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to his son also; Whitgift also ensured that the youngest son's costs at Cambridge were paid for and that he would also have a prebend's stall. Foxe's powers declined and he died on 18 April, 1587 'aged 70'. Although incomplete his commentary was published in 1588, edited by his son Samuel and dedicated to Whitgift.

The final section of the book takes the story of *Acts and Monuments* into its later history. By and large the 1583 version was re-issued at various times in the following century after an abridged version of 1589 and a full version in 1596. The latter was an indication of the way what we now regard as publishing developed. Peter Short, who had worked with Day, and a syndicate of ten printers (who paid for the paper) printed with the agreement of that Stationers' Company 1350 copies; eight of them had a hundred copies each, two had 200 and Short had 150 at his own expense. In 1610 a different group issued an edition and in 1631 another grouping repeated the operation while in 1641, at the final intervention of the Long Parliament, a further re-issue took place. In this case much argument occurred at Archbishop Laud's trial on whether he had tried to stop or approve the re-issue. In his defence he claimed he had tried to stop an abridged version since he felt it would inhibit sales of the full editions. He was still executed in 1643.

Even though an elaborately prepared copy was presented to Charles II on the restoration of the monarchy the last edition in full only appeared in 1684 and that used a subscription method of raising the necessary funds. No new edition appeared in the eighteenth century although an Act of 1695 allowed unrestricted issuing of the work. Abridged examples did appear but the authors point out that they were still large works – the 1731 version still had over a million words. Later abridged examples became even larger as editors incorporated other material.

The authors have provided an account of the vicissitudes that followed Foxe as compiler of this enormous and influential work and Day's work in the complicated technical background to its appearances. Although this is an academic work with a full bibliography, list of printing terms and index its copious footnotes do not get in the way of the narrative flow – one has, at times, to try to avoid dropping one's eye to them. The footnotes do enshrine much detail and one could have wanted the select bibliography to have been extended to include the details of the many works referred to. Oddly, the index lists Foxe's 'minor' works under Foxe but the major works in their own alphabetical place. But this is a minor quibble and does not detract from one's use of a fine piece of scholarship.

Review Article: The Fenland Survey Project

Peter Chowne

Lane, Tom and Trimble, Dale. *Fluid landscapes and human adaptation on prehistoric sites on the Lincolnshire Fen edge, 1991-1994, with contributions by Carol Allen [and 19 others]*. Heckington, Heritage Lincolnshire, 2010. xiv, 398pp. ISBN 978 0 948639 58 6. (Lincolnshire Archaeology and Heritage Reports Series, no.9). £25 pbk.

This report is the final volume in a series of important publications that brings to a close the Fenland Survey Project. It is therefore appropriate before reviewing the volume in detail to reflect on the overall significance of a project that totally transformed our understanding of the fenland, an area often neglected by archaeologists in the past. The Fenland Survey Project took place between 1991 and 1994 under the auspices of the Fenland Research Committee and was generously funded by English Heritage. Background to the survey, which covered the fens in Cambridgeshire, Lincolnshire, Norfolk and Suffolk has been published elsewhere¹ so this review will focus on Lincolnshire prehistory, the topic covered in the final volume of the series.

The first volumes reported on parish surveys in the south-west fens and the northern fen-edge,² supported by a report on palaeo-environmental research in the fenland.³ These were followed by the first of two management volumes the second being the subject of this review.⁴ Other reports on fenland topics, in particular saltmaking, which include sections on prehistory, were also published.⁵ The excavation of a barrow complex in Deeping St Nicholas was published in 1994.⁶

In *Fenland Management Projects 1991-1995* the investigation of a range of sites was described and the reader will find it helpful to study this report as it sets out the criteria for selection of sites for assessment. Furthermore, a number of sites with prehistoric associations (notably Mexican Bridge, Midville) were not investigated further and to gain a full picture of the contribution of these investigations to our understanding of prehistoric activity in the survey area both management project reports should be consulted.

