

# Archaeology in Leicestershire and Rutland 1999

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

## LEICESTER

### *ABBEY*

**'The Queen of Bradgate', 93 High Street, Leicester (SK 5844 0456)** Richard Clark

An archaeological watching brief was undertaken by LCMS during alterations. Excavation of an exploratory test pit in the basement of No.93, revealed the remains of a stone built foundation aligned approximately east to west, parallel with the High Street, and 26m from the street frontage. Layers to the south of, and cut by, the rubble wall produced a small amount of medieval and Roman pottery. Post-medieval layers, possibly a pit fill, were recorded to the north of the wall and appeared to partially overlie it. The site archive has been deposited with LCMS (A13.1999).

**Vaughan Way (SK 584 048)**

Richard Clark

LCMS undertook a programme of archaeological observation during the excavation of 27 tree pits along Vaughan Way, between Churchgate and St Peter's Lane. The tree pits were excavated to a depth of *c.* 1.0m and measured approximately 2.0m wide by 4.0m in length. All but two of the tree pits were archaeologically examined, the majority revealing dark brown homogeneous post-medieval 'garden soils', sealed at a depth of between 0.56–0.84m below the makeup and surface of the carriage way and central reservation. These deposits yielded small quantities of Roman to post-medieval pottery. In seven of the pits, *in situ* archaeological remains were noted, including Roman layers adjacent to 84 Vaughan Way, and medieval and post-medieval pitting in the central reservation opposite St Margaret's Baths. The site archive has been deposited with LCMS (A4.1999).

### *BELGRAVE*

**St Peter's Church, Belgrave (SK 593 072)**

Simon Chapman

An archaeological watching brief was undertaken by ULAS during the installation of water and electricity services at St Peter's Church. No significant archaeological deposits were identified, though some human remains recovered from inside the north aisle, which appeared to extend below the granite footings, may relate to an earlier phase of the church. The site archive will be deposited with LCMS (A2.1999).

**BRAUNSTONE****Elmsthorpe Rise (SK 564 035)**

James Albone

Desk-based assessment by APS of proposed development in Braunstone suggested a moderate potential for prehistoric remains and planning permission was subsequently granted with a condition for archaeological monitoring. In the initial stages of this monitoring fragments of prehistoric pottery and flintwork were recovered in one part of the site. Further detailed investigation established that these artefacts were associated with a probable structure, approximately 4m wide by over 10m long, defined by parallel lines of large post holes. Adjacent to this structure was a large pit from which over 600 individual pieces of flint and Late Neolithic – Early Bronze Age pottery were recovered, though only two opposed quadrants of the feature were excavated. Other, though smaller, pits were also identified.

In the area of the post hole structure were a ditch and gully, the latter cut by one of the post holes. A further alignment, approximately 7m long, of smaller post holes was revealed a short distance from the main structure. Many of the features were quite shallow, apparently truncated by medieval agriculture, evident as furrow bases. Investigations are continuing. Finds and records will be deposited with LCMS (A16.1999).

**Rancliffe Crescent (SK 564 039)**

Gary Taylor

A watching brief was carried out by APS during a programme of residential development. Prehistoric and Roman activity had previously been found in the general vicinity of the site, which occupies a boulder clay ridge overlooking Braunstone Brook, a tributary of the River Soar. Research had also indicated the potential for archaeological remains in similar topographic situations.

The investigations revealed an area of probable Iron Age settlement in part of the site. Structural remains included post holes, a post-trench and an eavesdrip gully. Drainage gullies and a pit were also identified. Pottery of probable Iron Age date, together with animal bones, flint flakes, daub, lava stone and a possible hone were recovered both from the features and from the immediate vicinity. No distinct structures were identified though it is likely that more than one phase of occupation is represented. Moreover, the flint is probably of an earlier prehistoric date than the ceramic and other artefacts. Finds and records will be deposited with LCMS (A3.1998).

**CASTLE****54 Gateway Street, Leicester (SK 5848 0376)**

Richard Clark

LCMS undertook a watching brief during a residential development at the corner of Gateway Street and Henshaw Street. The north-western half of the site was extensively disturbed by 19th century cellaring. An apparent buried cultivation horizon, from which an abraded samian sherd was recovered, was observed at a depth of c.1.0m below ground level, sealed by more recent subsoil/makeup and demolition deposits. The site archive has been deposited with LCMS (A12.1999).

**Infirmary Road, Leicester Royal Infirmary Victoria Building (SK 587 037)**

Gary Taylor

A proposal to re-develop land at the Royal Infirmary in Leicester was examined in a



1. Leicester Royal Infirmary: medieval burials cut through by 19th-century hospital walls

programme of research carried out by APS. The site lies on the projected line of the Raw Dykes, a possible Roman aqueduct, and within the grounds of St. Sepulchre, a church founded in the 12th century, but ruinous by the 1570s. In consequence of this archaeological potential, permission for the development was granted subject to a requirement for a watching brief. Despite disturbance caused by 19th century hospital constructions, the investigation revealed that parts of the cemetery of St. Sepulchre's church survived in the area. Over twenty full or partially surviving burials were recorded and the remains of at least thirty individuals recovered.

Orientations of the graves suggested two phases of burial with one group of inhumations being extended west-east and the second aligned south-west to north-east, though there was no evidence to suggest the primary group of interments. The distribution of the burials also indicated the possible northern and eastern limits of the cemetery, though no remains of formal boundaries were revealed. Only one coffin burial, evident from coffin nails, was clearly identified. A possible shroud pin was recovered from a separate burial. A few sherds of 12th century pottery from one burial represented the only dating evidence retrieved from any of the graves.

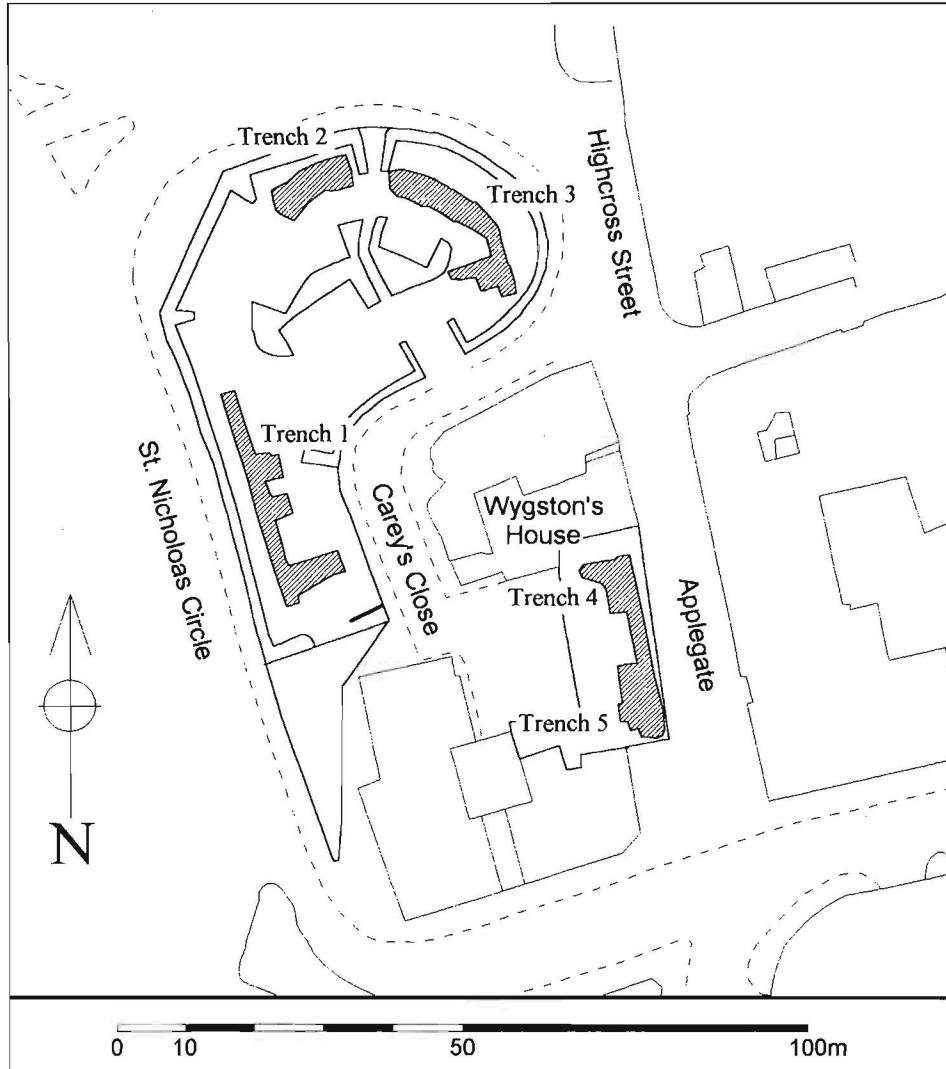
Burials of very young infants (3 months) right through to adults aged 35–45 years were revealed. Close groupings of some of the burials may indicate family plots. Several of the older individuals exhibited evidence of osteoarthritis. An adult male had claw hand deformity, a condition associated with leprosy, and a child of 8–9 years had rickets. An adult female had a chronic pulmonary infection, such as pneumonia or tuberculosis, and one of the older males had suffered a fractured rib and ulna, both injuries having healed. Walls and foundation trenches of the 19th–20th century infirmary buildings had cut through several of the medieval burials. Finds and records will be deposited with LCMS (A20.1998).

**St. Nicholas Place, (SK 584 045)**

James Meek

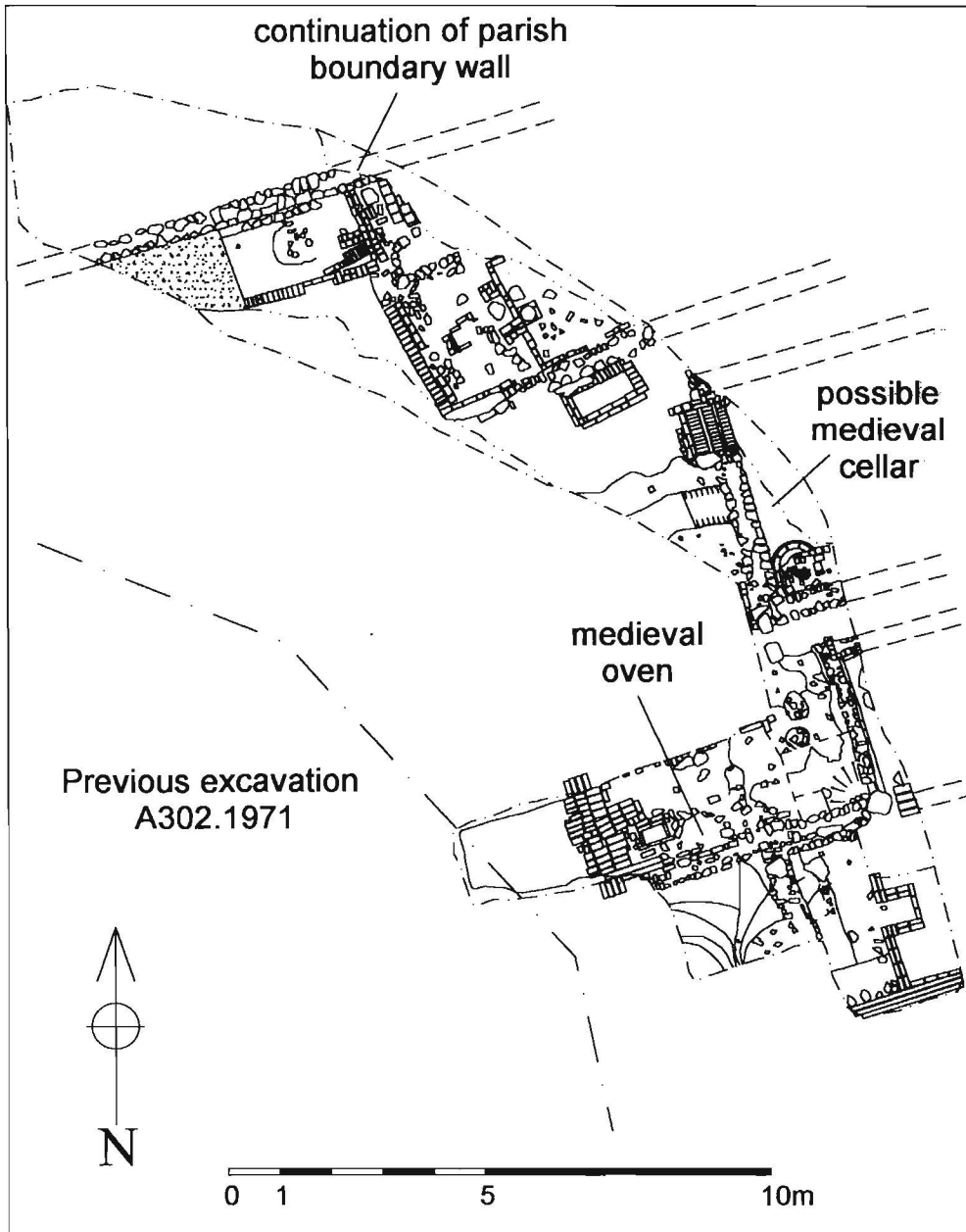
An archaeological evaluation of land at St. Nicholas Place, within the Castle Park and Applegate car parks, was undertaken for Leicester City Council by ULAS during July and August 1999. Previous excavations in the area have revealed information on the south range of the Roman forum below medieval plots, with finds evidence indicating metal and bone working in the area (Hebditch and Mellor 1973; Mellor 1973)

An initial stage of archaeological evaluation was undertaken using ground probing radar, undertaken by *Stratascan*. This was followed by the excavation of four evaluation trenches machined onto the top of the surviving archaeological deposits (illus. 2).



