ARCHAEOLOGY IN LEICESTER,
LEICESTERSHIRE AND
RUTLAND 2011

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 above (p. iv). Some entries may relate to fieldwork undertaken before 2011, but not previously reported.

LEICESTER

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

Leicester Abbey (SK 5850 0600)  Andrew Hyam

An archaeological watching brief was undertaken by ULAS in December 2011 during small-scale excavations for the installation of a series of information boards, located around the rebuilt abbey walls. Whilst no archaeological features were found there was some evidence of post-Dissolution demolition rubble deposits and later, probable 1930s, backfill, as identified during the extensive excavations on the site running from 2000 to 2009 (Story et al. 2006) A14.2010.

Reference

Story, J., Bourne, J. and Buckley, R. (Eds), 2006 Leicester Abbey. LAHS: Leicester.

Leicester, land between Braunstone Gate/Narborough Road (SK 578 041)  W. Jarvis

ULAS carried out an archaeological evaluation by trial trenching on land between Braunstone Gate and Narborough Road, adjacent to the 1970s excavations at Great Holme Street (TLAHS 51, 59), in advance of proposed development. Archaeological features were identified in the east of the site area and within the footprint of the proposed new building. These included an early Roman ditch and other Roman deposits, a water course potentially of medieval date with waterlogged materials surviving, and a stone structure also of possible medieval date. These deposits were sealed by agricultural soils of medieval and post-medieval date. Further trenching identified the 1970s limits of excavations in the east of the current proposed site. Post-medieval or modern levelling has truncated deposits in the areas examined on

the north and west side on the former street frontages, although a sequence of early alluvial deposits, probably from an old course of the River Soar, was identified. A5.2011.

### Leicester, Duns Lane (SK 580 041)  
**Edmund Taylor**

An archaeological evaluation, consisting of two trenches, was carried out by NA on land at Duns Lane. The evaluation revealed a significant depth of made ground probably associated with the development of the site during the second half of the nineteenth century. A wall, likely to be a boundary wall associated with the Providence Foundry which once occupied the northern part of the development area, was found. Y.A1.2011.

### Leicester, Knighton Hall, Knighton Road (SK 599 015)  
**Timothy Higgins**

An archaeological watching brief was carried out by ULAS at Knighton Hall during the installation of new external drains and remedial work inside the Grade-II listed building. The work involved supervision and inspection of machine- and hand-excavated trenches for any indication of archaeological activity, and examination of interior wall surfaces stripped of render. The investigation identified possible garden features and a possible early cobbled path during exterior works. Interior remedial work revealed timbers which are likely to be *in situ* elements of a timber-framed range of late sixteenth-century date. A13.2010.

### Leicester, Newarke St. (SK 585 040)  
**Wayne Jarvis**

Trial trenching and follow-up salvage excavation was undertaken by ULAS in July and August 2011. The site is located to the rear of the Elfed Thomas building, De Montfort University Law School, adjacent to a Roman cemetery examined by LAU in 1993, and part of the extra-mural suburbs of the Roman and medieval town (Cooper 1996). Current evaluative work exposed a very disturbed site, with the area having been reduced in level and a cellared building with associated services truncating the majority of the area. However, a thin strip of surviving deposits occurred at the south-west of the site furthest from the 1990s inhumation cemetery, and measuring some 4m x 3m. Here were excavated two small pits that produced burnt bone probably indicating disturbed cremation deposits, one of these being associated with a pottery vessel. These features were in an area where a metalled surface survived, and a series of overlying deposits produced a relatively substantial assemblage including pottery flagons, probably also derived from cemetery activity. Further finds, including ceramic building material, iron nails and other occupation material, were recovered. There was also evidence for burning nearby (perhaps pyre deposits), and an ephemeral post-built structure broadly on an east-west alignment. Initial dating suggests this activity was earlier Roman in date rather than later. Two north-south ditches cut this activity and were associated to the north with an east-west ditch, these being comparable in form and orientation to a ditch system observed in the earlier excavations to the north. A9.2011.
Reference


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

Leicester

land to the rear of Peacock Lane (SK 58468 04376).

Historic Building Recording

Leicester, Air Raid Shelter within grounds of Wyggeston and Queen Elizabeth I College, Victoria Park Road (SK 595 027) Gerwyn Richards

A historic building survey was undertaken by ULAS of a former air raid shelter, located within the grounds of Wyggeston & Queen Elizabeth I College, Victoria Park Road. The site was due to be demolished in advance of proposed redevelopment of the site.

Civil defence provision and air raid shelter construction began in earnest in Leicester in the early months of 1940, and it is likely that this shelter was built at this time. The shelter is a common type known as a trench shelter that was built throughout Britain during the early years of the war. Early examples were timber-lined with minimal overhead cover; this is a concrete-lined, completely enclosed type. Unusually, the shelter is laid out in a simple grid, a design which was abandoned early on during the war as they proved to offer very little protection from the blast waves caused by a direct hit. Although the shelter appears to have been truncated in recent years, it is likely that it represents a rare survival of this early type of wartime structure. Examples of pencil-drawn graffiti recorded on the walls of the shelter included images of German aeroplanes and Adolf Hitler, likely to date to the Second World War period.

Other projects

Leicester

Abbey House, Abbey Park (SK 5841 0607)
Leicester

Former Abbey Park Mills Factory, Abbey Park Lane (SK 5913 0578)
Leicester

Charles Keene College Annexe, Abbey Park Street (SK 5918 0570)

LEICESTERSHIRE

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

Anstey, Groby Road (SK 544 082) John Walford

NA carried out a magnetometer survey on 36ha of land at Groby Road, Anstey. Medieval open field cultivation across the site was identified with the recording of furrows and a headland. Further ditches to the south of Groby Road are probably post-medieval enclosure boundaries.
Asfordby, site of proposed wind farm (SK 721 210, centre)  

James Harvey

ULAS carried out an archaeological evaluation by trial trenching at the proposed Asfordby Wind Farm Site in June and July 2011. The work was undertaken as a pre-determination requirement in advance of the proposed new development on the site.

A previous geophysical survey had highlighted the potential for archaeological features to be present within part of the area. A total of 15 trenches were excavated during the course of the evaluation, 12 of which focused on the proposed turbine locations, and three targeted anomalies highlighted by the geophysical survey.

Positive results were recorded within five of the excavated trenches, confirming the results of the geophysical survey as well as recording archaeological features not previously identified. The results suggest a concentration of settlement activity dating to the Late Iron Age and Early Roman periods on top of a ridge overlooking the valley. This could represent the continuation of settlement activity previously identified to the east of the site near to the deserted village of Welby. X.A93.2011.

Ashby de la Zouch, Holywell Spring Farm (SK 348 177)  

C. Clarke

A programme of geophysical survey and fieldwalking was undertaken by AOC Archaeology at Holywell Spring Farm between 10 and 14 October 2011. The geophysical survey covered the full c.20ha area of the site and identified multiple anomalies across the survey area. The most significant of these anomalies were clustered in three separate groups, located in the northern, central and eastern areas of the site. These groups are believed to consist of ditches, pits, heat-affected features and possible earthworks.

The fieldwalking concentrated on two arable fields adjacent to the northern boundary of the site. The remainder of the fields on site were under pasture. The majority of finds collected were post-medieval or modern in date and fairly evenly distributed across both fields. This scattering of finds is thought to be mainly derived from the manuring of fields as part of post-medieval agricultural practices.

Bardon, Grange Road (SK 435 129)  

Jason Clarke

In January 2011, an archaeological trial trench evaluation was carried out by NA, on behalf of Nexus Heritage, on land off Grange Road, Bardon. Four ditches were recorded, one of which was overlain by a ridge from the surviving ridge and furrow earthworks, suggesting it was earlier than the open field system; but an exact date is uncertain. Three further undated ditches probably related to former field boundaries of the post-medieval period. A single abraded sherd of Samian pottery was also recovered. X.A205.2010.

Barrow upon Soar, Strancliffe Hall (SK 572 181)  

James Harvey and Gerwyn Richards

An archaeological evaluation was undertaken by ULAS in the extended grounds of Strancliffe Hall, close to where previous excavations have revealed Iron Age activity...
and Late Medieval to modern lime-working industries (McAree 2007). It was clear from the topography that much of the site had been previously reduced, probably relating to limestone excavation. Within the reduced area, a geophysical survey had revealed a large number of magnetic anomalies interpreted as kiln structures.

A trench was excavated across three of these anomalies that partially revealed three kiln structures. The kilns were all a similar linear shape and parallel to one another. The northernmost kiln was fully exposed and sample excavated (Fig. 1). This was found to be a linear clamp kiln measuring c.9m long × 1.75m wide, narrowing to 1m wide at the open end of the kiln and a maximum of 0.45m deep. It was surrounded by a halo of scorched clay, narrowest at the entrance and widening in an arc around the closed end of the kiln. There was also a working area at the entrance of the kiln, consisting of a shallow bowl shape with an area c.2m in diameter, and evidence of stoking of fuel waste to the side. The kiln had steep sides and a flat base, but there was no evidence of any lining. However, there was a thick smooth layer of solid burnt lime/slag material up to 0.2m thick lying on the base

Fig. 1. One of the linear clamp kilns under excavation.
of the kiln, thinning towards the entrance. Although this build-up is likely to have occurred naturally during the firing process it appeared to have been utilised as the kiln floor for subsequent firings, as clear evidence of heating could be seen on its upper surface. This hard base would have proved useful for emptying the kiln, as the siltstone nature becomes very flaked and loose once it has been fired.

No datable evidence was recovered from the kiln, but its form closely matches the linear kilns previously recorded close by but on a much larger scale. These linear kilns were archaeomagnetically dated to between 1475 and 1540. Later circular brick (pot) kilns have also been excavated nearby, but their structure is much more complex. These had a diameter of 3–4m and excavated to a depth of 2.2m deep, and designed to take much larger quantities of limestone. These have been archaeomagnetically dated to between 1700 and 1870. It appears likely that the kilns recorded within the evaluation fall somewhere in between the two date ranges and therefore probably date to the seventeenth century.

Trenching beyond the clear area of reduction close to the Hall revealed modern disturbance either relating to quarrying or landscaping for the hall. No evidence of Iron Age Activity was recorded close to the previous recorded activity. X.A108.2011.

Reference


Brentingby, Hall Farm (SK 784 188)  

An archaeological watching brief was carried out at Hall Farm, Brentingby by ULAS in September 2011. The work was carried out in advance of groundwork for the extension of an existing slurry lagoon to the west of the seventeenth-century Hall, and involved supervision and inspection of topsoil removal and ground reduction by mechanical excavator for any indication of archaeological activity. Across much of the development area, around the existing lagoon, only natural boulder clay was uncovered. This may be because the area had been artificially terraced when the original lagoon was put in. However, to the east of the lagoon, the remains of a stone wall and cobbled path were found beneath a layer of building rubble. These are most likely post-medieval garden features associated with the Hall and appeared to have been demolished in the seventeenth or eighteenth century. X.A126.2011.

Brooksby Quarry (SK 655 155)  

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 8 identified archaeological evidence on the higher ground at the western end of the site. A total of 27 features were observed, representing occupation in the form of a series of post-holes, together with two shallow curvilinear gullies. The post-holes form linear arrangements;
several possible pairs and linear groups were observed. The fills consisted mostly of mid-grey sandy clay flecked with charcoal; many also contained fire-cracked pebbles, although the lack of scorching suggested that burning did not occur in situ. This group included four associated post-holes and a hearth-like feature that were revealed during the adjacent phase 7 topsoil strip. The ‘hearth-like feature’ was a shallow oval pit containing frequent fire-cracked stones and pebbles in a charcoal-rich matrix, located 6m to the south-west of the main group of features.

Finds from the ‘hearth-like’ pit included pottery and flint. The stratified pottery indicates a Late Bronze Age or Early Iron Age date for the occupation. Some of the sherds have pebble quartz inclusions, while others are the more classic granitic Iron Age fabric, although the lack of scoring and mixed fabric probably suggest that they are unlikely to be later in date than the Early Iron Age (N. Cooper pers. comm.). The flint assemblage, including 18 examples recovered from the post-holes, had many of the typo-technological characteristics of later Bronze Age flint knapping. Technologically the flint included several squat flakes with wide butts. The single tool from the stratified group comprised a straight-edged scraper on a patinated core fragment, indicating the re-use of an older piece. Two piercers and a single straight-edged scraper were among the unstratified material from the area (L. Cooper pers. comm).

The watching brief of the aggregate extraction of deposits of the pre-Anglian River Bytham have continued. The buried valley of the Bytham is now understood to have represented a colonisation conduit for early humans into north-western Europe (Stephens et al. 2008). Pumping restrictions conditional to the region’s river flow hampered quarry operations and archaeological access on to the quarry floor during the year. Nonetheless, part of the incised channel identified from borehole surveys (Challis, K. and Howard, A. J. 1999), has become visible below the Thurmaston Member. Extraction from these lower levels, which will include the eponymous Brooksby deposits (Rice 1991), has been limited and remains under consideration by the quarry operators, Lafarge Aggregates UK Ltd.

Fig. 2. Three views of a typical chopper-core from recent excavations at Brooksby quarry.
Some 205 Lower Palaeolithic artefacts have now been recovered from pre-Anglian deposits, of which 42 were found during 2011. Of these, 39 have been recovered from the quarry rejects heaps, and three from the quarry floor, although none of the latter are thought to have been from a primary context. The artefacts have included cores and flakes made from local quartzite pebbles: the chopper-core pictured in Fig. 2 was found in October 2011 and is typical of the assemblage. Its condition is fresh, and this piece has not moved far from where it was originally left. No more of the finely worked bifaces found between June 2008 and July 2009 have been recovered (TLAHS 84, 349–50). X.A57.2006.

References


Broughton Astley, land off Frolesworth Road (SP 525 924) Gerwyn Richards

An archaeological evaluation was carried out by ULAS on land to the south of Broughton Astley in advance of development. On the southern edge of the proposed development area a prehistoric pit alignment was exposed, one end of which had been truncated by a backfilled borrow pit. To the north, nearer to Broughton Astley, medieval remains were recorded, including standing earthworks and what appeared to be toft boundaries in one of the trenches. The boundaries were aligned in association with a brook that runs through the village, hinting that this was a focal point in the early organisation of Broughton Astley. X.A121.2011.

