

Archaeology in Leicestershire and Rutland 1986

by Peter Liddle

INTERIM REPORTS

An Excavation at Burley Road, Oakham (SK 867095)

An excavation was undertaken by the Leicestershire Archaeological Unit at Burley Road, Oakham, between September and December 1986 in advance of a proposed road development. The area examined was where a crop mark and flint scatter had been discovered following aerial survey by Mr J. Pickering in 1976 and fieldwalking by the Rutland Field Research Group in 1985-6 (Clay and Graf, 1986, 81-2). Excavation of this area was made possible through contributions from Leicestershire County Council, the Manpower Services Commission Community Programme and English Heritage and with the kind

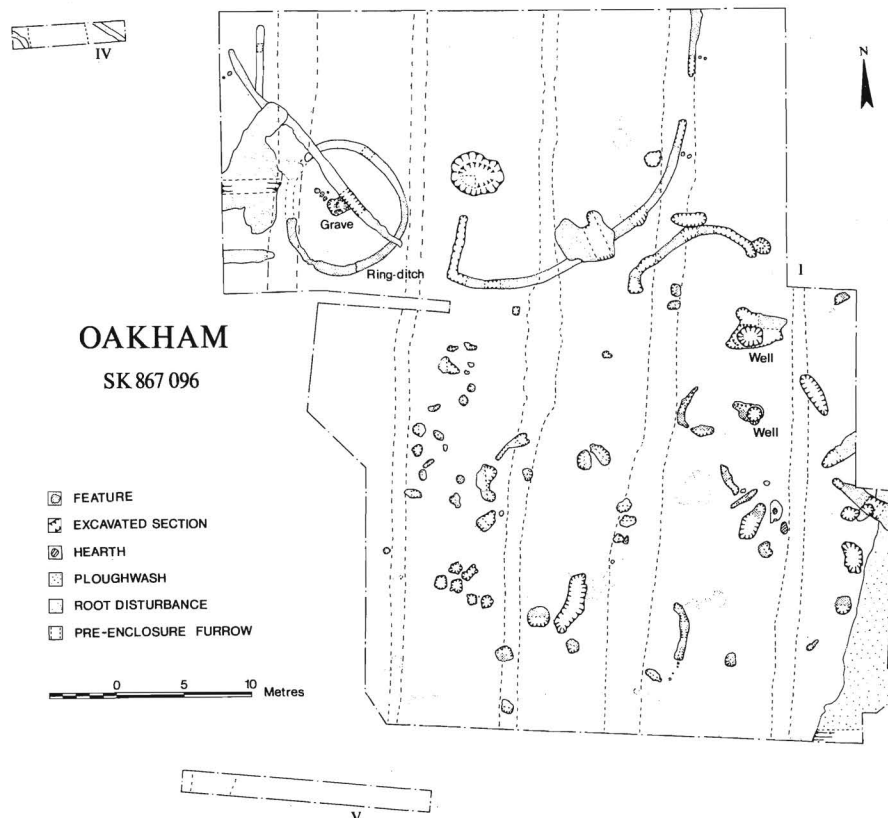


Fig. 1 Oakham excavation plan

permission and co-operation of the landowners, Burley Estates. The records and finds are stored with Leicestershire Museums (Acc. No. A64.1986).

Following topsoil sampling for phosphate content and magnetic susceptibility an area of c.2500 square metres including five trial trenches was examined. The area excavated was situated on a ridge of middle liassic marlstone bedrock consisting of ferruginous limestone with, to the north west, an outcrop of the underlying grey micaceous clay. Although suffering considerable erosion from ploughing and subsoiling, several periods of activity could be identified.

Neolithic (Fig. 2: 1-3)

Thirty six pits were located forming three phases of pit circle within the area. These varied in depth from 0-10m to 0.50m and were sub-circular or oval in shape varying between 0.6m and 2.25m in length. Many of these showed evidence of internal weathering suggesting that they had been left open initially whilst at least one appeared to have held a post at some time during its use. The earliest pit circle (Fig. 2: 1), 21m-24m across, consisted of seven pits 8-10m apart situated to the east of the site. A larger oval area 27m-32m across (Fig. 2: 2), demarcated by twenty two pits was inserted later, centred to the west of the original circle. Two crescent-shaped ditches to the south of this pit circle may have formed an entrance. Eleven other pits may be associated with different phases of this pit circle's use. A small horseshoe shaped pit group (Fig. 2: 3) 10m in diameter consisting of eight pits was located in the western half of the larger pit circle. In the north-west quarter of the site a large pit or quarry had been excavated. Twelve other pits and two linear ditches of uncertain function were also located together with various irregular subsoil hollows probably resulting from periglacial or tree root activity. Material from these pits and ditches consisted of Neolithic flint, both blade and flake industries being represented, and occasional sherds of pottery including Grimston and Peterborough wares. The relatively small numbers of artefacts suggests transient activity in this area, the pits perhaps demarcating ritual areas or possibly mortuary enclosures as has been suggested for other pit circles (Kinnes, 1979, 67-8). A larger scatter of similar Neolithic flint 200m to the north-east is being investigated by the Rutland Field Research Group (Clay and Graf, 81 Fig. 1) and may be evidence of domestic activity. Two trial trenches confirmed the presence of subsoil features within this scatter.

