Archaeology in Lincolnshire and South Humberside, 1982

Compiled by A. J. White and M. C. Solly

While the state of archaeological affairs within the area reported last year is still broadly true the national arrangements for archaeology are in a state of flux.

The Department of the Environment, the principal source of funds for field archaeology, is shortly to spawn a semi-independent Commission, composed of former members of the Inspectorate of Ancient Monuments and some new faces, gaining in the process, it is hoped, greater flair and excellence in the promotion of ancient monuments. Naturally enough field archaeologists are dubious about the priority that will be allotted to their work in a new organisation based on maximising income.

As a result of the move in most Units to writing up of past work, interest has focused on both methods and standards of publication and on the selection and retention of finds. In the former case a working party has made a number of recommendations which could sound the death-knell of traditional archaeological reports, placing much of the detailed evidence for published conclusions either in microfiche or in an archive, to be studied only by those who wish to pursue research further. In the other case some preliminary ideas are being aired to consider what shall become of the millions of artefacts, animal and vegetable remains, samples and specimens unearthed each year, and whether any can safely be disposed of following recording, without provoking the wrath of posterity. So far no dramatic conclusions have been reached.

‘Archaeology in Lincolnshire and South Humberside’ is divided into three parts: a résumé 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

**LAA** : 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**

A Palaeolithic flint handaxe of Acheulian type was discovered during the construction of a new by-pass at Heckington, while Mesolithic stone mace-heads were found at Ponton and Sempringham and Colsterworth. Neolithic axes of polished stone and flint were reported from Fillingham (flint); Stowwood (flint); Gosby (flint); Washington (stone); Ponton and Sempringham (five stone axes). A polished flint axe of Neolithic date provided extra interest with its prominent fossil inclusion, from Sudbrooke, while a flint scraper of the same date came from Kettlethorpe. A barbed-and-tanged arrowhead of Bronze age date was discovered in Grantham. Iron age finds were limited to four coins. Two came from Fenton (1 Coritanian; 1 Gallo-Belgic) and the others from Kettlethorpe (both Coritanian).

Roman metalwork was reported from the following sites: Grantham (Saltersford) (brooch); Coleby (brooch); Harrowby-Without (key); Grantham (Saltersford) (brooch, strap-buckle); Easton (buckle); Kettlethorpe (figure) and Sudbrooke (hand from statuette).

RB sites were suggested by finds made at the following locations: Owersby (pottery); Sudbrooke (pottery) and Little Ponton and Stretton (coins, slates, tiles, quern, iron slag and pottery). Two cremation burials were found at Horncastle (see below). Traces of filled ditches were also noted at Colsterworth. At Claxby by Alford an almost complete saddle quern was discovered while ploughing a field. Sæltarns of Roman date were found at the base of recut ditches near Hogsthorpe (a sherd of Roman pottery provides the dating evidence). Two Roman coin hoards were unearthed at Tattershall Thorpe and Ponton and Sempringham.

A silver AS sceatta was found at Burgh-le-Marsh, from the same area as another reported in 1980. A piece of an AS wrist-clasp with ring and dot decoration came from Skellingthorpe.

Medieval finds came from Fenton (heraldic horse pendant—see below); Rushington (pottery); West Firby (bronze and iron fragments including an ornamental belt fitting); Bourne (jeton) and a gold coin of Edward III from Sutton-on-Sea.

Post-medieval finds were reported from Heighington (pottery); Dunston and Mere, Bourne and Scotwick (17th-century tokens).

Roman and Bronze age material was found together at Kettlethorpe (brooch and scraper).

Information from the following, indicated in the text by superscript numbers, is gratefully acknowledged: i. SLAU (Seaford); ii. Flight Lieutenant Trevaskus; iii. Mr J. Dable; vii. Mr A. White; v. Mrs B. Kirkham; and vi. Fenland Survey.

**EXCAVATIONS AND FIELDWORK**

'THE CASTLES', BARROW-ON-HUMBER

C. Atkins

The castle earthworks were surveyed and the surrounding
fields were walked as part of a programme of fieldwork carried out by members of the Humberside Archaeological Unit, with the financial support of the Manpower Services Commission. These earthworks had previously been recorded by the Ordnance Survey, but it was clear that a large number of small features had been omitted. Also, whilst several small excavations had been made into the surviving earthworks, most recently by W. Varley in 1964, there had been little recorded investigation of the castle’s immediate, and unprotected, environment. It was therefore decided that some attempt should be made to fill in these obvious gaps while the opportunity existed.

The earthworks themselves are impressive; the main enclosure banks, in places, still rising 2m. above the bottom of their associated ditches. As they stand today, these earthworks appear to be the result of at least three, and probably four, phases of construction, the least certain of which is, predictably, the earliest. This probably consisted of a simple ringwork, which was later partially rebuilt to form the first bailey (Fig. 1, B). The junction between the eastern and southern banks of this bailey is rather irregular, and it seems likely that the southern part of the ringwork was cut away during the construction of the motte and its ditch (Fig. 1, X-Y).

Fig. 1 Plan of the earthworks, Barrow Castles (C. Atkins)
Somewhat similar developments have been observed at Goltho, also in Lincolnshire, where two phases of manorial defences partially survived the construction of a post-Conquest castle. The second phase of construction involved the throwing up of the motte and the supposed alterations to the ringwork, to create the motte and bailey castle (Fig. 1, A and B). Access from the bailey to the motte was probably gained by means of a bridge, supported on bank C, although it must be said that such a bridge could belong to any or all of the last three phases in the life of the castle.

After the completion of the first bailey, a second was added, to the south-east of the motte (Fig. 1, D). It is doubtful whether this secondary bailey remained in use for long, since even today, with the Beck confined in a deep channel, the southern half of it is extremely marshy. That this may also have been the case at the time of its use is suggested by the subsequent construction of a third bailey to the north. This later enclosure, outlined by ditch G, excludes the major part of bailey D, including only the small northern, drier end of the earlier enclosure. Unfortunately, the full extent of ditch G and its bank cannot be seen on the ground, that portion which ran north of Hann Lane having been ploughed almost totally flat, but it was possible to plot the greater part of the bank from aerial photographs. There was an entrance to this bailey on its eastern side (Fig. 1, H), the approach to which is flanked by three small banked enclosures (Fig. 1, J, K and L). Here the ground slopes gradually upwards towards the east; which, combined with the insubstantial nature of the earthworks, makes it unlikely that these features were fishponds; it is far more likely that they were stock pens. The system of enclosure ditches surrounding the motte and all three baileys was probably kept full of water by each high tide, the two channels to the west of the motte (Fig. 1, M and N) being ideally situated for this purpose. Levels taken at the time of the survey show that at their eastern ends the channel floors were up to 70 cm. higher than the bottom of the motte ditch, so allowing water in when the tide was high, but not allowing the castle ditches to empty completely when the tide was low.

There appear to be no 11th- or early 12th-century documents which mention a castle at Barrow, but is possible to trace some of the holders of the manor of Barrow-on-Humber during this period. The first well-documented Norman holder of this manor was Drogo de la Bouvrière, who had arrived in England as a soldier with William the Conqueror. He was then granted virtually all of the Holderness estates and twenty-four estates in Lincolnshire, when they became available in 1071. Of the lands in Lincolnshire, Barrow-on-Humber, Castle Bytham and Carlton-le-Moorland (in the far north, south and west of the county) were by far the most valuable, to judge from the Domesday assessments. Apparently all three of these manors together with smaller estates had previously belonged to Morcar, the Earl of Northumbria, until his revolt against William and consequent forfeiture in 1071, as had Drogo’s principal estates in Holderness. It therefore seems likely that Barrow was already an estate centre, quite possibly with a ringwork, before Drogo was granted Morcar’s lands.

Interestingly, in 1087, William re-granted first Holderness, and then the Lincolnshire estates, to Odo of Champagne. Drogo having fled from England because he had accidentally killed his wife, a relative of William’s. Count Odo’s estates were eventually inherited in 1102 by his son Stephen, who then became the first of a long line of Counts of Aumale to hold these Lincolnshire estates. A ‘charter of confirmation’, dated 3 July 1189, lists Castellum de Barrow amongst the possessions of Thornton Abbey, an Augustinian house founded in 1139 by William le Gros, Count of Eu.

Our only dating evidence for the castle came from the ploughed fields to the north of the protected earthworks. At the time that they were worked, the condition of these fields (Fig. 1, TA5680 and TA6776) was far from ideal, there being up to 50% vegetation cover. They have also, as yet, only been worked once, therefore it would be unwise to put too much emphasis on the distribution of pottery types. Having said that, the pottery types found were quite interesting, since they fell into two very distinct groups. The first group contained splat-glassed pottery dating to the 11th and early 12th centuries, the distribution of which was totally confined to the area enclosed by ditch G, that is, to the latest bailey. The bulk of the finds belong in the second group, which consists of pottery, brick and tile dating to the period from the late 17th to the 20th century. This seems to suggest that the third bailey at least, went out of use some time during the latter half of the 12th century, and that the earthworks were then left under grass for use as pasture throughout the medieval period.

