

Charles Towneley (1737–1805) was a celebrated collector of classical antiquities.<sup>28</sup> He visited Rome and Florence in 1765, and made Rome his headquarters until 1772. Whilst there he began to form a collection, and for this purpose carried out excavations in Italy. In 1772 he returned to London, where he lived until about 1780 and added further to his collection.

In 1791 Towneley became a Trustee of the British Museum. On his death in 1805 the bulk of his collection was purchased by the British Museum, and the remainder was acquired by the Museum in 1814.

The probability is, of course, that Towneley acquired this pitcher of Forum ware at Rome during his residence there, but there is a remote possibility that it was found in England. Towneley's collection also included a fine example of an English medieval jug, which is also in the British Museum.<sup>29</sup> This jug is decorated with applied strips and grille-stamped pellets, which identify it as a regional type of the eastern midlands in the 13th century.<sup>30</sup> Unfortunately, it is also without location.

G. C. DUNNING

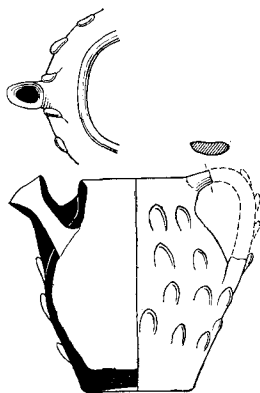


FIG. 61

PITCHER OF FORUM  
WARE IN THE BRITISH  
MUSEUM (p. 151 f.) Sc. 4

### THE ORIGINS OF BOLINGBROKE CASTLE, LINCOLNSHIRE

(PLS. XI–XII; FIGS. 62–64)

Old Bolingbroke (New Bolingbroke is an early 19th-century settlement in the reclaimed fen) is situated 15 miles N. of Boston and 25 miles E. of Lincoln, the village lying at the head of a small valley on the northern edge of the fens. The castle (at TF/349650), mainly celebrated for being the birthplace of King Henry IV, was placed in the guardianship of the Ministry of Public Building and Works by the Duchy of Lancaster in 1949. Only slight traces of masonry were visible through the turf at that time, although the shape of the moat was clear enough. Since May 1965 preparatory work for laying-out the monument has been started on the site under my direction and this note records the very interesting results achieved in six weeks of excavation at the castle in May–July, 1965, and five days on Dewy Hill (TF/348654), some 500 yds. N. of the castle, in October 1965.<sup>31</sup>

An admirable general impression of the features under discussion may be obtained from Dr. St. Joseph's air-photographic view looking N. (PL. XI, A). In the foreground is a large rectangular area, approximately 200 yds. square, with a bank and ditch on three sides and the castle on the N. side. This contains a curious and very conspicuous moated rectangular pond, omitted by Jared Hill on his map in 1718,<sup>32</sup> but possibly already in existence. The enclosure has been known since at least 1600 as the 'rout yard',

<sup>28</sup> *Dictionary of National Biography*, LVII (1899), 97–8.

<sup>29</sup> *Op. cit.* in note 27, p. 63, B 43.

<sup>30</sup> Cf. B. Rackham, *Medieval English Pottery* (1948), pl. 68. The type, discussed in *Excavations at the Jewry Wall Site, Leicester* (Res. Report Soc. Antiq. London, xv, 1948), p. 244, is now known to be a product of a kiln at Lyveden, Northants.

<sup>31</sup> The Duchy of Lancaster has made a substantial grant towards the cost of this work. My wife has been with me throughout the work, while Mr. P. E. Curnow, who directed for a week during my absence, was also at Dewy Hill. I am indebted to Sir Robert Somerville, Mrs. D. F. Owen and Mrs. E. H. Rudkin for information, and to Mr. H. M. Colvin for allowing me to see a draft typescript of his study of the Tudor and Stuart surveys. Where not otherwise stated references are to records at the Public Record Office.

