

# Archaeology in Leicestershire and Rutland 2000

Note. Archaeological watching briefs which have produced no significant archaeological features or finds are listed at the end of the relevant section below. In each case, the parish/site name is followed by the individual or organisation that undertook the fieldwork. For abbreviations, please see above, p.iv.

## LEICESTER

### ABBEY

Leicester, Leicester Abbey (SK 58 05)                      Richard Buckley and Adrian Butler

In July and August 2000, University of Leicester Archaeological Services (ULAS) supervised a training excavation at Leicester Abbey for students of the School of Archaeological Studies, Leicester University. The work, directed by Richard Buckley and Neil Finn, comprised the examination of a series of trial trenches within the east cloister walk and dormitory of the abbey and at Cavendish House, a mansion of 16th – early 17th-century date. In addition, a programme of geophysical survey to supplement results gained from an extensive survey in 1997 was undertaken by Adrian Butler.

The site of Leicester Abbey was excavated extensively in the 1920s as part of an overall scheme to transform the Abbey Grounds, then neglected and overgrown, into a public park. The results were used as basis for laying-out the plan of the abbey with the low rubble walls which may still be seen today. Recent analysis of the surviving tracing of the site plan (in the collections of LCMS) by Peter Liddle led to him to conclude that they were generally a good representation of the plan ‘although speculative in places’ (1995, 7). It seems clear that the excavators were only able to recognise solid masonry and not robber trenches, so the laid-out plan of heavily robbed areas such as the chapter house and dormitory is based on very little evidence.

One of the principal aims of the trial trenching in 2000 was to assess the survival of archaeological deposits and the accuracy of wall lines within the eastern claustral range, the site of the dormitory and chapter house. A trench was positioned within the east cloister walk, revealing a patch of *in situ* medieval tiled floor, previously observed both during 19th-century excavations and again during the campaign of the 1920s. The tiles were laid on the diagonal and although most were worn, some retained a plain green glazed finish. Fragments of decorated tile were also recovered from the backfill of the trench. Areas of later disturbance adjacent to the floor, and dated to the 16th – 17th century by pottery, revealed make-up deposits beneath the floor. A small trench was excavated across the line of a damaged section of reconstructed wall marking the southern wall of the chapter house revealing the correct alignment of the wall – marked by a robber trench – slightly to further to the north. Another trench revealed the robbed south wall of the dormitory, much further north than the reconstructed line, together with a section of narrow stone-capped drain. Both robber trenches exposed sections through deep rubble deposits below the level of medieval floors, perhaps

suggesting a partially subterranean undercroft beneath the dormitory and a sunken floor to the chapter house.

An area of c.1.2ha of magnetometer survey was carried out to the east and south of the Abbey remains. Smaller areas of electrical resistance and electromagnetic conductivity survey were targeted to enhance the results from the magnetic survey and to cover some areas about to be excavated. Although varying amounts of interference were encountered from modern usage of the park and from the excavations of the 1920s, it has been possible to elucidate some evidence of archaeological remains. South of the Abbey on the edge of the cricket oval, highly magnetic anomalies have been detected, indicating the survival of some possible brick structures. Resistance anomalies detected in and around the buildings of the south-eastern corner of the Abbey complex may indicate further structural details not uncovered in previous excavations. Experimental radiometric survey carried out over selected areas of the site failed to produce any useful archaeological information.

In the northern part of the Abbey Grounds lies Cavendish House, a post-Dissolution mansion, the east-west range of which is believed to have been constructed on the site of the medieval abbey gatehouse. The building was destroyed by fire in 1645, but much of the shell survived into the first half of the 18th century when the southern elevation of the east-west range was recorded in an engraving by William and Nathaniel Buck. By 1775, this range had been demolished, leaving only the north wall which is still visible today. Several trial trenches were examined with a view to establishing the survival of archaeological deposits and the potential for examining the structural history of the building. All revealed a complex sequence of walls and robber trenches, but interpretation of the results must at present remain tentative in view of the 'key hole' nature of the work. The earliest deposits encountered contained Anglo-Saxon pottery of the 5th-6th century AD, suggesting activity of this period in the vicinity. The earliest structure, marked by substantial robber trenches and a partially-robbed wall with possible buttresses, is interpreted as the earliest phase of the abbey gatehouse, comprising a central carriageway flanked on either side by a range of rooms. Subsequently, a projecting porch appears to have been added to the principal (north) elevation, whilst the building was also extended towards the south. Further walls and a cellar were also encountered and are believed to relate to the post-Dissolution mansion phases of the 16th-17th century.

It is hoped that evaluative work will continue at the site for at least another season, concentrating on Cavendish House, the chapter house and dormitory. Finds and records will be deposited with Leicester City Museums Service (LCMS) accession no. A8.2000.

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61a, Great Central Street (SK 5826 0473)

Michael Derrick

An archaeological watching brief at 61a Great Central Street was undertaken by ULAS on behalf of Echo Construction in advance of proposed development of a single-storied extension to the existing building. Observations were carried out along the length of the foundation trench revealing modern deposits containing Roman, late Saxon, medieval and post medieval pottery. One deposit produced a single sherd of possible Valencia lustre ware dating to the 15th-16th centuries, which suggests high status and

is a particularly rare find in Leicester. The archive will be deposited with LCMS, accession number: A7.2000

6 Haymarket (SK 5875 0466)

Richard Clark

An archaeological watching brief and salvage recording was undertaken by LCMS during redevelopment at 6 Haymarket. The site comprised a rectangular plot orientated north-west to south-east, and had been disturbed by the construction of cellars and by more recent alteration, however, a section exposing archaeological deposits at the street frontage revealed a substantial depth of compacted orange-brown gravel interspersed with darker silty gravel lens. A total of five separate phases of re-metalling were observed, in total *c.* 0.65m in depth, and *c.* 0.55m below the adjacent pavement level. The deposit, although truncated by modern services, was observed across the full width of the plot, and appears to represent a section through the Roman Fosse Way. A mid orange brown silty sand underlay the gravel surfaces, tentatively interpreted as a make-up deposit.

Fragmentary archaeological deposits between the street frontage and cellar cut were recorded, comprising a series of make-up deposits and/or surfaces in total up to 0.50m in depth. The earliest of which included a hearth and associated ash spread. Slag and a fragment of vitreous fired clay recovered during cleaning, but unstratified, may suggest iron working and some industrial activity. A poorly fired oxidised biconical beaker recovered from the immediately overlying deposits can be dated to the later 1st to early 2nd century AD. Sealing these deposits, a compacted gravel surface *c.* 0.35m in depth, with evidence of resurfacing, was recorded at a number of points across the site. Unfortunately, the relationship between the possible yard surface and Fosse Way had been destroyed, and for the same reason no evidence of roadside ditches was observed.

Two medieval features, a cesspit and probable well were recorded. The latter, circular in plan (*c.* 1.0m in diameter) with vertical sides, was observed in the base of the cellar, *c.* 2.8m below current ground level, and 17.0m from the street frontage. The former lay on the southwest edge of the development, and had been truncated during piling for the proposed development. The site archive has been deposited with LCMS, accession number A2.2000.

Northgates, CSO Improvements Scheme (SK 5820 0495 to 5920 0560)

Wayne Jarvis

An archaeological watching brief of groundworks was undertaken by ULAS between November 1999 and February 2000 for Charles Haswell & Partners Ltd., during groundworks for the Northgates CSO Improvements Scheme. Residual finds representing disturbed contexts of Roman and medieval date were made, and an undated masonry structure was observed in a trench at the west end of Sanvey Gate. No other significant archaeological deposits or finds were identified during machining. The site archive will be deposited with LCMS, accession number A1.2000.

Vaughan Way, St. Margaret's Baths (SK 5840 0475)

Tobin Rayner

Development in the centre of Leicester was monitored on behalf of Leicester City Council by Archaeological Project Services (APS). Roman and medieval remains had been reported during development of the site in the 1960s. The investigation revealed a cobble surface of the Romano-British period, sealed by a deposit containing Roman domestic debris, including pottery of 2nd century and later date, roof tile, a single

tessera and animal bone. Above these deposits was an undated layer of 'dark earth'. Disturbed human remains of medieval date, thought to have derived from the graveyard of an adjacent medieval church, were also observed. LCMS accession number A12.2000.

### *NORTH BRAUNSTONE*

Gooding Avenue (SK5578 0368)

Richard Clark

A shallow undated pit or hearth was recorded in the front garden of 285 Gooding Avenue, North Braunstone, during salvage recording by LCMS. The pit was initially exposed during the excavation of a sunken garden. The pit feature was sealed by existing topsoil and subsoil, and appeared to be cutting the natural boulder clay, with vertical sides (*c.* 0.18m deep), and an approximately flat base. The fill comprised a mid grey brown silty clay, sealing a deposit of frequent sub-angular and rounded, small to large stones, in a dark grey gritty matrix. Excavation of the surrounding surface exposed the feature in plan, revealing a circular cut (*c.* 0.40m in diameter) packed with pebbles and stones, the remnant of a surrounding pebble surface may also be suggested. At least some of the stone appeared to be heat affected.

Approximately 0.4m north-west of the pit feature, a small and shallow post hole was observed again filled with grey brown silty clay. No finds were recovered from either the pit feature, post hole or the surrounding surface, however, a Bronze Age barbed and tanged arrowhead was recovered from the front garden of the same property in 1989. The site archive has been deposited with LCMS, accession number A10.2000.

### *CASTLE*

65 Market Place (SK 5878 0451)

Michael Derrick

An archaeological evaluation at 65 Market Place was undertaken by ULAS on behalf of Peacock Stores Ltd. in advance of proposed retail development. The site had previously been occupied by a 19th-century building which was destroyed by fire in the summer of 2000. The cellars were cleared shortly after the fire and the remains of a girding beam and tie beam from a timber-framed building were thrown into the cellar. The beams were apparently discovered *in situ* between 63 and 65 Market Place but were removed for safety reasons. Although the majority of the partition wall with No.67 was blockwork, evidence for earlier stone walls was evident to the rear of the site where many different construction phases were visible. The cellar walls were largely of brick, however evidence for stone build was visible adjacent to the alley. A series of heavily truncated pits was discovered below the cellar floor, some of which contained pottery of a 12th-13th century date. Although much of the site was heavily cellared, areas of undisturbed ground survived to the rear of the property and provided evidence of post medieval robbing activity. A substantial feature was encountered below the cellar floor towards the rear of the development area. This appeared to be linear in plan, was quite substantial in depth and followed the projected alignment of the town wall. Finds and archive will be deposited with LCMS, accession number A14.2000.

