Archaeology in Northamptonshire 1982

ed A E BROWN

A survey of fieldwork and finds reported for 1982.

PREHISTORIC

Brafield (SP 81905813). Gold stater of Cunobelin, Mack type 208, found December 1982 by R F J Kings, in Northampton Museum (P.2.1983)

Hackleton (SP 812515). Area of black soil, stones and Iron Age sherds found September 1982 by R Hollowell, reported to Northampton Museum.

Little Houghton, Coneygree (SP 811598). The Celtic coin noted last year *(Northamptonshire Archaeol,* 17, 1982, 100) was identified at the British Museum by Dr J P C Kent as being of Cunobelin, Mack type 246. Its exact weight is 1.63g.

W R G MOORE, Northampton Museum

Orton Longueville, Barrow 1 (TL 16259696) and Barrow 2 (TL 16419700). Work, begun in 1979, on two mounds at Orton Meadows, Orton Longueville, Peterborough was completed in 1982. The work was undertaken by the Nene Valley Research Committee, initially with the support of the Department of the Environment and finally using members of a Community Enterprise Programme scheme, and was directed by F E O'Neill. One mound, (OLB 2), proved to have a complex development starting in Neolithic times and finishing in the Bronze Age. The provisional development of the site is as follows.

The first period seems to have consisted of a set of natural features, perhaps trees and shrubs, associated with some human activity, represented by an ox shoulder-blade fragment in what seems to have been a dug feature.

The second period was the creation of the ditched enclosure which ran north-east/south-west. The north-east end was open and there was a narrow causeway at the other. Down the centre ran a weathered linear feature incorporating stonework used perhaps with turves to form a kind of boundary or lining structure. At the south-west end was a small group of stones, one of which may have acted as a marker, behind which were two Neolithic round-bottomed bowls similar to two bowls found at Broome Heath, Norfolk. Another stone to the south-west again may have been another marker, while a posthole to one side may have been a third. Within the linear feature was the flexed skeleton of an infant, the bones being in an advanced state of decay, and elsewhere in the feature occurred other human bones, some of which may have been incorporated into the initial construction of the feature.

The last phase of this period was the deliberate levelling of the site and the back-filling of the ditches to form a flattened mound or platform, apparently bounded by the outer edges of the original ditches.

The main activity of the next period (3) was the creation of a second linear zone of burials parallel with the first but lying to the south-east.

Initially the basic line of activity was set out with a large 'D'-shaped hole at each end. Running from the north-east side of the more northerly of the two settings were two slots which could be described as defining a kind of porch. The initial large settings were later replaced by smaller ones, but were probably related to the same kind of activity.

There was then a radical change in that a linear trench was part dug and part constructed through the remains of the previous phases, but on the same alignment. A linear grave was built and the edges were lined with stone fragments sharply inclined outwards and forming a revetment. The tips of the stones forming this were weathered and there were also the remains of a simple stone facade. In the trench were the remains of an articulated skeleton which had been badly disturbed by burials of period 5 and which seems to have been associated with displaced human material at each end of the grave, as well as a round-bottomed Neolithic bowl similar to the two found in the second phase. All these remains seem to have been covered by a bed of unweathered rag-stone fragments and it may be that the lined trench was back-filled fairly quickly.

To the north-east of the facade were traces of a metalled pathway coming from the north-east.

Some 3m east of the linear trench was a pit, apparently carefully placed outside the mound material. It was oval in shape, with near-vertical sides and a flat bottom, and contained a small collared urn and also the remains of a small child — one to two years of age. Although a search was made for further burials of this type, none was found.

In a phase which might be intermediate between 3 and 4 or mark the inception of 4, a small stone cairn was built around the facade of 3 and over the pathway. When the mound of Period 4 was built around the cairn, a depression was left around the top of the cairn which was itself only completely sealed by the developed top-

soils and the alluvium which sealed in the whole site. The cairn was weathered over its outer surface. It is possible that, as the nearest reasonable source for the rag-stone was some 400m away, the robbing which had been noted as having occurred to the revetment and features of 3 was for the purpose of building the cairn. Away to the west, and cutting the natural was a burial, the skeleton of which was well-preserved and laid out on a stone bed which filled a slot slightly eccentric with the large round pit in which it lay. It was aligned with the burials of Period 2, but, because of the stone, is perhaps more properly associated with the Period 3 burial trench.

At some point after the cairn was built and possibly after the burial described had become relatively old, a polygonal ditch was dug around the developed earthen platform. Its causewayed entrance accommodated the route formerly marked by the pathway leading to the facade. The spoil from the ditch formed a new platform which filled the enclosure. There may have been an internal bank, but this cannot be proved.

A collection of features (Period 5) post-date the creation of the final mound of the previous stage and consist of five burials, a pit with a large markerstone, two postholes, and three Bronze Age pots, each apparently separately buried and not reasonably associated with any single burial.

The two postholes straddle the line of the path from the causeway and front the pit with the marker stone in it. The stone may have acted as a focus for the five burials and for the deposition of the pots, but there was no direct association between the three events, ie, the posts, the pit, and the rest. There is no guarantee that, apart from the posts, these were placed inside an enclosure defined by bank and ditch, and all of them may date to some time after the suppositious bank had been eliminated by being pushed over the silted up ditch.

There was some evidence that the posts had been removed forcibly and it might be that this event immediately preceded the creation of the pit with the markerstone. The burials were clustered to the south and west of the stone which might itself have been the foot of a stele.

What does seem to be clear from the excavation is that the elements forming the sequence did not follow hard on each other's heels and that there were periods when the monument became weathered to a degree that some form of reconstitution seems to have been thought desirable.

Ultimately, however, the site was abandoned and, when excavated, was found to lie in the south-east corner of a major enclosure at present only defined by two ditches joining in a right angle. There is no independent dating for the ditches save that some flints and sherds of relatively indeterminate Neolithic/Bronze Age pottery were recovered from their fill. The enclosure could be regarded as impeding free access from the direction in which the pathway and causeway point and this could be regarded as being later than the use of the site.

The other mound (OLB 1) was simpler in its development and was built on a small knoll in the natural gravel of some .2m to .3m elevation.

