

# Archaeology in Leicestershire and Rutland 2001

**Note.** Archaeological watching briefs which have produced no significant archaeological features or finds are listed at the end of the relevant sections below. In each case, the parish/site name is followed by the name of the individual or organisation that undertook the fieldwork. For abbreviations, please see above, p.iv. Some entries relate to fieldwork undertaken before 2001, but not previously reported.

## LEICESTER

### ABBEY

#### Leicester Abbey (SK 584 060)

James Meek and Richard Buckley

In July and August 2001, University of Leicester Archaeological Services (ULAS) undertook a second training excavation in Abbey Grounds, Abbey Park, Leicester, for second-year students of the School of Archaeology and Ancient History, Leicester University. The Abbey Grounds lie to the west of the River Soar, and contain the excavated plan of Leicester Abbey, one of the wealthiest Augustinian houses in the country, together with the ruins of Cavendish House, a mansion of the 16th-17th century. The fieldwork concentrated on Cavendish House, although trenches were also examined within the chapter house of the abbey.

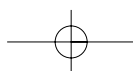
#### *Cavendish House*

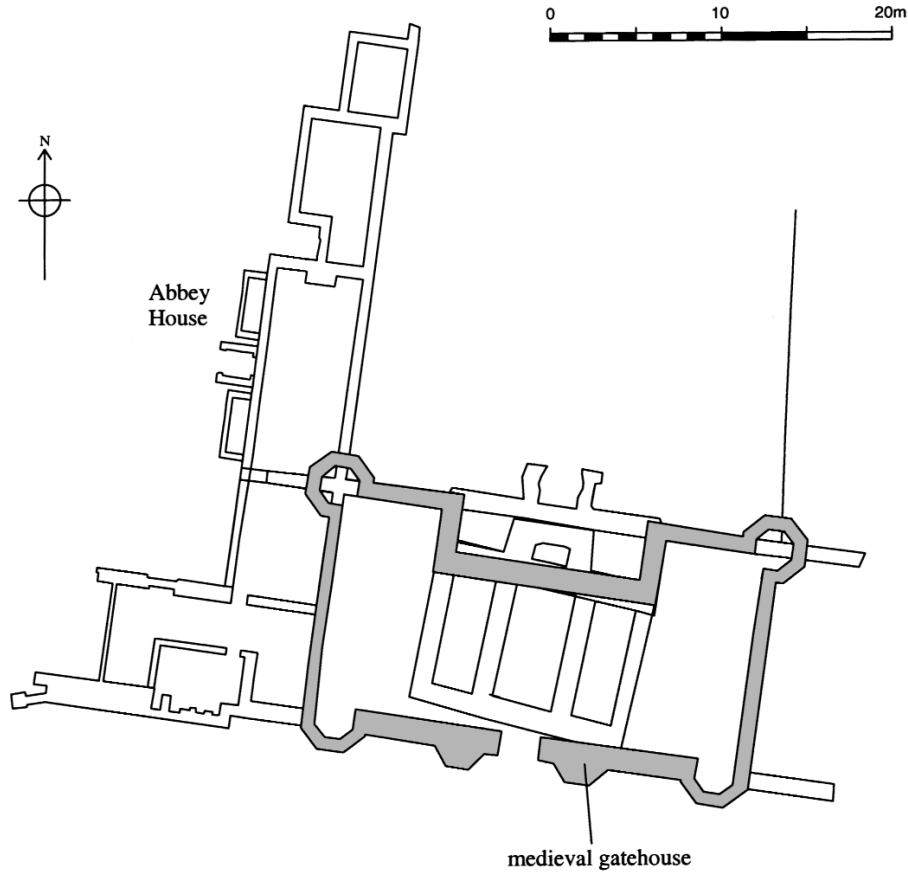
Although most of the abbey buildings, including the church, were razed to the ground within a few years of the Dissolution of the Monasteries in 1538, the main gatehouse, boundary walls and farm buildings survived. Under the ownership of the Hastings and Cavendish families in the 16th and 17th centuries, the gatehouse became a domestic residence and underwent many structural modifications. It was burnt down in 1645 during the English Civil War and in the 18th and 19th centuries the ruined shell was further reused for different phases of farmhouse buildings.

Our current understanding of the structural sequence of the surviving fabric of Cavendish House is based on analysis of 18th and 19th-century prints supplemented by limited visual inspection of the interior and exterior of the building. The upstanding portion of the building is now known as Abbey House and was uninhabited at the time of the evaluation. Access to the building allowed time for analysis of its internal fabric and constructional phases.

Although the evaluative excavations within the area of Cavendish House were of a very limited nature, they have enabled the identification of a series of discrete phases of structural activity for which a relative chronology may be tentatively proposed.

*Phase 1:* The earliest structure encountered almost certainly relates to the medieval abbey gatehouse. This was probably originally of a simple form, comprising a central north-south carriageway some 2.5m (8.2ft) wide at its narrowest, flanked on either side by a range of rooms. Evidence for the walls of this structure came in the form of

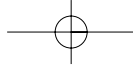




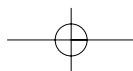
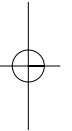
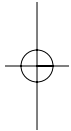
1. Leicester Abbey: Postulated reconstruction of the plan of the final phase of the medieval gatehouse.

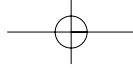
surviving masonry footings and robber trenches. A possible porch structure on the northern side of the building, projected from the results of the 2000 season evaluation (*TLAHS* 75, 130), was confirmed.

*Phase 2A: c. 1500-1538.* The 1538 survey of the abbey describes the gatehouse as 'a square lodging on either side of the gatehouse in which are five chambers with chimneys and large glazed windows, the walls being of stone and covered with lead, and with four stone turrets at the corners of the same' (Fox 1949). Evidence relating to the southern facade of the building, shown on the Buck engraving of 1730, including the south-western corner tower, was clearly demonstrated during the evaluation. The remains of this corner tower were such that it is likely that it contained a newel staircase to gain access to both the upper rooms as well as a likely cellar. Possible evidence for the north-eastern corner tower is visible on the existing northern facade of the Cavendish House ruins, and evidence for the north-west tower is possibly indicated by the irregular stone



2. Leicester Abbey. View westwards along the former southern facade of Cavendish House, across the polygonal towers on either side of the former carriageway entrance.





foundations visible within the existing cellars of Abbey House. The Buck engraving also shows towers projecting from the southern facade of Cavendish House, flanking the carriageway entrance through the building, and the footings for both of these structures were also revealed (illus. 2). The excavated evidence would suggest that although the northern wall of the phase 1 medieval gatehouse was probably incorporated into this phase of construction, the southern wall was entirely replaced.

*Phase 2B: late 16th century.* An east and west wing were added to the medieval gatehouse northern facade, the evidence suggesting that both wings were cellared.

*Phase 3: early 17th century.* In this phase, it is suggested that the northern facade of the building with its projecting medieval porch and later flanking wings, was flattened with the construction of a linking wall. The only evidence for this is from the surviving north wall itself, which respects the line of the foundations of the postulated medieval porch, being built directly against the northern edge of the earlier foundations. The eastern wing also appears to have been rebuilt at this time as a stair tower. The extant large double chimney breast further west from the southern facade wall which appears on the 1730 Buck engraving, may also be of similar date to this phase of rebuilding, perhaps serving a kitchen complex. The Buck engraving shows that the former gatehouse towers on the southern facade were retained in this later rebuild phase.

### ***Claustral buildings***

Two trenches were positioned within the eastern part of the chapter house in order to clarify the plan of the building, as defined by the low walls constructed by Bedingfield following the 1930s excavations. The robber trench of the south wall of the chapter house had been located in the 2000 season slightly to the north of the reconstructed line. In 2001, a trench near the postulated south-east corner of the building located the east wall, represented by a partially-robbed stone wall footing, again slightly off the reconstructed line (illus. 3). A second trench was subsequently examined further to the north in order to confirm the line of the east wall, but no further evidence for it was uncovered. In both trenches it was evident that, in places, a 1m depth of re-deposited natural gravel existed over what was thought to have been undisturbed ground. A single trench was excavated on the eastern side of the reconstructed wall of the chapter house, which suggested that the undisturbed natural ground lay directly below the topsoil on this side of the wall. The work within the chapter house would suggest that the reconstructed walls appear to surround a structure with a reduced floor level. However the layout of the reconstructed walls remains open to question with nothing remaining of the original medieval evidence used to set them out having survived.

Finds and records from the excavations will be deposited with the Leicester City Museums Service (LCMS) Accession number A8.2000.

### ***Bibliography***

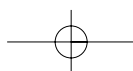
Fox, L., 1949

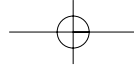
*Leicester Abbey, History and Description.* Leicester: Leicester City Council

### **Leicester Abbey (SK58 05)**

Michael Derrick

An archaeological watching brief was undertaken by ULAS between January and April 2001 on behalf of Leicester City Council during reconstruction work on the low walls which define the plan of Leicester Abbey. Extensive archaeological excavations in the





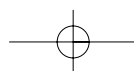
3. Leicester Abbey. Stone wall footings within the Chapter House facing east, with reconstructed walls above

1920s had revealed traces of the original abbey walls, the evidence from which was used by the excavator, W.K. Bedingfield, to propose a reconstruction. Bedingfield, as architect of the scheme to incorporate Abbey Grounds into Abbey Park, subsequently had the walls rebuilt as a series of low footings. Weathering processes and stone robbing have taken their toll on the reconstructed walls and it was decided to partially demolish and reconsolidate the remaining footings. The first stage of the work commenced within the abbey church, along the external wall of the Lady Chapel and the north transept. Pieces of decorated medieval floor tile, human bone and architectural fragments were recovered from the rubble core of the wall. Fragments of the original wall and possible robber trenches were also encountered. The site archive will be deposited with LCMS, accession no. A21.2001.

#### **Blackfriars Street (SK 5810 0456)**

James Meek

An archaeological watching brief during the excavation of two geotechnical trial pits at Blackfriars Bakery was undertaken by ULAS for David Kottler and Partners Limited. Stratified archaeological remains of Roman date were encountered at a depth of 1.10m-2.95m below present ground level, but unfortunately could not be characterised, as the trenches were too deep and too narrow. Finds and records will be deposited with LCMS, accession number A11.2001.



**62-64 Churchgate, Leicester (SK 5864 0482)**

L. Prosser

Hertfordshire Archaeological Trust (HAT) carried out an historic building assessment at 62-64 Churchgate, Leicester in order to produce a record of the buildings prior to potential demolition and redevelopment. The buildings were found to retain a number of distinctive features which indicate that they began as a single domestic property consisting of a two-bay baffle or lobby-entry house of mid-to-late 17th-century date. This building was extensively remodelled in the early 18th century, when the exterior fabric was replaced in brick and the original house was probably divided into two commercial properties. In the early 19th century the buildings were embellished with Regency features. Poor quality later Victorian and 20th-century repairs and alterations were also evident. The development of this ordinary building reflects the rise of Leicester from the 17th century onwards, together with the development of Churchgate itself from a prestigious suburb to a peripheral commercial area. Records will be deposited with LCMS, accession number A18.2001.

**East Bond Street, Great Meeting Unitarian Chapel, (SK 585 048)** Wayne Jarvis

Salvage excavation by ULAS during the construction of a stairwell revealed evidence of a Roman building and stratigraphy, with a small amount of masonry and associated floor surface surviving. This probably dated to the 2nd century and may have become disused by the 3rd-4th century. Robbing of stonework occurred in the medieval period, probably around the 11th century. Finds are with LCMS, accession number A15.2001.

**Highcross Street, All Saints Churchyard (SK 5830 0485)**

Sally Anne Smith

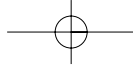
An archaeological watching brief was undertaken by the ULAS in May 2001 on behalf of City Consultants at All Saints Churchyard during landscaping and access improvements. Human bone, medieval pottery and a stone coffin fragment were discovered. Finds and records will be deposited with LCMS, accession number A14.2001.

**38 Vaughan Way (SK 5831 0459)**

John Samuels

An assessment of the impact on the archaeological resource of a proposed hotel and casino development at the corner of Vaughan Way and High Cross Street was carried out by John Samuels Archaeological Consultants (JSAC) on behalf of Sturgess, Shattock & Partners in December 2001.

A desk-based archaeological assessment of a larger area carried out by ULAS in 2000 identified several possible sites of interest within the currently proposed development area. These include part of the Roman forum and part of the Roman *macellum*, or market place and a Roman town house. The medieval Blue Boar Lane crosses the site, while the eastern boundary is formed by Highcross Street, the former medieval High Street. The Blue Boar Inn, a medieval and post medieval timber-framed building, stood on the corner of Highcross Street and Blue Boar Lane, on the eastern boundary of the proposed development site. Previous excavation work has been carried out in connection with a number of nearby developments, including the construction of Vaughan Way and the basement of the now demolished building in the south-west corner of the site itself. During these excavations structural evidence, including the remains of the northern range of the Roman forum, was recorded, above which were 1-1.5 metres of surviving Roman deposits.



Five geotechnical test pits were excavated under archaeological observation in November 2001, three in close proximity to a former deep basement, the remaining two to the north identified made ground, probably post-medieval garden soils, below modern demolition debris. Four sections exposed by the demolition of late 19th- and 20th-century basements were recorded to the north-east of the development area. Two adjacent to Highcross Street revealed surviving stratigraphy sealed by modern demolition deposits. A small quantity of Roman and medieval pottery was recovered from both the exposed sections and from associated truncated deposits. The later basements cut post-medieval and possibly medieval structural remains, apparently representing buildings formerly facing onto Highcross Street. Two sections recorded approximately 10m to the north-west appear to indicate up to 2m of made ground, comparable to the deposits identified by the geotechnical test pits. It is likely that these in part represent post-medieval garden soils.

It is clear that previous development has caused significant damage to archaeological remains. Over part of the site, deep excavations have removed all the material to close to the base of, if not below, the Roman deposits. However, the preliminary investigation has demonstrated the survival of truncated deposits between and beneath areas of disturbance. The limited scope of the current work and the known potential of the site mean that further investigation will be required to clarify the character, extent and preservation of the surviving archaeological remains and ensure their appropriate treatment in the context of future development.

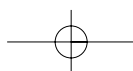
Finds and records will be deposited with LCMS, accession number A1.2001.