Varley’s excavations apparently produced pottery from as late as the 14th century, therefore the site continued in use, at least in part, until that time, although it is possible that the later pottery was deposited by people using the site as a source of timber and stone. Although Varley’s excavation plans show the presence of stone bunds on the site, there is now no earthwork evidence to suggest that stone was used in the construction of the castle buildings. During the construction of an air-raid shelter in an outer bank in 1939, the base of a timber palisade was uncovered, and it is possible that the castle was built largely in timber.

The castle occupies the top of a small ridge of boulder clay, which present field boundaries and geology suggest was once surrounded by marsh, rather than the arable land seen today. The probable use of the land to the north of the castle as pasture also suggests that it was not suitable for cultivation. Built on the west end of this ridge, surrounded by marsh and water on three sides, the castle was ideally situated for controlling the Haven. That this was probably its sole purpose, at least during the Norman period, is suggested by the relatively insubstantial nature of the banks and ditches in the eastern part of the site. In fact the Norman Counts owned the ferry between Paull and Barrow Haven, which connected their estates in Holderness and Lincolnshire, and it may well be that the motte and bailey castle was specifically built to protect the southern landfill of this ferry.

This ridge of boulder clay, as a whole, requires further study; not only to increase our knowledge of the castle’s environment, but also to investigate the earlier use of the area, which is indicated by the remains of tumuli near the castle, and by large quantities of Romano-British, and some Saxon, pottery, found during the walking of fields to the east of the earthworks.

Notes
6 English, op. cit., p. 156.
A ROMANO-BRITISH AISLED BUILDING AT DEEPDALE, BARRISON-HUMBER

J. B. Whitwell

Surface finds of Roman pottery, building stone and tile had been noted sometime before the discovery in 1979 by the late Mr Charlie Lawe, a farmer, of a late 4th century coin-hoard of silver *siliqua* deposited c. A.D. 395. The hoard was found some distance to the east of the previous finds in the same field. With the full cooperation and encouragement of the farmer the site of the surface finds of building debris was first trial-trenched, then when the walls of a building were found, this was fully excavated by the Humberside Archaeological Unit. It proved to be an aisled building whose west end had been destroyed by ploughing. It overlies the north-east corner of a rectangular building and itself had been occupied during the 3rd and 4th centuries as a work building, as indicated by the traces of a number of hearths and ovens. The building still appears to have been used in the second half of the 4th century albeit in a semi-derelict condition. The extensive surface scatter to the north and east of the excavated building suggests that it forms part of a farm complex (Fig. 2). Other interesting casual finds of late date found in the field include a zoomorphic belt-buckle and crossbow brooch, both of bronze (Fig. 3). The site is one of four in the valley of Deepdale, the others being known only from surface finds (Fig. 4). An interim report on the excavation has been published.

Notes


Fig. 2 Site of Roman building, Deepdale, Barrow-on-Humber

Fig. 3 Crossbow brooch and zoomorphic belt-buckle from Deepdale. Barrow-on-Humber. Scale: 1/2
Fig. 4 Roman sites in Deepdale, Barrow-on-Humber
AN ANGLIAN CEMETERY AT CASTLEDYKE SOUTH, BARTON

J. B. Whitwell

Burials of 6th to 7th century were first recorded here in 1940 after the construction of air-raid shelters on the west side of Castledyke South. The inhumations and their positions were not drawn, so we have no precise information on their location; however, some of the more important accompanying grave goods such as the scales and weights have since been commented on, and recently, Jeffrey Watkin has drawn attention in this journal to the handle and trivet base of a Frankish hanging bowl previously unrecognised amongst these finds. Perhaps five burials were disturbed at this time, and subsequent trial trenching by C. K. Knowles encountered the legs of a further burial also previously truncated by the foundations of the air-raid shelters. Excavations ahead of development have established that the discoveries of 1940 form part of an Anglian cemetery extending on both sides of Castledyke South; to date thirty-one burials have been excavated. Graves 1 and 2 (Fig. 5) were, like the burials found earlier, cut by the air-raid shelter foundations, but the surviving lower half of the skeleton in grave 1 was accompanied at the pelvis by a Frankish handled jug of sandy orange fabric with a knife-trimmed base.

Most of the other burials so far have been accompanied by the usual range of grave goods, such as spearheads, knives, beads and annular brooches, though one other, grave 11, had a piece of beaded gold wire and a triangular garnet stone (missing its original setting) as well as the more usual iron knife, shears, bunch of keys, etc. Grave 29 contained the only skeleton so far to be accompanied by a cruciform brooch, and overall the date range of the burials may extend from the later 5th to the 7th century, with the later burials laid out in the more regular order of a row-cemetery as seen in the row containing graves 8, 9, 11 and 15.

Grave 3, containing a child burial accompanied by a bronze penannular brooch, was cut on its eastern side by a ditch which was also found further north, where its lip clipped the east end of grave 8. The ditch was again found just north of grave 13 and, judging from the steepness of its slope, the pavement and at least part of the road surface of Castledyke lie over its fills. Its date and use have not been established, but although the street naming cannot be traced back beyond the 17th century and the site of the Norman castle, for which there is documentary evidence, is not known, it is conceivable the ditch may be that of a bailey attached to the castle. Excavations continue.

Notes
1 T. Sheppard, Saxon Relics from Barton, Lincs, Hull Museum Publication No. 208, 1940.
2 J. R. Watkin, 'A Frankish bronze bowl from Barton-on-Humber', 

FILLINGHAM
F. N. Field

The chance discovery of human bones, while a rubbish pit was being dug, led to further investigation by the NLAU. The bones came from a charnel pit of unknown date which had been cut into the limestone bedrock. Lying just below the topsoil to the south was a double grave lined with limestone pieces. The graves were hollowed into the bedrock and the earlier grave, which lay to the north, was lined with three neat dry courses of limestone and capped with large slabs. The second grave was added, at a later date, to the south side of the first and the three additional walls were more carelessly constructed. It also had a capping of stones including one which was square dressed. The graves were 2.10 m. long and 0.85 m. and 0.75 m. wide.

In burial 1 the head was propped up on small stones and earth with one stone to either side. Burial 2 also had stone props to either side of the head but no 'pillow'. In both burials one arm was bent at the elbow and lay across the body; the feet of both burials had been disturbed by a Victorian drain. There were no finds associated with the graves although both pagan Saxon and later medieval pottery were found close by. Whilst the present church lies about 250 m. east of the burials they appear to be post-Roman and Christian in character.

These were not the first human remains to be discovered at the west end of the village. In 1953, at Lakeside Cottage which stands just north-west of the burials discussed above, a grave of rough hewn stones around the side and slabs over it was discovered under the wall on the east side of the garden. Other human bones were found beside and under the burial. Further cists had been found in the same garden where a water main was laid in the paddock and when an electricity pole was erected prior to 1953.

Since the excavation of the double grave a further ten graves have been located but left unexcavated. All were stone-lined and orientated east-west. It is clear that there is a large cemetery at the west end of modern Fillingham belonging either to an earlier church of the village which was then moved to its present location or to a second church which has long since been forgotten. Other parishes in the area which had two churches include Waddingham, South Kelsey and Spridlington. Stone-lined graves have been found in the present churchyard at
Hemswell, and at Blyborough, Normanby and Hackthorn.

In the course of excavations the fragmentary remains of a large collared urn dating to the early Bronze Age was found in a hollow in the bedrock. There were no associated finds or cremated bone. Cord-pressed decoration was visible on the rim and collar of the pot but too little remained to be able to reconstruct a profile of the pot.

Notes
1 The Unit is grateful to the landowner, Mr Rose, and the tenants for their permission to carry out the excavations.
2 I should like to thank Mrs E. H. Rudkin for providing information about Fillingham and other examples of stone-lined graves.

GAINSBOROUGH OLD HALL
F. N. Field

Excavation recording of the West Wing of Gainsborough Old Hall took place in advance of extensive repair work and included a detailed survey of the standing structure and selected excavation, mainly inside the building.1

The West Wing, attached to the south side of the Great Hall, is a four-bayed, three-storeyed building which at one time contained twelve individual chambers, each with its own brick fireplace and gardebrobe. However, detailed examination of the surviving timbers has revealed that this was not the original arrangement. The top floor appears always to have consisted of four separate rooms, but the discovery of three early staircases has shown that access to the ground and first floors was far more complex. Modern access to the first floor (there is none to the second) is by a spiral staircase at the north end of the wing. This stair (S1) was inserted into an earlier access for a straight stair or ladder, again leading to the first floor only. Excavation at the south end of the building revealed remains of an external spiral staircase (S2) with a polygonal brick base, similar to that of the stair still to be seen on the south side of the Great Hall. It was an original feature of the West Wing and provided access to the two southern bays of the first floor and the whole of the second floor. Its diameter was identical to that of the stair now at the north end of the wing and may in fact have been moved there. A third stair well (S3), now blocked, provided internal access between the ground and first floor of the second bay.

