

Archaeology in Northamptonshire 1978

A survey of fieldwork and excavations conducted in Northamptonshire and the Soke of Peterborough during 1978.

PREHISTORIC

Badby (SP55925977). Brown quartzite pebble-hammer, length 122 mm, with hour glass perforation and signs of battering at both ends, found c 1968 by D T Fennell and recorded at Northampton Museum during 1978. Possible date: Mesolithic to Bronze Age. W R G MOORE, Northampton Museum.

Barnack (TF052070). The excavation of a penannular ditch showed that a standing wooden structure had been based in it. A pit alignment which ran to the east could have been contemporary, but no dating evidence was forthcoming from either. To the east again, a roughly circular arrangement of originally rectangular pits containing middle Iron Age pottery of c 300 BC in their upper fills surrounded a ring ditch containing an incomplete stake circle.

A M PRYOR and F O'NEILL,
Nene Valley Research Committee.

Blakesley (SP64685113). Late Neolithic flint chisel, length 83 mm, partly polished, found March 1978 by J Kinnear and given to Northampton Museum (D.149.1978).

Boddington (SP48125371). Part of a Neolithic polished stone adze found July 1978 by T R Clugston in garden of 8 Townsend Lane, Upper Boddington, and given to Northampton Museum (D.148.1978).

W R G MOORE

Brigstock (SP925842). A field with a number of surviving banks and ditches, including a small circular enclosure, is now under plough. Pottery from the surface of the field suggests the site is Iron Age in date. (Also *Northamptonshire Archaeol.* 13, 1978, 178.)

D A JACKSON, for Department of the
Environment and Northamptonshire
County Council.

Chipping Warden (SP495497). Two Bronze Age axes, found during potato picking, loaned by P J Houghton in July 1978 to Banbury Museum (78.145). Information from Miss S F Gosling.

W R G MOORE

Earls Barton, Clay Lane (SP84666253). Limestone block approximately 470 x 410 x 160 mm with cup depressions, 150 mm diameter and 70 mm deep, on smooth upper surface. Ploughed up 1977 and given to Northampton Museum (D.69.1978). Belgic pottery from surrounding area, with earlier Iron

Age pottery from area of square enclosure to NW. A number of worked flints including leaf arrowhead from this field and field to west.

G R FOARD, Northamptonshire County Council.

Geddington. Two complete upper portions of Iron Age beehive querns in garden of 7 New Road. Believed to have come originally from ironstone quarry at Pitsford.

B BELLAMY, 9 New Road, Geddington.

Glaphthorn. Finds of worked flints from TL 01979067, TL 02749010, TL 02909017 (scrapers); TL 02879022, TL 02939020 (small round scrapers).

Mrs J JOHNSTON, Church Farmhouse, Glaphthorn.

Great Houghton (SP79676008). A thin scatter of worked flints was observed October 1978 by G J Davidson following the removal of topsoil prior to gravel extraction. A broken plano-convex knife was given to Northampton Museum (D.251.1978).

Greatworth (SP56854198). Sherd of a black, burnished, necked jar of 'Belgic' type found 1971 by G Carter and brought to Northampton Museum for identification during 1978.

W R G MOORE

Gretton (SP907943). A considerable amount of early Iron Age pottery was recovered from two parallel ditches, exposed by top soil clearance prior to ironstone quarrying. The earliest pottery dates to the 5th or 6th centuries BC, but one of the ditches contained slightly later pottery and may have been re-cut. The two ditches were some 6 m apart and, assuming they were originally contemporary, may have flanked a trackway. Virtually no evidence of settlement was found adjacent to the ditches, but it was not possible to investigate the area as thoroughly as was desirable.

Harringworth (SP933967). Topsoil clearance prior to ironstone quarrying exposed a scatter of Iron Age features extending over an area some 2½ acres in extent. The features appear to be of two periods, with a pair of parallel ditches dating to the 3rd or perhaps 4th century BC, and a scatter of pits and ditches of the late pre-Belgic period, widely dispersed over the whole area.

Harringworth (SP934979). An iron smelting furnace, probably pre-Roman in date, was revealed by ironstone quarrying. It was cut by a Roman ditch that contained some early painted pottery.

Little Houghton (SP8059). A watching brief has been maintained during the early construction work on the Little Houghton by-pass. In addition to a

number of features which it was not possible to date, the following sites have been recorded:

- (1) A late Neolithic-Beaker pit was found, dug into a sandstone bedrock. The pit, which was pear-shaped, was 2.8 m long and 340 mm deep, and can be assumed to have been associated with a settlement site rather than a burial. A quantity of decorated Beaker pottery was found which derived from several different vessels.
- (2) A ?middle Iron Age ditch was found, sited on boulder clay, but no associated pits or post-holes have been located so far. The relationship between the ditch and later ridge and furrow was of interest. The ditch had been truncated to a depth of 400 mm by medieval ploughing and it can be assumed that these furrows had destroyed any stratigraphy for at least 600 mm below the Iron Age land surface.
- (3) A Roman ditch was found, filled with black sooty clay, as well as some deep quarry pits dug into the estuarine sandy clay. These features may be associated with a possible kiln site nearby (*BNFAS*, 6, 1971, 14). D A JACKSON

Naseby (SP 68117945). Partly polished flint axe, length 113 mm, orange-brown surface colour, found February 1973 by S S Westaway and recorded at Northampton Museum during 1978.

W R G MOORE

Northampton, Moulton Park (SP 77626488). An area to the west of Pondwood Close, immediately to the north of the Iron Age enclosure excavated in 1972 (J H Williams, ed, 1974. *Two Iron Age sites in Northampton*: Moulton Park Enclosure 2), was watched during stripping of the topsoil prior to the building of a factory. Two ditches were located; ditch 1 appeared to be a continuation of ditch 3B of enclosure 2 though surprisingly the ditch turned 90° to the west while ditch 2 also appeared to be a boundary ditch. The pottery recovered from the site was of the same type as that from enclosure 2 (Group 2), the suggested date of which was c 25-60 AD (Northampton Development Corporation's site no P72; records with the Northampton Development Corporation's Archaeology Unit).

T M SHAW,
Northampton Development Corporation.

Oakley (SP 882866). Some 30 acres of top soil were removed at this quarry in 1978, exposing further early Iron Age features in the boulder clay subsoil. Of particular interest was a bowl shaped iron smelting hearth, which, if of early Iron Age date, could be one of the earliest furnaces found in the country.