Oxford Street (SK 5850 0405 to SK 5863 0383) Sally Warren

An archaeological watching brief was undertaken by ULAS on behalf of Severn Trent Water Ltd., during the laying of new water mains along Oxford Street, Leicester. Evidence for early road surfaces, two pits and a ditch (undated) was revealed. The site archive will be deposited with the LCMS under the accession number A4.2000.

Richmond Street, Gateway Sixth Form College (SK 459 304) Adrian Butler

An archaeological watching brief was carried out by ULAS on behalf of Leicestershire County Council Department of Property during the excavation of a trial pit and lift shaft at Gateway Sixth Form College, Richmond Street, Leicester. An undated well was identified in the trial pit below the College basement. Archive will be lodged with LCMS.

Heritage House, 61 Southgates (SK 584 042) Adrian Butler

An archaeological watching brief was undertaken by ULAS in August 2000 on behalf of The Gibson Hamilton Partnership during the excavation of a pit for a backup generator in the rear car park of Heritage House, 61 Southgates. Evidence for Roman and medieval occupation was revealed. The site archive will be held LCMS under the accession number A9.2000.

### *HUMBERSTONE*

Hamilton Northern Housing Area (SK 633 074) Adrian Butler, Tim Higgins  
and Vicki Priest

A topsoil magnetic susceptibility survey was carried out by ULAS directed by Adrian Butler over 54ha of land at the Hamilton Northern Housing Area on behalf of Mather Jamie. The survey detected a patchwork of high and low susceptibilities corresponding to differing agricultural practices and pedological conditions between various fields. Several areas of possible archaeological enhancement were noted. Further gradiometer survey over known archaeology gave a negative result as did survey over one area of magnetic susceptibility enhancement.

A fieldwalking survey was undertaken by ULAS, directed by Vicki Priest, in one area to enhance previous fieldwalking that had identified a single sherd of Anglo-Saxon pottery. No Anglo-Saxon pottery was recovered although the survey did find a concentration of flint and a single sherd of Romano-British pottery. This ties in well with previous work in the area and indicates that prehistoric and Romano-British activity was present on the site. Records and finds will be deposited with LCMS, accession number A15.1999.

To follow up this fieldwork and previous trial trenching (*TLAHS* 69, 125) further evaluation by trial trenching of the proposed development area was undertaken by ULAS, directed by Vicki Priest. This confirmed the presence of Iron Age deposits within the previously known Romano-British settlement to the south (*TLAHS* 60, 78-80) suggesting an earlier origin for this site (SK 629 075). In addition a second area of Iron Age activity was confirmed on a hilltop to the east of the site (SK 634 074), along with isolated pockets of probable Iron Age activity to the south. Several standing structures were also recorded in an area of woodland in the north-west of the

development site (SK 629 076). Although further work is needed, the initial survey has shown them to be of archaeological interest with the possibilities of pre-18th century dates for one of the structures and the indication that they may be associated with industry in the area, possibly quarrying. Records and finds will be deposited with LCMS, accession number A6.2000.

Subsequent open area excavation was undertaken by ULAS, directed by Tim Higgins, in two areas where concentrations of archaeological material had been located during the survey and evaluation. The Iron Age and Romano- British settlement (SK 629 075) was found to continue to the south and revealed gullies, post holes and a corn-dryer. An Iron Age enclosure ditch was revealed to the east (SK 634 074). Records and finds will be deposited with LCMS, accession number A13.2000.

Quakesick Valley (SK 630 067)

Adrian Butler

Geophysical survey comprising topsoil magnetic susceptibility and magnetometer survey was carried out by ULAS on behalf of David Lock Associates over 15.75ha of land. Magnetic anomalies interpreted as an enclosure ditch, pits and ditches were detected and are likely to relate to nearby Iron Age settlement. Other features identified were a former trackway, former pond, medieval ridge and furrow, an iron pipeline and a swathe of disturbed ground probably resulting from the installation of a storm drain.

### *WESTCOTES*

32-36, Braunstone Gate (SK57960405)

Richard Clark

An archaeological watching brief was undertaken during redevelopment of the above property. Excavations at the rear of no. 36 exposed two parallel walls, orientated slightly off the existing building alignment, and partially underlying the former outbuildings. The western wall, floor surface (*c.* 0.65m below ground level), and possible hearth are all constructed of brick, the eastern wall was of sandstone and brick construction with a plaster rendered interior face. 19th-century pottery was recovered from the backfill and makeup sealing the floor surface. The site archive has been deposited with LCMS, accession number A11.2000.

### *WYCLIFFE*

Clarence Street (SK 5896 0477)

Richard Clark

During March 2000, Hertfordshire Archaeological Trust carried out an archaeological evaluation in advance of planning permission, on land behind Wilkinson's Store, Clarence Street. The site is overlain by a considerable quantity of brick rubble derived from the demolition of 19th-century terraces, which in turn overlies a deep deposit of probable agricultural soil. This soil appears to seal the Roman features which were identified. The latter include at least three inhumations of probable Roman date together with a dispersed scatter of pits and possible post holes. Some of the discrete features contained Roman pottery, but the majority were undated. The archive will be deposited with LCMS, accession number A5.2000.

## LEICESTERSHIRE

Allextion, St Peter's Church (SK 8175 0042 )

Jennifer Browning

Work was undertaken by ULAS in June and July 2000, during restoration at St. Peter's Church, Allextion. This included a watching brief on the excavation of new drainage trenches in the churchyard, which exposed some of the church foundations. Pottery dating to the medieval period was recovered. ULAS staff were also present to record a blocked window in the tower and 18th and 19th-century graffiti carved and scratched into the lead roof covering. The archive and finds will be held by LMARS under the accession number X.A52.2000.

Ashby de la Zouch, Old Parks House, Ashby By-pass Area 3  
(SK 359 186)

James Meek

A second stage of archaeological field evaluation by trial trenching was undertaken by ULAS within an area along the route of the proposed A50 Ashby By-pass, Leicestershire. The three trenches were excavated in the area close to Old Parks House, in an area where previous geophysical survey had revealed potential for archaeological features. Several archaeological features of possible Iron Age date were revealed within two of the trenches. These features had been truncated by plough activity. The archive will be stored with LMARS, accession number X.A62.2000.

Ashby de la Zouch, Old Parks House (SK 360 186)

BUFAU

An archaeological excavation was undertaken on land south of Old Parks House by Birmingham University Field Archaeology Unit (BUFAU) on behalf of Leicestershire County Council, Department of Planning and Transportation, Highways Section in advance of the construction of the A511 Ashby Bypass. The work followed an archaeological assessment by LMARS and trial trenching by ULAS.

Two curvilinear ditches of late Iron Age date showed evidence of later recutting and may be part of a more extensive enclosure complex. Traces of linear, curvilinear and semi-circular ditches and gullies and shallow pits may relate to settlement activity and subdivision within late Iron Age enclosures. To the east of this area, a later phase of activity was represented by several linear gullies, pits and a stone surface all dating to the late Romano-British period. A 9m wide linear ditch dating to the late Romano-British period divided the areas of Romano-British activity and Iron Age settlement. The fill of this ditch sealed three undated pits.

Ashby Woulds, Hicks Lodge Extension (SK433 314)

Vicki Priest

A watching brief was undertaken by ULAS during topsoil stripping in advance of opencast coal mining at Hicks Lodge, Ashby Woulds. Two flint flakes were recovered but there was no visible trace of the projected Roman Road which is believed to have crossed the site. The archive will be held by LMARS under the accession number X.A83.2001.

Bagworth (SK 43 07)

Richard Pollard

A possible Palaeolithic scraper was brought in to LMARS by Graham Aldred (PAW); tentative identification by Richard Knox.

Barrow-Upon-Soar, Condon Road (SK 581 173) Jennifer Browning

An archaeological evaluation by trial trenching was carried out by ULAS in May 2000 on behalf of Jelson Ltd. Nine trenches were excavated, revealing a number of shallow linear features that may represent part of an undated field system. The archive will be held by LMARS under the accession number X.A45 2000.

Barrow-upon-Soar, Meadow Farm Marina (SK 584 166) Jennifer Browning

An archaeological evaluation by trial trenching was carried out by ULAS in September 2000 for Landyke Countryside Consultancy Services. Five trenches were excavated in the area of proposed development but no archaeological finds, features or deposits were identified. The archive will be held by LMARS.

Birstall, Church of St James (SK 597 088) Tim Higgins

An archaeological watching brief was undertaken by ULAS during the installation of cables for new floodlighting at St James' Church, Birstall. The excavation of service trenches revealed the foundations of two buttresses supporting the south wall of the 19th-century nave. Records will be deposited with LMARS.

Bringhurst: Bringhurst cemetery (SP 841 922) Richard Pollard

Anne Wallis found five sherds of early Anglo-Saxon pottery, together with one of late Saxon Stamford ware. Previous finds of pottery of these periods have also been made (Leics SMR 89SW.DC). There are indications of banks, yet to be properly investigated, on the north west side of the village which appear to enclose the area that is now the cemetery; these may be a vallum associated with a possible early monastery. Liddle has suggested that bogus Peterborough Charters purporting to antedate AD 704 may be based upon a folk memory within the monastic community of an early grant of land. This in turn may indicate an early monastic site at Bringhurst (Liddle, in Leics SMR records, 89SW.AF). Numerous finds of early Anglo-Saxon pottery have been made within an 800m radius of the village, which is situated on a prominent hill above the River Welland.

Brooksby, Brooksby College Estate (SK 672 155) Jon Coward

An archaeological assessment by trial trenching of an area of the Brooksby College estate was undertaken by ULAS for Lafarge Redland Aggregates Ltd. The assessment has confirmed the presence of a complex of enclosure ditches detected by geophysical survey. Romano-British and Iron Age material was recovered, together with flint. The trenching also demonstrated a lack of features, artefacts or colluvial cover in an area downslope from this complex, conforming with negative geophysical and fieldwalk survey results. Two trenches adjacent to a small stream in the valley bottom confirmed the presence of alluvial cover, but no buried land surfaces were noted. The archive will be deposited with LMARS under accession number X.A37.2000.

Burbage, Lychgate Close (SP 445 922) Sophie Clarke

An archaeological evaluation by trial trenching was undertaken by ULAS, on behalf of Williams Builders, on land off Lychgate Close, Burbage. The evaluation produced no conclusive evidence for the presence of archaeological deposits within the development

area, apart from a single, undated pit that was found to contain burnt stones and charcoal, possibly representing nearby domestic activity.

Burbage, Stables Riding School, Sketchley Lane (SP 425 921)

Adrian Butler and Jon Coward

An archaeological evaluation was undertaken by ULAS at the Stables Riding School, Sketchley Lane, Burbage for Redrow Homes (Midlands) Ltd. Six trenches were excavated, three of which revealed ditches and pits of probable prehistoric date. The archive will be deposited with LMARS, accession number X.A71.1999.

