ARCHAEOLOGY IN LEICESTER, LEICESTERSHIRE AND RUTLAND 2010

Edited by John Thomas

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, please 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 5730 0950)  
Tim Higgins and Matthew Beamish

An archaeological field evaluation by trial trenching was undertaken for development phases (1 and 2) at Ashton Green, Beaumont Leys, Leicester, by ULAS in advance of proposed residential development. Forty-eight trial trenches were excavated over four fields. In one of the fields the trial trenching revealed evidence for a potential extensive area of Iron Age settlement of Middle Iron Age or later date, on the east side of the development along with some evidence of preceding occupation in the Late Bronze Age. A5.2010.

Humberstone, land east of Thurmaston Lane (SK 626 065)  
James Harvey

An initial phase of evaluative work by trial trenching was undertaken on land east of Thurmaston Lane by ULAS in May 2010, in advance of residential development. This work followed on from previous evaluation and geophysical survey that had highlighted the potential for the continuation of Iron Age activity to the west of previous excavation undertaken at Manor Farm (Thomas 2011).

Positive results were obtained from two of the seven excavated trenches that confirmed the presence of archaeological features previously suggested by the geophysical survey located along the southern boundary of the site. An east to west linear anomaly proved to be a succession of re-cut ditches that dated to the Mid-Late Iron Age, corresponding well with the recorded archaeology from the previous evaluation. Clear settlement activity was recorded to the south of this ditch as one of the trenches located part of a large roundhouse. Well-preserved ridge and furrow was also recorded on the site.

The subsequent recording phase took place between August and September 2010 and initially involved topographic survey of the ridge and furrow across the whole of the area likely to be impacted upon by the residential development. This was followed by open area excavation across the archaeologically sensitive area, highlighted by the previous geophysical survey and evaluative work.

Twenty-three ridges and furrows, aligned north north-east to south south-west, were recorded by the topographical survey. The furrows were spaced between 4.56m and 9.98m apart. The mean (average) distance between recorded furrows was 5.92m and the median (central value) distance was 5.49m. The system is mostly straight, and it is not possible to ascertain any curve in the ploughing line from the short length of system recorded (the longest furrow record was 103m and the shortest 37m). From the selected profile across the widest part of the field system, the minimum depth between furrow base and ridge top was 0.11m and the maximum 0.42m. The most notable aspect of the recorded system was four ridges (two of which were adjacent to each other) that were almost double in size to the rest of the ridges. This is an indication of modification to the field system where two adjacent ridges have been joined together, which happens when the same landholder occupies adjacent yardlands and ploughs them together. This operation may have occurred frequently in early times, but much less commonly during the period when documentary evidence survives (Hall 1982).

An area of 0.24ha was designated for open area excavation along the southern boundary of the proposed development area (Fig. 1). This area was machined to archaeological levels, including the removal of the later truncation from the furrows (Fig. 2). The ditch that was recorded during the evaluation proved to be an extensive linear boundary that marks a topographic change from higher ground to the south, sloping down steeply beyond the boundary to the north. The

![Fig. 1. Plan of the excavation showing all archaeological features revealed.](image-url)
boundary was found to have at least three separate re-cuts, perhaps suggesting some longevity of the feature. The same ditch was previously recorded immediately east at the Manor Farm site. Here extensive Late Iron Age activity was recorded to the south of the ditch (Thomas 2011). This activity clearly continues into the current site and although the excavation only continued c. 10m into the area south of the boundary, parts of two roundhouses were recorded.

The eastern roundhouse was much better preserved than the western one with the ditch measuring nearly 1m in depth, although neither roundhouse contained particularly clear evidence for internal structural features. The sections excavated through the roundhouse ditches produced good quantities of pottery and animal bone, including a handle made out of red deer antler that is likely to have been made locally given the quantities of antler working waste recorded during the previous excavations to the east of the site (Browning 2011).

A relatively large quantity of pits (c. 30) was also recorded on the site. The majority of these pits were grouped to the rear of the eastern roundhouse. However, the features themselves were fairly disappointing, representing more, shallow, scoop-like features in nature than true pits, yielding little artefactual remains. The function of these features is uncertain, although one likely interpretation is that they could represent small-scale clay extraction pits. Clay would have had a number of uses such as being a component within the fabric of roundhouse walls, as well as for pottery manufacture.

A very large fragment of utilised Granodiorite was located in the immediate vicinity, within the top boundary ditch backfill. This could indicate that pottery production was occurring close by (granodiorite being used as pottery temper).
The pottery from the site fits broadly within the East Midlands Scored ware tradition, dating to the Mid-Late Iron Age, although fragments from a vessel recorded in the eastern roundhouse may suggest a date as late as the first half of the first century AD. A8.2010.

References


Humberstone, Wycombe Road (SK 617 055) Andrew Hyam

An archaeological field evaluation was undertaken on land to the south of Wycombe Road by ULAS in advance of a small housing development on the site of a former school playing field and tennis court. Seven 15 m long by 1.5 m wide trenches were excavated within the site. A single 0.6 m wide and 0.2 m deep gulley following a north-east to south-west alignment was observed in Trench 5 on the eastern side of the site. No dateable material was recovered from this feature. No other archaeological features or deposits were observed within any of the other trenches. A4.2010.

Leicester Abbey (SK 5837 0608) Andrew Hyam

An archaeological watching brief was undertaken by ULAS during the course of the excavation of a television camera mast base and cable trenches for a CCTV system in the north-west corner of Abbey Park. The cable channel ran from a walled works depot, on the site of former abbey farm buildings, northwards to the north-east corner of the original entrance to the abbey.

An east to west aligned wall and possible pathway, probably relating to a former dovecote garden, was located, as was part of the western boundary wall of the abbey entrance hall-way. The north foundation wall of a stone-fronted outbuilding within the depot was also located, indicating that the range of buildings extended further west than at present. Elsewhere, evidence for remodelling and landscaping, probably dating to the twentieth century, was also recorded. A14.2010.
Leicester, Blackfriars, Bath Lane (SK 550 046)  
Samantha Paul

Birmingham Archaeology was commissioned by Watkin Jones to undertake a programme of trial trenching ahead of a residential development at Blackfriars, Bath Lane, Leicester. The site work was undertaken in two main stages, with the first taking place between July and September 2007 in respect of an apartment focused scheme. The second phase took place in October 2010 in respect of a proposed residential scheme to include student accommodation and extra care living (Fig. 3).

The results of the evaluation indicate that a significant length of the Roman defences cross the north-west corner of the development site, including the earthen rampart and associated ditches, and the later addition of the city wall into the top

Fig. 3. Plan of the site showing trench location and speculated alignment of the Roman Ramparts and Ditches.
of the rampart. No rampart deposits were encountered within Trenches 8, 9 or 10, indicating that the alignment of the city defences alters considerably between the locations of Trenches 2–8. This realignment is confirmed in excavations to the west of Bath Lane, where the defences have been recorded (Gnanaratnam and Meek 2003; Priest 2005). It is likely therefore that the route of Bath Lane shadows these earlier defences.

It is also possible that evidence of the Iron Age defences or the early Roman fort may be preserved below the main earthen rampart deposits in the form of a possible early ditch cut containing first-century pottery (recorded within Trench 5). Extensive robbing and demolition of the ramparts appears to have taken place during post-Roman periods; however, there was also evidence to suggest the reuse of the defences by the medieval occupants of the city.

Within the central portion of the site, evidence of 2m deep stratified Roman deposits, including several phases of building, was recorded within Trench 2, while the eastern end of Trench 3 contained evidence for timber-frame structures and stratified archaeological deposits, reaching a depth of 3m below the present ground surface. Towards the southern end of the site, Trench 10 revealed evidence of structures with the presence of a number of beam slots containing pottery dating to the first century AD. Within Trench 9, three parallel vertically-sided ditches appeared structural in nature; however, no evidence for the structures they may have held was uncovered during excavation. Had stone foundations been robbed out, some trace evidence would be expected in the form of small stone pieces or mortar mixed in with the backfill. The most likely interpretation is that the features represent large beam slots which would indicate the presence of a large timber building, possibly relating to the earliest phases of the Roman occupation in Leicester.

The most significant structural evidence uncovered was within Trench 7, where a large stone column base remained intact, providing evidence of an extremely substantial and important building with at least two distinct phases of use (Fig. 4). This theory is further supported by the nineteenth-century discoveries of mosaics in the immediate vicinity (Fig. 3).

Trench 6 contained evidence for the east-west aligned Roman Road thought to pass through the area; however, the excavation of Trenches 9 and 10 showed no further preservation of this road system to the west. It is known that the road alignments were altered during the second century in Leicester, and as first-century pottery was recovered from the unexcavated deposits seen in section below the road surface, it is likely that evidence of the earlier first-century street frontages are preserved beneath.

It has previously been thought that evidence for fourth-century activity at Leicester is sparse; however, significant finds include a rare Cross Bow broach and two bone pins dating to the fourth century, as well as numerous features and finds, including Roman coins, located in Trench 12 to the northeast of the site. These finds indicate that the site at Bath Lane may provide new evidence of late Roman activity within Leicester and therefore may have wider significance to the city.
Trenches 9, 10 and 12 contained evidence for occupation during the Late Saxon period in the form of a number of pit features that contained fragments of pottery dating from this period into the Saxo-Norman period. Until now, there has been little evidence for Saxon or Early medieval activity within the area, so the discovery of several features containing pottery dating to this period is significant.

The excavation also revealed a significant area of medieval industrial features on the banks of the River Soar in the form of two large square pits which contained waterlogged timbers, and large probable cess pits in the area of Trench 8. Although these features did not contain the usual profusion of horn cores associated with the tanning process, the leather off-cut from one of the pits in Trench 5 is typical of waste products from the cutting up of tanned hides.

Recent excavations to the south of the site, and to the west of Bath Lane, revealed an east-west aligned wall tentatively interpreted as the south precinct wall of the Blackfriars Friary (Gnanaratnam and Meek 2003). It is therefore possible that the site lies within the surrounds of the Friary, and that the Late Saxon and early medieval features are associated with activities therein.

It is clear that deeply stratified archaeological remains dating from the pre/early-Roman period through to the medieval period are present within the site. The majority of the archaeological deposits, especially those within the central...
and eastern portion of the site, are well preserved below a 0.5–0.8m deep deposit of dark soils and major modern truncation appears minimal. Within the southern portion of the site, there appeared to be a greater degree of truncation than is seen in other areas, although stratified archaeological deposits were present in all trenches at a similar level to the rest of the site.

The site therefore has the potential to provide detailed information on the Iron Age and Romano-British development of Leicester. As many of the medieval deposits are waterlogged the environmental potential is considered to be high, and the results of any further work are expected to be of regional and national importance (Paul 2011).

References


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

A programme of archaeological investigation was undertaken by ULAS on behalf of De Montfort University on land to the south of Bosworth House, Southgates. The work proceeded from an archaeological evaluation undertaken in December 2009, which revealed a well-preserved sequence of archaeological deposits of likely early Roman date, possibly relating to the town’s southern earthen defensive rampart, in addition to possible evidence for the medieval town defensive wall and/or ditch.

A programme of concrete piling of the limits of the trench enabled excavation of the complete archaeological sequence. Excavation revealed a predominantly Roman sequence of occupation, beginning with post-Conquest activity in the form of a single gully or shallow ditch, followed shortly afterwards by major timber building structural activity, possibly in two phases, spanning the later first to late second century AD, and likely associated with external hearths and yards. These structures appear to have been demolished in order to make way for the earth and timber town defences in the late second century, the clay rampart of which sealed at least one timber building. Construction of a masonry wall at the rear of the defensive rampart during the later Roman period may represent either a building or an attempt to demarcate, and separate, civilian and military zones within the walled town.

Medieval activity was represented by a substantial ditch dating between 1100 and 1250, possibly representing a short-lived defensive measure associated with the Norman castle and the Sack of Leicester of 1173. A17.2009.
**Leicester, General Hospital, Coleman Road (SK 623 038)**  
Gerwyn Richards

A watching brief was undertaken by ULAS at Leicester General Hospital during groundworks in advance of the construction of a temporary car park off Gwendolen Road.

A single Romano-British ditch was exposed and sample excavation yielded pottery sherds with a probable terminal date in the mid- or late first century AD.

Evidence of post-medieval limestone quarrying was also observed within the northern part of the proposed development area. Due to the shallow formation level and the temporary nature of the works, other archaeological deposits may remain below the formation level of the car park. A1.2010.

**Leicester, 18 The Newarke (SK 582 040)**  
Mathew Morris

A watching brief was carried out by ULAS in the former service yard to the rear of 18 The Newarke (formerly the William Baker Building). The work was carried out on behalf of De Montfort University Estates Department in advance of construction of a new lift-shaft against the rear of the building. Work involved supervision and inspection of a small machine-excavated trench. The results of the investigation proved negative apart from a thick layer of dark waterlogged silty-clay, probably post-medieval ‘garden’ soil. A10.2010.

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

An archaeological excavation was carried out at 61, Oxford Street by ULAS in advance of residential development. The site lies within the Roman and medieval southern suburbs of the walled town of Leicester and had considerable archaeological potential. Remains of the Roman Tripontium road were revealed, with contemporary pits, post-holes and layers, representing associated roadside settlement. Overlying and cutting the Roman deposits were medieval and post-medieval layers and features, probably associated with activity in the back yards of properties fronting Oxford Street or Grange Lane. A7.2009.

**Leicester, Peacock Lane/Carey’s Close (SK 5830 0440)**  
Tim Higgins

An archaeological evaluation by trial trenching was undertaken by ULAS in response to development proposals for student accommodation. Eight test-pits were excavated within the building’s basement. The excavations revealed potential Roman yard surfaces, a masonry building foundation and pits. A few medieval pits, observed cutting the Roman deposits, are thought to be associated with potential backyard properties that fronted on to either Peacock Lane or Applegate (the medieval High Street).

A subsequent watching brief undertaken during piling for the new building observed possible Roman levels at a height of 60m OD. A7.2010.
Leicester, 100 Vaughan Way (SK 5850 3048)  
Roger Kipling

An archaeological evaluation was undertaken by ULAS in advance of development. Evidence for a Roman building was revealed as a series of robber trenches. Dating from these features indicated that stone from the building had been robbed during the medieval period, in the twelfth or thirteenth centuries. Well-preserved Roman yard surfaces of early and late second century date were also revealed, and were probably associated with the building. The evaluation demonstrated that these layers survived across the site below medieval garden soils and modern cellars. A9.2010.

