

Archaeology in Northamptonshire in 1973

A survey of all fieldwork and excavations in 1973 reported for Northamptonshire and some neighbouring areas within the Society's sphere of interest.

PREHISTORIC

Boughton. (SP 74746569). Two pit or ditch features were found by A. Boddington in the E face of an ironstone quarry in July 1973. Feature 1 produced a few sherds of a crude bipartite collared urn with a pronounced ridge at the shoulder and random finger-nail impressions decorating the collar. Sherds in Northampton Museum. A tumulus marked on Ordnance maps lies only a few hundred yards to the North in the same field.

Boughton. (SP 747657, 747658). Several worked flints including a scraper found August 1973 around the N and E side of the quarry mentioned above. Finds in Northampton Museum.
A. BODDINGTON, W. R. G. MOORE.

Bugbrooke. (SP 67675768). A brown quartzite pebble sub-triangular in shape with a central hour-glass perforation, was found by Mr. Hawkins in March 1973. It is now on loan to Northampton Museum.
W. R. G. MOORE, Northampton Museum.

Corby. (SP 873898). One flint scraper found.

B. GIDDINGS, Northamptonshire Field Group.

Cottesbrooke. (SP 703759). A small Early Iron Age occupation site was found during fieldwalking. There were a few potsherds and burnt pebbles in an area of dark soil. The main site may be on a tree-clad spur immediately above, which is on the 600 ft. contour with a gradient of about 1:4 on three sides.

D. N. HALL, A. GOLDSWORTHY, P. MARTIN.

Cottingham. (SP 858907 and SP 866905). A few flint flakes found during fieldwalking in April 1973.
A. E. BROWN, Dept. of Adult Education, University of Leicester.

Doddington-Wilby parishes (SP 869656). 13 worked flints collected at this point from the spoil heaps of the Northampton to Wellingborough pipeline.

R. HARPER, Northamptonshire Field Group.

Duston. (SP 73076002). A stone wristguard of Beaker or Early Bronze Age date was found by Stephen Barker in January 1973 at Weedon Road Gravel Pits. It is possible that the wristguard had been carried to this spot in topsoil moved from the former adjacent quarries at SP730605. The wristguard is unusual in having a single perforation at one end. The other end has been broken in antiquity and re-shaped or has never been properly finished off. Now in Northampton Museum.
W. R. G. MOORE

Earls Barton (SP 85956515). In the immediate area of Sand Pit Barn over 150 ft. of the Northampton to Wellingborough pipeline revealed seven ditches. The few small body sherds collected from the features would appear to be of Iron Age date. Finds with Mr. P. Foster.

Earls Barton (SP 85326472). A 200 ft. section of the Northampton to Wellingborough pipeline near the cemetery revealed six ditches. Body sherds of probable late Iron Age pottery were recovered stratified from some of the features. One worked flint was also found along with an amount of unstratified Roman pottery concentrated in one particular area of the pipeline spoil heap. Finds with Mr. P. Foster.
R. HARPER

Ecton (SP 822653). Field walking at Ecton North Lodge produced a cup-bored pebble of possible Mesolithic date.
D. SLATER

Greens Norton. (SP 652508). Barbed and tanged flint arrowhead found just S of lake at Caswell. This is the best worked flint from a series of finds made over the past twelve years. Debris from dredging the lake was dumped on both banks 10 years ago. J. RIGBY

Great Harrowden. (SP 88307135). Three pits were recorded during the construction of the new Wellingborough golf course. Some small fragments of pottery recovered from them would appear to be of pre-Roman date. Two parallel gullies were seen close to the pits, each 55 cm. wide and 5.50 m. apart; they produced no dateable evidence. Finds with Northampton Museum. R. HARPER and P. FOSTER

Hardingstone. Two fields on the N side of Hunsbury Hill were examined in April 1973. Many worked flints (168) were found on the surface scattered over a broad zone from SP 73905900 to SP 73325932. The main concentration was in the area of SP 73415919 with a lesser one in the area of SP73865902. The flints are mostly waste-flakes, but also include cores, scrapers and a microlith suggesting a wide range in date from Mesolithic to Bronze Age.

In Northampton Museum there are a very large number of worked flints of many types which were collected c. 1904-12 from fields on the N side of Hunsbury Hill between the hillfort and the river. It now seems likely that many of these were found in the two fields noted above. Other fields in this area have been examined over the last few years but so far have produced few worked flints. R. MOORE, R. LEGGE *et al.*

Hardingstone, Briar Hill (SP 735594). An air photograph by Mr. J. Pickering in summer 1972 (*Northants. Archaeol.* 8 (1973, 26) revealed an elliptical double ditched enclosure in excess of 200 m. across. A considerable flint scatter in the area had previously been noted (see above). The ditches were possibly interrupted but the crop marks were rather vague. A flux-gate gradiometer survey was carried out by the Ancient Monuments Laboratory of the Department of the Environment and trial trenches were cut across the enclosure ditches. No dateable finds came from the fill in the ditches. An internal area with a substantial anomaly was also stripped. Several ditches including one containing a burnt deposit were found. Finds included at least three Neolithic rim sherds and two well made leaf shaped arrowheads. Pottery of the pre Belgic Iron Age was also recovered. It is clear that there was some form of Neolithic occupation on the site and the possibility that there was a 'causewayed camp' here cannot be discounted. Further work is envisaged.

J. WILLIAMS, Northampton Development Corporation.

Harringworth. (SP 935947):- Well worked oval flint scraper 7 cm. long found during fieldwalking in April 1973. A thorough search of the ploughed earthwork nearby at SP 941948 (see page 114 and *BNFAS* 6 (1971), 14) produced nothing. A. E. BROWN

Kettering (SP 88607799). Further road scraping on the Ise Village estate in the area of a known Roman site in which trial trenching was carried out by D. A. Jackson (*B.N.F.A.S.* 5, (1971), 19) revealed ditches, gullies and pits from which late Belgic pottery was excavated. Surface finds include 11 worked flints, one a barbed and tanged arrow head, and some sherds of Iron Age pottery. Finds with P. Foster.

P. FOSTER, Northamptonshire Field Group.

Middleton (SP 861873). Road scraping on Danesholme estate revealed an extensive area of pits, gullies and ditches. Pottery has been recovered stratified from some of the features and has been dated to the Iron Age but no finer date can be set at present. Finds are in Northampton Museum. B. BELLAMY, Northamptonshire Field Group.

Middleton (SP 858870). Small flint laurel-leaf point found June 1973 and given to Northampton Museum.

Oakley. (SP 857865). One small plain sherd probably from a Beaker and another small sherd decorated with twisted-cord impressions from a beaker or collared urn found by

Mr. B. L. Giggins in summer 1973. A small flint laurel-leaf point was also found by Mr. B. Bellamy. Finds in Northampton Museum. W. R. G. MOORE

Orton Waterville (TF 147977). Greenstone polished axe (Group VI, Langdale Pike) and rubbing stone of similar material.

Orton Waterville (TF 146975). Excavations are in progress on the Lynch Farm Complex (R.C.H.M. *Peterborough New Town* (1969) 18f) on the NE-SW quadruple 'defensive' linear ditches, which over a 900 m. run effectively cut off a northerly meander of the River Nene. The ditches are of V-to-U-shaped profile and average 2.5 to 3.0 m. wide by 1.0 m. deep; they are spaced at 11 m. centre to centre. Silting had filled them with a mixture of humus and products of the natural gravel subsoil to within 0.3 m. of the stripped level, where a deliberate filling with dark loam had been carried out. Material from these layers consisted of late Iron Age pottery mixed with a small proportion of 1st to mid 2nd century A.D. Roman pottery. ADRIAN CHALLANDS, Peterborough Museum Society.

Overstone. (approx. SP 807669). Grey flaked flint axe found by Simon Chinnery in February 1973 lying on the surface. W. R. G. MOORE

Paulerspury. (SP 713442 and SP 707468). Two Early Iron Age sites were discovered during a parish survey. There was the usual occupation debris of animal bone, potsherds, and burnt pebbles. D. N. HALL, Northamptonshire Field Group.

Peterborough. (TL 183995). Leaf shaped flint arrowhead found during contractors' building operations. ADRIAN CHALLANDS

Rothersthorpe. (SP 720561). Several worked flints including two scrapers found February and May 1973 where topsoil had been disturbed next to a sand-pit. W. R. G. MOORE

Sywell. (SP 822674). Fieldwalking on the SW corner of Sywell aerodrome produced several worked flints, mainly waste-flakes, but including one blade and one possible scraper, probably Neolithic/Bronze Age. Also 30 medieval sherds, including shell gritted sherds, some late medieval sandy ware, and 3 sherds with yellow-green glaze. At SP 821675 1 grey rim, possibly Roman. Bones and teeth of domestic animals, (sheep, horse, pig, cow) were found in association with both flints and sherds. Most of these finds were grouped around areas of large stones, some of which showed signs of burning.

Park Pond is adjacent to this area. An estate map c.1700 shows this corner of the airfield as The Park. A glebe terrier suggests enclosure in the late 16th century, and the grant by Queen Elizabeth to Anthony Jenkinson in 1582/3 of 500 acres of land and a licence to build in Sywell, suggest perhaps that these finds may indicate the position of dwellings demolished to improve the landscaping of the new estate.

The Holcot/Wellingborough Road corner of the airfield is scheduled for road improvements, which will involve some disturbance of this site. D. SLATER

Wakerley. (SP 940983). Excavation of this important Iron Age settlement has continued in 1973. (*Northants. Archaeol.* 8 (1973), 5 for earlier work). It consists of a double enclosure, of which some 10,000 square metres have so far been excavated. The arrangement of circular huts within one of the enclosures is of special interest, as is the gateway, and a possible look-out tower in one corner of the enclosure. Numerous iron smelting furnaces and associated features have been widely found. There is evidence that iron working began on the site before the Roman period and continued over a long period of time. Three pottery kilns, dating to the 3rd century A.D. and many Roman ovens have also been found. Work on the site is continuing. D. A. JACKSON

Walton. (TL 173016). Two sherds of Early Iron Age pottery, black fabric, found on the site of the present playing field. A. E. SANDFORD, Peterborough Museum.

Wellingborough (SP 873682). Site stripping and foundations for the Queensway Health Centre revealed a complex of ditches in chalky boulder clay, recorded by R. Harper and P. Everson. The largest formed the S corner of an enclosure whose main area is yet to be affected. Sectioned, this ditch proved V-shaped, 3m. wide at the top and 1.3m. deep. It refilled with 15.20cm. of water (Sept. 1973) Large quantities of snail shells confirmed its original waterlogged state. A second (distinct) feature investigated proved to be a flat-bottomed trench surviving to a depth of 65cm. below ploughsoil, which terminated in a double posthole setting for a gateway. All pottery recovered was of late pre-Roman Iron Age type (for earlier finds from the area see *B.N.F.A.S.* 4 (1970), 13, and 7 (1972), 33).

P. EVERSON, Northants. County Council.

See also in the Roman section: Brixworth, Castor, Cottesbrooke (SP 700755), Daventry, Geddington (SP 871824), Middleton, Orton Longueville, Thenford, Staverton; in the Medieval section: Stoke Albany.

ROMAN

Barnwell. (TL 073837). Excavation on this site (*B.N.F.A.S.* 3 (1969), 6) was started in 1973 at the request of the farmer Mr. T. Litchfield, and was directed by J. A. Hadman and S. G. Upey for the Middle Nene Archaeological Group and Prince William School.

A magnetometer survey showed several groups of anomalies and the excavation of one of these revealed a pit roughly 17 m. long, 7 m. wide and 4 m. deep and a heated building at the E edge of the pit. Analysis of the clay from the pit edge indicated that it had been used for the manufacture of tiles which abounded on the site. Revetment at the E end of the pit consisted of oak posts and planks backed by limestone boulders and redeposited clay. This consolidation was contemporary with the final phase of the building and was installed to prevent possible subsidence.

The building (approximately 13.2 m. x 3.6 m.) had undergone at least two phases of construction. The first phase consisted of an open shed with a very substantial N wall (1.2 m. thick). This was replaced in the 3rd century when a S wall was added together with a furnace and underfloor heating system. The floor consisted of a limestone underpacking covered with a layer of opus signinum and tiles. The purpose of this room which is less than 2 m. wide is not yet known. Dating evidence from coins, brooches and pottery puts the site in the 3rd and 4th centuries. Further excavations are planned.

J. A. HADMAN and S. G. UPEY; Middle Nene Archaeological Group.

Brackley. The excavation planned for the Roman site SSE of the Church (*Northants Archaeol.* 8 (1973), 5) did not take place because the developers (N. Blake Ltd. of Didcot) refused permission at the last moment. Mr. R. Isham continues to watch the area at SP 59193719 where finds were originally made, and also the area at SP 59153715 due S of the Church where the laying out of roads for the new housing estate has produced Roman pottery and stone, some burnt.

A. E. BROWN

Brixworth. (SP 766699 area). Several Roman sherds found by Mr. George Wood along the edge of Pitsford reservoir 1953-73. Several worked flints found here December 1973.

W. R. G. MOORE

Castor, Normangate Field (TL 116979). Excavation in Normangate Field in 1973 was confined to an area immediately adjacent to the drove-road which crosses the present N.S hedge-line some 150 m. N of the railway.

1. *The Pits.* Two large pits were identified with the help of a 'Maxbleep' proton-magnetometer, kindly provided by the Institute of Archaeology, London. These lay N of the drove, and both had been sunk to a depth of c. 1.75 m. Their top fillings had repeatedly consolidated, and the resultant hollow had been topped up.

The more northerly pit was circular, c. 3.2 m. in diameter, and had been kept open long enough for the natural gravel sides to collapse and 'bell-out' at the bottom. The other pit was rectangular, c. 4.8 m. by 1.8 m., and only the N section was excavated. Both pits had a scatter of ash and charcoal in the deep topsoil over the sinkages. However, the lower fillings contained layers of charcoal-rich rakings, with coarse wares and Lezoux samian of the later second century. A date range between c. 140-180 A.D., would fit the samian. The other pottery, on the basis of present knowledge, almost certainly belongs to the same period.

Some of the coarse ware appeared to be misfired; but this was an interpretation of the surface condition rather than an actual deformity, and it is possible that it had resulted from subsequent use. On the other hand, the rakings are familiar as a by-product of pottery making. What was lacking, as usual at this period, was any signs of substantial kiln structures. Certain magnetic anomalies immediately around the pits were cleared for observation, rather than excavation, but these proved to be areas of burnt sand, covered in places by friable baked clay. They could easily be the remains of bonfire potteries, and if kilns of the period remain wanting, some serious thought must be given to the technical problems of producing Nene Valley grey-wares in bonfire conditions.

