia or some similar ornament which surrounds the arches. I send you a pen and ink sketch of the front and principal figure which appears to me to be that of a naked

Briton or some such savage—short curly hair on his head is very visible—he has a club resembling that of Hercules, in his left hand standing over his left shoulder—the figures on the other side compartment appear to be females that on the left—the most discernible—is clothed in wavy garments from the waist downwards—the upper part in a state of nudity.

This is as far as my information extends, and it gives me much gratification to subscribe myself

Your devoted humble servant

George Betham

Lincoln 12th July 1845

Sir E F Bromhead Bart
Thurby Hall

Attached to the letter is a crude sketch beneath which is written:

FRONT ELEVATION OF A ROMAN ALTAR

Found in Besom Park, Lincoln in 1813 by workmen digging foundations on the site of the old city wall of William the Conqueror.

While the terms of the letter are somewhat ambiguous, it seems clear from this postscript that the sculpture came from the length of the city wall in the area latterly known as "The Park" and it is very probable that it represents a further item re-used in the strengthening of the late Roman walls or more particularly the gates, in this case the Lowest Gate.

Until 1906 the sculpture stood in the Cathedral Cloisters along with other Roman monumental carvings. In that year it was transferred to the CCM.


2 J. M. C. Toynbee, Art in Britain under the Romans, 1964, p.163n.

3 M. J. Green, The Religions of Civilian Roman Britain, British Archaeological Reports 24, 1976, p.168.

4 E.g. P. Noetke (Romisch - Germanisches Museum, Cologne) in litt.

5 Richmond’s siting "found in Newland near the Stonebow" (a curious provenance) is derived from the Lincoln, Rutland, and Stamford Mercury 32/12/1841 p.4, col. 5.

6 LAO F.L. Misc. 1/1/14.


8 Acc. no. 10906. 06.

RIBY, ANGLO-SAXON BURIALS
A.J. White

In 1915 soldiers of the 4th Battalion The Manchester Regiment were encamped at Ribi Park (now marked on the OS as Ribi Grove). During trenching exercises they encountered a number of skeletons and an urn (Fig. 4). This latter was sent to the CCM in Lincoln where it was identified by the then Curator, Arthur Smith, as a prehistoric beaker. Given the unusual character of the vessel this mistake is quite understandable.

About one year later, in February 1916, further skeletons were discovered 'higher up the slope' and with one of them was a group of grave-goods. All the burials were in flint gravel about 1 ft 6 ins. (0.46m) to 2 ft (0.6m) below the surface, and according to E.T. Leeds were arranged in regular rows. No precise location is recorded for the finds, presumably for security reasons.
The skeleton with grave goods was identified by the Medical Officer of the Battalion as male, on the evidence of its pelvis. The character of the grave goods, however, would seem to indicate a female burial: the bones do not survive so no modern assessment can be made. The urn was clearly not associated with this skeleton and so cannot be used to date the other finds.

The finds consist of an iron knife, a small bronze annular brooch, and eleven beads. A letter from the C.O. of the camp describes the beads as being found...
near the cervical vertebrae, while the knife lay among the rib-bones. There is no indication of how the brooch lay, though its pattern of wear suggests that a bead-string was supported by it. It is possible that there were other grave-goods (e.g. more beads, or another brooch) which were not noticed.

The finds
1 The urn is tall and bottle-shaped, with a pronounced neck and slightly flaring mouth. The bottom does not survive, but has been restored. Around the neck and shoulders is a pattern of chevrons scored into the clay, the same area bearing a pattern of random stamping with an open cross-in-circle motif (Briscoe's category A 4a i). Its decoration is similar to that on a small accessory vessel from Ruskington in the Hossack Collection (in the CCM) and may be dated to the end of the 6th or beginning of the 7th century.
2 Brooch. Bronze, annular, of circular section with four, perhaps originally five, bands of rough ribbing around its circumference and a bronze pin with a ribbed loop. Diameter 24mm.
3 Knife. Iron, lacking its tip. Max. length 120mm.
4 Bead. Amethyst, drop-shaped, perforated longitudinally. Length 31mm.
5 Bead. Cylindrical, of chalk. Diameter 20mm, length 11mm.
6, 7, 8, 9 Beads. Translucent green glass. Diameter 13, 11, 9, 9mm.
10, 11 Beads. Green glass. Diameters 8mm.
12 Bead. Off-white glass. Diameter 7mm.
13 Bead. Translucent green glass with zig-zag trailed ornament in white glass around circumference. Diameter 12mm.
14 Bead. Blue glass marble with red and with trailed ornament in white glass around circumference. Diameter 14mm.

Discussion
The date of the urn has already been discussed. There are dangers of a circular argument concerning the other finds since they have been treated in the past as one group with the urn — this in turn forms one element in dating similar grave-goods. However, there are several closely similar grave-groups from Uncleby and Garton Slack, Yorks., where the amethyst bead and the small bronze annular brooch emerge as the main dating elements. At Garton Slack amethyst beads were associated in grave 7 (a young female) with a thread-box and a gold pendant. Both these are characteristically late items. At Uncleby a number of small bronze annular brooches occur, as do amethysts (graves 37, 38). Amethysts also occur in the Melbourn, Cambs., cemetery, one of a group of late cemeteries in Cambridgeshire, while a greater number are to be found in Kent, e.g., a necklace of 18 amethysts from Breach Down, Barham, and two amethysts in a coin pendant necklace with a jewelled brooch from Sarre.

