Archaeology in Lincolnshire and South Humberside 1989-90

Edited by Naomi Field

This year’s articles reflect the continuing diversity of archaeological work being undertaken in the county ranging from the major survey project in the Fens, funded by English Heritage, to chance discoveries such as the Saxon grave cover at Glentham. Further information may be found in the Annual Reports of the City of Lincoln Archaeology Unit (no. 2) and the Trust for Lincolnshire Archaeology (no. 6).

The funding of archaeological work continues to depend more upon developers and this has been formalised in some of the county’s planning policies. All applications for mineral extraction must include an evaluation of the archaeological implications for such work. Planning applications at District level are monitored by the County Archaeological Officer and in some areas by Community Archaeologists. In relevant cases consent for development is conditional upon prior archaeological investigation. This trend is to be welcomed.

SCUNTHORPE MUSEUM 1989

Kevin Leahy

The main event of the year was the completion of the excavation of the Cleatham Anglo-Saxon cemetery. By the end of the excavation it proved possible to determine the extent of the cemetery on all sides and to achieve as full an investigation as is practical. The northern end of the site, where survival was best, was fully excavated while a small number of urns were left in the ploughed out southern part of the site. A total of 1014 urns were excavated together with 63 inhumations. Now that all that remains is to write up the excavation.

Two major donations were received during the year. The largest was the final part of the collection of Harold Dudley (1881-1964) who was for forty-three years curator of Scunthorpe Museum. Most of the Dudley collection had found its way into the museum’s collection during his lifetime but the residue remained with his family. Although small in comparison with the earlier donation this group of material still consisted of 800 items, mainly of worked flint.

The other major acquisition was a collection of metal objects found along the Humber Bank. In all there are 229 objects ranging in date from Late Bronze Age to recent. It is useful to see the range of material culture from a small area.

CITY OF LINCOLN ARCHAEOLOGY UNIT

M. J. Jones

The first full year of the Unit’s existence saw a continuing excavation programme in the City, further progress on the backlog of reports, and the fillip (and upheaval!) of a move to new headquarters at the former Larn Hospital. Here, immediately west of Lincoln Castle, the City Council has provided pleasant new offices, the Unit being the first tenant of a major development scheme to be completed by autumn 1990. It will also include an interpretation centre explaining our activities to the general public and to educational groups.

In the field, work was completed at the West Gate of Lincoln Castle in advance of its repair. A number of small-scale investigations adjacent to the upper city have added to our knowledge of this area of Roman and medieval expansion. Most excavations, however, again took place close to the waterfront in the heart of the commercial centre. Two further areas were investigated in advance of the construction of the Waterside shopping complex. Beneath Woolworth’s store on High Street, work in the basement revealed a sequence of pits to the rear of presumed tenth-eleventh-century houses on the street, and several Roman cobbled surfaces probably associated with a quay. At Saltergate surfaces adjacent to the later Roman riverside were exposed beneath floors of medieval structures and the northern end of the slipway found in 1988. Again large amounts of artefacts, including wood and leather objects, turned up, and samples taken for environmental analysis. On Brayford Quay North, limited excavations uncovered the south-westerly limit of the late twelfth-century development of Newland suburb, and a double-flued kiln of late medieval date. Almost all funding for new projects has to be negotiated from developers.

The Post-Excavation team, funded by English Heritage, moved on to producing archive reports on sites excavated outside the walled city up to 1987. A further year will be spent on archive reports before publication of the material can commence. In the meantime, a guide to the content of the archive is being issued, and several further fascicles in the series The Archaeology of Lincoln are to be published. Late in 1989 the report on the Late Saxon Pottery at Silver Street appeared, and it is hoped that three reports will appear in 1990.

FENLAND PROJECT 1982-90

T. Lane and P. Sidebottom

September 1990 saw the completion of the second phase of the Fenland Project. Phase I, which commenced in April 1982, was a rapid reconnaissance fieldwalking exercise undertaken in order to assess the extent and quality of archaeological remains in the Fenland. At the same time, the lateral extent of the surface sediments was mapped. By speculating on the origins of the sediments and of their deposition and that of the underlying sediments, it was possible to suggest environmental contexts for many of the sites recorded. Interim notes appeared annually in Fenland Research 1-6 and the final reports are with the printers (Hayes and Lane, forthcoming; Lane forthcoming). The former, in two volumes, contains the results of fieldwork in the southwest of the Fenland Fens between Billingborough and Crowland (in total 35,000 ha or 88,000 acres). The second forthcoming publication deals with approximately 10,500 ha (26,000 acres) of the northern fen-edge between Dogdyke and Wrangle.

Of the results in Phase I, some were expected; for instance the quality and density of the Romano-British sites in the south-west fens of the county had previously been noted by Hallam (1970) and Simmons (1979) and was further recorded. Some results were less predictable and the whole question of the Romano-British Fenland must now be reconsidered following the discovery of previously unsuspected sites dating to the Iron Age and to the Early and Middle Saxon periods.

In addition it was noted in Lincolnshire as well as Cambridgeshire (Hall, 1987) that there is little evidence for any fen-wide official Roman drainage.

Continuing the Romano-British theme the northern fen-edge proved remarkable for the paucity of its sites and variety of finds for that period.

Phase 2 was a more detailed ‘site-specific’ evaluation wherein 45 of the sites encountered during the fieldwalking were further investigated, chiefly by means of augering or geophysical prospecting.

It was found that many of the sites have succumbed to the onslaught of intensive arable agriculture and an artificially maintained low water-table. Even so, some excitement has been generated by sites such as the earthwork Bronze Age round barrow with waterlogged levels in Deeping St. Nicholas. The construction of an adjacent quarry seriously threatens this site with de-watering. Nearby, in Market Deeping, an Iron Age and Roman settlement appears to
contain up to two metres of stratified deposits, the lowest levels being waterlogged. Nearby, an apparently similar site lies undamaged in pasture.

The 45 sites investigated during Phase 2 are currently being assessed by English Heritage. Logically, the Phase 2 investigations will open the way for a Phase 3 investigation of selected threatened sites by excavation.

