Archaeology in Leicestershire and Rutland 1998

Note. Archaeological watching briefs which have produced no significant archaeological features or finds are listed at the end of the relevant section below. In each case, the parish/site name is followed by the name of the individual or organisation that undertook the fieldwork. For abbreviations, please see above, p.VI.

LEICESTER

ABBAY

101-3 High Street, Leicester (SK 5840 0553)  
Tony Gnanaratnam

During April 1998, an archaeological evaluation was undertaken by ULAS, for Wells Architects on behalf of Cathco Properties. Seven trenches were excavated, and produced evidence of post medieval activity, in the form of several probable pits and four stone walls. Although the walls could not be fully exposed, they appear to represent the western wall of a probable cellar, abutted by a later east west aligned wall and possibly its north south aligned return. These may be of 16th to 17th century date. The cellar appears to have been backfilled, perhaps in the 18th century. The possible wall may be of post medieval or earlier date.

Two probable pits of late 17th to early 18th date, produced fragments of nine ointment pots and two glass phials, which may indicate the presence, nearby, of an apothecary's shop. A 17th century clay pipe fragment was found which bore the maker's mark, IM, which is a new addition to the five contemporary maker's marks recorded in Leicester (Higgins 1985). The archive will be stored with LCMS (A6.1998).

Bibliography


Vaughan College, Leicester (SK 58 02)  
Tony Gnanaratnam

An archaeological watching brief was carried out at Vaughan College in May 1998, for the University of Leicester Estates Department. Evidence was uncovered of a sequence of activity on site, which had been subject to truncation, ranging in date from the mid first century AD through to medieval.

The first and early second century activity consisted of a number of pits, some containing quantities of slag and charcoal suggestive of metal working on site and the first phase of road to the north of the baths. The limited evidence suggested that the road dated from the end of the 1st century, prior to the construction of the baths, around AD130. The road was sealed by apparently waterlain deposits indicative of a period of disuse, although no dating evidence was recovered for this phase.

No evidence was found for associated structures but this is probably a result of truncation on site.

The line of the northern wall of the baths was preserved as a robber trench, backfilled with building materials presumably deriving from the baths. This included *opus signinum*, tile, which may derive from *pilae*, and *tesserae*. The wall was robbed out prior to the digging of refuse pits on and adjacent to its line, in the 13th century. Too small an area was exposed to judge the distribution of medieval pits, however the presence of pits on the line of the wall and others respecting it, may suggest that it had stood and functioned as a boundary into the medieval period, prior to being robbed out. The finds and archive are to be donated to LCMS (A.52.1997).

**AYLESTONE**

Hughenden Drive (SK 58 02)  
Richard Pollard

Mrs Kim Bisson found a sherd of 2nd century Central Gaulish samian, form Dragendorf 37, in her garden.

**CASTLE**

31-41 Friar Lane, Leicester (SK 5853 0427)  
Tony Gnanaratnam

An archaeological watching brief was undertaken by ULAS, for Stephen George and Partners on behalf of Spearing Waite, during the excavation of foundations. The top of an undisturbed archaeological level was revealed and removed to a depth of 0.15m. This was probably a garden soil of unknown, though probably medieval or earlier date, and yielded a single sherd of Roman Whiteware. The archive will be stored with LCMS (A2.1998).

10-12 Guildhall Lane, Leicester (SK 5853 0448)  
Neil Finn

ULAS carried out a watching brief for Sandhurst Builders on alterations relating to the conversion of the Grade II listed property into a public house. The excavation of foundation trenches for a new staircase between the ground floor and cellar was monitored, along with other groundworks associated with the reflooring of part of the cellar. Stratified archaeological deposits of probable Roman date were located beneath the cellar floor, approximately 2.4m below modern street level.

A basic survey of the cellars, parts of which extended beneath an adjacent property, revealed a complex development sequence including stone-built elements almost certainly predating the 18th century buildings standing above.

Although attributed in the listing description to the late 18th century, a brief visual inspection of the standing buildings suggests that 12 Guildhall Lane is likely to have been built in the first half of that century. An extensive series of deeds survive for the property, detailing ownership from 1685 to the present day and identify it as the site of the hall of the medieval Guild of St. George before the Reformation. The documentation also shows that the property was in use as a public house from at least 1770 to about 1920. Originally the Queen’s Head, the name was changed to the Opera Hotel in the 1890’s. A summary of the deeds has been prepared by Dr. Paul Courtney and it is planned to submit a more detailed report on these for publication in a future edition of *Transactions*. The documentary and material archive will be deposited with LCMS (A1.1999).
The Newarke and Castle View, Leicester (SK 582 941)  
Tony Gnanaratnam

During August and September 1998 an archaeological watching brief was undertaken by ULAS, on behalf of De Montfort University, for the cutting of ducts for fibre optic cabling, in the vicinity of the Newarke and the Castle. This revealed a stone wall of possible medieval date, which may be part of the eastern wall of the Newarke. The full extent of this feature was not seen. Deposits which may relate to a cobbled path outside the Castle House gateway were also seen. In the base of the other trenches undated deposits were also observed. The archive will be stored with LCMS (A16.1998).

Newarke Street, ‘The Charlotte’ public house (SK 5846 0414)  
Richard Clark

LCMS undertook salvage excavation of archaeological remains exposed in the foundation trench for a rear extension at ‘The Charlotte’ public house, in August 1998. The investigation recorded evidence of a stone lined rectangular cess-pit cutting an earlier post-medieval rubbish pit. To the north and west layers of probable medieval date produced both medieval and residual Roman pottery. At the extreme western end of the foundation trench a small quantity of Roman pottery was recovered from the edge of a straight-sided sub-rectangular feature, possibly a grave cut. The finds and records are held by LCMS (A15.1998).

42 Silver Street, Leicester (SK 5858 0450)  
Neil Finn

ULAS carried out a watching brief for French Joinery on alterations relating to the conversion of this Grade II listed building into a restaurant. The frontage range is a three storey brick structure of 18th century date. To the rear of this is a 16/17th century timber framed wing. Linking front and rear ranges was a small, brick built addition of the 19th century. Alterations included the demolition of the latter, to be replaced by a glazed structure of similar ground plan, total refurbishment of the frontage range and the installation of various services. The timber framed range, which was extensively renovated in 1991, was not significantly altered.

Stratified archaeological levels of medieval or post-medieval date were recorded 0.2m below present ground level, in the area of the demolished central range; as predicted by the results of an evaluation carried out in 1991 (TLAHS 66, p.187). The excavation of a trench within the frontage range revealed stratified deposits of late Roman date beneath the cellar floor at 62.06m above OD. Generally, the impact of the various groundworks upon buried archaeological remains was slight.

The frontage range was gutted, with virtually every internal feature removed. Evidence for the original arrangement of windows in the Silver Street elevation survived as scars in the brickwork, seen following removal of internal rendering; the present facade being an addition of the late 18th or 19th century.

Many of the timbers used in the staircase, floor and roof structures of the frontage range were reused pieces. Of particular note were several sections of either sill beam, wall plate or midrail from a close studded timber framed building, reused as floor joists and ceiling beams. Studs, probably from the same building, had also been used in the construction of the staircase. It seems entirely possible that these timbers were originally part of the timber framed rear range, the side wall framing of which was replaced by brick early in the 18th century.

It is planned to submit an article collating all of the available information on the
structure, history and development of this building for publication in a future issue of *Transactions*. The archive and finds relating to this watching brief will be deposited with LCMS (A17 1998).

**2-6 Victoria Parade, Leicester (SK 5878 0453)**  
Tony Gnanaratnam

An archaeological watching brief was undertaken by ULAS, on behalf of the Thomasen Partnership, on the cutting of foundation inspection trenches in the basements at 2-6 Victoria Parade, on 5th and 6th March 1998. In only one trench was an archaeological deposit located. This consisted of a leached sand which may be of Roman or medieval date, and is likely to represent a cut feature of unknown shape and dimensions. The other trenches revealed either natural sands or modern disturbance. The archive will be stored with LCMS (A4.1998).

**EVINGTON**

**Crown Hills, General Hospital (SK 621 041)**  
Adrian Butler

A geophysical survey for the proposed Leicestershire Mental Health Trust EPD/HDU facility was carried out over 1.28ha of land at Leicester General Hospital. Anomalies were detected that may reflect buried ridge and furrow, and ditches. The archive will be held by LCMS.

**HUMBERSTONE**

**Humberstone, former Windmill Public House, Main Street (SK 6257 0591)**  
John Thomas

An archaeological evaluation by trial trenching was undertaken by ULAS for Augusta Developments Ltd. on the site of proposed residential development. The evaluation indicated that the front of the development area had been heavily disturbed by modern intrusion, although traces of late medieval possible sand and gravel quarry pits were revealed. At the rear of the development area disturbance was minimal and low level archaeological activity was encountered in the form of a boundary ditch and putative trackway, possibly dating to the Anglo-Saxon period. The archive will be held with LCMS (A18.1998).

**Scraptoft, Monks Rest Recreation Ground (SK 628 056)**  
James Gossip

An archaeological evaluation by trial trenching was undertaken on behalf of Leicester City Council. No archaeological deposits were located. The records and surface finds are to be lodged with LCMS (A8.1998).

**Negative watching briefs in Leicester: Abbey:** Vaughan College Car Park (SK 5818 0452) LCMS; **Beaumont Leys:** Lecroft Road (SK 5717 0816), LCMS; **Belgrave:** Belgrave Hall (SK 5928 0722), LCMS; **Castle:** 31/33 Millstone Lane (SK 5851 0416) ULAS; Raw Dykes Road, The Bowling Green (SK 5853 0292) ULAS; **Humberstone,** Towers Hospital (SK 619 059) LCMS.
LEICESTERSHIRE

Ab Kettleby (SK 7240 2290) Melton Fieldworkers

A second phase of watching brief over drainage works at St. James's Church by Melton Fieldworkers produced further Roman finds of coloured tesserae, painted wall plaster and tile together with pottery and extensive foundations with wall collapse surrounding, but separate from, the church fabric. Two deep sumps to the east of the chancel revealed in situ sections through stratified deposits, including walls with plaster, a flagstone floor and hypocaust tiles. Saxo-Norman and medieval pottery sherds were also recorded.

Ashby de la Zouch (SK 35 18) Richard Pollard

David Saunders found 25 sherds of Iron Age Scored Ware, together with one sherd of Roman grey ware, whilst surveying the line of the proposed A50 Ashby bypass. Evaluation excavations on the line have been conducted by ULAS (see Meek, below). The Leics. SMR reference is 31NE.BJ, and the finds are with ULAS pending completion of the archaeological project.

Ashby de la Zouch, A50 by-pass (SK 335 190 to SK 369 179) James Meek

An archaeological field evaluation by trial trenching was undertaken by ULAS within two areas along the route of the proposed A50 Ashby by-pass, which would be built to the north of Ashby-de-la-Zouch joining the A50 near to Heath Lane and Tithe Farm to the north-west of Ashby (SK 335 190) to the Flagstaff 44 Industrial Estate Island (SK 369 179). The majority of the road line lies within the Ashby-de-la-Zouch parish, though the western end crosses into Smisby parish, Derbyshire. Of the ten trenches excavated, six were located close to Old Parks House, in an area where geophysical survey by Oxford Archaeotechnics Ltd had suggested the existence of archaeological features. Features of possible prehistoric date were revealed within one of the trenches close to Old Parks House, with features of Roman date visible in all six of these trenches, possibly suggesting a settlement in the vicinity. These features had been severely truncated by plough activity. Two trenches were located adjacent to the Gilwiskaw Brook, but no significant archaeological features were revealed, although the remains of medieval ridge and furrow was recorded. Further trenching along the proposed route is expected. The project was funded by Leicestershire County Council. The archive will be stored with LMARS (X.A27.1998).

Ashby de la Zouch, Willesley Woodside (SK 338 140) Adrian Butler

Fluxgate gradiometer scanning and detailed survey were carried out over c.4.5ha of land proposed for opencast coal mining at Willesley Woodside, Ashby-de-la-Zouch, on behalf of Clay Colliery Co. Ltd. A number of intense anomalies possibly associated with brick structures or dumps, and weaker linear anomalies reflecting either ditches or ridge and furrow were identified.

Ashby Woulds, Bath Lane, Moira (SK 312 154) Jennifer Browning

An archaeological watching brief for Mr. David Woodward, was undertaken by ULAS during topsoil stripping. A section of Roman road was revealed comprising a convex
surface of small pebbles (the metalling), below which were several compacted layers of clay and sandstone. The road is a section of the long suspected route between Chester and Leicester, which is known to continue beyond to Colchester. The southern section is known as the via Devana. The archive will be held by LMARS (X.A39.1998).

Ashby Woulds, Hicks Lodge, Moira (SK 43255 31453)  
Adrian Butler

Geophysical survey was carried out over the proposed extension to the Hicks Lodge opencast colliery site at Moira, on behalf of RJB Mining (UK) Ltd. Investigation of two flint scatters produced little of archaeological interest. Survey along the line of a Roman road detected a number of anomalies including areas of stone, possible pits and ditches.