Castle Donington, Hemington Quarry Western Extension

Lynden Cooper and Susan Ripper

ULAS have continued the watching brief and undertaken contingent work on the structure (HL12) located in 1999 (*TLAHS* 74, pp.233-5). New dating evidence for some of the structures reported previously is also presented.

### *Structure HL12*

This proved to have been a large submerged dam or weir formed by two parallel lines of oak piles with wattle sheeting (illus. 5). This framework was filled with large blocks of stone and brushwood. At the northern, probably riverward end was a v-shaped arrangement of posts with surviving plank revetment and other horizontal timbers jointed to the upright piles. This would appear to be a sluice structure or such like. At this point the river bed had been artificially raised with alternate layers of wattle panels and gravel, all capped by a surface of large stone blocks. Large, re-used oak baseplates were also incorporated into this raised platform. Another large baseplate lay against the upstream side of the weir, just a few metres away from the platform, and possibly derived from it. The baseplate displayed complex jointing suggesting it supported a plank floor and housed a plank set on edge. A series of dowel holes may indicate the former presence of a wooden grille. These features bear some resemblance to baseplates used in the Anglo-Saxon mill house and mill pool at Tamworth (Rahtz and Meeson 1992) and the medieval timber head race at the Bordesley mill (Astill 1993). The stones in the weir and platform were mostly local sandstone though there were also several examples of millstone grit, including some mill stone rough-outs. Preliminary dendrochronological analysis suggests that the structure dates to the mid 12th century (R. Howard, pers. comm.) but further work is needed to refine the different phases of construction.

### *Fishing evidence*

A large, perfectly preserved wicker fish trap was located at the apex, just downstream of the stone platform (illus. 5 and 6). The trap was flat based and D-shaped in section, over 2m long and some 0.9m wide at the mouth tapering to 0.15m at its terminus. Careful dismantling revealed a tripartite, but inter-woven, basket construction, thereby forming two internal funnels (non-return valves), leading to the catching chamber (illus. 7). A withy rope, integral to the basket, formed a handle and closed the terminus. A second withy rope handle was woven into the top of the entrance. The trap was weighted down by two small cobbles woven into the sides of the basket. This discovery was quite illuminating – Mynard (1979) has speculated that pairs of waisted cobbles, some with traces of withy, found by divers in the Upper Thames were the remains of fish baskets.



5: Structure HL12: the weir or dam with apex (centre) and partly exposed wicker fish trap in foreground.  
The conjectured river flow is top right to bottom left.



6: Wicker fish basket from HL12 (scale: 1m)



7: Wicker fish basket partly dismantled showing internal funnels

Fragments of a second basket of similar design were found nearby lying on top of the weir. Several large 'anchor stones', an artefact unique to Hemington Quarry (Salisbury 1991, Brown and Salisbury, forthcoming) were found in the vicinity of HL12, though their function remains unknown.

The basket is similar in general form to examples still in use, or known historically, from many parts of the world (Von Brandt 1984). Its size and position within the water course suggest that it was used to catch eels and in Britain there are regional differences in terms of nomenclature and design. Jenkins (1974, 278) lists some of the different types known from regions where eel fishing still occurs or continued until recent times:

"They are known variously as 'grigs' (East Anglia and the Fens), 'kiddles' (Thames Estuary), 'hives' (Lincolnshire and Cambridgeshire), 'putcheons' and 'wheels' (lower Severn Valley) and 'wills' (upper Severn Valley)."

Basket traps were used to catch both yellow (or brown) and silver eels. These names relate not to different species, but different stages in the eel's life cycle. After several years living in inland water courses yellow eels metamorphose into silver eels, converting much of their body weight into fat to sustain them on their autumn downstream migration in their attempt to reach the breeding grounds of the Sargasso Sea. Yellow eels were caught in small baited traps positioned in water courses with their entrance pointing downstream – such a basket was found at Hemington Quarry in 1999 (TLAHS 74, 233-5). Tebbutt and Sayce (1936, 129) describe the different traps used in Lincolnshire. The *grig* trap, used to catch silver eels, was four feet 10 inches long and made of closely woven split osiers. Within the trap two cones of pointed sticks, *chairs*, were used as non-return valves. These traps, and the similarly designed net *cods*, were used for catching silver eels. They were placed, with their entrance upstream, in a gap in the middle of a net, which was stretched across the narrow part of a watercourse. The Lincolnshire traps were not baited though their counterparts in other regions such as Worcestershire were. A small animal bone, probably remains of bait, was recovered from the catching chamber of the HL12 basket. As silver eels stop eating when migrating such baiting was superfluous (Moriarty 1978).

### *Function of HL12*

An unresolved question is the function of the weir. The structure bears some resemblance to the mill dam recorded in 1985 in having a submerged dam or weir with a possible sluice structure to raise and control a head of water (Clay and Salisbury 1990; and Beamish, forthcoming). Mill sites were often host to fishing activities, particularly eels, finely illustrated in the 14th-century Luttrell Psalter (British Museum) that depicts eel baskets set in the race stream of a water mill. However, with the absence of any evidence for milling, but definite evidence for fishing, the structure might be interpreted as one of the more substantial 'fixed engine' fishery sites, mentioned in medieval documents. It seems likely that this is synonymous with the Anglo-Saxon *cytwera* or basket weirs, but it is has proved impossible to find archaeological parallels. The functional interpretation might be resolved if future work targeted the remaining, buried medieval channel immediately north of the present quarry limits.

### *The watching brief*

During the recording of structure HL12 quarrying operations were moved to the south and southeast (HL14). In the southern area there was a braided silted channel that

truncated a remnant of Devensian terrace to the south. A short length of an undated ditch was observed on the Devensian terrace. Although not firmly dated the channel appears to be earlier than the medieval channel system to the north associated with the riverine structures such as HL12. The channel contained anaerobic silts and clays with preserved organics, bog oaks and a split timber. The organics, including brushwood fragments, were sampled for environmental and dating information and slices of the largest of the bog oaks were subject to dendrochronological analysis. Unfortunately, these timbers have failed to cross-match with master chronologies which might indicate that they are prehistoric.

Overburden removal to the north-west (HL15) revealed a series of silted troughs in the surface of the gravels. Along the northern boundary of the stripped area a silt-filled channel was observed containing two timbers, including a worked example. Limited gravel extraction revealed several small *in situ* piles but their structural significance remains to be confirmed.

### *Dating update*

Robert Howard, Nottingham University tree-ring dating lab., reports the successful dating of the 'shoot structures' recorded in 1999 (TLAHS 73, pp.233-5). Structure HL6 has a timber with a felling date of 1325, while three other shoots can be more generally dated to the early 14th century. The consistency in dates point to a concerted effort to build protective bank-side structures at this time, possibly in response to more dynamic river conditions in a worsening climate (Brown et al., in press). None of the timbers from the fishweir HL5 proved suitable for tree-ring dating. Malcolm Greenwood, Loughborough University, reports the finding of cold climate beetle species from palaeochannel HL3 indicating a probable Late Glacial date.

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Congerstone, Bilstone Road and Shadows Lane (SK 3675 0525)

Jennifer Browning

An archaeological evaluation by trial trenching was carried out in August 2000 by ULAS on behalf of the Crown Estate. Six trenches were excavated, revealing two shallow undated gullies. No archaeological finds were recovered. The archive will be held by LMARS.

Cossington, Charnwood Edge, Syston Road (SK 6165 1318)

Michael Derrick

An archaeological field evaluation was undertaken by ULAS on behalf of Merriman Ltd. in advance of proposed office building development. Twelve trenches were excavated which contained traces of furrows but no deposits of archaeological significance. The site archive will be deposited with LMARS.

Desford, Caterpillar (SK 478 025)

Vicki Priest & Adrian Butler

An archaeological evaluation was carried out by ULAS at the Caterpillar Factory Site, Desford, in advance of construction work (Delta Phase II). The desk based assessment indicated that the site lay within an area of archaeological potential, and archaeological evaluations including fieldwalking, geophysical survey and trial trenching were carried out during January 2000. The evaluations revealed the foundations of recent buildings in two areas of the site and a several shallow, undated features in the south end of the site. Records will be deposited LMARS, accession number X.A12.2000.

Desford, Peckleton Lane (SK 4800 0295)

Jennifer Browning

An archaeological evaluation by trial trenching in January-February 2000 was undertaken by ULAS for Bryant Homes as part of a pre-planning enquiry. Eleven trenches were excavated by machine, revealing archaeological activity comprising a gully and a possible ditch or pit in two of the trenches. The remainder were empty except for evidence of medieval ridge and furrow agriculture. Finds from the features were few and were not sufficient to date the activity reliably. However, a tentative prehistoric date is suggested for the gully. The archive and finds will be held by LMARS under the accession number X.A18.2000.

Coalville: Donington le Heath Manor House (SK 420 126)

Peter Liddle

LMARS undertook a watching brief during the construction of paths along the north and east sides of the manor house, in January 2000. North of the house, a slate scatter associated with a 13th-14th-century ridge tile was recorded. East of the house, a cobble layer with a glazed sewer pipe fragment indicating a late 19th-20th-century date was encountered, as was Dornier's Trench 2 (Dornier 1971-2). South east of the house, a north-south wall was revealed, which documentary research showed to

have been standing in the 1960s. The archive is with LMARS, accession number X.A23.2000.

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Edmondthorpe, St. Michael and All Angel's Church (SK 862 176)

Wayne Jarvis

An archaeological watching brief was undertaken by ULAS on behalf of The Churches Conservation Trust during work on the interior of St. Michael and All Angel's Church. Conservation work included the removal of monumental sculptures, which revealed a medieval piscina (a stone basin used in Mass) in the south-east corner of the south aisle. This was recorded by ULAS staff and preserved *in situ*. The site archive will be held by LMARS.

Foxton, The Grange, Swingbridge St. (SP 702 901)

Wayne Jarvis

An archaeological watching brief of groundworks was undertaken by ULAS in March 2000 for Troy Newborn Homes Ltd., prior to construction of a new dwelling. No significant archaeological deposits or finds were identified during machining, although an undated possible ditch was recorded in the east of the area. The site archive will be deposited with LMARS.

Garthorpe, St Mary's Church (SK 831 209)

Jennifer Browning

Two archaeological watching briefs were undertaken by ULAS, for the Churches Conservation Trust, during the excavation of new drainage trenches and three trial trenches at St. Mary's Church, Garthorpe. No archaeological features were observed but a few sherds of medieval pottery, ranging in date from the 11th to the 13th century, were found in the disturbed subsoil. The archive and finds will be held by the LMARS under the accession number X. A19. 2000.