The volume under review is made up of six chapters opening with an introduction which sets out the background to the Fenland Project, palaeogeography and excavation methodology. There is also an important section that explains the reasons why the final volume was published in 2010, sixteen years after the final investigation, and why some of the specialist reports are, therefore, out of date. Whilst this is unfortunate, the delay does mean that recent LiDAR imagery could be used in the introduction to describe the location of the sites and their relation to ancient watercourses and the upland. The introduction is followed by a series of investigation

reports divided into geographic areas. Chapter two covers the northern fen edge, chapter three the western fen edge and chapter four the Deepings fen edge. Chapter five provides an overview of ceramics from the Lincolnshire fen edge and chapter six a discussion and concluding remarks.

Northern Fen Edge

Two investigations took place on the northern fen edge at Ferry Farm, Dogdyke and Hagnaby Lock, Stickford. Excavation at Dogdyke on a sand island was in the form of one metre square test pits, extended to five metres squares when artefacts were encountered and a 1.8m trench cut across the site for 120m. Within a depression a palaeosoil overlay the natural sands which were covered by a series of alluvial clay deposits up to one metre thick. The buried soil in one five square metre test pit was cut by a series of criss-cross grooves interpreted as ard marks representing prehistoric ploughing. Whether this was one episode, perhaps related to clearance, or more frequent arable cultivation is a matter for speculation. The palaeosoil did contain a small number of sherds from collard urns which can be dated to the early second millennium cal.BC that might represent manuring. Within the 120m trench two parallel lines of postholes, possibly the remains of a wooden trackway, were recorded. These are undated but at least one posthole was cut through the clay alluvium, a marine deposit of the early second millennium cal.BC. Two truncated pits or hearths were recorded close to the highest part of the sand island. In addition to the sherds of collared urn noted above, 315 pieces of worked stone were recovered from the test pits and excavation. Two phases of activity on the site were identified; one dating to the later Mesolithic, the other to the late Neolithic/early Bronze Age.

One of the test pits was sampled for environmental analysis and a summary of the environmental assessment is presented in the report. This was submitted in 2003 some eleven years after the field investigation in 1992. The full assessment report forms part of the site archive but unfortunately the location of the site archives is not provided in the volume. Soil micromorphological and palynological analyses indicate a local marine transgression over a wooded landscape.

The importance of this site is that it demonstrates the potential for the preservation of archaeological features that are unlikely to survive ploughing in an upland location or on islands that protrude above alluvial deposits. Later Mesolithic activity in this fenland environment has been recorded nine kilometres to the south-west on sand levees at Anwick Fen and farther north in the valley of the River Witham on levees at Washingborough.⁷ The possibility of the post alignment being the remains of a crossing of the valley cannot be excluded although it may have had a more localised function.

At Hagnaby Lock, Stickford a small group of Bronze Age sites was identified from artefact scatters on river terrace sands and gravels partly sealed by alluvium. A magnetometer survey was undertaken over one of these artefact scatters with inconclusive results. Gridded fieldwalking resulted in the recovery of 6236 artefacts in two separate clusters. Burnt stone, worked flint and ceramics in the form of pottery and briquetage were found. Both of these artefact concentrations were investigated. The northern trench was 60m by 10m and the southern one 25m by 10m.

In the northern trench a layer of compacted soil containing burnt stone, briquetage and late Bronze Age pottery, possibly dating to the early first millennium cal. BC, was found beneath a layer of alluvium. Removal of the layer containing the artefacts revealed a well-preserved palaeosoil under which was a criss-cross pattern of ard or plough marks. Although undated the ard marks appeared to be earlier than the layer containing late Bronze Age pottery and they appear to cut the fill of a ditch that contained late Bronze Age and Deverel-Rimbury pottery sherds.

The southern trench contained pits containing late Bronze Age pottery and two gullies/ditches one of which contained grog-tempered sherds possibly from Deverel-Rimbury vessels. A square pit appeared to be associated with a 'structured deposit' of late Bronze Age pottery laid out in a series of concentric rings of overlapping sherds (Fig.31 and Plate 7). David Knight and Carol Allen describe the ceramics in comprehensive reports with contributions on petrology by David Williams.