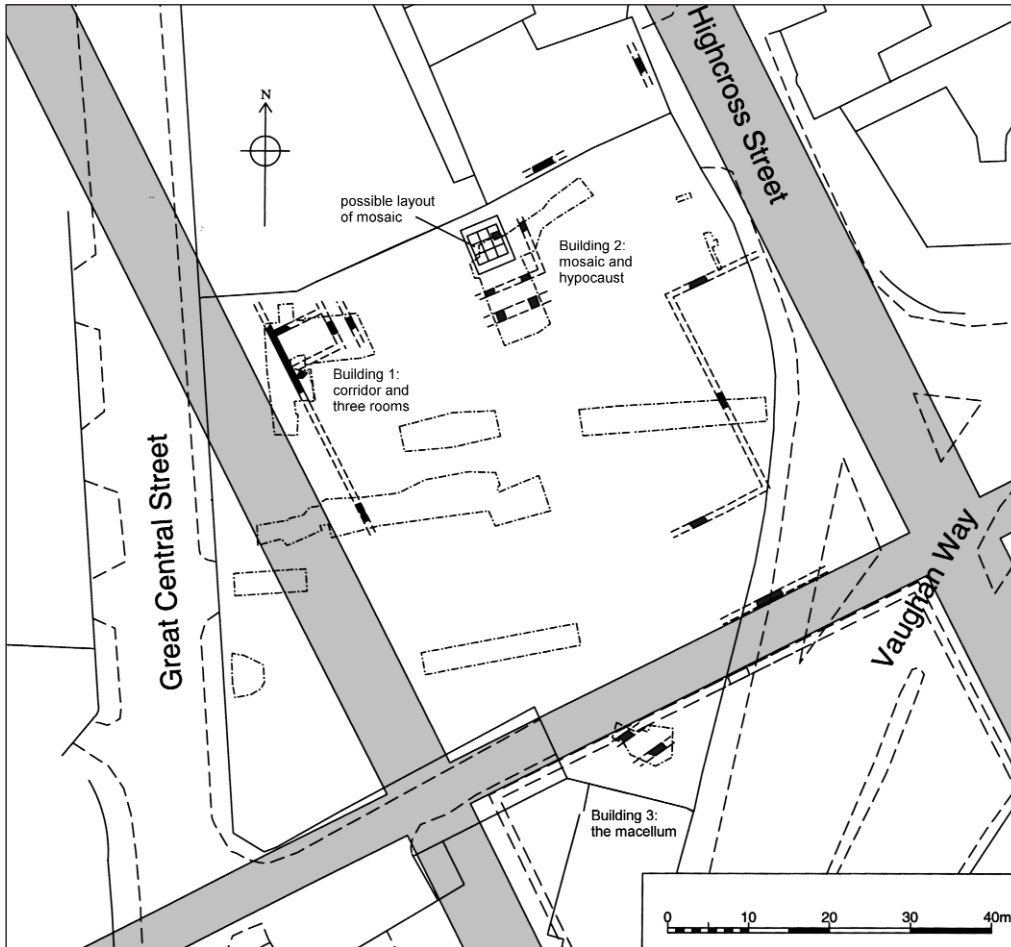
#### **Vaughan Way, former Maxim and Stibbe Buildings (SK 5826 0473)** James Meek

ULAS undertook an archaeological evaluation on the site of the former Maxim and Stibbe Buildings on Great Central Street, Leicester between January 8th and February 16th 2001. The site lies within the historic core of the Roman and medieval town. The site is earmarked for development, although no definite plans have, as yet, been drawn up, and as an aid to assist future development plans the owners of the site, Westmoreland Properties commissioned a desk-based assessment, followed by this stage of field evaluation.

The desk-based archaeological assessment confirmed that there are known archaeological remains within the study area, of great significance, including the possible north wall of the Roman *macellum* (market hall) and at least one other Roman building, Roman tessellated pavements, mosaics, painted wall plaster and masonry walls all having been previously recorded on the site. The Cyparissus Pavement, a single octagonal mosaic panel, presumably from a larger mosaic, depicting the youth Cyparissus, his beloved stag and cupid, on display at Jewry Wall Museum, may also have been found on this site in the 17th century. This is one of the few examples of a true figured mosaic from the midlands. The site also lies partially on the frontage of the medieval High Street, now Highcross Street. The desk-based assessment also confirmed the locations of deep cellars associated with the former Stibbe Buildings that stood on the Great Central Street, Friars Causeway and Vaughan Way frontages, which were known to have caused a great deal of destruction to archaeological deposits. The report also demonstrated that in areas away from the cellars there was a great potential for their survival.

Ten trenches were excavated across the site (illus. 4), mainly using a 360 degree mechanical excavator, with three located over the areas of the known cellars in order to

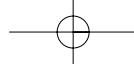




4: Vaughan Way, former Maxim and Stibbe Buildings: site plan

confirm the depths of the cellar floors. The remaining trenches were located in areas where cellars were unconfirmed.

The trench located in the north-western corner of the site, on the Great Central Street frontage, revealed surviving Roman archaeological deposits at a depth of 1m below the present ground surface, sealed by medieval garden soils and modern demolition debris. The Roman remains had been partially truncated by medieval pits, modern wall trenches and a shallow cellar, although were on the whole well preserved. The trench revealed a possible Roman road aligned north-north-west in the far western edge of the trench. This was bounded to the east by a series of gravel and sand layers possibly from yard surfaces. The remainder of the trench overlay at least two rooms and a corridor of a Roman building (building 1). Three wall lines, parallel with the possible road, were visible as medieval robber trenches (dated to the 11th-12th century), with two walls at right angles also hinted at, although unconfirmed. The main part of the trench overlay a single room with a sequence of floor layers that suggested a prolonged

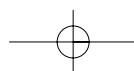


5. Vaughan Way, former Maxim and Stibbe Buildings: tessellated corridor pavement partly revealed beneath Victorian cellar floor

period of use and regular refurbishment. One of the floors was constructed of rough grey tesserae (illus. 5). A second room to the south was indicated by the survival of a small patch of flooring, made of red ceramic tesserae, with a very different sequence of floor layers beneath, compared with those seen in the northern room. Bounded by two of the robber trenches on the eastern side of these rooms was a very well made grey tessellated floor, appearing to represent a corridor from which these other rooms would have been accessed. The trench could not be extended to the east due to the presence of a substantial, modern concrete floor, so it was not possible to see what lay on the eastern side of the corridor.

The trench in the northern part of the site was substantially disturbed by modern services. Evidence for medieval rear yard activity was recorded in the form of a series of cobbled yard surfaces and numerous pits. Areas of the base of the trench also revealed Roman remains indicating a building with a stone-lined flue for a hypocaust system, with mortar floors above (building 2). The south-facing section of the trench, above the flue, also revealed part of a heavily disturbed mosaic of fine white, grey and black tesserae (illus. 6). The tesserae potentially form part of a guilloche pattern (curled rope) that would have surrounded an octagonal panel, although only a very small part of the mosaic was exposed in the edge of the trench. The tesserae were much finer than that used in the Cyparrisus Pavement. Above this floor were remains indicating the collapsed superstructure of the building. Evidence for other mortar floors and a possible robber trench were also within the trench.

The two trenches in the middle of the site revealed evidence for well-preserved medieval and Roman levels at a depth of around 1m from present ground surface. Excavated medieval pits and part of a well, demonstrated that possible robber trenches and clay floor levels from a Roman building also survived.



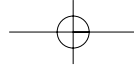


6. Vaughan Way, former Maxim and Stibbe Buildings: mosaic pavement fragment

Two small hand excavated trenches on the Vaughan Way frontage revealed possible evidence for post-medieval and medieval buildings that would have fronted onto Highcross Street, pre-dating those that were demolished in the mid-twentieth century, prior to the construction of Vaughan Way. There is thus a great potential for the survival of earlier deposits beneath in this frontage area.

The trench in the southern part of the site was excavated through the brick-built cellars of the former Richmond Terrace, the buildings that formerly occupied the southern frontage of Friars Causeway. Part of a substantial stone wall, 1.5m in length, 0.8m in width and 0.9m in height, with at least 0.5m deep footings was revealed in the northern part of the trench (illus. 7). The wall was aligned close to east-west. A parallel wall, 2.8m to the south, was also seen to the south, surviving beneath the brick floor of the cellar. The top of this wall was particularly level and may suggest that it was a base for stylobates onto which columns would have been stood for a colonnade. These walls may be part of the substantial stone structure that was located within the same *insula* of the Roman town during the Blue Boar Lane excavations to the south of the site in 1958, which was interpreted as the possible *macellum* (market hall). Other Roman features were revealed beneath the brick floor, although none was excavated.

The archaeological remains recorded within the area suggest at least two substantial buildings. The part of the site to the north of Friars Causeway, almost a complete *insula*

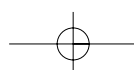


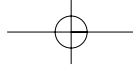
7. Vaughan Way, former Maxim and Stibbe Buildings: possible macellum wall

of the Roman town, contained one or more probable domestic buildings of high status. To the north of the site lay a room with hypocaust and patterned mosaic of apparent fine quality, whilst to the west lay a corridor with rooms leading off it, the floors of which had been regularly repaired and replaced. To the south of Friars Causeway, in another *insula*, lay part of a substantial stone-built building of unknown function, possibly part of the *macellum* (market hall), interpreted from evidence recovered from the 1958 Blue Boar Lane excavations. During the medieval period it is likely that this area was mainly gardens or agricultural land, with buildings existing only on the frontage of Highcross Street and Friars Causeway, thus little structural evidence from the medieval period was revealed in the majority of the site area.

The evaluation has shown that particularly well preserved archaeological remains exist within the area, which survive close to the present ground surface, and may well exist beneath some of the deep cellar floors. The results will be used to formulate strategies to deal with the archaeological remains in the light of any future development proposals. The Stibbe Buildings evaluation has demonstrated that, even in areas where substantial disturbance from later cellars and other associated activity is expected, well-preserved archaeological evidence may also survive. This is of particular interest at present, with many parts of the north-east quarter of the Roman and medieval town demolished and awaiting development.

Finds and records from the evaluation will be deposited with LCMS, accession number A1.2001.



**BELGRAVE****Old Bridge, Thurcaston Road (SK 591 074)**

Lynden Cooper

Engineering investigations to the Scheduled Ancient Monument (SAM 31) and Grade 2 listed building necessitated a watching brief of the intervention works and an archaeological drawn and photographic survey by ULAS, commissioned by City Consultants.

Seven trial holes were excavated through the road surface down to the arch intrados. No original bridge core material was observed, this presumably having been removed and replaced during restoration works in the 1960s (*TLAHS* 39, 50). However, the medieval arches were relatively intact having been encased by a wider 18th-century construction. At that time a roving bridge was added downstream which originally allowed a foot crossing linking the towpaths on each side. The cutwaters and spandrels were mostly refurbished during the 1960s. Records will be deposited with the LCMS, accession number A20.2001.

**BRAUNSTONE****St. Peter's Church (SK 565 029)**

Tim Higgins, Michael Derrick and Neil Finn

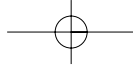
An archaeological watching brief was undertaken by ULAS between September and December 2001 on behalf of Braunstone Parochial Church Council during the excavation of foundation and service trenches for a new church hall, partly occupying the footprint of the 1930s extension to the church. Evidence was revealed for burials, original church wall foundations and brick-built Victorian heating ducts. Two sherds of medieval pottery were found, together with fragments of medieval tile. The site archive will be deposited with LCMS, accession no. A4.2001.

**CASTLE****42 Cank Street, Leicester (SK 5868 0445)**

A. Gnanaratnam

In November 2001, ULAS excavated trial trenches at 42 Cank Street to evaluate the archaeological potential of the site prior to redevelopment. The street frontage appeared to be cellared although undisturbed archaeological levels were revealed in two trenches, south of the frontage.

Trench 1 revealed undated, though probably Roman, deposits including a large cut feature, possibly a quarry pit, overlain by possible floor make-up layers and a robbed-out wall aligned with the Roman street grid. Trench 2, in the south of the site, revealed a series of intercutting pits of medieval date. Although these would be consistent with backyard activity they could represent the use of common waste ground. A fragmentary stone-built oven was also revealed, of medieval date. Sherds of Anglo-Saxon pottery were recovered and, although from probable residual contexts, strongly suggest Anglo-Saxon activity on or near to the site. The evaluation suggests reasonable archaeological survival, in a poorly-understood area of Leicester. Finds and records will be deposited with LCMS, accession number A25.2001.

**Castle Street (SK 5834 0427)**

John Thomas

An archaeological evaluation by trial trenching was carried out by ULAS in July and August 2001 on land at the corner of Castle Street and Southgates in advance of proposed redevelopment for student accommodation. The site lies within the Roman and medieval town walls of Leicester and also contains a portion of the medieval castle bailey ditch circuit. Although desk-based research had indicated that archaeological levels on the site were likely to have suffered some disturbance from cellars associated with previous usage, particularly from an Everard's Brewery bottling plant, areas between former cellars remained of high archaeological potential. At the time of the evaluation, the site was occupied by De Montfort University's Exhibition Centre and car park.

Roman remains were revealed in the northern and eastern areas of the site, largely consisting of stratified layers of the 2nd to 4th centuries. The layers suggested build up and levelling deposits, occupation remains and hard standing surfaces. A concentration of building debris in the eastern part of the site suggested the presence of a building either on or near to the site. Although not explicitly related, three areas of mortar floor further suggested the presence of a much-truncated Roman structure. The evidence from the three areas of mortar flooring, as well as an abundance of painted plaster recovered nearby, may indicate that the building they relate to was of some status, perhaps a wealthy town house.

Although no structural remains of the medieval period were revealed during the work, areas of stratified layers and pitting were encountered, ranging from the early to the later medieval period. On the eastern side of the site there was a suggestion of a prolonged sequence of pitting, followed by reconsolidation then more pitting indicative of generations of domestic activity, probably relating to the backyards of properties fronting on to Southgates. The northern part of the site was characterised by thick cultivation layers overlying the archaeology, probably the remains of gardens to the rear of properties fronting onto the former Bakehouse Lane.

The trenching revealed no trace of the bailey ditch for Leicester Castle, suggesting that the northernmost edge of the feature lies to the south of the evaluated area.

Post-medieval layers on the southern part of the site contained large amounts of building debris and may relate to the demolition of former buildings fronting onto Castle Street.

Finds and records from the evaluation will be deposited with the LCMS, accession number A16.2001.

**Leicester Cathedral, Western Burial Ground (SK 5845 0445)**

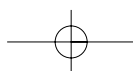
Michael Derrick

An archaeological evaluation at St. Martin's Cathedral Western Burial Ground was undertaken by ULAS on behalf of Leicester Cathedral in advance of the construction of a new Visitor Centre. Six trial boxes were dug to a depth of 750mm in order to discover the nature of the wall foundations surrounding the burial ground. No archaeological deposits were discovered however many unstratified human bones were unearthed. The archive will be deposited with LCMS, accession number A5.2001.

**Leicester Cathedral St. Martins West SK (5845 0443)**

A. Gnanaratnam

Between 2nd April and 7th June 2001, an archaeological watching brief was carried out by ULAS on the site of Leicester Cathedral Visitor Centre, the east wing of the



Guildhall and upon a new drain trench along St. Martins West for Leicester Cathedral authorities and Leicester City Council.

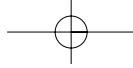
Stone footings were revealed beneath part of the brick-built Constable's House in the Guildhall complex. It is likely that they were footings to the southern kitchen wing of the Guildhall known from historical sources and of medieval date. Truncated stone footings were also revealed beneath the brick foundations of the southern brick-built gable of the East Wing. Their alignment and size suggest that they are remnants of the footings of the original timber-framed gable. Work inside the East Wing revealed the last phase of clay floors in the south of the building, together with a stone-built feature which was probably part of the demolished stairway to the old Town Library which was moved to the Guildhall in 1631.