REFERENCES
Hall, D. N., 1987 'Tenland landscapes and settlement between Peterborough and March', E. Anglian Archaeology 35.
Hayes, P. P. and Lane, T. W., forthcoming 'Lincolnshire survey. The south-west Fens', E. Anglian Archaeol.
Lare, T., forthcoming 'Lincolnshire survey. The northern fen-edge', E. Anglian Archaeol.

FINDS OF BRONZE AGE LOOMWEIGHTS AND POTTERY FROM SWALLOW (Fig. 1)
Kevin Leahy
In 1986 a British Gas pipeline was installed from the Humber Estuary at East Halton south to Hatton, Lincs. During the course of this project the work was overseen by P. Catherall the British Gas Archaeologist who recovered the material which forms the subject of this note.

The finds were picked up following the topsoil stripping of the pipe line route as it passed through the parish of Swallow, on the eastern side of the Lincolnshire Wolds. Material was recovered from three points, (E, F and G) spaced along a 300 metre length of the pipe line. At the time of discovery it was impossible to observe any archaeological context owing to the disturbances caused by the machines. However, in view of the unabrased condition of these soft sherds it is likely that they originated in pits, ditches or other archaeological features. The domestic nature of the finds suggests that the machine may have cut through a settlement.

The Finds
Site E (Scunthorpe Museum code SWAE 1)
1. (Fig. 1A). Reconstructed, but substantially complete, loomweight in the form of a 100mm diameter irregular cylinder with a slightly domed top. The weight has a height 91mm and a 22mm diameter perforation. It is made from a soft-fired clay body which contains a sand filler. The outer surface of the weight has a pink colour in contrast to its dark grey, reduced, core. Over the surface of the weight is a network of fine shrinkage cracks.
2. (Fig. 1B). Reconstructed semi-complete loomweight with a rough barrel shape. The maximum diameter is 98mm and the height 74mm. Through its centre is a 24mm diameter hole. Down one side of the weight is a shallow vertical groove which may represent evidence of wear. The fabric as for No. 1.
3. (Fig. 1C). Fragment of a loomweight, originally cylindrical with a diameter of 90mm and an inside diameter of 30mm. Shape irregular. Due to damage the height of the weight cannot be ascertained. The fabric is as for No. 1.
4. (Fig. 1D). Fragment of a loomweight, 100mm diameter with a 24mm diameter perforation. Due to the size of the fragment the height of the weight cannot be ascertained. Fabric as for No. 1.
5. In addition to the above there were also a number of joining loomweight fragments. As these showed no external surfaces no dimensions can be determined. They do, however, represent a fifth loomweight on the site. All are in the same fabric as for Fig. 1. (Not figured).

Fig. 1 Swallow: A-D loomweights; E-H Bronze Age pottery (K. Leahy).
Site E (Scunthorpe Museum code SWAE 2)

6. Body sherd from a soft fired, crudely handmade vessel with a maximum surviving diameter of c.130mm and having a wall thickness ranging between from 13-17mm. Owing to irregularities in the shape of the sherd it is not possible to attempt a reconstruction but it appears to come from a straight sided vessel which tapered towards its base. The fabric is oxidised throughout and has a pink/buff colour. There are some large cavities (up to 13mm) in the body of the pot showing the loss of a calcerous filler. Sand and grog were also included in the body of the vessel. The fabric has a crumbly fracture. (Not figured.)

7. (Fig. 1E). Basal sherd, from a vessel with a base diameter of 70mm. Fabric as above.

In addition to the above sherds a further three fragments of pottery were recovered at this location and these small crumbs of pottery. All may have come from the same vessel.

Site F (Scunthorpe Museum code SWAF 1)

8. (Fig. 1F). Two rim sherds from a soft fired, crudely handmade vessel. The short surviving length of the rim makes it impossible to determine the diameter of the vessel. The rim is simple and slightly flat-topped. On the outside of the vessel is a slight hollow just beneath its rim. The sherds have an oxidised, buff exterior and a reduced, black core and interior. The body of the vessel contained both sand and grog as a filler.

In addition to the above three further small sherds and 12 crumbs of pottery were found at this location. With one exception all could have come from the above vessel.

Site G (Scunthorpe Museum code SWAG 1)

9. (Fig. 1G). Number of joining sherds forming the 175mm diameter rim of a crude, handmade vessel. The rim is slightly flattened and comes from a vessel with straight, tapering sides which bear traces of vertical ribbing. The vessel was made in a reduced, black fabric but with an oxidised, buff, exterior. Both sand and grog filler are included within the body.

10. (Fig. 1H). Sherd from a 180mm diameter handmade vessel. The thickness of the vessel is reduced towards the rounded rim and there is a suggestion that the vessel could have had a curved profile. Fabric as above but the exterior has a pink colour.

Two further large sherds were found at this location one of which may represent a third vessel.

Discussion

Loomweights of the type found at Swallow can be dated with some confidence to the Bronze Age with parallels at such sites as Iford Hill, Sussex and Shearlope Hill, Dorset. A Bronze Age date is supported by the pottery which was found in close proximity to the weights at Swallow although not securely stratified. The pottery is undecorated but the fabric type may be compared to that used to make many of the Bronze Age urns found in the area. The only other recorded find from the immediate area is a stone axe hammer which is of Early Bronze Age date.

Cylindrical weights appear to have been mainly a phenomenon of Southern sites although they have previously been found in Lincolnshire at Billingborough where ten specimens were discovered. These occurred in phases 1 and 2 and were associated with late Romano-British pottery comparable to that from Swallow. There are radiocarbon dates of 1200 ± 60 bc (BM 1410) and 1480 ± 180 bc (BM 1411) for the primary phase at Billingborough. Cylindrical weights occurred further north at Paddock Hill, Oulton, Yorks. but there truncated conical or pyramidal weights predominated. Charcoal from beneath the Rampart at Paddock Hill gave a radiocarbon date of 950 ± 70 bc (Harwell 1378). On sites in southern England cylindrical weights are found in association with pottery of the Middle Bronze Age Derecl-Rimbury tradition for which the radiocarbon dates are concentrated around the final years of the second millennium bc. Although bucket-like vessels of the type found at Swallow are thought to be related to the Derecl-Rimbury tradition Allen considered, with some justification, that they fitted more comfortably into their own East Midland regional group.