Peter Murphy reports on charred plant macrofossils and he concludes that in overall composition the samples analysed more closely resemble those from Neolithic to early/middle Bronze Age sites than those from later Bronze age sites in Eastern England. He noted evidence for cereal production, supplemented by wild plant food collection, the latter possibly heat-processed, perhaps indicative of a burnt mound.

The investigated sites at Dogdyke, Hagnaby Lock, Stickford and Mexican Bridge, Midville clearly demonstrate the potential of the northern fen edge to further our understanding of Bronze Age settlement in Lincolnshire. Their low lying topographic locations and their burial under alluvium has resulted in preservation of buried soils and features that are unlikely to survive modern arable cultivation.

Western Fen Edge

Chapter three takes us to the western fen edge and investigations at Hoe Hills, Dowsby and Parson Drove and Fen Farm in Pinchbeck. Compared with the northern fen edge the western fen edge received more attention from archaeologists prior to the Fenland

Survey. Fieldwalking by the Car Dyke Research Group in the 1970s led to the identification of Bronze Age and Iron Age settlements and saltmaking sites.⁸ Extensive excavations at Billingborough of a Bronze Age and Iron Age settlement and saltmaking site,⁹ and abundant cropmark evidence, indicate that the area was extensively utilised in the second and first millennia cal.BC.¹⁰

Apart from surface finds of stone axes there was little evidence for Neolithic activity on the western fen edge until the excavations at Hoe Hills, Dowsby. The site lies on a two kilometre wide strip of river terrace gravel that slopes gently to the east where it is covered by the alluvium of the silt fen. To the west the land rises on to the Jurassic Limestone capped in places by till (Boulder Clay). Two areas were excavated at the eastern end of a linear barrow cemetery just south of a palaeochannel.

Area A was placed to explore a low mound thought to be the remains of a round barrow. A primary burial in the form of a cremation in a plough-damaged collared urn was found enclosed by a circular ditch with an internal bank twenty-eight metres in diameter. A secondary cremation burial was found close to the inner edge of the ditch with a complete accessory cup and sherds from a collared urn. These vessels are normally dated to the early second millennium cal.BC.

Area B also featured a circular ditch approximately thirteen metres in diameter, which was penannular in the later two phases. This was interpreted as a three-phase structure dating to the Iron Age probably representing a gully surrounding a building. Two ditches west of this structure contained late Bronze Age to middle Iron Age pottery and briquetage. Of particular significance is a double line of pits or postholes that appeared only after removal of subsoil. Within an east to west alignment was a pit containing a near-complete Mortlake bowl, probably a placed deposit. Sherds of at least two other Mortlake vessels were recovered from another pit. The postholes in the south-west to north-east alignment were not excavated but as these only appeared after sub-soil removal and an Iron Age feature cuts one they were presumed to be contemporary with the postholes in the east to west alignment. A date of around 3000 cal.BC is suggested for the Mortlake bowl Neolithic pottery.

Although remnants of the barrow mound survived on the site, the buried soil was extensively disturbed by root holes and rodent activity. Preservation of environmental material in the excavated areas was poor but may be better in the adjacent palaeochannel. The discovery of Neolithic features is of particular importance and it is unfortunate that only a small number of Neolithic features were excavated. Interpretation of the posthole alignments must remain a matter for speculation. That the location was important is not in doubt, the placing of Mortlake pottery in pits and

the use of the south bank of the palaeochannel, a potential boundary, for a linear barrow cemetery suggests that place was significant to people in prehistory.

The site at Parson Drove, Pinchbeck lies just east of the Forty Foot Drain in an area often considered to be covered in alluvium. It is on one of a number of sand and clay islands that are starting to appear in the landscape as underlying peat shrinks and the plough penetrates through the alluvium. The island is in fact part of a north to south ridge extending from Pinchbeck/Rippingale/Dowsby, south to Bourne where it emerges as an island at Guthram Gowt. Investigation of the site was by one metre square test pits, several of which were then extended to five metres square. Worked flints and sherds of Bronze Age pottery were recovered from several of the pits, some of which exposed shallow postholes and gullies. The pottery from the site included collared urn and Deverel-Rimbury type vessels as found at Billingborough. No evidence from burials/cremations was found and activity on the site is best considered as domestic in nature. The presence of a microlith and a stone axe found during earlier fieldwalking suggests that this ridge was utilised sporadically from the Mesolithic to Bronze Age before finally being waterlogged and covered with marine alluvium.

