

# ARCHÆOLOGY IN LEICESTERSHIRE AND RUTLAND

APRIL 1968 - MARCH 1970

## LEICESTER

### BATH LANE

On the site of the old public baths in Bath Lane part of an apsidal stone building was found. Underneath this was another stone building of a different plan and below this timber buildings of the first century.

*(Records and finds in Leic. Mus. no. 1, 1968)*

### CHURCHGATE

West of Churchgate and north of Butt Close Lane a section was cut across the eastern defences of the Roman town. Two ditches were located and the robber trench of the town wall. Behind this it was possible for the first time to excavate a section of the rampart, and below this were timber buildings of the first century, possibly of the military phase.

*(Records and finds in Leic. Mus., no. 247, 1968)*

### FOSSE PARK

A tangled barbed arrowhead of Bronze Age type was found by R. A. Soutar. (July, 1968)

### HARVEY LANE

William Carey's Cottage, empty for about 4 years, was finally demolished in the cause of redevelopment. It was occupied by the founder of the Baptist Missionary Society from 1789 - 1793 and was one of the few surviving late-18th century artisan's cottages in the city. The contents were removed to store at Victoria Road church, and a model of the cottage placed on loan to the Museum. (May, 1968)

### 402 HINCKLEY ROAD

A *dupondius* probably of Emperor Trajan (A.D. 98 - 117) was found by G. S. Stevenson. (August, 1969)

### THE MAGAZINE

Part of the ground floor of the Magazine was excavated in the course of restoration work. The surface of what appeared to be a Roman street was found but it was not possible to tell in which direction this was running. (January, 1969)

*(Records and finds in Leic. Mus., no. 33, 1969)*

### 39 RUSSELL SQUARE

A silver penny of Edward I (1272 - 1307) issued by the episcopal mint at York was found by S. Orchard. (September, 1969)

### ST. NICHOLAS CIRCLE

At the west end of St. Nicholas Circle two streets of the Roman town were found crossing one another at right angles. No buildings contemporary with the streets were found but traces of timber buildings were found underneath. (July - September, 1969)

*(Records and finds in Leic. Mus., no. 163, 1969)*

On the north side of St. Nicholas Circle the plan of an unusual building, possibly of a religious nature was found. The building, orientated east-west, had a central nave with a floor level below that of two narrow aisles, and at the east end, a cross-room terminated in two apses. Painted wall-plaster was found *in situ* on the walls of the nave. Finds included a number of 4th-century coins, two small column bases and a fragment of a small stone statue. (August - October, 1969)

(*Records and finds in Leic. Mus.*, no. 164, 1969)

#### SILVER STREET

South of Silver Street part of a stone building with a massive wall and a thick mortar floor sunk below the contemporary ground level was found. Not enough of the building was found to determine its function but an attempt had been made to render the thick stone wall waterproof by lining the foundations with tiles and painting them with clay. (May - August, 1968)

(*Records and finds in Leic. Mus.*, no. 137, 1968)

#### 14 SAXON STREET

A coin of Lucilla (?) was found.

#### SOUTHGATE STREET

Opposite the *Midland Red* bus station on Southgate Street a Roman cellar was excavated. The walls stood 6 ft. high, and traces of 2 sloping window sills were found. In each wall was a recess about 1 ft. deep, 2 ft. wide and 3 ft. high. The walls had been covered with painted plaster, but no trace of the floor remained. An earlier timber structure possibly serving the same function was also found. (July - September, 1968)

(*Records and finds in Leic. Mus.*, no. 138, 1968)

#### 54 WESTFIELD ROAD

A *denarius* of Trajan was found by Miss D. M. E. Armitage. The obverse reads ]R DAC PM[ with head laureate, facing right, and the reverse reads SPQR OPTIMO PRINCIPI.

## LEICESTERSHIRE

#### AYLESTONE

St. Andrew's churchyard SK 573010

Carved sandstone block, decorated on four sides with a triskele design containing representations of faces. This design is Celtic, and is probably of Dark-Age date. The stone was found supporting a twentieth-century cross in the churchyard. (1968)

#### BELGRAVE

A Roman *sestertius*, probably of 1st or 2nd century date was found by M. F. Holland. November, 1969)

#### BILLESDON COPLOW

An indecipherable Roman coin, probably an *antoninianus*, was found at Billesdon Coplow by C. Bennion. (July, 1968)

#### BRAUNSTONE

A *dupondius* of Marcus Aurelius was found by a schoolchild at Winstanley School. (November, 1968)

Near railway a base of roughcast beaker was found by Miss M. Riley. (February, 1970)

## CASTLE DONINGTON SK 448276

A section was dug across the moat of the castle. Results show that the moat was originally flat-bottomed with the outer face cut steeply for the first 10 feet or so before becoming less steep. The ditch was re-cut at least once and probably twice. There is pottery of 14th and 15th-century date in the bottom of the ditch. Blocks of stone from the curtain wall have tumbled into the moat, including some that may have formed part of a curved structure (?tower). Building débris such as slates and remains of floors also fell into the moat from inside the castle area. (1968 - 69)

D. REANEY

## CROXTON KERRIAL SK 837293

A very rough headstone, crudely carved with a Maltese cross, was observed in the churchyard. It may well be medieval. (August, 1968)

## DESFORD SK 497036

Mr. P. Higgs in laying field drains discovered a new Roman occupation site. It was occupied from the 2nd to the 4th centuries and was at some point enclosed by a U-shaped ditch, 4 feet wide by 2 feet deep. Pottery, burnt daub and roofing tiles were among the finds recovered from the ditch. (September, 1968)

(*Records and finds in Leic. Mus.*, no. 367, 1968)

## GLENFIELD SK 554055

Hall County Junior School

Roman black-burnished pottery and a colour-coated flanged bowl of late-2nd and 3rd century date were found. (January, 1970)

## GLEN PARVA SP 577981

The handmade pottery from the lowest level of the site has now been dated to c. 300 B.C. Further excavation has shown that this Iron-Age level does not extend north or east of the medieval moated site, under which it lies. But the settlement may have entered west of the moat.

