

## Notes

### BRONZE AGE POTTERY FROM THE COLLECTIONS OF THE CITY MUSEUM AND ART GALLERY, PETERBOROUGH

When working on the Beaker material from Fengate in the Peterborough museum, Martin Howe kindly invited me to draw (FIG 1) and publish the Bronze Age pottery in the museum's collection. I am most grateful to Mr Howe for this opportunity. The numbers referred to in the text are the catalogue numbers of the pottery in the above museum. Unfortunately, little is known of the burial contexts.

**L2. BADWELL ASH GRAVEL PIT, BURY ST. EDMUNDS.** This 'barbed wire' decorated Beaker, or rather decorated with impressions made by a loosely whipped length of cord or gut, is in a medium to light brown fabric with some grey patches on the exterior. The decoration is all in the 'barbed wire' technique except for a single row of rounded stabs at the top of the highest zone. Some grits protrude through the outer surface. The profile is slack and 'S'-shaped and is similar to a vessel from Eriswell in Suffolk (Clarke 1970, no 876) but in this case, the decoration consists only of parallel horizontal lines. A Wessex/Mid Rhine beaker from Little Rollright in Oxfordshire (Clarke 1970, no 755) has similar broad zoned decoration and a bag-shaped profile.

**L10. ETTON, PETERBOROUGH.** This is a small Food Vessel with one, probably two, simple lugs, a pitted surface, and fine twisted cord decoration on the upper part of the exterior and on the one surviving lug. The fabric is brown to black in colour but this is probably due to the conservation process. This vessel was found with two skeletons in a quarry at Etton, and has been erroneously attributed to Fotheringhay (in RCHM 1975, 40 (Fotheringhay 9)). Local parallels for this vessel are, as far as the writer is aware, rare, but a small lugged cinerary urn comes from Ipswich (Smedley and Owles, 1964), and a similar small globular vessel, but without lugs from slightly further away at Stanton Moor in Derbyshire (Manby 1957). Small lugged Food Vessels, but with more of a flower-pot shape, are also illustrated in Abercromby (nos 19 and 20) from Colchester (Abercromby 1912).

**L1. KING'S DYKE, WHITTLESEY.** A bipartite bowl decorated with a single accidental scored line at the top and vertical rows of circular or sub-triangular stabs, executed with a stick or similar thin round instrument. The fabric is medium brown in colour with some slight grey patches and a very cracked surface. The rim is internally lipped. Decoration of this nature is fairly common and the regularity with which it is applied recalls a vase Food Vessel from Chatton Sandyford in Northumberland, but here the stabs form a chevron pattern (Gibson 1978, no 16).

**L6. OLD FLETON.** This is a bipartite vase Food Vessel with an externally moulded rim, but lacking an internal rim bevel resulting in a form which resembles very much a tripartite collared urn, and so this vessel is very obviously one from the 'grey area' between two definite pottery types, the food vessel, and the urn. The decoration is typical of a collared urn in that it does not extend below the shoulder, but this is quite common on food vessels too, and the technique employed, circular and triangular stabs, is common to both urn and food vessel types. The fabric of this vessel is brown to pink on both surfaces, with a very few grey patches and the core is black.

**L7. NEWARK PITS, PETERBOROUGH.** Exposed during gravel quarrying, this tripartite collared urn is decorated with finger-nail impressions. The shallowness and angle of the collar is akin to Fengate ware. The fabric is light brown to light grey in colour with moderate quantities of shell grit. A similar urn comes from Creeting St Mary in Suffolk (Smedley and Owles 1964, FIG 24b) but in this example the cavetto zone beneath the collar is wider. Similarly an urn from Barton Stacey in Hampshire has a shallow collar and rusticated decoration (Abercromby 1912, no 13), but this is slightly smaller than the Peterborough urn.

**L971. CASTOR.** This tripartite collared urn was found with a cremation in the bank of the river Nene at Castor. The fabric is red with a black core, and is coarse and crumbly with a slightly cracked exterior. The decoration is all in the twisted cord technique. A similar urn with twisted cord ladder decoration comes from Screnwood in Northumberland but this has filled chevrons in the cavetto zone instead of the twisted cord herring bone as is on the Peterborough urn (Gibson 1978, no 121).

**L3. PEAKIRK.** The body only survives of what is probably a tripartite collared urn, which, like L971, is decorated with twisted cord herring bone in the cavetto zone. The fabric is pink to light brown in colour with some grey patches on the exterior and with a light brown interior. The core has some medium sized grits but is still very hard and well-fired, and approaches Beaker fabric in quality. Found with the cremation of an adult.

**L8. OLD FLETON.** Like L6 from the same area, this can be seen as a vessel combining both collared urn and food vessel characteristics. The pot is tripartite with a cord representing the line of the collar base, and there is no true collar on the vessel, but instead, a rather concave neck. The upper portion is decorated with intersecting twisted cord lines while short lengths of the same decorate the cordon and the rim. Curved lengths of cord fill the cavetto zone. The two scored lines appear to be accidental. The colour of the fabric is medium brown with red and grey patches on the exterior. The core is black, and the grits are medium sized with some shell protruding through the surface.

