

Archaeology in Northamptonshire 1990

eds

E C MUSGRAVE and M TINGLE

Reports and discoveries of fieldwork in the county during 1990 have been received as follows. Notes from Northampton Museum were kindly supplied by M A Curteis and W R G Moore. Northampton Museum = N.M.

PREHISTORIC

Ayno, M40 motorway extension 1988 (SP 502332). An early Neolithic pit and four undated post holes were revealed on a ridge of marlstone bedrock.

D A JACKSON for NCC ARCHAEOLOGICAL UNIT

Bradfield, Oxpath (SP 81955808). Bronze Celtic coin of Tasciovanus, Mack 179, found September 1985 by R F J Kings. (N.M. E 0387).

Chapel Brampton (centred on SP 730650). An archaeological survey was carried out in 1988 on the site of a proposed new golf course. The bedrock over much of the area consists of Northampton Sand and Ironstone and aerial photography has shown that early settlement was extensive on these light soils. The complex of ring ditches and enclosures recorded from the air appear to date mainly from the prehistoric period, but trial trenching has shown that the area has been deeply ploughed and only features cut into the bedrock may survive.

D A JACKSON for NCC ARCHAEOLOGICAL UNIT

Cosgrove (SP 79654177). Middle Bronze Age palstave without a loop, the butt missing, found 1990 by M Hunt. Information sent to N.M. by R J Williams.

Deanshanger, Briary Wood (SP 729420). Celtic Bronze coin of Cunobelin, Mack 244, found March 1988 by R F J Kings. Note in N.M.

Denford, FINA pipeline (Area of SP 98857650). Survey and excavation along the pipeline corridor located ditch alignments, of probable Iron Age date, as well as a number of post holes. Some of the ditches had been recorded previously from the air and are part of a cropmark complex extending to the west. The site lies on ground sloping north towards the River Nene, and re-cut enclosure ditches were located only 50 m from the river itself.

D A JACKSON

Ditchford (area of SP 922682). Pits and ditches of

Iron Age and Roman date were revealed during gravel quarrying in 1987. An exceptionally deep ditch, dating to the late Iron Age may have been part of a defensive enclosure. The site is situated c. 1 mile NNE of the Roman town at Irchester.

D A JACKSON

Flore (SP 647560041). Celtic gold coin of Tasciovanus, Mack 184, VA 1780-5, found November 1989 by M S Tee in the garden of 39 Kings Lane. (N.M. E 0701).

Great Harrowden (area of SP 830707). Iron Age ditches were recorded to the south of Great Harrowden village during a road improvement scheme. The ditches are part of an extensive cropmark complex extending to the west.

D A JACKSON

Higham Ferrers (SP 950688). Three conjoining sherds from the rim and upper body of a Neolithic Mortlake bowl found July 1974 or shortly before, at a gravel pit "near Higham Ferrers". Passed to N.M. in 1987. The NGR above is for the gravel pit near Higham Wharf which was active in 1974.

Hinton In The Hedges (SP 57063706). Partly ground Neolithic flint axe found by J A Possinger in October 1990. (N.M. E 0128).

Irchester (SP 937649). Mesolithic tranchet axe/adze head (L 121 mm) manufactured from poor quality light grey flint. Found by Mark Richardson in November 1990 along the stream edge at Saxby's Farm. (N.M. E 0145).

Irthlingborough (SP 96327133). Flint leaf-shaped arrowhead found c. 1984 by R Michael. Seen N.M. in 1987.

Kislingbury (SP 70345817). Bronze Age looped palstave found February 1989 by R Derby, with a metal detector. Seen at N.M. (E 0662) and subsequently purchased.

Kislingbury (SP 70345817). Silver Celtic coin of Cunobelin, Mack 240, found February 1989 by D Derby. (N.M. E 0663).

Litchborough (SP 63495416). Polished flint axe, length 116 mm (originally c. 125 mm) found January 1990 on allotments by W J Jones (N.M. E 0664).

Little Houghton, Rainbow's Rood (SP 812604). Flint barbed and tanged arrowhead, Late Neolithic/Early Bronze Age, found September 1984 by I M Hawkins. (N.M. E 0386).

