

Information Sheet

Archaeology Series No. 24

SAMUEL BUCK AND EIGHTEENTH-CENTURY LINCOLNSHIRE



Samuel and Nathaniel Buck, 1774

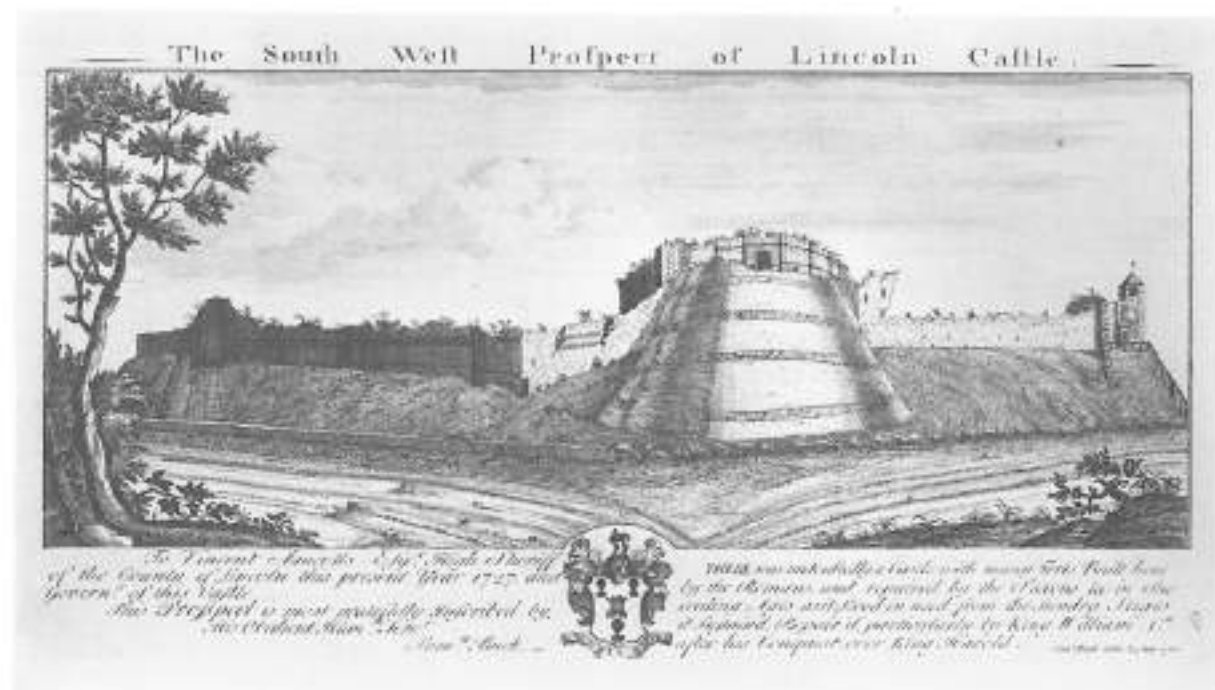
INTRODUCTION

Samuel Buck (1696–1779) was a well-known eighteenth-century topographical draughtsman and engraver. He drew and engraved over four hundred views of abbeys, castles, houses and ancient monuments in England and Wales together with over eighty large general views or prospects of towns and cities. The smaller engravings were first issued in a series of county volumes each containing twenty-four views. The engravings in this Information Sheet were all produced in 1726 and form part of the volume of engravings of places in Lincolnshire and Nottinghamshire.

From 1711 to 1726 Samuel Buck both made his own sketches and engraved his own prints, but between 1727 and 1753 he was assisted by his brother Nathaniel. The Buck brothers devoted their summer months to making their drawings, and their winters to engraving the plates for printing.

