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 2014 but not previously reported.

**LEICESTER**

All finds and records are deposited with Leicester City Museums Service (LCMS) under the accession number cited at the end of the entry.

**Humberstone, Thurmaston Lane (SK 626 065)**

Excavations in April–May 2014 at land east of Thurmaston Lane, Humberstone (SK 626 065) have revealed further evidence of the Iron Age ‘aggregated’ settlement previously examined by OA and ULAS (Charles et al. 2000; Thomas 2011), represented by a spread of ‘open’ settlement along the southern line of a significant linear boundary. Within this phase of work, five roundhouses were revealed, characterised by an encircling eaves drip gully with little evidence for the structure itself (Fig. 1). Three roundhouses were large, their projected diameters (combining excavation results with the geophysical survey) measuring between 15m and 17m. The remaining two roundhouses were smaller, with a diameter of 8m. The spacing or arrangement of the various roundhouses and enclosure ditches would suggest possibly two phases. Phase 1 appears to comprise four roundhouses, and their overall characteristics suggest that their various ditches and gullies were all allowed to naturally fill with silt. The second phase perhaps comprised of three enclosures and a fifth roundhouse, and all appeared to be deliberately back-filled with more domestic refuse charcoal and burnt stones. A15.2014.

**References**

Charles, B. M., Parkinson, A. and Foreman, S., 2000

‘A Bronze Age Enclosure and Iron Age Settlement at Elms Farm, Humberstone, Leicestershire’, *TLAHS* 74, 113–220.

Thomas, J., 2011

Leicester, Bath Lane (SK 58002 04684)  

Archaeological evaluation was undertaken by ULAS in advance of redevelopment at Friars Mill, Bath Lane. The site lies within the north-west quarter of the Roman and medieval walled town, and has high potential for the survival of archaeological remains, particularly relating to the defences of early Leicester. Two trenches were excavated, with both containing a series of deeply stratified layers overlying probable alluvial deposits. Trench 1, adjacent to the River Soar, had layers of mortar-rich soil overlying waterlogged deposits possibly reflecting filled ditches, or channels associated with the river. Trench 2, on the western side of the site, contained a thick layer of silty clay with some occupation debris, overlying what appeared to be layers of alluvium. A small assemblage of Roman and medieval pottery and tile was recovered. No evidence was found for the defences of the walled Roman and medieval town. A subsequent watching brief on foundations for a lift pit was negative. A24.2014.

Leicester, Bath Lane (SK 580 046)  

Between January and May 2014, an archaeological excavation was undertaken by Wardell Armstrong Archaeology on behalf of Watkin Jones, on land bounded by
All Saints Road, Bath Lane and Blackfriars Street. Despite extensive disturbance and truncation associated with the construction of, and ultimate demolition of, Victorian and twentieth-century factories, significant archaeological deposits dating from the Iron Age to the medieval periods were identified.

The earliest features comprised two phases of Iron Age activity. The first was represented by a series of shallow roughly parallel gullies, situated towards the south of the site, along with a low density of pitting, possibly representing agricultural activity. The second phase was represented by a large rectangular ditched enclosure with an entrance and with three sides present within the excavated area.

This enclosure is likely to be a continuation of, or associated with, Iron Age activity previously identified during investigations at the Merlin Works site (Gnanaratnam 2004, Kipling 2008, Lynden Cooper pers comm). This relationship was further evidenced by the copious quantities of clay coin mould fragments, high quantities of local and imported fine ware pottery, animal bone and evidence of episodic industrial activity, a feature of the previous investigations.

A total of 81 fragments of coin mould were recovered, with two distinct forms being identified. The first is the well-known ‘Verulanium’ form, which was, when in its full form, pentagonal, and bore 50 holes in seven rows of seven plus one hole in the pedimental apex (Fig. 2). This coin mould form has already been noted at the Merlin Works site, adjacent to the Blackfriars excavation (Mark Landon pers. comm.).

Fig. 2. Illustration of a complete Verulanium-form coin mould. © J. R. Landon.
Unfortunately, it is not possible to describe the second form completely, as the fragment exemplifying it retains no edges or corners (Fig. 3). However, we can be certain that it had no fewer than eight rows and six columns – in common with the largest fragment found at Old Sleaford (Mark Landon pers. comm.).

Within the enclosed area, several shallow hearth/kiln bases were found. A series of large, contemporary Late Iron Age pits and two structural gullies were located outside of the enclosure, whilst a kiln-base possibly associated with the manufacture or use of the coin-flans was located immediately to the south.

A single Iron Age coin, found with a Flavian coin in an early second century AD deposit, would also appear to be associated with this Iron Age presence.

The excavation also revealed features associated with the initial Romano-British occupation of the area; the remnants of Late Iron Age pits were deliberately backfilled with gravel to consolidate the ground before the construction of a series of shallow parallel agricultural or boundary ditches dated to the mid-first century AD. The beam-slots and post-hole foundations of at least three mid-first-century AD structures were noted. The structures were partially built over the backfilled Iron Age pits and the enclosure ditch.

Use of the site for horticulture or agriculture was represented in the accumulation of a humic, silty horizon over the majority of the site with infrequent irregular pitting. This sealed and post-dated the initial Romano-British structures, and appeared to have been formed during the later first and/or early second century AD.
The first half of the second century AD saw the development of a metalled street with a complex of masonry structures fronting onto it. These street frontage structures had a large unroofed yard area to the rear with timber outbuildings, seemingly used for industrial and metalworking activities.

In the mid/late second century AD the masonry structures were expanded, extending to the course of the street. Contemporaneously with this expansion, a failed attempt was made at converting the open rear yard into a basilica-like or aisled building, as evidenced by the insertion of masonry columns into the yard. It appears probable that the pier bases were ultimately utilised as a colonnade supporting a less substantial ‘cloister’ around a still open central yard. This phase of construction appears to be associated with localised areas of ground consolidation and with floor surfaces associated with small-scale industrial activities.

A final phase of Romano-British industrial activity and substantial gravel quarrying within the yard was followed by apparent abandonment and structural collapse, as indicated by the roofing material and accumulation of a thin deposit of silts across the majority of the site.

A series of large clay-filled pits, and smaller rubbish pits of medieval date, were present across the excavation area, and disturbed the earlier Romano-British and Iron Age deposits and features. The majority of the Roman masonry walls and foundations were also robbed at this time.

Whilst no confirmed post-Roman or Anglo-Saxon features were identified during the Blackfriars excavation, one feature may belong to this period. A solitary ditch was stratigraphically later than the abandonment and collapse of Roman buildings, but was earlier than the robbing of the Roman walls, and excavation of the medieval clay, rubbish and cess pits.

Post-excavation analysis will soon be commencing and an expanded report will be forthcoming. A4.2014.

References
Kipling, R., 2008 ‘Bath Lane (former Merlin Dye Works)’, TLAHS 82, 275–8.

Leicester, Cathedral Square (SK 583 044) Tim Higgins

A watching brief was undertaken by ULAS on behalf of the Casey Group during ground-works associated with the creation of ‘Cathedral Square’, a new public open space to the south and west of Leicester Cathedral. Attendance at the site was undertaken between November 2013 and June 2014.

As part of this development, various ground-works were undertaken within both the St Martin’s Visitor Centre car park and the graveyard of Leicester Cathedral. The former is the site of Wyggeston Hospital, constructed in the early sixteenth century and demolished in the nineteenth century. Works here revealed the top of various stone footings, indicating the presence of a north–south orientated rectangular masonry structure located directly to the west of the alley known as St Martin’s West. It is likely that these are part of the hospital’s alms-house and Master’s House.
Additional truncated stone footings revealed further to the west are thought to represent the north wall of the west wing.

Further stripping to the north, for new pavements and service trenches, revealed a probable well and brick pavement, also believed to be part of the hospital complex. The overall shallow depth of the various excavated services within the hospital complex generally only reached a layer of stone rubble, thought to be associated with the demolition of the building in the late nineteenth century. Only a potential internal clay and stone floor surface was partially exposed close to the east wall of the hospital during these works.

In the south-east corner of the car park, a shallow service trench found no remains relating to St Ursula’s Chapel that lay at the south end of the east range of the hospital. The overall shallow depth of the new services suggests that such remains as may have survived were not reached on this occasion.

Various ground-works for the new gardens continued within the former graveyard of St Martin’s. These excavations revealed a total of 19 brick-lined graves or vaults within the churchyard, most of which lay below the formation levels for the new pavement and lawns. Those few coffined burials within vaults which did lie above the formation were exhumed, and later re-interred elsewhere within the churchyard.

Mostly only charnel and previously disturbed disarticulated human remains were encountered during the majority of excavations within the churchyard. All human remains of this nature were collected and stored within the cathedral, and later re-interred within the churchyard. A15.2013.

Leicester, the Grey Friars Project (SK 585 043)  

Mathew Morris

King Richard III (d.1485) was not the only person to be buried inside the Grey Friars church in Leicester. Over the course of the 2012 and 2013 excavations (Morris 2013 and 2014), archaeologists have identified a further ten potential graves inside the chancel of the church. Three of these were fully excavated in 2013: two beneath the church choir and one in the church’s presbytery.

The two graves inside the choir (Skeleton 3 and Skeleton 4) contained wooden coffins (Fig. 4), whilst the grave in the presbytery was of someone buried inside a stone coffin (Skeleton 5). This had been buried more or less centrally within the space, probably fairly close to the high altar, and was clearly for someone of high status, perhaps an important patron of the friary.

A further group of human bone (Skeleton 2) had been found in 2012 in a small pit, dug into the building rubble overlying the church floor. This appears to be the disarticulated remains of a single person whose grave was probably disturbed by workmen demolishing the church in the mid-sixteenth century, who had respectfully dug a small hole and reburied the remains.

Newly completed research carried out by the University of Leicester can now shed light on some of the other people buried in the eastern end of the friary church. Analysis of the skeletons shows them all to be women:

- Skeleton 2, the disturbed remains, was in her early to mid-20s when she died. Of slight build, she would have been 5ft 1ins (155cm) tall. Her skeleton suggests that she led a life of physical work.
• Skeleton 3, buried beneath the choir, was in her 40s or 50s, also standing 5ft 1ins (156cm) tall. Radiocarbon dating shows that she died in the latter half of the thirteenth or the fourteenth century (95 per cent probable 1270–1400 cal AD). She had a possible congenital hip dislocation and her unusually robust shoulder joints might suggest that she walked using some type of crutch.

• Skeleton 4, also buried beneath the choir, was around 45 years of age, standing 5ft 4ins (165cm) tall. Radiocarbon dating shows that she too died in the latter half of the thirteenth or the fourteenth century (95 per cent probable 1270–1400 cal AD). Evidence shows that she led a life of hard physical work, frequently using her arms and legs to lift and support weight.

• Finally, Skeleton 5, buried in the stone coffin. This is the first fully intact medieval stone coffin to be discovered in Leicester during a modern archaeological excavation. The tapered outer coffin is carved from limestone and is over 2m long. Inside was an inner lead coffin, intact except for a hole at the foot end of the casket where the lead had decayed and collapsed inwards (Fig. 5). No writing was visible on the coffin lid, but it does bear a crude cross soldered onto the metal. Inside was a woman over 60 years of age, with a stature of 5ft 4ins (163cm). Radiocarbon dating shows that she died in the mid-thirteenth or fourteenth century (95 per cent probability 1250–1400 cal AD), making her potentially the earliest burial found in the church to date. Indeed, it seems likely that she was buried shortly after the friary’s church was completed in 1290.