2. *The Buildings.* To the S of the drove-road, excavation was continued in the area of the porticoed building (cf. *B.N.F.A.S.* 5, (1971) 12-15). At the end of the 1970 season a complicated wall junction was detected, almost abutting the NE corner of the excavated building. The relative shallowness of the topsoil cover demanded prompt action. Clearance of the site in 1973 revealed four main periods of use.

The earliest was represented by a thin scatter of occupation material mixed into the 'natural' silty sand, which forms a coherent horizon wherever excavation has taken place in this part of the field. The identifiable pottery seems always to extend down to the Antonine period, but artefacts going back to the Neolithic, which are also present, indicate that at some stage this level must have been open ground which was tilled.

In places the sand was burnt by later industrial activity, and covered by lenses of baked clay (see above). The best preserved area revealed intense heating over some 80 sq. m., with at least four main nodes. Sections revealed discoloration down to 13 cms., and occupation material, including sherds of early colour-coated beaker, Hadrianic-Antonine samian, and a fine bronze strip-mounting from a circular box. A coin of Hadrian was found between two of the associated clay lenses.

The circular building. The industrial activity was replaced by the construction of a circular building with stone footings (cf. *B.N.F.A.S.* 5, (1971) 7-12 for similar structures). It was c. 7.9 m. in diameter, and the N circuit from SW to SE was composed of limestone blocks c. 36 cms. by 23 cms., laid in two parallel courses with a rubble infill between them. The total width of the footings over this stretch was c. 61 cms. This building style ended abruptly in two post emplacements, probably for squared timbers of c. 25 cms. The remainder was carried through in more normal pitched stonework, but the overall width was reduced to c. 46 cms. Against the inner face of the blockwork three pitched stone supports were found, and the spacing suggests that there were originally six. They consisted of two flattish stones c. 25 cms. on edge, retaining smaller stones packing an area between them of c. 18 cms. Careful examination of the blocks revealed that in two cases the masons had cut a recess immediately behind the projecting support, and one support had a large nail driven into the packing. While the supports could be structural, the strength of the block foundations suggest that the main wall load was taken there. It is more likely that they formed foundations for half-engaged pilasters, or possibly supports for a bench.

No evidence of flooring, or for a central roof-support, remained, but curiously the very slight remains of four external scaffold supports were found. These were c. 90 cms. from the walls and the spacing suggests eight originally. They consisted of only two or

three small stones each, which were presumably used for blocking-up during construction of the upper works when timbers would otherwise sink into the subsoil.

The purpose of the circular structures in Normangate Field has yet to be established. At Brigstock and Collyweston, the parallels are religious. At Rudston, and on a growing number of villa sites in Roman Britain (cf. Barnsley Park, Glos.), they seem to have domestic or agricultural uses. Of the three local ones, one is robbed out, one had a tessellated floor and a central roof support, while the present example has an interesting internal design, and presumably on the basis of the foundations, a broad entranceway to the S. Here, the balance seems against purely domestic or agricultural/industrial use, and a better understanding of the suburban area may throw more light on the subject (cf. the addition of the portico and apse to the building next door, and the mausoleum across the drove-road).

The aisled barn. The circular building was supplanted by an aisled barn c. 15.2 m. by 9.1 m., carried on two rows of three posts. The measurements are not the usual 2:1 ratio, but the need to fit the building into the corner site probably conditioned the dimensions. On the S side, the long axis overran, and for a short length used, the earlier circular foundations, until the curve took the line so far out of true, that the builders were forced to abandon it, leaving a crescent bitten out of the pitched stonework. At this point the building line is only c. 30 cms. from the porticoed building, and it was this junction that was seen in 1970.

The walls of the barn were generally in pitched stone foundation with flat courses laid over an earth levelling layer. The upper courses hardly survived at all, and in places the foundations were ploughed away, so that precise detail is difficult to assess. However, the various changes in quality and direction of the pitching remaining suggest a width varying between c. 90 cm. to the S to as little as 70 cm. elsewhere. The post-pits on the other hand, were perfectly preserved. They were circular, c. 1.07 m. in diameter, and c. 76 cm. deep. The packing still preserved the post impressions, tree-trunks, untrimmed and around 53 cm. in diameter. The posts were carefully founded on large flat stones at the bottom of the post-pits, taking the thrust of the roof and preventing the whole structure from sinking into the unstable subsoil.

The complete absence of flooring makes the internal arrangements problematical. A difference in the level of the foundations for some 90 cm. at the W end of the S wall suggests a pedestrian entrance, but it is not easy to interpret the main vehicular doorway, which is also usually found in a long wall. It was presumably on the N side, but this is the worst area of plough damage. The W end also contained some internal post-bases, again entirely unrelated to any floor level. These presumably belonged to internal partitions, and the narrow doorway to the south appeared to open into a small lobby, from which access could be gained to the rooms.

The chronology of the site is distinctly unsatisfactory. Apart from a definite late second-century horizon connected with the industrial activity, the other sequences remain relative and not absolute. The general building plan for the area could be interpreted as: 1. Open ground, first farmed, later used for industry; first and second centuries. 2. Circular buildings; early third-century? 3. Insertion of rectangular building (precursor of porticoed building), narrowing entrance approach to the northern circular building; mid-third-century? 4. Replacement of circular building, and adaption of rectangular building; late third-century to early fourth-century.

J. P. WILD and G. B. DANNELL, Nene Valley Research Committee.

Church Brampton. (SP 713661). Scatter of Roman sherds including 3rd-4th century colour-coated and Oxfordshire mortarium sherds found March 1973. At one spot, SP 71316603, a few fragments of grey, square-sectioned kiln-bar and clay dome-fragments were found suggesting a pottery kiln. Material in Northampton Museum. (*B.N.F.A.S.* 2, (1967), 9 for earlier finds).

W. R. G. MOORE

Cottesbrooke. (SP 700755). A Roman site covering several acres was discovered during a parish survey. There are dark occupation areas littered with building stone, sherds etc. The site lies in two main concentrations, one yielding a few sherds of possible late Iron Age date.

Cottesbrooke. (SP 727751). The site previously known from air photographs (*B.N.F.A.S.* 6 (1971), 8) was visited. There are some Roman sherds on the dark occupation area, and pottery of uncertain date, looking like Bronze Age, but probably sub-Roman. The ploughed-out ramparts of the rectangular enclosure are very plain.

D. N. HALL, A. GOLDSWORTHY and P. MARTIN

Cranford. (SP 926773). Roman pottery was discovered by Mr. Thompson, farmer, when the Park was ploughed and reseeded a few years ago.

Cranford. (SP 915764). A small occupation site yielding the usual Roman sherds among a stone and burnt pebble scatter.

D. N. HALL

Daventry. (SP 554622 and SP 557618). A thin scatter of Roman pottery and some worked flints found by fieldwalking in April 1973.

A. E. BROWN

Deanshanger. (SP 770396). Surface find on enlarged playing-field area of Deanshanger Secondary School in July 1963 — Roman silver denarius, Sallustia Barbina Orbiana (third wife of Severus Alexander whom she married in 226), PX type, Concordia Augg. Retained by Northants. C.C. with remainder of finds from P. J. Woods' excavation of the site.

P. EVERSON

Doddington-Wilby Parishes. (SP 869656). Northampton-Wellingborough pipeline. A quantity of Roman wares obtained from the spoil heap (see page 83 for worked flints found here). Finds with P. Foster and Northampton Museum.

R. HARPER

Ecton. (SP 822653). Fragment of quern of millstone grit found on Roman kiln site (*Northants. Archaeol.* 8 (1973) 6 for earlier finds).

D. SLATER

Geddington. (SP 871824). A large area has been scraped ahead of iron stone extraction and has revealed many ditches and pits from which late Belgic-early Roman pottery has been collected. At SP 87608275 a quantity of worked flints has been gathered. Finds with Mr. D. A. Jackson.

Geddington. At SP 874825 in an area scraped down for ironstone extraction two pits were found filled with burnt clay and slag. At SP 87608275 were a number of ditches and areas of burning from which mid-to late 1st century pottery, with many Belgic forms, was collected. At SP 874824 an iron smelting furnace with a bowl of clay 18 in. by 16 in. was recorded.

B. BELLAMY

Grendon. (SP 877595). Coin of Constantius II, Fel Temp Reparatio horseman imitation (c. 355 A.D.), found in February (*B.N.F.A.S.* 6 (1971), 13 for earlier finds).

R. HOLLOWELL, Upper Nene Archaeological Society.

Gretton. (SP 876922). Fieldwalking in November led to the discovery of a scatter of Roman pottery covering an area some 250 ft. square. The wares represented are mainly coarse grey with mortarium and colour coated fragments. There were also a roof tile fragment, a flint core and some iron slag.

A. E. BROWN

Hackleton. (SP 804551). Roman bronze coin found recently by Mr. A. Elliott while digging in his garden in Main Road. (Constantinopolis type, A.D. 330-346, mint mark TRS). This is about the sixth coin (all late) that has turned up in three adjoining gardens (*Northants. Archaeol.* 8 (1973), 6); also much pottery of 2nd-4th century date.

R. M. TAYLOR, Upper Nene Archaeological Society.

Harringworth. (SP 934980). A Roman building, probably a barn, which measured 30 m. x 14 m. externally has been excavated in advance of ironstone quarrying. There was

evidence of internal partition walls, and remains of a pitched stone floor. A number of ovens or corn drying kilns were revealed by the quarrying nearby. The barn partly overlay some earlier buildings, but the plan of these has not been fully revealed.

Harringworth. (SP 924960). Roman ditches containing heavy concentrations of slag were revealed here during ironstone quarrying in 1972 (*Northants. Archaeol.* 8 (1973) 6). Subsequently as further stripping took place in 1973 the site was watched and further ditches and a number of iron smelting furnaces were noted. Unfortunately the latter were destroyed during the stripping process and no excavation was possible.

D. A. JACKSON

Kettering. (SP 871806). Whilst keeping a watch on development in North Kettering, the Grammar School Archaeological Society noticed an area of burning and Roman pottery scatter on the housing estate North of Blandford Avenue, near previous Roman finds (see also the note below).

The development had stripped the topsoil completely, removing most of the possible archaeological evidence, although a few features were left, including two pits, one of which produced two coins and a top shaped object of bone, cylindrical and tapering, partly bored, 7 cm. long. Another feature investigated was an area of burning which was at first thought to be an iron smelting furnace. Excavation revealed a 60 cm. - 30 cm. horseshoe shaped clay lined oven, reddened with a base of burnt clay impregnated with large pebbles. The third feature was an area of gravel and limestone across the site, c. 20 m. x 2 m., interpreted as a possible road or track. When cleared the construction was shown to be pea gravel on top of the bedrock, which was then capped by crushed limestone blocks. No re-metalling was observed.

Little pottery was obtained from any of the features, although much was gleaned from the contractors spoil heaps, including samian and a fragment of a typical hunt cup of the 2nd or 3rd century A.D. The aforementioned pit also produced a fragment of tegula and a few fragments of tile with plaster capping.

Five coins of 4th century date were found in the pits and among the scatter. They were coins of: Gratian 367-383 A.D. Reverse Gloria Novi Caeculi (Emperor holding labarum and shield). (*L.R.B.C.* II 523A) Mint of Arles. Constans as Augustus 337-350 A.D. Reverse Gloria Exercitus. (Two soldiers with one standard). (*L.R.B.C.* I 133). Mint of Trier. Valens 364-378 A.D. Reverse Gloria Romanorum. (Emperor holding labarum and spurning a captive). (*L.R.B.C.* II 966. Mint of Aquileia. Valentinian I 364-375 A.D. Reverse Gloria Romanorum. (Emperor holding labarum and spurning a captive). Mint of Siscia. (*L.R.B.C.* II 1364). Gratian 367-383 A.D. Reverse Gloria Romanorum. (Emperor holding labarum and spurning captive). Mint of Siscia. (*L.R.B.C.* II 1422).

J. M. STEANE and P. STAMPER, Kettering Grammar School Local History and Archaeological Society.

Kettering. (SP 874806). Blandford Avenue allotments were cleared and scraped for housing development, an area of known Roman activity. Pits, ditches and a length of possible roadway were exposed. Large quantities of pottery were recovered from features and from the surface as well as tiles, clay bricks, glass fragments, bronze coins and half of a small clay kiln or oven plate. Most finds in Westfield museum.

B. BELLAMY and P. FOSTER

Kettering (SP 88607799). A 1st-2nd century Roman pottery kiln was excavated ahead of road works. The firing chamber was 1 m. 10 cm. in diameter, cut vertically into the ironstone sub-soil to a depth of 90 cm. The total length including the stokehole was 3 m. Four large fired clay pedestals were found in situ in the firing chamber. Among the mass of broken vessels that packed the flue two complete examples were found. The type of pot apparently fired in this kiln was a medium sized cooking pot in a hard shelly fabric with a smooth slurried surface. Some 18 m. further along the same road a 3rd-4th century stone

built corn dryer was excavated. The total length of the structure was 4 m. and the stone work survived to a height of 50 cm. (four herring-bone courses). Two diverging channels running from the hearth are joined across the back of the dryer enclosing a massive stone built pedestal, triangular in plan. The plan of the dryer as a whole is that of the letter Y with the two arms joined with a T-piece. Carbonised corn grains were floated from ash taken from the channel floors and a sherd of abraded colour coated pottery was recovered from one side channel. The structure was set among a mass of late Belgic gullies and pits. Finds and records with P. Foster.

P. FOSTER

Kislingbury. (SP 716587). A small Roman site was found during coverage of the Greater Northampton area.

Little Houghton. (SP 812598). The site previously reported (*B.N.F.A.S.* 6 (1971) 15) was visited during a parish survey. Subsequent historical studies of the open field system lead to the identification of this site as being N of *ten yard furlong*, and therefore the one mentioned by Bridges which yielded a gold coin of Augustus in 1717 (J. Bridges, *History and Antiquities of Northamptonshire* Vol. 1 (1791) 373).

D. N. HALL

Little Houghton. (SP 80155960). Spindle whorl of grey baked clay.

Little Houghton. Rainbows Rood (SP 812596). Coin of Constantius I, Gloria Exercitus, two standards (*L. R. B. C.* 1, 53), 330-35 A.D. (For earlier finds *Northants. Archaeol.* 8 (1973), 6).

R. HOLLOWELL

Middleton. (SP 856873). Perimeter road scraping on the Danesholme estate revealed pits and ditches; surface finds of 2nd and 3rd century Roman pottery and many worked flints were collected. Finds in Northampton Museum.

