

ARCHÆOLOGY IN LEICESTERSHIRE AND RUTLAND

1966-1967

Report from the Leicester Museums and Art Gallery

This Report covers the year ending 31 March 1967. Smaller casual finds, which are listed in the Annual Report of the Museums and Art Gallery, are not included. The Report has been compiled by J. F. L. Norwood, Keeper of Antiquities, with the assistance of the staff of the Department of Antiquities, and acknowledgement is made to them and to other contributors and sources as appropriate.

LEICESTER

CENTRAL RELIEF ROAD

Constructional work brought to light numerous Roman small finds and quantities of pottery, mostly unassociated. A Roman building tile was recovered upon which most of an alphabet had been scribbled while wet.

(Records and finds in Leic. Mus.)

FRIAR LANE

An excavation just to the north of Friar Lane revealed a length of V-shaped ditch 3-4 ft. deep and 3 ft. wide running at right angles to the southern wall of the Roman town. It contained pottery dating up to the 3rd century A.D.

(Records and finds in Leic. Mus.)

HIGHCROSS STREET

Work commenced on the conversion of the Old Free Grammar School for use as offices by Barton's Transport, Nottingham.

HUMBERSTONE

Flint finds:

1. Butt end of a polished axe found in a field at Humberstone, Leicester (SK 623063). It is of flint and strongly patinated buff. The break is of the same patination, suggesting a break in antiquity. Length $3\frac{1}{2}$ in. (See Fig. 1).
2. Flint hammerstone (?) patinated grey white with a heavily-battered edge.
3. Four flint scrapers. One patinated grey-white with a number of scratches on the under surface; three of fresh brown flint with incipient patination on one. All three scrapers are of crude manufacture on rather nondescript flakes, suggesting utilisation of any flint material.

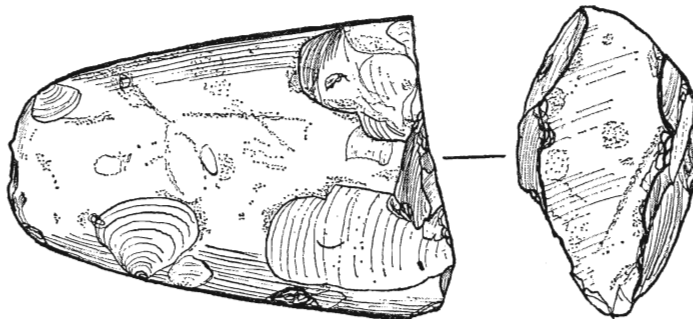


Fig. 1 ($\frac{2}{3}$ scale)

4. A number of struck flakes in fresh brown flint, some bearing slight traces of utilisation on the edges.

(*The above were discovered by Mr. B. Hooper of Wicken Bonhunt, Essex, and are at present in his possession*)

MILLSTONE LANE

An excavation between Millstone Lane and Friar Lane, close to Southgate Street, cut the presumed line of the southern defences of *Ratae Coritanorum*. The footings of a wall about 9 ft. thick were found, and two ditches. The one nearest to the wall was about 8 ft. deep and 15 ft. wide, the other 10 ft. deep and 30 ft. wide. Both ditches had been re-used in the Middle Ages but the bottom layers contained only Roman pottery.

(*Records and finds in Leic. Mus.*)

THE NEWARKE

A length of the Newarke wall, running east—west, was revealed immediately east of Newarke Houses Museum in the course of the Central Relief Road operations.

SOAR LANE

The Stephenson railway lift-bridge was removed to storage for the proposed new Museum of Technology.

(*Records in Leic. Mus.*)

1 WYCLIFFE STREET

This building of 1840 was demolished in 1966. A slate tablet, dated 1732, was found. It had been formerly on Lewis's almshouses, Millstone Lane (founded 1651, and moved to Millstone Lane 1732). Details of the charity and the tablet are given in *32nd Report of the Commission on Charities*, Pt. 5 p.110 (1838).

J. BENNETT (*Records and tablet in Leic. Mus.*)

WYGGESTON'S HOSPITAL

The New Hospital buildings were completed towards the end of 1966, on a site about 200 yds. west of the old, demolition of which commenced early in the new year. All the tablets and slate slabs from the old chapel were re-set in the new chapel, with the unfortunate exception of the earliest one, an alabaster slab with black-letter inscription of 1477 (*Greenhill*, pp. 106-107). Apparently, through a misunderstanding, it was left outside and exposure to wet and frost rendered the inscription almost illegible. Its virtual destruction in this way is a salutary reminder of the need for vigilance in preserving small as well as large monuments.

(*Record in Leic. Mus.*)

LEICESTERSHIRE

AYLESTONE. 573009

A visit to Aylestone Hall showed that an adjacent building with a roughcast exterior is, in fact, a much-altered house of about 1600, timber-framed and standing on a stone plinth.