Leicester, 40–46 Western Road (SK 578 038)  
Mathew Morris

Recent groundworks on the former Equity Shoe site on Western Road have revealed part of an extensive late Roman cemetery situated between the Fosse Way and the River Soar. The site lies on the edge of an area known to have been an extra-mural Roman cemetery, and Roman and Saxon burials have been discovered in the vicinity during the nineteenth century. Nine trenches were excavated across the site between 19 July and 6 August 2010, and a larger area already containing exposed human remains was cleaned in order to establish the extent of the inhumations and test unknown areas. Seven trenches produced clear evidence of an extensive palaeochannel covering the northern two-thirds of the site and the inhumations were confined to rising ground in the site’s south-west corner.

In all, 17 exposed inhumations and a further 19 probable grave cuts were identified. As a mitigating strategy it was decided to excavate and lift 15 of the exposed burials before they sustained further damage. These were buried on north to south and east to west alignments, the east to west burials typically being a later phase, and all appear to provisionally date to the late third or fourth century AD. Some graves were easily distinguishable as wide, deep rectangular cuts, and at least one adolescent had been buried in a tapered coffin. Thirteen burials were in a supine position and two had been laid prone (Fig. 5). One of the prone burials may have been accidentally buried upside down, however, for the position of the body in the coffin suggests it had been laid out in a supine position prior to burial.

Skeletal analysis has identified seven males, two females, two adolescents, one child, one infant and two non-sexable adults. The average male height was c. 1.67m (5’ 5”) and the average female height was c. 1.46m (4’ 9”); none of the adults were older than 50. General pathologies included evidence of traumas associated with manual labour (a fractured clavicle and osteoarthritis affecting the vertebrae of two males) and signs of childhood illness (dental hypoplasia affecting two adults and a child). More serious illnesses affected three individuals, including an adolescent suffering from Brucellosis, an infectious disease passed from animals to humans usually through milk or infected meat, an infant with a serious pulmonary infection, possibly from tuberculosis or pneumonia, and an adolescent with tuberculosis meningitis. In each case the illness or disease was most likely cause of death.
Grave goods were recovered from a number of burials, including three people buried with hobnail shoes and two with ceramic vessels. One male had been buried with an enamelled copper-alloy seal-box resting on his chest and an adolescent had been buried wearing a buckle near their pelvis (Fig. 6). The most elaborate grave was that of an infant. During burial a pair of hobnail shoes had been placed next to the feet, and a shale bangle and bead necklace were draped over the left tibia. The necklace contained 181 small glass and jet beads, and a single, large tubular jet bead. The glass beads were black, blue, olive green and turquoise. With the exception of one person buried wearing shoes it was noticeable that the grave goods were only found in the north to south orientated burials.

The only other archaeological feature noted during the evaluation was a horse burial situated centrally in the exposed cemetery area. This had been dug through at least one human burial, however, and may simply represent the burial of a farm animal in fields next to the river. Dating proved inconclusive.
Fig. 6. An enamelled seal-box and copper rivet found on the chest of SK3. The seal-box belongs to Crummy’s Type 4b ‘leaf-shaped’, a distinct form imitating a ceramic oil-lamp.

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

*Leicester General Hospital, Coleman Road, Leicester* (SK 623 038)
*Leicester, Western Road* (SK 5783 0369)

**Historic Building Recording**

*Leicester*  
4 and 10 Northgate Street (SK 581 049)

*Leicester*  
50–56 New Walk (SK 5908 0393)
LEICESTERSHIRE

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

Asfordby, site of proposed wind farm (SK 719 209)  Sarah Chisem

A geophysical survey was carried out by RSK Group plc on the site of a proposed wind farm (consisting of nine turbines with associated roads, ditches and ponds, located across 11 fields). The survey area included roads across nine fields and covers five turbines (total survey area of 10.7ha).

Features of probable archaeological origin were located in Field 6, forming a circular enclosure and a linear feature. Two further sub-circular anomalies were observed within this field, thus potentially indicating a possible settlement. The form of the features is indicative of prehistoric archaeological features.

Closely spaced subtle parallel anomalies indicative of ridge and furrow were identified in Fields 4, 8 and 9. Two large metallic anomalies have been located in Fields 5 and 7. The potential depth and size of the anomalies, and the evidence of coal mining in the area, suggests that these features are possible mineshafts. A subtle linear feature in the area of the planned settlement pond in Field 8 potentially relates to a former field boundary.

Ashby Magna (SP 560 893)  John Walford and Ian Fisher

Geophysical surveys were conducted by NA as part of the archaeological evaluation of a proposed wind farm site in the parish of Ashby Magna. Some features of minor archaeological significance were detected: notably some areas of ridge and furrow cultivation and the site of an old barn. Other anomalies were detected which are probably of geological origin. OASIS 72637.

Ashby Parva, The Hollies, Main Street (SP 52703 88526)  Gavin Speed

ULAS carried out an evaluation on land to the rear of The Hollies as part of an archaeological impact assessment in advance of proposed development. The evaluation revealed a post hole and a linear feature dated to the late Saxon period (c. 850–1066), together with two further linear features which could be contemporary. These may indicate boundaries and structures relating to a medieval croft and toft fronting on to Main Street. A well-made cobbled yard or road with surface drain was constructed after the late thirteenth century. X.A167.2010.

Barrow upon Soar, Cotes Road (SK 5700 1850)  Danny McAree

Archaeological excavation was out carried by NA on 0.65ha of land off Cotes Road, Barrow upon Soar. The site had been extensively quarried for limestone, before being reinstated as farmland. Two brick-lined ‘pot’ kilns for the calcining
of limestone were found. The kilns were circular, between c. 2.5m and 3.0m diameter at the top, tapering to 1.0m and 1.3m at the base and up to 1.8m deep. Prior to abandonment, all the brickwork lining was removed down to the last few courses at the base of the kiln. An out-turned stoke hole was present in each kiln with an external working area and a sloping ramp up to the ground level. On typological grounds, these appear to date from the late eighteenth or nineteenth centuries. X.A.181.2009.

Barrow upon Soar, land at Melton Road (SK 583 172)  
Ian Fisher

A geophysical survey was carried out by NA on the site of a proposed housing development. Various circular, linear and key-hole shaped anomalies were recorded, with their alignment seemingly reflecting the direction of slope across the field. There were 76 of these anomalies, thought to be lime kilns. There were also two complex features thought to be backfilled limestone quarries, and a number of pits in the south-west of the site. On the west of the site there was a 120m x 80m enclosure, which enclosed some of the kilns.

Beeby, the Old Rectory (SK 664 083)  
Sophie Clarke

A watching brief was carried out by ULAS at the coach house of the Old Rectory, in conjunction with a building survey, during works to convert the building into a domestic residence. The work was carried out during the reduction of internal ground levels and revealed a series of brick drains which were possibly contemporary with the building, in addition to the remains of a cobbled surface which may pre-date its construction. Sherds of pottery recovered from the make-up layers beneath the brick paviour floors, that were removed during the groundworks, consisted largely of eighteenth-nineteenth-century Earthenwares and Stonewares. A second programme of archaeological watching brief carried out during groundworks associated with the construction of a new stable block and manège in an adjacent field revealed the well-preserved ridge and furrow earthwork remains of medieval strip cultivation. A single, unstratified sherd of medieval pottery was retrieved from the subsoil, but no archaeological deposits were revealed. X.A.89.2010.

Birstall, Longslade School (SK 5934 1049)  
Yvonne Wolfram-Murray

An archaeological trial trench evaluation was undertaken by NA on land adjacent to the A6 and north of Longslade School. Twenty-four trial trenches were targeted on results obtained through previous fieldwalking and geophysical surveys. There were two undated linear features, two Iron Age pits, Iron Age pottery introduced into the colluvial layer through bioturbation and two post-medieval field boundary ditches. A small surface scatter of worked flint was recovered from the north-western corner of the proposed development area. Only a boundary ditch aligned east to west corresponded with the geophysical survey results. X.A.29.2010.
Bottesford, 26 Pinfold Lane (SK 8023 3932)  

Bob Sparham

A watching brief by Alpha Archaeology on foundations for a new building recovered 51 sherds of Saxon and Medieval pottery. There were three separate pottery groups and three finds of individual sherds within the excavated foundation trenches. The first assemblage was recovered from a feature and contained 27 sherds covering a variety of medieval wares, with a date range of between AD 1175 and 1400, and a mean average of between AD 1220 and 1250. A second feature contained an assemblage of 12 sherds of South Lincolnshire Shell and Quartz ware dating to c. 1200–1500, all of which had been heat-affected. A third feature yielded an assemblage which consisted of seven sherds of Nottingham Splashed Ware dating to c. 1100–1250. Two of the individual finds were Saxon ceramic material with a date range of between AD 400–870 and AD 850–1000, although these were not closely related to particular features. In addition the discovery was made of a layer of organic material at a depth of 2.2m, a layer which seems to extend across the whole site, and which contains animal and vegetable faunal remains from the Ice Age/early Post-Ice Age period. X.A.111.2010.

Brooksby Quarry, Melton Road, Brooksby (SK 655 155)  

Matthew Beamish

A watching brief has continued during topsoil stripping and gravel extraction at Brooksby Quarry, for Lafarge Aggregates (TLAHS 81, 211).

Monitoring of the topsoil strip for phase 7 identified further evidence of Iron Age occupation first suggested during the 2009 watching brief (TLAHS 84, 349). A small sub-square enclosure aligned northwest to southeast, with an internal area 20m by 18m and a narrow entrance 1.7m across near the south-east corner, was recorded (SK67361537 centre). To the north-east of the enclosure a curvilinear gully indicated the probable location of a roundhouse. Other than one isolated pit adjacent with the gully, no other discrete features were found, although the relative abundance of pottery indicates that this site was probably occupied.

The watching brief of the aggregate extraction has continued to reveal 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 Member and Thurcaston Member. A 40m long exposure of organic deposits within the Thurcaston Member was recorded and sampled in November 2010, with the assistance of Professor Danielle Schreve and Dr Ian Candy of Royal Holloway College, University of London.

Ongoing examination of the quarry rejects heap since 2008 has revealed over 160 Lower Palaeolithic artefacts, including cores, flakes and bifaces from pre-Anglian deposits (i.e. at least 480,000 years old, and possibly as much as 700,000). X.A.57.2006.
Burbage, land off Britannia Road (SP 441 919 centre)  
Adrian Butler

A geophysical survey was undertaken by NA on an area of proposed residential development. The survey identified a few anomalies of possible archaeological interest, including a possible rectilinear enclosure in the north-east corner of the site, a former field boundary and ridge and furrow.

Burbage, land off Britannia Road (SP 441 919 centre)  
Jon Coward

Subsequent evaluation by metal detector survey and trial trenching was carried out on the site by ULAS. Several features were located, including pits, gullies and ditches. Some of the features contained Roman pottery, and there was also prehistoric flint recovered from the fills. There was evidence of dumping and perhaps earthmoving over parts of the southern area of the site. X.A78.2010.

Burbage, Sketchley Brook (SP 560 893 and SP 416 927)  
Ian Fisher, Paul Kajewski and Anne Foard-Colby

Evaluation comprising geophysical and fieldwalking surveys, followed by trial trenching, were undertaken by NA on land adjacent to Sketchley Brook, ahead of retail and residential development. The geophysical survey detected a former landscape of remnant ridge and furrow, a small group of ditches and a pit. A recreation ground revealed many modern features, and the survey also identified the likely route of the underground channelling of the Sketchley Brook.

The fieldwalking survey found a very low concentration of Roman and medieval pottery, but more post-medieval finds. However, 95 per cent of pottery and other finds came from the eighteenth–twentieth centuries, coinciding with the construction of a canal and railway line that border the fields.

Trial trenching located a pit containing sherds from a vessel assigned a broad middle Bronze Age/Iron Age date. Five boundary ditches identified during the geophysical survey, a probable post-medieval field boundary ditch and pit, a brick-supported culvert, the corner foundations of a brick field barn and part of a possible nineteenth or twentieth-century hearth were also found. Pottery recovered from the overburden and furrows ranged in date from Roman period to the twentieth century, and was similar to that collected during the fieldwalking survey. X.A3.2009.

Burrough Hill Hillfort, Burrough on the Hill (SK7605 1195 centre)  
Jeremy Taylor, John Thomas and Andrew Hyam

Work began in June 2010 on a new University of Leicester research project and student training excavation, which has a focus on the Iron Age hillfort at Burrough Hill. Preceding this, Jeremy Taylor from the University and members of the Hallaton fieldwork group undertook a geophysical survey of the hillfort interior and adjacent land to the east of the rampart earthworks (Fig. 7). English Heritage has given permission for a five-year project that will aim to increase
understanding of the hillforts chronology and functions during the main phases of its occupation. There will also be efforts towards putting the hillfort into a wider landscape context involving further geophysical survey and fieldwalking of surrounding fields to look at the immediate environs of the monument.

The geophysical survey results revealed a spread of c. 400+ anomalies that are likely to represent pitting across the interior of the hillfort. Circular anomalies ranging in diameter between c. 6m and 15m are also apparent in large numbers and most likely represent Iron Age roundhouses. These are mostly located around the inner perimeter of the hillfort ramparts, in the lee of the earthworks. A number of smaller polygonal anomalies probably represent small enclosures, while other linear features reflect the locations of ditches acting as subdivisions of the interior. Settlement activity on the outside of the hillfort was represented by a spread of roundhouses, enclosures and ditches to the east of the earthworks. A series of roundhouses and smaller enclosures appears to have been bounded by a long sinuous ditch, which also incorporates a large square enclosure with a possible entrance to the north east.

The first season of excavation in 2010 revisited two areas that had been partially examined in the past. A trench in the hillfort entrance (Trench 1) was located to coincide with an excavation from 1960 (Thomas 1960), and a second
trench (Trench 2) was excavated on the northern side of the monument to build on results of a small trench that had been dug there in 1971 (Thawley 1973).

Trench 1 revealed much about the form and phasing of the main entrance features and construction techniques (Fig. 8). The ramparts were seen to have been constructed with successive layers of clay and locally quarried ironstone, all held in place by well-built drystone walls. Two deep post holes marked the position of large timber gates and may have supported a timber walkway above the entrance. One side of the drystone wall also formed part of the main entrance passageway which was also defined by a laid cobble road. A recessed room built into the rampart may have acted as a guard chamber, but could also have functioned in a variety of other ways and finds parallels on similar sites in the Welsh Marches. Remarkably, although this room had been partially excavated in 1960, there were still surviving floors and hearths within. Tools associated with metalworking and weaving/spinning were also found within the backfill of the room, which appears to have taken place in at least two episodes: the earliest in the Late Iron Age and the latest in the Roman period. Other than the few Roman sherds in the final backfill deposits of the room, the majority of the dating from Trench 1 indicated a broad mid-late Iron Age time-span for activity.