B. BELLAMY and B. GIDDINGS

Moulton. (SP 771693). Few Roman sherds found by Mr. George Wood along the edge of Pitsford reservoir 1973.

Moulton. (SP 78506454). Between c. 1950 and 1973 Mr. M. Ashton, 28 Booth Rise, has found a quantity of Roman material in his back garden. Many Roman sherds have been found of 2nd to 4th century date, many pieces of clay and some stone roof-tiles, a few pieces of tufa building stone, tesserae, many fragments of painted plaster, iron nails, a bone? gaming-piece and four coins: (a) A very worn dupondius of Marcus Aurelius. (b) AE4 Constantinian, rev. Gloria Exercitus. (c) AE4 Urbs Roma. (d) AE 3/4 probably Constans.

At a depth of about 1 foot, a tessellated pavement has been found in several places and at one point a large column-base. A small area of pavement was exposed by Mr. Ashton in October 1973 immediately behind the garage. The pavement had a chequer-board pattern with red, white and brown squares adjoining an area of plain, large white tesserae.

The Roman building is known to exist beneath the neighbouring garden, number 26, from where a small section of tessellated pavement was removed to Northampton Museum c. 1938 (see *Northants Archaeol.* 8 (1973), 8) but note that the NGR, which follows the Ordnance Survey, is incorrect. The building is shown too far to the NE on the 1958 6 in. map).

Other finds from the vicinity not previously mentioned include the following: Mr. E. D. Bailey collected a wide range of pottery from mid-1st to 4th century and two coins of Gratian from in and around his garden at 8 Booth Rise during 1954-5; Mr. N. Gray found an antoninianus of Victorinus, rev Pax Aug in his garden at 38 Booth Rise c. 1955. All the above finds have been given to Northampton Museum.

Northampton. (SP 757611). Worn Roman sestertius found by Mr. Sullivan in his garden at 63 Charles Street in June 1973.

W. R. G. MOORE

Oakley. (SP 856864). Further area of the perimeter road, Danesholme estate. Surface finds in quantity of 1st to 2nd century Roman pottery. Finds in Northampton Museum.

B. BELLAMY and B. GIDDINGS

Orton Longueville Lynch Farm (site 2). (TL 149977). In May 1972 stone footings of late Roman buildings and silt-filled drainage channels were revealed unexpectedly during gravel extraction on the site of the projected Nene Park Lake in Ferry Meadows, Orton Longueville, Peterborough. Thanks to the prompt action of Mr. Adrian Challands, Peterborough Development Corporation's archaeologist, and the kind co-operation of the contractors and the Development Corporation, archaeological examination of the site was set in train (*Northants Archaeol.* 8 (1973), 9). It was agreed that a tongue of land E of Ham Lane on which the known Roman buildings stood should be permanently preserved, but that the rest of the site — including a Roman fishpond and extensive system of land-drainage channels — should be sacrificed after excavation. Recording of this section was completed in 1972. In 1973, accordingly, work was concentrated on features in the surviving tongue of land.

Excavations in 1973 shed new light on three phases of occupation of the site: the pre-Roman occupation, a first-century military presence, and fourth-century agricultural and religious buildings.

1. *Pre-Roman Occupation.* In the later pre-Roman Iron Age the inhabitants of the Lynch Farm Complex dug a series of small pits into the natural sand and gravel deposits at LF2. The first two pits were round, about 1m. in diameter, and penetrated to 1.4 m. below the stripped ground-surface of 1972-73. A larger, oval pit later cut away the ground between the two existing pits. The attractive suggestion has been made that these shafts were sunk to test for workable iron deposits in the gravel, but at this spot the strata were found to be too thin. The pits were gradually filled with silted gravel and sand and lenses of Iron Age and early Roman occupation material. The largest pit was evidently only half full by about A.D. 43. No Iron-Age structures were noted on the site, but Iron Age occupation material (including the familiar triangular loomweights and a quantity of food bones) was still being redeposited in the first century A.D.

2. *The First-Century Military Presence.* The suggestion was put forward in 1972 that under the later Roman agricultural buildings at LF2 lay a first-century military work. The evidence for this was as follows: (a) Two aerial photographs taken by Professor J. K. St. Joseph when the land at LF2 was (exceptionally) under crop show a pair of ditches running roughly parallel to Ham Lane a few metres E of its eastern hedge-boundary. At the S end the ditches turn E. Their plan and the rounded corner resemble a Roman military fortification. The ditches at present underlie a maintenance depot for contractor's plant, but may be accessible for excavation in due course. (b) Two pits containing a variety of first-century pottery were excavated in 1972 E of the ditch-line under the later Roman buildings. (c) Three cremation-burials were found by Mr. Adrian Challands on his site W of Ham Lane. They were accompanied by pottery made in the Longthorpe kilns (A.D. 50-65) and by first-century brooch fragments.

In sum, indications of Roman military activity at Lynch Farm across the Nene from the 'half-legionary' fortress at Longthorpe (*Durobrivae* 1, 1973, 7 ff.) seemed strong. More evidence on this question was sought in 1973.

The most striking new discovery of first-century date on the surviving part of the site was a series of ditches running E-W for a distance of c. 30 m. At their W end they passed out of our zone of excavation, but at their E end they returned through an angle of approximately 90° and continued S for at least 33 m. The corner was rounded.

Only one ditch was open at a time. In the first phase a V-shaped ditch, at least 1 m. wide and 1 m. deep returned southwards directly over and through the Iron Age pits described above. There was considerable subsidence in the filling of the pits, and this would have saved some of the labour of digging out the ditch-corner. In a second phase — certain on the E side, possible on the N — another ditch of similar profile was dug just outside the existing ditch. The two ditches pass beneath the E end of the later aisled barn where they were recorded in 1972. We regarded them then, incorrectly, as a single W-shaped ditch.

In the third phase a slightly larger ditch was cut round the outside of the earlier ditch or ditches. On the N side, where it was cut through clean white gravel deposits, it was V-shaped, but at the NE corner and along the E side the profile was less regular. The new corner nearly skirted the old Iron Age pits, but the alignment of the new ditch from the NE corner diverged E of the previous line.

The ditches were all backfilled with redeposited natural sand and gravel, mixed with very little recognisable occupation material. Lines of natural silting could be detected in comparatively few places, and the ditches, once dug, may have had a fairly short period of use. The latest, outer, ditch was cut through part of the filling of the inner two — in fact they could have been deliberately backfilled just before or during the construction of the new ditch. There was no sign of an upcast mound accompanying the ditches, but such a feature could hardly be expected to survive. An upcast mound could have been pushed back into the ditches as they were replaced in sequence.

At one spot along the N side a considerable quantity of occupation material had been dumped into the latest, outermost, ditch. None of the pottery can at present be closely dated but beside the calcite-gritted ware were grey-ware jars with slashed-cordon decoration and imitation Dr.37 bowls with compass-drawn lines. These indicate that the group was probably deposited in the last years of the first century; but there was much residual material among it. There was no samian and no sherds of vessels made in the Longthorpe military kilns.

Close to the two pits excavated in 1972 a third, smaller, example was found and emptied. It had been almost obliterated by machine tracks. No structures were noted within the ditch lines, but the area was not stripped completely. This task remains to be done.

If the ditches uncovered in 1973 represent the defences of a military installation, then a number of new historical problems arise. The 1973 ditches cannot be closely dated, nor can their relationship to the ditches seen from the air be established. But it seems highly probable that the enclosures are in some way connected with the 'half-legionary' fortress at Longthorpe. If the iron in the gravel here was found to be worth extracting, it may be that the army sited at LF2 another branch of its industrial activity. The fortress would then have been at the centre of one of the largest industrial complexes under military control in the Roman provinces.

3. *Second-Century Occupation.* There was civilian Roman occupation of LF2 in the last years of the first and throughout the second century. Two small drainage ditches of this period lead surface water away from the area of the later aisled barn towards the Nene.

Among the upper layers filling the Iron Age pits and in the top of the filling of the latest 'military' ditch were lenses of mixed burnt and unburnt clay, the residue from some kind of poorly baked clay plate. In another place the clay plates were found with small firebar fragments.

Parallels from the Fenland and further afield suggest that this material is the furniture of brine-kilns. Salt-production is attested on many Fenland sites in the first and early second century and would not be out of place at LF2, in many ways a typical fenland settlement. It is interesting to note that salt-production had virtually ceased in the Fens at about A.D. 150.

A timber shed built on six (probably in fact eight) posts was revealed in 1972. There were no associated floor-levels, but the building must antedate the aisled barn. Its stone-packed post-pits were 90 cm. across and 80 cm. deep, and overall the building measured at least 4 m. by 8.2 m. The NW post-pit was cut into the filling of one of the early military ditches, and to prevent sinkage the builder had put a heavy flat stone at the bottom of the pit to stabilise the post. The whole structure probably resembled a Dutch barn. (While it would be attractive to report it as an aisled barn c. 8 m. by c. 13.5 m., there is no trace of wall footings to support this.)

4. *The Fourth-century Farm.* In 1972 the most urgent task was to complete the excavation and recording of a Roman fishpond and the extensive system of drainage channels at LF2, which were to be destroyed. Nevertheless, there was time to investigate an aisled barn and its related structures which had been given a reprieve. Work continued on the aisled barn in 1973.

The aisled barn. Three more of the massive stone-packed post-pits which held the arcade-posts of the barn were investigated. Each measured approximately 1 m. deep and 1.10 m. wide. The pits had been packed with two 'crowns' of stone, and separated from one another by a thin layer of gravel. The posts, where their size could be judged, were round in section, about 30 cm. across.

The bottoms of the posts must have stood in ground-water for much of the year, and it is not surprising that they had to be replaced. However, a new technique was applied to the arcade posts now. The old posts were withdrawn and their holes packed with stone. The post-pits were converted into post-bases in an attempt to keep the timbers clear of damp.

Posts set 1 m. deep in post-pits gave the building a stability which it would lack under the new scheme. To compensate, buttresses were added outside the corners of the barn. These were recorded, but not interpreted in this way, in 1972. The NE buttress was built over the end of a drainage-ditch taking water northwards away from the barn. The buttress itself, however, was embodied in the walling of a flimsy lean-to, set along the N side of the barn.

E of the barn is a simple cobbled surface bounded on the E by a wall. This marks the limit of the building zone in that direction.

Surface water was carried away from the aisled barn (in its first phase) by a series of channels. From the NE corner a simple ditch headed NE towards the fishpond area. It may have been accompanied by a fence. About 7.3 m. from the NW end of the barn another ditch, later replaced on a parallel line, drained water from the immediate vicinity of the N wall. This ditch and its successor may also mark the W limit of the area protected by the later lean-to.

The Romano-Celtic Temple. In the far NW corner of the area to be preserved traces of masonry were uncovered in 1972, but the main excavation of it was left until 1973. It proved to be the footings of a small, square, chamber measuring 4 m. by 4 m. overall.

On the N and W sides the walls were 60cm. wide and quite well constructed of a single layer of pitched limestone. Three stones laid flat on the pitching of the N wall seem to represent the last vestiges of a horizontal course. Some curious subdivisions within the pitching, at first sight like the blocking of a drain, may merely reflect constructional stages. The S and E walls were in strong contrast to the rest. While the SW and NE corners were solidly enough built, the S and E wall-lines were carried through in rubble and debris derived from some demolished Roman building. Painted wall-plaster, fragments of *opus signinum* and pieces of tile were the main constituents.

In the centre of the chamber a hollow about 1.20 m. across and 20 cm. deep had been cut into the natural sandy gravel to receive a pile of assorted stone. This was probably a base to carry some weighty object, but there was no hint of its precise role.

The chamber was surrounded by a verandah carried on wooden posts. The bases to take these were found on all four sides. On the S and N the verandah was 1.4 m. wide, but on the E and W the arrangement was different and the covered portico appears to have been 2.2 m. and 1 m. respectively. The line of posts on the W side was continued by a row of ? fence posts linking the building to a point near the NE corner of the aisled barn. There was no special floor to the verandah or central chamber. A scatter of crushed building debris was the only surfacing.

The superstructure of the building was almost certainly of timber, and the presence

of the verandah makes it likely that the central chamber was fairly high. The poor quality of the footings on the E and S may imply that the chamber opened directly into the verandah on those sides, to give an uninterrupted view of whatever stood inside.

The most obvious interpretation of the building is that it was a Romano-Celtic temple. Two other possibilities were canvassed during the excavation: that it was a mausoleum and that it was a milling chamber with millstone emplacement. There was no solid evidence to support either of these views, and on plan alone a Romano-Celtic temple makes most sense. The central chamber or *cella* is small in comparison with other square temples in Britain. Moreover, a portico carried on individual posts, without a dwarf wall, is unusual. But temples associated with farms are not uncommon in the continental Roman provinces, and Chedworth may be a parallel in Britain.

There was no stratified material associated with the temple, but architecturally it belonged to the group of farm buildings of which the aisled barn is the most notable. While the barn in its first phase (post in pits) had no burnt stone in its footing, in its second phase the buttresses and the later lean-to contained a considerable quantity of reused material. The burnt stone and debris in the footings of the temple suggest that it belonged to the second phase of the site's development.

Overlying the fence which linked the temple and the NW corner of the aisled barn were vestiges of another open shed. The post-bases included river pebbles and burnt stone.

Summary. The farm buildings as we know them were quite extensive in the fourth century. The tongue of land E of Ham Lane at the 21 ft. contour was just above the normal flood level and all the known buildings were set upon it. In the centre was a courtyard flanked on the S by the aisled barn and its cobbled surface and on the W by the temple, its fence and (later) an open shed. N.E of the courtyard on slightly lower ground was the stone-walled fishpond, and stretching eastward into the distance were the water meadows and their drainage channels.

In February 1973 during fieldwalking of the main Scheduled Area of the Lynch Farm Complex, a substantial rectangular building of coursed, dressed, stone was located (*Durobrivae* 1, 1973, 21). It lies about 250 m. west of LF2 and its relationship to the excavated buildings and the cemetery at LF3 is an important question, but one which cannot be tackled while archaeological resources are devoted almost exclusively to emergency work.

The greatest enigma of 1973 is the temple. Temples and shrines flourished in the Romano-British countryside in the fourth century, despite — and probably in direct opposition to — the growing influence of Christianity in the towns and military centres. If the cemetery of LF3 west of Ham Lane (*Durobrivae* 1, 1973, 13) reflects Christian burial practice, then there is an odd contrast between rival beliefs and practices at Lynch Farm within the same community.