A watching brief on the drain trench revealed the remains of a building beneath St. Martins West extending into St. Martin's Churchyard and probably fronting onto Peacock Lane, of possible 13th-century date. This had clay and mortar floors and rubble-built wall footings. The existence of dwellings within the cemetery is suggested by later medieval Corpus Christi Gild accounts and the later Churchwardens' Accounts for St. Martin's. Pebble surfaces of probable medieval date were also found beneath the modern footpath. No evidence was found for the St. Martin's Vicarage which was known in historical sources and described in detail in an 18th-century gebe terrier. This medieval timber-framed building stood until the opening of the cemetery extension in the later 18th century, but any remains would have been destroyed during its use as a graveyard. The remains of a barrel and brick plinth were also uncovered next to the west wing and it is interesting to note that a leaking water-butt in just this position is known to have caused the destruction of a number of Leicester's Borough Records. Two monumental grave slabs of medieval date were recorded. The more decayed of the two (probably the Cardemaker slab drawn by Nichols) was subject to detailed record whilst the more complete was retained by the Cathedral Authorities for eventual display in the Visitor Centre. A photographic survey was completed of the southern elevation of the Guildhall. The archive will be deposited with LCMS, accession number A9.2001.

#### **Mill Lane (SK 583 042)**

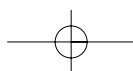
Neil Finn

Trial trenching followed by limited area excavation was undertaken by ULAS at a site on the south side of Mill Lane, for De Montfort University. Evidence of prehistoric, Roman, Anglo-Saxon, medieval and post-medieval activity was identified, although sand and gravel quarrying in the late 17th-early 18th century had resulted in extensive damage to earlier remains. Prehistoric finds included flint artefacts and a collection of mid-late Iron Age pottery, all residual in later features. Various truncated lengths of Roman ditch are apparently related to a series of ditch-defined enclosures on either side of the Tripontium road, other elements of which have been located by previous excavations in the vicinity (Finn 1994, 165-170; Gossip 1998, 159-160). A truncated inhumation burial on the line of a Roman ditch is comparable with the late Roman 'boundary burials' discovered on the east side of the Tripontium road during excavations along Oxford Street (Gossip 1998, 159-160). Disarticulated human bones, some cremated, represented the remains of at least three other disturbed burials. A single sherd of Anglo-Saxon pottery occurred as a residual find in a later context. A handful of pits, ranging in date from the 10th/11th to the 13th century, possibly represent sporadic episodes of gravel quarrying in the Saxo-Norman and medieval periods.



8. Mill Lane: The excavated Civil War period ditch, looking north-east.

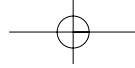
A massive 17th century ditch (illus. 7 and 8), 7m wide and up to 3.24m deep, formed part of Leicester's Civil War defences. By this date the earlier medieval town defences had all but disappeared, the walls robbed for building stone and the ditches infilled to allow new building as the town expanded beyond its early core. A new defensive circuit of earthen banks and ditches was therefore constructed, enclosing most of the





9. Mill Lane: The excavated Civil War period ditch, looking south-west.

prosperous north and east suburbs but not the poorer suburb to the south, which was apparently considered expendable. Houses on the line of, or lying outside the new defences were demolished, the Records of the Borough of Leicester record payments made for taking down houses 'beyond the south gate Centry' in 1643-44 (Stocks 1923, 334). Incorporated into the defensive line was the precinct wall of the Newarke, a substantial stone-built wall, which had originally enclosed an ecclesiastical college founded in the early 14th century. Following the Dissolution of the Monasteries, the area developed into an exclusive residential suburb, exempt from borough rates, which was home to many of Leicester's wealthiest citizens. Contemporary documentary accounts indicate that the defensive line was modified at various times between *c.* 1643 and 1645; it is clear, however, that the Newarke was never adequately fortified prior to the Royalist assault on Friday 30th May 1645 (Courtney and Courtney 1992). It is probably no coincidence, therefore, that when this attack came, it was from the south. The southern wall of the Newarke precinct, on the north side of Mill Lane – opposite the excavation site, bore the brunt of this attack, from a battery of cannon stationed somewhere in the vicinity of the present day Leicester Royal Infirmary, and was soon breached. After the town's capture by the Royalists, the breach was repaired and work on strengthening the defences around the Newarke was begun. It is unclear, however, how much was achieved prior to the Parliamentarians' recapture of the town on June 16th, just over a fortnight later, following their decisive victory at Naseby. Based on the documentary evidence for the inadequacy of the defences around the Newarke, it is possible to suggest with some degree of confidence that the Mill Lane ditch dates to the



period after the first siege. Less clear, however, is whether this was a Royalist work completed before June 16th, or a later Parliamentary defence. The least truncated section of the ditch permits some appreciation of the original scale of this earthwork. With an equivalent bank on the north-west side, the difference in height between base of ditch and top of bank would have been somewhere in the region of 6.5m. Given the time it would have taken to construct an earthwork of this scale, it may be tentatively suggested that it was not completed until after the town's recapture by Parliamentary forces.

Few finds were recovered from the ditch, which would presumably have been regularly cleaned out, and was quickly backfilled following the end of the conflict (Stocks 1923, 378). A single lead musket ball was found embedded in the north-west side of the ditch, however. Weighing 0.8 ounces (20 shot to the pound), this is smaller than the standard sized musket shot (12 to the pound) in use at the time (Courtney 1988, 3). Problems with the standardisation of military ordnance were not uncommon and 20-to-the-pound shot has been found in quantity at other Civil War period sites. A fragment of a possible lead cannon ball was also found. This is similar in size to iron cannonballs of the period previously found in the area; lead cannonballs were apparently used at the siege of Leicester as one was found embedded in the wall of Trinity Hospital, in the Newarke, in 1901 (Courtney and Courtney 1992, 78). The incomplete and distorted shape of the Mill Lane find may represent impact damage.

This site has provided the rare opportunity for the archaeological evidence to be linked to well documented and dated events. Examination of the information from this and other sites in the vicinity where Civil War period remains have been found, together with the evidence from contemporary sources, should permit a reconstruction of the form and development sequence of the Civil War defences around the south of the town.

Finds and records have been deposited with LCMS, accession number A17.2001.

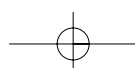
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#### **Leicester, The Newarke, (SK 4582 3040)**

Ant Maull and Tam Webster

Seven trial trenches were excavated in the former William Baker premises at The Newarke, Leicester by Northamptonshire Archaeology (NA) on behalf of JSAC, acting for William Davis Ltd, ahead of plans to convert and extend the factory into flats and associated parking. The site is located within the religious precinct of The Newarke, which contained the Collegiate Church of the Annunciation of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Trinity Hospital, several chantry houses and other buildings. Founded in the mid-14th century, The Newarke was deprived of its chantry status in 1547.



A number of archaeological features and layers were uncovered across the site including substantial stone walls encountered to the south-east and north-east corresponding with the precinct's west and north wall and a stone-lined conduit to the south-west, which seemed to form part of the conduits documented as existing beneath The Newarke, near Trinity Hospital.

All of the trenches contained substantial modern overburden of varying thickness, but deeply-stratified medieval layers were observed only in two trenches. Although limited in range and quantity, the finds are compatible with those from a site continually occupied from the medieval to present, including moulded architectural stone, a small quantity of medieval pottery and post-medieval pottery.

Finds and records will be deposited with LCMS, accession number A25.2001.

### **12 New Street (SK 5853 0433)**

Michael Derrick and Neil Finn

A photographic survey and archaeological watching brief was undertaken by ULAS on behalf of Freer Bouskell during the excavation of a foundation trench intended for a replacement wall to the rear of the property. The site is located adjacent to the southern boundary of the Roman and medieval defences and would have been enclosed within the grounds of the Greyfriars during the medieval period. Stone-built footings relating to a cellar were observed directly below the existing building which dates to the late 18th-early 19th century. The site archive will be deposited with LCMS with the accession number A2.2001.

## ***EVINGTON***

### **High Street (SK 6272 0292)**

Simon Chapman

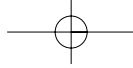
An archaeological evaluation, by trial trenching, was undertaken by ULAS on land formerly occupied by the South Leicester Garage. Trenching revealed the presence of a thick layer of modern overburden and significant disturbance by foundations and services, to such an extent that the natural substratum was only revealed in one trench in the far east of the site. No archaeological deposits were observed. Records will be deposited with LCMS, accession number A13.2001.

## ***MOWMACRE***

### **Mowmacre, Bursom Business Park Extension (SK 576 088)**

Vicki Priest

An archaeological evaluation was carried out by ULAS, on behalf of Lorien Engineering Solutions Ltd. at Bursom Business Park, Mowmacre, Leicester in advance of a proposed Business Park extension. The work comprised the excavation of 12 trial trenches within an area of improved grassland. Although no archaeological deposits were recorded in the majority of the trenches, immediately to the east of the main development area, some isolated features, including a gully and a post hole, produced Iron Age pottery. Finds and records will be deposited with LCMS, accession number A19.2001.



### **WEST HUMBERSTONE**

#### **Stoneham House Farm, Barkby Thorpe Road (SK 6223 0820)** James Albone

On behalf of Barratt East Midlands Ltd, J. Albone of Archaeological Project Services (APS) supervised a programme of archaeological investigation in the north-eastern part of Leicester. An initial stage of desk-based research established that the site was surrounded by numerous lithic scatters and other prehistoric sites. There were also several Romano-British settlements in moderate proximity and an Anglo-Saxon cemetery. However, subsequent trial trenching revealed only 19th-20th century remains associated with the farm and no artefacts earlier than the 18th century were recovered. Finds and records will be deposited with LCMS, accession number A22.2001.

### **WYCLIFFE**

#### **Clarence Street, Leicester (SK 5896 0476)** Nicholas Crank

In summer and autumn 2001, HAT carried out an excavation at Clarence Street, previously evaluated in 2000 (*TLAHS 75*, 134), which lies east of the Roman town defences in an area identified with Roman cemeteries. Excavations revealed the most easterly remains of a Roman cemetery comprising 62 inhumations. A number of earlier Roman features were also excavated, and included several substantial domestic and industrial pits. A subsequent archaeological monitoring and recording exercise revealed a further 33 Roman inhumations and one earlier pit. The cemetery was characterised by a consistent burial rite that involved west-east orientation of supine inhumations lacking grave goods, a number in nailed timber coffins. Post excavation work on this project is still in progress at the time of writing. Finds and records will be deposited with LCMS, accession number A10.2001.

### **Negative watching briefs in Leicester**

**1 Falconer Crescent** (SK 5528 0589) ULAS; **General Hospital** (SK 6237 0384) ULAS; **Hamilton Northern Housing Area** (SK 633 074) ULAS; **Humberstone**, St Mary's Church Hall (SK 6258 0598) ULAS; **Lower Brown Street** (SK 5853 0341), ULAS; **New Parks**, Sacheverel Road, (SK 5500 0489) NA; **St. Margaret's Way** (SK 5845 0514), NA.

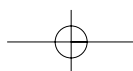
### **LEICESTERSHIRE**

#### **Anstey, Cropston Road (SK 553 087)** Tim Higgins

ULAS undertook an evaluation by trial trenching in advance of a housing development by Bloor Homes at the former wallpaper factory site on Cropston Road. The remains of a possible medieval hollow way were found, together with rear garden activity and a boundary ditch and fence lines of cottages which contained pottery dating to the 16th to 19th centuries. Finds and records will be deposited with LMARS, accession number X.A128.2001.

#### **Ashby By-Pass (SK 348 184)** Michael Derrick and Tim Higgins

Archaeological control and supervision of groundworks was undertaken by ULAS in



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June 2001 on behalf of Birse Construction Ltd. during topsoil stripping for soil storage for Ashby by-pass stage 2. The topsoil strip was centered on two areas south of the village of Smisby. Area 1 contained a series of modern land drains and a possible drainage ditch or hedge boundary. Both areas 1 and 2 produced flint pieces and Roman, medieval and modern pottery probably indicative of manure spreading. The site archive will be deposited with LMARS, accession number X.A85.2001.

**Ashby Magna, Old Forge Road (SP 565 905)** Michael Derrick and Sally Anne Smith

An archaeological watching brief was undertaken by the ULAS between 9/7/01 and 13/8/01 on behalf of Troy Newborn Homes Ltd. during the excavation of foundation trenches. Cobbled surfaces were observed associated with earlier farmyard buildings. The site archive will be deposited with LMARS, accession number X.A103.2001.

**Ashby Woulds, Furnace Lane, Moira (SK 315 155)**

Tim Higgins

An archaeological watching brief undertaken by ULAS for Leicestershire County Council in February 2001, during topsoil stripping, revealed evidence for a gravel spread some 4.2m wide and 0.2m deep, on either side of which were sharp, sloping cuts suggestive of ditches. The evidence is interpreted as representing the agger and flanking ditches of the Roman road between Chester and Colchester, the alignment of which is projected to run through this site. It has been confirmed nearby, to the north-west, at Bath Lane, Moira (*TLAHS*, 73, 84). Finds and records will be deposited with LMARS, accession number X.A34.2001.

**Bottesford, Pinfold Lane (SK 0816 3919)**

James Albone

Development near to previous discoveries of Roman remains and in the historic core of Bottesford was monitored by staff of APS who recorded a ditch and pit of 13th-century date. Several other pits and gullies were identified and, although undated, are probably also medieval. A moderately large quantity of 13th-century pottery was recovered and this, together with the features, suggests medieval occupation on the site or in its immediate proximity. Fragments of Roman and prehistoric, probably Bronze Age, pottery were also retrieved. Finds and records will be deposited with LMARS, accession number X.A59.2000.