2. St. Nicholas Place: trench location plan





3. St. Nicholas Place: evaluation trench

Trench 1 was located in the southern part of the Castle Park Car Park in an attempt to find the former medieval street, Hotgate, which later became Thornton Lane, and any street frontages associated with it. Trench 2, in the northern part of this car park, was

placed to identify whether deep medieval and later deposits of rubbish and garden soils existed here as had been seen slightly further to the south during earlier excavations. Trenches 3, 4 and 5 were all placed as close to the frontages of the former medieval High Street, now Highcross Street and Applegate, in order to identify the survival of former medieval street frontages.

Within Trench 1 gravel surfaces relating to the former line of the medieval street Hotgate were revealed. Possible clay floors were also seen that may represent the remains of former road frontage buildings. In the southern part of the trench, beneath a cellar floor, a possible fragment of the Fosse Way was uncovered. Trench 2 was machined to a depth of 2.4m through post-medieval rubbish deposits, with medieval archaeological layers being revealed in the base of the trench, showing similar characteristics to those seen in earlier excavations.

Trench 3 (illus. 3), excavated as close as possible to Highcross Street, revealed many stone walls relating to the rears of properties that formerly fronted onto the street. Although none of these walls could be securely dated it is thought that their original construction may have been as early as the 13th century from artefacts recovered within layers built up against them. The same property outlines were preserved until the demolition of the area in the 1960s, with more recent additions, rebuilds and repairs to the walls being visible in brick. The remains of a possible oven was found adjacent to a stone wall in the southern part of the trench. The continuation of a parish boundary wall, recorded in a previous excavation (A302.1971) as following the line of one of the former forum walls, was also revealed in the trench. A cellar, used as a dwelling up until the middle of the 20th century, was also partially uncovered, showing it to have originally been a substantial stone built cellar of possible medieval origins.

Trench 4, located adjacent to Applegate, revealed stone walls of likely medieval buildings, with possible earlier timber structures and floor layers sealed beneath. Some of the possible floor layers revealed in the southern part of the trench contained Saxo-Norman pottery. Late Roman finds of the 4th and 5th centuries were also recovered from partially excavated layers within the trench, as well as a single sherd of middle Saxon pottery, which may indicate the survival of late and post-Roman occupation – remains that do not often survive within the centre of Leicester. Trench 5 revealed another stone wall that had been severely damaged by later cellars.

Damage to the archaeology caused by cellaring and other modern intrusions was on a far smaller scale than expected and the evaluation has confirmed the incredibly high potential of the archaeological remains still buried beneath the reinstated car park surfaces. The site archive will be deposited with LCMS (A.10.1999).

#### *Bibliography*

- Hebditch, M and Mellor, J.E., 1973 'The Forum and Basilica of Roman Leicester' *Britannia* 4, 1-83
- Mellor, J.E., 1973 'Archaeology in Leicestershire and Rutland 1970-1972' *TLAHS* 48, 63-64

### **EVINGTON**

#### **Crown Hills, General Hospital (SK 621 041)**

Simon Chapman

Following geophysical survey an evaluation by trial trenching was undertaken by ULAS in advance of redevelopment work, for the provision of a new Mental Health

Hospital. Earlier finds of Roman pottery, coins and building materials, from allotments and housing to the north suggested the presence of a Roman site. The trial trenching confirmed the presence of a broad area of archaeology in the south-east side of the 1.3 ha development area. In view of the results from the evaluation archaeological recording was subsequently undertaken alongside the development and a series of features of Iron Age and late Roman date was revealed during a controlled topsoil strip. The earliest deposits comprised a single Iron Age circular building. Although about 25% of it had been destroyed by later Roman ditches, an entrance and a central hearth were still identifiable.

Late Roman occupation was attested by numerous ditches, gullies and pits, a corn dryer, a collapsed structure containing iron farming tools and a narrow cobbled trackway. A large quantity of roof and flue tiles and occasional tesserae suggests the proximity of a high status dwelling, perhaps a villa. The site archive will be deposited with LCMS (A8.1999).

### **HUMBERSTONE**

#### **Humberstone, Manor Farm, Keyham Lane (SK 625 065)**

James Gossip and Adrian Butler

Geophysical survey and trial trench evaluation was undertaken by ULAS in advance of development at Manor Farm for City Consultants Ltd. and Triad Architects. Seven penannular gullies with associated post holes, perhaps representing house areas and several large linear ditches were located. Later Iron Age pottery was located within some of these features. This may represent a continuation of the Iron Age settlement located during work by the Oxford Archaeological Unit in 1998 (Charles *et al* this volume). The archive will be deposited with LCMS (A6.1999).

#### **Excavation of a medieval windmill mound at Elms Farm Humberstone**

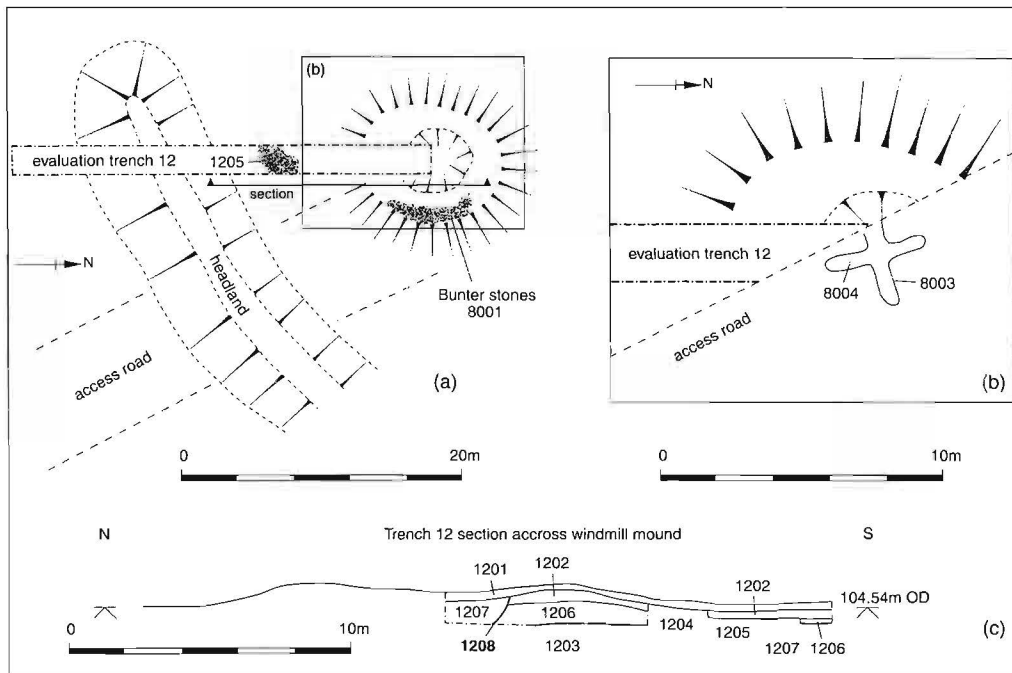
**(SK 631 064)**

Bethan Mair Charles, Andrew Parkinson & Stuart Foreman

In 1998 OAU carried out excavations on the site of a proposed development at Elms Farm, funded by Tesco Stores Limited. Just to the south of the main excavation area, where an Iron Age settlement was uncovered, a small mound was investigated, as it was to be disturbed by the provision of an access road (Charles *et al* this volume, illus. 2). This mound was clearly shown on the 25 inch 1st edition OS map of about 1889, and had been surveyed previously by Hartley (1989).

The mound was circular and about 15m across and 1.4m in height; an evaluation trench was excavated across the southern part (illus. 4) A large oval depression 5.40m by 4.10m was found to contain roof slates and red roof tiles, suggesting that there had been previous investigation into the mound. In addition, the removal of topsoil during the watching brief revealed a cross-shaped feature approximately 1.50m below the top of the mound. The arms were just under 5m in length and measured approximately 0.65m in width. At the southern edge of the mound was a well-defined deposit, some 1.6m wide, of large, unworn, sub-rounded pebbles which contained 12th and 13th century pottery. Part of a millstone grit beehive quern and a millstone fragment were also found in this area. On the southern slope of the mound, more bunter pebbles averaging 0.10m in diameter were uncovered around the eastern edges of the feature. The majority of the pottery, all of 13th century date, was retrieved from this feature.

The cross-shaped feature is thought to be the remains of the foundation cut for the cross timbers of a post mill, which had a box-like wooden body to carry the sails and to



4. A medieval windmill mound at Elms Farm, Humberstone, Leicester

contain the gearing and grinding stones. The cross timbers were sunk into the ground as a support for the central post of the mill which was turned, using a long tail pole, to permit the sails to face the wind. The pebbled areas probably represent the remains of a path, commonly laid around such mills for this purpose. Other comparable remains of mills in the Midlands have been found at Tansor Crossroads, Northamptonshire (Chapman 1996-7) dated to the early to mid 13th century, and Great Linford post-mill, Bucks (Mynard and Zeepvat 1991) dated to the later 13th to early 14th centuries. Finds and records will be donated to LCMS (A58.1997).

#### *Bibliography*

- Chapman, A., 1996-7 'The excavation of Neolithic and medieval mounds at Tansor Crossroads, Northamptonshire, 1995' *Northamptonshire, Archaeology* 27, 3-50.
- Hartley, R., 1989 *The Medieval Earthworks of Central Leicestershire*. Leicester: Leicestershire Museums, Art Galleries and Records Service.
- Mynard, D. C., & Zeepvat R. J., 1991 'The post mill' in D. C. Mynard & R. J. Zeepvat, 'Excavations at Great Linford 1974-80', *Buckinghamshire Archaeology Monograph* 3, 104-7.

#### **Humberstone, Netherhall Road (SK 630 058)**

Sophie Clark

An archaeological evaluation and watching brief was undertaken by ULAS for Augusta Developments at the former Moat Garage. The site is of a partially moated medieval

settlement formerly a Scheduled Ancient Monument (SAM 66) which was descheduled in 1959 following building development. Although much disturbed by modern intrusions a ditch, on a north-east to south-west alignment, containing Anglo-Saxon pottery was located. The site archive will be deposited with LCMS (A7.1999).

### **WESTCOTES**

#### **25-27 Braunstone Gate (SK 5794 0410)**

Richard Clark

An archaeological watching brief was undertaken by LCMS during the construction of an extension at the above site. An undated stone-built and slate-capped drain was noted running north-east to south-west approximately parallel with Braunstone Gate, and c.21.5m from the street frontage. The site archive has been deposited with LCMS (A9.1999).

### **WESTERN PARK**

#### **Eco House, Hinckley Road, Leicester (SK 5596 0427)**

Richard Clark

Following the identification of a possible Roman granite 'wall', to the rear of the Eco House in 1990, a watching brief was undertaken by LCMS during construction of an extension to the building in July 1999. An initial phase of test pitting had failed to identify archaeological remains within the affected area.

Groundworks for the rear extension cut through the kiln chamber and stoke hole of a Roman pottery kiln. Examination of the resulting section and artefacts indicate the kiln dated to the late 1st/early 2nd century AD, and consisted of a sunken clay-lined firing chamber at least 1.0m in diameter, with a single flue/stoke hole extending to the south-east. Examination of the 1990 records suggest that the 'granite wall' identified represented a section of the kiln's flue-arch. Unfortunately, no evidence of the arch survived in the section recorded, nor of the kiln superstructure. However, kiln bars and a single fragment of a possible kiln plate were recorded. A small quantity of Roman pottery, including failed vessels (wasters), was recovered from the kiln chamber and associated deposits. These, together with the kiln furniture, indicate the production of reduced, grey ware vessels in a variety of forms including jars and lids comparable with material from contemporary sites around Leicester. The site archive has been deposited with LCMS (A11.1999).

#### **Negative watching briefs in Leicester:**

**Castle Gardens** (SK 582 042), LCMS; **Evington, Main Street** (SK 626 030), ULAS.

Details are lodged with the Leicester City Sites and Monuments Record.

### **LEICESTERSHIRE**

#### **Appleby Magna, off Rectory Lane (SK 308 102)**

Sophie Clarke

Archaeological excavation, following geophysical survey and trial trenching, was undertaken by ULAS in advance of motel development by Loangain Ltd. These revealed the presence of a small Romano-British farmstead of 4th century

date with evidence of timber structures, including possible sunken featured buildings, and corn processing. The site archive will be deposited with LMARS (X.A64.1999).

**Ashby de la Zouch, Manor House School (SK 362 167)** Neil Finn and Tim Higgins

An archaeological evaluation by hand-dug test pits and a building appraisal was undertaken by ULAS at Manor House School in advance of proposed demolition of three greenhouses and their replacement with a new classroom. The test pits revealed demolition debris of 16th–17th century date beneath garden soils. The wall, which forms the north side of a lean-to to one of the greenhouses, is of 16th century date and appears to be the north wall of a building which formerly occupied the area within the north courtyard of Ashby de la Zouch Castle. The site archive will be deposited with LMARS (X.A37.1999).

**Ashby Woulds/Oakthorpe and Donisthorpe, Hicks Lodge (SK 432 314)**

Jon Coward

Following geophysical survey (*TLAHS* 73, 85) an archaeological evaluation by trial trenching and metal detector survey was carried out by ULAS to examine a flint scatter and the possible line of a Roman road (*TLAHS* 73, 84) in advance of a proposed extension to the Hicks Lodge opencast site by RJB Mining (UK) Ltd. Considerable modern disturbance was evident and no significant archaeological deposits were located. The site archive will be deposited with LMARS (X.A66.1999).