Stable isotope analysis of the three intact burials (Skeletons 3, 4 and 5) has revealed that the women had a highly varied, protein-rich diet, including large amounts of...
seafood. A diverse diet of this kind would have been typical of wealthy late medieval people who could afford to consume expensive foods like meat, game and fish, and in comparison with Richard III, these women were only eating slightly less meat and fish than the king. In contrast, analysis of burials inside another of Leicester’s medieval churches, the parish church of St Peter’s in the town’s north-east quarter, shows that the town’s diet more commonly comprised cereals and vegetables, with less fish and considerably less meat being eaten.

Excavation of other friary churches suggests that women were routinely buried in friaries, probably reflecting the close interaction friars had with their local community, in contrast to other more sequestered monastic orders. These women would have had a specific relationship with the friars, either through patronage, a spiritual link or family ties. Evidence suggests that some of the women buried in the eastern half of the church led a physically active life. Outwardly, this might not fit with the perceived norm, whereby this area of the church was reserved for wealthy benefactors and people of elevated social status. One skeleton is clearly that of a high-status woman, but others might suggest that the friary’s main source of donations came from the town’s middle-classes, merchants and tradespeople who were probably of more modest means, and worked for a living.

The limited surviving documentary evidence for the friary reveals at least seven women connected with the Franciscan Order in Leicester, either as a benefactor or in death. However, three died in the sixteenth century, making them too late to be one of these skeletons. Of the remaining four, Eleanor, countess of Leicester, (d.1275) is buried in Montargis Abbey, France; and it remains unclear whether the
un-named wife of Sir William of Harley (whose funeral feast was held at the friary in 1334/35) and Ellen Lavener (who gave land to the friary in 1349) are even buried in the church.

This leaves one, Emma, wife of John of Holt (probably Neville Holt in south-eastern Leicestershire), who can be said to be buried in the Grey Friars church with any certainty. In September 1290 the Bishop of Lincoln issued an indulgence granting 20 days off Purgatory for all who would say ‘a Pater and an Ave for the soul of Emma wife of John of Holt, whose body is buried in the Franciscan church at Leicester’. Her death before September 1290 fits with the radiocarbon dating results of our three burials. However, we know little about her, and a lack of fundamental information, such as her age at death, what she did for a living, what she looked like or where in the church she was buried, coupled with no known descendants who can provide a DNA sample, make it impossible to say for certain whether one of these skeletons is that of Emma, or indeed anyone else. Sadly, they will forever remain anonymous.

References

Leicester, Highcross Street and Vaughan Way (SK 58309 04771) Mathew Morris
Archaeologists returned to this site on the corner of Highcross Street and Vaughan Way (Morris 2013), in October 2014, to excavate a further two trenches close to All Saints’ Church and the Highcross Street frontage. This area had previously been unavailable during the original 2012 evaluation because it had still contained derelict and unstable buildings. The two new trenches (both measuring c.20m by c.2.5m) revealed further Roman and medieval deposits, including another section of metalling associated with the east–west Roman street running across the site (previously recorded in two trenches to the east and during the Vine Street excavations).

In the trench closest to Highcross Street, islands of medieval and post-medieval archaeology survived to a considerable depth beneath the modern overburden, including a small stone cellar of probable post-medieval date and an earlier stone building of possible medieval date. The archaeological survival along this site’s street frontage is remarkably similar to that excavated c.100m to the south during excavations on Freeschool Lane, which uncovered extensive evidence for well-developed street properties from the eighth century through to the present day. A8.2012.

Reference
Leicester, Infirmary Road (SK 5870 0363)

An archaeological evaluation was carried out by ULAS to the rear of the Victoria Building of the Royal Infirmary, Infirmary Road. The work was commissioned by Interserve Construction Ltd in advance of the proposed development of the site for a new Accident and Emergency Services building.

A single trench measuring 10m × 5m was excavated on a section of lawn to the rear of the Victoria Building.

The site lies close to the line of a Roman road and the aqueduct for Roman Leicester may have passed through the site. The Royal Infirmary also lies on the site of the medieval chapel of St Sepulchre and its graveyard, which was in existence before the twelfth century and was possibly still in use by the end of the sixteenth century.

Previous excavations within the hospital grounds had exposed burials throughout the general area. The public gallows lay nearby and many of those interred there would have been execution victims.

The sequence within the trench consisted of topsoil lying over layers of made-up ground and re-deposited clay, containing fragments of human bone. The made-up ground lay over a fairly undisturbed layer of buried soil over the natural substratum of red clay.

A single inhumation was discovered close to the south-western end of the trench. This was left in situ after being basically recorded. It was mostly intact, apart from the damage from the machine during its discovery. It lay facing north-east and was apparently 1.85m tall, suggesting a male individual, although this was not clear.

Its presence suggests that the graveyard extended into this area and therefore there is potential for further burials to be disturbed during any development on the site. A28.2014.

Leicester, Jubilee Square (SK 583 044)

An archaeological watching brief was carried out by ULAS during the new Jubilee Square open space works at St Nicholas Place, Leicester, on behalf of Leicester City Council. The investigation consisted of the observation of groundworks within the area of a new open space, the groundworks consisting of the planting of trees, new walling, paving and lawns, and the diversion of services.

Activity on the former Highcross Street/Applegate frontage was largely truncated by modern cellaring; however, survival of archaeological deposits was much better in other areas. Substantial mortared stone walls just to the north of Wygston’s House may be early plot boundaries perpendicular to the frontage that was the medieval High Street. Features of Roman, medieval and later date were also found during the watching brief, with archaeology being concentrated to the west of Carey’s Close. The Roman evidence included metalling of the Fosse Way road as it runs through the town to the south of the forum site. Either side of this road, parallel wall-lines and roadside ditches were exposed. On the north side of the road, further substantial walling of a type suggesting public works may be the forum insula XXII south precinct wall. Adjacent to the south edge of the Fosse Way was the north-west corner of a stone building with associated floor make-ups (Fig. 6).
Fig. 6. Wall and floor make-ups observed just to the south of the Fosse Way. © ULAS.

Fig. 7. Roman cornice fragment recovered on site. © ULAS.
Sealing the Roman activity, a ‘dark earth’ of Saxon or later date was also identified in some areas. The medieval activity included a series of metalled surfaces and occupation layers, most likely levels for the medieval east–west Hotgate street – pottery evidence for these layers being of Saxo-Norman date. Further medieval evidence was present including stone walling, occupation levels and pit activity, including a probable twelfth-century pit with cess deposits. Later activity included stone and brick structures, with much re-use and reworking of Roman and later materials being observed, the line of Thornton Lane being confirmed across site, and two wells one each of stone and brick construction. Two fragments of Roman worked stone were recovered from residual contexts, a finely worked cornice fragment measuring 880 × 490 × 240mm (Fig. 7), and a column drum, dimensions 530 × 350 × 270mm with a probable original diameter of 540mm. A.14.2013.

Leicester, Newarke Close (SK 5825 0388) Tim Higgins

A phase of trial trenching, at the former DMU Fletcher Building, Newarke Close, was followed up with a small excavation by ULAS between 5 and 27 June 2014. The evaluation had shown that a stretch of the western boundary wall of the Newarke would be affected by the foundations of the new building. An area measuring c.450m square was excavated, revealing the foundations and lower courses of the wall. On the west side of it (outside the precinct), post-medieval soils covered thick deposits of alluvial clay, presumably derived from flooding episodes of the River Soar. Also on the west side were two probable boundary ditches, both on a similar alignment. Various trample layers, containing crushed Danes Hill sandstone, were found on either side of the wall and are thought to be associated with its construction. One of the layers produced a small quantity of late medieval pottery.

On the east side of the wall, various stratified post-medieval soils were recorded in section, and some contained large quantities of crushed sandstone that might be associated with the demolition of the wall. For the most part, material built up against the eastern side of the Newarke wall was thought to be generic garden soil accumulation of a post-medieval date. The only post-medieval feature of note found within the soils was a narrow drain feature filled with horse bone, located on the east side of the wall. Amongst the finds found within the garden soils was a small lead musket ball, perhaps residual evidence of Civil War activity within the precinct wall. A8.2014.

Leicester, Newarke Street (SK 5855 0409) Sophie Clarke, Tony Gnanaratnam

Archaeological excavations were carried out by ULAS on land adjacent to the former De Montfort University (DMU) Law Building, Newarke Street. The work focused on the stripping of four discrete areas of good archaeological survival, previously identified through earlier phases of investigation.

Area 1 comprised the route of a cable trench leading southwards from Newarke Street, towards the footprint of a proposed electricity substation to the north of the former DMU Law Building. Here, the earliest phase of activity was represented by two Roman pits, but the remainder of the features in this area related to medieval
occupation from the thirteenth to perhaps the early fifteenth century. The earliest medieval feature here was a large boundary ditch, aligned north–south, which may have gone out of use in the earlier thirteenth century. Overlying the ditch were the remains of a stone wall. This was associated with a series of pebble and plaster floor layers, suggesting the former presence of a substantial building. This in turn had gone out of use by the later fifteenth century. Later wall fragments and pits provide evidence for the continued occupation of the area in the later fifteenth century. Evidence for the later activity was removed by truncation perhaps in the nineteenth century.

Area 2 was located to the north, within the Roman cemetery which was excavated in 1993 (Cooper 1996). Following the demolition of standing buildings, only a small area of archaeology was observed to have survived modern truncation, including the base of a second-century Roman ditch previously recorded in 1993, with a partially truncated inhumation burial of fourth century date, cut into the top of this.

Area 3 comprised a small extension to the 2011 excavation area containing a small scatter of Roman deposits, indicating occupation during the later second century. Area 4 comprised a watching brief undertaken during the excavation of a large cable trench running alongside the northern wall of the former school building. The area had been highly truncated by modern services and deposits of archaeological significance were recorded. A7.2013.

Reference

Leicester, 55 Oxford Street (SK 5856 0393) Mathew Morris

An archaeological evaluation was carried out by ULAS at 55 Oxford Street between 19 and 21 February 2014. Work was undertaken for HPL Global (Global Homes and Properties Ltd) in advance of their redevelopment of the site. Three machine-excavated trenches, sampling 9 per cent of the site, identified extensive areas of modern disturbance associated with the site’s previous use as industrial premises. However, small islands of stratified soil and archaeology survived in all three trenches.

In Trench 1, on the northern side of the site, a mid–late second-century Roman ditch, and later medieval or early post-medieval pits, were noted. The Roman ditch most likely formed part of a property extending east from the projected line of the Roman Tripontium road which should cross the site. It produced evidence for metal-working activity taking place in the immediate vicinity and one human bone found in the ditch fill may also indicate that there are human burials in the immediate area. One of the later medieval or early post-medieval pits produced fifteenth- and sixteenth-century pottery and large quantities of butchered animal bone, most likely representing the disposal of industrial or table waste in the backyards of properties fronting onto Oxford Street to the east. Features and soil layers identified in the other two trenches were investigated but remained undated. A5.2014.
Leicester, St Martins Cathedral (SK 583044)

An archaeological watching brief was undertaken by ULAS, on behalf of FW Conservation, during groundworks associated with construction of a sub-surface vault to receive the remains of King Richard III in Leicester Cathedral. Attendance at the site was undertaken between August 2014 and January 2015. As part of this development, various groundworks were undertaken within the choir, chancel and sanctuary chapel. The watching brief involved the monitoring of groundworks associated with the relocation of the Nicholson Screen, the lifting of the floors to construct an underfloor heating system and the construction of a sub-surface vault to receive the remains of King Richard III.