Broughton Astley, Land at Crowfoot Way (SP 529 916) Nathan Flavell

In February-March 2011, an archaeological trial trench evaluation was carried out by NA on land at Crowfoot Way, Broughton Astley. The evaluation was carried out in response to the submission of a planning application for the development of the land for a new residential development and areas of open space. A ditch, gully and post-hole of prehistoric date (possibly Middle Iron Age) were found, along with a medieval field boundary and a modern trackway. X.A21.2011.

Burbage, St Catherine’s Church (SP 44 927) Mark Powers

An archaeological watching brief was undertaken on behalf of the DAC and St Catherine’s Church between 15 August 2011 and 2 September 2011. The purpose of
the work was to oversee excavation of the nave, and north and south transept floors (from an archaeological perspective), in advance of installation of a geothermal under-floor heating system. Mid-nineteenth-century walls were uncovered underneath the modern floor level and artefacts recovered dated from the medieval period to the modern age. Disarticulated human bones were found with no context and thus were presumably disturbed during the nineteenth-century rebuild of the church. No articulated human remains were uncovered. It was confirmed during the watching brief that the 1842–45 rebuild followed the footprint of the previous building, the old nave column foundations being re-used for the new-build column stones, along with substantial recycling of building materials. X.A109.2011.

**Burrough Hill Hillfort, Burrough on the Hill (SK 7605 1195 centre)**

*John Thomas, Jeremy Taylor, Andy Hyam and Gavin Speed*

A second season of excavation was undertaken at Burrough Hill by the University of Leicester/ULAS throughout June/July 2011. Two areas were targeted for excavation; Trench 3 focused on an area within the settlement remains on the outside of the hillfort, while Trench 4 provided a second look at the main entrance, extending Trench 1 from 2010.

Trench 3 targeted two roundhouses and a d-shaped enclosure that had been revealed during the geophysical survey, all of which were comprehensively excavated by the end of the season (Fig. 3). Both roundhouses were represented by eaves-drip gullies only, with each unusually having a north-east facing entrance. The buildings produced an array of Iron Age pottery, daub and animal bone, and their locations within the eaves-drip gullies were carefully recorded to enable analysis of deposition.

![Fig. 3. Trench 3 during excavation, showing roundhouses, a small enclosure and the hillfort entrance in the background.](image-url)
patterns. Various smaller gullies lay in the vicinity of the roundhouses, probably reflecting additional drainage features or short fences. The d-shaped enclosure proved to be a two-phased structure, also with a north-eastern entrance. This enclosure seemed to have Iron Age origins but contained frequent Roman pottery finds from the final ditch silts, suggesting a fairly late Iron Age date for the disuse of the feature. Further Roman evidence was recovered from a ditch that formed part of a large enclosure to the north of the three structures. Pottery and a third-century Roman coin from this feature have helped begin to characterise the nature of post-Iron Age activity on this part of the site. A number of pits were also excavated, one of which was partially clay-lined and probably a storage feature. Iron Age pottery and bone was recovered, while one contained a near complete top half from a beehive quern. Another had evidence for iron-working and a complete iron spearhead. Early impressions suggest a relatively long period of activity, at least some of which must have been contemporary with occupation inside the hillfort.

Trench 4 effectively extended last year’s trench in the hillfort entrance area, with the aim of learning more about the construction of the entrance passage and to access the remainder of the entrance chamber/guard room.

Further evidence for the rampart construction was revealed and two clear phases of development could be seen (Fig. 4). In the photograph below, the darker stony material on the left represents a first phase of the inturned entrance. A later extension, incorporating the recessed chamber, is represented by the lighter coloured and bulkier stones to the right. A midden deposit to the rear of the rampart (top

Fig. 4. Trench 4 during excavation of the hillfort entrance, showing different phases of rampart construction, the entrance chamber and the burial pit in the foreground.
left) contained much Iron Age pottery, animal bone, two lower pieces from beehive querns and a late Iron Age brooch.

The eastern half of the entrance chamber/guard room proved to be quite spectacular in its preservation, with upstanding walls and multiple floor levels, as hinted at from last year’s excavation. Beneath the backfill layers a series of clay and silt floors was revealed, some of which contained good assemblages of pottery and animal bone. At the level of the main hearth, seen in the photograph, crushed pottery and bone were littered around the fire, preserved in situ.

A large pit on the northern edge of the excavation contained a crouched inhumation (Fig. 5). This person had been buried with some respect in a stone cist, probably topped with a cairn, and was remarkably well-preserved. Interestingly, this burial pre-dated the rampart extension, while a partially revealed pit to the east pre-dated the earlier phase of the entrance rampart. Both should provide useful dating evidence for the development of the hillfort entrance. X.A93.2010.

Burton Overy, Kingarth Farm (SP 675 976)  Michael Dawson and David Leigh

A watching brief was undertaken by NA on groundworks for a new barn at Kingarth Farm. The work comprised removal of topsoil under archaeological supervision, followed by reduction of the area to formation level. No discernible subsoil was present, and occasional pockets of modern disturbance were noted within the investigation area. Two unstratified pottery sherds of Late Iron Age–Roman date.

Fig. 5. Recording the crouched human burial in the hillfort entrance area.
were recovered from the topsoil, but no archaeological deposits were present. X.A88.2011.

**Bushby, Uppingham Road** (SK 658 038)  
*Paul Mason*

A trial trench evaluation was undertaken by NA on land off Uppingham Road, Bushby in 2011. Four of the 14 excavated trenches contained archaeological remains. Trench 1 revealed an Iron Age pit containing eight sherds of Middle Iron Age pottery, Trench 6 a Roman pit containing a sherd of Roman pottery, Trench 9 a post-medieval gully and Trench 11 three undated features that could be geological/natural in origin. It was thought that the pits probably relate to settlement activity lying beyond the northern boundary of the site. Deep ridge and furrow earthworks were present in the western part of the proposed development area. X.A1.2011.

**Castle Donington, Park Lane** (SK 436 276 centre)  
*Roger Kipling*

Archaeological excavations were undertaken by ULAS at Park Lane, Castle Donington ahead of residential development in September and October 2011. Two areas were targeted for excavation following evaluation by geophysical survey and trial trenching.

The first area in the southern half of the development site produced the earliest remains, which included two Bronze Age cremation burials in Collared Urns, a ring ditch with an east-facing entrance and a pit alignment (Fig. 6).

The second area in the northern part of the development site was more extensive, and contained a series of heavily truncated ditches and gullies defining a network of probable stock enclosures, droveways and other agricultural features of late Iron Age and early Roman date. In addition, two Roman sandstone quarry pits produced a substantial assemblage of fine ware pottery. A small timber post and beam slot structure on the eastern edge of the site may have been associated with these quarry pits. X.A115.2010.

**Coalville, Ravenstone Road** (SK 412 143)  
*Wessex Archaeology*

Wessex Archaeology was commissioned to carry out a programme of geophysical survey and fieldwalking on land off Ravenstone Road/Coalville Lane, Coalville. The site is proposed for residential development and comprises three fields covering an area of c.6.87ha. Fieldwalking was undertaken across most of the site (c.4.5ha), but was not possible in the southernmost field due to the presence of dense grass and scrub. The majority of the recovered material comprised nineteenth century and modern domestic ceramic wares and construction materials. The low density but widespread distribution of this material across the site is indicative of imported material deposited during manuring. The recovery of a single prehistoric worked flint flake, and two pieces of ceramic building material of Romano-British date, do indicate a low background level of prehistoric and Roman activity within the vicinity of the site. However, the material showed no distinguishable densities or spreads that would indicate areas of archaeological potential. The results from the
fieldwalking survey are indicative of an area of low archaeological potential. The presence of Romano-British building material and a prehistoric flint flake hint at the site lying within a wider archaeological landscape, but it seems unlikely that settlement evidence survives within the site. The fieldwalking results are indicative of the site’s recent agricultural past. X.A161.2011.

Coalville, Snibston Colliery, Ashby Road (SK 417 145) Joe Prentice

An archaeological watching brief was carried out by NA on derelict land formerly occupied by part of the Snibston Colliery at Ashby Road, Coalville. The site had been cleared of all standing buildings, the most recent of which had been a coal preparation plant and railway sidings that had replaced earlier coal miners cottages which fronted onto Ashby Road. Elements of the preparation plant remained below
ground along with fragments of the cottages, but no traces of the railway sidings were observed. X.A68.2011.

**Coston, Coston Hall (SK 848 219)**

In January and February 2011, CgMs Consulting commissioned Wessex Archaeology to undertake an archaeological excavation at Coston Hall, Coston. The site is located on farmland on the eastern side of the River Eye, immediately south-west of Grange Lane and Coston village. The work followed previous evaluation on the site which had identified evidence of late Saxon occupation in this area.

The excavations revealed the location of activity and settlement during the Saxon and early medieval period on the eastern bank of the River Eye, which may have been abandoned and subsequently relocated to a site on the western bank of the river. Preliminary ceramic dating indicates that the majority of features range from the Saxon period through to the eleventh, twelfth and possibly thirteenth centuries. There is also a low density of earlier Roman period activity, with some evidence for continuity into the Saxon period.

A total of 179 post-holes were recorded, many of which were heavily truncated, probably by later medieval ridge and furrow agricultural practices. The majority of post-holes ranged between 0.2m and 0.3m in diameter, and appear to have housed tapered blunt-point posts. Several alignments and arrangements of posts could be identified, but further analysis will need to be undertaken to clarify the relationships between them and a surrounding gully/ditch complex. The posts indicate the location of housing, barns and/or possibly animal stockades. The majority of the post-holes were undated; however, three contained solely Roman period ceramic, one contained possible Anglo-Saxon ceramic and eight contained Late Saxon ceramic.

Artefactual evidence was indicative of a domestic setting, but evidence of smelting and smithing of metals indicates some form of industrial process took place in the vicinity. The post-holes were located in an area defined by a complex of three perpendicular ditch systems, which appeared to form the southern, eastern and northern boundaries of a possible enclosure measuring 44m by at least 37m. The southern and eastern ditches appear to have undergone redefinition by re-cutting on several occasions. Spot dating from the earliest of these ditches indicate an early to mid-Saxon period date. Subsequent re-cutting probably took place within the Saxon and early medieval period and beyond. Evidence of similarly dated waste and/or cess pits was located within the enclosure. The site is considered to be of local and regional significance, given the paucity of Saxon period evidence in the region and the potential for continuity of activity from the Roman period. X.A114.2010.

**Cotesbach, Main Street (SP 5365 8240)**

Allen Archaeology Ltd carried out a programme of trial trenching in advance of a residential development. The results were largely negative, exposing up to 2.8m of recent dumped deposits across the site, and a single large early modern pit. X.A128.2010.
Croxton Kerrial, Pinfold Field (SK 294 836)  
Tony Connolly

In November 2011 the Framland Local Archaeology Group (FLAG) undertook a geophysical survey of a field in the centre of Croxton Kerrial, adjacent to the church of St John the Baptist, in an attempt to locate the site of Croxton manor house. Results of the resistivity survey indicated the presence of the remains of a large building, together with other potentially archaeological anomalies; none of which are shown on the Croxton Kerrial estate map of 1799. FLAG anticipate commencing an exploratory excavation of the site in 2012.

Donington-le-Heath, Berry Hill Lane (SK 417 128)  
Christopher Jones

In September 2011, an archaeological evaluation was undertaken by NA on c.9.5ha of land at Berry Hill Lane, Donington-le-Heath, where a geophysical survey had located a rectangular enclosure containing a ring ditch. Sixteen trenches were excavated, 13 of which contained no archaeological remains, while the remaining three located the ditch of the rectangular enclosure and the internal ring ditch recorded by the geophysical survey. The only dating evidence recovered was a few small sherds of possible Iron Age pottery. The enclosure ditch was no more than 0.55m deep, and the southern arm was even shallower. All trenches contained modern plough scars, indicating that the subsoil has been truncated. Other possible features recorded during the geophysical survey (in Trenches 3 and 6) were the result of field drains, plough furrows and changes in the natural, not buried, archaeological remains. X.A129.2011.

Drayton, Robinson's Land (SP 82800 92200)  
Angela Warner

A magnetometer survey was carried out by NA on 1.9ha of land to the west of the village of Drayton. The investigation supplemented information gathered on a recent survey following repositioning of proposed buildings. The survey revealed possible ditches of unknown date, and medieval ridge and furrow cultivation.

Elmesthorpe, Clickers Way (SP 459 967)  
Paul Riccoboni

Following a geophysical survey by NA, John Moore Heritage Services carried out an archaeological evaluation in advance of proposed new development on land north of Clickers Way (A47), Elmesthorpe. Fourteen trenches, totalling approximately 420m in length, were excavated to the underlying natural geology or uppermost archaeological horizon. The earliest dated features were three ditches (Trenches 4, 10 and 12) with pottery sherds of the medieval period. A series of undated ditches were located within Trenches 1 and 6, and contained lighter coloured fills, which may have had earlier origins. One ditch in Trench 1 is thought to be Saxon, as it is on a similar alignment to a Saxon ditch recorded on the adjacent bypass evaluation. The other dated ditches were post-medieval. A post-medieval ditch was seen crossing the site on an east–west alignment, which can be seen on historic maps from the late nineteenth century. This boundary ditch was sampled in three trenches and may...
have been contemporary with the ditches in Trench 9 which were of a similar date. X.A49.2011.

Enderby, land west of St John’s (SP 5492 9901)  
Wayne Jarvis

ULAS carried out an archaeological evaluation by trial trenching on land to the west of St John’s, Enderby, as part of an archaeological impact assessment in advance of a proposed development. Archaeological features were identified in the north-east area of the site, where evaluation revealed a series of pits probably dating to between the Mid-Late Iron Age (400 BC–AD 43), and the early Roman period (first to second century AD). A small amount of worked flint, possibly indicating Neolithic to Bronze Age activity in the area, was also recovered on site. X.A62.2011.

Glen Ford Grange, Little Glen Road, Glen Parva (SP 5753 9825)  
Chris Clay

Allen Archaeology Ltd carried out a programme of trial trenching in advance of a residential development. The development is on the site of an existing eighteenth/ nineteenth century farmstead with outbuildings converted for industrial use, as well as being on the periphery of medieval settlement evidence. Five trenches were excavated, and the earliest material recovered was a single Roman roof tile. Towards the south end of the site was a large ditch flanking a possible hollow way, both WSW to ENE aligned, and dating to the thirteenth to fourteenth centuries. A soil horizon containing eleventh to fourteenth century pottery was recorded in two of the other trenches further to the north, and all medieval activity on the site was sealed by a post-medieval soil horizon, possibly reflecting levelling of the area prior to the construction of Glen Ford Grange. X.A10.2011.

