

ARCHAEOLOGY IN LEICESTERSHIRE AND RUTLAND 2006

Editors, Sam Bocoek and Nicholas J. Cooper

Note: archaeological watching briefs which have produced no significant archaeological features or finds are listed at the end of the relevant county sections below. In each case, the parish/site name is followed by the name of the individual or organisations that undertook the fieldwork. For abbreviations, see below, (p.iv). Some entries relate to fieldwork undertaken before 2006 but not reported previously.

LEICESTER

All finds and records are deposited with LCMS under the accession number cited at the end of the entry. Photographic surveys have not been assigned accession numbers.

Abbey Park Road, Boston House (SK 5860 0420)

Sophie Clarke

A photographic survey of Boston House, Abbey Park Road, Leicester was carried out by ULAS on behalf of Pearmain Ltd., in advance of proposed residential conversion. Boston House is a former Boot and Shoe factory, constructed circa 1920 for Messrs. Hill and Cunningham. The proposals for redevelopment include alterations to the principal façade, in addition to the raising of the present roofline to facilitate the formation of 44 apartments within the building.

Aylestone Park and Ride Scheme (SP 5525 9970)

Simon Stowe

A Geophysical Survey was undertaken by Stratascan for ULAS in an area outlined for development as a park and ride scheme. The survey was successful in locating anomalies of potential archaeological origin, particularly over the route of the Fosse Way. Evidence of other archaeological activity is fragmentary. This is possibly due to modern agricultural use of the land and also the presence of large modern magnetic features dominating the data. Anomalies thought to have been caused by natural effects have also been identified in the west of the survey area.

Aylestone Road, (former E.M.E.B Sports Field Site) *Tim Carew, Ken Bazley*
(SK 5846 0295)

An archaeological evaluation was undertaken by AOC Archaeology Group at the former East Midlands Electricity Board sports field site, Aylestone Road, Leicester on behalf of E-ON UK plc. The aim of the evaluation was to assess the impact of the proposed development of the site on any surviving archaeological remains, and in particular any remnants of the Raw Dykes. This earthwork has been interpreted as a Roman aqueduct supplying Leicester with water from a source approximately 2km to the south of the Roman town. A stretch of it to the south of the site survives intact and is a Scheduled Ancient Monument.

The evaluation consisted of two machine excavated trenches measuring 20m x 1.8m, and a borehole transect. Remnants of the Raw Dykes were not observed in either trench and no other features of archaeological significance were recorded. Natural gravelly clay was overlain in both trenches by twentieth-century land-raising dumps. Modern truncation was evident across the area of both evaluation trenches.

A comparison of levels between the scheduled stretch of Raw Dykes and the evaluation trenches showed that the natural deposits in both trenches were at a higher level than the base of the surviving ditch. If it was built to carry water northwards it is unlikely that the ditch of the Roman earthwork passed through the area covered by the evaluation trenches.

The boreholes transect was undertaken in an area where trenching was impracticable, to the east of the trenches where, according to the map evidence, the ditch of the Raw Dykes is predicted to have been; there was a probable natural subsoil beneath modern made ground. Further to the west the natural ground had been truncated to a lower level, probably recently, although the possibility that this was due to the ditch of the Raw Dyke cannot be entirely dismissed.

It is therefore likely that the part of the site now occupied by the bowling green was subject to widespread and heavy truncation in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. This appears to have removed any earlier archaeological deposits. If any of the ditch of the Raw Dykes survives on the site, it is likely to be below c.58.0mOD and in the area that was not available for evaluation, in the far south east of the site. This is a strip up to 35m wide to the east of Trench 1 and up to 100m long to the south of the borehole transect. A9.2006.

Beaumont Leys Lane, Beaumont Leys, Leicester (SK 5760 0863) *John Thomas*

Archaeological work on land to the east of Beaumont Leys Lane, 4km to the north of the City centre, has revealed an extensive Iron Age settlement occupying a ridge between Rothley Brook to the west and the River Soar on the east. The work was in advance of warehouse and office development and was undertaken by ULAS on behalf of NSW Architects. Previous evaluative work on the site in 2002 had located an Iron Age roundhouse on the western side of the site, part of a contemporary ditch and a cluster of postholes to the east (Abrams 2002). In the



Fig. 1. One of the roundhouses during excavation with an adjacent building in the background.

summer of 2006 a larger area was stripped and excavated, joining the previously examined areas together and exposing the Iron Age settlement that covered approximately 1.2ha (Fig. 1).

Residual sherds of Neolithic and Bronze Age pottery hints at earlier activities on or near the site but the majority of the evidence related to an apparently ‘open’ Iron Age settlement that had developed on the northern side of a sinuous linear boundary. The boundary had been redefined several times as the settlement developed and during any one phase was little more than a shallow ditch, suggesting that it had not been constructed with defence in mind. The effort involved in redefining the boundary and the degree of respect that the settlement afforded it however, reflect its importance to the Iron Age community.

The settlement was characterised by an unusually large number of post-holes that covered the stripped area. The site had been ploughed in medieval times and

the resulting furrows have distorted the settlement plan somewhat, although distinct patterns can be recognised in the spread of post holes. Several fence lines were apparent and discrete structures, including a possible row of 'four-posters' (probable grainstores), give some idea of the organisation of the settlement. Several roundhouses were also revealed in addition to the one found in 2002. These were defined by the remains of eaves drip gullies as seen on other contemporary sites in the county. Interestingly, despite the frequency of well-preserved post holes across the site, little evidence for structural posts was recovered in relation to the round houses. This suggests that alternative structural methods are likely to have been used, such as turf or cob-walling, which may help to explain the absence of post holes within other Iron Age buildings where the suggestion was that such evidence had been ploughed away. Various pits and gullies completed the evidence for occupation on the site.

A range of artefacts was recovered from the excavated features including pottery, fired clay, animal bone, quern stones and metalworking slag. Most of the pottery was of the coarse East Midlands Scored Ware tradition although a small group of sherds from one of the buildings was much finer, suggesting that occupation on the site continued into the early post-Conquest period. A full analysis of the excavation results is currently underway; this will enable a more detailed understanding of the settlement origins and development as well as a consideration of the site's place within current knowledge of Iron Age Leicestershire. A.19.2006

REFERENCE

- Abrams, J., 2002 *An Archaeological Excavation on Land Adjacent to Beaumont Leys Lane, Leicester*. Unpublished Archaeological Services and Consultancy (ASC) report number ASC/LMH 02/1.

Bede Street (SK 5794 0400)

Sophie Clarke

A programme of historic building recording and survey of a late 19th century factory and warehouse, located at 25–27 Bede Street, Braunstone Gate, was carried out by ULAS on behalf of Architects LE1 and Kingsbury Special Ventures. The survey indicates that the buildings were designed by the local architectural firm, Redfern and Sawday and were constructed circa 1889 on behalf of Orson Wright, a local businessman and entrepreneur. A30.2006.

Braunstone Gate (SK 579 040)

Matthew Parker

An Archaeological Watching Brief was undertaken by ULAS on behalf of Anthony Ricketts Architects Ltd and LMP Consultants. The watching brief uncovered evidence of undated archaeological deposits, although potentially dating to the Roman period. These deposits were uncovered in the western portion of the development site. There was no evidence of the remains found during the evaluation conducted by ULAS during 2005 suggesting that these only survive at

depths greater than the depth of the pilings being constructed by the current developers. A10.2005.

Burley's Way, St Margaret's Bus Station (SP 463 608)

Caroline Rann

Staff of Warwickshire Museum undertook observation of limited groundworks within the bus station on behalf of Leicester City Council and recorded 19th-century building remains. A18.2006

**East Bond Street – Highcross Quarter
(SK 458500 304746 centre)**

*John Tate, Dave Parker,
Giles Macfarland, and Harriet Jacklin*

The evaluation and subsequent excavations and watching briefs at the former St. Peter's Lane Car Park, Megabowl and nightclub, on behalf of Hammerson UK Properties plc., revealed varied results pertaining to the depths and survival of archaeological deposits across the 0.82ha site. Truncation varied between 1m and 3m, mainly due to medieval agricultural activity in the form of 'garden soils', and later Victorian cellaring. The archaeological deposits revealed represent periods from the Late Iron Age to Late Roman, and early Medieval through to Victorian and Modern periods.

Two 19th Century Chapels were present on the site, the Ebenezer (Baptist) Chapel and Bond Street Congregational Chapel. The burials were recorded and removed for re-interment at Gilroes Cemetery. Slate-capped brick-lined tombs were encountered along with coffin burials. In total 188 burials were recovered.

The western end of the site, adjacent to the St. Margaret's Baths site, revealed extensive truncation of Roman deposits by agricultural activity with two distinct 'garden soil' horizons. Medieval pitting and late medieval ephemeral structural remains were encountered along with some evidence of furrows from agricultural activity. Furrows were also encountered across the site along with areas of more intensive pitting from the early medieval to early post-medieval periods. The medieval street frontages appeared to have been removed by Victorian cellaring.

The eastern end of the site suffered less truncation from medieval agricultural activity and a north-south Roman street was revealed (seen previously at Sanvey Gate, 2003, Causeway Lane, 1990 and Little Lane, 1988). The 'insula' layout ditches were revealed and dated to the late first/early second century. These were partially overlain by the initial street metalling and road-side ditches. Later silting, subsequent street surfaces and re-cuts of the road-side ditches were also revealed, dating to the mid second century and later. Two gullies were also located, either side of the layout ditches. Deposits survived mainly to the east of the street and consisted of silt layers and pitting over a buried topsoil, with four post-pads on the eastern boundary of the site, suggesting a structure may lie under East Bond Street. There was also evidence for early timber structures in the form of postholes and metallised surfaces. Some fragments of middle to late Iron Age pottery were recovered from one feature beneath the Roman deposits.

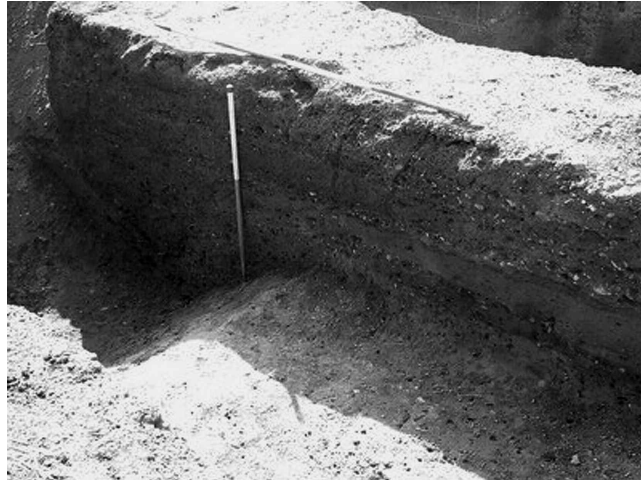


Fig. 2. East Bond St Roman Road Section.

A watching brief on Causeway Lane revealed Roman and medieval robber trenches including the foundations of a wall made from Daneshill Sandstone dating to the Late Roman or medieval period. The character of the archaeology was very similar to the Causeway Lane excavations (1990). It was recorded in plan as it was not threatened.

Overall, the site indicated that Insula XIX (to the east of the street) displayed little Roman activity whilst Insula XVIII (to the west of the street) was almost entirely truncated. A5.2006.

East Bond Street (SK 5855 0480)

Ed Taylor

Northamptonshire Archaeology was commissioned by CgMs Consulting, on behalf of R P N Underwood & Sons to carry out an evaluation. Three trenches in a surface car park exposed natural geology at about 2.3m below modern ground surface. The earliest feature comprised a medieval or later ditch containing residual Roman pottery and tile as well as medieval pottery. This was overlain by garden soils of medieval through to 19th-century date. There are extensive cellars. There was very little undisturbed stratification of pre-modern date. A14.2006.

Evington, 1–3 High Street (SK 6272 0292)

Neil Finn

As part of the development of the former South Leicestershire Garages Ltd site, numbers 1–3 High Street were rebuilt. Number 3 High Street included elements of a timber-framed structure which was surveyed in advance of development and has been retained in part within the new building. The excavation of wall foundation trenches and drain trenches associated with the new buildings was monitored but no buried archaeological remains were identified. The timber framing at number 3

High Street was an integral part of the structure preserved within the adjacent grade II listed building at 5–7 High Street, probably constructed in the 17th or early 18th century. A curious collection of glass fragments, including window glass and pieces from 4 separate vessels was found embedded in the mud infill of one of the walls, just above first floor ceiling level; this appeared to have been deliberately placed rather than an accidental inclusion and may have had some superstitious or protective significance.

**Great Central Street, no. 71, (former ‘Pretty Legs’
hosiery factory site) SK 5822 0487**

*John Thomas, John Tate,
and Dave Parker*

Two seasons of work were undertaken by ULAS on land formerly occupied by the ‘Pretty Legs’ hosiery factory at 71 Great Central Street, Leicester. The initial phase consisted of a trial trench evaluation which revealed areas of well-preserved archaeology fronting onto High Cross Street while a second phase of mitigation helped to further characterise the site’s archaeology.

The site is situated in an area of high, although largely untapped, archaeological potential fronting onto High Cross Street only a few metres away from the suspected site of the northern gate of the Roman and Medieval town. It is also near to All Saints Church and the former 14th century Cross Keys Inn. The site comprises two areas of deep cellaring associated with the former factory, and two ‘islands’ at either end of the site on the High Cross Street frontage.

The site was stripped to reveal the extents of archaeology, removing any modern cellaring to investigate the complexity of the higher areas. Archaeological remains revealed within the two cellared areas were excavated and recorded.

The two ‘islands’ both hold remarkably well-preserved late medieval and early post medieval remains just inches below the present ground level. At the northern end of the site four, or possibly five, frontage properties have been identified. One property has a stone cellar to the rear, whilst another has one at the front. To the rear of these properties evidence of copper alloy metalworking was revealed, with associated ceramic moulds similar to those found during the excavations at St Margarets. The buildings are represented by a series of stone walls, several of which survived up to several courses (*c.*0.50m) in height. Between the walls a series of floor surfaces had been preserved, hinting at the complexity of the stratigraphy below. To the rear of these properties, investigations revealed Roman deposits below a homogenous soil layer with a potential of *c.*0.8m of survival.

