

Archaeology in Leicestershire and Rutland 1995

Compiled by Richard Pollard and John Lucas

SURVEY

Lockington Barrow Cemetery, Lockington-Hemington (SK 469 291)

Richard Clark

In February and March 1995 a survey of the Lockington barrow cemetery was undertaken by Leicestershire Archaeological Unit (LAU) under the direction of Richard Clark. The work was funded by English Heritage with a view to creating a management scheme for the site. The survey consisted of a desk study followed by metal detector and resistivity surveys, together with a micro-contour survey of two of the barrows. Although finds were recovered the metal detector survey was inconclusive. However, a small assemblage of lithic material was recovered including a plano-convex knife and a number of flint tools. The survey work identified three barrows and the degraded earthworks of a further two barrows. The finds and archive are with Leicestershire Museums, Arts and Records Service (LM; Accession no. A19.1995).

EXCAVATIONS

Leicester, Rushey Mead (SK 608 083)

Richard Pollard

Hand excavation of foundations for a house extension off Jacklin Drive led to the recovery of human bone and artefacts by the builders. These were reported to the police, who in turn called in Leicestershire Museums Archaeological Survey Team (LMAST) to assess their date. A short salvage excavation was undertaken by LMAST to recover the rest of the skeleton and place it, as far as possible, in its archaeological context.

The full picture of the burial rite cannot be reconstructed. The skeleton was of a male, 1.66m high, and in his 40s or 50s. Analysis has indicated that the individual had survived a pulmonary infection which may have required extended bed rest. The cause of death could not be determined (osteology report by Simon Chapman of University of Leicester Archaeological Services - ULAS). A date in the last years of the Iron Age, c. mid 1st century BC - mid 1st century AD, is indicated by pottery collected by the builders. This includes part of a small East Midlands Scored Ware vessel (*cf.* Elsdon 1992, p.85 no.7, though lacking the lip decoration), and a large sherd of a ledge rim jar of a type associated on Leicester city centre sites with Terra Nigra and wheel thrown Late Iron Age ware. The latter sherd was stratified in the section of a pit on the

opposite side of the foundation trench to the burial. Other finds include triangular clay loom weights, a clay 'brick', charred antler fragments and a large quantity of charred plant remains. The last have been studied by Angela Monckton; grain, mainly spelt, formed a high percentage (over 70%) of the remains, suggesting cereal cleaned for use. The sample provides the first evidence from the county for the high proportion of spelt in use in the Iron Age, and the only large group of grains from the prehistoric or Roman periods.

It appears that the body was interred, crouched in a pit, and subsequently covered with cobbles. The precise relationship of the artefacts to the body is unclear, although it is probable that the Scored Ware pot was buried in close attendance. The initial interpretation favoured by the pit's excavators, Lynden Cooper and Neil Finn, was that the pit containing the burial was a recut, rectilinear, of an earlier, larger pit. The charred plant remains may have lain in the earlier pit, or been introduced as part of the burial rite. The fired clay and pottery artefacts all exhibit signs of secondary burning.

Background research has yet to be undertaken on Iron Age burials by the author: it is hoped that this will enable the burial to be placed in a cultural context.

Other earthfast features, undated, were recorded in the same house plot. Evidence is accumulating for an extensive, multi-period, archaeological palimpsest in the Rushey Mead/Thurmaston area, largely built over but still susceptible to piecemeal discovery. Together with the Bronze Age gold bracelets found in Birstall (*TLAHS*, 69, p.132), this Iron Age burial underlines the value of investigating domestic house and garden sites in built up areas. The finds and archive are with LM (A101.1995).

Bibliography

Elsdon, S.M., 1992 'East Midlands Scored Ware', *TLAHS*, 66, pp.83-91

Medbourne, Back Field (SP 788 932)

Richard Pollard

Further excavations were undertaken on the site of the Roman 'small town' directed by Jon Coward and Ian Hind of the Leicestershire County Council Training for Work Scheme. The project was managed by Richard Pollard, then of LAU. Previous work had revealed well-preserved archaeological deposits in the eastern half of Back Field (*TLAHS*, 66, p.181), and this area was subjected to a geophysical survey by Jon Coward and Ian Hind. This in turn revealed evidence for stone walls, and two areas were opened up by hand excavation.

The results confirmed the high degree of preservation, under pasture which formerly had ridge and furrow earthworks (*cf.* Mill Field to the east). Early Roman, and possibly Late Iron Age, earthfast features were sampled, some of which were sealed by a Roman metalled surface; this could simply be a hardstanding, but the possibility of a track leading off the Gartree Road to serve the northern part of the settlement must be considered. A stone building, whose construction is dated provisionally to the 2nd century AD, lay immediately east of this track. The Gartree Road itself has not been located in this part of the field, despite trial trenching across the projected course, but should run fairly close to the south.

Three pasture fields have now been extensively sampled over the area of Mill Hill, Medbourne, with the aim of assessing the degree of survival of archaeological deposits and sketching the topography of the Roman settlement. Two fields on the southern slope of the hill remained inaccessible during the lifetime of the project, 1987-1995.

A grid of 2m x 2m boxes has been excavated by hand, along with selective larger areas targeted on the Gartree Road in the north-west corner of Back Field - adjacent to a former earthwork to the west - a ring ditch cropmark in The Seeds (SP 790 936), and the site discussed above. Prehistoric, Roman and Anglo-Saxon activity has been recorded, with survival of earthfast features widespread, but of surface features localised, and mainly in the eastern third of Back Field. The main threat to the archaeology would be a decision to plough.

The Training for Work Scheme in Archaeology was axed in early 1996. It is unlikely that further excavation will be undertaken in the foreseeable future in Mill Hill, unless there is an opportunity provided by developer funding. All records and finds currently reside with LM. The box sampling is accessioned as A124.1987, A125.1987 and A126.1987; the ring ditch area in The Seeds as A51.1994 and the 1995 areas in Back Field as A1.1995. A debt of gratitude is owed to the owners of the fields, the Walker family of Laughton, for permission to excavate and for the active interest they have shown in the work.

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

A small patch of tessellated pavement was uncovered by workmen digging a service trench across the forecourt, east of the house. This was reported promptly to LMAST, and a salvage excavation was undertaken of the remainder of the trench. This revealed an undisturbed mosaic pavement, some 0.5m below the tarmac surface, decorated by a grid of red tile tesserae on a background of yellow ironstone. The orientation of the grid suggests that the trench cut diagonally across the pavement, and there are indications of robbed-out walls on two opposing sides. The position of the robber trenches, and the apparent regularity of the grid, suggests a room with an overall width of *c.* 2.5m. This lies approximately at right angles to the principal, north-east to south-west axis of rooms uncovered in the back garden of the house in 1992 and 1993, and may be a corridor. Only *c.* 2.0m of the presumed long axis was exposed however, and it is possible that the mosaic lies in a small room on a north-east to south-west axis. It is clear that more lies undisturbed under the forecourt. The style of the mosaic resembles the lost Medbourne mosaic, believed to have come from Saddlers Cottage, but placed by the Ordnance Survey to the north of the house. This is depicted as having a grid of red tile at one end, with a curving line of tile defining an apse in the floor pattern (*TLAAS*, 5, p.70; Rainey 1973, pl.10A; VCH Leics I (1907), pl. VIIa), and is placed in the Durobrivan school of mosaicists, which worked during the third quarter of the 4th century (Johnson 1995, p.49).

This excavation was the sixth archaeological intervention around Saddlers Cottage in recent years, commencing with an evaluation on land to the east in 1988 (*TLAHS*, 63, pp.107-8) and a watching brief during construction on the same site (*TLAHS*, 65, p.103). A salvage excavation was occasioned by the discovery of tessellation immediately west of the house, in 1992, and this led to box sampling of the back garden in 1993. Garage foundations were hand dug in 1994 (*TLAHS*, 69, p.130); the service trench recorded in 1995 links the house with the garage. Mr and Mrs Plunkett, the previous owners of Saddlers Cottage, and Mr and Mrs Pemberton, the present owners, are to be thanked most warmly for their interest and hospitality. A comprehensive report on the excavations is in preparation. Finds and archives are with LM (A97.1988; A22.1991; A12.1992; A1.1993; A134.1994; A80.1995).