Oundle (TL 035893). A new school, sited over an Iron Age enclosure, necessitated a watching

brief during soil clearance. The very wet subsoil conditions made salvage work almost impossible, but the pottery recovered suggests the site dates to the 2nd or 1st centuries BC. The enclosure was first located from the air by the Middle Nene Archaeological Group who also carried out survey work and limited excavation on the site. D A JACKSON

Peterborough, Fengate 1978. 1978 was the last of eight seasons of rescue excavation at Fengate, Peterborough. Work was concentrated in two sub-sites to the east of Storey's Bar Road (*Northamptonshire Archaeol*, 13, 1978, 9-27; FIG 3). Further trial trenches in the Fourth Drove sub-site revealed more linear ditches of the Bronze Age ditched enclosure system, extending eastwards, towards the Fen. An enlargement of the most easterly trial trench revealed that many of the ditches could originally have run parallel to low earth and gravel banks, which left no trace in the ditch's filling; perhaps these banks were once capped by hedges, to form an effective barrier to livestock. Excavation on the Cat's Water sub-site (TL 215989) revealed the south-eastern and southern limits of the large Iron Age site. Six additional round houses were found, of which one had traces of *in situ* floor debris, preserved in the sunken upper layers of a filled-in pit or well. Two, or more, of these houses might belong to the Late Bronze Age, and thus bridge the gap in our evidence for settlement at Fengate during the early first millennium BC. Further ditches of the underlying Early and Middle Bronze Age system, already referred to, were also found. Some of these could be seen to follow alignments first noticed and excavated in 1971, thus satisfactorily completing our Bronze Age research programme. F M M PRYOR

Quinton (SP 77515360). Further excavation of an area 18.28 m by 12.19 m (site E) has begun immediately to the south of site A (R M Friendship-Taylor, Excavation of the Belgic and Romano-British site at Quinton, *J. Northampton Mus Art Gallery*, 11, 1974) and some 68 m south of site B. This new site has so far produced the earliest pottery from Quinton, dating from about 50 BC. Various ditches have been found, which were probably used as field or property boundaries, varying in width from 0.60 m to 3.04 m and in depth from 0.45 m to 1.67 m. Several flat bottomed pits contained some of the earliest pottery. No structures have so far been recognised.

It is interesting to note that all the ditches excavated on sites A, B, and E are either parallel or at right-angles to the existing field boundary on the west of the site. This was a road to Hartwell and Hanslope at least from medieval times and it is

quite possible that it had formed a much earlier trackway or boundary. Another pointer to the boundary's antiquity is the fact that all prehistoric and Roman activity stops at the hedge in Great Holt field; no material has been found on the other side of the boundary.

This site has so far produced a coin of Cunobelin of AD 10-40 (Mack 244), Colchester and Hod Hill brooches and some miscellaneous fragments of bronze, together with some small but important groups of early pottery.

The latest feature from the site is a recut ditch running in an E-W direction and dating from about the mid 2nd century. Excavation continuing.

R M FRIENDSHIP-TAYLOR,
Upper Nene Archaeological Society.

Rushton (SP84068105). Leaf shaped arrow-head 35 mm long in grey mottled flint.

B. BELLAMY

Southwick (SP980933). Fragment of a Neolithic polished stone axe found 1974 by V Colyer, sectioned during 1978 and found to be Group VI, Great Langdale.

Southwick (SP9893). Part of a Neolithic polished stone axe found c 1969. Sectioned during 1978 and found to be greenstone, not grouped but probably Cornish.

W R G MOORE

Stanion (SP910866). Re-alignment of the A43 at Stanion revealed several shallow ditches of Iron Age date, suggesting a settlement nearby. A major Roman road (Margary Route 57A) is aligned on the area, but neither the road nor any roadside ditches were located after soil clearance.

D A JACKSON

Stanion (SP90958540). Neolithic flaked and polished axe 90 by 35 mm.

Stanion (SP91318572). Area of occupation debris, late Iron Age pottery, scored ware and Belgic forms.

B BELLAMY

Towcester (SP68534754). Fragment of a Neolithic polished stone axe found October 1978 by R E Turland and given to Northampton Museum (D.236.1978).

W R G MOORE

Warmington, Tansor gravel quarry (TL053923). Trial excavations were carried out at the site of a Bronze Age round barrow to try to determine if a full excavation was justified at a later date. The barrow, still standing 1 m high, had spread to a diameter of 55 m completely sealing the ditch. The pre-barrow land surface is roughly level with the modern ground level, but burrowing animals have disturbed much of the stratification. The work was

carried out in conjunction with the Middle Nene Archaeological Group.

Weekley (SP885818). Excavations on this important Iron Age and Roman site (*Northamptonshire Archaeol*, 13, 1978, 180) were discontinued in 1978. There now appears to be no quarrying threat for the next four or five years.

D A JACKSON

Weekley (SP885817 approx). Belgic coin, possibly Trinovantian of Addedomarus (c 15-1 BC), discovered near known archaeological site (*Northamptonshire Archaeol*, 13, 1978, 180), head to the left, the hair represented by corded lines, sun or star to left of forehead, ring ornament by left ear; horse to the left with ring ornament and pellets above. One pellet between tail and back leg.

This is the second coin of Addedomarus from Northamptonshire (one was found at Great Houghton in 1860); both lie on the northern fringe of the distribution of his coins.

R A CROFT,
Milton Keynes Development Corporation.

Woodnewton. Many flint tools found: TL 03509385, TL 02919430 and TL 03009400, TL 03719550 (projectile point), TL 03579362 (tanged arrowhead), TL 03389441 and TL 03459441 (cores), TL 03409340 (microlith), TL 03569353 (possible fabricator), TL 03509352 (axe head), TL 03459346 (group of flints including core tool, scrapers, and flakes), TL 03669367 and TL 03739365 (scrapers), TL 03709366 (backed blade), TL 03639375 (flake).

MRS J JOHNSTON

C.B.A. Implement Petrology Survey. Although the survey of prehistoric implements of igneous or metamorphic rock has been progressing in Britain for a number of years, since 1972 an active programme of research has been carried out in Northamptonshire in conjunction with Dr W A Cummins, Department of Geology, University of Nottingham. A total of 81 implements has so far been examined from Northamptonshire and like much of northern and central Britain, this county is dominated by axes of Group VI from Great Langdale in the Lake District. Of the 45 implements which have been attributed to known petrological groups, two thirds are of Group VI. The remaining 15 implements belong to seven groups and come from a variety of sources in Cornwall (Group I), the Midlands (Groups XIV, XX), Wales (Groups VII, XXIII) and the North (Groups XV, XVIII). A first report has been prepared for *Proceedings of the Prehistoric Society* and a second report, to include recent finds, is in progress.