NOTES

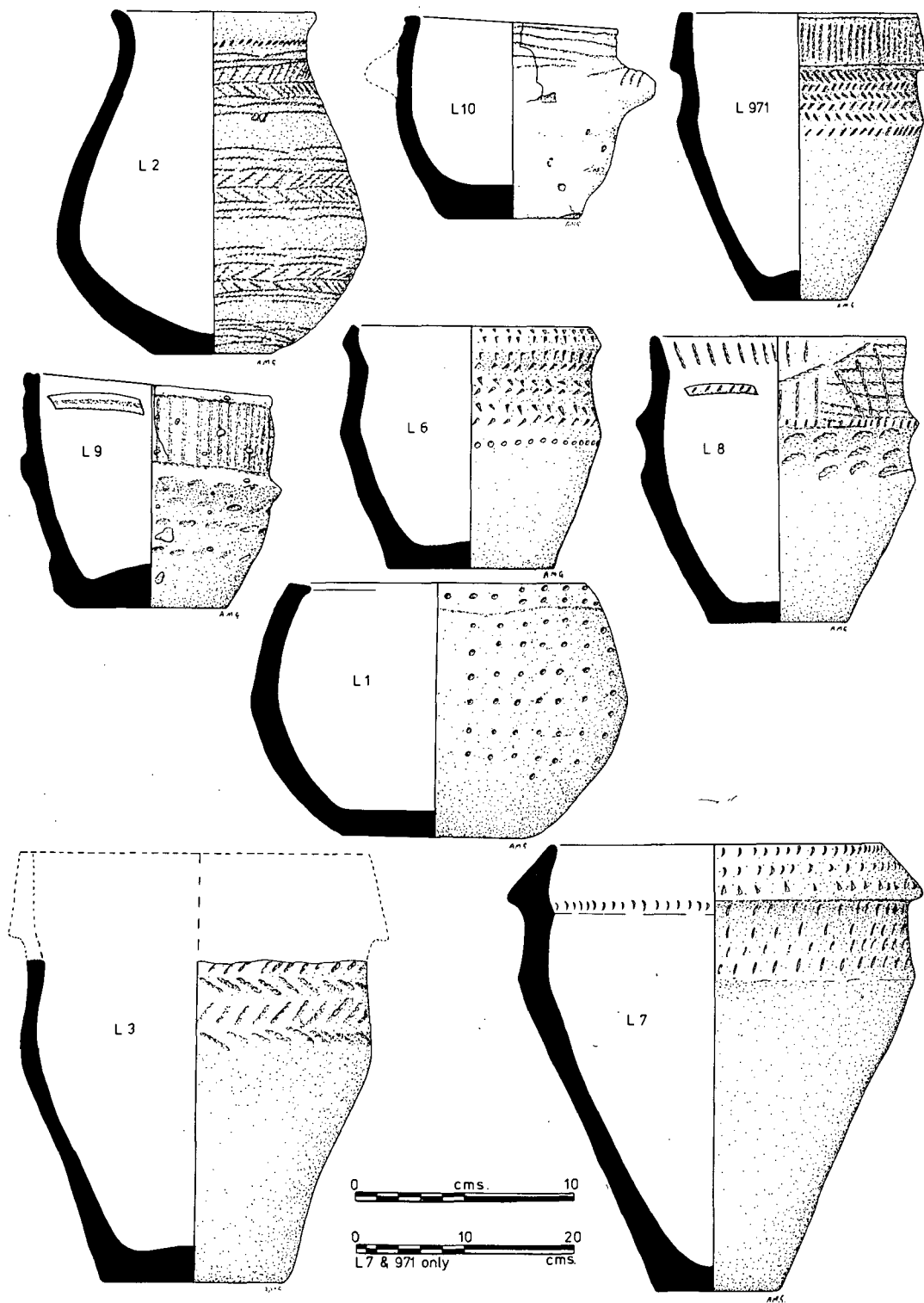


Fig 1 Bronze Age pottery, Peterborough Museum (1/3)

L9. WHITTLESEY ROAD GRAVEL PIT. A small miniature urn with blurred twisted cord laddering on the collar like L971. There are also small oval impressions on the body. It has no true collar, but instead, a cordon running round, about mid-way down the body. The fabric is buff to pink on the exterior, and light brown on the interior, with shell and grog added to the clay which protrudes in large quantities through the surface. The urn resembles very much one of similar size, and with a biconical profile, from a ring ditch at Grendon in Northants, excavated by Tony McCormick, which has a similar ladder pattern of blurred cord on the collar area, although the impressions are not present in this case.