Convention has been followed in this note in describing these clay cylinders as 'loomweights' but some doubt is felt as to the validity of this identification. The most complete of the Swallow weights would have had a mass in excess of 720 grammes. This is heavier than the annular Anglo-Saxon weights which average around 200-300 grammes but is lighter than the triangular weights characteristic of the Iron Age which can weigh more than 2000 grammes. Of these weights only the annular examples of the Anglo-Saxon period can be demonstrated to be loomweights and the greater mass of others suggests that they may have had some other function as perhaps thatch or rick weights. It is notable that the weights are made in a different fabric than that used for the pottery, in particular, grog was not used in their manufacture. This difference is probably functional rather than chronological. The weights are made from a well-prepared clay and were adequately fired although the craze-cracking over their outer surfaces points to them being cooled too rapidly. The good quality of the Swallow weights may be contrasted to Anglo-Saxon loomweights that are often made from poorly prepared clay and left unfired. This might reflect a difference in function if the Anglo-Saxon loomweights were not to be left out of doors. While the Swallow weights can be dated with some confidence to the second half of the second millennium bc their function must remain open to some doubt.

NOTES
1. The writer would like to thank Mr. Cathepillar and British Gas plc. for allowing him to publish the finds and The Earl of Yarmouth for placing them on deposit at Scunthorpe Museum.
5. In this note all Radiocarbon dates quoted are in uncalibrated Radiocarbon years as signified by the 'bc' convention.

AN IRON AGE BRONZE FOUNDRY AT WEELSBY AVENUE, GRIMSBY

John Sills and Gavin Kingsley

Excavations on a 40m square enclosure between 1976 and 1990 have produced the most extensive deposits of bronze casting debris known from Iron Age Britain. There is evidence to show that a workshop specialising in chariot fittings was in operation around the mid first century BC and that the site's position at the mouth of the Humber may have facilitated extensive trading contacts.

There are two main phases of Iron Age occupation on the site, the earlier one agricultural in character and the later industrial. In the earlier phase, two roundhouse gullies and
a possible four-post granary were enclosed by a shallow, flat-bottomed enclosure ditch up to 0.4m deep with expanded entrance terminals. Pottery from these features consists almost entirely of slat-profile, weak-shouldered jars in a variety of sizes, made from local clay and with affinities to vessels from the Arras Culture cemeteries of East Yorkshire. There is a spilling of finer wares in the form of S-profile jars in a sandy brown fabric. A rotary quern fragment suggests the presence of arable farming in what would have been probably a largely pastoral landscape on heavy clay soil.

The impression of an isolated farmstead dominated by subsistence agriculture changes dramatically in the later phase. The enclosure ditch was recut with a V-shaped profile on its outer line, but on a much larger scale, up to 3.5m wide and 1.2m deep. The houses of the main part of the site; the roundhouses were abandoned, one of the gullies being cut by a sub-enclosure 10m by 15m in the south-west corner. There is still a high proportion of slat-profile jars in the coarse pottery, but shell-tempered fabrics appear for the first time along with a greater variety of rim-forms. A range of fine pottery includes black burnished pedestal bowls and the stamped and rouletted wares so characteristic of later Iron Age Lincolnshire.

The most significant feature of this phase is the occurrence of deposits of bronze-casting debris immediately above the primary silts of the new enclosure ditch. Four human crania from the ditch, including one either side of the entrance, immediately predate the debris; there is some evidence to suggest that the human head may have originally been the grave level and used to deter intruders. The main dumps of debris illustrate for the first time some of the main steps in the bronze casting process. One dump contains only wasters from the production of clay firebricks, while another has produced only crucibles, furnace debris and slag and probably represents a late stage in the refining of the iron or copper. An early Cordetian or Beaker cult site found near the copper mines on Great Orme Head in north Wales gives a clue about how far such copper may have travelled. Scrap bronze would doubtless have been used as well as imported copper in the casting process. The preliminary stages in the production process took place in the eastern half of the enclosure casting itself was confined to the west. The sub-enclosure in one corner defined one of the two areas in which the full range of metallurgical debris was found, including lost-wax moulds, triangular crucibles, furnace debris, tuyere fragments, metal-working tools, bronze wire and droplets, charcoal, slag and an iron mould. The items cast were almost entirely horse and chariot fittings, especially three link bits, terret rings and linchpin terminals, and it seems that the site was essentially a production centre for complete sets of chariot equipment. It is not possible as yet to say how many sets were produced or over what timescale the foundry operated, except that the latter was almost certainly less than a decade. It does look as if more objects were produced than would have been needed to satisfy local demand, and the site's position at the mouth of the Humber suggests routes for both the importing of raw materials and the export of finished goods. The objects cast include unusual and apparently unique types of terret ring, so it may be possible to identify Weelsby style metalwork in years to come. The bronze workers themselves may have been an intrusive group of specialist craftsmen who took over and refurbished a run-down settlement. Their relationship to the local population remains to be clarified.

There is further evidence of trade in the form of two circular lead weights from the same layer as the casting debris. One is identical in size and weight to a Gallo-Belgic A stater and the other is of similar diameter but twice the weight of an E stater. If these are coin weights they are the earliest yet found in Britain and suggest that sets of chariot fittings may have been exchanged for gold bullion in the form of imported coins. Two hoards from Grimby containing E staters, hitherto unexplained, may be connected with this trade. The fact that they are imported staters is not in itself evidence of trade with Gaul—the Stretton hoard contains southern British issues as well—but highlights the impetus given to the economy by an influx of gold bullion at the time of the Gallic Wars.

The excellent pottery sequence from the site can be tied into the metalworking phase, which in turn may provide a fixed point for both metalwork and pottery in the region—and beyond—a hundred years before that given by the Claudian invasion. The site as a whole is of the greatest importance for understanding mechanisms of trade and the evolution of a monetary economy in late Iron Age Britain.

