

building was forthcoming; and not a scrap of masonry was found during the excavation. I cannot help thinking that he took this idea from the mistaken statement in our directories—both White's and Kelly's—that Willoughby was the Roman station "Verometum." But that station was on the Foss-way, and has been conjecturally identified with the Willoughby in Nottinghamshire, through which the Foss-way passed; and the identity of name no doubt explains the mistake. How then shall we account for the vast mass of pottery, of which many more tons no doubt lie under the elevated field between the two railways? I suggest that this was the refuse heap of a large pottery; and that the remarkable earthwork about two hundred yards to the south, which has evidently been created to be a pond or reservoir, was connected with the manufacture. There are two such reservoirs of about the same shape (*i.e.* quadrangular), but one much larger than the other. The larger is about 170 paces long on the east and west sides by 220 on the north and 90 on the south; and you can still see not only the point in the north-west angle, into which, by an artificial cutting nearly a quarter of a mile long, the water of a neighbouring stream was diverted, but you can also see the opening for the sluice on the south side, by which the water was let off, and even a diagonal cutting in the ground, pointing to this, which helped to clear it of water. A few yards south of this opening is the original stream from which the cutting was made higher up, and a little to the left of this is the smaller reservoir. Now for what purpose did the potters want this water? I have read that in preparing a fine Cornish flint and clay for earthenware the system is to break it into small pieces and throw it into a running stream, where the clayey parts are washed off and held suspended in the water, while the heavier useless matter sinks to the bottom. At the end of the stream the water is stopped by a dam, where the pure clay gradually subsides; and it is curious that the large reservoir at Willoughby is still locally called "the Dam." Now why should not this method have been known to and practised by the Romans? Near the field-path from Willoughby to Alford, a mile or so to the north, there are elevations in the ground just like that where the pottery was found; there is a similar cut from a stream coming from Well; and in ground broken up by

the plough, through which the cut passes, there are still signs of ramparts six to eight feet high like those at Willoughby, which have enclosed the water. In front of the northern reservoir at Willoughby, there is a field called the "Cames," much broken up by banks, which I suggest were shallow ponds forming part of the works; and the name may be connected with the local word "Cam," of Danish origin, meaning "scum" or "film" of earth, which would represent the state in which the Danes found the spot. The district between Willoughby and Alford is a very likely one for potteries; for the clay on the border of the chalk formation exhibits a kind of sandy loam which is the chief element in the Roman grey pottery; while that formation itself, on the edge of the Wolds, would supply the flints. I may add—what is natural enough—that I do not think there is a single known locality of the Roman potteries, through or near to which a Roman road did not pass. At Willoughby the line which we are following is less than a mile distant; and on a slight elevation in the Marsh at another hamlet in the parish, Habertoft (which means "high camp knoll") are faint traces of an oblong camp. It is about 70 paces by 140; and although it is now pasture, it has probably at one time been under the plough.

If the road was continued direct—which may not have been the case—it left Burgh a mile and a half to the west, and touched Croft Bank half a mile north-west of Seacroft Station. At this point, where two modern drains unite, was evidently a tumulus, which has been removed to near the level of the ground; and exactly in a line with this and with Burgh Church an unusually high bank of a drain proceeds south-east to Mr. Hand's farm at Seacroft. Here the modern drain diverges to the right, but, exactly in a line with the high bank, another bank is found, less than one hundred yards further on, some ten feet high, with dry ditches, leading through a wood and two or three grass fields to the sand-banks at Bramble Hills about a mile south of Skegness. I traced it myself over the golf links and through two of the high sand-banks which line the shore. I have already hinted why I have brought you to this point. It is because the road bends just in this direction, and because I am convinced that the Romans had a walled station at the northern entrance of the Wash—the "Metaris" of Ptolemy—to correspond