Bibliography

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EVALUATIONS**Rawdon Road, Moira, Ashby Woulds (SK 312 158)**

Simon Cox

A three-stage evaluation was undertaken by LAU under the direction of Neil Finn and Sally Warren (Stage 1) and Simon Cox (Stages 2 and 3) in an area where tree planting was proposed under the SOS Woodland project. The work was funded by Leicestershire County Council's Department of Planning and Transportation and the finds and archive are with LM (A5.1995).

Stage 1, in December 1994, established the presence of archaeological features in a field where an Iron Age or Roman quern had previously been found and so stage 2, a more extensive trial trench investigation was undertaken in January 1995. A group of small pits, post-holes and stake holes was defined, in association with a small quantity of Iron Age pottery and worked flints. Also present was a sequence of three ditches apparently forming the eastern boundary of the site. The archaeological potential was confined to an area roughly 100m by 85m in the north-west quarter of the site. It suggests that these features may represent the periphery of an Iron Age settlement whose nucleus is to the north, beyond the limits of the area investigated. This area was again examined in stage 3 in April 1995. A watching-brief was carried out when a pathway was built across the site and an additional trial trench was excavated, but no further archaeological features were identified.

Wood and Shellbrook Farms, Moira, Ashby Woulds (SK 328 158)

Simon Cox

During March 1995 an evaluation was carried out by Simon Cox of LAU on a site to the east of Willesley Lane, where open cast coal extraction was proposed. The work was funded by R.J. Budge (Mining) Ltd and the finds and archive are with LM (A21.1995). Seven trial trenches were investigated in order to evaluate a Roman pottery scatter found during a fieldwalking survey by LMAST in March 1993. No archaeological deposits were found. It was concluded that the material found during the fieldwalking survey must either originate elsewhere, perhaps from the Moira-Ashby railway to the south, or any archaeological features were shallow and have been erased by ploughing.

St Mary's Church, Bottesford (SK 807 391)

C. Taylor

In March 1995 Lindsey Archaeological Services carried out archaeological investigation in the tower of St Mary's Church, prior to alterations. The work was funded by St Mary's Parochial Church Council. Below the floor of the tower two post-medieval bowl-shaped pits were identified. These were apparently used for melting

down lead for reuse. In addition a 19th century underpinning layer and an earlier floor level were identified, and these sealed a clay deposit containing fragments of human bone. This was either a pre-tower churchyard soil or earlier make-up level.

Sketchley Hall, Sketchley Old Village, Burbage (SK 425 923) James Meek

An evaluation followed by a watching brief was undertaken by James Meek and Sally Warren of LAU in February and March 1995 in advance of a proposed development at Sketchley Hall. This work was funded by J. M. Knapp and Sons Limited and the finds and archive are with LM (A20.1995). Although a little residual medieval pottery was recovered, no definite archaeological features were uncovered suggesting the focus of the deserted medieval village of Sketchley must lie to the south and south-west of the area investigated.

Edmondthorpe Hall, Edmondthorpe (SK 860 174) Neil Finn

In February and March 1995 an evaluation was carried out at Edmondthorpe Hall by LAU under the direction of Neil Finn at the request of the owner, Mr J. Pochin, who funded the work. The hall was built in 1621, much altered in the 18th and 19th centuries and finally reduced to a shell by a disastrous fire during the Second World War. The ruins were demolished comparatively recently for safety reasons, and only a few small fragments now survive above ground level. The aim of the evaluation was to establish the extent of the survival of the remains of the 17th century building, along with evidence for any earlier structures on the site. No features earlier than 1621 were identified although residual 14th and 15th century material was recovered. It would seem that all traces of earlier buildings - if any existed - had been destroyed by the construction of the hall. The large squared ironstone blocks that made up the foundations of the 1621 building were identified and part of the plan of the house was recorded, together with details of a cellar, drains, a central heating system and outbuildings to the north and east of the main building. This recording also identified the development of the house in the 18th and 19th centuries, with additions and alterations to both the house and the outbuildings. The archive is with LM (Acc. No. A15.1995) and the finds are in the possession of Mr J. Pochin.

Trinity Motors, Wharf Farm, Hinckley (SP 407 935) Neil Finn

An evaluation was carried out in June 1995 by LAU under the direction of Neil Finn in response to the development of the site by Trinity Motors (Bond St.) Ltd, who funded the work. The site lay on the side of the Ashby De La Zouch canal 200m south-west of Hinckley town centre, close to the line of the Roman road, Watling Street and close to scatters of prehistoric flint discovered in fieldwork surveys. Ten trenches exposing an area of 392 sq. m. were opened up but no traces of any archaeological levels were identified. The site archive and finds are with LM (A41.1995).

Kirkby House Farm, Kirkby Mallory (SK 458 007)

James Gossip

In January and February 1995 an evaluation was undertaken by LAU under the direction of James Gossip in advance of a housing development by J. S. Bloor (Services) Ltd, who also funded this work. The site lay on a small hilltop, on well drained sand and gravels, at the core of the medieval settlement of Kirkby Mallory. It was at the junction of medieval and earlier communication routes, with the line of the Roman road from Leicester to Mancetter passing close to the southern area of the development. In an area about 300m by 110m, eleven areas were examined consisting of trial trenches together with hand cleaning of an area stripped for an access road. Substantial Roman features comprising ditches and possible structural features such as post-holes were identified in a limited area in the western part of the site. All contained stratified Roman pottery. The ditch on a north-south alignment could be dated to the 1st to early 2nd century, and most of the Roman pottery recovered was of this date. This suggests the presence of an early Roman settlement close to the line of the Mancetter road, although the latter was not identified in any of the trenching and must be presumed to be further south. No definite medieval features were identified, but the presence of deep ploughsoil over the area indicated later cultivation. The finds and archive are with LM (A32.1995).

Kirby Muxloe, M1 Widening Spoil Dump (SK 528 050)

Simon Cox

This area was located between the M1 motorway and the Kirby Road-Ratby Lane section of the A46 Leicester Western Bypass. A proposal by Kee Construction Services, who funded the evaluation, to dump spoil in an area immediately west of a multi-period site excavated by LAU in 1993 (Cooper 1993, pp.162-5), necessitated archaeological evaluation. This was undertaken by LAU, under the direction of Simon Cox, in April 1995 and the finds and archive are with LM (A32.1995). The area of approximately 10,000 sq. m. sloped down steeply to the north where it approached a small stream running south-west to north-east and showed evidence of a medieval ridge and furrow field system on a north-west to south-east alignment above a boulder clay and Mercia mudstone subsoil.

A three per cent sample of the area was examined by trenching. Two definite concentrations of archaeological features were identified in trenches 1 and 3, including structural features and a sufficient quantity of Iron Age pottery to suggest occupation during that period. Trench 1, on the east side of the field, was close to the area examined during the 1993 excavation and may represent a continuation of that site. The features identified included one side of a rectangular structure aligned north-west to south-east which may represent the corner of a palisade. Finds indicate that these features were of Iron Age date, although nothing comparable was identified during the 1993 excavation. This area of archaeological activity seems to end as there was an absence of archaeological deposits in Trenches 2 and 4 in the central area of the field.

The other concentration of archaeological features was in the southern two thirds of Trench 3 at the north-west edge of the field. It appeared that this activity did not extend to the south and east, but it may have extended to the west beyond the boundary of the site. Structural features found here included a post-hole dated to the Iron Age and the area may have been chosen for occupation owing to its proximity to the stream.

Throughout the site, features tended to conform to a north-west to south-east or a north-east to south-west axis. This was also apparent in the medieval ridge and furrow system and in the existing field boundaries and probably reflects the natural topography, including the orientation of the stream. In addition to the finds from the trenches, a number of surface finds were recovered from elsewhere in the field including pottery from all periods from Iron Age to post-medieval and Neolithic or Bronze Age.