BREEDON-ON-THE-HILL. 406234

A further four-weeks' excavation was carried out during September 1967 on the north-west defences. An 8-ft. section through the counterscarp bank, ditch and rampart revealed features similar in the main to those found on the east side in 1957. A free-standing palisade had been erected before the rampart, and the latter, containing a large proportion of very massive boulders, had later been built in front of it. Finds included two disarticulated skeletons on the old ground surface and four saddle querns.

(*Finds in Leic. Mus.*)

BREEDON-ON-THE-HILL. 405233

During repairs to the north aisle of the church an Early-English floorway was discovered. It may have led to the Sacristy of the former Augustinian priory.

COTES. 556208

Excavations on the site of this medieval and Tudor Hall by the Loughborough & District Archaeological Society revealed substantial stone foundations and a complex series of stone and brick circular ovens.

B. C. J. WILLIAMS

DUNTON BASSETT. 548907

Third-century Roman sherds were found near the church by Mrs. W. A. Warren of Bloomhills Farm.

EAST NORTON

Third-century Romano-British pottery was found in the course of field-levelling work.

GARTREE ROAD. 688989 69197 727966 734962 737961 738960 740959

A series of trial sections, cut on behalf of the Oadby Archaeological Society, revealed a road with a base of large boulders in puddled clay, with flint and small pebble metalling, 14-in. thick at the centre. There were no side ditches. A series of sections cut at Nat. Grid. Refs. 748055 751953 753953. 785934 795930 proved sterile.

J. A. DERRY

GARENDON. 501199

Excavations were continued by the Loughborough & District Archaeological Society on the site of the Abbey. The monks' dorter and the chapter house were uncovered, and 13th- or 14th-century floor tiles found.

B. C. J. WILLIAMS

GLENFIELD

A *sestertius* of Trajan, of FORT RED type, was found at 44 Faire Road.

GLEN PARVA. 577981

Work on the moated enclosure was continued by the Leicestershire Archaeological Excavation Group. Pre-12th-century cobbled floors with postholes of a circular hut were revealed, and pottery was found, possibly of mid-late Saxon date.

K. C. CLARKE

KIBWORTH BEAUCHAMP

A brass tablet found in the roof of the Old Rectory was re-erected in the church. It is inscribed: *Anno Domini. M,DCC,LXXXVIII./I, Norman B.D. hujus Ecclesiae Rector/has Aedes a Fundamentis erectas,/hos Hortos Muris conclusos,/nimio forte Sumptu posuit./Opera (faxit Deus) seris successoribus/haud ingrata. Obverse inscribed "R. Thornton, Carpenter [sic] 1793". His grave is in the churchyard.*

F. B. AGGAS

KIBWORTH HARCOURT. 689945

The Ministry of Housing and Local Government issued a preservation order on behalf of the windmill.

KIBWORTH HARCOURT. 678949

A trench cut across a ring ditch enclosing a mound resulted in the finding of a 13th-century jar and a bone tool of chisel form with perforated end.

F. B. AGGAS

MARKET BOSWORTH. 406035

A resistivity survey on the site of a presumed Roman villa showed the presence of a large ditch with at least three structures to the east of it. A test section confirmed the edge of the ditch and found pottery of 1st- to 4th-century date, and roof tiles. The work was carried out by the Leicestershire Archaeological Excavation Group.

K. C. CLARKE

MELTON MOWBRAY

The Ministry of Housing and Local Government issued a preservation order on behalf of Swan Porch.

OADBY. 624004

After the demolition of the two cruck cottages known as Tinker's Thatch, trial trenching was carried out by the Oadby Archaeological Society. Much of the site had been obliterated by bull-dozing, and only insignificant sherds of medieval and post-medieval pottery were found.

D. A. PARSONS

SAPCOTE. 488934

Examination of the site at Knighton Engineering Co. continued. The masonry of the well was found to be supported on a wooden ring. A granite cobbled road of late-14th to early-15th-century date overlay a wall associated with Coventry ware and some imported pottery; an earlier ditch was also found.

C. J. HAWKES

SHANGTON. 724967

A test section near a group of earthworks adjacent to the Gartree Road showed a cobbled road and 17th-century pottery.

F. B. AGGAS

SHEARSBY. 622911

A purchaser was finally found for the Yeoman's House and repairs were commenced.

TILTON. 751058

Levelling work on an area of much-disturbed ground brought to light sherds of a 13th- to 14th-century jug and traces of walls. The title map of 1847 shows no buildings on the site, but there is a local tradition of a lazaret hospital in the Tilton area of which this might be the site. A survey was made.

D. A. BLAKESLEY

WIGSTON

A 1st- to 2nd-century Roman *dupondius* was found at 5 Grasmere Road by Mr. L. J. Rayner.

WIGSTON PARVA. 465898

A mound on the village green was investigated by the Museum and proved to contain a 19th-century brick chamber, probably an ice-house.

(*Records in Leic. Mus.*)

RUTLAND

BELTON

A small bronze coin of Constantine II (as Caesar) was found by Mr. D. Ainge of 24 Redland Road, Oakham.