The bank and ditch some distance to the east of the moated site was sectioned and proved to be medieval. They form the eastern boundary of this DMV.

(*Records and finds in Leic. Mus.*, no. 120, 1969)

K. C. CLARKE

## HIGH CROSS SP 473886

When the A5 was widened, near the crossing of the Watling Street and the Fosse Way, a section was cut across the Fosse Way and the road ditches. The cobbled road was approximately 8 inches in thickness and 18 feet wide. Pottery from the road ditch is now in the museum. (April, 1968)

(*Records and finds in Leic. Mus.*, no. 500, 1968/3)

J. A. DANIELL

## KIBWORTH HARCOURT 679950

Further excavation has exposed more of the ditch underlying the 4th-century pebbled area. Finds from the ditch include building material, pottery and a bronze brooch decorated with a recessed boss. Other finds in the area included decorated bonework, a bronze coin of Constantine I dated A.D. 330 - 346 and an iron chisel. It appears from the finds that the site of a building is close by.

A detailed report of the excavation has been lodged with the County Library.

F. B. AGGAS

O. G. YATES

## KNAPTOFT SP 625896

To the west of the church, a ditch sectioned during constructional work proved to be mediæval, yielding two 13th-century cooking pots, and sherds of Stamford ware. In the same area a quantity of Roman coarse pottery was recovered after mechanical levelling. Its exact source has not been located, but it is presumably under the farm buildings. (September, 1968)

K. C. CLARKE

## MARKET BOSWORTH SK 406035

Further investigation of this Roman site has established occupation from the mid-first century A.D. to the fourth century, with three periods of timber structures and a ditch (1968 and 1969)

K. C. CLARKE

## QUORN

A Roman AE coin, probably of mid-fourth-century date, was found at 8 Wood Lane by H. Palmer. (June, 1968)

## ROTHLEY

A small AE coin of Constantine I was found at 25 Fowke Street, Rothley, by J. A. Newcombe. The Reverse type was GLORIA EXERCITVS, two soldiers with two standards. Mint possibly Treviri. (March, 1969)

## SAPCOTE SP 497931

Site of Roman Villa

Quarrying has removed the area known as 'BLACK PIECE'. Finds of Roman building material, samian, coarse wares and occupation levels in the North face of the sunken approach road indicate structures may lie in the adjacent pasture. Observation continues.

*(Records and finds in Leic. Mus., nos. 520, 1968; 238, 1969)*

S. SMITH

A coin of Tetricus I (A.D. 270-273) was found near the Roman villa by L. H. Smith. (November, 1969)

## SAPCOTE SP 488934

Mediæval moated site

Excavations continued by the LEICESTERSHIRE ARCHAEOLOGICAL EXCAVATION GROUP on the Mediæval Moated site. An area 25 ft. by 12 ft. was excavated in the North East area of TOOT HILL. Revealing the foundations of a wall and turret (13th century) and an earlier hearth with stone-built flue. The turret footings sealed a North-South ditch containing sherds of Nottingham, Stamford and local hard sandy ware. The lowest level of primary occupation, represented by post holes and a gully, had shelly ware in the gully. (1969)

S. SMITH

## SPROXTON

Skeletons reported by Mrs. Birch to have been found at the Park Gate Ironstone Company's quarry. (1968)

## THURMASTON

Coral Street

An inspection of the Old Hall revealed a 14th to 15-century timber roof resembling that of the Guildhall.

## WIGSTON SP 608991

A survey of the *Quaker Cottage* at 23 Bullhead Street showed that the original building fronting the street had been much altered and linked by later building to a small parallel structure. Excavation showed that this latter had its main posts set directly in the natural sand. No pottery earlier than 17th century was found. (June, 1968)

K. C. CLARKE

A small AE coin of Constans was found at 112 Grange Road, Wigston. The reverse type was GLORIA EXERCITVS, two soldiers with a standard. Mint mark of Treviri. (March, 1969)

## WIGSTON PARVA SP 463895

An aerial photograph by Dr. J. K. St. Joseph has indicated a small rectangular ditch enclosed with rounded corners along the Roman Watling Street, the modern A5. Excavation carried out by the Museum Department of Antiquities has shown that the ditch is of Roman military type — V-shaped with cleaning channel, about 4 feet deep by 7 feet wide. There were no finds in the ditch but it had been filled with turfs from the disused rampart. (October, 1969)

E. BLANK

## WIGSTON PARVA SP 463895

Widening of the A5 at Smockington's Hollow necessitated the museum carrying out a rescue excavation on the site of the Roman military camp. The ditch was picked up along the southern and south-eastern limits of the fort, establishing the size of the fort to being approximately 2.2 acres. The ditch was found to run below the Roman Watling Street and therefore to date the fort to the Roman invasion period of about A.D. 44-5, before the roads were constructed. The Roman road was only 4 to 6 inches in thickness.

E. BLANK