Great Glen, A6 Bypass (SP 465 299 297 323)

BUFAU

A programme of field survey including fieldwalking, air photograph interpretation, earthwork survey, geophysical survey and auger survey was carried out along the proposed route of the A6 Great Glen Bypass by BUFAU on behalf of Mott MacDonald. A previous archaeological assessment undertaken by BUFAU had identified areas of medieval landscape which would be destroyed by the bypass, and areas of unknown archaeological potential which required further investigation. Five fields requiring further investigation by trial trenching were identified, focusing on potential medieval remains in the area around the shrunken village of Great Glen (Fields 17C and 17D), and possible archaeological features identified by geophysical survey and the recovery of Iron Age and Roman pot sherds in Fields 17F, 19B and 19C. Auger transects across the floodplains of the River Sence and Burton Brook did not produce any archaeological evidence.

Hallaton Goadby Road (SP 77 97)

Richard Pollard

The Hallaton Archaeological Fieldwork Group (HAFG) recorded a Roman occupation pottery scatter dating to at least the 2nd to 4th centuries with a possible origin in the

late Iron Age. The pottery includes Central Gaulish samian, Lower Nene Valley colour-coated ware, white ware mortarium and grey ware, Mancetter-Hartshill mortarium, unsourced grey ware, shelly ware, and Northamptonshire hard grogged ware.

Hallaton (SP 78 96)

Richard Pollard

HAFG discovered a late Iron Age and Roman occupation scatter comprising pottery from the late 1st century BC/early 1st century AD to the 4th/early 5th century, and a few sherds of Roman roof tile. The pottery includes late Iron Age fine and coarse grog tempered ware and shelly ware, first and second century samian, Dressel 20 amphora, Lower Nene Valley colour-coated ware, white ware mortarium and grey ware, Mancetter-Hartshill mortaria, Upper Nene Valley(?) grey ware, unsourced oxidised, white-slip and grey wares, BB1, shelly wares including Harrold-type late Roman types, and Northamptonshire hard grogged ware.

Hallaton (SP 78 96)

Richard Pollard

A late Iron Age to early Roman site was recorded by HAFG to the north of the foregoing site. A narrower range of finds, with tile absent, is suggestive of a date range of late first century BC/mid first century AD to mid second century. Pottery includes grog tempered and sandy late Iron Age wares, second century samian, Mancetter-Hartshill(?) mortarium and white ware flagon, Lower Nene Valley and unsourced grey wares, oxidised ware, and Northamptonshire hard grogged ware. A single fragment of kiln bar was also found.

Hallaton (SP 78 97)

Richard Pollard

HAFG recovered five late Iron Age and Roman sherds, which may indicate occupation within the field and/or beyond it to the north east and south.

Hallaton (SP 78 97)

Richard Pollard

Analysis in 2000 of fieldwalked material collected in 1999 by HAFG provided further evidence of the existence of a Roman building with tiled roof, tessellated paving, and possibly a hypocaust (see also *TLAHS* 52, 99).

Hathern, Hathern Road (SK 49 20)

Richard Pollard

Test pitting by the Shepshed Archaeological Fieldwork Group (SAFG) on the Roman site previously reported (*TLAHS* 74, 242) has revealed a plaster/*opus signinum* deposit beneath the ploughsoil.

Hathern Zouch Road (SK 50 22)

Richard Pollard

The SAFG has located a Roman occupation scatter. Single sherds of mid-late Iron Age(?) rock tempered ware and early Anglo-Saxon 'Charnwood Ware' were also recovered.

Huncote, Forest Road (SP 516 985)

Martin Shore

Following geophysical survey, fieldwalking and open area evaluation a watching brief and metal detector survey was undertaken by ULAS at Forest Road, Huncote,

following the discovery of a late Iron Age linch pin (*TLAHS* 72, 172). The watching brief, during topsoil stripping prior to sand and gravel extraction, located features of Iron Age date. Subsequent machine stripping revealed a sub-rectangular Iron Age enclosure, which was then subject to an excavation by ULAS directed by Martin Shore. The excavation revealed evidence of a small farmstead, which was in use during the late Iron Age with possible continuation of use into the early Roman period. This included two circular buildings and a series of stock control boundaries all within the enclosure. Charred cereal remains including spelt and emmer wheat, and animal bone including cattle and sheep/goat were recovered suggesting a small scale mixed economy, possibly for an extended family group. We would like to thank Acresford Sand and Gravel Company for their help and co-operation with this project.

The finds and archive are to be deposited with LMARS (accession number X.A55.2000).

### Husbands Bosworth Quarry Extension (SK 63 82)

Adrian Butler and Jon Coward

Further geophysical survey and archaeological trial trenching at the proposed quarry extension, Husbands Bosworth has been undertaken with the objective of detecting archaeological features outside the known causewayed enclosure (*TLAHS* 73, 100; 74, 247). The causewayed enclosure has been excluded from the extraction area pending scheduling.

The geophysical survey has located magnetic anomalies reflecting buried ditches and pits and possibly two Bronze Age round barrows to the south and north east of the causewayed enclosure while pit and gully features were revealed during trial trenching to the west of the area of the causewayed enclosure.

An archaeological watching brief and subsequent recording was undertaken between September and December 2000 during the first phases of earthmoving for the quarry extension. The earthmoving and subsequent archaeological response divide naturally into discrete areas: the tunnel construction and bund (northern and eastern portions of field 1); the haul road (across fields 1,3, and 4); the subsoil bund area at the west of field 5; the side valley area strip in field 5; and the plateau area in field 5 (illus 1).

#### *Tunnel construction and bund area, Field 1*

Investigation in Field 1 revealed one large deep pit with steep sides and several other smaller pits and gullies. No dating evidence was found. To the east a large spread of sediment sealing a shallow ovoid depression and a gully and a small pit/posthole to the south west was located. Forty-one sherds of Late Neolithic pottery (the majority of it Peterborough ware), and over 200 pieces of flint were recovered from the spread which may denote the base of a buried soil.

#### *Haul Road*

Despite passing close to the western extent of the causewayed enclosure the strip along the haul road strip did not reveal a high density of archaeological activity although tree throws were common. A small truncated pit near the hedge line between field 3 and field 4 contained Late Neolithic/ Early Bronze Age pottery, whilst one nearby contained Neolithic pottery. At the extreme east end of the haul road was a hearth-like feature containing fire-damaged cobbles. Immediately adjacent was a small pit containing calcined bone fragments, which were possibly human.

*Field 5*

To the southeast a deep layer of colluvium derived from the higher slope had protected an area (25m by 10m) of slightly greyish soil, which contained flint and occasional abraded late Bronze Age / Early Iron Age pottery. To the south a dry side valley was revealed with an increasing depth of subsoil/colluvium, approaching 2m in places.

Several pits with burnt cobbles and stone were located, some of which having quantities of charcoal in the fill. Typical dimensions were *c* 1.0m in diameter and 0.4m in depth and some of the larger pits formed an alignment. The largest of these contained a thick layer of heat damaged stones and cobbles with a distinct dark charcoal fill beneath. Iron Age pottery was recovered from both the stone and the charcoal layers. To the south-east two small shallow circular pits contained calcined bone fragments.

A late Neolithic/Early Bronze Age burial was revealed in a deep sub-rectangular pit, capped with a layer of burnt cobbles and stones. The pit cut narrowed at the base to accommodate a crouched inhumation with head to the south-east (illus. 2). Although bone survival was generally poor, preliminary indications are of a male of 30 – 35 years. A tool kit of five flints (fabricator and knives) was present by the knees, a flint flake in the skull, and two pieces of animal bone by the wrist. Charred remains of an oak plank were present which had been laid vertically along the length of the pit side behind the back of the inhumation. The remains of the plank showed it to have been rectangular, radially split and charred prior to burial. Its position in the pit corresponded with a natural layer of very loose gravel along one side, and it is possible that it was acting as shuttering. This implies that either the pit was dug some time before the body was placed in, or that the body remained uncovered for a period before backfilling.

Tree throw pits were common throughout the areas examined, very few of which contained any finds. At least four features in the plateau area were noted as definitely cut into the backfills of tree throws. Considering the amount of flint noted in the fieldwalking, the lack of archaeological material in the backfills of these throws may taken as circumstantial evidence for tree clearance in advance of the construction of the causewayed enclosure. The site archive will be deposited with LMARS, accession number K.A83.1998.

Illston on the Hill, Land Adjacent to Lodge Farm, Main Street (SP 7095 9940)

Tobin Rayner

On behalf of Parkinson, Dodson and Associates, F. Walker of APS carried out a watching brief during construction of a house at the eastern edge of Illston village. The site is close to earthworks of the shrunken medieval settlement and artefacts and remains of prehistoric to post-medieval date have previously been identified in the vicinity. A cobble yard surface of post-medieval date, perhaps associated with the adjacent farm, was revealed, though no earlier remains were identified. Artefacts of predominantly 17th-18th-century date were recovered, together with a single prehistoric flint waste flake. LMARS accession number X.A59.2000.

Ingarsby, Farm Cottage, Ingarsby Lane (SK 684 054)

Sally Warren

An archaeological watching brief was undertaken by ULAS on groundworks associated with the construction of extensions to Farm Cottage, Ingarsby on behalf of Mr B. Henton of Ingarsby Hall. The cottage lies close to the moated site and deserted medieval village of Ingarsby, a Scheduled Ancient Monument. A single sherd of 14th –

15th-century medieval sandy ware pottery, two fragments of roof slate and a post-medieval cast iron weight were recovered. The site archive will be deposited with LMARS, accession number X.A24.2000.

Kegworth, 'Fulcrum' site (SP 4785 2840 (centre))

Adrian Butler, Jon Coward and Vicki Priest

A programme of archaeological work involving geophysical and fieldwalking surveys were carried out by ULAS on behalf of Faulks, Perry, Culley and Rech at the proposed 'Fulcrum' site, Kegworth, Leicestershire. The desk-based assessment along with previous work in the vicinity has shown that the site lies within an area of archaeological potential. Topsoil magnetic susceptibility, magnetometer and earth resistance were performed across the site. Although the overall strength of anomalies was low, possible identification has been made of pits, ditches, a round house, a structure, pond and a putative barrow.

The fieldwalking survey recovered a number of flints of Late Mesolithic to Bronze Age date along the northern and western side of the development area showing that the prehistoric activity previously recorded to the north is more extensive. A number of sherds of medieval pottery were also recovered. These are probably representative of later medieval manuring and rubbish disposal. Records and finds will be deposited with LMARS, accession numbers X.A.1.2000 – X.A.11.2000.