Further work remains to be done on the later alterations to the corridors and stairs, but the original layout appears to have been as shown in Fig. 7 for suites of rooms and not for twelve individual rooms. There is evidence to suggest that there was always provision for fireplaces but it is not yet clear whether or not the brick fireplaces are original. What is clear, however, is that all or some brick garderobes were added at a later date to the fireplaces and may have replaced windows. Unfortunately, much of the evidence has gone because the timber frame had rotted so badly on the west side. Only in one room is there evidence for a window which pre-dated the garderobe.

Close dating of the Hall and its two wings has always been a problem, so a series of samples has been taken from the larger structural timbers in the West Wing in order to obtain a dendrochronological series and a firmer date for the construction of that building.

Excavation beneath the floor in Bay 2 revealed a brick-lined, stone-capped drain apparently contemporary with the building. Limestone foundations for an earlier building, some 1.5m. wide, were found along the full length of the north and east walls. The wall cut through a mortar floor at the south end of the wing which belonged to an even earlier structure and lay on a different alignment. The Old Hall is clearly just the last in a series of buildings to have been constructed on this site.

Note
1 Work was carried out by the NLAAU on behalf of Lincolnshire Museums and the Department of the Environment. The Unit would like to thank Mr N. Taylor of Fisher, Hollingsworth and Partners for providing architects' drawings of the West Wing and Linfords, the contractors, for their cooperation.

BRONZE WORKING AT THE SALTERSFORD ROMANO-BRITISH SETTLEMENT
J. Dable
An interesting by-product of field research at Salterford
(Grantham/Little Ponton) parishes is the discovery of items which relate to bronze-working processes as practised there during the life of the Roman settlement. Though representative of an unknown length of time and somewhat small in number these finds are none the less important to the overall pattern of evidence from the site.

The first find in this group was an unusual fragment of bronze which I have since identified as being part of a small ingot as used in the bronze moulding process. Subsequent years have yielded two similar examples, one of which has a rosette-type stamp on it. These specimens together with modest quantities of bronze slag, solidified splashes and droplets from molten metal pourings, and a solid piece of bronze from the pouring orifice of a mould are all indisputable evidence of bronze working.

This year's fieldwalking at Saltersford has yielded additional evidence of this nature in the form of two separate finds which may possibly be representative of a whole range of products manufactured there by the Roman bronze workers. The first is a small bronze strap-buckle with a section of its 'spur' or connection flow-line of metal still attached to it. The presence of this flow-line albeit short indicates that the item was moulded by means of the Lost-Wax Process. It is most probably a single unit from a multi-unit casting (wax-tree type casting). The second is a small ornamental frame of elliptical shape in moulded bronze, possibly the main part of a brooch belonging to the later Roman period. It would appear that this particular find is that of a waster spool during the moulding process, as there is an excessive flash build-up and the presence of dross in the metal. There is a strong possibility that some bronze workers manufactured products from sheet metal at the settlement as several waste parings and small strips of sawn bronze have been found at the site. A bronze bowl now preserved at the CCM, Lincoln, may be one such example of this work.

LINCION, EXCAVATIONS AND RESEARCH 1982
M. J. Jones

The Lincoln Archeological Trust has been active in the field throughout the year. In the spring, an area of the ancient waterfront at Brayford Wharf East was examined with, for the first time, proper scientific back-up. Remains of Roman and medieval waterfronts and of fish traps were found, and reports on the molluscs and diatoms will add considerably to the archaeological evidence for the riverside environment. A major project, the investigation of the Norman St Mary's Guildhall building by survey of the standing remains and limited excavations, began in January, in advance of the Lincoln Civic Trust's refurbishment of the structure. The ancient fabric was examined and recorded comprehensively, and some new features discovered. The work showed that the structure was a hall from the Norman period, and that it had a contemporary north wing. There was also an opportunity to look beneath the Guildhall for traces of Roman and early medieval occupation, the results of which were supplemented by trial excavations on Monson Street c. 60 m. to the north. Reports of all this work can be found in Archaeology in Lincoln 1981-82, the tenth annual report of the Lincoln Archaeological Trust. A more considered evaluation of the Roman discoveries at Monson Street and the Guildhall then appeared in that report is presented below by J. Magilton.

Later in the year the Trust began a survey of the Norman West Gate of Lincoln Castle. The preliminary work undertaken in the late summer of 1982 demonstrated the potential for an extensive programme, which, it is hoped, will be carried out during 1983. The last three months of the year were occupied by deep excavations on the south side of Grantham Street. Work here was aimed at filling in some of the gaps left and solving some of the problems raised by the large-scale excavations at Flaxengate of 1972-5. Again as on Grantham Place in 1981, later disturbances meant that no further information was obtained about the plan of the late Roman building whose north-east corner was exposed in 1975-6. Another objective, the search for the main east-west street of the lower Roman city (the forerunner of medieval Grantham Street) had proved fruitless by the end of the year. On the positive side, however, several medieval and later houses were discovered, plus fragmentary remains of their timber predecessors, together with a useful range of pits providing pottery groups for the period c. 950-1050 on which the Flaxengate evidence was so thin. Excavation here, currently concerned with several periods of Roman domestic buildings, will continue into 1983 and a fuller account will appear next year.

In spite of this activity, the Trust's primary preoccupation is preparation of reports on the long backlog of discoveries. Two further major reports on the important medieval evidence from Flaxengate appeared in the course of the year and more are in preparation on this and other sites. Reviews will be published in this Journal in due course.

Note
1 G. Tait & M. J. Jones, 'Lincoln, Grantham Place', LHA, 17, 1982, pp. 73-4.

THE MONSON STREET ROMAN CEMETERY, LINCOLN
J. R. Magilton

The existence of a cemetery in the Monson Street area has been known since the mid-19th century, when tombstones of the Second Aduittix and Ninth Legions, together with inhumation and cremation burials, were recorded. One reason for investigating Roman levels beneath St Mary's Guildhall (below) in 1982 was to determine the extent of this cemetery, but no early burials were found. In Monson Street itself, however, four cremation burials were discovered, two of which had been disturbed by later Roman activity, and an early stone building which may have been contemporary with the burials.

All the cremations lay in the western part of the excavations, near to the projected line of Ermine Street, in shallow pits dug into the natural sand. One of the undisturbed burials was contained within a rustic jar of Flavian date, but the others were apparently without containers. The most northerly had, amongst its grave goods, a bronze mirror, c. 120 mm. in diameter, with a tinned or silvered surface and a back decorated with concentric circles with dot-and-circle decoration near the border. Other grave goods included unguentaria and other glass vessels, some of them heat-distorted. To the north of the burials were two deep narrow slots cut into natural sand which may have held grave markers.
South of the burials was part of a stone building, comprising an east–west wall 6.5 m. long and 0.4 m. wide with the return for walls running southwards at both ends. It had been robbed to foundation level, probably late in the 1st century. Excavation revealed no indication of its function, but this is a very early context for the use of stone and an association with the burials seems likely: it was perhaps a mausoleum.

The period of use of the cemetery is indicated by one of the tombstones (RIB 258) found in the last century, which was probably erected in A.D. 76, and confirmed by the rustic jar and bronze mirror from the 1862 excavations. If, as suggested, the stone building is connected with the cemetery, burials may have ceased by the end of the 1st century. By the early 3rd century, stone-built traders’ houses occupied the site (see below).

The 1982 excavations beneath St Mary’s Guildhall, which located the two principal Roman roads south of Lincoln, have enabled the Monson Street burials to be seen in their topographical context. The cremations excavated in 1982 all lie to the east of the projected line of Ermine Street south of its junction with the Fosse Way. Few of the tombstones previously discovered in this area (RIB 249, 253, 258, 260, 264, 267) can now be accurately provenanced, and need not have been discovered in situ, but burials may not have been restricted to this side of Ermine Street. Others may have flanked the Fosse Way. The tombstone of Gaius Saeferius (RIB 255), discovered about 20 m. south of Monson Street and west of High Street, at its junction with Salthouse Lane, may be one of a group of burials along the Fosse Way.

The absence of cognomina from several legionary tombstones in Lincoln (RIB 254–7) suggests some sort of military presence before A.D. 50, but on the evidence of B. R. Hartley’s examination of the samian ware, the hilltop site was not occupied until the Neronian period. An early military site near South Common, where Ermine Street and the Fosse Way were until recently thought to join, has long been postulated, but it now seems more likely that any such site lies further north, between the Ermine Street/Fosse Way junction and the Witham crossing, which is of obvious strategic importance. The 1972 excavations at Holmes Grainwarehouse confirmed the presence of early Roman military occupation in this area. Such a site would account for the origins of the Monson Street cemetery, which lies only a little to the south of this area but over a kilometre from the legionary fortress.