Little Houghton, Pylon Field (SP 814602). Forty prehistoric struck flints found August–September 1984 by I M Hawkins. (N.M. E 0386).

Little Houghton, Pylon Field (SP 814602). Bronze Celtic coin of Addedomaros, Mack 274, found September 1984 by I M Hawkins. (N.M. E 0386).

Marston St Lawrence (SP 546427). Some of the many prehistoric flints found in field 121 by D J Barrett were seen January 1989 at N.M.

Maidford (SP 606514). Several worked flints found November 1988.

Moulton (SP 78956674). Flint plano-convex knife, Neolithic/Bronze Age found 1979 and given to museum by I R Wagstaff. (N.M. E 0487).

Northampton, Grange Wood (SP 741575). A large shallow pit dating to the early Bronze Age (2000–1500 BC) was revealed on a housing development in Northampton Southern District. The bowl-shaped pit was 2.5 to 3 metres in diameter and up to 0.35 metres deep into the bedrock, and contained charcoal in addition to a small amount of pottery.

D A JACKSON for NCC ARCHAEOLOGICAL UNIT

Northampton, Hunsbury Hillfort (SP 735583). A new section was cut across the internal bank at Hunsbury in 1988, in order to ascertain its nature and the need to consider protection. The trench was sited on the north-west side of the defences, at a point where the bank is seriously eroding into an interior lowered by 19th century Ironstone quarrying. The excavation confirmed that at this point the rampart survives to a height of 1.75 m and that the earlier rampart was a timber-laced box structure, which at some stage had been burnt in an intense fire (see also *South Midlands Archaeology*, 19, (1989), 27).

Calibrated radio-carbon dates from burnt wood and charcoal, from within the rampart, have now been received and these provide a date curve for the box structure of between 770 and 395 BC. This suggests that, despite the later date of most of the pottery from the interior, the first phase of construction was as early, or perhaps earlier, than previously conjectured.

D A JACKSON for NCC ARCHAEOLOGICAL UNIT

Northampton, Southern District. A number of Iron Age and Anglo-Saxon sites were located on the Hunsbury ridge in the late 1980s during housing and other development. All the sites were situated on a bedrock of Northampton Sand and Ironstone and the occurrence of iron slag was common (report forthcoming). Little archaeological work was possible and in hindsight the possibility to understand the settlement and activity around the important hillfort was not taken.

Blacky More (SP 757568). Shallow pits filled with slag and burnt clay were exposed in a new road cutting and a few small sherds of Anglo-Saxon pottery were found on their surface. An inhumation burial was found near the slag patches and apparently in isolation. It was unaccompanied and lay face down in a shallow grave.

Hobby Close (SP 74655763). Shallow? quarry pits of Iron Age date were noted in foundation trenches and some slag was found in association with these. A nearby ditch contained Anglo-Saxon pottery and slag in its upper filling.

Rowtree Road (SP 75535642). Ditches were noted during soil stripping for a new roadway and undated features were noted in house foundations nearby. A few fragments of Iron Age pottery were found in the top of the ditches.

Summerfield (SP 733585). Iron Age pits and ditches were recorded during housing development, as well as a few features of Anglo-Saxon date. The remains of a small iron-working shaft furnace, dating to the Anglo-Saxon period, is of particular interest.

Wooten Hill Farm (SP 738578). Soil clearance during housing development revealed post holes and other features dating to the Anglo-Saxon period. The site is adjacent to an Iron Age defended enclosure excavated in 1986. (*Northamptonshire Archaeology*, 22, (1988–9)).

D A JACKSON

Old Stratford, Windmill Field (SP 777400). Celtic silver coin of Tasciovanus, VA 1800–1, found in 1987 by A Smith and given to N.M.

Paulerspury, Park Farm II (SP 71104458). Celtic Bronze coin of Cunobelin, Mack 248, found December 1986 by R F J Kings. Note in N.M.

Potterspury, Redmoor Copse (SP 747425). Small fragment of bronze, perhaps from the tip of a Bronze Age weapon found January 1989 by R F J Kings. Note in N.M.

Pytchley (SP 849738). Rounded flint scraper found 1984 by E R Kendrick. Given to N.M. (D. 123.1987).