A photographic survey was undertaken before the Nicholson Screen was moved to ensure a full record of its repositioning.

The only medieval features observed during the various works were wall foundations found supporting the modern north and south walls of the choir and chancel. Based on the comparable levels of the medieval wall foundation and a later red-tile floor, it is likely that medieval floors had been replaced.

Further works involved reduction of grave soil found under the red-tile floor surface, by between c.0.50m and 1.50m, within the high altar, chancel and sanctuary chapel. These excavations revealed a total of ten brick-lined graves or vaults, all containing coffin burials. Nearly all of the coffin burials were located below the new formation levels with one exception, which was moved and placed in another deeper vault. The grave soil contained only disarticulated human bones and charnel pits were found. This would suggest that the previous grave clearances had taken place within the cathedral.

The red-tile floor and ledger stones were found overlying the burial soil, and is thought to be early nineteenth century in date as the level at which they were found was below wall mouldings associated with renovations of the 1860s. There was also clear evidence that the tower was rebuilt and rests on modern brick foundations that appeared to be cutting the red-tile floor. Removal of monuments and panels within the choir and chancel revealed parts of north and south walls that were rebuilt in 1865. They were resting on original medieval wall foundations, and appeared to have been poorly constructed using brick and stone, and had been plastered and decorated with a Victorian frieze painting.

The various ledger stones, found laid in both the earlier tile floor and 1920s’ re-laid stone slab floor, are believed to be marking, or are related to, the various internal burials located within the cathedral. Only brick-lined graves and vaults containing coffins were found during these works. The names of two individuals identified during the various works matched two names recorded on two of the ledger stones. The ledger stones with the matching names appeared to have been placed close to the identified burials, but not directly over the top. This would suggest that the location of various ledger stones found were perhaps placed in approximate positions over the graves, or that previous renovations or works have altered the position of the ledger stones. A34.2014.
Leicester, St Mary de Castro Church (SK 58285 04188)  Michael Hawkes, Neil Finn

An archaeological watching brief was undertaken between February and April 2014 during the controlled demolition of the spire of St Mary de Castro Church. The spire has a complex history, with evidence of a series of re-builds, height reductions and repairs. The tower off which the spire is built dates from before 1330 and is itself placed in an unconventional position, set within the west end of the south aisle of the church. The tower was originally surmounted by a broach spire, which was replaced around 1400 by a thinner, crocketted spire. In 1685 the spire was partly rebuilt, with the mason being ordered to take off ‘5 yards in length downwards’ and to erect a new top. Further repairs or rebuilding were required in 1699 and in 1757 as a result of storm damage. In 1763, as a result of a lightning strike, part of the spire came down through the roof of the nave or south aisle. In 1783 the spire was taken down and rebuilt, probably using stone from Attleborough in Warwickshire, in the course of which it was reduced in height by a further 20 feet. Repairs were again required in 1871, 1901 and 1916, when the top 40 feet of the spire was rebuilt using Clipsham limestone. Further repairs were made in 1948/49. Various historic architectural details were recorded in the course of the watching brief, including details of the crockets and lucarnes, masons’ marks and graffiti. A19.2014.

Mowmacre Hill, land to the west of Thurcaston Road (SK 577 090)  Leon Hunt

An archaeological excavation was carried out by ULAS on land to the west of Thurcaston Road, Mowmacre Hill. This work was carried out during groundworks associated with the construction of a new bakery on the site, which was formerly part of an arable field.

Previous archaeological work in the area had been inconclusive, until a large Iron Age settlement site was discovered at Beaumont Leys Lane in 2006 (Thomas 2011). Further work to the north and east of this site was also inconclusive, but a trial trench evaluation in 2010 on the present site and to the north and west produced Iron Age remains.

Preliminary soil stripping for the new development revealed an area of around 55m x 40m at the western edge of the site containing a focus of archaeological activity. Within this area a number of curved linear features, pits and post-holes were revealed, defined by two ditches oriented south-west to north-east. The features contained the remains of five possible roundhouses, with a number of pits of varying size including some very large ones and possible other post-hole structures.

An amount of Iron Age pottery, mostly dating from the third to second century, was retrieved from the features, along with burnt daub, from the fabric of the wattle-and-daub roundhouse structures, animal bones and flint.

The size of the roundhouses, and the range and date of finds, was very similar to that of the Beaumont Leys Lane site to the south and to the Iron Age site at Manor Farm Humberstone, suggesting a similar date and form of occupation here to these two neighbouring sites.
The presence of earlier Neolithic and Bronze Age flint artefacts would suggest some previous occupation of the site. A6.2014.

Reference


Historic Building Recording

Bath Lane Friars Mill (SK 580 046) ULAS
Fosse Road North The Empire Hotel (SK 5743 0502) ULAS
London Road Greenhouse to rear of number 170 (SK 5990 0350) Trigpoint Conservation & Planning Ltd
Regent Road The former air-raid shelter, Regent College (SK 5944 0346) ULAS
Upperton Road A former Great Central Railway Engine Shed (SK 57927 03415) ULAS

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

Belgrave: Belgrave Hall, Church Road (SK 59304 07227); Belgrave: Leicester Flood Relief Management Scheme (SK 5970 0796 to SK 5906 0678); Hamilton: Hamilton Lane (SK 64245 06939) (WA); Hamilton: Land off Mundesley Road (SK 6295 0665 – centre); Humberstone: Land at Lower Keyham Lane (SK 627 061); Leicester: Abbey Grounds, Abbey Park (SK 585 060 – area); Leicester: Lower Lee Street (SK 588973 04878); Leicester: Painter Street, Belgrave Gate (SK 5909 0556); Leicester: Peacock Lane, the former Southgates Bus Depot (SK 5845 0430).

LEICESTERSHIRE

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Appleby Magna, land at Church Street and Bowleys Lane Andrew Hyam (SK 3137 0977 – centre)

An archaeological evaluation was undertaken by ULAS on land at Church Street/Bowleys Lane, Appleby Magna between 18 and 22 September 2014. The work was carried out as a response to a pre-planning enquiry and was designed to provide preliminary information in advance of a potential residential development.

Five 25-metre long trenches were excavated across the 3ha site, which contains a series of well-preserved earthworks. A number of small ditches were identified in the western half of the site that are likely to be associated with the earthworks. A possible plot boundary was noted in the eastern half of the site. Most finds
from the features date to the medieval period between the thirteenth and fifteenth centuries. Towards the northern edge of the site an area of made ground may be the evidence of backfilled fish ponds or backfill from clay extraction activity, probably from the late seventeenth or eighteenth centuries. The foundations of a brick wall built from possible early nineteenth-century bricks were also identified. X.A121.2014.

**Appleby Magna, Measham Road (SK 3167 1013) Wayne Jarvis, Andrew Hyam**

An archaeological evaluation was carried out by ULAS on land at Measham Road, Appleby Magna, in advance of the proposed development of the site for new housing. Faint earthworks with a clear east–west alignment could be traced across the site during a preliminary walkover survey, and these were surveyed. Five trenches were initially excavated, followed by two extra trenches to further examine the frontage where a possible house platform was identified. Linear features were identified in the five initial trenches across the site area, with comparable orientation to the earthworks. These consisted of probable plot boundaries running east–west, and more ephemeral features potentially of agricultural origin mainly running north–south. Pottery of Roman, probable Saxon, and medieval date was recovered from the features. The extra frontage trenches identified only a further probable plough furrow, with no evidence of occupation or structural activity. A further stage of work, involving a strip, plan and sample exercise, confirmed the presence of the plot boundary system across the site but did not reveal any additional archaeological features within the development area. X.A92.2014.

**Asfordby, land west of Station Lane (SK 70027 18729) Jennifer Browning**

An archaeological fieldwalking survey was carried out by ULAS in October 2014 on land west of Station Lane, Asfordby. The survey was commissioned by Jelson Ltd in advance of the proposed development of the land for new housing.

A significant assemblage of 74 worked flints was recovered during the survey, which included 40 tools, notably an unusual scale-flaked knife, a number of cores, scrapers and piercers. The remainder of the assemblage was made up of flakes, some of which were retouched. The assemblage is believed to date from the Early Bronze Age, but contains a number of re-used pieces originating from the Mesolithic and Neolithic periods. The location of the finds suggests that they are associated with two ring ditches within the field, which were originally seen as cropmarks on aerial photographs and have been confirmed by a recent geophysical survey, carried out as part of the current evaluation. The flint assemblage supports the interpretation of these features as Neolithic/Bronze Age burial mounds, which have been ploughed out.

A low-density scatter of medieval and early post-medieval pottery was also recovered across the area that was surveyed. A slightly higher concentration of late post-medieval and modern pottery was also present, which has been discarded after examination and logging. These finds are likely to be associated with manuring activity, taking place from the medieval period onwards. X.A138.2014.
Barlestone, land East of Hinckley Road (SK 422 053)  

James Harvey

ULAS carried out an archaeological evaluation on land east of Hinckley Road, Barlestone, between 31 March and 7 April 2014. The work was undertaken as a pre-application requirement in advance of a proposed residential development on the site.

Previous desk-based assessment, geophysical survey and fieldwalking had highlighted the potential for archaeological features to be present within the application area; 22 trial trenches were excavated in order to target possible features previously identified by the geophysical survey, as well as to evaluate apparently ‘archaeologically blank’ areas of the site.

Archaeological remains were uncovered in four of the evaluation trenches. Trench 7, located close to Hinckley Road, uncovered evidence of a kiln or oven feature that may date to the medieval period. Trenches 13, 15 and 16 located a small number of undated shallow ditches/gullies, and a small pit/post-hole may potentially indicate periphery Roman field systems. X.A45.2014.

Barrow-upon-Soar, land at Strancliffe Hall, Cotes Road (SK 572 181)  

Leon Hunt

An archaeological excavation was carried by ULAS out on land at Strancliffe Hall, Cotes Road, Barrow-upon-Soar. The work was commissioned by the Environmental Dimension Partnership (EDP) on behalf of Barwood Homes Ltd in advance of the development of the site for new housing.

Previous archaeological work in 2006 by Northamptonshire Archaeology, on land to the north and east of the present site, had revealed Iron Age activity plus a significant number of limestone kilns, dating from the post-medieval to the modern period (McAree 2007).

A previous archaeological evaluation on the present site, carried out by ULAS in 2011 consisting of a geophysical survey and trial trench evaluation, showed that there was significant potential for further lime kilns and other structures within the proposed development area.

The excavation revealed quarrying and landscaping activity, but only four kilns could be identified, including one which had been heavily truncated. Three of these kilns were excavated and were shown to be clamp kilns similar to those revealed during the previous archaeological work here, and also identical to those revealed on a site to the south-east of Barrow in 2013 (Hunt 2013).

No dating evidence was retrieved from two of the kilns, but the third was associated with a small pit, which contained twentieth-century pottery. The remains of a small building were also discovered during the excavation, but this too appeared modern in date. X.A83.2014.

