Archaeological watching briefs which have produced no significant archaeological features or finds are listed at the end of the relevant county sections below. In each case, the parish/site name is followed by the name of the organisation which undertook the fieldwork. For abbreviations, see p. v. Some entries may relate to fieldwork undertaken before 2009, but not previously reported.

**LEICESTER**

All finds and records are deposited with LCMS under the accession number cited at the end of the entry.

**Beaumont Leys, Ashton Green (SK 573 086 centre)**  
*Tim Higgins*

ULAS carried out a fieldwalking survey as part of an archaeological impact assessment in advance of proposed development. Dispersed scatters of worked flint material of Neolithic/Bronze Age date were present in the north-western and south-eastern fields. Hand-made pottery of Iron Age and Anglo-Saxon date was present in the south-east of the area. Although in small quantities, these may be indicators of settlement also suggested by the results from the geophysical survey. Geophysical surveys by NA, comprising topsoil magnetic susceptibility and targeted magnetometer surveys, detected a possible sub-circular ditched enclosure and pits coincident with the fieldwalked finds of Iron Age pottery and flint tools. Other features located included former field boundaries and possible pits or geological anomalies. A3.2009.

**Humberstone, Infants/Junior School, Keyham Close (SK 6278 0602)**  
*Tim Higgins*

Archaeological field evaluation by trial trenching was undertaken by ULAS in advance of proposed new school buildings. Three trenches were excavated in an area defined as having archaeological potential, as it was close to a known medieval moated site. The trial trenching revealed a potentially medieval moat or fish pond, and possible medieval earthworks. A possible pre-medieval ditch was also located.

An archaeological watching brief of the groundworks revealed a possible pre-medieval ditch containing a single sherd of Roman pottery. The watching brief also confirmed that a deep silt feature found during the earlier evaluation was
probably a medieval to early post-medieval pond or animal trough, which could be associated with a manor house located to the west of the site. The groundworks also exposed more of the potential medieval earthworks and scatter of features. The finds located within the earthworks and features included small quantities of pottery, roof slate, building material and animal bone. These features and finds are thought to be associated with either a medieval religious house or possible properties dating from the twelfth to seventeenth centuries. The archive will be deposited with Leicester City Council, Museums Service, subject to their confirmation. A2.2009.

Leicester Abbey (SK 585 060) Andrew Hyam and Stephen Jones

A 10th season of the Abbey Park University of Leicester Fieldschool, directed by ULAS, comprised the excavation of seven trenches continuing on from the previous season’s work around the postulated guest hall (TLAHS 78, 143; 79, 141–2; 80, 215; 83, 241–7 (Figs 1 and 2).

Trench 42 was located in the south of the area; this was opened up adjacent to Trench 39 from 2008 excavations, where a suggested garderobe was identified. More of the large south flowing drain was revealed and more of the plan of the garderobe structure was exposed where a number of phases of walls were revealed (Fig. 3). In addition, a number of robbed walls and floor surfaces associated with the north-south passageways were located. In the centre of the trench garden, soils excavated at the back of the structure were very rich in pre-Dissolution pottery,

Fig. 1. Location of 2009 Season, in relation to previous work.
including a near complete glass vessel probably dating from around the time of the Dissolution (Fig. 4). At the western extent of the trench, a complex of substantial walls and drains of unknown purpose were also revealed (Fig. 5).

Two trenches, 43 and 44, either side of the reconstructed wall in the north-east corner of the postulated courtyard, revealed thick layers of garden soil containing ‘mansion phase’ pottery, suggesting this area to be part of the Cavendish House garden lay-out. No abbey phase archaeological deposits appeared to survive, except for a curious line of stones which may have lain deep beneath the passageway floors, aligned north–south, possibly supporting a lead pipe, since robbed, was also exposed.

Trench 45, located in the courtyard area to the south-east of the kitchen, exposed more floor surfaces and stratified deposits identified in Trench 37 in 2008. A large robbed wall to the west of the trench was evident.

Trench 46, initially opened up for the Young Archaeologists Club, revealed floor layers possibly associated with the southern extent of the dormitory, plus more of the curious square plinth revealed in 2007 in the infirmary area trench. Little more conclusions could be drawn from this, although it was clear that Bedingfield had re-built part of it with rough stone, possibly as preparation for a reconstruction that never happened.
To the west of the guest hall area, Trench 47 exposed a drain which appeared to tally with one phase of the north–south aligned east drain seen in the west end of Trench 42, taking waste away from the kitchen. Within this, more of a small east–west wall, shown on Bedingfield’s plan, was also revealed, as well as mortar surfaces, associated with a floor. A8.2000, 10th Season.
An archaeological watching brief was undertaken by ULAS between 2005 and 2007, during the restoration of the 1930s’ walls, marking out the plan of Leicester Abbey in Abbey Park. The work was funded by Leicester City Council. An initial phase of restoration work had been undertaken in 2001, concentrating on the north wall of the abbey church, including the north transept and Lady Chapel. During this phase, pieces of decorated medieval floor tile, human bone and architectural fragments were recovered from the rubble core of the walls. Between January and March 2005, a second phase of work was carried out to complete the rebuilding of the remaining walls of the church. The outstanding phases of restoration were carried out between September 2006 and May 2007, and covered the cloister, the east, west and south ranges, and the site of the possible guest hall. Observation of the works showed that the superstructure of the 1930s’ walls were mostly constructed of granite rubble, some of which had been brought in specifically for this purpose, and did not appear to incorporate any genuine medieval masonry. However, in places, the underlying medieval wall footings survived, and it was possible to view the evidence upon which W. K. Bedingfield’s reconstructed plan of c. 1930 was based. Additional information on the
Fig. 6. North-eastern corner of cloister showing column corner base.