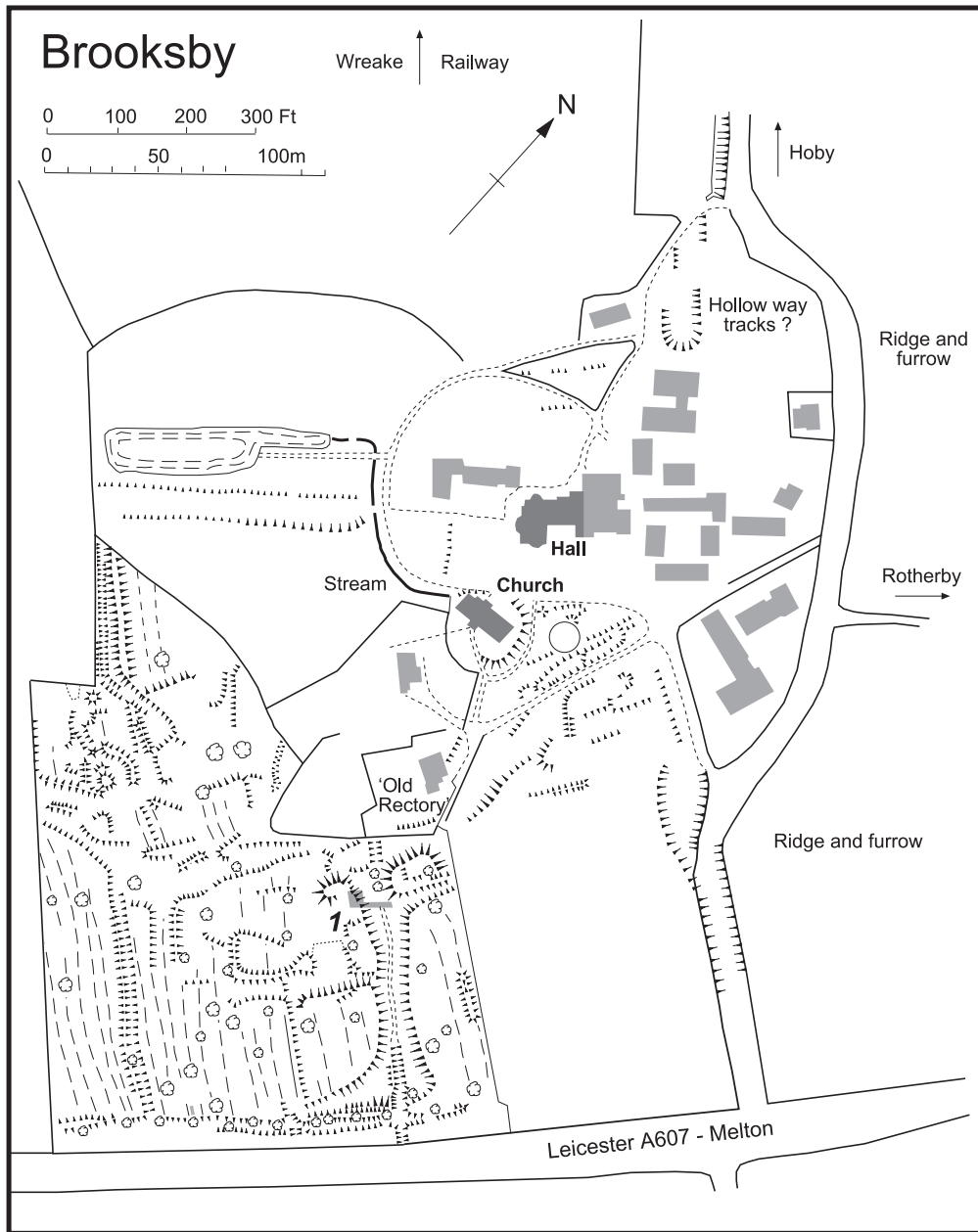
**Brooksby (SK 671 159)**

Neil Christie

*From Village to Hall to College:*

*Survey and Excavations at Brooksby 1999-2001*

Since 1999 the School of Archaeology & Ancient History of the University of Leicester has provided a training school for undergraduates at Brooksby, located *c.* 10 miles north-east of the city centre, in Hoby with Rotherby parish, Leicestershire. This forms part of the Wreake Valley Survey, initiated in 1999. The Wreake was previously an important river artery, and its territory includes the Iron Age hillfort of Burrough Hill and the recently discovered Bronze Age and middle Anglo-Saxon village of Eye Kettleby, both of which have seen excavation (Finn 1997, 1999). The School of Archaeology & Ancient History, in conjunction with Leicestershire Museums, has, in addition, between 1992 and 1998, undertaken an extended fieldwalking and earthwork survey assessment of the Barkby Thorpe parish, with geophysical and related survey work also on the central DMV of Hamilton. It is hoped that the Wreake Valley Project



10. Brooksby

will therefore create a vehicle for publishing these previous excavations and surveys as part of a wider scrutiny of the evolution of settlement and landscape in a discrete Midlands zone. Thus, following completion of studies at Brooksby (summer 2002), the field school and related work will extend to other Wreake sites.

Brooksby nowadays comprises primarily an agricultural college with purpose-built accommodation, kitchens and dining halls, laboratories and stores serving residential courses, receptions and conferences; most of these units are modern, twentieth-century features, but they gather around a much older core, comprising hall, gardens and church (see illus. 10). Visually the church of St. Michael's is the oldest element of this core, first documented in the 13th century, but containing elements indicating at least a 12th-century origin; however, much of its internal fabric and ornamentation, plus its burials, belong to the post-medieval and early modern eras. The Hall, despite restructuring, also provides, in the plan of its old dining area, clear traces of a medieval origin; much of the expanded external fabric relates to the 17th century. Chiefly to the west of both hall and church are extensively landscaped gardens, including ornamental waterway, and pools; further north the grounds, extending towards both railway and river Wreake, are given over to level playing fields. Beyond the landscaped zone are a series of fields which make up an estate of 860 acres in total (largely matching the Brooksby parish confines); some of those fields closest to the college are pasture and contain evident medieval ridge and furrow, particularly well preserved to the east between Brooksby and the extant hamlet of Rotherby (this ridge and furrow was mapped by Hartley in the 1980s – Hartley 1987: 7, 22; fig.2). The other fields, of variable dimensions, and largely hedge-bounded, are arable. Within the estate are a series of farms (Hall Farm, Hives Farm, Spinney Farm, Brooksby Grange), most of which are modern.

The estate is divided roughly into two halves by the Melton-Leicester A607 road, running NE-SW; previous fieldwork (see below) supports the view that this route is at least late Iron Age/Roman in origin. On the northern side of the road, towards the hall, lie the presumed traces of the deserted medieval village of Brooksby and the focus of work undertaken in July 1999–2001. The Brooksby field schools are designed to provide fieldwork training for first- and second-year undergraduates in both above-ground and sub-surface techniques, including building survey, total station and tape/compass survey, excavation, geophysics and finds analysis; Brooksby estate and its environs offer scope to both train and inform students on equipment, techniques and research questions. In the case of Brooksby the key aims are to examine and explain the earthworks and buried archaeology of the presumed DMV area, to analyse the standing archaeology (church and hall), to assess the recovered material culture, and to set Brooksby into a wider settlement and landscape context. The work is informed by fieldwalking campaigns previously undertaken on the estate in 1990/91 and 1997 by the Archaeological Survey Team of Leicestershire Museums, Arts and Records Service funded by English Heritage (published as Liddle & Knox 1991 and 1997 – both reports summarise the known archaeology, historical records and modern buildings). These studies comprised systematic fieldwalking coverage of *c.* 650 acres of the estate grounds, illuminating fluctuating areas of land use and activity, and notably identifying the focal role of the road from Roman times.

Thus far the excavation and geophysical work at Brooksby has failed to provide clear testimony to the medieval village (beyond the church and hall). Documentary analysis by Dr. Tony Brown reveals that the settlement, recorded by Domesday as comprising two small holdings, was, according to a court case of 1517, claimed to have been depopulated and abandoned on 29 November, 1378; texts for 1388 meanwhile demonstrate a forceful

wasting of the lands, houses and gardens here by the Villiers family, with similar accusations levelled against Sir John Villiers in 1488-1492. By the early 16th century, pasture land was dominant; the hall and its gardens and orchards developed from the 17th century, and the 19th century saw the creation of a small deer park and the rise of fox hunting. Of the lost medieval community little can be said except that it was small: in lay subsidies of 1331-2 only six householders with property of ten shillings' worth or more are recorded; in 1377 the population stood at just 39, whilst in 1381 there were just 21 taxpayers.

We might not expect much quality or extent to the remains of such a village: the ridge and furrow indicate a busy enough arable landscape, but this runs up close to the area of the modern college with hall and church, leaving little space for earthworks denoting the DMV and implying that the majority of its structures lie beneath the landscaped gardens and modern buildings. Earthwork traces exist only in the area south and south-east of the church and it was assumed that some of these at least are medieval. However, archaeological results in these areas have so far recognised mainly post-medieval activity: the earthwork survey (illus. 10) suggests more traces of ridge and furrow here, while the excavations have discerned chiefly post-medieval (17th century) finds (ceramics, clay pipes, metalwork, nails, tiles, animal bone) in a structure presumed to be an animal pen and store (building 1 on plan); the suggestion is that this building overlies levelled ridge and furrow. Geophysics work carried out in 2001 towards the east, across part of the formal gardens has, however, suggested possible building platforms, although it cannot be excluded that these relate to earlier gardens/ orchards. Otherwise we must so far conclude that the lost village in fact predominantly lies directly under the college structures and its gardens, and that only further geophysics and targeted excavation will secure its location and chronology.

Equally significant has been the work undertaken at the south end of illus. 10, close to the line of the modern A-road. As noted, previous fieldwalking in the estate had identified areas of high Roman period activity, concentrated along this line, with some correlation with Iron Age and Saxon usage. Geophysics and trenching by Trent & Peak Archaeology in 2000 south of the road had identified a network of gullies, pits and possible tracks; our studies in 2000 and 2001 extended this network over the road and trenching confirmed an early Roman date with likely Iron Age occupation also. Further, it was possible to argue for a track feeding into the presumed medieval hollow way which runs on towards both church and hall. The IA/Roman features were all heavily eroded, signifying the high level of heavy ploughing that has occurred in the area since the Roman period; it is unlikely therefore that any coherent structural finds will be forthcoming in the 2002 season at Brooksby.

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**Burbage, Aston Lane (SP 450 921 - SP 451 934)**

Vicki Priest

An archaeological watching brief was carried out by ULAS at Aston Lane, Burbage in advance of the renewal of a rising main pipeline by Severn Trent Water. The watching brief encountered some evidence for ridge and furrow and recovered a number of flints indicating the presence of prehistoric activity in the area. Finds and records will be deposited with LMARS, accession no X.A3.2001.

**Burton Lazars, Sawgate Bridge (SK 781 172)**

Simon Chapman

ULAS conducted a watching brief and controlled supervision of groundworks during the excavation of silt traps as part of a flood-alleviation scheme on Burton Brook and the river Eye, south of Melton Mowbray, and east of Burton Lazars, for the Environment Agency. This revealed the remains of a medieval stone bridge built in several distinct phases. The first involved the laying of large cobbles in the base of the brook, which for several years may have sufficed as a ford crossing. At a later date a more substantial bridge was built of limestone. Evidence of this first stone construction was found only on the west bank of the brook, and consisted of a large D-shaped abutment terraced into the bank of the brook. It is presumed that a wooden superstructure (which has since been lost) may have sat atop this structure and spanned the brook to a similar structure on the east bank. A worked oak timber stake was found in the west bank during a later watching brief. No evidence of a second abutment was found during excavation, but this may have lain beyond the area of investigation or its stone may simply have been reused in the construction of later phases of the bridge. Following several years of flooding a third phase of construction was added, in the form of a well-hewn sandstone parapet. Later the banks of the brook, just down stream of the bridge, were consolidated with a broad layer of pebbles. The bridge was recorded as 'Salgate Brygge' in 14th-century land surveys and its name derived from the Roman 'Sawgate' road on which it sat. This was one of the main routes from the east coast via which salt was traded into the interior of Britain.

The site lies half a mile east of Burton Lazars where Europe's largest leper colony and hospital founded by Roger de Mowbray in 1138, stood for over 400 years.

Finds and records will be deposited with LMARS, accession number X.A24.2001.

**Castle Donington, 24 Castle Hill (SK 448 276)**

Tim Higgins

In December 2001, a watching brief was undertaken by ULAS for Cunningham Lindsey during underpinning to arrest the subsidence of the north wall of a row of houses which lie on the line of the northern rampart and curtain wall of Castle Donington Castle (Scheduled Ancient Monument no 17096). Although the majority of the property is constructed of brick and apparently of 19th-century date, the north facing elevation incorporates sandstone ashlar masonry and is believed to be the remnant of a stone building of medieval origin which appears in an engraving of 1792. The Scheduled Monument description notes that 'the north wall of the present row of houses (which were built around the turn of the century) includes some of the fabric of this building. These houses are also built over older cellars, again of several phases of construction'.

For the underpinning works, three shallow pits 0.80m long and 0.50m wide were

excavated within the northern room (currently a kitchen) of 24 Castle Hill, to the level of existing wall foundations. Only rubble consisting of mortar, brick and sandstone was observed at a depth of 0.55m below floor level and probably represents the back fill of cellars. Finds and records will be deposited with LMARS, accession number X.A82.2002.

**Castle Donington, King's Mills (SK 4175 2748)**

Steve Malone

Staff of APS examined a proposed development site on the outskirts of Castle Donington on behalf of KKA Ltd for Macdonald Hotels plc. Preliminary desk-based research indicated that the development area was the probable location of a Late Saxon watermill documented in Domesday, and definitely the site of medieval and later mills. Other industrial activities had been located in the area during the post-medieval period. However, a subsequent programme of trial trenching revealed only 18th-19th century deposits. Finds and records will be deposited with LMARS, accession number X.A60.2001.

**Clawson, Hose and Harby: Hose, Bolton Lane (SK 7367 2914)**

Steve Malone

APS supervised an evaluation at the edge of the historic core of the village for Wynbrook Ltd. Map evidence indicated buildings on the site in 1790 but by 1884 most of these had been removed. However, no remains of the structures shown on the 18th century map were revealed, though a sequence of drainage ditches and gullies of this period were recorded. No earlier remains were identified but a few redeposited fragments of medieval pottery were recovered. Finds and records will be deposited with LMARS, accession number X.A66.2001.

**Claybrooke Parva, Claybrooke Hall (SP 4954 8800)** Adrian Butler and Wayne Jarvis

An archaeological evaluation by trial trenching in advance of development was carried out by ULAS on land adjacent to Claybrooke Hall in January 2001 on behalf of DM Builders. Five trenches were excavated revealing a late Saxon ditch, medieval pit, post medieval pit and two shallow undated gullies. Pottery, faunal remains and an iron artefact were recovered. Subsequently, archaeological control and supervision of groundworks during the construction of houses revealed further evidence of ditches, pits and post holes which produced pottery of Saxo-Norman and later medieval dates, animal bone, and other finds. Finds and records will be held by LMARS, accession numbers X.A21.2001 (evaluation) X.A53.2001 (watching brief).

**Cossington, Main Street (SK 603 138)**

Simon Chapman

Trial trenching by ULAS of a proposed stable yard and bungalow on land west of Main Street demonstrated that no archaeological deposits would be directly disturbed by the proposed development. An undated ditch and pit were recorded in one trench, but below very thick topsoil, beyond the depth of proposed groundworks. Finds and records will be deposited with LMARS, accession number X.A33.2001.

**Cossington, Cossington Quarry, Platts Lane (SK 601 135)**

Tim Higgins

An archaeological watching brief was undertaken by ULAS for RMC Aggregates (Eastern) Ltd., during gravel extraction at Platts Lane. The strip of topsoil and subsoil revealed flint tools, Iron Age enclosure ditches, and Saxon pottery. These features and

artefacts were found 100m to the north of the Platts Lane excavation (*TLAHS 74, 237*) where a multi-period site was excavated, which included a Bronze Age burial mound with secondary burials of the Anglo-Saxon period and an Iron Age circular building. The watching brief during subsequent gravel quarrying has revealed the presence of palaeochannels sealed below the alluvial clay and the gravel. The archive will be deposited with LMARS, accession number X.A99.2001.

**Desford, Barons Park Farm (SK 513 043)**

Adrian Butler

A topsoil magnetic susceptibility survey was carried out over c.3.8ha of pasture at Barons Park Farm. The data showed no evidence of susceptibility enhancement that could not be discounted as resulting from topographical factors. Observation of geotechnical test pits located no archaeological remains. The archive will be deposited with the Leicestershire and Rutland SMR.