In the southern ‘island’ a Daneshill sandstone wall *c.*0.5m deep was uncovered directly beneath the modern surface. This runs through this area from one end to the other and is also likely to have been associated with medieval street frontage structures. Another stone cellar was revealed, with later additions and reworking in brick. The cellar wall was not revealed to any depth but does appear to have been refaced with stone at one stage, possibly for creating the cellar. An area of complex stratigraphy was reinvestigated and evidence for copper alloy working was recovered next to an area of metalling and stone flooring or wall. Other walls were also located, respecting the frontage. One wall seen in section was buried



Fig. 3. The stone cellar revealed in the sites northern 'island' (2m scale). In the background the shallow depth of the surviving late medieval High Cross Street frontage properties can be seen.

c.1m below the current ground surface. Again, the medieval and later material sits on a homogenous deposit. Roman layers were not located.

In the factory cellars, approximately 3m below the top of the stratigraphic sequence, Roman and medieval features were located. The medieval features included a well, the bottoms of pits and three robber trenches of Roman wall foundations. Evidence of Roman occupation consisted of fragmentary *in-situ* stone wall footings, gullies, pits and post holes, as well as an interesting well or ritual shaft from which two human skulls and a cow skull were retrieved. In places, remnants of early buried top-soils and sub-soils were revealed, unfortunately these areas were highly truncated. One medieval pit however contained a slump of Roman stratigraphy, hinting at the original layers that were once here and may still remain beneath the higher areas. The pottery recovered from these features indicates a later first to second-century date for the activity. Residual 4th century pottery and *tesserae* in the medieval levels hint at the surviving later Roman horizons and highlight the strong possibility that there may be Saxon occupation deposits on the site.

Overall the mitigation confirmed the results of the original evaluation, reflecting the high potential of the site and has revealed remarkably well-preserved

street frontage archaeology representing post medieval, medieval and potentially Saxon and Roman occupation.

Freeschool Lane/Highcross St (SK 5842 0465 centred)

Jon Coward

As part of work in advance of the Highcross Quarter retail development (see related reports on Vine Street and Vaughan Way (*TLAHS* 80, 219 and 222) and East Bond St, above), excavations were undertaken in the area bounded by Highcross St to the west, Freeschool Lane to the south and St Peters Lane to the north and Shires Lane to the east (the last two no longer extant) (Fig. 4). Evaluation of the south-western part of the site was previously reported (*TLAHS* 79, 143, Freeschool Lane) and evaluation across the rest of the site continued during 2005. Five areas were identified for further excavation (Areas 1, 4, 7, 10 and 20) (Fig. 4).

The Roman period

The majority of the Freeschool Lane site lies within Insula XVII of the Roman town, it also includes parts of XVIII, XXIII, and XXIV. The main north-south thoroughfare of the town leading to the north gate, and separating insulae XVI and XVII, was located along the very western edge of Area 1 as a sand and gravel agger rising westwards, partially under the line of the present Highcross Street (the medieval High Street), and broadly on the same alignment albeit slightly further west than the projected line (Fig. 5). It was also seen along the western edge of Area 20.

In the second or third century, a wall was constructed along the eastern edge of the north-south Roman street in Area 1, above a silted roadside ditch. It survived (or perhaps was only built) to just a few courses above ground level, and showed no evidence for other walls joining it along its 15m length, indicating that it is more likely to be a boundary wall rather than part of a structure. Subsequently, a post and beamslot building was constructed up against the east side of the wall. This contained a hearth and industrial debris. On the edge of the road, a series of industrial hearths were in use against the west side of the wall.

Three other structures of potential Roman date were revealed across the site, two in Area 20 and one in Area 4 (Fig. 6). In Area 20, the earliest feature was a length of masonry wall located in the south of the area and built on the same alignment as the Roman street grid. Centrally located within Area 20, a stone-walled rectangular building was identified. The walls and floor deposits were robbed and cut by later pits dating to the late medieval period. The dating of this building is at present uncertain as it could date to either the late Roman or Saxo-Norman period. The building is on a different alignment from that of the Roman street grid and is more closely on the alignment of the medieval street of St. Peter's Lane.

A building of similar construction and alignment was present in Area 4. Although appearing to be Roman in date, some Saxo-Norman pot was found



Fig. 4. Freschool Lane/Highcross St A8.2005: excavation areas (North to the top).

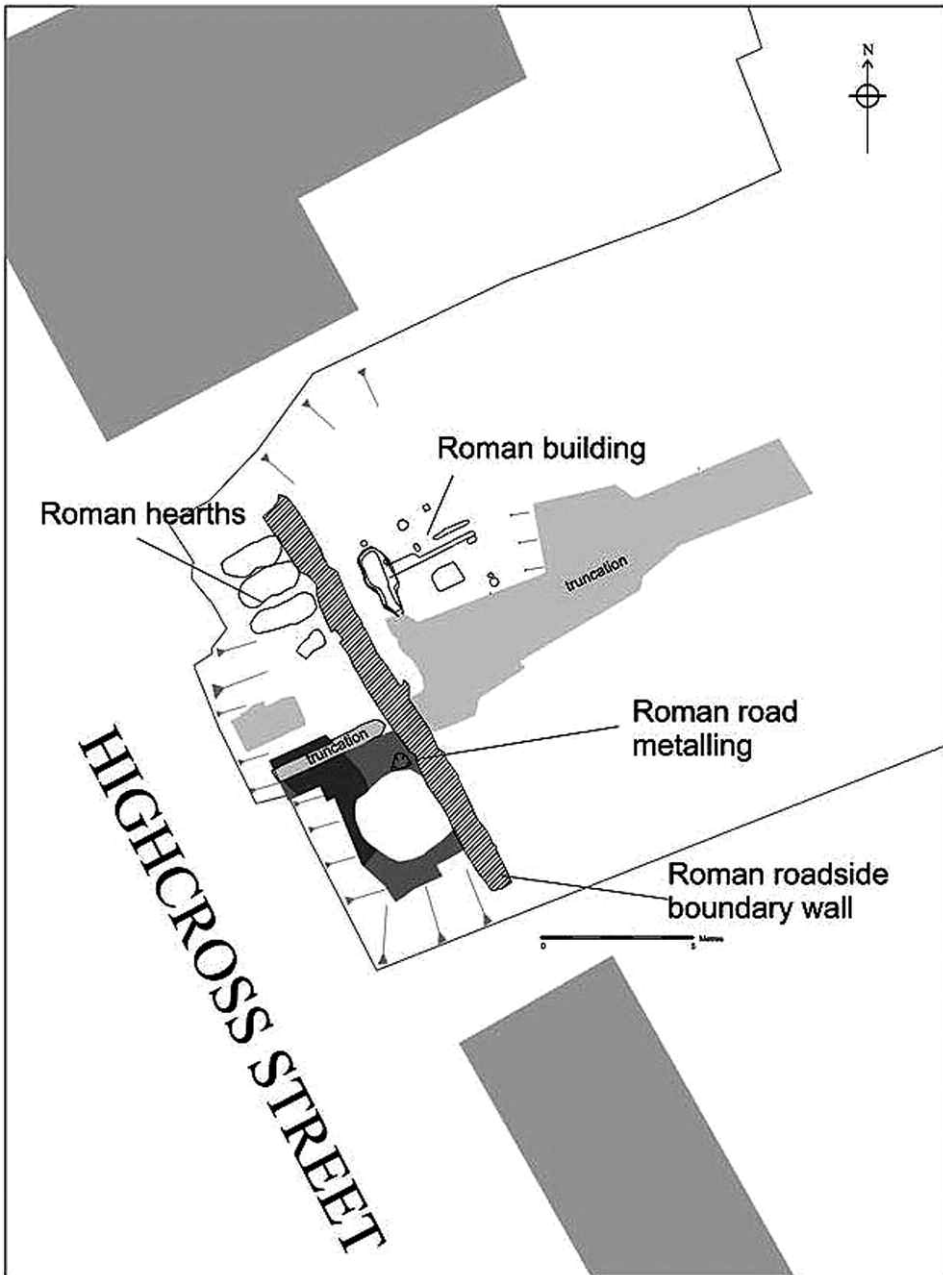


Fig. 5. Roman features in Area 1 frontage.

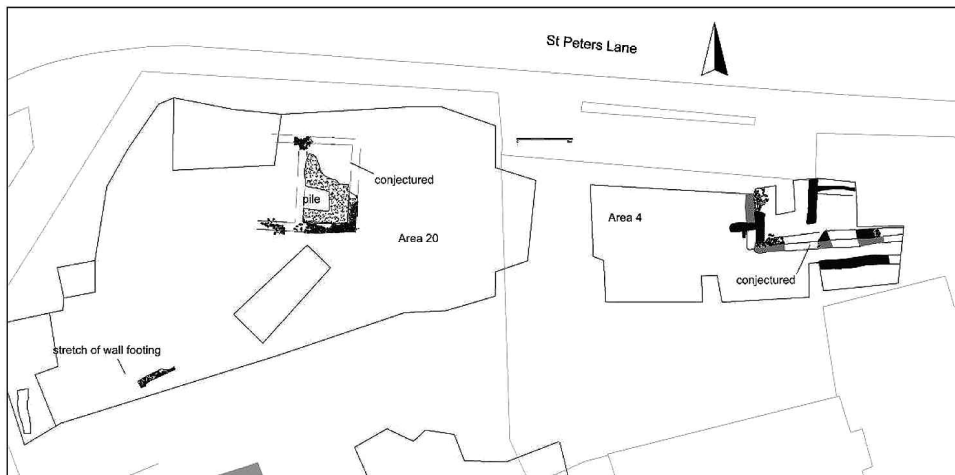


Fig. 6. Buildings of possible Roman date in Areas 4 and 20.

below a floor layer. At least part of the building appears to have been robbed by the end of the early medieval period and it is possible that the building itself could be a Saxo-Norman refurbishment of an extant Roman structure.

The Post-Roman and Early-Middle Saxon Period

Soil and granite rubble layers containing later fourth century coins and Early-Middle Saxon pottery built up over the edge of the Roman street and the associated hearths and wall line in Area 1. Sealing these deposits, over an area of approximately 5m by 6m along the central part of the frontage, was a section of collapsed walling probably belonging to the eastern gable end of the Roman market hall (*macellum*) which stood in Insula XVI to the west (Fig. 7). Taking into account the width of the road, the original height of the wall is estimated to have been at least 10m high. It consisted of coursed granite masonry, with tile levelling courses and tile arches. No exterior facing work appeared to be present, neither on the external (bottom) face, nor on the uppermost, suggesting that this masonry had already been robbed off the structure *in-situ*, perhaps producing the scatter of granite masonry noted in the soils below.

Cut into the surface of the collapsed wall was a sunken-featured building comprising a sub-rectangular cut of c.2.6m by 2.4m, with two axial postholes on an alignment which was slightly skewed to the apparent Roman and medieval streets (Fig. 7). Unfortunately the fills of this building appear to have derived from later layers, compressed down into the cut. A second sunken featured building of similar dimensions but different alignment was revealed in Area 7. This had been heavily truncated by medieval and post medieval pitting, but Early-Middle Saxon pottery was recovered from the surviving fills.

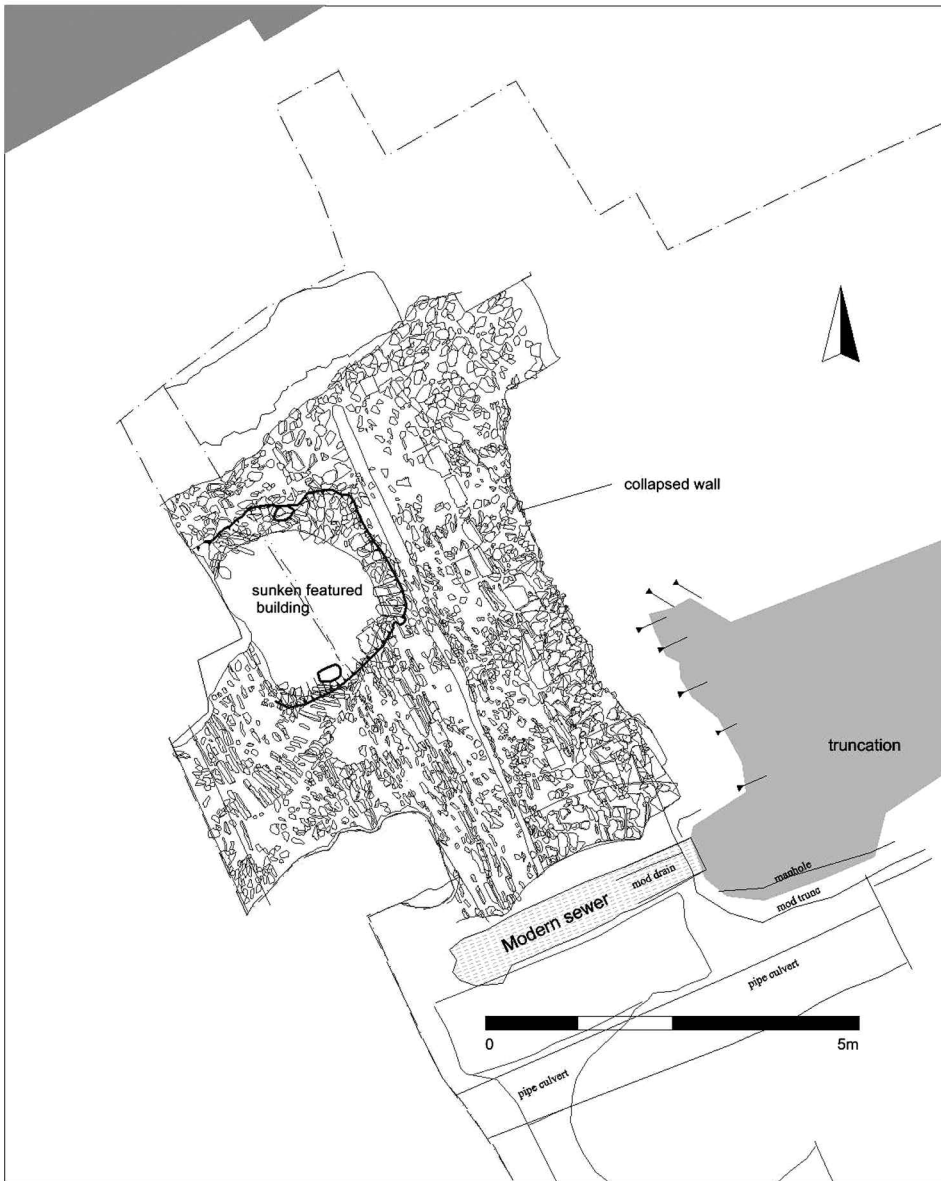


Fig. 7. Early-Middle Saxon features in Area 1 frontage.

