

remains uncertain. Often they are cited as evidence for increased population pressure and a growth in territorialism. Population growth during the later Iron Age was a common feature within the modern county of Lincolnshire (May 1984).

Up to fourteen major settlements, each with origins probably in the late second or first centuries BC have been identified within the tribal territory of the *Corieltaui*, with concentrations in the lower reaches of the upland Lincolnshire limestone and chalk wolds. Up to eight major late Iron Age settlements lie between the Humber and Thistleton, within the Jurassic uplands. In this same area there are large numbers of native or peasant-type enclosures, many of which may have their origins in the pre-conquest period. Two enclosures which were recently excavated in the parish of Hackthorn (Palmer-Brown and Field, unpublished) produced late Iron Age material and one appeared to lie adjacent to a more extensive settlement of unknown size.

Increasingly, fieldwork is verifying the significance attached to the limestone uplands as a settlement zone during the later Iron Age. This apparent geographical preference might explain the emergence of the triple linear ditch system, which appears to respect, in broad terms, the Jurassic Way, fluctuating between the 50m - 40m contour lines. Given that there is clear evidence to support the notion of widespread population growth during the later Iron Age over much of lowland England, we might envisage the triple ditch system as a further expression of territorialism, this time in the context of land management in an area which was clearly attractive to the economic and social base on which some late prehistoric communities depended.

It would be desirable to attach a firmer date to the foundation of these earthworks to determine whether or not they were constructed during the latest phases of the pre-Roman Iron Age, a time when large nucleated settlements like Dragonby, Old Sleaford and Lincoln make their first appearance in the archaeological record. With the Lincoln eastern bypass now at an advanced stage in the planning process, it may be possible to excavate further sections as the proposed route should intercept the ditches in the parish of Greetwell, south of the two sites already excavated. Renewed aerial reconnaissance might also add significantly to the existing landscape record.

REFERENCES

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RIBY CROSSROADS

Ken Steedman

Excavations were carried out in July 1991 by the Humberside Archaeology Unit in advance of the construction of a section of gas pipeline. A 300m length of the easement was examined in detail following stripping of topsoil.

Though virtually no features could be assigned a prehistoric date, fragments of worked flint, two Early Bronze Age beakers and quantities of Bronze Age or early Iron Age pottery were recovered either on the surface of the natural sand or residual in later features. Similarly, the small number of unstratified and residual Romano-British pottery sherds indicates some occupation in the vicinity during the second

and early third centuries, but there were no features which could safely be assigned to this period.

The bulk of the recorded features were remains of a substantial Middle Saxon rural settlement, with numerous field and enclosure ditches, and sparse elements of possible post-built and sunken-featured buildings. Although Early Saxon pottery was present in some quantities, it was almost invariably found in the company of later types. The settlement, or at least the part sampled, seems to have fallen out of use by the mid ninth century. Ditches were allowed to silt up, and all features became sealed beneath a layer of dark sand.

The site produced a large assemblage of finds including pottery, bone combs, metalwork (e.g. iron arrowheads, decorated pins and a large lead vessel) and animal bone.

A NOTE ON FINDS FROM AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION AT UFFINGTON, NEAR STAMFORD, LINCOLNSHIRE.

Steve Ford and Melanie Hall

An archaeological evaluation was carried out by Thames Valley Archaeological Services on the Uffington estate, Uffington, Stamford in advance of a proposed golf course development. The site lies just to the east of Stamford and includes part of the floodplain and valley side of the river Welland (TF 058073). The earliest deposits recovered were several hearths associated with backed blades and a small amount of other Mesolithic flintwork buried beneath 1.5m of alluvium on the Welland floodplain (TF 057071). Two flint scatters were also found during fieldwalking, one of which is tentatively of Mesolithic date (TF 057073).

A pit was located which contained a Grimston style bowl (TF 064072). This is treated more fully in a separate note (Timby and LaPuente, pp.66-68). A broken, large possible leaf-shaped arrowhead was also found during fieldwalking. A second flint scatter was located during fieldwalking (TF 051075), probably of later Neolithic or Bronze Age date. A broken reworked polished axe made of a non-local brown chert was also found. A few residual flakes and sherds of Neolithic/Bronze Age date were found in an isolated pit of late Iron Age/early Roman date (TF 058072).

In addition to this isolated pit, a major concentration of late Iron Age/early Roman date was found (TF 063072) and probably represents a ditched, enclosed settlement site. Several ditches were discovered elsewhere within the proposal area, some of which contained pottery of this date, but it is unclear if this is residual material.

An inhumation cemetery comprising at least three graves was found (TF 062072). Little dating evidence was recovered but a few sherds of late Iron Age or early medieval date came from the upper levels of one grave.

Three clusters of pottery were found during fieldwalking (TF 053074; TF 058076; TF 059076). Trenching in the vicinity of the latter cluster located several features of medieval date. Another pit of medieval date was located close to the site of the old manor house (TF 062075).

A large ditch, L-shaped in plan was observed close to the river Gwash (TF 049075). It was not further investigated. It may be a medieval moated site although the area around has seen considerable disturbance due to construction of the Welland canal. Some upstanding ridge and furrow and possible cultivation terraces (TF 057072) were also observed.

A full report of the evaluation is with the County Sites and Monuments Record.