These comments are of necessity provisional: fuller discussion must await the publication of the final report.

EXCAVATIONS AT ROXBY ROMAN VILLA 1989 (Fig. 2)
John Farrimond

A mosaic floor with a geometric design was first found in 1699. Subsequent excavations successively revealed and damaged the floor until in 1972 it was recorded and drawn, in excavations conducted by G. C. Knowles, then curator of Scunthorpe Museum. In September 1989 an archaeological evaluation was undertaken by a two-man team from the Humberside Archaeological Unit. The work, which was undertaken in advance of development to the north of the mosaics, by Snipe Properties Ltd., was entirely funded by them. The evaluation was undertaken in order to assess the level of potential damage to the Roman building which contained the mosaic pavements. From the position of the mosaic pavements it was thought that they belonged to a building running north-south, so two trenches were cut by machine to establish the extent of this building in the area of the proposed development.

Fig. 2 Roxby mosaic scheme.

The 1989 excavation has demonstrated that the building did not extend northwards for any great distance, and this, together with the shallow nature of the north wall, has suggested that the building is in fact an ailed structure with the mosaic pavements forming the flooring of a suite of rooms at one end of the building. A bath-house may also have formed part of the accommodation.

This accommodation formed the ‘upper end’ and would have been occupied by the owner of the farm. The remainder of the building would have been open and more barn-like and formed the ‘lower end’ where the farm workers would have lived and worked. Similar buildings were excavated at the Roman villa at Winterton which is only 1.5km away to the north-west. These massive buildings, (the Roxby building may have been up to 20 metres wide and 40-50 metres long) might have formed part of a much larger establishment, as at Winterton, or stood alone, combining the functions of
owner’s house and farm building under the same roof. Previous excavations have shown that the building did not extend eastwards.

So, as a result of this evaluation we are now postulating a building extending westwards from the site of the mosaics for a distance of at least 40 metres and perhaps up to 60 metres, this area must now be regarded as archaeologically sensitive, and any development in this area should be preceded by an archaeological examination. In this context, due to the shallowness of the topsoil, even the digging of foundations for a garden wall or putting up a concrete clothes post is likely to destroy any archaeological deposits which may be present.

The 1989 trenches, showed that there are no substantial archaeological remains which are likely to be damaged by the proposed development to the north of the mosaics.

**EXCAVATION OF THE ANGLIAN CEMETERY, CASTLEDYKE SOUTH, BARTON-ON-HUMBER**

(Figs. 3-5)

Ben Whitwell

Since the other major Anglian cemeteries in the vicinity of the Humber to be excavated recently, at Sancton, Esham and Manton, lie at some distance from the estuary itself, the Castledyke site within a mile of the Humber foreshore is of particular importance for studies of this period (Fig. 3). Previous notes in this journal and elsewhere have drawn attention to its discovery and the first seasons of excavation, and to some of the most significant finds. This short article mentions the earlier work and summarises the further discoveries up to the Summer of 1990.

The first remains to be found at Castledyke South were uncovered by accident in 1939, when foundations were being dug for air-raid shelters. In all, five burials were recorded, in three of which grave goods had been interred with the bodies. In the richest of these graves there was a large hanging bowl, a cylindrical lidded boxwork of bronze, and a set of scales and weights, apparently boxed up together. With these were found a decorated handle and a bronze footring, which originally formed part of a Frankish bowl and stand. A second grave contained another bronze boxwork with some of its chain still attached, separate links that once held other objects, and a sword or knife. In a third grave there were two small knives.

Subsequent exploration of the site in 1968 and 1975 revealed part of another grave.

During 1982-3 fifty-two skeletons were recorded in trenches, ahead of development, on both sides of Castledyke. This suggested the existence of an extensive Anglian cemetery.

In further excavations in November and December 1989, ahead of the planned redevelopment of the old Cattle Market area, to the east of Castledyke South, the skeletal remains of thirty-nine individuals were recorded, of which, at least twenty-five were adults and seven were children.

The earliest grave-cuts lay roughly south-to-north, and the latest lay west-to-east, with their heads to the west. The remainder of the burials appeared to follow no particular pattern; some lying roughly northwest-to-southeast, and others southwest-to-northeast.

From April to July 1990 a further and final season of work was carried out on land immediately to the north of the Cattle Market, and adjacent to the mill. Here a total of c.106 skeletons were excavated. These included finds of the evidence of accompanying grave-goods — more women than men, and more men than small children or infants. Approximately 60% of the burials were accompanied by grave-goods; many of those without grave-goods were burials disturbed by later features.

Some of the female burials were accompanied by amber of glass beads, the former more commonly found in the north part of the site. Other grave goods included grooved flints, ‘short-long’ and cruciform brooches; wrist clasps; and, more rarely, pendants, rings, ear-rings, hair-eyes, bone or antler combs, a bag-angled, a misalignment of objects perhaps of amuletic significance including animal teeth, and a ‘work box’. The most usual material for ‘costume jewellery’ was copper alloy, with silver and iron used for ornament. Brooches and pins would have secured garments at the shoulder or chest, while long-sleeved garments would be gathered in by clasps.

The male burials were typically accompanied by fewer grave-goods: small knives, and on occasion whetstones, and buckles or other dress fittings. Burials containing weapons were rare: a warrior with a sword, javelin, possible helmet fittings and hanging bowl was of indubitably high status (Fig. 5). A large spearhead came from the site within the Old Mill, and a further two burials were accompanied by smaller spearheads. One of these also included a group of three implements in a single sheath, perhaps hunting knives. No shield fittings were found, though the warrior with a sword had a grave cut to accommodate a shield.

Child burials were accompanied, if at all, by only ‘token’ goods; particularly small numbers of beads or little knives. A number of infants were also accompanied by small pots; one mammiform example with a perforated teat-shaped base is probably the first Anglo-Saxon feeding bottle to be identified by excavation.

