

Lincolnshire History and Archaeology Vol. 28, 1993

Archaeological Notes

CITY AND COUNTY MUSEUM, LINCOLN, REPORTED FINDS 1992-1993

Janet Owen

A Neolithic polished stone axe was reported from Short Ferry.¹ Bronze Age socketed axes were found at Torksey² and Corringham.³ A socketed spearhead was also found at Torksey² and a basal looped spearhead at Rowston.⁴ Prehistoric flintwork was recorded from West Firsby,⁵ Stainfield (LCCM 18.92)⁶ and Cadeby (LCCM 19.92).⁷ Iron Age linch pins were found at Tattershall Thorpe (LCCM 23.92)⁸ and an Iron Age/Romano-British duck ring at Edlington.⁹

Several finds of Romano-British pottery were reported at Lincoln,⁹ West Firsby,⁴ Waddington,¹⁰ Ancaster¹¹ and Washingborough.¹² Coins were found at Lincoln,^{13,14} Branston,¹⁵ Washingborough¹⁶ and Marton.¹⁷ Other Roman small finds included a hairpin from Lincoln,⁹ brooches from Snarford⁴ and the Gainsborough area.¹⁸

The medieval period is represented by a number of pottery finds, from West Firsby,⁴ Snarford⁴ and Lincoln.⁹ A carinated rim sherd of a Teynton-All-Saints/Bolingbroke chafing dish was reported from Kirkstead.¹⁹ Silver hammered coinage was found at Boothby Pagnell,²⁰ Torksey² and Heighington.²¹ Other metalwork reported includes lead wool weights from Swineshead (LCCM 9.92)²² and Donington (LCCM 16.92),²³ a zoomorphic copper alloy ewer spout from Rowston (LCCM 15.92),²⁴ an early fourteenth century rowel spur from Quadring,²⁵ zoomorphic padlock cases from Woodhall Spa,²⁶ a lead spindle whorl from Potterhanworth²⁷ and a seal from Stow.²⁸

Post-medieval Old Bolingbroke pottery was reported from Martin,²⁹ Mumby³⁰ and Snarford.⁴ Henry VIII coinage was found at North Hykeham³¹ and Horncastle.³² An iron ferrule of a fifteenth/sixteenth century bone-handled knife was found at Lincoln.⁹ A collection of nineteenth century claypipes was recorded from Lincoln (LCCM 22.92).³³

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| 2. Mr Jobb | 19. Mr B. A. Gorman |
| 3. Mr D. Woodthorpe | 20. Mrs J. Smith |
| 4. Mr B. C. Andrews | 21. Mr K. C. Taylor |
| 5. Ms N. Field | 22. Mr A. Tyler |
| 6. Mr S. Catney | 23. Mr G. Line |
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| 8. Mr Woodward | 25. Mr S. J. Dalton |
| 9. Mr D. Graves | 26. Mr G. Neighbour |
| 10. Mr C. W. Webster | 27. Mr E. Harvey |
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| 14. Mrs Last | 31. Mr M. Dent |
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| 16. Mr D. Newton | 33. Mr J. J. Price |
| 17. Mr P. Richardson | |

ARCHAEOLOGICAL ARCHIVES OF RECENTLY EXCAVATED SITES DONATED TO CITY AND COUNTY MUSEUM 1992-1993

17.92 Uffington evaluation archive (Thames Valley Archaeological Services).

3.93 Rectory Farm, West Deeping evaluation archive (Tempus Reparatum).

City and County Museum is in the process of receiving archaeological archives excavated since the 1970s in Lincolnshire. A list of these will be published in due course.

UPPER PALAEOLITHIC KNIFE FROM FULLETTY

William Bee and Janet Owen

A flint blade tool was found during fieldwalking in 1988. The unifacially worked piece is complete with very little damage. The flint is mottled grey-brown in appearance with a heavy white patina.

The dorsal surface consists of two longitudinal shallow flake scars which form a longitudinal ridge running the full length of the piece. Both longitudinal edges of the blade have retouch. The steep oblique retouch along one edge forms the back of the knife. Retouch along the other edge is at a more acute angle (Fig. 1).



Fig. 1 Upper Palaeolithic flint knife, Fulletby, Lincolnshire (R. Cook).

The backed blade has been dated, on typological grounds, to the Late Upper Palaeolithic period, c.12500-10000 bp. Further prehistoric flintwork has been found in the area, but no other diagnostic artefacts of Upper Palaeolithic date. It is a rare find and no others of this date are known from Lincolnshire. Only a few have been found elsewhere in Britain, with perhaps the closest parallels being recovered from deposits above the Gipping flood plain terrace at Ipswich (Moir 1930).

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Our thanks go to Dr R. Jacobi (University of Nottingham) for his identification of the artefact. Any errors are our own.