The Saxo-Norman and earlier medieval periods (to c.1250)

Two buildings of Saxo-Norman date were identified on the Area 1 frontage (Fig. 8), together with the possibly refurbished Roman building in Area 4 mentioned above. The first of these comprised part of a post and beamslot building to the rear of the frontage of Plot 56. Significantly, the line of its east-west beamslot

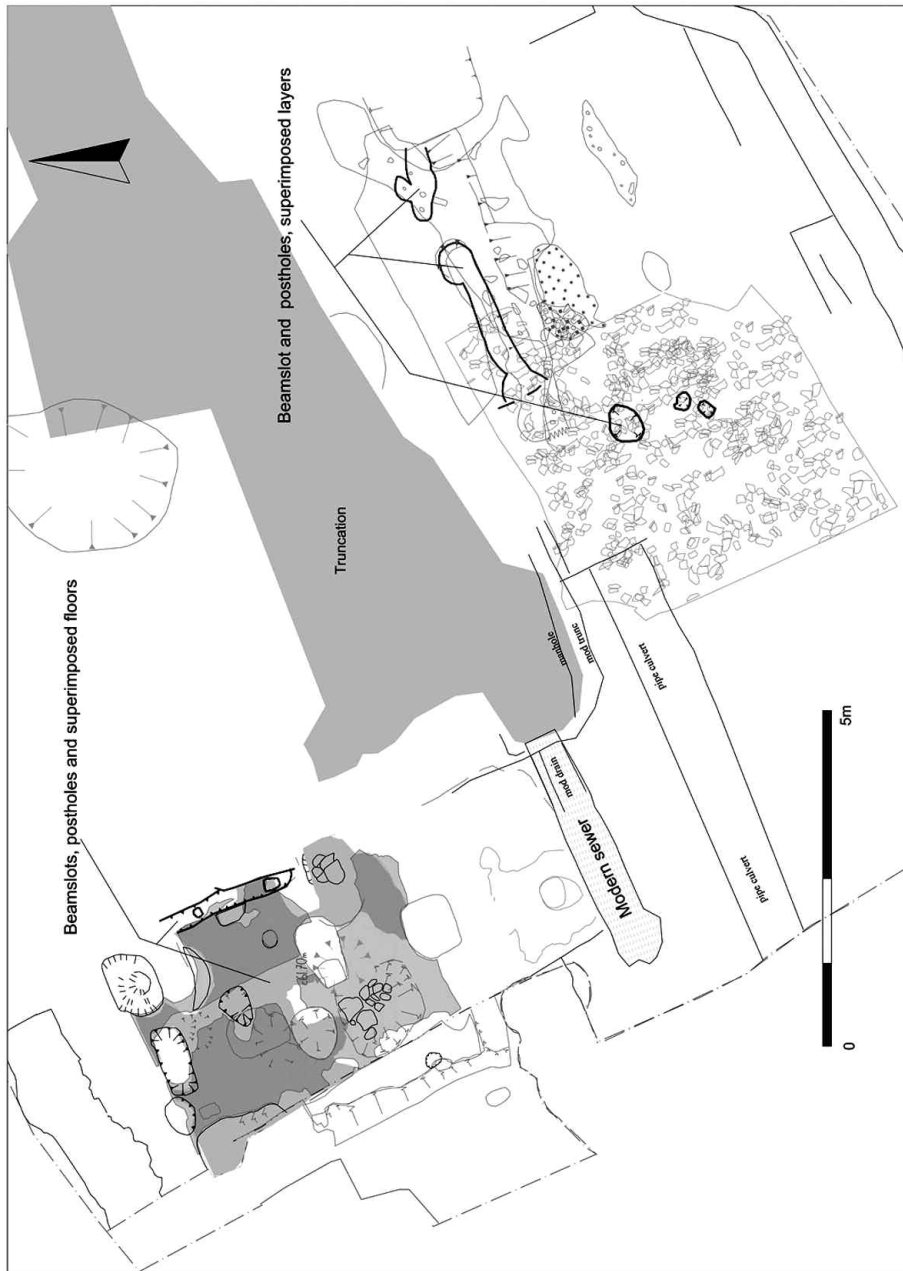


Fig. 8. Saxo-Norman buildings on the Area 1 frontage.

represented the earliest establishment of a building line which would continue in use until the twentieth century. The second post and beamslot building lay on the frontage of Plot 57 to the north, and was constructed over the soil which had built up on top of the collapsed Roman wall. The wall of this property fronting on to the street is assumed to have been truncated by the later masonry walls. A large pit immediately behind the building, to the east is also of Saxo-Norman date and the numerous postholes, pits and surfaces in the area across both plots may represent traces of further buildings belonging to this phase.

By the middle of the thirteenth-century, the frontage along both Highcross Street and Freeschool Lane (where building were first being detected in Area 10), was assuming a form which would have been recognisable up until the last century. Further plots had been established northwards along Highcross St as detected in Area 20, whilst substantial masonry footings had replaced the beam slot structures on the Area 1 frontage. Burgage plots were defined behind the Highcross St frontage stretching eastwards across the entire excavated length of Area 1, with small stone-founded buildings with surviving floor layers recognised on Plot 57.

The medieval to late medieval periods (c.1250–1500)

During this period Plot 57 was occupied by five kilns (Fig. 9). Four of these were grouped closely together and appeared to be of one phase. They were very similar in appearance, comprising a stone-lined circular chamber, and all were set on to a cobbled base exhibiting evidence for burning. The specific function of the kilns awaits the analysis of environmental evidence. The fifth kiln was located further back and comprised a deep, 'teardrop'-shaped pit. The roughly hewn granite stone-lining was clay-bonded and had been partially robbed, whilst the granite-paved floor was partial burnt. The 3m long flue led from the kiln-chamber to a flight of worn steps which had been cut into the natural gravels. A narrow open yard, paved with successive cobbled surfaces, ran along the southern length of the plot, and stone-lined cess pits and wells were identified.

Plot 56 appears to have been used as an open yard heavily disturbed by later inter-cutting rubbish pits, whilst the rear of plot 58 contained a keyhole-shaped kiln, a cess pit and a well (Fig. 9). The kiln was stone-lined and had a flagstone floor and an arched flue, serviced by a flight of steps which, again, had been cut into the natural gravels. Across the entire frontage of Area 1, wall lines exhibited continual rebuilding. In Area 4, the building which had been refurbished during the Saxo-Norman period was robbed and replaced by a thin wedge-shaped industrial feature.

In area 10, Building A, constructed in the 12th century, remained in use (Fig. 10). Room 1 contained a sub-circular industrial feature comprising two arched slots and a sequence of thick clay deposits within it. The adjacent Room 2 an oval 'industrial' feature was cut into the floor. During the fifteenth century, Building B was constructed to the east, with what appears to have been a cobbled yard or alley separating it from Building A. Internal floors were identified and wells, pits, and domestic refuse pits were identified to the north.

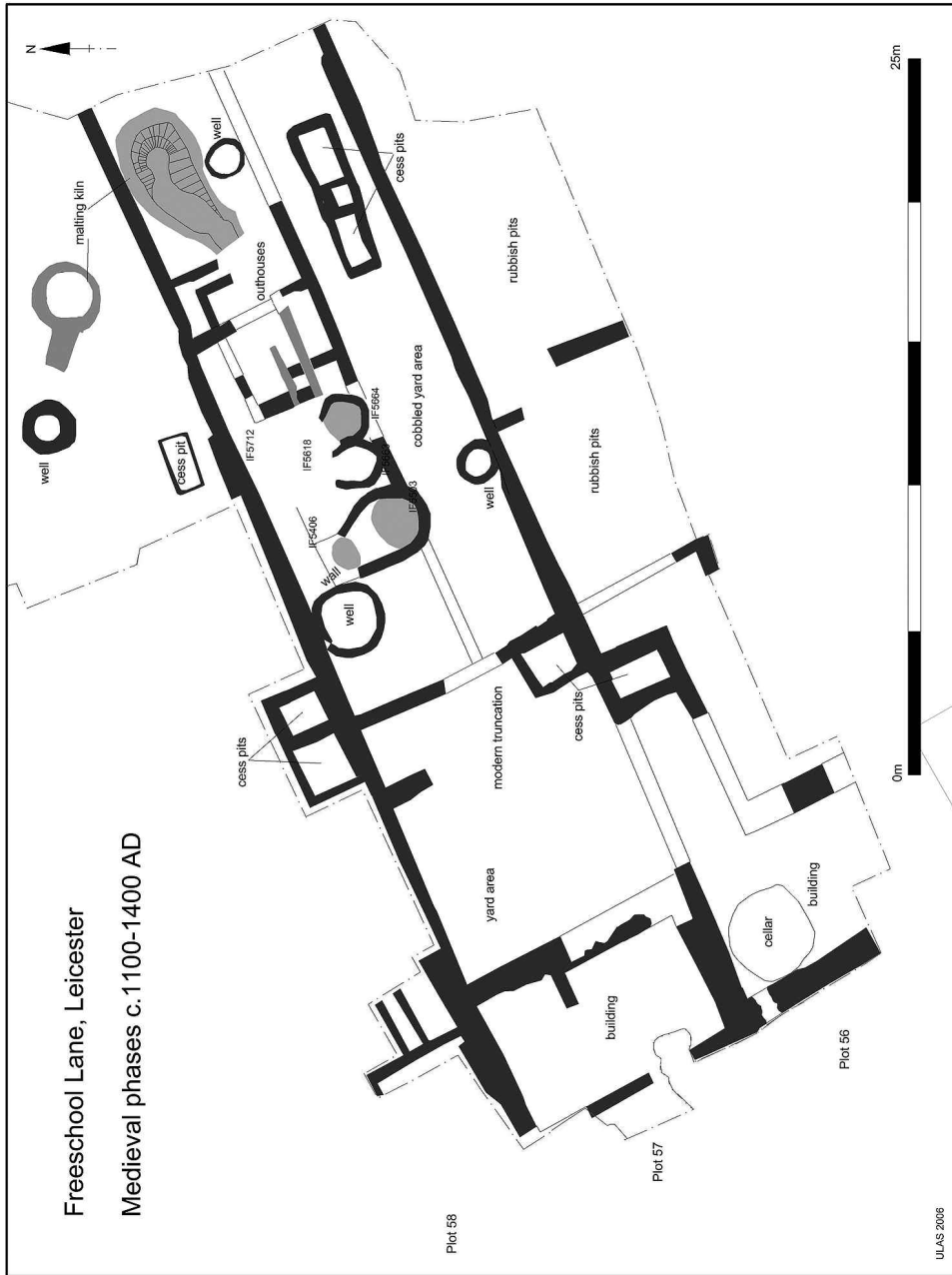


Fig. 9. Area 1 early-late medieval.

The post-medieval period (1500–1750)

On the Area 1 frontage, Plot 56 was occupied by the north bay of the Free Grammar School which was known as the Headmaster's house. The School was built in 1573 using building materials from the demolished St Peter's church, with the north bay being demolished about 1880. The front wall, part of the rear wall, and the east-west gable wall were revealed during excavation; all floor surfaces were truncated.

In Area 10, Buildings A and B were going out of use by c.1500 with the walls progressively robbed over the next two centuries. The area was gravelled-over leaving only the east wall of B standing. By 1750 the walls had been fully robbed out and refuse pits had been dug through the floors. A thick layer of 'garden soil' began to accumulate, with a similar situation occurring in Areas 4, 7, and 20.

The modern period

Plot 59, immediately north of the Area 1 frontage, is occupied by 59 Highcross Street, built in 1756 (see building survey by Clarke and Finn below). The building has had a complex development and the narrowness of Plot 58 and the arrangement of cellars beneath no. 59 suggests plot subdivisions. The remnants of a brick arched Georgian cellar, backfilled with twentieth-century rubbish, were noted during machining. The most recent excavated structures in Plot 57 may also relate to the Free Grammar School as it is known that a further property was built for it, and attached to it, in the early 18th century, the exact position of which is uncertain. Cartographic evidence from 1828 shows continued development along both the Highcross Street and Freeschool Lane frontages but the interior of the plots was still under horticultural use. By the late 19th Century, the Goad insurance plans indicate dense industrial and commercial activity in the interior, with Freeschool Lane being widened at this time. A8.2005

Highcross Street, nos. 59–59a (SK 5835 0464)

Sophie Clarke, Neil Finn

An historic building survey of 59–59a Highcross Street, Leicester was undertaken by ULAS on behalf of Hammerson Plc. The building is a grade II listed Georgian townhouse, now subdivided into two separate properties. The survey established that the street frontage range was constructed in 1756 incorporating an earlier rear wing, behind 59a, which probably dates to the early 18th century. Elements of an earlier building on the site of number 59 were also incorporated into the 1756 structure, including a stone-built cellar. This cellar extended to the south of number 59 and was partially revealed during excavation of the adjacent site, reported above. Internally various early decorative details were recorded. The principal and service staircases, together with fitted cupboards, fireplaces, doors, surrounds and skirting on the upper floors of number 59, are consistent with the mid 18th century construction date. The distinction between 'polite' areas, occupied by the family, and 'service' areas is apparent in the layout of the 18th

century building and the decorative treatment of individual rooms. Documentary and cartographic evidence indicates that the building was divided into two properties possibly in 1830 but certainly by 1863; the interior of 59a was modernised around the same time. Surviving 19th century decorative details in this half of the building include rising shutters, skirting boards, fitted cupboards, fire surrounds, cornices and ceiling roses. Early photographs show a 19th century shop front to 59a. Most recently number 59 functioned as the Rajah Restaurant, number 59a was converted into apartments in the 1990s. A20.2006.

Leicester College, Abbey Park Campus, Painter Street
(SK 5911 0550)

Paul Mason

Northamptonshire Archaeology was commissioned by RPS Planning, Transport and Environment, on behalf of Leicester College, to conduct an archaeological trial excavation at the Abbey Park Campus. A single flint blade of probable early Neolithic date was found in the subsoil. The remains of 19th-century buildings, including a large culvert or sewer and a small square or rectangular structure with a sunken floor, were located. A15.2006.

Magazine Gateway (SK 58444 041234)

Ioannis Altsitzoglou

An archaeological watching brief was undertaken in September 2006 during trial pitting at the Magazine Gateway, Leicester by ULAS on behalf of De Montfort University/AIMS Ltd. Work on the trial pits was stopped as soon as archaeological finds or deposits were observed, and these were then recorded. The trial pits located make-up of the building foundations and the Newarke curtain wall. A28.2006.