Rothersthorpe (SP 72495736). Middle Iron Age features were revealed during the construction of a new motorway junction, 15A. The site has been recorded from the air and is situated on low-lying ground some 1 mile south-west of the Hunsbury

hillfort (*South Midlands Archaeology*, 20, (1990), 41-2).

D A JACKSON

Towcester (SP 68924953). Gold stater of Andoco, VA 1860-1, found December 1987 by D A Snow. Seen at N.M.

Upton (SP 72316009). Tip of a Bronze Age pointed weapon (Type uncertain) found April 1989 by B E Ives. (N.M. E 0665).

Weedon Bec (SP 61925891). Middle Bronze Age side-looped spearhead, length 191 mm, found c. 1984 by K J Tomalin. It was discovered when cleaning out a roadside ditch on the north side of Queen Street, Upper Weedon. (N.M. E 0622).

Weekley (SP 884819). Celtic Bronze uninscribed coin of the Corieltauvi found in 1989 by R F J Kings. Note in N.M.

Wellingborough, Stanwell Spinney (SP 870694). A middle Iron Age settlement was partially excavated during the construction of the Wellingborough north-west bypass in 1987. The excavated features include a small D-shaped enclosure and 37 pits, as well as the complex gateway to a defensive enclosure. A report of the excavation is published in *Midland Prehistory*, (B.A.R. Series 204, 1989).

D A JACKSON for NCC ARCHAEOLOGICAL UNIT

Wollaston, (SP 89256410). Pits and ditches dating to the late pre-Belgic Iron Age were recorded prior to gravel quarrying. The settlement was situated on a raised sandy ridge within the alluvial floodplain.

D A JACKSON for NCC ARCHAEOLOGICAL UNIT

Woodford, FINA pipeline (SP 98687736). An Iron Age pit was located at this point during survey work.

D A JACKSON

Yardley Gobion (SP 77094440). A watching brief was carried out during the construction of the bypass in 1987. A small early Iron Age pit was revealed in a new drainage ditch by the Potterspury turn and a deep ditch (probably dating to the late Iron Age/early Roman period) crossed the new carriageway just east of Manor Farm. Other features revealed near Potterspury turn were probably features of stone quarries of Medieval date.

D A JACKSON for NCC ARCHAEOLOGICAL UNIT

ROMAN

Ayno, M40 motorway extension 1988 (SP 505318). The new carriageway skirted a Roman site situated on low-lying ground by the Northamptonshire-Oxfordshire border. Related ditches were exposed and included one example containing a quantity of Anglo-Saxon pottery in its upper filling. Sherds of 14

separate vessels, which can be attributed to the late 5th or 6th centuries, came from the ditch or adjacent area.

D A JACKSON for NCC ARCHAEOLOGICAL UNIT

Brackley, (SP 57213781). Trumpet brooch, 2nd century, found by J A Possinger in October 1990. (N.M. E 0128).

Brackley, (SP 57393772). Denarius of Nerva (RIC 19) found by J A Possinger in September 1990. (M.M. E 0128).

Brackley, (SP 579374 approx.). Two Roman coins and possible Roman sherds found February-March 1989 by J A Possinger at Pavion Way. Reported by the finder.

Brafield, Brafield Close (SP 82315843). Denarius of Trajan, issue of 98-99, and bronze dolphin brooch, both found January 1987 by J L Care (N.M. ENQ 0477).

Brafield, Oxpath (SP 819580). Two Roman 4th century coins and a small lead weight found September 1985 by R F J Kings (N.M. ENQ 0387).

Brafield, Springbanks (SP 82725991). Bronze dolphin brooch found c. 1984 by J L Care (N.M. ENQ 0477).

Brigstock (SP 961858). The Roman bronze votive figure of a horseman and a miniature axe published by Hazel Wheeler (*Ant J.* LXI, (1981), 309-11) were sold at Christie's on 28th April 1987 (Sale ANT 2186). They were acquired by the British Museum.