Only one burial pre-dating the mound has been found and, as it lies near the estimated centre of the uneroded mound, it may be counted as being primary. The body seems to have been partially cremated leaving many large fragments of the skeleton intact to be gathered together and heaped in the middle of some form of wooden container. There appear to be no grave goods. Other features found under the mound may have been created in association with the pyre. A number of pit/depressions, especially F13, F20 and F21, have been excavated. None had any evidence for burials or any structure. The largest, F21, was 1.4m deep, and had an inverted-bell profile some 2m in diameter at the top due to erosion of the sides before it was sealed. All were sealed beneath the mound and, as there was a marked lack of evidence as to their function, it is possible that many, if not all, may have resulted from animal or plant disturbance. However, at the top of F20 and cutting into its fill, was a posthole-like depression containing burnt stones in an ashy deposit. A patch of similar material was found a few metres to the south of the same feature. Both are reminiscent of relatively informal hearths and are possibly connected with the presumed pyre for the primary burial.

The earthen mound itself seems to have been made up almost entirely from dumped topsoil and was generally 0.45m thick. There is a possibility that there had been a turf stack but soil samples have yet to be processed. The ditch around the mound is not quite circular and its internal diameter was approximately 30m. It had been eroded on the south-west side by an old course of the River Nene. The dimensions of the ditch are not uniform and vary between 2.3m and 3.5m in width and 0.8m and 1.4m in depth.

All burials other than that already discussed were inserted into the mound and five have been found, the only dating evidence for them being Beaker pottery. Once abandoned, the mound remained completely untouched until taken over by rabbits as a warren, a factor which prejudiced the excavation.

Orton Wistow Enclosure 1 (TL 14669668) and **Orton Wistow** Enclosure 2 (TL 14549661). In 1982 two indeterminate cropmark sites were investigated by the Nene Valley Research Committee at Orton Wistow, south-west of Peterborough. The work was directed by C J S Rollo and J R Perrin and used members of a Community Enterprise Programme scheme. One enclosure (OWE 1) proved to be late Iron Age/early Roman, with

no evidence for recuts and no evidence for internal features, and cut into cornbrash. The other (OWE 2) started out as a Late Pre-Roman Iron Age enclosure, again with no evidence for recuts, which had been deliberately backfilled and was partly overlaid by an early Roman ditch system. No evidence was found for internal features.

D F MACKRETH, Nene Valley Research Committee

Thurning (TL 08438272). Gold stater of Tasciovanus, Mack type 184, found September 1982 by R G H Brice and subsequently sold. Colour photographs given to Northampton Museum (D.230.1982). W R G MOORE

See also in the Medieval section: Brackley.

ROMAN

Braunston (SP 54766529). Roman bronze brooch with pierced catchplate, Collingwood's group E, with pin and spring missing, found August 1982 by M F Turner. Given to Northampton Museum (D.189.1982.1).

W R G MOORE

Castor, Old Rectory (TL 12539856) and 'Elmlea' (TL 12469858). In 1982 the NVRC carried out excavations at 'Elmlea', Castor under the direction of C J S Rollo and using members of a Community Enterprise Programme scheme. The work was designed to clarify parts of the plan at the west end of the north range of the great building under Castor village. What appears to be the western extremity was located and proved to be a small room 6m x 6m externally, attached to but not opening into the large wing projecting from the top terrace along the side of the first terrace. Lying further south-east, what may well be the main west wall of the north range was located and this demonstrated the complexity of the structural arrangements. To the south-west the wall carried on down to an unknown depth and had been free-built and clearly formed either a cell in the foundation structure of the top terrace or, more probably, a store room connecting through to the front face of the top terrace and belonging to the series published by Artis. On the north-west side of the wall a badly preserved floor was found suggesting an additional room and the wall itself had a pilaster some 1.84m long and projecting *c* 0.35m, the wall being 0.85m wide. No clear dating evidence was recovered for the construction of the building, but earlier work suggests a date of *c* 300. On present evidence, the maximum length of the building on the top terrace is 122m and the approximate dimension from the face of the first terrace to the rear of the north range is 76m.

Also found was another cess pit of probable Middle Saxon date. The evidence for date comes from the material accumulated in the developed sag over the main fill of the pit which contained Ipswich ware, Maxey Group III pots and other pottery of the same horizon, as well as two pieces of what appears to be early Stamford ware, which suggests that the pit had passed out of use in Middle Saxon times and the developing sag had been filled, perhaps in the 9th/early 10th century, largely with materials surviving from earlier times. Approximately one quarter of the pit was present; it had been dug down through the natural and lined with a stiff clay. At one end and braced against the lining was a post and this is taken to have been on the centre line and to have been part of the seating arrangements. The pit would have been approximately 2.8m by 1.6m.

The digging of a service trench through the Scheduled Monument area at the Old Rectory, Castor found the continuation of a ditch of probable Middle Saxon date which had been located further north-west under the north corner of the recent remodelled house called 'Elmlea'. The ditch would be straight and parallel with the north range on the top terrace of the very large Roman structure known in the area.

A gold and silver pin was recovered from 19th century backfill and its form suggests a Middle Saxon date: the overall length of the object was 52mm, the head was made of gold in the form of a cube and on each of the five exposed faces was gold granulation arranged in a pyramid with three at the base and one on top. The shank was silver and displayed a slight hipped profile and had lost its point. D F MACKRETH

Daventry (SP 574622). Sestertius of Antoninus Pius (138-61), rev Salus, found 1980 by G Buck in garden of Reckfield, London Road, seen at Northampton Museum.

Gayton (SP 714539, 715539). A survey of this known site of a Roman building was carried out during 1980-81 by R F J Kings using a metal detector. The finds, seen and listed at Northampton Museum, include: eleven coins of later 3rd and 4th century date; a bronze brooch with the bow expanded into a lozenge-shaped plate with insets for two triangular pieces of enamel, probably 2nd century; a brooch fragment of Collingwood's group E, 1st century; a bronze finger ring and a perforated lead disc.