Late Neolithic (Fig. 2: 4)

Eight metres to the north-west of the pit circle, a ring-ditch was located at the intersection of the marlstone and clay substrata. This ditch was 10m in diameter, 0.25m wide and now only 30mm in depth. It surrounded a rectangular grave 1.4m × 1.2m × 0.20m deep containing the crouched inhumation of an adult female(?) of about 35 years. Although apparently articulated, much of the spine was missing perhaps suggesting excarnation prior to burial. Associated with this burial were three unifacially retouched flint knives and four pebbles apparently deliberately placed, two of which resembled polished stone implements. Squared limestone blocks had been placed in the corners of the grave and over the burial. Evidence of any mound associated with this burial had been destroyed by later ploughing and the presence of a Roman enclosure ditch which had cut across the ring-ditch slightly disturbing the central grave. The western edge of the ring ditch had been disturbed by a medieval furrow.

Nineteen metres to the south-east of this ring ditch a semi-circular ditch 8.5m in diameter, 0.20m wide and 0.20m deep was located. This cut two of the earlier Neolithic pits and had apparently been deliberately backfilled with limestone after construction.

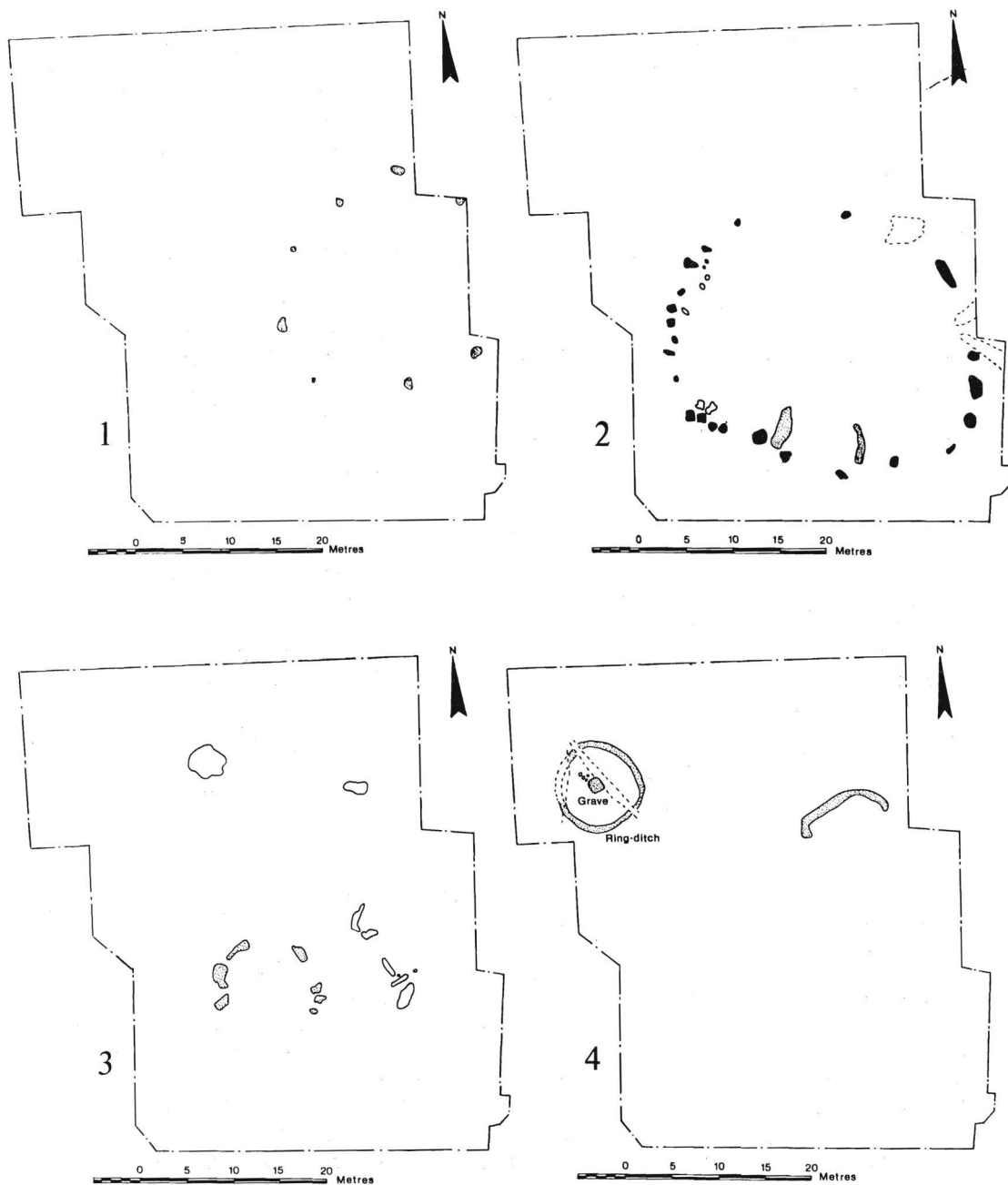


Fig. 2 Oakham: Neolithic and Bronze Age Phases

Later Activity

A ploughwash deposit of silty clay loam 0.20m thick was located to the south-east of the site and was seen to extend 20m down the slope in an adjacent trial trench. Cut by Romano-British features to the north this colluvial deposit may have been the product of soil slippage caused by plough erosion sometime during the 1st millennium BC.

To the north of the site an enclosure ditch 0.4m wide × 0.25m deep was located running north-west-south-east before turning to the north. Two entrances, one inturned to the south and another to the east with two associated post holes were located. A circular pit, 1.05m dia. × 0.55m deep, with a square cut base containing 1st-3rd c.AD material was located within this enclosure. No structural evidence was present within the enclosure.

To the south east of the enclosure three hearth bases and two wells were located, the wells were c. 1.5m in diameter and c.2.5m deep cutting through the marlstone into the underlying clay. Foot-holds had been dug into the clay to facilitate exit during their construction or use. Late Iron Age-early Roman pottery, animal bone, fired clay and iron smelting slag was recovered from these wells, the slag suggesting industrial activity associated with the hearths.