Bibliography

Cooper, L., 1995 'Kirby Muxloe, A46 Leicester Western Bypass' *TLAHS*, **69**, pp.162-165.

Leicester, Duns Lane/St. Augustine Road (SK 581 042)

Tim Higgins and Sally Warren.

The site is known variously as the Pex building and, for a new development in the late 1990s, West Bridge Place. It lies between two arms of the River Soar, immediately outside the site of the West Gate of the historic town. University of Leicester Archaeological Services (ULAS) was contracted by William Davis Ltd to observe and record during ground investigation work by the BWB partnership, comprising 33 trenches and six bore holes, of which eight trenches were hand dug. The archaeological work was carried out by Tim Higgins and Sally Warren. The limited nature of the work determined that any conclusions drawn from the archaeological monitoring be tentative. Features were recognised in the yard west of the Pex building in particular, and a small quantity of Roman finds recovered. The finds and archive are to be transferred to LM (A64.1995).

Gateway Sixth Form College, Richmond Street, Leicester (SK 5838 0399)

James Gossip

This evaluation was carried out by James Gossip of LAU in April 1995 in advance of the construction of a building extension. The work was funded by the Gateway Sixth Form College and the finds and archive are with LM (A24.1995). Most of the archaeological potential of this area within the Newarke Precinct had been destroyed by cellars, but a small trench, 2m by 1m, was excavated to test if the whole of the site was cellared. Although most of the area was cellared, a small section at the front of the site contained undisturbed post-medieval levels. As the proposed building did not disturb these levels no further examination of any surviving underlying earlier levels was required.

Trinity Hospital, The Newarke, Leicester (SK 5826 0408)

James Gossip

In April 1995 LAU carried out a preliminary evaluation consisting of two trenches in the rear garden of the Trinity Hospital, under the direction of James Gossip, in response to proposed building alterations in that area by De Montfort University, who funded this work. Trench 1 measured 1.60m by 4.90m and archaeological levels were encountered at depths of between 0.35m and 0.50m below the modern ground surface. These consisted of a section of stone wall, with later brick additions, a minimum of

0.80m long, on a north-east to south-west alignment, parallel with the axis of the original medieval hospital. A spread of stones, either a disturbed wall or cobbled surface was also identified together with three pits, the top of which contained medieval and post-medieval pottery. Trench 2 measured 1.60m by 2.20m and archaeological deposits were located at 0.15m below the surface which may represent a ditch fill. Although only partially revealed it was clear though that archaeological levels survived over the area of the garden. The finds and archive are with LM (A28.1995).

Melton Mowbray, Leicester Road (c. SK 731 180)

Neil Finn

A staged archaeological field evaluation was commissioned by Wilson Bowden Properties plc from ULAS, in a field of some 13.68ha north of Leicester Road and west of Eye Kettleby deserted medieval village (Hartley 1987, pp.9 and 30, Fig.22). Fieldwalking had previously revealed multi-period activity (*TLAHS*, 67, p.111). A geophysical survey was undertaken by Geophysical Surveys of Bradford for ULAS, using a fluxgate gradiometer. This was followed by a metal detector survey by Neil Finn and Martin Shore of ULAS in which artefacts recovered were located three dimensionally. The latter survey located three main concentrations of metal finds reflecting areas already identified by fieldwalking and/or geophysical survey as archaeologically important. The site is known to have been metal detected in the past, very probably over a period of some years. These surveys were followed in February 1996 by trial trenching of approximately 2% of the site by ULAS, the results of which will be published in due course.

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Wood Lane, Mountsorrel (SK 570 150)

Andrew Richmond

In 1995 further evaluation work, under the direction of Andrew Richmond, was carried out in Mountsorrel by Tempvs Reparatvm on behalf of Redland Aggregates Limited in an area of proposed granite extraction. The Wood Lane site had previously been surveyed by fieldwalking and geophysical survey and partially evaluated (Ripper 1995, p.127). A Neolithic - Bronze Age potential had been identified, but despite more extensive evaluation no definite evidence of this was identified and it is suggested that any features from this period must have been slight and did not survive later cultivation.

Bibliography

Ripper, S., 1995 'An archaeological evaluation at Wood Lane, Mountsorrel', *TLAHS*, 69, pp.127-28.

All Saints Church, Oakham (SK 860 089)

Aileen Connor and Simon Cox

This work was carried out in the summer of 1995 in advance of re-flooring and other works within the church. It was funded by All Saints Parochial Church Council and carried out by LAU. The finds and archive are with LM (A17.1995). The evaluation

indicated that within the church, modern disturbance had removed traces of earlier activity to a depth that varied between 120mm and 440mm below present floor level. Some traces of the earlier church were identified but not investigated. Subsequently, a mitigation strategy was adopted of reducing the formation depth required for the new floor to ensure preservation of archaeological deposits. This work was monitored in an archaeological watching-brief (see below p.00).

Church Hall, Church Street, Oakham (SK 861 089)

John Lucas

A limited one day evaluation was undertaken in April 1995 by LAU at the site of the Church Hall as part of preparatory work for possible future development. The work was funded by the Parochial Church Council (PCC) of All Saints Church, Oakham and the finds and archive are with LM (A30.1995). The excavation, which lay on the northern edge of medieval Oakham, consisted of a machine excavated L-shaped trench, measuring 22m by 1.60m. The natural subsoil was encountered at a depth of 1.50m, and a single shallow pit was identified cutting this which was sealed by a layer of yellowish brown clay, c. 0.35m thick, containing five features, consisting of a possible linear ditch, orientated north-south and, on the same alignment, a stone wall footing adjacent to post-hole. At the eastern end of the trench a small area of scorched clay and a small pit were identified. All these features were sealed by two post-medieval spreads of light brown clay, which had a combined thickness of 0.30m. Sealing these layers was a 0.5m thick deposit of more modern garden soil. A second small trench was excavated close to the street frontage. This measured 1.5m by 0.75m. Natural ground was located at 1.02m below the modern ground level and although no definite archaeological features were identified, the thick layers of buried garden soil, that were identified to the rear, were again present.

Although the features were dispersed the presence of Roman and medieval pottery suggests occupation in the vicinity. The post-medieval overburden sealing this site is much thicker than any usual field soil deposit or any accumulation that may be expected in levelling of the site, and has protected any surviving deposits to a much greater extent than is normal in Oakham.

36/38 Northgate, Oakham (SK 858 087)

Tim Higgins

A small housing development was proposed at this site within the area of medieval Oakham. Consequently an evaluation was commissioned by Mr A K. Weir and was carried out in April 1995 by LAU under the direction of Tim Higgins. The finds and archive are with LM (A29.1995). Three trenches were excavated by machine to sample an area of 32 sq. metres. Modern levels were removed to expose either archaeological levels or, at a depth of 0.27m, the natural ground. The archaeological deposits were all to some degree truncated by modern building disturbances. The earliest archaeological evidence was indicated by possible Iron Age/Roman pottery sherds found in a buried layer of garden soil of probable 14th century date. Although residual these few sherds could suggest Roman or Iron Age activity in this area. Besides the garden soil a light scattering of medieval features was found including a small pit and post-hole, which contained pottery dated to the 14th/15th century. Other features found in association with these could be of a similar date. These consisted of a

gully, two spreads, a post-hole and a stone spread which were all sealed by post-medieval features and modern top soil.

This thin spread of features suggests that either the site is peripheral to areas of medieval activity or the medieval activities on the site left only a slight imprint on underlying levels and hence have been mainly removed by modern activities. A similar pattern of activity was identified during the watching brief on the building work carried out by Simon Cox for LAU.

Rushey Lane, Rothley (SK 566 145)

Andrew Richmond

Evaluation work, under the direction of Andrew Richmond, was carried out in Rushey Lane, Rothley to the south-west of the Wood Lane, Mountsorrel site (above p.00) by Tempvs Reparatum on behalf of Redland Aggregates Limited in a further area of proposed granite extraction. This identified some post-medieval brick waste pits.

