

# ERAS news

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No 30

June 1989

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So ERAS aestivates between March and August - not true, but perhaps the impression given by the usual publication dates for ERAS News, a result of issues tending to follow the autumn/winter lecture programme. It is to correct this apparent imbalance in the archaeological calendar that you are receiving an additional issue of the newsletter in June/July. Admittedly, archaeologists are more likely to be found out in the field during the summer months than at their desks writing reports or articles for ERAS News, so reports on excavations will inevitably be preliminary - but then so might they be in August.

Flag Fen was not discovered during summer months but in late autumn, which must have made for some very difficult working conditions, judging by the wind speed on what Francis Prior claimed was a 'still' day for the ERAS excursion in May. We are very grateful to Francis Prior and Maisie Taylor for showing us around the impressive Bronze Age site and allowing us to handle some of the worked timber. Flag Fen will be a hard act to follow, as excursions go, but perhaps Wessex, with sites such as Avebury, Waylands Smithy and Cerne Abbas might be a worthy successor. This weekend venture, however, will have to be booked further in advance than the usual day trip and its viability will depend on the number of bookings forthcoming when details of programme and cost are available. Since it is still in the planning stage the

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EAST RIDING ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

most likely date for it to take place is next spring. If this is too long to wait for the next excursion we could perhaps arrange a day trip for September to sites in Northamptonshire or Leicestershire. Let me know if you are interested.

As is the nature of these things, the special offer on membership subscriptions has been discontinued. Upon reflection, the Committee felt that it could possibly cause complications with the Society's constitution, so a simpler offer has been substituted: the person recruiting the most new members in the year 1989/90, will receive a bottle of sparkling wine.

Finally, please remember that not every Field Study Group meeting is now held in Castle Warehouse. (see Diary at end of newsletter). In addition to the monthly meetings there are also several opportunities available if you want to be involved in digging, or, more unusually, construction (see below).

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#### D.I.Y. IN THE IRON AGE: VOLUNTEER WANTED!

Strong, fit volunteer required to help construct a life-size reconstruction of part of an Iron Age round-house in the new gallery in the Hull and East Riding Museum (Transport and Archaeology Museum, High Street, Hull). Mr John Cottnell-Smith, former foreman on the Weelsby Avenue Iron Age village reconstruction at Grimsby, will be building the walls and roof of the round-house during one week in August, and will need an assistant. Anyone interested in helping to build an Iron Age round-house should contact Bryan Sitch, Assistant Keeper of Archaeology, at Hull City Museums (tel:222736) for an informal discussion.

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While some sites seem to go on for ever, competing with 'Dallas' or 'The Mousetrap' for longevity, or having more final seasons than Frank Sinatra, have you sometimes wondered what happens to some of the new (or old) sites which get mentioned in this newsletter. After their moment of glory, as the latest exciting excavation in the area, do they ever see the light of day, the archaeologist's trowel, or the printed page again? Certainly some do end up in the jaws of a JCB, or under no 6 Happyglades Drive, (or under the tarmac of a car park) and certainly post-excavation work is both lengthy and expensive, but ERAS News hopes to be able to keep you up-to-date with some of the sites which you've previously read about in its pages. Here are a few to be going on with....

#### MARKET WEIGHTON BYPASS

Peter Halkon

As readers will no doubt be aware, the Department of Transport has at last given its approval for the construction of this road scheme. The date for the commencement of construction has been given as February 1990. Members of the Society have carried out extensive fieldwalking along the line of the road, finding a major new Roman site to the south-west of Market Weighton. Plans are being made to excavate the site this summer, prior to its partial destruction, though the precise date has yet to be decided. Society members are welcome to take part in this joint project with the Department of Archaeology, Durham University. For further details please contact:














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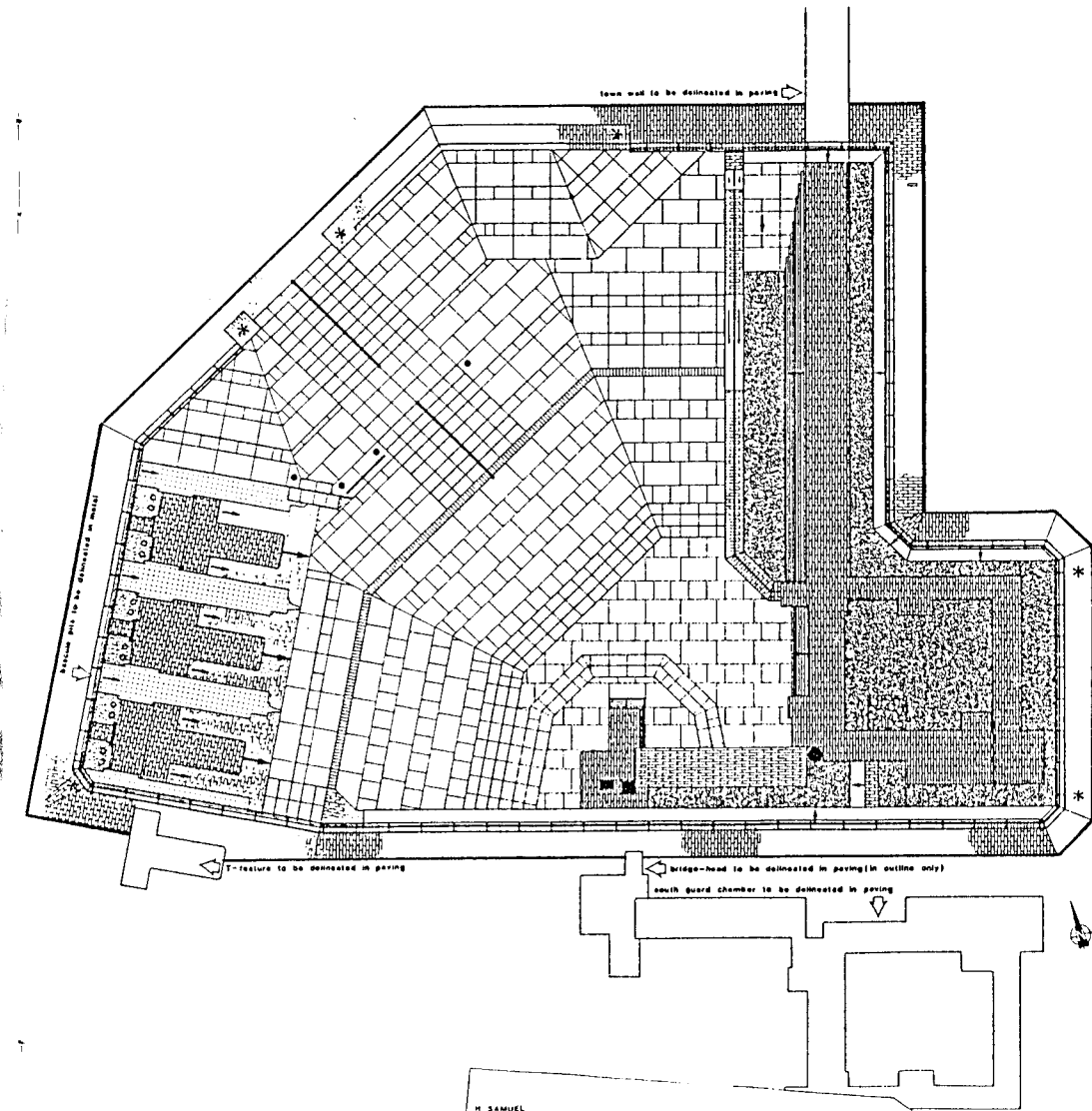
# BEVERLEY GATE

Phil Hample,  
Hull City Planning Dept

On 13th April, 1989, work commenced on phase two of the Beverley Gate theatre, i.e. the construction of the east retaining wall. Work on this and other phases has been delayed due to re-design work on the form and structure of the theatre. This was necessitated by the discovery of the former Monument bridge foundations and a post-medieval bridge-head. These structures have now been incorporated into the design of the theatre (see fig.) and the scheme as a whole should now be finished by late 1989/early 1990.

-  existing structure of Beverley gate/town wall
-  missing structure to be reconstructed
-  chalk stair footing (modern replacement)
-  timber gate post ( .. .. )
-  bridge timbers ( .. .. )
-  existing structure of Monument bridge
-  loose gravel
-  Yorkshire flags paving
-  Saxon flags paving
-  brick paving/walling
-  bollards
-  lighting
-  fencing

key to plan of Beverley Gate theatre  
(facing page)



## SIGGLESTHORNE

ERAS members were able to carry out a limited excavation before the developers moved in but this site is now disappearing under the housing development. Unfortunately, an appeal for funds for post-excavation work has been unsuccessful so far, but Peter Didsbury has promised to describe one or two of the finds, which include a medieval toy jug, in the next newsletter.

## WINESTEAD

Angus Smith  
13 June

During January a visit was made to this Iron Age site by Pat Wagner, from Sheffield University, who is interested in insect death-assemblages for an environmental study. Although the condition of the site at that time was not satisfactory for sampling, she did take away some samples of the dark layer I mentioned previously (ERAS News 27) which is part of a landscape buried beneath a layer of blue estuarine clay. Pat very kindly rang me with the results which showed the dark layer to be a deposit from a stretch of water bearing evidence of some pond weed.