<sup>32</sup> M.P.C. 118. The map is reproduced but erroneously attributed to Norden and dated 100 years too early in M. W. Beresford and J. K. S. St. Joseph, *Medieval England, An Aerial Survey* (Cambridge, 1958), pp. 138–40. The Duchy survey of 1608 (DL.42/119) attributed to Norden by these authors bears the seal and signature of Ralphe Treswell Iunior (p. 390 of the survey).

and we know from a survey of 1600<sup>33</sup> that it contained no buildings and that it was surrounded by a stake fence. The commission to the surveyors states that: 'There is adioynnye to the Mote of our said Castle a croft called the Castle yard or Raught yard, where unto all the wayfs and strays within the Soke of Bolingbroke of anncient tyme have been used to be broughte.' In Lincolnshire dialect 'rout green' is a place where unclaimed cattle from the pound were put.<sup>34</sup> No doubt as a result of inter-commoning in the fens there were a great many stray cattle to be dealt with at Bolingbroke; the moat of the (?later) pond may have been intended as a drinking trough. The rout yard has been described as a bailey, but the use of such a term certainly misrepresents its real purpose.

To the N. of the rout yard can be seen the moat of the castle, about 100 ft. broad and 250 ft. in diameter internally, within which the projections of the towers are visible below the turf. The castle and the rout yard lie at about 100 ft. above sea level on alluvium, with the water table only a few inches below the surface, but immediately to the N. of the castle Kimmeridge sandstone and clay rise up to form the southern edge of the wolds. One hundred yards N. of the gatehouse (revealed in the excavation) is the church, consisting of a 15th-century tower and (originally built as a S. aisle) an elaborate 'decorated' nave and chancel of the second quarter of the 14th century. Tradition attributes this building to John of Gaunt, but the style would accord better with the last years of the Countess Alice (died 1348), whose inquisition *post mortem* records that in later life she was in frequent residence at the castle.<sup>35</sup> Beyond the church the earthwork on Dewy Hill can be seen overlooking the village, while to the right is Sow Dale, down which flows the nameless brook that is referred to in the village name.

The first few days of the excavation were spent in making some kind of intelligible plan by tracing the outside face of the curtain and towers (PL. XII; FIG. 62). This was fairly easy except on the E. side, where tower Q had been almost robbed out. A roughly N.-S. sectional line was chosen and then the ground was dug out on the outside of the curtain (on the S. side) and in the angle between the W. tower of the gatehouse and the curtain, revealing the five offsets of the massive foundation of the gatehouse. A section through the moat was not practicable, because the water table was only just below the ground surface. The stone used throughout the castle is the soft local sandstone with a finer harder stone (resembling Ancaster stone) for dressings. The curtain stands in places as much as 12 ft. high or 8 ft. on the face. What appeared to be a brick vault springing from the S. side of the curtain turned out to be a kind of close brick cobbling, probably of Tudor date. Until this is broken through the section on the inside cannot be completed, for it is well above original ground level and any original foundations that may exist are hidden beneath it. The towers survive to first-floor level. Tower A contained a late-inserted kiln. Towers B and C had evidently been stripped of dressings, but tower D contained a good deal of fallen late medieval window and door dressings. The filling was loose in the towers except in tower C, where a huge block of solid masonry had evidently slithered in.

FIG. 62 is a provisional rough plan of the castle, which has the shape of an irregular hexagon, the sides varying in length from 50-105 ft., with a tower on each of five corners and the gatehouse, facing N., on the sixth. The lines of each stretch of curtain wall, if projected, meet centrally in each tower; in the gatehouse they meet in the east tower which gives what is otherwise an apparently fairly regular plan a curiously lopsided effect. Tower C is octagonal outside but semicircular inside. Towers A, B and C all have a chamfered offset at first-floor level. Towers A, C and D have doorways on one side at the back; in tower B it is central. Towers C and D have a single central window, and tower B a window on either side of the door. Corbels for a central beam for the first floor survive in towers C and D. The curtain wall appears to have a uniform

<sup>33</sup> DL.44/604.

<sup>34</sup> T. Wright, *Dictionary of Obsolete and Provincial English*, II, 812.

<sup>35</sup> E.152/64(4) '... pro perhendinacione domini...'