Glooston, Gartree Roman Road (SP 742455 95784)  
Christine Brammall and Ce Ponting

Hallaton Field Work Group undertook further magnetometry surveys between Cranoe and Glooston following the harvest in an attempt to trace the line of the Gartree Road, a Roman road running south-east out of Leicester into Northamptonshire via Medbourne Roman town. Old Ordnance survey maps show the road leaving the line of the existing trackway at around SP 742455 95784 to continue running south-east across the fields south of Glooston village towards Medbourne. Several areas of geophysics were conducted along this accepted course of the road in an attempt to trace the road line. However, nothing was visible on the geophysical survey to confirm this route (Fig. 7).

Great Bowden, Fernie Hunt Kennels, Nether Green (SP 735 883)  
Leon Hunt

Following a trial trench evaluation, an archaeological excavation was carried by ULAS at the site of the Fernie Hunt Kennels in Great Bowden. The work followed on from an evaluation by trial trenching carried out in July, when a number of archaeological features dated to the Late Anglo-Saxon to Early High medieval period (c.AD 850–1250) were revealed.
Fig. 7. Geophysical work to date on the Garthorpe road between Cranoe and Glooston. The dark line shows the projected route of the Roman road.
A series of large- and medium-sized ditches and two large pits were revealed in the stripped area. Most of the ditches were aligned south-east to north-west, with a few intercutting with smaller gullies and ditches running on a more east-west alignment.

Medieval pottery was recovered from nearly all of the features, providing a generally similar date range to that from the evaluation. There would also appear to be a number of phases to the ditches and gullies, with some being re-cut and re-aligned and the smaller gullies possibly of a later phase of drainage, as many appeared to run from the large ditches towards the large deep pits, which may have been used for water storage rather than rubbish due to silting at the base and a paucity of finds. X.A102.2011 (evaluation); X.A86.2011 (excavation).

**Great Bowden, Sixteen Acres Field, Gallow Lodge Farm (SP 732 907)**

*Rosemary Culkin*

A fieldwalking survey was undertaken in 2011 by Great Bowden Heritage Group. Finds included 12 sherds of medieval pottery and 35 of post-medieval/modern, as well as clay pipe, and were all probably the result of manuring. In addition there were four sherds of Roman pottery and five pieces of worked flint.

**Great Dalby, land at Moscow Farm**

*Angela Parker*

Melton Fieldworker Group fieldwalked several fields at Moscow Farm. *Burrough Meadows* (NGR 47593 31222) produced an even scatter of Roman pottery, modern glass, metal pieces, clay pipe and various worked flint pieces. The largest scatter was of post-medieval pottery, showing a concentration towards Moscow Farm and Lodge at the North/North Western area. A broken saddle quern fragment was found in the northern part of the field.

*Ashes* (NGR 47497 31264) was a large field located between Great Dalby Road and Moscow Farm. This produced Roman and Late medieval pottery, as well as a general spread of post-medieval pottery, mostly concentrated on the western side of the field. A few fragments of prehistoric, handmade pottery were found in the south-east corner of the field. A metal-detecting survey, carried out concurrently with the fieldwalking, produced a decorated lead spindle whorl and a small lead weight.

*Cow Pasture* (NGR 47496 31267) produced mostly Late and post-medieval pottery in a general spread, although a linear scatter of Roman pottery was detected across the middle section of the field.

**Great Glen, Stretton Road (SP 662 985)**

*Ben Barker*

Archaeological investigation was undertaken by Albion Archaeology for CgMs Consulting in relation to the Miller Homes (East Midlands) Stretton Road housing development in Great Glen. The development comprised housing, infrastructure and public open space on land to the east of Stretton Road. The open area excavation, undertaken between March and May 2011, straddled the north-south hedged field boundary that divided the eastern and central fields. The westernmost field, fronting...
Stretton Road, was subject to evaluation in 2005 by Archaeological Investigations Ltd as part of a previous development proposal. No buried archaeological features or deposits were identified within this part of the site apart from ridge and furrow. The remainder of the accessible part of the application area was subject to detailed geophysical survey by ArchaeoPhysica in 2009. This identified a series of multi-phase enclosures, likely to date to the late Iron Age/Romano-British periods, which covered an area of c.2ha. Trial trenching was carried out by NA in June 2009, corroborating the geophysical survey results. The open area excavation identified a substantial Romano-British farmstead dating to the later first to fourth century AD (Fig. 8). Three phases of domestic enclosure and field system were identified, with significant remodelling in the later second to early third centuries AD. Evidence for five poorly preserved roundhouses and one possible rectangular building survived, as well as a couple of cobbled surfaces. A small quantity of late Iron Age and Saxon cultural material was recovered, but there was no direct evidence of settlement during these periods. The total finds assemblage included approximately 45kg of animal bone, dominated by cattle and sheep, and over 25kg of pottery, mainly locally-manufactured Romano-British coarseware. Metal objects included brooch fragments, two possible iron styli and 20 low denomination coins. The quantity of charred plant remains should be sufficient to enable the assemblage to be compared to other contemporary sites in the region. X.A17.2011.

Fig. 8. An aerial view of the Great Glen excavations showing the Romano-British farmstead ditches.
Groby, land off Anstey Lane (SK 53405 08269)  
Gerwyn Richards

ULAS undertook an archaeological evaluation of land at Anstey Lane, Groby in advance of the construction of two 50kw wind turbines. The proposed development area had been identified as an area of archaeological potential. Two evaluation trenches, centred on the proposed footprints of each turbine, were machine excavated and recorded. A third trench was also excavated and recorded after the trench for Turbine 2 exposed a buried service. No evidence of archaeological deposits or artefacts was observed within Trenches 1 and 2, but a single undated linear feature was excavated and recorded within Trench 3. X.A111.2011.

Groby, Groby Old Hall, Markfield Road (SK 5239 0759)  
Neil Finn

ULAS carried out an archaeological watching brief during the excavation of a trench to the rear (north-west) of the cottage attached to Groby Old Hall in August 2011. Located within the area of the Scheduled Monument of Groby motte and bailey castle and manorial complex (National Monument No. 17066), the watching brief was a requirement of Scheduled Monument Consent for the work which aimed to alleviate damp problems within the cottage. The watching brief recorded evidence of a brick-built wall foundation associated with an earlier phase of building, likely to date from between the fifteenth and eighteenth centuries; a second undated brick foundation; a granite sett path of nineteenth- or early twentieth-century date; and a large cut feature of uncertain function containing finds attributable to the early nineteenth century. X.A128.2011.

Groby, Old Hall Farm, Markfield Road (SK 5241 0757)  
Gerwyn Richards

ULAS carried out an archaeological watching brief during groundworks associated with conversion of outbuildings for residential use at Old Hall Farm, Groby. The site had been identified as being of archaeological potential, located within the historic settlement core of the village and adjacent to the Scheduled Monument of Groby Castle. The most significant result of the work was to confirm that the bailey ditch of Groby Castle continues within the development area. Only limited evidence for other archaeological deposits was encountered during the course of the watching brief. X.A4.2011.

Hallaton, Hare Pie Bank (SP 785 962)  
Vicki Score, Hallaton Field Work Group

In September 2011, Hallaton Field Work Group (HFWG) undertook a geophysical survey and evaluation at Hare Pie Hill, Hallaton, the site of the ancient Leicestershire tradition of Bottle Kicking. The dry weather in May had given the group an opportunity to look again at the site to try to confirm the results of a previous resistivity survey undertaken during a very dry spell in 2006, which had suggested a square enclosure on the top of the hill.

The top of the hill, known as Hare Pie Bank, is the traditional starting point for the bottle kicking (which follows the ‘hare pie scramble’), held every Easter Monday, where teams of villagers from Medbourne and Hallaton compete to get three barrels
across the streams. St Michael’s at Hallaton appears to have been a fairly high status church in the medieval period with a possible monstrance platform (for displaying a reliquary), and this along with evidence of a holy well in Stowe Close hint strongly at the presence of a local cult (Jones 2004). A will of 1532 describes pilgrimages to five shrines, among them ‘St Mawrell of Hallaton’. A Glebe Terrier of 1606 indicates that beside Hare Pie Bank there stood a Chapel of St ‘Morrill’. John Tailby, writing in 1796, describes Hare Pie Bank as ‘about a quarter of a mile south of the town, a small oblong bank, 10 yards long and 6 wide; with a small olde trench around it, and a circular hole in the centre’ (Nichols 1798, 600).

HFWG carried out the first geophysical survey (resistivity) in 2006 at the end of a very dry period. A square feature was discovered, but due to wet weather following the discovery, the results were never able to be duplicated. The dry weather in the first half of 2011 inspired HFWG to conduct a second survey. Both a magnetometry and resistivity survey were used on the site, the latter at 0.5m resolution in an attempt to give a more detailed result. The results from the magnetometry showed a fairly confused picture across the top of the hill. However, the resistivity provided a much clearer picture. This showed a square enclosure (approximately 36m across), with a possible inner square feature (approximately 15m across) and features in the centre. An anomaly ran north-east to south-west, though it appeared to be later in date (Fig. 9).

In order to test the results of the geophysical survey, a small-scale excavation was undertaken comprising three hand-dug trenches (Fig. 9). Trenches 01 and 02 were positioned to target the outer square enclosure, with Trench 03 placed across the inner features. The strong north-east to south-west anomaly was shown to be a metalled surface immediately below the grass, probably relatively modern in date. The results from Trenches 01 and 02 suggest that the outer square anomaly was formed by the remnants of a bank (Fig. 10). The bank had been ploughed flat, making it difficult to date, and finds included Roman pottery and tile as well as medieval pottery.

Trench 03 in the centre showed that the elevated top of Hare Pie Bank itself was made ground, composed of rubble and building debris, including stone, tile and plaster. Beneath the debris a plaster layer was identified (approximately 1.15m below the ground surface). This could represent the remnants of a plaster floor, although only a tiny area was exposed (Fig. 11). Pottery from within the rubble is predominantly later medieval in date. Although only a small area was excavated, a tentative interpretation suggests that there had been a medieval building on the top of the hill, and the debris from the later robbing of the walls and floors in the centre may have formed the inner square bank identified on the geophysical survey and mentioned by Tailby. Other finds from the site, including painted wall plaster, floor tiles and fragments of lead, suggest a glazed building of some status.

Across all of the area excavated, a dark layer was recorded containing Roman pottery ranging from the first to the fourth century, as well as two late Iron Age sherds (Fig. 10). No specific features were identified, and this may be a Roman buried surface sealed by the debris from the building and the banks. All three trenches encountered a further dark deposit in the base of the trenches, containing several fragments of human bone.
Fig. 9. The results of the geophysical survey and the location of the trenches.
The amount of Roman pottery makes it clear that there was activity on the site during the first to fourth centuries AD, although the nature of this and its relationship with the Roman site known to exist adjacent to the Iron Age shrine, 420m north-west of the site, is uncertain (Score 2011). The medieval activity appears to relate to a building on top of the hill surrounded by a square-banked enclosure, and it is tempting to associate this with the chapel of St Morrell. Work is continuing on the site, with more excavations planned for this year. X.A117.2011.

References


ULAS carried out an archaeological evaluation at Hemington House Farm in June 2011, in response to development proposals. The work revealed some evidence of medieval occupation in the form of linear features and a scatter of post-holes, dated by pottery to the twelfth–mid-thirteenth century. The presence of cereal remains in the environmental samples further suggests proximity to settlement. X.A82.2011.

Higham on the Hill, land at MIRA (SP 368 957 centre)  Jon Coward,  
John Thomas and Stratascan  
A programme of archaeological work was carried out on arable farmland at MIRA, near Higham on the Hill, in response to proposals for development of a Business
Technology Campus. This included a geophysical survey by Stratascan and fieldwork by ULAS.

The magnetic susceptibility data revealed several areas of enhancement that may indicate areas of past human activity. The targeted gradiometer survey identified a number of anomalies; however, very few of these appear to be of archaeological interest. A few linear features may indicate ditches and/or banks of archaeological origin. A small number of moderate strength discrete anomalies may represent thermoremanent features such as former hearths or kilns; however, these may also result from ferrous objects at depth. A set of curving linear anomalies may reveal a pattern of former ridge-and-furrow.

A fieldwalking survey recovered a sparse scatter of medieval to late medieval material. Very little lithic material and no Romano-British material was recovered.

A trial trench evaluation was undertaken in August and September 2011, and involved excavation and recording of trial trenches targeting specific areas of the proposed development site, covering c.46ha, to locate and characterise any archaeological remains that may be affected by the development.

A series of trenches were excavated along the southern border of the development area, adjacent to the A5/Watling Street. These located at least two distinct areas of Roman roadside occupation, characterised by linear boundaries that probably demarcated plots adjacent to Watling Street. Material evidence from these features included pottery, quernstones and roof tile, indicating domestic occupation on the site between the second and fourth centuries AD (Fig. 12). The remains of two post-holes suggest that buildings were present on the site and this is further supported by the assemblage of roof tile recovered. An undated stone spread adjacent to the A5/Watling Street may also relate to the Roman activity, perhaps representing a trackway used in conjunction with the roadside occupation.

A separate area of activity was located some 150m from the A5/Watling Street within trenches that were positioned along a proposed access road for the new development. This activity consisted of a boundary ditch, revealed in two trenches, and an associated small pit. A fragment of Roman pottery was recovered from the ditch, although a saddle quern from the same context might suggest an earlier date.

A series of trenches located close to the remains of medieval Lindley village did not locate any evidence for any associated remains within the development area. One trench contained a small undated pit and several stone-lined drains that were also undated.

Trenching in the northern part of the development area targeted specific geophysical anomalies. Excavation revealed that these were remains of small brick-built structures that were probably part of the Lindley Airfield complex.

Trenching on the eastern side of the development area was designed to target geophysical anomalies and evaluate this area of the A5/Watling Street frontage. However, the presence of Great Crested newts on this part of the site meant that this part of the evaluation could not take place. X.A43.2011 (fieldwalking); X.A114.2011 (trial trench evaluation).
Hinckley, Sketchley Brook (SP 416 927)  
Anne Foard-Colby

An archaeological trial trench evaluation was carried out by NA on land adjacent to Sketchley Brook. The evaluation revealed a prehistoric pit and an undated gully, five boundary ditches identified during a geophysical survey, a probable post-medieval field boundary ditch and pit, a brick-supported culvert, the corner foundations of a brick-built field barn, and part of a possible nineteenth or twentieth-century hearth. The ground had been disturbed in recent times with the laying of a gas pipe and the raising of ground level during the construction of factory buildings. Pottery recovered from the overburden and furrows ranged in date from the Roman period to the twentieth century, and was similar to that collected during a previous fieldwalking survey of the land (TLAHS summaries for 2009). X.A3.2009.