W R G MOORE

See also in the Migration and Early Medieval section: Northampton Castle, Stanion (SP 92858635).

ROMAN

Badby (SP55895977). A few hundred Roman sherds, mostly grey ware but including samian, mortarium, and colour-coated wares, a bronze coin probably 2nd century, fragments of quernstones of grit and a stone scatter found in this area c 1976-8 by C Fennell (see also *Northamptonshire Archaeol.* 12, 1977, 211). A selection of sherds and quern fragments was given to Northampton Museum (D.208.1978).
W R G MOORE

Duston (SP 725609). Two fields on the east side of Millway which were being developed for use as a school were visited in June 1978 by arrangement with Northamptonshire County Council. The lower field proved to have been quarried for ironstone in the 19th century but the upper field revealed traces of occupation. Lengths of limestone wall, both straight and curving, some of which are likely to represent buildings; a small area of paving adjacent to a length of wall; pits and a ditch c 7 m wide which could be traced running for c 20 m, were discovered.

Roman, medieval (12th-16th centuries) and post-medieval (17th century) pottery was recovered from the field but it was unfortunately impossible to date any of the features (Northampton Development Corporation Site no R141; records with the Northampton Development Corporation's Archaeology Unit).
T M SHAW

Earls Barton (SP850627 approx). Roman coin: Ae 3/4 Constantine I. Obv: Constan... Rev: camp gate. AD 324-30. Associated with area of rectangular cropmark enclosures.

Earls Barton (SP870634). Bronze coin — illegible — possibly Roman.
G R FOARD

Fineshade (SP974971). Small scatter of Roman pottery including two Antonine samian fragments.
S G UPEX

Flore (SP64085953). Two Roman coins, Ae sestertii, probably 2nd century, found June 1978 by J Dunkley and brought to Northampton Museum for identification.
W R G MOORE

Fotheringhay, Walcot. It is suggested by the RCHM (*Inventory of archaeological sites in North East Northamptonshire*, 38) that the name, perpetuated in Walcot Lodge at TL051937, related to the extensive Roman occupation in the area. It would however seem unlikely that a medieval settlement called Walcot existed in the western extremity of Fotheringhay parish, for the estate map of 1716 identifies 'Walcot Fields' as all that area of the parish to the north of the stream at approximately TL 050940.
G R FOARD

Glaphthorn (TL 02059005). Roman pottery scatter at 125 ft. above OD on loamy soil over cornbrash. There is a scatter of limestone of building block size in the same area. Sherds of grey ware, colour coated ware and a sherd of a mortarium.

Glaphthorn (TL 02909017). Roman pottery scatter at 125 ft above OD on loamy soil over cornbrash. Grey ware, colour coated ware, plain samian, fragments of large vessels in shell tempered ware and several pieces of hypocaust tile. The Cotterstock villa lies 120 m to the NE.

Glaphthorn (TL01439110). Roman site at 200 ft above OD on heavy clay soil. Terracotta roof tiles, large vessels in shell tempered ware, fragments of grey ware, colour coated ware and plain samian.
MRS J JOHNSTON

Greatworth (SP56024167). About one hundred Roman sherds, mostly grey and orange-brown ware but including a few pieces of samian and mortarium found 1978 by G Carter. A selection was given to Northampton Museum (D.207.1978).

Harringworth, Wakerley Road. Roman coin, 4th century, Ae Gloria Exercitus type, sent to Northampton Museum for identification in May 1978. It was found by A C Scholes in the garden of 'Lindisfarne'.
W R G MOORE

Oundle, Ashton (TL050892). Excavations on the Romano British site in Ashton parish continued during 1978. Work concentrated on finishing the already open areas started in 1977 (*Northamptonshire Archaeol.* 13, 1978, 181-2).

The well associated with the 2nd century stone workshop was found to have been constructed in a large bowl shaped pit with a shaft at the bottom, the whole being back filled in the Roman period with limestone rubble and clay. Further sections were taken through the two roads located in previous seasons.

The site's early history was also unravelled, the principal feature found being a circular hut 7 m in diameter with a central hearth and mortar floor. The floor was retained within a ring of limestone flags laid on edge. To the NE a possible entrance was detected, with a wear pattern on the stonework. Circular structures of a Roman date are not uncommon in Northamptonshire but this structure proved problematic because there were no indications of how the superstructure was constructed. A provisional date of AD 60 to 80 has been given to this structure.

Immediately outside, two small kilns with industrial debris were found. The hut and the associated industrial area were contained within a ditched enclosure.
S G UPEX and J A HADMAN,
Middle Nene Archaeological Group.

Oakley (SP885867). An unusual find at this quarry was an isolated cremation burial accompanied by parts of an amphora and about 200 nails. The burial was about 350 m from a Roman barn excavated in 1965 by E Greenfield, and totally destroyed by quarrying in 1978. D A JACKSON

Piddington (SP 797540). In his *History of Northamptonshire*, Whellan states of the villa here that in 1781 at stone pits at the south west end of Piddington closely adjoining Preston Wood, a beautiful pavement 50 ft square was found. *VCH Northamptonshire* (1, 198) states that the mosaic was black and white and was found to be in perfect condition when it was cleared. Also found was a skeleton with a gold ring and a spear. All this material was unfortunately destroyed at or shortly after the time of discovery, during the course of limestone quarrying. Apparently no drawings were made of the pavement at the time.

Recently, the farm on which the villa stood changed hands. Until 1978 the field had been under grass for as long as can be remembered. With the change of ownership, hedgerows have been removed to create large fields. One of these hedgerows bisected the remaining parts of the Piddington villa. On removal of the hedge, tile and pottery were noticed by the farmer who started digging the site. An E-W wall approximately 22 m long with projecting walls on either side and remains of a tessellated pavement were found. It is hoped that an organised excavation of the site can be arranged with the farmer during the summer and autumn of 1979 to rescue the remaining plan of the villa before it is destroyed by bulldozing the remains into the eighteenth century quarry.