Gayton (SP 712549, 713549). Finds made by R F J Kings at this Roman site during 1980-81 and seen at Northampton Museum include a bronze coin of Constantius II, 341-6 issue, and an annular bead of greenish glass, diameter 18mm, Guido's group 6 (iia).

Islip (SP 993799). Antoninianus of Probus (276-82) found 1979 by N T Howe, seen at Northampton Museum.

Little Houghton, Rainbows Rood (SP 812596). Roman bronze brooch with longitudinal decoration on upper half of bow and a catchplate with a single, large, triangular perforation. The pin is missing. Found September 1982 by R Hollowell and at present on loan to Northampton Museum.

Little Houghton, Rainbows Rood (SP 812596). Finds made by I M Hawkins, January 1982, while using a metal detector were seen at Northampton Museum. They include a denarius of Marcus Aurelius, 169-70 issue, a bronze coin of Vespasian (69-79), and seventeen bronze coins of third and fourth century date mostly in poor condition.

Northampton (SP 78886217). Roman bronze coin, obv URBS ROMA, rev she wolf and twins, 330-41 issue, found July 1982 by Mrs E E Clarke. Given to Northampton Museum (D.229.1982).

Northampton (SP 731605). Roman bronze coin, 3rd century antoninianus found 1981 by L D Wright when digging allotment just south of Weedon Road. Given to Northampton Museum. (D.184.1982).

Northampton (SP 736607). Bronze coin of Constans, *LRBC,* I, 142, 341-6 issue, found by W Harshaw in garden of 5 Abbots Way, seen at Northampton Museum.

Norton (SP 60676541). Three Roman bronze items, found August 1982 by J Hepton when using a metal detector, were seen at Northampton Museum. They were a finger ring, a seal box with enamelled lid and a second century headstud brooch.

Paulerspury, Heathencote (SP 70704744 to 70834762). A survey of this area by R F J Kings and J Wedgbrow using metal detectors was carried out between December 1981 and April 1982. The 160 metal objects found were seen at Northampton Museum. Some of the more significant finds are as follows: a small square stud of Roman date with insets for enamel; bronze coin of Carausius (287-93) from SP 70774746; bronze coin of Constantius II, 341-6 issue, from SP 70774752; bronze trumpet brooch, Collingwood's group R(ii), first half of second century, from SP 70814742, given to Northampton Museum (D.231.1982); six Medieval silver pennies of the period 12th-14th century; Medieval rectangular belt plate, decorated in relief; various Medieval and later metal objects.

Titchmarsh (TL 005794). Some 20 objects were found at this Roman site in September 1981 by J Wedgbrow and Miss G Cameron while using metal detectors. The miscellaneous collection of finds, seen at Northampton Museum, include a biconical steelyard weight of lead, part of a bronze finger ring, a plano-convex counter, and various unidentified and post-medieval items.

Titchmarsh (TL 005794). A large collection of 112 bronze coins from this Roman site found 1978-81 by N T Howe while using a metal detector were recorded at Northampton Museum. In brief, the coins are as follows: 4 of the 2nd century — Antoninus Pius, Faustina Junior, two of Commodus; 18 radiates of the mid to late 3rd century; 51 of 4th century date, the latest being one of Arcadius (383-408); and a further 39 illegible coins of third and 4th century date.

Wilby (SP 858675 approx). Roman biconical steelyard weight of lead found March 1982 by W Shovlin, seen at Northampton Museum. W R G MOORE

See also in the Prehistoric section: Orton Waterville.

MIGRATION AND EARLY MEDIEVAL

Brafield (SP 81925797). Anglo-Saxon silver sceat, pierced for suspension, found September 1982 by J Wedgbrow and recorded at Northampton Museum. The coin, BMC type 2a, was made *c* 690-725; however the perforation indicates recovery and loss at some subsequent period. W R G MOORE

Brixworth, All Saints church. Excavation commenced at the church in September 1981 as a result of a scheme to improve the drainage on the north side of the church. An existing drain was to be renewed and this required the digging of a trench along the north side of the choir and nave and around the west end tower and turret. This allowed an opportunity for the exposure and recording of the foundations of the church and porticus chambers together with associated stratification. Under the general guidance of the Brixworth Archaeology Research Committee, the Archaeology Unit, with grants from British Academy and Society of Antiquaries, also excavated two porticus chambers and examined the junction of the porticus chambers and narthex at the west end of the church.

The nave and porticus foundations consisted of a matrix of ironstone rubble in lime mortar in an almost vertical sided construction trench. The material appeared to have been laid either in a near liquid state or rammed. Opposite the stone bonding in the north face of the piers, foundations of a composition almost identical to that of the nave were exposed, the first indications of the character of the porticus foundations. At the west end, however, the turret could be seen to be resting on a massive square platform of coarse limestone blocks, including a section of pitched stonework. There seems a strong likelihood that the porticus chambers were built at the same time as the nave and that the present recesses for window openings between the piers on the north side have resulted from the widening of smaller openings in the wall.

The second stage of the excavation involved the two easternmost porticus being opened almost simultaneously. The foundations observed to be of the same form and consistency as the foundations of the nave, comprising roughly coursed ironstone rubble set in soft lime mortar. Thin horizontal layers of silt in this rubble fabric attest to construction being in stages. Where wall courses survived they consisted of a core of rubble embedded in lime mortar faced on both external and internal sides with horizontal courses of rough hewn

stone. Despite disturbance by grave digging and other previous excavations, courses of walling remained standing. Remains of a mortar layer were found, and were thought to be part of a floor make up. Within the chambers there were at least ten burials, orientated east-west; several appeared to have cut the mortar level associated with the flooring. Although it is difficult to argue on stratigraphic grounds for graves in either porticus having been contemporary with the use of the structures, the extent of re-use of graves suggested that the grave locations had been marked accurately on the surface.

At the west end of the church the opening of a further trench was to confirm the relationship between the narthex and the porticus chambers and to establish whether any structures extended west of the narthex. This had been suggested on the south side in the course of the drainage trench where a westerly extension had been observed. Substantial fragments of Roman masonry were found in the construction of the porticus chambers. The foundations, again a matrix of ironstone embedded in mortar, widened and deepened towards the west, due to construction of the narthex over the fill of a large, deep ditch. The date of the ditch and its back-filling remain uncertain.

