Archaeology in Lincolnshire and South Humberside

Edited by Naomi Field

The archaeological notes below suggest that there has only been activity in the north of the county, confined to Roman subjects. However, this is only a partial picture of what has been happening in Lincolnshire in 1988. The new professional organisations, reported in 'Archaeology in Lincolnshire and South Humberside 1987' have now become established together with a new body called Heritage Lincolnshire, sponsored by Lincolnshire County Council.

A continuing trend in rescue excavation in the county is the involvement of developers in paying for the work. The work of the City of Lincoln Archaeological Unit and the Trust for Lincolnshire Archaeology has been summarised in their annual reports, available from their offices at The Lawn, Union Road, Lincoln LN1 3BJ and 28 Boston Road, Skeffold, respectively. In addition to rescue excavation, cataloguing of sites and finds has continued at the City and County Museum in Lincoln and Scunthorpe Museum and Art Gallery. Although some of the data comes from the professional units these records rely heavily on local people reporting finds and/or destruction of archaeological remains.

Members of the Archaeology committee of the Society have spent the year making a measured survey of the Society's new headquarters at the Jews' Court, in Lincoln and it is hoped to publish the results at a future date.

ARCHAEOLOGY AT SCUNTHORPE MUSEUM IN 1988

Kevin Leahy

1988 proved to be another busy year for the Archaeology Section at Scunthorpe Museum. The main event of the year's work was a further season of excavations on the Anglo-Saxon cemetery at Cleatham House Farm, Manton. Our main aim this year was to define the limits of the cemetery. In order to achieve this, 4 metre wide cuttings were extended from the areas in which urns have been found into the barren ground beyond. A further series of 4 metre wide trenches were cut linking all the areas in which urns have previously been found. It is believed that this work, supplemented by a programme of intensive field walking has allowed us to define the layout of the cremation cemetery.

So far, 820 cremations plus an additional 47 inhumations have been recovered. While no systematic analysis of the finds has yet been undertaken it does seem that the Cleatham cemetery covers the whole of the pagan Saxon period, coming into use during the settlement period with the latest burials taking place sometime during the first half of the seventh century. Last year's work has produced a number of finds of outstanding interest, in particular an Anglo-Saxon cremation which had been interred in a large, highly decorated Romano-British jar of the fourth century. Following conservation it was noticed that a bronze hanging bowl found during the 1985 season bore a runic inscription scratched onto its exterior. While some uncertainty exists over the reading of these runes, it does appear that they represent a personal name. The inscription is shortly to be published by Dr John Hines in a new handlist of pagan Saxon runic inscriptions.

The largest and most important donation received by Scunthorpe Museum in 1988 was a collection of archaeological material gathered by the late Mr D. N. Colebrook of Nettleton on Caistor. The collection, in the main, consists of a large quantity of worked flints gathered from sites around Caistor. Amongst the other material are the remains of 5 Bronze Age urns recovered by Mr Colebrook from a ploughed-out barrow. The long task of accessioning this material continues.

During 1988 an emergency excavation was carried out at Lixborough when human remains were encountered during the extraction of sand; 11 skeletons were recorded. All these were extended burials aligned east-west and without grave goods. With one of the burials, however, we encountered the iron fittings from a mid or later Saxon coffin. As some graves were cut into earlier burials it appears that the cemetery was in use for some time.

The County's archaeology suffered a severe loss during the year with the destruction of the first-century Roman fort at Winteringham. This fort marked one end of the original frontier of Roman Britain, before the legions moved north in 71 AD to complete the conquest of the island. The first that the writer knew of this disaster was when a metal detector user reported that a large area to the east of the village of Winteringham had been bulldozed in preparation for the construction of a large scale broiler house unit. When the site was visited no archaeological features could be seen due to the disturbance caused by the passage of tracked vehicles. The Museum informant, Mr Alan Harrison, spent many hours on the site and soil heaps with his metal detector and succeeded in recovering a wide range of material, including pieces of fourth century Roman military equipment and coins of the type which one would expect to find on a first century fort.

It is difficult to know how this particular disaster could have been avoided. The area destroyed lay outside the scheduled area and had not in the past been particularly productive of archaeological finds. The grim lesson to be learnt at Winteringham is that archaeological sites rarely terminate on the line marked on the scheduling map.

In 1988 the death occurred, after a long illness, of Mr Henry Mossop of Marshchapel. Mr Mossop was a gentleman farmer and a very able numismatist. Having in 1970 completed his exhaustive study of the Lincoln mint, Mr Mossop went on to undertake a survey of the coinage of the Corieltauvii, a local Iron Age tribe. Mr Mossop's work will be continued and brought to a completion by Jeffrey May of Nottingham University, who was his associate on the project.