REFERENCE

Moir, J. Reid, 1930. 'Ancient man in the Gipping-Orwell valley, Suffolk', *P.P.S.E.A.* 6, 182-225.

AN EARLY NEOLITHIC POT FROM UFFINGTON

J. R. Timby with P. LaPuente

An archaeological evaluation by Thames Valley Archaeological Services on the Uffington estate, Uffington, Stamford (TI 06412 07230) revealed a small pit (F19) containing the substantial part of a single vessel of Neolithic date (Hall and Ford 1992). The vessel comprised several rim

and bodysherds and was found in an inverted position. Consequently the base is missing, presumably destroyed by subsequent activity on the land. The sherds recovered were in a remarkably good state of preservation. The pit was circular in plan, 0.5m in diameter and 0.18m deep. Ten litres of the pit fill was examined for carbonised botanical remains by John Letts of the Environmental Unit, Oxford University Museum, but no material was recovered. No other finds came from the pit.

The vessel, a wide-mouthed bowl, diameter 430mm (c.66% of rim present) has a slightly irregular, simple S-shaped profile (Fig. 2). The interior surface has a smoothed finish with visible horizontal wipe marks. The exterior has a rough lumpy finish with coarser grits in the clay matrix standing proud. It is likely that the exterior has been deliberately roughened. The interior wall of the bowl just below the rim where the vessel walls have been shaped shows a line of finger indentations where the vessel walls have been drawn up to meet the rim. The exterior surface shows vertical finger smears, almost corrugations, where the vessel has been similarly drawn up. The walls are approximately 8 mm thick.

The clay matrix contains frequent coarse angular to sub-angular inclusions comprising granitically derived minerals. The grains range up to 2mm in size. Sparse organic inclusions are also macroscopically visible. A sherd was submitted for petrological analysis.

Petrological Analysis

P. LaPuente (Department Crystallography and Mineralogy, University of Zaragoza)

Microscopic examination revealed an anisotropic clay matrix containing abundant, coarse sized (mainly more than 2mm in diameter) sub-angular granitic rock fragments comprising biotite-granite and biotite-hornblende granodiorite. These were accompanied by abundant, medium sized (less than 1mm) sub-angular to sub-rounded quartz. Some of the grains exhibit fluid inclusions, concentrated in lines. This particular quartz usually derives from a source of low temperature origin, such as hydrothermal veins. It appears milky-white in hand specimen.

Other matrix constituents include a moderate frequency of coarse-medium sized, sub-angular alkali feldspar (orthoclase and plagioclase [albite-oligoclase]). Both feldspars contain fine-grained aggregates of sericite and clay minerals as products of alteration.

Also present in moderate to rare frequencies were fragments of sub-angular biotite (less than 6mm), sub-angular

amphibole (hornblende), sub-angular sub-rounded sandstone (quartz-arenites) composed almost entirely of quartz, with sutured crystal boundaries and undulose extinction as a result of strain; sub-angular sub-rounded silica fragments with a very fine-grained polycrystalline texture, possibly an acid volcanic rock fragment (tuff) or chert, and sub-rounded opaque minerals.

Discussion

The Uffington vessel is a large plain bowl belonging to what is traditionally referred to as the Grimston style of carinated bowl. The style appears to have had quite a long currency ranging from the later fourth to third millennium BC (cf. Hearne 1988 for a recent reinterpretation of the tradition and its chronology). Pottery in the Grimston series has been found in both specific depositional contexts with, presumably, a ritual connotation, and within mixed domestic assemblages from settlement sites (Hearne 1988, 14). The lack of any other contemporary associated material or features with the Uffington example may perhaps suggest the former context for this particular vessel. Similar examples of carinated bowls occurring as single finds in pits can be cited from Chippenham barrow 5, Cambridgeshire, at Layer de la Haye, Essex and Yeaveering, Northumberland (Hearne 1988, 16).

A particularly large assemblage of carinated and shouldered bowls, of broadly comparable type to the Uffington vessel, were excavated from the Neolithic settlement at Broome Heath, Ditchingham, Norfolk (Wainwright 1972). The same open S-shaped profile occurs within this essentially domestic group of wares. None of the Broome Heath bowls however, appear to share the same petrology as the Stamford example.

The petrology of the vessel indicates that it cannot have been produced locally and, therefore, represents an import to the site. The nearest potential source for the petrological component of the vessel is the large intrusive granite outcrop found at Mount Sorrel, Leicestershire, some 50km west of Stamford. Within this complex the most relevant may be Broad Hill which is composed of coarsely crystalline rocks of uniform texture which correspond to the biotite-granite component of the fabric. Nearby at Kinchley Hill, a different granitic outcrop, more basic than that at Broad Hill, contains abundant hornblende in addition to the biotite which corresponds most closely with the granite in the pottery fabric (Aveline and Howell 1860; Edmunds and Oakley 1947). There is, at present, no direct evidence for Neolithic pottery production in this locality and the suggestion that the Uffington vessel originated from here can only be regarded as provisional.