# BOLINGBROKE CASTLE LINCS.

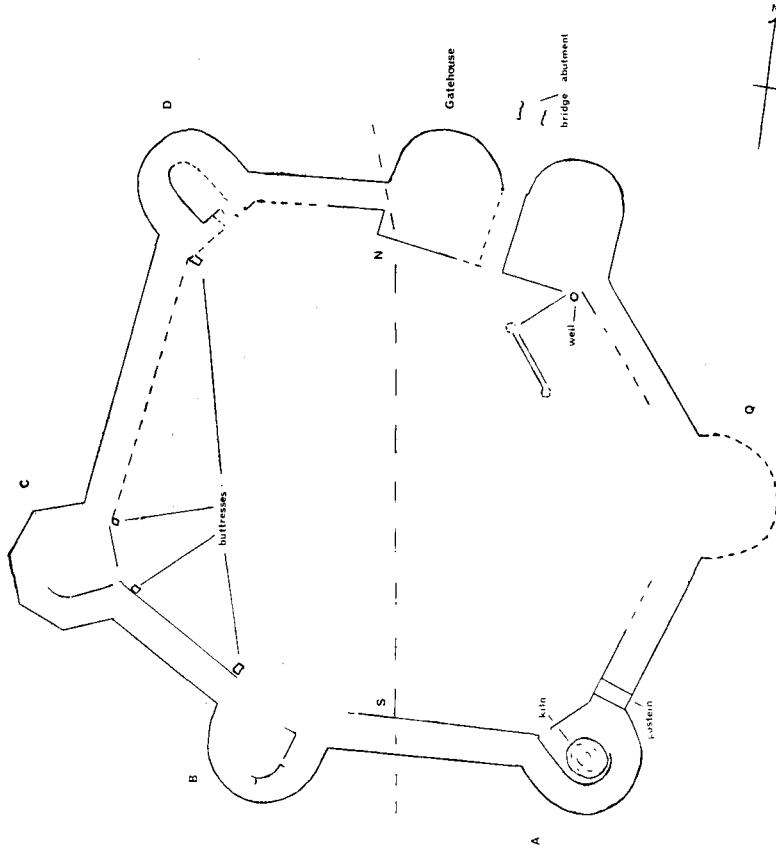


FIG. 62  
**BOLINGBROKE CASTLE, LINCS.** (pp. 153, 155)  
 Plan and section, based on first season's work in 1965

thickness of 12 ft. everywhere. The two towers of the gatehouse have not been explored, but the gate passage was  $8\frac{1}{2}$  ft. wide and parts of plain chamfered vaulting-ribs were found in it. Trenches on a sectional line across the interior of the castle revealed a depth of 3-4 ft. of made-up clay over the site, probably laid in Tudor times. Many brick and stone foundations of Tudor date were found on the S. side but no traces of the original buildings, the foundations of which may be buried beneath the clay. The 1600 survey describes the hall and chamber as being in the gatehouse, and the omission of any reference to main buildings at that date suggests they had already been demolished.

A good deal of pottery was found at many points in the castle, by far the most characteristic form being a splayed and flanged bowl or basin glazed on the inside, usually called a pancheon and dated *c.* 1450-1550. Although only a few sherds could be confidently dated before 1400, it is clear that the castle must be considerably earlier in origin. All the indications are that it is all of one design and date. Towers A, B and C were virtually devoid of detail, but tower D contained mask corbels that are of the early 13th century. Evidently the window is a later alteration.

With this information in mind we can turn briefly to the written history of the castle. Bolingbroke was of sufficient importance to have given its name to a wapentake by the 11th century and the Domesday entries<sup>36</sup> referring to a market and the dependent sokeland can leave no doubt it was then a place of some importance. Tradition has assigned the first castle to William de Roumare II (1138-55), founder of the Cistercian abbey at Revesby in the honour, who was created earl of Lincoln in 1141.<sup>37</sup> It would not be possible to give such an early date to the castle discovered in the excavation. The earliest references to a castle occur in 1232 and 1243,<sup>38</sup> when on the death of Randolph de Blundevill, earl of Chester, Bolingbroke Castle was given to his sister, Hawise, and upon her death given up to the Crown. Randolph had had the title of earl of Lincoln conferred on him in 1217<sup>39</sup> and, upon returning from a crusade in 1220, embarked on an ambitious castle-building policy at Beeston (Cheshire), Chartley (Staffs.) and—I venture to suggest—Bolingbroke (Lincs.).