**Barlestone, Main Street (SK 428 057)**

Keith Hextall (PAW)

At the request of the owners of 5–7 Main Street, Barlestone, investigations were carried out on the dating of the properties by Keith Hextall. Although at the time of purchase, they were stated to be approximately 100 years old, alterations to number 5 revealed stone walls and a central timber-frame. The stone walled section rises to a height of one and a half storeys and is believed to be of 16th century date. The timber frame dates to the mid 17th century and is of a rare dropped tie beam truss with collar and through purlins construction. It has its original brick infill and a central doorway. Excavations to the rear of the property revealed a flight of stone steps leading down to a stone-lined cellar under the property as mentioned in the inventory of Nicholas Baker, yeoman, who died here in 1657 and who was mentioned as living on the site in the Glebe Terrier of 1638. A fine elm-boarded doorway of 18th century date with original hinges and door-frame is still *in situ* on the upper floor. A full report on the dropped tie beam truss construction is to be made by David Smith who was called in for advice.

**Beeby, Hamilton on Stream (SK 652 073)**

Michael Derrick

An archaeological field evaluation by trial trenching of land at Hamilton-on-Stream, Beeby, Leicestershire was undertaken by ULAS, for Mather Jamie Chartered Surveyors, in advance of the proposed construction of a storm water balancing facility. The trenches positioned directly over the proposed access track revealed a series of gullies many of which contained sherds of Roman pottery and glass; these finds were significant in that they were close to the site of a Roman villa (*SAM* 132; *TLAHS* 32). The site archive will be deposited with LMARS (X.A1.1999).

**Bottesford, Bede House, Rectory Lane (SK 806 393)**

Jennifer Browning

An archaeological watching brief was undertaken by ULAS for Hipkin, Sims, Sanderson, Partnership during groundworks for a new bungalow, adjacent to the Bede House. A number of pottery sherds were recovered, primarily medieval, but no associated features were identified. The finds and archive will be held by LMARS (X.A47.1999).

**Burbage, Sketchley Lane (SP 427 919)**

Trial trenching was undertaken by JSAC for David Wilson Estates in advance of a proposed residential development to the south of Sketchley village. The only recorded feature was a ditch of modern date. The archive will be held by LMARS (X.A53.1999).

**Castle Donington, Gimbro Farm (SK 440 256)**

Michael Derrick

A rectangular enclosure, located as a cropmark, was excavated by ULAS for East Midlands Airport in advance of the construction of a new airfreight depot. Earlier evaluation and excavation to the north had identified two phases of field system and part of an enclosure (*TLAHS* 73, 86). Excavation of the rectangular enclosure indicated that it was established and maintained during the Late Iron Age and finally abandoned during the Roman period. Some pits and structural features were present around the south-eastern entrance to the enclosure. Finds and archive will be deposited with LMARS (X.A53.1998).

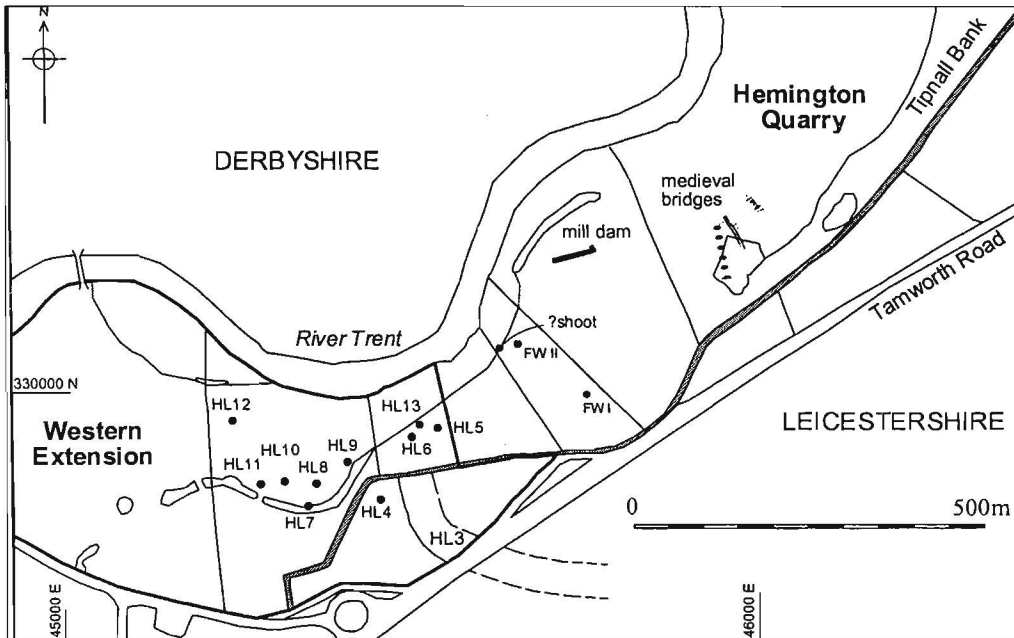
**Castle Donington, Hemington Quarry (SK 455 299)**

Lynden Cooper and Susan Ripper

The ongoing watching brief of gravel extraction by ULAS for Lafarge Redland Aggregates Ltd. at Hemington quarry (western extension) has revealed a series of structures (illus. 5-7). A small riverside settlement, probably of Anglo-Saxon date (HL4), a medieval fishweir (HL5) and two medieval 'shoot' structures (HL6, HL8) were subject to excavation following emergency archaeological investigation. Other features (HL7, HL9-12) were recorded under the provisions of the watching brief.

The settlement was first recognised in 1998 when a rectangular post-built building was located on an area of river gravel terrace above levels liable to flooding (*TLAHS* 73, 97). Some 30m to the west a second building was located which was *c.* 5m square and constructed of close set posts with two larger post holes demarcating an entrance to the east. Early Anglo-Saxon pottery and fire-cracked pebbles were located from associated pits between the buildings.

The fishweir was a complex of post alignments extending 64m along a gravel filled channel. At the eastern end the structure had remarkable survival of structural details including a collapsed wattle fence, up to 8m long, and a range of wooden artefacts, including a complete maul (heavy mallet), two small bowls, a pulse stick (eel/fish scarer), a probable eel tuft (baited brushwood bundle trap) and a wicker eel basket (illus. 6). The three latter fishing related artefacts were closely associated, lying against a wattle fence. They are thought to be the only archaeological examples from a British inland river context. The eel basket was subject to an innovative lifting method by Dr. G. Morgan (conservator, School of Archaeological Studies, University of Leicester). This involved freezing the basket with liquid nitrogen prior to eventual long term conservation.



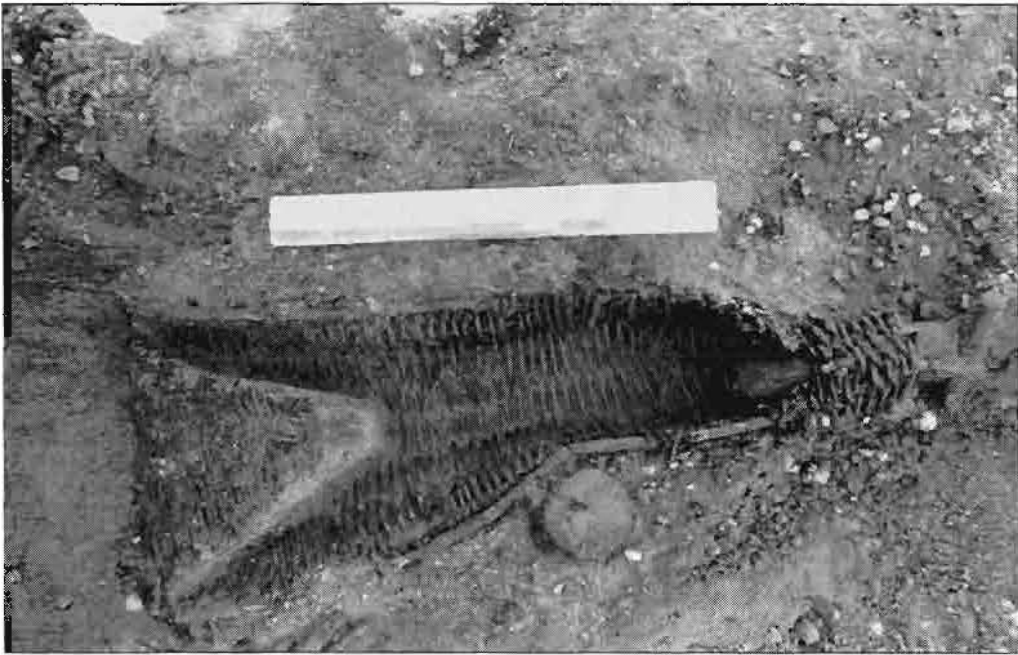
5. Plan of Hemington Quarry showing the location of sites recently recorded

Two 'shoot' structures, constructed as breakwaters to deflect river flow away from an eroding bank, were located on the southern bank (Leicestershire) of a silted course of the River Trent. The first of these (HL6) was formed of two lines of oak piles projecting from the river bank forming a triangular crib filled with large sandstone blocks and brushwood. The stone blocks had been laid in crude courses inside the crib sloping up the bank to a height of 2m (illus. 7). One of the oak piles revealed evidence for sawing, suggesting a date from the mid 13th century onwards. The second of these (HL8), 150m southwest of HL6, was again constructed of a timber crib infilled with large sandstone blocks. River scouring had caused the structure to partially collapse which meant that although its original planform could not be discerned, it had led to the rare survival of complete timbers with their joints. The structure compares with and complements HL6, which had retained its planform but lost all jointing details. Nine large anchor stones, similar to those recorded by Chris Salisbury during previous watching briefs, were recovered from the vicinity of HL8. Three large timbers recovered from the base of a silted channel (HL7) may be collars washed out from HL8.

Several large clusters of stone (HL9-11) may be further examples of washed out shoots or associated works, such as sloping and stoning. Another structure (HL12) comprising a double row of oak piles was partially revealed during overburden stripping and awaits further archaeological work. All of these structures were associated with a deeply scoured, gravel-filled channel that has been traced for *c.* 300m.

All archaeological records and finds from Hemington Quarry Western Extension will be deposited with LMARS (X.A52.1998). Archaeological observations are given a 'site' code comprising a number sequence prefixed with HL e.g. the fishweir – HL5.





6. Lower half of the eel basket showing the funnel mouth and the other end sealed by a wooden bung (scale: 30cm rule)



7. Structure HL6 following removal of later channel deposits (scale: 2m)

**Castle Donington, Main Street (SK 446 274)**

Sally Warren

An archaeological watching brief undertaken by ULAS on behalf of Severn Trent Water Ltd. during water main renewal revealed evidence of a possible earlier pebbled road surface. The site archive will be deposited with LMARS (X.A24.1999).

**Church Langton, Church Causeway, Stonton Road (SP 723 932)**

Sally Warren

An archaeological watching brief ULAS on water main renewal for Severn Trent Water Ltd. revealed possible early road surfaces. The site archive will be deposited with LMARS.

**Coalville (SK 40 13)**

Paul Saunders

Fieldwalking on two fields west of Snibston deserted medieval village has produced small scatters of mid to late Mesolithic flint and some early Bronze Age scrapers.

**Coalville, Donington-le-Heath (SK 40 11)**

Richard Pollard and Paul Saunders

LMARS received an archive report and finds (X.A25.1999) relating to a previously unpublished excavation of two pottery kilns by Arthur Hurst in 1983. Fieldwalking recovered kiln debris and wasters in 1982 (Swan 1984, Microfiche 3.431, site 'Ravenstone (2)'). The kilns are of the single flue updraught type, Kiln 2 having a pair of clay pedestals, rectangular with a piece of granite between them – this is the 'Linwood-type' (ibid, pp122-4), found also at Ravenstone (*TLAHS 66*, pp 104-7). These pedestals may have been transferred from Kiln 1: the two kilns shared a stoke pit. Grey ware necked jar/bowls, ledged everted rim small jars, bead and flange bowl/dishes, and a single plain rim 'dog' dish were recovered, together with reduced fragments of combed flue tile. The pottery dates broadly to the mid 3rd to 4th century, and includes two ledged rim jars in a gritty fabric perhaps imitating, or sharing a 'coarse' fabric tradition with, Derbyshire Ware; this style is seen also on the Ravenstone kilns site. The report indicates that the tile was found within Kiln 2, and a 'few pieces of a flanged grey bowl' at the bottom of Kiln 1.

*Bibliography*

Swan, V.G., 1984

*The Pottery Kilns of Roman Britain*. London: HMSO**Coalville, Willn Close (SK 447135)**

Richard Knox

Mr R. Taylor brought in a Neolithic flint axe, dating from c.4000 BC.

**Coleorton, south of Farm Town, (SK 387 158)**

Adrian Butler

Volume specific magnetic susceptibility survey was carried out by ULAS over 25ha of arable land south of Farm Town, Coleorton, Leicestershire for Miller Mining Ltd. A number of areas of variation in topsoil magnetic susceptibility were identified, the majority of which may relate to natural features whilst a smaller number may indicate areas of archaeological activity. The site archive will be deposited with LMARS.

**Cosby, Cosby House (SP 576 947)**

Jennifer Browning

A building survey was undertaken by ULAS to record part of the brick walling in the grounds of Cosby House, Croft Road, in advance of alterations to the wall. The style of the wall and the types of brick used suggested that the earliest part of it dated from the 18th century. The site archive will be deposited with LMARS.