We are still endeavouring to discover the extent of this 'lake' which could have covered an old occupation site, or alternatively have been a rubbish tip for bone and broken pottery, just as we use the sea nowadays for our garbage. Other sherds can be found below the blue layer lying on a brown/blue till presumably not covered by the the old 'lake'. A ditch that we found in 1986/7 had very distinct tool marks which could mean that it had been partially filled quite quickly, as prolonged exposure to the elements would surely have blurred or erased the marks.

I do not know the answers, but it could well be that

there were two transgressions here, one a minor event when the water rose filling a large hollow and threatening the site, in response to which the ditch was dug for drainage soon, alas, to be silted up and then becoming a rather deeper part of the fen. Later there was most likely a major marine transgression, eventually sealing the whole site beneath the thick blue estuarine clay.

In early September Pat is returning to Winestead when we hope to excavate a trench using a JCB with the object of:

- 1 finding the extent of the ditch
- 2 obtaining a clear section for study
- 3 digging deep enough to obtain uncontaminated and unoxidized samples for environmental study
- 4 (if time and money allow) digging another trench at the south end of the site - this is needed following the results obtained whilst augering in early June.

I must thank the committee of ERAS for awarding me £100 towards the cost of excavation, but I end on a rather sad note as an ERAS member who has been helping me at Winestead, John Cuthbertson, has today had a heart attack whilst in hospital. We wish him a speedy recovery.

'NEW' SITES FOR 1989

## DRIFFIELD, MILL STREET

The Humberside Archaeology Unit is busy in Driffield, where a sheltered housing development in Mill Street will be starting in July. Previous discoveries in the

1950s from the adjacent Spencer's Way gave evidence for occupation in the immediate area 4000 to 5000 years ago. The present excavation, led by John Dent, has uncovered what appear to be the remains of a neolithic house. This takes the form of a rectangular hollow in the chalk gravel, floored with earth which has been burnt in several places. Slots and depressions along the sides could have held wall supports or they may represent repairs made to a wooden building supported on flat sill beams. These are the first tangible remains of a neolithic house from East Yorkshire, although the region is well-known for its burial mounds. The floor area would have measured about fifteen feet by twenty, which is comparable to others known from Buxton and Peterborough.

The soil which overlay the floor contained some 300 flints and fragments of hand-made pottery. Most of the flint was debitage from tool manufacture, but a number of finished artefacts were also found, including scrapers, knives, serrated blades and two fine arrowheads. Various erratic cobbles had been put to use, some as cooking stones and one probably to hold a drill or fire stick in place; others may have been used in hand-milling the corn of these early farming communities of the Yorkshire Wolds.

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#### WOODMANSEY

A site on the Woodmansey gravels has recently been found in an area where intensive occupation of many periods, particularly the Romano-British/Iron Age, is known from aerial photographs. The site was uncovered when John Chapman decided to dig two fish ponds into a low level, peat-filled area on his farm. When he noticed Romano-British pottery and cobbles lying beneath the peat in two or three places he contacted the Archaeology Unit who made preliminary visits

before asking ERAS members to investigate. Members of the field study group, led by Peter Didsbury, responded to the call and further visits resulted in the discovery of more Romano-British pottery, three large timbers, one of which is definitely worked, and flintwork possibly dating as far back as the neolithic. A programme of work was started, including fieldwalking over the whole area to assess the extent of the site, cleaning of sections for drawing, collection of peat samples for analysis and excavation of Romano-British features: these seem to consist of cobbled settings and hearths together with pits containing pottery and animal bone deposits. The pottery found so far includes coarseware sherds and an early samian cup rim, possibly dating to before 150 AD. Pat Wagner, from Sheffield University, has sampled the deposits immediately below the timbers for environmental analysis.

Further weekend working is expected, and possibly some evening work. Volunteers are very welcome and should contact Peter Didsbury for details (tel: 494711).

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#### LECTURE SUMMARIES

11 Jan: ROMAN CASTLEFORD - Phil Abramson

Castleford has long been known as an important Roman site. Visiting antiquarians John Leland and William Camden saw earthworks at Castleford in the sixteenth century, while William Stukeley wrote in 1724 that "the Roman castrum was where the Church now stands". By the nineteenth century, however, Castleford was suffering from the effects of industrialisation: railways, canals, mines, factories and terraced housing had obliterated the surface archaeology seen by the early antiquarians. It was only with the prospect of renewed development in the town centre in

the 1970s that archaeologists from West Yorkshire Archaeology Service had the opportunity to examine Roman Castleford in detail.