It appears that the construction of the church, comprising nave, choir, porticus chambers and narthex, was conceived as a single building project. Confirmation of this will rely upon analysis of the mortars which were recovered in considerable quantity from various parts of the building. Carbon samples retrieved from the mortar also offer potential, following carbon 14 dating, as reliable indicators of the date of this construction. Burials from graves within the porticus chambers are also being submitted for carbon 14 dating.

Northamptonshire County Council Archaeology Unit

Irthlingborough (SP 95097059). Iron spearhead found September 1982 by M Gardner in clay dredged from the River Nene. The spearhead, length 164mm, has a split socket and a baluster moulded junction between blade and socket. The British Museum confirmed that the spearhead is of late Saxon type and approximately 9th-11th century in date. The spearhead is at present on loan to Northampton Museum. (W R G MOORE TL 19399877).

Peterborough, monastic precincts boundary. During the winter of 1981/2 the Nene Valley Research Committee carried out an excavation in advance of the construction of a car park behind Peterscourt in City Road, Peterborough; two trenches being laid out against the only exposed section of the western half of the Precinct boundary. The work was directed by C J S Rollo using members of a Community Enterprise Programme scheme. The objective of the excavation was to establish, if possible, the initial date of the boundary which was thought to have been laid out in conjunction with the new town planned in the middle of the twelfth century.

Most of the volume of the excavation was taken up by a pond which appeared to have been in existence from at least the twelfth century to perhaps the end of the eighteenth century. No evidence was found for a ditch associated with the present wall, but, under the edge of the pond and lying to the north of the current boundary wall, the robbed-out remains of a thick stone and mortar wall were found. The wall had been at least 2.35m in width and seems to have been set into the front of a pre-existing bank. Its demolition is at present assessed as having been no later than 1200. Its construction date is more problematical. A small but valuable group of pottery was found beneath the surviving foundations of the wall, which could suit the earliest possible period, but there is no guarantee that the pottery is properly representative of the time when the wall was built. Using the limited historical information available for Peterborough, only three periods suggest themselves as being appropriate for the building of what was clearly a major defensive wall.

The first is during the abbacy of Kenulf (992-1005/6), the second is during the troubles at the beginning of the reign of the first Norman abbot, Thorold (1069-1098), and the third is during the twelfth century Anarchy when Martin de Bec was abbot (1133-55). The siting of the earth and timber castle in Peterborough, the upstanding remains of which now lie at the end of the Dean's garden, may well condition the choice of the probable period. Geophysical survey traverses of the Dean's garden produced fairly good evidence for the line of the bank and wall and this shows that the castle lay outside and to the north of the walled enclosure. The castle is traditionally that put up by Thorold and serviced by some of the 60 knights that William required him to *enfeof.* The seeming incompatibility of an earthen castle with a masonry wall suggests that Thorold should be discounted as the builder. Similarly, if the wall belonged to de Bec, it would seem a little incongruous for it to have been demolished so soon, or for the earthen castle of an earlier time to have been allowed to remain outside. If the castle belongs to de Bec the use of stone for the wall and earth for the castle, a smaller work, seems a little incongrous.

The best candidate for having built the wall is Abbot Kenulf who is actually credited with having been the first to have put a wall around the monastery, which wall was instrumental, according to the sources, in changing the name of the monastery from Medeshamstede to Burh (Anglo-Saxon Chronicle. E, *sub anno* 963). D F MACKRETH

Raunds, Brick Kiln Road (SP 999733). Rescue excavation of five years' duration came to an end during August, 1982. An area exceeding 8,000 sq m has been excavated in detail with settlement dating from the

Middle Saxon period to the 15th century being recorded. A post excavation programme is now well under way (excavation summary forthcoming in *Medieval Archaeol*).

The earliest features recorded are provisionally dated to the 7th century and comprised a number of shallow pits and depressions amongst which were two possible sunken featured structures. These were superseded by three timber structures of posthole and post in trench construction, the largest of which measured *c* 19m by 6.8m. These were in turn replaced by at least four timber structures placed within a rectangular ditched enclosure, over 1,100 sq m in area, and with entrances across its north and south sides.

During the Late Saxon period an aisled timber hall was constructed and is believed to be contemporary with a stone church and a cemetery set to its east. The cemetery probably continued in use until the 12th century though the duration of use for the timber hall is less certain. A stone and timber manor house constructed during the 12th century replaced the timber hall, though built in the same place and same alignment as its predecessor. It continued in use, though with modification of its plan, until the early 14th century when it was demolished and replaced by a stone manor house set some 30m further east. This structure was in turn abandoned, probably during the 15th century.

Other features excavated included quarry pits, manorial outbuildings and most notable of all, a complex ditched boundary network, the latter serving both to delimit the late Saxon and Medieval settlement from the surrounding land units as well as providing sub-divisions within the settlement area. G CADMAN

Northamptonshire County Council Archaeology Unit

Raunds, Burystead (TL 00087319). In advance of development, an area some 400 sq m was excavated immediately to the north of the Burystead Manor site (TL 000731) revealing a series of ditches and gullies, ranging in date from the 7th to the late 11th centuries AD. A post-built structure, some 10m by 5.6m, dated to 750-850 AD on the evidence of pottery found in the postholes, was also revealed. A clue as to its possible function may be obtained from the presence of crucible fragments with bronze slag in one of the postholes.

S A POWER

Northamptonshire County Council Archaeology Unit

See also in the Roman section: Castor.

MEDIEVAL

Brackley, Castle Lane (SP 583364). Excavations continued until August 1982 in the area to the east of Castle Hill, Brackley, formerly described as Castle Close but renamed Castle Lane once the course of this medieval thoroughfare was determined. The excavations, which preceded the development of the area for light industry, were funded by the Department of the Environment and the Manpower Services Commission.

The primary aim of the excavations was to locate and examine several medieval tenements, described in 13th century documentary sources for the Hospital of St John in Brackley. It was also hoped that the excavations would provide information about the origins of the new town of Brackley, at one time the wealthiest town in the county after Northampton, and yet distinct from the older settlement centred on St Peter's church.