ALEX M GIBSON

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#### AERIAL ARCHAEOLOGY IN NORTHAMPTONSHIRE

Archaeological aerial survey over Northamptonshire was first carried out in the 1920s by O G S Crawford, who made a number of flights across the county and recorded several crop-mark and earthwork sites. Consistent survey work began after the Second World War, and until very recently this continued to be carried out as part of the national survey programmes of Professor St Joseph (Cambridge University), the Air Photographic Unit of the NMR, and James Pickering. The most notable exception was the important work of R Hollowell, a local amateur, during the 1960s and early 1970s (Hollowell 1971). A considerable number of flights were also carried out by Warhurst (Northampton Museum) in the late 1950s and more recently by Kirk, Rollings, Moore (Northampton Museum) and Williams (Northampton Development Corporation).

As far as the County Council was concerned, the principal use made of aerial photography was of the vertical surveys carried out by professional companies to provide information for the Highways, Planning, and Architect's Departments, with no account being taken of archaeological requirements. (However, in common with many other vertical survey collections, these photographs can be of considerable use in recovering evidence of medieval field systems). It was not until 1967, when a photographic record was made of the excavations in progress on the Hardingstone School site, that the archaeological potential of aerial photography was realised by the County Council. During the summer of 1972 photographs were taken of the excavations at Deanshanger, again on a site being developed by the County Council. With the appointment of Paul Everson as County Archaeologist in 1973, and the increasing involvement of the Department of the Environment, a regular aerial survey programme was initiated, with the accompanying development of an archive of photographs. The great increase nationally in DoE funding in the mid 1970s led to the establishment of many such local surveys, and of particular relevance to Northamptonshire is the continuing work of Stephen Upex in the Peterborough area, as well as the photographic archive and 1:2500 scale sketch plots of sites recorded by Upex which is being maintained by the Nene Valley Research Committee (Upex 1977). Other archives of air photographs relating to Northamptonshire are at Northampton Museum, Northampton Development Corporation (Archaeology Unit), Cambridge University, National Monuments Record, Ordnance Survey (Archaeological Division), as well as the private collections of Rollings, Kirk, Hollowell, and Pickering.

Each summer since 1974 the NCC has carried out a number of flights to record crop-mark sites, but the main effort has been concentrated on the recording of medieval and post medieval earthworks. In particular, in 1976-77 a survey of village earthworks was carried out and over 100 sites were photographed, providing a considerable amount of new information, which has yet to be fully assimilated into the Sites and Monuments Record.

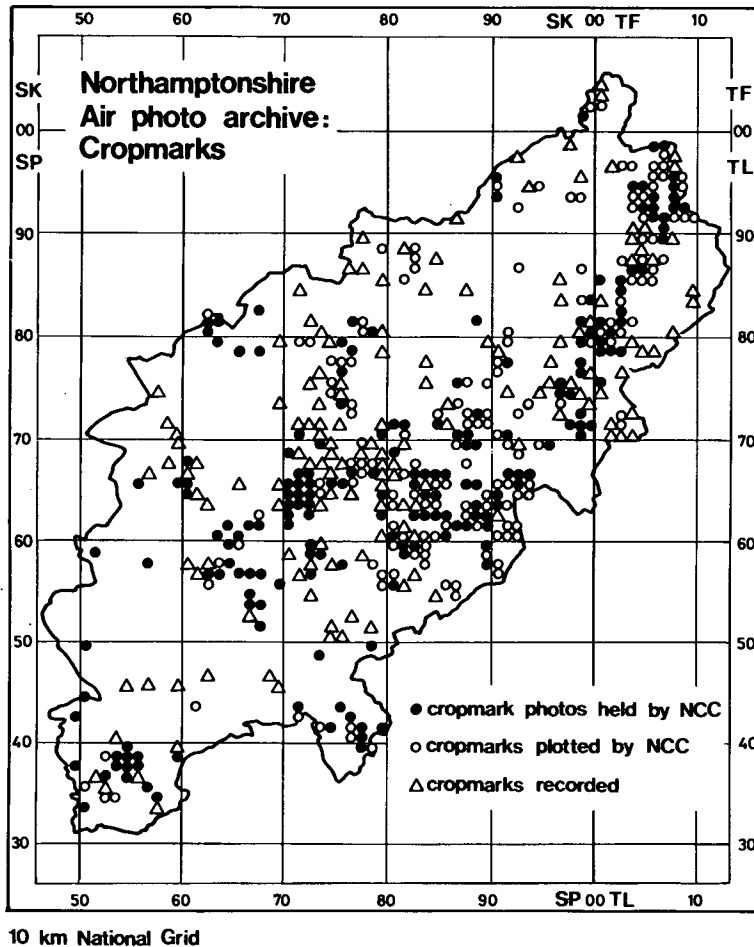


Fig 2

With the establishment of the NCC Archaeological Unit the aerial survey policy was reassessed, and it was decided that as most earthworks in the county were now well recorded, the majority of available resources should be channelled into cropmark photography, where there exists far greater potential for the collection of important data. It was also decided to concentrate the major survey effort on areas under long term threat from development or quarrying, and on particular sample areas of the county. The usefulness of continually flying over the same areas for many years has been argued by experienced arch-

aeologists, as it is the only way of building up a sufficiently complete picture of past landscapes through aerial survey. Moreover, as Hampton (1975) states, 'The importance of local flying cannot be over-emphasised, for a person who concentrates on a small area has the advantages of local specialist knowledge of ground and weather conditions and, if the airfield is nearby, achieves substantial savings in transit time'.