Hugglescote, Frearson Road (SK 417 128)  
Chris Jones

An archaeological evaluation, comprising 16 trenches, was undertaken by NA on 9.5ha of land off Frearson Road. The ditch of a rectangular enclosure ditch and an internal ring ditch, both previously recorded by a geophysical survey, were located. The only dating evidence recovered was a few small sherds of possible Iron Age pottery. All trenches contained modern plough scars, indicating that the subsoil has been truncated. X.A129.2011.
Hugglescote, Grange Road (SP 437 129) Jason Clarke

An archaeological trial trench evaluation was carried out by NA on 40ha land off Grange Road. The site was traversed by furrows of a former medieval field system. An intrusive abraded single sherd of Samian pottery was recovered from a ditch. Three undated ditches were probably former post-medieval field boundaries. X.A205.2010.

Husbands Bosworth, Mowsley Road (SP 643 844) Gerwyn Richards

ULAS undertook an archaeological evaluation in advance of proposed re-development of the former Begleys Builders Yard, Mowsley Road, Husbands Bosworth. The work revealed a limited number of archaeologically significant features, including a single pit, dating from the twelfth century, adjacent to the Mowsley Road frontage. A number of post-medieval features were also recorded, including the likely remains of a pond and a substantial ditch. X.A156.2011.

Husbands Bosworth, land at Wheler Lodge Farm (SP 643 823) M. Forman

During 2011, Husbands Bosworth Fieldwalking Group carried out a fieldwalking survey of agricultural land at Wheler Lodge Farm, Husbands Bosworth, 200m to the east of the Neolithic Causewayed Enclosure site. Significant concentrations of flint flakes and a large number of worked cores found suggest an important knapping area, which also yielded a particularly fine leaf-shaped arrowhead, a chisel-edged arrowhead and two finely worked scrapers. X.A116.2011.

Ibstock Quarry (SK 4220 1090) Jonathan Elston

An archaeological watching brief was undertaken by NA during soil stripping of Phase 2 at Ibstock Quarry. The remains of an early twentieth-century colliery building comprising a rectangular brick-built yard surface c.10m x 3m, with associated drain, chimney base and a wooden beam along one side, was present. Cartographic evidence shows that there was a building at this location by 1929 that was still standing in 1955, when most of the other colliery buildings had been demolished, but it was gone by 1960. X.A119.2011.

Ibstock, Ravenstone Road (SK 406 113) John Walford

A detailed magnetometer survey of a proposed development site was carried out by NA on land to the east of Ravenstone Road. The survey covered an area of c.10ha and mapped part of a substantial Roman roadside settlement lying along the course of the Via Devana Roman road. Several highly magnetic anomalies were thought to indicate the locations of kilns or similar industrial features. Some traces of remnant medieval ridge and furrow field cultivation were also detected.
Kegworth, 9 Market Place (SK 487 266)  
Minerva Heritage

A watching brief was carried out by Minerva Heritage on foundations for an extension to the Co-op store. A possible ditch (potentially part of a medieval burgage plot), a gully running at approximate right angles to this and a post-hole (possibly part of a fence line) were observed. No other features, artefacts or deposits were encountered. Much of the site appeared to have been disturbed in recent times.

Kirby Bellars (SK 727 177)  
ArchaeoPhysical Ltd

Geophysical survey was undertaken by ArchaeoPhysical Ltd on land near Kirby Bellars in March 2011. The results provide evidence for the continuation of a known Roman road (Le Strete), evidence for settlement to the west of the site, possible quarrying in the southeast of the site, and ridge and furrow cultivation throughout the area.

Kirkby Mallory (SK 443 007)  
Robbie Austrums and Melanie Biggs

A detailed gradiometry survey was conducted by Stratascan over approximately 24ha of arable farmland near Kirkby Mallory. The survey has 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.

Kirkby Mallory, land south of Bosworth Road (SK 4377 0922)  
Tim Higgins and Gavin Speed

Following a geophysical survey and a trial trench evaluation, ULAS carried out an archaeological excavation on land to the south of Bosworth Road, Kirkby Mallory, Peckleton. The work was undertaken as part of an archaeological impact assessment in advance of an extension to Cadeby Quarry.

Several areas of activity were revealed following removal of the topsoil. Bronze Age funerary activity was represented by a large (c.45m diameter) ring ditch, that was partially located within the excavated area. This also had a series of post-holes around the inner edge of the ditch. Associated discrete features contained Bronze Age pottery, including Rusticated Beaker and Food Vessels, while one also contained a fine barbed and tanged arrowhead. Two trough-like features within the ring ditch contained large amounts of fire-cracked cobbles.

A series of Iron Age and Roman enclosures revealed during the geophysical survey were associated with several deep storage pits, one containing a pair of saddle querns. An area of Roman activity on the south-eastern side of the site consisted of ditches, pits and a possible post-hole/beam-slot structure. Some of the Roman features produced fairly high status material, including a glass vessel fragment and also an amphora handle. The activity appears to spread eastwards into Kirkby Mallory race track, suggesting it represents only a part of a larger complex of Roman settlement.
Anglo-Saxon activity was represented by a sunken-featured building that cut the eastern side of the Bronze Age ring ditch. It consisted of a rectangular pit measuring c.3.1m long × 2.3m wide and c.0.15m deep. At either end of the pit a large post-hole with steep, almost vertical sides was recorded that extended c.0.4m below the base of the feature. Within the pit a quantity of Anglo-Saxon pottery was recovered. A second possible sunken-featured building was revealed to the north of the ring ditch, while scattered features of similar date indicated a wider area of occupation. One pit in particular contained a group of loomweights, while others contained metalwork including a bucket handle and a socketed spearhead. X.A69.2011.

**Knaptoft, Knaptoft Hall Farm (SP 629 895)**  
*Maria Piirainen and Chris Clay*

Allen Archaeology Ltd was commissioned to undertake an archaeological evaluation by trial trenching on land at Knaptoft Hall Farm. The works were mainly within a proposed new dairy field, where a preceding geophysical survey suggested the site lay within a former agricultural zone, although one trench was also excavated within the farmyard. The farmyard trench was included to investigate the possibility that structural remains associated with the former manor of Knaptoft may be present on the site. The proposed dairy field was found to contain a buried soil and furrows that are likely to be the remains of medieval agriculture associated with the former medieval settlement. Pottery indicated the field had been manured in the twelfth to thirteenth century. The farmyard trench exposed a wall foundation that is a continuation of the Tudor structure evident in the adjacent barn. Pottery of mid/late fifteenth to late sixteenth century date from the trench is likely to be contemporary with this structure. Two linear features, a pit and post-hole were undated, but appear to predate the stone wall; these may be associated with an earlier manor that is known to have existed on the site, or may be part of the contemporary medieval settlement. X.A171.2011.

**Little Stretton, Manor Farm (SK 6689 0015)**  
*Gerwyn Richards*

An archaeological evaluation by trial trenching was undertaken by ULAS at Manor Farm, Little Stretton, in advance of residential development. Two evaluation trenches were excavated within the proposed footprint of a new building to ascertain the likely extent of any potential archaeological remains. Limited archaeological remains dating to the early post-medieval period, including a possible cobble path and a well, were recorded; both features were isolated in the northernmost part of the trenches. A single undated linear feature was recorded towards the south-eastern end of Trench 2. X.A206.2010.

**Littlethorpe, land south and east of 64 Cosby Road (SP 5440 9660)**  
*John Thomas*

An archaeological field evaluation was undertaken on land south and east of 64 Cosby Road by ULAS in October 2011. Nine trial trenches were excavated in response to proposals for residential development.
The results of the archaeological evaluation were generally negative, although a small pit was revealed in Trench 4 in the southern part of the application area. The pit contained remains of high-temperature burning activity, including broken fragments of fired clay, heat-cracked stones and burnt bone. Two flint artefacts were also present, although these were not closely datable. Given the available evidence, a prehistoric date for the feature may be postulated. The pit and its contents must indicate the presence of nearby occupation of some sort, but no other traces of such activity were revealed during the evaluation. X.A157.2011.

**Littlethorpe, Littlethorpe House, 10 The Square (SP 542 969)**  
*Jon Coward*

An archaeological evaluation by trial trenching was carried out by ULAS in the gardens of Littlethorpe House, in advance of proposed residential development. The evaluation located relatively recent garden features, but little of archaeological significance was noted, with no finds of any antiquity and a single undated pit being the only feature located in one of the evaluation trenches. X.A42.2011.

**Lockington, Lockington Quarry (SK 470 280)**  
*Jon Coward*

An archaeological excavation and watching brief were carried out at Lockington Quarry, North-West Leicestershire by ULAS, during overburden removal for aggregate extraction as part of an extension to the quarry. The work was carried out on the north-west part of Phase 10 of the ongoing gravel extraction at the quarry, which lies on the River Trent close to the confluence of the River Soar and the Trent. Further stripping of Phases 1A–B was monitored in April 2011.

The site lies to the south of a large Late Iron Age/Romano-British agglomerated settlement and enclosures (Scheduled Monument: SM 126), which includes a villa (SM 140) to the east. The site also forms part of a late Iron Age and Roman landscape, associated with Redhill Roman settlement to the north, while Lockington Bronze Age barrow cemetery lies to the west and south. An earlier geophysical survey and evaluation of the quarry extension area had shown the continuation of a pit alignment and trackway ditch from the north.

The watching brief revealed two linear ditch-like features at the southern edge of the site along the line of a proposed haul road, and a number of beam-slot type features and post-holes to the west of the main site. No dating evidence was found.

To the south of the central topsoil bund was an alignment of small post-holes and a larger pit containing a very large amount of flint debitage.

A pit alignment and linear gully complex crossed the site north to south, running under the central topsoil bund. Dating was very scarce, but the linear ditches are probably early Roman, whereas the pits are later Bronze Age–Iron Age. X.A197.2011.

**Loughborough, land off Bramcote Road (SK 526 169)**  
*Melanie Biggs*

A detailed gradiometry survey was conducted over approximately 4ha of pasture land off Bramcote Road, on the southern outskirts of Loughborough. The survey identified a number of anomalies of possible archaeological origin, the most notable
of these being a set of discrete features which appear near the western boundary of the eastern field.

A few other features in the eastern field were also possibly indicative of archaeological remains, including a weak positive linear anomaly in the north and two small pits along the eastern boundary. There were less significant finds in the western field, but two curvilinear features may relate to buried archaeological remains.

Lount, 3 Church Lane (SK 386 192)  
Tim Higgins

An archaeological evaluation was undertaken by ULAS on land at 3 Church Lane, Lount between 28 June and 1 July 2011. The site had been identified as having potential for buried remains associated with mining and nineteenth-century pottery manufacture. A total of six trenches was excavated, one of which contained nineteenth-century brick foundations for a circular kiln and a rectangular structure which probably represents another kiln. The circular kiln contained pottery industry waste, biscuit-fired pottery and kiln furniture, all associated with pottery manufacture. X.A90.2011.

Lutterworth, land north of Bill Crane Way (SP 543 860)  
Nathan Flavell

In February 2011, an archaeological trial trench evaluation was carried out by NA on land north of Bill Crane Way, Lutterworth. The evaluation was carried out in response to the submission of a planning application for the development of the land for a new residential development and areas of open space. A small area of probable Bronze Age occupation was present at the western edge of the site next to a small watercourse, consisting of two pits and three post-holes associated with an assemblage of struck flints and Bronze Age pottery. X.A15.2011.

Lutterworth, Leaders Farm (SP 5302 8423)  
Gavin Speed

Following a geophysical survey by Stratascan, ULAS carried out an archaeological evaluation by trial trenching on land at Leaders Farm, Lutterworth. The work was undertaken in advance of an application for proposed residential development. The site lies on the south-west edge of Lutterworth and comprised three fields, covering c.6ha of arable farmland and grassland. The site is bordered to the south by the A4303, the west and north by Coventry Road, and to the east by modern housing. The Historic Environment Record for Leicestershire and Rutland indicates a number of known archaeological sites within, and in the vicinity of, the proposed development area.

Thirty-four trenches were excavated; the trenches were spread across the development site, with some located over geophysical anomalies. Archaeological evidence was revealed in 11 trenches across all three fields. The evaluation revealed significant archaeological evidence dating to the Iron Age and Roman periods in the north and south-west fields. The highest concentration of archaeological deposits was found in the north field, where evidence was revealed for an Iron Age enclosure and probable structure in the eastern half of the field. Elsewhere there was evidence
for ditches of both Iron Age and Roman date. There was a high quantity of Roman material from the excavated features at the west-end of the field, indicating a Roman settlement site within the immediate area. The site lies c.1.8km north-east of the Roman road of Watling Street that connected London and Wroxeter.

Evidence from the south-west field was more scattered, consisting of two Roman ditches, and a further two undated ditches and a post-hole. Within the east field an earthwork bank that forms a large sub-rectangular enclosure was examined, but no dating evidence was retrieved. The earthwork measures c.210m north-south and c.47m east-west. The interpretation of this earthwork is uncertain and it may relate to medieval ploughing, as the furrows respect the earthwork and change direction either side of it. X.A178.2011.

Market Harborough, Clack Hill (SP 75100 86900)  
Carol Simmonds

A measured earthwork survey on 7ha of land was undertaken by NA at Clack Hill. The survey identified and recorded well-preserved earthworks relating to the medieval open field system. Later activity was represented by a post-medieval extraction pit.

Market Harborough, Lower Green’s Hill, Burnmill Road (SP 736 885)  
Rosemary Culkin

Following the extension of the ploughed area on Lower Green’s Hill, a fieldwalking survey was undertaken by Great Bowden Heritage Group. The field was walked using the traverse and stint method in September 2011, and recovered a varied assemblage of pottery and other artefacts. In total, three sherds of Roman, 43 sherds of medieval and 94 sherds of post-medieval/modern pottery were found, together with nine fragments of flint, four fragments of metal (including a blade), four fragments of glass and an undated piece of bone showing cut marks.

Market Harborough, Lubenham Hill (SP 719 871)  
Jason Clarke

Following a geophysical survey, an archaeological trial trench evaluation was carried out by NA on behalf of CgMs Consulting, on land at Lubenham Hill, Market Harborough in October 2011. The work identified isolated enclosures of possible late Iron Age date. To the north and east of these was a more extensive complex of Romano-British enclosures which were probably in use from the late first to fourth centuries AD. There was evidence of internal features within some of the enclosures and the finds were consistent with that of a medium status rural agricultural settlement. The site was traversed by remnant furrows of medieval ridge and furrow cultivation. X.A143.2011.