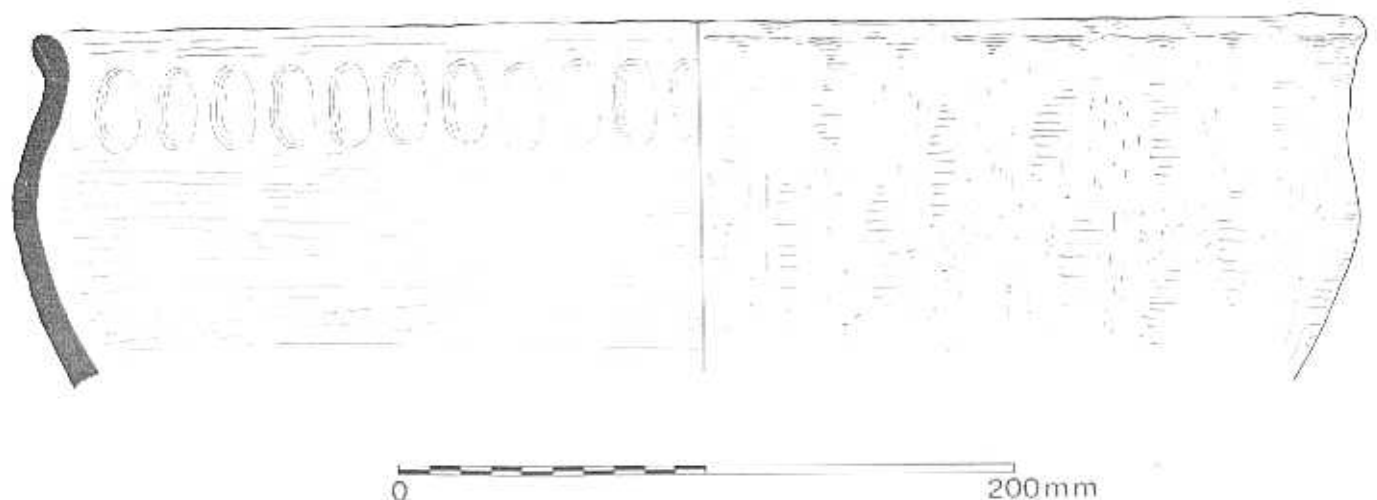


Fig. 2 Early Neolithic pot, Uffington.

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IRON AGE LINCH PINS FROM TATTERSHALL THORPE

Jane Owen

City and County Museum has recently acquired two pairs of linch pin terminals found in Tattershall Thorpe (LCCM 23.92). They were purchased with the assistance of the Victoria and Albert Museum Purchase Fund in December 1992.

The vase-headed copper alloy terminals are in good condition. The iron shanks connecting each pair of terminals have corroded and only traces remain. The upper terminals are 30/30mm in diameter and 25/23mm in height. Their flat tops are decorated in relief with a triskele motif terminating in 'bird heads' (Fig. 3a & b). The 'hoof-shaped' lower terminals are 19/20mm in width and 36/38mm in height. They end in a decorated disc of the same design as on the upper terminals (Fig. 4a & b). Both upper and lower terminals are socketed, presumably for attachment of the iron shanks (Fig. 5). Iron corrosion blocks the socket of one of the upper terminals.



Fig. 3a & b. Iron Age linch pins, Tattershall Thorpe. Detail of upper terminal (Lincolnshire County Council).

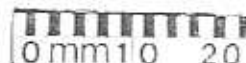
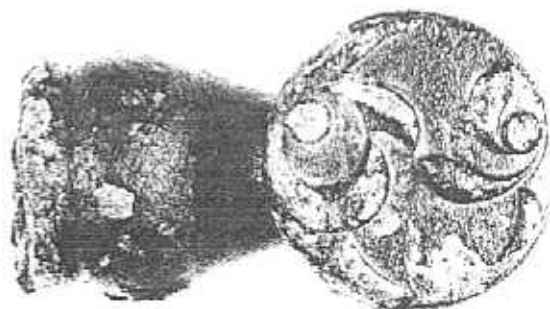


Fig. 4a & b. Iron Age linch pins, Tattershall Thorpe. Detail of lower terminal (Lincolnshire County Council).

Linch pins secured wheels to chariots, but their exact use is unclear. It has been suggested one copper alloy terminal was cast on to the iron shank. This shank fitted into a perforation in the axle and the other terminal would have been slotted on once the linch pin was in position (Stead 1991).

The pins belong to a well-known type represented in the Arras Culture of east Yorkshire by a plain example from the King's Barrow, at Arras. The closest decorated parallels have been found at Kirkburn, east Yorkshire, where the terminals