ISLE OF AXHOLME SURVEY 1988

A. Williams

Between March and September 1988 a team of 5 researchers and fieldworkers, based in Epworth, undertook a survey of the archaeology and historic landscape of the Isle of Axholme. The project was run by the Humberside Archaeology Unit and financed by the Manpower Services Commission and the Countryside Commission.
The aim of the survey was twofold; firstly to collate all the known archaeological and historical information and present the results to the general public, and secondly to undertake a programme of fieldwork.

The team gathered data from Scunthorpe and Doncaster Museums, from local people and metal detectorists and from publications and aerial photographs. This information has considerably added to the overall picture of the Isle and is currently being incorporated into the Sites and Monuments Record held at Beverley. The team also produced a popular display which to date has circulated around the Axholme, Thorne and Hatfield areas. A booklet based on the display is shortly to be published.

Despite the time of year and length of the project the team managed to walk over 50 fields throughout the Isle. Although it was not realistic to target specific sites or areas for fieldwalking, the old river courses, traced by reference to aerial photographs were considered to be the most likely sites for early settlement. Whilst it proved possible to walk some fields along the old river Don, near Crowle, the team were otherwise restricted to walking those fields ploughed and left unsown. The team managed to sample the varying regions of the Isle, walking fields on the warped low-lying levels, on the high ridge of the Isle and beside the River Trent. All the fields were walked systematically in strips 10m apart, although field conditions varied considerably.

The pottery collected was screened and sorted by area into Romano-British, medieval and post-medieval; no Iron Age or Anglo-Saxon material was recognised.

In the late 1970s a local group of fieldwalkers worked in the Isle under the leadership of Mike Felcey. Whilst their material has not been thoroughly processed, distribution maps were available at Scunthorpe Museum and provided useful and interesting comparisons for the survey team's work.

Evidence for prehistoric occupation of the Isle came from the vast amount of flint collected by Felcey's group, particularly from around Crowle and from Clouds Farm, Belton. A site was also recorded at a sand quarry north-west of Haxey and the survey team gathered over 30 worked flints during a random search of the same area. They also recorded several stone axe finds nearby. On the whole, though, the survey team found considerably less worked flint than Felcey's group, even from the Clouds Farm site.

Further evidence that there was a considerable Romano-British presence in the Isle came from the survey team's findings, with possible settlement sites being recognised at Wroth and Crowle. The team's attention was drawn to Wroth by the number of metal detected Romano-British and medieval finds accessioned in recent years at Doncaster Museum. Fieldwalking in the vicinity of these finds around Wroth Church produced further evidence of an early settlement site in the form of large quantities of greyware, Samian and mortarium sherds. The isolated position of the church on this site, a quarter of a mile south of the village, is noteworthy. Wroth itself is situated on an outcrop of the Keuper marl which forms the main high ridge of the Isle.

Another concentration of Romano-British pottery was collected from land on the north side of St Andrew's Church, Epworth. Just to the east lies a cropmark enclosure site. Several other fields were walked on the ridge but produced little evidence of Romano-British settlement.

The waterways seem to have been a more important focus during the Romano-British period, either for riverside settlement sites such as Sandtoft or as important routeways. The north west of Crowle the survey team walked six fields in the area known as 'The Warpings' which lie on the left bank of the old River Don. Heavy concentrations of Romano-British pot were collected here and a similar density was noted in nearby fields which were randomly walked. Felcey's group also revealed concentrations and scatter of Romano-British pot in the area around Crowle. Further scatter of Romano-British pot occurred in fields along the old Don at Luddington and by the River Trent in fields at West Butterwick and Keady.

Medieval pottery was collected from most fields walked by the survey team and was probably deposited by manuring. Concentrations were noted at Epworth to the north of St Andrews, close to the site of the Mowbray Manor house and around the church at Wroth. A field to the south of Owston Ferry Castle within the southern bailey produced quantities of medieval pot.

In spite of its limitations the Isle of Axholme survey has further demonstrated the potential of the low-lying 'levels', including land which has been warped over the last 200 years, for being archaeologically productive. Although the findings of the survey team and Felcey's group are broadly similar, the disparity in the amounts of worked flint collected warrants further investigation, particularly as so much information has been attached to it.

Acknowledgements

Thanks are due to Kevin Leahy of Scunthorpe Museum. The Isle of Axholme Survey Team members were Phil Lings, Irene McGrath, Margaret Robinson, Janet Seal and Tony Walsh. Brian Sitch was the project researcher.

NOTES
1. N. Loughlin and K. Miller, A Survey of Archaeological Sites in Humberside, 1979, pp. 147-159.
2. SMR No. 2453.
3. Loughlin and Miller 1979, p. 147.
4. SMR No. 2455.