Ashby Woulds, Hicks Lodge Extension Site, Moira  
(SK 4333 3146)  
Jennifer Browning

An archaeological fieldwalking survey, commissioned by RJB Mining (UK) Ltd, was undertaken by ULAS on land at the proposed Hicks Lodge Extension Site, Moira. A small quantity of medieval and post medieval pottery was recovered, probably relating to agricultural activity. The archive will be held by LMARS (X.A69.1998).

Barrow Upon Soar, North Street (SK 5765 1775)  
James Gossip

ULAS were commissioned by Park Developments to carry out an archaeological evaluation in advance of residential development. Six trenches were machined or hand excavated to the level of the natural substratum, or archaeological deposits. A medieval wall probably represented the rear boundary of a property fronting onto North Street. Other deposits of possible medieval date may be associated with occupation during this period. The remains of an 18th century building, demolished between 1921 and the 1950’s, were located on the North Street frontage. The site archive will be held by LMARS (X.A40.1998).

Broughton Astley (SP 520 940 to 530 920)  
Sally Warren

An archaeological watching brief undertaken by ULAS during February and March 1998, on behalf of Severn Trent Water Ltd during the laying of new water mains in the Broughton Astley area, revealed evidence of a possible earlier pebbled road surface. The site archive will be deposited with LMARS (X.A65.1998).

Broughton Astley, adjacent to 65 Old Mill Road (SP 526 925)  
Richard Pollard

Recorded observation of housing development was undertaken by the author for LMARS within the historic village core of Broughton Astley. Conditions on site following heavy rain were not conducive to the recognition of features, however, three sherd of medieval pottery (c. 850 - 1400) were recovered from a topsoil heap. The archive is held by LMARS (X.A82.1998).

Burton Lazars (SK 7695 1685)  
Mary Hatton and Jenny Allsop

A watching brief at 4, The Close, revealed tooled limestone fragments from mullioned windows, together with other worked stone fragments.
Burton Lazars, New Road (SK 7680 1690)

A large stone oven revealed during the erection of a new garage adjacent to the east gable wall of Bakery Cottage was recorded by Melton Fieldworkers.

Burton Lazars (SK 7735 1825) Melton Fieldworkers and C.R. Salisbury

Investigation continued on the site of the mill on the River Eye granted to the order of St. Lazarus by Roger de Mowbray in the 12th century. Medieval pottery sherds were recovered from the field to the SW of the mill site (SK 7720 1845) later acquired by the mill (Man Mill Piece on Tithe Award). To the south, a second mill dam was located which awaits further investigation at low water.

Cadeby, Cadeby Hall (SK 424 026) Jennifer Browning

An archaeological watching brief for Mr. Simon Warner was undertaken by ULAS during topsoil stripping. No evidence of medieval activity was noted but a stone wall was revealed, probably dating from the 18th century. Unusually, a layer of animal bone was deposited above one of the remaining courses forming part of the wall. The use of animal bones as a building material has been noted in a number of post medieval contexts, particularly in the Midlands, but it was a practice that ceased in the late 18th century (Armitage 1989, p.154). The archive will be held by LMARS (X.A38.1998).

Bibliography


Carlton Curlieu, Kibworth and Smeeton Westerby (SP 670 920 to SP 700 980) Sally Warren

An archaeological watching brief undertaken by ULAS between April and June 1998 on behalf of Severn Trent Water Ltd during the laying of new water mains in Kibworth, Smeeton Westerby and Carlton Curlieu revealed evidence of an early pebbled road surface and a ditch of unknown date. The site archive will be deposited with LMARS (X.A72 1998).

Castle Donington, Gibro Farm (SK 440 256) Michael Derrick

An archaeological field evaluation by geophysical survey and trial trenching was undertaken by ULAS at Gibro Farm, Castle Donington, in advance of a proposed new air freight terminal for East Midlands Airport. A number of struck flints and pottery sherds of late Neolithic to early Bronze Age date were recovered from features during this phase of evaluation. An evaluated area close to an Iron Age cropmark enclosure and trackway was excavated (SMR Ref: 42NW AG). This revealed evidence for two phases of late Iron Age field systems and enclosure. A four post structure was also excavated which corresponded with a break in one of the field boundaries. This may possibly have been the remains of a double gate structure used to control the movement of cattle. Pits containing Iron Age pottery were also revealed in this area. Excavation of the cropmark was carried out in early 1999 and will appear in a later edition of Transactions. Finds and site archive will be held with LMARS (X.A53.1998).
Castle Donington, Willow Farm (SK 445 288)  Jon Coward and Susan Ripper

During 1997-8 archaeological work was undertaken in advance of, and during, construction of the Willow Farm Business Park at Castle Donington. The development area covering c.38 hectares, was located in the flood plain of the River Trent, in the northern part of Castle Donington parish (illus. 1). The underlying geology was gravel with some alluvial cover particularly to the north. The chance find of a quern (SMR 42NW Z), surviving medieval ridge and furrow earthworks, and the abundant archaeological remains in similar locations elsewhere along the flood plain highlighted the potential of

1. Location plan of Willow Farm showing all areas of archaeological work.
the area. In addition, within the northern half of the proposed development, two relic channels of the River Trent were identified from aerial photographs and topographical survey.

The area was surveyed by magnetic susceptibility and gradiometer by Oxford Archaeotechnics which identified several areas of anomalies for further testing. Archaeological work comprising fieldwalking, trial trenching, test pitting, earthwork survey of ridge and furrow, a watching brief and excavation was undertaken funded by Wilson Bowden Properties (LMARS X.A14 1997).

The results of the scheme of archaeological work are divided into two areas - the northern scheme and the southern scheme (illus. 1).

The northern scheme

The northern half of the development included two relic river channels and, along its western perimeter, a spur of high ground from which a scatter of flint artefacts had been recovered. Geophysical survey also revealed two possible linear features within this spur. A scheme of investigation was agreed comprising evaluation trenches across the palaeochannels followed by a watching brief over the area during overburden stripping, a test pit survey of the flint scatter, and an evaluation trench over the linear anomalies located by geophysical survey. A further evaluation trench targeted an area which had produced a cluster of finds revealed by trial trenching and a test pit. This uncovered part of a Bronze Age burnt mound which was then the subject of systematic open area excavation. A rescue excavation was also conducted on a second burnt mound identified in the watching brief.

Three palaeochannels were identified; a 'western', 'eastern' and 'middle' channel (illus. 1). The western channel was a U-shaped meander loop 40 - 60m wide, recorded over some 480m. The outer, westernmost edge of the channel was steeply banked to a depth of 3.30m while the inner eastern bank rose gently. The primary fill of the silted channel consisted of fine alluvial clays with abundant waterlogged reeds and riverside woodland species. A preliminary scan of the insect remains identified beetles associated with slow moving or still waters. A number of oak and alder fragments, some with toolmarks, were also recovered as well as a branch with beaver toothmarks. Radiocarbon dates range from 1135 to 830 cal. BC with 95% probability were obtained from these deposits (Beta-119648).

The eastern channel was recorded over a distance of some 380m and was only slightly curved. The central, deepest portion of the channel was still active as a modern drain and could not be trenched but the channel was at least 0.64m deep and over 60m wide. Primary silts were sampled from towards the eastern bank which also consisted of alluvial clays and waterlogged reeds with abundant beetles associated with slow moving or still waters. Radiocarbon dates of 700 to 530 cal. BC with 95% probability were obtained from these deposits (Beta-119650).

The middle channel, approximately 30m wide, ran almost perpendicular to the western and eastern channels and was recorded over a distance of 180m. The primary fills of the channel consisted of a grey loose, clean sand with no organic content, suggesting fast moving water. Two bog oaks and a number of roundwood fragments were also recovered, some with chopped ends. No radiocarbon dates have, as yet, been commissioned but it has been suggested that periods of high energy flow, together with the deposition of large tree trunks may be linked to Bronze Age flood events, following from large-scale agricultural clearance (Knight 1998).
During the investigation of the spur of higher ground along the western boundary of the site a range of archaeological activity was identified. Towards the southern end of the spur a concentration of flint tools was found during test pitting, including a high proportion of retouched pieces and two piercers. The crude working technology suggests a later prehistoric date (Late Bronze Age to Iron Age, L. Cooper, pers. comm.). Along the northern extent of the spur a total of sixty fragments of prehistoric pottery was recorded, suggesting settlement in the immediate vicinity, although a single pit some 50m south of the scatter was the only cut feature identified. However, excavations immediately adjacent to the pottery scatter, uncovered the remains of a Bronze Age ‘burnt mound’ site.

The burnt mound lay in a slight hollow on the west bank of the western palaeochannel. A number of features, some intercutting, were associated with the site. Stratigraphic relationships suggest a sequence of activity including an early phase of a hearth, two ‘troughs’ (one oval, adjacent to the palaeochannel and the other rectangular, possibly lined, and filled with fragments of fired clay suggestive of a daub superstructure) and a group of small irregular pits. The hearth and rectangular pit were cut by a large shallow oval pit with a post hole at one end. A large spread of charcoal and fire-cracked stones (93m² by 0.20m deep) then covered the whole site. With the assumption that these sites were used to heat troughs of water, experiments have shown that a single boiling produces half a cubic metre of burnt stones. This would suggest that the Willow Farm burnt mound was used approximately thirty-five times! A second large hearth was also identified, lying some 7m west of the burnt spread, on higher ground. The burnt spread had partly washed into the palaeochannel and could be seen lying over a peaty clay layer. The high peat content suggests that the channel was silted up, perhaps as marshy ground, while the mound was in use. Radiocarbon date ranges of 1145 to 835 cal. BC with 95% probability were obtained from these deposits (Beta-119652). It is also of note that ten animal bone fragments were also recovered from the burnt mound site - animal bones are rarely found on such sites. All were those of larger mammals (domestic cattle and pig) with two bones showing evidence of being gnawed and one with scars along the shaft from scraping or skinning.

Some 80m south of the burnt mound a second mound was noted during the watching brief. This also lay on the west bank of the western palaeochannel and consisted of a similar mix of charcoal and fire-cracked stones. It had been heavily truncated during the stripping and no cut features were identified.

The southern scheme

The southern scheme is discussed according to the Field and Area numbers, the latter using those demarcated by the geophysical survey (illus 1. Fields 1-9; Areas 4-6 and 10).

The fieldwalking survey in Fields 1-7 and 9 recovered a small group of 18 flints with a high proportion of tools in Field 4. This included a transverse arrowhead of probable late Neolithic date, but a later prehistoric date is suggested for the group as a whole. In addition, a willow leaf arrowhead of probable Neolithic date was recovered as a casual find. Some medieval pottery was also recovered.

The earthwork survey of the ridge and furrow in Field 8 showed two separate components, with a narrower system to the west and a wider one to the east. The two systems were separated by a headland which formed part of a trackway to the Wilne Ferry crossing (replaced by Cavendish Bridge in 1758).
Topsoil stripping revealed a diffuse group of features in Field 9, including two hearths, c. fifteen pit/post holes and two linear gullies. Most of these features were heavily truncated and poorly defined. Bronze Age, Iron Age and Saxon pottery was recovered. Towards the centre of the field no archaeological features were identified and this corresponded to an area of deeper alluvial cover.

Area 10
A number of features were identified towards the east of the area, with other features to the north and west becoming more dispersed westwards. The features included a pit alignment, a roundhouse, a concentration of c.70 pits/post holes together with hearths, stakeholes, and linear gullies and some 32 other more dispersed pits/post holes.

The pit alignment was seen as a sequence of 12 pits (1-3m diameters) with a series of apparent gaps. To either side of the most easterly gap pits containing Iron Age pottery were identified, suggesting that the gap may have been a ‘gateway’ in a boundary separating two, possibly contemporary, areas of activity. To the south of the gap was a post-built roundhouse, whilst other arcs of post holes probably represent the vestiges of similar structures.

A total of 269 sherds of pottery was recovered from the area, ranging in date from the later Bronze Age to the Iron Age.

Area 5
Excavations in Area 5 revealed evidence of settlement in the late prehistoric and Saxon periods.

A circular structure was located towards the south of the area. It consisted of nine post holes in a circle of c. 5.5m in diameter, with a further four in two pairs, representing a rebuilt eastern entrance. One of the post holes contained large quantities of vitrified pottery and five loom weights, provisionally dated to the late Bronze Age - early Iron Age. To the east of this structure two arcs of post holes probably represent the vestiges of further post built structures.