**Cossington, Platts Lane (SK 601 133)**

Joanna Sturgess and Susan Ripper

A watching brief supervising topsoil stripping was undertaken by ULAS, under the direction of Joanna Sturgess, for Wanlip Gravel Co., prior to gravel extraction at Platts Lane Cossington. This revealed a low earthen mound of *c.* 60 m diameter located on a slight rise in the ground. Further investigation confirmed the presence of a denuded round barrow burial mound of Bronze Age date. Similar monuments had been excavated in 1976, *c.* 500m to the south (O'Brien 1976). To the south-west of the mound a ring gully and post holes delineated the plan of a circular building of Iron Age date.

A resulting excavation revealed a series of later burials cutting the mound. Although no bone had survived due to the acidity of the soil, the presence of several groups of Anglo-Saxon ironwork indicated where the graves had been placed. At least seven groups of ironwork were located mainly consisting of iron spearheads. These are often found with male graves of 5th-6th century date. Other material from the barrow mound included a complete early Roman pottery vessel, a Roman glass bead and Bronze Age and Iron Age pottery.

While the barrow showed this evidence of secondary burials from later periods the usual central burial was apparently absent. However the location of a Bronze Age burial could be discerned beneath the south-eastern quadrant of the mound. This consisted of a concentration of Bronze Age amber, jet and faience beads still retaining the form of a necklace. Although no bones survived the necklace probably denoted the presence of a female burial.

In addition to the Bronze Age burial mound several other features were located to the east including a small rectangular enclosure, a post-alignment, field systems and a palaeochannel of a former water course containing well preserved organic material. The archaeological work was funded by Wanlip Gravel Co. and English Heritage. The site archive will be deposited with LMARS (X.A18.1999).

*Bibliography*

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**Cranoe, Langton Road (SP 75 94)**

Richard Pollard

The Welham Fieldwork Group walked a field containing a double ditched linear feature, possibly pit alignments (Leics SMR 79SE.AB). Finds include one flint flake; two sherds of Roman pottery; and medieval and later pottery and are held by the Group. The field had previously been walked by Leicestershire County Council Training for Work, in 1993; this walk produced four flint flakes; three sherds of Roman pottery; and further medieval and later material (finds with LMARS: A69.1993).

**Cranoe, Langton Road (SP 759 952)**

Sally Warren

An archaeological watching brief undertaken by ULAS on water main renewal for Severn Trent Water Ltd. revealed a possible earlier cobbled road surface. This trench was located within the core of the medieval village and so does not appear to be connected with the Roman road (projected through further to the west). The site archive will be deposited with LMARS.

**Desford, Leicester Lane (SK 481 033)**

John Thomas and Adrian Butler

Following evaluation by two phases of geophysical survey and trial trenching an area was opened for excavation by ULAS in advance of housing development at Leicester Lane, Desford for Twigden Homes Ltd. Despite truncation by medieval and later ploughing, evidence of Roman settlement was revealed. Three sides of a rectangular enclosure demarcated by a 'V' shaped ditch, originating in the late Iron Age was revealed within the western extent of the site. The enclosure appears to have gone out of use during the 2nd-4th century. Other activity during the same timescale was focussed around the enclosure and included evidence of pits, gullies and metal working. A well, possibly of late Roman date, was also located cutting the back-filled enclosure ditch. The settlement may have had its main focus within Desford village to the north-east. The site archive will be deposited with LMARS (X.A38.1999).

**Eaton (SK 790 280 – SK 805 295)**

Sally Warren

An archaeological watching brief by ULAS on behalf of Severn Trent Water Ltd. during water main renewal located earlier pebbled or cobbled surfaces, a possible Roman tile fragment and one sherd of Saxon pottery. The site archive will be deposited with LMARS.

**Enderby, Sandhill Drive (SP 545 986)**

Vicki Priest

An archaeological building survey, and evaluation by trial trenching were undertaken by ULAS on behalf of Wimpey Homes. The buildings comprised 19th century brick built structures which were probably farm buildings associated with the former Enderby Grange. No archaeological deposits were located within the trial trenches. The site archive will be deposited with LMARS (X.A67.1999).

**Foxton, Main Street (SP 701 900)**

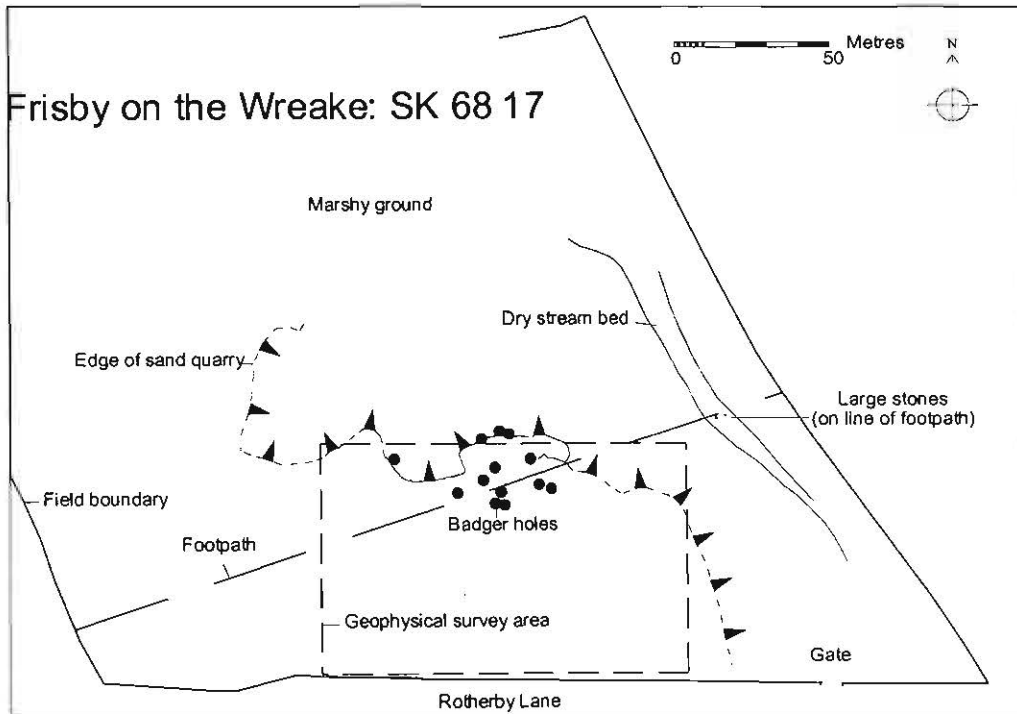
Sally Warren

An archaeological watching brief undertaken by ULAS on behalf of Severn Trent Water Ltd. during water main renewal located earlier pebbled or cobbled surfaces. Two fragments of hand made, post-medieval (1600-1800) brick were recovered from within the cobbled layer. The site archive will be deposited with LMARS.

**An Iron Age, Roman and Anglo-Saxon Site at Frisby on the Wreake (SK 68 17)**

Brian Thompson

As a result of fieldwork carried out over the last three years, a multi-period site with evidence of Iron Age, Roman and Anglo-Saxon occupation, has been identified to the west of Frisby on the Wreake. The site is a 4.5 hectare field under permanent pasture, located on a sand and gravel terrace overlooking, and adjacent to, the flood plain of the River Wreake, to the north. Medieval ridge and furrow runs in a south-west to north-

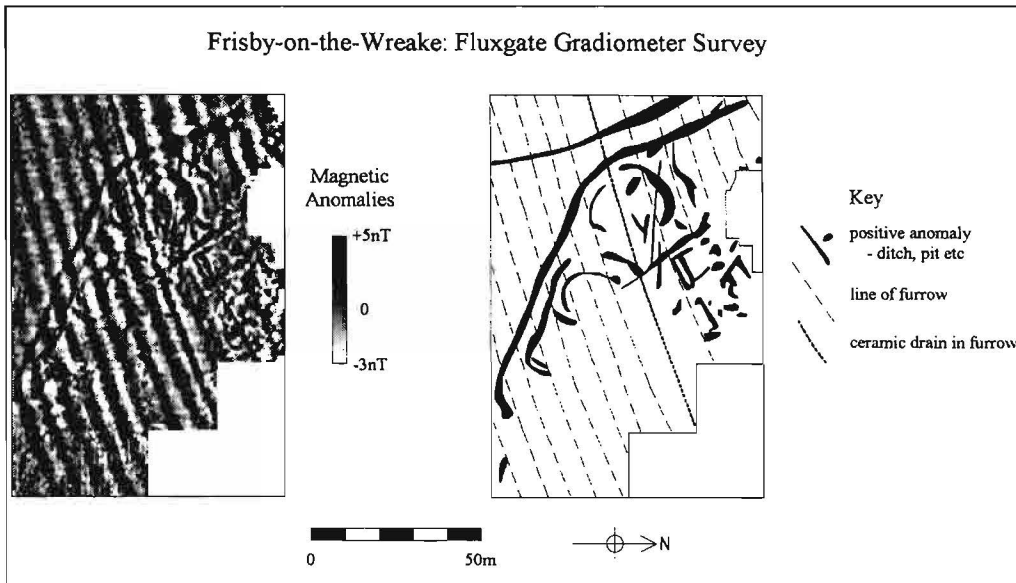


8. Frisby: Site plan showing geophysical survey area and location of badger holes.

east direction across the site, and a public footpath, no. H45, crosses the site east to west. Part of the area has been designated by English Nature as a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI). A large, irregularly shaped depression up to 3m (10 feet) deep in the centre of the field is probably the result of sand quarrying, possibly in the early 18th century.

Some 20 years ago, a dog belonging to a Frisby resident disappeared down a rabbit hole to the east of the site. A leading member of the then Frisby Historical Society, learned of this and described to the author that the subsequent digging out to rescue the dog had revealed some pottery sherds. These were later identified by Peter Liddle of LMARS, and were deposited with the Jewry Wall Museum (A142.1978). They were described as being of the 'Belgic' style. Subsequent discoveries of Iron Age, Roman, medieval and post-medieval pottery sherds in the vicinity are recorded in the Leicestershire Sites and Monuments Record.

More recently material collected by the author, including pottery, worked flints, butchered animal bone and slag, along with pottery sherds found by the farmer's son, have been identified by members of LMARS, ULAS, University of Leicester staff and other archaeologists. The material all came from badger 'scrapes' deposited at the entrances of their holes, from their underground activities. The volume of material being turned up by the badgers and the generally 'fresh', unabraded state of the pottery (including large conjoining sherds), suggested the presence of buried archaeological features on the site. The archaeology, however, was slowly being destroyed, both by the



9. Frisby: geophysical survey plot and interpretation (tif file)

badgers and by erosion of the edges of the old sand quarry. Part of the quarry edge, in which a suspected Iron Age pit was visible (its date suggested by the recovery of two pottery sherds of this date from the section), had eroded back by approximately 0.3m over the course of a year. It was therefore considered important to attempt to determine the character and extent of the site before any further erosion occurred.

A team of students from the School of Archaeological Studies, University of Leicester, under the supervision of Neil Finn and Adrian Butler of ULAS, carried out topographic (illus. 8) and geophysical (illus. 9) surveys of the Frisby site in July 1999.

The results of the geophysical (magnetometer) survey show a series of linear anomalies, apparently representing infilled ditches. In the north-west of the area is a parallel pair of ditches which diverge further to the south. On the north-east side of the eastern ditch is a series of small sub-rectangular enclosures. To the north were further rectilinear features and a number of smaller anomalies which could represent pits. This area corresponds with the location of the badger sett, which may account for the rather 'confused' state of these remains. The possibility that some of the features revealed by the geophysical survey may be structural in origin cannot be discounted.

### **Conclusion**

The evidence points to the site being an Iron Age settlement, apparently with continuity of activity into the early Roman period. Quarrying to the north and east of the geophysical survey area appears to have destroyed part of the site, rendering interpretation of the surviving remains difficult. The extent of the remains would seem to preclude the possibility of this being an enclosed farmstead such as those excavated at Enderby in 1983/4 (*TLAHS* 66, pp1-82) and 1996 (*TLAHS* 71, pp88-90). Elements of an extensive site revealed by cropmarks and geophysical survey at Warren Farm, Lockington (*TLAHS* 73, 101-4) are broadly comparable, in particular a series of small ditched enclosures flanking a suspected droveway. The discovery to date of at least 15 sherds of

Anglo-Saxon pottery on the site may be taken to indicate the presence of a settlement site of this period in the immediate vicinity. The whole scenario demonstrates what badgers and dog walking can do for fieldwork!

### ***Finds***

The following is a summary of the finds made by the writer over the last three years.

#### *Flint*

A total of 37 flints have been found. There is a small amount of Late Mesolithic material in the assemblage, including corticated bladelets and fine flakes. The remaining material mostly comprises flakes, with a high proportion of retouched pieces (scrapers, piercers and notched pieces). Although there are no diagnostic pieces the flaking technology and range of tools suggests a Bronze Age (or Iron Age?) date for the main group.

#### *Pottery*

There are some 80 sherds of pottery, ranging in date from the Iron Age to the post-medieval period. About half of the assemblage is identifiable as Iron Age material, including a high proportion of East Midlands Scored Ware, dateable to the middle-late Iron Age. There are 7 sherds of Roman and 6 sherds of Anglo-Saxon pottery in the assemblage. The remaining sherds are medieval or later in date.

The writer also has in his possession pottery found by the late Ray Pinfold in the same area, amounting to 73 sherds, again comprising mainly of Iron Age material but including quantities of Roman, Anglo-Saxon, medieval and post-medieval pottery.