If the plans of the three castles are put side by side, the resemblances between the three gatehouses and the mural towers are very striking: walls 12 ft. thick except at the back, where there are windows and a door, the width of the gate passage, the proportions of the towers. The dimensions and spacing of the towers at Chartley and Bolingbroke are almost identical and in both the curtain is flush with the backs of the towers. At Chartley the pre-existing motte was furnished with a circular keep, but on the virgin sites of Beeston and Bolingbroke a keep played no part in the plan. At Bolingbroke the architect turned his back on the high ground and deliberately chose a more or less level site. Mr. Gilyard Beer has pointed out to me that the polygonal shape resembles Boulogne Castle (1228-34), and that we are evidently dealing with an example of the class of *châteaux polygonaux* identified by M. Héliot as characteristic of the early 13th century.<sup>40</sup>

The golden age of Bolingbroke was probably in the last years of the 13th century, when it was the administrative centre of the estates of Henry de Lacy, earl of Lincoln. Two rolls of manorial accounts survive from 1295-6 and 1304-5 in the Duchy of Lancaster records,<sup>41</sup> which reveal the constable recording income from all the manors as well as the earl's private expenditure.

The last 350 years of the castle's history are fairly well recorded. Inquisitions

<sup>36</sup> *Lincs. Rec. Soc.*, xix (1921), 86.

<sup>37</sup> *The Complete Peerage*, vii (1929), 669.

<sup>38</sup> *Cal. Close Rolls*: 1231-34, pp. 169-70; 1242-47, p. 89.

<sup>39</sup> See Round's biography in *D.N.B.*, v, 269-271; *J. Chester and N. Wales Architect., Archaeol., Hist. Soc.*, xlvI, 1-25; *J. Brit. Archaeol. Ass.*, n.s., II (1896), 53.

<sup>40</sup> *Revue archéol.*, 6me ser., xxvii (1947), 41-59.

<sup>41</sup> DL.29 1/1 and 2.

*post mortem* of de Lacy himself (1311), the second husband of his daughter, the Countess Alice (1335), and of the Countess herself (1348) survive and all refer to the castle. Earl Thomas sent a special instruction for its defence in 1318.<sup>42</sup> In 1335 its buildings and fortifications (*domus et kirnelli*) were described as weak and ruinous.<sup>43</sup> There are

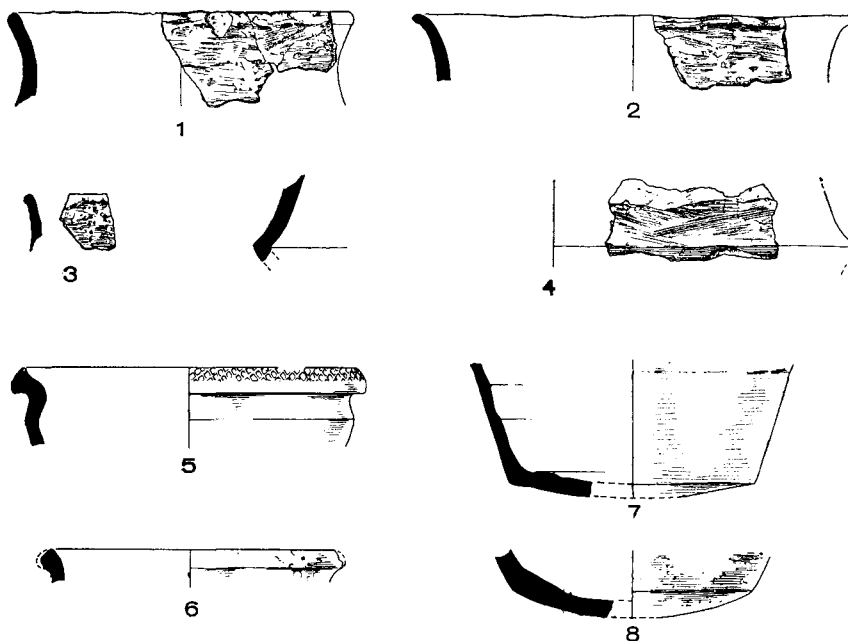


FIG. 63

## DEWY HILL EARTHWORK, OLD BOLINGBROKE, LINCS.

12th-century pottery, nos. 1-4 hand-made, nos. 5-8 wheel-made (p. 157). Sc.  $\frac{1}{4}$

several references to it in John of Gaunt's Register between 1364 and 1383, while Mr. Colvin has used the relevant 15th-century receiver's accounts in *The History of the King's Works* (II, 572), and has also kindly allowed me to see his draft account of the Tudor and Stuart surveys. Almost derelict except for the gatehouse, the castle was somehow able to withstand a siege in 1643. In April 1650, it was described by the Parliamentary surveyor<sup>44</sup> as 'demolished', although the map of 1718 shows jagged fragments of towers A, B and C still standing.