Most of England and Wales was covered between 1711 and 1742 and between the years 1743 and 1753 a number of the larger views were completed. The well-known panorama of Lincoln from the south-west by both brothers, not illustrated here, dates from 1743, although the very rare prospect of the City from the South-East is the work of Samuel Buck alone, but is undated. All of these views were republished in 1774, five years before Samuel Buck's death, in three volumes by R. Sawyer entitled "Buck's Antiquities or

LINCOLN CASTLE



Lincoln Castle from the south-west, 1726

Today much of the west and south sides of Lincoln Castle are obscured by buildings and trees, but Buck's view from the south-west shows the castle much as it must have appeared before late eighteenth- and nineteenth-century houses were built around its defences. The engraving is useful from the architectural historian's point of view and provides a number of interesting details and information about the conditions of the defences at this date before nineteenth- and twentieth-century 'restoration'. What it fails to bring out is the brilliant strategic siting of William the Conqueror's castle overlooking the city of Lincoln and commanding wide views of the Witham and Trent valleys. It is only in his panorama of Lincoln, published in 1743, that Buck manages to capture the massive strength of the Norman castle by showing it in its physical relationship to the city spreading down the hill to the south. As with much of his work there are often marked differences between Buck's field drawings and sketches and the finished engravings. The engraving of Lincoln Castle is considerably tidier than the original drawing in his sketch book.

References:

- J. W. F. Hill *Medieval Lincoln* (Cambridge, 1948).
H. Elliott *Lincoln Castle in the Middle Ages* (Lincoln, 1960).

TATTERSHALL CASTLE

The extensive alterations which Ralph Lord Cromwell carried out between 1432 and 1448 to the existing thirteenth-century castle at Tattershall included the construction in brick of the Great Tower which figures so prominently in Buck's view. No longer visible are the remains of the other buildings shown by Buck – the tall gate-house in the right foreground and the medieval and later hall against the east face of the tower. The disposition of these buildings and the other remains is rather inaccurate – Buck's technique of producing his drawings as if he were standing on a hill viewing the site tends to lead to foreshortening, a feature seen in the engravings of Scrivelsby Court and the Bishop's Palace, Lincoln. Apart from the Tower which still survives, the other buildings shown here were demolished in the nineteenth century.

References:

- M. W. Thompson *Tattershall Castle, Lincolnshire* (National Trust, 1974).

The East Prospect of Tattershall Castle near Boston in the County of Lincoln



To the Rt. Hon^{ble} HENRY Earl of Lincoln, Successor to his illustrious Grandfather, one of a Lord of his Majesty's most Honourable Council, one of a Lord of the Bedchamber & one of the most Noble Order of the Garter, &c. This Prospect is most humbly presented by His Majesty's most Excellent High Court of Chancery, &c.



THIS Castle did formerly belong to the noble Family of Tattershall being descended from the noble Earl Countess & Elizabeth Countess of Arundel who was the first that built it in the 15th King Henry II. afterwards the Duke of Arundel was a Prisoner in it, and it was taken by King Henry VIII. from whom it came to the most noble and illustrious Family of Lincoln, Duke of Lincoln.

Tattershall Castle from the east, 1726

TORKSEY CASTLE

The West View of Torkley Hall near Gainsborough in the County of Lincoln



To the JERMYN DAVERS Bar^{on} the present Owner of this Castle, who from the Duke of Cambridge is descended in right of his Mother's eldest Daughter to the 10th Duke. THIS Castle JERMYN is now a Ruin, it has been for several hundred years. This View is humbly presented by His Majesty's most Excellent High Court of Chancery, &c.



THIS Castle stands on the bank of the River Trent, and was built by the Duke of Cambridge in the 16th Century. It was a fine building, but was ruined during the Civil War. The Duke of Cambridge was a great lover of the Arts, and he had a great collection of Pictures, which he had hung in the Castle. The Duke of Cambridge was a great lover of the Arts, and he had a great collection of Pictures, which he had hung in the Castle.