Castleford occupied an important strategic position in Roman times, situated on a low terrace overlooking the river Aire on the road linking the Roman fortresses of Lincoln and York. The name of the settlement, Lagentium, is recorded by late Roman itineraries or road-maps. Together with the long tradition of antiquarian interest all this boded extremely well for the archaeologists, but in the event the Castleford excavations surpassed even their wildest expectations. Firstly, excavations in the 1970s revealed deeply stratified archaeological deposits very close to the present day ground surface. Secondly, the high water table at Castleford had ensured the preservation of a wide range of environmental and organic evidence. Indeed, one of the first trenches uncovered a building of wattle and daub construction which originally might have served as a work-shop. Later the site was used as a midden, and in the wet peaty deposits archaeologists found scraps of leather from army tents and clothing, leather boots and shoes and even the remains of a cavalry saddle. Sherds of the distinctive glossy red pottery known as samian ware, and a fresh coin of Vespasian struck in AD 72-3, indicated an initial occupation date in the early 70s. This would place the establishment of Castleford in the governorship of Julius Frontinus.

In AD 86-7 a new garrison arrived at Castleford. New defences were constructed, consisting of stacked turves on a stone foundation, giving the fort the usual playing card outline. A military bath-house was also built to the north of the second fort near the river Aire, and was discovered during trial work by local amateur archaeologist Mr Ron Jeffries in 1978. The bath-house was well preserved and the various rooms heated to different temperatures were all

discernible. Box flues used to heat the building were identical in fabric to those used at Dalton Parlours Roman villa.

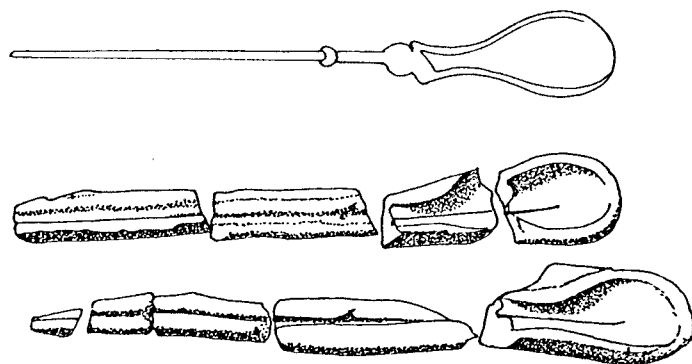
To the south of the fort lay the vicus or civilian settlement, home to the various camp followers who provided the soldiers with goods and services to allay the rigours of military life. The soldiers' families would also have lived in the vicus, although strictly speaking the soldiers were not supposed to marry. The civilians lived in long narrow buildings which had a gable end fronting onto the Roman road. Surprisingly the vicus at Castleford continued to thrive after the second fort was abandoned. The bath-house stayed in use and there was a mansio or posting station about 30m long, with a grain store. The prosperity of the civilian settlement was probably due to water-borne trade along the river Aire. Analysis of the military small-finds by specialists suggests that the possibility of a further military presence in the second/third century AD cannot be discounted.

The numerous deep pits with their wet ground conditions produced a wealth of evidence, including a wooden ladder (one of only four in the country), bone gaming counters, dice, hair pins, enamelled bronze brooches, intaglios of jasper and carnelian, and a gold ring set with agate. The large number of seal boxes suggested that there was an official establishment at Castleford looking after the imperial post. Analysis of the pottery sherds revealed that many of the pots were 'seconds', perhaps indicating a less-discerning market.

Religious evidence from the Castleford excavations included a military phalera or decorative disc portraying Atis, the lover of Cybele, whose cult was adopted by the army. Of particular interest - and amusement - was a tile depicting water nymphs, accompanied by what Phil Abramson somewhat

irreverently described as 'nit-combs'.

The vicus at Castleford was undoubtedly a thriving settlement in the early second century AD, but by the third century the civilians had probably moved into the abandoned fort. Industrial activity in the form of a lime kiln cut into the northern rampart was detected by the archaeologists. Moreover, Castleford produced the first evidence of spoon manufacture in Roman Britain and the Empire. No less than 800 spoon mould fragments were discovered together with fragments of more intricately designed moulds which made ornate copper costrels rather like the canteens used by cowboys in 'Westerns'. The only published example of such a vessel is a nineteenth century Jugoslavian find now in the Museum of Vienna.