Memory Lane (SK 5896 0051)

Sophie Clarke

A programme of historic building survey of a 19th century warehouse, located adjacent to the Grand Union Canal, was carried out by ULAS on behalf of RPS Planning, Transport and Environment and British Waterways. The warehouse is thought to date to c.1862, when it formed the premises for Joseph Johnson, Bone Manure Manufacturer. From 1899 until 1969, the warehouse was used by the Anglo-American Nitrogen Company. The warehouse is presently unoccupied and its demolition has been proposed, as part of a wider scheme of redevelopment within the area. A26.2006.

Oxford Street, former James Went Building (SK 5846 0404)

James Harvey

An archaeological evaluation was undertaken by ULAS in response to development proposals for a new centre of excellence building as a part of the redevelopment at De Montfort University and consisted of two trial trenches. Archaeological features relating to Roman, medieval and post-medieval

occupation on the site were revealed in the two trenches. The densest activity was recorded in Trench 2, close to the Oxford Street frontage where evidence of Roman property boundary activity was revealed beneath medieval garden soil. Later medieval and post-medieval pitting was also observed on the site although all the deposits had been badly damaged by later intrusions. A11.2006.

Vine Street (SK 583 048)

Tim Higgins

Excavations by ULAS, in advance of the Highcross Quarter retail development (Shires West) previously reported (*TLAHS* 80, 222–4), continued until October 2006. This report will present a fuller description and phasing of the Roman courtyard building complex in Insula V (*contra* *TLAHS* 80, 222 where they were originally identified as lying in Insula XI to the south; the east-west street having now been acknowledged as the division between the two, although somewhat to the south of where originally postulated), before concentrating on the medieval evidence recovered (Fig. 11)

The results of the excavations are highly significant as they represent the largest-scale investigation so far of the Roman town, exposing a substantial part of Insula V and parts of insulae IV, X and XI, which together form a crossroads in the street grid in the south western part of the site. Much of Insula V was occupied by a complex of buildings, comprising a courtyard house and adjoining ranges and a separate rectangular building assumed to have a ‘public’ function, due to the scale of its foundations. The complex exhibits an evolution from the second to the fourth century comprising successively, phases of timber buildings, masonry strip buildings and their subsequent incorporation into a courtyard building of Mediterranean plan. Parts of the building fronting on to the street appeared to have a commercial function whilst internal rooms were clearly residential, incorporating hypocausted bathing suites, tessellated floors and painted plaster walls. The fourth century may have seen the building subdivided and change its function to incorporate iron working and bone pin manufacture, as well as the burial of a coin hoard in the mid-330s and a lead ingot in the east range. Other finds included two inscribed lead curses. The latest coins indicate Roman occupation into the final decades of the fourth century.

The evolution of the building complex in Insula V has been divided into three broad phases.

Phase 2 Early Roman Period: mid 1st century AD to early 2nd century AD

LAYING OUT OF THE STREET GRID

Where excavation strategy permitted, investigations suggested that stretches of ditches had been laid out marking the lines of the east-west and the north-south streets. Parallel ditches were cut approximately 5m apart to demark the division between road and insula and turf was re-established over the road and ditch area.

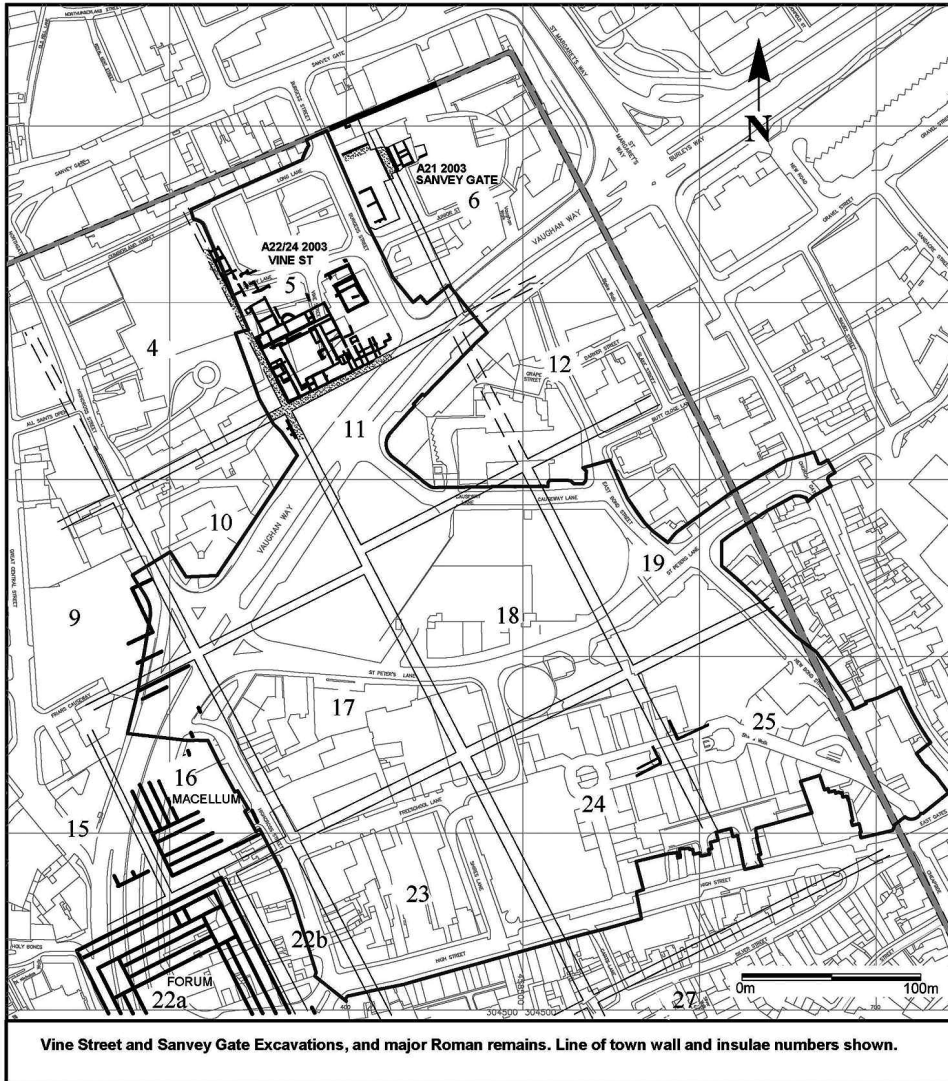


Fig. 11. Vine Street: Site location within the North East Quarter of the Roman and Medieval town and in relation to the forum and macellum.

Evidence for turf lines was detected beneath the level of the first gravel street metalling and running down into the ditch, either deliberately laid or representing the natural formation of grassland. It was unclear from the exposed sections whether this turf naturally re-established itself or had been deliberately replaced.

GRAVEL EXTRACTION PITS

The earliest occupation comprises a scatter of large gravel extraction pits found beneath the later timber and masonry phase structures and close to the two roads.

A very large pit, 5m in diameter, was seen in the south west corner of Insula V under part of the later courtyard house (Building 1) and a similar size pit was excavated under rooms close to the east west street. A scatter of smaller pits between 1.5m and 3m in diameter were excavated close to the north south street under rooms of the courtyard house. These are thought to be localised quarrying of the natural gravels to be used in the construction of early roads and buildings. The pits appear to have been subsequently used as cess/refuse pits and the pottery sherds suggests they were backfilled in the early second century.

EARLY TIMBER STRUCTURES

Evidence for timber buildings was found in all four insulae directly fronting on to both streets comprising various slots for sill beams, post holes and hearths, sealed under various make-ups layers for the construction of later structures and surfaces. Contemporary early yard surfaces were recorded running off the east-west and north-south streets. There were limits to the excavations of Insulae IV, X and XI and this has reduced the understanding of the early timber phase development in those areas. However, a good proportion of the early timber phase of Insula V was excavated and a more coherent pattern of its development can be identified. In general the early timber phase appears to be restricted to areas in close proximity to the two streets. The interior of Insula V appears to be structurally quiet with very little evidence of activity during this period.

A potential pattern of early subdivision of Insula V for the early buildings has emerged. An extensive gravel surface or yard (approximately 12m x 12m) was found in the south west corner of Insula V. Directly to the north of this yard surface was a group of post holes and beam slots cutting into gravel and clay surfaces which represented the early sub-rectangular structure, measuring 12m by 10m, and fronted directly on to the north-south street. Directly to the north, a linear group of substantial post settings for a possible fence were found running north-south. All the ceramic evidence found within these features suggested an early 2nd century date. Beyond this fence line another potential yard surface was found running towards the street.

Running eastwards, from the south west corner of Insula V, along the east-west street, another extensive yard surface was revealed. Directly to the east of this surface there was another group of postholes and beam slots cutting gravel and clay surfaces, which suggested another potential early rectangular timber structure (measuring 4.5m east-west by 6–7m north-south). Directly to the east of this structure, groups of post holes were found that were possible fence lines rather than structures. The backfill of the various post holes and beam slots had pottery suggesting an early to mid 2nd century date. So a potential pattern of subdivision has emerged within the strips of land located close to the streets. The strips appear to have been subdivided in areas possibly designated for yards, while other areas were locations for buildings or partitioned with fence lines. Some of the yard surfaces were sealed with spreads of occupational trample containing patches of burnt material, potential industrial waste (copper and iron slag) and mid-late second-century pottery.

Phase 3 Mid-Roman: Mid 2nd Century AD to 3rd century AD

The next major phase of development within Insula V was the replacement of the early timber phase with masonry structures. Evidence for Building 1, which in its final form was a courtyard house of Mediterranean plan, comprised a complex sequence of robber trenches and superimposed floor surfaces, with fragments of *in-situ* walls and footings. The building had clearly undergone a long evolution and enlargement, spanning the mid-2nd to the 4th century, with the complete plan suggesting successive remodelling involving the addition and subdivision of ranges of rooms.

In contrast, there are limitations to what we can say can be said, excavations were confined to areas close to the cross roads. All insulae appear to follow the same pattern with the abandonment of the timber phase structures, which are demolished and buried under layers of sandy silt make-ups between 0.20m to 0.40m thick. This major phase of landscaping within all the insulae could have been early attempts to raise ground levels to match the levels of the newly laid road surfaces.

The subsequent development of the four insulae, appears to change in character from this time onwards. Both Insula XI to the south and Insula IV to the west appear to be structurally quiet with no major timber or masonry buildings constructed to front on to either street. The development within the insulae appears to be restricted to just broad phases of make-up layers, which could be yet more attempts to raise ground levels to match level of new road surfaces. A substantial masonry building was identified in Insula X fronting directly on to the north-south street but only one robbed wall of this structure was excavated. This comprised a robber trench running north to south (12m long and 1.00m wide and between 1.00m to 1.40m deep). The building appeared to have two internal robbed wall trenches (1.00m wide 1.20m deep) running west from the north-south robber. A potential yard surface was seen at the southern of the structure running east towards the street.

INSULA V: STRIP BUILDINGS (FIG. 12)

The first phase of masonry structures sited within what became Building 1, comprised two strip buildings (A and B) fronting length ways on to the east-west and north-south streets. A third strip building with yards (Building C) was found north of the courtyard house fronting on to the north-south street. All the strip buildings had substantial wall foundations typically measuring 0.80m to 0.90m wide and 1.20m plus deep. Building A was located in the south-west corner of the insula, running northwards and its approximate dimensions were 22m long and 7m wide, whilst the Building B was identified fronting on to the east-west street and running eastwards with approximate dimensions of 27m long and 7m wide. Building C lies to the north of the first fronting length ways on to the north-south street. This building also had width of 7m and a length of between 25m and 30m.

There was evidence of internal and external timber structures possibly associated with the strip buildings, which comprised postholes and post pads with internal mortar surfaces and external gravel yards. Within Building A, a set of

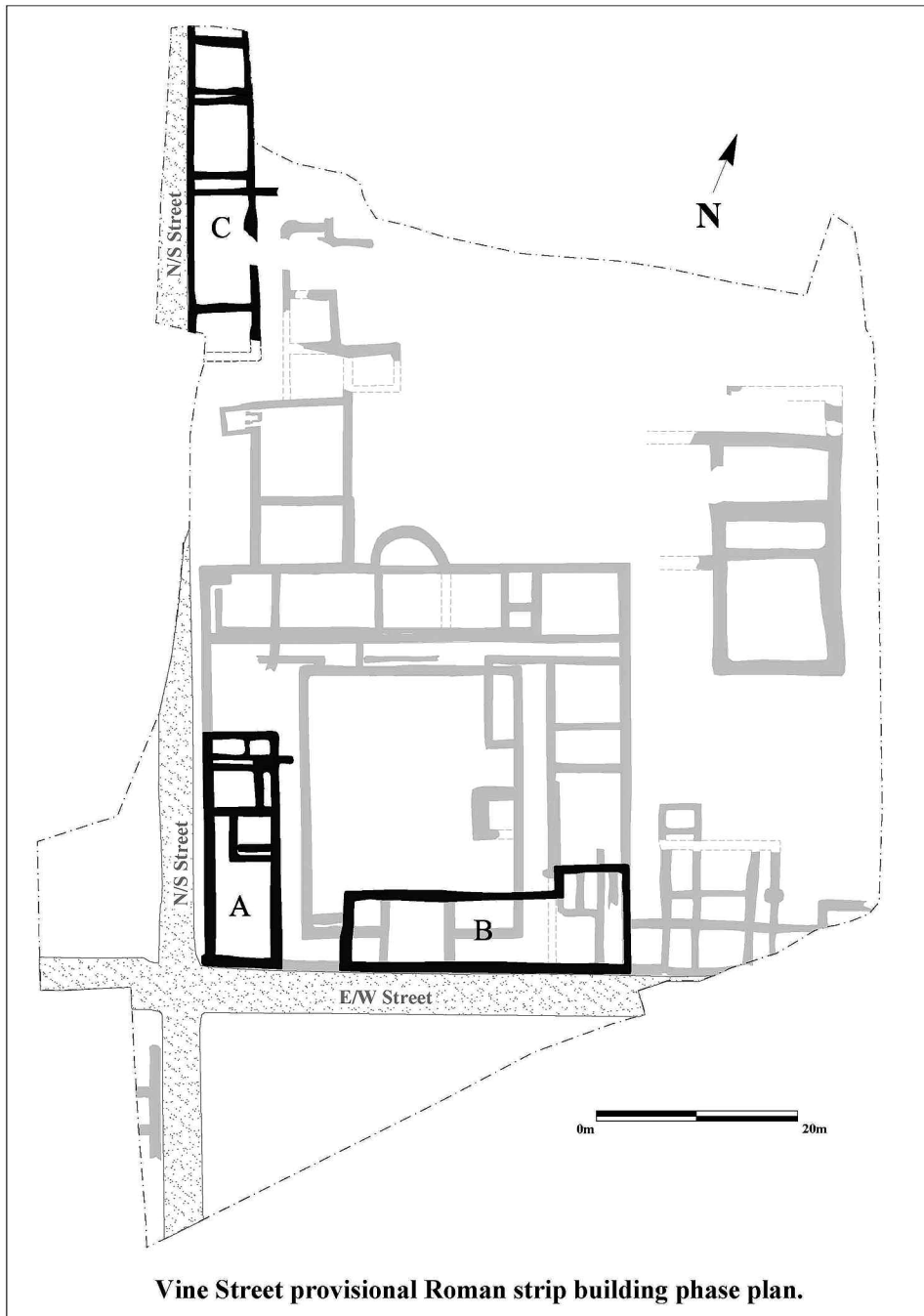


Fig. 12. Vine Street: Plan of the Roman strip building phase.

large granite blocks, that possibly represented a heavy duty surface or wall footing, was found butting up against a large expanse of mortar floor 5m square. To the north of this strip building was an extensive heavy duty yard surface running east from the north south street (20m long by 10m wide). At the east end of the metallated surface it abutted another set of large granite blocks that may have represented another heavy duty surface or wall footing.

