LEICESTERSHIRE NOTES
ARCHAEOLOGY IN LEICESTERSHIRE 1955-1956

Report from the Department of Antiquities, Leicester Museums

(Year ending 31 March 1956. This report does not include casual finds, which are recorded in the Annual Report of the Museums. Thanks are due to Messrs. P. A. Ralh, R. W. McDowell, F. Ardron and R. J. Abbott for notes supplied. Special thanks also to the staff of the Department, Messrs. J. A. Daniell, R. D. Abbott, and A. L. Benson.)

LEICESTER. BATH LANE
During the construction of a new wing for Messrs. Brevitt's shoe factory in Bath Lane (E. side, by railway bridge) a number of pits were found containing Roman pottery, a fragment of gold chain, two pieces of a glass cup with moulded lozenge decoration, a bronze stud, and coins of Vespasian, Tetricus and Constantinopolis, also a medieval buckle. (Sketch plan and objects in Leicester Museum, No. 558. 1954.)

LEICESTER. HIGHCROSS STREET
During late February and March 1954 the Department carried out excavations on a site adjoining the S. side of the Midland Bank which stands on the S.E. corner of High Street and Highcross Street. It records with pleasure its gratitude to the owners, The Midland Bank Ltd., their architect, and Mr. G. W. Wilson, the local Manager, and to the contractors, Messrs. G. Duxbury & Sons, and their workmen for their patience and co-operation. The conditions were very difficult, since wooden shores had to be left in place and most of the work had to be carried out in cramped conditions during bitter sleet and snow.

When the existing bank was built in 1921 Roman remains were discovered, and a plan was made by William Keay showing a narrow corridor paved with red tesserae. A copy of this plan was deposited in the Museum but it was never published. It is, however, referred to in the off-printed version of Haverfield's Roman Leicester. It was therefore clear that Roman remains were to be expected in the new cutting, some 9 ft. wide and 11 ft. deep, which was to be made for the vault of the new extension.

In so small a trench it was not possible to determine much of the plan of the medieval structures in the upper levels, not least because the road had been widened at this point and the original street front is now covered by it. The workmen were, however, considerably delayed by the massive stone foundations which contained, amongst others, a stone with a late Gothic recessed panel (unfortunately destroyed) and a moulding of the thirteenth century (in L.M.) which would seem to date the building to the later thirteenth century, when ecclesiastical buildings were being pillaged for their materials. A house fronting the street and extending southwards had apparently had a wing added to it which had projected to the rear. This wing had a distinctive mortar, full of white particles.

These medieval walls had been founded on the Roman building below, and someone had apparently dug down to the mosaic floor and there buried three large cooking pots of the fifteenth century. Two of these were found intact on the pavement (one was broken in the finding) and the third had apparently been smashed and replaced during the work in 1921. (Plate I b.)

These pots contained arsenical ore and the intact one still had traces of its wooden lid. Their use can only be guessed, but the substance is used in tanning skins, which seems a reasonable theory as so large a quantity would hardly be necessary for medicinal purposes. It may be that they were buried for safety in view of the toxic qualities of their contents.

The Roman building below was made more difficult of interpretation since its measurements did not agree with those of the 1921 plan. It is however difficult to see how the walls can fail to be the same, and we are therefore left with a corridor, paved with red tesserae, and a hypocaust to the S.W. This hypocaust had a furnace still further W. and presumably near the Roman street, if street there be below the present one.
Plate I

(a) HIGHCROSS STREET 1955, HYPOCAUST

(b) HIGHCROSS STREET 1955, MEDIEVAL POT containing arsenical ore
Fig. 1. PLAN OF HIGHCROSS STREET EXCAVATION
The walls were of the usual Charnwood rubble set in hard mortar. The hypocaust was made of rough branching flues constructed in rubble and the whole stood on a mortar floor. It was not possible to clear this sufficiently to discover whether the flue arrangement displaced one of pile, but it seems likely that this was so, since the overall floor is not necessary as a foundation.