Bulwick, FINA pipeline (SP 96549509). Roman pottery, stone rubble and much dark soil were revealed when the topsoil was stripped near the bottom of a hill slope, just north of the Willow Brook. Most of the pipeline corridor was subsequently covered over and protected and no stone walls were revealed. A ditch system had been previously recorded from the air but the site was undated. Much of the pottery found along the pipeline is colour-coated and dates to the later Roman period.

D A JACKSON

Chapel Brampton (SP 73136465). A Roman pottery kiln dating to the late 1st or 2nd century AD was located at this point by geophysics. There was no evidence of Roman settlement in the area of the survey.

D A JACKSON for NCC ARCHAEOLOGICAL UNIT

Cosgrove (SP 795420). Roman brooch, disc shaped with remains of green 'glass' centre boss, found 1989 by M Hunt and given to N.M.

Cottesbrooke (SP 69917549). Finds made December 1988 by R F J Kings include 21 Roman coins from

?Hadrian and Antoninus Pius to mid 4th century. Notes in N.M.

Deanshanger, Briary Wood (SP 729420). Total of 14 coins dating from Salonina to Theodosius (VICTORIA AVGGG) with the exception of a very worn denarius of Mark Antony, part of a base of a Samian dish and a segment of a copper alloy bracelet with scroll decoration found by R Kings between October 1989 and January 1990. (N.M. E 0067).

Deanshanger, Briary Wood (SP 729420). Finds made 1987–9 by R F J Kings include 88 Roman coins, one 2nd century (Antoninus Pius), the remainder 3rd and 4th century down to Gratian. Other finds include parts of 9 Roman brooches, a button-and-loop fastener and an upper quernstone of Hertfordshire puddingstone. A limestone scatter was seen along the edge of the wood. Notes in N.M.

Deenethorpe, FINA pipeline (SP 97109124). Pits and ditches of the late Iron Age or Roman period were revealed over a distance of 160 metres along the pipeline corridor. The pottery suggests there was activity on the site in the late Iron Age/early Roman period, but later, colour-coated wares were also present. One early pit contained a quantity of slag. The site is on Boulder Clay.

D A JACKSON

Deenethorpe, FINA pipeline (SP 97249124). Two ditches of probable Roman date were revealed in the side of the pipeline trench.

D A JACKSON

Denton, Mere Barn (SP 831580). Roman coin, 4th century, found c. 1985 by R F J Kings. Note in N.M.

Farthinghoe, Coldharbour (SP 528383). Finds made 1988–9 by R F J Kings include 36 Roman coins. Mostly 4th century to House of Valentinian, though including a Republican denarius. Notes in N.M.

Fineshade, FINA pipeline (SP 96809766). Roman features were revealed along the pipeline corridor some 250 m NNW of the major iron-working complex found during roadworks in 1985 (*Britannia*, XIX, 1988). The features include a pottery kiln and the foundations of a small aisled barn (see p 84 above).

D A JACKSON

Flore (SP 64875990). Fine example of a Roman trumpet brooch, 2nd century, found April 1987 by M E Tee when using a small metal detector close to a footpath. (N.M. ENQ 0489).

Fotheringhay (TL 07719413). Hoard of 45 Roman denarii found October 1988 by J C Green with a metal detector. The coins were found in an area 'about 3 m by 17 m'. Seen at N.M. (ENQ 0657) and at the British Museum. The coins range in date from

Domitian, BMC 164, struck in AD 90 to Marcus Aurelius, BMC 406, struck in 166. The coins were declared Treasure Trove at an inquest held at Kettering on 11 May 1989. Apart from 3 coins retained by the British Museum, the hoard was returned to the finder.

Grendon (SP 87716034). Roman coin, 4th century, Urbs Roma, wolf and twins type. Found July 1988 by G Moore-Thompson.

Hackleton, Brafield Stadium (SP 81735629). Sester-tius of Julia Mamaea, issue of 226, found November 1986 by J L Care. (N.M. ENQ 0477).

Harlestone (SP 69716395). From the south bank of a stream, a rectangular strap ornament of Roman date was found October 1986 by D R Lofts. (N.M. ENQ 0446).

Harpole (SP 683599). Five objects found c. 1985 by J Evans and K Davis include part of a Roman silver spoon and a Roman brooch. Notes in N.M.