The earliest material recovered by the excavations were the bare outlines of mid to late 1st millennium BC occupation, represented by shallow ditches, gullies and pits with associated Iron Age pottery. There was then no settled occupation on the site until the medieval period which is represented by two main phases of building, first in timber to which no firm date has yet been assigned and later in limestone, dated to the 12th/13th centuries.

A row of seven tenements was defined to the south of Castle Lane in association with the second phase of building; five had a uniform width of 8.3m (27ft 6in). Two tenements (Nos 5 and 6) each incorporated a stone building, measuring 8.25m x 5m, with a frontage on to Castle Lane and foundation walls intact on three sides, as well as pits and a garden area to the rear. Tenements 3 and 4 each contained a free-standing stone cellar, perhaps for the storage of wool. The larger of these measured 6.2m x 3.9m x 1.1m. Little else survived in the way of major structural evidence but clear boundary alignments were noted between the tenements.

The relationship of the documented and excavated landholdings to the castle was determined in part by the excavation of the castle moat and one of its fishponds. Both were out of use by the time of the later phase of settlement along Castle Lane. It is possible that further work between Castle Hill and Castle Lane will be practicable before construction of the Brackley bypass.

The settlement around Castle Lane appears to have declined by the end of the 13th century. There is no obvious reason for the desertion of the site and the concentration of settlement further up the hill in Brackley but the answer may be found in changes of ownership of the tenements.

It is hoped that the Archaeology Unit will undertake further work at threatened sites in Brackley in 1983-84, in the vicinity of St James' Chapel to the east of the Castle Lane excavations, around St Peter's church and at a vacant site in the High Street. All of these sites should provide further evidence for the origins of Brackley. R BARCHAM

Northamptonshire County Council Archaeology Unit

Boughton, Green (SP 76346552). A small worn silver coin found July 1982 by I M Hawkins was identified at the British Museum as a soldino of Michele Steno of Venice (1400-13). Photograph at Northampton

Museum. This type of coin was introduced into England as a result of trade with the cities of northern Italy.

Braunston (SP 54766523). Medieval bronze chape, decorated with radial lines and two heart-shaped perforations, found August 1982 by M F Turner. Given to Northampton Museum. (D.189.1982.2).

Fawsley (SP 566568 area). Several medieval sherds found 1980-82 by C W Eaton given to Northampton Museum. (D.188.1982).

Northampton (SP 75126056). Medieval papal bulla of lead found January 1982 by J Chapman in soil near Berkeley House. Photograph in Northampton Museum.

W R G MOORE

Peterborough, monastic grange (TL 20029844). Excavations were carried out by the Nene Valley Research Committee in 1982 in advance of roadworks at the site of a monastic grange later occupied by the Peterborough Fever Hospital. The work was directed by F E O'Neill using members of a Community Enterprise Programme scheme. The site had been badly mauled in the 19th century and the intention was to recover organic samples from the moats and dating evidence for the construction of the site in order to improve the knowledge of the ecology of the Fen edge in the Middle Ages. Of the western ditches, the outer one was dry and the earliest dating evidence was 16th century, while for the inner ditch the backfill was largely 19th century and the organic deposits beneath contained no satisfactory dating evidence. The north ditch had a more complex history and owing to vandalism and water problems could not be completely excavated. The moat interior was shown to have been extensively remodelled in the late 19th century covering over a pond, also of the 19th century, which had cut into the moat proper and from which a range of organic samples were taken but for which there was next to no dating evidence. What there was suggested that the latest date for the deposits was 13th century.

Peterborough, cathedral cloisters. In 1982, the Nene Valley Research Committee, with the kind permission of the Dean and Chapter, reopened the excavations made in 1894 in the north-east corner of the cloisters. The work was directed by C J S Rollo using members of a Community Enterprise Programme scheme. The walls recorded by J T Irvine were uncovered and, because of their alignment with the walls of the monastic church burnt in 1116 and found when the central tower of the present Cathedral was rebuilt, were clearly part of the central elements of the same church. The main elements uncovered consisted of a south wall 0.77m wide sitting on foundations 1.43m wide, consisting of well-mortared and apparently coursed rag masonry; an east-wall approximately 0.9m wide with foundations 1.9m wide, if the offset to the east is the same as that to the west. There was no quoin at the south-east corner but an expansion of the masonry inbuilt with the previous two walls, giving an offset to the south of *c* 0.5m. This part of the plan runs on under the present sacristy west wall and nothing more is known of it.

Inside the building was a topsoil disturbed by only one feature with no traces of any flooring above. Outside the building a mixed cemetery had developed and was of more than one generation before a north-south foundation trench was cut into it for a wall running south from the primary building. The bottom level of the foundation trench rises towards the south and the trench had died away before any definite termination had been reached. The only other possible structural feature was that cut into the topsoil inside what must be regarded as being the primary building on the site and this consisted of a foundation 2.3m long by 0.7m wide running from the south-east internal quoin along the east wall and terminating in a western projection approximately 0.75m in diameter. The present sacristy wall is built over the west wall of Irvine's south 'transeptal' element and the north end of his building was found *c* 4.1m from the external south face of the primary building. The later work had been robbed out beyond this point in the 1140's. No direct link between the walls inside the cloister and Irvine's building has been found and recent examination of the walls exposed under the cathedral has shown that the generally accepted transeptal plan for this building cannot be upheld. The relationship between the two parts is highly complex and this is illustrated by the detail that the known floor level of the building found by Irvine is not less than 0.25m lower than the lowest possible floor inside the building found in the cloisters. The sequence of 12th century work on the site had been deduced and it is clear that the fire of 1116 may have seriously damaged the monastic church but that only the eastern end was pulled down in preparation for the present building, and that the body of the church lying largely within the cloisters was used until 1140 when the monks were conducted into their new presbytery. The whole of the present church is on an artificial platform and the first 12th century work found within the present excavation was a revetment wall for this which almost certainly ran up to the south wall of a *porticus* attached to the temporarily patched church, which itself was only demolished after 1140 when work continued on the crossing area of the new church and on the closing wall of the cloister on the north. It was not until the last two decades of the 12th century that the present sacristy was built with a chamfered plinth at the 12th century cloister floor level. The cloisters were completely remodelled in the 15th century and the floor was lowered by approximately 100mm.