Two rectangular post-built structures were also found, probably Saxon hall houses. Hall 1, on the northern edge of the stripped area, was c.8m by 4m with the long axis east-west. It appeared to have suffered truncation, with several of the post holes surviving to only 0.15m or less, and some gaps presumed totally truncated. Hall 2, c.20m down slope to the south, was better preserved; this was parallel to Hall 1 but slightly larger at c.8.5 by 4.5m. To the west of the halls a Saxon sunken featured building was located. The building was sub-rectangular c.3m by 2.5m, by 0.20m deep with internal post holes central to each end of the long east-west axis. On the north-west corner was a ‘step’ cut into natural substratum, possibly an entrance off-set to avoid the main post on entry. Saxon pottery and loom weights were recovered from the fill.

A number of other features including ditches and numerous pits/post holes require further analysis.

Area 6
Over sixty pits/post holes were located in Area 6 including one small pit containing over 3 kg of sherds from two separate urns of probable late Bronze Age date. A further four pits and a gully also contained Bronze Age pottery. Another pit contained the charred remnants of more than 25 crab apples, hazel nut shells, cereal grains and seeds.

To the immediate south-west of Area 6 a Bronze Age ring ditch was found. The ditch was circular, c.10m in diameter, and 0.50m deep. A central sub-square cut (0.50m by 0.35m deep) probably once contained a burial, although no bone survived. An inverted
cremation urn surrounded by charcoal rich material was later inserted into the central ‘burial’. The urn had suffered some compaction and was cracked with the rim being splayed outwards and with the base broken off in antiquity. Analysis of the cremated bone suggests the burial contained a single adolescent (7-15 years) and the bones displayed a degree of warping suggesting that the body was cremated ‘in the flesh’ rather than by excarnation (S. Chapman pers. comm.).

Conclusion

The archaeological investigations at Willow Farm have provided an opportunity to study the exploitation of a landscape encompassing former rivers and their adjacent banks, a spur of high ground which may only have been seasonally habitable, to the higher ground of the river terrace. Analysis of the dated relic channels with accompanying environmental data will add significant information to ongoing research into the alluvial sequences and palaeo-environment of the Trent Valley (Knight and Howard 1994; Cooper and Ripper forthcoming). Burnt mound sites are rarely attested in the East Midlands and the recent excavations of the Willow Farm examples and that from Birstall (Ripper 1997) will contribute significantly to the national debate about burnt mounds and their function (Hodder and Barfield 1990). It is particularly significant that the burnt mound appears to be in juxtaposition with a ritual landscape (the ring ditch and cremation urns) as well as possible settlement activity suggested by the numerous pits containing Bronze Age pottery.

Occupation of the flood plain continued into the Iron Age with land divisions appearing as pit alignments and ditches, and post-built circular structures being erected. No evidence of Roman occupation was found but the area appears to have been re-occupied with a small Anglo-Saxon settlement. During the medieval period the area lay within the Castle Donington open field system. Blocks of ridge and furrow indicate some arable use though much of the low lying area would have been permanent pasture and meadowland.

Acknowledgements. ULAS would like to thank Wilson Bowden Properties, Daryl Garton, archaeological consultant for the developers and Weldon Construction for help and co-operation during this work.

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Castle Donington/Lockington—Hemington, Hemington Quarry

Lynden Cooper

There has been considerable archaeological work by ULAS at Hemington Quarry throughout the year (illus. 2). Matt Beamish continued the watching brief in the eastern extension, Phase 4 and 5 revealing later prehistoric and medieval palaeochannels and a
medieval fishweir. The latter, Fishweir I, was fully excavated under the direction of Susan Ripper. Further monitoring revealed a separate structure, Fishweir II, which was excavated in August 1998. An evaluation of the suspected southern bridgehead of Hemington Bridge III uncovered the well preserved remains of a masonry abutment. A possible river bank revetment of oak piles and sandstone blocks was observed after flooding led to localised scouring of the northern edge of the Phase 5 pit. An evaluation of the new western extension (Hicklin’s Land) and recording of the Tipnall Bank earthwork was undertaken with a subsequent watching brief to monitor overburden stripping and extraction. The latter projects were directed by the author. Details about the more significant structures and deposits are given below.

Fishweir I (illus. 3)
Excavation of the post alignment located during the overburden stripping in March 1998 revealed a row of 51 piled posts, on a NW-SE alignment, extending over 20m. The alignment ran obliquely across a palaeochannel indicating that the structure was a fishweir rather than a riverside structure. At its north-western extent the posts were driven to a shallower depth as they ran into the riverbank, indicating a genuine limit to the structure. The south-eastern extent of the row ran under a gravel peninsula reserved for the quarry drainage pump and could not be examined.

The posts within the main channel were 1.5 - 2m long and driven into the river gravels to a depth of c.1m. The remains of wattle panels were observed on the upstream side of the post line and two well-preserved areas of wattle panelling were examined in detail. The panelling survived up to a height of 1.40m but the length of each panel
3. Plans of the two fishweir structures
could not be determined. The panels had been woven with alternate single and double
sails (uprights) with plainly woven rods (horizontals). There was some evidence to
suggest that bundles of brushwood were then placed against the base of panels, possibly
staked to the riverbed with roundwood pegs.

Almost a third of the timbers in the main post row were supported by angled bracing
timbers. Bracing timbers utilised knotty, twisted timbers (side branches) and were up to
3m long, set at an angle of c. 45°. No joint connecting the brace timbers to the uprights
survived as they were above the level that had remained waterlogged. The base of each
brace ended in a fork which was stopped against an upright post, preventing movement
in the brace.

Some 5m to the south-west of the fishweir a second row of posts, parallel to Fishweir
I, was noted. Ten posts were uncovered over some 11m, all of which were sampled. It is
conceivable that these posts were part of Fishweir I, perhaps serving as a breakwater or a
physical buffer to prevent damage to the panelled fence by river traffic or flotsam. A
number of stray posts were also recorded, though their function is uncertain.

A total of 102 timbers and 32 wattle rods/sails were sampled though, so far, only a
small proportion have been examined. The species used for the posts included oak,
willow/poplar and alder/hazel. All were from young trees (up to 50 rings) with only a
small diameter (c. 150mm). Radiocarbon dating of three timbers suggests that the
fishweir was constructed some time from the late 10th century to the mid 12th (based
on results at a 68% probability).

Fishweir II (illus. 3)
In August the bulldozing of a new access ramp into the quarry revealed a line of upright
timbers extending from the western baulk on an E-W axis for some 5m. As the area was
needed for access the line of posts was rapidly excavated the following day. This
demonstrated that the structure was probably a fishweir and that it was well preserved
beneath gravel bar deposits. A further 7m length of the structure was excavated and
recorded in detail in September. The structure continued to the east beneath the
conveyor line so, following its removal, the area was machined by the quarry plant under
archaeological supervision. This revealed the tops of the fishweir’s upright posts which
continued for a further 15m and another line of posts forming the V-shaped arrange-
ment typical of fishweirs. As this apex area had good potential for the survival of
structural detail that might relate to the actual fish trap or netting mechanism it was
targeted for limited excavation.

The fishweir comprised three lines of posts which can be seen to be integral to the
structure. The principal post line A was revealed for 29m and was formed by a line of
closely spaced oak piles that had been driven deep (c. 1.5m) into the contemporary river
bed. Remains of wattle work were observed along the line of posts and two areas were
chosen for excavation as representative samples. This indicated that wattle panels were
positioned against the upstream face of this post line, presumably tied onto the posts
(though conclusive evidence was not found). Bundles of brushwood had been placed
against the base of the wattle panels on the upstream face and weighed down by blocks
of local sandstone. It is uncertain whether these were a later addition in response to
localised scouring or actually part of the original design included to prevent scouring.

Immediately to the north (downstream) was an intermittent second line of posts, line
B, only recorded in detail for the westernmost 12m of the structure. Other posts were
observed on this line during the quarrying but they could not be located accurately.
Excavation around one of these posts revealed a horizontal timber extending towards
line A. By analogy with Fishweir I this has been interpreted as a supporting brace and tie back.

Line C was a line of closely spaced posts that formed the return arm of the fishweir. The line may have continued to the south-west joining up with some other observed posts to form a line of some 27m minimum length. Unfortunately much of the area between the two observations was quarried prior to any archaeological presence at the site, though the machine driver reported two or three posts from hereabouts. Limited excavation at the eastern end of the line revealed a horizontal timber and brushwood apparently placed against the upstream face of the post line. There was no evidence for the use of wattle panels in the area investigated.

At the apex of lines A and C limited excavation revealed a large wattle panel laid onto the contemporary river bed within the two post lines but also extending some way beyond them. Three sandstone blocks lay on the surface of the panel, presumably serving to hold it in position. The wattle panel may have been introduced to prevent scour in an area subject to high flow rates caused by the funnel effect at the apex of the fishweir. It would also have provided a firm surface on which the fish trap could be placed and allow a secure footing for the fishermen in an area of the fishweir requiring more maintenance.

The two fishweirs are perhaps the most complete and best preserved examples from the 45 fishweirs recorded at the quarry since 1986 and thus provide rare details about construction techniques. Analysis of the wood samples will contribute to the study of woodworking methods and woodland practices undertaken for the Hemington Bridges Project. Comparison of dated examples will allow a consideration of changing practices through time and the possible use of different methods and raw materials for different structure types. The fishweir structures also give some insight into the nature of the contemporary river channels which will make an important contribution to the geoarchaeological and geomorphological analysis of the Hemington stretch. The dating of the structures will provide good evidence for when the channels were active. Although direct modelling of the contemporary river channels is probably not possible from the stratigraphic records the structures provide good evidence for their position within channels and for the direction of flow.

Hemington Bridge III (illus. 4)
Previous work in the old quarry during 1993-4 revealed three medieval bridges ranging in date from the late 11th to mid 13th century (TLAHS 68). The latest bridge, probably constructed in the early 1240s, was revealed over some 55m and comprised five pier bases and four inter pier timber supports. However, its full extent was unknown as the northern bridgehead had been lost to previous quarrying and the southern extent lay beyond the limit of the quarry in an area retained between the lagoons of the original quarry and the eastern extension. An evaluation in 1997 demonstrated that the bridge did not extend into the eastern extension of the quarry (TLAHS 72). As the quarrying operations approached the area there was some concern about the desiccation of the buried bridge remains due to pumping out of the water from the adjacent phase 4 extraction area. Therefore an evaluation by trial trenching was undertaken at the southern extent of the structure. This revealed the well preserved remains of the southern bridgehead, comprising a masonry abutment terraced into the river bank. Following discussion on the implications of the preservation of the bridgehead between Leicestershire County Council, ULAS and Lafarge Ennemix it was decided that a full record of the exposed structure would be undertaken prior to reinstatement of the
overburden. The imminent completion of extraction in Phase 4 would allow high water levels to be restored as the lagoon flooded.

The structure betrayed similar construction methods, materials and form to the previously discovered riverward pier bases (*TLAHS 68*), though it was a three sided structure. The foundations comprised a platform of large flattish blocks lying upon the original river bed and extending onto a terrace cut into the bank. This was retained by a circuit of converted oak piles (halved or boxed heart) which had been driven down through the gravel river bed so that their tops were at the same level as the foundation stones. The superstructure was a three-sided masonry wall (Sherwood sandstone) though only two sides had survived flood damage and/or stone robbing. The wall had a well-dressed ashlar facing comprising a chamfered plinth, identical to that seen on one of the pier bases in 1993, and one surviving course above this. Several flat, platey stones (Charnwood? slate) recovered from the demolition debris, one of which had mortar adhering to its surfaces, suggests that the masonry was mortar bonded. The space between the masonry wall and the terraced river bank was infilled with sandstone rubble. The facing ashlar was tied across the top by iron cramps set into cut recesses and sealed with run-in lead. Ten examples of masons’ banker marks were observed on different faces of the ashlar blocks indicating the work of at least three masons.

*Hemington Quarry Western Extension* (illus. 2)
A series of trial trenches were excavated in the southern area of the new quarry extension, targeting areas of higher gravel and some geophysical anomalies. These
revealed the courses of two palaeochannels but no archaeological features. Tipnall Bank was recorded by contour survey and sectioned by machine in four places. This revealed a bank formed from redeposited silty clay alluvium with an associated bedding trench to the north. No dating evidence was recovered, though a late medieval or early post-medieval date is likely. One of the cut sections revealed a ditch sealed beneath the bank.

One of the palaeochannels identified during the evaluation was observed during the watching brief (HL3, illus. 3). This was part of a large meander loop seen on aerial photographs and is possibly part of the same channel observed by Beamish in 1997 in Phase 5 of the eastern extension some 600m to the east-north-east. The latter produced a late Neolithic date from organic remains at the channel base. At Hicklin Land the channel cut through terrace gravels to the west which were relatively high and had good potential for archaeological remains. Following the overburden strip by contractors the exposed gravel surface was cleaned by a JCB with archaeological supervision. This revealed a ditch and the post holes of an undated rectangular structure (HL4, illus. 3).