Pinchbeck Fen Farm lies on the southern levees of a creek that was probably active from the Bronze Age into the early post-Roman period. It marks the southern limit of silt deposition and to the south the land slopes gently downwards and was probably covered with peat in the late Iron Age and Roman periods. A single trench of 550m² was excavated but the investigations were limited by groundwater flooding. Three phases of activity were recognised. In phase 1 rows of small shallow pits of unknown function were dug into the side of the creek. A single steep-sided pit nearby was interpreted as a possible latrine. During the second phase the site was flooded and the pits buried by silts. A shallow ditch dug some time in phase 3 was regularly recut and fragments of bone and pottery suggest that the site was still used sporadically during increasingly wet conditions.

Pottery from the site suggests activity from the fifth/fourth century cal.BC to the first century AD. Environmental analysis of foraminifera and ostracods indicate open salt marsh conditions; the site was located in an inter-tidal zone. However, it does not appear to have been a salt making site. Interpretation of the rows of pits is problematic and they appear to be without parallel. Several interpretations have been postulated with meat salting and textile production being two possibilities. Other examples of the pit rows probably exist, but their location on the edge of creeks would have left them vulnerable to erosion and very difficult to detect, as can be seen from the excellent reconstruction drawing.

Deeping Fen Edge

In chapter four, two sites on the Deepings fen edge are described; Tye's Drove, Deeping St James and Outgang Road, Market Deeping. The excavation of a barrow complex at Deeping St Nicholas appears in a separate publication.¹¹ Before the Fenland Survey the area had not been extensively explored by field survey or excavation. One major excavation at Welland Bank Quarry remains unpublished although some assessment reports are available as 'grey literature' via the Lincolnshire Historic Environment Record and Archaeological Data Services at the University of York.¹²

Investigations at Tye's Drove focussed on a scatter of flints and Bronze Age and Iron Age pottery sherds at a point where braided channels of the prehistoric Welland meet the fen basin. A geophysical survey detected anomalies, probably representing pits, but no linear features. Four trenches were excavated based on the geophysical results.

Trench 1 was the largest at 225m² and this exposed pits or postholes and the terminal of a linear feature. Low levels of Bronze Age and Iron Age pottery and Iron Age briquetage were recovered and an Iron Age date for these features is tentatively suggested although two postholes containing early Bronze Age sherds may be earlier in date. Trench 1 was not fully excavated with resources being applied to the artefact rich trenches 2 and 3. Trench 2 was in a slightly higher area of the site and had been truncated by ploughing. However, ring gullies and postholes were identified, probably representing the remains of structures. The colour plate 19 (p.194) clearly shows these probable Iron Age features and modern plough furrows. A number of pits and post holes were excavated and although most are undated one contained early Bronze Age sherds including collared urn. Trench 3 was a 100m² intervention placed to investigate one of the pit-like anomalies from the geophysical survey. This pit was waterlogged at the lower levels and contained an alder stake, a sherd of Beaker pottery, a middle Bronze Age loom weight and Iron Age briquetage, indicating activity in the vicinity over a long period of time. There is some discussion of the function of this pit and Lane's interpretation as a waterhole pit primarily for human use rather than a pond, is most probable. Trench 4 was six square metres and located a small posthole underlying alluvium which contained flints and Roman pottery.