Trench 2 examined a section of the rampart and immediate interior on the northern side of the hillfort (Fig. 9). The archaeology was well-preserved here because it lay beneath a medieval plough headland that had protected the

Fig. 8. Trench 1 showing the exposed rubble of the rampart core, partially exposed roadway on the left and entrance chamber in the top left-hand corner. © Aerial Archaeology.
underlying remains. The northern part of the trench, adjacent to the rampart earthworks, contained an extensive layer of rubble tumble which had accumulated as the hillfort gradually fell into disrepair. A refuse layer rich in Roman pottery indicated intermittent activity on Burrough Hill between the first and fourth centuries AD. The pottery was dominated by a range of drinking vessels, so it may be that in the Roman period the hillfort was used for festivities at certain times of the year.

Some sense of the Iron Age activity in this part of the hillfort was also revealed. A laid cobbled surface was probably part of a track or yard. Nearby, part of a roundhouse also indicated occupation in the lee of the ramparts. A number of pits and an area of metalworking waste were probably associated with this house.

A third trench was excavated in order to evaluate some of the geophysical responses from outside the hillfort. Although damaged by medieval ploughing the surviving archaeology, which related to a pair of roundhouses, was in relatively good condition and sample excavation yielded Iron Age pottery and flint, as well as a complete saddle quern in two halves. Further work in this area, and the hillfort entrance, is planned for the second season.

An interim report on the first excavation season is available to download at: http://www2.le.ac.uk/departments/archaeology/research/projects/burrough-hill-iron-age-hillfort
References

Burton Lazars, Cross Lane, adjacent to St James Church (SK 7681 1698)
Jason Clarke
A single trench, excavated by NA ahead of the proposed extension of the existing graveyard at Cross Lane, adjacent to St James Church, identified an undated gully and probable tree disturbance. X:A170.2009.

Bushby, land at Uppingham Road (SK 658 038)
John Walford
A geophysical survey was carried out by NA on land proposed for residential development. The survey detected ridge and furrow of medieval or later date, some of which survived as upstanding earthworks. An interruption to the ridge and furrow at the far western end of the survey area was interpreted as a small quarry pit of probable post-medieval date. A few other small anomalies suggested minor features of possible archaeological interest.

Castle Donington, Park Lane (SK 434 270)
Nathan Flavell
An Iron Age pit and gullies, a Romano-British ditch, an undated ditch and a hedge-line were found during an archaeological evaluation by NA on land at Park Lane, ahead of a proposed residential development and associated highway works. X:A170.2010.

Castle Donington, land north of Park Lane (SK 436 276)
Jon Coward
An archaeological evaluation was carried out by ULAS in advance of proposed residential development. The evaluation targeted a series of geophysical anomalies suggesting enclosure ditches across much of the area, and lies to the east of an area containing known prehistoric, Roman and Anglo-Saxon deposits. Many of the less pronounced geophysical anomalies appeared to be of agricultural origin, or responses to a complex geology. However, two areas containing ditches and gullies of probable Late Iron Age/early Roman date were identified in the north-east and south-west corners, some of which were not apparent in the geophysical data. One feature to the north of the site contained Anglo-Saxon pottery. In the south-west corner many of these features lay beneath varying depths of colluvium, including a ring-ditch containing Late Iron Age/very early Roman pottery.

Besides these two areas archaeological features were also identified along the west edge of the field and in the north-west of the site. A small field in the south-east corner appeared to have been previously disturbed with undulating topography and significant depths of deposits. The trenches here contained up to
2m of colluvial material, and an undated burnt oval feature of unknown function was recorded in one trench. Similar anomalies on the geophysical survey suggest that there may be several more of these features in this area. X.A115.2010.

**Castle Donington, 56 The Spittal (SK 4444 2779)**

Chris Clay

Allen Archaeology Ltd carried out a strip, map and record of the footprint of a single dwelling. The site lies within the precinct of the former twelfth-century hospital of St John the Evangelist. The excavation exposed a number of pits and linear features of thirteenth/fourteenth century date, as well as a stone structure of similar date that may have had an industrial function, as large quantities of lead scrap was recovered from the feature, and interpreted as possible glazier’s waste. A stone surface representing a possible path was also identified, as well as later post-medieval pits and sealing deposits. X.A178.2010.

**Castle Donington, Towles Pastures (SK 443 272)**

Yvonne Wolfram-Murray

An archaeological evaluation and assessment was carried out by NA on stone boundary walls on a plot of land at Towles Pastures. The central dividing wall was constructed of stone, and in places a foundation trench had been cut and packed with reddish-brown clay. The date of the wall is uncertain, but it probably dates to the nineteenth century. There was no evidence for a pre-existing boundary, although a small gully was encountered at the western end of the wall, running parallel and to the south of the wall. The wall had been extensively patched, repaired and repointed over the years, with the last major repairs probably being carried out in the 1950s or 1960s. Only two residual sherds of eighteenth-century pottery were found. There was little evidence for walls associated with the former building on the north side of the dividing wall, as shown on old Ordnance Survey maps up until the 1960s. However, the remains of possible floor surfaces associated with the building were revealed. X.A120.2010.

**Catthorpe, Catthorpe Hall, Main Street (SK 552 780)**

Gerwyn Richards

ULAS undertook an archaeological watching brief during groundworks in advance of the construction of a new detached garage at Catthorpe Hall. The proposed development area had been identified as being of archaeological potential, located within the historic settlement core of the village. No definite archaeological features were encountered during the course of the watching brief; however, a number of sherds of medieval pottery, as well as a single sherd of late Saxon pottery, were recovered, suggesting nearby medieval settlement activity, possibly within the grounds of the Hall. X.A169.2010.
Coalville, Broom Leys Farm (SK 43980 14200)  Carol Simmonds

A geophysical survey by NA was undertaken on c. 14ha of land at Broom Leys Farm to the east of Coalville, of which 7.76ha was surveyed. A number of positive anomalies were detected in the survey and mainly comprised the furrows of medieval ridge and furrow cultivation, and land drains. A linear positive anomaly, probably a ditch, was also recorded. OASIS 72729.

Coston, near Melton Mowbray (SK 846 219)  Wessex Archaeology

Following a geophysical survey of land within the shrunken village of Coston, an archaeological evaluation was carried out by Wessex Archaeology in response to proposals for a new residential building, lake and associated landscaping. The site is located within an area of upstanding earthwork features representing deserted medieval settlement, surrounded by ridge and furrow field systems. Previous archaeological investigations comprising earthwork survey, desk-based assessment and geophysical survey identified potential for the survival of medieval and/or earlier remains on the site.

The evaluation comprised the excavation and recording of eight trial trenches in agreed locations, including areas that would be affected by elements of the proposed development. The trenches targeted potential buried archaeological remains identified by the geophysical survey and extant earthwork features.

Well-preserved archaeological remains were revealed in six trenches, correlating well with the location of geophysical survey anomalies and extant earthworks. Features in five trenches appeared to be predominantly associated with settlement on the site in the late Saxon and medieval periods. Undated features in one trench appear to pre-date extant earthworks and were buried by colluvium. Two trenches in the west of the site contained no archaeological features or deposits.

Pottery and animal bone formed the bulk of the finds recovered from the site, although fired clay, clay tobacco pipe, metalwork, metalworking residues, worked stone and worked bone were also present. The pottery assemblage suggests occupation over a long period of time and includes two prehistoric and six Roman sherds, the latter from more than one period. Concentrations of late ninth to early/mid eleventh century material in Trenches 2, 3 and 4 suggest probable intense activity in this area, possibly preceded by Anglo-Saxon or mid-Saxon occupation. More than a single period of activity is represented; this had commenced by at least the early/mid-tenth century. The focus of activity seems to shift to the west of the River Eye by the early post-conquest period.

Although no medieval pottery of post-fourteenth century date was found, a number of post-medieval vessels attest to further activity on the site, probably in the seventeenth to eighteenth centuries. The majority of identified animal bone recovered was of domesticated livestock, cow or sheep, with virtually no butchery evidenced despite good bone preservation. A single human molar was also recovered. Environmental samples from a range of features across the site indicate good preservation of cereal grains: the frequent presence of free-threshing wheat is
consistent with the Saxo-Norman date of the features and the relatively high numbers of charred cereal grains indicate settlement waste. X.A144.2010.

Countesthorpe, land adjacent to Countesthorpe Cemetery, Foston Road (SP 591 958)  
Heather Smith
A geophysical survey was carried out on an land proposed as an extension to the cemetery. The survey recorded evidence for ridge and furrow; the other anomalies appeared to represent utility covers and an associated pipe.

Leicester Road, Countesthorpe (NGR SP 5840 9605)  
Wessex Archaeology
Following geophysical survey, an evaluation and strip-and-record excavation was undertaken on land scheduled for housing development off Leicester Road, Countesthorpe. The work recovered prehistoric remains including Early Bronze Age burials. Three broken urns, of Collared Urn affinity, were recorded, two of which contained cremated human remains representing an adult male and a sub-adult. No ring ditch or other possibly associated features have survived in the vicinity. A large oval pit was recorded elsewhere on the site. This appeared to have contained a large wooden post that had rotted in situ, and flint artefacts of Late Mesolithic and Early Neolithic date were found in the base together with a large broken saddle quern or polishing stone. A few other undated pits and a ditch were also noted.

Countesthorpe, land east of Scalborough Close (SP 573 960)  
Jon Coward
An archaeological evaluation was carried out by ULAS in advance of proposed residential development. Archaeological features were uncovered on the higher plateau to the east of the area, although the paucity of finds makes them difficult to date. The western part of the area, which is mostly on a slope, appeared to be archaeologically sterile. X.A88.2010.

Countesthorpe, Willoughby Road (SP 5760 9515)  
James Ladocha
An archaeological geophysical magnetometer survey was conducted by Northamptonshire Archaeology on an area of 6.5ha at Willoughby Road. A series of archaeological features comprising circular and sub-rectangular enclosures with associated internal features were located in the central part of the site. Medieval ridge and furrow cultivation was also present across the entire area. X.A35.2010.

Desford, Hunts Lane (SK 471 072)  
John Walford
Northamptonshire Archaeology carried out a magnetometer survey on approximately 8.5ha of land in two fields to the south of Hunts Lane. The survey located up to four ditches and a pit that could form part of a wide sub-rectangular
enclosure. A ferrous pipeline crosses the north of the site, and anomalies indicative of former and current utility installations were located within the northern field.

**Diseworth, Clements Gate (SK 4570 2449 centre)**  
*James Harvey*

A topographic survey of an area of ridge and furrow was undertaken to fulfil a condition of planning permission granted on land north of Clements Gate, Diseworth. The system was found to be spaced at around 4.9m, and is probably medieval in origin. Evidence suggesting pre-parliamentary enclosure of the land was also recorded on the site, along with a possible hollow way and related pond feature. X.A8.2010.

**Drayton, Medbourne Road (SP 8280 9200)**  
*Heather Smith*

A geophysical magnetometer survey was carried out on 1.3ha of land to the west of the village of Drayton by Northamptonshire Archaeology. The survey revealed possible ditches of unknown date, and medieval ridge and furrow cultivation.

**Earl Shilton, land between Thurlaston Lane and Mill Lane (SP 478 980)**  
*Andrew Hyam and Mathew Morris*

An evaluation was undertaken by ULAS in response to proposed residential development on the site. Previous geophysical results had suggested high archaeological potential; therefore, a programme of trial trenching was requested by Leicestershire County Council’s Historic and Natural Environment Team. Twenty-six 30m long trenches were excavated within the proposed development area, targeting geophysical anomalies and testing blank areas. Overall, the evaluation produced clear evidence for archaeological activity in 12 trenches. In the site’s south-western corner a rectilinear ditched enclosure with associated pits, gullies and post-holes was identified as Iron Age in origin, whilst to the east the circular crop-mark and geophysical anomaly listed in the HER as a possible Neolithic or Early Bronze Age henge or enclosure proved to be medieval in origin, possibly a windmill mound. Across the north-western quarter of the site a substantial undated ditch was identified in four trenches on an approximate north-east to south-west alignment. This and several adjacent, parallel and perpendicular gullies and ditches are also suggested to be of Iron Age or Roman date. X.A.39.2010.

**Enderby (SK 527 016)**  
*Simon Haddrell*

A geophysical survey was carried out by Stratascan in six ‘viewport’ areas. A limited amount of archaeological activity was identified. Most areas contained a number of discrete positive anomalies which have been interpreted as pits of possible archaeological origin. Positive linear anomalies, representing filled-in ditches, were seen in six areas. These features lack recognisable shapes or
formations so may be of differing origin. One area contained a series of parallel positive linear anomalies, representing an area of ridge and furrow. Magnetic disturbance, mainly associated with pipes and field boundaries, could be seen in most areas across the site. This could be masking more subtle archaeological features.

**Enderby, land adjacent to 16 Broad Street (SP 537 992)**  
*Mark Peachey*

A watching brief was carried out by APS during groundworks for a new house within the historic core of Enderby. A subsoil containing twelfth–thirteenth century pottery was recorded cut by a north-east to south-west ditch, also containing sherds of twelfth–thirteenth century pottery. Post-medieval remains comprised a pit containing sixteenth–seventeenth century pottery and two shallower, late post-medieval pits. These features suggest agricultural or horticultural use in the medieval period, with the site being closer to buildings in post-medieval times. Fifteen sherds of medieval/post-medieval pottery, a piece of post-medieval floor tile, a piece of seventeenth–eighteenth century brick and one cattle bone were recovered. X.A27.2010.

**Enderby, land adjacent to Leicester Road (SP 549 990)**  
*A Hancock*

A geophysical survey was undertaken by ASC on a proposed housing development site. Results suggest that the site has been in use as agricultural land from the medieval period; no earlier features were noted. Other than for evidence of medieval and later agricultural activity, the archaeological potential of the site is interpreted as low/moderate.