To make the information from aerial survey accessible for both research and planning rescue work, in addition to making the NCC photographs themselves available at the Unit

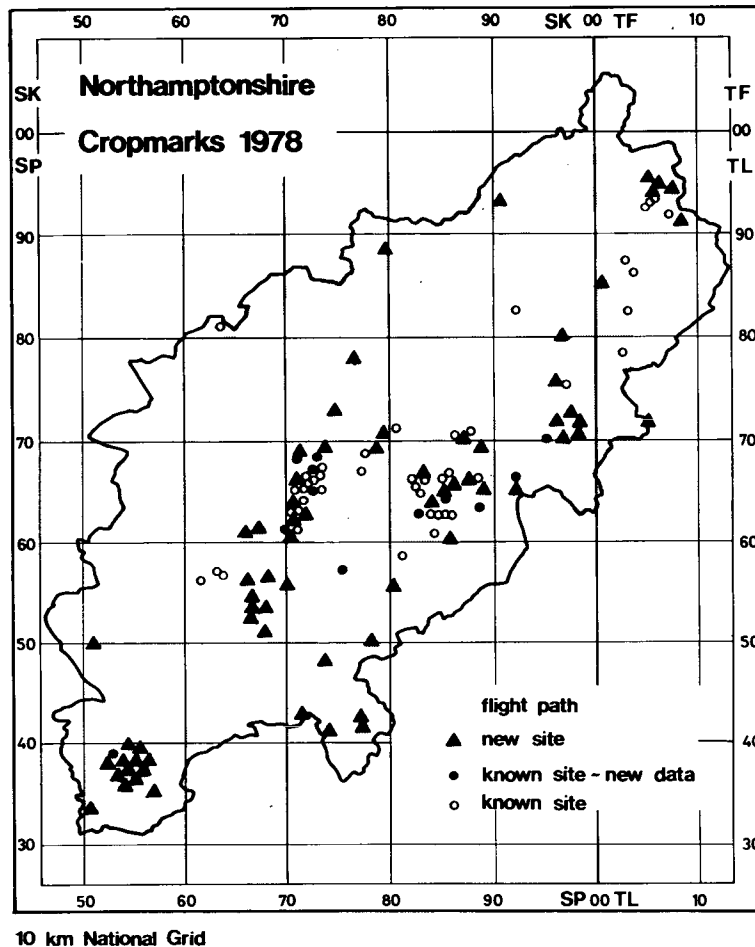


Fig 3

(coverage is indicated on FIG 1) and the NMR, the data is being assimilated into the Sites and Monuments Record. Firstly, an index is being maintained of each individual archaeological air photograph of the county (all relevant public collections have been entered onto the index, but access has not yet been gained to several private collections). Secondly, using as a basis the important sketch plans produced by the RCHM, we have recently begun plotting the cropmarks from all accessible air photographs onto 1:2500 scale overlays (present coverage is indicated in FIG 2), using the reasonably accurate 'Mobius grid' technique

(Dickinson 1969). In addition, we are continuing to sketch plot onto 1:10,560 overlays, on which full geological information for the county is also included, so allowing detailed examination of the relationships between cropmark distribution and geology, and all other archaeological site distributions which are also recorded at this scale (Foard 1978).

#### CROPMARKS, SUMMER 1978

In June, July, and August 21 separate flights, totalling approximately 24 hours, were completed, and in all 65 areas of new cropmarks were recorded, and of the known sites