architectural appearance of the cloister arcades also emerged from an area of well-preserved walling in the north-east corner of the cloister, including an in-situ base of a cluster of five columns (Fig. 6). Large quantities of re-used stone was recovered from this area, indicating that a Romanesque cloister arcade of the twelfth century had been demolished in the fourteenth century and replaced with a Gothic traceried arcade, requiring additional buttressing on the inner wall, facing the cloister garth. A small stone tank uncovered in the western cloister walk was almost certainly the laver shown on Bedingfield’s excavation plan. Further medieval wall foundations were encountered in the west and south ranges, including a north–south run which appears to indicate that the refectory continued further west than previously supposed, projecting beyond the line of the west range. A major part of the project has been specialist analysis of the many architectural fragments recovered from the walls, enabling new light to be shed on the architecture of the abbey. The site archive will be deposited with Leicester City Museums under the Accession Numbers A4.2004 and A31.2006.
Leicester, Red Hill, Loughborough Road (SK 5887 0821) Neil Finn

In May 2009, human bones were discovered during the excavation of a wildlife pond on an allotment site at Red Hill, Leicester, close to Birstall. A small-scale archaeological excavation by ULAS uncovered the remains of two, possibly three, Roman inhumation burials interred after the middle of the third century AD. Associated pottery vessels and hobnailed footwear indicate a pagan burial rite. Residual Roman pottery from the excavation suggests activity in the area from the late first century onwards. The burials are likely to form part of a small cemetery associated with a settlement in the near vicinity. The discovery in 1938 of a Roman column drum and capital 200m away suggests a settlement of some substance, possibly a villa. A small collection of struck flints indicates activity in the area in the Neolithic/Bronze Age. A11.2009.

Leicester, Southgates, Leicester (SK 583 041) Roger Kipling

In December 2009 an archaeological evaluation, via trial trenching, was undertaken by ULAS on behalf of De Montfort University, on a site adjacent to Bosworth House, Southgates, Leicester (Fig. 7). The work revealed a c. 1.0m-deep sequence of largely undisturbed early Roman deposits overlying natural sands and dropping sharply away to the north. Previous archaeological interventions in close proximity to the site suggest that this material represents the tail-end of the second-century defensive Roman town rampart.

Medieval deposits, observed banked against the putative Roman rampart, possibly represent a backfilled robber trench targeting the medieval town wall. The site also appears to be situated close to the bailey ditch of Leicester Castle, in which the present development offers the potential to provide invaluable information regarding the relationship of castle and town defences. A re-examination of results from the nearby Newarke Houses excavation of 1972 indicates that the projected line of the medieval castle bailey ditch is likely to run some distance west of the Bosworth House trench, and hence the proposed development is unlikely to impact upon the medieval ditch. A17.2009.

Leicester, 61 Oxford Street (SK 5865 0391) Tim Higgins

An archaeological evaluation by trial trenching was undertaken by ULAS in advance of residential development in July 2009. Four trenches were excavated in an area defined as having archaeological potential, within the Roman and medieval south suburb. The trenching revealed a potential Roman road and evidence of pits and spreads, suggesting adjacent roadside settlement. A possible disturbed Roman cremation urn and disarticulated human bone were also recovered from the site. Overlying and cutting the Roman deposits were medieval and post-medieval layers and features, associated with probable back yard properties that fronted on to Oxford Street or Grange Lane. A7.2009.
During 2009, the Dean and Chapter of Leicester Cathedral, acting through a body set up for the purpose, purchased the building and the playground of the former Wyggeston Grammar School, built in 1875. It is the intention of the Chapter to use this purchase to provide accommodation for the Diocese and facilities for the
administration, in addition to additional shops. The project extends the precinct to about twice its present area, and it will allow the Chapter to develop the landscape to enhance the cathedral. As part of this scheme the cathedral archaeologist was commissioned to carry out two excavations to assess the depth of the underlying archaeology and locate the remains of a significant early Tudor almshouse, built in the 1510s, beside the west end of the former parish church of St Martin, and extending along the western side of the old street of St Martin’s West (Fig. 8). The almshouse (‘Wyggeston’s Hospital’), despite much local and national opposition, was pulled down in 1874 to build the school. A series of small cuttings located the western wall of the hospital, and the western gable of the cross range which is shown in drawings of the building immediately before the demolition. The hospital proved to be a substantial structure, with walls a metre thick, still standing to within 400mm of the modern tarmac surface (Fig. 9). The hospital stretched across the whole of the western side of the present precinct, with basements and deep foundations. Avoiding these will be a significant constraint on the design of the new landscape. This is still under consideration. A full report on this work, including an examination of the drawn archives of the building before the demolition and now preserved in Northampton, has been lodged with the Dean and Chapter, and the local authority. In a separate excavation within the precinct, the cathedral archaeologist investigated the levels

Fig. 8. Location of excavated areas.
of the former cemetery and was able to show that the present grass areas of the precinct are the result of raising the levels by about 600mm during the redesign of the area in the late 1980s, and that the former cemetery soil level is preserved below this dump. LC09/PDA.

**Negative watching briefs and evaluations in Leicester**
(all undertaken by ULAS unless otherwise stated)

*The Towers Hospital, Gypsy Lane, West Humberstone (SK 616 056)*
*St. Nicholas Place (SK 583 044)*

**Historic Building Recording**

*Leicester*  
The Silver Arcade, Silver Street/Cank Street (SK 5869 0455)

*Leicester*  
27 Wharf Street South (SK 591 048)
LEICESTERSHIRE

Note: all finds and records are deposited with Leicestershire County Council under the accession number given at the end of each entry.