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‘Barrow upon Soar, Catsick Hill’, TLAHS 81, 207–8.
Belton, Grace Dieu Priory (SK 434 182)  

An archaeological evaluation was carried out by ULAS at Grace Dieu Priory Pond, Belton, between 14 and 22 July 2014. Work was undertaken for the Friends of Grace Dieu Priory, prior to repairs to a medieval fish pond and associated works connected with the installation of a spillway at a second location in order to regulate water levels. Scheduled Monument consent was granted for the excavation of 40 square metres of the pond’s northern retaining bank (case no. S00086043). This was excavated as four 5m × 2m trenches placed to answer specific questions about two suspected historic outfalls, believed to discharge beyond the pond bank into two ditches to the north.

Excavations identified a complex sequence of development inside the pond bank with a possible medieval core built up into the present earthwork in the post-medieval period. Inside the pond, deposits of freshwater mussels covering the pond lining may be the remains of medieval mussel beds, whilst a possible medieval building was tentatively identified buried beneath the north edge of the earthwork. Overall, the pond bank appeared largely intact and in good condition, and water loss from the pond was apparently occurring beneath the bank, not through an old culvert as previously suspected, but by exploiting sand and gravel beds beneath the pond and weaknesses in the internal structure of the pond bank, notably the unbonded foundation of a wall which is now acting as a new spring. X.A106.2014.

Brooksby Quarry (SK 655 155)  

A watching brief has continued during topsoil stripping and gravel extraction at Brooksby Quarry, for Lafarge Tarmac (Parker and Jarvis 2007). Monitoring of the topsoil strip has continued into the north-east of the central quarry area from Phase 8, into Phases 9 and 10, and also to the east of the bridle way into Phase 3 (SK 677 156).

In Phases 8–10, further Iron Age activity has been identified. This included a continuation of activity recorded at SK 6731 1550, including a north-west to south-east droveway (Beamish et al. 2013). Further features include a roundhouse ring gully, other post-built structures and several pits. Further east a series of enclosures, pits and further post-built structures were recorded. In the far north-east end of the site at SK 6731 1570, an area of cobbled surface was found surviving in the entrance through an enclosure ditch. Several pits near to the entrance contained cremation deposits.

In Phase 3 a series of narrow and adjacent linear gullies was observed running broadly down slope north-west to south-east, one parallel pair probably indicating another droveway. Some further pitting activity had also taken place. A series of shallow pits had charcoal and heat-cracked stone concentrations. Two areas of burnt mound type activity, some 75m apart, were recorded at SK 6768 1566 and SK 6774 1571, these both associated with palaeochannels running north-east to south-west. Occasional deposits of Iron Age material may relate to pit and ditch cutting activity. One pit contained a 1.64m long wooden ladder surviving in situ against the pit wall (Fig. 8). The ladder, attached to and supported by a forked stake set in the
pit, had two upright rails with three rungs jointed through. A radiocarbon date of 340–540 cal AD (1630 ± 31BP; SUERC-57083) came from a piece of blackthorn withy attached to one of the rails. Running across the soft ground of the infilled channel towards the pit was a cobbled causeway, also potentially of the same date.

Following a decision by Lafarge Tarmac that deeply buried deposits in Phase 8 would not be extracted, a programme of investigation using remote sensing, drilling and limited excavation was put in place, funded by English Heritage (National Heritage Protection Plan 6640). Areas of the quarry floor in Phases 8 and 9 were surveyed in 2013 and 2014 by British Geological Survey using Electro Resistivity Tomography, with the objective of mapping the buried channel of the River Bytham, with drilling and archaeological trenches used to corroborate the results, enabling more detailed recording and the opportunity for palaeo-environmental sample recovery. The reporting of this work is ongoing.

158 Lower Palaeolithic artefacts were recovered from pre-Anglian deposits in the quarry in 2013, and a further 110 in 2014. These artefacts came predominantly from the quarry rejects heap, although 40 of these finds (15 per cent) came from the 2013–14 quarry floor level in Phases 8 and 9, usually from exposures of coarse lag deposits. Additionally, a tooth from a straight-tusked elephant (P. antiquus, D. Schreve RHUL – Fig. 9) and, separately, a handaxe of flint (Fig. 10) were recovered
Fig. 9. Tooth from a straight-tusked elephant (*P. antiquus*) from rejects heap. © ULAS.

Fig. 10. Hand-axe of flint from rejects heap. © ULAS.
off the rejects heap; both these are unique finds so far from the site. The total number of Lower Palaeolithic artefacts from the quarry now numbers 632. X.A57.2006.

References

Jarvis, W., Speed, G.
and Baker, S., 2013
Parker, M. and ‘Brooksby Quarry, Melton Road, Brooksby’, TLAHS 81, 211.
Jarvis, W., 2007

Broughton Astley, 16 St Mary’s Close (SP 52530 92630) Neil Finn

A watching brief during groundwork for an extension to number 16 St Mary’s Close, Broughton Astley was undertaken by Archaeology & Built Heritage in February 2014. A substantial feature recorded within one of the foundation trenches was interpreted as a ditch aligned approximately north–south. This appeared to correspond with the eastern arm of a large earthwork mapped by the Ordnance Survey in the late nineteenth century, and identified on the Historic Environment Record as either a moat or a seventeenth- to eighteenth-century garden feature. No finds were recovered to date this feature. X.A25.2014.

Burbage, land west of Workhouse Lane (SP 440 919) Roger Kipling

An archaeological trial trench evaluation was undertaken in March 2014 at Workhouse Lane, Burbage by ULAS, on behalf of Bellway Homes East Midlands Ltd. The fieldwork was undertaken in response to a planning application for the construction of residential dwellings in order to assess the potential impact of the development on any archaeological remains.

The work identified evidence for archaeological remains in the form of several ditches, a pit and a post-hole focused on the centre of the development area. Whilst largely undated, their similarity and proximity to others, encountered during recent excavations on adjoining land, suggests that they date to the early Roman (first or second century) period, and represent field or stock boundary features. The discovery of a possible roundhouse ditch and associated post-hole is suggestive of a settlement on the site during the Iron Age or early Roman period. X.A33.2014.

Burrough Hill Hillfort, Burrough on the Hill John Thomas, Jeremy Taylor, Andrew Hyam, Sophie Adams

(SK 7605 1195 – centre)

In the final season of excavations at Burrough Hill, four areas were examined, with the main aim of addressing questions from previous seasons that needed resolution. Two of the trenches were located within the hillfort and two were placed within the external settlement to the east of the hillfort earthworks.

Trench 10 was located in the centre of the hillfort to examine a large amorphous anomaly revealed by the geophysical survey. A number of excavation slots into the
feature indicate that it was a large quarry, probably for clay extraction. Pottery recovered from the backfill suggests a late Iron Age–early Roman date. Interestingly, there was no evidence for earlier features beneath the quarry, suggesting the area had been relatively free of activity beforehand. One large Iron Age pit in the north-eastern trench corner produced an assemblage of domestic material, including pottery, a cattle skull and the upper part of a beehive rotary quern.

The second trench (Trench 11) revisited the south-west corner of the hillfort to try and gather further information on the possible second entrance in this location. Trench 11 was a long L-shaped area that included a wider look at the ramparts and an area to the rear of a roundhouse that had previously been examined in 2013 (Trench 8 – see Thomas et al. 2014). A few more Iron Age pits were revealed, including one very deep cylindrical example, and a large and shallow feature containing a domestic assemblage and a possible finger ring of bronze. The western terminal of a previously revealed Early Bronze Age ‘hengiform’ feature was also excavated, and another sherd of Beaker pottery found.

Closer examination of the ramparts revealed evidence to support the idea that the gap in the south-west corner was an original entrance (access to a water source via the natural springs on the western side of the hillfort being one reason for this). Excavation of the rampart contents showed a clear terminal to the western arm of the defences as it reached the gap, and hints of a framework of larger ironstone boulders supporting the whole construction, as had previously been revealed in the main eastern entrance of the hillfort (Fig. 11). The gap was blocked at some
point during the Iron Age by a well-built drystone wall – this year’s work revealed a shallow foundation cut into the earlier deposits. Layers overlying the wall, and collapsed rubble from it, contained Iron Age domestic remains, suggesting that the blocking wall had started to collapse before occupation of the hillfort had ceased.

Two trenches were located on the outside of the hillfort to gain further information on the external settlement. Trench 12 was located over a large enclosure that appeared to be cut through on its western side by the hillfort quarry ditch. The relationship between the two features was not established, but it is possible that the large quarry ditch acted as a western edge for the enclosure, which was also Iron Age in date. A small square annexe to the southern side of the enclosure was also found, which had nice evidence for stake holes in the base. Some evidence for Roman activity was also found in this trench. A spread of stone and cobbles incorporating several re-used saddle querns was apparently part of what had once been a larger surface. It had been badly damaged by ploughing, but adds to increasing evidence for a late Roman farmstead located in and around the northern part of the hillfort.

The last trench re-visited Trench 3 from 2011, to complete the picture of buildings and enclosures that had previously been examined (Thomas et al. 2012). The rear of one of the 2011 roundhouses was revealed, as well as a smaller, circular roundhouse/enclosure, within which was a pit cluster (Fig. 12). It is possible that the pits were deliberately contained within the circular ditch, an occurrence that has been seen in other areas of the hillfort. Pottery from these features indicated a very late Iron Age–early Roman date for their backfilling, with several sherds of
transitional combed ware recovered. A small glass bead was also found in one of the pits. X.A93.2010.

References

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Hyam, A. and Higgins, T., 2014

Castle Donington, St Edward’s Church, St Anne’s Lane

An archaeological strip, plan and sample excavation was carried out by ULAS at St Edward’s Church, Castle Donington. The work was undertaken during the removal of an existing pathway from the church hall to the south porch of the church, and its replacement with a lowered path through the graveyard. There was high potential for the disturbance of articulated human remains, as well as the potential for the discovery of an early building that may have occupied the graveyard close to the existing pathway.

Initially, two test pits were excavated, and a stone slab, possibly part of a tomb, and an apparently articulated skeleton were revealed. The pathway and associated steps were then demolished, and the ground lowered under archaeological supervision. Several disarticulated skeletons were recovered and returned to the church. A disturbed but partially articulated skeleton was recorded and also removed.

At the northern end of the pathway the area around the slab was stripped, revealing a brick-built tomb covered by two slabs. The tomb, which consisted of six courses of bricks, was whitewashed on the inside and contained a disintegrated coffin, with coffin furniture and an intact burial. The coffin furniture included a large iron depositum plate with a faint late nineteenth century date inscribed. The decision was taken to leave the tomb in situ. Part of the upper brickwork would be removed by the contractors and the path built over the tomb. X.A61.2014.

Coalville, land south-east of Coalville

ULAS carried out an archaeological evaluation by trial trenching on land to the south-east of Coalville in advance of a proposed development. Geophysical survey across the site had identified a number of potential archaeological features and trenches were located to target these anomalies.

The evaluation revealed archaeological settlement evidence dating to the mid–late Iron Age (400 BC–AD 43), the mid–late Roman period (second to fourth centuries AD), along with further undated activity. Archaeological features were located in 12 of the 38 trenches excavated in Areas 2, 3 and 4.