Whitwell, Bull Brig Lane (SK 923 083)

Tim Higgins

Two evaluation trenches were dug in the car park of the bicycle centre, on Rutland Water, for Mr D. J. Archer, by Tim Higgins of ULAS. Iron Age deposits are known from the general area, but neither trench produced any evidence of archaeological or modern earthfast features.

WATCHING-BRIEFS

Appleby Magna, Top Street (SK 317 097)

Tim Higgins

Work prior to construction on this site, within the historic core of the village, was watched by Tim Higgins of ULAS, funded by Foxpark Ltd. It lies immediately south-east of a scheduled medieval moated site. No significant archaeological deposits were located, and finds were confined to artefacts of post-medieval date.

Ashby Woulds, Wood Farm and Shellbrook Farm (SK 328 158)

Patrick Clay

A watching brief was undertaken by ULAS during opencast coal mining, funded by R. J. Budge (Mining) Ltd on fields previously walked by LMAST. The former reinforced evidence from the latter for the presence of an 18th-19th century pottery kiln. No early coal workings were located below the two fields watched.

Barkby Thorpe, Hamilton Lane (SK 645 074)

Sally Warren

Road edge repairs and the installation of drains close to the deserted medieval village of Hamilton (a Scheduled Ancient Monument) were watched by Sally Warren of ULAS, funded by Leicestershire County Council Dept. of Planning and Transportation. This revealed possible stone footings which might have been part of a

building, and two areas of cobbles relating to a hollow way and to early metallings of Hamilton Lane.

Belton, Grace Dieu Priory (SK 435 183)

Richard Pollard

Post-holes for a cattle fence enclosing the ruins of the Augustinian nunnery (a Scheduled Ancient Monument) (Liddle 1995, pp.14-17) were recorded by Richard Pollard of LMAST. Archaeological contexts were visible in several of the holes, giving hints of the different activities that took place during the life of the priory and later mansion. A stone sarcophagus was uncovered, apparently *in situ*. Finds and archive are with LM (A48.1996).

Bibliography

Liddle, P., with O'Brien, L., 1995 'The Archaeology of the abbeys and priories of Leicestershire', *TLAHS*, 69, pp.1-21

Braunston, Braunston Manor (SK 834 065)

Elaine L Jones

Re-development by Sandlewood Homes was observed by Elaine L. Jones of ULAS. Features were revealed which may relate to a late Roman building. Pottery was recovered of late 3rd-4th century date. Other pottery found included Anglo-Saxon material probably of the late 5th-6th centuries and Saxo-Norman Stamford ware. The finds and archive are with LM (A1.1996).

A visual inspection of Braunston Manor itself by David Smith for ULAS confirmed that most of the original fabric had been removed internally and the proposals would not affect features of historic importance. The roof, much of which is possibly original, was not affected by repair work.

Castle Donington, Delven Lane (SK 446 272)

Richard Pollard

A small housing development by Donington Business Services within the historic core was observed by Bruce Townsend and Richard Pollard for LMAST. No significant archaeological deposits were located, and the only finds were of 19th-20th century date.

Cotesbach, Main Road (SP 549 824)

Brian Burningham

Construction work for a bungalow was watched by Brian Burningham for LMAST. A brick-lined cesspit was reported by construction works, but no significant archaeological deposits or finds were recorded.

Croft, ECC Quarry Access Road Construction (SP 521 958)

James Meek

An archaeological watching brief was carried out on behalf of ECC Quarries plc during May 1995 by members of LAU under the direction of James Meek. The stripping of a temporary roadline prior to the construction of a new access road from

the B4114 to Croft Hill Quarry was monitored. This area lay on the north-eastern edge of Croft within the flood plain of the River Soar with underlying geology of sand and gravel. The topsoil stripping throughout three fields did not uncover any archaeological deposits datable before the medieval period. In all three fields the presence of furrows parallel with the B4114 was noted. The pottery found within the field is likely to be the result of muck spreading over the field in the post-medieval period. Differences in the subsoils may relate to alluvial build up, especially in fields 1 and 2, and this may mask earlier underlying archaeology. All finds and archive are with LM (A33.1995).

Freeby: Stapleford (SK 812 188)

Richard Pollard

Melton Fieldworkers and Richard Pollard of LMAST, observed flood alleviation works on the River Eye carried out by the National Rivers Authority at the almshouses and adjacent water mill house. Artefacts associated with the 18th century buildings were recorded.

Gaddesby: Ashby Folville (c. SK 708 119)

Richard Pollard

A watching brief and salvage recording were undertaken by Richard Pollard of LMAST during a flood alleviation scheme on Gaddesby Brook by the National Rivers Authority. Work involved the exposure and in part destruction of, elements of the early 17th century formal gardens of the Manor House (Hartley 1987, p.5 and p.17, Fig.3), immediately east of the ornamental moat. Stone structures interpreted as garden walls and terrace revetments were recorded in two areas. Unstratified finds include post-medieval pottery, but also a handful of sherds of Roman and medieval date.

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Bridge Farm, Ryhall Rd, Great Casterton (TF 001 091)

Sally Warren

The building of a bungalow to the rear of the plot at Bridge Farm required that all subsurface excavations were archaeologically monitored and all archaeological levels exposed were excavated and recorded. This work was carried out by LAU, under the direction of Sally Warren, between April and June 1995. The finds are with LM (A31.1995). The work was funded by the developer M & E Electrical Services. The site is within the area of the small Roman town upon which most of Great Casterton is built and lies on the line of the town's defences.

Most of the archaeological levels identified reflect the levels identified in the controlled section through the ramparts carried out in 1950, 200m to the east (Corder 1951). No deposits relating to the rampart were located, although a stone deposit was found very close to the line of the town wall and may represent rubble from the robbing of that wall. In the rest of the area examined the modern truncation of Roman levels had removed all traces of the substantial wall and rampart which made up the

town's defences. Although pre-defensive structures survived, these consisted entirely of an extensive clayey silt layer cut by a number of pits. No evidence of any other type of occupation was identified, which parallels the evidence from the 1950 excavation.

The only significant dating evidence, the Roman pottery, was recovered from the levels below the defences and this indicated a date of early-middle 2nd century. The defences have been dated approximately to between the late 2nd and early 3rd century, thus the finds recovered here do fit into the accepted dating sequence. Otherwise the type of finds recovered are typical of small Roman rubbish deposits of this period.

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Grimston, Hives Farm (SK 686 219)

Richard Pollard

Melton Fieldworkers, with Richard Pollard of LMAST, watched a small housing development immediately east of St. John's church. Early medieval finds were recovered from a hearth, and a previously unknown 10m section of stone wall was drawn - part of an older churchyard boundary. Two lime kilns were exposed in machine cutting-back of the present boundary, 10m east of the chancel; a baked clay sample was removed for luminescence dating. Ironstone wall foundations, undated, were recorded under the farmyard.

Hinckley, between Ashby Road and Leicester Road (SP 433 955, SP 451 962)

Patrick Clay

A watch was undertaken by ULAS for Leicestershire County Council Dept. of Planning & Transportation during construction of the Hinckley Northern Perimeter Road (Stages 11 and 12). No significant archaeological remains were located, although a late 19th century deposit of pottery and bottles were encountered east of Barwell Lane (SP 444 960).

Kilby: Foston, Foston Hall Farm (SP 604 949)

Tim Higgins

Stanchion holes for a new barn were observed by Tim Higgins of ULAS for Mr B. Renshaw. Earthwork makeup deposits were recorded; although no dating evidence was obtained, they are likely to be connected with the nearby deserted medieval village. No other significant archaeological deposits were encountered, and no material recovered.

Kimcote and Walton: Walton, Park Lane (SP 5965 8718)

Richard Pollard

Mechanical excavation of foundation trenches for a house on the edge of the historic village core was monitored by Richard Pollard of LMAST. An undated pit with charcoal-rich fill was recorded, and sherds of post-medieval pottery collected from the spoil. The archive and finds are with LM (A98.1995).