Asfordby, Loughborough Road (SK 701 192) Wayne Jarvis and Lynden Cooper

An excavation of three open areas was undertaken at Loughborough Road, Asfordby for Jelson Ltd, following an evaluation in 2008 (TLAHS 83, 251). In areas 1 and 2, deep pit features contained an assemblage of Beaker pottery, including geometrically decorated and rusticated beakers, and worked flint of late Neolithic–early Bronze Age date with some residual Mesolithic material. Further pits, linear features, possible structural features and an isolated cremation deposit were also revealed. To the south-east a tree-throw feature contained a large assemblage of late Mesolithic flint (over 500 pieces), including diminutive geometric microliths. Further features, some sealed within a colluvial sequence, were revealed, of probable Bronze Age and Iron Age dates.

A test-pit evaluation of the third area to the north-east produced numerous worked flints within a buried soil and sealed by later colluviation. The lithics were predominantly blade-like and initially thought to be of an earlier Mesolithic date. This assemblage led to a further stage of excavation, and with joint funding by Jelson Ltd and English Heritage. The site was preserved within a buried soil beneath a deep colluvial sequence infilling a large hollow, with the colluviation probably indicating erosion following clearance and possibly of agricultural origin. The lithic scatter, comprising over 7,000 artefacts, is now seen as a rare example of a chronologically intermediate site between the established British earlier and later Mesolithic periods (sensu Myers 2006), containing both ‘early’ and ‘late’ typological microlith markers (non-geometric and geometric forms) and microliths with additional inverse retouch at the base. The latter appears to place the occupation in the first half of the ninth millennium BP (uncalibrated radiocarbon years). The occupation appears to be focused, and represents a snapshot of activity and not with the ‘palimpsest effect’ (sensu Cooper 2004) of known ‘intermediate’ Mesolithic scatters (Myers 2006, 56). Associated with the flint scatter was burnt animal bone, occasional charcoal and possible structural evidence. This is potentially the only known site of this type known from the Midlands (R. Jacobi pers. comm.), and as such can make a very significant contribution to their understanding. X.A124.2008.

References


Ashby-de-la-Zouch, land adjacent to Packington Nook Lane  Simon Haddrell
Magnetic susceptibility and detailed magnetic survey (gradiometry) were carried out in 2009 by Stratascan. Various linear anomalies were noted across the site, some of which may relate to enclosures. A bank/ditch were recorded that are still visible on the ground as earthwork remains. Anomalies near Mill Farm seem likely to relate to old leats.

Bardon Hill Quarry (SK 472 125)  Gary Coates
Eight trenches were excavated by Phoenix Consulting Archaeology Ltd to test geophysical survey/fieldwalking results. The four northernmost trenches recorded ditches and a possible tree-throw. The ditches appeared to correspond with the geophysical survey results, but did not seem to relate to an enclosure. They may relate to early field divisions/boundary features. The southernmost trenches did not record any archaeological features – as such, the linear cropmark within the area was thought to be natural.

Barwell, Church Lane (NGR SP 444 966)  Roger Kipling
An archaeological evaluation was undertaken on 28 July 2009 by ULAS in response to a planning application for the construction of a community centre. The only archaeological features encountered consisted of two undated post holes. X.A154.2009

Barwell, Church Lane (SP 444 966)  Roger Kipling
An archaeological watching brief was undertaken by ULAS in September 2009 prior to the construction of a community centre. A ditch of possible medieval date and two smaller undated linear features, potentially representing field or property boundary markers, were revealed. The latter were on a different alignment and so may represent a different phase of activity to the companions. The concentration of these features in the northern part of the site, and the recovery of quantities of prehistoric flint artefacts and medieval pottery from the overlying topsoil, hints at settlement activity, possibly centred to the north towards Church Lane. In addition, the southern area revealed small undated archaeological features sealed beneath re-deposited subsoil. X.A154.2009.

Barwell, Rogues Lane (SP 426 966)  Steve Malone
Detailed gradiometry was undertaken along the 1,500m route of a replacement sewer by APS. Possible archaeological features (two curving linear features) were noted at the far western end of the route. Ridge and furrow earthworks were recorded west of Barwell House and south of Bosworth House Farm (where they were still evident as earthworks).
Birstall, land north of Longslade Community College (SK 59291 10458 centre)  
*Gavin Speed*

An archaeological fieldwalking survey was carried out by ULAS in advance of re-development for a Park and Ride scheme. The area contains cropmarks of possible enclosures identified from aerial photographs. The survey revealed a medium-density scatter of worked flint within the north-east corner of the field, which contained a high proportion of tools. In addition, a low level of late medieval and post-medieval pottery was identified across the entire survey area. A magnetometer survey by NA suggested the presence of anomalies of probable archaeological origin including a possible ditched trackway, other ditch-like features, a possible roundhouse and scattered pit-like anomalies. X.A201.2009.

Brooksby Quarry, Melton Road, Brooksby (SK 655 155)  
*Wayne Jarvis,*  
*Lynden Cooper and Matthew Beamish*

A watching brief has continued of topsoil-stripping and the quarry faces during gravel extraction at Brooksby Quarry for Lafarge Aggregates (*TLAHS* 81, 211). The monitoring of the topsoil strip for phase 6 has essentially proved negative for much of the strip, with the exception of faint ridge-and-furrow scars, and no features were identified adjacent to the known geophysics/crop-mark site adjacent to the A607. The only features uncovered were situated further south and at the opposing end of the strip, at the base of the valley. On excavation these proved to be a Romano-British ditch, a small Roman fire-pit and the corner of a possible Iron Age enclosure ditch.

The watching brief of the aggregate extraction has revealed important exposures of the lost pre-Anglian River Bytham, the colonisation conduit for early humans into north-western Europe (Stephens *et al.* 2008). The quarry faces from top to bottom comprise an upper and lower till of Anglian date, and the two members of the Baginton Formation, the Brandon (sand) Member and Thurcaston Member. Borehole model data indicates that earlier Brooksby Deposits in a deeply incised channel are likely to be exposed by future extraction.