CASTLETHORPE, BROUGHTON, NEAR BRIGG - FIELDWALKING REPORT, 1988

Mike Hemblade

A development proposal affecting the scheduled ancient monument at Castlethorpe (Hums. S.A.M. no. 9) early in the year, led to a reappraisal of the site, which is scheduled as a deserted medieval village. Geophysical and earthwork surveys show that the site consists of a series of moated enclosures which does not fit happily with the usual layout of medieval village earthworks. A more likely location for the medieval village is indicated by an aerial photograph of the area around Castlethorpe Hall (SE 60 7777) and a recent small-scale aerial photograph of the area around Castlethorpe Hall (SE 60 77710). A more likely location for the medieval village is indicated by an aerial photograph of the area around Castlethorpe Hall (SE 60 77710), approximately a mile to the north-west of the scheduled site.

Three days fieldwalking were carried out by the M.S.C.'s Community Programme, attached to the Humberside Archaeology Unit. Three areas to the east and south east Castlethorpe Hall were intensively walked using a 10 metre grid. The resulting medieval pottery and tile scatter were plotted, as were crop marks visible on the aerial photograph. The pottery suggests occupation between the thirteenth and the fifteenth centuries. The aerial photograph shows ridge and furrow to the north, south east and west of the hall, with vague rectangular markings, presumably ploughed out buildings, visible in the fieldwalked area. The results are available from the Archaeology Unit in the form of a report entitled Castlethorpe, Broughton - Fieldwalking Report 1988.
The ditches located by geophysical survey, using a magnetometer, probably indicate the earliest occupation of the site in the first to second centuries A.D. and define individual plots within which fairly simple buildings, probably timber, would have been erected. Evidence from excavation suggests that the ditches were filled in, or possibly realigned, sometime in the third century. It is uncertain whether this was an organised redevelopment of the settlement, or a more piecemeal affair involving a revision of the individual plots as the original buildings were replaced.

The plots extended some 30m back from the original road alignment to include some land to the rear of the buildings as backyards. Beyond this area would have been a strip of more common land separating the plots from the settlement’s rear boundary ditch which was at right angles to the plots.

In all, six buildings dating from the period after the infilling of the original plot boundary ditches were identified, fronting onto Ermine Street. These would have been more substantial timber framed buildings, supported on stone foundations. It is the remnants of these foundations which survive today to provide us with information on the layout of the settlement. The most unusual building had rounded ends to both east and west, perhaps indicating that its roof was thatched. Previous excavations, in the adjacent field to the south, also exposed foundations of a building with a curved wall, but only at its west end. South of this, more regular rectangular buildings seem to have been built, all at a slight angle to the road, but not at quite the same angle as the previous property boundary ditches. This angle may have been to allow for better drainage and some degree of terracing, following the contours of the valley. This pattern was much as recorded by R. Smith during previous excavations in the 1970s. His excavations were on the south side and in the bottom of a shallow west-east valley, through which runs a stream. The 1988 excavations were on the north side of this valley.

Some of the features excavated were obviously associated with some small scale industrial activity, so far unidentified, and contained pottery dating from the second century. These features were probably involved in the repair and manufacture of locally required implements, such as farming equipment, as well as serving the traffic passing along Ermine Street.

Farming and internal industrial activity probably took over as the settlement became more established. One of the major features indicating this is the ‘corn drier’ located to the rear of the settlement. Though commonly known as ‘corn driers’ due to the identification of corn in samples taken from some of them, this function cannot be positively ascribed in every case as it is possible that structures of this type may have been put to a number of uses. The feature is roughly square in plan form with its lower elements being constructed below ground level in a pit cut for the purpose, with a narrow passage or flue projecting from one side. Within the structure a floor would have been supported by columns. A fire would have been built at the flue entrance and hot air drawn into the feature. A short length of walling opposite the flue acted as a baffle, deflecting heat around the inside, preventing a hot spot forming. The floor would thus have become heated, drying or warming whatever was placed upon it. Unfortunately, none of the above ground structure survived.

A further complication in the area of the rear boundary ditch was the presence of a number of burials, obviously later than the boundary ditch, some being cut into its backfill, but of unknown relationship to the ‘corn drier’.

Recent excavations on the site of the Roman settlement at Stanwells Farm near Hibaldstow exposed the remains of buildings and other features dating from approximately the middle of the first to sometime in the fourth century A.D. The excavations were undertaken before the A15 road widening scheme which necessitated the removal of part of the settlement. Because the site is a Scheduled Ancient Monument, funds were made available by English Heritage for archaeological excavations. These took place from February to June 1988, with a team of six people supervised by D. Tomlinson.