D F MACKRETH

See also in the Roman section: Paulerspury: in the Migration and early Medieval section: Raunds, Brick Kiln Road.

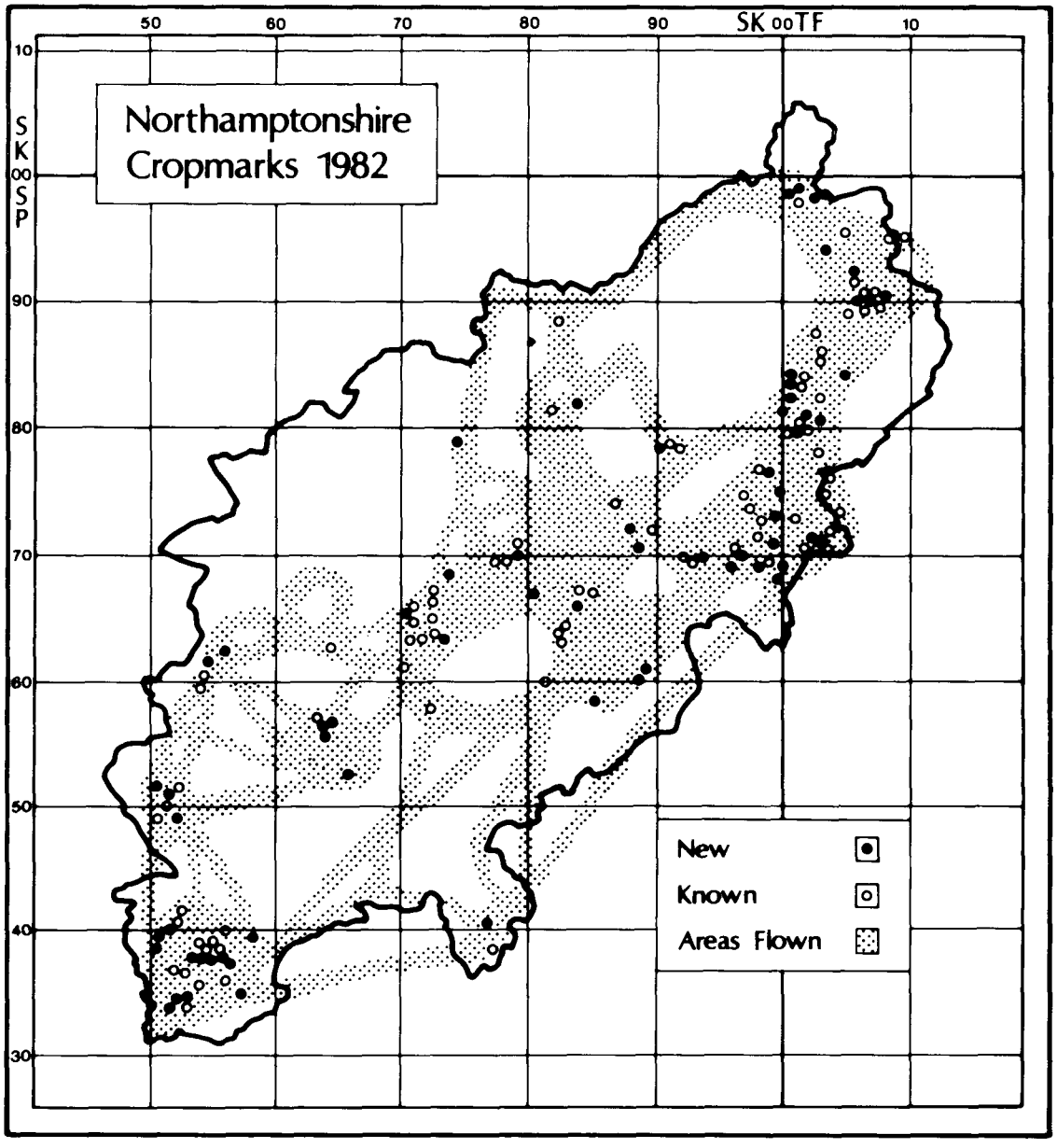
Northamptonshire
Cropmarks 1982
SK 00 TF
SK 00 SP
50
60
70
80
90
10
New
Known
Areas Flown

Fig 1

AERIAL PHOTOGRAPHY

A total of 21 hours was spent in reconnaissance and recording during the 1982 season, and a total of 146 cropmarks were recorded. These comprised 93 sites which were previously known, 16 of which produced significant new information, and 53 sites newly discovered of which only five were represented by minor ditches. Weather conditions early in the season were particularly promising, a long dry spell having significant effects on crop growth. Geological marks, generally recognised as the precursors of archaeological cropmarks, began to appear by early May. By the end of the month a great deal of geological detail was visible, accompanied by a number of archaeological cropmarks in winter barley, produced by both height differentials and more unusually by the differential timing of the inversion of the ears of barley. The latter was very shortlived and difficult to photograph as angle in relation to the sun was particularly critical, although the detail seen in these marks was considerable. More easily recorded were the dark green tonal and height marks seen in some winter wheat. Heavy rain in early June resulted in the disappearance of many marks, distinct cropmarks surviving almost solely in winter barley which was sufficiently advanced for the differential to be retained during colour change, which began by 9th June. The colour change was well advanced by the 16th June but lodging produced additional problems. Few cropmarks remained in winter wheat. The concentration of the cropmarks on shallow, permeable subsoils was particularly clear by early July when winter barley had fully ripened, winter wheat had begun to ripen, and the first faint cropmarks were appearing in spring cereals. Although heavy rain during July was expected to remove any chance of further important cropmarks appearing, flights on the 11th and 12th August recorded a considerable number of sites immediately before harvesting, despite the full ripening of the crop.