There appeared a general division into two categories of grave-cuts: some were relatively shallow scoops into subsoil, while others were cut to varying depths forming well-defined graves. Those deeper cuts with steeper sides usually contained more or richer grave-goods, perhaps indicating a higher status commensurate with the extra effort involved in the excavation of the graves. Almost all the cruciform or ‘small-long’ brooches from the excavation came from deeper graves. Where stratigraphic relationships between graves have been recorded the deeper cuts usually prove to be the later.

Both shallow and deep graves were occasionally accompanied by post-holes which may indicate structures in or over the graves. A ‘four-post’ example was particularly indicative of a structure over the grave.

The excavation of a large area of the cemetery has revealed an apparently polyfocal organisation of burials. This does not appear to have been necessary as an original feature of burial practice on the site, as it was most clearly apparent it had been accomplished by the disturbance of
earlier graves, and probably by the relocation of disturbed remains in small charnel-pits. The clearest example of a focal arrangement was a circle of graves around the warrior buried with sword and hanging bowl. It is possible that a small barrow had marked this grave. In the central-eastern part of the site a group of emptied graves was identified, hinting at a further re-arrangement of burials. Although no other foci have been identified as convincingly as that represented by the warrior burial, the other graves did appear to lie in clusters. One such cluster may have developed in an area of soft sandy subsoil where the digging of graves would have been less laborious, but others occurred where the subsoil was anomalously flinty. The overall density of burials appears to have increased from east to west, and this may have related to boundary features defining or within the cemetery area.

Cemetery boundaries
A series of deep narrow post-hole-type features following a broadly north-west to south-east alignment were inspected by Dr. Martin Pedley of Hull University's Geology Department, who opines that they are unlikely to have been naturally formed. They may have marked the setting out and maintenance of a fence boundary. The burials are more densely concentrated on the west side of this alignment.

Discussion
Excavations to date have recorded over 200 burials from the cemetery as a whole, and much valuable information will come from the detailed study of the skeletal remains, the distribution of graves and the grave-goods.

This work will be all the more important since the sixth and seventh-century population of this cemetery can be compared with the first Christian cemetery population, possibly eighth-century, which accompanied the earliest of the churches excavated at St. Peter's,4 and also with the somewhat later burials around the tenth-eleventh century church at St. Chad's, Barrow.5 (Fig. 3). This situation promises a rare opportunity for demographic studies.

The Castledyke cemetery extends along the western slope of the shallow Wold-edge valley, whose bottom is now occupied by Whitecross Street. The actual area of the cemetery extended both to north and south of the areas available for excavation, though the western and eastern limits have been located. To the north, the slope down to the present west-
east course of Market Street/Barrow Road may well have formed the cemetery’s limit. There was no opportunity to check the nature of the boundary on the western side, since work in this area had to be confined to trenches between house sites. The more generous arrangements negotiated on the Dransfield site allowed Martin Foreman to explore the intriguing evidence for a possible boundary fence, whose successive replacements may account for the numerous post holes found at the eastern limit of the burials.

As for the southern limit of the cemetery, it must clearly extend into the gardens south of the Cattle Market, since burials were numerous close to its southern edge. No chance discoveries have so far helped to determine how far south the burials continue.

Added to the possibilities of demographic studies represented by the cemeteries at Castledyke and St. Peter’s, there is the distinct possibility that excavation on the eastern side of this shallow valley, has located the settlement which the Castledyke cemetery served. Successive excavations by the Humberside Archaeology Unit in the new Vicarage gardens in 1981 and on the Birketts Garage site prior to redevelopment in 1990, have revealed evidence of occupation from the Saxon period. Since this work has been confined to trenches, it is only possible to say that slot, post-holes and pits have yielded a small amount of pottery which may well be contemporary with that from the Castledyke cemetery. This area of settlement seems to have extended to the east of St. Peter’s Church, since Anglo-Saxon pottery was amongst the material collected by Geoff Bryant in the area of Saxon Close, East Acrideo, during excavation prior to housing development.

**NOTES**

3. These seasons of excavations were carried out by the Humberside Archaeology Unit, and this interim report draws on the work of successive supervisors and their excavation teams. The supervisors were Andy Hatt, Caroline Atkins, Hilary Squires and Martin Foreman. In particular I quote extensively from the summary report of the 1990 work by Martin Foreman.

**A FRAGMENT OF A DECORATED LATE SAXON GRAVE-COVER FROM GLENTHAM (Fig. 6)**

Patrick Foster

A current research project investigating the use and reuse of building stone in the construction of early medieval churches in the north-east of England entails a preliminary site visit to each foundation. In July 1989 the parish church of St. Peter and St. Paul at Glenham, was visited and found to be undergoing repair and renovation, with scaffolding erected around the thirteenth century tower. The renovation work at that time involved replacing decayed stonework around the tower, especially the badly eroded quoin. Unfortunately the old stonework was being removed without prior recording or regard to any potential information which could be gained from them. The method of removal, by drilling, splitting, then hacking the reduced block out, meant that it reached the ground in a shattered state.

![Fig. 6 Glenham, fragment of Anglo-Saxon grave cover. (D. Stocker).](image)

Amongst the discarded debris at the base of the tower was a much damaged fragment, 28 x 18 x 17cm, of a quoin stone which had originally formed part of a decorated Late Saxon grave-cover. It had been redressed to a suitable size and shape and with the decorated face turned inwards had been built into the medieval tower. Its original position in the tower could not be precisely determined, however it lay beneath the south-west corner. The fragment was removed and passed for recording to Paul Everson and David Stocker as an addition to the British Academy’s forthcoming publication of a corpus of Anglo-Saxon stone sculpture for the county (see below). It will finally be deposited in the City and County Museum, Lincoln.