Evidence of Oakham's Open Fields, enclosed in 1836, was present in the form of five furrows on north-south alignments, 7 metres apart, containing 12th-19th century pottery.

The excavation has therefore revealed several periods of land use in this area. Of major importance is the Neolithic ritual site which is the first excavated in Leicestershire and has few parallels nationally. It is hoped to undertake further work on the nearby flint scatters which may help to indicate the nature of other Neolithic activities in the area and their relationship to the pit circles. The late Neolithic burial may be part of a larger cemetery and further fieldwalking and watching briefs may reveal more evidence of this and the later Iron Age and Roman activities. Patrick Clay, Leicestershire Archaeological Unit

REFERENCES

- CLAY, P. and GRAF, A., '1986 Fieldwork on a Prehistoric Site at Oakham' in P. Liddle, 'Archaeology in Leicestershire and Rutland 1985', *Transactions of the Leicestershire Archaeological & Historical Society*, LX
- KINNES, I, 1979, *Round barrows and ring-ditches of the British Neolithic*, (British Museum Occasional Paper No.7)

A Watching Brief at Hemington Fields, Castle Donington (SK 457301)

In the summer of 1985, gravel quarrying in Hemington Fields in the parish of Castle Donington (SK 457302) revealed a mill dam 50m long and 4m wide (Clay, 1986, 80-81). Dendrochronology established that this had been built around AD 1140 partly from new oak posts and partly reused timber from a building originally constructed about AD 1120 and probably a mill. Very close by, and lying free in the gravel, was found an oaken base of a mill wheel-pit dated about AD 1100 and an axle-bearing of about AD 1140 suggesting that the site had been used for milling for at least 40 years. Shortly after (AD 1140) the mill dam was buried under gravel, following a sudden change in the course of the river.

Steady quarrying of the gravel since 1985 had been observed by the author who has recorded four disused channels running parallel to the modern river Trent. It is expected that dendrochronology and C14 dating will confirm that these are part of a braded system contemporary with the Normal mill dam. One of these channels seems to have been the tail race of the mill and on its bed were found worked bunter and keuper stones. These irregularly shaped blocks have their longitudinal axis approximately twice the length of