**Great Bowden, Christchurch Paddock, Dingley Road (SP 747 887)**  
*Rosemary Culkin*

Five test pits were dug by Great Bowden Heritage & Archaeology Group within an area 40m × 40m. No firm evidence was found during the excavation for a dwelling, although a layer of flat compacted earth surface just below the turf in Pit 1 was unusual. Such smooth compaction might not be expected in field soil undisturbed for centuries. The majority of dateable finds from this pit were medieval, with one or two stray finds of a later date. This has to suggest nearby domestic activity in the medieval period. Stones in Pit 2 formed part of the possible foundation of a building. From the evidence of cobbled surfaces on both sides of the stones it would seem to be more likely a barn with a cobbled stone floor and yard, rather than a dwelling house. A barn is mentioned in the 1800 will of Henry Shuttleworth, but it is not clear in which close it was situated. Pottery was found close to the principal stones, all of which was of the Midland Purple type. Pottery of this type could date from 1350 until 1500, with later type of the same pottery being made until about 1750. The presence of large bore, early clay pipe stems suggest this may be post-medieval rather than earlier.
Great Bowden, excavation at The Strip (SP 746 888)  Rosemary Culkin

An excavation was carried out by Great Bowden Heritage & Archaeology Group on the site of a barn (or two different barns) shown on maps dating to 1843 and 1891. The area was laid out with a grid, located to cover the area of the former building(s) as accurately as possible. The two maps showed the barn in slightly different positions. Both maps showed the paddock cut into two and on the earlier one it seems that the barn was in the eastern section with possibly no access through the brick gateposts on The Green. Stone foundations found in Test Pits 2 and 6 would appear to relate to the barn shown on the 1891 map. The large quantity of ceramic tile and brick debris suggests that this barn was brick built and probably had a tile roof. The barn or other building shown on the earlier 1843 estate map may have been a different structure. The earlier date suggests it could have been of mud and thatch construction, the predominant construction material at the time, and similar to the mud barn still in existence in Sutton Road, Great Bowden. However, the brick works in Bowden started around 1811 and so local bricks would have been available for construction perhaps for higher status buildings such as houses but not for barns. A floor or yard surface revealed at the eastern end of the gridded site was of a rougher nature to the neater cobbled surfaces unearthed at the western side of the site, and could be from a different building. If there were mud walls and thatched roofs they would have decayed into the ground leaving no evidence behind.

Great Dalby, land to the west of Moscow Farm (SK 751 126)  Richard Cherrington

A watching brief was carried out by Benchmark Archaeology on groundworks for two wind turbines, consisting of two 5m x 5m pits. In the first test pit, natural deposits were encountered c. 0.75m below the modern ground surface. No features or deposits were identified. In the second test pit, a ditch was identified cutting the natural clay. It ran north-west/south-east, with a wide ‘V’ shaped profile measuring 2.10m wide and 0.72m deep. The ditch contained two fills with 22 sherds of third/fourth century Roman pottery and animal bone. Environmental samples taken from the ditch fills contained cornfield weeds and wheat.

Great Dalby, ‘Top Sics’ field, Moscow Farm (SK 749 125)  Jeremy Hefford

Melton Fieldworker Group undertook a fieldwalking survey of ‘Top Sics’ field at Moscow Farm, as part of a wider survey project of fields surrounding Burrough Hill. The field was generally finds-free, but a notable cluster of Romano-British finds, including pottery and a broken quernstone fragment, was identified on higher ground in the south-eastern corner of the field. The finds are likely to reflect the western edge of the settlement reported on above.
**Great Glen, Stretton Road (SP 6630 9856)**  
*Chris Jones*

An archaeological trial excavation was undertaken by NA on land at Stretton Road. Archaeological features were concentrated in the north-western part of the area. A small quantity of pottery suggests that occupation began in the middle to late Iron Age, perhaps the first century BC. Subsequently the site seems to have been in continuous usage through the first to the fourth centuries AD as a small rural, agricultural settlement, although finds such as flue, wall and floor tile, and a possible fragment of window glass, may indicate the presence of a substantial late Roman building in the vicinity.

**Groby, Groby Old Hall (SK 5239 0762)**  
*Naomi Hall (Wessex Archaeology)*

In April 2010, Channel 4’s ‘Time Team’ undertook an archaeological evaluation at Groby Old Hall (SAM 17066). Eight trenches, in conjunction with a geophysical survey undertaken by GSB Prospection, were able to demonstrate the complex sequence of buildings which have stood on this site. Initially, the focus was likely to have been the defensive motte, keep and bailey ditch in the northern part of the site. Two trenches were situated at the summit of the motte, one of these partly re-opening a trench excavated in 1962–63 by B. K. Davison. These trenches confirmed the location of a substantial stone-built keep, around which the motte had been constructed (Fig. 10). A further trench to the east of the motte recorded several phases of landscaping modifying the ditch and earthworks of the

Fig. 10. Trench 4, on the summit of the motte, previously excavated by B. K. Davison; note the outer keep wall and the steps down into the basement level.
original defences. By the fourteenth century the focus had shifted to the south-west, where a number of buildings were arranged around a central courtyard area, which was the location for the remaining five trenches. At least two phases of building dating between the thirteenth to late fifteenth century were identified within these manorial ranges, but the picture is likely to be more complicated (Fig. 11). Some evidence of earlier features and possible timber structures were also seen. The courtyard buildings were most probably dismantled in the late fifteenth or early sixteenth century when a grand new brick structure began to be built to the south-west. X.A43.2010.

Assessment report available at: http://www.wessexarch.co.uk/timeteam/reports

Higham on the Hill, Elm Farm, Main Street (SP 38191 95568)

Gerwyn Richards

ULAS undertook an archaeological watching brief during groundworks in advance of the construction of a new two-storeyed extension to Elm Farm. The proposed development area had been identified as being of archaeological potential, located within the historic settlement core of the village. The exposed section on the Main Street frontage revealed an earlier clay floor and other
potentially archaeological layers. These layers were unaffected by the groundworks and remain in situ. Evidence of late nineteenth- or early twentieth-century truncation was observed within the easternmost footing trench, as well as a four-post timber structure, possibly relating to stalls. X.A172. 2010.

Hinckley, Leicester Road (SP 493 948) Gerwyn Richards

An archaeological evaluation was undertaken by ULAS in advance of residential development. The proposed development area had been identified as being an area of archaeological potential. Three evaluation trenches were excavated in order to sample anomalies identified by a previous geophysical survey and to ascertain the likely extent of any potential archaeological remains. The geophysical anomaly in Trench 1 proved to be a modern animal burial, while no trace was found for the linear anomaly in Trench 3. Only limited evidence of potential archaeological remains was uncovered, limited to a single trench (Trench 2), none of which were dateable. Significant colluvial deposits were observed within the easternmost trench. X.A116.2010.

Hugglescote, Bardon Grange (SK 435 129) Simon Haddrell

A detailed gradiometry survey was conducted over approximately 40ha of agricultural land at Bardon Grange by Stratascan. The survey identified a minimal amount of possible archaeological features. A general scattering of possible pits was evident across the site. Probable ridge and furrow was also evident in several areas, as well as several positive linear and area anomalies, interpreted as possible cut features such as ditches.

Huncote, land at Narborough Road (SP 519 971) James Ladocha

A gradiometry survey was carried out by NA on a proposed residential development site. Ridge and furrow was recorded in both fields, orientated north-west to south-east in Field 1 (the eastern field) and north-east to south-west in Field 2. Other features noted included a possible L-shaped ditch (possibly the corner of an enclosure) and anomalies that are probably the remains of old field boundaries. An area of magnetic disturbance was noted that may represent a brick scatter.

Huncote, land off Narborough Road (SP 519 971) Gavin Speed

ULAS carried out an archaeological evaluation as part of an archaeological impact assessment in advance of proposed development. The evaluation revealed very limited archaeological evidence, consisting of a single undated post-hole. X.A182.2010.
Hungarton, Village Farm (SK 684 075)  
Lucy Griffin

A large amount of Roman material, including third/fourth century pottery, was discovered during the digging of a trench in August 2010. Lucy Griffin (planning archaeologist) visited the site and the finds were identified by the Museums Service.

Ibstock, land north of Ashby Road (SK 401 107)  
Wayne Jarvis

Following geophysical and fieldwalking surveys, an archaeological evaluation was undertaken by ULAS on land north of Ashby Road in advance of development. Previous preliminary fieldwalking and geophysical results had suggested a limited amount of archaeological potential; therefore, a programme of trial trenching was requested by the Planning Archaeologist at Leicestershire County Council. Twenty-two 20m long trenches were excavated, targeting the fieldwalking and geophysical results. The evaluation produced limited evidence for archaeological activity.

On the frontage of Ashby Road, a series of linear features running east-west, parallel to the current roadline, were identified, one of which produced modern pottery and building materials. Several other undated features were recorded across the proposed development area. A pair of ephemeral linear features, and a layer of gravel and granite (probably ground consolidation), were exposed near to Melbourne Road, and two post-holes were identified in the west of site, one with evidence of burning. No other archaeological features or deposits were observed within any of the other trenches, and very few artefacts were recovered, although land drains and plough furrows were recorded. X.A5.2010.

Kibworth Harcourt, Kibworth Beauchamp, Smeeton Westerby  
Carenza Lewis

Kibworth today is a large village located approximately equidistant between Leicester, c. 14km to north-west Leicester, and Market Harborough, 13km to the south-east. Located c. 100m OD, the parish includes the formerly separate settlements of Kibworth Harcourt (in the north, now straddling the A6), Kibworth Beauchamp (to the south of Kibworth Harcourt and the railway line) and Smeeton Westerby (the southernmost of the settlements, separated from Kibworth Beauchamp by c. 0.5km, and comprising the formerly separate settlements of Smeeton to the north-east and Westerby to the south-west). The thirteenth-century church of St Wilfrid lies in Kibworth Beauchamp, with the church of Christ Church in Smeeton Westerby. The history of Kibworth Harcourt, with excellent documentary records surviving from a variety of sources, has been examined in detail, and included one attempt to reconstruct the medieval layout of the settlement from documentary and cartographic evidence (Howell 1983). This suggested that the settlement recorded in the Domesday Book lay along the east-west oriented street north of the A6 (comprising the western end of Main Street and Albert Street, which leads into Langton Road).

Forty-three test pits were excavated in 2009 in Kibworth by members of the public, digging under Access Cambridge Archaeology (ACA) direction over a
A single weekend, as part of a television documentary presented by Michael Wood exploring the history of England through the experiences of the people of this single place. These were sited in all four of the Kibworth settlements, although rather fewer sites were offered for excavation in Kibworth Beauchamp than in the other settlements, so observations regarding the development of this part of the settlement landscape are necessarily more tentative than for Kibworth Harcourt, Smeeton and Westerby.

Roman pottery was found in just two of these test pits: one (KIB/09/02) at the junction of the A6 and Main Street in Kibworth Harcourt; the other in Smeeton Westerby, just north of the point where the east-west road through the southern part of the village turns north. Neither pit produced more than a few sherds, probably residual in later deposits, although more substantial Roman remains were identified by a geophysical survey away from the present village. Pottery of early Anglo-Saxon date (AD 450–650) was found in only one test pit (KIB/09/13), but this produced a total of seven sherds along with a fragment of a bone comb from undisturbed deposits, and it is thus likely that this relates to intensive use, probably settlement at this date in the immediate vicinity (although a disturbed burial cannot definitely be ruled out, it is less likely as no human bone was identified). This pit produced no later material, and indeed over the entire area targeted in 2009 only one of the pits, more than 1km to the south of KIB/09/13, produced any pottery of middle Anglo-Saxon date (AD 650–850): a single small sherd of Ipswich ware weighing just 6g. Although small, this was noted as the first find of Ipswich ware in Leicestershire, and as such is of considerable interest, possibly indicating a site of some status in the vicinity.

Later Anglo-Saxon pottery was found in greater quantities, but not as widely as might have been expected had there been an extensive nucleated settlement at this time. A single pit (KIB/09/02, the same one which produced small amounts of Roman material) produced 40 sherds of St Neots ware and six of Stamford ware, indicating intensive use of this plot in this period. None of the other test pits along Main Street produced any contemporary material. Although negative evidence from test pits must inevitably be cited with caution, this does cast some doubt on Howell’s hypothesis that this street was the main axis of a regular, planned nucleated settlement by 1086. In contrast, four pits in Smeeton Westerby produced Stamford ware, three of which were sited close together along the west side of the main street. Although these produced smaller amounts of pottery (none yielded more than four sherds), they do seem likely to indicate settlement in this area in the late Anglo-Saxon period. In the medieval period, the pattern is very different, with most pits producing significant numbers of sherds dating AD 1100–1400. These include nine of the 12 pits along Main Street, Kibworth Harcourt, supporting Howell’s suggestion that there was settlement along this street in the High Medieval period, quite possibly arranged as a regular planned row either side of the street as she suggests.

Smeeton and Westerby also produced large amounts of pottery dating to AD 1100–1400 and activity here appears to have increased significantly in the centuries after the Norman Conquest. In contrast, only around half the pits
excavated in Kibworth Beauchamp produced medieval pottery; however, it is clear whether this indicates less intensive settlement here, or whether it is simply due to sampling bias across a small number of pits in this less thoroughly test pitted part of the settlement. However, one pattern that is consistent and remarkably striking across all the Kibworth settlements is the dramatic decline in activity in the later medieval period (post-fourteenth century). Only 10 of the 43 excavated pits produced any material at all of this date, only two of which yielded more than a single sherd and none more than four sherds. Three pits in Smeeton Westerby produced a single small sherd each, while only two of the five pits excavated in Kibworth Harcourt produced later medieval pottery, also in minimal quantities. Documentary evidence suggests that the population of Kibworth Harcourt dropped by around 40 percent in 1348–49 and, after a weak rally in the 1360s and 1370s, dwindled further throughout the first half of the fifteenth century, to less than a quarter of the pre-Black Death level, almost to vanishing point.

The pottery evidence from the excavated test pits clearly seems to reflect this: it seems that those few families who lived in the former villages in the fifteenth century must have done so in an otherwise almost deserted landscape. In the post-medieval period, however, there is a marked recovery, with nearly all test pits producing material of sixteenth to eighteenth century date.