#### *Animal Bone*

The majority of the thirty or so animal bones found to date are cattle bones, some of which display evidence of butchery. There are smaller quantities of sheep and pig bones, in addition to rodent and bird bones, although the latter two may not be archaeological.

#### *Other Finds*

Two fragments of iron slag thrown up by the badgers are assumed to be archaeological. A number of rounded river 'cobs' (water-worn stones), several of which had been subjected to high temperatures, were also noted on the site.

### ***Acknowledgements***

The author would like to thank Neil Finn and Adrian Butler for their assistance on site and with the writing of this report. Peter Liddle, Dr. Richard Pollard, Deborah Sawday, Patrick Marsden, Paul Blinkhorn, Nick Cooper, Dr. Catherine Hills, Professor Barry Cunliffe and Dr. David Knight have all contributed towards the identification of the pottery. Lynden Cooper identified the flint. Dr. Graham Morgan and Tony Gouldwell identified the slag and animal bones, respectively. Acknowledgement is also due to the late Ray Pinfold who stimulated my interest in the site and to Tim Schadla Hall who urged me to record it.

### **Great Easton, Stockerston Lane (SP 83 95)**

Richard Pollard

Analysis of finds made by the GEAFG in 1998 has refined the data on a Roman site, which can now be seen to have its origins in the Late Iron Age and, probably, underwent a change in the late 2nd/early 3rd century which resulted in a sharp decline in the deposition of pottery. The site, on boulder clay, thereby fits the pattern detected elsewhere in the Medbourne Area Survey (Liddle 1994, 35). Records are held by LMARS (Leics SMR 89NW.P). The finds remain with the group.

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**Hallaton, Hallaton Manor (SP 790 960)**

Sally Warren

An archaeological watching brief was undertaken by ULAS on behalf of Anglian Water Services Ltd. during the excavation of a pipeline from Blaston Road (SP 790 950) to Hallaton Manor (SP 790 960). A medieval pottery scatter and a flint blade fragment were located adjacent to Hallaton Manor. The site archive will be deposited with LMARS (X.A66.1998).

**Hathern, Hathern Road (SK 49 20)**

Richard Pollard

Fieldwalking by the SAFG has revealed a previously unreported Roman site, with pottery dating from the 1st to 4th centuries, and building materials including flue and wall tile. Sherds of hand made pottery were also recovered, which could be of Iron Age or early Anglo-Saxon date; the author favours the former. This site, as with one west of Shepshed (*TLAHS* 72, 183), and those off Charley Road and Hallamford Road, Shepshed was discovered during the Group's Black Brook Survey Project. The finds remain with the Group.

**Hathern, Zouch Road (SK 50 22)**

Richard Pollard

Pottery indicative of an early Roman site has been recovered by the SAFG within 400m of the River Trent, together with sherds of late Roman and possibly Iron Age date, and a diamond-shaped, possibly Roman, roofing slate. Flint material includes a very fine Mesolithic microlith. The finds remain with the Group.

**Heather (SK 38 10)**

Paul Saunders

Fieldwalking west of Heather village has produced Mesolithic, Neolithic and Romano-British finds in close proximity to cropmark enclosures.

**Hinckley, Coventry Road (SP 405 930 and SP 406 935)**

Jennifer Browning and John Thomas

Archaeological field evaluation by ULAS in the form of trial trenching took place in two areas either side of Coventry Road, Hinckley on behalf of Crest Strategic Projects Limited. There was potential for the survival of archaeological remains on the site given its location northeast of the line of the Watling Street Roman road. Subsequent geophysical survey of the areas revealed no evidence of significant archaeological activity. Overall the trial trenching showed little other than furrow remains from medieval agriculture. At the northern end of the area south of Coventry Road (SP 405 930), however, a concentration of trenches revealed a dense scatter of intercutting features including linear ditches, gullies and possible pits. Finds from the features indicate a long lifespan for occupation on the site ranging from the later Bronze Age (1000-700 BC) through the Iron Age and into the earlier Romano-British period (1st-2nd century AD). No firm structural evidence was revealed although many of the features held an abundance of charcoal and burnt stones, possibly indicating nearby domestic activity. The northernmost site (SK 406 935) was also largely negative except for a group of undated features including post holes, pits and gullies to the north of the area. The site archive will be deposited with LMARS (X.A55.1999 (SP 406 935) and X.A56.1999 (SP 405 930)).



**Hinckley, Nutts Lane (SP 413 925)**

A. Gnaranatnam

An archaeological evaluation by trial trenching was undertaken by ULAS for Powergen. A group of undated features was located, including gullies and a cobbled surface. The site archive will be deposited with LMARS (X.A61.1998).

**Hinckley, Prior's Walk, St. Albert's Nursing Home, (SP 431 941)**

Richard Buckley and Neil Finn

A photographic survey was undertaken by ULAS of St Albert's Nursing Home, to provide a permanent record before demolition. The survey was restricted to the earliest structures on the site comprising a range of brick buildings which were formerly part of St Albert's Priory and thought to have been constructed in 1824. The work was funded by Auditglen Ltd. and the archive will be deposited with Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Council.

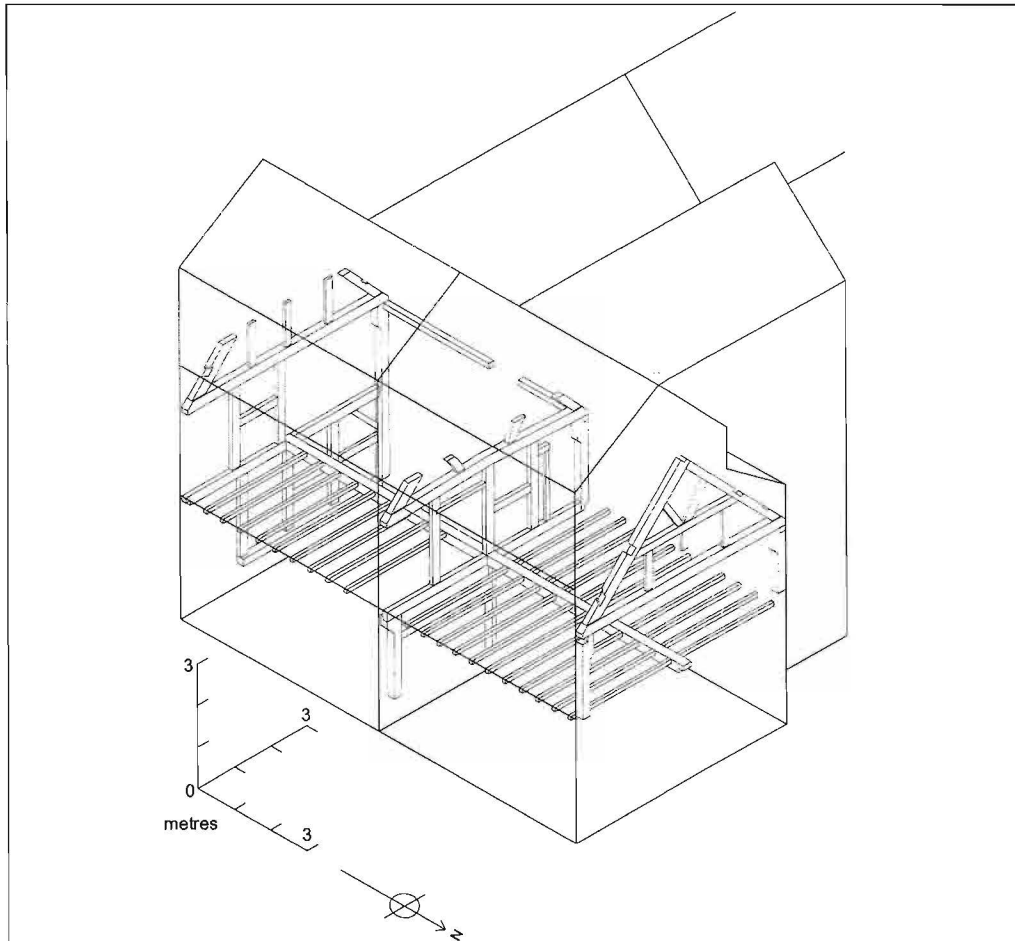
**Hinckley, 5-7 Regent Street, (SP 425 939)**

Neil Finn

Regent Street and its northern continuation, The Borough, form one of the principal thoroughfares of Hinckley, a medieval market town which prospered in the 18th and early 19th centuries following the introduction of framework-knitting to the region in the latter half of the 17th century (Wykes, 1992). Properties along the west side of these two streets occupy long, narrow parcels of land which probably reflect the arrangement of medieval burgage plots. The buildings which occupy this frontage appear, in the main, to be late 18th or early 19th century in date, reflecting the prosperity of the town at that time. Most of the façades have subsequently been altered, to a greater or lesser degree, with 5-7 Regent Street being one of the more severely mutilated. In addition to modern shop fronts, the fenestration at first and second floor levels has been altered, and the entire façade rendered in concrete. Behind the frontage at 5-7 Regent Street, a series of additional ranges occupy the southern half of the plot, lying at right angles to the road line. This arrangement is dictated by the position of the passageway giving access to the rear of the property from the street, against the northern plot boundary. A similar development sequence is apparent in many of the neighbouring properties and is a pattern repeated at other market towns where long narrow plots flank the principal streets, such as Ashby de la Zouch in Leicestershire and Atherstone in the neighbouring county of Warwickshire, just across the border from Hinckley.

An application by Commercial Development Projects Ltd. (CDP) for planning and conservation area consent to demolish existing buildings and construct a new public house at 5-7 Regent Street, Hinckley was approved, subject to the implementation of an appropriate scheme of archaeological investigation.

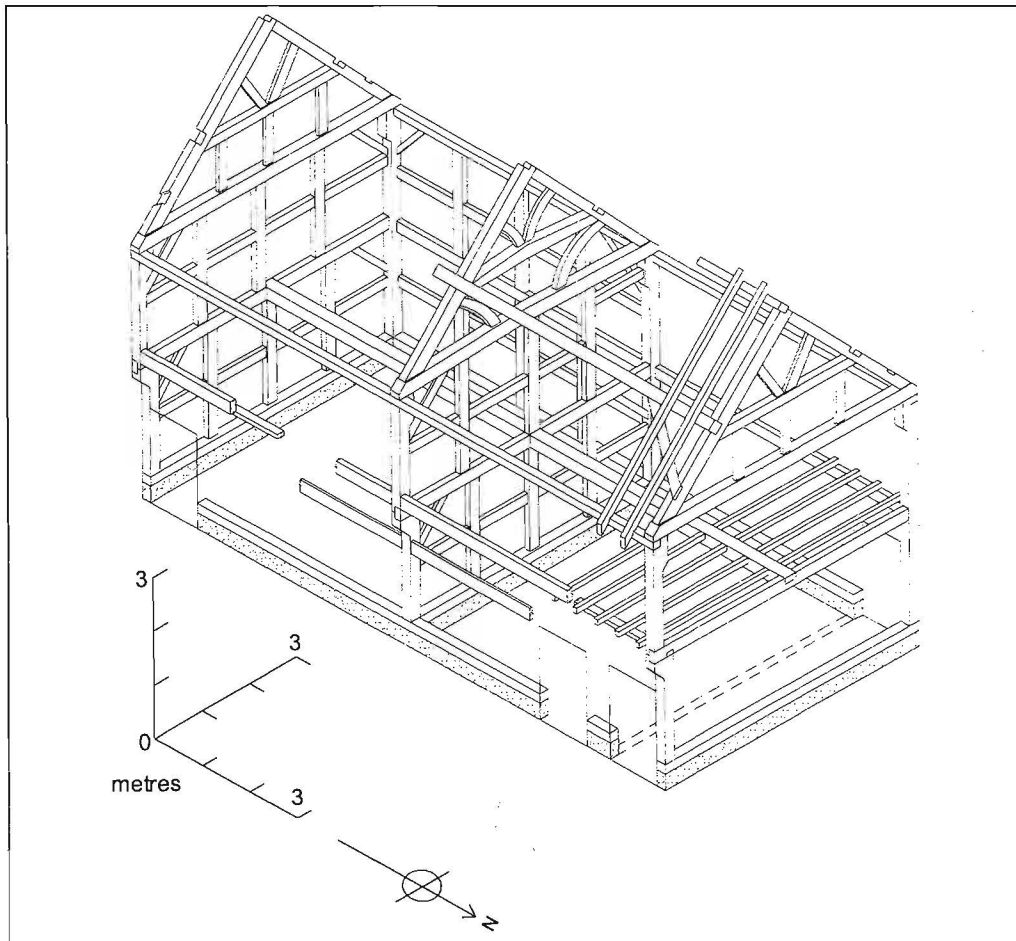
ULAS was contracted by CDP in January 1999 to carry out a survey of the buildings prior to demolition and to evaluate the potential for survival of buried archaeological remains below ground level. At a site meeting on 13th January fragments of timber framing were observed within the frontage range of the building, concealed behind later cladding, in an opening made by contractors assessing the condition of the party walls between this and the two adjacent properties. Further investigation exposed substantial fragments of a jettied, two bay box frame building (illus. 10). Dendrochronological analysis by Nottingham University Tree Ring Dating Laboratory has established that the timbers from which the building was constructed were felled in the summer of 1625.



10. Regent Street, Hinckley: Isometric drawing showing the surviving timber framing in relation to the 18th century structure (bold outline).