The excavation at Tye's Drove is important as being one of few investigations on the Welland-Fenland interface. Situated in a slightly elevated position the location attracted a presence in the early second millennium cal. BC, most notably in the form of Beaker pottery sherds and flints, although no features could be securely dated to this period of activity. The waterhole pit containing an alder stake is reminiscent of others found at fen edge locations, such as the A15 Market Deeping Bypass investigation,¹³ Fengate near Peterborough¹⁴ and at Pode

Hole near Thorney,¹⁵ where they are usually interpreted as middle to late Bronze Age features. A structural function is suggested for the Iron Age ring gullies and although these are small in diameter when compared to 'hut circles' on many sites, they are in keeping with other fen edge examples for example at Billingborough where there was also an association with salt making.¹⁶

At Outgang Road a single area, 86m by 30m, was opened for excavation on a bank of a former channel of the river Welland. Within the stripped and cleaned area a deeper trench 3m by 10m was cut to explore a palaeochannel. A palimpsest of features was revealed in the stripped area, divided into ten phases of occupation.

The basal fill of the palaeochannel represented phase 1. This was formed of upright timbers and stakes and a layer of roundwood and wood offcuts, pottery, animal bone and stones. The pottery showed typological affinities with the regional ceramic tradition of the late Bronze Age/early Iron Age and dates to the fifth to fourth century BC. An iron brooch of La Tène II type possibly dating to the first half of the third century BC was found on top of the wood layer and may be a votive deposit. Phase 2 was mainly the secondary layers of the palaeochannel containing pottery in a middle Iron Age tradition, animal bone and briquetage. Increasing influence of saline conditions in the channel appear at the interface of phase 1 and phase 2 deposits. The nature of deposition changes to a series of gravelly layers in phase 3 with redeposited briquetage. A Roman ditch cut these deposits and removed the stratigraphic link between phases 2 and 3. Three pits and a ditch are assigned to phase 4. No briquetage was present in the peaty fill of the ditch but it did contain charcoal, worked wood and sherds of Iron Age pottery. A small number of contexts, including a possible enclosure, were assigned to Phase 5 represented by pottery dating to the late Iron Age/Roman interface. Phase 6 was only recorded in sections and relates to the backfilling of the palaeochannel in the mid third to fourth century AD. Enclosures C and D are dated to the fourth century AD and form the main features of Phase 7 (Fig.117). Phases 8 to 10 are also interpreted as belonging to the fourth century AD. The most notable feature of Phase 8 is Enclosure A (Fig.120). Discussion of Phase 5 onwards is inhibited by the lack of a detailed report on the ceramics. This is unfortunate as one of the key aspects of the ceramic analysis was the study of the late Iron Age/early Roman pottery.

Discussion of Phases 1-4 is supported by a comprehensive study of the Iron Age pottery by David Knight with contributions from Carol Allen and David Williams. A high proportion of the Iron Age pottery in the palaeochannel was Scored Ware, a ceramic tradition found throughout the East Midlands and one that is not closely dated. Knight provides an excellent discussion of the chronology and associations of the ceramic styles found in the palaeochannel. It was hoped that a Bayesian approach to radiocarbon dating of the palaeochannel

would lead to a more precise chronology for Scored Ware, but this was not possible perhaps because of the reworking of organic sediment in the channel.

The rich organic deposits of the lower levels of the palaeochannel have enabled detailed consideration of the economy and environment in a series of specialist reports with their date of submission noted. A useful discussion by Dale Trimble follows. His observation that a large proportion of the project's resources were dedicated to the excavation of the organic remains at the base of the palaeochannel with little impact being made on the rest of the site reads like an apology. This reviewer has no doubt that the limited resources were wisely targeted on the features that would provide the best preservation. The result is that we have a significant contribution to our understanding of settlement and the environment at this fen edge location.

In chapter 5 Carol Allen and David Knight provide an overview of the ceramics from the Lincolnshire fen edge. This is useful but highlights the lack of specialist input on the late La Tène and Roman pottery.

This substantial volume of nearly 400 pages concludes with a discussion by Tom Lane. This begins with an overview of the investigations in a landscape context drawing on earlier research. Sections on Barrows and Boundaries, Saltmaking, Agriculture/Farming and Trackways follow. This is useful in bringing together evidence from a range of sources although some of the interpretations in Barrows and Boundaries could be contested. Finally there is a personal note by Tom Lane in which he reflects on the Fenland Project and what LiDAR could have added to the project had it been available twenty years ago!