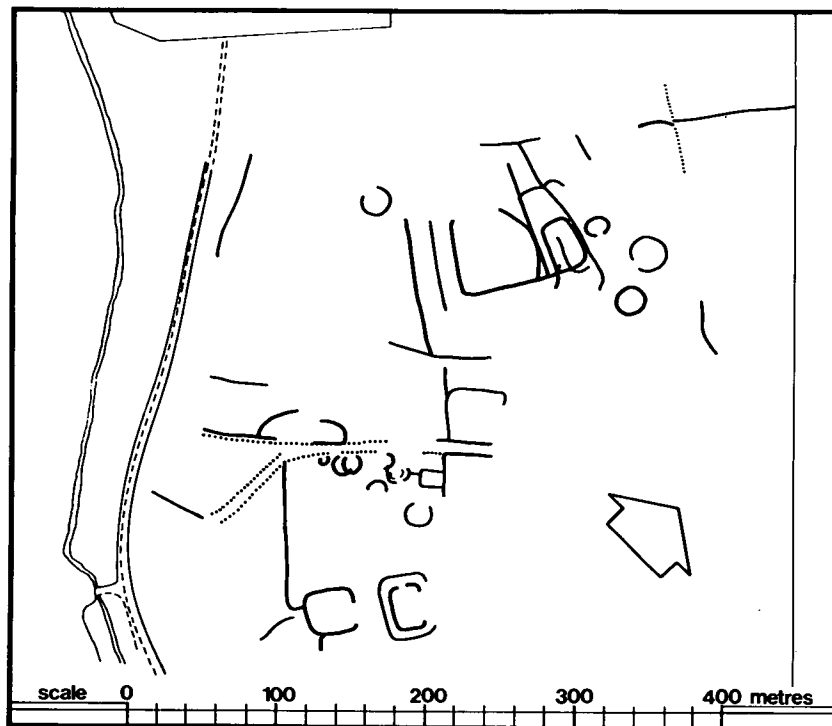


Fig 4 Cropmarks near Hopping Hill, Northampton (SP 727628)

photographed, 13 produced significant new information (FIG 3). The most productive periods were the last two weeks in June and the third and fourth weeks of August, with one 2 hour flight to the south and south west of the county on 21st August producing a large percentage of the new sites listed below. Of the sites recorded this year, the vast majority appeared on Northampton Sand, Marlstone and Limestone around Northampton and in the south west of the county in August. In the Nene Valley many cropmarks were recorded but the majority were well known sites on the river gravels, which in the main developed rapidly in late June and disappeared soon after. Few significant cropmarks were recorded at any time in the north west, or Rockingham Forest, either on gravel and limestone, or on boulder clay. The most promising results were from the south west of the county, presumably because the area escaped the heavy thunder-

storms encountered elsewhere in July, and demonstrate that an enormous potential exists in this area where previously very few cropmarks have been recorded.

Two of the sites recorded this year have been singled out for detailed consideration. The new site near Hopping Hill, Northampton, which lies to the south of the well known Bampton and Harlestone complexes, is illustrated in FIG 4. Of particular interest are the two parallel pit alignments, which run for over 150 m at a fairly consistent spacing of approximately 10 m. Similar features have been noted elsewhere in England, but this is the first example of the type in Northamptonshire. Another double pit alignment, visible for less than 50 m, was also recorded this year at SP 526386. The function and dating of pit alignments is far from clear, (although recent local excavations (*Northamptonshire Archaeol*, 13, 1978) suggest an Early Iron Age date for



Fig 5 Irchester Roman town, cropmarks known to August 1978

some), and hence interpretation of the double alignment is even more difficult. However, the consistency of spacing suggests this is not a simple case of 'recutting', whereas the similarity to so-called 'ditched trackways' is striking, not only in the spacing, but also in the way in which enclosures appear appended to the parallel alignments. Whether these parallel ditches or pit alignments are always 'trackways' has recently been questioned by Pickering (personal communication) who suggests that the intermediate area may have been occupied by a boundary bank.

Remarkably detailed cropmark evidence was recovered at Irchester Roman town in late June. Comparison of the provisional plan of these cropmarks (FIG 5) with the RCHM plan summarising all information available up to 1977 (RCHM forthcoming) reveals that a significant amount of new data has been recovered. Several apparent property boundaries can be seen, and in one or two cases these features suggest minor changes in the town layout. Well over a dozen new buildings, including three circular structures, have been identified, although in certain cases the details are unclear, for example, the complex but fragmentary evidence of structures surrounding the temple (area 1). Several of the buildings with narrow frontages, but extending some distance back from the main road appear similar to shops excavated in other Roman towns, while parts of a number of possible large town houses are also visible. It is also interesting to note that in almost every case the buildings excavated in the 19th century are visible as cropmarks, suggesting that the structures were not in fact destroyed during investigation. In contrast the one area recorded in 1879 as having been 'thoroughly turned over' shows a complete blank on the air photographs (area 2).

## NEW SITES — 1978

Chipping Warden	SP 509498	Ditched trackway		
Kings Sutton	SP 507336	Enclosure?		
Farthinghoe	SP 526384	Ring ditch, ditches		
	SP 539373	Ring ditch(?), ditched trackway, ditches		
	SP 540382	Ditched trackway, ditches		
			Evenley	SP568355
			Flore	SP655608
				SP663614
			Cold Higham	SP660531
				SP663534
				SP665541
			Bugbrooke	SP661566
				SP671562
			Pattishall	SP672535
			Greens Norton	SP678515
			Gayton	SP697560
				SP702613
			Harpole	
				SP706639
			Harlestone	SP709630
				SP712428
			Whittlebury	
				SP713661
			Church Brampton	SP726631
			Northampton	
				SP734692
			Spratton	
				SP738480
			Grafton Regis	SP739413
			Deanshanger	SP760780
			Draughton	SP769423
			Potterspury	SP770417
			Old Stratford	SP781693
			Moulton	SP782494
			Hartwell	SP781497
				SP792706
			Holcot	SP795885
			Stoke Albany	
				SP800559
			Hackleton	
				SP828665
			Sywell	
				SP837641
			Ecton	SP848652
			Mears Ashby	