Torksey Castle from the west, 1726

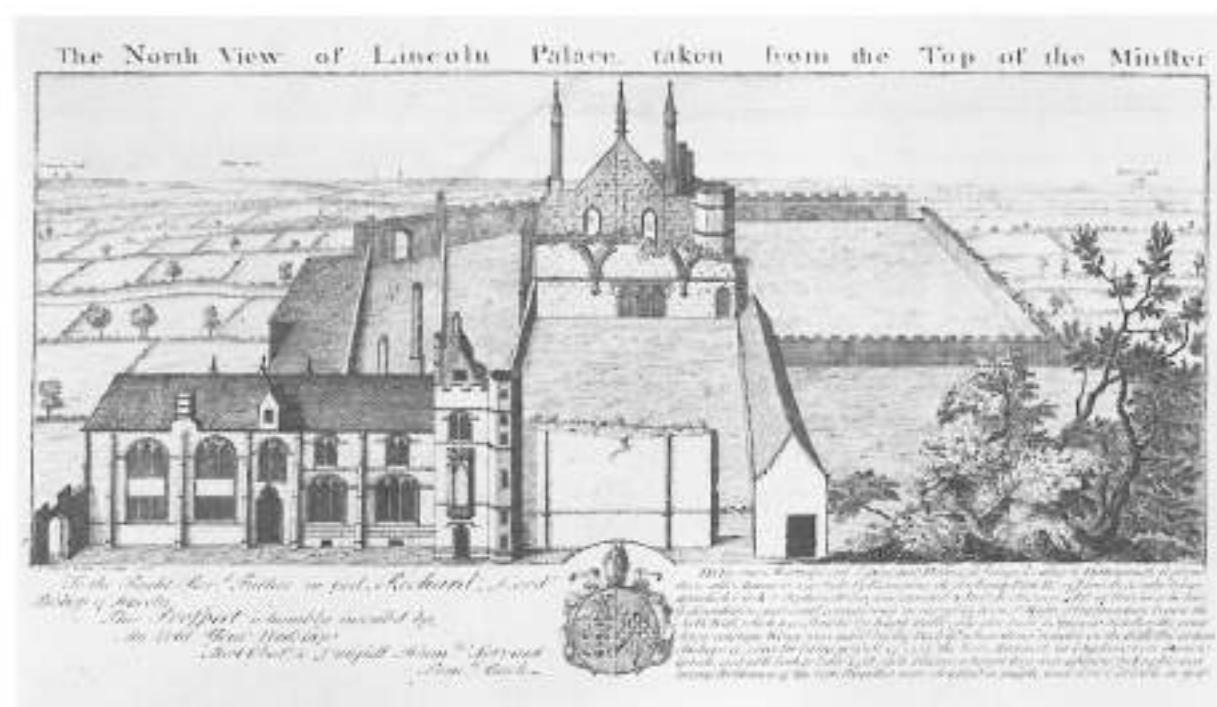
At what date the Jermyn family's fine sixteenth-century mansion acquired the name Torksey Castle is not known, but the title is a misnomer as the house was never a castle but an unfortified domestic establishment. Built in the second half of the sixteenth century, the house was plundered and ruined during the Civil War, and never rebuilt. Used as a quarry for building materials, the west facade is all that survives of the house standing on the edge of the River Trent. Buck's engraving captures the stark beauty of the remains, although in a number of details Buck's view is at variance with what survives today. The lower half of the facade is in fact stone-faced, with the upper half brick with stone quoins and dressings, while Buck's engraving fails to draw this distinction. There are also discrepancies in the dimensions and disposition of the

Gaunt Duke of Lancaster, Earl of Lincoln, Leicester and Derby in King Rich.^d 2^d's reign, the Castle here was his, but standing much expos'd to cold winds, and a place of office for the publick Service and frequently Garrison'd that Prince probably built this below the Hill for warmth, and for the use of his Family and Domesticks, whilst he resided in this most Antient City where, and at Bolingbrook, a Castle of his Highnesses in this County he spent great part of his later days, having marry'd the Lady Kath: Swinford, Widow of a Lincolnshire Kn^t. As with many of Buck's descriptions this is inaccurate, and this eighteenth-century fiction survived until very recently. In fact it seems likely from the available evidence that John de Sutton was the builder and owner of this house, and that he borrowed the arms of his feudal lord to enhance the building. The southern part is in late fourteenth/fifteenth century style. The fine oriel window on the south wall was removed to Lincoln Castle in 1849 when the house was demolished and can still be seen on the north side of the gateway there.