When more detailed research on the finds is combined with analysis of the structures and features and added to information gathered during excavations of the early 1970s as well as geophysical survey of the site, a more complete understanding of the history of the settlement will emerge in its relation to its position on Ermine Street and other nearby settlements.1

The settlement lies on Ermine Street, twenty miles north of Lincoln and midway between the sites of the Roman towns at Winteringham to the north and Owdbury to the south. These three towns divide this part of Ermine Street into three roughly equal sections between Lincoln and the Humber. The route continues south to London and, after crossing the Humber to Brough, to York and the north, forming one of the major lines of communication of the Roman period.2

Along with Owdbury and Winteringham, Hibaldstow would originally have served as a service point on the road providing temporary accommodation.
In at least two of the burials, nails at the edge of the grave cut indicated that the remains had originally been enclosed in wooden coffins. This suggests that they were of higher status than originally thought as lower status burials would probably have been without coffins. There was no evidence, however, for this being a burial ground or cemetery. One of the other burials involved far less ceremony, the body apparently having been dumped in a pit close to the rear of the buildings further east.

Acknowledgements

The excavations were undertaken by the Humberside Archaeology Unit and funded by English Heritage. Messrs. H. and C. C. Nelson, the landowners, kindly allowed access to the site. Recording was assisted by the loan of a hand-held computer from Husky Computers Ltd.

NOTES

1. For previous work by Roger Smith, see Britannia 7 (1976), 324; 8 (1977), 389; 9 (1978), 431. For a more extended interim report of his work, see R. F. Smith Roadside Settlements in Lowland Roman Britain, BAR 157, 1987, pp. 189-194, figs. 2, 3, 10-14 and plates 6-13.
2. For general discussion of the site, its setting and context, see J. B. Whitwell The Conisbrough: Some Aspects of the Iron Age Tribe and the Roman Civitas, BAR British Series 99, 1982 passim.

HORKSTOW ROMAN VILLA (Fig. 2)

Ben Whitwell

Discovered in 1797 by labourers setting out a kitchen garden for Horkstow Hall, the Roman mosaics became instantly well-known, as they were recorded in quick succession by Fowler and Lyons. The Orpheus mosaic is one of a small group in this country depicting Orpheus playing to the animals, whilst the chariot race scene which borders it, is unique in Britain. Lyons persuaded the owner to construct a building to protect the mosaics from the elements, and they remained in situ until 1927 when they were removed to the British Museum. Having languished there undisplayed for nearly fifty years, they were loaned to Hull Museums in 1976, and now form part of a fine display of Roman mosaics from the Humberside area.

Since then, Horkstow Hall which had for years been derelict has been renovated for Mr Bruce Rowles. The kitchen garden, where the mosaics were found, had become pasture along with the formal garden layout recorded by Lyons to the west of the hall. Prior to landscaping for the new owner, a geophysical survey was carried out by English Heritage.

During March and April 1988 the new works, associated with the renovation of the hall, included the mechanical excavation of drainage and electricity trenches, and a watching brief was carried out by Humberside Archaeology Unit as part of the arrangements for Scheduled Monument consent.

As might be expected from an area so close to the original finds, extensive traces of Roman occupation were observed in the electricity trench to the north of the hall, including part of a laid limestone rubble surface (Figs. 2, 7, and 8) which may form part of an approach road to the villa. The surprise was that a deep drainage trench cut to the west of the hall (Fig. 2.1), produced no evidence of earlier occupation, except for gravel lenses, close to the present surface, which may best be explained as representing the paths of the original formal garden layout of Horkstow Hall.

The geophysical survey showed anomalies in a general alignment from north-west to south-east which could be interpreted as being caused by building remains. These anomalies include two possible buildings running south-west-north east (Fig. 2, E and F), an alignment which is at variance with that of Lyons which lies east-west (Fig. 2, B, C, D), as does the hall itself. For the moment the matter has to remain unresolved. There is no reason to assume that Lyons’ alignment was not accurately surveyed and we may therefore be dealing with different building periods. If this is the case, presumably E and F would form part of an earlier layout, since the mosaics at B were laid in the mid-fourth century. However, it should be said that the alignment of the possible buildings E and F is at variance with all medieval and later building in the Wold edge villages which tend to lie parallel with the natural slope or at right angles to it.

Finally, one further discovery may be relevant. In collating the aerial photographic evidence for this area, a field system was noted to the north of the mosaics, in fields north of Hall Farm. They are approximately on the same alignment as the mosaics. The enclosures look similar to those recorded adjacent to the villa at Winterton, and could therefore be land divisions associated with the villa.