The flues varied in size and were cupped with stone slabs (which bore signs of heat) and cement, over which was a floor of tesserae. Only a fragment survived, and this had a white border, but much smaller and finer tesserae in the soil suggested that there had once been a pattern design.

In the flues were found a number of diamond-shaped slates, fragments of red, white and green striped plaster, and some coins of the third and fourth centuries, which agrees with the pottery as giving a late date for the collapse of this work.

The corridor was much damaged, chiefly by a midden which produced some good pottery of the sixteenth century. There were at least three floor levels in it.

List of Coins

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No.</th>
<th>Coin</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>TETRICUS II</td>
<td>258-272 A.D.</td>
<td>COMES AVG Victory walking l. Minted 224. (in hypocaust)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Late Third Century</td>
<td>POSTUMUS (?)</td>
<td>Genius stg. l. with patera and cornucopia. Minted at Tréves. (in hypocaust)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>MAXIMINUS DAZA</td>
<td>307-313 A.D.</td>
<td>GENIO POPULI ROMANI Genius stg. l. with patera and cornucopia. Minted at Tréves. (in hypocaust)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>CONSTANTINOPOLIS</td>
<td>Fourth Century</td>
<td>Victory with foot on prow. Minted at Tréves.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>CONSTANTINE II</td>
<td>337-340 A.D.</td>
<td>BEATA TRANQUILLITAS Altar inscribed VOTIS XX</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>CONSTANTINE II</td>
<td>307-313 A.D.</td>
<td>CAESARVM NOSTRORVM VOTIS V Minted at Arles (between slates in hypocaust)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>CRISPUS</td>
<td>317-326 A.D.</td>
<td>SOLI INVICTO COMITI Sol stg. l. (in hypocaust trench)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>Late Third Century</td>
<td></td>
<td>Mineral Arts (before towers in hypocaust)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10, 11, 12</td>
<td>Minimus</td>
<td>Fourth Century A.D.</td>
<td>Unstratified.</td>
</tr>
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</table>

Finds

Potter's stamp of SEXTVS of Lezoux (Trajan-Antonine). Reading SEXTI MA form 33. Another, much worn, probably of AETERNVS. Bowl of a bronze spoon, L. 0.06 m., below floor of corridor. Small beaker, Ht. 0.15 m., Castor Ware, small foot and rouletted body. Upper part lost. In hypocaust. Ten diamond-shaped roof tiles of slate, probably from the Swithland area. Av. L. 0.28 m. Two were half-tiles. Two medieval pots of hard ochreous clay, found on mosaic. Each with a narrow out-turned rim and a much-rounded base. (1) Ht. 0.28 m., Diam. 0.29 m. (2) Ht. 0.25 m. (Plate I b.) (All in Leicester Museum. 88.1955.)

LEICESTER. JARVIS STREET

During the construction of a new shop for Messrs. S. Russell and Sons Ltd. in the insula formed by Jarvis Street, Ruding Street, Sarah Street and Blackfriars Street, a number of stanchion holes were cut, revealing two large and one fragmentary
Roman foundations. It was not convenient to pursue these further, but the Department was permitted to cut a trench in one of the cellars which survived from the small houses formerly occupying the site. This hole found only river silt and some Roman sherds. We are indebted to the owners for their very kind interest throughout this work.

Finds
Base of Samian form 29 stamped OF. ARDA, by Ardacus of La Graufesenque, Claudian.
Bronze coin, probably Vespasian.

(Plan and photographs in Leicester Museum. 356.1955.)

LEICESTER. MUSEUM GROUNDS

The monument erected in 1864 to James Francis Hollings was found to be unsafe, and since any satisfactory repair would have involved total restoration, it was regretfully decided that it should be abolished.