Notes
1. For an illustration, see Archaeologia in Lincoln 1981–2, Tenth Annual Report of Lincoln Archaeological Trust, 1982, p. 32. Mirrors of this type were going out of fashion, if not out of production, by the Flavian period. I am grateful to Dr G. Lloyd-Morgan for this information.
5. It may be significant that Roman Lincoln derived its name from a Celtic river-name rather than the hill on which the first fortress was founded. This may imply that there was a pre-existing settlement along the banks of the Witham, from which the military base took its name, or that the earliest military occupation lay near to the river.

ROMAN HOUSES IN THE SOUTHERN SUBURBS: St Mary’s Guildhall and Monson Street
J. R. Magilton

Excavations in 1977 beneath St Mark’s Church on the west side of High Street, 450 m. south of the walled city, revealed four roughly rectangular houses, constructed initially of timber in the mid to late 2nd century, rebuilt as half-timbered structures on stone footings early in the 3rd century, and rebuilt in stone in the early–mid 3rd century. Their standard internal layout, with a rear area used as living accommodation, the central area as a workshop and the front area perhaps as a shop, led to their interpretation as the houses of traders or craftsmen.

Further work by the Trust in the southern suburbs, beneath St Mary’s Guildhall and in Monson Street and the east side of the High Street in 1982, has led to the discovery of five further buildings and revealed unexpected information about the Roman road layout in this part of Lincoln, demonstrating that Roman ribbon development had, by the early 3rd century, extended as far as 800 m. south of the walled colonia.

Excavations beneath St Mary’s Guildhall in advance of the Lincoln Civic Trust’s restoration programme have shown that the surviving Norman fabric was constructed directly on top of a heavily rutted road at least 9 m. wide, with a build-up of successive surfaces above natural sand. At the eastern end of the Guildhall complex, beneath the ‘Norman House’, a second road was revealed. This, in its later phases, was about 7 m. wide with a central drain, but earlier surfaces had extended to the east, beyond the area of excavation. The eastern road, probably Ermine Street, ran due north, but the western road (Fosse Way?) was aligned east of north, such that, if the lines are projected, an intersection occurs about 150 m. north of the

Fig. 8 Plan of Roman buildings at Monson Street and St. Mary’s Guildhall, 1982, in relation to suggested lines of Fosse Way and Ermine Street
 Guildhall, a little beyond the junction of modern High Street and King Street.

Between the roads, and roughly at right angles to the eastern road, were two buildings. The southern structure was examined in a trench 1.5m wide within the Victorian south range of the Guildhall complex. It was about 9m wide internally, with stone wall foundations and a succession of clay floor levels and makeup within, up to 0.5m thick. The earliest floors contained early 3rd-century pottery, and the north wall of the building collapsed late in the 4th century or later, sealing fragments of roofing tile and painted plaster. One of the later floor surfaces was cut by a small pit containing a brooch. A fragment of a bronze and part of a clay mould. Surrounding floor deposits were of grey clay flecked with ash and charcoal, pierced by numerous stakeholes. The evidence, although slight, suggests that small-scale bronze-smithing was carried out in the central part of the building in the late 3rd or early 4th century.

A second building lay 3.5m. to the north, separated by a lane with very slight traces of metallurgy. Its internal width was at least 8m., and it was 19m. long, extending from one road to the other. The eastern (front?) end of the building had been paved with rectangular limestone flag which, unlike the earlier, regular, stone floor. Elsewhere, as in the southern building, floors were of earth and clay. Internal divisions were encountered in the western (domestic?) end of the structure, and there was some indication that the building had been aisled. Several ovens and hearths, which may have been either domestic or industrial, were discovered within the floor levels. The period of occupation was the same as for the southern building: early 3rd century to mid to late 4th century.

When work at the Guildhall was ending in June, an opportunity arose to investigate the site of the northern 2–4 Monson Street, 50m. to the north, in advance of redevelopment. The site lies a little to the east of the newly postulated line or Ermine Street, and it was hoped that further evidence of ribbon development would be encountered, as well as the cremation cemetery indicated by 19th-century discoveries. Remains of three buildings were found. The most southerly was represented by pitched foundations at the southern limit of the excavated area. The central building, 7.5m. wide internally, lay 3.5m. to the north, separated from it by a cobbled lane roughly at right angles to Ermine Street. The robber trench of an internal north–south stone wall was discovered, but not the eastern nor the western extent of the building was determined. Internal floors consisted of narrow bands of sand and clay with occasional thicker levelling layers of sand. A third building, its south wall parallel to and almost abutting the north wall of the central structure, had similar floors on the west, but a poorly preserved opus signinum floor on pitched stone footings at the eastern end, furthest from Ermine Street, which may have been the living quarters. All three buildings had substantial external walls on pitched limestone foundations and may have been entirely stone-built. Their date range was late 2nd or early 3rd century until at least the middle of the 4th century. The buildings may have had timber precursors; the lowest of the lane surfaces between the central and southern structures had been cut by the pitched foundations of the southern building. Time did not allow for the removal of later stone walls to look for traces of wooden structures.

The 1982 excavations, taken with the information already known from the St Mark’s site, have revealed much about the extent, date and nature of the southern suburbs of Roman Lincoln, now known to extend nearly a kilometre south of the walled city. It is now possible to see a context for the polychrome mosaic from Monson Street, now lost, which may have adorned one of the more opulent traders’ houses in the vicinity. It is interesting that the eastern road (Ermine Street?) seems to have influenced the layout of later Roman buildings rather than the western road (Fosse Way?) on the approximate line of modern High Street. Future excavations may reveal whether development was planned, as the standard lane-width between the Guildhall and Monson Street buildings suggests, rather than uncontrolled ribbon development along the principal highways. The discovery of the Roman roads has topographical implications for the medieval period also. The eastern road (Ermine Street?), when projected southwards, crosses the Sincil Dyke on or near the site of medieval Little Bargate, and may account for the sitting of that structure.

Notes
3. This part of the building was still under excavation when the account for the Trust’s Annual Report was being written, and the floor had not then been found.

NEWTON CLIFFS, LINCS/NOTTS

D. Garton

The collection of 50,000 artefacts by Mr R. Minnitt from three adjoining fields in the parishes of N. Clifton, Notts, and Newton-on-Trent, Linns., indicated severe plough damage to a site of late Mesolithic to late Neolithic/EBBA date. Trial excavations by Dr P. Phillips of Sheffield University showed that Neolithic material and features survived in the coversands below the ploughsoil. Further excavations in 1980 and 1981 by D. Garton for the Trent Valley Archaeological Research Committee were designed to recover structural evidence and define activity areas through the pattern of artefact distributions.

The 1980 excavation was located where a large quantity of late Mesolithic flintwork had been found whilst fieldwalking. In the excavated area a roughly ovoid structure 7.6m. x 4.8m., defined by nine postholes was recovered (Fig. 9). Flint-knapping waste contained within the structure was from the manufacture of late Mesolithic microliths. The distribution of Mesolithic artefacts respecting the outline of the structure suggests that it may be associated with this period of activity. It is hoped to submit charcoal from one of the postholes for radiocarbon dating. Later activity on site is represented by a Beaker pit (Fig. 10.11) and a scatter of late Beaker pottery.

These promising results prompted further work in 1981 in the adjacent field, where fieldwalking had indicated Neolithic settlement. Two areas were investigated, Area E where a large scatter of flintwork had been recorded, and Area K where quantities of Late Neolithic/EBBA pottery had been found.

Area E (16m. x 16m.) produced occupation from the Late Mesolithic to the Late Neolithic/EBBA. A line of four substantial postholes was parallel to a trench with evidence for post-settings. The postholes were spaced with a wider gap between the central two. The distinctive four-posthole line was recognised in Area K, and would seem to form a repeating structural element. A complex of curved trenches and postholes in the north-east quadrant of the area may possibly be the remains of windbreaks or
shelters, of Neolithic date. The longest trench had clear post-settings at either end, and some evidence for posts within its length. There are also examples of paired postholes. A north-south continuous trench was the latest stratigraphic feature on site, and the artefacts from it included microliths and pottery.

Four pits of late Mesolithic date were located; two contained quantities of flint-working waste, suggesting knapping in the immediate area. Pits of Late Neolithic/EBA date, some with residual material, were also found. These included two pits cutting features of posthole size around their perimeter, with nearby postholes that may be associated. One pit contained a rim and sherds of Grimston type pottery indicating occupation in the Early/Middle Neolithic.