Leicester City Centre Mains Renewal (SK 580 045)

Richard Knox

An archaeological watching brief was carried out by LMAST monitoring trial holes excavated by Severn Trent Water, who funded the work as part of a mains renewal scheme. Nineteen trial holes were examined in the Newarke, Gateway St., Newarke Close, Richmond St., Station Rd., Fox St., Waterloo St., South Albion St., Dunkirk St., Dover St., Wellington St., Albion St., Charles St. and Bishop St. in May 1995. All the holes were excavated to around one metre deep but only in the Newarke, where dressed building stone was identified, was any indication of archaeological levels identified. The archive is with LM.

Castle Gardens, Leicester (SK 5818 0415)

Dawn Harvey

In March 1995 the planting of eight trees in the Castle gardens necessitated the digging of 1.5m square, 0.9m deep, trenches and this work was monitored by LAU under the direction of Simon Cox. This work was carried out by the Leicestershire County Council's Department of Planning and Transportation, who funded the archaeological work. The fill in the trenches consisted of clays and sandy clays with large quantities of masonry fragments with some residual Roman building material also present. The levels uncovered represent the extensive levelling of the area in the 1920s in preparation for the establishment of the gardens. The residual material indicates that some destruction of archaeological levels must have occurred at that time, but to the depth investigated no intact archaeological levels were identified. The finds and archive are with LM (A18.1995).

Leicester, York Road/Oxford Street (SK 5856 0396)

Tim Higgins

Excavation of the foundations for a new boundary wall to the car park, fronting Oxford Street, was observed by Tim Higgins of ULAS for Republic Car Parking Ltd., opposite the Bonners Lane site of 1993 (*TLAHS*, 68, pp.165-70). No archaeological deposits were identified and no finds retained.

Leicester, Scraftoft: between Abbots Road and Scraftoft Lane (SK 462 305)

Matthew Beamish

A watching brief was undertaken during the excavation of engineers' trial holes in advance of proposed road construction. Matthew Beamish of ULAS conducted the work for Leicestershire County Council Dept. of Planning & Transportation. No significant archaeological deposits were located within the trial holes.

Lockington - Hemington, Hemington Pit, Tamworth Road (SK c. 464 305)

Matthew Beamish

The watching brief maintained under a Section 106 Agreement between Leicestershire County Council and Ennemix Construction Materials Ltd (*TLAHS*, 69, p.129) continued throughout 1995 by Matthew Beamish of LAU and later ULAS. Quarrying of the Phase 2 area continued, involving archaeological surveys of features, and

sampling for pollen, radiocarbon dating and environmental macro fossils. Few further timbers have been recovered, although one stray piece recovered by Dr C.R. Salisbury bears blade marks. Other work has involved the surveying of a Devensian channel and a series of lumps of redeposited silts (clasts). Two radiocarbon dates from one channel are in conflict, providing one date in the Bronze Age and another between 440 and 665 AD.

Long Whatton, Main Street (SK 482 234)

Richard Pollard

Anne Tarver of the Loughborough Archaeological and Historical Society watched a housing development west of Mill Lane for LMAST, on the site of the original rectory. No evidence of this building was observed, although a cobbled yard was exposed. A sherd of medieval pottery, and another of Midland Purple ware (late medieval to early post-medieval), were recovered.

Richard Pollard of LMAST observed the digging of an electricity service trench to serve the above development, some 10m south-east of the earthworks (a Scheduled Ancient Monument) which lie north-east of Manor Farm (Hartley 1984, p.27 and Fig.34). No archaeological deposits were recorded and no finds recovered.

Bibliography

Hartley, R.F., 1984. *The Medieval Earthworks of North West Leicestershire*. Leicester: Leicestershire Museums, Arts and Records Service

Melton Mowbray, Norman Way (SK 7515 1955)

Richard Pollard

Melton Fieldworkers watched the construction of an extension to Gloucester House. A pit containing 19th century material was revealed and one sherd of early Anglo-Saxon pottery retrieved from spoil.

Melton Mowbray, Thorpe End/Rosebery Avenue (SK 755 191)

Richard Pollard

Melton Fieldworkers, assisted by Richard Pollard of LMAST, undertook a watching brief and salvage recording during development of a McDonalds restaurant. A hearth containing early medieval pottery, and two late medieval ironstone house plinths reused by 18th century brick cottages were recorded, along with earthfast features not interpreted at the time of writing. Evidence of a known early 17th century tobacco pipe factory was also recovered. The finds and archive are with the Melton Fieldworkers for post-excavation work, to be deposited with LM (A136.1995).

Mountsorrel, Hales Land (SK 578 135)

Patrick Clay

ULAS undertook a watching brief in the northern corner of the housing development site, for William Davis Homes Ltd. This followed evaluation in 1993 by Cotswold Archaeological Trust (*TLAHS*, 68, p.178) and consequent work in 1994 by LAU (*TLAHS*, 69, pp.117-8). No significant archaeological deposits were located in the 1995 work.

Oakham, Church Street, All Saints Church (SK 860 089) Richard Pollard and
Simon Cox

A watching-brief was commissioned by the Parochial Church Council to monitor repairs and renovation within the church, including the laying of new floors. Simon Cox undertook the watch for ULAS and further work was subsequently undertaken by Richard Pollard (LMAST) and Elaine Jones and Jenny Mallet of the Rutland Local History and Record Society (RLHRS). This followed an evaluation (above, p.00), which successfully predicted the levels of archaeological deposits in all areas.

In the Trinity Chapel stratigraphic evidence indicated that, as expected, the chapel was later than the chancel. Some possible graves were identified but not investigated while in the north aisle and transept a possible dividing wall between the nave and the chancel was identified which probably belonged to an early phase of building. Evidence of make-up levels for earlier floors was identified, one of which could be contemporary with the 14th century construction of the nave piers. In the south aisle and transept it appeared that the foundation for the south wall of the nave had also been used as the foundation for an earlier building, possibly for an external wall. Within the nave a base of a possible earlier pier and a fragment of an earlier foundation was also identified while in the choir vestry further evidence of possibly earlier piers and floor levels was located.

Evidence for the reuse of foundations earlier than the existing fabric of the church was found widely. In some cases these foundations correspond broadly in location to existing, generally late 13th or 14th century, structures. In other cases - for instance a possible wall foundation between the nave and the north aisle, and wall foundations on a line corresponding to the present Lady chapel and chancel entrances - they presumably belong to the earliest stone church, of the late 12th/early 13th century. Their position supports the view that this earlier church occupied the same area as the present building except that it did not extend eastward beyond the present chancel arch. The church in this form may itself have been the cumulation of earlier phases. There is reason to suppose that the south porch, and other parts of the 'first' stone church, may have been added piecemeal. Cut stone which lines ducts associated with the 19th century renovations is presumably derived from the fabric of the church, implying that some evidence for the earlier phases of the church is lost irrecoverably. Work beneath the tower was recorded by Elaine Jones and Jenny Mallet. This demonstrated that beneath the four medieval piers lay stone foundations suggestive of earlier church remains utilised by the piers. The archive and finds are with LM (A17.1995).

**Quorn, Church Lane, St. Bartholomew's Church
(SK 561 165)**

Tim Higgins and Sally Warren

Proposals to construct an extension which would wrap around the north-west corner of the north aisle (of 1841-2) led to a watching brief on groundworks and a survey of those parts of the north face of the late 14th century tower to be obscured by the new building. The work was begun by LAU and completed by ULAS, being undertaken by Fred Hartley (LMAST), Tim Higgins and Sally Warren. No archaeological deposits were revealed by the groundworks. The archive, including the measured drawing and photographs of the tower, are with LM (Sites and Monuments Record 51NE.BB).