The monument took the form of a column in the Gothic taste, and bore a lengthy inscription in Latin and English. The glass jar, deposited in its foundations when it was erected, was discovered and preserved, but its contents had been ruined by damp. The coins supposedly therein were missing when it was brought to the Museum by the workmen. A photographic record was made by the Museum staff.

(See Trans. Lit. & Phil. Soc., 1835-79 (1884), 260.)

LEICESTER. NORTHGATES

An excavation was carried out by the Department of Antiquities between 15 and 30 July 1955 on a site immediately N. of the Duke of Cumberland inn on the E. side of Northgates. The Department is again indebted to Mr. A. K. Macareth of the Surveyor's Dept. and his staff for clearing some forty tons of rubble from the site and filling it in again, and to the Highways Committee for permission to excavate.

The object of the work was to try to locate the remains of the North Gate in the hope of discovering Roman masonry in its footings.

Fig. 2. Northgates 1955. North-South section facing street.
The North is to the right. Scale in feet.
The point 0 is 6 ft. 10 in. below pavement level.
After clearing the cellar of the small shop which had occupied the site, a large mass of rough stonework was encountered and subsequently the area in front of this was cleared to reveal a ditch cut in the natural gravel. This ditch is almost certainly Roman and in the bottom of it was a layer of gravel with patches of black vegetable matter. Over this was a layer of rough gravelly silt, and then a layer of black mud full of Roman sherds of all periods and many bones and horns of cattle. Above this was a curiously shaped layer of decayed mortar, the suggestion of a shallow ditch, the whole being filled with rough rubbish and sealed by the floor of the cellar which was of early to mid-eighteenth-century bricks.

The wall foundation lies under the present wall of the inn and overlaps the lip of the ditch. The stones had been rammed in in layers at an angle to the ground and had sealed a Roman bowl and ring-necked jug, with fragments of two others.

Suggested interpretation: The ditch, after silting in the Roman period, was filled in with debris from the Roman area. The wall had then been cut into this fill, disregarding the original line. The layer marked Mortar I may belong to this period, and Mortar II looked like a building platform later cut to form a hollow ditch. An attempt was made to cut through this wall, but it was not possible, and tests in the side showed that the North Gate must lie still further west.

It seems likely that this is a small fragment of the town wall, a fragment that suggests that the medieval sherd found in the lowest level of the Sanvey Gate dig (Trans. Leics. Arch. Soc., xxix. 20, note 12) may not have been an intrusion after all.

**Finds**

Stamp of the potter ALBINVS of Lugdunum c. 60-90 A.D. on the rim of a mortarium. (Fig. 3.)

Base of Samian form 18 with stamp COS, Cosius and Rufinus (?), Flavian, with graffito FVIIR. (Fig. 4.)

Base of Samian form 27 with stamp OF IVCVN by Iucundus of La Graufesenque, Claudian-Flavian.

Sherd of Samian form 30 with boar, etc. Flavian.

Ring-necked jug, white ware, Ht. 0.245m. associated with carinated bowl, white ware, Ht. 0.08, Diam. 0.175. Flat rim, with three grooves and two grooves above carination. Both second century A.D. With these were fragments of a similar jug and the neck of another in orange ware.

Small mica-dusted bowl with flat rim, rough vertical rustications. Ht. approx. 0.15m.

Jar, mica-dusted ware, with white interior, rusticated with small pimples, Ht. approx. 0.15m.

Jar, rusticated grey ware, flat rim, rough vertical rustications. Ht. 0.158m.

(All in Leicester Museum. 435-1955.)

**Fig. 3**

**Fig. 4**

**LEICESTER. ST. MARTIN’S CATHEDRAL**

The roofs of the chancel, aisles and crossing have been cleaned and repainted under the supervision of the College of Art. Much attention has been paid to the choice of colours, and it is now possible to appreciate the fine series of fourteenth-century corbel figures in the S. aisle which are one of the main antiquities of the church.

AB KETTLEY. 725228

Roman tesserae have been discovered during digging for graves in the churchyard.