Leire, Back Lane (SP 52 90)

Richard Pollard

Carol Cambers (PAW) and the Lutterworth Fieldwork Group recorded a Roman site during fieldwalking. Pottery finds include Central Gaulish samian, Oxfordshire red colour-coat, Mancetter-Hartshill mortaria, BB1, oxidised and grey wares (Leics SMR 59SW.BE). A large assemblage of flint material was also recovered, including Mesolithic and Mesolithic/early Neolithic blades and blade like flakes, as well as scrapers, cores, retouched flakes and flakes of Neolithic/Bronze Age date.

Leire: Little Lane (SP 52 89)

Richard Pollard

Carol Cambers reported undertaking a watching brief on a building site just inside the southern limit of the historic village. Conditions did not facilitate the recognition of features, but a large early medieval pottery assemblage, with Potters Marston ware prevalent, was recovered. Some of the material, at least, appears to be primary rubbish, to judge from large sherd sizes. Later medieval pottery was comparatively rare, implying a change in use of the site in the thirteenth or fourteenth century, perhaps from habitation/farmyard (toft) to pasture (croft). Flint items from the site include a possibly Upper Palaeolithic blade, a blade core, blade and blade like flake of Mesolithic date, and Neolithic/Bronze Age material.

Lockington-Hemington, Warren Farm (SK 47 29(area) & SK 466 293 (area))

Adrian Butler

Topsoil magnetic susceptibility, magnetometer and earth resistance surveys were carried out on by ULAS behalf of LaFarge Redland Aggregates at Warren Farm, Lockington-Hemington. Areas of archaeological interest were located and detailed survey identified possible palaeochannels, ditches, pits and banks as well as ferrous objects.

Lockington-Hemington, Warren Farm: Archaeological Evaluations  
on Phases 1, 2, 3, 4, 7, 8 & 9 (SK 4729 (centre)) Vicki Priest

Archaeological evaluations were undertaken during May/June and September 2000 by ULAS at Warren Farm, Lockington, Leicestershire on behalf of LaFarge Redland Aggregates. Previous fieldwork including fieldwalking, geophysical survey and trial trenching had identified several areas of archaeological interest within the proposed development area. This evaluation confirmed the presence of eleven groups of archaeological features within Phases 1, 2, 8 and 9. These include several groups of undated features, a Roman ditch, the possible extension to the south of the Iron Age settlement previously identified in Phases 5 and 6 and earlier stone foundations beneath the now demolished buildings of Warren Farm. Further work is needed on these groups to establish the extent, nature and date of these features. Records and finds will be deposited with LMARS, accession number XA64.2000.

Lockington-Hemington, Warren Farm Farmhouse and  
Farm Buildings, (SK 4730 3290) David Smith with Susan Ripper

A building survey was carried out by ULAS in January and February 2000 of Warren Farm prior to demolition. The work, commissioned by Lafarge Redland Aggregates Ltd, provided the opportunity to record a late 19th-century 'model' farm and earlier farmhouse. Records will be deposited with LMARS.

Loughborough, The Rushes (SK 4534 3199) Parsons Archaeology

In April 2000, Parsons Archaeology undertook a programme of trial trenching on behalf of Metrobrook Ltd in advance of redevelopment of a site in The Rushes, Loughborough. Six trenches and three test pits were examined, revealing only features of comparatively recent date relating to former field boundaries, fence lines and possible holding pens for livestock. It was evident from the results of the evaluation that areas of the site had been heavily landscaped the late 18th and 19th centuries for the development of housing. Of interest was a quantity of clay tobacco pipe recovered from a dumped layer in one of the trenches. The residue of wasters and kiln furniture in the form of unused type 27 bowls (Higgins 1985) with maker's names and parts of the clay-hanging ring suggest evidence for nearby manufacture. All of the waste is dated between 1780 and 1820. Finds and records will be lodged with LMARS under accession number X.A35.2000.

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Market Harborough, Farndon Road (SP 7235 8635) JSAC

An archaeological evaluation and excavation were undertaken by John Samuels Archaeological Consultants (JSAC) during March 2000 for David Wilson Homes on the proposed development at Farndon Road. The evaluation was preceded by a desk-based assessment and geophysical survey. The excavation recorded the presence of a curvilinear ditch and linear gully dated to the Mid-Late Iron Age which were heavily truncated by 19th-century field drains. The ploughed out remains of ridge and furrow

and an undated pit, ditch and pond were also recorded. The archive will be deposited with LMARS. Accession No.: X.A32.2000; Site Code: FMH00.

Market Harborough: Fairfield Road (SP 73 87) Richard Pollard

An iron spearhead was discovered during domestic excavation in a garden, at a depth of *c.* 2.4m. Initial examination suggests it to be of early Anglo-Saxon date.

Melton Mowbray (SK 775 186) Vicki Priest

An archaeological watching brief was undertaken by ULAS in January 2000 on behalf of the Environment Agency during excavation of 12 trial pits on pasture land near Melton Mowbray. The site contained extensive areas of well-preserved ridge and furrow and lies north-east of Mann Mill and west of known earthworks recorded at Brentingby village. No archaeological deposits other than the ridge and furrow were recorded during the watching brief suggesting that the area has been given over to agriculture since medieval times. Organic deposits were noted on the low-lying flood plain close to the river. Records will be deposited with LMARS.

Melton Mowbray, 22-31 Nottingham Street (SK 7513 1922) A. Gnanaratnam

Between the 17th and 20th January 2000 an archaeological field evaluation was carried out for Wilkinson Hardware Stores Ltd, in the back garden of 23-31 Nottingham Street, Melton Mowbray. Four trenches were hand excavated although natural was only reached in trench 4. In all four trenches a late post-medieval garden soil was observed and in trenches 3 and 4 it overlay both post-medieval pitting and a post-medieval layer of unknown function. The latter sealed an early topsoil or garden soil, which overlay a compact subsoil. No medieval archaeological deposits were observed.

An inscribed oolitic limestone fragment was recovered from the upper Victorian or 20th-century levels. This had been re-used as building stone, and discarded, presumably following the disuse of the structure. The fragment consisted of a corner with Gothic black figure lettering, the letters 'ro' are visible, together with an incomplete eight pointed cross, and a possible monogram formed from C and R. It is likely that this is a fragment of a medieval incised grave slab which probably derived from the Chapel of the Manor of St. John of Jerusalem, which went out of use during the Dissolution.

Finds and records will be deposited with LMARS, accession number X.A17.2000.

Melton Mowbray (SK 780 180 to SK 800 190) Sally Warren

An archaeological watching brief was undertaken by ULAS in April 2000 on behalf of the Environment Agency during the excavation of 16 trial pits on land between Brentingby and Stapleford near Melton Mowbray. Two sherds of Roman and one sherd of early medieval pottery were found but no archaeological features were located. The site archive will be deposited with LMARS under the accession number X.A61.2000.

Misterton, Gilmorton Road, Walcote (SK 573 842) Jennifer Browning

An archaeological evaluation by trial trenching was undertaken by ULAS on behalf of Andrew Granger and Co. Eight trenches were excavated, revealing three shallow undated pits. No archaeological finds were recovered. The archive will be held by LMARS.

Nailstone, 57 Main Street (SK 417 072)

Adrian Butler

An archaeological evaluation by trial trenching was carried out on land at 57 Main Street, Nailstone, Leicestershire, in August 2000. ULAS were commissioned by AR Cartwright Ltd to undertake the work. Four trenches were excavated revealing a medieval gully, a ditch and well of probable modern date, and an undated pit. The finds and archive will be lodged with LMARS accession number X.A63.2000.

Narborough, Redhill Field Primary School (SP 532 978)

Sally Warren

An archaeological watching brief was undertaken by ULAS in July 2000, on behalf of Leicestershire County Council. Six stanchion holes were excavated in an internal quadrangle of the school for the purpose of supporting a roof. Evidence of Roman building material was found. The site archive will be deposited with LMARS under the accession number X.A56.2000.

Rosemead Drive, Oadby (SP 626 999)

Richard Pollard

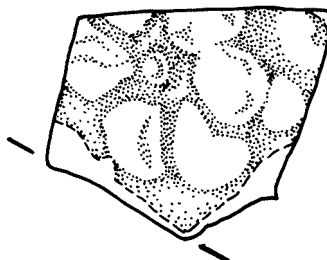
Excavation of foundation trenches for a house extension led to the discovery of mid to late Iron Age sand-and-rock tempered ware, sandy and shelly wares probably of late Iron Age or early Roman date, and Roman wares of mid first to early third-century date. The last include Central Gaulish decorated samian of the mid-late second century, and a ring-neck flagon in white ware, as well as oxidised and grey wares. The presence of large sherds suggests that the Roman assemblage represents primary refuse rather than manuring. The site was excavated by Stephen and Paul Saunders, and the pottery identified by the author.

Oadby, Brocks Hill Millennium Park (SP 618 997)

Richard Pollard

Brocks Hill Millennium Park lies between Oadby and Wigston, *c.* 6 km south-east of the historic core of Roman Leicester. A watching brief in 1999 on groundworks produced finds of prehistoric, medieval and later date, but nothing from the Roman period (Warren 2000; *TLAHS* 74, 250; Leics SMR 69NW.BY). Surveying by Leicestershire County Council in 2000 led to the recovery of a single Roman sherd from the Park. This sherd was submitted to Leicestershire Museums, Arts and Records Service for identification; donation to LMARS has been agreed with Oadby and Wigston Borough Council.

The sherd is from a mould decorated cup in South Gaulish colour-coated ware, and features a six-petal rosette (illus. 8). It lacks the rough cast pellets that are present on



8: Oadby, South Gaulish c-c sherd. Scale 2:1.

many examples of this ware. The fabric is reddish yellow (Munsell values 5YR 6/6 to 7/6) with a red (10R 4/6) slip.

South Gaulish colour-coated ware was made c. AD 40-70 at La Graufesenque, and possibly also at Montans, alongside samian ware (Tyers 1996, 160). It is an extremely rare find in Britain, having been reported from only five other sites up to the early 1990s: Dorchester (Dorset), Fingringhoe Wick (near Colchester, Essex), London, Richborough (Kent) and York (Davies et al 1994, Greene 1979, Willis 1990). These are all either military/port or urban sites. Intensive research by the present author and others in the 1980s and 1990s on Roman pottery from Leicester has failed to reveal a single sherd of this ware.

Roman material, including a coin of Claudius (Leicester Museums 1956) and Iron Age and early Roman pottery (above), has been recovered from the Brocks Hill area c. 400m to the east. The presence of a sherd of such a rare fabric as South Gaulish colour-coated ware in the vicinity suggests the presence of high status individuals at Brocks Hill in the earliest years of Roman Britain, though whether "native" or "foreign" cannot of course be determined.