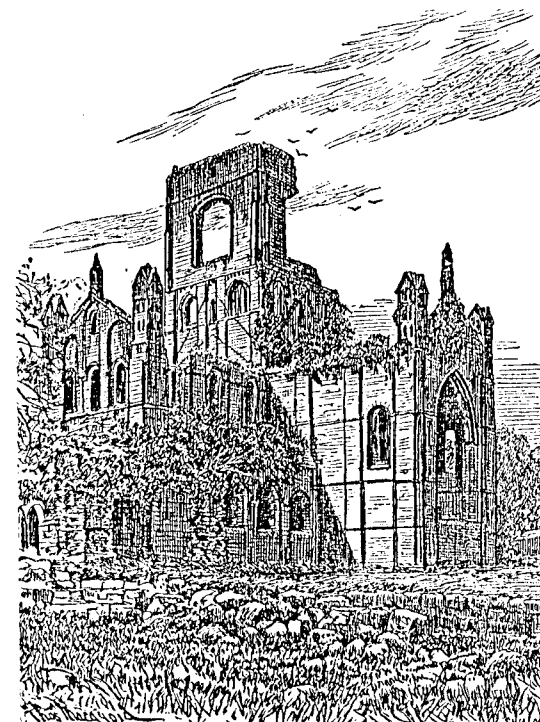


spoon moulds from Castleford with reconstruction of finished product (about 15cm long)

Later Roman Castleford is less well-defined. Deep ditches were cut through earlier features and part of the site was used as a burial ground. Two statues of sirens, mythological half woman, half bird, with clawed feet and playing pan pipes, would have decorated an impressive funerary monument.

Following the collapse of Roman Britain there was little activity at Castleford until Roman times with the result that in some places the Roman layers were just a few inches below the modern ground surface. The fascinating discoveries described by Phil Abramson make one wonder how much was lost during the nineteenth century industrial development of Castleford. At least the finds from the 1970s' excavations will be available for future generations in the Wakefield Art Gallery and Museum.

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15 Feb: KIRKSTALL ABBEY - Stuart Wrathmell



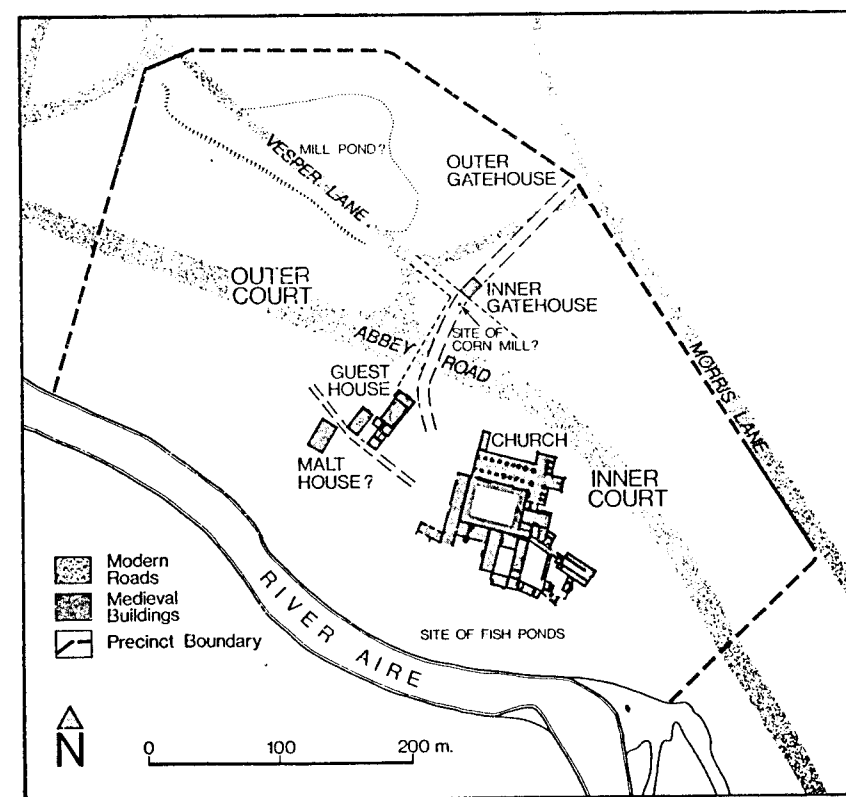
Kirkstall Abbey (wood engraving 1884)

Kirkstall Abbey was a Cistercian house founded in 1152 by monks originating from Fountains Abbey. The principal Abbey buildings were completed before the death of the first abbot in 1182. Unlike many other monasteries, they did not undergo major refurbishment in the 13th century, so it is those initial buildings which survive to give Kirkstall Abbey its particular importance.

Though the main Abbey buildings survive remarkably well, the same cannot be said for the later buildings of the Abbey precinct which had been reduced to foundation level by the mid-19th century, becoming grassed over and forgotten. Towards the end of the 19th century Leeds expanded out towards Kirkstall and there was a plan to sell the Abbey land for building; it was, however, bought by a Colonel North and sold to Leeds Council for a nominal sum. In the 1890s there was a campaign of consolidation of the buildings and work started in the grounds to convert the fields and orchards into a municipal park. During this conversion the foundations of a large number of other buildings were discovered, covering some ten acres, but their true significance was not appreciated at the time: it is these buildings with which the excavations since 1979 have been most concerned.