**Desford, Peckleton Lane (SK 484 016)**

Jennifer Browning

An archaeological watching brief was carried out during groundworks at Caterpillar (UK) Ltd, during the construction of a new bridleway and temporary haul road close to Old Desford Lane. A sub-circular pit was revealed during the topsoil strip. It was packed with large burnt pebbles and occasional quartzite stones. No firm dating evidence was recovered, although a crushed cattle molar was retrieved from the fill of the pit. Similar features at sites such as Eye Kettleby and Husbands Bosworth are thought to date from the Saxon period and Iron Age, respectively. The function of the pit is unclear but the stones may have been heated during cooking or craft activities. No other features or deposits were identified. The work was commissioned by W. S. Atkins Consultants Ltd for Caterpillar (UK) Ltd. The archive will be held by LMARS under the Accession Number X. A12.2000.

**Drayton, 6 Main Street (SP 830 923)**

Tim Higgins and Sally Anne Smith

An archaeological watching brief was carried out during the removal of car park surfaces and topsoil and subsoil stripping in preparation for housing development. The only significant archaeological feature observed were the stone footings of a possible late medieval or early post medieval building. Finds and records will be deposited with LMARS, accession number X.A37.2001.

**Earl Shilton, Oaks Way (SK 4625 9760)**

John Thomas

Trial trenching was undertaken by ULAS in October 2001 on behalf of Byrne Building Co. to evaluate the site prior to development. No remains of archaeological significance were recorded. The archive will be deposited with the Leicestershire and Rutland SMR.

**Freeby, Stapleford Park Golf Course (SK 814 181)**

Tom Lane

Earthmoving was monitored and archaeological recording undertaken by staff of APS during construction of a golf course at Stapleford Hall. A number of pits and drainage gullies yielding late and post-medieval pottery were recorded adjacent to the scheduled area of the former village of Stapleford. No traces of a Roman road postulated to cross the site were revealed but a linear band of gravel east of the hall is likely to mark a ploughed out medieval route.

Near to an early, extinct, river channel were traces of an Iron Age site. Located in a

test pit and in a newly-cut ditch, the features lay sealed beneath alluvium in the valley of the River Eye. No traces of Anglo-Saxon features were found in the vicinity of the known pottery scatter of that date. Instead, topsoil removal revealed a series of interconnecting gullies, pits and post holes, some of which described a circular structure. A small pit near to the structure was filled with slag. Pottery was sparse in the exposed area, but was all of Roman date. Finds and records will be deposited with LMARS, accession number X.A18.1997.

**Freeby, Garthorpe and Wymondham, Water Mains Renewal  
(SK 780 170 to SK 860 230)**

Sally Anne Smith

An archaeological watching brief was undertaken by ULAS between February 1999 and March 2000 on behalf of Severn Trent Water Ltd. The work was carried out during water mains renewal in the villages of Brentingby, Wyfordby, Freeby, Saxby, Garthorpe, Coston, Wymondham and Edmondthorpe, Leicestershire. Evidence of medieval occupation and earlier cobbled surfaces was found. The site archive will be deposited with LMARS, accession number X.A55.2001.

**Frisby on the Wreake and Kirby Bellars, Water Main Renewals  
(SK 690 170 to 730 185)**

Sally Anne Smith

An archaeological watching brief was undertaken by ULAS between May 1999 and March 2000 on behalf of Severn Trent Water Ltd. The work was carried out during water mains renewal in the villages of Frisby on the Wreake and Kirby Bellars, Leicestershire. Evidence for earlier cobbled surfaces was revealed. The site archive will be deposited with LMARS, accession number X.A54.2001.

**Great Dalby, Burrough End (SK 774 141)**

Jennifer Browning

In May 2001, an archaeological watching brief was undertaken by ULAS during groundworks for a new house within the medieval village core, adjacent to a cottage of 17th-century date. No early archaeological finds or deposits were observed but the foundations of two stone walls, probably dating from the post-medieval or modern period, were located during this work. The archive will be held by the Leicestershire SMR.

**Glen Parva, Little Glen Road (SP 575 980 to 580 983)**

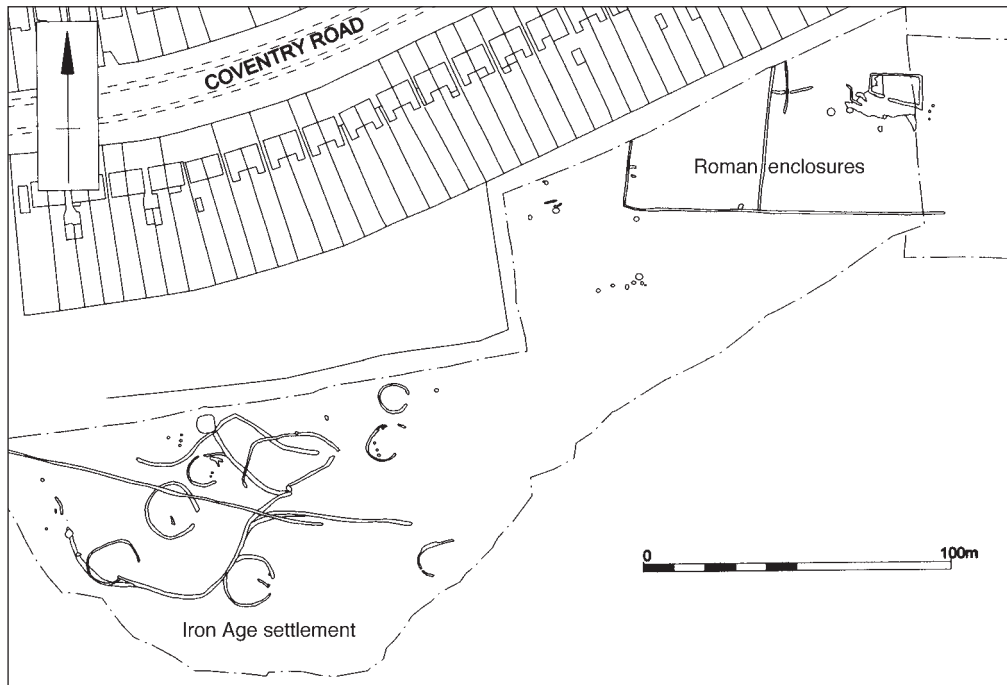
Sally Anne Smith

An archaeological watching brief was undertaken by the ULAS between 30/1/01 and 5/2/01 on behalf of Severn Trent Water and Haswells during groundworks for the laying of a new sewer. Although two prehistoric flint flakes were recovered from the topsoil strip, no significant archaeological features were encountered. The site archive will be deposited with LMARS, accession number X.A42 2001.

**Hinckley, Coventry Road (SP 405 930)**

Tim Hallam and Mark Holmes

An area of 2.5 ha was excavated by NA in advance of housing and community development by Crest Nicholson Residential Midlands (Limited). The site had been evaluated in 1999 (*TLAHS* 74, 242) and it included much of two separate settlements of middle Iron Age and Roman date, the latter bounded on the south by the A5, the old Roman Road of Watling Street. The ground was generally flat and at the time of the excavation was given over to rough grazing. The underlying geology was Boulder Clay,



11. Hinckley, Coventry Road

and the acid soils meant that bone had not generally survived and the pottery was in poor condition. A watching brief continues on adjacent areas.

The Iron Age settlement lay to the west, and comprised seven roundhouse ring ditches forming an open settlement set within a system of curvilinear ditches, which partially enclosed some of the roundhouses. There were two large roundhouses, enclosed by regular circular ditches 16m to 18m in diameter, with eastern entrances. A smaller house had a similarly regular ring ditch, but the others were defined by less regular partial arcs of ditch.

There was a scatter of smaller pits, and a large pit at the northern edge of the excavated area was *c.* 6.00m in diameter and *c.* 2.50m deep. A total of 217 sherds of handmade pottery was recovered from the settlement. Occupation appears to have commenced during the early-middle Iron Age and continued through the middle Iron Age. No late Iron Age or early Roman activity was present on the site to denote direct continuity of settlement.

Roman activity at the east of the site was centred on a small rectangular enclosure *c.* 17m long by *c.* 10m wide with a 1.5m wide entrance in its southern side. No remains of a house survived, but the area immediately to the south of the enclosure entrance was heavily disturbed and a number of depressions had been in-filled with ash deposits. The small enclosure was set within the eastern of two abutting rectangular enclosures.

There was a scatter of contemporary pits to the west, both within and outside the two principal enclosures, and an east-west ditch cutting across the Iron Age settlement is probably also a contemporary boundary. The overall date range of the Roman pottery

assemblage was probably not more than 150 years, spanning the earlier 2nd second century to just after the mid 3rd century AD. The nature of the assemblage suggests that the site was peripheral to a principal focus of occupation.

Across the site there was a regular system of north-east to south-west aligned furrows, the ploughed out remnant of the medieval field system.

Finds and records will be deposited with LMARS, accession number X.A69.2002.

**Hinckley, Nutts Lane (SP 4090 9295)**

Chris Jones

Trial trenches were excavated by NA on behalf of JSAC for Bryant Homes Technical Services Ltd. The objective was to determine whether there were remains related to an Iron Age and Roman settlement located 200m to the west, (Hinckley, Coventry Road, above), or other sites associated with Watling Street, a former Roman Road and present day A5, some 300m to the south. Recent ploughing and modern field drains were found in all the trenches. Rubble, possibly relating to the demolition of a Second World War pillbox was found. No archaeological remains or artefacts were found. Records will be deposited with LMARS, accession number X.A70.2002.

**Hinckley, 1-3 Regent Street (SK 4255 9389)**

Neil Finn

ULAS undertook an historic building assessment of 1-3 Regent Street, Hinckley on behalf of Alliance Traders Ltd. This established that the street frontage range is of timber-framed construction, probably of 16th- or 17th-century date, with a later Georgian façade. To the rear of this is a late 17th- or early 18th-century range, behind which are two small cottages of late 18th-19th century date. Development proposals had not been finalised at the time of writing. Records will be deposited with LMARS.

**Huncote, Forest Road (SP 5160 9850)**

Martin Shore

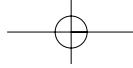
Following evaluation of a proposed gravel quarry by geophysical survey, fieldwalking and open area evaluation, a watching brief and metal-detector survey was undertaken close to the findspot of a late Iron Age linch pin. The watching brief during topsoil stripping prior to sand and gravel extraction located features of Iron Age date. Subsequent machine stripping revealed a sub-rectangular Iron Age enclosure, which was then subject to an excavation. This revealed evidence of a small farmstead which was in use during the late Iron Age, with possible continuation into the early Roman period. This included two circular buildings and a series of stock control boundaries within the enclosure. Charred cereal remains including spelt and emmer wheat and animal bone, including cattle, horse and sheep/goat were recovered suggesting a small-scale mixed economy, possibly for an extended family group. The finds and archive are to be deposited with LMARS, accession number X.A55.2000.

**Husbands Bosworth (SP 635 825)**

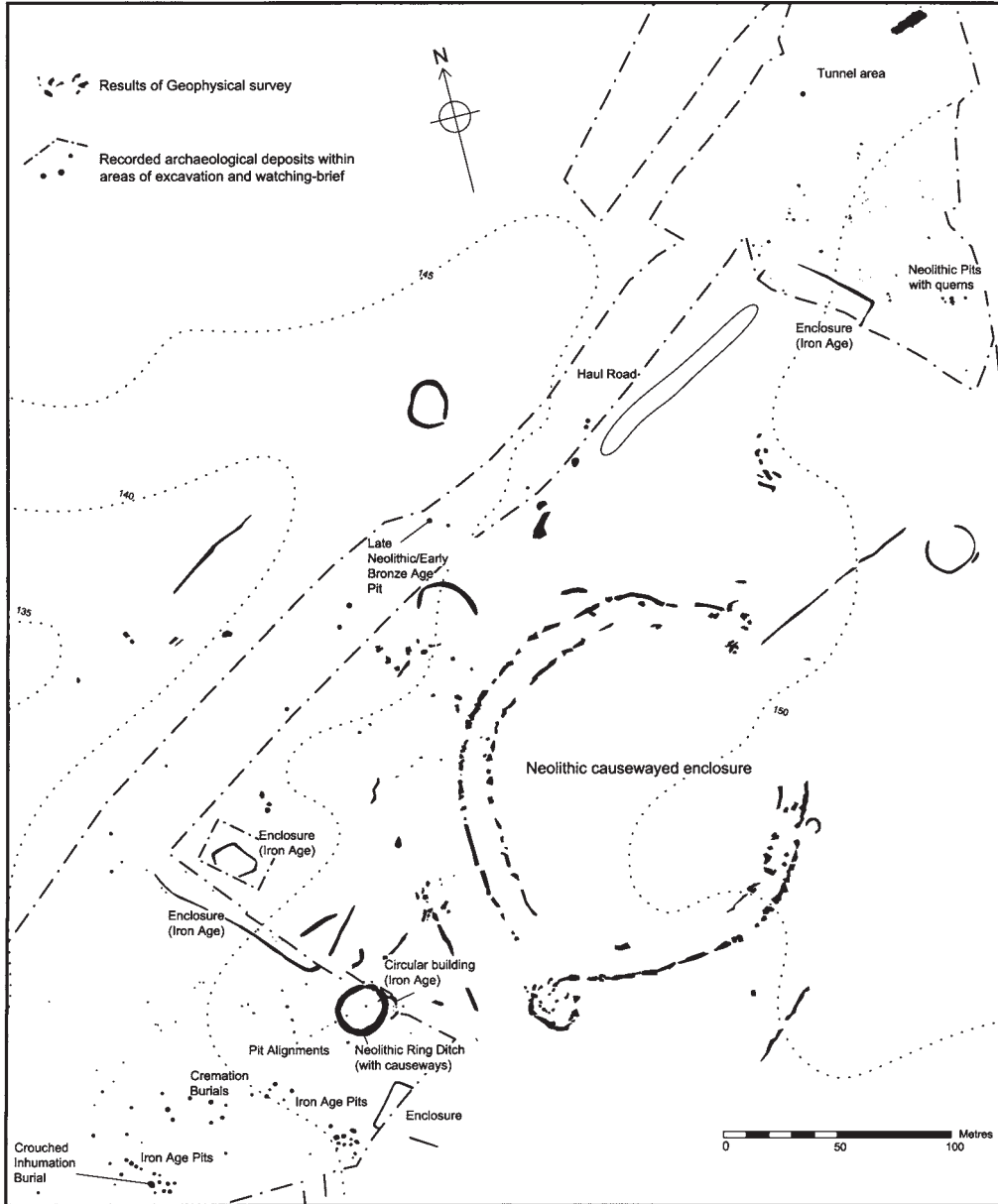
Matthew Beamish and Jon Coward

***Living on the Edge – the environs of a Neolithic causewayed enclosure.***

In 1998, geophysical survey by ULAS located a major Neolithic monument at Husbands Bosworth, Leicestershire – a causewayed enclosure dating from around 3000 BC – the first of its kind known from the county (*TLAHS* 73; 100 74, 247; 75, 145). The monument consisted of a circular open area, 150m in diameter, enclosed by interrupted banks and ditches and would have served for meetings and ceremonies for the early farming communities living in the surrounding Soar, Welland, Swift and Avon



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12 Husbands Bosworth: site plan



13. Husbands Bosworth: monumental ring ditch during excavation, cut by Iron Age roundhouse (right foreground and inset)

valleys. When the significance of the discovery had been established, the site was withdrawn from proposals for gravel extraction, and has now been designated a Scheduled Ancient Monument providing protection from future development. Following survey and evaluation a modified area was granted planning permission for gravel extraction, and three phases of archaeological work have been undertaken since the commencement of the quarry extension.