The relatively late date inferred for the castle prompted the suspicion that there might be earthworks of an earlier fortified site that had given rise to the tradition of Roumare building a castle. This suspicion was further aroused by the manorial surveys of 1608 and 1650,<sup>45</sup> which both refer to a castle hill, the location of which cannot be identified.

The obvious site for an earlier earthwork is the hill now known as Dewy Hill (O.S. plot 58) about 500 yards N. of the Ministry's monument (PL. XI, B). This isolated hill has an oval summit on which there is an earthwork 120 yds. long by 80 yds. wide,

<sup>42</sup> *Med. Archaeol.*, ix (1965), 167 f.

<sup>43</sup> C.135/43(10).

<sup>44</sup> DL. 32/36, p. 2.

<sup>45</sup> In 1608: 'the herbage of castle hill' (*op. cit.* in note 32, p. 246); in 1650: 'a certain enclosure called Castle hill' (*op. cit.* in note 44, p. 7).

which roughly follows the 200-ft. contour except at the W. end, where the extremity of the hilltop is left out of the work. A bank can be followed most of the way round, but the sand of which it is composed, combined with the fact that the hilltop has been ploughed, has smoothed it out. (Dr. St. Joseph's air-photograph in PL. XI, B, was not taken until after this excavation.)

With P. E. Curnow, my wife and four workmen worked on the site from 4-8 October 1965, with the permission of the owner, Mr. C. Chatterton. A trench through the bank at the E. end revealed that it was about 5 ft. high and 50 ft. wide, but there appeared to be no dug ditch, only the natural slope scarped down to a depth of 11 feet. At the W. end the bank survived to a height of only 2 ft., but there was a substantial ditch, although collapsing sand prevented its excavation below 7 ft. deep. Behind the bank there were extensive traces of early medieval occupation in the form of animal bones (including boars' tusks), charcoal, numerous small sherds of cooking-pot (FIG. 63, nos. 6, 8), one large sherd of a Torksey-ware bowl (FIG. 63, no. 5), a buckle (FIG. 64, a)

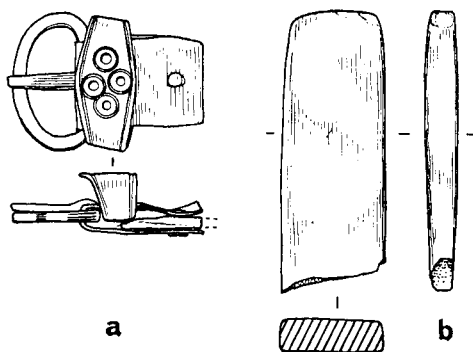


FIG. 64

## DEWY HILL EARTHWORK, OLD BOLINGBROKE, LINCS.

a, bronze buckle; b, hone. Both from near rampart at W. end (p. 157). Sc.  $\frac{1}{4}$

and a hone (FIG. 64, b). At the E. end of the site sherds of hand-made pottery (FIG. 63, nos. 1-4) were found lying together on the natural sand in front of the bank and probably reached there when the slope was freshly scarped. The base of a 12th- to 13th-century glazed jug (FIG. 63, no. 7) was found at the foot of the scarp on the natural sandstone. A scatter of pieces of ridge-tile indicated the former existence of buildings, although no foundations were found.

There is evidently, therefore, an earthwork on the Dewy Hill which was occupied in the 11th and 12th centuries and contained buildings of some kind. There were no positive signs of a curtain wall or keep and the evidence is too slender to speak of a castle. The earthwork might be of pre-conquest, if not prehistoric, origin, but unfortunately in the present state of our knowledge it is not possible to distinguish iron-age A pottery (c. 300 B.C.) from late Saxon (c. A.D. 800) of the type found by P. V. Addyman at Maxey.<sup>46</sup> The absence of proper cabling at the rim perhaps favours an early medieval date for the sherds from Dewy Hill.<sup>47</sup>

<sup>46</sup> *Med. Archaeol.*, VIII (1964), figs. 12-14.