Differential weather effects were apparent in the distribution of cropmarks recorded in 1982, most notably in the absence of evidence from the Welland Valley and to a lesser extent from the Upper Nene Valley, but geological factors as usual were dominant (FIG 1). The main concentrations lay on limestone/ marl and ironstone in the south west of the county, on limestone, ironstone and gravel in the middle Nene Valley, and to a lesser extent north-west and east of Northampton. The only exceptional grouping was that in the south-east of the county (TL 0070) where ten sites were recorded on boulder clay. It would appear likely that the latter area comprises of a very gravelly boulder clay rather than the more normal heavier clay which produces few cropmarks in anything other than the very driest summers. The low number of sites recorded on gravels is also worthy of note.

Although the season was short, the absence of a major concentration of cropmark development at any time within the season, together with the concentration of sites at any one time which required considerable reconnaissance to identify, led to a far lower number of sites being recorded for the time spent airborne than might otherwise be expected. Despite these limitations the season's work was valuable in continuing the process of gradual accretion of information, which in some areas is leading to the slow combination of settlement, religious, field system and related evidence to produce a more continuous picture of sections of earlier landscapes.

TABLE 1

Number of sites of all types recorded as cropmarks in 1982

	Known	*New*	*New on Known*	*Total*
Limestone	28	10	5	43
Sand and Ironstone	24	17	6	47
Boulder Clay	5	6	0	11
Gravels	10	9	3	22
Marl	4	2	0	6
Other/uncertain	6	9	2	17
Total	77	53	16	146

CROPMARKS 1982

Key: L = Limestone; I = Ironstone; G = Gravel; BC = Boulder Clay; M = Marl; O = ?????

NORTHANTS: new sites

Grid Reference	*Parish*	*Description*	*Geology*
TL 001984	Kings Cliffe	ring ditch	L
TL 008988	Kings Cliffe	rectangular enclosures	L
TL 004836	Wadenhoe	circular double ditched enclosure, circular enclosure, rectangular enclosure and associated ditches; pit alignments?	L
TL 005823	Aldwincle	indistinct ditches, rectangular enclosures? early/middle Saxon settlement	G
TL 008795	Titchmarsh	junction of two Roman roads with Gartree Road	G
TL 006794	Titchmarsh	Roman town	G
TL 018808	Raunds	ring ditch	G
TL 018807	Raunds	two parallel ditches(?)	G
TL 012801	Raunds	enclosures, ditches	L
TL 029985	Kings Cliffe	two parallel ditches	L
TL 025806	Thorpe Achurch	stone aisled building (and adjacent buildings(?) and faint, associated enclosures and road	O
TL 025704	Hargrave	part of two rectangular enclosures?	BC
TL 021704	Hargrave	linear grouping of conjoined rectangular enclosures	BC
TL 045837	Barnwell	enclosure (ring ditch?)	I
TL 057900	Tansor	rectangular enclosure	G
TL 053921	Tansor	enclosure, rectilinear field system (?)	G
TL 064907	Tansor	two parallel ditches	G
TL 062908	Tansor	two parallel ditches with associated ditches at right angles	G
TL 075901	Tansor	ditch, ring ditch	I
SP 991744	Ringstead	complex of conjoined rectangular enclosures	BC
SP 997690	Chelveston	ditches running at right angles (may be modern)	BC
SP 990674	Chelveston	conjoined enclosures	BC
SP 985763	Denford	enclosures, ditches	I
SP 990732	Raunds	pit alignment	L
SP 986709	Raunds	pit alignment	L
SP 976686	Higham	enclosure, ring ditch	BC
SP 962703	Chelveston	ring ditch	G
SP 956691	Higham	ring ditch?	I
SP 955690	Higham	rectilinear ditches? (possibly associated with Roman settlement and road)	I
SP 931692	Irthlingborough	two parallel ditches	I
SP 903784	Cranford	conjoined rectangular enclosures	L
SP 884704	Great Harrowden	enclosure?	L
SP 889605	Grendon	enclosure?	
SP 884599	Grendon	enclosure	
SP 876720	Little Harrowden	enclosures, ditches	L
SP 850579	Castle Ashby	ditches, enclosures?	
SP 837653	Mears Ashby	ring ditch	I

SP 839822	Rushton	pit alignment	I
SP 800667	Overstone	double ring ditch	I
SP 801668	Overstone	ring of pits and associated traces of round barrows	I
SP 790699	Holcot	enclosure, ditch	G
SP 766403	Deanshanger	pit alignment	L
SP 742791	Kelmarsh	ditches?	I
SP 735682	Brixworth	double ditched rectangular enclosure	I
SP 727631	Northampton	large multiple ditched rectangular enclosure	I
SP 706651	Harlestone	ditches, pits, ring of ditches	I
SP 654525	Cold Higham	enclosure, pits, ring ditch	I
SP 639564	Stowe Nine Churches	complex	I
SP 638560	Stowe Nine Churches	enclosures	I
SP 635560	Stowe Nine Churches	enclosures	I
SP 544618	Staverton	five single, one double ring ditch and group of 40 pits	
SP 552366	Hinton	enclosure	
SP 555370	Hinton	ring ditch, enclosure, pits, field system?	
SP 554622	Daventry	enclosure?	
SP 569346	Evenley	enclosure?	
SP 573392	Brackley	enclosures, pits	
SP 540374	Farthinghoe	two parallel ditches	L
SP 542377	Farthinghoe	extension of field system	L
SP 534377	Farthinghoe	ditches	L
SP 521340	Aynho	enclosure — part, ring ditch?	L
SP 528343	Aynho	ditches, rectangular enclosure — part	L
SP 517501	Chipping Warden	faint ditches	I
SP 519488	Chipping Warden	two parallel ditches becoming three parallel with associated large circular enclosure	I
SP 511483	Chipping Warden	indistinct marks possibly of Roman roads with large settlement	O
SP 516396	Kings Sutton	enclosure	M
SP 512338	Kings Sutton	enclosure(s), pits	I
SP 502516	Aston le Walls	two parallel ditches(?)	I
SP 500385	Kings Sutton	ring ditch?	M
SP 499341	Kings Sutton	enclosures	G