An examination of the quarry-rejects heap since 2008 has revealed over 100 Lower Palaeolithic artefacts, including cores, flakes and bifaces. The raw material was predominantly quartzite but several pieces are of andesitic type: five bifaces and a biface thinning flake. Of particular note was an Acheulean handaxe, manufactured on probable andesitic tuff (Fig. 10) and comparable to handaxes recovered from Waverley Wood, Warwickshire (Keen *et al.* 2006). As with all the Brooksby Lower Palaeolithic artefacts from the gravels, it is pre-Anglian (i.e. at least 480,000 years old, possibly as much as 900,000). X.A57.2006.

**References**

Keen, D. H.,  *A Lower Palaeolithic industry from the Cromerian (MIS 13)*  
Hardaker, T. and *Baginton Formation of Waverley Wood and Wood Farm*
Fig. 10. Lower Palaeolithic handaxe from River Bytham gravels.


Broughton Astley, Stoney Bridge (SP 504 927) Tim Higgins

Following geophysical survey by Stratascan, ULAS undertook a trial trench evaluation for Fisher German at Stoney Bridge, Broughton Astley, close to the line of the Fosse Way, in advance of proposed construction of anaerobic digestion plant and associated landscaping and access road. Fifteen trial trenches were excavated in an area defined as having potential, as it lies in an area of archaeological interest. The trial trenching revealed several areas of archaeological remains, including a shallow pit containing Mesolithic flints. Other features, including possible post-holes, gullies and pits, were found under a deep colluvial deposit. X.A183.2009.
Cadeby, Church Lane (SP 424 023)  
Roger Kipling

An archaeological evaluation was undertaken on 9–10th August 2009 by ULAS prior to the submission of a planning application for housing construction. Archaeological features encountered consisted of a potentially medieval quarry feature and ditch or gully in Trench 3. In Trench 1, a further linear feature located at the foot of a seemingly natural slope may represent a post-medieval or modern drainage ditch or gully for water run-off. X.A157.2009.

Cadeby Quarry  
Gavin Speed

Following a watching brief of the final quarry area, an excavation was undertaken by ULAS for Tarmac Ltd. As indicated previously by geophysics in 2004, another Iron Age enclosed settlement was revealed (Fig. 11). The evidence revealed consisted of three sides of a rectangular-shaped ditched enclosure (enclosing c. 1,660m² – of a similar size to the Huncote and Enderby II enclosures – Meek et al. 2004), with a substantial SE-orientated entrance-way and two sub-rectangular

Fig. 11. Plan of Iron Age enclosure revealed at Cadeby Quarry.
structures within. The pottery indicates very late IA. The enclosure was located close to a large linear ditched boundary with scattered features, one with a pottery vessel beneath a quern, suggesting structured deposition, while some early Roman features included one lined with kiln bars. X.A185.2009.

Reference


Congerstone, The Rectory, 2 Shadows Lane (SK 367 054)    Roger Kipling

Archaeological evaluation by trial trenching was undertaken in December 2008 by ULAS in response to proposals for residential development. The opening of two archaeological evaluation trenches indicated the presence of two linear features, which are likely to represent gullies or ditches demarcating agricultural or residential property divisions. Pottery from one of these features provided a probable mid- or later seventeenth-century date.

Cossington, land off Main Street/Bennetts Lane (SK 605 135)    Steven Jones and Dan Stone

An archaeological strip, plan and record exercise was undertaken by ULAS in advance of groundwork for the erection of two private dwellings. A linear ditch, and a possible post-hole/terminus of a further ditch, were recorded. X.A20.2008.

Countesthorpe (SP 585 9604)    Claire Graham

Detailed gradiometry was carried out by Stratascan in 2009. A few anomalies were recorded, but nothing clearly definable as archaeological remains. In the eastern field there were six positive linear anomalies (possible ditches) and three negative linear anomalies (possible bank/earthwork features). In the western field, three possible pits were recorded. Magnetic disturbance was present across the site, which may mask faint anomalies of possible archaeological origin.

Croft, Arbour Road (SP 518 952)    Roger Kipling

An archaeological watching brief was undertaken in September 2009 by ULAS prior to construction of an extension to the Highways Depot at Arbour Road. The watching brief did not reveal any earthfast archaeological deposits or features. However, the recovery of a small quantity of prehistoric flint artefacts and a single sherd of Neolithic pottery from the area is likely to indicate the presence of human activity and/or occupation, on or in close proximity to the development area. X.A182.2009.
Enderby, land between St John’s/Leicester Lane (SP 5520 9956) James Harvey

An archaeological excavation was carried out by ULAS between June and August 2008, in advance of the Leicester Park and Ride development at Leicester Lane. The work focused on excavation of two separate areas (1 and 2) along the eastern boundary of the development area, which had been highlighted as having archaeological potential on the basis of prior evaluation. The most striking element of the site was two parallel ditches, running broadly north–south across the excavation area. The two ditches were clearly related as they both exhibited the same subtle changes of alignment along their course. Pottery from the eastern ditch suggested these features originated in the Mid–Late Iron Age, and are probably part of a larger linear monument or trackway. The eastern ditch eventually became abandoned, but the western ditch continued to be used after the Roman conquest, potentially becoming integrated into a later settlement with additional gullies extending eastwards beyond the development area, dating to the late first to second century AD. The boundary clearly had territorial importance as five human burials were recorded along its length, as well as a further burial and disarticulated human remains being recorded within the ditch itself. It may still have been important as a territorial marker well into the third century AD or beyond.

A subsequent archaeological watching brief revealed possible road metalling, which may be associated with Fosse Way Roman road. X.A6.2006.

Frisby-on-the-Wreake, Rose Cottage, Gaulby Road (SK 704 014) Martin Shore

An Archaeological Strip, Plan and Sample exercise was carried out by ULAS, in advance of development in an area that had been identified as being of possible archaeological significance. Archaeological work consisted of excavation of four test-pits, and supervision of topsoil stripping and excavation of foundation trenches after demolition of the existing building. Two of the test-pits recorded a cobbled surface and associated drainage gully, probably of Victorian date. No further archaeological deposits were encountered. X.A26.2009.