A detailed survey of the structure was undertaken. Parts of all three cross frames/principal roof trusses survived, along with much of the first floor structure. The side wall framing, however, had been almost entirely removed, with only a section of the rear wall plate remaining *in situ*. Evidence for a continuous jetty on the street elevation survived in the form of the ground floor front post of the central cross frame. This post was jowled on its external face and finished with simple carved decoration. The upper storey post, since removed, was carried on the jowl resulting in an upper storey which projected out over the floor below by just 20cm (8 inches). This jetty form is more commonly found on the gable end of a building, than as a feature of the side wall framing (e.g. Harris 1993, fig. 31).

A number of alterations to the structure were evident. Possibly the earliest significant modification was the insertion of fireplaces, served by a brick chimney stack, into the ground and first floor rooms of the north bay. This may be tentatively linked to the insertion, or replacement, of a door between the two first floor chambers in 1662



11. Regent Street, Hinckley: Isometric 'cut away' reconstruction drawing of the timber frame in its earliest form. The positions of the original doorways are not known, those shown are based on the location of the later entrances.

(dendro. felling date). There is no evidence of any earlier fireplaces, implying perhaps that in its original form this range was unheated.

Other alterations included raising the height of the side walls, in brick, to improve second floor accommodation (it is not clear whether the second floor structure was an original feature of the building or an early modification), allied to which was the addition of a new roof structure laid to a shallower pitch than the original.

The building was extensively altered in the latter half of the 18th century, when a fashionable new façade was added. All evidence of the remaining timber framing was concealed: softwood battens were nailed to the cross frames, reeds were fixed to these and then plastered over. The exposed first floor joists were underdrawn in a similar manner. Removal of this cladding from the southern cross frame revealed earlier plasterwork decorated with a hand painted floral motif, dateable on stylistic grounds to c. 1740 +/- 20 years (David Smith, pers. comm.).

Subsequent alterations and modifications throughout the 19th and 20th centuries resulted in the removal of further timbers. It has been possible, however, to reconstruct some of the missing areas of framing, based on the position of empty joints in the remaining timbers and by comparison with areas of surviving fabric. Illustration 11 is a 'cut away' reconstruction showing how the framing probably appeared in its original form. Unfortunately, there is little evidence from which to suggest the arrangement of timbers in the front wall frame.

There are reasons to suggest the former existence of a range to the rear of the frontage block, of which no direct evidence has survived. Most compelling is the complete absence of weathering on the external face of the rear post of the central truss, which appears never to have been exposed to the elements. This range seems to have been replaced in the 18th century by a brick structure, which included many fragments of reused timber framing within its fabric.

The fact that the frontage range was apparently unheated in its original form, coupled with its position on a principal commercial street, overlooking the market place, raises the possibility that this range was built as a shop. It is impossible to confirm this suggestion, however, due to the absence of the front wall framing where diagnostic features would be expected.

Although the V-strut form in the apex of the gable frames is a characteristic more commonly found in Warwickshire, examples also occur in the market town of Lutterworth and the villages of Wigston Parva, Swinford, Bruntingthorpe, Cosby and Braunstone in south-west Leicestershire (Smith, 1984, 62). A further example, now demolished, was recorded at Earl Shilton just to the east of Hinckley (Smith, 1969, 4–6). A common characteristic of this gable form, although not recorded at 5-7 Regent Street, is the use of tumbled brickwork to infill the area above the V-struts (*ibid.* 5).

In the course of the survey, access was arranged to the two adjacent properties, both of which had late 18th or early 19th century façades similar to 5-7 Regent Street. In both cases the frontage range turned out to be a remodelled timber framed structure. Furthermore, both also had timber framed rear ranges, albeit substantially altered. As a direct result of the work carried out at 5-7 Regent Street, Leicestershire County Council and Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Council have jointly commissioned a survey of the buildings along Regent Street, which it is anticipated will turn up further timber framed buildings concealed behind later façades.

Extensive negotiations explored the possibility of retaining the timber framing at 5-7 Regent Street *in situ*, incorporated into the design of the new building. The development team was unable, however, to reconcile the timber framing and the proposed new steel framed structure, necessitating the removal of the former. Only the southern cross frame, forming the party wall between numbers 7 and 9 Regent Street, has been retained, concealed behind a skin of brickwork. The remaining timbers were numbered and dismantled, these will be re-erected within the new building but unfortunately not in their original locations.

A watching brief on groundworks following demolition of the buildings revealed little of note, with early floors and foundations having been destroyed by subsequent reflooring and cellaring. A single pit was located at the rear of the property, which contained unglazed flat ceramic roof tiles (nib tiles) in association with 15th/16th century pottery and glazed ridge tiles. From this evidence it would appear that nib tiles were in use from at least the 15th/16th century and may, therefore, have been the original roof covering of the early 17th century building.

A more detailed account of the survey results is presented in ULAS Report No. 99/118 (Finn, 1999). The site archive will be deposited with LMARS (X.A16.1999).

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**Hungarton, Ingarsby, Old Hall Farm (SK 684 054)**

Sally Warren

A watching brief by ULAS during the construction of an extension at Farm Cottage, Old Hall Farm, adjacent to the deserted medieval village of Ingarsby, a Scheduled Ancient Monument (SAM 17069/02) for Mr B.Henton located medieval pottery but no associated archaeological features. The site archive will be deposited with LMARS (X.A24.2000).

**Husbands Bosworth, Wheler Lodge Farm (SP 635 825)**

Adrian Butler and John Thomas

Further magnetic susceptibility and gradiometer survey followed by trial trenching was undertaken by GSB Prospection and ULAS at Wheler Lodge Farm, Husbands Bosworth for Lafarge Redland Aggregates Ltd. to further elucidate the extent of the Neolithic causewayed enclosure first revealed by geophysical survey in 1998 (*TLAHS* 73, 1-19, illus. 4 & 100). Geophysical anomalies to the west and south west of the monument were targeted by trial trenching which confirmed the presence of some pit features to the south west, containing Iron Age pottery suggesting some later re-use of the area of the monument. The archive will be deposited with LMARS (X.A83.1998)

**Ibstock, Ellistown Colliery, Ellistown (SK 437 107)**

Adrian Butler

Geophysical survey was carried out by ULAS over land at Ellistown Colliery, on behalf of North West Leicestershire District Council. Topsoil magnetic susceptibility survey located anomalies consistent with relict field boundaries and demolition debris. Gradiometer survey detected a line of possible pits, two ditches, ferrous pipeline and area of disturbance attributed to building demolition. The site archive will be deposited with LMARS.

**Kegworth-Long Whatton, Finger Farm (SK 465 265)**

Tim Higgins and Adrian Butler

Geophysical survey, evaluation by machine excavated test pits and a watching brief was undertaken by ULAS for Wilson Bowden Properties in advance of and during the construction of Pegasus Business Park. No significant archaeological deposits were

located and the only artefacts recovered were a small quantity of late medieval and post-medieval pottery and part of a Neolithic leaf-shaped arrowhead. An earthwork survey was undertaken of the surviving ridge and furrow strip field systems. The site archive will be deposited with LMARS (X.A54.1999).

**Kegworth (SK 480 260- SK 490 280)**

Sally Warren

An archaeological watching brief undertaken by ULAS on behalf of Severn Trent Water Ltd. during the laying of new water mains at Kegworth revealed early pebbled surfaces and, in Long Lane (SK 487 273), a possible Roman road surface. The site archive will be deposited with LMARS.

**Kirby Bellars (SK 707 181)**

Sally Warren

An archaeological watching brief undertaken by ULAS on behalf of Severn Trent Water Ltd. during the laying of new water mains at Kirby Bellars revealed a pebbled surface possibly representing an early road. The site archive will be deposited with LMARS.

**Lockington-Hemington, Hemington, Hemington Hall Gardens (SK 457 279)**

John Thomas

An archaeological watching brief was undertaken by ULAS on a residential development site for Maber Project Planning. The work involved monitoring of the groundworks associated with the development adjacent to the site of a medieval manorial complex (SMR Ref. 42NE AU) and standing remains of a 13th century church or chapel (SMR ref. 42NE AT; SAM 6). While the northern part of the site had been damaged by modern disturbance a late medieval or post medieval yard surface had protected archaeological deposits to the south. The earliest evidence from the site comprised pottery of Bronze Age or Iron Age date possibly associated with a ditch. A series of ditched boundaries forming a grid like pattern enclosed pits and possible fishponds. Wall foundations connected with the surviving 13th century church tower remains were located during the removal of the boundary wall. To the south a stone building and yard surface may indicate later activity. The site archive will be deposited with LMARS (X.A2.1999).

**Lockington-Hemington, Lockington, Main Street (SK 469 279)**

Sally Warren

An archaeological watching brief undertaken by ULAS on behalf of Severn Trent Water Ltd. during water main renewal, revealed an earlier pebbled/cobbled road surface and also the skeletal remains of approximately five horses buried in the grounds of Lockington Hall. The site archive will be deposited with LMARS (X.A18.1998).

**Rookery Lane, Lockington (SK 4680 2870)**

Kelly Hunter

MAP Archaeological Consultancy Ltd undertook archaeological evaluation and a watching brief on the A564 Derby Southern Bypass between July 1998 and June 1999 on behalf of Costain Civil Engineering. A complex sequence of re-cut and inter-cutting ditches on the same or similar alignment, identified by geophysical survey and trial trenching, was excavated. Pottery suggests a date range of the 12th–15th centuries and the features probably represent a significant boundary, perhaps part of a field system, which was important for a considerable period of time. Finds and records will be donated to LMARS (X.A61.1998 and X.A44.1999).

**Long Whatton, Diseworth, Lady Gate (SK 452 243)**

Richard Pollard

Excavation of a hole to plant a tree to the rear of 14/16 Lady Gate by the owner revealed the foundations of a brick wall, probably 18th century from the dimensions of the bricks. Laid over a sandstone course, perhaps a plinth as in walls fronting the street, this may be a building, rather than a boundary wall, there being a ?fill deposit on one side containing reed plaster and ceramics of late 18th to 19th century date. No walls are shown on the 1885 Ordnance Survey 1:2500 map at this point.

**Lubbesthorpe (SK 52 00)**

Richard Pollard

Mick Morris has located a Roman site, yielding pottery which may be restricted to the 2nd and 3rd centuries, there being an absence of typical 1st century grey ware types, and of common 4th century material such as lower Nene Valley colour coat, and bead-and-flange dishes. There appear to be two distinct concentrations of pottery, at least one of which has been shown to also hold Roman flue and roofing tile (Leics SMR 50SW.CD, CE). A metal detector rally in 1996 revealed a third concentration, with 1st-2nd century metalwork, pottery including late Roman wares, and roofing tile (Leics SMR 50SW.CB). One group of ceramics from 50SW.CE has been accessioned by LMARS (X.A70.1999).

**Market Harborough, Springfield Street, Symington's Factory (SK 736 869)**

Susan Ripper

A building survey was undertaken by ULAS at the Grade II listed former Symington's factory site for Sainsbury's plc. The inspection of the buildings together with cartographic data has provided a chronological sequence for an early example of a coffee mill and food-processing complex. The factory was developed following its purchase in 1850 by W. Symington and Co Ltd. with rebuilding phases in 1881, 1927-31 and 1948. The architects W. T. Brown of Wellingborough were commissioned to build the Springfield Street block in 1881. The building was substantial (three storeys of nine bays) and included shaped gables at either end, a large oriel window supported by a curved central stone bracket and ornate inscribed pediments over the principal entrances. In the central portion of a stone frieze the words 'PATENTEES AND MANUFACTURERS' were inscribed and to either side were cast iron hopperheads dated S1881S ('S' for Samuel Symington).

In 1948 the gables over the Springfield building were less elaborately rebuilt leaving out the heavy date stones and ornamental tablets. Much of the interior of the factory was re-fitted as recently as the early 1990's before it finally closed in 1996. The site archive will be deposited with LMARS.

**Medbourne, Slawston Road, 'The Seeds' (SP 79 93)**

Richard Pollard

Chris Royall (PAW) and Ken Wallace (Slawston PAW) observed the renewal of topsoil in an area of the field, in which box sample excavations have previously been undertaken as part of the Medbourne Roman small town survey (*TLAHS* 64, 102). No stone structures were recorded; soil conditions were not conducive to the recognition of earthfast, cut features or subsurface spreads.



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

Neil Finn

Students from the School of Archaeological Studies, University of Leicester, under the direction of Neil Finn of ULAS, carried out further work on the site of the deserted medieval village of Eye Kettleby over the summer of 1999 (see *TLAHS* 73, 108). Once again, a range of fieldwork techniques was employed in the investigation of the site. A series of excavation trenches, located close to the western edge of the site, were positioned to investigate an area of indistinct earthworks. Geophysical and topographic surveys were also undertaken, in addition to a survey of the mill building in the east of the site. Excavation revealed, amongst other things, the complete plan of a late medieval building. The earliest part of the mill building, now a private residence, is stone-built and was probably constructed in 1601. This date was inscribed on a plaque noted within the building in the late 19th century, but which has since been removed or obscured. The long term future of Eye Kettleby DMV has now been secured with English Heritage's decision to Schedule the site (SAM No.17020). The archive and finds will be deposited with LMARS (X.A58.1998).

**Melton Mowbray, Norman Way (SK 755 194)**

Paul Cope-Faulkner

An archaeological evaluation by APS in advance of proposed development in the northern part of Melton Mowbray revealed extensive remains associated with a 19th century brickworks and housing, but no evidence for the Anglo Saxon cemetery which was known to exist in the vicinity. In the north-eastern part of the site, twenty-two prehistoric flint tools, unfinished tools and waste of Neolithic-Early Bronze Age date were recovered from the subsoil, suggesting prehistoric flint working in the proximity. A very small amount of Romano-British and medieval pottery was also recovered from the topsoil.