A second timber phase was possibly associated with Building B fronting on to the east west street. It was separated from the earlier timber structures by a thick layer of make-up which sealed the gravel surface. This phase was very fragmented, only surviving beneath the later courtyard house rooms and court yard and largely consisted of numerous large post-holes and shallow gullies or beam-slots. To the north-east a red clay surface with two associated hearths was excavated. Beneath the south range Building 1, a more intact sequence of occupation survived. This consisted of successive compacted earth and gravel surfaces separated by occupational trample, demolition material and pitting. The pottery found with these various features and layers of the strip buildings had suggested a period of mid to late 2nd century.

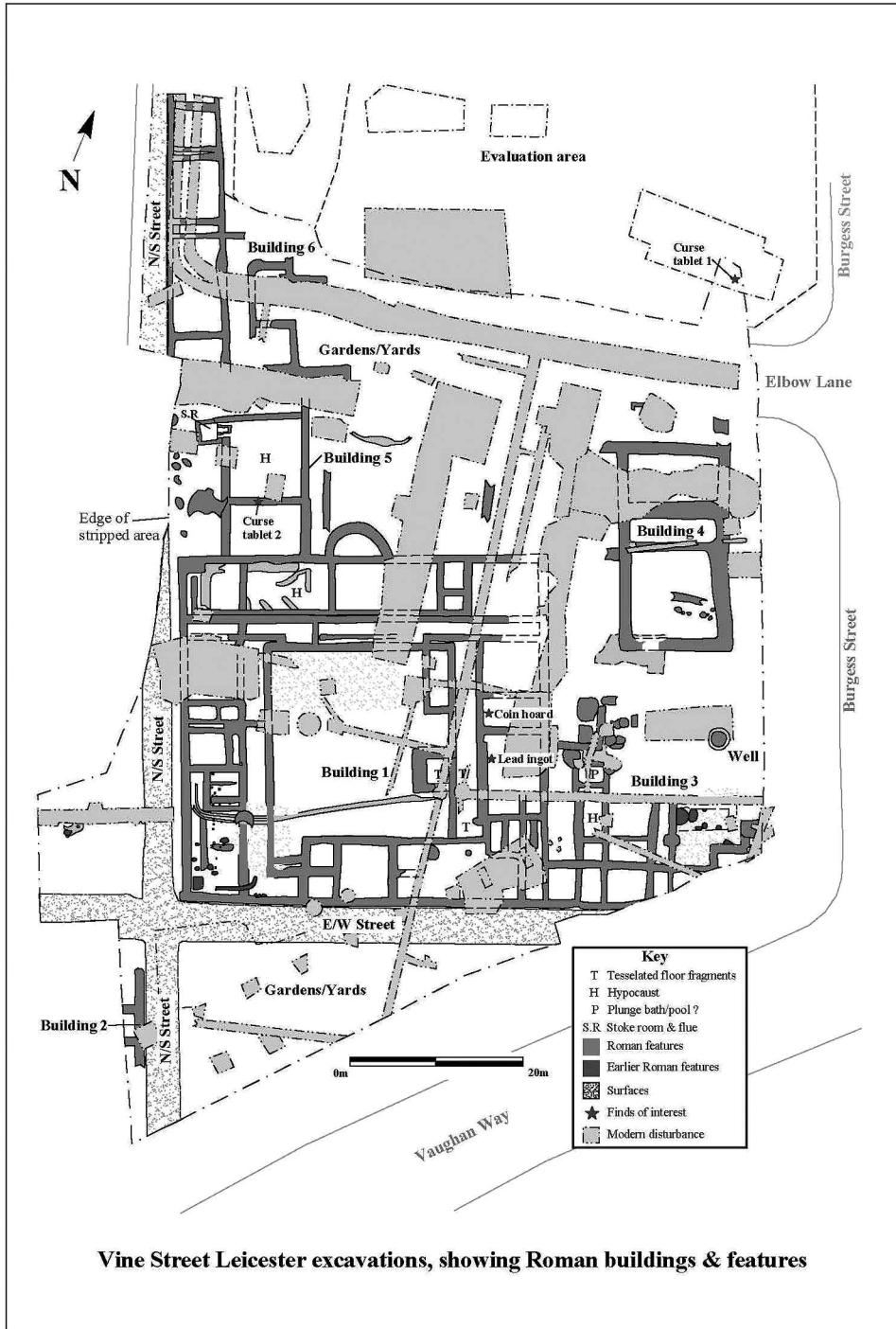
INSULA V: INFANT INHUMATIONS

The floor and surfaces within strip buildings A and B (Fig. 8) were sealed by another phase of make-up layers in preparation for their conversion to courtyard house rooms. Three infant inhumations were found within these make-ups, of which two were located in the southern end Building A and third within western end of building B. The make-up layers which were cut by these burials were dated to the late 2nd to early 3rd century.

INSULA V: EVOLUTION OF THE COURTYARD HOUSE (BUILDING 1, FIG. 13)

The second phase of masonry buildings suggests a precursor to the courtyard house comprising an east range, with a corridor or porch, formed by extending northwards from Building B, perpendicular to the street. This new east range extension had substantial masonry wall foundations typically measuring 0.90m wide and 1.20m deep. The east range along with Buildings A and B thus enclosed a central courtyard on three sides. The arrangement and dimensions of the identified rooms within the east range and along with the possible corridor or porch fronting on to the courtyard suggests a residential suite of reception and dinning rooms. The corridor or portico was paved with a tessellated floor of red and grey formed into a grid pattern across one of the door threshold. Unfortunately, only three small areas of the floor were preserved and there was no evidence for finer mosaic work of the kind discovered on Vine Street in 1830 which could well have derived from this building or this range specifically, given its location away from the street frontage. Evidence for highly decorated plaster walls were also found associated with this range of rooms comprising demolition dumps both inside and outside the structure.

The courtyard house (Building 1) was fully enclosed with the addition of the third phase, which comprised the construction of a north range of rooms with a



Vine Street Leicester excavations, showing Roman buildings & features

Fig. 13. Vine Street: Roman building complex in Insula V.

portico and the northern extension of Building A to join its western end. At the same time, parts of the south range fronting on to the east-west street were demolished, to be replaced with a possible formal entrance hall (*atrium*) and the pre-existing corridors were remodelled to create a continuous portico, looking out on to a *peristylum* (open courtyard garden). The new northern range included an apsidal room, suggestive of a *triclinium* (dining room), set opposite the *atrium* in the south range, whilst other rooms identified at either end of this range were heated, as indicated by remnants of the robbed hypocaust flues. The *peristylum* may also have had water features as there was evidence of a stone lined well constructed as part of the north range portico and a culvert or drain was found in the southern half of the courtyard running into the west range.

PHASE 3 CONSTRUCTION OF THE BATH HOUSES: BUILDINGS 3 AND 5 (FIG. 13)

The south range of Building 1 was extended eastwards to form Building 3 which contained a bath suite, represented by the remnants of a hypocaust in one room and a sunken-walled plunge pool adjoining it to the north. Both rooms appear to have become redundant and back filled shortly after their construction as the associated pottery suggests a mid to late 2nd century date. At the east end of Building 3, lay a series of courtyard surfaces, separated from it by a granite wall which may have formed part of a portico.

The abandonment of Building 3 may have been in response to the construction of a second, larger bath suite (Building 5) formed by a northwards extension of the north range of Building 1. This new bath suite comprised two large rooms, one of which contained a heavily robbed hypocaust with a stoke house attached on the west side. The arrangement and size of three small cubicle-sized rooms and probable drains found at the northern end of Building 5, suggest plunge pools.

PHASE 3 AND 4 COMMERCIAL FRONTAGE (FIG. 13)

Building 1 appears to have always had a commercial aspect to its development; excavations of the strip building (A) in the south west corner revealed hard stone and mortar floors that were rather utilitarian in character and had been maintained and replaced several times. These surfaces, subdivided by timber partitions, are suggestive of possible shops or workshops fronting on to the east-west and north-south streets. By the thirteenth-century it appears that commercial development had expanded to encompass all the south range including the first bathhouse (Building 3) this involved the subdivision of some rooms and the expansion of others fronting on to the east-west street. A culvert had been inserted into the southern end of the open courtyard, running east to west into the west range and turning northwards. These rooms were re-modelled with new mortar floors and subdivided with timber and masonry walls.

BUILDING 4: TIMBER PHASE (FIG. 13)

To the north-east of the courtyard house a series of substantial post settings were revealed (approximately 1.80m in diameter and between 1.00m and 1.20m deep). These appeared to coincide with the later wall lines associated with a Public

Building (Building 4) suggesting perhaps a timber precursor with a similar footprint. Expansive mortar floors were identified inside the structure, and it is thought that the arrangement and footprint of northern rooms of the later public building (Building 4) may have originally been part of this earlier structure before expansion into the southern rooms. The pottery associated with this early building indicates a possible mid to late second-century construction date.

BUILDING 4: MASONRY PUBLIC BUILDING (FIG. 13)

The masonry replacement which appears to have been constructed in the 3rd century was built on a massive scale, with thick walls and large rooms. The masonry walls were up to 1.2m in thickness and the structure expanded south with two large rooms added. The thickness of the walls suggests a load bearing capacity either for rooms with high ceilings or a multi-storey structure. Although the walls were extensively robbed, a significant *in situ* stone foundation survived, together with fragments of superstructure, and evidence for several phases of mortar flooring within one of the large rooms, which measured approximately 9.00m square. Finds from the mid third-century were also recovered, along with extensive painted wall plaster and red clay from deposits which probably predated the construction of the building. These appeared to be demolition waste either imported or re-deposited for re-use as make up layers beneath successive floors. The utilitarian character of the floor surfaces may suggest that it could have been a warehouse or granary.

The Fourth Century

COURTYARD HOUSE, SPLIT INTO POSSIBLE TENEMENT STRUCTURES

Courtyard house (Building 1) appears to have changed in status and function towards the end of the Roman period with parts being used for industrial or craft activities, including probable smithing in the at the western end of the south range and bone pin making at the eastern end. The frontage area along the east-west road, including the formal entrance hall (*atrium*) and the small bath house, were remodelled with some walls demolished and new walls inserted. The size of the rooms and how they were arranged, suggests possible shop units fronting on to the street. A series of postholes in the southern end of the courtyard suggests timber structures attached to the courtyard house and extending outwards on to the courtyard. Groups of third to fourth-century refuse pits were found in the central courtyard, in some of the rooms of building 1, and also in both bath houses (Buildings 3 and 5). The location of these pits in or near the buildings could indicate that parts of these structures had been demolished by the fourth-century. In the east range several dispersed coin hoards, deposited in around AD 341, were discovered buried inside one of the rooms and appeared to have been disturbed in antiquity – perhaps during digging to retrieve hoarded items of greater value. In an adjacent room, a lead ingot had been deliberately buried and covered over with roofing slates. The latest coins and pottery from Building 1 suggest it was occupied up to the end of the fourth century.

EARLY-MIDDLE ANGLO-SAXON PERIOD

No structural evidence for this period has been positively identified so far. However, late Roman deposits in Insula IV (Area 4A Figures 4 and 5) include timber structure fronting onto both streets, which do not appear to be typically Roman in character. The occurrence of small amounts of residual pottery dating *c.*450 – 650 (or 850) suggests dispersed activity across the site similar to that evidenced structurally on the adjacent Vaughan Way site.

THE MEDIEVAL PERIOD

The medieval structural sequence does not begin again until the eleventh-century, although Anglo-Saxon occupation is indicated by pottery found residually. The site was crossed by two or three lanes during the medieval period with associated burghage plots (Fig. 14). The eastern side of the site, in the area surrounding the Roman 'public' building, became the cemetery of what appears to be the church of St Michael's, comprising over 300 burials and re-use of the Roman building. Following the demolition of the church *c.*1450, the site is put over to horticultural activity until the modern construction of a brewery, chapel and housing.

MEDIEVAL LANES

The development area lies within a part of the walled town of medieval Leicester known as the north-east quarter. Within this quarter were back lanes which survive substantially intact in the present street pattern.

The archaeological evidence appears to confirm the presence of at least two medieval lanes running under and along the same alignments as the modern roads of Elbow Lane and Grape Street. There is also the possibility that a third lane was found under Vine Street running south from Elbow Lane to join Grape Street. The streets initially appear as pebbled metalled surfaces replaced by a second phase of rough cobbles.

The metalled surfaces are thought to have post-dated the medieval robbing of stone from the foundations of a Roman town house. The majority of the walls were robbed between 1100 and 1250, which suggest that the lanes started during or after that period. The metalled surfaces appear to be sealed by a garden soil which dated from between 1400 and 1650.

All three lanes have to some extent protected the underlying Roman deposits from truncation with the best preserved remains such as the workshop floors, the tessellated floor and the two hoards all found directly under the alignment of these streets. A large medieval boundary ditch was found to the north of Elbow Lane and it respected the sharp bend in the lane and was dated to the 1100 to 1250 which, along with the metalled surfaces, may help confirm the medieval origins of Elbow Lane.