Glenfield, land at County Hall (SK 5088 0708) Edmund Taylor

Six trial trenches were dug on the site of a proposed multi-use games area by NA. The ground was found to be largely disturbed by the existing car park. The only feature recorded was a shallow east–west gully in the southern end of Trench 1 (to the west of the site). This contained five sherds of post-medieval pottery and was dated to the nineteenth century. X.A73.2009.
Glenfield and Kirby Muxloe, land at M1 Junction 21A (SK 5035 0520)

David Bunn

An archaeological evaluation was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology in September 2009, following a gradiometer survey by Pre-Construct Geophysics on land proposed for development. The survey had recorded ridge and furrow over much of the site, some areas of possible pits, numerous possible kilns, and an area of linear anomalies and a ring ditch that could indicate prehistoric settlement. The fieldwork identified archaeological features across the majority of the area, including a possible Bronze Age pit and a number of Middle Iron Age features in the central part of the area. Several of the Middle Iron Age features were associated with large quantities of pottery and one ditch contained the remains of two metal hanging bowls. Conservation work undertaken on these vessels to date has revealed that they are very similar in form but of different sizes. On the basis of the better preservation of the smaller vessel, both vessels appear to have been hemispherical in shape and comprised a solid iron hoop at the top of the rim, to which are attached two iron suspension rings, one on either side. The rim is supported by a thick iron band, which is then laminated with the very thin copper alloy sheet which forms the bowl. X.A130.2009.

Grimston, Orchard House, 13 Main Street (SK 686 219)

Leon Hunt

An archaeological watching brief was carried out by ULAS during groundworks, associated with the construction of a new dwelling. The site is located within the medieval core of the village and the early OS maps of the area show a building on the plot of land at 13 Main Street. The new dwelling was located too far north and west to have impacted on any extant remains of the earlier building. However, a small area of disturbed ceramic building material was revealed during the ground reduction. As this area was to be re-instated as the garden for the new dwelling, it was left in situ. X.A119.2009.

Groby, Groby Castle, St Philip and St James Church (SK 523076)

Mathew Morris

An archaeological watching brief was carried out by ULAS on the site of Groby Castle, at St Philip and St James Church. The work was undertaken in advance of dismantling and rebuilding a revetted boundary wall to the east of the church. The results of the investigation revealed a substantial masonry wall, tile floor and demolition deposits of fourteenth- or fifteenth-century date, all believed to be associated with buildings belonging to the manorial complex that succeeded the castle. Evidence of activity pre-dating these structures was present in the form of an expansive spread of charcoal and ash resting on scorched natural clays. X.A242.2009.
Hugglescote, Hugglescote Baptist Chapel, Dennis Street (SK 423 128)  

Mathew Morris

An archaeological watching brief was carried out on the site by ULAS for Lychgate Homes Ltd. While the results were largely negative, a post-medieval stone-lined culvert running north-west to south-east across the site’s frontage, from 16 Dennis Street to the west beneath the footings of a late nineteenth-century Baptist church was located. X.A125.2008.

Husbands Bosworth Quarry (SP 642 832)  

James Harvey

Monitoring of stripping at Husbands Bosworth Quarry revealed a scatter of tree-throw features, two of which contained flints and a couple of possible pits. A steep, dry valley side was uncovered beneath thick colluvium that sealed two very well-preserved hearths. The steep valley side has been observed elsewhere, and is likely to have provided a natural boundary around the northern and western side of the Neolithic causewayed enclosure. Immediately above the steepest gradient of the slope, two large pits were investigated that were similar in nature to the pit that contained the crouched burial to the south-west (TLAHS 76, 109–13). The features were relatively similar in form, c. 2.5m long and 1.5m wide, and extremely deep for their size (2m and 2.5m respectively). The upper fill was a backfilled soil with lower deposits consisting of re-deposited natural. Both features produced a reasonable quantity of flint from the upper fills, but no evidence of a burial was seen at the base, although fibrous material and a grouping of stones was noted at the eastern end of one of the pits. If these pits did represent burial features, the potential for any bone survival was low due to the very gravelly nature of the natural ground that they were cut into. X.A83.1998.

Kirby Muxloe, 7 & 9 Gullet Lane (SK 5149 0427)  

Gerwyn Richards

ULAS undertook an archaeological evaluation of the gardens of numbers 7 and 9 Gullet Lane, where planning permission was being sought for the residential development. Four evaluation trenches were machine excavated within the garden of number 7, with a further six test-pits being hand dug within the garden of number 9. None of the trenches within number 7 showed evidence of archaeologically significant remains. Trench 5 within the front garden of number 9 uncovered a severely truncated possible linear feature, from which a much abraded sherd of twelfth- to thirteenth-century pottery was recovered; the other trenches within number 9 were devoid of archaeologically significant remains. The northernmost trenches, 9 and 10, did, however, contain a possible colluvial deposit. X.A82.2009.

Launde Abbey (SK 797 043)  

Andrew Hyam

A programme of archaeological monitoring work was undertaken on behalf of the Trustees of Launde Abbey by ULAS at Launde Abbey, between May and August
2009. The relatively poor condition of the Ha-ha wall meant that it required substantial rebuilding in a number of places. The monitoring work followed on from earlier evaluation work around the Ha-ha in 2007, which identified the presence of the Priory walls extending from the present building beyond the western extent of the Ha-ha. The work revealed the Ha-ha wall to be constructed of a single skin of coursed stone rubble, some of which had been dressed, whilst others showed clear chisel marks. Only one piece of worked stone was recovered. No further evidence of the Priory was seen, and the infill behind the Ha-ha wall appeared to consist of backfilled stone rubble and soil which may or may not relate to demolition material from the Priory.