An area (60m x 35m.) was extensively trial-trenched, but occupation evidence was recovered only in the extreme south-eastern part (Area K). The features in Area K (32m. x 17m.) could be grouped by filling type and artefacts; this may represent different periods of use, or different types of activities. Most of the features had light brown fillings and contained very few artefacts; they included the distinctive four-posthole line similar to that in Area E. A group of features, distinguished by their dark brown fillings, contained artefacts of Late Neolithic/EBA date. They included a posthole, two pits, and a series of post-settings within a pit.

This area of excavation produced very different results from that expected from the fieldwalking data. Fieldwalking indicated occupation over all this area, but the excavation showed it to be very localised, and although much Beaker pottery was recovered from fieldwalking, not one sherd was found from the excavation. This may be the result of artefact movement in the ploughsoil, or the total destruction of occupation levels by ploughing and wind erosion.

The excavations have recovered discrete areas of settlement dating from the Late Mesolithic to the Late Neolithic/EBA. This suggests intermittent occupation of the site throughout prehistory, possibly on a seasonal basis. Two types of environment, with differing resources, ideal for both hunter-gatherer and farming economies, were available to the site which lies just off the crest of the Keuper Marl escarpment overlooking the River Trent. In this area covesands overlie the clayey marl giving light, freely draining, and easily worked soils above the danger of flooding. Easy access to the valley would provide riverine and marsh resources, with water, and summer pasture for herds.

Excavation has shown evidence for structural elements, flint-knapping and domestic activities within a broad time span. Future work will concentrate on identifying structural features, and locating the early Neolithic settlement which has proved so elusive.

RAND CHURCH
F. N. Field

Excavation at Rand church, in advance of reflooring in the nave, led to the discovery of earlier phases of the church. The present church consists of a medieval tower, possibly 15th century in date, and a nave and chancel which were rebuilt in the late 18th and 19th centuries. It is known that there was a north aisle which was demolished in 1783 and excavation relocated its north wall and the bases of pillars which lie hidden under the present north wall of the nave. A pillar capital which dates from the mid-12th century was found in the churchyard and may originally have come from the north aisle arcade. No evidence was found for a south aisle.

Underneath the arcade pillar bases were the limestone footings for an earlier north nave wall. These were traced along the present line of the west end of the chancel and
Fig. 10  Neaton Cliffs: plan of the posthole structure and flintwork area located in 1980. Flintwork recovered by sieving is not included, thus increasing the density of artefacts in the flint-knapping area considerably.

Fig. 11  Rand Church: provisional phasing (M. Clark)
the south aisle wall, forming the outline of a nave which pre-dates the north aisle. Although on the same alignment as the modern nave it was considerably shorter, and at its west end were the massive foundations of sandstone and limestone rubble for a tower which lay east of the standing tower and under the west end of the present nave.

A further set of foundations, built of sandstone, was found lying within the limestone footings representing an even earlier nave. Unfortunately, later burials had destroyed much of this early structure.

Two burials were found which pre-dated the sandstone foundations and hint at the possibility of an even earlier church of which no trace was found. The discovery of a large domestic oven at the east end of the nave provided evidence for activity on the site prior to its use for religious purposes. Its date is unknown but in the debris was a limestone vessel which may have been a mortar, but did not appear to be worn internally. Samples for C-14 and magnetic dating have been taken.

Without excavation in the chancel or the tower it is impossible to obtain a full sequence of the church’s development but it is clear that even in a small village like Rand its history was long and complex.

Note
1 The NLAU would like to thank the Parochial Church Council for permission to excavate at Rand, Mr Sam Scorer (church architect) and UCS contractors for their help and cooperation during the excavations, and Paul Everson for documentary information about the church.

OLD WINTERTON
J. B. Whitwell

Excavations were undertaken by the Humberside Archaeological Unit in 1981–2 ahead of the extension of an old quarry to the north-west of Sandhills Farm at the eastern end of the known Roman settlement on the Humber bank at the north end of Ermine Street. Numerous surface finds recorded over many years suggest that the settlement extended over some 70 acres (28 ha.) and was preceded by an Iron Age settlement of some size.1 Aerial photography2 and previous excavation in 1964–53 have established that the buildings of the settlement were grouped along the two arms of Ermine Street which divides as it approaches the Humber, to run on two spurs of high ground, one to the north and the other to the north-east.

In the area excavated, virtually all traces of Roman buildings had been removed in medieval and modern cultivation. Nevertheless enough survived to indicate the sites of buildings set within rectangular enclosures, whose ditches had in some cases been cut several times. The main occupation of the site appears from preliminary analysis of the finds to belong principally to the 3rd and 4th centuries.

Plotting of vertical aerial photographs taken for Humberside County Council indicates the possible line of the Roman coastline, and confirms the observations of William Stukeley on his visit in the 18th century that the Roman town was on a peninsula of high ground overlooking the tidal marshes of the river Ancholme to the east.

Notes
1 I am indebted to Alan Harrison for information about surface finds.
2 D. N. Riley in Britannia, 5, 1974, p. 375.

WINTERTON ROMAN VILLA
R. Goodburn

A further 0.6 acre (0.24 ha.) of ditched and fenced enclosures was excavated. Work concentrated on a complex nodal area of ditches 300–500 ft. (90–150 m.) south-west of the main courtyard, on the west side of the areas dug in 1975 and 1978. Nearest the house were smaller fenced and ditched enclosures, tiny simple hearths, a few small rubbish pits and part of a probable post-built structure similar to that found in 1974. South of these a small cemetery had been created by digging an east-west ditch across the southern end of an existing enclosure, forming a long narrow reserved area. Five inhumations in wooden coffins (one found in 1975) had been buried in a single east-west row; there were no grave goods. South of these was an east–west track, apparently running from the area of aised Building P; its course first appeared on the east side of the 1982 site as a very slight, unmetalled hollow way. As it approached the disturbed and softer ground around the major line of north–south ditches forming a boundary between smaller and larger enclosures it had been metalled and repaired several times. Postholes, some rather large, apparently related to a gate or gates across the track here; one waterlogged post base was recovered. In this area, an oven, constructed within a filled-in ditch, had eventually been incorporated within the track. Only part of the main channel of the oven and the facing of its mouth survived, but the original covering slabs were preserved in position; any subsidiary flues had been removed by Roman ditch-digging. The metalled track continued south-west out across the lines of large earlier ditches to disappear within the north-east corner of a large field. Erosion of the earlier ditches edges and the presence of animal trample indicated traffic from farm to field over a considerable period. Similarly, there was much erosion of the ditch margins in a zone leading from the putative gates to the south-east corner of the adjacent field to the north. This route was unmetalled and displayed particularly heavy concentrations of hoof-impressions, preserved by a rapid deposition of wind- or water-borne sand.

This area is low-lying and the successive enclosure ditches contained waterlogged deposits which yielded many preserved seeds and other vegetation; these should shed further light on the environment and farming activities. The persistent re-digging of the ditches is presumably connected with drainage problems, doubtless exacerbated by animal traffic breaking down ditch margins. Following the deposition of sand which preserved areas of hoof prints, inundation and laying-down of fine silt marked the end of ditching in this area, but probably some time before the cessation of occupation of the villa. Within the silts were several horseshoes.

Between some of the ditches were preserved small areas of earlier Roman cultivation soils. At the base of one of these, the plough had penetrated up to 3 cm. into the sand beneath and showed that the area had been ploughed on more than one occasion and in two directions.

To the east of the complex intersections of large ditches, more elements of the regularly-spaced enclosure ditches pre-dating aised Building P were found. The widths of the enclosures are c. 60–70 ft. (20–23 m.), but an attempt to determine their north–south lengths by trial-trenching alone yielded indefinite results because of the difficulties of identifying particular ditches amongst the number revealed.

Some 300 ft. (100 m.) east of the main excavation, examination of the area first investigated in 1980 was
completed and understanding of the cast parts of a number of enclosures much clarified.

More Beaker period artefacts were recovered and a number of features including a probable structure were excavated.

WRANGLE TOFT

R. T. Bannister

During the summer, members of the Boston group of Nottingham University's extramural class in archaeology carried out exploratory excavations on what appeared to be a medieval saltman site at Wrangle Toft. The site was discovered in late June by the Lincolnshire County Council whilst digging a new drainage channel through their land. The new cut partly exposed a number of puddled clay-lined pits and puddled clay platforms approximately 0.61 m below the present land surface.

Excavations were carried out on two of the clay-lined pits and were found to be of similar construction: both were approximately 1 m in diameter around the top and lined out with clay to a depth of about 0.85 m; the floor of both pits was also lined with clay. Adjacent to and level with the top of one of the pits was discovered part of a rectangular puddled clay platform, measuring approximately 2.1 m x 1.5 m. The platform was connected to the pit by means of a small, shallow, clay-lined channel measuring approximately 0.45 m long by 0.50 m wide by about 0.10 m deep, with a north to south orientation. In general the overall thickness of the clay of which the features were made varied between 1.5 and 3.5 cm, most of which was blue in colour. Blue clay may have been favoured for the construction material because of its non-
discolouring property when in contact with the salt: apparently red clay turned salt grey whereas blue clay left it white.1

During the excavation random patches and isolated pieces of slag-like material were encountered at levels contemporary with that of the features; this seems undoubtedly the result of fire and may indicate that salt was boiled on the site. There was no substantial evidence found which would provide a date for the site but historical records relating to this area give detailed accounts of the salter's trade being practised along this stretch of the coastline during the 12th and 13th century.2 Wrangle being one of the main producers of salt at that time.