All archaeological work at the quarry was commissioned by Lafarge Redland Aggregates. The archives will be lodged with Leicestershire Museums as A313.1993 (Bridge), A34.1994 (Hemington Quarry eastern extension phases 1-4), X.A23.1998 (Phase 5 fishweirs) and X.A52.1998 (Hemington Quarry western extension). Full reports of the bridge and fishweirs will be included in the forthcoming Hemington Bridges monograph.

Charley (SK 46 15) Richard Pollard

Paul Saunders reported the discovery of a late Bronze Age pottery sherd by the Grace Dieu Fieldwork Group (Leics SMR 41NE.AU).

Chilcote (SK 280 111) Adrian Butler

A fluxgate gradiometer survey was carried out for Carl Bro. Group, over 0.32ha of land for groundworks in connection with the proposed Chilcote village drain. Anomalous magnetic activity was restricted to probable revetment/natural features along the stream bank and several weak linear anomalies possibly reflecting the presence of stone field drains or walls.

Coleorton, Farm Town (SK 387 158) Jennifer Browning

An archaeological fieldwalking and walkover survey commissioned by Mineral Surveying Services on behalf of Miller Mining, was undertaken by ULAS at the site of the proposed Corkscrew opencast coal site, south of Farm Town, Coleorton. Few finds were located, the only discrete scatter being of medieval and post medieval pottery to the east of the proposed development. Only a small sample of the development area was walked due to ground conditions and crop height. No earthworks were located other than traces of medieval strip field systems in a field to the north-east. The archive will be held by LMARS (X.A3.1998).

Croxtton Kerrial, Croxton Abbey (SK 823 277) Sally Warren

An archaeological watching brief undertaken by ULAS on behalf of The Belvoir Estate, Belvoir Castle, during the cable trench excavation at Croxton Abbey, revealed evidence of possible collapsed material from the site of the nearby Abbey. The site archive will be deposited with LMARS (X.A80.1998).
Desford, Peckleton Lane (SK 484 016)  
Jennifer Browning

An archaeological watching brief was carried out by ULAS for Atkins DGI during groundworks in advance of a new sports and leisure centre. Evidence of Iron Age activity was revealed, consisting of a feature containing pottery and a smaller feature containing three large triangular loom weights. The archive will be held with LMARS (X.A2.1998).

Eaton, Eastwell, Main Street (SK 777 286)  
Richard Pollard

Norman Fahy, the Parish Archaeological Warden, has carried out evaluative excavations and survey on Manor Farm house and its surrounding plot. A stone cellar, thought to be of 13th century origin, underlies the 17th century brick house. A stone perimeter wall, formal gated entrance, and building foundations all potentially of medieval date were uncovered. Resistivity and contour surveys suggest the presence of other structures. Finds included one Roman coin (late 3rd century) and two pottery sherds; one early Anglo-Saxon sherd and medieval pottery from the 10th century - Stamford ware onwards. Reject roof tiles suggest a medieval tily lies in the vicinity. The finds are with Mr Fahy pro tem. The Leics SMR number is 72NE.CI.

Eaton, Church Lane (SK 7972 2915)  
Richard Pollard

The discovery of masonry fragments led Norman Fahy to undertake trial excavations, targeting areas shown to have potential by a resistivity survey conducted by Patrick Roberts. Stone foundations were exposed, dated by David Parsons to the 13th century or later on the grounds of the size of a pair of buttresses. These may belong to a manorial complex, perhaps outbuildings. Pottery dating from the 10th century onwards was recovered, and moulded masonry of 15th century or later date. A well on the site, previously recorded, may have been in use into the 20th century. The finds are with Mr Fahy; Leics SMR reference is 72NE.H.

Freeby (SK 805 203)  
John Thomas

Following evaluation by trial trenching, ULAS undertook an archaeological excavation on land adjacent to Glen Farm, Freeby in advance of the construction of a sewage treatment works by Severn Trent Water Authority. The excavation revealed evidence of prehistoric and Romano-British use of the area in the form of disturbed finds scatters. During the late 11th/early 12th century a toft boundary was established which enclosed the majority of the excavated area, and possibly utilised the nearby stream as its northeastern edge. From its establishment to the late 13th century the boundary was subject to at least four recuts although its positioning remained constant throughout. Activities within the toft appear to have fluctuated with possible evidence of structural activity from the very earliest phases, followed by intensive pit digging for gravel extraction in the early 13th century. Succeeding this the most prolific period of activity provided large-scale evidence for structural activity until the later 14th century when the site appears to have been abandoned, possibly in conjunction with the general shrinkage of the village. At some point in the 16th century the site was re-occupied and activity continued until the 18th/19th century when the site fell into disuse once again. The archive will be held with LMARS (X.A28.1998).
Frisby on the Wreake (SK 687 173)

Neil Finn

Brian Thompson, archaeological warden for Frisby on the Wreake, found sherds of pottery and worked flints in spoil thrown up by badgers in a field to the south-west of the village. The pottery included Iron Age, Roman, Anglo-Saxon and medieval material. Iron Age, early Roman and medieval pottery have previously been found in the same field, SMR ref. 61NE AH.

Frolesworth (SP 50 90)

Richard Pollard

Keith Wilkinson reported finding a Roman site whilst metal detecting. He exposed a rubble built wall, and located a second stone scatter. Finds include Roman brooches, 3rd-4th century coins, and a large base fragment from a grey ware jar or bowl. The Leics. SMR references are 59SW.BA, 59SW.BB.

Garthorpe (SK 832 209)

James Gossip and Jennifer Browning

An archaeological evaluation by trial trenching was undertaken on arable land within the area of a proposed sewage treatment works. Previous geophysical survey (TLAHS 72, p.172) had suggested archaeological anomalies whilst fieldwalking had revealed dense scatters of medieval pottery, in addition to extensive stone spreads. A stone surface or trackway of possible medieval date was revealed, sealing an earlier stratified deposit which contained pottery dated c.1150-1250. A possible medieval ditch was also located containing 13th century pottery. An archaeological watching-brief on topsoil stripping subsequently revealed a number of substantial stone walls which necessitated a small rescue excavation. The remains of part of a multi-phased stone building were recorded, along with evidence for extensive landscape works comprising two terraces with stone wall revetments. The associated pottery suggests a medieval date for these structures. Given its proximity to the church, the presence of a finely built stone drain with capstones and the recovered fragments of medieval roof tile, it seems likely that this was a building of status. The work was undertaken on behalf of the developer, Severn Trent Water Ltd. Finds and records will be lodged with LMARS (X.A.9.1998).

Glooston, St Andrew’s Lane (SP 74 95)

Richard Pollard

Mr. and Mrs. Ponting recovered an assemblage of medieval pottery by fieldwalking west of the church. The principal source represented is the Lyveden-Stanion industry (12th - 14th century) with lesser quantities of Stamford wares (10th - 13th century), and other sandy wares. Potters Marston ware (12th - 13th century) is a minor component. Other finds include a single sherd of possible early Anglo-Saxon date, small quantities of Midland Purple (late 14th - mid 16th century) and post medieval earthenwares, and a fragment of Roman flue tile - there is a villa at SP 75 96. The medieval finds may be associated with earthworks of the shrunken village (Leics SMR reference 79NW.BT).

Great Dalby (SK 7420 1420)

S. Houghton, J. Allsop and M. Hatton

A watching brief on the conversion of Irydene Barn revealed worked flint, Roman and medieval pottery and a lead spindle whorl of uncertain date.
Hallaton, Hallaton Manor Pipeline (SP 780 950 to SP 790 960)  Sally Warren

An archaeological watching brief was undertaken by ULAS on behalf of Anglian Water Services Ltd during the excavation of a pipeline from Blaston Road to Hallaton Manor. Evidence of medieval occupation was revealed in the vicinity by a pottery scatter, and a flint blade fragment indicated prehistoric activity, but no archaeological features were located. The site archive will be deposited with LMARS (X.A66.1998).

Hungarton, Beeby Road (SK 68 08)  Richard Pollard

Paul Dixon has collected pottery ranging from late Iron Age to late Roman, with one early Anglo Saxon sherd, from a site which has previously yielded Roman and 6th century (?) metalwork, the latter suggestive of at least one pagan female burial (TLAHS 66, p.189). Mr. Dixon’s finds are with LMARS (X.A21.1998); the site is Leics SMR 60NE.CA.

Hungarton, Beeby Road (SK 68 07)  Richard Pollard

A newly discovered Roman site has been reported by Paul Dixon, producing pottery which could be restricted to the 2nd - 3rd century, although a broad late 1st - 4th century range must be registered because of the small sample recovered (18 sherds). The finds are with LMARS (X.A22.1998).

Husbands Bosworth, Wheler Lodge Farm (SK 635 825)  John Thomas and Adrian Butler

A geophysical survey was carried out over an area of land near Wheler Lodge Farm, Husbands Bosworth, on behalf of Lafarge Redland Aggregates. A number of anomalies were detected, including a pair of curving interrupted ditches typical of a Neolithic causewayed enclosure, the arc of which has a minimum diameter of 160m (see Clay, above p.7, illus. 4). Subsequently, three trial trenches revealed evidence of large, linear features displaying characteristic gaps or ‘causeways’ between segments. A sample of the outer enclosure ditch in one trench produced late Neolithic pottery and flint artefacts from its upper fill which is consistent with corresponding contexts from similar sites, and provides a date for the demise of the monument. A second trench located a portion of the outer ditch circuit and a corresponding gap in the inner circuit. Trench 3 served to prove the continuation of the anomalies into the adjacent field where a portion of both inner and outer enclosures were located. Surrounding features in all three trenches indicated intensive activity both in and outside the area defined by the enclosure ditches. Limited excavation of a sample of these archaeological remains indicated that they were well preserved, and hinted at surviving structural evidence, pits and smaller ditches. The homogenous nature displayed in most of the feature fills indicated a broadly similar date, although there were hints of later activity. The archive will be held with LMARS (X.A83.1998).

Ibstock, brick quarry extension (SK 4220 1090)

Ibstock Brick (Leicester) Ltd commissioned JSAC to undertake the fieldwalking of 44ha of land in Ibstock, Leicestershire. Fieldwalking was undertaken in two phases as the land became available. Transects and collection points were each at 20m intervals. A total of 8 sherds of post-medieval pottery, 1 possible medieval sherd, 3 Romano-British
sherds and 3 worked flints were recovered. No concentrations were identified and no sites recorded.

**Kegworth and Long Whatton (SK 46600 25150)**

James Meek

An archaeological field evaluation by trial trenching was undertaken within the area of the proposed Kegworth Motorway Service Area for the consultants Countryside Planning and Management. Of the thirteen trenches excavated, eight were placed over areas where geophysical survey had suggested the existence of archaeological features. The other five trenches were located within areas that had not been geophysically surveyed. The recently backfilled remains of field boundaries and evidence for 19th or early 20th century steam ploughing were revealed by the trenching, but no significant archaeological deposits. The archive will be stored with LMARS (X.A19.1998).

**Kirby Muxloe, 60 Main Street (SK 520 046)**

Richard Pollard

A watching brief was undertaken by the author for LMARS on the construction of a dwelling to the rear of 60 Main Street, some 60m south-south-west of the Church of St Bartholomew. No significant archaeological deposits were recorded, and pottery was restricted to 17th - 20th century wares.

The opportunity was taken to follow up a building survey undertaken by the Rev. Michael Odlum on 60 Main Street itself (unpublished: copy in Leicestershire SMR). Odlum had recovered timber beams with a felling date of 1447 from the roof during renovation in 1996, and recorded early brickwork. A study was made by the present author of all external masonry, from which it was concluded that the existing brick building might have been erected c.1650-1780, with a strong possibility that it belongs to the late 17th or early 18th century. A stone plinth may indicate an earlier timber or mud-walled structure once stood on the site. The building is not Listed, and is at present in use as a florist’s shop.

**Launde Abbey**

Richard Pollard

A watching brief was maintained by the author on the excavation of a service trench north of the mansion and within the scheduled area. The trench fill contained numerous limestone rubble fragments and a deposit of mortar was also revealed. These are interpreted provisionally as representing the destruction phase of the priory church, in which case they should date to the 16th century although no datable artefacts were recovered to confirm this. The archive is with LMARS (X.A32.1998).

**Warren Farm, Lockington (SK 477 296 and SK466 293)**

Susan Ripper and Adrian Butler

In 1998 an evaluation on land north and west of Warren Farm was commissioned by Redland Aggregates Limited in advance of a planning proposal for gravel extraction. The proposed development area lay within a rich and diverse archaeological landscape, notably the Lockington Barrow Cemetery (SMR ref. 42NE A) to the immediate south and to the east a multi-period cropmark complex including a Romano-British villa and an extensive Iron Age (and earlier?) settlement (SMR ref. 42NE F), both of which are Scheduled Ancient Monuments. Outlying cropmarks to the north-west of the latter site extend into the proposed development area. Extensive flint scatters had also been identified to the east (SMR ref. 42NE BJ, BN and BQ) and a fieldwalking survey in
1991/2 revealed evidence of activity from the Mesolithic onwards and included two concentrations of Roman material within the proposed development area. Together these sites form part of an extensive and complex pattern of prehistoric land division, settlement and ritual monuments (Clark 1995).