As another part of the Launde Abbey redevelopment programme, a small timber structure dating from the early twentieth century, known as the Oxford and Cambridge Building, was relocated. This required the excavation of a shallow foundation trench for new footings. The footings were observed at the same time as the monitoring work was taking place on the Ha-ha. No archaeological features were found within this trench. X.A113.2006.

**Long Clawson, 39 West End (SK 7189 2694)**  
*Tim Higgins*

An archaeological field evaluation by trial trenching was undertaken by ULAS in advance of proposed new school buildings. Two trenches were excavated in an area defined as having archaeological interest. The trial trenching revealed several wide furrows, indicating that the area once fell within one of the village’s Open Fields during the medieval period. Wall foundations revealed were associated with late post-medieval to modern structures. X.A175.2009.

**Kirby Muxloe, 402 Ratby Lane (SK 523 048)**  
*Jon Coward*

An archaeological evaluation by trial trenching was carried out by ULAS in advance of potential redevelopment. The trenching indicated that there was some survival of medieval deposits to the rear of the evaluated area, but much evidence for more recent disturbance and truncation nearer Ratby Lane on the frontage. X.A177.2009.

**Melton Mowbray, Leicester Road (SK 7474 1870)**  
*James Harvey*

Further excavation at Leicester Road, Melton Mowbray, was undertaken by ULAS for Jelson Ltd. The work took place in an area that earlier evaluation had highlighted as having potential for surviving Neolithic remains (*TLAHS* 76, 118). Three large elongated oval pit-like features were revealed, each of which appeared to have also incorporated post/stake holes into their sides and bases. Excavation of these features yielded large quantities of flint and a small assemblage of Neolithic, Impressed-ware pottery. Radiocarbon dates from two of the features indicated dates of 3,790–3,640 cal BC (95.4 per cent, Ua40193) and 3,530–3,350 cal BC (94 per cent, Ua40194), suggesting they were the result of Early–Mid Neolithic activity. X.A32.2006.
Ratby, land at Ferndale Drive (SK 517 060)  
Greg Jones and Jon Coward

Following an evaluation by trial trenching, a strip, plan and sample excavation was undertaken by ULAS for Cawrey Ltd. A group of pits and a gully of Roman date were revealed. X.A138.2009.

Rothley, 32 The Ridgeway (SK 573 126)  
Greg Jones

ULAS carried out an archaeological watching brief during groundworks for the construction of a new residential development and associated garage. No archaeological features or deposits were observed during this work, although one sherd of unstratified Saxon pottery was recovered. X.A118.2009.

Sapcote (SP 488 939)  
Claire Graham

A detailed gradiometer survey was undertaken by Stratascan on an area of proposed housing development. The survey identified limited evidence of archaeological activity. In the north of the site, four weak, positive-linear anomalies were identified, which may be ditches. Three parallel linear anomalies were observed to the east of the site, consistent with ploughing, but since they are in isolation they are of uncertain origin. A relatively strong linear anomaly was observed running north-east to south-west across the site, possibly caused by a former railway track. A large area of strong magnetic variation was seen at the southern end of this feature, probably caused by dumped quarry waste. There were three other areas of magnetic debris that were thought to be the result of dumping.

South Kilworth, The Grange, North Road (SP 604 819)  
Mark Peachey

An archaeological strip, plan and sample exercise undertaken by APS, following evaluation work, recorded evidence of Roman ditches thought to form part of a field system. Pottery sherds of first- to third-century date were recorded in association, together with a pit containing two sherds of thirteenth- to fifteenth-century pottery. X.A92.2009.

Stathern, The Beeches, Main Street  
Mark Peachey

A strip, map and sample exercise was undertaken by APS, prior to the construction of a dwelling and garage. Limestone and brick footings of a late post-medieval farm building were noted. The building was not on the 1888 OS map, but was present by 1904. No other archaeological remains were recorded and it appeared that the area had been previously stripped, perhaps prior to the construction of the farm building. X.A5.2009.
Stoney Stanton (SP 491 956)  
Simon Haddrell

A gradiometer survey was undertaken by Stratascan on a proposed residential development site. In Area 1 (closer to Huncote Road), two discrete positive anomalies were recorded, representing pits. In Area 2, four positive-linear anomalies (cut features) and several anomalies interpreted as pits were identified. There was a large amount of magnetic disturbance that could mask archaeological features.

Sutton in the Elms, Sutton Circuit, off Coventry Road (SP 515 944)  
Gerwyn Richards

ULAS undertook an archaeological evaluation at Sutton Circuit, where planning permission was being sought to develop the area for leisure use. Four evaluation trenches were excavated within the footprint of a proposed lake. None of the trenches showed evidence of archaeologically significant remains, although conjoining sherds of mid- to late Iron Age pottery were recovered from an animal burrow within Trench 2, suggesting that there may be archaeologically significant deposits elsewhere within the proposed development area. X.A78.2009.

Syston, Ridgemere Lane (SK 645 111)  
Alan Morris and David Walker

A detailed gradiometer survey was undertaken by Trent & Peak Archaeology in March 2009. The most obvious features were the north–south anomalies reflecting the ridge and furrow on site. Two other anomalies were noted: a feature consisting of two roughly concentric sub-rectangular anomalies (a pair of ditches around a central platform?) and a sub-square negative anomaly (stone walls – a possible building?). Both features appeared to be overlain by ridge and furrow, and so may be pre-medieval in date.

Walcote, 16–18 Lutterworth Road, Walcote (NGR SP 567 836)  
Gerwyn Richards

ULAS undertook an archaeological evaluation of land at 16–18 Lutterworth Road, where outline planning permission had been granted for residential development. Three evaluation trenches were excavated towards the rear of the area. None of the trenches showed evidence of archaeologically significant remains, although Trench 3 contained evidence of a well which was recorded on early maps. The well was below the intended formation level and would not be affected by the proposed development, and was therefore left in-situ. X.A25.2009.