The site is about three-quarters of a mile from the sea, constituting a gently rising mound of mainly silty soil with a mean height of some 4.5 m. OD. A cursory assessment of its size would put it at approximately 12 acres (5 ha.) but further field investigations may prove the site to be made up of several degraded mounds. The new drainage channel traverses the eastern edge of the mound and replaces an existing channel which curved around the bottom edge of the mound and may have encircled the whole at one time. From Hallam's reconstruction of Wrangle Haven,3 it would seem that Wrangle Toft was situated in the estuary, possibly utilising the rapid accretion of silt in the haven from which the salt would probably be obtained by filtration methods. From the undulating nature of the surrounding area it seems that several mounds may be present and could be the remains of extinct salt-workings progressing seawards from the Sea Dyke, which ran along this stretch of the coastline approximately 1.5 miles (2 km.) inland from the present coast. It would seem from Hallam's work that the salters started new workings further out to sea as their existing site became too high for the spring tides to reach them.4

Work on similar mounds in Lincolnshire has been carried out by E. H. Rudkin and D. M. Owen at Marshchapel, from Hawlare's map of Pulstow-Marschapel parishes, dated 1595.5 The map depicts extinct saltern mounds which have merged into irregular shaped fields surrounded by ditches, while nearer to the sea the fields give way to detached mounds and were stated to be in use for salt production. A cartouche accompanying the map gives details of the form and function of the mounds:

The rounder grounds at the east end of Marsh Chappell are called Maures and are first framed by laying together of greater quantities of mould for the making of salt. When the maures growe great the saltmakers remove more este and come nearer to the sea and then the former maures become in some few yeares good pasture grounds. Those that have the cottages upon them are at this present in use for salt... It is hoped that further excavations will be carried out in the summer of 1983.

Notes
2 H. E. Hallam, 'Salt-making in the Lincolnshire Fenland during the Middle Ages', 1969, pp. 401-5.
4 Ibid., p. 77.

SHORT NOTES

A PALAEOLITHIC HANDAXE FROM HECKINGTON

M. G. Solly

In July 1982, a flint handaxe was brought into the CCM for identification.1 It had been discovered during an inspection of the work taking place on the new Heckington bypass.2 Gravel had been extracted from a nearby pit for the construction of the road, and it was in this material that the axe was located.

Fig. 13 Acheulian handaxe from Heckington. Scale 1/1 (G. Young)

The axe dates from about 200,000 B.C., and is the characteristic tool of the type-site of St Acheul, a suburb of Amiens, in northern France.3 There are two main series of axes common to this period: the pointed handaxe and the more or less oval type (ovates). Neither of these appears to have been designed for hafting, and were actually held in the hand during use.

On both faces can be seen the marks left by the process of manufacture. Small hollows and dips were formed as flakes were struck off the flint core. These become increasingly smaller towards the carefully trimmed edges of the tool.

This example is 105 mm. from point to butt, and 72 mm. at its maximum width.

Notes
1 Now in the CCM, accession no. 79.82.
2 I should like to thank Mr N. Harrison for bringing the handaxe to the attention of the museum.
3 Flint Implements, British Museum, 1968, pp. 45f.

A BEAKER FROM CHERRY WILLINGHAM

F. N. Field

An early Bronze Age beaker was discovered at Cherry Willingham on the north bank of the north ditch, a drain which runs parallel to the River Witham.4 It was found in an eroding sandbank underlying the covering peat and further investigation of the area produced a few flint flakes. The beaker itself is 133 mm. high, 119 mm. in diameter with walls 7 mm. thick. It is finely made in a smooth pink-orange fabric characteristic of Beaker pottery. The bipartite pot has two zones of decoration, mainly finger-nail applied. One of the bosses is damaged and shows that a pellet of clay had been attached to the keyend surface of the pot. There is no known parallel for this decorative scheme on other beakers, but the applied knobs can be paralleled on Grooved Ware and also on

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Potbeakers both in this country and on the Continent. Little early Bronze age pottery has been found so far in the Witham valley, so it is not possible to speculate on whether this example displays local features in design. Evidence for Bronze Age occupation is only slowly emerging from under the disappearing peat, and Bronze Age cemeteries have been located at Washington and Barlings.

Notes
1. The beaker has been lent to the CCM by the finder, Mr Skinner, and has the number CI. 8.82.
2. I am grateful to Alex Gibson of Leicester University for his comments on this find.

TWO ROMAN COIN HOARDS
A. J. White

In July the dragline operator at the Bain Aggregates Ltd. gravel pit at Tattershall Thorpe, Mr P. Bourn, disturbed a Roman pot containing a large number of antoniniani while extending the quarry face.

The pot was smashed in the process, but all the pieces were kept. Roughly one third of the coins were loose, but the rest formed a large concreted mass following the inner contours of the pot. Both pot and coins were brought to the CCM by the sales manager, Mr A. Pears. Further coins were located on a subsequent visit by Naomi Field and the writer.

A random sample of 120 coins were identified and showed a range of Emperors from Gallienus to Probus, with an unexpectedly high proportion of the reign of Tacitus.

The whole hoard was subsequently identified at the British Museum, showing the total number of coins to be 5074, with a few further fragmentary coins. The range was extended backwards to the reign of Valerian (A.D. 253–260). The largest number of coins were of the reign of Victorinus and the Tetri, accounting for nearly 73% of the total.

A decision on the coins has yet to be reached by the Coroner, following uncertainties over the status of antoniniani raised by the Coleby hoard, which led to a High Court ruling that coins must be of ‘substantial’ fineness to be subject to the law of Treasure Trove. ‘Substantial’ was defined as ‘at least 50% of the appropriate precious metal.

In November 1982, and again in January 1983, Roman coins were found on a field surface at Pontby by Mr P. Hayes of the Fenland Survey. The range and condition of the coins, 38 in all, suggest that they formed all or part of a hoard, probably disturbed in ditch-clearing. The hoard consists of half-siliques of Constantine I and his sons, ‘Constantinopolis’ and ‘Urbe Roma’ commemorative issues of the period A.D. 330–7, and a single ‘Genio Pop. Rom.’ issue of Licinius, of A.D. 314–5, and on this evidence a date of deposit in the late 330s is likely. Most of the coins are of the usual western mints of Trier, Arles, and Lyons, with a single London issue, but a ‘Constantinopolis’ issue of Thessalonica is worthy of notice.

Notes
1. By Roger Bland, Dept. of Coins and Medals.
3. I am grateful to the South Lincolnshire Archaeological Unit for permission to record this hoard.

SMALL-LONG BROOCH FROM NETTLEHAM
P. L. Everson

Cast brooch of copper alloy with extensive superficial iron deposits derived from panning in soil. Length 70 mm., lacking terminal of foot; width 46 mm., with one lobe broken and repaired after finding. Each of the three faces of the headplate is embossed with a single strand of cablework; the central panel has an undecorated square, slightly raised, that continues the line of the bow and perhaps lends strength at a point vulnerable to breakage. The bow is undecorated: the foot is narrow, with a plain area matching the location of the pin-catch on the reverse and a pair of heavy ribs marking, presumably, the transition to the terminal. On the back, the loop for the spring, though worn thin, and the pin-catch are intact, but with no trace of a pin; that was probably of iron.

The brooch belongs to the trefoil-headed category of small-long brooches in Leeds’s classification, and dates to the 6th century A.D. It is the commonest type found in Lincolnshire, though still far from a commonplace find. Decoration is usually confined to punched crescents or annules, which makes the cast cablework of this example worthy of note. The raised square on the headplate is found elsewhere, sometimes emphasised by decoration, and may be as much for additional strength as for embellishment. The proportions of the piece suggest that the lost terminal may have been small, perhaps of triangular or crescentic form found in reputedly earlier examples of the brooch type.

The brooch was a casual surface find made in 1979 or 1980, away from the later medieval nucleus of Nettleham. Beads that may be of similar date have turned up during house building in the village. Roman settlement is well evidenced in the parish, including extensive finds within
500m. of the brooch's find-spot. A large ring-ditch, perhaps a levelled Bronze Age barrow, was located in aerial reconnaissance less than 200m. away. The find adds to the accumulating evidence for Germanic settlement in the countryside immediately north of Lincoln by the 6th century.1

Notes
2 ibid., fig. 4b, c, g, fig. 5b, d, e, f.
3 ibid., fig. 4a-d, map fig. 6.
5 P. Eversden, 'Pagan Saxon pottery from Cherry Willingham and Middle Carlton villages', LHA, 14, 1979, pp. 79-80.