ANSTEY. 550086

The demolition of “The Old Ship”, Nos. 4 and 6 Bradgate Road, Anstey, in the latter part of 1955 (Trans. Leics. Arch. Soc., xxxi. 64) gave an opportunity of making an examination of the structure in some detail. It was an L-shaped building with arms stretching to the N. and W. The medieval origin of the N. wing had
PLATE III

THE OLD SHIP, ANSTY
always been apparent, but the W. wing appeared to be of comparatively recent date. The N. wing was in fact an early fifteenth-century hall, remarkable in that the screens passage was separated from the main body of the hall by a substantial spere truss (Fig. 5). The W. wing had been largely reconstructed in brick and stone, but underneath this were found the remains of medieval timber-framed walls and part of a medieval roof. There was no indication that there had ever been any crosswing at the N. end of the hall, but the placing of the solar in the crosswing at the lower end of the hall was not uncommon. The original size of this S., or lower end, crosswing could not be determined. The plan (Fig. 6) shows its modern extent in outline, and the position of the two medieval trusses that remained.
The walls of both hall and crosswing were timber-framed above a stone plinth. The vertical studs were in two heights, separated by a horizontal beam, and their sides were grooved to receive the panels filling the spaces between them. These panels were filled with rough stone set in hard gypsum plaster. In the hall wing an original doorway remained at the W: end of the screens passage, having a two-centred head formed in wood. Reconstruction at the E. end of the passage had removed all evidence of an original doorway at that end. Enough of the windows remained in the E. and W. walls to show that in each there was a tall four-light window towards the upper end, running probably the full height from plinth to eaves, and another four-light window at the lower end which was confined to the upper part of the timber framing. In each window the lights were divided by octagonal wood mullions into which was recessed a board cut to make a trefoiled head to each light (Fig. 7). The hall roof was supported by three trusses: in the middle was a queenpost truss with moulded and heavily braced tie beam; over the N. windows was a lighter truss with braced collar beam only, and dividing the hall from the screens passage was the spere truss, with queenposts between the tie beam and collar, and the space under the tie beam divided into three nearly equal parts. The centre part only was open, and side bays were filled in solid with timber-framed partition walls. The trusses carried one purlin each side and no ridge piece. The feet of the rafters were let into slots cut in the wall plates and the eaves were formed with shaped sprocket pieces.
The medieval part of the roof to the S. crosswing had a collar to every pair of rafters, with a central purlin running under them carried on plain square kingposts. The kingposts were strutted off the tie beams and from them further struts rose to the central purlin. The two remaining trusses showed that the original roof must have been of at least three bays.

The hall and the crosswing were structurally separate, and the hall seemed to have been built against the crosswing. But though the type of construction used in the two roofs was different, it is not necessary to suppose that there was much difference in date between the two parts of the house. It is a commonplace that archaic methods linger on where they would not be seen long after they have been abandoned in those parts of a house designed to catch the eye.

Spere trusses are well known in Hertfordshire and Lancashire. Such well-known examples as Rufford and Baguley, besides being built in a grander manner, show a very different proportion from the Old Ship, the posts being kept back fairly near the side walls and leaving a much wider opening in the middle. Until other Midland examples come to light it is not possible to say whether the Old Ship was typical of this area or whether it was exceptional. A spere truss in any form is uncommon.

(R. W. McDowell, M.A., F.S.A.)

ASHBY-DE-LA-ZOUCH  349186

The site known as Tournament Field has been threatened with open-cast mining. It is in fact a moated site and the present title is presumably a nineteenth-century attribution. It would be interesting to know if it was so-called before or after Sir Walter Scott's choice of it for the site of the Tournament in Ivanhoe.
COTES. 5520

"Workmen employed in laying electric cables near a farm at Cotes have recently turned up a rusted weapon which appears to be a lance head or a pike head of the period (seventeenth century). Found close by was a bronze coin—contemporary with it. Mrs. Mould, whose husband dug up the articles, of 4 Radmore Cottages, has presented both finds to the Public Library."