Litchborough (SP 62995413). Coin of Constantius II as Caesar, rev GLORIA EXERCITVS (RIC 7 RM 352). Found September 1990 by E D George in garden of Home Farmhouse. (N.M. E 0141).

Little Houghton, NE half of Field 111 (SP 812604). Five Roman coins, a Roman brooch and part of another, bronze casket key, found August–September 1984 by I M Hawkins with a metal detector. (N.M. E 0386).

Little Houghton, Coneygree, Field 115 (SP 811598). Collection of 34 Roman bronze coins, mostly 3rd–4th century though including a coin of Nero and a few metal objects, found August–September 1984 by I M Hawkins. (N.M. E 0386).

Little Houghton, Pylon Field, Fields 112, 105 (SP 814602). Collection of 45 Roman coins, three 1st–2nd century, the remainder 3rd–4th and a number of Roman Medieval and later objects including a Roman button-and-loop fastener and three brooch fragments. Finds made August–September 1984 by I M Hawkins. (N.M. E 0386).

Little Houghton, Rainbows Rood (SP 81175969). Antoninianus of Gordian III (238–44) found October 1986 by J L Care. (N.M. ENQ 0477).

Little Houghton, Rainbows Rood, Fields 116, 117 (SP 8127596). Collection of 24 Roman coins, nearly all 3rd–4th century, found August–September 1984 by I M Hawkins. (N.M. E 0386).

Little Houghton, Ringshedges (SP 812582). Two Roman 4th century coins found c. 1985 by R F J Kings. Note in N.M.

Maidford (SP 609519). Roman grey ware found December 1988.

R. HOLLOWELL

Moulton (SP 78256621). Worn coin of Claudius I found 1977 by J Bland behind buildings in Cross Street. Seen at N.M. (E 0008).

Northampton (SP 734607). Roman coin of Victorinus (268–70) found August 1988 by R Morrison in the garden of 17 Peverels Way. Seen at N.M., then given (ENQ 0513).

Northampton (SP 735608). Coin of Crispus, RIC 291, issued 323–4. Found April 1989 by D H Hamilton in the back garden of 150 Weedon Road. Seen at N.M. (ENQ 0135).

Northampton (SP 7564 approx.). Two Roman 3rd century coins found 1988 in a garden at Obelisk Rise. Seen at N.M. (ENQ 0752).

Northampton (SP 811621). Two poorly preserved Roman coins, probably 4th century. Found 1986 in a garden at 25 Hanemill Court. Seen at N.M. (ENQ 0567).

Old Stratford, Windmill Field (SP 777400). From a site marked by a stone scatter, a large and important collection of Roman coins and metal objects was found during the period 1986–1990, by Mr A Smith using a metal detector. Virtually all finds have been passed to N.M. A catalogue of 1419 Roman coins has been compiled by M Curteis. The coins range from Claudius I to the House of Theodosius, issue of 388–402. The metal finds include a few miniature votive objects.

Overstone (SP 797657). Four Roman coins, 2nd to 4th century, found 1984–8 by J D'Arcy. Seen at N.M. (ENQ 0632).

Paulerspury (SP 714454 approx.). Five Roman bronze coins of 4th century date found c. 1984. Seen at N.M. (ENQ 0651).

Paulerspury, Luddell (SP 713461). Finds made 1986–7 by R F J Kings include 11 Roman coins, 2nd to 4th century, an Anglo-Saxon roundel of 7th–8th century and a zoomorphic mount of 12th century date. Several inhumations and a Roman pottery scatter revealed by ploughing were found here in October 1986. Notes in N.M.

Paulerspury, Park Farm (SP 71154448). Six coins dating from Victorinus to Constantine I, rev VICTORIAE LAETAE PRINC PERP, found November 1989 and a denarius of Vespasian found December 1989 by R Kings. (N.M. E 0067).

Paulerspury, Park Farm Site I (SP 71154448). Finds made 1985–6 by R F J Kings include 34 Roman

coins, apart from a worn sestertius all 3rd to mid 4th century (Magnentius). Roman pottery and limestone scatter seen. Notes in N.M.