In the course of his lecture Stuart Wrathmell discussed aspects of the planning and arrangement of the Abbey precincts - the roadways, water supply and drainage for the site. The precinct wall enclosed an area of some forty acres, which was divided into two Courts. The Outer Court, to the north and west, was the area containing farm buildings and workshops, while the Inner Court was occupied by the main Abbey buildings, providing seclusion for the religious life. The present Abbey museum has been formed out of the Inner Gatehouse which linked the Inner and Outer Courts. Two cobbled roadways crossed the western part of the Inner Court: the more southerly of these ran

west from the Abbey, probably leading to the granaries in the Outer Court, while the second and more substantial road extended south-eastwards from the Inner Gatehouse towards the Church. The wedge of ground lying between these roads contained the Guest House precinct.



The precincts of Kirkstall Abbey  
(reproduced from 'Kirkstall Abbey Guest House')

The first Guest House buildings were erected in the early 13th century, about fifty years after the Abbey was occupied. Though the Guest House consisted of a



self-contained group of buildings it was linked to the Abbey's comprehensive sanitation and plumbing systems. The course of the main drain would have been of prime importance in the planning and construction of the main Guest House building. The main drain was fed by a stream entering the north-west part of the Abbey precinct. It ran beneath the garderobes and through the yards in the southern areas of the Abbey, emptying into the River Aire at the south-east corner of the Abbey enclosure. Before reaching the monastic buildings it passed through the Guest House precinct, emptying the garderobes and the branch drains which served the Scullery, Kitchen and other buildings. The course of the original drain was altered to take account of the mill pond, water from which was used to flush the latrines. Although the mill buildings were destroyed in Victorian times, fragments of the mill stone were found during excavation.

Water was supplied under pressure to the Guest House buildings in lead pipes of about 7/8ths inch diameter, made up of lengths sealed together by lead collars. The supply was fed into the abbey site at a high point and passed via settling tanks to a raised large cistern from which pipes led off to the various buildings where the supply was controlled by taps. Both lead pipes and stretches of the pipeline robbed of the lead have been found at Kirkstall, together with bronze taps and a cistern.

Excavations revealed the Guest House buildings in the form of a medieval manor-house. An isled hall, heated by a central fireplace, was divided into five bays, the southernmost of which was partitioned off to form the Services, the rooms where food and drink were prepared. Beyond the Services was a yard containing a number of ancillary buildings - kitchens, scullery and bakehouse. At the other (northern) end of the Hall was a two-storey building, the Chamber block, which contained on its upper floor the private apartments

used by important visitors. A stretch of pipeline, built over, showed that this Solar block was added on after the first phase of building.

In addition to excavation the recent investigation has re-examined objects found in previous excavations, including those of the 1890s, when large numbers of decorated tiles were found. There are records from the 1890s of floor tiles on the first floor of the dormitory (which may have been covered up then) and in the 1950s floor tiles were found in the dining hall/refectory buildings. Stuart Wrathmell showed a slide of the floor of the dining room which illustrated inconsistencies in the pattern, suggesting that tiles from the church were re-used in the dining room and dormitory when they became worn. All the tiles have now been recorded in order to reconstruct the original patterns. A circular pattern has been reconstructed which is similar, but not identical, to one of the patterns recorded at Jervaulx Abbey in 1807. This similarity of design suggests that the same group of people were responsible for both. There are now more tiles surviving at Kirkstall than at Jervaulx, although they are scattered over the site at Kirkstall.

(Ref: 'Kirkstall Abbey Guest House', a booklet written by Stuart Wrathmell and published by the Archaeology Unit of West Yorkshire Council, 1984)

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The editor apologises for the absence of a summary of the March 15th lecture (Stephen Sherlock: The Anglian cemetery at Norton, Cleveland); this is because she was unable to attend that meeting. There will also be no detailed summary of the lecture which followed the AGM, as Barry McKenna's lecture was cancelled, though happily the gap was filled by John Dent, who showed some aerial photographs he had taken recently of sites

ranging from the late Bronze Age earthworks of Huggate Dykes to what is probably a world war II searchlight battery at Atwick. The value of these recent photographs is two-fold: new sites have been found and additional information has appeared for some well-known sites; at Skerne, for example, just one flight over the area of the previously excavated timbers has strengthened and clarified the previously tentative identification of the 'Skerne Bridge'.

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#### REVIEW

P. Armstrong and D.G. Tomlinson, Excavations at the Dominican Priory, Beverley, 1960-1963, Humberside Heritage

Publication No. 13 (1987) A4 format, 72pp, 29 Figs and 8 Pls. ISBN 0904451 402. Price £5; copies can be purchased from Beverley Public Library and Hull Central Library and at most local bookshops, or are available by post (65p extra) from Chris Knowles, Humberside Leisure Services, Hull Central Library, Albion Street, Hull HU1 3TF.