NOTES

1. W. Fowler (1796-1818), Engraving of the Principal Mosaic Pavements no. 2 (1799); S. Lyons, Reliquiae Britannico-Romanae 1, (1813) pt. 1, 1-4, pl. L-VIII (originally published 1801).
6. Aerial photo references BZM 38/9; Cambridge University Collections. Thanks are due to Ray Teal who brought the photographs to my attention.
RECENT SURVEYS OF THE MAJOR ROMAN SETTLEMENT OF KIRKINGTON

M. Hemblade and R. Cooper

During the winter of 1988/89, the Humberside Archaeology Unit and participants in the Employment Training 'Archaeology in the Community' project carried out a fieldwalking investigation of part of the Iron Age and Romano-British 'open settlement' at Kirkington. This work is part of a co-ordinated programme involving the Unit, Scunthorpe Museum, the RCHM(E) and English Heritage, initiated in order to assess the current state of preservation of the scheduled area, and to increase knowledge about the site.

The Roman fort at Kirkington, as revealed by aerial photography, consists of the northern half of a large double ditched rectangular enclosure, superimposed on an extensive pre-Roman nucleated settlement and overlain by the meandering tracks of a later Roman Civil settlement. Many hundreds of coins, brooches and other metalwork have been recovered from the area over recent years, including Coritannic coinage, La Tene III and Colchester type brooches, Romano-British brooches and other small finds, and Germanic metalwork of the late fourth and early fifth centuries. The coin list runs from the Iron Age to the end of the Roman series. Finds of votive objects also indicate the likely presence of a shrine. However, no systematic investigation of the full range of metalwork, finds and pottery has hitherto been undertaken.

In order to broadly relate the fieldwalking finds to the underlying features, the areas of greatest interest were marked out with 10m grid squares and intensively walked, the finds from each square being collected in numbered bags. Over 66,000 were walked in this way. The greatest quantities of sherds were recovered from O.S. parcel 6355, a field which includes the northern corner of the fort and a possible Iron Age enclosure. As yet, this is the only area from which pottery finds have been processed; the date range spans the second to later fourth centuries, with only a few pieces which may be first century in date. Fabric types characteristic of the second to earlier third centuries are present in some quantity, but it is worthy of note that rusticated ware (in use by AD 70-140) is represented by only two sherds. Bearing in mind that this is only a third of the fieldwalked area, it seems likely that the bulk of the pottery in the assemblage post dates the mid second century. Samian sherds of this period include the rim of a Curle 21 in General Gaulish fabric, while other forms and fabrics typical of the third and fourth centuries are common, particularly Greyware flanged bowls and Daleware jars. Mortaria and colour coated wares are also present in smaller quantities. Metal finds from other fieldwalked areas include a second century disc brooch, a radiate of Tetlicius I (AD 270-273) and a coin of Constantine II (AD 337-340).

As work on the identification of the sherds progresses, it will be possible to show the distribution of the various wares in relation to an accurate cropmark plot. This has been produced by Dilwyn Jones of the Unit and member of the Air Photography Unit of the RCHM(E), using the Haigh computer rectification system for oblique air photographs, developed by Bradford University. A preliminary contour map showing the distribution of Roman pottery has already been prepared using grid generalisation techniques, as well as a dot density distribution for O.S. parcel 6355. This does show density areas in relation to some features, although further analysis of these relationships must be deferred until all fieldwalking finds have been processed. This analysis will be aided by a programme of geophysical survey started by English Heritage in 1988/89 which is intended eventually to cover the whole site, and be integrated with the aerial photographic plots and the results of the fieldwalking survey.

Acknowledgements

Thanks are due to Kevin Leahy (Scunthorpe Museum), Dilwyn Jones (RCHM(E)), Irene McGrath, Phil Ling, and all members of the Employment Training fieldwalking and finds processing team. The advice of Peter Didsbury on the pottery is gratefully acknowledged. David Jordan of the English Heritage Geophysical Section carried out the geophysical survey with help from Andy Payne. We are indebted to Hilda Sands, the Marshall brothers, Gordon Taylor and Alan Featherstone for information about finds in their collections, and to Alan Harrison in particular for his work on the coin list.

NOTES

2. D. N. Riley, 'Roman defended sites at Kirkington, South Humberside and Farnsfield, Notts, recently found from the air', Britannia, 7, 1977, 189-192.

TWO BRONZE FIGURINES FROM DRAGONBY, SOUTH HUMBERSIDE

Joan P. Alcock

Two figurines of Mars, one representing Mars Gradivus, the other representing a Celticised version of Mars Ultor, were found at Dragonby, South Humberside. Both were discovered during the early 1970s by people using metal detectors, that of Mars Gradivus by the late Henry Mossop, and that of Mars Ultor by Messrs Colin and Jack Marshall.

The Dragonby site has been excavated by Jeffrey May who reports that neither of the figures came from the western edge of the Dragonby site where the excavation took place, but were surface finds from a ploughed field where the centre of the Roman settlement might be expected. Mr May also suggests that the figurines and other finds from Dragonby may be related to a temple or shrine.