Paulerspury, Park Farm Site II (SP 71104458). Finds made 1985–6 by R F J Kings include 59 Roman coins, apart from a worn as and a coin of ?Antoninus Pius, all 3rd to later 4th century (House of Valentinian). Roman pottery and limestone scatter seen. Notes in N.M.

Potterspury, Redmoor Copse (SP 747425). Copper alloy phallic pendant and twelve coins dating from Tetricus I to the House of Valentinian, rev SECVRI-TAS REIPUBLICAE, including an aurelianus of Carus found November 1989 by R Kings. In October 1989 at the same site, C Dawson found 7 coins dating from an as of Vespasian to the House of Theodosius, rev VICTORIA AVGG. (N.M. E 0067).

Potterspury, Redmoor Copse (SP 747425). Finds made 1986–9 by R F J Kings include 145 Roman coins from Vespasian (denarius) and Hadrian (4 sestertii) to late 4th century. Other finds include a quernstone. An extensive limestone and pottery scatter was seen. Notes in N.M.

Preston Capes (SP 573549). In the field behind the church, Mr. C Camposano reported finding c. 40 Roman coins, metal objects and pottery during 1986. Further discoveries made July to December 1987 include a denarius of Elagabalus issued in 219 and 28 Roman bronze coins from Trajan to the House of Valentinian. (N.M. E 0610).

Preston Capes (SP 57525464). Four Roman 4th century coins, found March 1986 by C Camposano.

Preston Capes (SP 57435467). About 10 Roman coins found June 1986, reported by the finder C Camposano.

Raunds, FINA pipeline (TL 0098 SP 7277). Roman and late Iron Age pottery was found on the stripped surface and spoil heaps. A number of pits or ditches were exposed along the pipeline corridor but no archaeological work was possible.

D A JACKSON

Shutlanger (SP 72694983). Coin of Constans, LRBC II, 178–9, found March 1989 by L Carter at the Paddocks. Seen at N.M.

Titchmarsh (TL 005794). Fragment of a southern Spanish amphora with maker's stamp found 1989 by M J D'Arcy. Given to N.M. (ENQ 0599).

Towcester (SP 6849). Several Roman coins found 1987 by D A Snow during the construction of the new bypass. Seen at N.M.

Towcester (SP 6849). Sestertius of Marcus Aurelius,

BMC 1398, found July 1988 by W J Jones in topsoil from the site of a new building (Towcester Building Supplies Ltd) by the new A5/A43 roundabout. Coin seen at N.M. (ENQ 0128).

Upton (SP 720601-723602). Four Roman coins and a brooch fragment found March 1989 by E E Ives. Reported to N.M.

Weekley (SP 884819). Finds made February-April 1989 by R F J Kings include 3 Roman coins and some red tesserae. Notes in N.M.

Wellingborough (SP 924712). Roman bronze brooch with lozenge-shaped bow found November 1989 by J L H Bailey. Seen at N.M. (ENQ 0743).

West Haddon (SP 62937184). A very worn as of Antoninus Pius found October 1990 by J L Howard in a flower bed at side of road by Verwood House. (N.M. E 0133).

Whittlebury, The Gullet (SP 732445). Finds made 1984-8 by R F J Kings include N.M. ENQ 0373, 0387, 0403 and some briefly reported (*Northants. Archaeol.*, 20, (1985), 152). By 1988 some 105 Roman coins had been found, one Republican denarius, two 2nd century, the majority 3rd and 4th century down to Arcadius. Other finds include Samian sherds and a mortarium stamp of Similis identified by Kay Hartley. An area of dark soil and scatters of stone and pottery were seen. Notes and reports in N.M.

Whittlebury, The Gullet (SP 732445). Total of 16 coins dating from Tetricus I to House of Valentinian, rev SECURITAS REIPUBLICAE, and two fragments of a copper alloy bracelet, were found in October 1989 by R Kings. (N.M. E 0067).

MIGRATION AND EARLY MEDIEVAL

Ayno (SP 505318). See p 108 above.

Bozeat (SP 90645885). Anglo-Saxon brooch, small-long type, 6th century, found by S W Topham in the garden of 9 Wyman Close. (N.M. ENQ 0411, 1986), subsequently given to the museum.