A preliminary analysis of the fragment

The stone is of a good quality oolitic limestone and is a fragment from near one end of a large flat grave-cover of the sort called ‘Lindsey type’ by Stocker (Gilmour and Stocker 1986, 61). The surviving decoration is one unit of figure-of-eight interlace from a repetitive pattern, whose full form can conveniently be seen in the publication of the funerary monuments from St. Mark’s church in Lincoln (Gilmour and Stocker 1986, fig. 53, nos. IV/20, 1/21). Substantially complete covers of this type are found in St. Michael’s church at Cammeringham nearby on the limestone ridge (Anon. 1912-13, illus.; Davies 1926, pl. VII) and from the demolished church of St. Andrew at Morningshy, now in the City and County Museum at Lincoln (Penny 1894-5). The distribution of the nineteen known examples of the type is limited to Lincoln and Lindsey: they will be the subject of full description and discussion in the Lincolnshire volume.
of the Corpus of Anglo-Saxon Stone Sculpture (Everson and Stocker forthcoming). Their date is later tenth to eleventh century. 

Paul Everson and David Stocker

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FROM THE KING'S HIGHWAY TO THE BRAYFORD

(Fig. 7)

Kate Steane

Wigford, the low lying area to the south of the walled city, is bounded by the River Witham to the north and west, with Sincil Dyke to the east. Towards the end of the Roman period it seems that there was an area of dry land to the north of Wigford, but this occupation would have been limited to a ribbon development following the line of Ermine Street. The river Witham left flood deposits at the back of buildings of the colonia suburb found at St. Mark's Station but for 20m behind the buildings the ground level had been raised in the very late fourth century although the reason for doing so is not clear (Steane 1990). There is no evidence, so far, for early or mid Saxon occupation in this area, but there is evidence for activity in the late Saxon period which may have been linked with an Edwardian (the Elder) reaction to the Viking presence in Lincoln, an undocumented double burh (Vince forthcoming). Some of the earliest archaeological evidence of medieval activity in the area includes three lanes lying to the west of the High Street in Wigford. Two were located by excavation on the St. Mark's Station site (Z86) and one lane was found on a site at 170 High Street (H590).

Excavation of this site (Z86) was limited to an area c10m from the High Street which extended for c4m towards the Witham between the station platforms. There were developments of lanes and buildings (Z86) from the late twelfth century to the mid thirteenth century. Two plots ran from the High Street, each with its own lane and associated buildings. There was a boundary between the plots which was possibly first a fence; it was later defined by a series of east-west gullies in the ground (hedge, fence or wall?) and finally was represented by a wall which continued in use into the seventeenth century. The lanes ran on each side of the boundary.

The plot to the south was probably the first to be laid out. A rough limestone surface represented a lane from the High Street; pottery sherds from this surface dated to the mid/late-twelfth century. A street may have had a running track for the construction of this lane. Excavation was limited in area and only the remains of a stone-lined pit indicated the possibility of an earlier structure. The lane degenerated rapidly allowing a thick deposit to accumulate over it with pottery dating from the mid/late-twelfth to the fifteenth century.

The lane to the north of the boundary was constructed of limestone rubble which had become worn. Much of it had been removed by nineteenth-century levelling and it only survived where it had sunk into pits or as a scatter. The lane may have been constructed some time from the mid-thirteenth century. It was probably associated with a building to the north, possibly of timber framed construction. There was little associated pottery but what there is suggests that there was occupation by the late-twelfth and the mid-thirteenth centuries and that it was out of use between the mid-thirteenth and early-fourteenth centuries. There was an even less substantial structure to the east with pottery of mid-thirteenth to early-fourteenth century date. There were a number of late-thirteenth to mid-fourteenth century features (associated with the Carmelite Friary) which cut through the lane surface. With the Friary on the site the lane was no longer needed.

Lanes lying on both sides of a boundary suggests private access to buildings, rather than access to the river. These lanes were both in use for a short time whereas the boundary continued indicating that the property not the access was important.

Small evaluation trenches and a watching brief at 170 High Street (H590) revealed an east-west metalled lane which was laid down in the thirteenth century to the north of the plot. The metalling was more substantial and wider (4m wide) towards the High Street than to the west (3m wide); part of the stone foundations of one or more structures were recovered to the south of the lane, and one possibly to the north. This lane continued in use until the late-fourteenth century. The change in the lane surface date towards Brayford Pool. However the north side of the lane followed the parish boundary between the parishes of St. Mary-le-Wigford and St. Mark (a lane was relaid here in the sixteenth century).

In the Registrum Antiquissimum and the Thurgarton Cartulary there are many grants in Wigford which describe land as having 'the King's highway' to the east and the 'Brayford' to the west. The water to the west of Wigford was always referred to in the grants as the 'Brayford'; never the River Witham. Unless the river has a change of name for its upper reaches it seems possible that there may have been a wide expanse of water, continuous with what we know today as Brayford Pool, at least as far south as St. Margaret's parish. Only four grants in Registrum Antiquissimum have

WIGFORD IN THE EARLY TO MID 13TH CENTURY

Fig. 7
early-thirteenth century references to access routes to land between the High Street and the ‘Brayford’; these grants are for land in the parishes of Holy Cross and St. Margaret (2464, 2466, 2465, 2566). It seems likely that for the first time land was being developed behind the frontage in these parishes and that there was no previously available way of gaining access to this land except by owning the properties fronting on to the High Street. These grants imply piecemeal development with private access to the High Street through an already existing frontage. Buildings were mentioned in grants for land to the west of the High Street on the higher ground in St. Benedict parish (2916, 2917, 2918). The area behind the frontage was apparently already well developed, probably with its own system of lanes.

There was only one reference to a route between road and water. This was in a grant for land in the parish of St. Margaret including a ‘tree and wooted exit and entry from the King’s highway to the water of the Brayford’ (2464). Lanes to the west of the High Street were never mentioned as boundaries for defining land. This may suggest that, where they occur, they are an integral part of individual properties, providing private access to buildings and land as well as to the water.

In the thirteenth century it seems that lanes to the west of Wigford primarily provided private access to individual properties from the High Street. The relative importance of Brayford Pool as a means of communication is difficult to assess. Speed’s map of 1610 does not show any of the excavated lanes or the access route referred to in the documents. Instead there was one lane which ran down to Brayford Pool opposite St. Mary-le-Wigford and a lane in St. Mark’s parish which appeared not to reach the water, but had several houses along its length. Speed’s map indicates the shrunken nature of the suburb, compared to the density of occupation hinted at by the archaeological and documentary evidence for the medieval period.