References:

J. W. F. Hill *Medieval Lincoln* (Cambridge, 1948) pp 166-168.

BISHOP'S PALACE, LINCOLN



Bishops Palace, Lincoln from the north, 1726

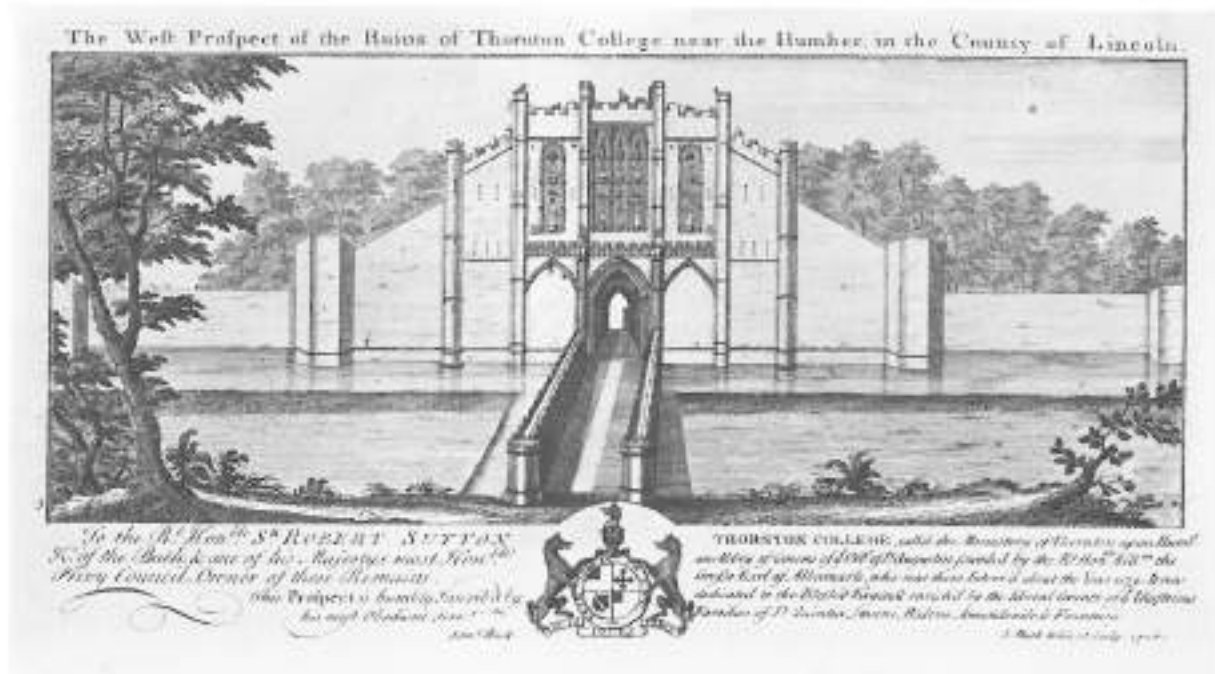
Lying to the south of the Cathedral Church of St. Mary in Lincoln the Bishop's Palace is one of the most important medieval buildings in the county. Now largely in ruins, the palace was begun in the twelfth century probably by Bishop Robert Chesney and completed in the early years of the thirteenth century by Bishop Hugh of Wells. Later additions in the fifteenth century by Bishop William Alnwick included a fine gate-tower and chapel. Buck's view shows the palace in ruins after the depredations of the Civil War. Alnwick's chapel, seen here to the left of the view, adapted as a private house, was destroyed in the year in which Buck published his view, and this is the best source of information as to its original appearance. The gate-tower, heavily restored in the late nineteenth century, still stands. The main elements of the palace are shown here, with the Great West Hall and kitchen beyond and the East Hall, although the accuracy of the background of the engraving leaves much to be desired.

References:

E. Venables *Old Episcopal Palace, Lincoln Lincolnshire Notes and Queries* vol. 1 1888-9 pp 33-6.

T. M. Ambrose *The Bishop's Palace, Lincoln Lincolnshire Museums Information Sheet, Archaeology Series no. 18* (Lincoln 1980).