No archaeological features were identified in Area 1, just agricultural features of no archaeological significance. Area 2 contained an Iron Age ditch in Trench 3;
the remaining geophysical anomalies were agricultural or geological, and of no archaeological significance. Area 3 contained undated ditches and gullies in Trench 23. Area 4 contained the most concentrated zone of archaeological remains, all confirming geophysical anomalies. The evidence consisted of an Iron Age sub-rectangular enclosure, along with field boundaries dated to the Roman period. Area 5 contained agricultural traces of no archaeological significance, confirming the geophysical anomalies. X.A30.2014.

**Countesthorpe, land at Cosby Road (SP 569 951) Jennifer Browning**

An archaeological fieldwalking survey was carried out by ULAS on land at Cosby Road, Countesthorpe, in advance of the proposed development of the land for new housing.

Ground conditions were only suitable for fieldwalking on one of three fields included in the assessment area; a second was pasture, while the crop was too advanced in the third. The fieldwalking survey revealed a dispersed scatter of artefacts concentrated towards the eastern side of the field, which included Roman, medieval and post-medieval pottery, in addition to a small number of worked flints and ceramic building material. X.A80.2014.

**East Langton, Paddock Land, Back Lane (SP 72707 92559) Leon Hunt**

Archaeological evaluation was carried out by ULAS on Paddock Land, Back Lane, East Langton, in advance of development for a new dwelling, garage and access. The site lies within the medieval core of the village in an area that might have been occupied by buildings during the medieval period. Roman finds have also been recovered nearby.

Three trenches were excavated where constraints were allowed within the footprint of the building. The excavations recorded what appears to be an in-filled hollow in Trench 1 containing medieval pottery. Although it was thought this could be the remnants of a hollow way, no further evidence for the feature was recorded during the excavations. It seems likely that this was a natural hollow that had silted up probably during the medieval period. X.A105.2014.

**Hallaton, Hare Pie Bank (SP 478 296) Vicki Score, HFWG**

ULAS archaeologists have continued working with local volunteers to uncover the lost chapel of St Morrell, overlooking the small village of Hallaton in east Leicestershire. The fourth year of excavations with the Hallaton Fieldwork Group (HFWG) has revealed the full plan of the chapel, as well as the cemetery and evidence that the hillside has been used since at least the Roman period.

The location of the chapel was unknown before research by local historian John Morison suggested it might be on Hare Pie Bank, where the annual Easter Hare Pie Scramble and Bottle Kicking take place. Geophysical survey by HFWG showed a square enclosure (approximately 36m across) with features inside it. Subsequent excavations by ULAS and the group have uncovered the medieval chapel thought to be a place of pilgrimage in the medieval period (Score and Morison 2014).
Excavations in 2014 finally managed to uncover the eastern wall of the chapel, revealing that the building measured approximately 10m × 6m, with what appears to be an annex to the east that could represent an earlier building (Fig. 13).

Excavation of the cemetery which lies on the northern side of the chapel uncovered more graves, dated to the fourteenth century, all orientated east–west in the Christian tradition. A number of strange burials were excavated in 2013, including a young male buried in a pit with his legs and arms raised to his chest, and an older male killed by a sharp weapon such as a pole axe to the head (presumably in battle). Among the graves uncovered in 2014 was one of a male and female, buried together in the same grave with their arms intertwined (Fig. 14). All of the burials had stones placed on the bodies, particularly on the stomach and pelvis.

Why these people were buried here rather than in the main church in the village is unknown, but it is possible that this was a special place of burial, perhaps specially reserved for pilgrims. Antiquarian William Burton describes Hallaton in 1641 as ‘...a place of special holiness... so as sick folks did use to flock thither to die and be buried’. Alternatively, they might have been refused burial in the main church,
perhaps because they were criminals, foreigners, or sick and diseased. Evidence that the site was a place of pilgrimage came with the recovery of a complete pilgrim badge, with a ‘pieta’ symbol and fragments of two other badges (currently being studied at the British Museum) as well as more silver pennies, some of which may have been deliberately damaged before being left there.

A number of Roman features were uncovered including ditches and pits, and the excavation of the square enclosure found that it was originally a Roman ditch. The size of the enclosure is similar to known Roman temples, and it must still have been visible over a thousand years later when a wall was built over the ditch to enclose the medieval cemetery. It seems likely that the chapel and cemetery were built on Hare Pie Bank specifically because it was known as a special place, especially as it lies only a few hundred metres away from the Iron Age shrine where thousands of coins and silver objects, including a Roman cavalry helmet, were ritually buried (Score 2006).
Further evidence was uncovered that the hilltop was known as a holy place, when graves were found to have been dug after the chapel itself had gone. The chapel was probably destroyed following the reformation, but it seems that Hare Pie Bank continued to be a special place with at least two people (including a young girl buried face down) buried in the rubble of the demolished chapel, dated by radiocarbon dating to the sixteenth century (Fig. 15). Today, the hilltop is still used as the starting point for another strange ritual that happens every Easter – the bottle kicking and Hare Pie Scramble – and it seems that Hare Pie Bank has been used as a place for special ritual and religious gatherings for at least 2,000 years if not more.

References


Higham on the Hill, MIRA (SP 500 590)  Nathan Flavell

An archaeological strip, plan and sample excavation and watching brief was carried out by ULAS during modifications to junctions of the A5, Higham on the Hill, in April and May 2014. Work was undertaken on behalf of MIRA Ltd prior to the proposed improvement to junctions on the A5. Three areas were examined. A machine-excavated controlled area strip of the north side bell junction (Area 1) revealed a small number of archaeological features of late Roman date. Stripping in Area 1 on the south side of the A5, and in Areas 2 and 3 to the east, was undertaken, but no archaeological features, were observed. X.A62.2014.

Higham on the Hill, MIRA (SP 368 957)  Tim Higgins

ULAS carried out an archaeological evaluation at MIRA, Higham on the Hill, from 26 August to 11 September 2014; 51 trenches were excavated within Phase 1 of the proposed Business Technology Campus development located within arable fields. One discrete area of Roman roadside occupation has been revealed adjacent to the A5/Watling Street. Within this area one trench contained a single refuse pit that contained Roman pottery dated to the mid-first century AD. Three other trenches within the same area located boundary ditches, which may be associated with the pit. X.A115.2014.

Higham on the Hill, land off Station Road, Hilary Bevins Close and Main Street (SP 379 956)  Matthew Beamish

An archaeological earthwork survey by LiDAR study was prepared by ULAS for David Wilson Homes for land adjacent to Hilary Bevins Close, Higham on the Hill. The survey was undertaken to address a planning condition in advance of the proposed residential re-development of the site, which is currently under pasture. Previous desk-based assessments and a geophysical survey identified the remains of well-preserved earthworks pertaining to medieval ridge and furrow. X.A114.2012.

Hinckley, Argent’s Mead (SP 4285 9374)  Neil Finn

Archaeological monitoring of bore holes and a subsequent trial trench evaluation was undertaken by Archaeology & Built Heritage on land at Argent’s Mead, Hinckley, in response to development proposals for a new leisure centre. The application site is located within an area of archaeological interest, close to the earthwork remains of Hinckley Castle, the medieval parish church of St Mary and the site of Hinckley Priory.

The results of the trial trenching programme demonstrated some potential for the survival of archaeological remains of medieval date within the development area, evidenced by a thirteenth- or fourteenth-century feature partially exposed within one of the trenches. Any stratified archaeological levels are likely to have been removed by landscaping of the area to create tennis courts in the early twentieth century, with further truncation occurring during construction of the Council Offices building in the late 1960s. X.A143.2013.
Hungarton, Village Farm, Baggrave Road (SK 6843 0765)  
Neil Finn

A strip, plan and sample excavation was undertaken during groundwork associated with the erection of a second wind turbine (turbine 2), in a field to the west of Village Farm, Baggrave Road, Hungarton. The archaeological investigation was commissioned by Tim and Paul Dixon of Dixon Partners, and undertaken by Archaeology & Built Heritage in February 2014.

Various Roman finds have been recovered from this area in the past, and in 2012 archaeological excavation in advance of the erection of a wind turbine (turbine 1) located a Roman ditch of second–fourth century date and structural features apparently representing the remains of a late Roman timber building.

No archaeological remains were present within the area of the wind turbine 2 base, although Roman pottery of late first–late second century date was recovered from the associated electricity cable trench, close to the site of wind turbine 1.

It would appear that the focus of Roman settlement activity was on the ridge of high ground to the south and south-east of wind turbine 2. Wind turbine 1 is located at the northern extent of the high ground, on the 135m contour, with the land falling away immediately to the north of this. X.A24.2014.

Kirby Muxloe, Bloods Hill (SK 52982 03937)  
Gavin Speed

An archaeological fieldwalking survey was carried out by ULAS on land at Bloods Hill, Kirby Muxloe, on behalf of Nexus Heritage. The fieldwalking survey revealed at very low density scatter of worked flint, and post-medieval pottery across the survey area. X.A55.2014.

Kirby Muxloe, Glenfield Park (SK 53062 05072 – centre)  
John Thomas

Archaeological excavation was undertaken by ULAS on a development area of c.62ha, between the villages of Kirby Muxloe and Glenfield, from September 2013 to February 2014. The excavations lay directly to the east of two areas originally investigated by Leicestershire Archaeological Unit in 1993 (Cooper 1994), and followed on from a trial trench evaluation in 2009–10 by Cotswold Archaeology that had recovered two Iron Age cauldrons (Bunn 2010).

The recent fieldwork involved the excavation of four areas. The largest covered an area of c.4ha, and contained a dense spread of Middle Iron Age settlement remains consisting of c.25 roundhouses, ditched enclosures, four-post structures, pits, post-holes and a group of cremation burials (Fig. 16). The settlement was associated with a unique collection of prehistoric metalwork, including further cauldrons (at least six more complete examples as well as broken pieces of many others), a complete sword, a spearhead, agricultural tools and dress fittings, such as an involuted brooch and two ring-headed pins.

Evidence for Late Iron Age and Roman occupation was recovered from the other three areas excavated. These all contained boundaries, and pitting and pottery assemblages, consistent with nearby occupation activity. A complete Roman pottery kiln was revealed, which contained a collection of ceramic kiln
bars that had collapsed into the bowl of the structure after it had been abandoned.

X.A150.2013.

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**Lutterworth, land off Leicester Road** (SP 5473 8602)  
*Aisling Mulcahy*

Allen Archaeology undertook an archaeological evaluation on land off Leicester Road in Lutterworth, prior to the submission of a planning application for a residential development.

A desk-based assessment and a geophysical survey by magnetometry has previously been undertaken for the site, and the trial trench evaluation was intended to further understand the archaeological potential of the site and to determine if a known Roman road crosses the site or lies further to the west, beneath the existing Leicester Road.

Eight trenches were excavated. The archaeological evaluation revealed a series of features related to medieval and post-medieval agriculture, mainly land drains and furrows. A single ditch or gully may have been of Anglo-Saxon date, although this
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attribution is based on the date of a single pottery sherd, and no further evidence for activity from this period was revealed. A small assemblage of finds was recovered, dating mainly to the medieval and post-medieval periods, though a small sherd of Roman pottery and the aforementioned sherd dating to the Anglo-Saxon period were also recovered.

No evidence for the Roman road was encountered within the trenches. X.A72.2014.