**Mountsorrel, Butter Market (SK 582 150)**

Michael Derrick and Sally Warren

An archaeological watching brief undertaken by ULAS on behalf of Mountsorrel Parish Council during the installation of ground mounted recessed uplighters in Mountsorrel Butter Market, a Scheduled Ancient monument (SAM 21651). Evidence of a cobbled surface was located and 14th/15th century medieval pottery recovered. The site archive will be deposited with LMARS (X.A29.1999).

**Oadby, Brockshill Park (SP 618 997)**

Sally Warren

An archaeological watching brief undertaken by ULAS on behalf of Leicestershire County Council during the excavation of tree holes recovered two flint tools and medieval pottery of 13th/14th and 15th/16th century date. The site archive will be deposited with LMARS.

**Peatling Magna, Arnesby Lane, Manor Farm (SP 5957 9253)**

Paul Cope-Faulkner

APS carried out a watching brief in response to the creation of a horse riding circuit at Manor Farm, Peatling Magna. The site lies on the eastern edge of the village, near to earthworks of medieval settlement remains. Additionally, Romano-British pottery has previously been found at the site. Remains of structures built of granite, and apparently roofed with Swithland slate, were identified. These were undated but thought to be post-medieval. A ditch and a further granite wall, probably both boundary markers, were revealed about 30m south of, and parallel to, Arnesby Lane.



**Peckleton (SP 44 99)**

Richard Pollard

Keith Wilkinson reported the discovery of a Roman site; finds include two coins – one of Antoninus Pius – and pottery whose diagnostic types could all be 2nd–3rd century AD. Records are with LMARS (Leics SMR 49NW.BV).

**Peckleton, 2 Church Lane, Stapleton (SP 434 984)**

Jennifer Browning and Sally Warren

An archaeological watching brief by ULAS during groundworks relating to the extension and conversion of Church Farm, recovered some unstratified medieval and post-medieval pottery. The archive will be held by LMARS (X.A62.1999).

**Quorn (SP 55 15)**

Richard Pollard

Graham Cripps has recovered an assemblage of Roman pottery from a site which previously yielded brooch fragments (*TLAHS* 69, 133). The sherds include types from all four centuries of the Roman occupation. Records are with LMARS (Leics SMR 51 NE.CB).

**Sapcote, Sapcote Castle (SP 486 933)**

Adrian Butler

Geophysical survey was carried out by ULAS over 0.9ha of the playing fields at the site of Sapcote castle, a Scheduled Ancient Monument, for the Sapcote Playing Fields Committee with funding from English Heritage. The survey detected a number of anomalies of which some were consistent with known infilled moats and others that suggested ditches, stone walls and rubble spreads. The site archive will be deposited with LMARS.

**Sapcote, Church Street (SP 487 932)**

Keith Hextall (PAW)

The author excavated three trenches across a depression at the west end of the garden of 39 Church Street. These revealed the eastern part of a U(?) profile ditch or moat, with a minimum depth of 1.45metres. The lowest fill, a silt with a minimum thickness of 900mm, contained sherds of early medieval pottery. This was sealed by c.200mm of sandy clay. The feature appears to be a continuation of the ditch/moat in the adjacent rectory garden to the south, lying in the gap between this and the Toot Hill southern enclosure ditch/moat (Hartley 1989, 58 & fig. 63). A full report is held by LMARS.

*Bibliography*

Hartley, R.F., 1989      *The Medieval Earthworks of Central Leicestershire*. Leicester: LMARS.

**Shangton, Main Street (SP 710 961)**

Sally Warren

An archaeological watching brief undertaken by ULAS on behalf of Severn Trent Water Ltd. during the laying of new water mains revealed a stone and cobbled surface with possible occupation spreads above it. Animal bone was observed and one sherd of post-medieval brick/tile was retrieved. The site archive will be deposited with LMARS.

**Sheepy, Sheepy Magna, Church Lane (SK 325 013)**

Richard Pollard

Gardening in the grounds of the 1960s rectory exposed brick and stone footings. The hand made bricks are of dimensions consistent with a late 15th – 18th century date. The masonry is sealed by a layer of gravel in orange-brown sand, lying within 150mm of the modern ground surface. The site is west of the parish church, All Saints; Nichols shows a winged building on the site on a plate dated 1791 (Nichols 1811, plate CXLVI, 929); this also appears on a map extract shown to the author and believed to be the Enclosure Map of c.1810. The building depicted is probably an early post medieval rectory. The site was part of the garden of a later rectory – now Church House – in 1924, as shown by the Ordnance Survey 1:2500 map, and it seems likely that the masonry exposed belongs to the earlier rectory. The archive is with LMARS (Leics SMR 30 SW.AD).

*Bibliography*

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Wakefield, S.R. Publishers, 1971.

**Sheepy, Sheepy Parva, Sibson Road (SK 33 01)**

Richard Knox

Jim Beechey brought in the butt end of a polished flint axe of Neolithic date.

**Shepshed, Charley Road (SK 46 17)**

Richard Pollard

The SAFG fieldwalked an area embracing a rectilinear cropmark, interpreted as an enclosure. The field containing the cropmark produced a handful of flint items, including two Mesolithic/early Neolithic blades; the only pottery shown to the author was a single medieval sherd, c.12th to mid 15th century. A few sherds of Roman pottery were found in fields to the north-east of the cropmark, together with small amounts of Mesolithic to Bronze Age flint. The field to the east yielded 21 sherds of Roman pottery, highly abraded, and two of prehistoric date. The latter comprise a sherd with inclusions of white rock fragments and quartz, thought to be late Bronze Age, and a rim in a sandy fabric of a form found in Iron Age Scored Ware. These two sherds are quite unabraded, in contrast with the Roman assemblage. The finds are with the Group (Leics SMR 41 NE.AN (cropmark), 41 NE.AY (Roman site)).

**Shepshed, Coach Road (SK 48 19)**

Richard Pollard

Fieldwalking by the SAFG Group produced a small scatter of flint material and six Roman pottery sherds from a field that had previously yielded a sherd of Anglo-Saxon pottery (Leics SMR 41 NE.AE).

**Shepshed, Hallamford Road (SK 46 20)**

Richard Pollard

Fieldwalking by the SAFG revealed a previously unreported site, yielding 76 sherds of Roman pottery of 1st to 4th century date. The finds are with the Group (Leics SMR 42 SE.AY).

**Sproxton, King Lud's Entrenchments (SK 867 279 and SK 872 279)** Sally Warren

A watching brief was undertaken by ULAS for Severn Trent Water during watermains renewal adjacent to Egypt Plantation (SK 867 279) and Sewstern Lane (SK 862 279) across the projected line of the bank and ditch earthworks known as King Lud's

Entrenchments. Observation of the new cut of the pipe trench in both locations revealed two ditches cutting the oolitic limestone substratum. These correspond with the line of the earthworks and may indicate the continuation of this monument to the west. No finds were recovered from these observations. The site archive will be deposited with LMARS.

**Stathern (SK 77 30)**

Norman Fahy

Research is being undertaken to locate the suspected site of Stathern Hall, formerly the home of 17th century Parliamentarian Colonel Francis Hacker. The work was initially based upon conjecture presented by Hubbard (1941, 8-9). The site examined occupies a natural terrace offering a commanding view over Stathern village to the west. The 1792 Enclosure Map shows clearly an access road leading from Mill Hill, a feature still visible as a hollow way. A resistivity survey by Patrick Roberts revealed areas of demolition spread, wall lines, and a large sub-circular feature which could represent the foundations of a dovecote, visible as an earthwork on aerial photographs and apparently bisected by linear features.

*Bibliography*

Hubbard, H.L., 1941 'Colonel Francis Hacker, Parliamentarian and Regicide', *Trans. Thoroton Soc.* (1941), 5-17

**Stockerston, Holyoaks Lodge (SP 84 95)**

Richard Pollard

Analysis of finds made by the GEAFG in 1998 revealed that the group has discovered a previously unreported Roman site, with pottery dating from the late 1st century BC/1st century AD to the 3rd/4th century AD. The site lies on the liassic clays of the Eye Brook valley; as with the Great Easton (Stockerston Lane) site reported above, the date range fits the pattern established for the Medbourne area, whereby ploughing – and settlement – continued in the valley and on the liassic clays into the late Roman period. Records are with LMARS (Leics SMR 89 NW.BS).

**Stonton Wyville, Main Street (SP 737 950)**

Sally Warren

An archaeological watching brief undertaken by ULAS on behalf of Severn Trent Water Ltd. during water main renewal located a hard, cobbled surface possibly an early road. A late prehistoric flint scraper was found in the spoil from this trench. The site archive will be deposited with LMARS.

**Swannington, Limby Hall (c.SK 40 16)**

Paul Saunders

Fieldwork in the Limby Hall area of Swannington has produced Neolithic flint and a few sherds of Romano-British pottery.

**Swannington, Redhill Lane (SK 42 16)**

Paul Saunders

Fieldwalking and excavations by the author and the Grace Dieu Archaeological Fieldwork Group between 1994 and 1988 have revealed a Roman site dated by pottery provisionally to the 2nd and 3rd centuries. Part of a post built sub-rectangular enclosure or structure was excavated. Subsequent phases comprised features interpreted as fence lines, pits, gullies and structural features which are very Anglo-Saxon in appearance. One pit contained a sherd provisionally dated to the early Anglo-Saxon period, whilst a

structure is similar to Hall C9 excavated at Cowderys Down, Hampshire, dated to the late 6th/early 7th century. Early 17th century pottery was found in the bottom of fills of some pits, which might be related to local sand and coal extraction in the 17th and 18th centuries. Scatters of flint, possibly of Neolithic and early Bronze Age date, were recorded by fieldwalking. The finds and archive are with LMARS (X.A26.2000).

**Swannington, Spring Lane (SK 41 15)**

Paul Saunders

Fieldwalking and evaluation excavation by the author and the Grace Dieu Archaeological Fieldwork Group have surveyed a Romano-British site, dated by pottery from the late 1st century BC to mid 3rd century AD. Features, largely truncated by ploughing, are interpreted as a small sub-rectangular structure, perhaps an annexe to a small enclosure. Concentrations of granite and sandstone boulders may represent packings of posts. Fieldwalking also revealed concentrated scatters of prehistoric flint. The finds and archive are with LMARS (X.A28.2000).

**Syston, Barkby Brook, (SK 633 107)**

Jon Coward and Adrian Butler

A geophysical survey was carried out by ULAS over 6ha of land adjacent to Barkby Brook on behalf of Charnwood Borough Council. Evidence of ridge and furrow, land drains and geological variation was discovered in addition to a possible buried ditch and putative structural stone remains. The site archive will be deposited with LMARS.

**Syston, Fosse Way (SK 617 108)**

Adrian Butler

An archaeological evaluation, involving the excavation of two trial trenches, was carried out by ULAS on land off Fosse Way on behalf of Moseley Estates Ltd. No evidence of archaeological remains were found within the trenches. However, a substantial deposit of alluvium has been identified and it is conceivable that this may cover deeper archaeological remains. The site archive will be deposited with LMARS.

**Thorpe Langton, Welham Road (SP 742 926)**

Sally Warren

An archaeological watching brief undertaken by ULAS on behalf of Severn Trent Water Ltd. during water main renewal revealed possible early road surfaces, but no finds. The site archive will be deposited with LMARS.

**Thurlaston (SP 50 98)**

Richard Pollard

Mick Morris has reported discovery of a Roman site; pottery includes 3rd-4th century types. Flue and roofing tile have also been recovered. Records are with LMARS.

**Tilton on the Hill (SK 75 04)**

Richard Pollard

Further fieldwalking by the TFG together with the East Leicestershire Metal Detector Group has revealed a second concentration of Roman pottery together with Late Iron Age material on a spur adjacent to the Roman site previously reported (*TLAHS* 72, 185). The finds and archive are with LMARS (X.A39.1999, X.A41.1999, X.A50.1999).

**Twycross, Orton on the Hill (SK 305 038)**

Sally Warren

An archaeological watching brief undertaken by ULAS on behalf of Severn Trent Water Ltd. during water main renewal revealed a possible early pebbled surface. The site archive will be deposited with LMARS.

**Twyford, Thorpe Satchville, Main Street (SK 733115)**

Richard Pollard

Steve Houghton (PAW) found a medieval midden deposit whilst constructing a flower bed. The pottery is mainly 12th–14th century., with one piece possibly 9th–11th. The feature lies some 16 metres to the rear of the street frontage, within the historic core of the village. Records are with LMARS (Leics SMR 71 SW.BK).

**Welham, Slawston Road, Weston Road (SP 765 925)**

Sally Warren

An archaeological watching brief undertaken by ULAS on behalf of Severn Trent Water Ltd. during water main renewal revealed a possible early pebbled surface and deposits containing one sherd of pottery dated c.1475-1550 and one fragment of post medieval brick or tile (c.1550-1750). The site archive will be deposited with LMARS.

**West Langton, Thorpe Langton Road (SP 722 929)**

Sally Warren

An archaeological watching brief undertaken by ULAS on behalf of Severn Trent Water Ltd. during water main renewal revealed early cobbled or pebbled surfaces and deposits containing 17th-18th century pottery. The site archive will be deposited with LMARS.