Brackley, New bypass (SP 5937 approx.). Small bronze belt fitting with interlace ornament, about 9th-11th century, and a 3rd century Roman coin pierced for suspension found by J A Possinger (N.M. ENQ 0435, 0479).

Brixworth (SP 751699). Post holes of Anglo-Saxon date were recorded during the construction of the Brixworth bypass (*South Midlands Archaeology*, 20, (1990), 33). There are now plans to develop adjacent land to the west of the road. As a result an evaluation was carried out in 1990 for the developer and further post holes and other features, of

probable middle Saxon date, were revealed. The features extended for 60 metres west of the road but settlement does not appear to be extensive. Worked flints had been found during fieldwalking and a late Neolithic/Early Bronze Age pit was located during the evaluation.

D A JACKSON

Chapel Brampton (SP 72966507). A small quantity of Anglo-Saxon pottery was found during field walking and a sunken featured building of this period was located in a trial trench. Pottery from its filling has been dated to around the 6th century AD.

D A JACKSON for NCC ARCHAEOLOGICAL UNIT

Deanshanger (SP 729419). Silver penny of Eadger, reform portrait types, issued 973-5 from Northampton mint by Baldrick rev. + BALDRICK M-O HAMTU (BMC vi, North 752). Found January 1990 by J Gray (ENQ 0687). Given to N.M.

Kings Sutton, M40 motorway extension 1988 (SP 499345). Anglo-Saxon pottery and other occupation debris were found by a new drainage ditch on the east side of the carriageway. The pottery from the pit includes sherds from a cauldron and dates to the 6th or early 7th century. Several other features revealed nearby were undated.

D A JACKSON for NCC ARCHAEOLOGICAL UNIT

Northampton, Southern District. Several finds of Anglo-Saxon date were located and are described on p 107 above.

Northampton (SP 79746262). The construction of a new DIY store, Great Mills, involved the levelling of a large site bounded by Billing Brook Road on the west and by Wellingborough Road. In an area where about 0.5 m of soil was removed (now the car park at the front of the store), Anglo-Saxon finds were made by searchers with metal detectors in January 1987.

Objects found by Mr and Mrs G W Smith were given to N.M. They include 6 iron spearheads, a shield boss and bronze objects, notably fragments of one or two short-long brooches, a girdle-hanger, wrist-clasp, pin and other items. At least two more spear-heads were found by other searchers. No pottery or bones were seen. The finds seem to indicate the presence on the site of an Anglo-Saxon cemetery of about the 6th century.

Norton (SP 61916283). The known Anglo-Saxon burial site is probably the source of the three finds discovered in 1935 and now in Northampton Museum, a small-long brooch, a wrist clasp and a disc (P.6.1936). It has been stated that they were from a site further north at SP 61456377. A contemporary report, in the *Chronicle and Echo*, 10 December 1935, p.1, states that the discovery was made during road-widening about two miles north of Weedon, near to the entrance of Brockhall Park. Two human skeletons were also found at the side of

the Watling Street about 0.45 m below the ground surface.

Towcester (SP 688495). Part of an Anglo-Saxon small-long brooch found 1987 by D A Snow in a heap of soil scraped up just east of Watling Street during the construction of a new bypass. Seen at N.M.

Walgrave (SP 80497235). Anglo-Saxon cruciform brooch, Alberg group III, 6th century. Found 1988 in the wildlife garden at the rear of Walgrave Primary School. There is an element of uncertainty as to how the brooch came to be at this spot. The area produces much 19th century rubbish, marbles, thimbles etc., and was possibly a local dump. Seen at N.M. (ENQ 0541).

Wootton (SP 740581). Central part of an Anglo-Saxon bronze disc brooch, about 6th–7th century. Found November 1981 by D Smith with a metal detector and given to N.M.

Yardley Hastings (SP 86605719). Three black, gritty sherds of Early or Middle Saxon type found 1987 by J Ogilvie in the garden of 7 The Greenyards. (N.M. ENQ 0476).

MEDIEVAL

Brackley (SP 581374 approx.). Medieval seal matrix found December 1988 at Pavion Way. Reported by the finder, J Possinger, to N.M.