SP 541369	Pit alignment
SP 542380	Ditched trackway with related rectilinear field system
SP 543377	Ring ditch, pit alignment, enclosure, ditches
SP 545382	Ditches
SP 545395	Ditches
SP 550392	Trapezoidal double ditched enclosure (part), parallel ditches. Probably related to avenues etc of Steane Park.
SP 553385	Double ditched rectangular enclosure (part)
SP 568355	Enclosures, ditches
SP 655608	Enclosure? (part)
SP 663614	Enclosure (part)
SP 660531	Ring ditch
SP 663534	Enclosure, ditches
SP 665541	Ring ditches, ditches
SP 661566	Ring ditch, ditches
SP 671562	Ditches
SP 672535	Ditches?
SP 678515	Ring ditch?
SP 697560	Rectangular enclosure? (part)
SP 702613	Rectangular enclosure? (part)
SP 706639	Ditched trackway
SP 709630	Pit alignment
SP 712428	Two nearly parallel ditches
SP 713661	Ditches?
SP 726631	Complex of enclosures, ring ditches, pit alignments (FIG 4)
SP 734692	Two parallel ditches (modern?)
SP 738480	Ring ditch
SP 739413	Ditched trackway
SP 760780	Rectangular enclosure
SP 769423	Ring ditches
SP 770417	Ditched trackway
SP 781693	Ring ditch
SP 782494	Ring ditch
SP 781497	Ring ditch
SP 792706	Ring ditch
SP 795885	Rectangular enclosure?
SP 800559	Two conjoined rectangular enclosures
SP 828665	Ring ditch with central pit (a windmill mound excavated c 1900)
SP 837641	Ring ditch
SP 848652	Ring ditch, ditched trackway



# NOTES

	SP 855661	Ditches?
Castle Ashby	SP 858607	Enclosure?
Great Doddington	SP 871656	Rectangular enclosure (Doddington Thorpe)
	SP 888654	Enclosure
Great Harrowden	SP 871706	Ditches
	SP 873707	Enclosures
Wellingborough	SP 884694	Enclosures?
Bozeat	SP 896599	Ditches?
Gretton	SP 9093	Ditched trackway (extension of excavated trackway)
	SP 960756	Ditches
Great Addington	SP 961797	Ditches?
Lowick	SP 980709	Ring ditch
Raunds	SP 983726	Ring ditch
	SP 985709	Ring ditch, enclosure
	SP 990717	Ditches?
Pilton	TL 000853	Two joining ditched trackways (modern?)
	TL 020919	Ditches
Southwick	TL 049950	Ditched trackway (modern?)
Woodnewton		Ring ditch, ditches
Fotheringhay	TL 051942	Ditches?
Nassington	TL 055949	Ditches?
	TL 071946	Ditches?
Warmington	TL 073912	Ditches?
Cambridgeshire:		
Bythorn	TL 0472	Two parallel ditches (modern?)

## NEW FEATURES ON KNOWN SITES — 1978

Farthinghoe	SP 526386	Double pit alignment
Welford	SP 631814	Ring ditch?
Harpole	SP 705626	Enclosure
Church Brampton	SP 707682	Enclosure, ditched trackway?, ditches
	SP 720651	Ring ditch, enclosure
Chapel Brampton	SP 722667	Enclosure
	SP 729680	Ditched trackway, large adjoining triple ditched 'D' shaped enclosure with internal features, ditches
Wootton	SP 752572	Pits, ring ditch?
Ecton	SP 825627	Enclosures? (non-archaeological?)
Earls Barton	SP 848642	Pits, ring ditch, ditches
Wollaston	SP 885632	Ditched trackway?
Irchester	SP 9166	Roman town (see FIG 5)
Higham Ferrers	SP 957697	Ring ditches, enclosures

## NEW MINOR EARTHWORKS — 1978

Morton Pinkney	SP 567487	Banks — possibly medieval occupation?
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Astcote	SP 675528	Unclassified
Sywell	SP 821669	Banked closes?
Cranford	SP 754773	Unclassified

## PREVIOUSLY UNPUBLISHED CROPMARKS — 1976-7

Grendon	SP 881621	New features on known site
Mears Ashby	SP 835667	Ring ditch, ditched trackway, on known site
Warmington	TL 057928	Enclosure, pits, ditches
Ashton/Tansor	TL 064893	Enclosure?, ditches
Scaldwell	SP 760734	Enclosure, ditches

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D E COWLEY and G R FOARD  
 Northamptonshire County Council  
 Archaeological Unit