A considerable amount of excavation has taken place in Beverley during the late 1970s and 1980s, mostly under the aegis of Peter Armstrong; however, prior to this much of our archaeological knowledge of Beverley rested on the work of Ken McMahon and R.L. Carr, who between them recorded a number of the town's major structures which were being threatened by post-war redevelopment. Sadly, the greater part of this work was never fully published in their lifetimes, and is now known from a series of interim notes in journals, or from digests in popular publications. This present volume is an attempt by the authors to make an appraisal of MacMahon's excavations at the Dominican Priory in 1960-64. The opportunity has been taken to present this with Rod Mackay's 1975 excavation,

together with their own 1983 investigations. These various campaigns are accompanied by a brief resumé of the historical background to this religious house, and a limited architectural survey of the one surviving standing building. Although the majority of the work described in this volume pre-dates the establishment of the Humberside Archaeology Unit, it is ironically the first monograph to be published by the Unit staff on excavations in Beverley.

A number of problems beset this volume from its inception, the first being that its major protagonist (MacMahon) had died before its publication was ever mooted, and although an archive of sorts survives in the University of Hull library, almost all of the finds from his excavations had disappeared. Secondly, the publication of this work was originally intended for the Archaeological Journal, to complement a series of papers on historical and architectural aspects of the Priory; however, the editor considered it too long for publication in the journal, and turned it down. Hence, the drawings were intended for a totally different format, and in some cases were clearly envisaged as fold-outs: here they look decidedly uncomfortable, and in several cases have been drastically over-reduced. A further problem is that subsequent work, both on the Priory itself and on the Eastgate frontage immediately to the west, has meant that interim interpretations have had to be revised even during the preparation of this volume.

The book begins with an extended introduction which places the site in its setting, briefly recaps on the salient features of its history, and summarises the various campaigns of excavation. This is followed by the main excavation text and the finds reports. The work is rounded off by an extensive discussion which considers in turn 'the priory site and precinct', 'the church', 'the cloisters and conventual buildings', and 'the "Old Friary" building and the evidence for early

priory structures'. Of these various sections, by far the best and the most polished is this last chapter containing the synthesis and conclusions. This is classic Armstrong, and is shrewd, perceptive and well-argued. Sadly, the rest of the volume does not always reach the same high standard, and one cannot help but wonder whether parts of this work were a first draft which would have been revised if Peter had stayed in archaeology. These thoughts particularly apply to the excavation text, which though intelligible, is very arduous to read as scant attempt has been made to relate the text to the drawings. Layer numbers are cited in the text without any cross-references to the relevant figures. This is scarcely helped by the over-reduction of Figs 2-4, resulting in the loss of tones and lines, and (in Fig 4) even the legibility of feature numbers. To make matters worse, major features, such as 402 (see Plate IVc), have not been numbered on the plans, and have to be sought on the sections (eg Fig 5). It is even difficult to grasp at a glance where MacMahon's excavations stopped, and the latest ones began. It took this reviewer quite a while to relate the wall footings shown on Plate IIa to those shown on Fig 3, because of the faintness of the tone used on the latter. Moreover, although the text helpfully refers to Areas I and II in this part of the church, no comparable labels are to be found on Fig 3.

The main problem with the finds reports is the disparity in treatment. Hence, the pottery report is quite detailed, but the non-ferrous metal is presented purely as a catalogue with no supporting text. The only iron objects reported on are all fairly exceptional: is it just my suspicious mind, or shouldn't there have been at least some nails, or building ironwork? No petrological identifications are given for the masonry, and there are no fabric descriptions for any of the tile. Moreover, as no dimensions are given for any of the floor tiles, even

those in situ, this is a singularly uninformative report. The mortar analyses, in contrast, are very informative, but sadly no attempt has been made to correlate this information into the excavation text. This last criticism applies to all of the finds reports; they sit in splendid isolation. Parts of this report have clearly been in existence for some time, as witnessed by the post-script on p.36; it had in fact been already incorporated in the main text on p.34. Incidentally, terms such as 'Oxidised Chalky ware' and 'Orangeware' are already redundant: they have now been renamed Beverley Wares 1 and 2.