**Lutterworth, land at Lutterworth Road (SP 5487 8399)**  
Roger Kipling

An archaeological trial trench evaluation was undertaken by ULAS in October 2014 at Lutterworth Road, Lutterworth, on behalf of CgMs Consulting. The fieldwork took place in advance of a proposed commercial development, and followed an earlier desk-based assessment and fieldwalking survey.

The work produced evidence for a medieval mill leat associated with the medieval St John’s Hospital to the west of the site. This was characterised as several parallel, shallow linear features. Post-medieval/modern dating evidence from these channels supports cartographic evidence for this feature continuing as an open water channel into the post-medieval/modern period, with environmental evidence suggesting possible food preparation activity in the vicinity. There were no further indications of archaeological activity present on the site. X.A142.2014.

**Market Harborough, land at Manor Farm (SP 7188 8781 – centre)**  
Ian Fisher

MOLA (formerly Northamptonshire Archaeology) was commissioned to carry out an archaeological geophysical survey on c.35ha of land at Manor Farm, Market Harborough. The survey identified an extensive complex of enclosures, roundhouses, and a droveway/trackway of Iron Age or Roman date. Medieval ridge and furrow was also recorded.

**Market Harborough, Waterfield Place (SP 7358 8834)**  
Jennifer Browning

Excavations at Waterfield Place, Market Harborough took place from August to October 2014, prior to development for new housing. The site is located at the north end of the modern town, on a pronounced east–west ridge, with the land dropping away steeply to the north, and also more gradually to the east and south. The archaeological work followed geophysical survey and trial trenching, carried out in 2011 by Stratascan and ULAS respectively, which indicated that there was extensive Iron Age settlement on the site.

Open-area excavation produced evidence for a succession of oval and rectangular enclosures, some with associated structures and internal features (Fig. 17). Most of the enclosures were formed from multiple concentric and inter-cutting ditches, with entrances variably facing east, sometimes north-east and, in the case of the latest enclosure, west. Human remains were found on the top of one of the Iron Age enclosure ditches, representing a man aged approximately 36–45 years. He had been buried in a prone position, suggesting a hasty and not entirely respectful interment.
A number of roundhouses were identified, but different building traditions were also noted; at the north-eastern end of the site an unusually shallow boundary feature, open on the east side, enclosed a rectangular post-built structure. The densest part of the settlement was concentrated on the south-western edge of the site and had evidently continued beneath adjacent existing late twentieth-century housing. Activity was less intense on the western side of the site compared with the east, while on the north side it was defined and limited by the topography.

Pottery and stratigraphic evidence indicated several phases of occupation, dating predominantly from the mid-late Iron Age, but extending into the late first century AD. A Roman small town has long been suspected to the east of the site. The chronological continuation of activity into the early Roman period, coupled with a lack of later Roman material, therefore suggests that settlement shifted eastwards along the ridge. Saxon pottery was recovered from a small number of post-holes, towards the west of the site, but is not associated with large-scale re-occupation. In the medieval period, the site was agricultural, changing to pasture in later times. X.A78.2011.

**Melton Mowbray, Riverside Farm, Sysonby (SK 738 189)**

Wayne Jarvis

An archaeological field evaluation was carried out by ULAS on land at Riverside Farm, Sysonby, Melton Mowbray, in advance of the proposed residential development.
of the site. Three trenches were excavated, targeting the proposed building plots. A fourth area was recorded where groundworks had reached archaeological levels. A few features were identified, including a stone wall-footing, yard surfaces and an unusual bone-lined drain. These features all produced evidence suggesting activity of late eighteenth or nineteenth century date. X.A91.2014.

Melton Mowbray, St Mary’s Church (SP 75276 19029)  John Thomas

An archaeological investigation (test pitting) was carried out at St Mary’s Church, Melton Mowbray by ULAS, between 15 and 17 September 2014. Work was undertaken for Buttress Architects Ltd in order to provide indications of the character of deposits beneath the floor of the church, to assist in determining the cause of localised subsidence. Six test pits were hand-excavated in the church floor at various points in the nave, north and south aisles, and the north and south transept. Archaeological deposits relating to earlier phases of the church’s use, the historic fabric of the church itself and burials within the building were revealed. The test pitting was instructive in highlighting the potential for archaeological survival and the depth at which in situ deposits are located, as well as providing structural information to contribute towards a proposed renovation strategy. X.A132.2014.

Melton Mowbray, Sysonby Farm and land off Scalford Road  John Thomas

An archaeological field evaluation was undertaken on land at Sysonby Farm and off Scalford Road, Melton Mowbray by ULAS, between 5 and 19 August 2014; 44 trial trenches were excavated in response to outline proposals for residential development.

The results of the work were largely negative, but two trenches contained archaeological features relating to Iron Age occupation in the centre of the evaluation area. The archaeology consisted of two linear features, and a small pit that were associated with Iron Age pottery, animal bone and fired clay. Earlier occupation of the area was indicated by a scatter of worked flint dating to the Neolithic–Bronze Age that was present in the Iron Age features and topsoil/subsoil layers across the evaluation site.

A collection of medieval (thirteenth–fourteenth century date) and post-medieval (seventeenth–eighteenth century date) pottery was recovered from topsoil and subsoil contexts across the site. This provides information on the agricultural history of the area. X.A109.2014.

Melton Mowbray, land off Sysonby Road (SK 7442 2120)  Robert Evershed

A geophysical survey by magnetometry was undertaken by Allen Archaeology Ltd for Leicestershire County Council, on a c.40ha area off Sysonby Road in Melton Mowbray, to support a planning application for a residential development.

The survey revealed a complex of anomalies suggestive of a multi-phase settlement complex, focused on a probable trackway running north-west away from
an existing spring. Ridge and furrow anomalies were also evident across the study area. The three fields at the east end of the site produced poor survey results that seem in part due to modern debris identified on the surface of a field.

**Nevill Holt, Font House Garden, Nevill Holt Hall, Drayton Road**  
*Neil Finn*

(SP 8577 93770)

Archaeology & Built Heritage carried out an archaeological evaluation within Font House Garden at Nevill Holt Hall, Nevill Holt in March 2014, followed by an open area excavation in October and November of that year.

The investigation was undertaken at the request of Gluckman Smith Architects acting for Mr David Ross Esq., in respect of an application to demolish an existing dwelling and outbuilding, and to erect a new residence and associated service building on the same site. The buildings proposed for demolition were erected in the c.1970s when the hall was in use as a school.

Font House Garden is one of three walled gardens associated with Nevill Holt Hall, a Grade I listed Country House. The garden walls and a font, after which the garden is named, are Grade II listed structures, and the garden forms part of a Grade II registered park and garden. The walled gardens are first illustrated on a plan of Nevill Holt Hall, produced in 1661.

The earliest archaeological remains encountered were a number of residual flints of Neolithic/Bronze Age type. Several sherds of residual Roman pottery were also recovered from later features.

A series of late Saxon and medieval features, including several large pits, appear to reflect settlement activity associated with properties fronting onto Paddock Lane, pre-dating the establishment of the walled gardens. Earthworks within a field on the north side of this lane, mapped by Fred Hartley in the 1980s, may similarly represent the remains of medieval peasant households.

The walled gardens associated with Nevill Holt Hall are likely to have been established in the later sixteenth or earlier seventeenth century, and included both formal gardens and service yards. Font House Garden is identified on the 1661 plan as ‘Nether Yard’ and a building within this yard is named as ‘Hawkes Mew’, which may have been an aviary for hunting birds. Various post-holes were recorded in this vicinity during the excavation, but these formed no coherent structural pattern. Insubstantial stone foundations apparently represent the original north and east walls of the garden, which were rebuilt in the eighteenth century on slightly different alignments.

Most of the features recorded during the excavation were planting pits and bedding trenches associated with formal garden layouts, apparently dating to between the eighteenth and early twentieth centuries. These form fairly basic geometric arrangements and more than one phase is represented. Associated post-holes supported catenaries that are illustrated in late nineteenth- or early twentieth-century photographs when this was laid out as a rose garden.

The analysis is ongoing and a full report will be published in due course. X.A48.2014.
Newtown Linford, Bradgate Park (SK 532 108 centre) Nick Hannon, Andrew Hyam, Matthew Beamish

An archaeological LiDAR study and walkover survey was carried out by ULAS at Bradgate Park, Newtown Linford. Analysis of the LiDAR data, flown in January 2014, identified over 250 potential earthwork sites that are not within official records (see also Hartley and Squires 2014). These features and the known archaeological sites within the park were visited during a walkover survey undertaken between 2 and 9 April 2014. Features investigated included the deer park Pale, earthwork enclosures some of which appear to predate medieval features, undated terrace systems, multiple hollow ways or gullies, possible village-type earthworks, moated sites, an eighteenth-century racecourse, and evidence suspected to stem from activity during the Second World War. Because of the non-intrusive method of investigation and recording, many of the features are, as yet, undated. X.A63.2014.

Reference

Newtown Linford, Bradgate Park (SK 5280 1010) Lynden Cooper, James Harvey

A test pit survey was undertaken at the Late Upper Palaeolithic site of Creswellian character, first identified in 2001 (TLAHS 76; Cooper 2012). A first stage of evaluation in March 2014 comprised the plotting of the footfall erosion scars at the known site and the excavation of 15 test pits (500 × 500mm) at 5m interval, with the objective of defining the extent of the flint scatter and an assessment of its stratigraphic context. Seven further test pits were excavated in a second-stage evaluation in November 2014, to test for peripheral activity beyond the scatter as defined in the stage 1 works.

A walkover and photographic survey of the Little Matlock ridge pathways was undertaken by Lynden Cooper and the site’s original finder, Graham Coombs. This allowed an assessment of footpath erosion and a rapid survey for any surface finds eroding from the paths. Other Late Upper Palaeolithic and later prehistoric find spots previously discovered were located by GPS.

The evaluation demonstrated that the Later Upper Palaeolithic scatter has not been completely obliterated by erosion, but partly survives within the survey area as a central cluster (identified in test pit 2) with a marked, but incomplete, fall-off at 5m distance. The flint scatter occurs in a matrix of Charnwood Head, and appears to be in situ based upon the excellent condition of the flint, the presence of the complete débitage reduction sequence and evidence for spatial patterning. Where there was a considerable depth of deposit the lithics were spread throughout the profile. However, we would suggest that the lithics were deposited originally at approximately the level of modern ground level and that some artefacts have been ‘pulled’ down the profile by bioturbation. The mechanics of such displacement would involve bracken root growth and die-back, as well as invertebrate movement.
Trampling of the site during the Late Upper Palaeolithic occupation may have initiated the deeper movement of lithics.

A Cheddar point from TP2 is the most diagnostic of the artefacts, but the other tools also fit a Later Upper Palaeolithic designation. Some evidence for the Magdalenian *en eperon* technique in core platform preparation was recorded: in the UK this only occurs with Creswellian technology. The inferred activities at the site have been discussed by Cooper (2012), where it was suggested that the place was a hunting stand. Small- and medium-sized blades were produced at the site, and some of these were converted to Cheddar points (or similar), evident from several Krukowski microburins. Point fragments, including one with a clear impact trace, suggest re-tooling of armatures. Large piercers/borers include several pieces that can be classified as becs. Distinctive breakage fractures suggest the working of a hard material such as antler. Several burins may also indicate antler working. However, the addition of the group of scrapers from the test pit evaluation adds another inferred activity. This would imply hide working at the site, probably the processing of fresh hides from the hunting of horse and deer.

