

Corpus of Anglo-Saxon Stone Sculpture

A celebration was held on 14 July 1999 to mark the publication of the fifth volume in the series under the General Editorship of Professor Rosemary Cramp, who here describes the launch party and the new publication.

The publication of each volume of the British Academy's Corpus of Anglo-Saxon Stone Sculpture has been a cause for celebration, but the publication of the latest volume, *Lincolnshire*, by Paul Everson and David Stocker, was something of a milestone. It was the first volume in the series to cover a single county and as such was the first for which there was one key centre at which a publication event could appropriately be held. The opportunity to publicise the series was therefore seized, and a very enjoyable launch party was held on 14 July 1999 at Edward King House next to the cathedral in Lincoln, including a reception which was sponsored by the Academy and arranged by the Publications Officer, James Rivington.

The event was linked to the annual residential meeting of Lincoln Cathedral's Fabric Advisory Committee and was attended by the Dean of Lincoln the Very Reverend A.F Knight, the Lord Lieutenant of Lincolnshire Mrs B. Cracroft-Ely, and her honour the Mayor of Lincoln Councillor L. Woolley, as well as many distinguished scholars of Lincolnshire's history and archaeology and of Anglo-Saxon sculpture, including several Fellows of the Academy, and members of the project's steering committee which oversees the Academy's investment in this important area of scholarship. The event was prominently reported in the local

press next day and a report was broadcast on Radio Lincolnshire.

The evening began with a lecture by the two authors of the Lincolnshire volume, which outlined the conclusions of their own survey, and also paid tribute to the earlier scholars in this field, in particular the Revd D.S. Davies early in the century and Dr L.A.S. Butler in the 1950s and 1960s. Both were masters of the most essential tool for research at this period, a bicycle.

The new volume catalogues nearly four times the quantity of items logged previously, predominantly of later pre-Conquest date, and it takes a distinctively archaeological approach to this large body of material. On the one hand, the ubiquitous nature of tenth-century and later funerary sculpture allows it to be used as evidence both for the development of local graveyards and also for the chronology and context of the parochial system in the region. On the other hand, the quantity of sculpture with various repetitive features permits the identification of separate groups of standardised products, mainly grave-covers and grave-markers. These have identifiable quarry sources and distinctive distributions, and were predominantly transported by waterways.

The restricted nature of these distributions can best be explained in relation to political developments in the territory of the Danelaw in the tenth and eleventh centuries. Earlier Anglo-Scandinavian forerunners of these patterns can also be identified – in Lincoln and the Lindsey region with links either to the Viking kingdom of York or the Scandinavian homelands, in the south of the county with a different local character characteristic of the Trent valley. By contrast, pre-

Part of a grave-cover from Burton Pedwardine, Lincolnshire, with bull's head motif



The Corpus of Anglo-Saxon Stone Sculpture was established as an Academy Research Project in 1972. Its aims are to publish fully-illustrated catalogues of Anglo-Saxon carved stones, with discussions of their context and significance. The series is published by the Academy. Further details of the work of the Committee and the volumes published by the Academy may be found via www.britac.ac.uk/arp

Viking items, though of high artistic quality, are rare and specialised in location and function.

At the reception afterwards a short presentation was given, reviewing the progress of the Corpus to date. Those who have served on the Academy's steering committee under the chairmanship of Sir

David Wilson FBA were thanked for the support they have lent since the project was established.

Professor Martin Biddle FBA rounded off the occasion by proposing congratulations to Professor Cramp for guiding the Corpus successfully through the first five volumes.

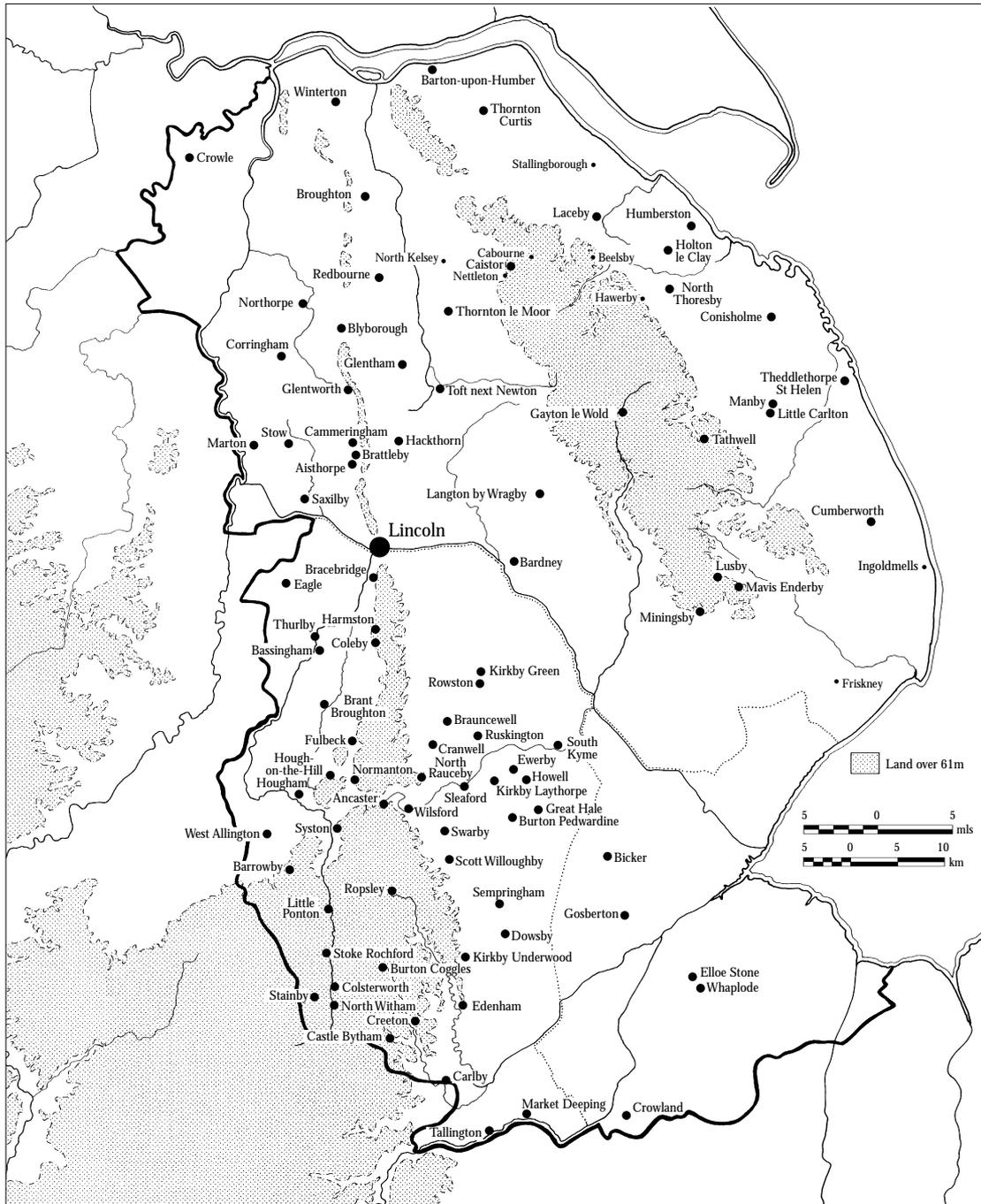


Figure 1 (below): Sites with sculpture in Lincolnshire