The first stage of the evaluation (illus. 5) was a geophysical survey entailing a provisional scan followed by detailed survey of selected areas producing geophysical
anomalies (Butler 1998). In the western portion of the development area a series of linear and circular anomalies were identified. To the east the survey revealed an impressive complex of rectilinear and curvilinear features, undoubtedly a continuation of the surrounding Iron Age and Romano-British sites (SMR ref. 42NE P).

As a second stage a series of twenty trial trenches were excavated across the development area, sited to test the geophysical anomalies, sample ‘blank’ areas and assess the state of preservation of known features. The linear and circular anomalies in the western extent of the site were found to be geological in origin. However, within the ‘blank’ areas a number of features were noted. Towards the extreme western perimeter two concentric curving ditches were noted with projected diameters of c.11 and 14.5m. With hindsight, a faint circular feature can just be discerned on the geophysical grey-scale plot. Prehistoric pottery was recovered from the innermost curvilinear ditch. Both ditches were found to butt-end with a southerly ‘entrance’ with a third, straight ditch terminating at the same point. The ditches were protected by a 0.35m depth of alluvial cover. Given the proximity of these features to the Lockington Barrow Cemetery, some 300m to the east, it seems likely that they represent a sequence of ring ditches enclosing a circular barrow.

Some 250m north-east of the ‘barrow’ a second complex of ditches was noted. These appeared to form part of a curvilinear, possibly sub-rectangular, ditch system with a 14m long north/south axis. In cross section the ditch was found to have three slightly off-set re-cuts, suggesting that while the ditch was maintained it was desirable to cut into fresh ground, perhaps utilising the gravel subsoil as a bank material. Prehistoric pottery was recovered from two of the ditch fills. At 300m east of this a similar ditch on a north/south axis was recorded with an accompanying bank, surviving to a height of 0.40m. The ditch did not continue into a second trench, some 5m to the south, suggesting that the ditch either butt ended or was tightly curving. Both ditches could conceivably also be ring ditches.

Towards the eastern half of the development area the geophysical survey revealed a complex of features including a range of sub-rectangular and sub-square enclosures, numerous linear features perhaps representing field boundaries, a possible pit alignment and some curving ditches. Limited trenching was targeted to test a range of features and relationships which would perhaps suggest something of the date, longevity and level of preservation of any archaeological activity. In the event, poor weather prevented completion of the trenching, but it was possible to confirm late Neolithic, Iron Age and Roman activity.

Late Neolithic activity was attested by a large irregular shaped pit containing a Peterborough Ware vessel dating to the third millennium B.C. Liddle (1982, pp.12-13) notes a paucity of late Neolithic material in the county, with only four other recorded examples of features at Syston (Meek et al forthcoming), Eye Kettleby (Finn forthcoming), Castle Donington (Coward forthcoming) and Wanlip (see below p.00).

The possible pit alignment was not found although it is conceivable that the trench was poorly located over the anomaly, unfortuitously placed over a ‘gap’ in the pit sequence or that in the haste of the evaluation process pits that are normally only seen after ‘weathering’ were missed.

The trial trenching confirmed a majority of features detected in the geophysical survey and located additional ephemeral features. Many of the ditches had been re-cut suggesting some longevity of use. Some 300m west of the main complex, the other side of a hollow, a series of linear features, pits and post holes also suggested that the settlement activity may have extended over a very large area.
The recent fieldwork has made a significant contribution to the understanding of this important archaeological area, demonstrating the greater extent of the two well known sites, the early Bronze Age barrow cemetery and the later prehistoric and Romano-British settlement and also confirming late Neolithic activity in the area. Of special note is the greater coherence given to the previously known later prehistoric and Romano-British cropmark complex. The extensive geophysical survey has effectively linked and extended two separate areas of cropmarks for the site and demonstrates clearly two distinct co-axial alignment patterns. An apparently earlier system is represented by the pit alignments noted to the north (Pickering and Hartley 1985, p. 37, d and e on fig.1) with co-axial systems to the south, represented by a series of weak anomalies in the geophysical survey. A major change in prehistoric land organisation is evident from a series of stronger geophysical anomalies and cropmark features. These appear as a series of small enclosures laid out along a droveway that extends from the large settlement system to the east (Pickering and Hartley 1985, p. 37, b on fig.1).

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**Long Whatton, Diseworth (SK 45 23)**

Richard Pollard

Brian Lawrence reported discovery of a dispersed hoard of denarii: 85 coins of a range 69-161AD have been collected. Fieldwalking has revealed an occupation scatter of Roman pottery with a broad late 1st - 4th century range but including 3rd - 4th century types. The wares include those to be expected in north west Leicestershire - grey, Derbyshire, Mancetter - Hartshill mortarium, and Nene Valley colour-coat - but also Pink Grog-tempered ware (NRFRC PNK GT : Tomber and Dore 1998, 210), thought to be a south-east Midlands product. The hoard has been reported under Treasure Trove; the pottery is with LMARS (X.A78.1998).

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**Loughborough, Queens Road (SK 5425 2005)**

Peter Neaverson

Planning proposals submitted for the Grand Union Wharf housing development involved some retention for adaptive re-use as well as demolition of existing buildings on
the extensive site formerly occupied by Towles PLC. Development of the site, beside the canal linking Loughborough to Leicester, was originally begun by Cartwright and Warner in the 1790s for the production of woollen thread for use in hosiery and knitwear production. In October 1998, Jo Sturgess and Susan Ripper of ULAS carried out an extensive survey of the earlier buildings on site and created a photographic record for the developer, J.P. and M.T.A. Brydon who funded the work. The earliest part of the site to be developed was at the south-east end and these buildings were demolished in the 1950s.

The survey revealed the presence of a brick-built engine house for a beam engine together with its associated boiler house and chimney. The engine and original boiler plant have been removed but mounting blocks for the beam engine should enable its dimensions and the form of power transmission to the adjacent buildings to be determined. The engine and boiler house, with their decorative parapet walls and roundel windows, are to be retained as a community building in the new development.

Further north is a brick-built 4-storey plus attic mill building of rectangular plan, 33m x 11m, some 14 bays long and 3 bays wide with a triangular pediment with lunette window to each face on the attic floor. This building has wooden beams and floors, supported by wooden and cast-iron columns some of which show evidence of having been moved to accommodate machines. Recent additions to the north-west face of this building are to be demolished and the mill will be restored to its original exterior form. On two floors elements remain of the bevel gearing by which power was transferred from a vertical shaft (most likely driven from the beam engine) to horizontal line shafting on each floor and thence by endless belts to individual spinning and weaving machines. This building and the engine house mentioned above are not shown on a town map dated c.1850 but do appear on the 1883 survey 25 inch to 1 mile OS map. It is possible that the mill was begun in 1875, when a local press reference states: ‘Cartwright and Warner are about to extend their already colossal premises by building a new factory alongside the old mill, four storeys high’.

This ‘old mill’ could refer to the buildings mentioned above, demolished in the 1950s or to the extensive block fronting Queens Road which was erected in several phases, all in non-fireproof construction. The existing block on Queens Road, which is to be converted to houses, is 65m long with 22 bays having three storeys plus attic. A cursory examination of the still-occupied brick buildings, having two blocks each 9m wide with a projecting wing at the rear, indicated that they did not house steam-powered machinery and probably served as offices and warehousing (a use marked on the 1837 town map of Loughborough for the earliest section). These would have served the original mill complex demolished in the 1950s. Map and illustrative evidence indicate the steam engine and boiler house which was part of this complex. A late 19th century illustration shows a total of five boiler chimneys on site, providing steam for power and also for heating in the extensive dyeworks which formed part of the complex. A pair of 2-storey gate houses, one of which adjoins projecting wing of this block, are shown on the c.1850 town map together with the southernmost section of the main block. The remaining section fronting Queens Road and the wing had both been built by 1883, although subsequently alterations have taken place to the street frontage.

This ambitious adaptive re-use and new building scheme will provide 123 houses and flats and the new building styles will reflect their canal-side location. Only the 14 bay 4-storey plus attic mill building is listed at Grade II. ULAS will be keeping a watching brief as work proceeds on the conversion of the site. Unfortunately, documentary records so far are almost completely lacking. The archive will be held by LMARS.
Lubbesthorpe (SK 52 00)  Richard Pollard

Mick Morris has reported a Roman site discovered by metal detecting and fieldwalking. Pottery may be restricted to the 2nd and 3rd centuries; tegula and flue tile has also been found.

Lutterworth, southern bypass (c. SP 53 84)  Richard Pollard

The Lutterworth Fieldwork Group maintained a watching brief on the construction of the bypass, which links the A5/A4303/B4027 with Junction 20 of the M1. The Group had previously fieldwalked along much of the line - records are with Leics SMR. No archaeological features were noted, and few finds made. Brian Burningham reports finding large amounts of post-medieval pottery, a few medieval sherds, many flint flakes, and two flint scrapers. A member of the public handed in a large aurochs horn found in the silt in the bank of the River Swift, c. SP 542 839. This has been retained by the finder, but a resin replica has been produced by Dr Graham Morgan of the University of Leicester. Thanks are due to Dr Morgan, and also to the University for identifying the horn. The finder noted other large bones at the time of discovering the horn, but did not collect them. The other finds are with Lutterworth Fieldwork Group for analysis.

Market Harborough, Great Bowden, 1 Main Street (SP 744 888)  Sally Warren

An archaeological watching brief was undertaken by ULAS on behalf of Mr and Mrs A. Waite during the groundworks for alterations to 1 Main Street. Evidence of early medieval occupation in the form of two possible rubbish pits was revealed. The site archive will be deposited with LMARS (X.A67.1998).

Market Harborough, High Street, Three Swans Hotel (SP 7326 8735)  Iain Soden

Archaeological building recording was carried out by Iain Soden of NA for the hotel in discharge of conditions to listed building consent for alterations.

The ground floor of the hotel’s rear wing was reordered and in the process a group of medieval ceiling timbers and girding beams was exposed. They had been reused in the existing, 18th century, ceiling configuration. The origin of the timbers is not known, but they may derive from an earlier phase of the same building. Reduced stone foundations were revealed below the floor, while observations in the Cob Room of the main frontage building showed the former presence of a two-storey, part-timbered structure, of which one gable survives adjacent to the carriageway entrance (illus. 6). The existing frontage is surmounted by a third storey (second floor), probably of the 18th century, added when the hotel was a prestigious coaching inn. Documents indicate that it was an inn as far back as 1517, then called merely ‘The Swan’.

Medbourne, Saddlers Cottage, Waterfall Way (SP 798 929)  Richard Pollard

Richard Knox and the Parish Archaeological Warden, Chris Royall, observed the excavation of a foundation trench immediately west of the swimming pool (TLAHS 72, p.177). A concentration of building material and painted wall plaster was recorded immediately west of the south wall of the bathing suite found in 1997, but the trench did not reach the depth of the wall itself. The archive is with LMARS (X.A35.1998).
6. Three Swans, Market Harborough: Surviving medieval timbered gable at existing first floor level, extending into second floor

**Melton Mowbray (SK 75951890)**

Jenny Allsop, Mike Allsop and Mary Hatton

Melton Fieldworkers visited and inspected repairs to a sluice near a public footpath across the River Eye, just north of the railway, at the request of Pedigree Masterfoods. Evidence for several periods of repair were seen in the stonework and parts of the original sluice. The sluice certainly pre-dates the erection of (Wyvern) Rust's Woollen Mill in the 1890s and is likely to be part of the watermill complex still working well into the 20th century. Initial repairs to the sluice match the stonework of the second phase of the railway here when the line was converted from a single to a double track.
Melton Mowbray, Kirby Lane (SK 743 176)  
Jon Coward

An evaluation by trial trenching following geophysical survey was carried out over part of 4.2 ha of land on behalf of Melton Borough Council. No significant archaeological deposits were located. The archive will be stored with LMARS (X.A79.1998).

Melton Mowbray (SK 7690 2070)  
Jenny Allsop and Mary Hatton

Fieldwalking by Melton Fieldworkers produced worked flint, Late Iron Age and Roman pottery, Roman tile and a large quern fragment.

Melton Mowbray, Eye Kettleby (SK 738 166)  
Richard Pollard

Excavation of two fishing lakes east of Eye Kettleby Hall occasioned fieldwork by the author for LMARS. Fieldwalking produced seven prehistoric flint flakes and two sherds of late medieval (c.1375-1550 AD) 'Midland Purple' pottery. A scatter of c.18th-20th century pottery and ceramic land drain was noted, but left on the field. The site was subsequently visited after topsoil stripping, but no archaeological features were observed. The finds and archive are with LMARS pending agreement by the landowner to donate.