The illustration of the sherd is by Wendy Sheppard.

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Peckleton, Desford Lane (SK 46 02)

Richard Pollard

Geoff Henson found a Neolithic polished flint axe. The piece is slim overall, with the butt end only slightly narrower than the blade. LMARS accession number X.A1.2001.

Queniborough, Wetherby Close (SK 6402 1265)

Adrian Butler & Steve Malone

A magnetometer survey was carried out by ULAS on land adjacent to Wetherby Close, Queniborough, on behalf of Bryant Homes. Anomalies reflecting two parallel linear features, two pits and two possible ditch or gully lengths, were detected. The parallel linear features bear a strong resemblance to a neolithic cursus monument. Trial trenching was subsequently undertaken on behalf of ULAS by staff of APS, supervised by S. Malone. One of the possible cursus ditches contained Late Neolithic pottery. This pottery, of the Grooved Ware tradition, was decorated with finger-nail and finger-tip impressions. Two linear gullies and a small pit were also identified but were undated.

All these features were sealed by an undated but probably medieval ploughsoil. The archive will be deposited with LMARS, accession number X.A70.2000.

Saxby, Saxby Village Drain (SK 822 199)

John Thomas

An archaeological watching brief was undertaken by the ULAS during groundworks for the installation of Saxby Village Drain by Severn Trent Water plc in February 2000. As a result of the initial observations of the work it was realised that the location of the pipeline easement would impinge upon substantial medieval village earthworks. A programme of archaeological recording was implemented involving an earthwork survey of the threatened remains, detailed written and drawn recording of the archaeology revealed and sample excavation and recording of features to be affected directly by the drainage pipe trench.

The village earthworks were affected by the northern part of the pipeline, which extended towards the present village, crossing two activity platforms en route. The pipeline easement in this area was reduced in width so as to limit the damage to any archaeological remains. The topsoil strip of the area revealed a long history of activity in the area, stretching back to early prehistoric periods.

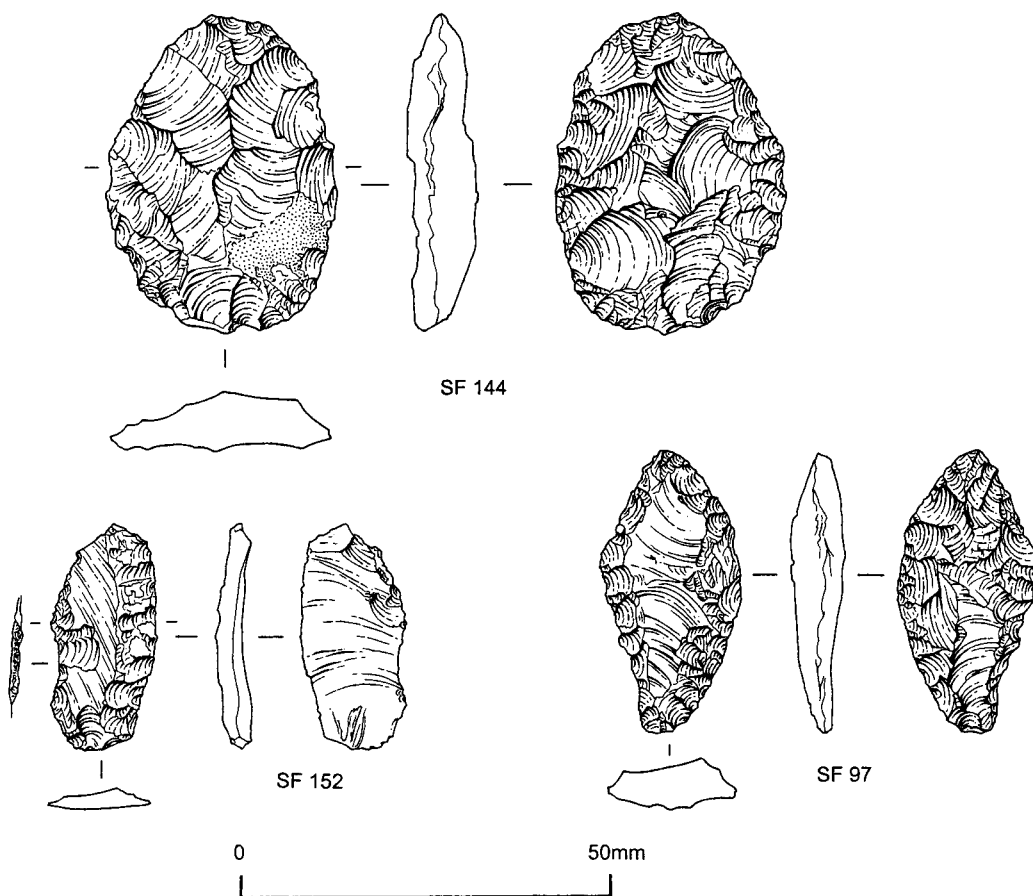
A scatter of flintwork indicated later Mesolithic, Neolithic and Bronze Age activity in the area. The later Mesolithic material included a rod microlith and an early Neolithic laurel leaf was also represented. The latter piece derived from a preserved area of potentially buried soil where a large assemblage of blades and flintworking debris comprised an *in situ* knapping scatter. Other unstratified pieces suggested a later Neolithic or Bronze Age date. A small pit yielded flint waste and charcoal providing a radiocarbon date of c.3560 BP suggesting a mid Bronze Age date. Also recovered from this pit were emmer wheat remains possibly indicating nearby cultivation. A small group of features at the northern end of the pipeline may represent a later phase of prehistoric activity, possibly during the Iron Age. In general the widespread scatter of lithics suggest 'domestic' occupation of the area during the Neolithic, Bronze Age and possibly the Iron Age. A small scatter of residual Romano-British pottery also indicated 3rd/4th-century activity in the area, possibly connected to a nearby villa site.

Early Saxon origins for settlement at Saxby were hinted at by the recovery of a small group of 5th/6th-century AD pottery sherds found residually in later, medieval contexts. Certainly by the later Saxon/Saxo-Norman period (9th-11th century AD) the evidence recovered suggests that the village was showing signs of nucleation. On both activity platforms an element of 'planning' was observed suggesting formalised areas for dwellings and farmyards (tofts) and enclosed paddocks (crofts). Evidence was recorded for enclosed yard areas to the rear of possible domestic activity areas. These were suggested by distinct areas of refuse pits, post holes suggesting timber structures and, in the case of the lower platform, an activity layer comprising a mixed soil with much charcoal, pottery and animal bone. Rare environmental evidence was recovered from 13th-14th-century deposits on the upper platform. This included both bread and rivet wheat rachis, the latter being a particularly uncommon find in a rural context.

A collapsed stone structure was also revealed at the northern end of the pipeline, nearest the present village. Pottery recovered from its demolition rubble suggested a 15th-century date for its demise. This date was in contrast to the 14th-century date suggested for the end of activities on the lower platform to the south. This was suggestive of desertion or shrinkage of the settlement at this time. Pottery recovered

from the upper platform suggested life in this part of the village carried on into the 16th/17th century.

The exposed remains were covered with a protective layer of soil before machinery travelled over them so as to limit the amount of destruction during the excavation of the drainage pipe trench. The site archive will be deposited with the LMARS, accession number X.A22.2000.



9: Early Neolithic Laurel Leaf (SF 144), a Later Neolithic/Early Bronze Age knife (SF 152) and a lop sided leaf shaped arrowhead of the Neolithic (SF 97). Drawn by Dave Hopkins.

#### Seagrave, Hall Farm (SK 618 174)

Jon Coward

An archaeological watching brief was undertaken by ULAS during the excavation of geotechnical test pits by Nicholls Colton and Partners Ltd at Hall Farm, Seagrave. One of the pits revealed a probable floor or yard surface with evidence of burning, and elsewhere a sherd of 16th or 17th-century pottery was recovered. The archive will be added to that held by LMARS under accession number X.A107.1996.

Sheepy, Twycross Road (SK 33 03)

Richard Pollard

The SAFG found two Roman sherds in one corner of the field, suggesting that a site might lie to the north or east.

Sheepy, Wellesborough Road (SK 34 02)

Richard Pollard

The SAFG found a Palaeolithic flake and a possible scraper of the same period in two adjoining fields. One sherd of Roman pottery was found in each field.

Sheepy, Sibson (SK 35 01)

Richard Pollard

Fieldwalking by the SAFG has led to the identification of a previously unreported Roman site, with coarse pottery including grey, shelly and Derbyshire wares.

Shepshed, Butthole Lane, (SK 480190)

Vicki Priest

An archaeological watching brief was undertaken by ULAS during trial trenching on the site of the Old School, Butthole Lane, Shepshed. The work was commissioned by Baxter New Homes and was carried out during October 2000. Trial trenches were excavated within the car park of the Old School on the lines of foundation trenches for two new houses. To the east of the site trenching encountered modern disturbance including old walls and services associated with the school. To the south-west some natural deposits were recorded at the base of the trenches although the majority of the deposits appeared to be redeposited. The archive will be deposited with LMARS.

Somerby, Burrough House, 16 Main Street, Burrough on the Hill,  
(SK 756 104)

John Thomas

An archaeological watching brief was undertaken by ULAS during excavation for a new driveway to the rear of Burrough House, Burrough on the Hill. An area of interest was revealed at the northern end of the driveway where a dense cluster of archaeological remains was represented. Pits, gullies, ditches and post holes were revealed indicating fairly intensive activity. Limited excavation was undertaken revealing that, in spite of plough damage, the features had retained some depth. Finds recovered during the work largely indicate a later Saxon (9th/10th century) date providing interesting evidence for the earliest medieval activities in the village. Residual flintwork also indicated prehistoric (late Mesolithic and Neolithic/Bronze Age) activity in the area. The archive will be held by LMARS under the accession number X.A77.2000.

Sproxton, Saltby, Church Farm (SK 845 265)

Jon Coward

Trial trenching was undertaken along the line of proposed conservation ponds at Church Farm, Saltby, Sproxton, Leicestershire (SK 845 265), on behalf of Mr and Mrs P Pruden and Landyke Ltd. A pit containing flint and horse bone was revealed, and a pit containing pottery of medieval date. The archive will be deposited with LMARS under accession number X.A60.2000.

South Kilworth, Welford Road (SP 6060 8175)

Michael Derrick

An archaeological field evaluation of land off Welford Road, South Kilworth was undertaken by ULAS for Twigden Homes Limited in advance of proposed residential

development. Five trenches were excavated but no traces of archaeological activity were revealed as the land appeared to have been stripped down to the natural substrata in some areas and subsequently covered with modern building material. Finds and archive will be deposited with LMARS, accession number X.A16.2000.