Reference

Howell, C., 1983  

Results of this project can be seen at: [http://www.arch.cam.ac.uk/aca/kibworth.html](http://www.arch.cam.ac.uk/aca/kibworth.html)

**Kibworth, Mill Field (SP 678 950)**  
*C. Ponting and C. Royall*

A further geophysical survey was undertaken by Hallaton Field Work Group (HFWG) on the Roman villa located east of the A6, north of Kibworth, in 2009 during the filming of ‘The Story of England’ (Fig. 12). Previous excavation by F. B. Aggas and O. G. Yates had been done in 1967 (HER Ref. MLE 1767); however, the extent of the site was unknown and the primary aim of the survey was to establish its limits. The survey identified a large Roman complex, as well as what appear to be Iron Age features and the location of a medieval post mill (MLE 1768). The survey shows that the features continue down the hill to the west and further investigation will continue in the autumn when the crop has been harvested.

**Kirby Mallory Peckleton, land to the south of Bosworth Road (SK 443 008)**  
*Robbie Austrums and Melanie Biggs*

A geophysical survey was undertaken by Stratascan on the area of a proposed extension to Cadeby Quarry. The survey located a number of anomalies of
possible archaeological interest. The most significant appear to be two sets of probable small enclosure ditches in the north-east and south-east corners of the northern field. Some other linear anomalies may also represent ditches and a number of discrete anomalies may represent pits. Linears probably representing ridge and furrow were also noted.

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. The monitoring work followed on from earlier evaluation 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 relatively poor condition of the Ha-ha wall.
meant that it required substantial rebuilding in a number of places. Because the area it encloses is part of a Scheduled Monument DCMS (advised by English Heritage), the Senior Planning Archaeologist for Leicestershire County Council requested that monitoring work take place during any restoration works.

The work revealed the Ha-ha wall to be constructed of a single skin of coursed stone rubble, some of which had been well 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 appears 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.

Launde Abbey (SK 797 043)  Neil Finn

Excavation of a trench for the installation of an electricity cable within the chapel at Launde Abbey exposed part of an alabaster memorial slab, the corner of a second memorial slab and an associated floor surface. The chapel was constructed in the thirteenth century as a side chapel to the twelfth-century priory church of St John the Baptist.

The service trench ran diagonally across the white alabaster slab, exposing its north-east corner. An incised design on this represented the lower portion (feet end) of a figure wearing a cope with decorated edging. This was recognisable as a stone illustrated by John Nichols in his History and Antiquities of the County of Leicester (vol. 3, part 1, published in 1800), being one of six memorial slabs set into the floor visible at that time. Nichols gives the following description:

A large white stone, or alabaster, with the traces of one of the priors of this house, in his habit; his hands joined, his head upon a tasselled cushion, at each corner of which is a cross croslet.

Nichols provides the then legible portion of the black letter inscription around the margin of the stone (though this is not shown in his illustration), which is translated in John C. Hughes’s Launde Abbey: The Story of the Abbey (1998, 92) as follows:

Pray for the soul of Hum (or Will) G... on the ........ day of the month of October in 1482 A.D. on whose soul may god have mercy. Amen.

It is not certain which of the priors of Launde this stone commemorates. According to the Victoria County History, Thomas Frisby is recorded as prior in documents dated between 1464 and 1478, and Robert Northampton is recorded as prior in a document of 1482–83 (VCH vol. 2, 1954). Neither of these is remotely similar to Hum (presumably short for Humphrey) or Will G... of the inscription, even allowing for some difficulty in reading the black letter script. The
slab may therefore commemorate another, otherwise unknown, prior who was in 
post for a brief period after 1478 and who, on his death in 1482, was succeeded by 
Robert Northampton.

On the east side of the alabaster stone was a second memorial slab, of which 
only the corner was exposed within the service trench. Nichols records this as:

…a blue stone, on which are traces of a figure in armour, with helmet, crest, and 
mantle; a large cross above his head, eight shields of arms, and illegible inscription 
round the ledge, all deeply sunk in the stone; but the brasses torn off’ (Nichols 
1800, 327).

Part of an early floor surface also survived. This included a number of medieval 
decorated tiles, though worn to the degree that their designs were unidentifiable.

Previously it had been assumed that the memorial slabs set into the chapel 
floor at Launde were removed when the chapel was restored in 1839–40. It is now 
clear that the floor level was raised at that time and all of the slabs described by 
Nichols are likely to survive in situ.

References

Nichols, J., 1800 The History and Antiquities of the County of Leicester, vol. 3, 
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Leicester Forest East (SK 521 024) A. D. H. Bartlett

A geophysical survey was carried out by Bartlett-Clark Consultancy due to 
proposed development. The survey was largely negative. A single possible ditch- 
like feature was recorded running parallel to one of the field boundaries (its 
alignment suggests that it is post-medieval in date) and there are some dispersed 
possible pits. Overall, the site appears to have a low archaeological potential.

Little Bowden, 32 The Heights (SP 745 866) Rosemary Culkin

Two test pits were dug in the back garden of 32, The Heights by Great Bowden 
Heritage & Archaeology Group. No archaeological features were revealed, 
although a range of finds including 11 sherds of Roman pottery, seven pieces of 
worked flint and a selection of post-medieval/modern pottery indicated past 
activity in the vicinity.

Loughborough, Dishley Grange (SK 5125 2147) Chris Jones

An archaeological evaluation was undertaken by NA on land at Dishley Grange. 
There was an isolated urned cremation burial, dated to the middle of the second 
millennium BC, placing it at the early to middle Bronze Age transition
(1610–1430 cal BC, 95 per cent confidence, 3240 ± 40 BP, Beta-276039). Other features, dating to the late Iron Age/Roman period, were concentrated in the northern part of the area. Pottery suggests that occupation began in the mid first century AD and continued through the second century. Although there is some later pottery it was not found in very large quantities, perhaps suggesting that there was a decline of activity after the late second century. The settlement comprised a complex of intercutting enclosure/boundary ditches and related features, probably a small rural, agricultural settlement. Although the geophysical survey had indicated the presence of hearths, kilns or other industrial remains, no such features were found. X.A155.2009.

**Loughborough, land at Loughborough University (SK 51 7 186)**  
_Melanie Biggs and Claire Graham_

A gradiometry survey was carried out by Stratascan on 0.9ha of land on Loughborough University Campus. The site was magnetically very noisy—there was a large amount of magnetic debris. Two small positive area anomalies were noted in the south of the site, and a positive linear anomaly was noted in the north. It is possible that these features may be pits and ditches related to archaeological activity. The magnetic debris may have been masking further features.

**Loughborough, Wood Gate/Beehive Lane (SK 53 65 1934)**  
_Tim Higgins_

An archaeological field evaluation was undertaken by ULAS in advance of proposed new school buildings. Four trenches were excavated in an area defined as having archaeological potential, as it was close to the medieval settlement core of Loughborough. The trial trenching revealed two probable ditches, one late medieval and one early post-medieval, together with stone wall foundations possibly associated with cottages of the eighteenth to nineteenth centuries. X.A70.2010.

**Lubenham, Wind Tree Farm, near Gartree (SP 71 1882)**  
_Richard Smalley_

A gradiometer survey was undertaken by Stratascan over approximately 7.6ha of land near Gartree in response to proposals for a new wind farm. The survey identified a number of features likely to be related to a Second World War airfield known to be in the location. A number of positive and negative anomalies also identified within the survey data suggest the presence of cut features and former earthworks of a possible archaeological origin within the site.

**Market Harborough, Airfield Farm (SP 72 1891)**  
_Adrian Butler_

An archaeological geophysical survey on land at Airfield Farm was conducted by NA. Magnetometry of a 41.9ha area revealed two enclosure systems, with
associated roundhouses and internal features, and possible round barrows. Extensive medieval ridge and furrow cultivation was identified across the whole area. X.A25.2010.

**Market Harborough, Airfield Farm** (SP 7188 8844) *Jason Clarke*

An archaeological trial trench evaluation was carried out by NA on land at Airfield Farm. Two areas of occupation were identified. The first comprised Iron Age sub-rectangular enclosures with internal pits and gullies, with unenclosed ring gullies. The small assemblage of pottery recovered dated the features to the middle/late Iron Age, fourth to first centuries BC. To the east a Roman settlement comprised enclosure ditches and internal features, with the small pottery assemblage dated to the second to fourth centuries AD. Towards the north, two undated ring ditches were present. The site was traversed by furrows of former medieval ridge and furrow cultivation. X.A171.2010.

**Market Harborough, Clack Hill** (SP 7510 8690) *Adrian Butler*

Archaeological geophysical survey was conducted by NA at Clack Hill. Magnetometry of a 3.1ha area reflected the pronounced existing ridge and furrow cultivation earthworks comprising five separate furlongs with dividing headlands. A possible droveway and an anomaly indicating a possible ditch were also detected. OASIS 72818.

**Market Harborough, Stan’s Field, Leicester Lane** (SP 4725 28950) *Rosemary Culkin*

Great Bowden Heritage & Archaeology carried out fieldwalking on Stan’s Field over two sessions in September 2009 and November 2010. The field was originally divided between three parishes, Market Harborough, Foxton and Lubenham raising the possibility that the original Leicester Road followed the parish boundaries through the field rather than its present route. No evidence for this was found in the distribution of pottery. A field pond had been filled in and the field housed a building associated with the Second World War airfield nearby. A barn is now on this site. The pottery found was mostly medieval and post-medieval, with a wide variety of pottery types.

**Market Harborough, St Luke’s Hospital** (SP 7250 8790) *Vicki Score*

ULAS undertook a watching brief during the groundworks for remedial work to remove asbestos at St Luke’s Hospital. The area was the former site of the Union Workhouse, and associated foundations, floors and service trenches were recorded. However, despite being in an area of archaeological significance, nothing earlier than the nineteenth-century workhouse foundations were recorded and it is likely that the ground had been levelled prior to this. XA76.2010.
Hallaton Field Work Group (HFWG) undertook a geophysical survey at Far Close, Medbourne, north-west of the village, to try and follow a trackway that appears to lead from the small Roman town of Medbourne towards Hallaton. The survey appears to have picked up a trackway which disappears under the disused railway track to the north (Fig. 13). Local rumour suggests that a Navvy Camp existed alongside the railway, but no evidence of that appears on the geophysics, although a scatter of nineteenth-century pottery and rubbish was noticed halfway down the railway line.

As part of an ongoing project by the Hallaton Field Work Group (HFWG), a geophysical survey has been carried out on various areas along the supposed route of the Gartrree Roman road running across the countryside towards Medbourne (Fig. 14). Surveys have been done on fields adjoining the road at Glooston (SP742 957), the area behind Crossborough Hill (SP750 951) and on the opposite side of the ford (SP744 955). As the window for surveying some arable fields is short due to direct drilling, many of the potential areas for survey have not been able to be carried out this season. Work has started on the area from the Slawston/Medbourne boundary (SP786 933), where survey identified a double-ditched feature approximately 20m wide south of the Slawston Road. Two sub-rectangular features lie on a different alignment to the possible trackway and further features have been identified to the north.
Medbourne, The Seeds (SP 789 934)  
C. Royall

A watching brief was carried out during excavation of a pit 7m x 3.4m x 0.75m deep behind a new barn at The Seeds. Although no archaeological features were identified, metal-detecting on the spoil recovered one, very worn, late Roman coin.

Melton Mowbray, land east of Burton Road (SK 767 180)  
Jeremy Hefford

A large field to the east of Burton Road and north of Burton Lazars was fieldwalked by the Melton Fieldworker Group. A general scatter of medieval and post-medieval pottery was recovered, probably reflecting manuring of the fields associated with Burton Lazars in the medieval period. A few struck flints and a small collection of Romano-British sherds hinted at earlier activity.

Fig. 14. Geophysical survey attempting to identify the line of the Gartree Roman road between Slawston and Medbourne.
Melton Mowbray, Burton Street (SK 7531 1887)  
Chris Clay

Allen Archaeology Ltd carried a programme of trial trenching on behalf of Melton Borough Council as a final phase of evaluation in advance of the construction of new council offices on a former car park site off Burton Street. Previous evaluation in the area had identified significant evidence for Late Saxon and medieval settlement and agriculture on the periphery of the town. Three trenches were excavated, exposing a migrating roadside ditch parallel to Burton Street, and another ditch extending to the west, containing small quantities of thirteenth/fourteenth century pottery. The ditches were sealed by a flood deposit and a deep layer of material interpreted as upcast from the construction of the Melton Canal. The trenching also exposed a very large steep sided pit, interpreted as a possible quarry pit associated with the construction of the nearby Melton Canal in 1791. A subsequent auger survey and watching brief has recently been completed and will be reported on in due course. X.A92.2010.

Melton Mowbray, White House Farm, Samworth Way (SK 736 179)  
Richard Sheppard

A watching brief was carried out by Trent & Peak Archaeology on the hand excavation of 145 post holes for a new fence. Nineteen postholes contained pottery. There was a concentration of medieval sherds (19 sherds) to the north of the farm. A further nine sherds of medieval pottery were found in three other areas. There was also a small quantity of post medieval/modern pottery. X.A124.2010.

Misterton, Poultny Farm (SP 574 849)  
Brian Burningham

A field at Poultny Farm, Misterton, was surveyed by Lutterworth Fieldworker Group. This proved very difficult to walk as it lay adjacent to a disused gravel pit and had a covering of natural flint. However, a scatter of flint flakes, blades and cores, plus a number of scrapers, was recovered. Some of the scrapers were made from primary flakes and included one unusually large example. The flint finds also included a well-preserved leaf-shaped arrowhead. The survey hoped to find some evidence relating to the nearby DMV. Some medieval pottery was found, but not enough to confirm the location of activities relating to the village. Roman pottery was also collected, although there is no known evidence of Roman settlement nearby.

Mountsorrel, land at Halstead Road (SK 574 144)  
James Ladocha

A gradiometry survey was carried out on three fields by NA in advance of residential development. Most of the anomalies detected related to agricultural use. There are some linear anomalies (old field boundaries), evidence for a late post-medieval/modern trackway, the site of a small modern brick structure and
evidence for ridge and furrow. Weak pit-like anomalies in Field 3 (the easternmost field) probably reflected geology rather than being archaeological.

Subsequent fieldwalking, carried out by ULAS, revealed a medium-density scatter of worked flint within the eastern area of the site. In addition to this a low level of late medieval and post-medieval pottery was identified across the entire survey area. X.A6.2010.

**Muston, Main Street** (SK 8281 3806)  
*Paul Cope-Faulkner*

Monitoring and recording was undertaken by APS during groundworks for a new stable block and holiday homes in the historic core of Muston, close to the scheduled earthwork remains of a medieval moated grange. A ditch was revealed but was undated. No corresponding boundaries are shown on historic maps for the area, however, so the ditch may be an early feature. The site appeared to have been stripped previously. Unstratified pieces of Roman and medieval pottery were recovered, together with a larger collection of post-medieval artefacts.