Melton Mowbray, Eye Kettleby, Leicester Road (SK 737 181)  
Neil Finn

A team of first and second year students from the School of Archaeological Studies, University of Leicester, under the direction of Neil Finn of ULAS, spent four weeks over the summer of 1998 investigating the earthwork remains of the deserted medieval village of Eye Kettleby. A variety of fieldwork techniques were employed, including excavation, geophysical and topographic survey and standing building recording. The excavation unearthed the remains of a substantial stone-founded building. Finds including moulded architectural fragments, window glass and glazed ceramic roof tiles suggest a high status building, possibly part of the manorial complex. Geophysical survey revealed a series of ditched enclosures in an area largely devoid of earthworks, adjacent to the medieval fish ponds. An 18th century barn, constructed from stone salvaged from the demolished medieval chapel, was surveyed. More fieldwork is planned for the summer of 1999. The findings of this project will be published in conjunction with the results of the rescue excavations carried out by ULAS in an adjacent field in 1996/7 (TLAHS 71, p.88; TLAHS 72, p.178). The archive and finds, currently with ULAS, will be deposited with LMARS (X.A58 1998).

Melton Mowbray, Leicester Road (SK 73950 17750)  
James Meek

An archaeological field evaluation by geophysical survey and trial trenching of land to the east of Leicester Road Industrial Estate, Leicester Road, Melton Mowbray was undertaken by ULAS in advance of the proposed development of a factory, storage, office, parking and roads. Within two of the trenches in the north-west corner of the site a wide, shallow, clay filled, linear feature was revealed which contained medieval pottery sherds and a number of struck flints. A shallow, probable pit was excavated adjacent to the linear feature, also containing medieval pottery and a single struck flint. A small scatter of medieval pottery sherds and a small number of struck flints, including retouched pieces, were recovered from the topsoil across the site. The remains of medieval ridge and furrow field systems were revealed within nearly all the trenches.
The work was funded by Laporte Alpha Gary. The archive will be stored with LMARS (X.A37.1998).

**Melton Mowbray and Waltham on the Wolds, Thorpe Arnold (SK 77 19)**

Richard Pollard

Matthew Fraser has found a small scatter of Roman pottery including samian ware and five Roman brooch fragments whilst metal detecting. The Leics SMR reference is 71NE.CG.

**Mountsorrel, 88-90 Loughborough Road (SK 5778 1578)**

Jon Coward

An evaluation in advance of a proposed housing development was undertaken on behalf of the client Lafarge Redlands Ennemix. No significant archaeological features were encountered. The archive will be held by LMARS (X.A70.1998).

**Mountsorrel, St. Peter’s Church (SK 5815)**

Roger Kipling

An archaeological investigation involving the hand excavation of wall foundation trenches by ULAS in advance of the construction of a new extension in the graveyard revealed no significant archaeological deposits. The archive will be deposited with LMARS.

**Nailstone, Church Road (SK 418 071)**

Richard Pollard

Work in a front garden opposite All Saints’ Church revealed a drystone wall parallel to the road. The owners, Bob Elkin and Kathy Harman, undertook further, controlled excavation assisted by LMARS. The wall was sealed by a brown silt containing a sherd of medieval pottery perhaps dating to the 13th - 14th/15th century. Unstratified pottery includes a single sherd of Roman grey ware, one possible early Anglo Saxon sherd, and a variety of pottery from the 10th century onwards. The archive is with LMARS (X.A57.1998).

**Narborough (SP 540 971)**

Sally Warren

An archaeological watching brief undertaken by ULAS on behalf of Severn Trent Water Ltd during the laying of a new sewer in Narborough showed evidence of prehistoric, medieval and post medieval activity. Organic deposits indicate a continuation of Narborough bog south into the investigated area. The site archive will be deposited with LMARS (X.A26.1997).

**Newbold Verdon (SK 440 030 to 450 040)**

Sally Warren

An archaeological watching brief was undertaken by ULAS on behalf of Severn Trent Water Ltd during the laying of new water mains in Newbold Verdon. Evidence of a possible earlier pebbled road surface was revealed. The site archive will be deposited with LMARS (X.A4.1999).

**Oadby, Siskin Hill (SP 622 998)**

Richard Pollard

Trenching by Diamond Cable uncovered a human skull, reported to the police and LMARS. Richard Knox and Peter Liddle of LMARS excavated an intact skeleton
orientated north west - south east. The legs could not be removed, as they lay under the section, but the rest of the skeleton was lifted, to be studied by the University of Leicester. No grave goods were found, though a struck flint flake was found under the pelvis. A cemetery was found at Brock's Hill in 1760, and two more inhumations in 1955 (TLAHS 32, p.96), one of which was associated with a Nene Valley colour coat beaker. Fragments of an early Anglo Saxon vessel were also found, associated with a burnt area. The 1998 inhumation has not been dated by skeletal analysis; the previous finds suggest a Roman, or possibly early Anglo Saxon date. The archive is with LMARS (X.A29.1998); the Leics SMR activity is T99.NW.A.

Owston and Newbold, Owston, St Andrew (SK 774 079) Richard Pollard

The parish church of St Andrew represents the last surviving upstanding element of the Augustinian Abbey (TLAHS 69, pp.11-13). Geophysical survey undertaken by Patrick Roberts located the gatehouse and part of the claustral range. The fabric of the church has been recorded, these two surveys being parts of a research project headed by Peter Liddle of LMARS, engaging volunteer participation.

Rearsby House Farm, Rearsby (SK 6490 1429)

Persimmon Homes commissioned JSAC to undertake an evaluation of land at Rearsby House Farm, Rearsby as part of their application for planning permission. The evaluation involved the excavation of 200m² in the form of seven trenches. Only one trench contained in situ remains. These comprised ditches and pits containing 11th-14th century pottery sherds. The low density of features and finds indicates that this area was peripheral to the main medieval activity in the village.

Rothley, Rothley Lodge Farm (SK 592 142) Adrian Butler

A fluxgate gradiometer scan and survey was carried out by ULAS for Shire Properties Ltd over c.20ha of land at Rothley Lodge Farm, Rothley, as part of pre planning permission archaeological investigations. Several geophysical anomalies of possible archaeological origin were detected. The site was subsequently fieldwalked and produced a scatter of late Neolithic and early Bronze Age flint including a number of retouched pieces. The archive will be held by LMARS (X.A63.1998).

Rothley, Rothley Valley (SK 468064 to 534 061) James Meek

An archaeological watching brief was undertaken by ULAS along the route of the Trunk Sewer Extension between the Thornton and Bagworth Reclamation Works and the existing Rothley Valley Trunk Sewer at Glenfield, on behalf of Severn Trent Water Ltd. No archaeological sites were identified, though a single piece of prehistoric struck flint was recovered (SK 481 044). It is possible that areas of archaeological significance may still have been obscured by alluvium and colluvium, particularly those adjacent to Rothley Brook. The archive will be stored with LMARS (X.A1.1998).

Sapcote, Hinckley Road (SP 4875 9342) Nansi Rosenberg

David Wilson Homes commissioned JSAC to undertake an evaluation of land adjacent to the site of Sapcote Castle. Six trial excavation trenches, and a contingency of two secondary trenches were excavated in February 1998. The evaluation and subsequent
watching brief resulted in the recording of two isolated small ditches/gullies in the north and south-east corner of the site. Three trenches excavated in the central part of the site were archaeologically sterile and showed the majority of the site to be of very low archaeological potential.

Deposits exposed in the south-west corner of the site correspond to earthworks previously recorded within the scheduled area to the south and west and it was concluded that the deposits in the south-west corner of the site were unlikely to be seriously affected by the proposed development. Of the other recorded features, only the northern feature was likely to be affected by development. Given that the evaluation site was adjacent to the reputed site of a medieval castle, the lack of medieval pottery on this site was notable and it is likely that either the site was outside the main area of medieval activity or that groundworks for the construction of the former Olis refrigerator works which stood on this site removed most archaeological evidence.

**Sapcote, Sapcote Playing Fields (SP 486 934)**

Tim Higgins

An archaeological evaluation was undertaken by ULAS, for Sapcote Playing Fields Management Committee in advance of the proposed construction of a new village hall to replace an existing pavilion. The development is located within a moated site which is part of the Scheduled Ancient Monument of the Castle (SAM No 17036), located in the village centre. The evaluation revealed archaeological deposits associated with the back filling of the late medieval moat and the remnants of buried soil layers possibly cut by the moat.

**Sapcote, Stanton Road, Park House Farm (SP 489 934)**

Richard Pollard

Redevelopment of the farmhouse, farmyard and stackyard in 1997 (*TLAHS* 72 p.183) and 1998 was observed by the Parish Archaeological Warden, Keith Hextall, and the author for LMARS. The site lies in the angle of Stanton Road and Leicester Road, some 150m east of the former Olis Refrigeration Works examined by JSAC in 1997-8 (Rosenberg, above) and 200m east of the new village hall site examined by ULAS in 1998 (Higgins, above), both apparently within the area of the former castle.

Farm buildings are shown on the 1776 Enclosure Plan and an 1833 map surveyed by John Lane. Hextall recovered a sherd of 17th - early 18th century glazed chamber pot from beneath the 19th century tiled floor of the farmhouse and recorded some architectural detail, including ceiling joists, suggestive of an 18th century date. The farmyard, backing onto Leicester Road, produced post-medieval ceramics and vessel glass. Features included the brick foundations of an outbuilding shown on the 1833 map; the use of 9” x 4” x 3” bricks is consistent with the very late 18th to early 19th century date suggested by its absence from the Enclosure Map. Two wells were revealed, and a 19th/very early 20th century rubbish pit.

The stackyard, the northern part of the site, produced a concentration of early medieval pottery close to the Stanton Road (formerly Bath Street) frontage and opposite the 17th century Park Farm house. The depth of ‘topsoil’ observed by Hextall - up to 1.5m - suggests earthfast features some 20m back from the street frontage; at one point ‘charcoal’ was recorded ‘under pottery’ at a depth of c.600mm. The pottery includes *Stamford and Potters Marston* wares of c.900 - 1050+ AD and 1100 - 1300 AD, shelly ware (*Lyveden - Stanion type*) perhaps c.1100 - 1400 AD, and Midland Purple (c.1375 - 1550 AD).

To the rear of these findspots, a V or U profile linear feature on a north-south axis
was recorded by the author some 30m east of the frontage, along with a steep-sided, possibly ovoid feature with charcoal in the fill. No finds were observed in the sections examined. The 1886 Ordnance Survey map shows a plot boundary in approximately the position of these features, though Lane's does not; he identifies the area as an orchard (plot 76). The Enclosure Map shows a building in the general area.

The watching brief demonstrated the potential of the site, without being able to realise it to the full. It is probable that medieval deposits were destroyed towards the north end, adjacent to 5 Stanton Road. Nothing necessarily earlier than the 18th century was recorded in the south end of the development.

The author would like to thank the developers, James Construction, and Keith Hextall for their contributions towards the success of the fieldwork. The finds and archive are with LMARS (X.A62.1998); the SMR no. is 49SE.CC.

**Shackerstone, Insley's Lane (SK 373 068)**

Sally Warren

An archaeological watching brief was undertaken by the ULAS in September 1998 on behalf of Hallcroft Design during the groundworks for a residential development on Insley's Lane, Shackerstone. Evidence of medieval activity in the form of a large quantity of 11th/12th century pottery recovered from a rubble spread was recorded. The site archive will be deposited with LMARS (X.A59.1998).

**Shawell, Cotesbach Fields Farm (SP 545 813)**

Adrian Butler and James Gossip

A fluxgate gradiometer scan and survey were undertaken, subsequently test pitting and an earthwork survey of ridge and furrow was carried out for Redland Aggregates Ltd over c.3.9ha of land. No significant archaeological features were identified. The material and record archive is to be lodged with LMARS (X.A68.1998).

**Sheepy (SP 37 97)**

Richard Pollard

Ron Waite handed in a Lower Palaeolithic quartzite handaxe and a probable Palaeolithic scraper from an area producing large numbers of Palaeolithic implements. Identifications by Mr Waite were verified by Anne Graf of LMARS, which holds the finds (X.A19.1999).

**Sheepy, Mill Lane, Sheepy Parva (SK 3300 0140)**

Joanna Sturgess

In July 1998 an archaeological watching brief was undertaken by ULAS in advance of a housing development and mill conversion by Springbourne Developments Ltd. During a topsoil strip of the proposed development area, a series of archaeological features became apparent and further investigation was required. The remaining topsoil stripping in the south eastern corner of the site was continued with archaeological supervision, and provision was made for a week of salvage recording and excavation. During this time a photographic survey of the exterior of the existing mill building was carried out prior to its conversion. This was certainly in existence by the early 19th century when it is recorded as having a breast shot wheel (SMR ref: 30SWJ). Within the area designated for salvage recording a series of medieval ditches was noted, representing medieval boundary ditches or 'closes' to properties that would have fronted onto Mill Lane. It is probable that two separate properties were represented in this area, both comprising a 'croft' and a 'toft'. Other features included an arrangement of post holes probably forming a building, pits and various other post hole arrangements. Dates
from the pottery recovered range between the 11th century and the early 14th century. The archive will be held by LMARS (X.A48.1998).