Acknowledgements
Kev Camidge supervised excavations at St. Mark’s Station in 1986 and by Marc Otter in 1987; Mike Jarvis with the help of John Hockley supervised 170 High Street in 1990. Jane Young has dated these sites by looking at their pottery. The documentary evidence of lanes in the area has been examined with help from Chris Johnson.

NOTE:
Francis Hill mentions the Calendar of Patent Rolls of 1491 which refers to the ‘water and great river called “le Brayford” which extends from the town of Warwycote (rectius Waddington) to the city of Lincoln, and the great river passing through the city of Lincoln; also the great river called “le Wefully” extending from the city of Lincoln to the water of Dokkyke, in Lyndsey and Kesteven’. However he does suggest that Brayford Pool reached St. Peter at Gwot’s parish in the medieval period.

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Fig. 8 Wolmersty feudal earthworks. (P. Sidebottom).

Across Ivery Lane, nearer to Greenfield Farm, are the ploughed remains of an area once surrounded by a moat-like ditch (WRA 26). It was called The Ivery’s on the 1807 Enclosure Map where the moat is indicated by dotted lines. Finds of pottery from the site were not especially numerous and chiefly late medieval and early post-medieval in date. However, many tile fragments were noted, some of which were over-fired. To the north lies a further site, WRA 27, which has plentiful Late Saxon pottery. Sherd s are also relatively densely scattered over the remainder of the field.

Finds of pottery sherds made during field survey suggest that the village was founded in the Late Saxon period. At that time Wolmersty was a significant place for it provided an early, if short-lived, name for the wapentake later called Skirbeck (Fellows Jensen 1978, 344; Foster and Longley 1976, 68).

A seaward location for Wolmersty, on the borders of Wrangle and Friskney, is suggested by historical sources; sometime before 1186 Simon le Brete gave Waltham Abbey four acres of meadow in Wrangle to Wolmersty abutting on the boundary with Friskney (Hallam 1965, 170); in 1274 the Abbot of Waltham claimed in Wrangle ‘wrecks and wayfays and the goods from felons from Leake Bank (on the eastern parish boundary) to Wolmersley’ (Thompson 1856, 594), presumably lying in the latter place to the eastern parish boundary. The location of Wolmersty is almost certainly that of the pottery scatters recorded as WRA 17, 26 and 27, near Greenfield Farm (Fig. 8). WRA 17, which air photograph evidence indicates was once enclosed by a ditch, stands on a sub-circular, low mound of glacial clay, surrounded by marine silts. The earliest pottery from the mound has been dated to the Late Saxon period (H. Healey pers. comm.) and other finds include a lava quern and 70 animal bones. Some ‘brick features’ were apparently noted when the farmer dug into the mound some years ago.

Fig. 8 Wolmersty medieval earthworks. (P. Sidebottom).
of a second moat further north within the same field (U9). This part of the site was unavailable for field walking. There are also traces of strips (ridge and furrow or dylings) to the north and east. Evidence for the Greenfield Farm/Wolmerst area being a Late Saxon foundation is overwhelming. Examination of the background scatter of sherd s from the general area (by H. F. B. C. Cowley) has resulted in the identification of Late Saxon and Early medieval wares including early Stamford wares. Fields to the north and east of the Wolmerst site are in Friskney parish, an area not investigated as part of the Fenland Survey. However, fields to the south and west, in Wrangle, were walked and yielded a widespread scatter of sherd s, indicative of manuring and arable agriculture.

The sites and scatters flank a sinuous, shallow depression created by a stream, the line of which delineates the Wrangle-Friskney boundary. Low islands of pre-Flandrian soils protrude through the marine silt around the area and no doubt contributed the 'ey' element around the Wolmerst place-name.

Some late and post-medieval sherds are present but by that time Wolmerst had declined in population. Wolmerst survived as a manor until at least the reign of Henry IV (Foster and Longley 1970). Evidently the place was still recognized until after 1529 (Thompson 1856, 593) but by the turn of the nineteenth century had become deserted and the name lost.

Acknowledgements

Permission to conduct the fieldwalking was freely given by Mr. Roughton and the late Mr. Doleman. I would also like to thank Mr. Danby of Wrangle for arranging a re-visit to WRA 17 and to Philip Sidebottom who executed the illustration.

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ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION AT GREAT COATES
(Fig. 9)

E. Dennis

An archaeological evaluation was carried out by the Humberside Archaeology Unit between May and August 1989 at Great Coates, now known as the west of Grimsby. This work, which was undertaken in advance of the residential development of part of the medieval village, comprised an earthwork and geophysical survey with some limited trial excavations. Some research was also conducted into the medieval history of the village. A report of the work has already been published; the following is a short summary.

Although the date for the origin of Great Coates is uncertain, a sizeable village is recorded in 1086 when the Domesday Book notes that the land was divided between five major Norman landowning families. Durand Mallet was the largest of these, holding 10 of the total 24 or 27 bovates recorded. The later Lindsey Survey lists only two landowners for Great Coates, Norman de Arci and William Mischin, the latter owning an area probably representing a new settlement at the northern end of the village.

Later documents record the emergence of the Neville and Healing families. The Nevilles owned other large estates in Lincolnshire and in 1242 the Book of Fees records that Norman de Arci held 4 bovates in Great Coates which John de Neville held in service. This and other records show that the Neville lordship was a substantial estate which, in 1336, passed by marriage to the Barnardiston family. The Healing estate, which originated as part of the Bayeux or Baciocis fee, also appears regularly throughout the medieval period.

The documents also record the names of numerous other small landowners who either owned land outright or who were under-tenants to the major families. The Sandel and Gros families are typical; in 1313-14 John de Sandel held 6 acres of meadow and was granted a free warrant to any wickets or waste in the sea off Great Coates while in 1389-90 William Gros owned seven meadows, ten tofts, 14 bovates of land and 100 acres of meadow in Great Coates, Swallow and Crosby.