**Nether Broughton, 5 Church End** (SK 6948 2602)  
*Anne Foard-Colby*

An archaeological investigation was undertaken by NA on land at 5 Church End. A strip, plan and sample excavation was carried out after an initial trial trench evaluation to inform a planning application for the demolition of an existing dwelling and erection of a new house. Three principal phases of activity were found, originating with a twelfth-century pattern of boundary ditches. During the fourteenth–fifteenth centuries, one of the boundary ditches was re-cut before falling out of use when the land seems to have been used primarily for pit digging. The last phase of activity dates to the 15th century or later when a re-arrangement of the land was undertaken as evidenced by the building of a series of parallel walls, two forming part of a possible structure and the cutting of a later boundary division. The features found on the site are consistent with its location within the medieval core of the village, but evidence for earlier occupation is hinted at by the presence of early/middle Saxon pottery and Ipswich ware. X.A45.2010.

**Newtown Linford, Lawn Wood** (SK 512 098)  
*Carol Simmonds*

A survey of a linear monument that has survived variously as a ditch, bank and ditch or wall and ditch, along the north-east edge of Lawn Wood, was carried out by NA using a total station theodolite. It revealed significant variation in the preservation of the monument, probably as a result of post-medieval degradation through non-maintenance. In places the monument survived as little more than a slight hollow, but at its southern end it was more substantial. Unfortunately at both ends, and for a section in its centre, the monument could not be surveyed owing to vegetation cover or extant buildings. The survey was carried out by Northamptonshire Archaeology for Midland Quarry Products, through Andrew Josephs Ltd.
Oadby, Waitrose Store, Harborough Road (SK 624 005)  

Catherine Edwards

An archaeological evaluation consisting of eight trenches was carried out by AOC Archaeology on the site of a proposed supermarket. Much of the site was found to be disturbed, but several post-medieval features were revealed. Two linear features contained post-medieval slag and a sherd of pottery, while a large possible boundary ditch and associated pit contained animal bone, window glass and white earthenware pottery. A possible soakaway/well, dated to the nineteenth century by its method of construction, was also recorded. X.A4.2010.

Quorn, land at 40 Unit Road (SK 5686 1593)  

Richard Cherrington

During March 2010, Benchmark Archaeology undertook a programme of Archaeological strip, plan and sample excavation on land at 40 Unit Road in advance of development. The site had been identified as an area of significant archaeological potential based on records held by the Leicestershire and Rutland Historic Environment Record (HER). This was confirmed by a recent Archaeological Evaluation on the site (also by Benchmark Archaeology), which identified significant archaeological deposits, including an inhumation burial, dating to the Roman period.

Archaeological excavation on the site has produced further evidence of Roman settlement to the south of the River Soar at Quorn. Four Roman features comprising a ditch/gully, ditch, inhumation burial and a pit were identified and sample excavated. The majority of the excavated features were dated to the first half of the second century AD based on the recovered pottery. Many of these features also contained residual Late Iron Age and first-century pottery, suggesting pre-Roman activity or occupation on or near to the site. The preceding evaluation also identified third-century activity on the site in the form of unstratified pottery. Very little medieval or pre-modern pottery was recovered from the site, suggesting abandonment of the site after the third century.

Of particular interest was the identification of the inhumation burial. This north-south aligned grave contained a single individual with part of a c. AD 60–130 wheel-turned jar, serving as a grave good, lying next to the head. Two nail fragments were also associated. The residual pottery in the grave has all been dated to the first century, which may suggest a similar date for the jar and therefore the burial. The skeletal remains were in an extremely poor condition, which only survived as fragmentary stains and could therefore not be lifted for osteological analysis. A further inhumation burial was identified immediately to the south-east of the site (MLE836), which may suggest that the development area lies within or on the periphery of a former burial ground. If this is so, it would be expected that quantities of disarticulated human bone would have been recovered from the examined generated spoil. The absence of this material, however, is probably due to soil conditions not being conducive to bone preservation. The conditions may also explain the absence of any animal bone.

The recovery of metallurgical slag suggests industrial activity on or in the immediate vicinity of the site in the Late Iron Age or Roman period. This material
appears to be residual and was probably introduced into the Roman features during backfilling/silting. The assemblage is too small to arrive at any definitive conclusions about the precise technology involved. It is likely, however, that it is derived from smithing rather than smelting.

While the scale of the excavations was very small, it is felt that some theories regarding function and phasing can be postulated. The emerging picture is one of Late Iron Age activity/occupation on the site, as demonstrated by residual first-century BC and first-century AD pottery recovered from later Roman features. The earliest Roman activity is probably represented by the inhumation burial which is thought to date to the first century, when the site may have been used exclusively as a burial ground. At this time the site may have lain on the periphery of the early Roman settlement and was therefore used as a cemetery. The remaining Roman features are second century in date and represent a phase of occupation on the site, presumably indicating expansion of the settlement at this time. XA188.2009.

**Ratby, land off Ferndale Drive (SK 513 064)**

Jon Coward

A strip, plan and sample exercise was carried out by ULAS on land east of Ferndale Drive in advance of residential development. The excavations revealed an early Roman enclosure and evidence for an associated Roman masonry building; however, it was clear that only one corner of the enclosure had survived, the rest having been destroyed by the cutting for the M1 motorway adjacent. XA244.2009.

**Rothley, Brookfield Farm, Hallfields Lane (SK 585 122)**

Adrian Butler and Heather Small

Northamptonshire Archaeology was commissioned by University of Leicester Archaeological Services, to conduct an archaeological survey on 16ha of land at Brookfield Farm, Rothley. A possible palaeochannel of Rothley Brook and a former woodland track were located. Ridge and furrow cultivation was widespread across the fields. Otherwise, little of archaeological interest was found.

**Rothley, 3 Swithland Lane (SK 5684 1240)**

Tim Higgins

Two phases of archaeological watching brief were undertaken by ULAS during groundwork for a new extension at 3 Swithland Lane. The first phase revealed a scatter of large granite stones and a ditch containing mid to late second-century Roman pottery and tile in the foundation trench for the southern gable end of the extension, located 125m to the north of Rothley Roman villa. Similar deposits of granite rubble were exposed in the construction trench for the northern gable end. The house is located approximately 125m to the north of a known Roman villa, to which the layers and ditch may be associated. X.A23.2010.
Rothley, Temple Grange (SK 58817 12357)  
Gavin Speed

Excavations carried out by ULAS at Temple Grange, Rothley have revealed evidence for a Neolithic settlement, including a circular structure dated by Grooved Ware pottery and $^{14}$C samples to c. 2700–2500 BC (Fig. 15). Surrounding this was evidence for at least a further two structures, along with numerous pits containing significant quantities of artefacts. Later settlement evidence included Iron Age and Roman boundary ditches, and an Anglo-Saxon Sunken-Featured Building. XA.10.2010.

Fig. 15. Plan of Neolithic circular structure discovered at Temple Grange, Rothley.
Scraptoft, land east of Pulford Drive (SK 651 047)  Richard Smalley

A geophysical survey was carried out by Stratascan in an area of proposed residential development. Three parallel anomalies, characteristic of cut features such as ditches, were noted just north of the stream that cuts the site in two. Various features indicating ridge and furrow were noted. Also, there were some anomalies interpreted as possible pits. Most of the features of interest were in the northern half of the site.

Scraptoft, Station Road (SK 6485 0530)  Ian Fisher and Tim Upson-Smith

Archaeological evaluation was conducted by NA on land to the east of Station Road, prior to the development of the land for housing and a recreation area. A geophysical survey had identified the remains of medieval ridge and furrow cultivation and a number of anomalies of possible archaeological significance. Excavation demonstrated that the majority of these anomalies were caused by variations in the glacial clays and silts. At the northern end of the site, a large pit dated to the early/middle Saxon containing pottery and animal bone was encountered, and one of the curvilinear anomalies in the same trench was shown to be a small gully that may be of the same date. The medieval field system was heavily denuded and furrows were only clearly identified in one trench. X.A129.2010.

Scraptoft, land at Station Road (SK 648 052)  Ian Fisher

A geophysical survey was carried out by NA on four fields proposed for housing development. Field 1 (the southern field) contained a curvilinear anomaly that might represent an enclosure ditch and four anomalies that indicate possible pits. Ridge and furrow were identified, running north/south and east/west. In Field 2, ridge and furrow running north/south and two ferrous objects were noted. No archaeological features were detected in Field 3, though there was an anomaly caused by brick debris from a former building. Field 4 (the northern field) contained a curvilinear feature that might indicate the presence of an enclosure ditch. Ridge and furrow running north/south was also detected.

Scraptoft and Thurnby, land to the east of Pulford Drive (SK 656 051 centre)  Jon Coward

Following a geophysical survey and fieldwalking of this site, an archaeological evaluation by trial trenching was carried out by ULAS in advance of development. Although most of the trenches were negative, a linear anomaly located during the geophysical survey was confirmed to be a ditch, several post holes or pits were revealed in a tight cluster and features typical of a Bronze Age Burnt Mound were revealed next to an original course of a stream on the north-western edge of the area (Fig. 16). No dating evidence was recovered. The archive will be deposited under accession code X.A186.2010 with LMARS in due course.
Sileby, Stanage Road (SK 5740 1450)  
Adrian Butler

Northamptonshire Archaeology conducted archaeological geophysical survey on land at Stanage Road. Magnetometry of a 2.7ha area revealed little archaeology other than evidence of ridge and furrow cultivation.

Sileby, land at Stanage Road (SK 612 154)  
Adrian Butler and James Ladocha

A geophysical survey was carried out by NA on the area of proposed residential development. Remains of ridge and furrow agriculture were revealed, but otherwise there was little other evidence for archaeological remains.

Slawston (SK 790 042)  
C. Ponting and C. Royall

Hallaton Field Work Group have continued a geophysical survey of fields south-west of the village of Slawston (Fig. 17). The survey has produced a large amount of anomalies, including a large circular feature with a possible inner ring of pits and linear features to the north and east. A possible trackway defined by parallel ditches has been identified to the west, while further enclosures exist to the east and north of the large circular feature.
South Kilworth, land adjacent to the Congregational Church, Welford Road (SP 605 818)  

Jason Clarke

An archaeological watching brief was carried out by NA on groundworks for three new houses. Two walls were recorded, which appear to be the remains of a cellared building and boundary wall. A building is shown here on OS maps between 1892 and 1952. Nineteenth-century pottery was noted in the topsoil and subsoil around one of the walls. X.A19.2010.

Stoney Stanton, land off The Fleet (SP 493 952)  

Melanie Biggs and Simon Haddrell

A gradiometry survey was carried out by Stratascan in advance of development. The survey recorded ridge and furrow running roughly north to south across the field, but otherwise the results were largely negative.
Stoney Stanton, land off The Fleet (SP 493 953 centre)  
Jon Coward

A fieldwalking survey was carried out by ULAS on land east of The Fleet in response to proposals for residential development. A very sparse scatter of medieval to early post-medieval pottery was recovered, together with a single flint, and larger amounts of post-medieval to modern pottery and ceramic building material. X.A38.2010.

Swinford Wind Farm (SP 575 815)  
Andrew Hyam

An archaeological field evaluation was undertaken by ULAS on a proposed wind farm at Swinford after a geophysical survey had highlighted the potential of the site. The work consisted of trial trenching which took place at each turbine site and at a temporary construction compound, to identify and locate any archaeological remains that may be affected by the development.

At each turbine site two trenches following a cruciform plan were excavated, along with one located on the site of an associated construction crane. Where geophysical surveying indicated the possibility of archaeological features an additional trench was specified. Two single trenches were located at the construction compound.

No archaeological features or deposits were observed within the trenches at Turbine sites 1, 2, 3, 6, 7, 8, 10 and the construction compound. A number of later first and early second-century Roman ditches, gullies and other features were identified at Turbine 4, which were possibly associated with settlement activity. A single undated gully was noted at Turbine 5. Two ditches were observed at Turbine 9 which, although undated, were possibly associated with a nearby deserted medieval village. Two shallow post holes were also observed at Turbine 11, one of which contained two abraded sherds of mid first-century sandy ware. X.A.177.2010.

Tilton on the Hill, the Rose & Crown, Main Street (SK 7428 0564) Gavin Speed

ULAS carried out an archaeological evaluation by trial trenching on land to the rear of the Rose & Crown as part of an archaeological impact assessment in advance of a proposed development. The evaluation revealed limited archaeological evidence, consisting of an undated pit, gully and post-hole; along with a nineteenth-century pit within three of the six trenches. The site archive will be held by the Leicestershire County Council Heritage Services Section. XA.174.2010.

Ullesthorpe, Lodge Farm (SK 499 871)  
Brian Burningham

Lutterworth Fieldworker Group undertook a fieldwalking survey of land at Lodge Farm. The field produced a good range of worked flint, including several scrapers and two beautiful undamaged barbed and tanged arrowheads. In addition, a scatter of Roman, Anglo-Saxon, medieval and post-medieval pottery was
recorded. A worked piece of stone was initially thought to be a polished stone axe, having an unusual rectangular cross section; however, this has since been identified as a possible pottery polisher.

West Langton, Market Harborough, Leicestershire (SP 7148 9207)
Rachael Seager Smith (Wessex Archaeology)

In July 2010, Channel 4’s ‘Time Team’ undertook an archaeological evaluation on land at West Langton, Market Harborough. In the 1970s, small-scale excavations had revealed the remains of a poorly-preserved Romano-British villa at this location. Anglo-Saxon artefacts, particularly metalwork, had also been found in the area, providing evidence for a possible settlement and cemetery to the south of the villa.

Fieldwork consisted of nine machine-excavated trial trenches, combined with geophysical, landscape and topographic surveys. The earliest feature discovered was a long sinuous ditch on the hilltop to the south of Langton Brook; its irregular course suggests that it is unrelated to either the Romano-British or Anglo-Saxon activity known in the area, and it is most likely to represent part of an enclosure or other landscape boundary of later prehistoric date.

To the north of the brook, the results of the 1970s trial trenching were confirmed, establishing the presence of substantial, though poorly preserved, Romano-British structures with stone walls and tessellated floors (Fig. 18), and

Fig. 18. Part of the remains of the Roman building, including heavily robbed foundations and a cobbled surface.
associated field boundaries and garden plots on regular, rectangular alignments. Artefacts suggest that these remains are predominantly of late third or fourth century AD date.