J. P. WILD and G. B. DANNELL

Overstone. (SP 797657). Imitation coin of Helena, rev. Pax Publica (c.f. *L.R.B.C.* pl. 1, 1046) c. A.D. 340 (*B.N.F.A.S.* 6 (1971), 16 for earlier finds).

R. HOLLOWELL

Paulerspury. (SP 713444, SP 711446, SP 722469, and SP 717477). Four Roman areas were revealed by a parish survey. The first two are fine sites, probably villa-farms, with substantial buildings to judge from the amount of dressed limestone debris. Coins of the 3rd and 4th centuries have been found, and Samian pottery as well as late 3rd century rim forms.

D. N. HALL, P. MARTIN

Quinton, site B (SP 77555367). This site is located 130 ft. to the N of site A (*Northants Archaeol.* 8 (1973), 15). Excavation started in the autumn of 1972 and has gone on throughout 1973. This site is provisionally dated from the mid 2nd century to the late 3rd century. It consists mainly of a large yard surface with two layers of limestone metalling. Beneath

the first stone layer there are vague traces of a 2nd century circular hut, part post built, part with a stone footing, and part with a gully. A central post hole was also found.

On the N side of the site half a sheep skeleton was buried on its back. The grave had cut through the upper stone yard surface and partly into the earlier surface, and had then been back-filled with rubble. The stones covering the skeleton were a different colour from the surrounding yard surface.

To the E of the skeleton was a pit filled with large limestone blocks, some measuring 3ft. x 2 ft. x 6 in. This feature is somewhat similar to the example P.3, excavated at the E end of the stone building on site A (see plan in *Northants. Archaeol.* 8 (1973), 16).

Medieval ridge and furrow ploughing has cut through the centre of the site in the same manner as on site A.

Small finds. These include an early Colchester brooch dated to before A.D.70, probably a residual piece; bone and bronze pins; a decorated bronze plaque; various fragments of worked bone and antler; coins of Marcus Aurelius, Victorinus, Diocletian, Carausius and a 'fallen horseman' type, and one unidentifiable coin.

Quinton, site C. (SP 77505370). When the field was being drilled in the late autumn of 1972, the tractor sank into a patch of muddy soil. We later sectioned this and found it to be the remains of a large Roman pit, some 30 ft. in width and of unknown length. It was filled with a sticky yellow/brown clay with sherds of Roman pottery and bone evenly spread from just below the top soil to the bottom of the feature; quantities of limestone lay on the bottom. Cutting across the feature, and about eighteen inches down from the topsoil were two possible Napoleonic field drains.

R. M. TAYLOR

Southorpe. (TF 073036). Quantities of iron slag associated with Roman pottery, ranging in date from the mid 2nd to the late 4th century A.D., limestone rubble, flue tiles, roof tiles and nails. Covering a wide area immediately W of the Ermine Street Roman road.

ADRIAN CHALLANDS

Staverton. (SP 551634). Scatter of Roman pottery, mainly coarse grey ware but with some colour coated, with worked flints, found concentrated in an area some 200 x 300 ft. February 1973.

A. E. BROWN

Thenford (SP 525415). A final season of work on the site revealed the following sequence: an Iron Age settlement was followed by a late 1st century probable farm. No 2nd century occupation was found in the area but by the late 3rd century the area was in use with a farm building erected on the site. This was converted into a domestic building in the mid 4th century by the addition of a bath suite and the mosaic was put into a room. The bath suite was altered and extended at least twice before the building reverted to a more agricultural/industrial use. The whole building was pulled down and the area became a courtyard, probably at the end of the 4th/beginning of the 5th century (*Northants. Archaeol.* 8 (1973), 17 for earlier work).

I. F. SANDERS

Thornhaugh. Sacrewell (TF 077005) *Introduction* — Construction of a major water supply pipeline necessitated stripping topsoil over an area $\frac{3}{4}$ mile long by 36 m. wide. Extensive Romano-British structural features (Ordnance Survey, *Map of Roman Britain* (1956) p.33) were noted towards the N end of the run.

Geology — In the vicinity of the buildings, flaggy basal beds of lower Lincolnshire limestone lie immediately beneath the topsoil. Fissures within this are filled with light brown sandy clay. To the S Lower Estuarine sands outcrop and contain lenses cemented with iron oxide. At the base of this strata Northampton sand and ironstone is represented by a layer of ironstone 0.3 to 0.6 m. thick.

The Buildings. — were represented by one course of herringbone pitched limestone footings ranging in width between 0.8 and 1.3 m. Building 1 projected from the trench side to form a room at least 19 m. long by 5.5 m. wide with a mortared interior. An earlier foot-

ing on a different alignment ran for a short distance within. Burning and charcoal on the floor together with levelled building rubble outside suggested post demolition use.

Footings on the same alignment lay E of 1 indicating a further one, possibly two buildings; in this case the footings were well mortared and surrounded by quantities of tufa. Patches of mortared floor existed close by, much damaged by heavy machinery. Additional short lengths of footing suggested further buildings, although also heavily damaged. Large quantities of tile, mortar, opus signinum, nails and some painted wall plaster were spread over this area.

A building due S of 1 lay on the same alignment and formed a room at least 9 m. long by 5 m. wide. Its interior was filled with a mixture of soft lime and charcoal.

A structure immediately E on the same alignment, formed a well mortared chamber 2.2 m. square with a southerly central flue 0.7 m. wide, which may represent a malt kiln.

The Industrial Site — comprised no less than eight ironworking furnaces and associated raking areas. Three of them lay S of the buildings and appeared to be badly damaged bowl furnaces. The remaining furnaces in close proximity to the buildings consisted of four 2.5 m. diameter bowl furnaces and one small rectangular masonry chamber, which may have been used for ore roasting. A common raking area served two bowl furnaces and the roasting oven.

Outside the main trench a shaft iron smelting furnace was noted. It was badly damaged and so its diameter could not be established; however the well fired calcareous clay lining still stood to a height of 0.6 m.

Conclusions — The finds suggest a period of occupation — from the mid 2nd to the late 4th century A.D. A winged villa is implied by the general layout of the buildings; the principal portion lies to the W., outside the trench, as shown by ploughed up building debris. The amount of building materials, beneath and associated with, iron smelting debris, suggests the building pre-dates the metalworking activities; indeed the filling in the S. building indicates a change of use, during perhaps the 4th century A.D.

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ADRIAN CHALLANDS

Towcester. (Area of SP 695484). In July 1973 six geological trial pits were dug by machine, one in the back garden of 119 High Street and the remainder on the area of rough ground to the rear. None produced any archaeological material older than modern pottery and glass. In those in the rough ground, topsoil and loose fill overlay gravel and alluvium for depths varying from 70 cm. to 1.5 m. In the back garden, some 18 m. from the street frontage, homogeneous topsoil and loose fill went to a depth of 2.3 m., below which undisturbed alluvial silty gravel was encountered. In view of the total absence of Roman material and the apparently relatively recent deposition of the loose fill, the S suburbs of the Roman town may have lain further S, leaving Watling Street to cross the easily flooded low-lying area immediately S of the town walls by a causeway. P. EVERSON

Walton. (TF 165023). A site was excavated alongside the Marholm Road in the parish of Walton in advance of the construction of a service road and factories which will form part of the North Bretton development of Peterborough New Town.

The area excavated was part of a field of some five acres, which slopes gently down towards the Werrington Brook. It lies at the N edge of what can be called the Nene Valley and is almost a part of the Welland Valley. Few archaeological sites are known in the area, but this is probably due to the nature of the geology which is unresponsive for crop marks that will show up on aerial photographs, since this is cornbrash and clay in contrast to the gravels of the river terraces. It is further complicated by a fault which runs E to W across

the field in question here.

The site was first located by Mr. Adrian Challands and noted by him in *B.N.F.A.S.* 7 (1972), 33. The limited investigation that he was able to carry out suggested that he had found the substantial foundations of a building. These indications however proved to be misleading and full excavation of the features then found showed them merely to be field drains built of pieces of cornbrash. Nevertheless the general indications of Romano-British settlement on the site, pottery and tile, proved to be reliable.

The excavation began as an attempt to investigate the features located by Mr. Challands. Unfortunately no aerial photographs were available of the site, nor was it feasible to undertake a geophysical survey because of the urgency of actually excavating the site, which prevented resources being diverted to what would have been a long process of prospection. Firstly, an area was opened around the previous work (Area I). Here the field drains were quickly found. A check was then made to ensure that the features found were indeed drains by digging trial trenches. In one of these a substantial area of disturbance was revealed, which produced large quantities of Saxon pottery (Area II). It was then decided that the line of the service road should be stripped, since that was the first building work scheduled to start on the site, on 3rd September. It was intended that this should give quick information on the extent and nature of the occupation (Area III). Next the part of the field between the Saxon features of Area II and Area I was stripped of topsoil, as it was necessary to investigate both the context of the Saxon and the significant quantities of Romano-British material found on the surface there (Area IV). Further trenches were cut in various parts of the field to try to ascertain the overall extent of the ancient activity and one more area, V, was stripped to examine an intense concentration of material. However, it was not possible to excavate this area fully, due to lack of time.

The Romano-British occupation. No features on the site were dated definitely any earlier than the late 2nd or early 3rd centuries, but a small amount of 1st century material was found. There were three main items: two Samian stamps both dated to the pre-Flavian period and a bronze brooch of Hod Hill type dated by D. F. Mackreth as almost certainly out of use by the end of the 1st century. The brooch was found in a ditch which also contained Saxon pottery, whilst both the Samian stamps were unstratified. As no other Samian stamps were found and only one other brooch, it does seem possible that these finds did relate to some sort of undefined early occupation not too far away.

Evidence of a substantial Romano-British farm was discovered beginning rather later. Most of this consisted of ditch systems, which appeared to spread throughout the field examined. For the most part it was not possible to excavate in full these ditches, nor even to recover the full plan of their layout. It was clear that there were several phases of ditch-cutting activity but the only way satisfactorily to investigate them would have been to remove the topsoil from the whole field, which time and economy prevented. Thus no conclusions could be drawn about the functions of the several enclosures found and, furthermore, even though a great deal of pottery and bone was found in these ditches, some questions must remain about the validity of this sample. The most thorough excavation of the ditches was undertaken in Area III, the line of the proposed road. Here two successive ditch systems could be discerned. Both consisted of a main ditch with several offshoots roughly at right angles. The main ditches ran parallel to each other and a driveway might have been suggested, had there not been the smaller gullies cutting across the area between them. Moreover, the more easterly of the two main ditch systems appeared to have been deliberately filled in. The fill contained much burnt material, perhaps rakings from a fire, and large numbers of pot sherds. This heavy concentration of household debris was in marked contrast to the fill of the other ditch, which had little pottery and which seemed only to have silted naturally. It was also noticeable that the easterly ditch contained some sherds of Samian, including one example of 'cut-glass' decoration which is dated to the 2nd century. However, a detailed analysis of the pottery

has not yet been made and any conclusions to be drawn must await that.

It was not entirely clear how the land around the ditches was used in Roman times. The bases of several pits were found, containing varying amounts of household rubbish, but no structural features were found in the area. Their absence must largely be the responsibility of the destruction caused by ploughing over many years.

In one part of the site (Areas I/IV), it was possible to suggest that a Romano-British farmyard was revealed. The most striking element was a probable building. The surviving evidence for this structure was very slight. Several reasons may be put forward for this. In the first place, the natural subsoil at this point consisted of heavy clay and cornbrash, both very solid bases for building foundations, which would therefore not have needed to be very deep. Moreover, in the later Saxon features quantities of building stone were found which suggested that at least one building on the site had been demolished. When the effects of subsequent ploughing are also considered, few substantial remains can be expected. Nevertheless, something of the structure could be reconstructed. It lay on a N-S alignment. The N and W walls were the only ones to be recognised. The N consisted of some quite substantial stonework at either end, divided by two patches of paving with large flat stones, which were taken to mark a double entrance, in all some 5 m. wide. The overall length of this wall was c. 8 m. The W wall was shown by only a few stones running at right angles to the N wall and clearly much disturbed. It was also cut after 5 m. by a Saxon ditch, which apparently removed a great part of the SE half of the building. Indeed, only a few scattered stones were found in that area, giving no clear limit to that edge of the building. It is unlikely to have exceeded 16 m. however, since at that point began a small gully of Roman date certainly and probably contemporary. No internal features were found.

A curious feature found in Area I was at first thought to be a patch of cobbling but turned out to be the natural cornbrash levelled off with some pebbles and used in Roman times. The precise purpose remains uncertain, partly because it was not possible to excavate there fully, but it may have been either a wooden shed or something such as a threshing floor.

Area V too suffered from very limited digging. Here the removal of topsoil revealed apparently intense occupation, with large quantities of Romano-British pottery, chiefly Nene Valley colour coats and grey wares. It was not possible satisfactorily to define the features here, except for some cobbling which most resembled a road surface, but was only about 2.5 m. wide and 6 m. long. Otherwise, it seems best to interpret this part of the site as the rubbish disposal area of the Romano-British farm.

The Saxon occupation. Several features were discovered that bore no sensible relation to the layout of the Romano-British farmstead and which contained large quantities of Saxon pottery. This pottery awaits expert examination but appears to be of the early pagan Saxon period. In Area III a large pit was found, some 5 m. across and more than 2 m. deep. This contained Saxon pottery in its lowest levels and was waterlogged at the deepest parts, whence came several pieces of wood, including one particularly big log still with its bark. This should provide valuable evidence for the dendrochronology of the period. The exact purpose of this pit is difficult to decide. It has some small ditches running out of it and could be thought a drainage sump, were it not situated on the highest land in the immediate area. It does go down to an outcrop of solid limestone, along which ran a small vein of ironstone, most of which had been removed, but the amount available would hardly seem to justify the effort involved. The geological formation would probably have meant that that spot would have been wet in ancient times and so something to do with drainage seems its most likely explanation. It was also filled with much building stone, including a fine ashlar corner stone, and several coins ranging in date from Domitian (A.D. 81-96) to Constantius II (A.D. 348-359). This material presumably all came from clearance of the area of the demolished Roman building.

More building stone and tile came from the Saxon ditches found in Area IV, in particular from the junction of several contemporary ditches, along with much Saxon pottery, a fragment of a carved bone comb, and many animal bones.

The only possible evidence for Saxon habitation came from one pit. This was very regular in shape, 3.5 x 2.5 m., and about 50 cm. deep. There were two layers in the fill; natural silting in the bottom, covered with a layer of burnt debris which also extended beyond this feature to seal part of one of the Saxon ditches about 5 m. away and contained Saxon pottery. There was no structural evidence to prove that this pit was in fact a grubenhaus, but the possibility must be mentioned.