From the fourteenth century the Barnardiston family became the major landowners in the village. They built a manor house to the south-west of the church, where its site is now marked by the remains of a moat. They were also substantial benefactors of the church and may have been responsible for some of the alterations and rebuildings that took place in the fourteenth and fifteenth centuries. A visitor to the church in 1640 mentions there being at least four memorial brasses to the family although only two now remain. The family maintained their importance throughout the later medieval period; in 1515 Sir Thomas Barnardiston was mayor of Grimsby. However, Samuel Barnardiston was described during the Civil War and, in order to pay a substantial fine, was forced to sell the manor to the Sutton family who have retained ownership in one form or another to the present day.

The documentary record shows that, as with most villages in the medieval period, Great Coates was composed of a combination of tenant farmers and agricultural labourers. Animal husbandry (both sheep and cattle) and arable farming are referred to as well as the periodic flooding of the coastal areas. A number of medieval documents note the existence of the village, such as the 1316 Nomina Villarum, while others record the number of people paying taxes, such as the 1334 Lay Subsidy. The Diocesan Return for 1563 notes that there were thirty-four households in the village and there is a list of villagers recorded in the Protestant Returns for 1641-42.

Although more research remains to be done, the records examined to date suggest that there was little or no growth in the village's population between 1334 and 1641. In addition, the amounts paid in ecclesiastical taxes fell by a third between 1291 and 1535 suggesting that there was also a reduction in agricultural productivity during this period. This decline is supported by the earthworks of abandoned streets and house platforms that lie within and around the modern village. It is likely that this shrinkage and partial abandonment reflects the general economic decline that was occurring nationally and locally at this time as a result of over-population, famine, disease and climatic deterioration.

A survey of some of the earthworks to be destroyed by the development (Fig. 9) showed them to comprise a street ('a-b') along which were aligned a number of houses platforms. The best preserved ('d') measured 20m by 15m and had shallow ditches defining a croft behind, part of which was overlain by a more recent enclosure. Other shallow ditches running at right angles to the road are further possible house boundaries. Any earthwork platform for either house platforms on either side of area 'd' has been disturbed by recent quarrying. Platform 'c' was also well preserved and an area of ridge and furrow lay beyond a boundary ditch to the southeast. The mound in the field to the southwest of the site is probably a windmill mound; a windmill in Great Coates is mentioned in a 1288 survey of the barony of Bayeux.

The new abandoned road is likely to have formed the back street of the medieval village. Indeed, Old Road may originally have turned southwards around platform 'c' to pass through a deep hollow way to join up with the kirk in Station Road (u-'e' on Fig. 2). A large deep ditch running through the centre of the site may represent a major field boundary, dividing the crofts belonging to the two areas of house
platforms which lie along each of the two streets. An arrangement of 'back' and 'front' streets on such parallel alignments, together with regularly spaced property boundaries, may indicate an element of planning in the village layout.

A geophysical survey was also undertaken but the results proved to be largely inconclusive. Some limited trial excavations, by means of machine-cut trenches, were carried out to try and confirm the results from the earthwork and geophysical surveys. Again, little structural evidence for any buildings was recorded and it is likely that the construction methods used, for example padstones or earthen-fast posts with clay-coated walls and silt beams, would not lend themselves to easy identification using this limited excavation technique. In addition, it was shown that later agricultural activity had disturbed much of the site and there was a lack of stratified deposits. However, a quantity of pottery was recovered from a number of excavated features. This dates from the tenth to the fourteenth centuries and includes Stamford, Torksey L-type, Lincoln grey, Beverley splashed, Humberside and Beverley 2 wares; there was a concentration of twelfth-century material, but no finds were recovered dating to after the fourteenth century.

The pottery suggests that occupation of this area did not extend beyond the fourteenth century. This is in broad agreement with the documentary and earthwork evidence which suggests that Great Coates suffered from a degree of de-population and settlement shrinkage during this period.

The village was never completely abandoned or deserted, as the documents record the existence of tenant farmers and other landowners. Indeed, the Barnardiston family established themselves and became most successful after this date. More research, both documentary and archaeological, will be required before a full explanation as to why this particular part of the village suffered. However, the limited archaeological work that was undertaken has provided a useful opportunity to study a village in this part of Lincolnshire.

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The archaeological evaluation was carried out by the Humberside Archaeology Unit. The documentary research was done by Ed Dennison who, together with Michael Hemblade and Mary Mayne, undertook the earthwork survey. The geophysical survey was conducted by John Gater and Chris Gaffney of Geophysical Surveys and the excavations were carried out by Dave Tomlinson (supervisor), Mark Brookfield, Louise Muston, Tony German, John Farrimond and D. Board.

A copy of the final report has been deposited in the National Monuments Record, the County Sites and Monu-
ments Record and Grimsby's local history library. Additional copies of the report may be obtained from the Humberside Archaeology Unit, Property Services Department, County Hall, Beverley.

NOTES
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BELLS AND THE FIRST CATHEDRAL AT LINCOLN
(Fig. 10)
John R. Ketteringham

Bells were an essential part of the pre-Reformation Church and the Excerpta of c.740 usually attributed to Egbert, Archbishop of York, required 'priests at the proper hours of the day and night to toll the bells of their churches' and there is ample evidence to confirm the importance of church bells at the time when Remigius removed his cathedral from Dorchester-on-Thames to Lincoln.

Dr. Richard Gem has recently suggested that the West front as built by Remigius was fortified,² and Pevsner states that it was Alexander le Poer (1123-1148) who built the towers in c.1141.³ It seems reasonable to postulate that there were bells at the Cathedral but where were they hung? It is unlikely that the crossing tower was anything more than a lantern and the most likely answer is that Lincoln as at Westminster Abbey, Salisbury, Norwich, Worcester, Tewkesbury, St. Augustine's Canterbury, and Chichester had detached campaniles.

Excavations in the area between the present North transept of the cathedral (known as the 'Nettle Yard') by the Trust for Lincolnshire Archaeology in 1987 revealed a very substantial wall to the north of Remigius' cathedral which appears to date from the eleventh century.² Was this the site of the missing bell tower? (Fig. 10).

NOTES