Bugbrooke (SP 6757 approx.). Medieval silver penny, short cross, class 5b (c. 1205–18), minted at Northampton (rev ADAM ON NORH). Found October 1987 by J Crust. (N.M. ENQ 0499).

Church Brampton (SP 710672 approx.). Medieval spindle-whorl of lead with zig-zag ornament in relief. Found summer 1986 by C Stevenson. Seen at N.M. 1988.

Fotheringhay, St Mary the Virgin and All Saints (TL 06009315). In December 1990, Mr M Lee discovered a hitherto unknown stone-vaulted chamber beneath the floor of the porch of the 15th century church. The chamber appears to have been partially filled in and blocked off at some time between 1800 and 1850. The soil and rubble fill contained a large amount of the original stained glass windows and lead cemes along with some stone architectural fragments, perhaps from an earlier church which existed on this site. A faculty has been granted and the Middle Nene Archaeological Group are to excavate at Easter 1992.

G JOHNSTONE

Geddington (SP 89258315). An archaeological inspection was made of the site of the new vicarage after initial stripping of the topsoil revealed a ditch

section containing medieval pottery. Subsequent visits revealed a three metre scatter of iron slag, much of it *in situ* and extending under the vicarage garden wall. To the west of the site was a hearth, 0.8 metres by 0.8 metres in area, consisting of large limestone slabs, adjoined by a shallow pit, 1.8 metres by 0.8 metres in area. The pit contained charcoal, slag, fragments of cut antler and shelly medieval pottery.

B BELLAMY

Geddington (SP 89608299). A site was levelled for houses at Chase Farm. An ashy selection was found in a cutting on the north side of the site, in association with shelly medieval wares. This was probably an oven or a kiln stoke pit.

Geddington (SP 89618307). In Magdalene Close, on the site of new house plots, an area of burnt clay and stone associated with shelly medieval wares was recorded. This was possibly the remains of an oven or kiln.

Hardingstone, Delapre Golf Course (SP 7659). Lead Shot, diameter 45 mm, weight 460 g (1 lb 0.5 oz), found in the late 1970s. Possibly connected with the battle of Northampton, 1460 at which a small cannon known as a Falcon which took a lead shot weighing 1 lb, may have been used. Given to N.M. (E 0604).

Hartwell (SP 788508). Medieval ampulla of lead with a scallop-shell motif on one side and a quartered circle on the other. Found August 1987 by A Hunter. (N.M. E 0495).

Higham Ferrers(?). Medieval seal matrix of lead alloy, round 28 mm diameter, obtained from an antique dealer in Higham Ferrers and presumed to be of local provenance. It has a crescent below a cross patonce and reads +S. IOHIS INSWELL. (N.M. E 0210).

Hinton in the Hedges (SP 57093701). Silver sceat of the London derived series, obv diademed bust with blundered legend, rev man standing holding two crosses, North 68, c. AD 740–50. Found by J A Possinger September 1990. (N.M. E 0128).

Northampton (SP 750580). Seal matrix of copper alloy, probably 14th century, found June 1989 by A. Hunter during the construction of the new Mereway Middle School, the centre of the round seal shows a squirrel. The legend reads *I CRAK NOTIS (I crack nuts). Seen at N.M. (ENQ 0664) and by John Cherry.

Old Stratford (SP 77894013). Seal matrix of lead, pointed oval in shape, found January 1988 by B Friess and given to N.M. Identified by John Cherry as 15th or early 16th century, probably owned by a cleric.

POST MEDIEVAL AND
MISCELLANEOUS

Brackley (SP 593386). Gold finger ring of excellent quality, 16th century. Found August 1989 by J A Possinger. Purchased by N.M. (1990.73).

Glaphorn, Biggin Bridge (TL08 00358985). The remains of the stone base of a bridge known as Biggin Bridge has been found in the banks of a stream at the western end of the parish. This bridge marks the route of a driftway mentioned in a terrier of 1635 (Bru. A.S.R. 562) and is shown on map of 1614 (N.R.O. Map 4526). Associated with the bridge are some bases of stone walls which may have been a building. This driftway, bridge and building had disappeared by 1820 when Enclosure took place.

G JOHNSTON and B BELLAMY