R M FRIENDSHIP-TAYLOR

Southwick (TL 02259220). Roman site at 100 ft above OD on clay soil. The pottery consists of colour coated and grey wares, mortaria, plain samian, a samian mortarium sherd, part of a castor box and rouletted pottery and possibly Roman roof tile. The pottery is distributed along a wide bank of earth which seems to be composed of a mixture of clay, sandstone, ironstone and a large amount of iron slag. Behind the mound to the NW, between it and the stream, is a hollowed out area.

MRS J JOHNSTON

Stanion (SP91968628). Roman pottery and extensive scatter of limestone.

Stanion (SP91908635). Stone scatter and Roman pottery. B BELLAMY

Thrapston (TL 02497798). Seven Roman sherds found summer 1978 by W Shovlin given to Northampton Museum (D.194.1978). Other sherds and a stone scatter were seen in the area. In October 1978 Mr Shovlin found an Ae3 coin of Constantine II (317-37) at TL 02427791: obv Constantinus IvN Nob C, rev Caesarvm Nostrorum, Vot X inside a laurel wreath. W R G MOORE

Towcester (SP 685483). Observation by T Shirley showed an extensive scatter of Romano-British material, and house footings exposed a Roman ditch. After an abortive exploration of a platform, trenching revealed the continuation of the ditch which contained large quantities of late Roman pottery, including a sherd of an Oxfordshire mortarium which was identical with one found on the St Lawrence Road site on the opposite slope of the Silverstone Brook, excavated by A E Brown, with the South Northants Archaeological Society, in 1974, 1975, and 1976 (*Northamptonshire Archaeol*, 12, 1977, 215).

These finds show that late Romano-British suburban occupation extended west of Lactodorum as well as south along the line of the Lactodorum-Alchester Road.

B C HASTINGS,
South Northamptonshire Archaeological Society.

Woodnewton (TL 03409530). Roman site at 150 ft above OD on heavy loam over cornbrash. Sherds consist of plain samian, grey ware, colour coated ware, coarse shell tempered ware, barbotine decorated pottery and a mortarium sherd. It was not possible to plan the extent of this site as it was found in stubble and as yet is unploughed. It overlooks the Apethorpe villa site approximately 90 m to the SW.

Woodnewton (TL 03569362). Roman site at 100 ft above OD on sandy loam. Pottery sherds mainly grey ware, colour coated, rouletted, barbotine decorated and plain samian. An area approximately 30 sq m covered with Collyweston stone tesserae which did not show any signs of wear, nor any mortar attached. There is some difference in thickness of the tesserae and it seems that they may not be finished.

MRS J JOHNSTON

See also in the Prehistoric section: Harringworth (SP979934), Little Houghton, Stanion (SP 910866).

MIGRATION AND EARLY MEDIEVAL

Brigstock (SP 93218575). Thin scatter of Saxon sherds found during survey. B BELLAMY

Earls Barton (SP 843625). Several pagan/Middle Saxon sherds to east of brook. G R FOARD

Northampton, Castle (SP 749605). Further work on the site at Chalk Lane between October 1977 - May 1978 and September - November 1978 has clarified the nature of the Late Saxon settlement and produced evidence for the Early-Middle Saxon and prehistoric periods.

At least two phases of Late Saxon occupation can be identified (*CBA 9 Newsletter*, 8, 1978, 40). The latest phase is represented by a posthole building, excavated in 1976, on the east side of the site while the areas to the north and west were used for the disposal of rubbish and as a yard. The area to the south west appears to have been cultivated. In the earlier phase there was a substantial post-pit building, with a cellar, on the east side of the site and further posthole and sunken featured buildings to the north and west. Metalworking (?bronze) either on or near the site at this time is suggested by a large number of crucible fragments found in one pit and furnace lining and slag from the pits.

Intensive Early-Middle Saxon occupation in the area is suggested by the large amount of pottery of that date although the only feature which can be definitely assigned to this period is a small sunken featured building.

Prehistoric occupation on the site is attested by the large number of flints recovered as well as pits and gullies including two penannular shaped ones, presumably enclosing houses, of Bronze-Age date.

M SHAW and J H WILLIAMS

Oundle area, general. An interdisciplinary study of the Saxon landscape and territorial organization of this region, with a general study of place names in Northamptonshire, has been produced by Mr Paul Courtney as an MA dissertation on 'The early history of the Eight Hundreds of Oundle' for the Department of English Local History, University of Leicester. Copies available for consultation at the Northamptonshire Record Office, Delapré Abbey, and at the University of Leicester.

Rushton (SP 84578275). A large feature was seen in the side of pipeline trench near Rushton Manor. The feature was 8 m long and 1.3 m deep containing Stamford ware and early medieval pottery.

Stanion (SP 92858635). Saxon sherds, flint blade and core from small outcrop of limestone.

Stanion (SP 92658627). A few Saxon sherds from a small area of limestone. B BELLAMY

Titchmarsh, Oat Close (TL 018798). Three Anglo-Saxon and five medieval sherds, piece of iron slag found 1971-8 by Mrs E M Mayes and given to Northampton Museum (D.124.1978). A quantity of similar material is retained by Mrs Mayes.

Towcester (SP 68974796). Small, silver, Anglo-Saxon mount, pyramid shaped with chip-carving and niello inlay on the sloping faces and a square coloured stone at the apex, found c 1974 by R E Turland and given to Northampton Museum (D.73.1978). The mount resembles those from Sutton Hoo. W R G MOORE

Towcester (SP 690480). A flattened mound on the Abbey Homesteads estate (*Northamptonshire Archaeol*, 12, 1977, 215), south-west of Towcester, was examined to establish whether it was a burial mound, associated with the earlier finding of a pagan Saxon sword mount in the immediate vicinity (see above). A ditch of the Roman period was uncovered, but there was no evidence of a later burial.

D A JACKSON

MEDIEVAL

Bozeat (SP 904591). Berry Yard — earthwork survey of medieval manor, with closes and ancillary buildings, and possible fishponds, prior to road works affecting southern part of site. G R FOARD

Cogenhoe (SP 828609). Bronze twin-looped late medieval buckle found October 1978 by S Gray and given to Northampton Museum (D.209.1978).

W R G MOORE

Elton, Cambridgeshire (TL 083938). A survey of the manor site (reported in *Northamptonshire Archaeol*, 13, 1978, 186-7) was undertaken by E Dixon of Durham University to record the remaining earthworks in the Burrystead field. Copies of his report have now been deposited with Durham University Library, the Nene Valley Research Committee, Peterborough Central Library and Huntingdon Library. S G UPEX

Etton (centred on TF 13800457). Inspection of the surface strip for the Anglian Water Authority Wing to Etton water pipeline between TF 13710453 and TF 13870462 revealed a concentration of 13th to 15th century pottery, domestic animal bone and building materials consisting of rough dressed limestone and Collyweston slates. The spread covered an area of 950 sq m.