One badly truncated inhumation burial was also discovered in an area where previous finds had highlighted the possibility of an Anglo-Saxon cemetery. This burial was not conclusively dated, although a late third century AD coin may have been found in its immediate vicinity, perhaps suggesting it to be late Romano-British.

At least seven Anglo-Saxon inhumation burials were found on the hilltop to the south of the brook, as well as a pit containing cremation-related deposits. Bone preservation was very poor, although all individuals appeared to be adults and included both men and women. Grave goods, including a large number of beads, brooches, weaponry and pottery vessels (Figs 19 and 20), suggest a later fifth or sixth century for this cemetery. An L-shaped ditch may have formed part of a small, rectilinear enclosure, or perhaps even the remains of a small structure or shrine associated with the funerary rites in this area.

Despite the close association between the concentrations of Romano-British and Anglo-Saxon fieldwalking finds in the fields straddling Langton Brook, no direct evidence for continuity of activity between these periods was revealed by the evaluation. XA.122.2010.

![Image of grave goods](image)

**Fig. 19.** Grave goods (cruciform brooches and beads) *in situ* within an Anglo-Saxon grave.
Whetstone, land at Dog and Gun Lane (SP 559 957)

Adrian Butler
and Charlotte Walker

A geophysical survey was carried out by NA on the site of a proposed housing development. Remnants of ridge and furrow agriculture were revealed, although the survey was largely negative.

Witherley, Roman villa site (SP 328 978)

Hinckley Archaeological Society

Fieldwalking by the Hinckley Archaeological Society, on the site of a Roman villa north of Witherley, produced 776 pieces of Roman material. This included c. 642 sherds of pottery, 80 pieces of ceramic building material, 15 pieces of flue tile, four pieces of possible opus signinum and 35 tesserae.

Historic Building Recording

**Barrow upon Soar**
5 Bridge Street (SK 5744 1728) ULAS

**Beeby**
The Old Rectory (SK 664 083) ULAS

**Bitteswell**
Outbuildings at West End Farm, West End (SP 5358 8597) ULAS

**Castle Donington**
Boundary wall at Towles Pastures (SK 443 271) CgMs Consulting (East Mids)

**Cosby**
Cosby Barn, Croft Road (SP 546 947) TR Projects
Countesthorpe Outbuilding at The Water Tower, The Drive, Cosby Road (SP 570 958) ULAS
Donisthorpe The Grange, Church Street (SK 3132 1384) ULAS
Groby The Pool House, Newtown Linford Lane (SK 520 080) Trigpoint Conservation & Planning Ltd
Hemington 6 Church Lane (SK 45692 27759) Trigpoint Conservation & Planning Ltd
Higham on the Hill Elms Farm, 70 Main Street (SP 381 954) TR Projects
Higham on the Hill Canterbury House Coach House, 117 Main Street (SP 384 955) ULAS
Hinckley Council Offices, Argents Mead (SP 4285 9380) ULAS
Hinckley Great Meeting Place Chapel (SP 426 940) NA
Kirby Bellars Poplars Farm (SK 730 159) ULAS
Lyddington Home Farm, Main Street (SP 8751 9697) NA
Markfield Buildings at Lower Grange Farm, London Road (SK 489 094) ULAS
Oxbaston Home Farm, Hall Lane (SK 425 043) Trigpoint Conservation & Planning Ltd
Shepshed Lifeguardsman Public House, 55 Brook Street (SK 480 199) Trent & Peak Archaeology
Stathern Methodist Chapel, Chapel Lane (SK 7702 3113) Allen Archaeology Ltd
Swannington Breach Farm, Limby Hall Lane (SK 406 161) Trigpoint Conservation & Planning Ltd
Stoke Golding Higham Fields Farm (SP 400 959) TR Projects
Twyford Twyford Manor, Church Lane (SK 7306 1014) ULAS
Waltham-on-the-Wolds Church Farm, 10 Melton Road (SK 801 250) ULAS
Welby Welby Grange Farm, Welby Road (SK 730 211) Trigpoint Conservation & Planning Ltd

Negative watching briefs and evaluations in Leicestershire
(undertaken by ULAS unless otherwise stated)

Barrow upon Soar: 5 Bridge Street (SK 5744 1728); Barwell: Land adjacent to Hinckley Road (SP 4383 9667 – SP 4257 9668); Belton: 37 Long Street/Tylers Road (SK 4464 2057); Birstall: Longslade Community College, Wanlip Lane (SK 597 103); Bitteswell: Manor Court, Lutterworth Road (SK 539 857); Blaby: 55–57 Sycamore Street (SP 568 977); Burrough-on-the-Hill: 4 Main Street (SK 7561 1061); Bushby: 905–905a Uppingham Road (SK 656 039) (NA); Bushby: 907–909 Uppingham Road (SK 657 039) (NA); Countesthorpe: Land off Borrowcup Lane (SP 573 960); Croft: Land adjacent to 2 Hill Street (SP 51250 96020); Diseworth: 4 Ladygate (SK 453 243); Earl Shilton: 8 Mill Lane (SP 4720 9810); Fleckney: The Co-op, 26–30 High Street (SP 648 935) (NA); Glenfield: Glenfield Primary School, Stamford Road (SK 53972 05904); Great Dalby: Great Dalby Primary School, Top End (SK 741 145); Gumley: Westfield, Main Street
(SP 682 899); Hallaton: Castle View Forge, Goadby Road (SP 782 968); Harby: Land adjacent to 4 Burden Lane (SK 7471 3111); Hathern: Cross House, 62 Cross Street (SK 502 223); Hinckley: Sword Drive (SP 417 952); Hungarton: Land north of Main Street (SK 6884 0723); Husbands Bosworth: Old Barn Farm, Welford Road (SP 641 822); Ilston-on-the-Hill: Thistle House, Kibworth Road (SP 7096 9805); Knossington: Sconsborough Hill Farm, Somerby Road (SK 7932 0912); Leicester Forest East: Beggars Lane (SK 5230 0240) (NA); Loughborough: Loughborough University, University Road (SK 5171 186); Medbourne: 40 Main Street (SP 80040 93250); Narborough: Coventry Road (SP 535 974) (APS); Newtown Linford: Tyburn Cottage, 7 Main Street (SK 520 098); Orton-on-the-Hill: Pipe Lane (SP 430525 303760); Osgathorpe: Land at Snarrows Road (SK 432 190); Peatling Parva: The Croft, Main Street (SP 594 928) (Phoenix Consulting Archaeology Ltd); Queniborough: 31 Main Street (SK 647 122); Rotherby: 33 Main Street (SK 6763 1668); Rothley: Six Acres, 17 The Ridgeway (SK 572 124); Sharnford: Land off Mill Lane (SP 4834 9210) (Allen Archaeology Ltd); Seagrave: Land adjacent to Paudy Lane & Berrycott Lane (SK 6247 1955); Shepshed: 55 Brook Street (SK 480 200); Shepshed: 22–24 Loughborough Road (SK 4801 1983); Somerby: Three Crowns Inn, Main Street (SK 766 105); Stoke Golding: Park House (SP 396 969) (NA); Stoney Stanton: Land off The Fleet (SP 493 953); Stoney Stanton: Land north of Station Road (SP 485 950); Walcote: Walcote Lodge, Brook Street (SP 567 840) (NA); 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, 2 Cottesmore Road (SK 865 139) Paul Cope-Faulkner

An archaeological watching brief was undertaken by APS during groundworks for a new greenhouse and summerhouse. Groundworks for the greenhouse recorded a quarry pit cut by an oval pit containing twelfth–thirteenth-century pottery and fragments of animal bone. The summerhouse groundworks also recorded two recent foundation trenches. OAKRM:2010.10.

Ashwell, The Old Hall, 2 Cottesmore Road (SK 865 139) Gary Taylor

Following previous trial trenching on site by APS (see TLAHS 84), the area of a proposed tractor store and workshop was stripped and recorded archaeologically. Extensions to the ditches/gullies found in the earlier investigation were revealed. The earliest of these, perhaps of Late Saxon (ninth–tenth century) date, was aligned northeast-southwest. This was crossed by three further ditches, all aligned east-west, dating between the tenth and twelfth centuries, but which were perhaps created in sequence rather than being open at the same time. These ditches were all
in the southern part of the investigation area, nearest to the hall. Only a pit of the
ninth–eleventh century and possible post-hole of eleventh–twelfth century date
were found north of the ditch complex. This suggests that these linear features
formed a limit to concentrated Late Saxon and medieval settlement activity, which
was probably focused to the south, around the hall. A single Neolithic flint core
fragment was also found. OAKRM:2009.16.


Fieldwalking was carried out on these three fields in Ayston parish by Rutland
Local History and Record Society; 633 struck flint pieces dating from the Upper
Palaeolithic/Early Mesolithic to the Bronze Age were recovered. A Roman-British
iron smelting site was marked by a surface concentration of iron slag about 150m
in diameter associated with over a hundred sherds of Roman pottery and tile.
Two early Saxon pot sherds were also found.

Ayston, 3, Main Street (SK 860 009) Richard Sheppard

A strip, plan and sample exercise was conducted by Trent & Peak Archaeology
adjacent to a cottage with seventeenth-century origins. A house was shown here
on early twentieth-century photographs, the northern wall of which was re-used
as a boundary wall. Though much of the area had been disturbed by an oil tank,
remains of walls, a corner padstone and flooring were noted. Two sherds of post-
medieval pottery were also recovered.

Barleythorpe, land north of Oakham (SK 855 100) Steve Malone

A geophysical survey was undertaken by APS over areas of proposed residential
development and associated works on land at Barleythorpe and North Oakham,
Rutland. The survey comprised some 30ha in total.

A magnetic survey was generally successful, with a good range of responses
evident in the surveyed data and archaeological features identified in a number of
areas. Features identified in Area 1 potentially relate to the Anglo-Saxon remains
identified in prior evaluation trenching, with the form and scale of the features
suggesting further sunken featured structures.

In Area 2 a double ring ditch was identified, potentially a prehistoric ritual
monument. Linear boundary features here are earlier than the medieval ridge and
furrow field systems and presumably relate to some earlier division of the
landscape.

In Areas 3 and 4 a linear boundary feature, at least 500m in length, and
attached rectilinear enclosure with internal features are also earlier than the
medieval field system. Their form suggests a later prehistoric date.

Medieval field systems were strongly represented, with ridge and furrow
patterns showing well across most of the areas.
Barrowden, Bay Tree Cottage, 13 Main Street (SK 948 000)  

Archaeological recording was carried out by Benchmark Archaeology during the construction of a new house, commencing with monitoring of test pits, then the strip, then foundation excavations. Most of the site was protected by overburden, though two pits were noted on the northern edge. These were dated to the tenth century (one contained a sherd of pottery in its fill). Various medieval and post-medieval pottery and some animal bone was also recovered. The pits were probably rubbish pits to the rear of houses along Main Street. OAKRM:2009.17.

Belton-in-Rutland, The Old Hall, 2 Church Street (SK 815 013)  

A watching brief was carried out by APS during excavation of trenches in advance of the installation of a new ground source heat pump system. The work revealed a sequence of undated, medieval and post-medieval deposits. Undated deposits comprised two ditches and three gullies, which were sealed beneath ridge and furrow. The ridge and furrow is likely to be medieval in date, and hence the ditches and gullies are probably earlier. A post-medieval pit and a series of dumped layers forming an earthwork bank, possibly a garden terrace, were also revealed. Finds retrieved during the investigation included medieval pottery and a substantial piece of tap slag, suggesting iron smelting in the area. Post-medieval finds were more numerous and consisted of pottery, brick, glass and stone tile. A single animal bone was also retrieved. OAKRM:2010.25.

Bisbrooke, Village Farm, Main Street (SP 885 995)  

Six trenches were excavated by APS on the site of proposed residential development, two of which contained archaeological features. One contained a north-west/south-east orientated ditch and a pit. The ditch, possibly a boundary feature, contained three sherds of Saxon pottery. An environmental sample taken from the ditch fill produced a small amount of animal bone and hammerscale, along with charred plant remains. In addition to the Saxon sherds recovered from the ditch, further sherds of tenth–eleventh and twelfth–fourteenth-century pottery were recovered from the trench. A second trench contained a large pit/ditch associated with nineteenth/twentieth-century pottery and a sub-circular pit. It was thought that the large pit/ditch feature probably post-dated the 1798 map of Bisbrooke. OAKRM:2010.24.

Braunston, Chestnut Cottage, 10 Wood Lane (SK 833 064)  

A watching brief was undertaken at Chestnut Cottage by ULAS, in conjunction with a Level 2 Historic Building Survey, during groundworks for a new extension. The work revealed a stone-lined well located approximately 6m to the west of the building, but no further archaeological remains were found. OAKRM:2010.13.
Egleton, Barnett’s Farm, Church Lane (SK 876 074)  
Leon Hunt

An archaeological field evaluation was carried out by ULAS at Barnett’s Farm in advance of the construction of a new dwelling and garage. The evaluation consisted of two 1m × 1.5m test pits, excavated by hand within the footprint of the proposed new dwelling. The test pits yielded evidence of a yard surface, which overlay a clay layer and possible feature containing numerous sherds of medieval pottery, mainly dating from the early medieval period.

Following this, a strip, plan and sample excavation was carried out on the site. This located fragments of a limestone surface which may have been added to consolidate the ground. The base of a dry stone wall was also located, which may be part of the original southern wall of the farmyard, or possibly part of a vernacular building such as a pig-sty or barn. Although not closely dated, it is likely that the wall foundations and limestone spread is associated with the early phase of Barnett Farm’s use.

The development did not impact on any of the possible medieval deposits below the limestone surface which were revealed during the test-pit evaluation. Further archaeological control and supervision of groundworks will take place when trenches for services are excavated. OAKRM:2010.2.

Empingham, Audit Hall Road (SK 4444 2779)  
Chris Clay

Allen Archaeology Ltd excavated a single 10m long evaluation trench in advance of the construction of a single dwelling. The site is in the historic core of the village. The trench exposed a Romano-British ditch, two pits containing eleventh/twelfth-century Stamford Ware pottery, and a possible stone structure and associated demolition material of thirteenth–sixteenth century date. OAKRM:2010.32.