Market Harborough, land north of Waterfield Place (SP 735 883)  
James Harvey

University of Leicester Archaeological Services carried out an archaeological evaluation by trial trenching on land north of Waterfield Place, Market Harborough
in May and June 2011. The work was undertaken as a pre-application requirement in advance of a proposed residential development on the site.

Previous geophysical survey by Stratascan had highlighted the potential for archaeological features to be present within the proposed application area. A total of nine trenches were excavated in order to target the possible features identified by the geophysical survey, as well as to evaluate apparently ‘archaeologically blank’ areas of the site.

Positive results were recorded within seven of the excavated trenches that confirmed the results of the geophysical survey, as well as recording archaeological features not previously identified.

Six enclosure ditches were investigated that broadly spread east to west across the site. These features varied in form, but all produced pottery dating between the Middle to Late Iron Age (fourth century BC to the mid-first century AD). The ditches recorded within Trenches 2, 6, 7 and 9 appeared to represent single cut features, whereas the ditches in Trenches 3 and 8 exhibited an apparently long tradition of re-cutting. Trenches 5 and 7 recorded structural features potentially representing the remains of roundhouses within the recorded enclosures. A further possible roundhouse structure was also recorded within Trench 6 that may relate to a phase of unenclosed settlement on the site. Evidence of structural deposition was recorded within Trench 5, where two complete miniature pottery vessels had been deliberately placed within the centre of a gully terminus.

It is currently unclear whether the activity represents a large ‘aggregated’ settlement or whether the features map a shifting settlement pattern of smaller groups of people over a longer period of time. Clear overlapping of the features has been recorded on the site, suggesting that distinctive phasing of activity is present, but there was little evidence of any clear differentiation within the dating of the material recovered from the site. It is obvious that the known Roman activity immediately east of the site does not extend into the application, perhaps suggesting the settlement activity has shifted to the east of the site by the time of the Roman conquest. X.A78.2011.

Measham, ‘Minorca’ land, Bosworth Road (SK 350 114)  

An archaeological evaluation was carried out by ULAS for UK Coal Ltd in October 2011 on land to the south of Swepstone Road, to the east of Measham, Leicestershire. The work was undertaken in advance of proposed open-cast coal extraction. The site lies around 1km east of Measham town centre on the eastern side of the B4116, between Swepstone Road and Bosworth Road. An Archaeological Desk-Based Assessment for the area had identified that the development site lies in an area of archaeological remains of prehistoric and Roman date. Earlier fieldwalking and geophysical surveys have also been undertaken.

Thirty-four trenches were excavated, with archaeological evidence revealed in four trenches. The evaluation revealed significant archaeological evidence dating to the early- to mid-Anglo-Saxon period (AD 410–650) in an area to the south of the area, where permission has been granted for opencast coal extraction. Two probable Anglo-Saxon structures (known as sunken-featured buildings or grubenhauser),
along with two ditches or shallow drainage gullies, were discovered. Within the backfill of one structure a significant quantity of pottery was recovered, including a vessel with stamp decoration (Fig. 13). An iron object (a possible dress pin, Fig. 14), and evidence for metalworking (lumps of haematite and vesicular limestone), was also retrieved from this structure. The finds are relatively rich for a rural context and suggest significant settlement evidence. Elsewhere, evidence was revealed for post-medieval or modern industrial activity. X.A131.2011.

Fig. 13. Anglo-Saxon pottery with stamp decoration from a sunken-featured building at Measham.
Hallaton Field Work Group (HFWG) continued their geophysical surveys of Port Hill and surrounding fields to the north-west of Medbourne. Work on the paddocks at the rear of the house at Port Hill produced some interesting results, a circular feature approximately 40m in diameter. Several other circular features have also been identified in the fields to the south-east (Fig. 15), mainly on the ridges. This seems to indicate the presence of a late Neolithic or Bronze Age dispersed round-barrow cemetery.

Allen Archaeology Ltd carried out a programme of auger survey and archaeological watching brief during construction of new council offices. The watching brief exposed a sequence of alluvial deposits in the flood plain of the River Eye, as well as a large post-medieval pit, sections of railway siding associated with a former railway goods shed shown on a map of 1904, and significant evidence for recent truncation and levelling of the site. The auger survey identified another large post-medieval quarry pit associated with the canal, as well as identifying the course of the canal across the site. X.A92.2010.

ULAS conducted an archaeological strip, map and sample exercise on land to the west of the Kettleby Foods facility, near Melton Mowbray, in advance of construction.

Fig. 14. Anglo-Saxon iron pin from a sunken-featured building at Measham (length 70mm × shaft width 3mm and head width 5mm).
of a new modular chill store on the site. Archaeological remains associated with an Anglo-Saxon settlement were exposed and investigated. These remains included a sunken-featured building (SFB), a post-hole building, other post-built structure(s) and a pit. Ground reduction prior to the current stage of development had resulted in the truncation of other archaeological remains known to have been present in the area. The results of this stage of investigation will be integrated with the analysis and reporting of the Anglo-Saxon settlement remains recorded elsewhere on the site in 1996–97. X.A81.2011.

Melton Mowbray, land south of Kirby Lane

Angela Parker

Two fields to the south of Kirby Lane (denoted K east and K west) were fieldwalked by the Melton Fieldworker Group, both of which are thought to contain remains of an Anglo-Saxon cemetery. **K east** (NGR 47556 31700) produced a large scatter of Late and post-medieval pottery from across the field, as well as clay pipe fragments, shell, slag and modern glass. Notably no Anglo-Saxon pottery was found.

**K west** (NGR 47513 31735) produced a large scatter of Roman pottery, concentrated on the western side of the field and consisting mostly of grey ware sherds. A general scatter of Late and post-medieval pottery was also recovered, as well as clay pipe fragments and modern glass. As with the neighbouring field, no Anglo-Saxon pottery was found.
Mowsley, The Old Rectory (SP 646 889)  

Jennifer Browning

An archaeological strip, map and sample excavation and watching brief was carried out by ULAS at The Old Rectory, Mowsley in November 2011, during groundworks for a new pond. The site was located directly east of Mowsley Brook, on land belonging to the Old Rectory. No archaeological deposits were identified during the course of the work; however, finds recovered during topsoil stripping included a Mesolithic secondary bladelet, a sherd of medieval Chilvers Coton ware and fragments of post-medieval brick and tile. X.A165.2011.

Narborough, Carlton Park (SP 538 980)  

Souterrain Archaeological Services Ltd

In August 2011 a survey of ridge and furrow earthworks was carried out in advance of proposed development at Carlton Park, Narborough by Souterrain Archaeological Services Ltd. The survey was commissioned by MetroMOLA, on behalf of Hurley Palmer Flatt, for Santander PLC. The Study Area comprised part of a small enclosed field of probable mid-eighteenth century date, which contained the relict remains of medieval cultivation strips in low-relief, forming the terminus of a furlong field. The survey revealed two distinct phases of earthworks, whereby a system of narrow cultivation ridges had been later bundled together to form wider ridges. The results of the survey are depicted as a digital terrain model of the earthworks, a contour plan to show the topographical aspect of the Study Area and a series of representative photographs. A detailed profile of the earthworks is contained in the digital archive.

Plungar, Manor Farm House, 3 Church Lane (SK 7700 3407)  

Tim Higgins and Mathew Morris

An archaeological trial trench evaluation and watching brief were undertaken by ULAS on land at 3 Church Lane, Plungar, in advance of construction of a new outbuilding. The archaeological potential of the site was highlighted by an Archaeological Desk-Based Assessment, which indicated that the development area was located within a distinct land-block that may represent a Saxon and medieval manorial centre. A single trench was excavated to evaluate the area, and this contained remains of a revetted earth bank and part of a pond. The bank contained pottery, suggesting a possible late medieval to early post-medieval date, and both features may be associated with the medieval manorial complex. A subsequent watching brief on the site revealed more of the earth bank, but no further signs of the stone revetting. A small area of burnt material was seen in section in the area’s south-east corner, and a possible gully or ditch was recorded on the southern edge of the development. Six sherds of late medieval and post-medieval pottery were recovered from the subsoil, along with a small quantity of animal bone. X.A18.2011.

Rearsby, Mill Road (SK 647 144)  

Gerwyn Richards

ULAS was commissioned by J. S. Bloor (Measham) Ltd to undertake an archaeologically controlled topsoil strip and watching brief during groundworks in advance of the
construction of new residential units on land at Mill Lane, Rearsby. The proposed
development area had been identified as being of archaeological potential, located
within the historic settlement core of the village. Monitoring of the excavation of the
footing trenches of plots 7, 8 and 9 revealed extensive quarrying, possibly medieval in
date, but also more recent ground disturbance. The controlled strip of plots 31, 32,
33, 34, 35 and 36 uncovered a number of archaeological deposits, including a hearth
base dating from the ninth to the twelfth century. Environmental evidence indicates
the hearth base was associated with malting for brewing. X.A38.2011.

**Shawell Quarry** (SP 528 810 to SP 539 814)  
Tim Upson-Smith

An archaeological watching brief was undertaken by NA to observe the stripping of
the gas pipeline diversion for Shawell Quarry. Evidence for medieval agriculture was
observed in the form of furrows aligned north-west to south-east. No artefacts were
recovered. X.A60.2011.

**Sileby, Seagrave Road** (SK 607 166)  
Albion Archaeology

An archaeological evaluation was undertaken by Albion Archaeology on c.14ha of
land off Seagrave Road, Sileby in advance of development. The evaluation comprised
the investigation of 27 trenches each 50m long and 2m wide, and one 75m-long
and 2m-wide trench. The trench layout was designed to investigate geophysical
anomalies and to test the apparently ‘blank’ part of the site.

Two square enclosures were located and are dated to the early Iron Age on the
basis of pottery. They were defined by substantial ditches and contained a small
number of features. Contemporary settlements in this region tend to be open in
nature and these are therefore significant discoveries.

A Romano-British settlement was located within the northern part of the
development area and extended over c.4ha. It comprised a rectilinear ditched
enclosure with fairly regular internal subdivisions, an integral trackway and further
activity to the south-east. Some evidence suggests that the trackway originated in the
early Iron Age, and along with one of the square enclosures was still in use when the
Romano-British settlement was established. Pottery suggests that it was occupied
between the late first and fourth centuries AD. The presence of Saxon spindle whorls
hints at continuity into this period. The settlement was subdivided by a series of
ditches, several of which had been re-dug, indicating continuity in layout over time.

A number of possible buildings were also identified; the most convincing of these
was a roundhouse. A number of cobbled surfaces probably functioned as yards
within the settlement. The finds assemblage was relatively large for an evaluation; it
included 1.8kg of pottery, mostly locally made grey ware vessels with small quantities
of regional and continental imports, including a sherd of amphorae. A small quantity
of Roman building material was recovered, but insufficient to indicate the presence of
a roofed building within the settlement. A total of 87 other artefacts were recovered.
Those of Roman date include coinage (42), a military pendant, finger rings, brooches,
a hair pin and a possible baggage seal. In addition, a small quantity of ferrous slag
and animal bone was recovered. Based on the plan of the settlement, animal bone and
charred plant remains, it seems likely that the occupants of the settlement were farmers. The presence of metallurgical debris suggests that iron-working was also undertaken within the settlement. Numerous furrows were found in the trenches, indicating the location of medieval open fields. A small number of undated or post-medieval features were also identified. However, the most significant evidence comprised the early Iron Age enclosures and the Romano-British settlement. X.A145.2011.

**Slawston (SP 77761 94061)**  
*Christine Brammall and Ce Ponting*

Further geophysical survey was undertaken by Hallaton Field Work Group (HFWG) in the fields south of Slawston. The survey showed that the features in the original survey continued to the west (Fig. 16). Field walking of the area was carried out in August under difficult conditions. Nevertheless, significant amounts of Anglo-Saxon pottery were found along with a few flints.

**Slawston, The Grange, Main Street (SP 7773 9452)**  
*Andrew Hyam*

An archaeological strip, plan and sample excavation was undertaken at The Grange, Main Street, Slawston by ULAS, in advance of groundworks for a new tennis court. The heavily robbed red-brick and ironstone foundation of a mid-nineteenth-century non-conformist chapel and its boundary wall were located in the south-western corner of the site. Elsewhere, the paddock had been landscaped in the recent past, resulting in the original subsoil and some of the natural substrate being removed prior to this work. X.A41.2011.

![Fig. 16. Geophysical survey of fields to the south-west of Slawston.](image)
Slawston, Hall Close (SP 77993 94585)  Christine Brammall and Ce Ponting

Hallaton Field Work Group (HFWG) carried out a geophysical survey (Fig. 17) on the site of what is understood to be an old manor. Both magnetometry and resistivity were used. The magnetometry results showed very little owing to the amount of modern disturbance. The resistivity results were more interesting, possibly showing some wall outlines matching the earthworks on the field.

Slawston, Saxon Field (SP 777 940)  Hallaton Field Work Group

A geophysical and fieldwalking survey was undertaken on this field in 2011. The geophysical survey appears to show several linear features, possible pits and a possible curvilinear ditch. Fieldwalking recovered a quantity of flint flakes and Saxon pottery.

Slawston, land north of Saxon Field (SP 778 941)  Hallaton Field Work Group

A geophysical survey, to the north of the work described above, revealed medieval ridge and furrow remains with a possible linear feature, crossing the field on a rough east to west alignment.

Fig. 17. Results of the resistivity survey at Hall Close, Slawston.
Swinford, Swinford Windfarm, near Lutterworth (SP 575 815 centre)

Mathew Morris

During the summer of 2011 an archaeological excavation was undertaken by ULAS in a 350ha area of farmland between Swinford and Lutterworth, in advance of the proposed construction of an 11-turbine wind farm. The excavation comprised four c.60m × c.30m areas, which were located over the proposed footprints for Turbines 4, 5, 9 and 11, to investigate possible early Roman features found during a programme of archaeological trial trenching undertaken by ULAS in 2010.