(Loughborough Echo, 27 May 1955.)

DISHLEY. 513213

The ruins of the church have been cleared of weeds, and the grave slab of Robert Bakewell, which was badly damaged, has been repaired by the Vaughan Archaeological and Historical Society.

EATON. 798291

A new pulpit has been erected, the gift of Lady Paynter in memory of her husband, Major-General Sir George Paynter, and their only son, Second Lieutenant George Paynter. It was designed by Mr. L. G. Brewster, sometime head of the Furniture Dept. of the College of Art, and carved by Mr. A. T. White, art master at the Gateway School.

HAMILTON. 647076

The well-known "Town of Hamilton" lies in a shallow valley, through which flows the Hamilton Brook. The road from Scraptoft to Barkby Thorpe passes through the medieval village and crosses the brook at Hamilton Ford, and here on the E. side of the road is a field of some 20 acres, with a very prominent ridge and furrow field system, which has not been ploughed in living memory.

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About ten years ago a mechanical trench was dug diagonally across this field from N.W. to S.E., for a pipe-line. Dr. W. G. Hoskins noted in the upcast pieces of brick and white tesselae—material which suggested the presence of a Roman building. (Information from Dr. Hoskins.)

In 1955, Mr. P. A. Rahtz was excavating the earthworks at Humberstone, close to Hamilton, and, hearing of these discoveries, walked over the field. In the area where the material had been noted, the ridges were higher than their neighbours by 1-2 ft. Lifting of turf and topsoil at intervals of 25 ft. showed a layer of small rubble and fragmentary brick extending over an area about 100 ft. square: this was clearly the ploughed debris of a Roman "villa", a typical "robbers' spoil" layer.

A short E.—W. trench was dug to ascertain floor-level and relationship to the ridge and furrow system. The robbers' spoil covered a floor of cement with a layer of clay on its surface; this is presumably of post-Roman date, since it lies directly on the floor-bedding where the floor itself is destroyed. The floor lay on a bedding of orange gravel and clay, and under this was a dark charcoal-flecked soil, merging into the natural subsoil; this is presumably the old pre-villa soil.
The floor survived only on the ridge, the furrow having destroyed it and its bedding to a variable degree.

In the debris was brick, including a thick building- or pila-brick, and fragments of tegulae and imbrices. The stone fragments were mainly Lias limestone, with a little ironstone and gravel. No other finds were made.

The villa is on a S.-facing slope about 300 ft. from the brook, and is doubtless slightly terraced and orientated at right-angles to the slope.

Mr. Pick, the owner of Hamilton Grounds Farm, says that many years ago he filled in a hollow in this field with a cartload of soil; and further, that in the S.W. corner of the adjacent field on the E. side he dug a trench from E. to W. about 10 yds. from the brook. This revealed debris "like a tile-yard"—thick ash, burnt soil, and pieces of brick "decorated with a pattern", together with some fragments of grey pottery.

A slight terrace, whose contours are somewhat obscured by the ridge and furrow, can be seen between the road and the site of the villa. This is now used by farm vehicles, and may well be the site of the Roman access road.

A detailed section of this work, with samples, has been deposited in Leicester Museum.

HIGH CROSS. 474887

Excavations have been carried out by Mr. Graham Webster and Mr. E. Greenfield for the Ministry of Works prior to the widening of the Watling Street. Cuttings were made along the W. side of the main road and in the field to the S. of the farm. The results were disappointing, but the original line of the Fosse Way was discovered and the remains of sundry small huts beside it. The main site, if site there be, must lie elsewhere, perhaps to the S.

After the excavation had concluded a farm labourer found two complete Castor Ware beakers in the side of cutting 38. One is a folded beaker and the other is decorated in barbotine. A full account is in preparation.