Overall the final volume in the Fenland Project series is a major contribution to our understanding of prehistory in Lincolnshire and the surrounding regions. It has been long in the making and there are reasons for this as Tom Lane notes in the Introduction. Tighter editing would have been helpful. Pryor 2004 cited on page 145 and French and Pryor 2005 on page 214 do not have corresponding bibliographic entries to give two examples. The volume is generously illustrated with many plates in colour which make it easier for the reader to understand the stratigraphy of some of the complex features.

The Fenland Project archives and the series of publications provide a substantial body of evidence upon which future research projects can draw and are a major contribution to our understanding of an area that has in general been neglected by archaeologists in the past. As John Coles notes in the preface to this report, 'The FMP work makes fundamental contributions to British and west European prehistoric and early historic knowledge.' Hopefully this book will demonstrate to a wide audience the richness

of prehistoric archaeology in Lincolnshire and stimulate research in areas not explored by the Fenland Survey.

Notes

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3. M. Waller, *The Fenland Project No.9: Flandrian Environmental Change in Fenland*, East Anglian Archaeology Report, no.70 (Cambridge, 1994).
4. *Fenland Management Project Excavations 1991-1995*, edited by A. Crowson, T. Lane, and J. Reeve, Lincolnshire Archaeology and Heritage Reports Series, no.3 (Heckington, 2000).
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6. C. A. I. French, *Excavation of the Deeping St Nicholas Barrow Complex, South Lincolnshire*, Lincolnshire Archaeology and Heritage Reports Series, no.1 (Heckington, 1994).
7. For Anwick see P. Chowne and F. Healy, 'Artefacts from a Prehistoric cemetery and settlement in Anwick Fen, Lincolnshire', *Lincolnshire History and Archaeology*, 18 (1983), pp.37-46; for Washingborough see *Time and Tide: The Archaeology of the Witham Valley* edited by S. Catney and D. Start, (Heckington, 2003).
8. P. Chowne, 'Aspects of Later Prehistoric Settlement in Lincolnshire: a Study of the Western Fen Margin and Bain Valley', unpublished Ph.D. thesis, University of Nottingham, 1988.
9. P. Chowne, R. Cleal and A. P. Fitzpatrick, *Excavations at Billingborough, Lincolnshire, 1975-8: a Bronze-Iron Age settlement and Salt-working Site*, East Anglian Archaeology Report, no.94 (Salisbury, 2001).
10. J. N. Hampton, 'Some aspects of interpretation and mapping of archaeological evidence from air photography' in *The Impact of Aerial Reconnaissance on Archaeology*, edited by G. S. Maxwell, CBA Research Report, no.49 (1983), pp.109-23.
11. C. A. I. French, *Excavation of the Deeping St Nicholas Barrow Complex*.
12. F. M. M. Pryor, 'Welland Bank Quarry, South Lincolnshire', *Current Archaeology*, 160 (1998), pp.139-45; M. Allen, *Archaeological Assessment Report: Rectory Farm, West Deeping, Lincolnshire. Watching brief on Phase 1A works* (2006) Allen Archaeological Associates unpublished report; S. A. Savage, *Rectory Farm, West Deeping, Lincolnshire: MAP2 assessment of watching brief phases RFWD 05 and RFWD 07*, two volumes (2008) Pre-Construct Archaeology (Lincoln) unpublished report.
13. C. A. I. French, *Archaeology and the Environment of the Eton Landscape*, East Anglian Archaeology Report, no.109 (2005).
14. F. M. M. Pryor, *Flag Fen. Life and Death of a Prehistoric Landscape* (Stroud, 2005).
15. P. Daniel, A. Richmond, and G. Coates. *Archaeological Excavations at Pote Hole Quarry: Bronze Age Occupation on the Cambridgeshire Fen-Edge*, BAR British Series, vol.484 (Oxford, 2009).
16. P. Chowne, et al., *Excavations at Billingborough*, pp.14-16, 92-93.