A CHALLANDS,
Peterborough Museum Society.

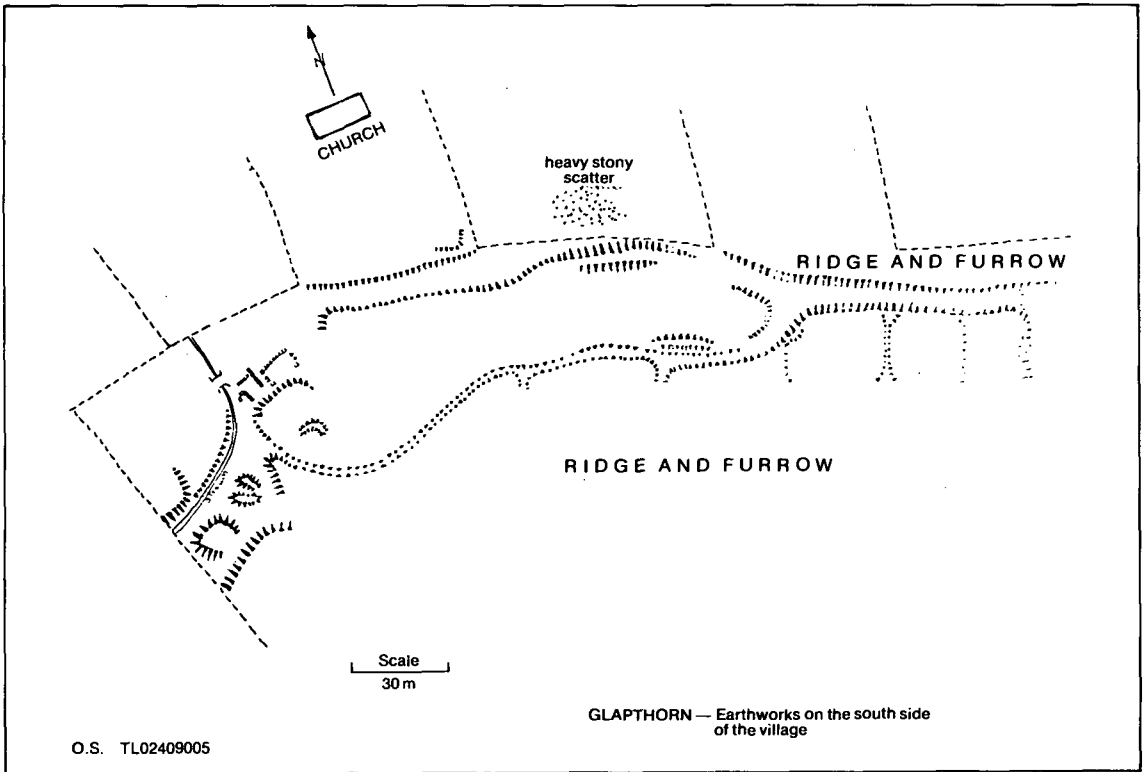


Fig 1 Glapthorn: earthworks south of church

Fawsley (SP 56135668, 56595679). Several medieval sherds found in molehills SW of the Hall and E of the church given to Northampton Museum (D.74.1978).
W R G MOORE

Geddington (SP 89198281). Rectangular ditched mound in paddock to the east of A43 road.
B BELLAMY

Glapthorn (TL 02409005). A survey of the earthworks due south of the church (FIG 1) has revealed a hollow way, with building plots and a boundary ditch.
MRS J JOHNSTON

Great Houghton (SP 797589). Earthwork survey of fishponds prior to levelling of site with spoil from Houghton by-pass (plan in *CBA 9 Newsletter*, 1979).

Great Oakley (SP 866859). Earthwork survey of fishponds prior to development of site for housing (plan in *CBA 9 Newsletter*, 1979).

Old Stratford (SP 773423). Deserted medieval settlement, recently ploughed, reported by Mr Marchant of Old Stratford. Fieldwalking revealed medieval pottery and stone scatter associated with at least four platforms, two on each side of a deep

hollow way running towards Furtho deserted medieval village. Prior to 18th century reorganization the site lay in Furtho parish.
G R FOARD

Oundle (TL 037878). A watching brief was arranged during partial reconstruction of the stone-built bridge on the A605, just south of Oundle. It was evident that, at some stage in its history, the stone bridge had been increased in width.
D A JACKSON

Sywell, village (SP 822672). This is an open space on the north of the village, between Sywell Hall and the cottages built in 1864 by Lady Overstone for the estate workers and is occupied by gardens belonging to the cottages. These gardens are divided into long narrow blocks about 6 m wide and 50 m long.

In 1977, a jug handle of medieval date was turned up in the garden belonging to Mr D Rose, and this, together with the Wilmer Estate map of 1700, which showed that Sywell village had occupied this area, suggested that a trial excavation might reveal evidence of successive levels of occupation.

In April 1978 a trial trench 4 m x 2 m was laid out, and half the area was excavated. *Level 1* consisted of 350 mm of black, fine top soil, and as would be expected with earth that had been cultivated for over 100 years, it contained a great deal of domestic debris as well as late post-medieval pottery. *Level 2*. At this level, the soil became light brown and a number of pits could be seen, their darker fill contrasting strongly with the lighter soil of this layer. There was a great deal of ash in these pits and also the same dark glazed sherds as in level 1; some contained the bones of domestic pets. This level produced a mixture of post-medieval brown glazed sherds, early and late medieval sherds, including St Neots and Stamford wares, and four sherds of Roman pottery, three of grey ware and one rim of colour-coated ware. *Level 3*. At 750 mm below the surface sandy patches appeared in Level 2 and over the whole of the excavated area were scattered small pieces of charcoal or burnt wood. A group of stones was found, including a piece of burnt ironstone. Amongst these stones were found sixteen sherds of Roman grey ware. There were also four pieces of bone, and three flints. *Level 4*. About 1 m below ground level lay yellow sand with outcrops of sandstone. A few flint flakes and scattered charcoal.

D SLATER

Towcester (SP 693481). Work on flood relief on the Silverstone Brook, to the west of Towcester resulted in the exposure of at least six skeletons. Four had been lifted and boxed by the workmen, but two, comparatively undamaged were kept for members of South Northants Archaeological Society to examine.