BURGAGE PLOTS

Medieval pits and wells were found on either side of the streets and their intensity and alignments suggest possible backyard activity associated with buildings fronting on to the lanes (Fig. 14). On the north side of Grape Street evidence for a

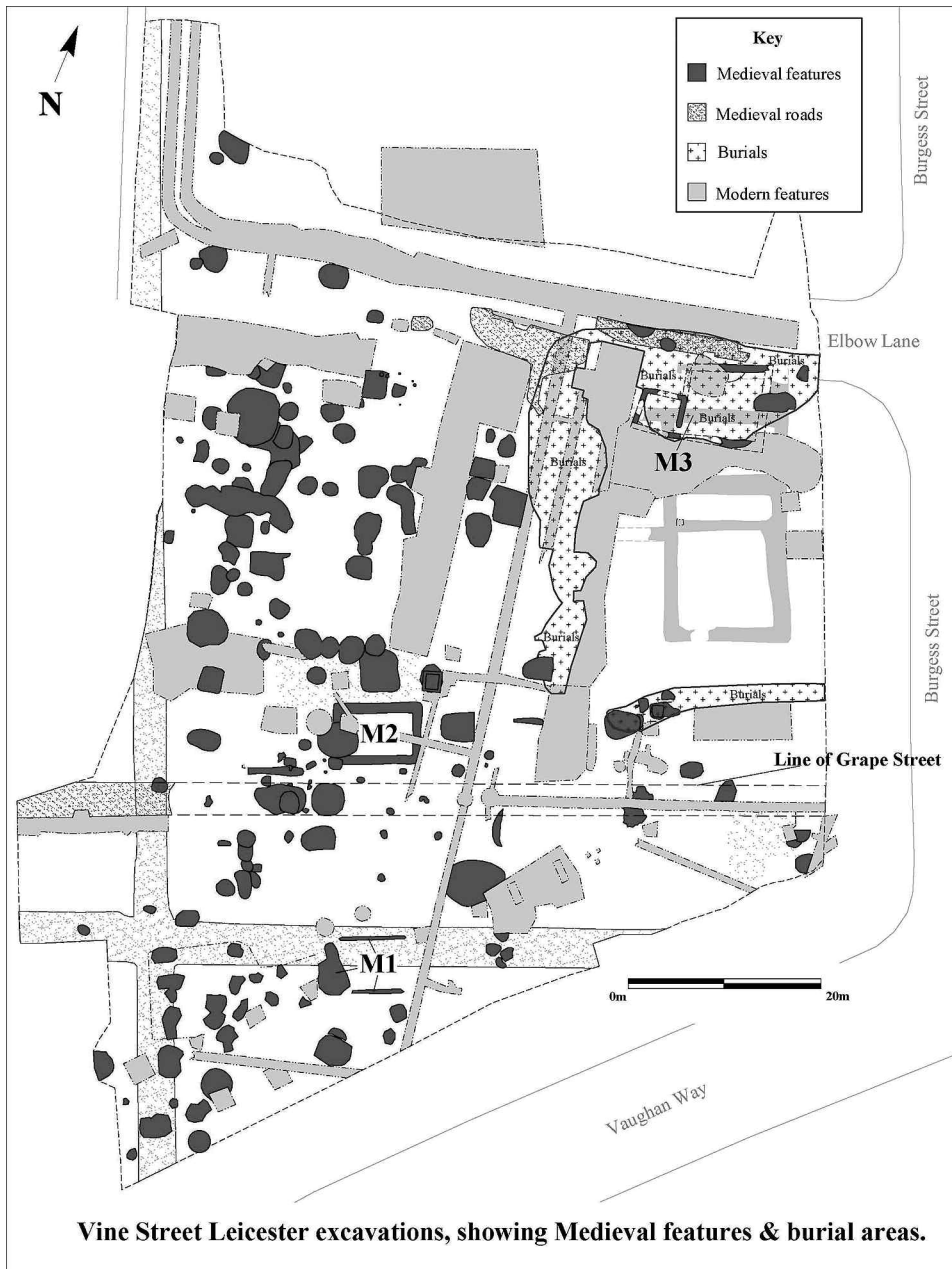


Fig. 14. Vine Street: Medieval features and burials.

large rectangular stone structure was found comprising two courses of well laid and keyed rectangular wall foundations and which measured 8m long and 6m wide (Building M2 Fig. 14). The foundations may have supported a potential masonry building or the dwarf walls of a timber structure. The interior contained evidence of floors and tramples. Directly to the north east of this building, a square cess pit or cellar structure (2.40m by 1.80) was found and had been lined with substantial granite walls. A similar, but heavily robbed, cellar or cess pit was seen on the south side of Grape Street next to a potential timber building (Building M1 Fig. 14). Evidence for other structures were ephemeral in nature with only the occasional post hole and beam slot surviving. The post holes and beam slots appear to congregate in areas with a general absence of large pits, which could suggest potential building plots.

ST MICHAELS CHURCH AND CEMETERY

The site for St Michael's church and medieval cemetery (Fig. 14), which contained 286 burials, was centred on the eastern side of the excavation area and its boundaries were probably defined by the three medieval lanes of Elbow Lane to the north, Vine Street to the west and Grape Street to the south. St Michael's is thought to be pre-Conquest in origin (Martin 1990), and is first documented *c.*1200 (Courtney 1998, 133). It is thought that the parish was primarily given over to gardens from at least the fourteenth century. The earliest burials suggest a potential date from the 1100s onwards and whilst the last burials may date to the closure of the church in the 15th century, some appear to post-date its demolition and robbing (see below). Three possible burial types have been observed with a degree of certainty and comprise a shroud, coffin or pillow stone burial practices. As well as the various types of inhumation, a number of possible charnel pits were recorded, which was probably the result of grave clearance/reuse. Also recorded were a number of charnel like deposits within the cuts and fills of some of articulated burials probably due to the disturbance by later burials.

The lost church or chapel of St Michael's, appears to have re-used parts of a potential Roman public building. The public building was located directly to the north east of the town house and was constructed in the 3rd century, and was clearly a substantial structure with walls up to 1.2m in thickness and rooms up to 9.00m square. Parts of this large building are thought to have survived as a structure and were then remodelled in the medieval period, with the two southern rooms retained, and the northern rooms demolished and replaced with medieval structures (Building M3 Fig. 14). The medieval structures comprised stone and mud wall foundations and contained inhumations buried within them, which are suggestive of potential burial vaults. The evidence for this reuse of the Roman building can be summarised as follows. First, the wall foundations of the public building were robbed in 1400 to 1550 period, which is a very late when compared with the robbing of neighbouring Roman town house which was predominantly between 1100 and 1250. The period 1400 to 1550 coincides with the proposed closure and demolition date based on documentary sources (Martin 1990). Second, re-deposited human remains were found within the robber trenches,

which suggest that the church or chapel cemetery was present during this period of robbing. The third indicator concerns the general absence of inhumations and medieval pits excavated into surviving mortar floors in the public building. Deeply excavated inhumations and pits were found directly to the north, the west and south of the public building and all cutting and truncating the underlying Roman deposits (Building M3 Fig. 14).

Phase 11–12 Post medieval

Finds and features post-dating the 15th to 16th centuries were sparse in number across the whole site. This absence of post-medieval activity supports the historical records that the town had a declining population in the 14th and 15th centuries. The decline in the population was probably the primary factor that led to the closure and demolition of St Michael's Church by the 1450s. A thick deposit of garden soil accumulated over the medieval features and suggests that this area of the town had reverted to horticultural use during the post-medieval period. Historical records state that a parcel of ground or croft called St Michael's Churchyard was sold into private hands in the late 16th century and in the late 18th century was sold to All Saints Church to be used as an extension to their graveyard. Excavations of some of the burials are suggestive of this possible 16th century re-use. Some of the later burials appear to be on different alignments when compared with earlier burials, and post-date the possible abandoned churchyard as they cut into medieval road surfaces and demolished church structures dated to the 15th century.

In the late post-medieval period garden soils appear to accumulate to a greater depth due to horticultural activity. Two very large rectangular trenches (between 10m and 20m square and 2.50m deep) were found in the plot of land between Grape Street and Elbow Lane (Fig. 14), which had truncated archaeological deposits to the level of the natural ground. Their fills were similar to the garden soils and perhaps they resulted from horticultural activity. In the plot of land between Elbow Lane and Long Lane, deep destructive horticultural activity appeared to encompass the whole plot, and truncated all archaeological deposits to the level of natural ground.

Phase 13–14 Modern

Across the site, more recent disturbances included cellarage, modern machine-cut trenches, sewer pipelines, and brick culverts, relating to the period of the All Saints Brewery, chapel and terraced houses, as well as a series of concrete piles relating to the 1960s industrial units that ran across the site. A22.2003 and A24.2003

REFERENCES

- Martin, J. D., 1990 'St Michael's Church and Parish, Leicester', *Transactions of the Leicestershire Archaeological and Historical Society* 64, pp. 21–21.

Courtney, P., 1998 'Saxon and Medieval Leicester', *Transactions of the Leicestershire Archaeological and Historical Society* 73, pp. 110–145.

**West Humberstone, The Towers Hospital, Gypsy Lane
(SK 6172 0590)**

Matthew Hurford

Excavation, on behalf of Taylor Woodrow Ltd, was undertaken on land to the south of The Towers Hospital by ULAS in January 2006. Work revealed further evidence of a small 12th or 13th century settlement, perhaps an isolated farmstead, in the vicinity of the medieval village of Humberstone, that was originally found during a 2003 evaluation (*TLAHS* 78, 149). The features were badly truncated and lay beneath ridge and furrow remains. To the west of the medieval remains, a single pit containing Iron Age pottery was found, that could be associated with the occupation at Elms Farm to the northeast. XA3.2006

Yeoman Street, nos. 17–19 (SK 590 045)

Sophie Clarke

A programme of historic building recording and survey of the factory and warehouse at 17–19 Yeoman Street, Leicester was carried out by ULAS in October 2005, on behalf of NCHA Architects, in advance of the proposed residential redevelopment of the site. The factory at Number 17 Yeoman Street is a fine example of Victorian industrial architecture, designed by H.L. Goddard MRIBA and constructed in 1893, on behalf of Mr. H. Simpson Gee, a prominent fig. in Leicester society at the turn of the twentieth century. The warehouse block at Number 19 Yeoman Street/Yeoman Lane, and the corner block which links the factory and warehouse, were constructed in 1902, designed by Goddard in similar style to the earlier range of 1893. The factory appears to have been constructed to accommodate the Wells Wire Quilting and Shoe Tip Company, and also the Midland Brick and Terracotta Co. Ltd; the Managing Director of both enterprises is recorded as Mr. James Hewitt. From 1932 to 1969, the premises were occupied by A.E. Rossiter Ltd, Hosiery Manufacturers. In recent years the factory has been occupied by numerous, small scale knitwear manufacturers. Immediately prior to the time of building survey, the lower floors of the 1902 corner block were in use as a massage parlour. A9.2005

Negative Watching Briefs and Evaluations in Leicester (by ULAS unless otherwise stated)

Abbey Park Road: Boston House (SK 5875 0605); *Bowling Green Street:* 8 Bowling Green Street (SK 588 042); *Gypsy Lane:* land adjacent to Gypsy Lane (SK 6151 0635); *Gypsy Lane:* The Towers (SK 616 056); *Humberstone:* Manor Farm (SK 627 065); *Glenfield:* 80 Liberty Road (SK 548 053); *Raw Dykes Road:* land adjacent (SK 834 0270).

LEICESTERSHIRE

Note: all finds and records will be deposited with Leicestershire County Council under the accession number given at the end of each entry.

Allextion, Main Street and The Green (SK 817 004)*Danny McAree*

Northamptonshire Archaeology carried out a watching brief, on behalf of Central Networks, during the excavation of a cable trench and boring for underground electric cabling. An earlier cobbled road surface was exposed. No other archaeological remains were present. X.A24.2006.

Anstey, Bradgate Road, Former Potter's Carpets Site (SK 547 086)*Simon Carlyle*

An evaluation by Northamptonshire Archaeology, commissioned by CgMs Consulting Ltd examined the area fronting onto Bradgate Road. The work uncovered the remains of brick-built features including a well, culvert and a possible storage tank, probably relating to the workings of the 19th-century brewery. Within the footprint of the 20th-century warehouse the ground surface had been reduced to create a basement area and, with the exception of features associated with the former warehouse, only the truncated surface of the natural substrate was exposed. X.A53.2006.

Appleby Magna, The Moat House (SK 316 098)*James Patrick*

An archaeological watching brief was carried out by ULAS at The Moat House during ground works associated with the development of a new bathroom. The site lies within the centre of Appleby Magna along Mawbys Lane immediately South-East of the village church. Adjacent to the South of the moat house are medieval fish ponds and a square dovecote west of the building. The watching brief was undertaken due to a pipe trench being laid to provide water for the new facilities. This ran along the South-West length of the present room. Minimal damage was done to the underlying archaeological demolition layer. A stone wall was found beneath the upstanding Tudor wall foundation along the South-East width of the room and possibly associated with an earlier building. The newly excavated pipe trench caused no damage to the masonry. X.A15.2007.

Asfordby, Main Street (SK 7115 1915)*Paul Cope-Faulkner*

A watching brief, by Archaeological Project Services for Merriman Ltd, was carried out close to medieval and prehistoric evidence but did not reveal any archaeological remains. X.A51.2005.

Ashby de la Zouch, 37–39 Wood Street (SK 361 169)*Greg Jones*

An archaeological evaluation was carried by ULAS in advance of the proposed construction of a new dwelling with a new garage and new access road on behalf of Mrs K Wainwright. A total of two evaluation trenches were excavated, the archaeological results of which were insubstantial, comprising of a late post-medieval pit and ditch. X.A130.2006.

Barkby, Barkby Hall (SK 638 098)*Andy Hyam*

An archaeological evaluation was undertaken for Mr J Pochin by ULAS on grassland to the southeast of Barkby Hall. The work entailed three 30 metre evaluation trenches. A magnetometer and resistivity survey located a number of anomalies that could relate to earlier garden features and land usage which, combined with the site location within the heart of the village, indicated that there was a high potential for archaeological remains. A number of Saxon and early medieval features were found including a possible boundary ditch. Saxon and early medieval pottery sherds were recovered from most features and give an insight into the early beginnings of the settlement at Barkby. Little was found relating to the later hall and gardens although a later north to south ditch could indicate the location of the eastern edge of the 17th century formal gardens. X.A55.2006.

Barrow upon Soar, Catsick Hill (SK 5740 1838)*Danny McAree*

Archaeological excavation was carried out on 14ha of land off Cotes Road by Northamptonshire Archaeology, on behalf of David Wilson Homes Ltd. (East Midlands) and Miller Homes Ltd (East Midlands). Early to middle Iron Age settlement included traces of two roundhouses and field boundary ditches. Variable survival of medieval ridge and furrow cultivation were in some of the fields. The substantial part of the excavation comprised the recording of limekilns associated with the lime quarrying and lime burning in Barrow since AD 1396.