Wigston Magna, Ecob’s Garden Centre, Horsewell Lane (SP 6070 9795)  
Leon Hunt and Greg Jones

ULAS carried out an archaeological control and supervision during groundworks for the construction of new dwellings. A previous evaluation had revealed a
Roman ditch. The controlled strip uncovered the continuation of the Roman ditch, which contained third- to fourth-century pottery and animal bone. X.A121.2008.

**Historic Building Recording**

- **Ashby-de-la-Zouch**: Barns at Wood Farm, Willesley Woodside (SK 33462 15429) AOC Archaeology
- **Ashby Parva**: Elliot and Brixton, Main Street/Dunton Lane (SP 528 882) ULAS
- **Belvoir Castle**: The Bothy, Walled Kitchen Garden (SK 8254 3377) ULAS
- **Bescaby Sproxton**: Bescaby Park (SK 822 263) ULAS
- **Billesdon**: Billesdon Lodge Farm, Tilton Road (SK 728 037) ULAS
- **Braunstone Town**: Building 2, 254 Braunstone Lane (SK 554 026) ULAS
- **Cold Newton**: Cold Newton Lodge (SK 713 052) TR Projects
- **Croxtton Kerrial**: Town End House, 12 Chapel Lane (SK8335 2937) ULAS
- **Diseworth**: 4 Ladygate (SK 45265 24480) TR Projects
- **Diseworth**: 17 Hallgate (SK 450 245) TR Projects
- **Eastwell**: Lodge Farm, Stathern Road (SK 774 295) ULAS
- **Frisby-on-the-Wreake**: Old Star Cottage, 1 Main Street (SK 694 176) ULAS
- **Groby**: The Sycamores, 26 London Road (SP 650 979) TR Projects
- **Groby Old Hall**: Groby Old Hall, Markfield Road (SK 5239 0759) ULAS
- **Halstead**: Halstead Grange (SK 748 057) ULAS
- **Hinckley**: Goddard and Paget Building, The Atkins Factory, Lower Bond Street (SP 426 941) ULAS
- **Leesthorpe**: The East Pavilion, Leesthorpe Hall, Pickwell Road (SK 7912 1358) ULAS
- **Loddington**: Copthill Farm, Launde Road (SK 798 031) ULAS
- **Long Claueson**: Holm Farm, 19 Burton Road (SK 719 267) TR Projects
- **Long Whatton**: Long Whatton Water Mill, The Mill House, Mill Lane (SK 491 234) TR Projects
- **Loughborough**: Rosebery County Junior School, Rosebery Street/Storer Road (SK 527 198) Trigpoint Conservation & Planning Ltd
- **Market Bosworth**: Dixie Grammar School, Market Place (SK 405 031) TR Projects
- **Market Harborough**: Units A & B, Bindleys Yard, School Lane (SP 732 872) ULAS
- **Medbourne**: Medbourne Manor outbuildings (SP 80202 93092) TR Projects
- **Peckleton**: Hall Farm, Church Road (SK 47399 00716) Trent & Peak Archaeology
- **Somerby**: The Three Crowns Inn, High Street (SK 766 105) ULAS
- **Thurso by Water**: Monckton House Barns, Main Street (SP 8919 9633) ULAS
- **Thurcaston**: Bybrook Farm Cottage, 23 Anstey Lane (SK 566 109) TR Projects
- **Tuycross**: 1 and 3 Burton Road (SK 334 051) David Hickie Associates
Negative watching briefs evaluations in Leicestershire
(undertaken by ULAS unless otherwise stated)

**Arnesby:** St Peters Church (SP 617 921); **Barrow-on-Soar:** Meadow Farm Marina (SK 584 166); **Branston, Croxtion Kerrial:** 27 Main Street (SK 8093 2963); **Cotes de Val, Gilmorton:** Penn Hill Farm (NGR 552 885); **Earl Shilton:** 74 Almeys Lane (SP 4715 9815); **Enderby:** Grange Park, Blaby Road (SP 542 990); **Enderby:** Leicester Lane, St John’s (SP 5111 9958); **Frisby-on-the-Wreake:** Beggarbush Close (SK 691 178); **Gumley:** Farm Cottage, Main Street (SP 683 898); **Huncote:** Green’s Lodge Farm (SP 520 983); **Leire:** 12 Frolesworth Road (SP 523 899); **Leire:** ‘The Old Manor House’, Main Street (SP 525 900); **Long Clawson:** Hickling Lane (SK 718 269) (APS); **Lubenham:** ‘The Old Forge Nurseries’, The Green (SP 705 874); **Market Bosworth:** 11 Sutton Lane (SP 4808 1982); **Medbourne:** Home Farm (SP 808 935); **Melton Mowbray:** The Long Field High School, Ambleside Way (SK 743 186); **Newbold Verdon:** Church Farmhouse, 16 Main Street; **Norton Juxta Twycross:** The Glebe, Main Street (SK 323 069); **Oadby:** 3–9 Leicester Road (SK 623 003); **Old Dalby:** 7, Church Lane (SK 6737 2362); **Rotbley:** 56 The Ridgeway (SK 574 126); **Sheepy Magna:** ‘Newhouse Grange’, Orton Lane (SK 317 024); **Shepshed:** 26 Loughborough Road (SK 4808 1982); **Theddingworth:** Station Road (SP 665 857); **Wymeswold:** 4 The Stockwell (SK 6030 2341); **Wymeswold:** 105 Brook Street (SK 607 234) (NA).

**RUTLAND**

_Note: All archives will be deposited with Rutland County Museum (RCM) under the accession number given at the end of each entry._

**Ashwell, The Old Hall, Cottesmore Road (SK 865 139) Paul Cope-Faulkner**

One trench was excavated by APS on the site of a proposed new building. Various gullies, ditches and a single post-hole were noted. Most of the features fell within a tenth- to twelfth-century range, though one of the gullies was dated to between the twelfth and fifteenth centuries. The ditches/gullies were likely to have served boundary and drainage functions; 86 sherdsof medieval pottery were recovered and two animal bones. Environmental sampling did not indicate grain processing on site. OAKRM:2009.16.