Great Casterton, Willow House, Strawson’s Farmyard, Old Great North Road (TF 0014 0895)  
Leon Hunt

Archaeological work was carried out by ULAS on land at Willow House in advance of two extensions and a detached garage being constructed on the site, which lies within the medieval core of Great Casterton and within the Roman town. The three excavation areas revealed a series of make-up layers associated with landscaping during the conversion of Willow House from a barn into a private dwelling. Although no archaeological features were revealed, three sherds of Romano-British grey-ware were recovered from the topsoil within Area 3, suggesting the presence of nearby activity from this period. OAKRM:2010.12.

Hambleton, Lymes Farm, Lyndon Road (SK 897 072)  
Paul Cope-Faulkner

An archaeological evaluation was carried out by APS in advance of construction for an under-floor heating system. Four trenches were excavated, all of which contained finds and/or archaeological features. A sequence of natural, undated,
medieval and post-medieval remains were recorded. There were two medieval
ditches and a pit, a post medieval ditch, and an undated ditch, hollow, post-hole
and gully. Twenty sherds of pottery ranging from Stamford Ware (early medieval)
to Black-glazed wares (1550–1750) were recovered, as well as 15 fragments of
animal bone and one piece of slag. OAKRM:2010.5.

Ketton, land adjacent to Withy Cottage, 20, Geeston Road (SK 987 042)
Mark Peachey

Two trenches were excavated on the site of a proposed new house. The ground
had been built up and much of the site consisted of modern material. Although no
archaeological features were noted, three sherds of medieval pottery dating to the
twelfth/thirteenth century and the bowl of a late seventeenth-century clay pipe
were recovered. OAKRM:2010.24.

Lyddington, land at 44a Main Street (SP 874 973) Gavin Speed

ULAS carried out an archaeological evaluation on land to the rear of 44a Main
Street as part of an archaeological impact assessment in advance of a proposed
development. The work identified Saxo-Norman activity, consisting of four
ditches/gullies and two pits all dated by pottery to the tenth–twelfth centuries AD.
Residual Roman pottery was also recovered from one of these features. OAKRM:2010.15.

Oakham Castle (SK 865 090) Jon Coward

An archaeological watching brief was undertaken by ULAS at Oakham Castle
during groundworks associated with the installation of exterior lighting. Little
impact was made on in-situ archaeological deposits; finds retrieved dated from the
medieval period to the 18th century. OAKRM:2010.9.

Oakham, land at South Street (SK 859 085) C. Clarke

Three trial trenches were excavated on land at South Street by AOC Archaeology.
The evaluation revealed three prehistoric ditches and a Romano-British ditch, as
well as several nineteenth/twentieth-century features including a substantial

Oakham, Vale of Catmose College, Cold Overton Road (SK 8518 0914)
Jim Brown and Jason Clarke

Excavation by NA revealed two areas of settlement with origins in the middle Iron
Age. One of these settlements was subject to full excavation, the other has been
preserved in situ. The excavated site was a small open settlement, probably
containing four roundhouses, although not necessarily all contemporary. The best
preserved example contained a narrow and shallow wall slot terminating at deep doorway post holes. The final arrangement included a D-shaped enclosure. The pottery is dominated by storage jars, some in Scored Ware. It is suggested that occupation spanned the second to first centuries BC. Finds included fragments of one saddle quern and several rotary querns, a triangular loomweight and limited evidence for iron smithing.

In the early first century AD, a boundary division was introduced. At least two roundhouses were present into the early Roman period. The dividing ditch was retained until the mid-second century, when there was a new arrangement created respecting the earlier alignment. In the third and fourth centuries a small Roman settlement comprised a rectangular sub-enclosure, layers of domestic debris and two wells. These were probably related to a timber house for which all direct traces had been lost. A small assemblage of ceramic roof tile survived. A single inhumation burial lay nearby. Domestic items included a scalpel, tweezers, a lead weight and fragments from rotary querns. OAKRM:2008.58.

Rutland Water, near Egleton, Lagoon B (SK 881 080)  
Chris Jones

Two archaeological sites (Sites 1 and 2) were excavated by NA prior to the construction of a new lagoon (Lagoon B) to the west of Rutland Water, near Egleton. Site 1 was a large, sub-rectangular Iron Age enclosure with a small ring ditch, probably the remains of a roundhouse, outside the entrance on its eastern side. Pottery from the enclosure ditch suggests that it dates to the end of the middle Iron Age, the second and first centuries BC.

Site 2, c. 150m to the south-west, comprised the remains of a circular stone building, probably a Romano-British shrine. It was constructed in the second century AD and was surrounded by a rectangular enclosure. The building contained over 200 Roman coins, part of a bronze figurine, probably of the goddess Minerva or the god Mars, a lead curse tablet, Roman pottery vessels and animal bone, some of it articulated. At the end of the second century the enclosure was replaced by a more substantial ditched enclosure, and an additional, smaller enclosure, containing a small rectangular timber building, was constructed to the north. The shrine fell out of use towards the end of the fourth or early in the fifth century AD. A grave in the centre of the circular building, containing the remains of a young adult male, probably dates to the fifth or sixth century AD. The furrows of medieval open-field cultivation were also identified. OAKRM:2009.14.

Rutland Water, near Egleton, Lagoon C (SK 881 064)  
Chris Jones

An archaeological evaluation was carried out by Northamptonshire Archaeology on farmland to the west of Rutland Water, near Egleton, prior to the construction of a new lagoon (Lagoon C). The evaluation formed part of a programme of archaeological investigation and mitigation associated with the Rutland Water Habitat Creation Scheme. There were the remains of a medieval open-field system, surviving as a regular pattern of furrows beneath the subsoil, identified across
most of the site; the furrows shown by the geophysical survey in the north-eastern part of the site had largely been ploughed away, leaving no discernible trace. A small ditch in the north-east corner corresponds with a field boundary shown on a late 19th-century Ordnance Survey map of the area, suggesting that it is an eighteenth or nineteenth-century Enclosure ditch. OAKRM:2009.14.

**Thistleton, Top Yard, Silverwood Farm (SK 9100 1830)**  
*Timothy Higgins*

An archaeological watching brief, undertaken by ULAS in advance of construction for a new corn store, revealed an extensive area of parallel linear trenches thought to be potential cultivation features or lazy beds (Fig. 21). Previous evaluative work on the site in 2008 had located a number of small, shallow gullies, only one of which provided dating material – a single sherd of shell-tempered pottery that probably dated to the late Iron Age. The lack of finds and the absence of any associated pit/post-hole type features suggested that the remains were probably not indicative of settlement activity (Harvey 2008). The site was located close to the crossroads of Fosse Lane and Thistleton Road, both former Roman roads.

In December 2010 a large area was stripped as part of the initial groundworks for the corn store foundations and yard on the west side of the farm. The complex of parallel trenches, spaced between 3m and 4m apart, was revealed c. 0.30m below the present ground surface. These parallel trenches were the same shallow gully-type features first revealed in the evaluation, and appeared to be laid out in two separate areas of varying orientation. The largest concentration of parallel ditches covered an area of c. 945m² and was located towards the eastern half of the stripped area. These lay on a south-west to north-east orientation, although the full extent of the complex could not be determined as it extended eastwards beneath the existing farmyard.

A smaller and apparently separate area of parallel trenches, covering an area of c. 105m², was exposed immediately to the west and comprised a series of similar trenches oriented north-west to south-east. This set of parallel trenches had been extensively truncated, so their full extent could also not be fully determined.

Several sections were excavated across the trenches and located at various points. Initial excavation was conducted using mattock and shovel, with additional sections excavated using trowels to characterise subtle variations in the infill. The sections produced varied profiles, with some having steep sides and flat bases; others had more gentle slopes and rounded bases. The trenches varied in size from 0.30m wide × 0.10m deep to over 1.00m wide × 0.30m deep, and this was probably due to extensive horizontal truncation.

The trowel-excavated sections revealed a primary infill of very pale yellowish clay silt, which were often cut by narrow linear slot features running down the centre of the trench. The slots often had near vertical sides with a rounded base, and contained dark greyish slight humic clay fill mixed with occasional charcoal flecks. Only the occasional second-century Roman pottery sherd was found within
the fills of the trenches, and these were fairly abraded, suggesting perhaps that they were introduced to the features within a deposit of waste-associated manuring or midden deposits.

Very similar features have been found at Wollaston, Northamptonshire, where excavations exposed an extensive c. 7.5ha area of parallel trenches spaced 5m apart, that were thought to be the remains of Roman vineyards (Brown, Meadows, Turner, Mattingly 2001). These trenches also had near vertical sides and flat bases, which were cut by pitting thought to be for root balls and post holes that were probably used to support a crop. The narrow linear slot features found within the Thistleton trenches could also perhaps be remains of root balls for a crop. The dimensions and character of the trenches, found at Wollaston were
thought to be very similar to pastiatio trenches which can be associated with vineyards. A similar set of cultivation trenches have also been identified at Grendon, Northamptonshire (Jackson 1995). Samples taken from the excavated trenches in Northamptonshire also revealed rare low percentage of grapevine pollen.

There are various possibilities for the function of the parallel trenches. They could represent either open drainage or irrigation channels, associated with field systems on the periphery of either the Roman town which lies directly to the south or the Roman villa to the north. OAKRM:2008.52.

References


Mattingly, D. J., 2001

Harvey, J., 2008

Turner, S. D., 2005

Jackson, D., 1995


Tixover, Tixover Grange (SK 980 018)

Paul Cope-Faulkner

A watching brief was undertaken by APS during groundworks for a new access road and the excavation of a water main trench. The watching brief revealed a sequence of natural, subsoil and topsoil across most of the site. Dumped deposits derived from the construction of the sewage treatment plant were also recorded. Finds retrieved from the watching brief comprise re-deposited Romano-British pottery and tile, possibly associated with the nearby Villa site, as well as post-medieval and later pottery, brick and tile. OAKRM:2010.11.

Historic Building Recording

Ayston

3 Main Street (SK 860 009) Trent & Peak Archaeology

Braunston

Chestnut Cottage, 10 Wood Lane (SK 833 064) ULAS

Burley

Burley on the Hill House (SK 8839 1019) NA

Clipsham

Park House (SK 9698 1661) NA

Ketton

47–49 High Street (SK 981 047) ULAS

Ridlington

Outbuildings at Fig Tree Farm, Top Road (SK 8492 0274) ULAS

Seaon

Manor Farm Barns (SP 9022 9820) NA

Stretton

Stretton Lodge, Clipsham Road (SK 960 169) APS

Wing

Garden Cottage, 8 Top Street (SK 892 030) Trigpoint Conservation & Planning Ltd
Negative watching briefs and evaluations in Rutland
(undertaken by ULAS unless otherwise stated)

Ketton: Long Barn Farm, High Street (TF 3406 4211) (Allen Archaeology Ltd);
Langham: Langham Church of England Primary School (SK 8442 1090) (NA);
Oakham: Cutts Close (SK8609 0903); Ryhall: Land north of Hill Top Cottage, Essendine Road (TF 0374 1155); Ryhall: Home Farm, Little Casterton Road (TF 03167 10093) (APS);
Rutland Water: Manton Bay (SK 9756 0564 to SK 8814 0570) (NA); Wing: Water pipeline (SK 897 031) (Wessex Archaeology).

PORTABLE ANTIQUITIES SCHEME ANNUAL REPORT FOR LEICESTERSHIRE AND RUTLAND 2010

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. The number of active detectorists is increasing, with all the clubs at full capacity. Also on the increase is the accuracy of find spots, with 471 finds recorded to a 10-figure grid reference, and the majority (567) to a six figure.

A total of 1,202 finds were received in 2010, the majority of which were Roman objects (682), closely followed by medieval finds (245). The most significant of these are discussed below by period; however, many other objects recorded are interesting for a variety of reasons. Many add to newly emerging distributions of particular finds classes, some are ‘firsts’ for the area, and others are the most Northerly examples yet found. As such it is difficult to pick out the ‘best’ finds, as each is valuable to our understanding of the past. Readers are encouraged to find further details of these objects and others recorded by the Scheme in previous years, on the Portable Antiquities Scheme website (www.finds.org.uk). I am grateful to Dr Phil Harding, who self-recorded a staggering 447 finds in 2010, and to Rebecca Czechowicz, who provides voluntary assistance in finds recording.

Iron Age

Gallo Belgic coin hoard LEIC-114E78 2010 T735 (Fig. 22)
Gallo Belgic coin hoard, consisting of 10 Type E staters, dating to c. 65BC. This find has just been declared treasure and is believed to be the first hoard of this type from the county. A geophysical survey of the site is being arranged just in case.
This is a nummus of Constans, Phoenix reverse, AD 348–50. It is just one example of a trickle of interesting coins turning up in the county. The mintmark suggests it is from the Antioch mint; if confirmed it is the first coin of this type from the Officina Epsilon (workshop 5), which is previously unknown. The coin has been donated to the British Museum by the finder, Mr John Maloney, who is very happy to have filled a gap in their collection. Found in Wymeswold.

**Roman zoomorphic knife-handle** LEIC-40C8C8 (Fig. 24)

Roman knife-handle showing a hound chasing a hare. There are 23 fragments of this type of object on the PAS database and this is one of the better quality examples. Found in Ibstock.
Anglo Saxon

*Early Anglo-Saxon A-bracteate* LEIC-EDD980 2010 T414 (Figs 25a and 25b)
The find is only the sixth known A-bracteate (defined as a pendant with an anthropomorphic head in profile) from early Anglo-Saxon England (Behr 2010; Behr and Marzinzik 20**) – late fifth–early sixth century. Whereas the find and its iconography have close links with Scandinavian bracteates, it was most probably made in England as it is possible to tell from some technical idiosyncrasies, like the absence of a framing wire and the undecorated loop. If the identification of the drinking vessel (a possible drinking horn or glass beaker, held up to mouth) is correct, this would be a unique element within bracteate iconography (Dr C. Behr). Found in the Melton area.

*Middle Saxon brooch* LEIC-1D5537 (Fig. 26)
This is an example of a brooch type only confirmed as of early-medieval date in recent years. Indeed, such brooches with a lozengiform body and basic integral
sprung pin have been published as late as 2000 as Bronze Age ‘violin bow’ brooches (e.g. Hattatt 2000, 281; refs. 1442, 1385).

Geake (2001, 23–4) notes that recent examples from North Lincolnshire and Sedgeford (Norfolk) have been confirmed as Middle Saxon date, with the more elaborate examples bearing the ‘chip-carving’ characteristic of eighth-century metalwork. New examples are coming to light through discovery and recategorisation, some of which are recorded on our database, allowing for the creation of distribution maps of the type. A stunning example on our database is HAMP-CEBED7. Found in Ratby.
References