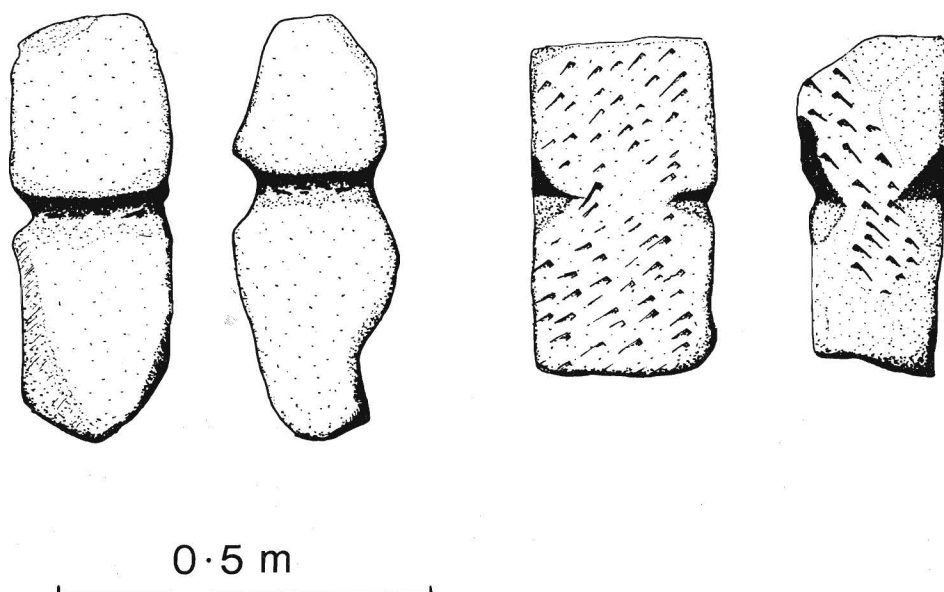


Fig. 3 Two net sinkers from Castle Donington

their transverse axis. They vary in length from 0.20m to 0.56m and all are grooved or waisted as if to hold a rope, giving them a figure of eight profile. Two of the stones were reused ashlar blocks. Their position and close proximity on the bed of the river suggests that they were net sinkers for a large salmon or eel net stretching across a fast flowing stream.

In the three other channels were found structures of single or double lines of round section posts associated with wattling. These were either bank revetments or fish weirs.

Just before Christmas 1986, a silted side channel of the modern Trent was partly exposed, revealing a 2.02m wide plank boat sunk beneath 2m of black organic silt. The oak planks had too few rings to be dated by dendrochronology but sherds of pottery nearby suggested a date late in the 18th century. The end of the boat was destroyed by the quarrying. The length of two metres exposed in the quarry face demonstrated the keelson and flat bottom made of transverse planks of an early narrow boat or butty indentified by Mr John Cockroft, Curator of the Canal Museum, Nottingham. It is hoped that the rest of this boat will be excavated in the Spring.

Observation of gravel digging just south of Cavendish Bridge, Shardlow, has given a three dimensional insight into ancient meanders of the Trent that had previously been identified only by field walking and aerial photography. C14 dating of samples of wood from these channels may throw light onto the history of those courses found in Hemington Fields, especially the prominent silted channel south of the modern Trent which until recently formed the County Boundary.

C.R. Salisbury

REFERENCE

CLAY, P., 1986, 'A Watching Brief and Salvage Excavations at Hemington Fields, Castle Donington' in P. Liddle (ed.) 'Archaeology in Leicestershire and Rutland 1985, *Transactions Leicestershire Archaeological and Historical Society*, LX, 80-81

A Trial Excavation at Leicester Castle (SK 58230422)

A small scale trial excavation was undertaken in the gardens of Castle House, with the aim of locating any structures attached to the north face of the castle hall. The footings and construction spreads of the latter were revealed, but the garden was found to have been extensively terraced, and the natural ground fell sharply away towards the river only 2m from the hall.

Richard Buckley

A Watching Brief at Soar Lane, Leicester (SK 58180496)

Following the demolition of the Van Damme Public House (formerly the Great Central Hotel), on the corner of Soar Lane and Northgate Street, a section through archaeological levels was observed by members of the Unit. A series of superimposed *opus signium* floors, a robber trench and quantities of painted wall plaster indicated the presence of a substantial Roman building. Its position would seem to indicate suburban occupation, perhaps taking the form of ribbon development along the road leading to the North Gate.

Richard Buckley

Bradgate Brick Kiln or Clamp Sites (SK 543102)

Mr Richard Burrows, Old Hall Farm, Groby noticed that during the process of mechanical ditch cleaning on his lands lying south of Cropston Reservoir, numerous pieces of brick had been turned up. The field had a strong local tradition of being the site where bricks for Bradgate House were made. Mr Burrows kindly allowed the site to be recorded. The ditch debris and earth scrapings had been spread on the footpath and into the field for some ten yards. The reddish hue of the material spread on the ground in the immediate area of the kilns being obvious even at some distance.

Bands of black ash, between 2¼ and 5 inches thick, could be seen on the south face of the ditch, with a noticeably thinner black ash band at the same level on the north side, these bands being some two feet below the present footpath surface.

Numerous pieces of brick had been spread onto the field area and more could be seen on both sides of the newly scoured ditch. The amount of brick indicated that the kilns (or clamps) had at some time been immediately on the line of the present footpath. As the north side of the ditch had far fewer bricks showing, this was taken as an indication that the ditch was located on the northern edge of the kiln or clamp.