In Turbine 4 a complex sequence of possible late Iron Age and early Roman settlement was uncovered (Fig. 18). The earliest features were a series of parallel, east to west orientated ditches dating to the mid to late first century AD, which were found crossing the northern half of the area. These were replaced during the first half of the second century by a series of rectangular enclosures in the southern half of the area, which were enclosed by a substantial ditch which could be traced running north-north-west to south-south-east across the western side of the site, before turning east at its southern end. Four structures were found within the excavated area. Structures One and Two both appeared to be associated with the earlier phase of activity. Structure One may have been the remains of a rectangular timber building, but Structure Two was almost certainly the remains of a roundhouse. Late Iron Age pottery found beneath a cobbled surface in Structure Two and from one of its drip-gullies may indicate that the roundhouse dated to the Conquest period (early–mid first century). A second roundhouse, Structure Three, was sited immediately south of Structure Two, and appeared to be associated with the later enclosures. Its demise was marked by a thick, overlying layer of soil containing large quantities of charcoal and burnt daub. This appeared to date to the early second century. The fourth structure, which was stratigraphically the latest feature in the area, was a substantial stone platform surrounded on its north side by a ditch which appeared to be intended to keep the platform dry from water descending on it from up-slope. Along the ditch the platform was kerbed with stone, including a large fragment of re-used rotary-quern. It is thought the platform was intended to be a dry, external working surface, possibly a threshing floor. A dispersed collection of redeposited iron slag and vitrified heath lining suggests iron-working, most likely smithing, was also occurring in the vicinity, but no primary evidence of industrial activity was found in the area. Geophysical results suggest that the occupation in Turbine 4 was on the western edge of a small settlement sited immediately east of the excavated area. Ceramic dating suggests that all occupation had ceased by the mid-second century AD.

Less archaeology was found in Turbines 5 and 9. In Turbine 5 a series of severely plough-damaged ditches and gullies formed two parallel alignments, possibly marking a trackway heading north-north-west towards the settlement in Turbine 4. A small number of pits or tree-throws edged the southern side of the ‘trackway’, whilst to the north, two cremation pits were excavated. The small amount of pottery recovered from the area suggests occupation could have spanned the first century AD, or may well have been confined to the decades around the Conquest period. In Turbine 9, a few further ditches, gullies and pits were uncovered. Very little pottery was recovered, most of which was heavily-abraded early Roman material, and it
Fig. 18. Phases of Romano-British settlement at Swinford.
remains unclear to which period most of these features date to. The ditches all pre-dated the medieval ridge-and-furrow, but little more could be determined; whilst one ash-filled pit, possibly a hearth, produced a small quantity of late Iron Age pottery. A second small pit contained the semi-articulated remains of a sheep which, judging by the good quality of the bone (on a site where bone did not survive well), had almost certainly been buried during the post-medieval or modern period. No archaeological features were found in Turbine 11, but an almost complete flint chisel of possible late Neolithic date was recovered from the subsoil during machining.

The site archive will be held by Leicestershire County Council Museum Service under the accession number X.A99.2011.

**Whetstone, land south of Dog and Gun Lane (SP 562 958)**  
*Melanie Biggs*

A detailed gradiometry survey was conducted by Stratascan over approximately 2.1ha of grazed pasture, south-east of Whetstone. The results show two positive linear cut features of probable archaeological origin, alongside a small positive area anomaly in the north-western corner of the survey area. There are also extensive ridge and furrow markings crossing the site from east to west.

**Historic Building Recording**

**Blaston, Mud Cottage, Main Street (SP 808 956)**  
*David Smith and Rob Hayward*

Historic building survey work was carried out by TR Projects prior to proposed alterations/extensions of Mud Cottage. The building lies at the east end of Blaston, on a small parcel of land in a marginal position that is characteristic of many ‘squat’ed buildings. Documentary evidence suggests that the house was probably built c.1800 and originally consisted of four, one and a half storey bays of mud building, raised on an ironstone plinth and having a thatched roof of long-straw. The building originally had a central partition wall of brick with back-to-back fireplaces. At some time in the third quarter of the twentieth century the eastern two bays of the building were dismantled and, with the exception of the lower section of the north, side-wall, which appears to have been integrated into a replacement implement or storage unit, that has now been demolished, that part of the site was cleared. The two remaining western bays and the original transverse, brick wall, including the fireplace on the west side of the wall, subsequently formed the east gable of the building, which continued to be occupied until sometime in the late 1970s.

**Great Bowden, Rectory House (SP 746 889)**  
*Brian Hawkins*

A historic building survey was undertaken at Rectory House by Hawkins Historic Ltd in April 2011. The rectory as a building has been assessed as a significant part of Great Bowden parish since 1254, which is in line with the construction of the adjacent church in 1220. Although the rectory has been detailed since the thirteenth century, no evidence has been uncovered to confirm, or in fact deny, that
this information relates to the present building. The rectory was appropriated to Christ Church in 1546. The main house comprises a 2.5-storey building built from facing brickwork and local limestone, covered with a dual pitched roof and finished with natural slates complete with parapetted gable ends to the roof. The north wing contains the oldest section of the house, dating from the sixteenth century, the central section dates from the seventeenth century and the south wing largely dates from the eighteenth century. It was further remodelled in the late nineteenth century, being restyled from a rectory to vicarage by 1879. It seems that part of the north wing was demolished during the 1980s.

Higham on the Hill: Nissen Huts and a Blast Shelter, MIRA
(formerly RAF Nuneaton) (SP 36971 96128) Gerwyn Richards

An English Heritage Level 2 building survey was undertaken by ULAS of two Nissen Huts and Second World War blast shelter at the former RAF Nuneaton site, Higham on the Hill, Leicestershire, in advance of their demolition. The buildings are located towards the western perimeter of the former airfield and are of standard Second World War design, used extensively at airfields throughout Britain. The site was in use between 1943 and 1945 as an operational training unit (OTU), flying Wellington bombers and later Dakota DC-3 transport aircraft. In 1946 the site was acquired by the Motor Industry Research Association (MIRA), and has remained as its headquarters and proving ground.

Hinckley, Hinckley Union Workhouse, London Road (SP 434 940) Geoff Morley and Edward James

The Hinckley Union Workhouse was the subject of a photographic survey by Nexus Heritage in 2011 due to proposals for residential development. The workhouse was built in 1838 and designed to house 300–450 inmates. The original buildings were built in an Elizabethan and Jacobean style, and consisted of a main three-storey structure with forward projecting wings and a passageway to a smaller building that was the mortuary – the only surviving part of the original 1838 structure. In 1912 three new buildings housing a new infirmary, laundry and washhouse were constructed. In 1947–48 all but the infirmary, mortuary, laundry and washhouse were demolished. These buildings still stand and were the subject of the survey work. The infirmary, still largely in its original layout, constitutes the music rooms. The laundry has been converted into an arts and dance studio, and the mortuary is now a student centre and common room. The washhouse is now used by the school caretakers as their office.

Houghton on the Hill, 15 Main Street (SK 6797 0356) Sophie Clarke

A programme of historic building survey and recording was undertaken by ULAS at 15 Main Street, Houghton on the Hill, a Grade II listed building, in advance of proposed redevelopment. The house has a plaque inscribed with the date 1760, but evidence from the internal building survey, including a surviving upper-cruck timber roof truss
within the earliest range, indicates that the house is likely to have originated as a timber-framed structure of three bays and one and a half storey, with a cross-passage plan, probably dating to the second half of the seventeenth century. A two-storey outbuilding to the rear of the house, with an upper floor workshop, appears to have been constructed in the early part of the eighteenth century. The 1760 plaque is likely to signify an episode of major alterations to the building, including the rebuilding of the external walls in brick and the insertion of the present fireplaces and chimney stacks, works which would have drastically altered the appearance of the house. During the nineteenth century, the narrow, service end-bay at the northern end of the building was demolished and replaced by a larger, two-bay extension of a full two storeys in height. An imposing king-post roof truss, formed of imported Baltic softwood and connected with iron bolts and strapwork, indicates a construction date of 1850+ for this range.

Kirby Bellars, Poplars Farm (SK 730 159)  
Sophie Clarke and Neil Finn

A programme of historic building inspection and recording was undertaken by ULAS at Poplars Farm, Kirby Bellars, Leicestershire, in advance of restoration and redevelopment of the derelict buildings. The imposing three-storey brick farmhouse is likely to have been constructed between 1790 and 1816, although there is evidence to indicate that the house was built to replace an earlier building on the site. The ancillary farm buildings are arranged around a central fold-yard and largely post-date the farmhouse; these include a barn, cow-sheds, loose-boxes, stables and pigsties, which appear to have been constructed between 1850 and 1870. Abandonment since the 1960s has resulted in the rare survival of elements such as the bakehouse, earth closets, and various internal fixtures and fittings.

Kirby Bellars, Sanham Farm, Great Dalby Road (SK 729 154)  
David Smith and Rob Hayward

A building survey was undertaken at Sanham Farm by TR Projects in 2011. The farm has a long-standing association with fox hunting in Leicestershire and, from archive evidence, would appear to have served as a livery yard from the early 1870s until sometime after the Second World War, after which time it continued to breed and prepare hunters for the field until the 1980s. A consequence of this long association with hunters and livery is that many of the original farm outbuildings were subsequently adapted to serve as loose boxes, while other parts of the buildings were converted into tack rooms, feed stores and grooms bothies. The original Sanham House was built c.1815/16, although no evidence of who designed and built the house has been identified. What is interesting is that whoever did draw up the plans for the layout of the courtyard complex that is now Sanham Farm appears to have been conversant with the motifs, forms and principles of the Renaissance, as the grouping of the buildings provides some interesting visual juxtapositions, particularly if the observer stands in the elevated location where the original Sanham House stood. The most striking of these arrangements is the relationship of the small, three-bay building (Unit 2A–C), which is currently occupied by pigs, to the gables at Units 2A and 3D, which from the elevated position of the original Sanham House creates an effective, formal visual
group. The two large cereal storage barns with their gabled pitching doors and lower wagon entrance doors – now over-enlarged (Units 2B and 2C) – are visually reminiscent of the large cereal storage barns of the sixteenth century. Their positioning provides a visual foil for the three-bay unit. Probably the least interesting of all the buildings forming Sanham Farm is the farmhouse, whose scale and quality are negligible.

**Loughborough, Holywell Farm (SK 507 179)**

A historic building assessment report by Trent & Peak Archaeology was commissioned in relation to the forthcoming restoration of an agricultural building at Holywell Farm, south-west of Loughborough. The building, used until recently as an animal shed, is unusual in that it contains two cruck frames.

The site of Holywell Farm, situated south-west of Loughborough, is believed to date back to at least the twelfth century when it may have been the site of a hospitium, a refuge for travellers, with a spring with reputed healing properties. Records of Garendon Abbey refer to the Hermitage of the Holy Well in 1180 and mention an attached dairy farm in 1240. Research into the later history of the site has yet to be carried out, but until the late nineteenth century the listed farmhouse was still set within a moated area.

This building is possibly built around an original one-roomed stone building of thirteenth century date, later extended in the fifteenth century and again in the Tudor period. The building was later extended at its south end and the present fabric largely dates from the late eighteenth century to early nineteenth century. The agricultural buildings, west of the farmhouse, include a single-storey animal shed with housing for nine cows, brick-built with a modern asbestos roof. The building is two-bays long and approximately 10m long and 4.4m across. The walling consists of brick, built off a rough stone base which is up to 0.45m high. Most of the outer walling consists of eighteenth-century bricks laid in Flemish bond. Four other areas of brickwork can be distinguished, possibly indicating an earlier infilling and later rebuilds. The interior of the building has two cruck frames still in position, one at the east end, the other centrally placed, 4.85m (16ft) beyond the first. Differing in appearance to some extent, they are largely intact, apart from two missing wind-braces. The centrally-placed cruck has adjoining assembly marks showing, indicating that the building is likely to have once extended westwards an extra bay and been 15m (48ft) long. Original wall-plates show it originally had timber posts and mud/plaster infill walling.

In the absence of tree-ring dating, dating the Holywell Farm crucks is not easy. Crucks in Leicestershire (of which 120 are now known) generally date to before 1600. A number of features here suggest a late medieval date, such as the use of halvings for jointing, the presence of so-called Type C yoked blades and the early origin of the nearby farmhouse; all suggest a late medieval age for the crucks, one of which now needs urgent repair.

**Melton Mowbray, Anne of Cleves (SK 753 189)**

This building probably dates back to 1384, when land was acquired to build a priest’s house. The main stone walls, arched rear (west) doorway and remains of a
former window to an open hall survive from that date. Timber was felled in 1479 for a major programme of alterations in which a new roof was constructed on raised walls, the open hall was floored over and three first-floor chambers were created. The central chamber is unusual in being of small proportions, but with a fine arch-braced display truss across its centre; this plan form no doubt relates to use by priests. The building is said to have housed about 14 chantry priests by the late medieval period. After the Reformation this was the parsonage house to the adjacent parish church of St Mary the Virgin. The building was re-fronted in the seventeenth century, updating its appearance. Around 1760 a new vicarage was constructed on the opposite side of Burton Street and this building became a private residence. Further alterations were made in the nineteenth century, including a major refurbishment c. 1860. In the early twentieth century the house was converted into a café called the Anne of Cleves, and today is a public house and restaurant of the same name. The name commemorates the fact that in 1540 the building had formed part of an estate, the revenues of which made up the divorce settlement of Henry VIII’s fourth wife.

**Twyford, The Manor House, Church Lane (SK 730 101)**

Gary Taylor

Historic building recording was undertaken by APS prior to refurbishment of the Manor House, Twyford. Listed Grade II, the buildings are of vernacular architectural and historic interest, initially constructed in the seventeenth century, with alterations and additions made in the eighteenth, nineteenth and twentieth centuries. The building survey recorded three ranges of domestic and agricultural buildings around a courtyard.