**Shepshed, Church of St Botolph (SK 481 197)**

Tim Higgins

A watching brief was maintained by the author and Sally Warren for ULAS during the groundworks on a new French drain around the perimeter of the Church of St Botolph, commissioned by the Shepshed Parochial Church Council. The excavation revealed the plinth foundations of a buttress supporting the north wall of the 15th century chancel. The archive will be held by LMARS.

**South Kilworth, River Avon (SP 61 81)**

Richard Pollard

Mr Don Simpson donated to LMARS a Midland Purple ware jug found in 1985 in the riverbank. The jug is intact and complete, save for the loss of its handle, and dates to c.1375-1550. Jugs lost down wells are not uncommon, but one that, from its context, might have been lost whilst collecting water from a river is an unusual find. The vessel is with LMARS (X.A41.1998).

**Stoughton, Charity Farm (SK 642 021)**

James Gossip

An archaeological evaluation by trial trenching was undertaken by ULAS in advance of residential development and the construction of an access road. The work was commissioned by Bryant Homes. Three features of medieval date were revealed in the north-west corner of the development area, including a large ditch and possible trackway dating to the 12th or 13th centuries. Furrows broadly in accordance with the earthwork survey carried out by Hartley (1984) were also located. The material and record archive is to be lodged with LMARS (X.A26.1998).

**Swannington, Califat Colliery (SK 4127 1720)**

Peter Neaverson

This coal mining shaft site, also known as Coleorton No. 2 pit, has recently passed from Wyggeston Hospital ownership to the Swannington Heritage Trust. In 1993, the Leicestershire Industrial History Society (LIHS) returned to the site where they had discovered a haystack boiler in 1969 which now rests at Snibston Discovery Park. Documentary research indicated that the mine shaft was developed in 1852 by William Worshwick under a lease from the Hospital. Coal reserves were becoming exhausted by the mid-1860s and mining had ceased altogether by 1873 although it is possible that pumping continued thereafter until the new pumping engine at the nearby Calcutta shaft was commissioned in 1878.

Among the sale records for Worshwick’s Swannington collieries, no mention of the disposal of the plant at Califat has been found. It is possible that the plant was dismantled and moved to Linby in Nottinghamshire, where Worshwick had commenced mining operations. The Califat site was then abandoned and any standing buildings were bull-dozed when the surrounding area was open-casted for coal soon after World War II. Thus the buried remains should relate to the comparatively short period of operation from 1852 until abandonment in the 1870s and therefore be of considerable interest since, in most instances on coal mines, a shaft continued in use for a long period and successive items of plant obliterate those which went before.

In order to determine the type of plant on site Leicestershire Industrial History Society commenced the clearance and removal of soil and brick rubble from the surface
remains. Extensive and massive brick and stone foundations, with several holding-down bolts, have been exposed which confirm their use for pumping operations. Preliminary interpretation indicates the use of an inverted beam pumping engine, a type not frequently employed on the Leicestershire coalfield. The purposes of two secondary stone mounting blocks exposed have not yet been ascertained. Steam was provided by two cylindrical boilers mounted side-by-side, probably of the egg-ended type which was already obsolete in the 1850s and possibly they were bought secondhand. Smoke from the boiler furnaces fed into a common flue chamber beneath a single chimney stack.

Clearance and recording work as well as the search for documentary sources are continuing.

**Swinford (SP 5643 7890)**

James Meek

An archaeological field evaluation by trial trenching was undertaken by the ULAS for Texaco (UK) Ltd ahead of a proposed service station development. Twenty trenches were excavated through the ridges of the surviving earthwork remains of the medieval open field system. No significant archaeological remains were revealed. A number of sherds of pottery were recovered from the topsoil, mainly of post medieval date, with two sherds of medieval pottery. Seven sherds of Anglo-Saxon pottery were recovered from the base of trench 18, though no associated archaeological features were visible. Finds will be held with LMARS (X.A76.1998).

**Thurcaston, 80 Station Road, Cropston, (SK 5564 1115)**

An evaluation of land proposed for residential development was undertaken by BUFAU. The area surrounding the site contains settlement and kiln sites, principally of the Roman period. However, with the exception of a ridge and furrow field system, no features of archaeological significance were identified on the development site. The work was commissioned by JSAC on behalf of David Wilson Estates.

**Thurcaston, 80 Station Road, Cropston (SK 5564 1115)**

A watching brief was carried out on a pipeline trench running from the development at Station Road (previous entry) to the stream located c.400 metres to the north-west by JSAC and a representative of LMARS. No features were detected but a number of finds were made. They include two medieval spindle whorls and a number of post-medieval and relatively modern buttons, metal scraps and a half-penny. Artefacts have also been found in the rest of the field including two Viking silver coins.

**Thurcaston, Cropston (SK 55 10)**

Richard Pollard

Brian Kimberley has undertaken further fieldwalking and metal detecting on a Roman occupation and pottery making site (*TLAHS* 70, p.173). Kiln bars, and a waster sherd or ‘second’ in a sandy grey ware attest to the latter activity; the sherd appears to be from a carinated bowl of late 1st - 2nd century date. Occupation extended throughout the Roman period. Metalwork includes brooches and coins, and a fragment of copper alloy which may be part of an openwork military buckle of 2nd - 3rd century type - identified by Richard Knox. Leics SMR reference is 51SE.DV.
Thurcaston, Cropston (SK 55 11)  Richard Pollard

Brian Kimberley has reported finds of 9th and 10th century coins, submitted as Treasure Trove. They comprise three pennies of Edward the Elder (899 - 924), three pennies of Sihtric (921 - 927), and a Dyrhem (9th - 10th century). The Leicestershire SMR reference is 50NE.CY.

Thurcaston, Barkby Thorpe Lane (SK 615 101)  Tim Higgins

An archaeological watching brief was carried out by the author and Jennifer Browning for ULAS during the topsoil and subsoil stripping before the start of remediation works of an old quarry, as part of the retail development for ASDA Stores, at Barkby Thorpe Lane, Thurcaston. A previous evaluation carried out by ULAS in August 1997, located Iron Age features on the western extremity of the site (TLAHS 72, p.185). The possible truncated remains of a Iron Age ditch or gully containing one sherd of Iron Age pottery, and a possible pit were located in an area of undisturbed land, on the western extremity of the development site. The archive will be stored with LMARS (X.A16.1998).

Tugby and Keythorpe, Spinney Nook, Main Street, Tugby (SK 761 008)  Jennifer Browning

In January 1998 an archaeological watching brief commissioned by H.I. Ltd. was undertaken by ULAS, prior to residential development. Over one hundred sherd of unstratified pottery were recovered during topsoil stripping, the majority dating from the medieval period. Eight features, mostly medieval gullies, were located to the north of the site. The archive will be held by the LMARS (X.A12.1998).

Wanlip, Sewage Treatment Works (SK 515 114)  Susan Ripper

An archaeological evaluation was undertaken by ULAS for Severn Trent Water on the proposed site of Wanlip Sewage Treatment Works. Following a geophysical survey undertaken by Stratascan, a series of six trial trenches targeted geophysical anomalies. Archaeological features were revealed in each trench identifying three areas of particular interest. These areas were subject to a second phase of evaluation which involved more extensive open area stripping (Areas A-C). Further archaeological work will be undertaken when and if planning permission is granted.

The earliest features were two late Neolithic pits located in Areas B and C, some 100m apart. One produced late Neolithic Grooved Ware pottery and worked flints, and the other produced Peterborough Ware pottery. A number of unexcavated features had similar leached fills and are suspected to be of a similar date. Late Neolithic worked flint was recovered from the recently excavated middle Iron Age site some 200m to the south (TLAHS 72, pp. 1-92). Two Iron Age pits were located in Area B, one of which contained a near complete Scored Ware vessel and a triangular loomweight. This may indicate that the Iron Age site to the south was quite extensive. A possible Roman road was located in Area C comprising a gravel surface with an associated ditch to one side. A cluster of iron and lead finds were found on the surface of the road. Limited excavation of the ditch produced Roman tile fragments. Settlement activity was attested in Area B by a sunken feature building and two other possible examples. From one of the latter features several sherd of Saxon pottery and three doughnut shaped loomweights were recovered.

ULAS would like to acknowledge the assistance of Mr. Brian Kimberley who
undertook a voluntary metal detecting survey during the excavations. In addition to the metal finds mentioned above a late Bronze Age copper alloy tanged chisel was recovered from Area C. This is the first of its kind to be found in Leicestershire and they are rare finds elsewhere in Britain (illus. 7).

Whetstone (SP 5597)  Richard Pollard

Keith Johnson, the Parish Archaeological Warden, undertook fieldwalking on a site which has previously revealed cropmarks (Leics SMR 59NE.T). With the assistance of Peter Liddle of LMARS, he has recovered flint cores, flakes and implements of Mesolithic - Bronze Age date, and pottery indicative of activity from the Iron Age through to post medieval periods. Early Anglo Saxon pottery appears to concentrate over the cropmarks themselves; though the association has not been tested by excavation, the presence of 7 sherds is indicative of on-site occupation.

Witherley, Fenny Drayton (SP 33 96)  Richard Pollard

Malcolm and Sheila Lockett found a Roman pottery scatter by fieldwalking. There may be a 3rd - 4th century bias in the assemblage, though a broad late 1st - 4th century range must be ascribed.

Witherley, Fenny Drayton (SP 36 97)  Richard Pollard

Finds of Palaeolithic quartzite tools were reported by Ron Waite, including a handaxe within a concentration of worked quartzite pebbles. Other concentrations of finds have been observed by Mr Waite at SP 35 97 and SP 34 96. These finds, and others from Burbage, Higham on the Hill, and Sheepy parishes, are part of a wider concentration straddling the A5/Leicestershire - Warwickshire border revealed by Mr Waite over several years; Warwickshire Museum holds a large collection and LMARS a smaller number, from their respective counties.

Worthington (SK 412 205)  Jennifer Browning

A building survey was undertaken to record a bridge and two sluicegates as part of an ongoing programme of archaeological work in the area in advance of the proposed
extension to Cloud Hill quarry by Breedon plc. Worthington Mill is first documented in 1660 and the features are likely to post date this, possibly with 19th or 20th century refurbishment. The bridge appears originally to have been of stone construction but with later rebuilding in brick. The sluicegates are constructed of iron in a stone setting. A stone revetment accompanying one of the sluicegates may represent the remains of a second bridge.

Negative watching briefs in Leicestershire:

**Appleby Magna:** Top Street (SK 317 096), ULAS; **Barrow on Soar:** Ribble Drive (SK 557 169) John Frostick; **Billesdon:** 33 Brook Lane (SK 721 026), ULAS; **Blaby:** Wigston Road (SP 571 978) Mike Saunders, Parish Archaeological Warden (PAW); **Burbage:** Sketchley Old Village (SP 425 921) LMARS; **Cadeby:** Cadeby Hall (SK 424 026); **Castle Donington:** Bondgate (SK 445 273) and Hall Farm Close (SK 444 270) Bruce Townsend; **Chilcote:** (SK 280 111), ULAS; **Claybrooke Magna:** High Cross, Lutterworth (SP 476 887), ULAS; **Cold Newton:** Main Street (SK 715 064) Carl Dawson, PAW; **Cosby:** Cosby House (SP 546 947), ULAS; **Cossington:** Sand Holt Platt, Platts Lane, (SK 631 133), ULAS; **Cossington:** Main Street (SK 603 136), LMARS; **Freeby:** Saxby (SK 822 199), ULAS; **Great Glen:** Main Street (SP 655 976), ULAS; **Hinckley:** St. Mary’s C. of E. Primary School, Station Road (SP 427 938), ULAS; **Ibstock:** adj. Grange Road (SK 410 099) Betty Cawte, PAW; **Market Bosworth:** Hall Farm, 24 Barton Road (SK 408 035) ULAS; **Market Bosworth:** 44 Barton Road (SK 4055 0350) ULAS; **Market Bosworth:** Rectory Lane (SK 407 029) Margaret Barrett, PAW, and LMARS; **Market Harborough:** Coventry Road (SP 732 871), NA; **Measham:** Church of St Laurence (SK 335 122) LMARS; **Quorn:** Church of Bartholomew (SK 561 165) Bill Edwards, PAW; **Rothley:** Woodgate (SK 582 125) and Westfield Lane (SK 568 122) Norman Cutler; **Stoney Stanton:** Long Street (SP 490 948) Alison Jackson, PAW; **Thurlaston:** Church of All Saints (SP 502 990) LMARS; **Wanlip:** Watermead Country Park (c.SK 603 107) LMARS; **Wymeswold:** Far Street (SK 602 235) Bob Trubshaw, PAW.

Details are lodged with the Leicestershire and Rutland SMR.