The black ash bands observed in the ditch show that the remains of two kilns (or clamps) lie almost side by side separated by a clay section measuring some nine yards in length. A third was previously located some 60 yards away.

The bricks lying on the ash layer were carefully cleaned, photographed and removed. None of the bricks were found to be whole and none could be pieced together. Those bricks left on the ash gave the appearance of being rejects with shattered pieces of fired clay lying on top of these. The bricks were found to be, for the most part, in a single layer cluster (two or three half bricks with baked clay debris) in the face of the ditch. Two half bricks (one above the other) were noted at three points. If material had been burnt between the bricks, ash at a higher level would have been expected. Towards the western edge of the first kiln the ash was noted at a higher level between two sets of two bricks. This ash was by estimate some 16 inches below the present footpath level; the lower bricks lying on the ash being some 22 inches below the footpath. The fineness of the ash suggests that fern had been the fuel used to fire the bricks for no charred wood could be found in the ash bands.

The end measurements of the pieces of brick were $4\frac{1}{2}'' \times 1\frac{1}{2}''$ average, on a sample of four. A complete brick picked up by the writer, after ploughing in the same field area during April, measured $10\frac{1}{2}'' \times 4\frac{3}{4}'' \times 2\frac{1}{4}''$ matching similar bricks in the lower courses of Groby Old Hall tower, a Ferrers, circa 1450, building.

David A. Ramsey

A Group of Clay Tobacco Pipes from Ibstock

The pipes (Fig. 1) were found in 1972 by Mr J.C. Newman bricked into a wall of 84 High Street, Ibstock, formerly a cottage belonging to Fourthorn Farm. No.4 has the fluted bowl decoration characteristic of pipes produced in Leicester c.1780-1820 (Higgins, 1985). The crude leaf decoration on the seams of the otherwise plain bowls of Nos.1-3 is also consistent with Leicester pipes of this period. It is probable, therefore, that these pipes are all examples of the Leicester industry although similar pipes were made in other areas of the Midlands at this date, notably at Nottingham. The pipes remain in the possession of Mr Newman, to whom I am grateful for permission to publish this description.

N.D. Melton

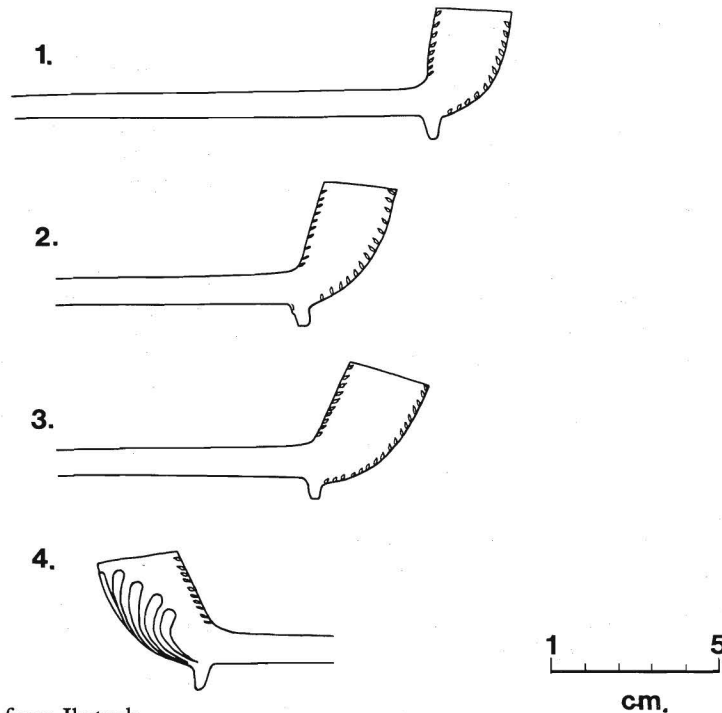


Fig. 4 Clay Pipes from Ibstock

REFERENCES

- HIGGINS, D.A., 1985. 'Leicester Clay Pipes', in P. Davey (Ed.) *The Archaeology of the Clay Tobacco Pipe* (IX), British Archaeological Reports No.146 (ii).
 HAMMOND, P., 1982. 'Pipemaking in Nottingham after 1800' in P. Davey (Ed.), *The Archaeology of the Clay Tobacco Pipe* (VII), British Archaeological Reports No.100

Leicestershire Archaeological Unit — Annual Report 1986

In many ways 1986 has been a time of considerable advancement for the Unit often in new areas. Much of the emphasis has been on public involvement and publicity while at the same time progress has been maintained on the routine work of processing and research which is essential to provide the material for publication and display.