At the core of the complex is the Manor House, an ironstone building of probable early seventeenth century date. This retains many original features and fittings, including mullioned windows, exposed beams and an internal bread oven. Alterations and additions were made in the mid-eighteenth century when a large brick barn was constructed. A worn datestone inscribed ‘1749’ may date this phase of alteration. However, the datestone itself was later relocated when the barn was increased in height in the nineteenth century. This alteration to the barn was probably part of a major refurbishment at the end of the eighteenth century. Most of the doors, both internal and external, were replaced with Georgian or Regency-style examples. Mullioned windows were provided with shutters, many of the original beams were boxed in and a new main staircase was built. A subsidiary service building was probably also constructed at this point. In the later nineteenth century new ranges of buildings were constructed along the south range and on the east side of the courtyard. These served an agricultural and storage function. At the end of the nineteenth century the east range was raised in height, with most of it then serving as a cow house. The west range was also constructed at that time. This may have been used as a loose box and cattle accommodation, and incorporated the earlier courtyard wall in its structure. In the twentieth century fireplaces within the manor house were replaced and a glazed vat, perhaps for cheese making, was constructed. A further small shed was also constructed at that time.
## Historic Building Projects

**Barrow upon Soar**  Holy Trinity Church, Church Street (SK 5764 1757) ULAS

**Beeby**  Spring Grange Farm, Croxton Road (SK 673 087) TR Projects

**Countesthorpe**  Workshop to rear of 58 Wigston Road (SP 58660 95647) ULAS

**Donington-le-Heath**  12 Holts Lane (SK 419 125) Trigpoint Conservation & Planning Ltd

**Fenny Drayton**  Hill Farm, Fenn Lane (SP 3585 9775) ULAS

**Groby**  Outbuildings at Groby Old Hall Farm, Markfield Road (SK 5241 0757) ULAS

**Hinckley**  Castle Inn, 113 Castle Street (SP 430 939) ULAS

**Houghton on the Hill**  54 Main Street (SK 676 033) TR Projects

**Leire**  The Hatchery, Main Street (SP 525 901) Castle House Heritage Consulting Ltd

**Market Bosworth**  3 Main Street (SK 405 901) TR Projects

**Melton Mowbray**  Coventry House, Burton Street (SK 754 188) Trigpoint Conservation & Planning Ltd

**Nether Broughton**  Hecadeck Cottage (SK 695 259) Trigpoint Conservation & Planning Ltd

**Rearsby**  The Coach House at The Old Hall (SK 650 143) Trigpoint Conservation & Planning Ltd

**Shawell**  Grange Farm, Catthorpe Road (SP 544 794) TR Projects

**Swinford**  Home Farm, Rugby Road (SP 568 793) TR Projects

**Whetstone**  Outbuildings at Fosse Ltd, Lutterworth Road (SK 557 938) ULAS

**Willoughby Waterleys**  Courtyard north of Old Hall (SP 576 919) TR Projects

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

**Ashby Magna:** The Cottage, Hall Lane (SP 5634 9059); **Belton:** 49–55 Long Street (SK 446 204); **Bottesford:** Elm Farm (SK 811 404) (APS); **Busby:** Uppingham Road (SK 661 039) (NA); **Carlton:** Willows, Shackerstone Walk (SK 3933 0491); **Cold Newton:** Manor Farm (SK 717 066) (NA); **Coleorton:** High Bank Cottage, Farm Town (SK 3899 1651); **Copt Oak:** Land at Corner Farm, Copt Oak Road (SK 4810 1297); **Cotesbach:** Elmdene, Main Street (SP 536 824) (Allen Archaeology Ltd); **Drayton:** Medbourne Road (SP 819 918) (NA); **Gaddesby:** 15 Church Lane (SK 6895 9884); **Great Glen:** The Mere (SP 652 978) (APS); **Huncote:** Land east of Forest Road (SP 5193 9784); **Husbands Bosworth:** Willow Barn, Hillcrest Lane (SP 64120 84414); **Ibstock:** Ibstock Quarry (SK 419 110) (NA); **Kirby Bellars:**
Uplands (SK 713 170) (Allen Archaeology Ltd); **Little Bowden:** 32 The Heights (SP 7460 8680) (Allen Archaeology); **Long Clawson:** 2 Back Lane (SK 7255 2730); **Lubenham:** Land to the rear of Tower House, Rushes Lane (SP 7055 8720); **Markfield:** Lower Grange Farm, London Road (SK 489 094); **Medbourne:** 29 Main Street (SP 800 932); **Narborough:** 32 Desford Road (SP 532 989); **Narborough:** Red Hill Field School, Copt Oak Road (SP 53206 97739); **Nether Broughton:** 18 Chapel Lane (SK 6944 2576); **Newbold Verdon:** Dragon Lane (SK 443 042) (Cotswold Archaeology); **Newtown Linford:** 45 Main Street (SK 517 100); **Oadby:** 64 London Road (SK 626 002) (Naomi Field Archaeological Consultancy); **Oadby:** 11 Quinton Rise (SK 6243 0001); **Ratby:** The Dovecott (SK 490 064) (Trent & Peak Archaeology); **Rothley:** 8 Church Street (SK 585 126); **Saltby (Sproxton):** 9 Main Street (SK 8500 2650); **Sapcote:** Sapcote Post Office, Stanton Road (SP 489 935); **Snarestone (Swadlincote):** The Manor House, 19 Main Street (SK 7178 2121); **Stathern:** The Bungalow, 22 Main Street (SK 7717 3103); **Stoke Golding:** Hinckley Road (SP 405 973) (NA); **Swithland:** 78 Main Street (SK 5455 1317); **Thornton:** Land adjacent to 182 Main Street (SK 651 776); **Wanlip:** Sewage Treatment Works (SK 594 119) (CFA Archaeology Ltd); **Whetstone:** Land at Dog & Gun Lane (SP 562 958); **Wymondham:** 11 Church Lane (SK 8510 1860); **Wymondham:** Land north of Thorpeholm, 4 Wrights Lane (SK 853 186).

**RUTLAND**

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

**Barleythorpe, land off Main Road** (SK 8514 0954) **Victoria Mellor**

Following earlier programmes of geophysical survey and evaluation that had revealed concentric ring ditches, an excavation was carried out by Archaeological Project Services, for Larkfleet Homes Ltd, on the site of a probable Bronze Age barrow defined by the ditches. The excavation established that the barrow, which had a maximum diameter of c.21m, consisted of three concentric ditches, and within the innermost of these were two burials (Fig. 19). Located by the skull of one of the skeletons was a complete highly decorated Food Vessel dating to about 2200 BC (Fig. 20). The second burial had a series of flints, some worked, others natural, placed around the skull. Although the burial is also likely to be Bronze Age, the worked flints from around the skull were much earlier, dating to the Mesolithic and Neolithic, perhaps a couple of thousand years older than the burial. Additionally, a complete red deer antler was recovered from the inner ring ditch, but did not appear to have been worked or used as a tool. OAKRM:2011.11.

**Cottesmore Hall, Hall Close** (SK 9042 1375) **Gerwyn Richards and Roger Kipling**

In advance of barn conversions, a photographic survey was carried out on the Grade II listed outbuildings at Cottesmore Hall. The listing description describes
the buildings as an eighteenth or nineteenth century cottage and stabling; however, a more detailed examination revealed significant fifteenth and sixteenth century features, including a large fireplace, a moulded beam and areas of well-laid ashlar block work. The listing description mentions a stone mullion window with Tudor arches, which appears to be made of cement. The two other windows of exactly the same design to the rear of the building are original fifteenth- or sixteenth-century moulded stone. All in all, the quality of the elements suggests a building of some status and may actually be the original medieval Manor House, which was abandoned in favour of the New Cottesmore Hall in the eighteenth century.

An archaeological evaluation at Cottesmore Hall was carried out by ULAS in advance of redevelopment. The work followed on from an earlier evaluation, also by ULAS in 2003, and revealed a number of stone- and brick-built structures of uncertain date. These are likely to have formed part of a demolished range associated with the possibly fifteenth- or sixteenth-century standing building described above, flanking the north side of the present farmyard. This arrangement of buildings may have been associated with the hall which lay a short distance to the north, possibly as stable. OAKRM:2011.4.

Cottesmore, Lilac Farm (SK 902 139)  
Dale Trimble

A programme of archaeological evaluation was undertaken by APS on land at the former Lilac Farm, Mill Lane, Cottesmore, in advance of a proposed residential
development. The site lies within the core of the medieval and post-medieval village at a distance of approximately 350m north of the parish church of St Nicholas. Previous archaeological investigations at Lilac Farm, in 2002 and 2008, had revealed evidence of late Saxon and medieval settlement, primarily in the areas immediately adjacent to Mill Lane, where the possible foundations of timber-framed buildings were identified, as well as a track, pits, post-holes, ditches, and a stone wall or wall foundation. A lower density of features (primarily pits and ditches) occurred in areas further to the north of the street frontage, extending to the southern boundary of the current site. Many of the excavated deposits contained iron slag indicative of iron production in the immediate vicinity of Lilac Farm. Residual finds from the Bronze Age, Roman and early Saxon periods indicated a potential for deposits earlier than those already encountered. The current project, which entailed the excavation of two trenches on land to the north of the areas already investigated, revealed a number of features considered to be of

Fig. 20. Excavating one of the burials with decorated Food Vessel pot near the skull.
potential archaeological significance. The most noteworthy was a ditch, apparently representing the further extent of a feature which was recorded in 2008 and dated on the basis of associated pottery to the late twelfth to fourteenth centuries. The only other features of potential archaeological interest were a pair of shallow pits or hollows, both undated, and a possible post-hole, which was also undated. OAKRM:2011.8.

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

Allen Archaeology Ltd carried out a strip, map and record in advance of the construction of a replacement dwelling. A previous trial trench identified a Roman ditch, two Saxo-Norman pits and a linear spread of stone rubble. A subsequent strip, map and record exercise was carried out on the footprint of the new development.

The earliest activity identified was the continuation of the Roman ditch of third/fourth century date, superseded by a number of very truncated stone walls, with associated groups of painted wall plaster and an iron ‘T-clamp’, commonly associated with hypocaust heating systems.

A small group of Saxo-Norman pits represented the next phase of activity, and these were sealed by stone walls broadly of medieval date, in places overlying the earlier Roman walls. Dating evidence for this period was very limited, however, being restricted to a few fragments of high-status glazed roof tile and small quantities of pottery in residual contexts. The lack of finds indicates that the buildings may have been barns or other non-domestic structures.

The buildings were demolished and robbed for stone in the post-medieval period, possibly to provide stone for the nearby eighteenth-century Rectory. OAKRM:2010.32.

Great Casterton, Great Casterton Primary School, Pickworth Road (SK 999 092)  
*Leon Hunt*

Following evaluation, an archaeological excavation was carried out by ULAS at Great Casterton Primary School, in advance of a new extension to the current school building and the laying of a temporary haul road to facilitate the proposed ground-works. The school lies close to the ramparts of the Roman town, a Roman fort and Ermine Street Roman road. Excavations during the construction of the school in 1959 revealed Roman burials and two pottery kilns were found nearby. Two trenches were placed in the school grounds as part of the evaluation, one of which revealed part of a Romano-British pottery kiln. This contained several sherds of Romano-British pottery, and fragments of kiln lining and kiln furniture, dating the kiln to the late second to early third century (Fig. 21).

During the excavation phase, most of the footprint for the new building was stripped by machine. This revealed further evidence of the main kiln structure along with part of the stoke-pit. Many artefacts were retrieved, including parts of kiln bars, a large amount of kiln-produced pottery and other forms of pottery not associated with the kiln. A further pit feature, cut into the limestone and showing signs of burning, was found at the opposite end of the trench to the main kiln. It was thought this may represent a stoke-pit for a second kiln, but further work proved it
was only a pit, the purpose of which was unknown. The firing chamber of the kiln falls outside the main development area and was reburied.

The kiln is similar in form to two other Romano-British pottery kilns discovered in the area in the late 1950s, indicating that the school grounds lie in an area where further Romano-British discoveries are likely. OAKRM:2011.5.

**Gunthorpe, Gunthorpe Hall (SP 4869 3056)**

Jason Clarke

Mitigation works, in advance of the construction of a new access for Gunthorpe Hall, were undertaken by NA. The works recorded a series of earthwork and buried remains associated with the deserted medieval village of Gunthorpe. Evidence for activity dating from the late Saxon and medieval periods was present, associated with a low-status rural economy. Activity on the site appears to have ceased by the late fourteenth century.

Fig. 21. A significant find from the site was a colour-coated beaker sherd decorated with a man’s head, dating to the later second or early third century. The head is very similar to a representation of the god Bacchus, found on another vessel from the Lower Nene Valley Potteries.
Ketton, Kilthorpe Grange (SK 9873 0342)  Jon Coward and Mathew Morris

An archaeological evaluation by trial trenching was carried out by ULAS on land adjacent to Kilthorpe Grange, in advance of excavation for a planned fishing lake. Several gullies or pits were exposed, one of which contained a small assemblage of flint, diagnostically datable to the Mesolithic period. Subsequent observation of groundworks during the construction phase of the lake uncovered remains of two ring-ditches and an associated scatter of features. Both ring-ditches were c.15m in diameter, but both were only partially exposed. One of the ditches had a C-shaped feature lying roughly central to the ring, suggesting an associated feature of unknown function. Apart from a flint flake, no other finds were associated with these features or any of the outliers to the ring-ditches. The area was omitted from the development proposals, with the archaeology being planned, but then covered over. OAKRM:2011.12.

Langham, The Old Hall (SK 845 112)  Mark Peachey

An archaeological trial trenching evaluation was carried out by APS on land at Burley Road, Langham, prior to residential development. Two trenches measuring 20m × 1.55m were excavated on the footprints of the proposed houses. A rough surface of probable eighteenth century date was revealed along with an eighteenth-century rectangular brick structure, perhaps a septic tank or cess pit. This was probably associated with stables shown on a map of 1760. The iron slag fill of this structure suggests a farrier or blacksmith was working nearby. No earlier remains were encountered. Finds included medieval and late post-medieval pottery and a quantity of iron slag. OAKRM:2011.13.

Manton, 36 Lyndon Road (SK 881 046)  Liz Murray

A programme of archaeological monitoring was undertaken by APS in response to proposals for a new dwelling. The initial trial trench revealed a shallow metalled surface, over which the topsoil had developed, a north-south aligned modern ditch and an ephemeral feature to the west. These were also noted in the later wider strip of the development site. Following the trial trench, the remainder of the development area was machined down to natural deposits. The absence of deposits of Saxon and medieval date suggests that the site lay outside of the focus of occupation for this period; 145 sherds of eighteenth/early nineteenth-century pottery were recovered, along with 158 fragments of animal bone. OAKRM:2011.16.

Morcott, The Manor House (SK 922 007)  Russell Trimble

An archaeological watching brief was carried out by Witham Archaeology during groundworks associated with the re-opening of a blocked gateway and construction of a new drive at The Manor House, 8 High Street, Morcott. The site lies in an area of archaeological interest, within the historic medieval and post-medieval core of the village of Morcott. The Manor House, a Grade II listed building of 1697 (according
to a datestone in the façade), shows little sign of external alteration. A stone boundary wall and associated gate piers on the high street boundary are considered to be late seventeenth or early eighteenth century. The piers are constructed in ashlar with ball finials. The watching brief resulted in the identification of a metalled surface, possibly a former part of a forecourt in the area immediately west of the house. The surface was apparently bounded to the west by a stone-built retaining wall, which may have defined the eastern edge of a raised terrace. Although the surface and wall cannot be dated with any certainty, owing to a lack of associated artefacts, there is a strong likelihood that they originated during an early phase in the use of the house. Two stone-lined drains were also recorded, both post-dating rubble associated with the collapse or demolition of the probable retaining wall. OAKRM:2011.18.