**Bisbrooke, St John the Baptist Church Elaine Jones**

A watching brief was carried out on behalf of Rutland Local History and Record Society during groundworks for a new heating system. The floor of the 1871 church was removed, revealing much of the footprint of the medieval church (the chancel and nave). Sections of stone wall and the pier bases were recorded, as well as a ‘rammed earth floor’. A grave in the south aisle was thought to have originally been outside the church, in the churchyard. Near to the grave, a piece of Stanion
Lyveden tile was recovered. During excavation for the new church path, substantial stone blocks were found. These appear to have been from some sort of structure – perhaps a lych gate? Eight 8 to 900mm-wide trenches were dug across the car park, though no archaeological remains were observed in this area – Victorian brick, pottery and other rubbish were noted.

**Great Casterton, 3–8 Main Street (TF 001 089)**  
Gerwyn Richards

ULAS undertook an archaeological evaluation of 3–8 Main Street, where plans for residential development were proposed. Three evaluation trenches were machine excavated within the garden of number 3, where less disturbed areas would be impacted on. All of the trenches showed evidence of archaeologically significant remains. Trench 1 within the front garden uncovered evidence of post-medieval cottages, which originally occupied the site prior to the present houses being built. Trench 2 uncovered undisturbed medieval deposits containing re-deposited Roman material at depth, and Trench 3 contained extensive *in-situ* stone built structures, one of which was possibly Roman in date. OAKRM: 2009.8.

**Manton, Hollytop House, Lynden Road (SK 883 047)**  
Roger Kipling

An archaeological evaluation was undertaken by ULAS prior to submission of a planning application for the construction of housing. Archaeological features encountered consisted of two possible medieval quarry pit features. OAKRM: 2009.18.

**Wing, St Peter & Paul Church, Top Street (SK 894 029)**  
Andrew Failes

A watching brief was undertaken by APS on the line of a path and area of groundworks for a root barrier. It revealed three areas of interest. The first was a retaining wall associated with a family vault (dated to 1852). The second was the former north–south churchyard wall. The third was an area of dumped deposits in the north-eastern area of the churchyard. Medieval finds recovered during the work consisted of an unstratified sherd of pottery and a piece of iron smelting slag. Other finds included a tombstone dated 1825, nineteenth- to twentieth-century pottery, glass and industrial residue, mainly from the area of dumped deposits. OAKRM: 2009.1.

**Historic Building Recording**

**Clipsham**  
Clipsham Hall Stables, Parkhouse, Bradley Lane (SK 9696 1662)  
NA

**Oakham**  
15–17 Gaol Street (SK 859 087) ULAS
Negative watching briefs and evaluations in Rutland
(all undertaken by ULAS unless otherwise stated)

Ashwell: The Old Hall (SK 864 139) (APS); Ashwell: Land off Teigh Road (SK 864 139) (APS); Langham: 11 Bridge Street (SK 8426 1112); Little Casterton: Godfreena (TF 018 098) (APS); Oakham: 26–28 Northgate (SK 8591 0893); Wing: (SK 890 033) (ARCUS)

PORTABLE ANTIQUITIES SCHEME ANNUAL REPORT FOR LEICESTERSHIRE AND RUTLAND 2009

Wendy Scott, Finds Liaison Officer, Archaeological Services Team, Leicestershire County Council.

This section of Archaeology in Leicestershire and Rutland highlights some of the remarkable finds from the county which members of the public have submitted for identification and recording. A total of 1,220 finds were received in 2009. The most significant of these are discussed below by period. Further details of these objects and others recorded by the Scheme in previous years across the country can be found on the Portable Antiquities Scheme website (www.finds.org.uk).

Bronze Age

Sixteen Treasure cases occurred in Leicestershire last year. The most spectacular of these was a Bronze age hoard found near Rothley, comprising two socketed axes, a palstave and a complete copper alloy, Welby Type, axe mould (Fig. 12). This is the first such find in the country and the items are in the process of being purchased for the County Museum Service.

Roman

As of Gordian III LEIC-7C55F8 (Fig. 13)
A rare copper alloy coin, dated AD238–44, which shows Hercules resting on a rock (RIC IV, pt3, p. 49, no. 309). Found in Frisby, Melton.

Radiate of Gallienus LEIC-6D74B6 (Fig. 14)
A scarce Radiate of Gallienus, dated AD260–68, showing the Emperor raising a kneeling woman (Cunetio, p. 118, no. 1301). Found in Barrow Upon Soar.

Sesterius of Postumus LEIC-F46217 (Fig. 15)
A very rare coin dated AD260–69, which shows the emperor laureate with a hand raised before him (cf. RIC V, pt 2, p. 144). Found in Melton Mowbray.
We have also had rare medieval coins turn up in the county, including two minted in Leicester.

*Silver Penny of Henry I* LEIC-F15224 (Fig. 16)
Medieval silver penny of Henry I, Leicester, 1123. Which is probably a rare variant of the moneyer Ketil (North 870). Found in Waltham on the Wolds, Melton Mowbray.
Silver Penny of King Stephen LEIC-0534D2 (Fig. 17)
A rare silver penny of King Stephen, minted in Leicester probably by Simon, (if confirmed, it is a new type). Dated 1135–54 (North 898). Found in Uppingham parish.

Early Medieval sword pommel LEIC-9158C3 (Fig. 18)
An early Medieval copper alloy sword pommel, of a type (Peterson type L) extremely rare in this country. Found in Snibston, north-west Leicestershire. The item has been donated to the County Museum Service and has recently been on display as part of the ‘Vikings in Leicestershire’ exhibition.
Fig. 18.