I am most grateful to Jeffrey May for permission to publish the Mars Ultor figurine and to the Curator and the Keeper of Archaeology at the Borough Museum and Art Gallery, Scunthorpe, for permission to publish the Mars Gradivus figurine.

1. Naked male figure representing Mars Gradivus (Fig. 3).
   Height 8cm. Cast solid. There is some pitting, otherwise the bronze is of good quality with a light green patina.
   Missing: the major part of the left arm, right forearm, right leg below the thigh, left hand.
   The weight of the body rests on the right leg. The left leg is flexed backwards so that the tip of the missing right toes would have rested on the ground. Similar complete figures show the left foot turned slightly backwards. The right arm is curved outwards. The left arm is lowered and would either have held a sword or rested on a shield placed upright on the ground. The right arm is raised sideways as if to hold a lance, with the forearm extended obliquely forward. The Corinthian helmet has a double crest; the plume extends onto the nape of the neck. Curly hair appears from under the helmet and there is a central front parting. The facial features are clearly marked. The eyes are round; the left socket has been scraped as if to deepen it. The mouth is indicated by a slit; the chin is clean shaven. The treatment of the nude torso is naturalistic with the pectoral muscles and the buttocks being well-formed. Part of a chamfron remains on the left shoulder and falls down the back of the upper left arm.
2. Male figure dressed in military uniform and representing Mars Ultor (Fig. 4).

Height 9.8cm. Cast solid with a partly roughened surface. There is some slight corrosion especially on the neck; the patina is light green.

Missing: left hand.

The weight of the body is evenly distributed. Both arms are raised forward. The right forearm is raised upwards and the hand has a hole cut through it into which a lance could have been inserted; the fingers of this hand are indicated. The missing left hand may have held a shield. The legs are thick in proportion to the rest of the body; the feet are bare with the toes clearly indicated. The facial features are formalised. A beard is indicated by a series of rough lines and by a slightly raised area which merges into the side hair. The nose is straight and wedge-shaped. The eyes are oval; the eyeballs protrude slightly. Corrosion in the right eye has resulted in a lump being formed. The figure wears what is apparently a short-sleeved tunic held in place by a belt decorated with semi-circles but this is probably intended to be a formalised military garb. The helmet grips the head and a stylised plume is indicated by a raised curve strip passing from front to back.

Bronze representations of Mars take two forms both of which are depicted in the figurines found at Dragonby. The naked figure is the Mars Gradivus type\(^1\) of which other examples have been found in Britain.\(^2\) None of these has exactly the same stance as that of the Dragonby figure; a figure found at Colchester is the nearest parallel to it. Similar examples have been found in Gaul and the Rhineland.\(^3\) The figure is usually depicted quite naked; very few have the chlamys. A complete figure in the Vienne Museum\(^4\) shows the chlamys caught on the right shoulder in a manner similar to that of the Dragonby chlamys. The garment then passes diagonally across the back to loop over the left forearm from which it depends in a series of folds. Another, found at Bonn, depicts the chlamys descending from the right shoulder and looped in a similar manner round the arm.\(^5\)

The prototype seems to be a Hellenistic model of the fourth and fifth centuries B.C. probably showing Alexander or a Hellenistic despot, created by Lysippos and his

school,\(^6\) which became popular through Roman copies. Several of the statues hold a sword in the left hand, which rested against the arm. This pose was adopted in Republican Rome for victorious Roman generals,\(^7\) who thus associated themselves with the god who can bring victory. Its popularity continued during the Empire. Provincial bronze workers, especially in Gallia Belgica, created figurines with this stance;\(^8\) and Menzel notes the popularity of the Corinthian type of helmet.\(^9\) The Dragonby figure is entirely classical in concept. Mars wears a tall Corinthian-type helmet with a double plume. The fact that the complete figure seems to have had drapery wrapped over the left forearm may suggest that the left hand may not have held a sword, although it would have been possible for a craftsman to cast a bronze figure holding a sword in front of the drapery and resting in the crook of the arm. Two naked figures, of Mars Gradivus, one from Drouwijn, the other from Blicquy,\(^10\) both have a sword surviving in the left hand. In each case the sword is placed in a slit cast into the palm of the hand and angled so that the blade of the sword stands away from the body.