Interpretation. There seems to be a suggestion in the pottery that serious Romano-British occupation of the site began in the 2nd century and extended on into the 4th. In this period there was at least one major reorganisation of the field system. The limited structural evidence does not allow any distinction to be made here between phases, but there was strong evidence for the presence of a substantial building somewhere very close. This chiefly consisted of various finds of building stone, roof tile, hypocaust tile, some with mortar still on it, and some plain tesserae. All these point to a building with occupants of some wealth. Whether or not they did in fact live in the structure identified must remain unresolved, although it cannot be said that it was impossible for all the building materials to have come from that building, if it was some sort of barn partially divided into living quarters. At the very least it was a small focus of farming activity. It certainly seems to have been on a grander scale than the site also noted by Mr. Challands a quarter of a mile to the west (*B.N.F.A.S.* 7 (1972), 33). The stone for the building probably came from around Helpston, where there is a known villa, about three miles to the NW. However, the site's natural communications seem likely to have lain to the NE. along the Werrington Brook and to the Car Dyke less than two miles away.

How the building fell out of use is not clear. Amongst the material from the collapsed wall were found a coin of Gratian (A.D. 367-75) and a distinctive brooch. This brooch has been identified as being of a very early Saxon type, showing at least a Saxon presence on the site at the time of demolition. No sign of violent destruction was found however and so it must be assumed that the Romano-British occupants had already left by then. Apart from that of Gratian, the latest coins found on the site were of Constantius II and of Constans (A.D. 348-50). Thus, unless the pottery can provide any, there is no evidence to take the Romano-British occupation beyond the mid-fourth century, but there is some for very early Saxon activity.

Although some of the otherwise Romano-British ditches do contain an occasional Saxon sherd near the top, for the most part the Saxon inhabitants seem to have disregarded the earlier farm's layout, with the predominantly Saxon features cutting across Roman. Nevertheless, there are no features that contain only Saxon material, all having substantial quantities of Romano-British pottery. This may have been just residual, but perhaps the Saxon occupants were still obtaining and using it, if they had taken over the site by the end of the 4th century. This area would seem to be one of the most likely to be first occupied by the arriving Saxons since the Roman settlement seems much less intense here than further south in the Nene Valley proper. Although there is no direct evidence for overlapping Roman and Saxon occupation on the site itself, it does thus seem likely that the Saxons remained in contact with the local Romano-British population. However, the Saxon occupation itself does not seem to have been very intense or long lasting; there were relatively few features, each of one period. Perhaps it was only one generation.

Much more information can be expected from the careful study of the large amounts of pottery found, and of the animal bones and soil samples, which should give valuable evidence of the comparative economies of the Romano-British and Saxon farms.

R. F. J. JONES, Nene Valley Research Committee.

Welford. (SP 64268061). Few Roman sherds found on a building site May 1973.

W. R. G. MOORE

Weston Underwood, Bucks. (SP 854525). Some Belgic and Roman material was found covering an area of about 0.5 ha. One interesting sherd, in a soft grey ware, presumably of 2nd-3rd century date was imitating Samian decoration and possibly came from a copy of form 37. The ovolo had been executed by means of a compass, above which was a double band of imitation roulette decoration, achieved by hand notching the wet clay. Above the notching was a normal rounded rim.

R. M. TAYLOR

Wootton. (SP 749569). A small Roman site with a dark occupation area found during a survey in advance of the Northampton Development Corporation building programme.

D. N. HALL

Wootton, Wootton Hill. (SP 737582). Fieldwalking by D. N. Hall had produced Roman pottery, tegulae, tesserae and building stone. A trial excavation was undertaken to ascertain the quality of the surviving remains. Floor levels had been badly damaged by ploughing and walls seldom survived above one course in height. Part of a bath suite with tile pilae and plastered walls was revealed. The remains probably represent a small villa.

J. WILLIAMS

Yardley Hastings/Weston Underwood. (SP 855527). The site lies astride the Northants and Bucks county boundaries as well as the Yardley Hastings and Weston Underwood parish boundary. Much pottery of 4th century type was found scattered in the plough soil covering an area of about 1 ha. The pottery included various coarse and colour coated Nene Valley wares and a cheese press. A bronze coin was also picked up (Obv. Roma, helmeted bust, rev. PR; soldier (or emperor) standing with spear point downwards, leaning on shield; *L.R.B.C.* 1611, mint of Rome, A.D. 337-341).

R. M. TAYLOR

See also in the Prehistoric section: Earls Barton (SP 85326472), Kettering, Sywell, Wakerley; in the Migration and Early Medieval section: Castor; in the Medieval section: Newton, Willen; in the Post-medieval section, Peterborough (TL 19149854 and TL 193883).

MIGRATION AND EARLY MEDIEVAL

Brixworth. D. H. Kennett has continued work on selected aspects of the finds from the Anglo-Saxon cemeteries discovered in the late nineteenth century at Brixworth. The earlier cruciform brooches from this site have been drawn as part of a general survey of cruciform brooches from central Northamptonshire, complementing his study of the florid group (see D. H. Kennett, 'A fragmentary florid cruciform brooch from Brixworth', *J Northampton Mus. Art Gallery* forthcoming).

Burton Latimer. (TL 892764). This site was discovered in the course of ironstone diggings on the boundaries of the parishes of Burton Latimer and Barton Seagrave. Finds were made between 1880 and 1885 and some, mainly pots and the well-known shield boss, reached the British Museum in 1891. These have been drawn by D. H. Kennett and an extensive paper surveying the cultural affinities of the site prepared. Here it is argued that as the majority of the site was in Burton Latimer parish, this is the more apposite name for the site. The discussion of the pots concentrates on Northamptonshire parallels and looks in depth at the extensive series of ceramics from Kettering Stamford Road.

D. H. KENNETT

Castor. (TL 125985). Roman and Saxon site in village (*B.N.F.A.S.* 7 (1972), 13-18 for earlier work). *Roman.* No Roman wall footings have appeared within the 8 sq. m. covered by the trench opened at Easter in 1973 indicating that this area is outside the building to the N. Instead there is a spread of mortar and limestone which is continuous throughout the

trench except where it is cut by later intrusions which are likely to be Middle Saxon in date. This flooring is rough and inconsistent in detail, with the variations suggesting the presence of slight timber buildings. The fact that this area was sufficiently important to surface suggests that there may be further rooms or outbuildings to the N of the trench.

Migration and Early Medieval. At Easter 1973 further work was done in the garden of Mr. and Mrs. F. Sismey of 29 Stocks Hill, Castor, where Dr. J. P. Wild previously found evidence of not only the Roman period but also Middle Saxon (650-850 A.D.) and Medieval occupation. An area 8 m. square was opened N of an earlier trial trench which during weekend excavation had produced a large undisturbed Saxon pit. It was hoped that this area of the site would therefore be able to provide information of this period in particular. The results are restricted by the fact that the area opened is not yet fully excavated, and it is still too small in relation to the complicated nature of the site, so that no complete structures have been exposed.

The Saxon pit mentioned above proved to have originally been a sub-rectangular latrine pit with steep sides and an outwardly sloping post-hole in the NE corner. The portion within the trench covers an area some 2.50 m. N-S x 3.60 m. E-W: its depth and total dimensions are not yet known. The pit was abandoned as a latrine, and silt layers of decayed Roman mortar formed above the cess fill for an indeterminate length of time. The hole was then allowed to gradually fill with rubbish. The rest of the Saxon features are restricted by the limitations explained above, but the following things may be said at this stage. Some 18 varied post-holes represent phases of timber building, although some of these may belong to the Roman period. On the NE side of the trench a low rounded platform of made-up material was found with four regularly spaced stake holes, each 8-10 cms. in diameter, on the top; these formed the W side of a circle whose main body lay outside the trench. A clay bank against the N section may represent the edge of a similar feature. Beneath the E platform, the W end of a rectangle of similar mixed material to the platform above was found, 2.50 m. N-S. Post-holes in the centre of the W side and on the NW corner (the SW corner was disturbed and no certain post-holes could be established here) had showed as irregularly shaped intrusions into the platform above and must have been still standing when the platform was built, unless their relationship to the rectangular feature is coincidental only. Beneath the rectangular feature is a gully, 40 cms. wide on average, which runs downhill to the SW. It is cut by a similar gully which begins in the NE corner of the trench, and both gullies run over the top of the Saxon pit. So far, these gullies have not produced any Saxon pottery except where they cut into the fill of the pit. Neither of the platforms produced Saxon pottery. None of the post-holes have produced Saxon pottery. Roman pottery is plentiful in all layers except the secondary layers of the Saxon pit. This can be explained in at least two ways: (a) Contemporary rubbish was carefully thrown away in specific places, but there was so much residual Roman pottery in the ground that any feature which was back-filled contained it; or, (b) there is a phase without pottery which post-dates the pit, which would be feasible in the time of the Viking disturbances of the ninth century. The Anglo-Saxon pottery from the pit includes Merovingian imported pottery, as well as the types already found (*B.N.F.A.S.* 7, (1972) 18). These comprise Ipswich ware, hand-made shelly wares with flat-topped rims resembling those found at Maxey, and a variety of hand-made local wares, usually in coarse gritted fabric but occasionally with shell or other organic temper. The Anglo-Saxon pottery from the site now consists of over 500 sherds.

The Saxon latrine pit and gullies are cut through the yellow mortar and limestone surfacing of the Roman building. There are other small features cut into this still to be excavated. An interesting feature which may well prove to be Anglo-Saxon rather than Roman is a deliberate spread of broken Roman roof tile in an ENE-WSW band in the S part of the trench to form a surface over the mortar. This appears so far to have been at least 3 m. wide, and was perhaps a pathway between buildings.

It should be noted that in several places similar features, such as gullies or small pits, have been dug on or near the same spot, thus implying a conservatism of layout or function. There is, however, still no evidence forthcoming that this Middle Saxon occupation represents the nunnery of St. Kyneburgh attributed to Castor village by medieval historians. There is also still no pottery from the site to fill the gaps between the fourth and seventh centuries, and the ninth and eleventh centuries.

Medieval. The Medieval period was represented by 5 building phases of which 2 were stone foundation and 3 were of timber. Remains were incomplete and disturbed by much other activity, mainly pit digging. Medieval pottery was not abundant, suggesting that this was not a wealthy area of the village.

C. G. DALLAS Middle Nene Archaeological Group.

Islip. This cemetery from which finds were made in 1878 and 1917-18 is somewhat better known than many of the Anglo-Saxon cemeteries of Northamptonshire (see *Proc. Soc. Ant.* 9, 1882, 89-91; *Proc. Soc. Ant.* 30, 1918, 113-120; *Antiq. J.* 21, 1941, 234-6) but as the references show is scattered in its publication. As part of the survey of cruciform brooches of Northamptonshire, the examples from this site in Northampton Museum have been drawn by D. H. Kennett, but those in Drayton House, Lowick, have yet to be examined.

Rothwell. The finds from this cemetery are in the Museum of Archaeology and Ethnology, Cambridge, and the Ashmolean Museum, Oxford. Some were published by F. R. G. Hief (*Proc. Cambridge Antiq. Soc.* 20, 1916, 59-66) but the cultural affinities do need further examination. The cruciform brooches have been drawn by D. H. Kennett as part of the survey of these objects from central Northamptonshire.

D. H. KENNETT

See also in the Roman Section: Walton; in the Medieval section: Little Addington, Willen.

MEDIEVAL

Badby. (SP 560589). Medieval pottery found in builders' trenches on a housing estate. Since all topsoil had been skimmed off the field prior to building the depth at which the finds were made is unknown. The pottery was of 13th and 14th century types as found on the moated site excavated in 1966-69 (*B.N.F.A.S.* 4 (1970), 15). It was mostly unglazed and the wide range of fabrics include red shelly, Potterspury type (including a handle), pinkish white Coventry types, and sandy fabrics associated with 14th century Phase II kitchens at Badby (curfews and cooking pots). There were a few pieces of Lyveden jug and three quarters of an onion shaped jar in a green glazed orange fabric. The pottery was found associated with a large flagged area. Small quantities of pottery only were found over the rest of the field.

C. ORR

Bradwell Abbey, Bucks. (SP 827396). Excavation of the former bakehouse proved that it was of fourteenth century date and was originally 9.6 m. long and 5 m. wide. The longest axis, N to S, was shortened by half a bay in the 18th or 19th century. The excavation took place in advance of the laying of a new floor. (*Northants. Archaeol.* 8, (1973), 19 for earlier work).

D. C. MYNARD, Milton Keynes Development Corporation.

Brigstock Great and Little Parks. The earliest reference to a park at Brigstock is in *Cal. Close Rolls 1227-31* p. 15, when oaks were granted by the king to William d'Aubigny "extra parcum de geytinton et parcum de Brikestoc". There was evidently an extension made in the 14th century when Edward III granted license for Queen Philippa to make a park in the "bailiwick of Brigstok within the forest" (*Cal. Patent Rolls 1348-50* p. 552. Walter de Wyght, yeoman keeper of the park, was given the job to have the enclosure finished, make dykes there and deer leaps (*saltus*) and lodges (*lugeas*) and to have the palings of the park repaired with timber from the park. William Brasier's map of 1728 (N.R.O. maps) shows the boundaries of the park. A walk round these shows in places considerable traces of earthworks. They include a long linear mound in Splash Meadow which runs parallel with the

hedgeline marking the bounds of the park (E of Park Farm, at SP 936847. The next field was called "The Lawn" in the Brasier map and the next to the S, Ald dykes. Here is a well preserved linear mound and slight traces of an internal ditch. The road between Brigstock and Grafton seems to divide the Great from the Little parks. On the edge of Palk Gate Close and Saw Tree Coppice are massive banks. The SE and SW limits of the park run along the parish boundaries and border on two other medieval parks, Drayton and Grafton. The boundary of the Great Park runs N from Old Mead Wood towards Geddington Chase and is marked by a long linear bank and internal ditch with a number of ancient oaks growing on the mound at SP 912830.