All the burials were orientated roughly east-west and some had traces of wood surviving in the water-logged clay and gravel (samples of this wood are now under examination). One skeleton was closely surrounded by large water-worn pebbles.

A female skeleton was lifted and awaits expert examination, and the other, which had a more damaged skull, was cleaned down, but no trace of grave goods or other dateable material was found.

A suggestion that they came from the Poor Law Institution in Brackley Road, to the north of the brook, was discounted, but research at the Northamptonshire Record Office at Delapré Abbey showed that there had been a Leper Hospital with the Chapel of St Leonard at the North Bridge in the reign of King John, as recorded by Bridges, who mentions that in an undated deed in that reign 'Robert, son of Roger Forester conveyed to Laurence, son of Simon Ters an acre of land in the *South Field* of Tovecestr between the lands of Baldwin and the Lepers' Hospital of St Leonard'. Baldwin appears in Luffield Abbey documents in 1225.

There is a further reference to the Hospital of St Leonard in 1366, placing it at the Northbrughe or Spital Bridge, but there is no mention of it in Archdeacon Sponne's bequests in 1447.

The apparent contradiction between North Bridge and South Field was solved by a field name map of about 1923 which showed a small field as 'Pest House Field' on the south side of the Silverstone Brook just where the skeletons were found. This leaves us with a fairly strong presumption that Pest House Field was the burial ground for St Leonard's Hospital (see also p 112). B C HASTINGS

Warmington, 'Blofield' Grange and Chapel. Bridges records an 'ancient mansion belonging to the family of Blowfield, supposed to have been a religious house', with surviving medieval features including a chapel. The Ordnance Survey archaeological investigators were unable to locate 'Blofield Grange', but the Warmington Survey of 1621 (photocopy in NRO) suggests this is the farm at TL 073908.

Warmington, Eaglethorpe. Bridges records this as a depopulated hamlet of Warmington, formerly of about ten houses and now destroyed. The hamlet's fields covered about four score acres and had belonged to Peterborough Abbey in 1535, after which it fell into the hands of the Sapcote family of Elton, and later the Proby family, owners of Elton Hall. It has always been assumed that the modern Eaglethorpe at TL 076917 is the site of the medieval settlement, and because there are houses of the 17th century still surviving at that location, Bridges's record of a deserted hamlet has been dismissed. However, a careful reading of Bridges, combined with evidence from the Warmington tithe map of 1846 demonstrates that medieval Eaglethorpe lay beneath, or immediately adjacent to, Elton Hall, probably around TL 089929. Bridges's entry for Eaglethorpe includes a discussion of Elton Hall, and stated that the owners of the Hall also held the lands of Eaglethorpe. The tithe map outlines the 77 acres and 17 perches of 'Eaglethorpe Hamlet' in the area immediately to the south east of the Hall. Bridges was clearly correct in his identification of the deserted medieval village. G R FOARD

Wellingborough, 31 George Street. Bronze pilgrim's badge in the form of a hunting horn found 1973 by C J Hobbs in his garden and brought to Northampton Museum for identification during 1978. W R G MOORE

Wollaston (SP 905623). Hall manor — earthwork survey of medieval manor with closes and fishponds (plan in *CBA 9 Newsletter* 1979). G R FOARD