The criticisms outlined above are the minor blemishes which affect most excavation reports. A more fundamental problem with this volume is the way that the authors present their synthesis without supporting it with raw data in the excavation section. The main purpose of publication is to justify your conclusions and interpretations to the wider archaeological readership. In this respect, the presentation of an ideal report is rather similar to the writing up of a scientific experiment: an introduction saying what you set out to investigate, the description, the results, and the conclusions. This exercise is admittedly tedious - which is probably why so many excavations are never written up - but is invaluable for ordering your thoughts and spotting non sequiturs. In this volume, much of the synthesis is probably sound, but is never justified properly. A prime example of this occurs in the first few pages. It is taken for granted that the substantial building which MacMahon found was indeed the church, and the text accordingly talks of naves and aisles. Yet nowhere is it argued why this interpretation has been accepted. True, it contained numerous burials, but so might a chapter house, etc. The interpretation is probably correct, but it should not have been taken for granted, as the identification of all of the structures to the north of this building depend upon it. The same point can be made more

forcefully about the treatment of the west range and cloister arcade. The textual description of the areas (p.19 especially) is wholly inadequate, and moreover is not supported by any section drawings. We are told that MacMahon proposed a 13th century and a 15th century phase within the west range; yet these are not described or shown as such on the plans. Nor are we told what was the basis for this dating. In fairness to the authors, these faults may well reflect the inadequacy of the archive, but I would have preferred it to have been spelt out. Either way, it seems hard to justify the detailed discussion of the reconstructed west range which appears on p.54, given the sparseness of the original presentation.

This unevenness of tenor seems to pervade much of the volume. Hence, although a short piece is included on the architectural survey of the standing building, no dates are offered for its various phases; although these are shown on Figs 6 and 7, no key to these is given either on the drawings or in the captions. Whilst I appreciate that more detailed descriptions have been published in other works, a monograph like this should be able to stand on its own (contrast the treatment of this building in the RCHM volume on Beverley). On a similar note, the finds reports would have been more useful if an attempt had been made to properly correlate them with the excavation text. In the few cases where finds are mentioned, their importance does not seem to have been properly grasped. Take for example the Langerwehe jug of 'the first quarter of the 16th century' (p.35), or was it 'the first half of the 16th century' (p.56)? These vessels had largely ceased production by c. 1450, to be supplanted in the export market by Raeren drinking mugs; if this was indeed a 16th century context, it was probably residual and has little bearing on the date of that context.

Most of the faults of this volume are of a minor

nature, but it is a pity that it has been plagued by so many: even the title and authors' initials on the cover fails to tally with those on the title page. If this series of reports is to attract an input of respectable academic works, then a tighter editorial hand is going to be required at the helm. This work would also have benefited greatly from being read by an impartial academic referee. Such a system used to exist within English Heritage, but lately appears to have been abandoned - perhaps because of the increasing output of backlog sites within the last three years, or perhaps as a saving. This is a great pity, as the authors will inevitably be blamed now for anything that slips through; yet sometimes when dealing with a long-running project, you can get so involved in the minutiae as an author, that the most obvious things can get left out. In general, these minor quibbles aside, this is a fine addition to the Humberside Heritage Publication series. The standard of printing is very good, apart from the photographs which would have benefited from being on a better quality paper (and perhaps from being better screened). But next time, could someone choose a different colour for the cover? What is it about archaeologists that makes so many go for this depressing shade of dark brown for their publications? Growing up in post-War Britain, as I did, I shall always associate this shade with cheap, austerity paints used for garden gates, lavatory doors and coal lorries.

D. H. Evans

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Change of address for THE LOCAL HISTORY ARCHIVES UNIT

The Local History Archives Unit's full range of services - sales of local history publications, local history/local studies advice, help for students with local projects, old photograph and postcard copying service - are all now available from:

Local History Archives Unit  
Park Street Centre  
Room 62  
Hull College of Further Education  
Park Street  
Hull HU2 8RR

Tel. (0482) 29179

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The good news is that ERAS now has a Secretary again. Although no candidate emerged at the AGM, Bryan Sitch has since been proposed and co-opted by the Committee. Should you wish to contact him, his address is:

Flat 2  
1 Lambert Street  
Beverley Road  
Hull  
HU5 2SJ

Tel: (0482) 445036

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DIARY OF EVENTS

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	Time and Venue
Wednesday 5 July	7.30pm
Field Study Group	Phoenix excavation site, Albion Street, Hull
Saturday 8 July	Full day visit to Hazelwood Castle and walkabout of Tadcaster
EYLHS	
Wednesday 2 August	7.30pm
Field Study Group	Castle Warehouse, Chapel Lane Staith, High St, Hull
Saturday 6 August	Afternoon walkabout of Georgian Hull with John Markham
EYLHS	
Saturday 11 November	10 am - 5 pm
ERAS/Hull University dayschool: 'New Light on the Parisi'	University Lecture Theatre Physics Building University of Hull

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If you wish to attend any of the East Yorkshire

History Society's events, please contact their  
Programme Secretary, Miss P Aldabella, 187 Greenwood  
Avenue, Hull. Tel: Hull 854840.