## EXCAVATIONS AT RAUNDS 1977-78: AN INTERIM ACCOUNT

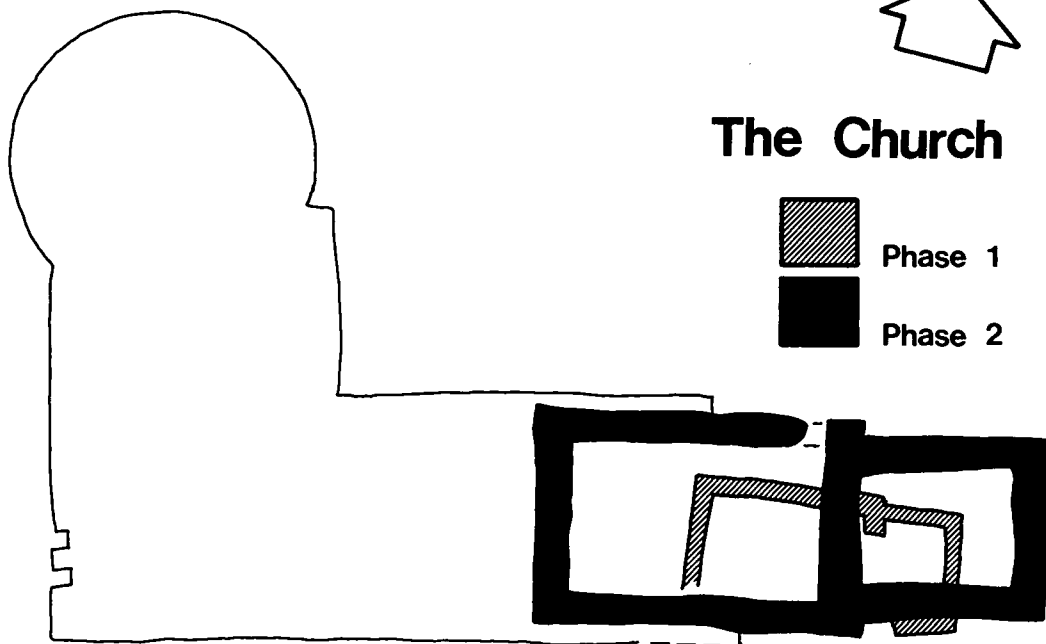
### INTRODUCTION

The site (SP 999733) is located in the north west corner of Raunds, off Rotten Row. Trial trenches by David Hall in 1976 revealed graves of potentially Saxon date and these finds prompted large scale excavation by the Northamptonshire County Council Archaeological Unit, commencing in October 1977. The site has planning permission for warehouse development.

Work prior to March 1979 has concentrated on an area of 2500 square metres immediately adjacent to Raunds. This has revealed two phases of a Saxon stone church, the latter phase apparently converted to manorial use



## The Church



## The Manor

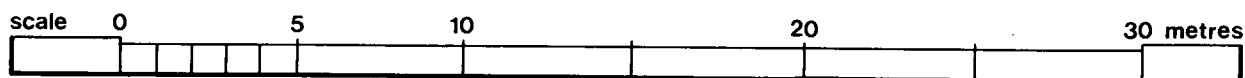
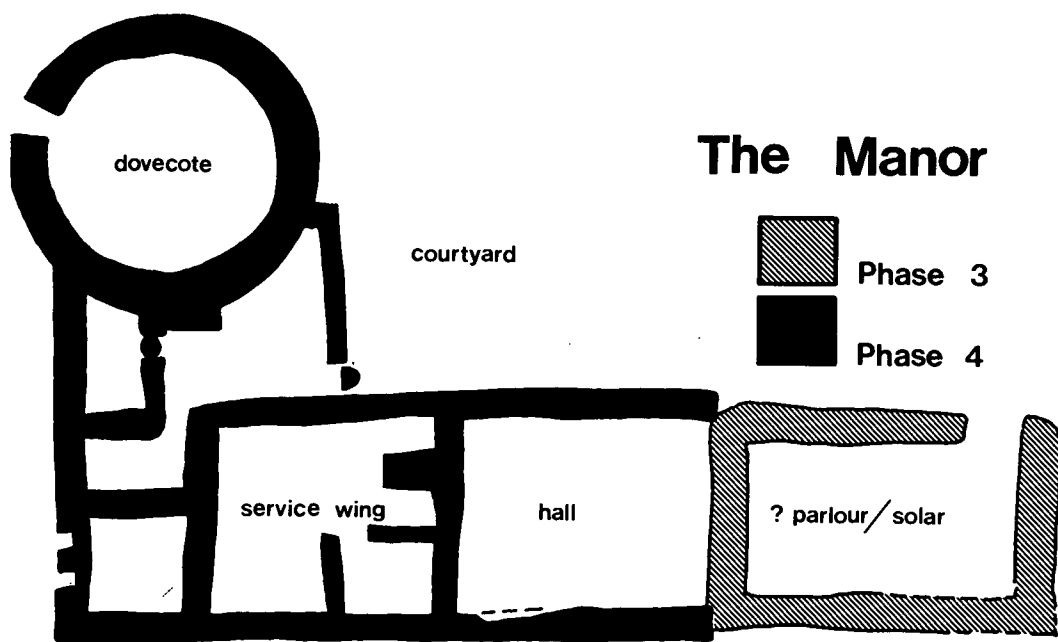


Fig 6 Raunds excavations, 1977-78

in the early medieval period. Expansion of the manorial buildings continued throughout the 13th and 14th centuries until the abandonment of the complex at the end of the 14th century. The phases outlined below are provisional as are the dates.