TWO LATE SAXON DISC BROOCHES FROM SOUTH HUMBERSIDE

K. Leahy

Early in 1980 Mr Ralph Readhead showed the writer a small copper-alloy disc brooch that he had found at South Ferriby, which he believed, quite rightly, to be Anglo-Saxon. Brooches of this type are well known in East Anglia but the South Ferriby specimen is the first example to have been found in Lincolnshire. About two months later the writer was surprised to see a second example which had been found by Mr Colin Marshall at Kirmington. Both gentlemen kindly donated their finds to Scunthorpe Museum. The brooches may be described as follows:

1. Copper-alloy disc brooch from South Ferriby, Fig. 16, left (Scunthorpe Museum SFEQ3).

The South Ferriby brooch has a diameter of 28mm. and a mean thickness of 1mm. It is roughly cast in one piece in a copper alloy. In the centre of the brooch is the figure of a quadruped facing left with its head turned over its shoulder. All four legs are shown, these crudely executed and each terminating in three toes. The lengths of the legs have been varied to fit into the round area. It is possible that one of the fore limbs is raised in the 'passant' position. The tail is thick and pointed; it extends over the beast's back almost touching the head. The beast's jaws are open and its eye is formed by a large ring and dot. Along its neck is a spiky mane suggesting that the animal depicted is a lion. The animal is surrounded by a ring of 28 roughly rectangular billets which in turn is set within a narrow plain band.

Set on opposite edges of the rear of the brooch are a cast lug and a hook which would have held the pin. The lug is 7mm. long and 6mm. high and is perforated by a 4mm. diameter hole. The hook is 7mm. high and has a 2mm. internal radius.

2. Copper-alloy disc brooch from Kirmington, Fig. 16, right (Scunthorpe Museum KMAA320).

Cast copper-alloy disc 29mm. in diameter bearing in its centre the figure of a quadruped in an identical style and posture as the example from South Ferriby. The two beasts differ only in that the Kirmington specimen has in addition to its 'eye' two further ring-dot motifs on its body. On some of the East Anglian disc-brooch beasts these are said to represent the hip and shoulder joints, in this example however they are not positioned on the joints.

Around the animal is a ring of 28 billets surrounded in turn by a narrow, plain ring. On the rear of the brooch is a single 8mm. long x 4 mm. high lug with a semi-circular notch in its centre. Opposite this is a small broken area where the other part of the catch was once situated.

The brooches of this type have been discussed by Smedley & Owles who included a catalogue of the then known examples.1 Animal brooches occur in two styles, style A and style B. In style A, the animal has a flat body and a sharply angular outline. On these brooches the beast has a spiky mane and ring-dot motifs are commonly employed to show the eye. Style A brooches all have a border consisting of 28 billets around their circumference; the significance of this number is not known. The two brooches described above are both typical examples of style A. In style B the animal has a rounded body and a curved outline. A ring-dot is not used to mark the eye and in a number of cases the mane is not shown. These brooches show a much greater range of variation than those of style A with the animal being set within differing

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surronds. The number of billets in the surround (where billets are used) varies.

Until the discovery of the brooches from South Ferriby and Kirkton examples in style A had only been found in East Anglia, whilst style B brooches had been found both in East Anglia and elsewhere. The two brooches from South Humberside are identical to the style A brooches from East Anglia and must be seen as imports into this area.

Until recently problems were encountered in the dating of these brooches. Wilson found them unsuitable to typological division, which leaves us relying on style for our datings. Smedley & Owles drew attention to the parallels which exist for the backward looking animal on some 8th-century sceattas but also noted that the motif was popular over a long period of time. They cited a very worn and atypical brooch found in a 10th-century layer at Thetford. This however must now be considered to be unstratified.

Recent finds from York provide some useful dates for the series. There, three animal brooches have been found in early 10th-century contexts. One of these was in a very worn condition and had been perforated for reuse as a pendant, suggesting that it was of some age when lost.

The significance of the two styles of animal brooch is not understood. At York, style B brooches and brooches closely related to style A were both found in 10th-century contexts, suggesting that the two styles were contemporary. The existence of the two styles may well be a regional rather than chronological phenomenon.

As stray finds, the two brooches from South Humberside add nothing to our knowledge of the dating of the type but do make an interesting contribution to the distribution of finds. Brooches of this type are apparently not found in the rest of Lincolnshire, leaving a wide gap between our two sites and East Anglia. During the late Saxon period contacts, presumably by water, must have existed between North Lincolnshire (now South Humberside) and East Anglia.

Notes
4 Information kindly given by Miss Barbara Green, Norwich Castle Museum. Small Find Numbers 8803, 14116 and 13106. I am indebted to Dominic Tweddle of the York Archaeological Trust for making this information available to me in advance of his own publication.

FOUR DAGGER SHEATHS FROM THE BARDITCH, BOSTON
G. Harden
During the summer of 1976 large quantities of leather were collected from the Barditch, during the commercial excavation of part of this medieval boundary of Boston. Amongst the medieval leather shoe soles, uppers and offsets were four dagger or knife sheaths.

Fig. 17.1. This sheath is a single piece of leather, foked and sewn to form a reverse side closed seam. Decoration is based on an acanthus scroll design engraved onto the leather with a blunt tool. Within the scrolls are various monstrous, stylised animals. The reverse of the sheath is decoratively plain, with semi-circular engraved spandrels. The position of the handle is marked by four horizontal lines, which form a division in the decorative motifs on the reverse. There are three pairs of slits at the top of the reverse side of the sheath for thongs or rings, which would have been used to attach it to a belt.

Fig. 17.2. Although this sheath is incomplete, it is evident that it has been made and engraved in a similar manner to that described above. The decorative motifs are, however, significantly different. The front design is a flour-de-lis mounted on a long 'stem', which is embellished with a series of punched dots. The reverse has a three-leaved clover (?) mounted on a 'stem' above which are six horizontal lines, marking the position of the handle.

Fig. 17.3. Constructed in a similar way to that of the former sheaths, this example exhibits a completely different method of decoration. Four stamps with various designs have been used within a series of panels. The lower part of the sheath is covered with fleurs-de-lis set within engraved lozenges. The intermediary triangular areas around the sides and across the top of the design are filled with a punched background. On the reverse of the sheath these fleurs-de-lis are set diagonally. The position of the handle is marked by a rectangular foliate stamp. Above this are square stamps with half a fleur-de-lis and a castle design, set in horizontal lines without an engraved surround. The fourth stamp has been used around the top of the sheath. It is set at right angles to the other designs and depicts a monstrous animal, possibly a dragon, with an extended tongue and a tail which breaks into foliate. There is a pair of slots on each side of the seam, at the top of the sheath, for thongs or rings for attachment to a belt.

Fig. 17.4. This sheath has also been decorated using various methods, although it has been made in the same way as the others. The design consists of a series of vertical zigzags, lines and diagonally set tree-like linear motifs, engraved onto the leather. A pricked background has subsequently been added to the panels exhibiting the tree-like pattern. There are two pairs of slits on the reverse of the sheath for thongs or rings.

These sheaths depict two of the methods used in the medieval period for decorating leather.

Engraving the leather with a blunt tool was introduced before the Norman Conquest, and continued to be practised throughout the Middle Ages. To achieve a satisfactory result the leather was probably well dampened beforehand. Specific designs appear to have been executed during certain periods of the use of this method, thus allowing engraved sheaths to be dated. The sheath with an acanthus scroll design (Fig. 17.1) was probably made in the late 12th century, for there is a close parallel in the British Museum. The small, incomplete sheath (Fig. 17.2) is difficult to date because of the simplicity of the design, but could be 13th or 14th century. The other engraved sheath is also decorated with a pricked background (Fig. 17.4) which is probably indicative of a 14th- or 15th-century date.

The use of metal stamps with heraldis designs was comparatively common in the 14th and 15th centuries. The stamped sheath from the Barditch (Fig. 17.3) is of the decorative layout of this type, with stamped designs bordered by engraved frames covering most of the sheath, whilst areas in between are filled with a punched background.

During the medieval period, however, two other methods of decorating leather were employed. Embossed designs could be applied to the leather from the front or back of the piece to be decorated. The former appears to have been practised more often than not, and is generally
Fig. 17 Medieval leather dagger sheaths from Boston (G. Harden)
found in 14th- or 15th-century contexts. The other method, infrequently employed, was to cut the leather for about half its thickness with a sharp knife. This incision was usually used to outline lettering in the later medieval period.