The key factor in many of the Unit's achievements this year has been the establishment, in February 1986, of an MSC team which, while providing much of the manpower for two major excavation projects, also had as one of its main objectives the fostering of public interest in the Unit's work in each local area. Although the Unit has always been conscious of the undoubted interest which is aroused by excavation, pressure of work and time limits have usually meant that we have been unable to exploit or satisfy this to the full.

The MSC team consisted of ten people, two of whom, the Supervisor, Tim Crump and the Illustrator, first Paul Clark and later Sarah Geeves, were mainly concerned with the organisation of publicity — organising site tours, open days, site notice boards, displays exhibitions and leaflets. This meant that in reality much of the day to day organisation of the work of the team devolved upon the Assistant Supervisor, Ian Hind. Credit for the success of the scheme, and its success is unquestionable, must be given in very large measure to the Supervisor and Assistant Supervisor and to their commitment and initiative. At the same time all the members of the team deserve commendation for their hard work, interest, willingness to learn new skills and take on responsibility. The support and encouragement we have received from the Community Programme Agency at County Hall also deserve acknowledgement.

Interim reports on the two major excavations undertaken in 1986 appear on page 1 and page 87.

At Mountsorrel three medieval burgrave plots were investigated in the centre of the present village tracing the development of these plots from the mid-twelfth century through to the present day. The site was already a focus of local interest and the Unit was able to capitalise on this with site tours, notice boards, reports in the local press and, finally, with a display in the local library. The encouragement and financial support of Mountsorrel Parish Council and Charnwood Borough Council for this project is gratefully acknowledged.

The site at Oakham provided a complete contrast, in almost every way, being rural instead of urban, ritual rather than domestic and some 3,000 years earlier. Moreover there was not the same existing reservoir of local interest here; this had to be generated from a standing start.

However, the success of the community involvement campaign in both Mountsorrel and Oakham can be judged in some measure from the numbers attending the Open Days which were held at each site towards the end of excavation. At Mountsorrel on a Sunday in mid-September some 700-800 people, at a conservative estimate, came to visit the site, while the numbers at Oakham, 400-500, on a very cold mid-December Sunday, were hardly less impressive. Well deserved congratulations to all concerned!

In addition to these two major excavation projects Richard Buckley undertook a small excavation in the gardens of Castle House (see p.92) and also carried out a watching brief just outside the north wall of the Roman town during the demolition of the Van Damme club, which unexpectedly revealed evidence of a substantial Roman building.

The watching brief on the gravel pit at Castle Donington has continued during the year mainly through the work of Dr Chris Salisbury and Ian Hind. Four early river channels and two more timber structures, one possibly a fish weir, have been located and, towards the end of the year an 18th century Trent and Mersey canal boat.

Several other projects have been undertaken this year with the avowed aim of publicising the work of the Unit more widely, both in a local and national context.

First of all the Unit and the Archaeology Section collaborated in the publication of an eight-page supplement for *Rescue News on Leicestershire Archaeology*, for the actual production of which the Unit was wholly indebted to the Design Section of the Museum, thanks to whom the final product reached a highly professional standard.

Also during the first part of 1986 the Unit produced two displays again on the theme of Archaeology in Leicestershire and illustrating the work of the Unit, the Survey Team and the Archaeology Section of the Museum. The first of these, for a shop window in the Haymarket Shopping Centre, was the more ambitious in that it incorporated recreation of features under excavation and a reconstruction of a site hut as well as display boards and artefacts. The credit for this project belongs to Deborah Sawday who master-minded the whole undertaking ably seconded by other members of the Unit, Richard Buckley and Terry Pearce in particular. We were also fortunate in having a student from the Post-excavation Diploma course at the University on secondment to the Unit during the final two weeks of preparation. The display remained at the Haymarket for six weeks during May and June and the display boards were then moved to the Jewry Wall Museum though unfortunately the three-dimensional aspects of the exhibition had to be dismantled.

For the East Midlands History Fair held at the end of May the Unit provided a series of display boards illustrating the work of the Unit. This was supplemented by a stall selling the whole range of the museum's archaeological publications and manned by the Unit and Archaeology staff. The organisation of this project was undertaken by Rosemary Woodland who deserves especial thanks for this as her efforts were entirely voluntary. Later in the year the display was erected at Melton Mowbray Museum again in pursuit of wider publicity for the work of the Unit and the Archaeology staff. In addition to all those mentioned the Unit is very happy to acknowledge its debt to other sections of the Museum Service in the completion of these projects — to Education for lending material for display, for use of their equipment and patient instruction in its use, to Photography for producing photographs more or less on demand and, once again, to Design for advice and assistance.

All three of these projects demonstrate clearly the advantages of having an Archaeological Unit based within a Museum Service, able to call on and receive support from other elements within the same Service. The quality of the final product reflects not only on the Unit but on the Service as a whole.