J. M. STEANE, Kettering Grammar School Local History and Archaeological Society.

Bulwick. (SP 959945). Pit seen in side of trench. Medieval shelly pottery collected. Finds in Northampton Museum. D. BELLAMY

Castor. (TL 143985). Medieval spearhead, iron, length 32 cm., width 18 cm., socketed. Found on the banks of the River Nene near Milton Ferry, by Mr. E. Evans, 30, The Banks, Barrow-on-Soar, Leics., and brought to Peterborough Museum for recording and identification in October 1973. It is now in the finder's possession. A. E. SANDFORD

Chelveston. (SP 992695). A small group of 13th century pottery was recovered from a pit exposed on a building site. Several complete profiles are represented. D. N. HALL

Cottesbrooke. The whole parish was surveyed for medieval fields and earthworks. All the emparked woods and copses contained ridge and furrow. Some especially fine ridge and furrow survives to the SW of the village. There are some shrunken vill earthworks W of the church and E of the village. D. N. HALL, A. GOLDSWORTHY, P. MARTIN

Cranford. The double parish of St. Andrews and St. Johns has been surveyed for medieval fields. There are a few earthworks left to the N of St. Andrews church. In the extensive areas of ironstone quarry the field pattern was recovered using the 1748 map. The fieldwork filled in the large areas of the old map marked as inclosure (to the NW); thus the two sources of evidence between them lead to a very complete account of the medieval landscape. A copy of the plan is deposited at the Northamptonshire Record Office. D. N. HALL

Crick. (SP 598726). Medieval village earthworks: area the subject of an appeal against refusal of planning permission for housing. P. EVERSON

Daventry, Supermarket site 1973 (SP 574625). During the months of January and February 1973 a watching brief was maintained on behalf of the Inspectorate of Ancient Monuments of the Department of the Environment on the construction of a new Supermarket behind the High Street at Daventry, Northants. The co-operation of the architects, W. H. Saunders and Son, and of the contractors, Messrs. Bacal, is gratefully acknowledged.

The method of construction adopted by the contractors did not involve area stripping and thus no large cleared areas became available for observation. Most of the buildings on the site rest on concrete pile foundations, the holes for which were filled in with concrete almost immediately after excavation, which also made observation difficult. Nevertheless it was possible to carry out recording in some of these foundation trenches and to watch the excavations of the deep pipe trenches which ran N-S and E-W across the site. The results were as follows:

1. *Quarrying.* Some of the foundation trenches in the N and E parts of the site showed the existence of deep quarry pits filled with loose stone and bands of dirty earth. Finds were sparse but included fragments of 14th century Potterspury glazed roof tile from a pit in the NE of the site. In addition, the deep pipe trenches cut through large scoops separated from each other by pillars of solid Marlstone rock. They were filled with evenly bedded layers of small pieces of Marlstone and some bands of dark earth. No archaeological material was found in these scoops, which might be natural.

2. *Property boundaries.* The earliest large scale map of the whole of Daventry is the enclosure map of 1803. This shows the area in question as free of buildings in the early 19th century but crossed by a series of boundaries enclosing narrow strips of land running S from the houses which fronted the High Street. The E-W pipe trench picked up ditches and walls which corresponded exactly with these boundaries.

3. *Medieval material* was scarce and in the main unstratified in the topsoil. It consisted of a few sherds of shelly 13th and 14th century wares and a 15th century jug handle in a hard pink ware.

4. *Post medieval pits.* Eight post medieval pits were cut through by the pipe and foundation trenches and produced interesting collections of 17th-19th century pottery including lead and iron glazed coarse wares, salt glazed stoneware, delft and Chinese porcelain.

A. E. BROWN and C. ORR

Doddington-Wilby parishes. (SP 869656). Northampton-Wellingborough pipeline. A quantity of medieval and post medieval pottery collected. Stone walling, pits and hearths recorded. Finds with P. Foster and Northampton Museum.

R. HARPER

Finedon. (SP 918722). Late medieval pottery found in trench along High Street. Finds in Northampton Museum.

B. BELLAMY

Fletton. (about TL 189965). Phorpres pit: Long Cross penny, Edward I (Class 1c), found in November, 1973; given to Peterborough Museum.

A. E. SANDFORD

Fotheringhay Park. The earliest reference to a park at Fotheringhay is in *Cal. Close Rolls* 1227-31 p.284, when Henry III granted to John, Count of Huntingdon, the privilege of making two deerleaps for his park at Fotheringhay. (*Duo saltatoria ad parcum suum de Foderingeya*). Bridges mentions in the 11th year of Edward IV that Mountjoy, Earl of Newport, claimed to hold the castle and "the great park and little park, with a deerleap in the great park" (Bridges, II, 453). The Park is bounded by the Willow Brook on the S and a complete perambulation can be made, starting from Walcot Lodge (TL 052937). A green lane goes N to Nassington. The Park boundary is marked by a long linear earthwork a mile long and 30 ft. across, with a ditch on either side enclosed in "Park Spinney". This is also the parish boundary between Nassington and Fotheringhay. In several places fragments of limestone rubble appear in the boundary bank and at TL 057947 there is an inner ditch only. At TL 061951 the boundary mound runs E and joins the Fotheringhay-Nassington road, whence it turns S. There is a kink in the road at TL 065939 which may be a deerleap. The bank is picked up here and survives a few feet to the W and parallel with the road. The S boundary seems to be the Willow Brook.

Grafton Underwood, Grafton Park. An attempt was made to trace the bounds of this park which is mentioned in *Cal. Patent Rolls* 1348-50 p. 57. "License for Simon Simeon to impark his wood at Grafton which is within the metes of the forest of Rockingham, provided that he make no deer leap therein". A century later Henry Grene esq. was granted license "to impark the said woods and fields and hold the same as a park". (*Cal. Charter Rolls* 1427-1516 p.113). Grafton Park wood is a mile to the NE of Grafton village and there is an embanked linear earthwork at SP 932813, with ash, oak and conifers planted in it. The parish boundary with Brigstock defines its NE edge and it is possible that the SE extension marks the extension "Grafton Woodyds", and "Grafton Feldys" mentioned in the 15th century document.

J. M. STEANE

Great Addington. (SP 959749). A group of late 15th century pottery was found in a rubbish pit exposed by housing estate works.

D. N. HALL

Great Harrowden (SP 88157110). Area scraped for construction of golf tee. Large quantity of medieval and post medieval pottery collected. Finds in Northampton Museum.

R. HARPER and P. FOSTER

Hardingstone. The surviving parts of the parish were surveyed in advance of destruction by the Northampton Development Corporation. All the area was covered by medieval fields except the flooding meadows. Those fields still containing unspoilt ridge and furrow were plotted on a scale of 1:2500; good examples survive N and NE of the village.

Hargrave. (TL 035707). A group of 13th century pottery, including Lyveden ware, was found in a pit exposed by building contractors. D. N. HALL

Harpole. (SP 69246057). Sherds of Lyveden-type shelly ware cooking pots and jug lip found in digging foundations for extension at Baptist Church. P. EVERSON

Helmdon. (SP 587437). The whole parish was surveyed for medieval fields and village earthworks. As usual all the area had been ploughed except for the water meadows and Allithorn Wood at the NW. There are several areas of shrunken village earthworks, particularly around Manor Farm where there are good manorial ramparts and fishponds as well as the manor site itself (SP 590430). Documentary evidence of various periods, including charters of the early 14th century, will enable all the furlongs to be identified and named. The Stockings, a detached part of the parish, was entirely ridge and furrow.

D. N. HALL and E. PARRY

Hinton in the Hedges. An almost perfect bronze prick spur was found in a garden in the village. The spur still had gilding adhering to the surface. Intricate pointillé decoration covered most of the external surface. Probable date about 14/15th century. Pottery ranging in date from 14-17th century was also found in the same garden. R. M. TAYLOR

Irthlingborough. (SP 95207070). Medieval pottery from new house foundations. Finds with P. Foster. R. HARPER

Little Addington (SP 95657350). A small housing development revealed in foundation trenches a few shallow medieval ditches and one straight sided flat bottomed pit some 4 m. wide and 3 m. deep which produced some medieval pottery fragments. One small sherd of Saxon pottery was found on the surface. Plans and material to Northampton Museum.

P. FOSTER

Little Houghton. Since part of this parish will be taken in by Greater Northampton, and there is a threat of a by-pass, the whole parish was surveyed for medieval fields. There are village earthworks to the N and NW of the village, and good ridge and furrow with a hollow way to the SE. There are two motte-and-bailey structures, the well-known Clifford Hill (SP 806606), and a lesser one W of the church. Good fishponds survive at SP 806602. Documentary research has led to the identification of all the furlongs, including *Wymersley Furlong*, where it is probable that the Hundred Court met. D. N. HALL

Milton Keynes, Bucks. Ridge and furrow survey. Several thousand acres have been surveyed at 1:5000 scale in advance of redevelopment. It is intended to produce a medieval field map for each parish. D. C. MYNARD

Moulton Park. The King's Park at Northampton was identified 60 years ago by E. F. Leach in a paper in *The Northamptonshire Natural History Society & Field Club* XIV, No. 114, June 1908, pp.217 to 226. The site is rapidly being covered by the expansion of Northampton, but fragments of the drystone limestone wall surrounding the park were noticed in a recent circumambulation, notably along the B road running W from Buttocks Booth (modern euphemism Boothville!) to Boughton. The park follows the parish boundary for half-a-mile and then curves round just inside the road down towards the site of Moulton Park House, now the Northampton College of Education. There is a long stretch of newish wall with two carved stones embedded in the inner side. These were not noticed by Leach in his article. One in Roman type lettering has *HAY FORD* inscribed on it and the other near the entrance to the College is inscribed *ROT TRO*: possibly Rothersthorpe is referred to.

In 1549 Simon Mallory gave evidence "That he hath redde the names of many townes engraven upon the stones of the walls of the said parke. . . The same townes engraven upon the same stones have payde their yerely rent towards the mendyng of the same walls". The S boundary of Moulton Park ran due E from Moulton Park house and the wall was traced under thick undergrowth. In two places, SP768642, the wall footings are clearly visible in section. The ground drops rapidly into a disused quarry to the S. No sign of the inscribed stones mentioned by Leach are visible in this stretch now J. M. STEANE

Newton. (SP 875842). Area of medieval and Roman wares. Finds in Northampton Museum. (*Northants. Archaeol.* 8 (1973), 8 for earlier finds). B. BELLAMY

Northampton. Sheep Street. (SP 75356078). Two trenches dug to lower cables were examined outside (A) 29-31 Sheep Street and (B) outside 44 Sheep Street, between June-August 1973.

Several earlier road levels consisting of packed cobbles and pebbles were observed in section at depths up to 5 ft. below the present road-surface. In trench A, a damp black layer containing organic waste was resting on a road-surface at around 4 ft. below the present road-surface. This layer produced fragments of wood, twigs, oyster and mussel shells, sherds of late 12th to 14th century date, several animal bones (including sheep and ox) a wooden point 15.6 cm. long and several scraps of leather and parts of shoes. There were similar finds from trench B and from the spoil-heaps. W. R. G. MOORE

Northampton, St. Peters Street (SP 750604). At the time of writing (December 1973) excavations commenced in summer 1973 are still in progress. The summary of findings below must therefore be regarded as a preliminary assessment and subject to subsequent alteration. The site lies immediately to the E of St. Peters Church. The N frontage of St. Peters Street (c. 55 m. long) turning into Freeschool Street (c. 20 m. long) was stripped initially. Beneath the Victorian and 20th century levels there were signs of little occupation later than the early 16th century, when a stone terrace, substantially built of ironstone ashlar ran along St. Peters Street and up Freeschool Street. Up to 8 houses were recognised, typically 8 m. x 4 m. with the long side facing onto the street. A division into 2 rooms seemed a standard feature. The whole terrace was apparently burnt down in a single fire dated archaeologically to c. A.D. 1500. Documentary sources record a large fire in 1516. Further buildings apparently of the same date are currently being excavated to the S of St. Peters Street. Beneath these later buildings were traces of earlier stone and timber buildings going back to before the Norman Conquest. In places at least 6 buildings lay on top of each other. At the W end of the site a ditch running N-S, c. 4 m. x 1.5 m. deep was cut into the natural ironstone. The ditch fill was sterile but from the level sealing the ditch came a 'sceatta' of 8th century date and a silver penny of Berhtwulf (A.D. 839-852). There is no firm archaeological evidence for the date of the ditch but it is tempting to argue for some form of 9th century settlement perhaps surrounded by a ditch. It is hoped the excavation of further lengths of the ditch will help resolve this problem.

Northampton. The Mounts. At the corner of the Mounts and Overstone Road a section was cut across the line of the town defences. A heavy concentration of ironstone rubble, lying beneath the cellar floors fronting the Mounts was presumably the foundations of the town wall. To the N a shallow ditch c. 7 m. wide had been recut. J. WILLIAMS

Paulerspury. The whole parish, including the hamlet of Heathencote, was surveyed for medieval fields. At Pury End are fine examples of sunken roads and a large drained fishpond. There are two more fishponds at the SE (SP 728453), one with ridge and furrow ploughing in the bottom. W of the church, SP 705455, are the manorial earthworks and enclosure ramparts. Other shrunken earthworks occur at Tews End. The two medieval deer parks, now disparted, still possess short lengths of rampart about 20 ft. wide and 5 ft. high; the best parts are to the E of Plumpark (SP 734455). A plan is to be published in *Milton*

Keynes Journal III. At Heathencote, also very shrunken, is a fine windmill mound and ditch at SP 708479.

D. N. HALL

Pilton, Lyveden. (SP 984861). The area excavated in 1972, 138 ft. by 72 ft. (*Northants. Archaeol.* 8 (1973), 21) was extended to the S and W, on the apparent W edge of the deserted medieval village, and the whole area was investigated, including the earlier levels. It was confirmed that in the latest occupation of the second half of the 15th century, the area was divided between a tiler's property on the W and a farmer's property on the E. Both these complexes overlay areas which produced ample evidence of an earlier potting industry and both faced onto a paved road running E-W along the the bottom of the valley to the S of the area. Signs of this included an apsidal ended, double flued pottery kiln of the Lyveden type; unfortunately almost completely ploughed away. The pot bank to the S produced a typical range of hand made Lyveden wares but also included a number of new forms such as shallow bowls, lug handled storage jars, deep straight sided bowls rouletted externally and basket handled bowls. Four stone lined clay puddling pits were found let into the yard surfaces. A rectangular building aligned N-S was found on the N edge of the excavated area near the bank of the stream. It was apparently contemporary with the potting industry and the floor, apart from a small area of pitched limestone, was composed entirely of end set kiln bars covered with a thick layer of potsherds, all of typical Lyveden form and fabric. It is provisionally interpreted as an open sided drying shed. Further groups of hand made Lyveden wares were recovered from numerous pits dug into natural cornbrash in the area excavated. To the S of the kiln a rectangular shaped limestone floor led S from which into the roadway was a stone lined and capped drain. Large quantities of iron slag and waste, traces of a hearth and numerous iron objects suggested that this building was a smithy. The pottery from all these early levels was of the early hand made Lyveden type.