These four sheaths from Boston provide an interesting group of varied decorative styles and dates, to which may be added a late 13th-century engraved dagger sheath, found during the excavation of the Dominican Friary in the town. As such they are indicative of medieval leather craftsmanship of the 12th to the 15th centuries. Although we know that there was leatherworking in the town it is not possible to say whether these items were made locally or brought from other parts of the country by merchants using the port and fair of Boston. The four examples found in the Bardich were presumably accidentally lost or discarded into the ditch, which was used to some extent as a refuse tip for the inhabitants of the town.

Notes
2 S. Moorhouse, ' Finds from Excavations in the Refectory at the Dominican Friary, Boston', LHA 7, 1972, pp. 44 and fig. 8, no. 1.

A MEDIEVAL RABBIT WARREN AT BARDNEY?
A. J. White

A little to the north-east of Bardney Abbey stands an isolated mound in a field, called King’s Hill. It is oval in plan, with a slightly flattened top, and is suffering plough-erosion to its lower edges. It lies on a gravelly subsoil and is as far as can be seen constructed from soil and gravel. A false-colour infra-red aerial photograph taken by Mr G. Benton appears to show traces of a levelled area of mound. Local tradition identifies it as the burial place of King Aethelred of Mercia, who according to the Anglo-Saxon Chronicle died at Bardney in A.D. 716, and the Department of the Environment appears to accept this identification according to the present list of Scheduled Ancient Monuments.

We can, however, detect the origins of this tradition. Marratt, in his History of Lincolnshire (1816) appears to connect the mound, King Ethelred, and an existing place-name for the first time — I can detect no earlier source. He obtains the name by a piece of extremely dubious etymology from the name ‘Coney Garth’, clearly assuming that Coney = Koning = King, as in Coney Street in York. The next equation of the name, by now enthusiastically accepted, appears in a book by J. Conway Walter, in 1899. He says: ‘the barrow referred to is called, to this day, the ‘coney-garth’ or King’s enclosure, and Ethelred is supposed to have been buried there.’

By contrast with ‘King’s Hill’ the name ‘Coney Garth’ appears to have a respectable antiquity. It occurs in a post-Dissolution survey as ‘another close of pasture called le Coneygarthe close containing by estimation 24 acres’. The name Coneygarth suggests a connection with rabbits, more specifically with a warren, and is widely used in this context. It is therefore not unreasonable to connect this ‘coneygarth’ with the right of free warren which the Abbot of Bardney enjoyed throughout Bardney and its hamlets. Indeed a farm near the adjacent Abbey of Tupholme is still named ‘Abbay Warren Farm’, which may suggest that monastic warrens were not uncommon and were placed conveniently close to the monastic kitchens.

Fig. 10 Excavations in progress at King’s Hill, Bardney, in 1912

There therefore seems to be a case for identifying the King’s Hill with the warren in which it stood, and perhaps for taking the further step of seeing it as a precursor or regional variation of the so-called ‘pillow-mounds’. That it seems to exist in isolation is no good reason for doubting its function. Barrows, too, survive only through historical accident in this intensively arable area and the number of surviving upstanding earthworks gives us no inapplicable key to original numbers. Indeed when one begins to look closely at the number of mounds scattered about the countryside which are either unclassified or described without much conviction as ‘windmill mounds’ a surprising number of candidates emerge. Among them is undoubtedly the odd pair of mounds, originally three in number, which lie to the north of Revesby village and which were excavated fruitlessly by Sir Joseph Banks in 1780. Could these too be connected with a warren, perhaps for Revesby Abbey?

King’s Hill was excavated in 1912 as a little light relief during the complete excavation of Bardney Abbey between 1909 and 1914. A trench was driven diametrically across the mound and produced nothing but disappointment; according to one report, ‘clear traces of an earlier, unscientific excavation were found’, and no obvious stratification was revealed. This would not be surprising if the mound had been constructed for rabbits to burrow into!

Bearing in mind the paucity of identifiable features relating to medieval rabbit warrens any new evidence which suggests new forms or variations of earthwork should be seriously considered, and it is suggested that this is the case at Bardney.

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A BAGPIPER CARVING FROM MOORBY CHURCH

A. J. White

In April 1982 the City and County Museum obtained on loan a most interesting limestone carving, formerly built into the vestry wall of the derelict church of Moorby, near Horncastle.

The carving is on a block of stone 0.61 m. long, 0.285 m. high, and 0.13 m. deep, and shows two women and a man dancing vigorously to the music of a bagpiper who stands on the left of the scene, separated from the dancers by a pillar or vertical division. The style is crude but animated and the clothes of the man and head-dress of the women suggest a late 15th- or early 16th-century date. The bagpipes are not closely detailed but appear to be pumped by the right hand rather than blown, while the drone passes over the left shoulder and the chanter is played by the fingers of the left hand. The sculptor has failed either to understand the working of the pipes or to show them clearly. It is possible that the carving was originally longer, as it appears to lack balance, but against this is the fact that each of the two end dancers has the disengaged hand on his or her hip, suggesting that a fourth dancer was never envisaged.

Fig. 19 Bagpipes carving from Moorby church. Scale: 1:10 (A. J. White)

Bagpipes were used widely across Europe into post-medieval times and appear in paintings such as Bruegel's 'Peasant Dance' and 'Peasant Wedding' of c. 1567. Their survival has tended to be mainly in remote rural and/or highland regions. As a feature in art they are particularly associated with peasants, more especially with the courtly view of an idealised countryside, and even more especially with shepherds. A broadly contemporary tapestry in the Louvre shows in a much more sophisticated form a piper playing to four shepherds and shepherdesses, whose crooks hang in an adjacent tree.

The dress of the four characters on the Moorby stone appears to represent a rather higher social level, but accuracy in portrayal of working clothes is rarely met with at this period.

There remains the question of the origin of the carving. It is not mentioned in Bonney's otherwise detailed description of Moorby church in 1847, but appears first in 1915 when the church is described thus:

This church is entirely modern, and was built at the cost of the late J. Banks Stanhope Esq. MP. ... In the vestry there is an old stone built into the wall, on which there is carved the figure of a man playing the bagpipes, and two women and a man dancing.

Between these two accounts came the rebuilding of 1864 and it was presumably then that the stone was discovered, or was brought from elsewhere. It is entirely secular in style, but it is by no means obvious where it could have been set originally. Scrivelsby Court, 3 miles to the north, is the nearest large house which might be the source.

Notes

2 W. Marritt, History of Lincolnshire, vol. VI, 1856, p. 133.
3 J. C. Walter, Records of Woodhall Spa, 1899, p. 169.
4 J. C. Walter, Records of Woodhall Spa, 1899, pp. 169-70.
7 See the 12th-century Chart of Peterborough Abbey in J. G. C. Allen, Peterborough Abbey, 1887, p. 63.
8 Lincs. Notes and Queries, 21, 1891, pp. 145-7. This note, by E. S. (Edward Stanhope) describes Banks's excavation of one 'barrow' in 1780 and Stanhope's excavation of another in 1892.
9 Described fully in a MS scrapbook now in the City & County Museum, Lincoln.
10 C. Lane, Fourth Report, Bardney Abbey Excavations, 1913.

CLAY TOBACCO PIPES FROM THE CORNHILL, LINCOLN

A. J. White

During the laying of a gas pipe in the Cornhill the pipe-trench cut through a large deposit of broken clay tobacco pipes. When the site was examined the pipes were found to be in a pit, the extent of which on either side of the trench could not be determined. The fill was black, sticky soil with a small amount of animal bone and domestic pottery, but associated with the pipes were a number of fragments of vitrified brick, and lumps of fired clay containing broken pipe-stems. These are undoubtedly part of the 'muffle', a protective lining to the kiln which prevented flames and fumes from discolouring the pipe clay. All the material represents waste from a pipe-kiln, but none are known to have existed in the Cornhill. Most of the 19th-century pipemakers of Lincoln seem to have congregated in the Waterside area; presumably then the waste was brought some distance from its point of origin.

Six different designs of pipe-bowl are represented: two sizes of a standard scalloped type, two variations on the Red Indian theme, a scalloped type with the Lincoln arms on the back, and an example with a heart-in-hand and letters F.L.T., probably Masonic. They all belong to the middle decades of the 19th century, but have no maker's mark.

Note

1 All these types are well represented in Lincoln, while similar kiln debris was found in Broadgate in 1973 by the Lincoln Archaeological Trust. J. E. Mann, Clay Tobacco Pipes from Excavations in Lincoln 1970-4, The Archaeology of Lincoln, vol. XV-1, 1977, p. 44.
FURTHER SITES SCHEDULED UNDER THE ANCIENT MONUMENTS ACT

A. J. White

Two years ago we published in this journal\(^1\) a supplementary list of Scheduled Ancient Monuments bringing up to date the Department of the Environment's list dated 1977.\(^2\) Numbers have now been allocated to two further sites. These are: 335. Uffington; Neolithic 'causewayed camp', and 337. Honington; IA settlement.

Notes