Syston, Syston Quarry, Meadow Lane (SK 613 120)

Tim Higgins

An archaeological watching brief was undertaken by ULAS for Lafarge Redland Aggregates Ltd during gravel extraction at Meadow Lane Quarry, Syston. The strip of the topsoil and subsoil revealed of modern pottery sherds and artefacts. A metal detector survey had found a Roman pin as well as modern artefacts. The watching brief during the actual quarrying of the gravel has revealed the presence of palaeochannels containing 'bog oak' fragments sealed below the alluvial clay and the gravel. The archive will be deposited with LMARS, accession number X.A13.2000.

Thurlaston (SP 51 99)

Richard Pollard

A previously unreported Roman site. The pottery is biased towards the late third to fourth centuries, though a minority of diagnostic sherds is of the early Roman period. A single rock and sand tempered sherd may be Iron Age or early Anglo-Saxon.

Tilton, Loddington Road (SK 76 04)

Richard Pollard

The Tilton Archaeological Fieldwork Group discovered a late Iron Age and Roman site during fieldwalking.

Twycross (SK 34 03)

Richard Pollard

The SAFG located a Roman site dating from at least the late second to third century; pottery includes mortaria from Mancetter-Hartshill, grey and Derbyshire wares, and BB1.

Twycross, Burton Road (SK 32 05)

Richard Pollard

Metal detecting in late 1999 revealed a concentration of Roman material including lead that appears to have been smelted on the site. Further material was recorded by LMARS Archaeology Section in 2000. The late first to fourth-century pottery assemblage includes second century decorated samian, Mancetter-Hartshill mortaria, white and grey wares possibly from the same source, and pink grogged ware. A single sherd of grog tempered ware may be late Iron Age. A part of an early Anglo-Saxon brooch was also found. Finds have been loaned to LMARS by The Crown Estate (Entry Record EN 268).

Twycross, 17/19 Church Street (SK 3380 0485)

Jennifer Browning

An archaeological evaluation was carried out on land to the rear of 17/19 Church Street, Twycross, in May 2000 for Savage Hayward Ltd. The site is located in the historic core of Twycross, close to the church and just south of medieval earthworks, representing a moat. Six trenches were excavated across the site, demonstrating some archaeological activity. Towards the west of the site, two ditches were revealed, which may be related to the earthworks. A single post hole with a possible medieval date, was located in a trench to the east of the site, adjacent to the churchyard. The archive will be held by LMARS under the accession number X.A36.2000.

Walton, Old Forge Cottage, Hall Lane, (SP 595 872)

Michael Derrick and Sally Warren

An archaeological watching brief was undertaken by ULAS on 31/7/00 on behalf of Graham Read. A pit containing three pieces of 18th century earthenware and a linear feature containing 13th/14th- and 15th-century pottery were discovered in the development area. These features were attributed to earlier backyard activity. The site archive will be deposited with LMARS with the accession number X.A.65.2000.

Witherley, Atherstone Road (SP 35 99)

Richard Pollard

A previously unrecorded Roman site, with grey ware and Mancetter-Hartshill mortaria.

Wymeswold, The Memorial Hall, Clay Street (SK 600 234)

Sophie Clarke

An archaeological watching brief was carried out by ULAS in February 2000, to monitor the stripping of topsoil and the reduction of ground levels associated with the construction of a driveway and car park next to The Memorial Hall, Clay Street, Wymeswold. The watching brief provided evidence of medieval activity and possibly occupation of the area, with the remains including, pit type features and a pebble surface, as well as possible boundary ditches. Pottery finds date the activity from the 9th to the 15th century. The archive will be deposited with LMARS accession number X.A21.2000.

Negative watching briefs in Leicestershire

*Appleby Magna: Top Street (SK 317 097), ULAS; Burbage: Rugby Road/Coventry Road (SK 433 913) BUFAU; Birstall: Freehold Road (SK 591 081) APS; Birstall: The Holts Childrens Home, Birstall Road (SK 5945 0859) JSAC; Desford: Manor Farm, 26 High Street BUFAU; Elmsthorpe: 44 Church Farm (SK 459 965), ULAS; Foston: St. Bartholomew's Church (SP 605 949) ULAS; Great Easton, St. Andrews Church (SP 849 933) ULAS; Groby, Leicester Road (SK 5248 0754) APS; Kings Norton, Gaulby Lane (SK 690 006) ULAS; Leire Stemborough Lane (SP 528 905) Samuel Rose Ltd; Lutterworth: Penhill Farm, Cotes-de-Val (SP 554 885), ULAS; Melton Mowbray, Latham House Medical Centre, Sage Cross Street (SK 7545 1920) ULAS; Muston, 31 Main Street (SK 828 382) APS; Orton on the Hill: (SK305 038) ULAS; North Kilworth: Kilworth House (SP 601 834) ULAS; Pickwell: Church Lane (SK 787 114) ULAS; Ratby, Taverner Drive (SK 520 057) ULAS; Rothley: Temple Farm (SK 5816 1226) ULAS; Sileby: Chine House, Cossington Rd. (SK 601 149) ULAS.*

## RUTLAND

Ayston (SK 86 00)

Elaine Jones

The RLHRS Archaeological Group undertook a fieldwalking survey. A scatter of 290 flint pieces was collected, including late Mesolithic to early Bronze Age items. Abundant tap slag, noted by Jane Cowgill as being pre-1500 in date, indicates iron smelting in the vicinity.

Caldecott (SP 86 94)

Richard Pollard

GEAFG recorded a late Iron Age and Roman site SW of the villa previously reported (*TLAHS* 74, 256-7). Pottery fabrics include samian, colour-coated ware, Northamptonshire hard grogged ware and grey ware. The Group also recovered a large assemblage of early medieval pottery derived from the Deserted Medieval Village of Snelston, but from outside the area of the Scheduled Ancient Monument. The assemblage is dominated by Stanion-Lyveden wares with a small component of Stamford wares and other fabrics.

Edith Weston, Church Lane (SK 9270 0535)

Tobin Rayner

A watching brief was undertaken by C. Moulis of APS during development adjacent to 12th-century St. Mary's church in the medieval centre of Edith Weston. Two large pits, probably quarries for the extraction of stone, were revealed. Both were medieval in date and had been backfilled with material containing animal bone and ceramics of the period, including the substantial remains of a Stanion-Lyveden ware cooking pot of the 12th - 14th century. Foundations and a floor of a large limestone and brick structure of post-medieval date were revealed. A second limestone and brick wall and associated stone slab floor is probably another building. A circular well, lined with limestone, was also exposed. These structural features probably represent the remains of Edith Weston hall and associated structures, buildings of probable medieval origin that were demolished in 1957. RCM Accession No. R.A15.2000.

Empingham, 11 Church Street (SK 949 085)

Wayne Jarvis

An archaeological watching brief was undertaken by ULAS on behalf of Mr. T. Ellison, during groundworks for a new dwelling. The site lies within the historic core of a village of archaeological significance, and observations recorded a multiple inhumation burial, probably of Roman date. The burials were lifted because they were threatened by the development. In addition a linear feature, possibly an infilled boundary ditch or soakaway was recorded. The site archive will be held by RCM under the Accession Number R.A4.2000.

Empingham, Main Street (SK 951 087)

Tobin Rayner

Development in the medieval core of Empingham was monitored by APS. Previous investigations in the area had revealed medieval enclosures defined by gullies and post holes at the site, while just to the east stone foundations of a medieval building had been identified. A group of post holes and an intermittent ditch, aligned east-west, parallel with Main Street, were identified in the south-west corner of the site. Other ditches, also aligned either parallel, or at right angles, to the modern highway were revealed elsewhere across the area and an animal (calf) burial was identified. These remains were all undated but were sealed by subsoils containing 18th and 19th-century artefacts, together with moderately abundant, re-deposited medieval pottery. A moderate quantity of iron smelting slag, probably medieval or earlier in date, was also recovered and may imply metal production in the vicinity. Two recent, north-south aligned ditches, one of large size and probably a former field boundary, were also revealed. RCM Accession No. R.A17.2000.

Geeston, River Welland Bank (SK 9890 0422)

Steve Malone

In response to a proposal to create a lake alongside the river Welland, APS carried out a programme of field survey and evaluation. Adjacent to the site are earthworks of the shrunken medieval settlement and ridge and furrow crosses the investigation area. Earthwork survey recorded this ridge and furrow and the edges of some of the probable settlement closes. Subsequently, four evaluation trenches were excavated. Three of these were located on the river floodplain and revealed only natural alluvial deposits. The fourth trench, positioned at the edge of the ridge and furrow earthworks, revealed two pits or post holes and a north-south gully. This latter feature is aligned approximately perpendicular to the ridge and furrow which is orientated east-west. All three features are probably of Late Saxon-medieval date but also contained Romano-British pottery. A single fragment of Early Saxon pottery and a small quantity of medieval or earlier iron smelting slag was also recovered. However, in spite of the location of the site adjacent to the river there was no evidence of any waterlogging of archaeological deposits. RCM Accession No. R.A8.2000.

Glaston, Grange Farm (SK 896 005)

Lynden Cooper and John Thomas

Following the discovery of medieval features during a previous evaluation (*TLAHS* 73, 119) further excavation was undertaken by ULAS in advance of proposed redevelopment. An unexpected discovery of an Early Upper Palaeolithic site was made towards the end of the scheduled excavation. As the discovery was clearly of national significance a second stage of excavation was undertaken with financial support from English Heritage and specialist support from the British Museum and Natural History Museum (Cooper 2001, Thomas and Jacobi 2001). A fuller report on the results of this excavation will be published in a future volume of *TLAHS*.

The first stage of excavation at Glaston, following on from the evaluation in 1998, produced evidence of archaeological activities on the site during the later prehistoric and early medieval periods.

#### *Later prehistoric remains*

Some 100 worked flints were recovered from the site excluding those thought to be Palaeolithic. There is a strong late Mesolithic flint component of perhaps up to 65 pieces with an evident bladelet technology and/or patinated appearance. There are several diagnostic pieces such as a microlith of micro-tranchet form, a truncated bladelet and two burins on truncations. The discarded tools from the assemblage hint at the activities that may have been undertaken on the site, particularly the microlith, which may point to toolkit maintenance and the burins which are suggestive of bone, wood or antler working. Given the upland location of the site it might be suggested that the site was used during the later Mesolithic as a temporary field station.