HINCKLEY. 426940

In January 1956 workmen laying electricity cables found a stone-lined well in Lower Bond Street. It was situated opposite the timber-framed cottages and about two feet below the level of the pavement. It had been covered with two large slabs of slate and measured 3½ ft. across and about 25 ft. deep, including about 6 ft. of water. The top 2 ft. consisted of layers of early eighteenth-century bricks, and below this it was lined with sandstone blocks, probably from the Arleborough quarries. These blocks were not mortared, and where they did not fit the interstices had been filled with rubble. There is no dating evidence, but an attribution to between the fifteenth and seventeenth centuries would seem reasonable.

The Hinckley and District Field Club has suggested that plaques be affixed to the workshop of Joseph A. Hansom and the houses of Charlotte M. Brune (authoress) and George Canning.

HUMBERSTONE 631059

Excavations have been carried out by Mr. P. A. Rahtz for the Ministry of Works on the moated site in Stein's Lane, which has since been partially built on. A thirteenth-century house was discovered with Tudor cottages over it. A full report is in preparation.

KIBWORTH HARCOURT. 680945

Kibworth House, a late Georgian building, has been demolished.

LOCKINGTON. 468279

A prayer-desk has been made from the carved ends of some of the "poppy-head" bench ends. The craftsman was Mr. H. Cantrill. The Queen Anne coat-of-arms which now fills the chancel arch is in poor condition, and proposals to restore it have not been successful.
MARKET HARBOROUGH. 734874

Workmen demolishing an ancient dry wall on the property of Messrs. Metal Woods Ltd., Church Street, found a halberd believed to be of the sixteenth century. (Market Harborough Advertiser, 20 May 1955.)

NARBOROUGH. 543974

Half of a hog-backed tombstone of about the tenth century has come to light at Narborough House, the home of Mr. J. N. Frears. It bears two carved panels of an interlace pattern with animals intertwined, and there is a dragon-like creature on the triangle at the end. It is possible that this came from the adjacent churchyard, in which case its provenience would be noteworthy, since such tombstones are not usually found so far south. (Photographs in Leicester Museum.)

OADBY. 623998

Work on the new building site at Brock's Hill has revealed considerable quantities of Roman pottery, mostly in a very worn condition. The ground throughout this area has been much disturbed, and it is likely that this is the site of the cemetery found during the gravel-working in 1760, which contained skeletons and "small urns". About 80 of these were discovered, "with a yellow ground flowered with white, and some few of a plain rusty brown" (Nichols, Additional Collections, 675). This would seem to be Castor Ware. In general the site seems to have been a cemetery, with some habitation near by. The exact position of the dwellings may yet be found as the work proceeds.

The Department is specially grateful to Mr. W. D. Allen, who has kept a constant watch, and to the contractors, Messrs. George Calverley & Sons, and their workmen for their co-operation.

Finds

1. Under house 522 halfway up the N.W. face of the hill from the Wigston Road was a shallow ditch running across the slope. It lay some 4 ft. below the surface and was about 2 ft. deep and the same in width. In it were three Samian bowls, almost intact.
   379.1955/1. Form 35. Diam. 0.255 m.
   Leaves on edge in barbotine. Repaired in antiquity with two lead rivets.
   379.1955/2. Form 37. Ht. 0.1 m. Half only.
   Design of acanthus leaves, bears to right and left, haphazardly stamped. Antonine.
   379.1955/3. Form 37. Ht. 0.13 m. Diam. 0.24 m. Almost complete.

2. On the top of the hill, running N.W.-S.E., was a gravel road some 22 ft. wide and over 3 ft. thick with ditches 3 ft. wide on either side. It was very clear but impossible to section.

3. Burial, east of service road (E. limb) 3 ft. 6 in. deep. Skeleton lying N.-S., skull to S. (not sexed). Along the E. side were five large kidney stones on edge. Reburied.