Work on the 15th century upper levels was continued and unfortunately it was found that the structures associated with the tile kiln were largely ploughed out. Further investigation of the kiln stoke pit revealed large quantities of pottery of the sandy oxidised fabric, which included thrown jugs, cook pots, and deep and shallow flanged and internally glazed bowls. Several probable wasters suggested that these were being made together: floor, roof and ridge tile in the one kiln.

In the farming property to the E, which consisted of a long house, barn and paved yard, three circular ovens, one built into the W wall of the living end of the house and two lying to the N of the house, were found. The barn was approached by a cobbled driveway which had been laid on top of a wall which bounded a potter's yard.

The pottery from these later levels was of three main types. (A) Hard wheel thrown fabric with very fine shell/limestone tempering. This occurred as jugs, often rilled below the neck, with green glaze over white slip, and internally glazed bowls in a similar fabric but with thicker walls. (B) Hard wheel thrown grey sandy reduced fabric. This occurred chiefly as bowls with simple rolled on flanged rims and jugs with rilling below the neck and simple channelled handles. All forms were unglazed. (C) Fine orange hard sandy fabric (as found in the stoke pit of the kiln). Coin and small find evidence pointed to a date in the second half of the 15th century. The lack of evidence for a period of desertion between the potting activity and this later occupation suggests that the production of hand made coarse Lyveden wares went on much later than was previously thought; at least into the latter part of the 14th century, and probably into the early 15th century.

The boundaries of the properties excavated were the stream to the N and the route of a paved hollow road to the S. Extensive rutting was noticed in the limestone paved surface. An area to the S of the road revealed long stretches of substantial walling bounding large paved areas. The course of the earlier road was immediately to the S of the tile yard and the farm had been apparently replaced by a route on the slightly higher ground to the S. The later route ran over the walling and yard and deep ruts were found cut into their surfaces.

Traces of building further up the hill to the S of the yards were found to be largely ploughed out.

Among the *small finds* made of iron were several horseshoes with the fullered edge characteristic of a late medieval date, several iron pivots for window shutters, two spade edges from the well pit (these were slotted to take the wooden blade of the spade), a spoon shaped bit from a woodworking tool, a small ring brooch, a large harness buckle, two cylindrical barrel padlock cases and two sets of springs, a crescent shaped arrow head, a spur rowel, two barrel padlocks, keys and large door key. Bronze finds included belt plates and strap end and belt buckles, a gilt bronze belt mount and two rings. Lead objects included part of an ornamental brooch and a tube of uncertain use. A post medieval musket ball was also found. Stone objects included three pivot stones, two of door size and a third which looked like a bearing stone and several whetstones of mica schist. At the bottom of the well was found the sole of a leather shoe of 14th century date (information from Mr. J. T. Thornton, Northampton College of Technology) and several pieces of well preserved wood and nuts. A large slab of timber survived in the waterlogged conditions at the bottom of the stoke pit of the tile kiln.

Analysis of the *bone material* from the 1972 excavations on site J has revealed interesting differences from the material recovered from the 13th-14th century industrial site (site D). Deer bone had dropped from 23% to 8% which was not unexpected if bone tool manufacture was not taking place to any significant extent at the former site. There were higher percentages of dog and horse found at the farmer's toft site no doubt representing animals used for herding, guarding and traction. The livestock economy was based on cattle, sheep and pigs and occasional hunting for deer and bird was practised.

A full report on site J is forthcoming in *J. Northampton Mus. Art Gallery* 1974.

J. M. STEANE

Pytchley. New school extension. Shelly and glazed medieval pottery found in foundation trenches. Finds in Northampton Museum.

B. BELLAMY

Quinton, site D. (SP 77415386). During the cleaning and redigging of the W boundary ditch of Great Holt, a well-constructed stone wall, possibly the end wall of a building was found in the side of the ditch. It was cleaned, drawn and photographed. No dateable evidence was found, but the style of the stonework, which reached seven courses at the corners, appeared to be similar to the 14th century stonework on the nearby moated site.

Quinton, moated manor site. (SP 776542). A rather shortened season of work was carried out on the site this year. (*Northants. Archaeol.* 8 (1973), 23 for earlier work). The remaining baulk of overburden was removed down to archaeological layers. This now completes the excavation of approximately half the site.

An extension wall to the 14th century kitchen found last year was located, partly robbed down to the foundation trench; also a well-constructed large circular kiln or oven, some 11 ft. in diameter and 3 ft. deep, with a barrel-vaulted vent on its NE side. It was at first thought that we had a lime kiln but there was a virtual absence of lime in the immediate area of the kiln.

Small finds. These were rather few this year: a small bronze 15th century token and a bronze shoelace tag and some pottery dating to the 14th century.

R. M. TAYLOR

Radstone. A medieval survey of this parish was made before all is lost as a result of exceptionally intensive agriculture. There are village earthworks W of the church, and a little ridge and furrow. In the E part of the parish is a large area of fishponds and village earthworks, identified as the deserted medieval vill of Nether Radston, SP 602405. This is mentioned by Bridges and marked on an undated late 16th century map belonging to Merton College, Oxford. At SP 595397 is a ploughed-over windmill mound (for earlier references *B.N.F.A.S.* 6 (1971), 16).

D. N. HALL and E. PARRY

Sibbertoft. (SP 678827). A small housing development to the N of the village. Small quantity of medieval wares collected from foundation trenches. Finds with P. Foster.

R. HARPER

Stanion. (SP 914872). Remains of kilns revealed when house extensions were undertaken. Large quantities of pottery including complete wasters almost identical to Lyveden ware were recovered. Six types of vessel in several fabrics were identified including some vessels which had been pierced completely through.

J. HADMAN

Stoke Albany. (SP 805875). New by-pass construction. Some late medieval pottery and three worked flints collected.

B. BELLAMY

Stony Stratford, Bucks. (SP 78344075). Trial excavations in the garden of the former "Barley Mow" situated at the N end of the town on the W side of the High Street (Watling Street) showed that medieval levels survived at a depth of approximately 1.5 m. The walls of a 13th to 14th century building were located. The main build-up over the medieval levels was of 19th century date.

D. C. MYNARD and R. W. GRIFFITHS

Sudborough, Drayton Old Park. The modern Drayton Park surrounds Drayton House. Half a mile to the N lies the site of the medieval park at Drayton. Its origin is in 1328 when Simon de Drayton was given licence by the crown "to crenellate his dwellinghouse of Drayton, and to impark 30 acres in the manor of Drayton and to hold the premises in fee simple." (*Cal. Patent Rolls 1327-30* p.319.). Two early 18th century maps in the Northampton Record Office, (maps 1402 and 1403) show Drayton Old Park and a circular enclosure within it marked *Round Lownd Woods*. Dr. G. F. Peterken of Monks Wood Nature Conservancy Station has suggested that this may be the original enclosure of Simon de Drayton's first park. Tracing the boundaries of Round Lownd Wood (modern spelling), one notices at SP 955815 a linear mound with external and internal ditch running round the W side of the wood. The Lowick-Sudborough parish boundary follows this side of the wood. It seems to have been enlarged a little to the N and the E, since its present edges are outside the double ditch marked on the N.R.O. map. Simon enlarged his park since he was given licence to impark "three plots in Rockingham forest called Eldesale, Newesale, and Lappe, containing 62 acres, and another plot of 20 acres called Wynestros without the forest contiguous to the said plots. The said plots extend from Plumwell to La Snape and from Gotesle to Lound" (*Cal. Patent Rolls 1327-30* p.530). Again referring to the N.R.O. map, this extension can be traced on the ground. A fine stretch of about 500 yards of park boundary bank runs parallel with the Slipton-Sudborough road. The boundary follows the road N to SP 960816 and then turns NE. The field here has been ploughed since the 1940s and the bank has been levelled completely. Its course, however, can be traced as a broad yellow clay band in the brown plough soil at SP 959816. The boundary runs straight across the neck where Snapes Wood now adjoins Long Lown Wood, and it meets an old cattle drove road known as Meer Lane at SP 947820. It then continues along the W edge of Long Lown Wood and turns the corner at the moated site known as the Nunnery (SP 950812). This appears to be a deer enclosure and its W and S banks form the corner of Drayton Park. It is along this side that a late 15th century lord of Drayton, Sir Thomas Cheyne, was accused of shooting at the king's deer in Brigstock Little Park. (N.R.O. Stopford Sackville mss. 3241). A further addition was made to the park, probably later in the middle ages, when Snapes Wood was enclosed. A boundary bank running across the later (probably 18th or 19th century) rides is noticeable at SP 950826 and it turns S at SP 949827 to run about 150 yards within the present boundary of Snapes Wood before meeting the Meer Lane. The N.R.O. map does not, however, show this particular extension. Thanks to Dr. G. F. Peterken for first pointing out a number of these features.

J. M. STEANE

Upton. (SP 720599). Earthworks forming apparent house platforms, toft boundaries and a sunken-way were recognised and recorded. These presumably belong to the

deserted medieval Village at Upton known from documentary sources and previously assumed to be under the park to the N. (K. J. Allison *et. al. The Deserted Villages of Northamptonshire* (1966), 47). J. WILLIAMS

Weldon. (SP 928895). The site of medieval iron workings was reported in the local papers by the Weldon Historical Society. Two stone bases for possible multiple iron smelting furnaces and a length of stone walling were seen. The site was being excavated by members of the Weldon Society. A number of medieval sherds were collected from the field and a large amount of iron slag was noted. P. FOSTER

Wellingborough. (SP 88756770). Office development between West Street, Oxford Street and Bassetts Park revealed pits and ditches. Medieval pottery was recovered. A large mill stone 3 ft. 6 in. in diameter and 8 in. thick was seen but was buried before it could be transported. Finds in Northampton Museum.

Wellingborough. (SP 89156790). Site of new library. Foundation shafts revealed considerable modern build up with the older levels destroyed. Some pits were recorded near the church and medieval pottery was collected from these. Finds in Northampton Museum.

Wellingborough. (SP 89206770). Site of new Council office block, Croylad Abbey. Photographs taken of now demolished ironstone barns and stables. Excavations revealed no features due to apparent landscaping of the site with terraces. Surface finds of medieval and post medieval pottery. Finds in Northampton Museum.

Wellingborough. Site of new telephone exchange, Hardwick Road. Small quantity of medieval sherds from surface. R. HARPER

Willen. (SP 881408). The moated site was totally excavated. The moat was originally 4 m. wide and 1.5 m. deep. The enclosure was 26 m. N to S and 20 m. E to W with traces of an internal bank on the W side 2.5 m. wide surviving to a height of 1½ m. A Roman ditch in the late 3rd to 4th century with Middle Saxon sherds in the upper fill was found in the old ground surface on which the moat was constructed probably in the 14th century. Two nearby platforms on either side of a sunken road were partly excavated and produced evidence of 14th century occupation. (*Northants. Archaeol.* 8 (1973), 23 for earlier work). D. C. MYNARD

Wootton. All the parish was surveyed in advance of Greater Northampton. There are shrunken vill earthworks at the SW, including a small motte-like structure off Berry Lane (SP 759562). Seventeenth century modifications to the open field system are preserved in a good field of ridge and furrow south of the village. There is a possible windmill mound at SP 746572. D. N. HALL

Wootton. (SP 762568). Substantial part of medieval shelly ware cooking pot, rim of shelly ware jug, and a few 19th century sherds, plus iron fragments, found in Chowns housing development. P. EVERSON

Woughton on the Green, Bucks. (SP 871373). The excavation of a large and well-defined platform 53 x 64 m. at the W edge of the green by D. C. Mynard for the Milton Keynes Development Corporation has revealed a significant complex of buildings, represented by surviving wall footings, around a large cobbled area.

The largest building is L-shaped, comprising a N wing with internal dimensions of 12.6 m. by 5.1 m. and a W wing measuring 10 m. by 4.6 m. The wall footings, much robbed, are primarily limestone. There is no trace of mortar. Portions of two other buildings, both of uncertain dimensions, have been uncovered to the N and W, further enclosing the cobbled yard. A cobbled trackway or access from the village centre is in evidence. The exposed complex is tentatively dated to the 14th century through well-associated finds of pottery and coins. The site has also produced knives, arrowheads, grinding stones and a door post stone. (*Northants. Archaeol.* 8 (1973) 23 for earlier work). D. C. MYNARD

Yardley Gobion. (SP 76504489). Two medieval pottery kilns of c. 1400 A.D. were excavated during Autumn 1973 in the corner of an orchard with assistance from Northampton and Milton Keynes Development Corporations. Both kilns were of updraught type with a pedestal running out from the back. The kilns were oval in shape, well-built in limestone and partly clay-lined but about a third of the larger kiln had been destroyed. The larger kiln was 2.8 m. long and would have been 1.7 m. wide. The flue-arch, made of clay tiles was still mainly in situ. The small kiln was 1.6 m. long and 1.0 m. wide. The roughly rectangular stokehole about 4.7 m. long and 2.2 m. wide served both kilns and was partly walled.

The pottery is still being washed but the main products seem to be jugs with slashed handles, plain ridge-tiles, cisterns (with a bung-hole) and bowls. More infrequent are lids and an unusual type of tubular costrel, circular in shape. The ware is fine, rather sandy, ranging in colour from grey, buff to red-brown, usually green-glazed. There is a great similarity in both kiln structure and products with the kiln excavated by D. Mynard in 1970 at the neighbouring village, Potterspury. (*B.N.F.A.S.* 7 (1972), 49-51).

W. R. G. MOORE

See also in the Prehistoric section: Sywell; in the Migration and Early Medieval section: Castor; in the post-medieval section Peterborough (TL 19149854, TL 19289843 and TL 193883).

POST MEDIEVAL

Paulerspury. (SP 722467). The parish survey revealed an area of post-medieval pottery and kiln debris. Excavation exposed the site of a kiln of oval shape with axes of 7 by 14 ft. but no structure survived. The kiln was constructed of tile and clay. A wide range of fabrics was made, including slip decorated pancheons, dripping pans, bowls and hollow vessels in red and reduced fabrics coated with a clear internal lead glaze, and black iron-glazed tygs and jugs. A small quantity of fine ware was recovered made of a cream body coated inside and out with clear lead glaze giving a fine yellow finish. The material is very similar to the mid-17th century pottery from Potterspury (P. Mayes, *Post Medieval Archaeol.* 2 (1968) 55-82). A full report is given in *Milton Keynes Journal*, 3. (1974). D. N. HALL

Peterborough. (TL 19349883) Midgate Development: Nuremberg Jetton found by the Electricity Board. Given to Peterborough Museum in October 1973.

Peterborough. (TL 19149854). A watching brief was kept on the Marks and Spencer Extension in Wentworth Street. The site was much disturbed by a late 19th century cellar complex. The removal of the brick cellars enabled many finds to be made: a few sherds of Nene Valley grey ware, late 15th century pottery, 16th, 17th, 18th century pottery, pipe fragments, bones and oyster shells.