The second type of representation depicts Mars dressed in military uniform. There was a type of warrior figure of Italic-Etruscan origin which presumably represented Mars and which was in existence during the Republic. Four examples of this figure have been found in Britain.\(^11\)
In the Imperial era the type more frequently depicted was that inspired by the figure which Augustus had had erected in the Temple of Mars Ultor in Rome, consecrated in 2 B.C. Small bronze copies of this statue became very popular in the Empire and some are suggested to have been made in a workshop presumed to have existed near Bavo. In Britain many examples of this type have been found in Gaul and Rhineland. All the known figures are purely classical in form and there appears to be no exact parallel to the Dragonby figurine. A small bronze figure in the Avignon Museum is crudely made and displays Celtic workmanship, but there seems to be no parallel which has a uniform display in such a formalised manner as the one worn by the Dragonby figure. The facial features of this figure are also Celticised and the raised form of the beard, which merges into the hair on each side of the face, is somewhat similar in technique to that on the small Celticised head found at Hockwold (Norfolk). The concept of the Dragonby figurine is derived from the Mars Ultor statue but its specific aspect may represent a local warrior god. A crude figurine of such a god was found at West Coker (Somerset) where a bronze plaque identified the deity as Mars Rigismus. In this case, however, the model was the Mars Gradivus type.

The fact that two figurines, both representing Mars but so dissimilar to one another, have been found on one site raises the question of the siting of the workshops where the figures were made. The Italic-Etruscan figures of Mars were made in Northern Italy. Many of the Mars Gradivus and Mars Ultor figurines were made in workshops in Gaul and the Rhineland. It has already been suggested that one such workshop was situated near Bavo. Menzel suggests the possibility of others situated near Reims and another at Blicquy basing this view on the differences of the poses, the facial expressions and the hair styles of the Mars Gradivus types. Bronze figurines were easily portable and their findspots may be far from where they were created. Many bronzes were imported into Britain, but it is very likely that there were a number of workshops in this country. Evidence of one at Gestingthorpe (Essex) is suggested by the evidence of a clay mould found on that site. The Dragonby Mars figurine may have been either imported or have been made in a workshop on the Dragonby site. If the latter a craftsman might have used as a model a similar figurine or he may have copied the design which was known on coins from Republican times onward.

The workmanship of the Dragonby Mars Ultor figurine indicates the hand of another craftsman. Its appearance, powerful but static, may owe its inspiration to a Mars Ultor type vaguely remembered. Alternatively the craftsman may have intended to represent a local warrior god, whom he may have wished to portray not in authentic Roman armour but in the Celtic tunic.

The Dragonby figurines were examined and photographed in the Seathorpe Museum & Art Gallery as part of a survey made of bronze figurines and incorporated into an unpublished Ph.D thesis in 1976.

NOTES
1. Ovid, Fasti iii 147-149.
5. H. Menzel, Die Römischen Bronzen aus Deutschland, III, Bonn, 1986, no. 15. The garment is often found draped in a similar fashion on figurines of Mercury and Jupiter.
8. M. Arnaud, "Une statuette en bronze de Mars trouvé à Blicquy (Hainaut)," Latomus, 26, 1967, pp. 82-91.

London: Catalogue of the Collection of London Antiquities in the Guildhall Museum, 1908, p. 69, no. 7: Southwark: unpublished; Swell area (Somerset): unpublished; Unknown provenance, now in Devizes Museum; Devizes Museum Catalogue, 1934, p. 224, pl. 73, no. 4; J. M. C. Toynbee, Art in Britain under the Romans, 1964, p. 119.
14. Bury St. Edmunds: M. J. Green, The Religions of Civilian Roman Britain, BAR 24, 1973, Pitts, op. cit., p. 52, no. 13; Chester: unpublished; Earth (Huntingdonshire): Toynbee, op. cit., note 67; Pitts, op. cit., p. 52, no. 16; London: Guildhall Museum Catalogue, 1908, p. 69, no. 6; Brownrigg, op. cit., p. 51, no. 10. This figure holds a patera in the right hand.
20. Britannia, 1970, p. 266. The mould seems to have been used to cast a figure of Baccus by the cire perdue method.

A NOTE ON THE FOSS DYKE BRONZE FIGURINE OF MARS GRADIVUS (Fig. 5)

Joan P. Alcock

The statuette, ten inches high, found at the Foss Dyke and now in the British Museum, has been published several times. It is dated to the second or third century AD and its baroque appearance suggests that it might have been an imported piece. The inscription however is of some interest as throwing some light on the price of a well-made figurine. The inscription states that the two men with the nomen and gentilicium (family name), Colasunus, and both bearing Celtic forenames, Brutus and Caratinus, dedicated the statuette to Mars and the divine power of the Emperor at a cost of 100 sesterces (ie. 25 denarii).

A joint dedicated, Celasus, a copporminer or bronze-worker (aerarius) 'made from the casting' (aeramenti libram donavit factam denarii) at a cost of three denarii. Does this mean that the labour costs were 22 denarii and that the preparation of the metal cost only three denarii or that the metal itself required an extra payment?
A ROMAN VEHICLE MOUNT FROM MANTON (Fig. 5)

Kevin Leahy

The subject of this note was found in August 1988 by Mr Denis Hill while he was using his metal detector on ploughed land in the parish of Manton, South Humberside. Although other material of Romano-British date has come from the area of the findspot nothing has been found that could be functionally related to this mount and it must be considered as a stray find.