Seaton, Thompsons Lane (SP 90 98)

Richard Pollard

Groundworks associated with a driveway and reduction of the slope to the rear of a house were monitored by Richard Pollard and Richard Knox of LMAST. Previous finds of inhumations and an Anglo-Saxon cremation urn had been made in an adjacent property (*TLAHS*, 56, p.120; 63, p.120; unpublished). Two cuts were recorded in section, and the two properties were surveyed to tie in the various findspots, but no dating evidence and no bones were recovered to substantiate the assumption that the inhumations were of Anglo-Saxon date.

A total of six earthfast features has now been identified, of which three have been shown to contain human bone. One of these was recorded in 1989 by Peter Liddle of LMAST with a team of students from Leicester University. This lay supine, with lower legs crossed. The skeleton was incomplete when found owing to the acidic sand in which it was buried. It was probably a male, of around 1.68m in height and of a fairly advanced age (archive report by Ben St. John Hobbs). The grave cut was lined with flat sandstone fragments, but there were no grave goods. Two sherds of Roman pottery and one resembling early Saxon ware, were recovered from the grave fill. The archive is with LM (Sites and Monuments Record 99NW.R).

Smeeton Westerby, Westerby Lane (SP 675 925)

Richard Pollard

Foundation trenches for two dwellings were observed by Jo McComiskey for, and Richard Pollard of, LMAST. Cobbled footings were recorded, and a local resident recalled that a mud walled cottage on the site had been demolished in the early 20th century. Sherds of post-medieval pottery were recovered (LM A100.1995).

Twyford, Main Street (SK 729 311)

Richard Pollard

Melton Fieldworkers watched a small housing development at Elms Farm. A stone half cellar was revealed below the demolished farmhouse, and fully recorded by P. J. Roberts. A possible Norman date has been proposed by the Buildings Conservation Section of Leicestershire County Council, Dept. of Planning & Transportation. Ironstone foundations of a farmhouse complex were also recorded, and early medieval pottery recovered. The finds and records are with the Melton Fieldworkers for completion of post-excavation work and pending a final decision on ownership. Copies of the cellar survey are held by LM (planning application 95/0072).

Uppingham, South View (SP 8676 9956)

Richard Pollard

Saxo-Norman Stamford ware pottery associated with iron slag was recovered from an ironstone rubble layer re recorded during building work at Meadowsweet Nursery, by the Rutland Local History and Record Society (*Rutland Record*, 16 (1996), p.282).

Whitwell, Home Farm (SK 925 089)

Elaine L Jones

A watching brief was conducted on this site on the A606 by Elaine Jones of ULAS for Globalprime Ltd during construction work. This produced evidence of an undated stone wall abutted by colluvium; this unmortared wall may be of archaeological significance.

FIELDWORK IN LEICESTERSHIRE 1995 by *Richard Knox and Peter Liddle***Barwell (SP 43 97)**

Hinckley Fieldwork Group have found a well-defined scatter of Roman pottery indicating an occupation site.

Bringham (SP 84 91)

Anne Wallis has recovered more sherds of Anglo-Saxon pottery from the modern cemetery on the hill top.

Cossington (SK 60 12)

Brian Kimberley and Brian Biddle have recovered a group of Roman pottery and metal objects, including an Anglo-Saxon brooch.

Croxtan Kerrial (SK 81 28)

The Melton Fieldworkers have recorded a standing barrow within woodland at Branston and have noted the former existence of another close by.

Egleton (SK 87 08)

Rutland Local History and Record Society Archaeology Group (RLHRS) have found a large early Bronze Age flint scatter on a prehistoric cropmark site. Some possible Mesolithic flint was found within the scatter and a group of Roman and early Anglo-Saxon pottery was recovered associated with iron slag.

Frolesworth (SP 49 90)

Hinckley Fieldwork Group have found a good scatter of Roman pottery and a few sherds of Anglo-Saxon pottery. They also found flint blades.

Gaddesby (Ashby Folville) (SK 71 11)

Melton and Belvoir Coin and Search Society have located a Roman site revealed by a scatter of pottery and metal objects. The site was also visited by the Melton Fieldworkers.

Great Stretton (SK 66 00)

Oadby and Wigston Fieldwork Group have fieldwalked an Iron Age, Roman and Anglo-Saxon site.

Greetham (SK 93 14)

RLHRS has visited the new extension to Greetham Quarry and reports large amounts of prehistoric flint and a quern fragment.

Hambleton (SK 91 06)

Elaine Jones has located an Iron Age and Roman site eroded on the banks of Rutland Water. A segment of a ring gully and a linear feature were noted and sketch planned.

Leicester: Burnmoor Street (SK 58 03)

Max Joyce reports considerable quantities of medieval pottery, partly contained in a pit, in two adjoining gardens in Burnmoor Street, suggesting 12th - 13th century occupation in this area.

Lutterworth (SP 52 83)

The Lutterworth Group report a small scatter of Roman pottery and some prehistoric flint.

Lutterworth (SP 55 85)

The Lutterworth Group have found further flint scatters including a polished stone axe.

Lyddington (SP 87 96)

RLHRS have located a group of Late Iron Age and early Roman pottery during a watching brief.

Martinthorpe (SK 86 04)

RLHRS have fieldwalked around the deserted village site and have recovered early medieval pottery including Stamford Ware.

Measham (SK 34 11)

During a small scale survey, LMAST have recovered a small scatter of Roman pottery, but its significance is not yet known.

Misterton (SP 54 83)

The Lutterworth Group report a large scatter of good quality flint including scrapers, an arrowhead and possible microliths.

Newtown Linford (SK 54 09)

Brian Kimberley has found a Roman occupation and possible tile kiln site, south of Cropston. There are also kiln bars suggesting pottery production.

Oadby (SK 63 00)

The Oadby and Wigston Fieldwork Group undertook a watching brief during soil stripping for a Leicester University playing field adjacent to the Gartree Road. Iron Age and Roman occupation was found. A rescue excavation by ULAS was then undertaken.

Stonton Wyville

LMAST have fieldwalked all the arable land of Mill Farm, recorded earthworks and researched the documentary evidence for the parish.

Stonton Wyville (SP 73 96)

LMAST have found a Roman site close to the Gartree Road. There was a dense scatter of Roman pottery and two sherds of Late Iron Age pottery.

Stonton Wyville (SP 73 95)

LMAST have found Iron Age and Anglo-Saxon scatters very close together (but centred slightly differently). In the same area is a significant flint scatter.

Stonton Wyville (SP 73 94)

LMAST have found a large Anglo-Saxon scatter. Roman material suggests an occupation site to the east (probably centred under grassland). In the same area there was a significant flint scatter and a sherd of Late Bronze Age/Early Iron Age pottery.

Stoughton (SK 64 01)

Howard Ketteringham has found Roman pottery and metalwork and possible Anglo-Saxon pottery and a brooch adjacent to the Gartree Road.

Stoughton (SK 63 01)

The Oadby and Wigston Group have found Anglo-Saxon pottery possibly indicating an occupation site.

Sutton Cheney (SP 37 99)

The Hinckley Fieldwork Group have found a Roman occupation site.

Sutton Cheney (SP 40 00)

Carl Dawson, Peter Riley and LMAST have found a Roman occupation site which has also yielded one kiln bar fragment.

Thurcaston (SK 57 11)

Brian Kimberley has found a Roman occupation site, a pottery kiln and a possible tile kiln.

Thurcaston (SK 55 10)

Brian Kimberley has found a Roman occupation site and pottery kiln near Cropston.

Worthington (SK 41 00)

During a small scale survey LMAST have found a small Mesolithic flint scatter. Nearby, the site of a row of squatters' cottages on the edge of a common was examined. The site was indicated by huge amounts of post-medieval pottery, and one ruined cottage. The earliest pottery suggested a late medieval origin.

Report of the Leicestershire Museums Archaeological Survey Team for 1995

In 1995 the archaeological organisation of Leicestershire saw the biggest shake up since 1976 when the Survey Team and the Archaeological Unit were created. At the end of June 1995 the Unit was closed following a decision by the County Council to cut £65,000 from the archaeological budget and disengage from developer-funded excavation. To maintain some of the functions of the Unit, two staff were transferred to the Archaeology Section and one additional post was created with English Heritage support.