THORNTON ABBEY (South Humberside)



Thornton Abbey Gatehouse from the west, 1726

Thornton Abbey was founded for canons of the Augustinian Order in 1139. Buck's engraving is however not of the Abbey itself but of the late fourteenth-century gatehouse to the west of the church, the largest and most elaborate of its type still surviving in England. It was probably built after a licence 'to build and crenellate a new house over and beside their abbey gate' was granted to the canons in 1382. It contained elaborate apartments perhaps used as the abbot's lodging and as this view makes clear was strongly fortified. The three central bays, divided by slender projecting turrets are faced with stone, while the two side bays are of brick. The use of brick here is very early for this country. The barbican or passage way approaching the gateway is also of brick and is sixteenth-century in date. Buck shows a wet moat in front of the gatehouse with the gatehouse reflected in the water in a rather pedestrian way.

References:

- A. W. Clapham Thornton *Archaeological Journal* CIII (1946) pp 17-4.
N. Pevsner & J. Harris *Lincolnshire* (Harmondsworth, 1964) pp. 400-403.

KIRKSTEAD ABBEY

Buck's view of the twelfth-century Cistercian Abbey of Kirkstead from the north shows the south interior wall of the south transept with part of the nave wall running east. Today only a fragment of this survives. The chapel in the distance was originally a chapel at the gateway into the abbey precinct and is now the parish church of St. Leonard. It is an extremely fine example of thirteenth-century architecture, and apart from Abbey Lodge Inn, originally a lodge or gatehouse to the abbey, and the standing fragment, is all that remains above ground of this once important abbey, although extensive earthworks cover the precinct and the abbey's fishponds lie to the north. Kirkstead Abbey is today owned by Nottingham University and it is interesting to note Buck's dedication in this light.

References:

- Lincolnshire Museums Sites and Monuments Record.

The East Prospect of Kirkstead Abbey near Horncastle, in the County of Lincoln



To the Reverend Mr. In Dignity of St. Mary's Church in Nottingham, owner of this Abbey
This Prospect is gratefully Inscribed by
his Obedient Servant
John Pugh



KIRKSTEAD ABBEY of which ruins remain to the N. W. of the
Bishop's Palace, was founded about the Year 1150, and
dedicated to St. Mary the Virgin. It was much enriched by the several
grants of the Archbishop, Bishops of Lincoln and other Lords, & some
Barons, till in the Year 1536, it was dissolved by King
Henry VIII. and the same Year sold to the Earl of Lincoln.

Kirkstead Abbey from the north, 1726

BARLINGS ABBEY

Seven miles (ten kilometres) to the east of Lincoln lie the remains of the Premonstratensian Abbey of Barlings. The Abbey was founded in 1154 by Ralf de Haya, a local landowner, and the first party of canons came from Newsham Abbey near Grimsby, itself the first monastery of the Premonstratensian order in Britain. The monastery was established near Barlings Grange and church, but a new site was later chosen for the buildings at Oxeney a mile to the west on a low rise at the edge of the Witham Fen. Despite its importance, little is known of the detailed history of the house or its lands. The destruction of the abbey, one of the wealthiest monastic houses in Lincolnshire at the time of the Dissolution of the Monasteries in 1536, began in 1537 when the lead was stripped from the roofs and sold off. With the loss of its roof the Abbey fell rapidly into ruin. By the

The North West Prospect of Barlings Abbey near Lincoln



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Barlings Abbey from the north-west, 1726