Also in May the report on the excavation at South Croxton appeared. The report sheds light on the early history of the village from the mid-twelfth century onwards and considers the significance of the construction of the moated site. For the final paste-up of the report for publication the Unit was fortunate in having the services of Angela Monckton.

Pasting up of the report on the Defences of Roman and Medieval Leicester was completed by the end of the year and this should appear early in 1987. The report brings together all the excavations and watching briefs undertaken on the defensive circuit so that the significance of the various elements and their significance can be discussed.

Work has also proceeded on the report of a series of excavations in the West Bridge area of Leicester. The first draft has been completed and some specialist reports are still awaited. This group of excavation provides more information on the Late Iron Age and Early Romano-British periods in Leicester's history including the first evidence of an Iron Age (round) building. It has also been possible to continue with post-excavation analysis of material from the excavations at Enderby, again thanks to the services of Angela Monckton who has spent several weeks in the unenviable task of wet sieving the environmental samples.

Patrick Clay has published an account of the discovery of the Castle Donington watermill in the national periodical *Current Archaeology*. Information from the Castle Donington Mill was also used in the Domesday exhibition. Jean Mellor has contributed two articles to *Rescue News*, on the Unit's MSC scheme and the working of the system of designated areas in towns.

Members of the Unit contributed to Leicester University's Certificate course in Archaeology and to a WEA series of classes on medieval archaeology in Leicestershire. Patrick Clay and Rosemary Woodland also contributed to a Leicester University course on Domesday Leicestershire. Patrick Clay and John Lucas took part in a presentation to the County Planning Department and later to the District Planning Department at Oakham demonstrating the results of co-operation between Planners and Archaeologists. Richard Pollard spoke to the Hinckley Search Society on Roman and Medieval pottery and also to three classes of junior school children on the Romans in Leicester. Terry Pearce, assisted by Rosemary Woodland, Anne Graf and Richard Buckley gave another series of talks to the blind.

Courses and seminars have been attended on lithic scatters, collared urns, Neolithic ritual sites and meetings of the local and national groups for the study of Roman and medieval pottery. Three members of the unit attended the AGM of the Institute of Field Archaeologists and Jean Mellor and Terry Pearce attended the Rescue Conference at York in December 1986. Excavations at Etton, Bordesley, Raunds, Winchester and London were visited.

Richard Pollard continues as the Museum's representative on CBA Group 14 and on the National Council and the Unit is also represented on the Committee of Rescue and the CBA Urban Research Committee by Jean Mellor. Terry Pearce has been elected to the Committee of the Leicestershire Archaeological and Historical Society and shares the job of Lecture Secretary with David Wykes.

1986 has been a good year for the Unit and for archaeology in Leicestershire. 1987 holds the prospect of being even better: time will tell. Meanwhile it is only possible to acknowledge the loyalty and dedication of all the members of the Unit and the MSC team, the support and assistance of colleagues within the Museums Service and the Employment Unit and not least the response of the public which has given so much encouragement.

J.E. Mellor

Report of the Leicestershire Museums Archaeological Survey Team for 1986

The major success of 1986 was winning the *Country Life* Award, the British Archaeological Award for professional projects. This was for 'Community Archaeology' — the Archaeological Division's 'outreach' activities, comprising the archaeological fieldwork group, the Sites and Monuments Record, publications, publicity and displays. The submission was written by Peter Liddle. The prize of £300 is to be used to buy portable screens to facilitate small temporary displays.

The Fieldwork Group has continued to flourish with eight well attended meetings in the course of the year (one jointly held with the Leicestershire Archaeological Society). The speakers were Ken Smith, Ian Stead, Alan McWhirr, Jill Bourn, Peter Liddle, Tim Schadla-Hall and John Lucas and Patrick Clay. Seven editions of *The Fieldworker* were produced and the annual day-school on identification and techniques was again held.

The Sites and Monuments Enhancement project has continued. An index to the archaeological records for some two-thirds of the County is already available for on-line retrieval from the County Council main-frame computer and the paper record for about a third of

the County has been enhanced. Bob Jarrett's invaluable work on this project has been possible thanks to a 100% grant from HBMC (English Heritage) and it is hoped that this funding will continue for at least one more year.

The Planning Advisory Service to County and District Councils and to 'statutory undertakers' run by Anne Graf is becoming increasingly effective as it becomes better known. This process was aided by a presentation to a meeting of Planning Officers from all parts of the County.