Peterborough. (TL 19149223). Two trial trenches prior to development of the Manor House site, Boroughbury, produced 17th and 18th century pottery, slipware and delft. A watching brief will continue when development commences in late 1974.

Peterborough. (TF 203023). Early to late 19th century domestic rubbish dump found in the garden of 44 St. Paul's Road. The dump produced a wide range of material including Peterborough stamped glass and stoneware, as well as transfer printed pot lids.

Peterborough. (TL 19249908). Two lines of dressed stone, at a right angle, 2m. by 1.5 m., found at the end of the Mansion House garden; average measurement of stones 20 cm. by 30cm. No finds except a few clay pipe fragments.

Peterborough. (TL 19289843 and TL 19289848). In September 1973 two trial trenches on the new Magistrate's Court site, Bridge Street, produced 17th, 18th and 19th century pottery, pipes and shell. The continuation of the late medieval/Tudor culvert was confirm-

ed in both trenches, and the fill produced large quantities of bone and wood, mainly oak and hazel; the organic and shell material is still being examined. Adjacent to the culvert was a Victorian sewer pipe and its construction had partially cut into the side of the culvert destroying the stake revetment on that side; the revetment was intact on the other side. It is proposed to maintain a watching brief on the site including the frontage on to the road when construction commences in June 1974.

Peterborough. (TL 193883). It was decided to investigate the Midgate site to locate the medieval/Tudor town culvert indicated by cartographical evidence as draining from Swanspool to the River Nene. The site became available due to the Barratt's Corner demolition, and work commenced in August 1973 while demolition was being completed, which restricted the area of excavation.

Excavated Areas. (1) A trench 18 by 8 m. was cut adjacent to the lane known as the Wheelyard. A series of 18th and 19th century pits were located in the topsoil, as well as an 18th century limestone rubble foundation. Pit 1 contained a few sherds of medieval green-glazed pottery and oyster shells. Pit 4 contained, with 16th and 17th century pottery, a piece of Barnack stone moulding, possibly of ecclesiastical origin, as it was closely associated with seven pieces of painted glass, very similar to those located in the Cathedral Precincts in the 19th century (Peterborough Museum). The site was densely covered with oyster shells at all levels and stray finds in the top soil at the SW of the trench included two sherds of undecorated Samian, two sherds of colour coated ware and Nene Valley grey ware, pottery of the late 15th and 16th centuries, and a gold mourning ring dated 1758. The area had long been susceptible to flooding, and the top 70 cm. of the site reflects this disturbance.

The culvert was located at the centre of the site at a depth of 1.9 m. and the width was 1.2 m. The fill was black and organic containing well preserved wood and bone and also some sherds of 16th century pottery. The intensive and varied snail content is being analysed by Dr. J. G. Evans. The structure of this section of the culvert was complex and appeared to be that of an open drain: one side was revetted with well preserved oak stakes, average 35 cm. in length. At the bottom of the culvert a thick layer of clay was found up to 10 cm. in depth.

(2) The culvert was located by Kimbells while working on a sewer trench in the Midgate Road Redevelopment at TL 19329880. The top of the culvert lay 1.6 m. under the street level, and was 1.3 m. deep, and 1.2 m. wide. Unlike the other culvert sections, this was a stone built structure. The roof was arched with limestone slabbing, but the walls of the culvert were constructed of dressed stone, average measurements 24 by 19 cm., and were mortared. The black organic fill contained bone, wood, 16th century green glazed pottery, shell and leather, including a leather sole of Tudor date and a roughly stitched belt. There was a layer of green-grey clay, 12 cm. thick, below the fill and above the Cornbrash.

(3) Area 1 was extended by three machine cuts and the culvert was again located at a depth of 1.95 m., in direct line with the culvert section under the road surface. The fill was identical to the other sections but contained a greater proportion of wood and snails than the other sections. Finds included two worked flint flakes, an iron fragment, and at the bottom of the culvert an oak plank, 25 by 20 cm. showing adze marks.

Conclusions. The three culvert sections appear to bear out the cartographical evidence in that the culvert appears to run from the NE at Swanspool under the present Midgate road which is shown in Speed's map of 1610, to Area 3, curving sharply to the SW at Area 1, where it disappears, presumably passing through the Cathedral Precincts and Bishop's Palace gardens, down to Bridge Street (TL 193848) and thence to an outlet in the River Nene. The site has been watched during the subsequent development and the culvert fill has again been located between the road section 2 and Area 3.

Acknowledgements. The site was excavated for the Nene Valley Research Committee and the D.O.E. Thanks are due to the Peterborough City Council for releasing me from the Museum for the excavation, to the Development Corporation for their permission and subsequent interest in the excavation, Messrs. Ward and Rust, the demolition contractors for their help and indulgence, and likewise Kimbells, and finally my volunteers from all parts of the city.

A. E. SANDFORD

Wellingborough, Wellingborough Mill, Turnells Mill Lane. Barn buildings and house demolished June 1973. Photographs and notes made of the structures.

Wellingborough. Further factory development on the Dennington estate below Barnett and Fosters revealed 19th century rubbish dumps and a pit filled with World War II gas masks.

R. HARPER

Weston and Weedon. (SP 608484). Oakley Bank, formerly in Plumpton parish, is an isolated farm situated on the W bank of a small stream. In writing about pottery manufacture in Northamptonshire, Morton (1712) says "The Potteries of greatest Note are at Potters-Perry, and Oakly-Bank" and later says that Oakly-Bank is in the Liberty of Plumpton. He then goes on to describe in detail the types of clay dug from the clay-pit and the many types of product from fine wares, (e.g. mugs, dishes) to coarse wares (e.g. garden-pots, tiles).

The ploughed fields around Oakley Bank were walked in January 1974 with little result. A fragment of coarse pottery or tile with dark inclusions and a white glaze (probably mis-fired) was found at SP 60874866 (just in Woodend parish). In both of the two grass fields adjoining Oakley Bank was a depression, possibly former clay-pits, a short distance to the NE and to the W of the farm-house.

References: J. Morton *The Natural History of Northamptonshire* (1712), 71-2; Mrs. D. Warren discusses the historical implications of this passage in *Post-Medieval Archaeol.* 2 (1968), 59-60.

W. R. G. MOORE

Woodnewton. (TL 034945). Remains of an early 16th century kiln with wasters were examined while a house was under construction.

S. G. UPEX and J. A. HADMAN

See also in the Medieval section: Daventry, Doddington-Wilby, Great Harrowden, Hinton in the Hedges, Wellingborough (SP 89206770), Wootton.

AIR PHOTOGRAPHY

The following sites were photographed from the air by Mr. J. Pickering during 1973:

Ashley (SP 798908)	Village earthworks including possible moat.
Ailsworth (TF 123002)	Sub rectangular enclosures and ditches..
Brampton Ash (SP 791800)	Rectangular enclosures.
Brampton Ash (SP 797857)	Ring ditch within sub-rectangular ditched enclosure.
Castor (TF 131000)	Ring ditch and ditches.
Draughton (SP 761770)	Village earthworks including possible moat or ditched enclosure.
Fawsley (SP 570573)	Temple Hill. Square earthwork.
Harringworth (SP 941948)	Sub-circular embanked enclosure (<i>B.N.F.A.S.</i> 6 (1971), 14 for an earlier reference).
Harrington (SP 774806)	Ditched mound.
Kelmarsh (SP 725813)	Ditched enclosure.
Kelmarsh (SP 732808)	Square ditched enclosure.
Maxey (TF 117077)	Conjoined sub-rectangular enclosures.

- Maxey (TF 115077) Conjoined sub-rectangular enclosures (both sites form part of the Lolham Hall group, *A Matter of Time*, R.C.H.M. (1960), Fig. 6).
- Water Newton (TL 115975) Ditches inside Roman town of Durobrivae.

INDUSTRIAL ARCHAEOLOGY

Peterborough. (TL 19719891). A contractor's trench adjacent to Pipe Lane cut through three 19th century pipe waste pits. Samples were removed to Peterborough Museum where they were found to contain 14 different types of pipe. A. E. SANDFORD

MISCELLANEOUS

Hardingstone, Briar Hill (SP 738588). Several sections were cut across both ditches of the square double-ditched enclosure photographed by Mr. R. Hollowell and Professor J. K. St. Joseph (*Northants. Archaeol.* 8 (1973), 26). No dateable finds were recovered. J. WILLIAMS

Longthorpe. (TL 164975). An excavation was undertaken on a site within the Longthorpe scheduled Ancient Monument threatened by the construction of a new hotel. The site, of some six acres, was first given a magnetometer survey, chiefly by Messrs. J. A. Hadman, A. Main and G. C. Dannell. This showed little that was very definite, except for two massive anomalies almost 20 m. across, only one of which was in the threatened area, but many small anomalies which could have represented archaeological features. Excavation under R. F. J. Jones began in the first week of August, 1973 with the stripping of topsoil by bulldozer in the areas which looked the most promising on the magnetometer survey. Results were swiftly achieved. The massive anomaly was revealed to be the foundation of a demolished electricity pylon and no other distinct features at all were located except a few medieval furrows. Certain anomalies proved to be buried modern iron plough-shares. Very little pottery was found; all of it post-medieval or medieval. No evidence was found of the nearby Iron Age and Romano-British occupation (see *Durobrivae* I (1973) 7-10. It must therefore be assumed that this land was either open fields or pasture at these times. The excavation was completed in four days. R. F. J. JONES

Rothersthorpe, sand pit (SP 721562). Fragment of red kiln bar found in this new pit, but no pottery as yet, (see p. 85 for worked flints found near). R. HOLLOWELL

Scheduled Ancient Monuments. The following monuments have been scheduled under the Ancient Monuments Acts during 1973: (1) Moat N of Little Green, Warmington (MON 158); (2) Romano-British settlement and pottery kilns, W of Ecton North Lodge, Ecton (MON 159); an extension on MON 88, County Hall, Northampton; (4) deserted medieval settlement, Cottesbrooke (MON 160).

N.W. Northamptonshire. Work on the field archaeology of NW Northamptonshire by extra-mural groups continued (*Northamptonshire Archaeology* 8 (1973), 27). During the year the following sites were surveyed at 1: 1250 scale: village earthworks at Little Creaton, Stanford on Avon, Kelmarsh, Elkington and Haselbech; moated sites and related earthworks at Thorpe Lubenham and Marston Trussell. Work on documents and on air photographs has also proceeded and ridge and furrow maps produced for a number of parishes, including *inter alia* East Farndon, Sibbertoft, Elkington, Stanford on Avon, Haselbech and Naseby. Work continues. A. E. BROWN

REVIEW

J. M. Steane *The Northamptonshire Landscape*. Hodder and Stoughton. 1974. Price £3.95.

Recently, under the editorship of W. G. Hoskins, the Hodder and Stoughton series on the Making of the English Landscape which ground to a halt in 1957 has been revived. There have been recent volumes on Northumberland, Yorkshire and Shropshire, and two notably outstanding books on Dorset and Cambridgeshire by Christopher Taylor. Mr. Steane's volume on Northamptonshire is an addition to the series both timely and welcome: timely because we have waited long for a good book on Northamptonshire's history, and welcome because it is as readable as it is scholarly.

Mr. Steane tackles his large subject chronologically beginning with a chapter on the geography of the county and the landscape in Prehistoric and Roman times. Geographically he could perhaps have dwelt more on the peculiar shape of the county by relating it more directly to the Jurassic limestone belt which cuts across England from the Mendips to the Humber, but his account of the different regions in the county is clear and lucid. Archaeologists will find this first chapter a somewhat brief survey of the main phases of development before the Saxons. This is not entirely the author's fault partly because of the incomplete state of archaeological research in the region which makes it difficult to arrive at a synthesis of the prehistoric period, and partly because of reasons of space. In a book of this size it is clearly impossible to do justice to the details revealed by excavations both in the past and in the more recent period.

A chapter on the Anglo Saxon landscape follows which looks at the development of the settlement pattern of the county in the Dark Ages and historic times using archaeological, place name, and documentary sources as well as the evidence on the ground, reminding us that nearly all the villages found on the maps today owe their origins to the Anglo-Saxons, and that the network of settlements was their greatest contribution to the Northamptonshire landscape. This chapter includes an interesting (if brief) discussion of village plans but the section on estate and parish boundaries is disappointing compared with, say, Mr. Taylor on Saxon estates in Dorset.

Mr. Steane is clearly most at home in the three chapters he devotes to the medieval landscape, an area of study in which his extensive fieldwalking and mastery of the historical background is very much in evidence. The hundred or so pages of these chapters are a splendid piece of historical writing. He begins by reminding us that Domesday Book records the state of the primary colonization of the county near the end of a long process and takes us through the results on the landscape of the period of expansion up to the mid-14th century, and the period of contraction after it, discussing the open fields, the forests, reclamation of the fens, secular and religious buildings, and the medieval towns. The latter section is very well illustrated with plans of Northampton, Peterborough, Higham Ferrers and Brackley specially drawn by the author, and indeed the illustrations for the whole book, both maps and diagrams and plates are well chosen, making particularly good use of aerial photographs and the Eayre-Tillemans drawings in the British Museum.

After his consideration of the later medieval landscape which looks at deserted villages, medieval parks and the building stone industry Mr. Steane has chapters on Tudor and Stuart landscapes and the Georgian and Victorian eras, rounding off the book with a look at the effects late 19th and 20th century developments have made, are making and (with new towns mushrooming) will make in future on the face of the county. In these chapters the level of readability, scholarlyness and aesthetic feel for the landscape rarely flags.

There are of course fragments that one would quarrel with: was prehistoric and Saxon Northamptonshire covered with such intractable forest as we are led to believe? Surely Mr. Steane's summary of Brackley's post-medieval history is too sweeping; after all the wool-

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staplers of the town in the early 18th century were described as 'magnates' and the Market Hall there dates from that period. The table on p.95 is not a very clear illustration of what was happening to the population in the medieval period: the 1301 tax return cannot be compared with the 1377 poll tax without a multiplier and the impression that village populations were higher in the latter year is surely misleading.

There are a few inaccuracies: Bearwood Street, Northampton (p.143) should be Bearward Street. Daventry Church (p.256) was built in 1752-8 not 1732-8. And one looks in vain on the O.S. map for 'Foxhall' on the Jurassic Way north of Lamport in Figure 2. Yet these are small infelicities: we are in Mr. Steane's debt for what is likely to remain for a very long time the single most valuable work on the topography of Northamptonshire.

R. L. GREENALL