Initially, archaeological monitoring was carried out during topsoil stripping for a tunnel beneath the road linking the new quarry with the existing one, a haul road and new areas allocated for extraction and landscaping. This was followed by trial trenching and excavation of features located by geophysical survey to the south-west of the monument. Further topsoil stripping was then monitored to the north-west and south-west of the monument. This has located archaeological remains of Neolithic, Bronze Age and Iron Age date in the areas surrounding the causewayed enclosure.

The earliest features on the site are large numbers of 'tree throws' – round pits with distinctive dark crescents of silt on one side where fallen tree bowls have rotted away. The trees would have been part of the natural landscape before the woodland was cleared and the causewayed enclosure was constructed.

Contemporary evidence to the north and south-west of the Neolithic causewayed enclosure has been found. To the north were clusters of pits in groups containing flint and Neolithic pottery of the type known as Peterborough ware. Two of these were of particular interest containing, in addition to pottery and flint, large saddle querns (grinding stones) and charred deposits with identifiable cereal remains. These may have been 'special deposits' placed as offerings, or the querns may have been buried for re-

use during seasonal visits to the site. A pit to the west of the enclosure contained slightly later Beaker style pottery of Late Neolithic – Early Bronze Age date.

The area south of the enclosure had rather different Neolithic remains including a circular monument and human burials – a crouched inhumation and two cremations.

The crouched inhumation burial lay at the base of a deep rectangular pit which was capped by a layer of burnt cobbles and stones. The burial was positioned with the head to the south-east. Bone survival was unusual in that it was either present in generally reasonable condition or there was very little trace of it. The pelvis, ribcage and spine and most of the left leg and arm (i.e. the lower side of the body) were missing. Although some of the skull had decayed badly one side of the upper jaw was in good condition. Initial indications suggest that the burial was of a 30 – 35 year old male.

A tool kit of five Late Neolithic/Early Bronze Age flints, which may have originally been in a bag, lay by the knees, a flint flake near the skull, and two pieces of animal bone with a flint flake were by the wrist. Charred remains of an oak plank had been laid on its edge along the length of the side of the pit to the north-west of the burial. The plank's position in the pit corresponded with a natural layer of loose silt and gravel along one side, and it may have acted as shuttering. This could imply that the pit was dug some time before the body was placed in it, or that the body remained uncovered for some time before the pit was filled in.

Near the crouched burial were several Iron Age pits, dug perhaps 1500 years after the burial, some of which contained quantities of large burnt cobbles. Could these stones have come from a stone mound or cairn which had once covered the burial pit?

Trial trenching and excavation was carried out in two further areas of the quarry extension, targeting features located by geophysical survey, including a ring ditch and a small rectangular enclosure. The excavation confirmed the presence of the ring ditch with two narrow causeways to the north-west. On the basis of the geophysical surveys it had been interpreted as a ploughed-out circular Bronze Age barrow. However although the ditches were extremely deeply cut, neither a burial was present nor any feature likely to have contained one, and there was no evidence of whether it had a mound or external banks. Faint responses, perhaps indicating traces of external banks in the topsoil, had been found during the initial geophysical survey. The ditch varied in depth perhaps suggesting that it had originally been dug out by different groups of people. Few finds were present the only dating evidence being sherds of Neolithic Peterborough ware pottery suggesting use around 3000-2500 BC.

Two pit alignments, one crossing the ring ditch, were also located. Although not closely datable these may be evidence of land division in the Late Bronze Age - Early Iron Age. More tangible evidence of occupation occurred in the Middle to Late Iron Age with a circular building, pits and enclosures to the south, and pits and an enclosure to the north of the monument. The circular building cut the upper layers of the ring ditch, suggesting that the monument was no longer visible at this time, with the banks or mound having eroded and the ditch now backfilled. By this time when the land was being divided up, it is unclear whether the causewayed enclosure was still visible as an earthwork

The work to date at Husbands Bosworth has shown that the causewayed enclosure was a focus of activity during the prehistoric period with evidence of seasonal occupation, the construction of a circular monument - perhaps a local variation of a 'henge' - and burials during the Neolithic. There appears to have been a decline in activity during the Bronze Age until a period of land division using pit alignments, perhaps early in the first millennium BC. By the Late Iron Age the land was being

settled more intensively with several enclosures and at least one circular building. It is uncertain when the causewayed enclosure ceased to be visible as a landscape feature. Further work may help to elucidate what influence this important monument had on changes to the surrounding landscape over time.

We would like to thank Lafarge Redland Aggregates and their consultants Oxford Archaeological Associates for their help and co-operation during this project. Records will be deposited with LMARS, accession number X.A83.1998.

**Land at Ibstock Quarry (SK 4260 1050, centre)**

BUFAU

An archaeological evaluation was carried out in November 2001 in advance of a proposed haul road on land used as a clay stock-piling area, adjacent to the present clay quarry. The trial trenches revealed no cut archaeological features. The remnants of medieval or post-medieval plough furrows were encountered in most trenches. Several abraded sherds of grog-tempered Iron Age pottery were recovered from a root hole but were not found in association with any archaeological features. The work was undertaken by Birmingham University Archaeological Field Unit (BUFAU) on behalf of JSAC. Finds and records will be deposited with LMARS, accession number X.A135.2001.

**Kirby Muxloe, Kirby Park Farm, Ratby Lane (SK 910 057)**

Rob Atkins

An archaeological trial excavation was undertaken on behalf of JSAC at Kirby Park Farm. No archaeological features were found, apart from recent features relating to both former brickworks and a farm that had once stood in the development area. Finds and records will be deposited with LMARS, accession number X.A39.2002.

**Laughton, Home Farm, Main Street (SP 6590 8908)**

Neil Finn

ULAS carried out a watching brief on repairs to Home Farm, Main Street, Laughton, a Grade II listed building. The earliest, timber-framed range of the farmhouse was found to be of reversed assembly construction, whereby the wall-plate is located above the tie-beam, rather than beneath it as is the case in normal assembly building. This type of construction is not uncommon amongst the mud and stud buildings of Lincolnshire. Another similarly-constructed building has been found, some 3 miles to the south at Husbands Bosworth, where a section of mud walling also survives. Research is ongoing. Records will be deposited with LMARS in due course.

**Long Whatton, Breedon-on-the-Hill, Tonge and Wilson  
(SK 402 227 to SK 423 250)**

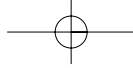
Sally Anne Smith

An archaeological watching brief was undertaken by ULAS between October and December 2000 on behalf of Severn Trent Water Ltd. The work was carried out during water mains rehabilitation. Evidence for early road surfaces and post-medieval activity was revealed. The site archive will be deposited with LMARS, accession numbers X.A1.2002 (Long Whatton) and X.A2.2002 (Breedon, Tonge and Wilson).

**Loughborough, The Rushes (SK 535 199)**

Michael Derrick

An archaeological evaluation of land off The Rushes, Loughborough was undertaken by ULAS in November 2001 for Metrobrook Ltd. In advance of a proposed retail development. A partial evaluation of the area conducted by L-P Archaeology earlier in



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April 2000 (*TLAHS 75*, 148) revealing traces of late 18th and 19th-century activity in the form of gullies and brick walls and a dump of clay pipe and associated wasters. This stage of an evaluation was undertaken following the demolition of buildings along the street frontages of The Rushes and Bridge Street. Seven trenches were excavated, two of which revealed traces of possible medieval stone footings and a pit containing a sherd of medieval pottery. A concentration of clay pipe and associated waste material was recovered from an earlier stage of this evaluation. Finds and archive will be deposited with LMARS, accession no. X.A131.2001.

**Lutterworth, The Hind Hotel, High Street (SP 545 843)**

John Thomas

An archaeological watching brief was carried out by ULAS in November 2001 during groundworks for several new dwellings on land to the rear of the former 'Hind Hotel'. Near to the back of the former hotel, evidence was revealed for post-medieval layers of the 17th or 18th century, possibly indicating demolition or dumping of debris to raise the surface levels. Elsewhere, to the west of the building, evidence was recovered of intensive quarrying, probably to extract the natural sand and gravels which exist on the site. Although limited dating evidence suggested a 13th- or 14th-century date for some of the quarries, most remained undated. The fact that there was little evidence of the quarry pits inter-cutting however, may suggest a degree of contemporaneity between the features. The archive for the site will be lodged with LMARS, accession number X.A133.2001.

**Lutterworth, Mill Farm (SK 547 840)**

Simon Chapman and Vicki Priest

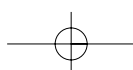
Excavations at the site of Mill Farm, Lutterworth, on behalf of Hallam Land Management, were undertaken by ULAS between June and September 2001.

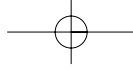
The site, earmarked for future development, occupies the well-known historical site of the hospital of St. John the Baptist. The hospital was founded on land known locally as 'the warren' during the reign of King John in 1218, and was dissolved in 1577. The hospital complex was a wealthy institution in its day, its revenue being greater than that of the contemporary parish church of St. Mary's. Much of this wealth was doubtless generated by two mills, documented as belonging to the estate upon its dissolution in 1577, and from farming land at Gilmorton, Cotesbach, Shawell and Bitteswell. It is, however, unclear whether the hospital mills occupied the 'warren' site itself, close to the 18th-19th century watermill (demolished in the 1970s) from which 'Mill Farm' took its name.

In 1631 a Royalist veteran of the English civil war, by the name of Colonel William Cole, occupied a mansion house on the site, possibly built from the stone of the ruined hospital, and took over ownership of the two spital mills. The precise location of the hospital structures thus became lost and forgotten.

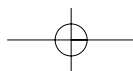
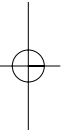
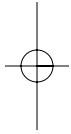
In the 1890s, rubble and human bones were discovered during the construction of what is now the A426 main road. Not only had remnants of the hospital buildings been unearthed but, for the first time, there was evidence that the hospital had its own cemetery.

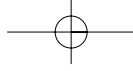
Archaeological interest in the site was initiated in 1996 when the new landowners, Hallam Land Management proposed to redevelop the site. ULAS was commissioned to undertake minor evaluation trenching of the site in an attempt to discover the location, nature and extent of any archaeological remains. These evaluations proved the existence of the hospital cemetery by the discovery of a possible five graves (two of which were



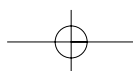
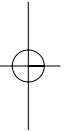
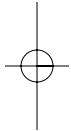


14. Lutterworth, Mill farm: Burial with medieval floor tile





15. Lutterworth, Mill Farm: Coffin burial



excavated fully to reveal well preserved skeletons). Spreads of cobbles also hinted at the presence of structures, though their character was obscure.

In 2001 ULAS was commissioned to carry out more extensive work to ensure satisfactory recording of the areas of archaeological importance which would be affected by the proposed development. In particular a large area was stripped to better define the cemetery and the possible cobble structures. Twenty-two complete graves were identified in a very overgrown plot of land to the south of the farmhouse. There had been much disturbance to this cemetery in the years since its abandonment, including modern ditches and sand quarrying pits, which had clearly destroyed many more graves, judging by the large quantities of disturbed human bones in their backfills. The excavated graves all contained well-preserved skeletons, all but one of which were interred according to Christian tradition, with their heads at the west end of the graves. One individual, the only juvenile, was buried the other way round, with the head at the east.

Despite the Christian custom of excluding grave-goods from burials, some interesting artefacts were recovered from the grave fills. One individual was found to be wearing a very plain 'penannular' style buckle, possibly used as a shroud fastening, while another was found with six 14th-century floor tiles, four of which were decorated with the Arms of Beauchamp (illus. 14). Although most of the burials appeared to be simple interments, without coffins (the bodies may simply have been wrapped in shrouds that



16. Lutterworth, Mill Farm: cobble-floored structure

have since rotted), one grave was found to incorporate a wooden coffin held together with iron nails. Interestingly this coffin burial was also the only double interment, found in 'double-decker' style below the burial containing the tiles (illus. 15).

Detailed laboratory analysis of the skeletons indicated that the population consisted primarily of mature adult males, bearing the obvious signs of old age; arthritis was a very common finding. Only one female and one juvenile, of 15 years, broke the trend. To the south-west of the cemetery area, a simple track was identified running in a north-west to south-east direction. This made use of small rounded pebbles embedded in clay, presumably to stabilise the ground and to prevent rutting by cartwheels. This track may have led from the hospital buildings to the cemetery.

Adjacent to the pebble track lay a large cluster of cobbles which appeared to form the internal flooring of a cobble building (illus. 16). A slate-lined drainage channel could be seen below the floor and the remnants of some external mortared walls were also visible. Unfortunately, much of this structure had been destroyed by a modern farm building. Few datable finds were recovered although some fragments of floor tiles (similar to those found in the grave) were identified. It is, however, uncertain whether the 14th-century tile fragments were contemporary with the structure or whether they had been incorporated into its fabric at a later date. Additional cobble structures, including a long enclosure wall, were also identified within the excavation area.

A great deal of analytical work remains to be completed on the finds from the site at Mill Farm, and it is hoped that in the near future a more detailed picture may be formed of the nature of these remains. What is already apparent is that the latest excavations have succeeded in locating at least part of the lost hospital of St. John the Baptist.

We would like to thank Hallam Land Management for their help and co-operation with this project. Finds and records will be deposited with LMARS, accession number X.A84.2001.

#### **Melton Mowbray, Dalby Road (SK 7485 1880)**

Neil Finn

Trial trenching by ULAS on behalf of Leicestershire County Council of two adjoining areas of land, around the police station south of Leicester Road, and north and west of the Uplands off Dalby Road, located archaeological remains of prehistoric, Anglo-Saxon and post-medieval date. Prehistoric remains included at least one Late Neolithic (*c.* 3000–2000BC) pit, in addition to settlement-related features of Late Bronze Age–Iron Age (*c.* 1000BC–AD43) date. Attributable to the early Anglo-Saxon period (*c.* AD450–600) were two ditches. In the 17th–19th centuries, areas of the site were extensively quarried. More recently, in the late 20th century, the topography of the eastern half of the area was significantly altered, by the dumping of building waste on the site. Only very limited evidence of Saxo-Norman and medieval activity was encountered, in the form of a few residual pottery sherds of these periods. No evidence was found to substantiate the interpretation of 'the Mount', a Scheduled Ancient Monument (SM 17023) located in an adjacent field, as a Norman castle motte. Finds and records will be deposited with LMARS, accession number X.A68.2001.

#### **Melton Mowbray, King Street (SK 7538 1923)**

Michael Derrick and Wayne Jarvis

An archaeological evaluation was undertaken by ULAS at King Street, Melton Mowbray, on behalf of Corporate Architecture Ltd. in advance of the construction of a police station. The site had previously been occupied by concrete and brick buildings of mid 20th-century date. Three evaluation trenches were excavated in the area. A gully

containing Iron Age and early Saxon pottery together with one piece of burnt flint was observed in trench 1 while in trench 2 Iron Age scored ware was recovered from a ditch. Trench 3 contained modern demolition material. A subsequent watching brief during groundworks identified further features including a large ditch and several pits that produced medieval finds, an undated possible gully, and post-medieval building demolition debris. Finds and records will be held by LMARS, accession no. X.A87.2001.