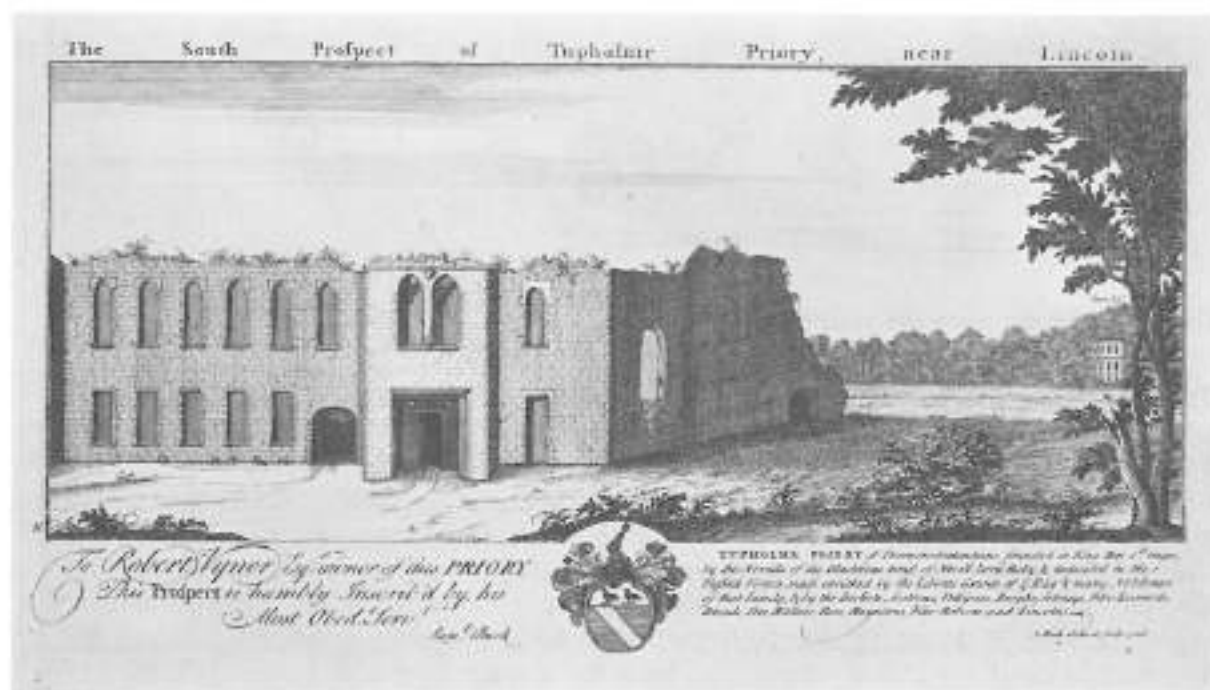
time that Samuel Buck visited the site, little remained except the fine tower of the church 180 ft (55m) high and 40 ft (12m) square, surmounted by four pinnacles. The architectural detail is of the fourteenth century and may represent the rebuilding programme carried out in the reign of Edward III (1327-77). The tower fell in 1757 and all that survives today is a fragment of masonry which formed part of the westernmost bay of the canons' choir projecting through the tower arch into the nave. Earthworks to the south of the site of the church mark the position of the conventual buildings and fish ponds.

The large sixteenth-century house, Stainfield Hall, in the background of the engraving was occupied by the Tyrwhit family until the mid-eighteenth century, when the greater part was demolished and the remainder converted to a smaller house for tenants. It was burnt down in 1855. The church of St. Andrew, built in 1711, shown alongside still survives. The owner of Stainfield Hall in 1726 was Sir John Tyrwhit and it was to him that Buck dedicated this view.

References:

- P. G. Binnall *Stainfield and the Tyrwhit family* Kitching Memorial Lecture (Bardney, 1972).
 A. J. White *Barlings Abbey* Lincolnshire Museums Information Sheet, Archaeology Series no. 5 (Lincoln, 1979).

TUPHOLME ABBEY



Tupholme Abbey from the south, 1726

The only surviving part of the twelfth/thirteenth-century Premonstratensian Abbey of Tupholme, near Bardney, is part of the south side of the cloisters lying to the south of the abbey church. Buck's view from the south shows the south wall of the canons' refectory (dining-room) with a series of cellars below, and the reader's pulpit built into the shallow buttress near the east corner. This south wall is now obscured by derelict farm buildings built up against it but can still be viewed from the north side. Buck's view shows the wall turning north with a window at half height perhaps belonging to the Warming House and beyond it another doorway leading from the cloisters. The wall has been destroyed just short of where the Chapter House would have stood. This length of east wall has long since disappeared. Comparison of Buck's engraving with mid-nineteenth century drawings show that Buck has rather simplified and tidied the architectural details of the range. Tupholme Hall shown in the background of the engraving, is still standing today, but with early nineteenth-century additions. Its owner

at this date, was Robert Vyner, who also owned the ruins of Topholme Abbey. It was to Vyner that Buck dedicated his engraving.