<sup>47</sup> As the Ordnance Survey *Map of Southern Britain in the Iron Age* shows, hill-forts are extremely scarce in Lincolnshire and virtually unknown in the wolds. The experts have been more or less evenly divided on the date of the hand-made sherds from Dewy Hill.

To summarize, then, I suggest that there was a fortified hall on Dewy Hill in the 11th and 12th centuries, but that in 1220-30 a fresh site was chosen in the valley and a new hexagonal castle erected on it by Earl Randolph de Blundevill.

M. W. THOMPSON

### 13TH-CENTURY BUILDINGS AND METAL WORKINGS AT ST. NEOTS, HUNTINGDONSHIRE (PL. XIII, A, B; FIGS. 65-66)

In 1964 house-property was demolished on the SE. corner of the cross-roads at St. Neots known as The Cross, at the junction of Cambridge Street and Church Street (52/186603). Here traditionally once stood St. Neot's Cross and it was probably planned

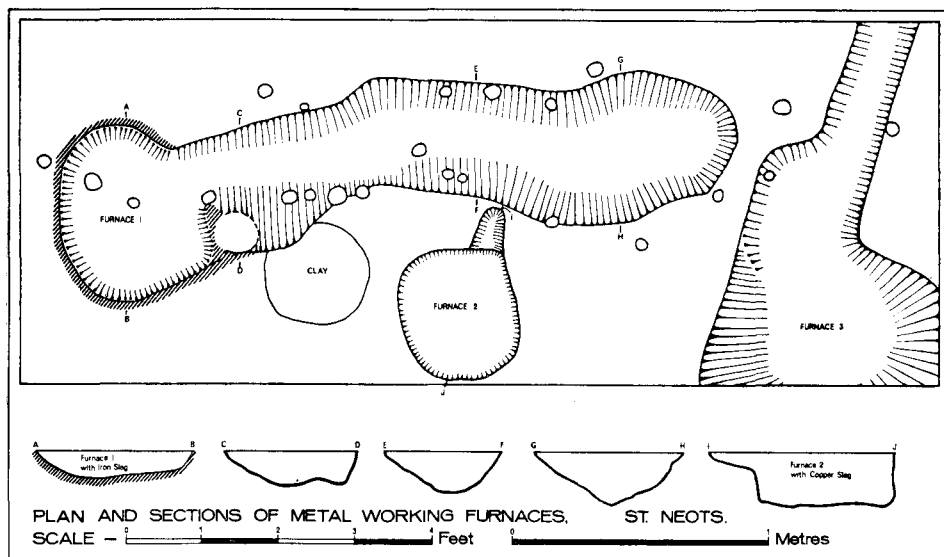


FIG. 65

to be at the centre of the medieval town. It was, therefore, decided to excavate as much of the site as possible during the short time available before rebuilding began.

A number of trenches were dug at right angles to both streets from the building line inwards, covering 42 ft. of the Church Street frontage and 50 ft. of the Cambridge Street frontage, measured from the corners. The trenches varied in length, the longest being 16 ft., as penetration far into the interior of the site was prevented by deep brick foundations, concrete floors, and filled-in cellars.

The primary feature found was a deep defensive ditch that ran roughly parallel with Cambridge Street and swept round the corner to follow Church Street. This ditch probably enclosed the pre-conquest village site and will be described when the excavations on that site are published. Suffice here to say that it had been deliberately filled in, at one operation, with soil containing pottery of which the greater part was developed St. Neots ware of the 12th century, with a small proportion also of 13th-century ware. Immediately the ditch was filled buildings were erected over it, following the building lines of the present streets. It would seem, therefore, that this was the time when the streets were laid out, as part of the ditch passed under them.

The earliest building found was represented by a low footing of cobbles 2 ft. wide set in mortar and bedded on clay, on which a wooden-framed building must have stood. This footing extended along Cambridge Street for at least 37 ft. from the corner and its foundations at one place were laid directly on the ditch filling. The return wall