**Melton Mowbray, Lag Lane (SK 772 186)**

Wayne Jarvis

An archaeological evaluation was undertaken by ULAS on behalf of Edmund Nuttall Ltd. on land adjacent to Lag Lane in advance of the proposed excavation of a borrow pit as part of the Melton Mowbray flood alleviation scheme. Worked flint, and prehistoric and medieval pottery sherds were recovered during machining of two trial trenches, however no archaeological deposits were identified. This material may be derived by plough from upslope, as the site has ridge and furrow surviving. The site archive will be held by LMARS, accession no. X.A100.2001.

**Melton Mowbray, Brentingby Embankment Site - east of river Eye (SK 776 186)**

Wayne Jarvis

Trial trenching as part of the Melton Mowbray flood alleviation scheme revealed an uneven-based linear feature running down to the river valley. This feature produced late Bronze Age/early Iron Age pottery, and worked flint. Unstratified material was also recovered including Mesolithic reused flint. Finds and records will be held by LMARS, accession no. X.A4.2002.

**Melton Mowbray, 22-31 and 33 Nottingham Street (NGR SK 7513 1922)**

A. Gnanaratnam

Between 16 February and 28 May 2001, an archaeological watching brief was undertaken by ULAS at 22-31 and 33 Nottingham Street, Melton Mowbray, for Wilkinson Hardware Stores Ltd. The work consisted of ground reduction in the garden at the rear of the property and alterations to the existing building.

In the backyard, a modern build-up sat over a post-medieval sandy gravel that extended over most of the garden. This sealed an earlier garden soil with traces of pitting. At the rear of the garden the stone footings of a substantial wall were uncovered, which was probably a property boundary. Adjacent to this was a late post-medieval or modern stone-walled structure with a cobbled floor and evidence of in situ burning.

Within 23-31 Nottingham Street, a substantial stone-built wall was revealed, which was probably an early phase of the cellar, which had been later faced in brick. The stone wall was undated but is likely to be of either medieval or post medieval date. The gable walls of both 23-31 and 33 Nottingham Street were shown to be of 18th-century, narrow brick construction. The two properties appeared to share a party wall. The full extent of the walls was not seen but no earlier relict features were seen preserved within them. The remaining walls were of either 19th- or 20th-century build.

Finds and records will be held by LMARS, accession number X.A17.2000.

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**Orton-on-the-Hill, (SK 305 038)**

Michael Derrick and Sally Anne Smith

An archaeological watching brief was undertaken by ULAS during March and April 1999 on behalf of Severn Trent Water Ltd during water mains renewal. Earlier road surfaces were revealed beneath the modern road. The site archive will be deposited with LMARS.

**Quorn, Pillings Lock (SK 563 182)**

Matthew Beamish

At the request of Lindsey Archaeological Services, the drilling of six boreholes was observed by ULAS in fields to the west of the River Soar and Grand Union Canal (Soar Navigation) at Pillings Lock, Quorn. Alluvial sediments including some containing visible paleoenvironmental material were observed. A western gravel terrace and an area of disturbance were also identified. Records will be deposited with LMARS.

**Ratby, Station Road (SK 513 055)**

Steve Jones

An archaeological evaluation by trial trenching was undertaken by ULAS on behalf of Wimpey Homes in advance of residential development. The site was found to have suffered from considerable modern disturbance and no archaeological deposits were encountered. Records will be deposited with LMARS.

**Seagrave, Abbotsbury House, 31 Swan Street (SK 618 175)**

Tim Higgins

An archaeological watching brief was undertaken by ULAS on behalf of Southlong East Midlands Ltd, during the topsoil and subsoil stripping for an extension and construction of houses and garage. The only archaeological features located were a group of stone spreads found on the west side of Abbotsbury House, which may have predated the building. The site archive will be deposited with the LMARS under the accession number X.A31.2000.

**Seagrave, Hall Farm**

Wayne Jarvis

A watching brief and salvage excavation during groundworks for residential development was undertaken by ULAS for Soar Valley Homes and Mr. C.R. Evans. The site revealed 12th-13th century medieval features, including post holes, gullies and pits, providing important evidence of early medieval Seagrave. A building appraisal of the former chapel on the west side of the farmyard established that this was a former agricultural building converted for use as a Wesleyan Methodist chapel. Finds and records will be deposited with LMARS, accession number X.A67.2001.

**Shangton, Orchard Cottage (SP 714 962)**

Sally Anne Smith

An archaeological watching brief was undertaken by ULAS, on behalf of Mr. C. Pettit, in September 2000 during groundworks for a new dwelling. Evidence of medieval and post-medieval activity within the development area was suggested by the presence of a cobbled spread and pottery finds. The site archive will be deposited with LMARS, accession number X.A66.2000.

**Shepshed, Charnwood Brick and Tile Works (SK 480 179)**

Jon Coward

An archaeological evaluation by trial trenching was carried out by ULAS at the proposed extension of the clay pit at Shepshed for Charnwood Brick and Tile Works

Ltd. No significant archaeological remains or finds were located. Records will be deposited with LMARS.

**Sproxton, Saltby, Stonesby Road (SK 8499 2619)**

Paul Cope-Faulkner

A watching brief was undertaken, by F. Walker of APS, during development in the medieval village core and near to previous discoveries of prehistoric remains. An undated pit was revealed and pottery of medieval and 19th century date was recovered. Finds and records will be deposited with LMARS, accession number X.A132.2001.

**Stapleton, St. Martins Church (SP 434 985)**

Tim Higgins and Simon Chapman

Trial trenching by ULAS of land for a proposed extension to the church burial ground of St. Martin's, Stapleton revealed the presence of extant earthworks, and various medieval deposits, including a possible surface, below topsoil. Finds and records are with LMARS, accession number X.A16.2001.

**Stockerston, Church Lane (SK 8365 9755)**

Jennifer Browning

An archaeological evaluation in the form of trial trenching was carried out on land adjacent to Church Lane in May 2001 by ULAS on behalf of Mr. P. Bromwich. The proposed development site contains earthworks and is part of a larger group of earthworks, thought to represent the shrunken medieval village. The earthworks affected by the proposed development were surveyed. In addition, two trenches were excavated, revealing evidence of medieval occupation, including medieval ridge tile, stone rubble and a possible wall. Finds from the top of the archaeology, directly below the topsoil, indicate that the area may have fallen out of use in the 17th or possibly even the 18th century. The archive will be held by LMARS under the accession number X.A81.2001.

**Stonesby, Water Main Renewals (SK 810 240 to 875 320)**

Sally Anne Smith

An archaeological watching brief was undertaken by ULAS between January 1999 and October 1999 on behalf of Severn Trent Water Ltd. The work was carried out during water mains renewal in the villages of Stonesby, Sproxton, Saltby, King Lud's Entrenchments, Croxton Kerrial, Knipton and Harston, Leicestershire. Evidence for a possible medieval wall footing at Stonesby, pits and ditches at Saltby airfield and a possible continuation of King Lud's Entrenchment across the line of the road and on towards The Drift were located. The site archive will be deposited with LMARS under the accession number X.A26.2001.

**Swinford, Chapel Street (SP 569 795)**

Michael Derrick and Sally Anne Smith

An archaeological watching brief was undertaken by ULAS on 4/6/01 on behalf of Mr. N. Salt in advance of building works. A pit or ditch was observed but no dating evidence. A flint flake was recovered from unstratified material. The site archive will be deposited with LMARS, accession number X.A80.2001.

**Syston, Fosse Way (SK 618 126)**

Adrian Butler

A topsoil magnetic susceptibility survey was carried out by ULAS on behalf of LaFarge Redland Aggregates at land west of Fosse Way, Syston. Low levels of susceptibility were

encountered indicating probable alluvial cover over shallow gravels. Enhanced susceptibility lineations and areas detected may suggest some archaeological survival.

**Thurlaston, New Haven Farm (SK 492 010)**

Wayne Jarvis

Archaeological exploratory fieldwork was undertaken by ULAS on behalf of Mr. Michael Moore at New Haven Farm, Thurlaston in advance of the excavation of a conservation pond. No archaeological deposits or finds were identified during trial trenching. The site archive will be held by LMARS, accession no. X.A34.2002.

**Tur Langton, Rose Cottage (SP 712 946)**

Mike Dawson

In June and July 2001, a watching brief, during the construction of a new building, took place in a currently unoccupied medieval close between The Chestnuts and Rose Cottage, High Street Tur Langton. The site was partially landscaped in the late 1990s. Topographically, the close was some 30 metres wide and 100 metres in depth, stretching away to the south. In the centre was a clay ridge in which a small pond had been excavated, and in the south a small stream, ultimately a tributary of the River Welland.

***Archaeological Evidence***

Excavation of the footings for a driveway and house foundations revealed the remains of a boundary wall, part of the two buildings, and a cobbled surface sealed beneath topsoil. All the structures were left *in situ* with the exception of the cobbled surface which was excavated.

The earliest building comprised a loam-bonded sandstone wall, partially robbed, enclosing a worn and partially robbed sandstone flagged floor. The scale of the building and its structure suggest construction, probably at the earliest, in the 16th century. The technique and form of the building is consistent with a single bay cottage in the local vernacular. A small quantity of pottery recovered from the top soil horizon above the structure, was 19th century in date (Soden 2002, 19) confirming the map evidence which indicates the building was demolished by 1912 (Holloway, Price and Co. 1912).

The second building, slightly further to the south, was a small structure consisting of three lime-mortared walls enclosing an area of approximately 2 sq. metres. No finds were recovered and the date of this building is assumed to be late 19th century as it appears on the 1st edition OS 1886 but not on the sale catalogue of 1912, where the land is described as gardens.

Towards the centre of the site, the ground rises to form a low clay ridge; on the northern face there is a small pond. South of the pond, on the ridge itself, was a cobbled surface some 15 metres wide, which may be the remains of the track or possibly yard surface. Pottery indicates an origin in the 13th century. The pottery comprised shelly coarsewares and three sherds of Lyveden/Stanion B-ware from the north-east Northamptonshire village industries. A single fragment of heavily quartz-tempered hand-made pottery was also recovered from the surface, possibly of early to middle Saxon date. This was probably residual and suggests there was some Saxon activity in this area.

Finds and records will be deposited with LMARS, accession number X.A.23.2002.

*Bibliography*

- Soden I., 2002 'Pottery from Tur Langton', in Dawson 2002, 19.  
 Dawson M., 2002 *Archaeological Watching Brief at Pond House on Land Adjacent to Rose Cottage, Tur Langton, Leicestershire, July 2001*. Unpublished Site Report, Samuel Rose Limited.  
 Holloway, Price and Co., 1912 *West Langston Hall Estate Leicestershire. Particulars with Plans, Views and Conditions of Sale*, Market Harborough

**Twycross, 17/19 Church Street (SK 335 050)** Michael Derrick and Sally Anne Smith

An archaeological watching brief was undertaken by ULAS in July 2001 on behalf of Joynes Pike and Associates Ltd. during the excavation of trial pits at 17/19 Church Street. The pits were excavated prior to the construction of four dwellings on the site. A gully of indeterminable date was recorded within trial pit 4. This may be associated with medieval activity already observed during an earlier evaluation of the site. The site archive will be deposited with LMARS with the accession no. X.A.104.2001.

**Twycross, Norton-Juxta-Twycross (SK 3228 0688).** Jennifer Browning

In May 2001, an archaeological watching brief was undertaken by ULAS during groundworks for a new house to the rear of 5 Orton Road. A number of medieval pottery sherds were located during the topsoil stripping but could not be directly associated with any feature. No evidence of early features was revealed during the subsequent excavation of foundation trenches, although possible post medieval activity, including signs of landscaping, was observed. The archive will be held by LMARS, accession number X.A62.2001.

**Twycross, Norton-Juxta-Twycross (SK 320 060 to SK 330 080)** Sally Anne Smith

An archaeological watching brief was undertaken by ULAS between December 2000 and January 2001 on behalf of Severn Trent Water Ltd. The work was carried out during water mains renewal and revealed evidence for earlier cobbled road surfaces. The site archive will be deposited with LMARS, accession number X.A17.2002.

**Walton on the Wolds, Black Lane, (SK 597 187)** Tim Higgins

An archaeological evaluation was carried out by ULAS in March 2001, for Mr A. Crawley, on land next to Black Lane/Big Lane, south of Walton on the Wolds, prior to the construction of fishing lakes. Three trial trenches were excavated, but no significant archaeological features were observed. The site archive will be deposited with LMARS, accession number X.A.45.2000.

**Wanlip, Hallam Fields (SK 585 103, area)** Vicki Priest and Adrian Butler

Archaeological fieldwalking, metal detecting and geophysical surveys were carried out by ULAS at Hallam Fields, north of Birstall, in advance of a proposed development by Jelson Homes. A low density scatter of flint was identified across the site – probably mainly later prehistoric in date, with a small concentration of worked tools in Field 5. In addition to this, medieval and post-medieval pottery and a single 17th-century coin were recovered. Magnetic susceptibility survey indicated two areas of enhanced magnetic

susceptibility, subsequently targeted by fluxgate gradiometer survey revealing a large sub-rectangular ditched enclosure and other associated archaeological features including possible ring ditches, pits and hearths. Records will be deposited with LMARS, accession no. X.A25.2001.

**Wanlip, Home Farm (SK 602 109)**

John Thomas

The second stage of an archaeological watching brief at Home Farm, Church Road, Wanlip was carried out during April 1999 by ULAS on behalf of the developers Jelson Ltd.

Previously, an archaeological watching brief had been undertaken in September 1998 during initial preparatory topsoil stripping of contaminated ground between the farm and the river Soar. This revealed evidence of activity suggesting use of the area throughout the late Mesolithic/Early Neolithic, Iron Age, Romano-British, Anglo-Saxon, medieval and post-medieval periods. Prehistoric finds suggested riverside activity involving the use of local flint resources for toolmaking. The bulk of the evidence indicated a strong 1st/2nd century AD Romano-British presence, possibly the edge of a larger site existing beneath the present Home Farm. There was also slight evidence that the site may have been in continued existence from the Late Iron Age. Evidence for a substantial medieval boundary wall, the line of which was reused in the post-medieval period was also encountered, together with stray finds of 14th-century ridge tile. The ground in this area was subsequently levelled-up and archaeological deposits were preserved *in situ*. An archaeological impact assessment was also undertaken of alterations to existing farm buildings earmarked for conversion (*TLAHS 72*, 186-188) which conclude that historic fabric would not be adversely affected.

The second phase of watching brief in 1999 was on groundworks in the former farmyard, associated with the building conversions. A group of undated features, suggestive of pits or ditches, was revealed in section beneath one of the structures on the eastern side of the farmyard and probably represent a continuation of activity previously encountered, based on the similarity of fills. A photographic record of the building conversions was also undertaken showing the farm buildings before and during alteration. Finds and records will be deposited with LMARS, accession number X.A74.1998.