Amethysts clearly indicate a late date, in the 7th century AD and possibly as late as the second quarter of the century. They were heirlooms, indicating wealth, with an origin in Egypt and probably arriving in Britain via Frankish sources in the Rhinelan.

The chalk bead is something of a rarity, perhaps of local origin, and it is useful to find it associated with more readily datable items.

1 Accession no. 296.15.
2 Details of the discovery are given in three letters from the C.O.

at Riba Camp to Arthur Smith, curator of the Museum; the evidence of the skeletons lying in rows comes from E. T. Leeds, Early Anglo-Saxon Art and Archaeology, 1936, p.100, from verbal information from Smith.

3 Accession no. 383.16.
8 J. R. Mortimer, Forty Years Researches in British and Saxon Burial Mounds of East Yorkshire, 1905, pp.248-50; PL LXXXIV figs. 639, 643; PL LXXXV fig. 638.
10 R. Jessup, Anglo-Saxon Jewellery, 1950, p.52, colour plate C.
11 Ibid., PL XXVII.

LINCOLN, ST BENEDICT'S CHURCH TOWER
D. A. Stocker

The present west tower of St Benedict's church is thought to have been built during a restoration of the whole church of c.1670, carried out after the building was damaged in the Civil War. During this restoration process, the nave was demolished and the present tower was built on the site of its junction with the chancel and north-east chapel. Both Taylor and Taylor and Pevsner suggest that the new tower fabric contains reused belfry openings from the pre-Civil War tower.

A rapid survey carried out by Lincoln Archaeological Trust in the autumn of 1981 makes it clear, however, that none of the components of these belfry openings was originally intended as such, nor are they of Saxon date, as has been suggested by some writers. The 'octagonal mid-wall shafts' on the north, west and south face prove, on close inspection, to be lengths of moulded mullion with their mouldings facing into the bell-chamber (Fig. 6). The shaft in the east opening is also a window mullion of simple double chamfered form (Fig. 6). The form of the moulded mullions suggests that they are from 14th-century windows of several lights; probably from the same sites as the sections of ogival tracery now in the roodery to the west of the tower. The mullions are also, evidently, re-used pieces. Each is composed of two stones (a comparatively rare feature in Saxon examples) which are of (in the cases of the south and east elements at least) cut down sections, possibly from a chamfered plinth course.

It is possible that both the stones now re-used as mullions and the stonework sections which support them came originally from the demolished nave, and this must also be the probable origin of other re-used fragments visible in the fabric of the tower.

The fact, however, that the tower apparently contains no 'Saxon' architectural elements, makes it more, rather than less, intriguing. It is now clear that the builders of c.1670 were adapting materials close at hand to build a tower whose design is unmistakably of 'Saxon' inspiration. Why was this? One suggestion is that they were copying the west tower of the church of St Margaret Pottergate (demolished c.1780). Although
possible, this is perhaps unlikely, since it is debatable whether the St Margaret tower had ‘Saxon’ or ‘Norman’ type belfry openings, and furthermore, whilst an illustration by Griffiths’ does show it as having squat proportions—as at St Benedict’s—a more accurate-looking drawing in the Wilson collection shows it standing much taller and more slender. An alternative, and more mundane explanation for the final form of the St Benedict’s tower, is that the design employed c.1670 involved little expense; the sections used for the belfry openings already existed and only needed roughly trimming to size, and furthermore, minimal centring would have been needed to turn the rough arches over the belfry lights into the design which was finally adopted.

2 Ibid., p.135.
5 Taylor and Taylor, op. cit., p.390.
6 Hill, op. cit., p.135.
7 A Painting in the Usher Art Gallery, Lincoln (reproduced as Plate 11 in Hill, op. cit.).
8 Drawing in the Wilson Collection, Society of Antiquaries of London, Ms. 786, f.H.

A MEDIEVAL GOLD RING FROM HORNCastle, LINCOLNSHIRE

J. Cherry

This gold ring was found in an unassociated context just to the south of Horncastle, late in 1980. The ring

(weight 2.405g) has a hoop of rectangular section. The height of the ring is 4mm and the diameter some 18mm. The exterior (Fig. 7) is engraved with a black letter inscription 'honor et joie' divided by sprays of flowers and leaves.

The legend 'honour and joy' in a variety of spellings is known on at least five other late medieval rings, at least three of which are gold. These are listed beneath. Three of the rings have religious associations. One was found in the tomb of Archbishop Bowet of York who died in 1423. Two are of the type known as iconographic rings since the figures of the Virgin and saints are engraved on the bezel. On one such ring the inscription is associated with the Virgin, St Christopher and St Margaret and in the other the Virgin, St Christopher and St Barbara. The other two have, like the present example, only the inscription.

Various shades of meanings can be applied to the words honour and joy. However, when the ring has religious symbolism the most likely interpretations are of honour either as reverence or purity as a virtue and of joy as a state of happiness especially the perfect bliss of heaven.

The black letter inscription and the formal decoration indicate a date for the ring found at Horncastle at the end of the 14th or in the 15th century.

A list of rings with 'honour and joy' inscriptions


2 Gold iconographic ring with shoulders channelled and engraved with flowers; the bezel consists of three panels engraved with the Virgin, St Christopher and St Margaret. Inside the hoop 'honor et ioye' is engraved. Found at Norwich, Archaeological Journal XVII, 1860, p.182; O.M. Dalton, Catalogue of Rings, 1912, no. 757.

3 Iconographic ring with Virgin and child, St Christopher and St Barbara and legend 'honor et ioye' found in a Surrey garden in August 1934. Present location unknown.