Eight clamp limekilns up to 2m in diameter were exposed. All survived only as subcircular areas of bright orange/red burnt or vitrified lime and clay from the base of the kilns. Archaeo-magnetic analysis from the bases of three of these kilns gave the date of last firing to between AD 1490–1510, 1510–1540 and 1570–1600.

There were nine 'pye' limekilns. All these were rectangular, up to 5m long and 0.75–1m wide. Each was located within a distinctive area of bright orange/red burnt lime and clay surface forming the base of the kiln. Archaeo-magnetic analysis of samples from four of the 'pye' kilns gave dates in the ranges AD 1475, 1490, 1515–1535 and 1540.

Brick-lined intermittent or 'flare' kilns were also found. They were circular and varied in diameter from 3–4m at the top, tapering to about 1–1.3m wide at the base and were up to 2.6m deep. All had been lined with bricks bonded with lime mortar. Prior to abandonment, all the brickwork was removed down to the last

four or five courses at the base of the kiln. An out-turned stoke hole was present in each kiln with an external working area and a sloping ramp up to the ground level. Samples from these kilns produced dates of last firing between AD 1700–1750, 1750, 1795–1840, 1825–1860 and 1825–1870.

The largest of the kilns comprised a battery of five kilns identified on the 1885 Ordnance Survey map. These varied between 4–5m in diameter all tapering to about 1–1.3m in diameter at the base and up to 3m deep. They had all been brick-lined with a brick-lined ring flue around the base and three vertical flues. Each had an out-turned firing arch or stokehole, a working area and a stepped access from ground level to the working floor of the kiln. Samples from two of the kilns produced dates in the ranges 1870–1880 and 1885–1910. X.A144.2005.

Barrow on Soar, 136, Cotes Road (SK 570 185)

Lee Moorhead

Stratascan were commissioned by ULAS to undertake a geophysical survey of an area outlined for development as residential housing. Three areas of strong positive anomaly with an associated negative response were located within the survey area which may be thermoremanent in origin, possibly relating to kilns which have also been observed within the adjacent site. Possible pits of archaeological origin can also be seen along with evidence for ploughing activity.

Barrow on Soar, 136 Cotes Road (SK 570 185)

Matt Hurford

An archaeological evaluation was undertaken by ULAS and was commissioned by Farrell Bass Pritchard. In total eight trial trenches were excavated in order to assess the potential for the survival of archaeological remains that targeted geophysical anomalies and blank areas identified during a magnetometry survey. Each trench contained evidence of limestone quarrying of probable post medieval date that would have removed any earlier deposits. Two post medieval lime kilns were encountered during the evaluation that had been constructed through the earlier quarry backfill. The first was located in the southwest of the proposed development area. It consisted of a horseshoe shaped chamber of burnt reddish clay that opened to the southwest into a working area. The second kiln shared similar characteristics and was located to the northeast of the first with further features located to the northwest and southeast, presumably associated with the production of lime or relating to other industrial processes. Two shallow potential archaeological features of indeterminable function were located in the southwest of the site. In the southeast three features were encountered, one of which may represent a boundary ditch relating to when the land reverted back to agricultural use. X.A100.2006.

Barwell, Crown Imperial Works (SP 448 968)

Sophie Clarke

ULAS carried out an historic building assessment of the factory formerly known as the Crown Imperial Works, located on Hill Street, Barwell, on behalf of Savage Hayward Architects. The assessment was carried out in July 2005, as part of a

wider scheme of work undertaken in advance of the proposed residential redevelopment of the site. The factory complex was constructed between 1903 and 1916 and was owned by the Ney Brothers, manufacturers of boots and shoes. The present buildings comprise a series of north light workshops, fronted by a range of three main factory buildings, facing out onto Hill Street. These consist of two connecting warehouses and a more elaborate office block, with stone ornamentation to the street elevation. The buildings are not listed and the site lies outside the Barwell B Conservation Area; however, the building has been recognised as an interesting example of the early 20th century industrial buildings that define the local landscape, reflecting the development of Barwell as an important centre of boot and shoe manufacture at this time.

Barwell, 19 St Mary's Court (SP 422 964)

Matt Hurford

An archaeological evaluation and excavation was undertaken by ULAS and was commissioned by Tony Morris Builders Ltd. The archaeological work revealed evidence for prehistoric settlement consisting of a number of postholes forming part of a roundhouse. Roman settlement activity is also suggested by the presence of a number of finds including tile. Two linear features were also excavated that may represent boundary ditches of medieval date for dwellings outside of the excavation area, or drainage features associated with occupational or land use. Additionally a large irregular feature was excavated that could be associated with the medieval fishponds that are present to the south and east. X.A20.2006.

Barwell, 30–44 Shilton Road (SP 445 968)

Neil Finn

A photographic survey of the former Moulds and Moore Ltd. boot and shoe factory was undertaken by ULAS on behalf of Modern Apartments prior to conversion of the building for residential use. The factory has a relatively complex development sequence with the earliest elements dating to the end of the 19th or early years of the 20th century. The original two storey building was subsequently raised in height to three storeys and had been further extended and remodelled by the mid 20th century. Arthur Moulds and Amos Moore were both involved in the boot and shoe trade in Barwell in the 1890s although the company of Moulds and Moore Ltd. is not listed in commercial directories until 1920. The address of Arthur Moulds is listed as Shilton Road prior to the establishment of Moulds and Moore Ltd., which may suggest that he was responsible for building the original factory. Alternatively it may have been built for another manufacturer and only acquired by Moulds and Moore Ltd. around 1920.

Belton, Belton Baptist Church (SK 4455 2042)

Jennifer Kitch

On behalf of the Baptist Union, Archaeological Project Services carried out recording of all the graveyard memorials at the Baptist Church, founded in 1815. Over a hundred memorials were recorded, ranging in date between 1877 and 2005.

Birstall, Goscote Hall (SK 5894 0892)*Matt Godfrey*

A level 2 Building Survey of Goscote Hall, Goscote Hall Road, Birstall, was undertaken by ULAS for LMP Consultants, in advance of the proposed conversion and alteration to residential accommodation. The building is Grade II listed. This survey was required in accordance with the provision of Planning Policy guidance note 15 (PPG 15). Goscote Hall represents a building from the early Victoria period with a number of original features still intact and worthy of preservation.

Bosworth Field (SP 387 985)*Eleanor Ramsey*

Birmingham Archaeo-Environmental was commissioned to undertake a project to identify the location of alluvial wetlands that were recorded in the area at the time of the Battle of Bosworth in 1485. The first phase of fieldwork, which involved coring along transects, indicated that the distribution of organic-rich sediments was confined to a small area proximal to Mill Lane, and it seems likely, therefore, that if the area in question was indeed the location of the “marshland” mentioned in the historical records, the size of this military obstacle was much smaller than expected. It should be stressed however, that although organic deposits may not be in abundance within the region to the east of Mill Lane, this does not necessarily mean that a wetland environment was not present at the time of the Battle of Bosworth. The definition of “wetland” can vary considerably and is likely to have changed through the historic period. Whilst an abundance of organic deposits can be commonly interpreted as evidence for boggy, wetland and marsh-like conditions, the dominance of clayey soils throughout the lowlands provide, by definition, very poor drainage. This can consequently encourage the accumulation of stagnant water bodies in lowland areas proximal to streams or rivers, with or without the accumulation of organic sediments. Further fieldwork will be undertaken in order to take full advantage of the palaeoenvironmental archive present in the study area.

Botcheston, Forest Hill Golf Club (SK 4878 0642)*James Harvey*

ULAS were commissioned to undertake an evaluation and subsequent excavation in advance of the golf course extension. Aspects of a clay land Iron Age farmstead settlement have been previously investigated including an enclosure, two circular structures and various other features. The pottery from the site is exclusively Iron Age, dating between 175 BC and AD 20. The settlement form is consistent with other excavated examples in Leicestershire and Rutland of a similar date. The form of the site coupled with the artefacts and environmental evidence gathered suggest a small farming community that grew crops and kept domesticated animals for food, as well as supplementing their diet with local gathering of wild species. X.A176.2005

Bottesford, Normanton, Elm Farm, Main Street (SK 8109 4042) *Rachael Hall*

R. Hall of Archaeological Project Services recorded farm buildings prior to conversion for Landyke Countryside Consultancy Services Ltd. Three phases of construction were recognised, probably all in the middle of the 19th century. The earliest range may have been a loose box with attached stores, and this was added to by a cattle shed, though this has been much modified. The final major phase of construction was the addition of a cart shed. X.A18.2006.

Brooksby Quarry, Melton Road, Brooksby (SK 665 155) *Matthew Parker,
Wayne Jarvis*

ULAS were commissioned by Lafarge Ltd to monitor the topsoil stripping at Brooksby Quarry prior to extraction. The initial stripping was for the haulage road linking Melton Road with the plant while subsequent stripping was undertaken in the plant site and phase 1 extraction area. Stripping for the haulage road revealed two pits associated with flint and pottery of Bronze Age date.

To the east the main features within the area of the plant were the palaeochannels of the Rearsby Brook with to the west three burnt mounds. The burnt mounds were immediately adjacent to the palaeochannels, with some parts of the mound material having been washed or fallen into them. To the south of the mounds part of a timber trough was revealed with the timbers showing tool marking evidence, suggesting they were probably worked with a stone axe. A circular feature, possibly a well, with preserved wooden timbers was found within the palaeochannel. Upon excavation these were discovered to be upright 'stanchions' from a ladder, linked by an in situ rung (crossbeam). From the techniques used in the mortise and tenant joints, a date no earlier than Saxon is suggested. The burnt mounds, trough and well have been reburied with regular monitoring of the hydrology in place. A small circular ring ditch, 4m in diameter, was located to the north west of the trough. The clay fill of the ditch contained a small quantity of cremated human bone.

To the north of the plant site stripping for a silt lagoon revealed two sub-circular enclosures and part of a rectangular enclosure of Iron Age date. The absence of internal features suggests that these may have served as stock enclosures. Monitoring of the extraction of the lagoon revealed organic remains, at a depth of c.6.0m. Preliminary observation suggests that these waterlogged remains were very rich in organic material including wood, leaves and seeds and they may be associated with the lower Palaeolithic pre-Anglian Bytham river. XA.57.2006.

Bruntingthorpe, School Farm (SP 602 900) *Gerwyn Richards*

ULAS were commissioned by David Lockwood to undertake a photographic survey at School Farm, Bruntingthorpe. Outline planning permission had been

granted for alterations to the farmhouse, conversion and extension of the milking parlour and demolition of the barn. The farm and its associated buildings are Grade II listed, therefore, the planning archaeologist recommended a photographic survey be carried beforehand. The farmhouse appears to have originally been constructed as a medieval open hall building, evidence of which is now limited to the substantial central fireplace in the left bay. The house has been extensively rebuilt and extended.

Cadeby Quarry, Northern Working Area (SK 444 028)

Greg Jones

ULAS were commissioned by Tarmac Ltd to monitor the topsoil stripping at Cadeby Quarry prior to extraction. The stripping revealed a ring ditch, c.10m on diameter, enclosing five cremation burials in pits. To the west and south were two linear ditches and a post hole, while 150m to the east a pit containing early Bronze Age pottery and two post holes was located. XA79.2007.

Carlton, Glebe Farm (SK 385 045)

Gerwyn Richards

ULAS were commissioned by Charlie Yates Homes Ltd to undertake a photographic survey of Glebe Farm, Shackerstone Walk. Planning permission had been granted for the demolition of the farmhouse and associated outbuildings. Glebe Farm is an example of a typical Midlands Farm and appears on the First Edition Ordnance Survey. Such farms are a rapidly dwindling resource. The farmhouse was in a precarious condition and showed evidence of considerable rebuilding and repair, very little, if any of the original eighteenth century fabric remains. The outbuilding is a nineteenth/early twentieth century building, replacing an earlier building on the same site.

Catthorpe, MI J19 (SP 56 78)

David Elks

Stratascan were commissioned by ULAS to undertake a geophysical survey of an area around J19 of the M1, which has been outlined for improvements. Evidence has been observed indicating the presence of ridge and furrow ploughing throughout much of the site. Relatively few anomalies of possible archaeological origin have been abstracted. Those which have been identified lack strong definition making their interpretation difficult. Twin parallel positive linear anomalies have been seen several times in Areas L, C2 and C3 which remain ambiguous. They may be the effect of ploughing or it is possible they relate to cut features.

Cotesbach, Main Street, The Old Cottage (SP 5362 8227)

Neil Finn

ULAS carried out an historic building survey of The Old Cottage, Main Street, Cotesbach in May 2005, prior to demolition and redevelopment of the site. The 19th century brick façade of this low, thatched building concealed an earlier timber-framed structure. Three bays of framing remained with evidence for the

former existence of further bay(s) to the south. The timber frame was raised on stone post-pads and had no sill beam. Various structural details suggest that this may have been a 'mud and frame' building, originally with solid mud lower walling. Remaining infill to the upper walls was of mud on lath. Tree-ring dating suggests that the building was constructed in or soon after 1733, making it a late example of timber framing in this county. It was also determined that much of the timber used to construct the frame was of species other than oak. The external walls were rebuilt in brick in the early/mid 19th century and an extension added at the north end. It was subdivided into three separate dwellings around that time. Unsympathetic alterations in the 1970s resulted in significant structural problems which led to the decision to demolish the building.

Drayton, Manor Farm (SP 832 921)

Leon Hunt

A field evaluation and building survey was carried out by ULAS on behalf of Mr. R. Davies in advance of proposed residential development. The study area was a working farm and farm buildings and areas of hard standing restricted access. A total of six evaluation trenches were placed around the farm on more accessible areas. The photographic survey was carried out on six stone buildings that may be converted and a further stone cart shed, which may be demolished. The evaluation revealed some archaeological features, including evidence for medieval field systems and a hedge line, which was visible on a 19th century map of the area. Isolated and undated pits were also discovered along with a linear feature of unknown date and unknown function. X.A37.2006.

Earl Shilton, Tom Eatough Court (SP 474 977)

Adrian Butler, Steve Morris

An evaluation by Northamptonshire Archaeology, commissioned by CgMs Consulting, targeted two trenches on two parallel linear features located by geophysical survey. Both features were identified as post-medieval stone-filled drains. No other archaeological features were identified. A single fragment of post-medieval tile/brick was recovered from the sub-soil. X.A29.2006.