**Wanlip, Sewage Treatment Works (SK 595 115)** John Coward and Adrian Butler

Fieldwalking and geophysical surveys were carried out by ULAS for Severn Trent Water as part of an archaeological evaluation of land proposed for a new plant adjacent to the existing sewage treatment works at Wanlip. A widespread scatter of lithic material dating from the Mesolithic to the Bronze Age was recovered, with a high incidence of tools. Earth resistance survey of *c.* 3.3ha highlighted a number of probable geological variations and possible periglacial ice polygons but no clear archaeological anomalies. The archive will be deposited with LMARS, accession no X.A130.2001.

**Wigston Parva (SP 4651 8985)**

Neil Finn

ULAS undertook a watching brief on behalf of Mr and Mrs. Oliver, the owners, during demolition of the south gable wall of the former barn adjacent to Manor Farmhouse. The south wall and a section of the eastern side wall of this Grade II listed timber-framed building had become structurally unsafe and required rebuilding. The last vestige of the original wall framing was in the south wall and was removed in the course of the repairs. The barn was probably constructed in the latter part of the 17th or early

part of the 18th century (a date of 1681 occurs on the fireplace bressummer in the eastern wing of Manor Farmhouse and the barn is unlikely to be any earlier). This was a period of transition in constructional practices at the vernacular level in Leicestershire. The earliest surviving smaller brick buildings date from the 1680s and 1690s, whilst the latest dated timber-framed buildings, in the south of the county, are attributable to the first two decades of the 18th century. A number of these late timber-framed buildings have apparently original brick infill. The aim of the watching brief was to determine whether or not the brickwork infilling the timber frame of the south wall was the original infill material. Stave holes and stave grooves in the horizontal framing members, recorded following removal, indicated that the original panel infill material was not brick, but wattle and daub or lath and daub. Records will be deposited with LMARS.

**Woodhouse and Quorndon (SK 54751600 - 55101490)**

Adrian Butler

Magnetometer survey was carried out for David Langham over about 2ha of land for a proposed access road and oil exploration well west of the Great Central Railway, Woodhouse and Quorndon, Leicestershire. Evidence for two possible former field boundaries was identified in the magnetic data, but no archaeological features were detected.

**Wyfordby (SK792 188)**

Wayne Jarvis and Michael Derrick

Monitoring of groundworks associated with the Melton Mowbray flood alleviation scheme located remains associated with the deserted medieval village of Wyfordby. Excavation revealed a variety of features including structural remains. Post-excavation work is ongoing and a detailed report will be included in a future edition of *Transactions*. Finds and records will be deposited with LMARS, accession no. X.A134.2001.

**Wymondham, Main Street (SK 8526 1870)**

Gary Taylor

The implications of proposed development in the centre of Wymondham was examined by G. Taylor of APS on behalf of Andrew Granger and Co. Initial desk-based research established that Wymondham Manor House had been located on the site and was recorded on a map of 1652 that depicted the hall and several smaller buildings and structures, including a gateway, in the area. By 1816 the house had been much reduced in size and a factory was built on the site in the 20th century. Stone buildings, including a range of barns and another structure encapsulated in the present factory, are located on the site and appear to be some of those mapped in 1652. A subsequent assessment of these stone buildings indicated that the barns survived largely as shells, with much later alterations and recent roofs, though one of the barns had an old, but probably not original, granary in the roof space. The stone building incorporated in the main factory structure was of two-storeys and retained some original window splays and timbering, though this too was much altered.

**Negative watching briefs in Leicestershire**

**Ashby Magna**, Hubbards Farm, 21 Old Forge Road (SP 565 905) ULAS; **Belvoir**, Belvoir Castle, Riding Ring, (SK 823 338) ULAS; **Brighthurst and Drayton** (SP 820 920 to SP 850 930), ULAS; **Birstall**: Worcester Avenue (SK 595 095) ULAS; **Burbage**, Love Lane (SP 441 923) ULAS; **Burton Overy**: Manor Farm, Back Lane (SP 675 980) ULAS; **Elmsthorpe**: Station Road/Burbage Common Road (SP 471

957) ULAS; **Elmsthorpe**, Station Road/Burbage Common Road, (SP 471 957) ULAS; **Enderby**, Hopyard Farm Lubbesthorpe Road (SK 6258 0598) ULAS; **Glenfield**, Old Tudor Rectory, Main Street (SK 538 061), ULAS; **Great Dalby**, 15, Top End, (SK 741 142) ULAS; **Kilby**, Manor House (SP 619 958) ULAS; **Newbold Verdon** (SK 456 035), ULAS; **North Kilworth**, Kilworth House (SP 601 834) ULAS; **Ratcliffe Culey**: Rising Main (SP 320 990 to SP 330 000) ULAS; **Rearsby**: Melton Road (SK 651 143) ULAS; **Rearsby**: St Michael and All Angels Church (SK 651 146) ULAS; **Saltby**: Church Farm (SK 845 265) ULAS; **Sapcote**: Sapcote Castle (SP 487 933) ULAS; **Slawston**: Blackhorse Farm (SP 477 294), NA; **Slawston**: Valley Farm, Welham Lane (SP 778 943) ULAS; **Swinford**, Chapel Street (SP 569 795); ULAS; **Syston**: Pontylue Farm (SK 613 109) ULAS; **Tilton on the Hill**: Manor Farm (SK 7430 0555) JSAC; **Thurmaston**: Round Hill Community College (SK 615 104) ULAS; **Twycross**: 2 Wood Lane, Norton Juxta Twycross (SK 323 068) ULAS.

## RUTLAND

### **Ashwell, Teigh, Whissendine, Exton and Horn** (SK 820 100 to SK 960 170)

Tim Higgins and Sally Anne Smith

An archaeological watching brief was undertaken by ULAS between January and August 2000 on behalf of Severn Trent Water Plc. The work was carried out during water mains renewal in the villages of Ashwell, Teigh, Whissendine, Horn Mill and Exton. Earlier pebbled/cobbled road surfaces were found in Ashwell and Whissendine. Undateable pits were located in Ashwell and Exton and a post-medieval pit was found at Teigh. The site archive will be deposited with Rutland County Museum (RCM), accession number R.A13.2001.

### **Cottesmore, Greetham and Stretton**

Sally Anne Smith

An archaeological watching brief was undertaken by ULAS between March and July 2000 on behalf of Severn Trent Water Plc. The work was carried out during water mains renewal in the villages of Cottesmore, Greetham and Stretton and also Alstoe Farm, Burley Road in Rutland. Evidence was found for two early road surfaces and two possible pits (undated). The site archive will be deposited with RCM, accession number R.A17.2001.

### **Exton, Church of St. Peter and St Paul (SK 926 113)**

Vicki Priest

Archaeological recording was carried out by ULAS during restoration work at St. Peter and St Paul's church, Exton. After the removal of a large monument in the north transept, a section of painted wall plaster and a large blocked window were discovered. The wall plaster was too badly deteriorated for much interpretation but the style of the window with three cinquefoil lights and panel tracery is Perpendicular. It was blocked by the construction of an additional block to the east side of the north transept and a large monument (dating to 1683) placed in front of it.

Finds recovered by the conservation workmen when the monument was removed include several fragments of decorated window glass possibly from the window. The plaster and window were recorded by photographs and sketch drawings before the monument was replaced. Finds and records will be deposited with RCM, accession number R.A8.2001.

**Great Casterton, 2 Bridge Farm, Ryhall Road  
(TF 001 091)**

Michael Derrick and Sally Anne Smith

An archaeological watching brief was undertaken by the ULAS in October 2000 on behalf of Mr. and Mrs. Pallett in advance of building works. A double ditch cut through the development area on an east west alignment, which continued into an adjacent field containing scheduled Roman earthworks. A number of Roman pottery sherds were recovered from unstratified contexts together with material of a post medieval date. The site archive will be deposited with RCM, accession number R.A3.2001

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

Ian Meadows and Chris Jones

The programme of observation and recording by NA on behalf of Castle Cement Ltd continued throughout 2001. Newly stripped areas lay at the margin of the previously excavated Romano-British activity and located only minor additions to the known ditch systems (*TLAHS* 73, 119-121; 74, 257-8; 75, 159-160).

Of particular interest was the location of medieval ridge and furrow close by the previously excavated late Saxon centre, probably the residence of a thegn, with associated chapel and graveyard. Furrow bases spaced at intervals of 10-12m did not overlie the site although they were traced up to it on the eastern and southern sides, indicating that the field system respected the area of the occupation. The date of establishment of such field systems is always problematic, especially with few observed relationships with pre-conquest sites. It would appear that here the fields respected the late Saxon occupation focus although it cannot be proved whether that respect was contemporary with the occupation or a post-abandonment respect for its former status. The identification of the ridge and furrow system is also of note because there were no surviving earthworks in the area and examination of the air photographic cover gave little information about its extent or character.

Finds and records will be deposited with RCM, accession number R.A25.1998.

**Ketton, Pit Lane (SK 984 052)**

Adrian Butler, Vicki Priest and Tony Gnanaratnam

Following initial fluxgate gradiometer survey which revealed two putative parallel sets of linear features, trial trenching was conducted on land east of Pit Lane for Messrs Murray and Ketton Parish Council. No archaeological features were positively identified within the area of the site which was sampled. However, one post-hole and three shallow, amorphous features all of unknown date were revealed in the south-west of the site. Records will be deposited with RCM, accession number R.A4.2001.

**Ketton, St. Mary's Church (SK 9157 5402)**

Paul Cope-Faulkner

An excavation and watching brief were undertaken by staff of APS, on behalf of V. Couzens (Stamford) Ltd, during the insertion of a drain through the church and its graveyard. The church is 12th century in date but probably has a Saxon origin as stonework of the period has previously been found in the floor of the church and there is a reference to a priest in the Domesday entry for Ketton. During the investigations, a former ground surface and an undated stone culvert were revealed. The ground surface may be medieval and contained pieces of Stanion-Lyveden ware pottery of mid 12th-14th century date, together with a very small, and probably intrusive, fragment of 18th-19th-century ceramic. This soil layer contained a grave from which a piece of Late

Saxon pottery was retrieved. Dumped deposits and a second culvert, in brick, were also revealed and may relate to 19th-century restoration of the church. Finds and records will be deposited with RCM, accession number R.A16.2000.

**Little Casterton, Little Casterton Road (TF 012 087)**

Michael Derrick

An archaeological watching brief was undertaken by ULAS in May and June 2001 on behalf of Williamson Cliffe Ltd. during soil stripping at Little Casterton Road. The land was stripped of topsoil and subsoil and revealed traces of modern land drains. Medieval and post medieval pottery was recovered from unstratified contexts. The site archive will be deposited with RCM, accession number R.A18.2001.

**Market Overton, Thistleton, Barrow and Burley  
(SK 880 100 to SK 920 180)**

Tim Higgins and Sally Anne Smith

An archaeological watching brief was undertaken by the ULAS between March 2000 and August 2000 on behalf of Severn Trent Water Ltd. The work was carried out during water mains renewal in the villages of Thistleton, Market Overton, Barrow, and Burley. No significant archaeological deposits or features were encountered although a Neolithic/Early Bronze Age flint scraper was found at Barrow. The site archive will be deposited with RCM, accession Number R.A14.2001.

**Oakham, Ashwell Road (SK 864 096)**

Paul Cope-Faulkner

Development on the north side of the town, close to previous discoveries of medieval and post-medieval remains, was the subject of a watching brief, undertaken by staff of APS on behalf of Barratt East Midlands Ltd. A single ditch, undated but broadly parallel with the modern road, was revealed. Two prehistoric flints, a Roman pottery sherd and a single fragment of medieval pottery were recovered. Part of a probable medieval pin beater of bone was also retrieved. Late post-medieval artefacts were moderately abundant, suggesting the site was probably first occupied in the 18th century. Finds and records will be deposited with RCM, accession number R.A13.2000.

**Seaton, West Farm, Main Street (SP 9005 9823)**

A. Gnanaratnam

Between the 6th and the 12th December 2001, an archaeological evaluation was carried out by ULAS for Rutland County Homes and Corporate Architecture Ltd. The footings for an undated stone-built wall with a remnant flue or drain were uncovered. The structure was clay bonded, which could indicate a structure of some antiquity and which was demolished by the time of the First Series Ordnance Survey map (1887). To the south of the site, a wide ditch-like feature was uncovered. This became redundant and filled during the 12th century. The feature was later covered with a layer of stone, which could have functioned as a rough surface. This deposit also appears to be of 12th-century date and was sealed with a probable colluvial deposit. It is quite possible that this feature was a hollow way. A few other post holes and pit or ditch features were revealed, which had very similar fills. Only two of these could be dated, one of 10th- to 11th-century date and one of 11th-century date. The latter also yielded a residual sherd of Early Saxon pottery of late 5th- to 6th-century date. The evidence of Saxo-Norman activity is of interest given the presence of medieval earthworks immediately to the west of the site and the evidence for Saxon burial activity recovered from the village core. A building appraisal was undertaken of the stone barn in the north-western section of the

development area. In view of the re-roofing which had taken place, this building could not be securely dated but was recorded on the 1846 Ordnance Survey map. Records will be deposited with RCM, accession number R.A2.2002.

**Uppingham, The Beeches (site D) (SK 869 003)**

Wayne Jarvis

An archaeological evaluation by trial trenching, for a proposed residential development at The Beeches was carried out by ULAS for T.P. Scott and Sons. Although geological faulting had been identified through geophysical survey (*TLAHS 75*, 161) and is known to aid preservation of remains, no archaeological deposits were revealed. The finds and records will be lodged with RCM, accession no. R.A5.2001.

**Whissendine, St Andrew's Church (SK 83 14)**

Vicki Priest

Four test-pits were excavated by ULAS during January 2001 at St. Andrew's Church, Whissendine, in advance of an extensive scheme of reordering to the church including alterations to the existing floors in the nave, north aisle, north and south transepts. The church dates back to the 13th century and the evaluation was required to determine the impact of the work on any surviving medieval deposits. The excavations revealed a brown compact clay soil with fragments of human bone beneath a layer of crushed mortar throughout the church. These deposits possibly represent the use of churchyard soils in altering levels within the church and may date from the Victorian alterations when the floor of the nave appears to have been lowered, with other areas possibly made higher. Following discussions with the Diocesan Archaeological Advisor an archaeological watching brief was subsequently maintained on ground works between March and May 2001, during which no archaeological deposits were encountered. Finds and records will be deposited with RCM, accession no. R.A10.2001

***Negative watching briefs in Rutland***

**Great Casterton:** Strawson's Farm, Old Great North Road (TF 0004 0891) APS; **Hambleton and Whitwell:** Water Main Renewals (SK 890 070 to SK 930 090) ULAS; **Horn and Stretton:** Water Main Renewals (SK 950 100 to SK 960 140) ULAS; **Ketton:** Nutts Farm (SK 979 044) ULAS; **Ketton:** Waters Edge, Church St., (SK 982 043), ULAS; **Little Casterton:** Little Casterton Road (TF 012 087); **Market Overton:** Michaelmas Cottage, 5, Berry Bushes (SK 886 164) ULAS; **Oakham,** Kilburn Road (SK 859 097) APS; **Preston:** (SK 873 025) ULAS; **Ryhall,** Ryhall Road (TF 0360 0922 - TF 0336 1020) APS; **Teigh:** Holy Trinity Church (SK 865 160) - October 2000, ULAS; **Whissendine:** The White Lion Public House (TF 828 144), ULAS.