4. Burial, on other side of road to the above, 3 ft. deep. Skeleton lying N.—S. skull to N. Small beaker, Castor ware.

5. Burnt area (hearth?) to S. of burial 4 under S.E. corner of house 511. Fragments of Saxon urn.


7. Orichalc dupondius of Claudius, Rev. ANTONIA AVGVSTA. M. & S. 82. Retained by finder.

8. Coin. FEL. TEMP. REPARATIO type. The finder refused to allow the Museum to see this.

9. Fish hook, bronze, L. 0.08 m. Roman.

10. Linch pin (?), iron, L. 0.31 m. (12 in.). Roman or later.

QUENIBOROUGH. 648121

The presumed escutcheon referred to in these Notes for 1954 (Trans. Leics. Arch. Soc. xxx. 123) has been traced after much trouble. It was a nineteenth-century button.
LEICESTERSHIRE NOTES

SWANNINGTON. 418163
The incline of the Leicester & Swannington Railway, which apart from being a spectacular relic of this early line, retained an original stone bridge, has been partly filled in with slag.

WHITTINGTON GRANGE. 488081
A portion of the green lane which runs between Whittington Grange and the bend in the Markfield-Ratby road was excavated by the Loughborough Archaeological Society.

The road was composed of rough stones and contained wheel ruts 4-5 in. deep and 4 ft. 8 in.—4 ft. 9 in. apart. There was a hollow between them where the draught animals had walked.

A section was cut which produced several flint flakes, some nails, a corroded horseshoe (seventeenth-eighteenth century), and, near the centre, a tiny fragment of the rim of a Roman grey ware jar. There was a ditch at the W. side 1 ft. 6 in. deep and 2 ft. wide, but indications of a similar one on the E. side were indeterminate.

The actual road surface was about 18 ft. wide and lay on a rough make-up of clay containing some large stones, the whole resting on the natural clay. The date of this road is in doubt. It might well link up with that found at three places to the S. of the main street at Coalville, which has been suggested as a continuation through Charnwood of the Roman Gartree Road. On the other hand the actual remains were immediately below the present turf, and might be those of a much more recent track. There was a layer of earlier metalling at the E. side of the section, but no indication as to how much earlier this might be.

The Society hopes to undertake the further field-work necessary to clear up these problems.

The work was conducted by Mr. Frederick Ardron, Secretary of the Society, who desires to express his thanks to Mr. R. Dolman, the owner of the site.

LEICESTERSHIRE RECORD OFFICE

The following records have been deposited during the year ended 31 March 1956:

PARISH RECORDS

2. Wymondham and Edmondthorpe—includes Constable’s Account Books, 1701-1834; Maps, 1652, c. 18th cent., 1816, 1842; papers re Tithe disputes, 18th-19th cents.

ENCLOSURE AWARDS

14 Awards, 17th-19th cents. for Arnesby, Blaby, Gloosoton and Cranoe; Goadby (copy of Chancery enrolment), Gumley, Hoton, Kibworth (and Survey for Enclosure), Kilby and Newton Harcourt, Langton, Lubenham, Narborough, Sheepy Magna (map only), Slawston, Walcote. Papers relating to Enclosure of Castle Donington and Discworth.

TITHE AWARDS

57 Awards, mostly duplicates of the Diocesan Copies in the County Record Office.

LUTTERWORTH PETTY SESSIONS

Minute Books, Registers, Miscellanea, 20th cent.

TURNPIKE RECORDS

2. Leicester-Peterborough Turnpike: Act, 1822.

FAMILY AND ESTATE

1. PRESTWOLD HALL MSS.

Deeds and papers relating to the estates of the Packe family:

(a) In Leicestershire, at Prestwold, Hoton, Burton-on-the-Wolds, Cotes, Wymeswold and Loughborough, 17th—20th cents., including a Survey with rental of the Leicestershire estates, 1825, and a Terrier of Hoton, early 18th cent.