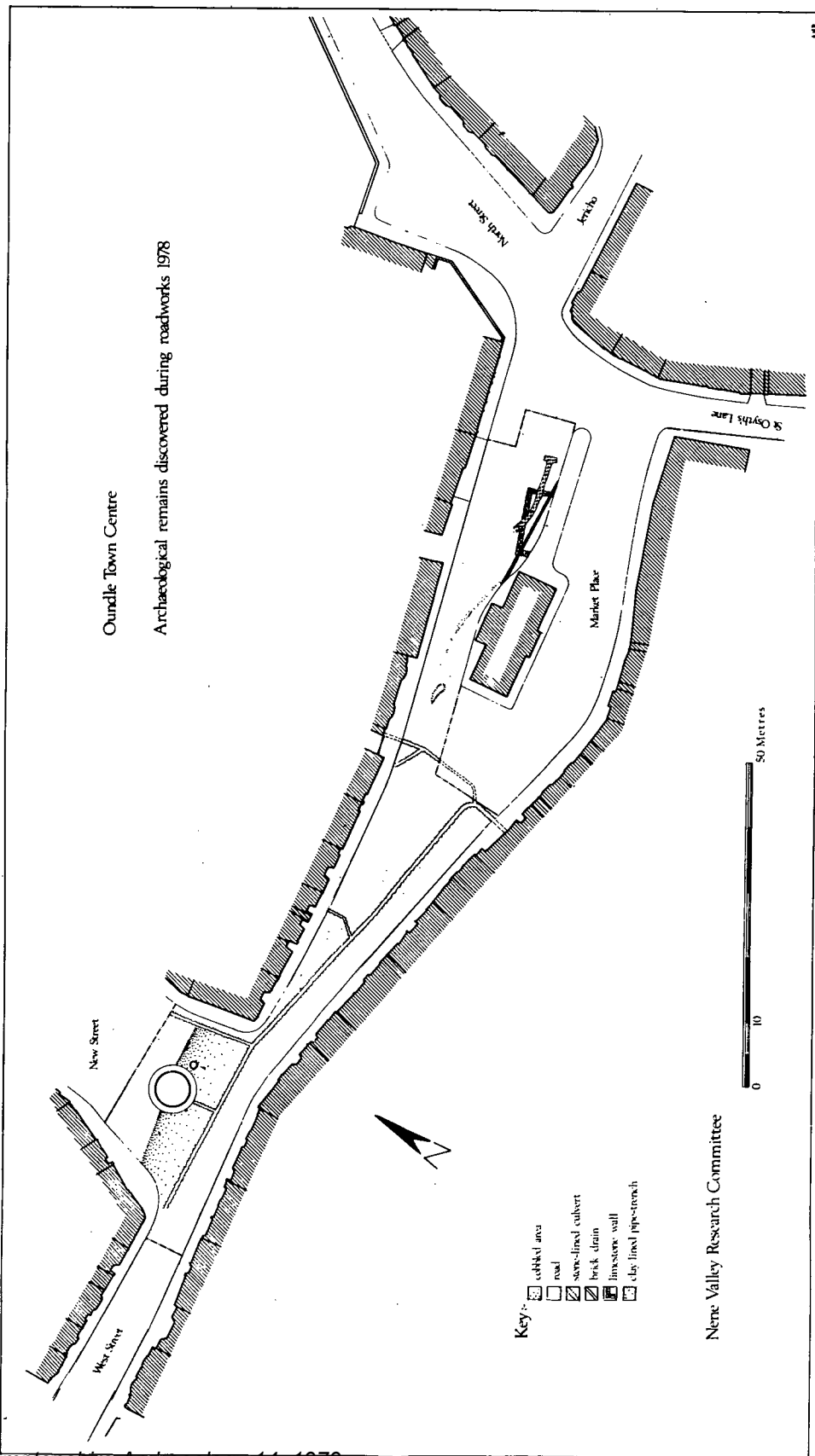


Fig 2

Yardley Gobion, 44 Moor End Road (SP 76254492). Foundation trenches dug for the eastward extension of a bungalow resulted in two medieval kilns being partly destroyed during February 1978. Burnt stones, red and black ash and a number of sherds were observed by Miss R Weston. The pottery given to Northampton Museum (D.30.1978) closely resembles that found in the kilns excavated at Yardley Gobion in 1973 (*Northamptonshire Archaeol*, 9, 1974, 112). W R G MOORE

See also in the Roman section: Duston; and in the Migration and Early Medieval section: Titchmarsh.

POST-MEDIEVAL

Aldwincle (SP997832). Small mound in pasture field; it sits directly on ridge and furrow which is known to have been ploughed in the late 18th century.

Harringworth (SP914957). A small kidney shaped mound 4 m x 2.5 m and 0.50 m high found in pasture field and associated with a medieval headland. S G UPEX

Northampton (SP74225983). Two iron axe-heads, probably post-medieval, found 'close together' at a depth of about one foot during summer 1978, were given by R Renshaw to Northampton Museum (D.252.1978). W R G MOORE

Oundle (TL 022883). A small mound 5 m x 2.5 m and 0.75 m high was identified in association with a medieval headland. No finds were associated with the mound and it may be the result of ant hill or mole cast clearance in post-medieval or recent times (*Northamptonshire Archaeol*, 12, 1977, 231).

S G UPEX

Oundle, Town Centre (TL 04158809). Site observations by the Nene Valley Research Committee were made for two weeks on roadworks in the Market Place (FIG 2). The scheme ran from North Street to the junction of New Street with West Street. The roadwork, carried out by Northamptonshire County Council, consisted of the extraction of between 600 mm to 650 mm of the pre-existing metalling and underlying deposit. Most of the material removed was of 19th to 20th century in date.

Running on either side of the wedge-shaped Market Place, and at a depth of 600 mm, lay two roadlines with remains of pebbled surfaces, lying on a bedding of humus, silt, clay and pebbles with an admixture of bones. The roads forked towards West Street and splayed out in the direction of North Street/St Osyth's Lane. Similar road metalling was

recorded at New Street for 9 m before it ended. Subsequent road development of this area of the town has changed the earlier pattern relatively little — except for colonisation in the central area.

Immediately east of the present Town Hall, at a similar depth and next to the early roadline on the north, limestone footings of part of a 16th to 17th century rectangular building, F1, were recorded. Inside the walls lay either a trample floor or the bedding for a stone floor. The building was overlain by a late 17th century brick culvert and also cut by the shallow remains of a service trench. Early 19th century pictures show the buried building as part of a cluster of buildings next to the Oundle Butter Cross. The whole was cleared for the building of the Town Hall which was completed in 1829.

A system of well-built limestone culverts, with repairs in bricks, was uncovered mainly towards the west end of the new road scheme. The layout consisted of a main 17th to 18th century east-west culvert, F9, with a fall to the east, and with late 18th century branches on the north flowing into it. The main drain in turn channelled water south, towards the river, halfway along the Market Place.

Next to the war memorial in New Street a limestone well, F6, for public use and dating from the late 18th century was found. It was 800 mm in diameter. From near the bottom and running through two timber struts was a lead pipe of 80 mm bore, which originally led to a hand pump off-set from the well. The hand pump appears in the early 19th century pictures and may have been in use until *circa* 1920.

Remains of F1 and F6 plus portions of F9 and adjoining culverts are now sealed and preserved under the new road surface.

The date of the well and north part of the culvert system suggests extensive road improvement in the latter half of the 18th century. Comparison of the early pictures with early photographs indicates further development between 1830-1880.

F E O'NEILL,

Nene Valley Research Committee and the
Department of the Environment.

See also in the Roman section: Duston.

MISCELLANEOUS

Fineshade (SP974971). Earthworks of what appears to be a small structure, 6 m x 4 m, with limestone foundations. It may be associated with the artificial lake to the SW. No finds. S G UPEX

Harringworth (SP941947). A section was dug across the earthworks of an enclosure to record the

bank and ditch before it was completely levelled by ploughing (RCHM, *Archaeological sites in NE Northamptonshire*, Harringworth). Nothing was found to date the enclosure, but a charcoal sample has been submitted for radiocarbon dating.

D A JACKSON

Towcester, Silverstone Brook Flood Alleviation scheme 1978. Ditch or pit seen in section of pipeline trench, and from spoil heap skull fragments of two individuals, at SP 69594859. Inhumation 1.4 m below topsoil, just above natural gravel, at SP 69564858. No dating evidence (see also p 109).

G R FOARD

Reviews

EXCAVATION AT FENGATE, PETERBOROUGH, ENGLAND: THE SECOND REPORT

By Francis Pryor

xvii + 241 pages. 57 figures. 15 plates.

Royal Ontario Museum, 1978. See below for price.

This monograph, the second in the Fengate series, deals comprehensively with a Neolithic and Bronze Age complex within the Storey's Bar Road sub-site excavated in 1973-74. This consisted of a Late Neolithic Grooved Ware settlement with a system of ditched enclosures, and a ring ditch surrounding the remains of a Bronze Age barrow.

Neolithic domestic sites have always posed problems for the excavator, and for this reason understanding of early prehistoric settlement economy has developed only slowly. To begin with, sites of this type tend to be large in area and diffuse, and total excavation or large scale sampling, which is necessary to a proper assessment of them, is generally impractical. Secondly, the sites when discovered are almost always damaged or eroded and lack overall vertical stratigraphy.