**Witherley, Fenny Drayton, Old Forge Road (SP 352 970)**

Michael Derrick

An archaeological field evaluation by trial trenching followed by a watching brief was undertaken by the ULAS for Parker-Lake Homes Ltd. in advance of proposed housing development. A number of sherds of 13th century pottery were recovered from pits. This is consistent with other archaeological finds in the area which suggest a nearby medieval pottery industry. The archive will be deposited with LMARS (X.A60.1998)

**Witherley, The Bull Inn, Watling Street (SP 327 969)**

Nicholas Palmer

The foundations for extensions on the north side of the Bull Inn at Witherley within the Scheduled Area of the *Manduessedum burgus* were archaeologically excavated by the Warwickshire Museum in September 1999 on behalf of Enterprise Inns plc. The foundations were 0.50m deep and lay mainly within the topsoil. The only Romano-British context encountered was a patch of stone surface, but quantities of residual pottery, largely mortaria, and two 4th century coins were recovered. The archive will be held by the Warwickshire Museum under the site code WB99.

**Wymondham, Church of St. Peter, (SK 8515 1864)**

Naomi Field

An archaeological watching brief was carried out in January 1999 by LAS on behalf of Wymondham PCC, during excavation of small drainage trenches and soakaways serving rainwater downpipes from the church. Most trenches were positioned above existing drains, causing minimal disturbance to the deposits. The foundation trench for the east wall of the south transept was noted and a possible stone capped grave was found in the soakaway northwest of the north aisle. Three medieval pottery sherds were found including one of particular note: an Andenne ware jar, a French import usually

associated with high status sites. Finds and archive will be deposited with LMARS (Site Code: WYC 99).

**Wymondham, Edmondthorpe, St. Michael's and All Angels Church  
(SK 862 176)**

Vicki Priest

An archaeological watching brief, on behalf of the Churches Conservation Trust, was undertaken by ULAS during excavations for drainage trenches and sumps outside the church during October 1999. Excavations were conducted within the existing graveyard and encountered up to 1.2m of dark brown burial soil containing human bone fragments. Only one trench, in a part of the graveyard apparently less used than the rest of the area, revealed evidence for a grave cut. The site archive will be deposited with LMARS.

**Negative watching briefs in Leicestershire**

**Barrow upon Soar:** Church of Holy Trinity (SK 576 175) John Frostick, PAW; **Belvoir:** Harston (SK 820 310) ULAS; **Belvoir:** Knipton (SK 850 320) ULAS; **Branston** (SK809 290 – SK 815 296) ULAS; **Breedon on the Hill** (SK 407 228) ULAS; **Burton and Dalby:** Great Dalby (SK 745 145) ULAS; **Clawson, Hose and Harby:** Harby, Stathern Lane (c.SK 749 310) Jennifer Allsop, PAW; **Croxton Kerrial** (SK 834 295 – SK 840 290) ULAS; **Desford** (SK 414 016) ULAS; **Freeby:** (SK 802 199 – SK 806 203) ULAS; **Freeby:** Brentingby (SK 780 180) ULAS; **Freeby:** Wyfordby (SK 800 200) ULAS; **Garthorpe:** Coston (SK 840 220 -SK 850 230) ULAS; **Hinckley:** Butt Lane (SK 434 942) ULAS; **Hinckley:** Church of St. Mary (SP 427 938) LMARS; **Loughborough** (SK 538 198) ULAS; **Market Bosworth** (SK 408 033) ULAS; **Market Harborough** (SK 737 882) ULAS; **Measham:** Church of St Laurence (SK 335 122) LMARS; **Queniborough:** Queniborough Hall (SK 651 121) John Palmer, PAW; **Ravenstone** (SK 402 139) ULAS; **Ravenstone:** Church of St Michael and All Angels (SK 402 139) Paul Saunders; **Seagrave:** Butchers Lane (SK 621 175) Polly Spikins, PAW; **Sproxton** (SK 850 240 – SK 860 250) ULAS; **Sproxton:** Saltby (SK 845 260) ULAS; **Sproxton:** Sewstern (SK 890 218) ULAS; **Sproxton:** Stonesby (SK 845 260 – SK 827 248) ULAS; **Syston:** Lower Church Street (SK 62541189) LMARS; **Swithland** (SK 545 131 and SK 545 132) ULAS; **Wymondham:** Edmondthorpe (SK 850 180 – SK 860 170) ULAS.

Details are lodged with the Leicestershire and Rutland Sites and Monuments Record.

**RUTLAND**

**Ashwell, Water Lane (SK 867 134)**

Jennifer Browning

An archaeological watching brief was undertaken by ULAS on behalf of Mr. M. Evans, during the excavation of foundation trenches for dwellings at Home Farm. Pottery dating to the 11th and 12th centuries was recovered near to the South Barn. In addition, a wall of uncertain date was identified, which may possibly be a boundary feature. The finds and archive will be held by RCM (R.A1.1999).

**Caldecott (SP 87 95)**

Richard Pollard

The RLHRS walked a field containing crop marks of what appears to be a Roman villa (Rutland SMR 89 NE.BA). Finds included two sherds of Roman pottery, of mid 2nd to 3rd and mid 3rd to early 5th century date, and two sandy grey sherds which may be Late Iron Age or Roman, and Late Iron Age, Roman or early Medieval, respectively.

Roman roofing tile was also recovered. The finds are with RLHRS pending transfer to RCM.

**Empingham, Church Street (SK 949 085)**

Jennifer Browning

An archaeological watching brief was undertaken by ULAS during the removal of topsoil and reduction of ground level prior to a barn conversion. A stone filled feature was identified, containing pottery dating to the 13th and 14th centuries which may have functioned as a form of soakaway. The work was commissioned by Mr. I Macintosh. The archive will be held by RCM (R.A2. 1999).

**Essendine (TF 045 125)**

Naomi Field

An archaeological watching brief was carried out by LAS on behalf of Anglian Water Services Ltd during water main renewal. Part of a stone wall foundation found under the eastern verge of Manor Farm Lane was interpreted as a former field boundary wall, probably of post-medieval date. No other archaeological remains were seen. A copy of the report and archive will be lodged with LMARS (Site Code: ESS 99).

**Greetham, between 3 and 11 Main Street (SK 9243 1445)**

Richard Pollard

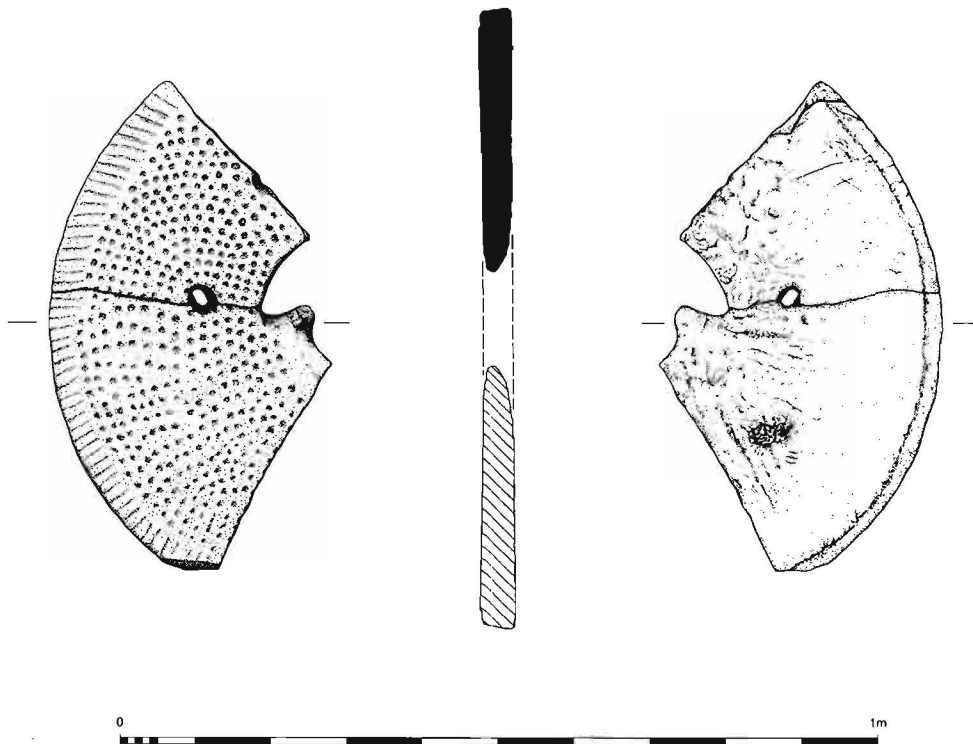
A watching brief was undertaken by the author during the excavation of foundation trenches for a house. A feature lying 31m south of the road was revealed, with a possibly oval plan and a width north-south of c.4.3 metres. Interpreted as a limestone quarry, it was filled with brown sandy clay with limestone fragments. A layer of black ash sealed the lower of two deposits of this clay; this ash yielded a sherd of c.12th – 14th century Stanion/Lyveden ware (LMARS fabric LY4), indicating an early medieval date for the quarry. A sherd of LY5, c.13th-14th century, was found in the upper sandy clay fill. Pottery on the surface of the machine-stripped building site was generally 19th-20th century. The finds and archive are with LMARS, pending transfer to Rutland County Museum (R.A3.2000).

**Ketton Quarry (SK 969 056)**

Northamptonshire Archaeology has continued to work at Castle Cement's Ketton quarry. Soil stripping has revealed several more of the T-shaped ovens reported in *TLAHS* last year. These structures would have been used for malting barley. In addition to these malting ovens several small 'brewing' hearths were also identified. The number of these found in close association suggests more than just domestic brewing levels; the site may have produced beer on a semi-commercial level. Although the ovens were well preserved, as they were cut into the natural brashy limestone, no sign of any enclosing structure or building survived. Samples of charcoal have been taken from each hearth but they have not yet been processed. The construction of one of the hearths could be dated to the middle of the 4th century by a coin recovered behind the stone flue lining.

In addition to the hearths and evidence for brewing, a small group of graves lay within one small enclosure. The burials were all adults laid supine but without grave goods. The grave cuts were aligned parallel to the enclosure boundaries rather than to any cardinal points of the compass. One of the features did not contain any human bone but contained what may be described as a placed deposit comprising an antler rake/fork and part of a stone potter's kick-wheel. The latter piece is unusual, with only a few known from Britain. It was made from an unused mill stone, and in the upper, non-grinding,





12. Ketton Quarry, potter's kickwheel

surface holes had been drilled and filled with lead for balance (illus. 12). The upper surface also displayed a smooth wear zone not reflected by any indications of usage on the grinding surface. The foot of the potter created the wear as he 'scooted' the stone around driving the wheel above. This stone was the first indication of pottery production on the site but subsequently in observation on the opposite side of the quarry, about 1 mile away on the Tinwell parish boundary, fragments of two kiln bars and some doming material was recovered from a small pit. This shows how pottery production was widespread, utilising the same clay resource that attracted the present cement works.

**Ketton, Geeston Road (SK 987 041)**

Jennifer Browning

An archaeological watching brief undertaken by ULAS during the excavation of foundation trenches for a garage extension and car port at 21A Geeston Road revealed the remains of an undated stone wall. The archive will be held by LMARS.



**Oakham, 4 Alwyne Close (SK 862 087)**

Richard Pollard

Elaine Jones observed the excavation of an extension to the house on a site which had revealed medieval and post-medieval features during work in 1993. Sections of two mortared stone walls, undated, were recorded, and a collection of post-medieval pottery and glass recovered, deposited with RCM (R.A7.1999).

**Ryhall, south of Meadow Lane (TF 035 100)**

Sally Warren

An archaeological watching brief was undertaken by ULAS on behalf of East Midlands Electricity (Wayleave Services Ltd) during the installation of underground cables. An undated pit was recorded and a late Mesolithic flint bladelet core and a scraper were located in the topsoil. The site archive will be deposited with RCM (R.A4.1999).

**Thorpe-by-Water (SP 90 96)**

Elaine Jones

Following discovery of Roman pottery by Gary Till, the RLHRS walked a field, providing evidence of Roman settlement in the form of over 100 sherds. A metal detector survey by the East Leicestershire Metal Detector Group produced six coins, including one mid 3rd century and two early 4th century.

**Tickencote, Home Farm (SK 991 094)**

Phil Mills

An archaeological watching brief was undertaken by APS during development in the medieval core of Tickencote village. Bronze Age, Roman and Anglo-Saxon remains had also previously been found close by. The investigations revealed an earthen bank, created by terracing into the natural slope, a probably quarry pit and a ditch. All the features were undated, though the bank is likely to be relatively recent. A small amount of Romano-British pottery of probable early 4th century date was recovered as unstratified artefacts from the site.

**London Road, Uppingham, Rutland (SP 866 995)**

Naomi Field

The site was evaluated by LAS in November 1999, on behalf of Stamford Homes Ltd, following a desk top study. Three trial trenches were machine excavated, one of which revealed archaeological remains, a large east-west aligned ditch of probable Middle Saxon origin. Three pottery sherds from the ditch, originally assumed to be of Roman origin, were of Ipswich Ware, an 8th–9th century pottery tradition which normally has a more coastal distribution. This is the first recorded incidence of Ipswich Ware in Rutland or Leicestershire and represents the very limit of its known distribution area. High incidences of this material at any distance from East Anglia, or the eastern coastal zone may suggest the presence of a high status Middle Saxon site, or alternatively a site involved in the production of high status materials for trade. Uppingham was part of a royal manor in 1066 which would not be inconsistent with this interpretation.

Prehistoric worked flint and one small fragment of prehistoric pottery were also present in the fills of the same ditch, which had been truncated by the foundations of the school which formerly occupied part of the site. Archaeological monitoring during the construction phase of development will be carried out. Finds and archive will be deposited with RCM (R.A6.2000; Site Code: ULR 99).