A small pit was also revealed which contained the broken remains from at least two later prehistoric pottery vessels. Due to the relatively undiagnostic nature of the sherds a general Bronze Age-Iron Age date was suggested. One sherd however, displayed characteristics of the Deverel Rimbury tradition, perhaps hinting at a more general Bronze Age date for the assemblage. This would tie in with earlier finds of Bronze Age cremations during the nearby sand quarrying in the 1940's (Powell 1950). A small background scatter of flints, including a Later Neolithic/Early Bronze Age strike-a-light, was also recovered.

*Medieval remains*

As suggested from the results of the evaluation, the majority of the archaeological remains represented early medieval life in Glaston. No continuation of the Anglo-saxon cemetery recorded during the 1940s quarrying (Leeds and Barber 1950) was revealed although a small group of human bone retrieved from a 12th-century pit may represent remains from a disturbed burial. Activity during the medieval period began in the 10th-11th centuries when a series of linear ditches combined to demarcate a squared area of land. It is likely that this area represents the northern end of a common feature within medieval villages known as a 'toft'. The toft was an enclosed farmyard within which both the domestic dwelling and farm buildings would have been located, and various associated activities undertaken. Additional ditches to the west and north of the enclosed area suggested extra enclosures on the outside of the toft. Successive re-cutting of the ditches and analysis of the range of pottery finds from within suggested that the toft was in active use until the late 13th century. Within the toft area a small scatter of pits and post holes suggested low level activities, a conclusion that was also supported by the general lack of finds. There was a marked fall-off in activities within the exposed part of the toft as the centuries progressed and it seems likely that life may have focussed on the suggested domestic area to the south, nearest the current A47 road. Following the redundancy of the toft boundary a mixed soil layer, containing quantities of refuse further indicated a period of abandonment on the site.

In the early part of the 14th century a phase of quarrying was indicated by several large pits on the eastern edge of the site, adjacent to the current Wing Road. A timber structure situated within the quarried area, appeared to respect the edges of the quarry pits and may have been related to this phase of activity. A single ditch was the only evidence of further medieval activity, dating to the later 14th or early 15th century. Further quarrying during the 17th century onwards and several large pits had disturbed the medieval and earlier remains. At some point between 1841 and 1886 (based on the available cartographic evidence) a walled boundary was introduced to the site which, interestingly, accurately reflected the earlier toft boundary suggesting the original enclosed area still held importance.

The archive from the site will be deposited with the Leicestershire and Rutland SMR. The site code is GLA2000. The finds are to be retained by the former landowner, Captain R.E.G. Boyle.

*Bibliography*

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Ketton, Grange Top Quarry (SK 966 052 (centre))

Ian Meadows and Mark Holmes

*Quarry watching brief*

The programme of observation and recording by Northamptonshire Archaeology (NA) on behalf of Castle Cement Ltd continued throughout 2000. The stripped area pro-

gressed to the south exposing a continuation of the previously observed drove, aligned north-east to south-west, and on its western side its junction with a further north-west to south-east aligned drove was recovered. The system of drove ways was clearly modified during the life of the settlement with a small cemetery placed in a close defined in the north-east to south-west example (see TLAHS 74). This route opened out into the fields at its southern end, with only the eastern side defined by recut ditches. The other drove, produced evidence for one side having been defined by a line of mature tree, the large root boles surviving.

Detailed examination of a single T-shaped malting oven took place. This example had a small oven on one side of its stoke hole. Samples for analysis were taken from a number of points within the flues to see if particle size might provide an indication of the location of former flues/chimneys. Around the oven-detailed hand cleaning produced occasional post holes but no coherent building plan was recovered.

Archaeological evidence for occupation appears to be dissipating as the soil strip moves slowly southwards, confirming the results of the air photographs, geophysical survey and trial trenching.

#### *Quarry extension, evaluation*

A number of areas previously unavailable for study were subject to fieldwalking, geophysical surveys and a programme of selective trial excavation. Although small quantities of worked flint and Roman and medieval pottery were recovered, no new sites were located during fieldwalking. The geophysical reconnaissance survey similarly did not locate any previously unknown archaeological features.

The combination of detailed geophysical survey and trial excavation confirmed the presence of archaeological features previously known from aerial photographs. Other than an example of pillow mounds in one field, most of the remains appear to represent Iron Age or Roman field systems, though one ring ditch could either be settlement related, or possibly a round barrow. There was no evidence for Second World War or later defences associated with North Luffenham airbase, as had previously been suggested from the air photographic evidence.

Findings and records will be lodged with RCM under accession number R.A25.1998.

Oakham, Oakham Cattle Market, South St. (SK 8558 0860)      Simon Chapman

In advance of groundworks for a proposed retail development on the site of the redundant cattle market on South St., Oakham, an initial archaeological mitigation strategy was implemented with a view to excavate any archaeological deposits which would be disturbed within the footprint of the proposed development. Since disturbance of potential archaeological deposits was likely to come from the proposed thirty-three stanchions, that are to support the main frame of the building, these were excavated using archaeological principles. The main frontage of the proposed building (along South St.) was also subjected to a controlled archaeological strip/additional evaluation. Substantial remains of 19th-century yard activity were discovered and recorded in the north-west of the development area, and a possible cellar and undated pit was revealed in association with the ruined building in the north-east of the development area. All archaeological work was undertaken by ULAS in November 2000 and will be archived with RCM under the accession number R.A12.1998.

Oakham, 3 Choir Close (SK 861 088)

Sally Warren

An archaeological inspection of eight auger samples was undertaken by the ULAS on behalf of Smithers Purslow & Company on 23 June 2000. Pottery dating to 10th/11th century was retrieved. The site archive will be deposited with RCM, under the Accession Number R.A11.2000.

Oakham, Stamford Road (SK 869 086)

BUFAU

BUFAU were commissioned by JSAC on behalf of David Wilson Estates, to undertake a programme of trial trenching and excavation on land off Stamford Road, following a desk based assessment, a geophysical survey, and a programme of trial trenching and excavation.

Excavation revealed a series of Iron Age/ Romano-British enclosures and associated features situated along the southern bank of a stream that formed the northern extent of the site. Archaeological deposits survived largely at the bottom of the valley slope where they were protected from later truncation by ploughing by a build up of colluvium/alluvium. Further up the hill slope only the most substantial features survived.

The remains of an eaves-drip gully, a pit and several small sections of linear features dated to the Early-Middle Iron Age. A series of substantial ditches and associated gullies and pits suggested a settlement focus in the north-western corner of the field, dating to the Late Iron Age. A smaller, contemporary enclosure dating to the first century BC had been cut through the Late Iron Age ditch sequence. This ditch was subsequently recut sometime towards the end of the first century/early second century AD. Post-Roman and modern features were also identified, including medieval ridge and furrow.

The evidence suggests that flash floods occurred periodically during occupation of the site, necessitating the recutting of eaves-drip gullies and other more shallow features, as well as substantial ditches.

Uppingham, The Beeches (SK 869 003)

Adrian Butler

A geophysical survey was carried out by ULAS at land east of the Beeches Uppingham on behalf of Stoneleigh Planning Partnership. Although no definite archaeological anomalies were detected, the location of a former pump, a dump of iron and brick, and possible geological faulting were identified.

Uppingham, Firs Avenue (SK 862 003)

Adrian Butler, Simon Chapman & Vicki Priest

A programme of archaeological work including fieldwalking, geophysical survey and trial trenching, was carried out by ULAS on land west of Firs Avenue, Uppingham. The desk-based assessment had identified several prehistoric sites in the immediate vicinity including finds of Mesolithic and Neolithic flint. The fieldwalking survey recovered over 300 flints from the Mesolithic through to the Bronze Age periods. These included two fragments of plano-convex knives, which are often associated with Bronze Age burials.

Topsoil magnetic susceptibility and magnetometer surveys were carried out. High levels of magnetic susceptibility were recorded over part of the site, indicating possible archaeological activity. This was confirmed by the magnetometer survey which revealed a large number of pit and ditch type anomalies including enclosures, two probable pit alignments and a possible pit circle.

An archaeological evaluation, by trial trenching followed previous fieldwalking and geophysical survey of the land, thus the nine trenches excavated during the evaluation were positioned to target possible features previously identified in these earlier surveys. Positive results were obtained from all nine of the trenches excavated, mostly confirming the presence of archaeological features previously suggested by geophysical anomalies. Several features were, however, identified which had not been detected by geophysics. Primarily the features identified were pits (including a possible Iron Age pit alignment) and ditches, many of which contained flint flakes and tools and some pottery fragments. The presence of a thin layer of alluvium was also identified in the south of the development area, which appears to have masked and preserved underlying archaeological features. Records and finds will be deposited with RCM under the Accession No R.A9.2000

Uppingham, The Thring Centre, Uppingham School, (SP 8652 9977)

Jennifer Browning

In April 2000 archaeological trial trenching was carried out on land off High Street West, Uppingham, by ULAS. Six trenches were excavated, revealing a number of post-medieval and modern features, which have been interpreted as garden activity, corresponding with former use of the land. The work was commissioned by Uppingham School, in advance of a planning application for a new languages building on the land. The archive will be held by RCM, under the Accession Number R.A7.2000.

Whissendine, Stapleford Road (SK 825 145)

Jennifer Browning

An archaeological evaluation was carried out by ULAS in July 2000 on behalf of Birch Homes. The site is located in the historic settlement core of Whissendine. Earthworks representing ridge and furrow agriculture and a possible hollow way were present in the western part of the area. Seven trenches were excavated across the site, with three targeting the potential medieval street frontage. A number of archaeological features were revealed, consisting of ditches, gullies, pits and post holes. The medieval activity particularly concentrated around the street frontage, in the form of well-dated ditches and gullies. Less discrete activity, in the form of ditches, pits and post holes was present towards the west of the area and was less well dated. The archive will be held by RCM under the Accession Number R.A12.2000.

Wing, Field 4500, Station Road/Preston Road (SK 885 028)

Wayne Jarvis

Archaeological control and supervision of groundworks was undertaken by ULAS for Nick Parsons/Creative Landscapes and Mr and Mrs Bews, prior to the excavation of a wildlife pond. No significant archaeological deposits or finds were identified during machining. A single flint blade was found in the topsoil at the north end of the trench. The site archive will be deposited with RCM under the Accession Number R.A2.2000.

Negative watching briefs in Rutland

*Braunston: Meadowsweet Farm (SK 819 072) ULAS; Cottesmore: Former Bus Depot (adj. to 27 Main Street) (SK 902 136) ULAS; Geeston: High Street (TF 986 041) ULAS; Great Casterton: Strawson's Farmyard (TF 003 095), ULAS; Seaton: 2 Church Lane (SK 905 981), ULAS; Stretton: Hawthorne Farm, (SK 949 159), ULAS; Tixover, Tixover Grange (SK 979 018) NA.*