At Fengate Francis Pryor has challenged these problems and, by means of sampling and systematic area excavation on a significant scale, has set out to investigate the evolution and use of a prehistoric landscape at all levels, from the internal organization of individual settlements to the whole site in its regional context.

This ambitious project was begun in response to development of the area as part of the Greater Peterborough expansion, and the fen edge site is well suited to such a survey. It may be argued that it was, and is, a specialised environment, and that the study of it can have only limited application outside the region. On the other hand its limits are precisely defined topographically, archaeologically it is rich, and local conditions favour the survival of sites in the ground and the preservation of stratified environmental remains to complement the archaeological evidence.

The strategy of the excavation programme and the methods of excavation used, with their advantages and drawbacks, are clearly described and discussed in the report, and show how speed and efficiency in large area excavation have been balanced against the need for maximum recovery of information.

The Storey's Bar Road sub-site is typical of most Late Neolithic settlements investigated in the paucity of features, and especially in the absence of any evidence for substantial structures, but here the scale of the excavation has added considerable

weight to the negative evidence and greatly increased the value of the evidence which was found. It has, moreover, provided a rare opportunity to study a Neolithic settlement in relation to what appears to be one of the very few field systems of this date known so far in the British Isles.

In his interpretation the excavator demonstrates both the limitations and the possibilities of this kind of site. The absence of a linking stratigraphy and the ambiguity of the internal stratigraphy of individual features inevitably cause difficulties in establishing a chronology for the site as a whole, and these are acknowledged. Spatial and morphological analysis of features and a most useful series of radiocarbon dates have done much to overcome such problems, and a plausible sequence of events has been reconstructed on this basis. A few areas of uncertainty do, however, seem to have been glossed over, and the distinction between what can be demonstrated and what remains reasonable hypothesis could perhaps have been stated more firmly. In particular not everyone may be willing to accept, on the evidence presented, the argument for the long chronology for the ring ditch, or for its origin as a Neolithic domestic enclosure before use in the construction of the barrow. The idea is nonetheless intriguing, especially in the light of the reappraisal by Richard Bradley of a possible parallel at Playden, Sussex, which is included in an appendix.

The identification of discrete areas of specialised activity within the settlement, possible precisely because so large an area was examined, is a notable contribution to the understanding of the site. It is based on a detailed analysis of finds, especially worked flints, in relation to distinct groups of features. The supporting data are presented in great detail and, on the whole, clearly, although the flint report might have been easier to use if more concise, with, for example, all the statistical information listed in consistent tabular form. It may be noted also in passing that the presentation of plans and section drawings would have been improved by the use of a standard reduction.

The report concludes with a discussion of the evidence — archaeological, palaeobotanical and faunal — for land use in the settlement, for changes in land use during the Neolithic and Bronze Age period, and the relationship of the site to the fen edge environment — throughout the earlier prehistoric period.

This report is in itself a major contribution to Neolithic and Bronze Age studies in the Fenland region and Northamptonshire, and its value will undoubtedly be enhanced by publication of further

work covering the later prehistoric periods on the Fengate site.

Mr Pryor is to be congratulated on the promptness with which his work at Fengate is being published.

HELEN M BAMFORD

Note

Fengate Reports 1 and 2

The First and Second Fengate Reports are available in this country from:

The Nene Valley Research Committee

Ham Lane House

Ham Lane

Orton Waterville

Peterborough

They cost £1.50 and £6.00 respectively (including postage and packing).

PEOPLING PAST LANDSCAPES: A HANDBOOK INTRODUCING ARCHAEOLOGICAL FIELDWORK TECHNIQUES IN RURAL AREAS

By John M Steane and Brian F Dix

94 pp, 48 figs, London: Council for British Archaeology, 1978. Price £2.00

Written by two well known local archaeologists and drawing extensively on local fieldwork experience, this volume has filled an important gap in archaeological literature. It is the second CBA publication aimed at the teacher, and seeks to provide an explanation for schools of accepted fieldwork techniques, and so to encourage development of the great potential which exists in schools for original archaeological research. The authors gained considerable fieldwork experience as amateurs within the school context and not surprisingly they have produced a very readable book which is suitably simple, but concise, dispelling many common misconceptions and answering basic questions which other works have often overlooked.

Excavation is rightly dismissed as a complex scientific process beyond the normal competence of schools, and attention is focused exclusively on fieldwork. Preparatory work and related research possibilities are discussed, including the geographical background, and the potentials and limitations of historic maps and documents, and place names, as sources of information on past landscapes. However, in an otherwise comprehensive summary, the assessment of modern sources includes no mention of county based Sites and Monuments Records, which have become perhaps the most important collections of local

archaeological information. These records now exist in most counties, and should surely be the starting point for any fieldwork programme, especially for inexperienced groups.

As a guide in the preparation of a fieldwork programme examples are provided of survey results from various environments: gravels, fen, etc, with the discussion of the authors' own work in the Lyveden Valley providing a useful model for other school surveys. The discussion of equipment and recording methods is the most valuable part of the book. A simple but efficient method of earthwork survey is suggested, but it is a pity that the only earthwork plan in the book is extremely poor. One also wonders why similar space is not given to the checking of quarries and building sites etc, and the recognition and recording of archaeological features revealed.

Particular attention is given to fieldwalking as the most appropriate type of fieldwork for schools, and recently developed techniques are included. However, one critical inconsistency must be noted: after stating that detailed 'grid' recording of a site should be carried out by just one individual to ensure an even, representative sample is recovered, on the same page it is suggested that each person be given one square each to survey! There follows a useful introduction to finds likely to be encountered, but more attention might have been given to industrial debris.

The book ends with a short section on interpretation, and most important of all the dissemination of results. As we know only too well from local experience, school museum collections are easily lost, and so it is good to see the authors advise that finds and records are deposited with the local Sites and Monuments Record and Museum.

The book is well illustrated throughout with a wide variety of photographic and cartographic examples, although one feels the inclusion of a simple 'chronological scale' might have helped the inexperienced audience. There are also numerous up-to-date references for further reading dispersed effectively through the text, providing many avenues for research which may be followed up. It should not be thought from our criticism that the authors have failed to achieve their objectives, for such limitations could be easily remedied. They have effectively simplified a wide and complex subject to provide an inexpensive handbook, which contains most of the information needed to enable any school to initiate a useful programme of original research. It is only to be hoped that teachers will be made aware of the book, and it is now our job as professional and amateur archaeologists to ensure that it is used, and to provide the necessary back-up advice and facilities.

G R FOARD