The Upper Palaeolithic scatter of BP1 appears to be very focused, occurring *within* a 10 × 10m area, although some peripheral activities cannot be excluded.

Reference


Barlestone, land off Heather Lane (SK 401 133)  
Jon Coward

An archaeological fieldwalking survey was carried out in January 2014 by ULAS on land east of Hinckley Road, Barlestone, Leicestershire, on behalf of Paladin Developments Ltd. The survey revealed a single Romano-British sherd and a scatter of early medieval to early post-medieval pottery, consistent with a manuring scatter from the nearby village. X.A6.2014.

Rearsby, land at Melton Road (SK 6473 1421)  
Jennifer Browning

An archaeological fieldwalking survey was carried out by ULAS on land at Melton Road, Rearsby, in advance of the proposed development of the land for new housing.

Ground conditions were only suitable for fieldwalking on one of two fields included in the assessment area; the other was pasture. The fieldwalking survey revealed a low level of Neolithic–Bronze Age flint and post-medieval pottery across the area that was surveyed. The latter may be evidence of a manuring scatter. X.A82.2014.

Shepshed, 7 Britannia Street (SK 47876 19758)  
John Thomas

An archaeological evaluation was undertaken at 7 Britannia Street, Shepshed by ULAS, on 30 April and 1 May 2014. Three trial trenches were excavated in response
to proposals for residential development on the site. The site lies in the historic settlement core of Shepshed and contains the demolished remains of a medieval hall house. The building was demolished in 1971 following a fire at the property, and it was unclear how much of the original structure, and evidence for its occupation, remained. Prior to its demolition, the building had been recorded by T. H. Rickman and the report published in this journal (Rickman 1973).

The evaluation has shown that there is high potential for the survival of evidence relating to the medieval occupation of the building. Remarkably, it appears that very little was removed from the site following demolition, and the latest floor plan and upstanding lower walls of the building have survived intact beneath layers of demolition rubble.

Sample excavation beneath the latest (c.nineteenth/twentieth century) floor tiles revealed a thick layer of mixed soil containing evidence for occupation. The upper levels of this layer contained possible hearth settings, post-holes and charcoal, suggesting that the soil deposit was partly derived from beaten earth floor layers within the building. The relatively substantial depth of the layer may also suggest that it formed part of the artificial platform on which the building was constructed.

Trenching to the rear of the building revealed surviving backyard surfaces and a brick-lined well, probably of eighteenth to nineteenth-century date, but potentially sealing earlier occupation layers. Two trenches in the garden area of the plot revealed an undated cobbled surface overlain by garden soils that could potentially be of medieval origin. An assemblage of late medieval and early post-medieval pottery, dating between the fifteenth and seventeenth centuries, was recovered from these trenches, reflecting domestic activity relating to the building’s occupation. X.A64.2014.

Reference

Stoke Golding, land at Dormer Cottage Main Street

An archaeological strip map and sample exercise was carried out by ULAS on land at Dormer Cottage Main Street, Stoke Golding, on 17 June 2014. The work was carried out in advance of a proposed house extension. A C-shaped foundation trench for the extension, totalling 20.28 square metres, was excavated. This revealed a medieval boundary ditch with later recuts. X.A86.2014.

Theddingworth, land at Little Croft, Main Street

Archaeological work was undertaken by ULAS prior to groundworks for alterations and extensions to Little Croft, Main Street, Theddingworth. The area of the proposed extension was stripped of topsoil and subsoil, in order to identify and
record any archaeological deposits which would be disturbed by the development. Investigation revealed a single large archaeological feature within the affected area, which appeared to represent an in-filled ditch or pond. Finds from the feature included both medieval pottery and post-medieval tile fragments, suggesting that it was backfilled in the post-medieval period. It was not possible to expose the full extent of the feature, as this was outside the area of development impact. No further archaeological features were encountered. X.A95.2014.

Tilton on the Hill, land north of Oakham Road

Gavin Speed

(SK 74487 05754)

ULAS carried out an archaeological investigation on land to the north of Oakham Road, Tilton on the Hill, in response to development proposals. A topographic survey of an area of ridge and furrow earthworks was undertaken to fulfil a condition of planning permission. The survey confirmed that the earthworks recorded in the HER are in a good state of preservation. Two sets of ridge and furrow were surveyed, covering an area of approximately two hectares. X.A59.2014.

Whitwick, 5–11 Market Place (SK 4362 1610)

Neil Finn

A second stage of evaluative trenching was undertaken to the rear of nos 5–11 Market Place, Whitwick, in 2014, by Neil Finn for Trigpoint Conservation & Planning Ltd. This followed an earlier evaluation stage reported in Archaeology in Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland 2013. Three trenches were excavated in the central part of the site following demolition of the modern snooker hall behind the frontage (Trenches 4–6). Further evidence of late medieval/early post-medieval activity was recorded in one of the trenches (Trench 5).

A watching brief was maintained during dismantling of the cruck-framed building on the street frontage at 5–7 Market Place in September 2014, following detailed recording of this structure. Dendrochronological dating by Nottingham Tree-Ring Dating Laboratory established that the cruck blades were converted from trees felled in 1620. The two surviving cruck trusses will be re-erected within the entrance porch to the new Co-operative store being built on the site. X.A19.2013.

Historic Building Recording

Arnesby
Bell Cottage, St Peters Road (SP 61734 92310) Trigpoint Conservation & Planning Ltd

Bilstone
Temple Mill, Gibbet Lane (SK 35660 03483) ULAS

Bottesford
Bottesford West Junction Signal Box (SK 7938 3981) Alan Baxter

Cold Newton
Manor House, Skeg Hill Road (SK 7177 0667) Archaeology & Built Heritage

Hinckley
Flutters Bingo Hall (formerly the Regent Theatre), Rugby Road (SP 4248 9371) Archaeology & Built Heritage
Hinckley  The HORSA hut at Westfield Junior School, Westfield Road (SP 41970 93244) ULAS

Hinckley  Manchester Hosiery Works, Queens Road (SP 43356 93575) ULAS

Huncote  Thatched Cottage, 6 Brook Street (SP 51696 97356) Archaeology & Built Heritage

Kibworth Beauchamp  22 High Street (SP 6827 9367) ULAS

Kirby Muxloe  St Barthelemeos Church, Main Street (SK 52072 04658) ULAS

Leire  ‘The Hatchery’, The Gables, Main Street (SP 5251 9019) PCA

Market Harborough  Former John Bland Flour Mill, St Marys Road (SP 7393 8726) Trigpoint Conservation & Planning Ltd

Nailstone  Yew Tree Farm (SK 41750 07376) Trigpoint Conservation & Planning Ltd

Sysonby  The barn at Riverside Farm (SK 738 189) ULAS

Waltham on the Wolds  Former Stables off Twells Road (SK 8066 2490) Archaeology & Built Heritage

Wet Langton  South wing of Langton Hall (SP 71574 93031) Archaeology & Built Heritage

Whitwick  5–11 Market Place (SK 4362 1610) Trigpoint Conservation & Planning Ltd

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

Ashby-de-la-Zouch: Holywell Spring Farm, Burton Road (SK 3397 1858); Ashby-de-la-Zouch: land to the rear of 8–10 Market Street (SK 35673 16738); Ashby-de-la-Zouch: land at Willesley Lane (SK 34668 15779); Blaby: Winchester Road (SP 571 966); Burbage: land south of Three Pots Road (SP 4327 9153 – MOLA); Castle Donington: 50A The Spittal (SK 44511 27806 – Archaeology & Built Heritage); Coleorton: Ginn Stables Farm, Outwoods Lane (SK 4007 1785 – Archaeology & Built Heritage); Coleorton: 1 School Lane, Newbold (SK 40500 19500); Cosby: land at 61 Main Street (SP 454721 294852); Croxton Kerrial: Barn Lodge Farm, Salby Road (SK 8463 2808 – PRO Archaeology); Countesthorpe: Countesthorpe Crematorium, Foston Lane (SP 5922 9588 – TVAS); Desford: Park House Farm (SK 4976 0358); Earl Shilton: Church of St Simon & St Jude, Church Street (SP 47119 98197); Enderby: Harold’s Lane (SP 53554 997737) (WA); Enderby: Leicestershire Constabulary, St Johns (SP 5535 9955); Frolesworth: St Nicholas Church (SP 503 906); Great Easton: land off Gatehouse Lane (SP 8557 9270 – Allen Archaeology); Great Easton: land adjacent to Westbrook House (SP 84773 92902); Higham on the Hill: land at Main Street (SP 379 955); Higham on the Hill: MIRA Buildings 1, 2 & 3 (SP 370 965); Higham on the Hill: MIRA Six Pack Building (SP 368 964); Higham on the Hill: MIRA temporary Workshop (SP 3685 9594); Hinckley: land south-east of Leicester Road (SP 439 948); Hinckley: land at 5 London Road (SP 4310 9395); Hose: land to the rear of the former Black Horse Public House,
21 Bolton Lane (SK 7360 2917 – Neville Hall); **Kegworth:** land adjacent to M1 Jct 24 (SK 47850 27350) (WA); **Kibworth Beauchamp:** 22 High Street (SP 61771 94472); **Kilby:** land at Welford Road (SP 5456 9680 – MOLA); **Melton Mowbray:** Dalby Wind Park (SK 464773 322701) (WA); **Newton Burgoland:** The Spade Tree Inn, 2 Main Street (SK 3680 0932 – Midland Archaeological Services); **Ratby:** land at Markfield Road (SK 506 064); **Scraptoft:** Manor Farmhouse, Stocks Road (SK 6462 0568 – Archaeology & Built Heritage); **Sharnford:** land adjacent to 6 Coventry Road (SP 48030 91715 – Archaeology & Built Heritage); **Sharnford:** St Helens Churchyard (SK 4836 9185); **Shawell:** Shawell Quarry Extension West, Prosser Land (SP 53541 91797); **Sheepy Magna:** Gresley Farmhouse, Twycross Road (SK 328 015); **Smeeton Westerby:** 14 Pit Hill (SP 6766 9261 – PCA); **Sutton Cheney:** Bosworth Battlefield Visitor Centre (SK 4014 0016 – Archaeology Warwickshire); **Sutton Cheney:** land at Sutton Cheney Wharf, Wharf Lane (SP 4100 9941 – APS); **Syston:** Barkby Road (SK 63540 10820) (WA); **Tilton on the Hill:** The Rose and Crown Public House, Main Street (SK 7431 0563); **Waltham on the Wolds:** former Stables off Twells Road (SK 8066 2490 – Archaeology & Built Heritage).

**RUTLAND**

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

**Cottesmore, Rogues Lane** (SK 9054 1392)  

Wayne Jarvis

An archaeological evaluation was carried out by ULAS on land at Rogues Lane, Cottesmore, in advance of proposed residential development; 13 trenches were excavated targeting the proposed house plots and access road. A series of features were identified, in both the western and eastern areas of site. The features included ditches, gullies, pits and a post-hole. Pottery and other material, including a kiln bar and a glass bead, of early Roman date were recovered from the features. The evidence indicates domestic and perhaps industrial activity in the mid-first to second century AD. Some residual flint was also recovered from the features and the overlying plough soil. OAKRM:2014.51.