References:

A. J. White *Topholme Abbey* Lincolnshire Museums Information Sheet Archaeology Series no. 10 (Lincoln, 1979).

CROWLAND BRIDGE



Crowland Bridge from the south-west, 1726

Trinity Bridge, the famous triangular stone bridge of Crowland, dates from the second half of the fourteenth century. The bridge is now high and dry at the intersection of the streets in the centre of the village, but the Rivers Welland and Nene originally flowed under its three arches. The present day streets mark the old filled-in courses of the rivers, although as Buck shows in his rather lifeless engraving in the early eighteenth century the bridge still had water running beneath it. The three arches of the bridge are set 120 degrees apart and each carries a narrow foot way with steps. At the end of one foot way is set a statue of Christ, reputedly from the gable of the west front of Crowland Abbey. The bridge itself may have formed the base for a great commemorative pilgrim's cross.

References:

Lincolnshire Museums Sites and Monuments Record.

CROWLAND ABBEY

Buck's view of the great Benedictine Abbey church of Crowland from the south-west shows the south aisle and south side of the nave still standing. The antiquary William Stukeley records in his diaries how the south side of the abbey was being progressively demolished throughout the 1740s, and Buck's view is an important record of its appearance in the 1720s. The tall fifteenth-century clerestory windows with their tracery intact above the nave arcade originally held stained glass and represent part of the fifteenth-century rebuilding programme carried out by Abbot Lytlington. On the south wall of the south aisle the blind arcading originally associated with the cloisters clearly represents two separate building programmes. Buck based this engraving on a painting by Richard Collins (d. 1732) a noted draughtsman and a Fellow of the Spalding Gentlemen's

The South West View of Crowland Abbey near Spalding in the County of Lincoln.



Crowland Abbey from the south-west, 1726

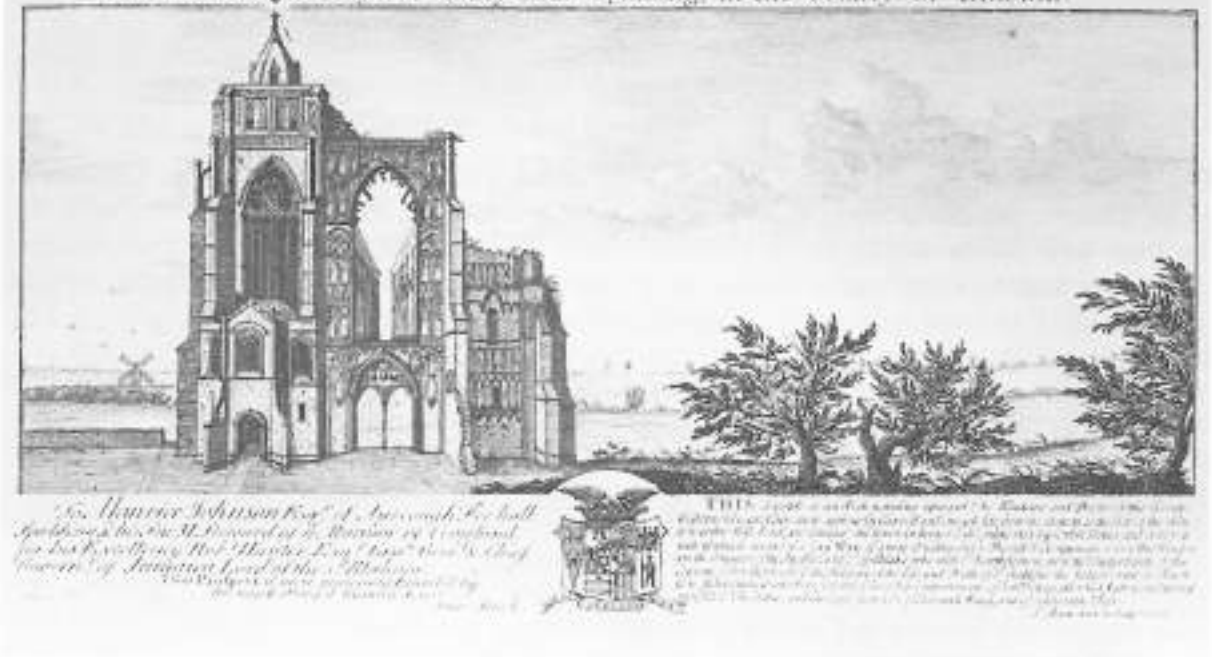
Society from 1727. A comparison with his view of the west front of the abbey church provides some interesting insights into his powers of observation.

