

Finds on your Doorstep – 6000 years of life in Flixborough - finds recorded on the Portable Antiquities Scheme Database (search for finds.org.uk) – by Martin Foreman, Finds Liaison Officer for North Lincolnshire

From the Neolithic to the Medieval period (4000 BC – AD 1066) 11 records

The reporting of detected and field-walked finds from Flixborough has been from the vicinity of the village, with more complete records available for finds to the south of it. The larger part of the parish is inaccessible to searching due to modern industrial development and to working port facilities along the Trent riverside, with find-spots lying between these zones. Medieval and post-medieval finds, the most numerous, relate to the village of Flixborough whence they probably derived. An object of Anglo-Scandinavian date (850-1066) comes from a village garden, and may indicate the period during which the village itself was established.

Neolithic cores suggest flint was worked here. A later Roman presence is suggested by coins and pottery. Early Medieval objects date to the Middle Saxon (700-850) or later periods, with one from the village itself.



The Medieval period (1066-1500) 22 records

Medieval coins confirm the establishment of Flixborough by the 13th century, with pottery suggesting that objects were deposited in the fields to the south of the village throughout medieval times. A roof-tile fragment and ironwork bolt are both likely to come from the fabric of medieval village buildings. A single metal dress fitting appears in an assemblage dominated by field-walked rather than metal-detected finds. Examination of the pottery fabrics suggests the settlement obtained some pots locally, these being tempered with sand. However, Humberwares from kilns at Cowick and Coal Measures pottery from near Rotherham would have arrived via the river Trent.

Metal finds confirm Flixborough village was established by the 13th century. Ironwork includes a clench-bolt; though well-known from Viking ships, these continued in use for later ships and wooden structures.



Pottery came first from North Lincolnshire, but later along the Trent: Humberwares from Cowick to the north, and Coal Measures pots from near Rotherham. Other bulk goods would arrive by the same routes.



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The Post-Medieval period (1500-1900) 16 records

A coin and a hooked clasp are typical finds from Tudor occupation. Evidence for the 17th-century introduction of tobacco is accompanied by fragments of slipware tablewares. The buildings in which these new luxuries were enjoyed also produced rare evidence for a glazed window and the iron studs from a wooden door; the wood had perhaps been burnt leaving its fittings behind. These were aspects of post-medieval life which were probably widespread in the countryside. However, such evidence is more easily recovered by field-walking than by metal-detecting: the way in which artefacts are collected influences the picture of daily life they convey.

Metalwork confirms occupation in Tudor times, with iron building fittings and evidence for a lead-glazed window. Tobacco pipes and a token come from the later 17th and 18th-century occupation of Flixborough.



Later pottery included hard-fired fabrics of uncertain origin. Staffordshire Slipwares were introduced in the later 17th century. Probably brought by river, this tableware would remain popular into the 18th century.