**Great Casterton, 12 College Close** (TF 0018 0939)  

Neville Hall

An archaeological watching brief was undertaken by Neville Hall at 12 College Close Great Casterton, in advance of two building extensions. The work took place on 26 and 27 February 2014, and consisted of monitoring and recording of groundworks for the redevelopment.

The work identified a buried soil horizon of probable medieval date, and beneath this, two undated pits cutting into the natural subsoil. The stratigraphic position of these features may indicate an earlier date, although no finds were recovered.
Oakham, Barleythorpe Road (SK 855 092)  

Steve Baker, Roger Kipling

Archaeological excavations at Huntsmans Drive, Oakham revealed an extensive area of activity from the Neolithic/Bronze Age to the Late Saxon/Early Medieval period, including a phase of intensive Iron Age/transitional settlement activity consisting of two enclosed roundhouses in association with a re-used landscape boundary ditch (Fig. 18). Settlement on the site was evidently long-lived. The main focus took place during the Late Iron Age/transitional period, eventually declining or changing in nature in the first century AD. Evidence for activity in the Late Saxon period was also recovered. The Iron Age/Roman site probably represents part of

Fig. 18. Plan of all archaeological features revealed at Huntsman’s Drive. The concentration of Iron Age occupation is in Areas 1 & 2. © ULAS.
the same spread of settlement revealed during excavations at Catmose College to the north-west (Brown 2010), and is comparable in type and development to other contemporary settlements in Rutland and Leicestershire, adding to the regional knowledge of sites from this period. Although the finds assemblage was small, it offered some indication of the changing function of the site over time. Limited environmental information suggests that the site existed within a largely cleared landscape, with areas of open grassland and possibly agricultural fields nearby, although wooded areas probably still have existed in the vicinity. Although it is thought that the inhabitants of the settlement were involved in mixed farming, an emphasis on pastoralism is suggested. Evidence for metal working and food processing was also recovered. OAKRM:2011.32.

References

Brown, J., 2010 Iron Age and Roman settlement at The Vale of Catmose College, Oakham, Rutland.

Uppingham, land east of Glaston Road mill sites (SK 8761 0027) Elaine Jones

A fieldwalking survey was undertaken on land to the east of Glaston Road, Uppingham in April 2014. Recovered finds consisted of an Upper Palaeolithic ‘backed blade’ with later Bronze Age re-use and 40 other struck flints, pottery dating from the early medieval to the recent post-medieval periods, and a lead object, possibly a medieval seal.

Whissendine, Whissendine Cottage, Main Street Wayne Jarvis

(SK 82841 14275)

An archaeological evaluation was carried out by ULAS on land at Whissendine Cottage, Main Street, Whissendine. The investigation consisted of the excavation of seven trial trenches within the area of proposed new houses and associated access. No definite archaeological features were found during the trial trenching. A series of ditches that were identified can be associated with historic map evidence, and were constructed for boundary and drainage purposes. A single post-hole of uncertain date was identified, together with a modern surface and plough furrows. A very low density of artefacts was recovered during these groundworks, comprising a sherd each of Iron Age and Roman pottery, and a struck flint scraper. OAKRM:2014.61.

Historic Building Recording

Empingham
Shacklewell Lodge Farm (SK 96490 07778) ULAS

Essendine
Manor Farm, Manor Farm Lane (TF 0473 1311) Witham Archaeology

Preston
Preston Hall (SK 87140 02508) ULAS
Negative watching briefs and evaluations in Rutland
(all undertaken by ULAS unless otherwise stated)

Barleythorpe: land at Main Road (SK 8492 0988 – Archaeology & Built Heritage);
Langham: 1 Oakham Road (SK 8436 1090 – APS); Oakham: land off Barleythorpe Road (SK 8557 0936); Oakham: Oakham Castle, Cutts Close (SK 8617 0903).

PORTABLE ANTIQUITIES SCHEME ANNUAL REPORT FOR LEICESTERSHIRE AND RUTLAND 2014

Wendy Scott, Finds Liaison Officer, Museums Service, Leicestershire County Council.

The Portable Antiquities Scheme (PAS) began its second decade as a fully national project in 2014. In this year, 113,802 objects were recorded nationally, and we hit the impressive milestone of one million recorded objects late in the year. This achievement is even more impressive, considering the fact that we reached half a million objects only four years ago.

The Leicestershire team recorded 1,040 object records in 2014. Of this total, 465 were recorded for Leicestershire and 170 for Rutland. Other Finds Liaison Officers (FLOs) across the country have recorded finds from our area, bringing the annual total to 653 for Leicestershire and 206 for Rutland.

Period breakdown

Yet again Roman finds dominated with 326 objects, mostly coins (255) and brooches (41). The medieval period is the next biggest sample with 209 objects. Coins make up the largest category (96), with small numbers (less than ten) of various vessel fragments, seal matrices, harness pendants, buckles, mounts etc. making up the remainder. The post-medieval period is the next largest sample at 155. Coins again dominate (63), with a variety of other objects similar to the medieval period.

Unusually this year there were PAS finds from the city, with two Roman coins being found. The first was a ‘Barborous Radiate’ (AD 270–85) (LEIC-FA8CD4) and was found at the Jewry Wall site by a member of the public. The coin was found lying on the surface near the edge of the site, so we cannot be certain that this is a genuine site find, but it is still possible. The second was a Denarius of Trajan (AD 96–117) (LEIC-339B74) found in the Humberstone Drive area. Whether this has lain buried here since the Roman period or was imported with topsoil is impossible to say.

Discovery and recording

Seventy-nine individuals made their finds available for recording in 2014, the majority being county-based metal-detectorists. Of the 1,040 records created by the Leicestershire team, 1,013 of these finds were metal detected, the rest being chance finds during metal detecting, usually flint and pottery spotted whilst detecting (and one chance find at the Jewry Wall Museum – see above).
The majority of objects were recorded with accurate find spots, with all but seven records having a six-figure or higher grid reference. 479 find spots were provided with ten figure grid references and 71 with an eight figure, all being provided by the finders using a GPS device. 483 had grid references of six figures, mostly created by the FLO, and the finders using paper maps or ‘centred’ on villages, parishes etc. at the finders’ request. This is an ongoing, improving situation and vastly enhances the quality of the data.

**PAS explorers**

During 2014, Leicestershire conducted a pilot volunteer project on behalf of the British Museum as part of an HLF bid. The bid was successful and the programme, which aims to increase the involvement of volunteers and self-recorders, began implementation late in the year.

We are hoping to recruit volunteers who are new to archaeology but have useful skills. For example, Leicestershire now has a volunteer, newly retired, with excellent photography skills. Their assistance eases the FLOs workload and in return they learn about archaeological finds as they record them.

The project is also designed to encourage self-recording. We currently have three people doing this. Many finders have just as much knowledge about their finds as the FLOs do, and by providing training in database entry, photo manipulation and additional object identification, we are enabling them to utilise their knowledge to create their own records.

**Interesting finds**

**Coins**

*Denarius of Caesar* PUBLIC-36FE41 (Fig. 19)

Issued by the moneyer C. Cossutius Maridianus in the month following the assassination of the dictator on the Ides of March 44 BC. The obverse inscription includes the title Parens Patriae (Parent of his Country), which Crawford regards as posthumous. Veiled portraits of the dictator appear both before and after the Ides of March.

The interesting reverse type shows the moneyer’s name arranged in a cruciform pattern, with his official titles placed in the angles. A A A F F is abbreviated from IIII VIR A A A F F quattuovir aere argento auro flando feriundo (one of four men for the casting and striking of bronze, silver and gold). This was the first time that the full title of the moneyer’s office had appeared on the coinage of the Roman Republic. Found in Loughborough.

*Medieval Scottish penny of William I (1165–1214)* LEIC-5B843F (Fig. 20)

This coin, found in Anstey, may be a new type. The coin is a particularly well executed example, with the crown differing from other published examples, and the coin is thought to be a posthumous issue. For reasons yet to be explained, Scottish medieval coins are unusually common in Leicestershire.
Artefacts

*Unusual Roman plate brooch* LEIC-FF8BC8, Melton area (Fig. 21)

This is an almost complete example of a lozenge-shaped plate brooch, dating to the second and early third century. There are only 44 similar brooches recorded by the scheme, most centred around East Anglia and the west country. This is a type not previously recorded in the county. Found in the Melton area.
Early medieval strap fitting LEIC-5ACA6A (Fig. 22)
This is an example of an object type whose distribution pattern and date range are interesting. Only 20 of these objects have been recorded by the scheme and this is the most westerly example. With the exception of one from Lincolnshire, all other examples hail from East Anglia. These examples have all been dated to the eleventh century. Found in Belton in Rutland.

Early medieval Cloisonné brooch LEIC-65A9C2 (Fig. 23)
This is a good example of a mid-tenth- to mid-eleventh-century gilded Cloisonné brooch. Only 45 examples of this circular lugged brooch have been recorded by the PAS; many are very similar in pattern to this example. Their distribution is largely southern and eastern England, and accordingly they are currently ascribed to late Saxon and Anglo-Scandinavian cultures. This object was also found in Belton in Rutland, and it is interesting for two relatively rare eleventh-century objects to be found in the same parish.

**Noteworthy out of county finds**

Nummus of Julian (360–63) LEIC-49B542 (Fig. 24)
Minted in Lyon, this large module issue of Julian with the bull reverse is quite common in the Mediterranean region. However, this example, found in Cambridgeshire, is the only one known to have been found in Britain (Dr Sam Moorhead pers. comm.). This coin was donated to the British Museum collection by the finder.

**Treasure cases 2014**

Nationally we had 1,007 treasure cases in 2014; 13 cases were reported to the Leicestershire FLO, with eight cases being found in Leicestershire, making this a very quiet year. However, two cases stand out as being of importance.

Bronze Age bracelet fragment LEIC-1F1276 2014T303 (Fig. 25)
This late Bronze Age (950–750 BC) bracelet, found in Asfordby, is quite a rare find, with only two similar examples recorded in the 20 Bronze Age bracelets recorded by the PAS. Possibly significant is that its findspot is just south-west of Welby, where the important Bronze Age hoard was recovered in the late nineteenth century. The item is being acquired by Leicestershire Museums.

Early medieval gold bracteate LEIC-1E63A8 2014T301 (Fig. 26)
This bracteate, found at Hoby with Rotherby, is interesting for many reasons. It is the second to be found near Melton Mowbray and it has been shown to be die-linked to the previous example found in Scalford. This one has the addition of a border formed of concentric, wheel-like motifs, which is, so far, unique. This example adds much weight to the theory that they were locally produced (see *TLAHS* 85, 97). It does, however, mean that the Scalford example is no longer unique, as this one also shows a drinking horn/glass vessel. The object has already been acquired by Leicestershire Museums and will be displayed alongside the other example at Melton Carnegie museum.
Fig. 22.

Fig. 23.

Fig. 24.
Recent treasure acquisitions

_Garendon Park coin hoard_ LEIC-4A3194 2012T586 (Fig. 27)

24 silver Tealby type pennies of Henry II (1154–89) were found in Garendon Park by the Loughborough Coin and Search Society (LCSS) in 2012. This hoard was very generously donated to Leicestershire Museums by LCSS and the landowner, Gerald De Lisle. They have been on temporary display at Charnwood museum as
part of a display about detected finds from Garendon Park. These rare coins are a valuable addition to our collection and will eventually go on permanent display in the museum.

Fig. 27.