References:

N. Pevsner and J. Harris *Lincolnshire* (Harmondsworth, 1964) pp 503-7.
Lincolnshire Museums Sites and Monuments Record.

CROWLAND ABBEY

The West View of Crowland Abbey near Spalding, in the County of Lincoln.



Crowland Abbey from the west, 1726

The west front of Crowland Abbey is a vivid reminder of the various rebuilding programmes which took place here throughout the Middle Ages. Buck's view is a tolerably accurate representation of what can still be seen, although many of his details are rather sketchily drawn. The west front of the south aisle with its tiers of blind arcading is of twelfth-century date, and gives some indication of the solid grandeur of the Norman Abbey. The west wall of the nave was restyled in the thirteenth century, and the great west window was heightened, with new tracery inserted, in the early fifteenth century. The front of the north aisle was transformed when the west tower was added in the first half of the fifteenth century. Several years before Buck visited the site the nave roof had collapsed. In the 1740s the south aisle, still standing at the time of Buck's visit, was taken down and the stone used to convert the north aisle into a self-contained church. As with his views of Barlings Abbey and the Tower on the Moor, this view of Crowland Abbey sits uneasily within the standard landscape format Buck used for his engraved views.

References:

N. Pevsner and J. Harris *Lincolnshire* (Harmondsworth, 1964) pp 503-7.
Lincolnshire Museums Sites and Monuments Record.

LOUTH PARK ABBEY



Louth Park Abbey from the north-east, 1726

The Cistercian Abbey of Louth Park was founded by Alexander, Bishop of Lincoln in 1139. The monks came from Fountains Abbey in Yorkshire. They were first offered a site for their new home in the Isle of Haverholme, but a few years later asked instead for a site in the bishop's park at Keddington to the east of Louth. Buck's engraving shows how little of this once important monastery survived by the early eighteenth century. The site today is marked by extensive earthworks, but only a small fragment of the east end of the church with the north transept survives. The site was excavated in 1873 but little detailed information was recorded. Monk's Dike shown in the background of Buck's view is still an important landscape feature and originally served to carry the monk's water supply. It begins in Louth, fed by springs at the junction of Kidgate and Aswell Street, and runs for some two miles to the abbey, where it links up with a series of moats and fishponds within the abbey precinct. Buck included in his engraving a view of Louth which he describes as 'a well-built, Rich, Populous and Pleasant Market Town', and a view of the tiny hamlet of Fanthorpe to the north of the town.

References:

Victoria County History *Lincolnshire* (vol. 2, 1902) pp 138-141.
Lincolnshire Museums Sites and Monuments Record.

WRITTEN AND COMPILED BY

Timothy Ambrose
City and County Museum, Lincoln, July 1981

A number of reproductions of Samuel Buck's views are available from Lincolnshire Museums: Usher Gallery and City and County Museum, including the Prospect of Lincoln produced in 1743.

LINCOLNSHIRE MUSEUMS INFORMATION SHEETS

Archaeology series – designed to provide details of the archaeological collections of Lincolnshire Museums and the contexts from which these collections have been drawn, for the general reader.

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