The Survey Team now consists of six staff (although one post is vacant as Fred Hartley, a member of the Team since 1979, has been appointed Keeper of Harborough Museum). Two staff, Anne Graf and Richard Clark, now provide the planning service to County and District Councils. Richard Pollard, who transferred from the Unit, has taken on the role of Field Archaeologist undertaking watching briefs, and liaising with and training local archaeologists to fulfil this role. He is also developing the Leicestershire Archaeological Network, an initiative to link Parish Councils and Meetings into archaeology.

Richard Knox maintains the Leicestershire Sites and Monuments Record, the main archive of archaeological information about Leicestershire, and has been involved in

preliminary work on the Urban Archaeological Database for Leicester and to upgrade the Sites and Monuments Record.

Fieldwork projects included the Epinal Way Extension at Loughborough, Cliffe Hill Quarry Extension at Worthington, the Minorca Opencast site at Measham and a Survey Grant for Presentation scheme at Mill Farm, Stonton Wyville, funded by English Heritage. This has led to a series of leaflet-guided trails around Mill Farm and a display at Harborough Museum, which will transfer to Jewry Wall Museum and finally to Mill Farm itself. Progress with Grace Dieu Priory, which was surveyed in 1994 in advance of a consolidation and presentation scheme, was slow but may bear fruit in terms of limited public access in 1996 which may become more extensive in 1997.

The 'Community Archaeology Programme' has continued to run successfully with some 15 local groups running under the umbrella of the county-wide Leicestershire Museums Archaeological Fieldwork Group. Development work continues in other parts of the county and new groups may be expected. Fully paid up membership at the end of 1995 is 260, and this represents an increase of 30 over the year. The lecture and training programme continues and coach trips in the summer were a successful innovation with trips to the medieval religious houses of North-West Leicestershire and to Fishbourne and Bignor. The events programme has also continued with two events: 'By the Wars Divided' in May, and 'Bringing The Past To Life' in August. Each attracted over 2,000 visitors.

Finally, the re-structuring of the archaeological services has allowed the appointment of an Assistant Keeper, Archaeology. John Lucas has transferred from the unit into this post, and in addition to conventional AK duties, will be responsible for integrating collections held by the Unit into the collection and managing the post-excavation programme. Bob Rutland continues as Keeper of Archaeology and has responsibility for the whole archaeological service.

Peter Liddle
Archaeological Survey Officer

Reviews

Knighton's Chronicle, 1337-1396, ed. and trans. by G. H. Martin. Oxford: Clarendon Press, 1995. 670pp. 4 maps, 2 plates. £75.00. ISBN 0 19 820503 1

The edition of Knighton's Chronicle which appeared in the Rolls Series in two volumes in 1889 and 1895 left both Henry Knighton and his Chronicle in desperate need of re-evaluation. The editor, J. R. Lumby, believed that the important contemporary part of the Chronicle was not written by Knighton but by a hypothetical 'continuator'; and, of the two surviving texts, Lumby chose to use not the fourteenth-century manuscript but a fifteenth-century copy of it. His excuse, that the earlier manuscript had been 'sadly damaged' in the Cottonian fire of 1731, is untenable: the damage is minimal (and the text could be checked against the 1652 edition of it by Sir Roger Twysden). For more than half a century, the 'continuator' was credited with writing the most valuable part of Knighton's Chronicle: it was not until 1957 that Henry Knighton was re-established by V. H. Galbraith as the undoubted author of all his Chronicle. And now, a century after Lumby, Professor G. H. Martin's new critical edition of the later part of the Chronicle uses the earlier manuscript, which was corrected under Knighton's own supervision and may be partly written in his own hand. Moreover, there is a welcome bonus (a feature of the Oxford Medieval Text series, to which this volume belongs) of an expert translation into English, printed on pages facing the Latin text. It is the first English translation of Knighton, and it is highly readable. It will make the Chronicle widely accessible.

Professor Martin also provides a masterly introduction, in which the complicated story of the writing of the Chronicle is made clear; and he contributes refinements to its dating. Knighton, an Augustinian canon of Leicester Abbey from c.1363 to 1396, began as early as 1378, Martin suggests, to write a Chronicle of his own time, from the death of Edward III in 1377. Then he decided to preface his contemporary chronicle with a history of England from 1066. For the period 1066-1337 he was able to rely on two manuscripts in the Abbey's library, Higden's Polychronicon, which he cites as Cistrensis, and a version of the chronicle of Walter of Guisborough which had been extended and interpolated with local material in Leicester, which he calls Leycestrensis. But Leycestrensis ended in 1326, and Cistrensis in 1337. Consequently, from 1337 Knighton was, as he says, on his own. He had a 40-year gap to fill, between 1337 and his contemporary account of events from 1377 which he was writing at the same time as compiling the earlier history. For both sections, beginning in 1337 and in 1377, he made use of official and semi-official documents, newsletters, correspondence, and personal communication. It is this part of his Chronicle that is an independent source, and which is edited and translated in the present volume.

Knighton did not live to complete the narrative of the 40-year gap; but although it ends in 1367, Martin points out that some sentences about future events, including the marriage of Edward III's son Edmund in 1372, narrow the remaining gap to three years (not the ten years claimed hitherto) since the contemporary part looks back to 1376. The contemporary section ends in 1396, when Knighton is thought to have died: it is a major source for the reign of Richard II and for the rise of Lollardy.

For Leicestershire readers, Knighton's Chronicle has an extra importance since, although Leicester Abbey was both topographically and politically somewhat detached from the town of Leicester, it includes valuable local material when the matter was

incidental to the Abbey's interests. The widely unpopular John of Gaunt was, for Leicester Abbey, as earl of Leicester a successor of the founder; he is always described as 'the good duke (pius dux)' and represented in a favourable light. Although Knighton himself thoroughly disapproved of the Lollards, the presence in Leicester Abbey of Philip Repingdon, a leading Wycliffite when at Oxford, meant that there were revealing documents available to be included in the Chronicle, as well as information about Leicester's popular Lollardy, the most notable Wycliffite movement to grow up outside Oxford. There are graphic local touches: William Swinderby, whose Lollard preaching attracted greater numbers after than before it was proscribed, found an impromptu pulpit in a Leicester street by standing between two millstones which happened to be there for sale. Prices in Leicester market are occasionally noted, probably because Leicester Abbey was a supplier rather than a purchaser. Leicester's high mortality from the Black Death in 1349 is recorded: more than 380 died in the small parish of St Leonard's, 400 in St Martin's, and 700 in St Margaret's. When the Black Death recurred in 1361, eleven of the canons of Leicester Abbey died. In 1381, after the sack of John of Gaunt's palace of the Savoy in London, it was rumoured that rebels were making for Leicester to destroy his castle there. Led by the mayor, the townspeople formed an armed guard opposite the present Victoria Park gates, to repel the invaders; while the movables in the castle were packed into carts in hope of sanctuary in Leicester Abbey, which the abbot was too timid to allow.

The Abbey was a centre of hospitality for important travellers: thus Henry Knighton was well placed to hear news of court and country. He had a lively interest in public affairs, and he loved a good story. All this is brilliantly captured in Martin's translation, as the following extract from verses describing a Lollard's disrespectful use of the wood from a statue of St Katherine may serve to illustrate:

we hoped and prayed for firing, and the saints have taken heed,
For Kate has very kindly come to satisfy our need.
We can split her with the hatchet, and feed her to the fire,
And cook our blessed supper on a truly holy pyre.

While the fluent translation will attract new readers to Knighton's narrative, the illuminating footnotes provide scholarly information about the text.