Fig. 6 Roman vehicle mount from Manton.

The mount is made from a cast copper alloy and now exhibits a fine, dark green patina. It has an overall length of 64.3mm making it perhaps the smallest known example of its type. The main part of the mount consists of a seven sided tapering tube which would have fitted over a wooden peg. Around the mouth of the tube is a double moulding. On the sides of the tube are a pair of 2.8mm diameter holes one of which is open while its counterpart contains the corroded remains of the iron pin that once held the mount into place. The cavity within the tube extends into the eagle’s head making it effectively hollow throughout. The metal section is thin the tube having a thickness of only 1.5mm. There is a notch at the lower end of the tube measuring 7mm x 2.7mm. While this may have been an original feature it is more likely to be caused by breakage. Decoratively the Manton mount is a striking object. Its top is in the form of a carefully executed eagle’s head which emerges from three splayed leaves on the end of the tube. These leaves are placed to the front and sides of the head leaving the back clear. In its beak the eagle holds a rounded object. This is elongated and may have been intended to represent a nut. From the lower end of the tube springs a hook-shaped bar in the form of the head and neck of a duck whose beak points towards that of the eagle as if one bird were feeding the other. The duck’s head is not so carefully modelled as that of the eagle being generally mis-shapen with incorrectly placed, over large eyes.

The mount was cast to shape and then such details as the eyes and the markings on the feathers added by engraving. A close examination of the casting failed to find any trace of a mould joint line. This was either completely removed after casting or the mould was made in one piece using the cire perdue (lost wax) process which results in a jointless, one piece mould.

NOTES
3. Birley suggests that Celarius though bearing a Latin name (meaning concealed) was Celtic. He may have been an interiner worker from Gaul.
4. Duncan Jones in a survey of costs in Roman Italy accepted that the cost of this statue was three denarii out of a total outlay of 112 sesterces giving a ratio of 1:9.7 for the cost of the metal to the cost of workmanship. The manufacturing costs would then equal 93%. He has no further example of smaller statues. Papers of the British School at Rome, XXXIII, 1965, p. 197.
5. The statue was weighed in the British Museum and the problem was discussed with Miss Judith Swaddling.
The Manton find belongs to a class of object that are generally referred to in the archaeological literature as a ‘vehicle mount’. The continental evidence for this identification has been reviewed by Painter and by Toynbee and, while it is likely to be correct, there is still some doubt as to their actual function. In some cases the mounts have been found in pairs. They may have been rein guides, wheel checks to which the wheel would have been strapped as a ‘parking brake’ or mounts from off the undercarriage of a vehicle. The latter idea does seem the most likely and is supported by continental depictions of vehicles with similar mounts fitted onto the axles. The Manton mount, like most other examples, shows no signs of wear and, while the hook fitting on its side does suggest that it was functional, the object is too lightly made for it to have survived any robust usage.

Eagle headed mounts closely resembling the Manton find occur throughout the provinces of the western Roman Empire. Closer to home there are good parallels from Britain in particular the examples from Silchester and Cirencester. The only other example from Lincolnshire is a fragment from Walesby. This consists of only the eagle’s head broken from its tubular mount. As on the Manton find the Walesby eagle is holding a nut or berry in its beak. The Walesby fragment comes, however, from a much larger mount than the Manton example. It measures 45mm from beak to the back of its eye compared to the 28mm on the Manton piece.

The strikingly close resemblance between mounts originating from as far apart as Britain and the Rhine-Danube frontier led Webster to suggest that they were of a first century military nature. This was supported by the findspots which, it was said, followed the continental limes. While many of the British finds do come from sites which had a first century military presence (Leicester, Wroxeter, Colchester, Silchester, Cirencester and High Rochester) most of these places do go on to develop as extensive and long lived civilian settlements. Certainly there is no evidence for military activity at either Manton or Walesby and a military origin for these mounts must now be seen as unlikely. Painter, after reviewing the continental literature proposed a second or third century date range for these objects but noted some early fourth century finds. The Manton find provides no help in the dating of vehicle mounts as previous finds on the site range in date from the Iron Age to the end of the Roman period but does provide further evidence of the quality of metalwork available in Roman Lincolnshire.

NOTES
1. I must offer my thanks to Mr Hill for allowing me to publish his and many other objects found by him over the years find.
3. J. M. C. Toynbee and Alan Wilkins, op. cit., pp. 248-51, pl. XXIII.
5. Ibid., pl. XXIII /A.