#### PHASE 1

This was the earliest phase (FIG 6) identified by March 1979, but there is evidence of earlier structures. It is represented by a small stone church divided into nave and chancel, and constructed with narrow (0.45 m wide) walls of rough-hewn oolitic limestone cemented with a gingery mortar. The nave is 4.6 m long internally and 3.2 m wide with a floor constructed of fragments of limestone. The chancel, 1.9 m long and 2.9 m wide, had thin mortar floors and a stone setting at the east end which may represent an altar base. Above this the walls retain their plaster face. Dating evidence has not yet been obtained for this phase, but a pre conquest date seems likely.

#### PHASE 2

The Phase 1 building (FIG 6) was demolished and replaced by a larger church, again divided into a nave and chancel. The walls (0.9 m wide) were constructed in courses of flat bedded limestone, above a foundation of up to four courses of pitched limestone with some ironstone fragments. The nave measures internally 4.5 m in width and 7.5 m in length, whilst the chancel is 3.4 m wide and 4.6 m long. Floor levels survived only in the nave, where they were composed of thin layers of broken fragments of limestone in a matrix of sandy loam. Presumably the chancel floors were at a slightly higher level and had been destroyed by later construction. Pottery from the foundation courses suggests a post conquest date for the construction of this phase.

#### THE CEMETERY

The cemetery lies to the south and east of the church and whilst presumably in use during both phases, the majority of burials are probably of Phase 2 date. 83 graves have been

excavated within an area of c800 square metres. It is estimated that this represents approximately half of the surviving graves. The plan shows the graves on an east-west alignment to be in rows, extending southwards from the church. There is very little intercutting and the burials are laid in a supine position with the head to the west. Whilst there has been no evidence of wooden coffins, one stone coffin lay immediately south of the church and two other burials lay beneath decorated Saxon grave slabs. There are two examples of adults being buried in rough stone cists, and one infant burial was laid within a well made cist of six large slabs of roughly hewn limestone. Of greater interest are nine examples of burials having stones placed over parts of the body, in most cases a single slab being used. There is no doubt that the majority of these stones are deliberately and carefully placed, and this is particularly well illustrated by two instances: one has a roughly diamond shaped stone placed symmetrically over the knee-caps, the other has a large circular stone covering the head; but before this latter stone was placed in position a layer of clean clay was used to cover the skull, presumably to protect it from damage. Pillow stones beneath and around the skull are a common feature, with foot stones occurring less often.

#### PHASE 3

This is a phase (FIG 6) of conversion from ecclesiastical to manorial use which is not fully understood. The chancel and the east part of the nave were demolished and a wide (1.1 m) wall was inserted across the former nave. At the south end this wall was keyed into the existing church wall, being set 0.4 m into the north face. However, at the north end it cut through the church wall completely and returned east where its line was continued by a robber trench. Other robber trenches delineating the east and south sides show the room to have been 8.0 m long and 3.4 m wide. It is unfortunately not clear whether the west part of the nave remained standing during this phase, as suggested by the south end of the above mentioned wall, or whether it had been demolished as suggested by the northern end.

It is not possible to draw a firm conclusion on this point, but taking into account all the evidence it is perhaps preferable to see the west part of the nave as having been demolished.

#### PHASE 4

Butted onto the west side of this room during the 13th century was a possible hall, a through passage and a service wing comprising three or four rooms. The hall was approximately 5.8m square and shortly after its original construction a central hearth was inserted. There is no evidence of any arrangements for heating prior to this, but the presence of the hearth suggests a ground floor hall. The through passage, originally paved with limestone flagging, separated the hall from the service wing, the westernmost room of which was linked to the hall by a flagged passage. This west room itself was floored with flagstones and had two small possible cess pits recessed into the outer face of the west wall. None of the rooms in the service wing contained a hearth or oven, suggesting that the kitchen lay elsewhere. A structure with two ovens has recently been located in a separate range some 30m north of the main building and this may be a kitchen.

To the north of the service wing a dovecote 9m in diameter was constructed. This contained nesting boxes in its 1.3m thick walls spaced at 0.75m intervals.

The gap between the service wing and dovecote was eventually infilled with three other rooms.

#### PHASE 5

This phase of late 14th century date appears to post-date any use of the building as a manor, though it precedes the complete demolition of the buildings at the end of the century. The hall walls were rebuilt on the north and south sides and the central hearth was replaced by two hearths against the north and south walls around which a pitched stone floor was laid. A heavy concentration of iron slag associated with the hearths indicates a possible use as a smithy.

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A BODDINGTON  
Northants County Council

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A E BROWN