1986 was an exceptionally good year for aerial archaeology and for the first time Fred Hartley and Steve Thursfield have undertaken a reconnaissance programme in addition to that by Jim Pickering. Fred and Steve took 340 photographs and Jim about 500 which added 36 enclosures, 12 round burrows, 9 pit alignments and 11 prehistoric boundaries to the record (about a 10% increase in the total). The year also saw the publication of *Past Worlds in a Landscape* by Jim Pickering and Fred Hartley which is an extremely important survey of all the County's crop-mark evidence. Fred Hartley has also surveyed earthworks at Stoughton, Lubbethorpe, Noseley, and Humberstone; and recorded wood banks and bell-pits in advance of the opencast quarrying going on at Coleorton.

The Medbourne Area Survey is now virtually complete. Analysis and writing up have started and publication is hoped for in 1987.

The year has, again, been one of steady progress on all fronts and the national recognition of the value of the Community Archaeology scheme has increased morale considerably.

Peter Liddle, Archaeological Survey Officer

Reports of Fieldwork 1986

ASHBY PARVA (SK 547887)

Fieldwalking by the Lutterworth Fieldwork Group has revealed a wide area producing probably Mesolithic flintwork with some apparent concentrations. Blades (some snapped and retouched), blade cores, and core rejuvenation flakes have all been found as well as later types including scrapes, cores, knives and a leaf-shaped arrowhead (A2, A54 and A68.1986).

AYSTON (SK 847010)

Elaine Jones has found, on a stretch of the A47 re-alignment, evidence of a blade industry including two microliths, blade cores and blades.

BLASTON (SP 795951)

The Survey Team have found a concentration of Iron Age pottery (some scratch decorated) associated with cobbles in a newly ploughed field (A20.1986).

BLASTON (SP 815956)

The Survey Team has located a concentration of Late Iron Age/Early Roman pottery in a newly ploughed field. A smaller concentration to the west contained later Roman pottery (A25.1986).

BLASTON (SP 804960)

The Survey Team has found a dense scatter of Roman pottery. The scatter seems to encompass the whole Roman period (A26.1986).

FREEBY (SK 780200)

Tom Lane and an Adult Education class have found a scatter of Roman pottery and tile and a bead.

GLENFIELD (SK 533049)

E. Tura has found a further small quantity of Roman pottery on the Municipal Golf Course extension (see *Transactions* LX, 92). It includes grey ware, black burnished ware and Derbyshire Ware. There was also a small amount of Late Bronze Age pottery.

HUNCOTE (& CROFT) (SP 510973)

The Survey Team has fieldwalked the site of a large D-shaped, double-ditched crop-mark enclosure, bisected by the Huncote/Croft border, discovered from the air by Jim Pickering. There was very little material but three sherds of Iron Age pottery (one scratch-decorated) suggest a date for the site.

MISTERTON (SP 560844)

Lutterworth Fieldwork Group have found a probable Mesolithic scatter covering a very wide area. It consists of microliths, blades (some retouched), blade cores, and core rejuvenation flakes. Scrapers, arrowheads (barbed and tanged and transverse), knives, discoidal implements and cores suggest Late Neolithic/Early Bronze Age occupation in the more easterly field. A saddle quern was also found (A31.1986; A100.1986).

MISTERTON (SP 559833)

Lutterworth Fieldwork Group have re-walked a field examined in 1982. They found flakes, blades (some retouched), an end scraper, scrapers (some thumbnail), discoidal implements, a transverse arrowhead and a scale flaked knife. This suggests two distinct periods of Prehistoric occupation, probably Mesolithic and Late Neolithic/Early Bronze Age. There was also a small concentration of Roman pottery suggesting an occupation site (A17.1983 and A4.1986).

MISTERTON (SP548835)

Lutterworth Fieldwork Group have found blade cores, core rejuvenation flakes and end scrapers, probably of Mesolithic date, as well as later scrapers and cores (A137.1986).

NEVILL HOLT (SP 832938)

The Survey Team have found a very tight scatter of Roman pottery and tile (including roof and box flue fragments) (A142.1986).

NEVILL HOLT (SP 831937)

The Survey Team have located a close grouping of Early Medieval pottery and a small stone scatter suggesting some sort of occupation (A142.1986).

NEVILL HOLT (SP 828939)

The Survey Team have found a dense scatter of Anglo-Saxon pottery associated with iron slag (A77.1987)

OADBY (SP 618994)

Tom Carlyle has found a tanged arrowhead and an edge retouched knife, perhaps suggesting a burial.

THURCASTON (SK 563122)

Mr David Simmons has found a complete Roman grey-ware beaker, probably of 3rd/4th century date at a depth of six feet while digging for gravel. Although no human remains survived this is probably best interpreted as a grave-good in an inhumation burial (A25.1986).

TUR LANGTON (SP 700943)

Paul and Tina Bowman have found a dense scatter of Roman pottery tile (including imbrex, tegula and box-flue).

WARDLEY (SK 827003-SK 839005)

Ed Tura has found a tanged flint arrowhead and early to late Medieval pottery on the line of the Wardley by-pass.