**Oakham, Barleythorpe Rd (SK 855 092)**

Tim Higgins

An archaeological field evaluation by trial trenching was undertaken by ULAS on land at Huntsmans Drive, Oakham between 29 November and the 6 December 2011, in advance of a proposed housing development. The initial potential of the site was highlighted by information held in the Leicestershire and Rutland Historic Environment Record, indicating that the area was close to known Iron Age and Roman remains. Nine trenches were excavated. Towards the south-west corner of the area, two trenches contained archaeological remains including ditches, post-holes and pits. Pottery dating to the eleventh–thirteenth centuries was present in one of these features. To the north, five of the trenches contained ditches, post-holes and pits. One of these ditches contained pottery dating to the Late Iron Age or Roman Conquest period, slag burnt daub and animal bone. OAKRM:2011.32.

**Oakham Castle (SK 861 089)**

David Walker and Richard Sheppard

Trent & Peak Archaeology were commissioned to carry out an archaeological topographical and photographic survey of Oakham Castle, culminating in an illustrated report and site archive. The scope of the survey was later extended to include the interior of the Great Hall. A previous Conservation and Development Plan report considered issues relating to repairs and restoration, the need for a management plan for the castle, its use by the public, the case for developing knowledge of the site, and its role in assisting the regeneration of the town and its tourist trade. The report concluded that whilst fabric repair and vegetation control were essential requirements, and that a development appraisal and new foul drainage was necessary, it was also desirable that further archaeological investigation and survey should take place.

Following clearance and cutting back of overgrown vegetation, the archaeological survey was carried out using a Leica phase-based laser scanner and a Canon digital camera with a fish-eye lens. A separate fieldwork was concentrated on the supposed postern gate, and on tracing and examining remains of the castle’s walling. The survey initially included the earthworks of the defences, with attention paid to a possible postern gate on the west side of the castle, the castle interior (including the exterior of the Great Hall) and the so-called ‘gardebs’ area to the north of the main enclosure (Cutt’s Close).
The castle earthworks were surveyed from both the interior and exterior sides, although the survey was partly hampered by buildings, car parking and coverage of walling by ivy. The Hall’s interior was surveyed, making use of a portable tower hired at the time for the taking of dendrochronological samples from roof timbers.

Before the current survey, the existing plan of the castle was largely based on the work of the Ordnance Survey, and measured surveys by Seaman (1961) and Hartley (1983). Archaeological knowledge of the site was largely drawn from two excavations in the 1950s and a few watching briefs since then. An extensive geophysical survey was carried out by Stratascan in 2005. Other buildings within the castle are recorded in fourteenth-century documents. Excavations close to the Hall in the 1950s pointed to both the good archaeological potential of the site and the likelihood of a fair depth of overburden across much of the castle interior. Whilst previous surveys and the recent TPA work have been able to suggest possible positions of buildings, none are certain. Only a future programme combining ground radar and below-ground investigation will probably further our knowledge of the castle’s interior with any certainty. OAKRM:2011.21.

Oakham, land west of Uppingham Road (SK 862 080)  
Gavin Speed

ULAS carried out an archaeological evaluation by trial trenching on land to the west of Uppingham Road, Oakham, in advance of proposed residential development. The evaluation revealed archaeological settlement evidence dating to the Mid- to Late Iron Age (400 BC–43 AD), and the early Roman period (first–second century AD). Worked flint also indicated Neolithic to Bronze Age activity in the area. Archaeological evidence was seen in 13 of 22 trenches, consisting of a sub-rectangular enclosure settlement with evidence for a building, along with associated field boundaries, including a pit alignment. OAKRM:2010.36.

Historic Building Recording

Braunston in Rutland, Chapter Farm (SK 832 065)  
Nick Hill

A historic building survey of Chapter Farm was undertaken in March 2011. Dating largely from the seventeenth century, this house contains the rare but fragmentary survival of an earlier building, dating from around the late fifteenth to mid-sixteenth century. The north crosswing, on a slightly skewed alignment to the rebuilt main block, had stone walls and was of two storeys. It probably formed the crosswing to a central block containing a late medieval open hall. Various timbers, including smoke-blackened sections from the former open hall, have been re-used in the seventeenth-century rebuilding. The house was rebuilt in impressive form around 1650–75, perhaps after a fire damaged much of the earlier building.

A large central range housed the hall, with two chambers above. At the south end was a spacious parlour, with a large best chamber on the first floor. The building is distinguished by two rectangular bay windows to the front and has high-quality masonry features throughout. Two large, projecting lateral chimney stacks, unusual
at this date, provide fireplaces for the hall and parlour, as well as for two chambers on the first floor. Beyond the cross-passage, the north crosswing was retained, but altered to contain the kitchen and services, with lesser, unheated chambers on the first and attic floors. It has not been possible to identify the owners, builders or occupants for these earlier periods. Various lesser alterations were carried out around the late eighteenth or early nineteenth century, when the tenant was a grazer, Thomas Barfoot. Extensive ranges of cow-houses and stables survive from this and later periods to the farmyard at the rear.

**Glaston, 9 Spring Lane (SK 897 004)**  
*Richard Sheppard*

Targeted building recording and a later archaeological watching brief were carried out by Trent & Peak Archaeology at 9 Spring Lane, Glaston in 2011, in advance of and during preparation works for a new kitchen extension of the west side of the building. The proposed works entailed partial rebuilding of an existing single-storey addition and its further extension, with a new build to the west into the rear garden. The existing house is Grade II listed and is the south half of a former single building, described in its listing as a row of two early to mid nineteenth-century houses. The north part, no. 11, is now under separate occupation. The row is within the historic settlement core of the village. Examination of the building, together with window fragments from the garden, strongly suggest that 9 and 11 Spring Lane are now separated parts of a single domestic building of probable seventeenth–eighteenth century date, quite possibly used as a farmhouse. At some point, possibly in the eighteenth century, a single-storey bake-house may have been added at the south end (the presence of a bakery being suggested by documents and the tithe award of 1841). Probably in the mid to late nineteenth century the building was partly rebuilt, refaced and fully re-roofed, and turned into two separate dwellings. The building photographic recording was targeted on that part of the building that would be affected by the building works: the south gable wall. Although constrained by access problems to attic entry points only, this provided some evidence for at least one, possibly two fireplaces having been in place against the lower walling; one the internal domestic fireplace, the other an external oven, with flue penetrating into the gable wall. The watching brief found no features or debris dating from before the seventeenth century. The majority of the few pottery sherds and the clay-pipe fragments from both the pit and the general area were of types most likely to be of eighteenth century date. No finds were made to confirm the former existence of a bakery at the south end of the building.

**Lyddington, 58 Main Street (SP 875 969)**  
*Gary Taylor*

A programme of archaeological building recording was undertaken by APS on former agricultural buildings to the rear of 58 Main Street, Lyddington, prior to their alteration and partial demolition. The recorded buildings are of historic interest and important in terms of local vernacular architecture. In particular, the recorded buildings are in the curtilage of 58 Main Street, which is a Grade II listed building of seventeenth to early eighteenth century date, and are also within Lyddington Conservation Area. The buildings, a barn and byre, were photographically recorded,
with reference to architect’s drawings. Two main phases of construction were noted, with the majority of the buildings being of ironstone and probably eighteenth century in date. Both had been increased in height with brick, probably in the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. There was evidence that the barn roof originally had a steeper pitch and was probably thatched. There was also an indication of a former dormer window at the base of the roof, and possibly an internal chimney. Within the byre, two parts of a stable door had been separated and were re-used as openings to modern internal partitions. Additionally, there were two watering troughs still within the byre. OAKRM:2011.23.

Ryhall, Ryhall Hall (TF 036 107)  
Simon Savage

To fulfil a condition attached to a planning permission, a programme of building recording was undertaken by Pre-Construct Archaeology in May 2011. The cottage at Ryhall Hall once formed part of a much larger complex of service structures. The presence of a fireplace and an oven suggests that part of these buildings housed the kitchen, while copper and drainage features indicate that part of the building was associated with laundry. It is possible that it also provided servants’ accommodation. The building can be traced in documentation as far back as 1806, at which time it had a southern wing; by 1888 an east wing was added, but by 1906 both wings were no longer extant. The cottage at Ryhall Hall provides physical evidence of the evolution of domestic kitchen arrangements from the end of the eighteenth into the early nineteenth centuries. OAKRM:2011.9.

Other Projects

Belton in Rutland  
Parkfield House (SK 817 012) TPAT

Cottesmore  
Mill Lane (SK 9042 1375) ULAS

Negative watching briefs and evaluations in Rutland  
(all undertaken by ULAS, unless otherwise stated)

Ashwell: The Old Hall (SK 865 138) (APS); Belton in Rutland: Home Farm (SK 816 014) (Neville Hall); Braunston in Rutland: Chapter Farm, Wood Lane (SK 832 065) (APS); Cottesmore: Lilac Farm (SK 902 139) (APS); Glaston: Land east of Seaton Road (SK 8966 0030).

PORTABLE ANTIQUITIES SCHEME ANNUAL REPORT FOR LEICESTERSHIRE AND RUTLAND 2011
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 metal-detectorists is increasing, with all the clubs at full capacity.
2011 saw another increase in the number of people producing objects for recording. This has led to an increase in the number of objects I see, especially objects coming from outside Leicestershire. A new function on the Portable Antiquities Scheme database provides detailed statistics about who is recording what, and from where. In 2011 there were 1,343 records produced for Leicestershire, provided by 103 finders. In common with previous years, the majority of finds were dated to the Roman period (572 finds), followed by medieval (386 finds) and then early medieval (74 finds).

Given the sheer number of finds recorded each year, it is difficult to pick out the ‘best’ finds, as each is valuable to our understanding of the past in its own right. Below are some of the more notable finds discovered in 2011. It may appear that the choices are biased towards the Melton area, but in fact this district produces about six times more material than any other. This is due to a combination of the number of finders, landowner willingness to grant permission and actual archaeology present.

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 extremely grateful to my volunteers who give up their time to help me in finds recording, particularly Rebecca Czechowicz, Michaela Senkova and Emily Woolnough. A special thank you has to go to Dr Phil Harding, who in 2011, added nearly 500 of his own finds onto the database as a self-recorder.

**Iron Age**

*Early Iron Age socketed axe head* LEIC-1822F3 (Fig. 22)
These are extremely rare finds and illustrate the ‘horizon’ between Bronze Age and Iron Age cultures and materials. This is only the third Iron-age Socketed axe on the database. The others are GLO-D2F478S–South Gloucestershire and NMS-237223–East Norfolk, found and recorded by Phil Harding.

*Unidentified Iron Age mount* LEIC-113906 (Fig. 23)
This object, found in Burton and Dalby parish, is a mystery as it is similar in form to a small Iron Age brooch, but it has no fittings and is complete. It may be a dress fitting attached with straps, but there are currently no parallels for it.

**Roman**

*Roman denarius* LEIC-766366 (Fig. 24)
This find from Frisby and Kirby parish is a very rare coin struck by Vindex, governor of Gallia Lugdunensis, during his revolt against Nero in March–May AD 68. Vindex struck a number of different issues of coins in Gaul, although they are generally very rare. This is one of only 14 coins struck during the Civil Wars of 68–9 (which are not directly attributed to Galba, Otho or Vitellius) on the PAS Database. Found and recorded by Phil Harding.
Fig. 22.

Fig. 23.

Fig. 24.
Anglo Saxon

Copper alloy and garnet sword pyramid LEIC-4BD061 (Fig. 25) and Copper alloy and garnet buckle tongue LEIC-86FB45 (Fig. 26)
These two items were found in the same field in Frisby and Kirby parish, and are both firsts for the PAS in Leicestershire. The area shows all the signs of being a cemetery, probably associated with the nearby settlement at Eye Kettleby. Other finds, including a girdle hanger (LEIC-AB6DD2), tweezers (LEIC-6F3475), sleeve clasps (LEIC-6F50F3), numerous brooch fragments, and a few coins, beads and hair pins, have been found in the area.

Medieval

Early medieval copper alloy prick spur LEIC-595916 (Fig. 27) and Early medieval lead disc brooch LEIC-C55634 (Fig. 28)
Both of these objects come from the north of Scalford parish and were found fairly close together. Each one has parallels with finds from Viking York, adding more evidence to the Scandinavian influence in the Melton district. Although the Romans had spurs, there is no evidence of them in Anglo-Saxon England, suggesting that, along with stirrups, they were a Scandinavian introduction. In contrast, disc, or nummular, brooches appear to have had an English origin, and were designed to hold coins in their centre or were copies of such objects, and generally date to the late Saxon period.

Medieval silver halfpenny of Edward the Confessor LEIC-1478B6 (Fig. 29)
This cut halfpenny is of the small flan type and was minted in Stamford, between 1048 and 1050. It has not travelled very far from its findspot west of Melton.

Treasure Cases

2011 was another bumper year for treasure cases as a result of PAS discoveries, with 970 cases nationally and 18 in Leicestershire. Among the local cases were a few interesting objects, as described below.

Anglo-Saxon finger ring 2011 T84 LEIC-D4A8A2 (Fig. 30)
This silver ring found in Frolesworth parish is a rare find and is simply constructed from coiled wire. It is of a type known largely from excavated cemeteries, so may point to the presence of a burial at the findspot.

Post-medieval spoon 2011 T492 LEIC-643B87 (Fig. 31)
This is a lovely post-medieval spoon from the immediate area of Loddington Hall, from where we must assume it came. It is hallmarked to 1628–29.
Fig. 25.

Fig. 26.
Fig. 27.

Fig. 28.

Fig. 29.
Early Medieval thimble-shaped mount 2011 T690 LEIC-15A132 (Fig. 32)
This object, found in Dalby parish, is the most interesting find of 2011. It is a wonderfully decorated thimble-shaped mount. The object is silver gilt and is decorated with six panels containing three types of animal surrounded by relief interlace. Its function is unsure, but it has a small circular loop near its base. Helen Geake believes it could be similar to conical mounts from the St Ninians Isle treasure. These may be a development of Pyramid strap mounts known in the seventh century. The decoration on the mount is very similar to the Witham pins and so could date it to the late eighth century.
Fig. 31.
Fig. 32.