A. K. B. Evans

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The transformation of a peasant economy. Townspeople and villagers in the Lutterworth area 1500-1700 by John Goodacre. Aldershot: Scolar, 1994. 322 pp.; illus. £49.50. ISBN 1 85928 073 0

For an historian with an interest in the growth and development of towns, reading this book has been an intensely frustrating experience! One sentence sums up this reviewer's feelings: 'for a study in urban history this chapter [chapter 4] may seem perversely preoccupied with village and rural matters', and indeed there are times when Lutterworth seems to be less important to the author than its rural surroundings as he shies away from the urban sprawl to return with relief to the countryside. But it is worth persevering, for as the author goes on to argue, there is a strong case for analysing the growth of a town in its context, in this case against the economy of the area as a whole. The town is not the central figure in this drama: the real hero is the

transformed local economy, and the revolution which took place between the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries, reflected in the changing fortunes of the local market town. This is not a history of Lutterworth, but rather the history of an agrarian revolution which affected the peasant farmer, turning him into a capitalist farmer. Lutterworth has an important part in this drama, but it is not a starring role.

Hence, the author proceeds to approach his analysis of the economy of Lutterworth crabwise - every time the spire of Lutterworth parish church is glimpsed on the horizon, the reader is advised against rushing into its streets and is taken on a tour through the surrounding villages yet again. At each stage in this book, a didactic note is struck: 'to take Lutterworth as a typical market town, it is necessary first to characterize the market town in general ... before that the market town will be defined by setting it in context as the lowest urban category ...'. The advantage of this approach is that it leaves the reader in no doubt as to where the text is going, although it tends to emphasise the oblique methodology in the tenacious pursuit of every rural byway before the main highway is reached. Thus we have to proceed through chapters classifying urban and rural communities, population and poverty in the area and the farming economy before arriving at what is arguably the core of the book, the town economy. It is only then (p. 148ff) that the reader is reassured of the importance of Lutterworth to the study as a whole, and the concluding chapter of the book reemphasises the interdependence of the whole local economy on this market town.

The author stresses that Lutterworth was thoroughly unremarkable, and had John Wycliffe not died there, there would have been little to differentiate it from dozens of other market towns in England - indeed it is this lack of singularity which, perversely, attracted the author to devote so much time to it. For it gives him a touchstone against which to test the theories of various historians about changes in society and the economy. Essentially, what is a very closely-written and detailed piece of local research, using the widest possible documentary base, is used to fill in the details of the broader brush strokes of Tawney, Kerridge, Dyer and Hilton. An agricultural revolution brought about by the effects of enclosure and of new techniques in farming, has been restored to the mid-seventeenth century by Dr Goodacre, as the background to the Civil War, contrary to the trend of recent historiography.

Some of the most fascinating sections of this book concern the interest of local clergy in contemporary farming practices, exemplified in the life and writings of two men in particular. Joseph Lee, rector of Cotesbach, farmed the enclosed glebe land in the mid-seventeenth century, and was a proponent of 'improving' enclosure, which he contended did not lead to depopulation or to the decay of tillage. John Moore (the younger), rector of Knaptoft and later of Lutterworth, waged a pamphlet war with Lee from 1653, in which he identified enclosure as being at the root of all problems of depopulation, poverty and want. This tension between the two, reflected in writings and sermons, which are quoted to great effect by Dr Goodacre, was epitomised in the distinct development of the enclosed villages and the open-field villages of the area. The doubling in the population of the latter between the mid-sixteenth and mid-seventeenth centuries (and the growth in Lutterworth itself) marked a redistribution of population which was matched by increased mortality and poverty. It was fertile ground for revolutionary pronouncements and unrest.

Dr Goodacre carefully traces the symbiotic relationship between the market town and its surrounding countryside by a close analysis of probate records, backed up by parish registers and any other material which comes to hand. The wealth of the town

was in the hands of its farming community in the first part of the period, then commercial activity took over until by the late seventeenth century, the wealth had shifted to non-farmers. A very interesting section on keepers of public houses leads the author to speculate, with some good evidence, that the commercial business transacted there, and indeed the occupation or trade of the innkeepers themselves, reflected the general character of commercial activity in the town at its various stages.

The book offers many more insights into the development of a small market town, a town where it was never possible to detach changes in its economy and trade from the changing countryside which surrounded it. The author proves his initial contention very successfully, and if the resulting book is not the easiest to read and inwardly digest, it is nonetheless important. The book is of a very high standard of production, and is littered with appropriate illustrations and many maps drawn by the author in his inimitable style. The slightly antiquarian feel is reinforced, for example, by the author's preference for spelling 'show' as 'shew', and by the density of detail about some of the families who figure in this study. Would that the price of this enterprise did not transform the result from a staple to a luxury item in the historian's budget!

Margaret Bonney

Robert Bakewell and the Longhorn Breed of Cattle by Pat Stanley. Ipswich: Farming Press, 1995. x, 156pp.; 14 colour plates, 24 illus. £13.95. ISBN 0 85236 305 2.

Anniversaries often bring welcome recognition to forgotten figures, and the bicentenary of the death of Robert Bakewell (1725-1795), the celebrated eighteenth-century livestock breeder, has been no exception, with a commemorative lecture to this Society in November, a major exhibition at the New Walk Museum between January and March 1996, and this new account of Bakewell and his work by Pat Stanley: the first since H. C. Pawson's *Robert Bakewell* published in 1957. Mrs Stanley's interest in Bakewell clearly derives from her interest in Longhorn cattle which she breeds. With her husband she farms in the Charnwood area of Leicestershire. This interest results in a somewhat curious book, for the study is also a history of Longhorn breed of cattle, with an emphasis which was not represented in Bakewell's own work. The book therefore divides into two parts. The first is concerned with Bakewell himself, concentrating on his work with sheep. Chapter one brings out the experimental and innovative nature of his work. The following three chapters are concerned with sheep, the new Leicester or Dishley breed, and with Bakewell's ram letting and showmanship, ending with a chapter on Bakewell's legacy. The second part seeks to provide a history of the Longhorn breed. She covers Bakewell's breeding techniques, and brings out the differences between Bakewell's emphasis on over-fat beasts to meet the demands for cheap meat from an expanding labour force and the modern taste for lean meat. She also provides some explanation for the disappearance of Bakewell's breeds. The longest chapter gives an account of the revival of the Longhorn. The volume is particularly well illustrated, and the author is to be commended on reproducing a number of previously unpublished illustrations, including a couple of fine colour plates of a pair of longhorn cattle by the well-known animal painter, John Boulton. The volume is without footnotes or references, and not all the sources cited in the text are included in the bibliography, which makes the weight of some her statements, and even her quotations, problematic. All authorities tend to be treated equally and she perhaps over-quotes,

though she had an eye for detail. Despite these reservations, she brings out the significance of Bakewell's contribution as a publicist of new breeding methods, inspiring others to succeed where he did not; an inspiration which, it is clear, is still important today.

David L. Wykes

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Leicester through the ages by Joan Stevenson. Newtown Linford: Kairos Press, 1995. 108pp.; 86 illus. £5.50. ISBN 1 871344 05 0

In this well-illustrated and produced publication, the author surveys the history of Leicester from the Romans to the present day. There are chapters on Roman Leicester, the medieval town, the Reformation and the Civil War. The nineteenth century, the largest section, is treated thematically: 'framework-knitters and violent politics', 'banking and transport', 'Queen and Empire'. The final chapter represents a more personal view of the developments in late twentieth-century Leicester. The text reveals that the author has read widely of the secondary literature to provide a popular account of history of the town. There are a number of minor slips, and occasionally the author allows herself to be carried away from the evidence by her enthusiasm. What sets *Leicester through the ages* apart from similar publications is the quality of the illustrations. Many of the photographs are very recent and have clearly been taken specially for the book, and the quality of the originals and of the reproduction of the half-tones is excellent. Particularly noteworthy are the imaginative 'time-line charts', which record the key local events set against the national background, and the maps which locate buildings and sites mentioned in the text. There is a select bibliography and index. The author has provided a good popular introduction to the history of the Leicester, which can be recommended for anyone who would like to know more about the history of the City.

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