**RUTLAND**

**Barrowden, Main Street Farm (SK 949 001)**  
James Meek

An archaeological excavation was undertaken by ULAS following evaluation in 1997 (TLAHS 72, p.190). The remains of stone walls and a beaten earth floor of a medieval building were excavated adjacent to King's Lane. Pottery recovered from the structure dates from the 11th to 14th centuries. Two large pits, one lying beneath the structure, were also excavated and may represent quarry pits associated with the construction of earlier stone buildings within the village core. The project was funded by the Burleigh House Preservation Trust. The archive will be stored with the RCM (A2.1998).

**Braunston, adjacent to 40 Church Street (SK 8342 0669)**  
Richard Pollard

An archaeological watching brief was undertaken by the author for LMAPS during the excavation of foundation trenches for a single dwelling. A possible well, undated, was revealed in the centre of the site, and late 18th-20th century rubbish deposits in the
south west corner. Sherds of early medieval and post medieval pottery were recovered, together with a single prehistoric struck flint fragment. The archive will be deposited with RCM (R.A26.1998).

**Oakham, 49 High Street, Oakham, Rutland (SK 8593 0882)** Richard Pollard

The foundation trenches for a garage to the rear of 49 High Street, Oakham were recorded by the author for LMA. The site lies some 30m north-north-west of an area of medieval pits recorded behind the frontage of 49a High Street in 1994, on ground which appears not to have been built on since at least 1787. No archaeological deposits were recorded, though both topsoil and subsoil contained post-medieval pottery. A handle fragment in Bourne 'D' ware (c.1450 - 1637) was retrieved from the subsoil. The archive will be deposited with RCM (R.A28.1998).

**Seaton (SP 904 983)** Richard Pollard

Evidence for an Anglo-Saxon cemetery has accumulated since the 1980s (*TLAHS* 71, pp.98-99). A further inhumation was revealed during gardening in June 1998, and its position planned by the author for LMA. It lay within the area of burials previously defined. No grave goods were encountered, but only parts of the body were exposed; the head and shoulders should lie in the adjacent property, and were not accessible. The orientation, as with the two skeletons previously excavated, is broadly west-east. Evidence supporting the hypothesis that the burials are of pagan Anglo-Saxons, 5th - 7th century, was revealed when the landowner recovered an iron spearhead of a form appropriate to the period from topsoil. This has been submitted to the University of Leicester, School of Archaeological Studies, for analysis. Excavation of an electricity cable trench across the allotments to the east of the known burials was watched in December 1998, without any significant archaeological discoveries being made.

**Cottesmore, Main Street (SK 902 136)** John Thomas

Following archaeological evaluation by trial trenching which revealed limited activity from the later prehistoric period, a scheme for further work was agreed involving an open area excavation and several satellite trenches to determine the extent of the activity. The archaeological evidence suggests activity in the later prehistoric, Roman, late Saxon and early medieval periods in particular, with limited later and post medieval indications. The earliest feature was a boundary ditch, possibly Iron Age, which was recut during the early Roman period. A small assemblage of unstratified flint artefacts were recovered, possibly indicating earlier activity on the site. A second phase of activity indicated late Saxon (9th-10th century) domestic use of the site including a refuse pit and associated ditch and gully. Following this, early medieval (11th-12th century) plot activity formed the bulk of the evidence on the site. A clear sub-division of the plot was observed, perhaps according to specific activities, including potential building plots containing a putative structure, fence lines, a large pit and several possible animal pens or small fenced enclosures.

A 14th to 15th century linear feature with burning at its base, suggesting industrial use, was the only evidence of later medieval activity. A final phase of activity was recorded in Trench 7 near the south end of the site where several walls were uncovered which represented activity relating to a former post medieval dwelling, since demolished. The archive will be stored at RCM (A4.1998).
Glaston, Grange Farm, Main Street (SK 896 005)  John Thomas

An archaeological evaluation by trial trenching was undertaken by ULAS for Captain R.E.J. Boyle and Fisher Hogggarth Chartered Surveyors on the site of proposed housing development. The evaluation proved that archaeological remains existed on the site including extensive evidence for early medieval backyard plots and earlier features which may be linked to the adjacent prehistoric and Anglo-Saxon activity excavated in the 1940’s during sand extraction. The archive and finds from the site are to be retained by the landowner, Captain R.E.J. Boyle.

Great Casterton, Tesco Site (TF 0080 0830)  Nansi Rosenberg

In conjunction with a desk-based assessment, a programme of fieldwalking was carried out by JSAC in advance of the development of a site as a new Tesco’s supermarket to the south of Great Casterton. The fieldwalking was undertaken on a twenty metre grid and produced a total of 10 sherds of post-medieval pottery, 6 medieval sherds, 3 Romano-British sherds and 2 worked flints. No concentrations of material were identified and no sites recorded.

Great Casterton, Home Farmyard (TF 0008 0887)  Jennifer Browning

In October 1998 an archaeological evaluation was undertaken by ULAS in advance of proposed residential development. The work was commissioned by Strutt and Parker for the Cecil Estate Family Trust. Six trenches were excavated by machine, and cleaned by hand. A burial, possibly of Roman date was uncovered. The remains of two walls, a hearth, post holes and a surface were recorded which may date from the medieval period. The archive will be held by RCM (A11.1998).

Great Casterton, Walk Farm, Pickworth (TF 0070 1180) and (TF 0120 1220)  Joanna Sturgess

From 16th July to 23rd July 1998 an archaeological watching brief was undertaken in advance of the formation of conservation ponds. During a topsoil strip of the area proposed for clay extraction at TF 0070 1180 a series of prehistoric archaeological features were revealed. Pottery recovered from post holes and hearths was of Iron Age date, and two unstratified flints which were recovered suggested Mesolithic and Bronze Age dates. At TF 0120 1220, an area designated for the creation of conservation ponds, the topsoil strip revealed an accumulation of colluvium within which no archaeological features could be discerned. Due to extraction methods of the colluvium down to natural bedrock in this area, any detection of archaeological deposits sealed by the hillwash was inhibited. If archaeological features in this area were present it has not been possible to locate them. The archive will be stored with RCM (A9.1998).

Ketton Quarry (SK 969 056)  Ian Meadows

During 1997 and 1998 Ian Meadows of NA, working on behalf of Castle Cement, directed an extensive programme of field walking, geophysical survey and open area excavation on fields adjacent to Ketton Quarry, Rutland.

Two major occupation areas have been investigated: the pits, ditches and timber buildings of a late Iron Age and Romano-British farmstead and the timber buildings, timber church and graveyard of a previously unknown late Saxon settlement.
8. The late Saxon settlement at Ketton Quarry, Rutland.
Romano-British settlement
The main ditches of the Iron Age/Romano British settlement had originally been located by aerial photography and they were further defined by geophysical survey. Excavation has shown that some activity dates to the decades immediately before the Roman conquest, but the majority of the features are 2nd to 3rd century in date, with some 4th century material.

The ditches appear to define several small fields and associated tracks and in a number of places there were traces of contemporary timber buildings. Some may have been houses, others were perhaps only barns. One structure, which lay on the edge of the present quarry, had probably stood within a small ditched enclosure, perhaps indicating that it served a different function. Metal detecting both before and after machine stripping of the topsoil has recovered only a few coins and other objects.

A T-shaped oven, with limestone lined flue channels, was probably used for malting barley for brewing. If so, then it is probable that the area investigated is a peripheral part of an agricultural estate with a sizeable population, since beer is unlikely to have been produced for long distance transportation.

Late Saxon settlement
A timber church and graveyard, and nearby timber halls represent a previously unknown late Saxon settlement (illus.8). The pottery assemblage is dominated by Stamford ware, indicating that the site was in use for no more than 200 years, between AD 900 and 1100 and it was evidently then totally abandoned.

The church had a simple rectangular plan, 7.0m long by 5.0m wide, defined by continuous foundation slots. The north and south walls had been stave built, with upright timbers set close together, while in the east and west walls there had been horizontal beams, with the uprights presumably slotted into them. The doorway may have been in the western wall, where there was a gap in burials.

Around the church there were 70 inhumation burials of men, women and children, arranged in rows with their heads to the south-west. They had been laid in shallow graves, and few appear to have been in coffins. To the north of the church the graves lay around the root hole of a large tree, perhaps an ancient Yew. At least one grave was probably an earlier, non-Christian, burial, either later Roman or pagan Saxon. Although it lay with its feet to the north-east, the head had been cut off and placed by the feet.

To the south of the church and without any evident boundary between them, there were at least three timber buildings. Immediately beyond the graveyard there was an aisled hall, 12.0m long by 8.0m wide, defined by 6 pairs of aisle posts and a continuous outer wall slot. A scatter of post holes to the south-east may define a further building. To the south there were the foundation slots of a further hall, 14.0m long by 5.0m wide, and a small building only 4.0m square. In all of these buildings the slots and post pits had been heavily truncated by ploughing, reducing some to a depth of only 40mm. Around these buildings shallow ditches defined a series of separate plots, and these continued beyond the present limit of excavation.

A linear ditch separated the churchyard and the southern halls from a single post-built hall. This was 12.0m long by 5.0m wide. There was an irregular hearth pit to the north, and a post-built cross wall formed a separate chamber at the southern end.

Fieldwork and excavation will continue through 1999.
Lyddington, Prebendal Barn (SP 877 971)  Adrian Butler

An earth resistance survey was carried out by ULAS, on behalf of Smiths Gore, over land within the Scheduled Ancient Monument (SAM 17156) of Prebendal Barn. The survey detected evidence of a possible buried moat, banks, ditches and rubble spread.

Oakham, Catmose Street (SK 8634 0863)  Jennifer Browning

An archaeological watching brief, commissioned by Paul Bancroft Architects, was undertaken by ULAS during topsoil stripping for an extension to the Council Offices. A pit containing a large quantity of medieval pottery and a small amount of animal bone was located. The pottery derived from a minimum of eleven jugs, two cooking pots or storage jars and six vessels of unknown type, dating from the 13th century. The archive will be held by RCM (A13.1998).

Oakham, South Street (SK 8590 0860)  Joanna Sturgess

An archaeological field evaluation by trial trenching was undertaken by ULAS for Marron Dodds Solicitors within the area of a proposed retail development. Twenty four trenches were excavated of which fifteen contained features of archaeological interest mostly dating to the medieval and post medieval periods. Waterlogged deposits were also encountered which included a timber lined channel of probable medieval date, and undated palaeochannels. The archive will be stored with RCM.

Oakham, Springfield Park (SK 861 098)  James Gossip

An archaeological evaluation by trial trenching was undertaken by ULAS in advance of residential development. The work was commissioned by Bryant Homes. A number of large pits of 12th or 13th century date were located in the southern area of the site. Roman and Saxon pottery and flint of Mesolithic date suggest activity from these periods in the area. Evidence of medieval strip field cultivation in the form of remnant ridge and furrow was also observed. There is evidence from elsewhere in the country for the extraction of natural subsoil for cultivation purposes, especially where this comprises ‘chalky clay’ or ‘clayey chalk’ (Rackham 1986). The practice was common during the medieval period, and references to the ‘marling’ of land occur frequently in documentary sources from the 13th century onwards. This involved the excavation of deep pits (‘marl pits’) for the extraction of nutrient rich subsoil which was subsequently spread on cultivated land, helping to ‘combat acidity and infuse nitrates’ (Astill and Grant 1988, pp.26-27). It is possible that the large pits at Oakham had been excavated for this purpose. The material and record archive is to be lodged with RCM (A3.1998).

Bibliography


Whitwell, Whitwell Training Centre, Main Street (SK 926 087)  James Meek

A small scale archaeological evaluation by trial trenching was undertaken by ULAS on an area of land fronting onto Main Street. The footings of two walls were recorded close
to the street frontage and in the centre of the site. A possible robbed out wall and a large backfilled well or pit of possible medieval date were also revealed. A watching brief was undertaken by ULAS during the construction of a car park on the site between 22nd and 25th June 1998. More walls were recorded of uncertain date. A linear arrangement of four large stone and mortar constructed post pads was revealed in the south-eastern part of the development area, possibly the remains of a box framed timber building. These overlay an earlier wall of substantial construction, although no dating evidence was recovered. The projects were funded by the Whitwell Training and Development Centre.

**Negative watching briefs in Rutland:** *Ashwell,* Water Lane (SK 866 135): Philippa Denton, PAW; *Empingham,* Audit Hall Road (SK 948 084), LMARS; *Great Casterton,* Ryhall Road (TF 003 095), ULAS; *Greetham,* Shepherd’s Lane (SK 9247 1470), ULAS; *Langham,* Manor Lane (SK 840 111), LMARS; *Market Overton,* The Lodge (SK 892 162), LMARS. *Ridlington:* Scheduled Ancient Monument 183 (SK 845 027), ULAS; *Stretton,* Rectory Farm, Rookery Lane (SK 948 157), ULAS.