NORTHANTS: known sites

TL 004980	Kings Cliffe	ring ditch	L
TL 005835	Wadenhoe	pit alignment	L
TL 009837	Wadenhoe	enclosure, linear ditches	L
TL 009726	Raunds	enclosures	
TL 014798	Raunds	pit alignment, enclosure etc	L
TL 017703	Hargrave	rectangular enclosure	BC
TL 031985	Kings Cliffe	two parallel ditches (deer park boundary)	L
TL 024872	Oundle	two parallel ditches, enclosure	L
TL 029856	Stoke Doyle	ditches	L
TL 029849	Pilton	enclosure	L
TL 027824	Thorpe Achurch	complex	L
TL 022782	Thrapston	complex	L
TL 032721	Hargrave	ring, enclosures	BC
TL 048955	Woodnewton	rectangular enclosure	L
TL 047893	Ashton	Roman town — faint	G
TL 048917	Warmington	ditch	L
TL 053917	Tansor	two parallel ditches	G
TL 062917	Warmington	ring ditch	

TL 068901	Tansor	complex	G
TL 064896	Tansor	complex	L
TL 060897	Tansor	complex	G
TL 072939	Fotheringhay	ditch	G
SP 997812	Aldwincle	enclosure	BC
SP 980729	Raunds	double ring ditch	I
SP 983693	Chelveston	enclosures, pits	L
SP 974715	Raunds	faint ditches	L
SP 964742	Little Addington	villa	O
SP 968735	Little Addington	enclosure ditch	O
SP 961705	Raunds	double ring ditch	G
SP 928692	Wellingborough	two parallel ditches, ditches (possibly modern or Roman road	I
SP 924693	Wellingborough	double ditched rectangular enclosure	I
SP 903784	Cranford	enclosure	L
SP 875718	Cranford	two parallel ditches	I
SP 867737	Cranford	ring ditches, enclosures, pit alignments	L
SP 849661	Mears Ashby	enclosures	I
SP 834666	Mears Ashby	enclosure	I
SP 825884	Wilbarston	ditches	I
SP 820817	Rothwell	ring ditch	I
SP 824638	Ecton	ditches	I
SP 823634	Ecton	enclosure	I
SP 823642	Ecton	two parallel ditches	I
SP 814599	Little Houghton	enclosure, ditches	L
SP 902780	Cranford	linear ditch, enclosure (modern?)	L
SP 894720	Little Harrowden	pit alignment	G
SP 784692	Moulton	enclosures, ring	G
SP 789707	Holcot	ditches, enclosures	I
SP 770377	Wicken	ring ditch	G
SP 776690	Moulton	ring ditches, ditches	G
SP 722573	Rothersthorpe	enclosure	BC
SP 724634	Northampton	pit alignment	I
SP 729646	Chapel Brampton	complex	I
SP 725658	Chapel Brampton	complex	I
SP 725668	Chapel Brampton	faint ditches	I
SP 714633	Harlestone	ditch	I
SP 710643	Harlestone	ditches	I
SP 711651	Harlestone	complex	I
SP 702613	Harpole	enclosure?	I
SP 709630	Harlestone	pit alignment?	I
SP 641628	Brockhall	enclosure	O
SP 633564	Stowe Nine Churches	two parallel ditches	I
SP 556355	Evenley	enclosure, ring ditch	
SP 540601	Staverton	enclosure	
SP 544395	Farthinghoe	enclosure	
SP 546383	Farthinghoe	ditches	
SP 544374	Farthinghoe	two parallel ditches	L
SP 542379	Farthinghoe	two parallel ditches and associated field system	L
SP 539598	Staverton	enclosure	M
SP 537383	Farthinghoe	pits	L
SP 534353	Newbottle	ditches	L
SP 520514	Woodford-cum-Membris	enclosures	I
SP 525415	Thenford	ditches associated with villa	M
SP 522406	Middleton Cheney	two parallel ditches, enclosure, ring ditch	O
SP 523362	Newbottle	double ditched rectangular enclosure — part	L

SP 523342	Aynho	faint enclosure	L
SP 517491	Chipping Warden	two parallel ditches	I
SP 519365	Newbottle	ditch	L
SP 501483	Chipping Warden	Medieval moat	
SP 506390	Kings Sutton	ring, ditches	M

SOILMARKS 1982

NORTHANTS: new sites

SP 997914	Southwick	stone area: Roman building and dark soil
SP 925952	Harringworth	linear ditches?
SP 943972	Harringworth	linear ditch
SP 990996-SK 988001	Duddington	linear bank — Roman road??
SP 960971-SP 969975	Laxton/Fineshade	linear bank — Roman road??
TL 004953	Southwick	linear ditch
SP 914832	Brigstock	enclosures? ditches
SP 915835	Brigstock	enclosures? ditches
SP 970873	Benefield	enclosures?
SP 933837	Brigstock	enclosures?
SP 974933	Bulwick	ditches?
SP 922800	Grafton Underwood	stone area — house sites?
SP 935821	Brigstock	ditches
SP 914827	Brigstock	'ring ditch'
SP 923827	Brigstock	enclosure, ditches
SP 929837	Brigstock	(enclosures?) ditches
SP 628633	Norton	Muscott DMV — soil marks of close boundaries etc

EARTHWORKS 1982

NORTHANTS: new sites

SP 955916	Deenethorpe	hollow way/banked closes
SP 920801	Grafton Underwood	Post-medieval garden? earthworks
SP 944831	Brigstock	fishponds, ditches — Medieval hunting lodge?

CROPMARKS 1982

NON-NORTHANTS

TL 026745	Bythorn and Keystone (Cambs)	enclosure and other indistinct features
TL 029759	Bythorn and Keystone (Cambs)	ditch?
TL 021699	Dean and Shelton (Beds)	indistinct ring ditch (?), rectangular enclosure and linear marks
TL 030700	Dean and Shelton (Beds)	linear grouping of small and large rectangular enclosures and associated ditches
TL 039731	Bythorn and Keystone (Cambs)	indistinct rectilinear enclosure with possible subdivisions
TL 092946	Elton (Cambs)	pit alignment and appended enclosure
TL 089946	Elton (Cambs)	ditches

G FOARD and D RICHARDSON