Eaton, St. Denys' Church (SK 7975 2910)

Paul Cope-Faulkner

Excavations of drains at the medieval church were monitored for Eaton PCC by M. Nugent of APS. A graveyard soil, probably in formation since about the 13th century, was revealed. X.A85.2006.

Enderby, Leicester Lane and St John's Road (SP 5111 9958)

James Harvey

An archaeological evaluation was undertaken by ULAS which formed part of an archaeological impact assessment for the proposed Aylestone Park and Ride Scheme. Eighteen trenches totalling 682m in length and 1.8m wide were machine excavated, equalling an area of 1228m² in order to target specific anomalies

highlighted by the geophysical survey as well as to evaluate 'archaeologically blank' areas. Positive results were obtained from three trenches excavated. Trench 1 located the remains of ditch systems suggested by the geophysics and Trench 3 located postholes and gullies that may represent the remains of an undated roundhouse structure. These features may indicate a continuation of the Iron Age farmstead found to the north along the eastern boundary of the site. Trench 18 was located across the proposed line of the Fosse Way Roman road. Remains of the agger (the built up embankment) and a possible roadside ditch were revealed within the southeast end of the trench although the upper layers have been truncated by ploughing. Beyond this a gravel spread was also observed that could either represent a precursor to the road or hardcore that was laid down during the construction phase of the road. A rare brooch that may date as early as the first Century BC was found in close proximity to this surface. X.A6.2006.

Foxton Locks, Inclined Plane (SP 69230 89590) *Leon Hunt, Gerwyn Richards*

ULAS were commissioned by British Waterways to undertake an archaeological evaluation by test pit of the Lower Basin Wall. Scheduled Monument Consent had been given for the excavation of a new service trench behind the basin wall of the bottom lock. Very little is known of the construction of the wall, and it was hoped that the test pits would provide an indication of the method of construction and allow the development of a suitable mitigation strategy, if required, for the excavation of the service trench. The test pits confirmed the construction technique and suggests that the excavation of the service trench is unlikely to encounter any structural elements associated with the basin wall, although the offsetting of the trench away from the face of the wall would help minimise fragmentation of the structure.

Subsequently, ULAS undertook a series of watching briefs at the site. The first was during the excavation of trenches associated with a new system of badger proof fencing. Part of the trench was to be excavated close to the abutment wall of the dry upper arm of the incline plane, a scheduled ancient monument (SAM No. 30248). The trench was excavated of sufficient distance from the wall to minimise the likely disturbance of any underlying foundations or archaeology. Two small sections of iron, which may have originally formed part of the structure of the plane, were discovered close to the abutment wall. The excavations also yielded some information on the nature of the construction of the inclined plane.

The second watching brief was undertaken during the reconstruction of the timber walkway within the bottom basin of the Inclined Plane. As part of general programme of restoration and remediation work within the locks the walkway was to be rebuilt to its original dimensions. The structure is within the Scheduled Ancient Monument. The original eastern line of timbers had been sawn down to around ground level and the brace beams had also been reduced in length also. The restoration work used steel collars to attach new timber to the existing timbers and rebuild the deck to its original dimensions, using original photographs as reference. A considerable amount of new information regarding the operation

of the incline plane was recovered. Also it was revealed that considerably more of the structure remains intact than was previously assumed.

The third watching brief was undertaken during the restoration of the stop lock and upper arm of the Incline Plane. The upper arm and stop lock were constructed at the turn of the twentieth century along with the adjacent incline plane in order to bypass the congested Foxton Locks but only remained in operation for 10 years. The upper arm was abandoned and dammed in 1928 after which it was allowed to fall into dereliction. On the whole the structure of the stop lock was in very good state of repair, reflecting its short period of use. There is evidence that tight budgetary constraints influenced the materials used during construction. X.A82.2006.

Garthorpe, St. Mary's Church (SK 832 209)

Michael Wood

Service trenches at the 13th century church were monitored by Archaeological Project Services for Tim Radcliffe Associates and the Churches Conservation Trust. The foundations for the medieval church tower were revealed, together with the graveyard soil. X.A38.2006.

Gilmorton, Boston Lodge Farm (SK 5554 8648)

Adrian Butler, Iain Soden

Prior to the sale of farm buildings at the former Boston Lodge Farm, desk-based and buildings assessments were undertaken by Northamptonshire Archaeology for Leicestershire County Council. Both highlight a well-preserved small farm of late 18th- or early 19th-century date. The buildings assessment identified that the farm buildings have been little added to since they were first set out although they and the farmhouse have been upgraded as time has gone on. X.A23.2007.

Great Bowden, former Fernie Hunt Stables (SP 747 889)

Gerwyn Richards

ULAS were commissioned by Mendwest Traditional Homes Ltd to undertake an archaeological standing building survey of the former Fernie Hunt Stables prior to demolition and redevelopment. An initial archaeological desk-based assessment identified the stable as being of some interest and the Planning Archaeologist advised that a standing building survey be carried out. The stables were originally built in 1920 when the hunt moved for their previous stables at Medbourne. The stables are of a high status with quality workmanship, clearly intended to reflect the wealth and status of the hunt at the time. The buildings are a fine example of early twentieth century architecture, and reflect the importance hunting had within the county at the time.

Great Dalby, Nether End (SK 7459 1449)

Paul Cope-Faulkner

On behalf of Polebrook Estates Ltd, staff of Archaeological Project Services carried out a watching brief and building recording within the medieval core of the

village. No archaeological remains were identified during the watching brief. The building recording established that the surveyed structures were stables. Remnants of a probable 18th century ironstone barn had been substantially refurbished with brick in the 19th century. Further stabling in brick was also added in the 19th century. X.A39.2006.

Great Easton, land off Clarkesdale (SP 847 929)

Leon Hunt

ULAS were commissioned by Grace Homes Ltd and CgMs to carry out an archaeological field evaluation by trial trenching. The evaluation was in advance of a proposed residential development and consisted of eight trenches placed across two fields and an access track. The site lies within the historic core of the village of Great Easton and close to prehistoric and Roman sites. The evaluation revealed a medieval ridge and furrow field system below that visible on the surface and other linear features containing pottery from the Iron Age through to the medieval period. X.A31.2006.

Groby, Bradgate Stables (SK 092 517)

TR Projects

TR Projects were asked by the ULAS to undertake a historic building assessment of the ruinous, Listed Building known as Bradgate Stables. The building's deteriorating condition had been a matter of concern to officers at English Heritage, Leicestershire County Council and Hinckley & Bosworth Borough Council for several years. In 2002 the decision was taken to remove the remaining, collapsed, roof structures and reduce the building to those parts of the fabric that either retained their structural stability or were capable of being stabilised with minimum intervention. The chief outcome of this work was to remove all existing free-standing gable walls and chimney flues. The surviving walls were then to be re-pointed and their tops capped to provide basic weather proofing for the future. In addition there was a requirement that the massive, clock tower with cupola roof which forms the central feature of the stables façade was to be retained, stabilised and made weather proof. The entire Bradgate Stables complex retains its Grade II* Listed Building status but is now officially described as a 'Ruin'.

Groby, 57, Leicester Road 'The Old School House'

Neil Finn

An Historic Building Assessment of The Old School House was undertaken by ULAS on behalf of the owners Mr and Mrs Jarvis, in respect of a planning application to extend the building. A school was established in Groby in 1787 by the Earl of Stamford. The assessment determined that the oldest part of the house at 57 Leicester Road was probably constructed in the early 18th century; it may have served as the schoolhouse between 1787 and 1842 when a new school was built. The house was extended and refurbished in the mid 19th century, which may be tentatively linked to a documentary reference to a builder, Thomas Rudkin, being engaged on mason's work at the Old School House in 1843.

Thereafter it was home to successive school masters and mistresses until the Groby estate of the Earls of Stamford was sold in 1925. At the sale The Old School House was purchased by Henrietta Kate Waldrom, wife of the then schoolmaster William James Waldrom. Their daughter, Sybil Christine Waldrom, lived at 57 Leicester Road until her death in 2005 after which the house was purchased by Mr and Mrs Jarvis.

Groby, surrounding Stone Lodge (SK 536 074)

David Elks

Stratascan were commissioned by ULAS to undertake a geophysical survey of an area outlined for development. A detailed magnetic survey was carried out over 1ha of land at Groby, surrounding Stone Lodge. The data reveals evidence of ploughing activity throughout the site. A linear response which may be of archaeological origin is identified in Area 2, along with negative linear responses in Area 1. There is no other evidence of archaeological activity. X.A68.2006.

Hinckley, The Borough/Castle Street (SP 426 937)

Susan Ripper

A watching brief during the refurbishment of the Grade II listed building on the corner of The Borough and Castle Street, Hinckley, Leicestershire was undertaken by ULAS. The refurbishments encompassed the conversion of upper storey offices with ancillary rooms into three self-contained flats. The inspection of the building has provided an indication of the development sequence of this early nineteenth century building. Initial observations suggest that an original three-storey building fronted onto The Borough. To the rear of the property was a two-storey building running perpendicular to the former. The building fronting onto Castle Street appears to be a slightly later addition; renovations that included re-roofing the two buildings as one. The earlier roofline of the two-storey building was still visible to the rear of the building fronting onto The Borough. External differences in the build between the Castle Street building and The Borough building were evidenced in differences in fenestration and the moulded eaves course.

Husbands Bosworth, 1–3 High Street, (SP 641 842)

Paul Gajos

Three trenches were excavated by JSAC ahead of potential residential development on the site. Three features comprising two wells and a small, mid 12th century pit were encountered in the northern and central part of the site. The pit proved to be the only evidence of medieval activity on the site; the paucity of which was probably due to the presence of what appeared to be a large pond in the southern part of the site, closest to the Main Street frontage, which had been filled in at some point after the mid 16th century. X.A26.2006

Husbands Bosworth, Ashacre, Berridges Lane (SP 642 846)

Greg Jones

One of six evaluation trenches revealed pits of late medieval or post-medieval date.

Ibstock, Pretoria Road (SK 412 106)*Paul Saunders*

Small scale excavations at the rear of houses on the north side of Pretoria Road by Witan Archaeology have revealed two east-west boundary ditches and the corner of a stone building. One of the ditches dates from the late 2nd/early 3rd century AD. Much of the material in the ditches dates to the late 3rd century and represents the dumping of building material and domestic refuse (including roofing slate, and ceramic roof and flue tile). The building is of a granite stone construction bonded by sandy mortar. On what appears to be the outside of the building, a hard compact surface of sandstone and pebbles was laid. The building appears to have been levelled to its bottom two courses. Later ploughing and garden features have truncated many of the archaeological features.

Ibstock, Severn Trent Pipeline (SK 404 094 and SK 407 096) *L Platt, L Elliott*

An archaeological watching brief was conducted on behalf of Seven Trent Water during topsoil stripping of a 20m wide easement associated with the modernising of a pipe line through fields to the south of Ibstock parish church. The most significant discovery, lying 150m to east of the churchyard at SK406095, was an intermittent line of stone *c.*9.2m in length, possibly representing a lone heavily robbed out stone wall foundation, running northeast-southwest. This did not correspond with the alignment of any of the modern field boundaries. The absence of any other foundations suggests this may represent a boundary wall, rather than a structure, although given the shallow nature of the foundation other remains may have been completely truncated or robbed out without trace. A small assemblage of largely abraded medieval pottery was recovered (including Potters Marston and Chilvers Coton wares *c.*12th–15th century in date), possibly spanning the period of use of the wall. All were found within a 0.2m band on each side of the wall, possibly indicating the presence of either a foundation or robber trench, the fill of which could not be defined from the surrounding subsoil. The remains indicate medieval Ibstock may have extended much further south than present limits suggest. After limited excavation, it was possible to preserve the wall *in situ* following agreement with the on-site contractors. X.A23.2006.

Kirby Muxloe, southwest of Barns Close (SK 5141 0437)*Andy Hyam*

An archaeological evaluation was carried out by ULAS on behalf of Taylor Woodrow Ltd for a proposed residential development. Nine 30m × 1.6m evaluation trenches were excavated in locations targeting the proposed houses and associated services. The proposed development site lies to the west of the historic medieval core of Kirby Muxloe but close to a number of prehistoric and Roman archaeological sites. Prior to development work the land had been used as two private gardens/paddocks with no evidence for recent agricultural or building work. Two shallow post holes and a nearby truncated pit were found in one trench in the south-eastern corner of the site along with a small, possible drainage

gully running from southeast to northwest. No dateable evidence was recovered from any of these features. A number of modern, heavily silted and blocked, land drains were also noted in a number of the trenches. X.A61.2006.

Launde Abbey (SK 797 043)

Neil Finn, Andrew Hyam

Launde Abbey is a substantial grade II* listed country house in east Leicestershire, built on the site of the 12th century Augustinian Priory of St. John the Baptist, a Scheduled Ancient Monument (ref.137). At the dissolution the Priory passed to Thomas Cromwell and then in quick succession to his son Gregory who converted it into a mansion house. A drawing of the house made in 1586 shows a U-shaped building, which incorporated various elements of the former Priory. The house was remodelled in the early 17th century and the principal west front is of this period. Subsequently it has been added to and altered at various times. Surviving early elements include the 12th century south chancel arch, 13th century chapel and part of the refectory, rebuilt in the early 16th century.

Launde Abbey lies at the centre of an extensive historic landscape which includes formal gardens, a ha-ha, a fine 18th century stableblock, icehouse, walled kitchen garden, parkland and woodland. Launde Abbey was given to the Church of England in 1957 and was used as a seminary for a time; it is now run as a retreat house and conference centre. Archaeological involvement was occasioned by plans to improve the facilities. ULAS carried out an assessment of the buildings and site in 2005, followed by various stages of intrusive and non-intrusive evaluation relating to specific aspects of the development proposals.

In December 2005 a series of trial trenches was excavated in the area of the 19th century service yard on the south side of the retreat house, in order to assess the potential impact of the construction of a new reception and dining area. Detailed fabric assessment and limited intrusive investigation was undertaken within the house at the same time. This related to proposals to create a new entrance into the chapel with disabled access from the house, which would also involve re-siting the vestry.

In June 2006 a survey and assessment was made of earthworks to the east (rear) of the stableblock, to determine their origin and significance in light of proposals to construct new staff accommodation in this area. In the same month a survey was made of the 'Oxford and Cambridge building', an early 20th century former sports pavilion which provided accommodation for interns during Launde Abbey's time as a seminary. The intention is to relocate and refurbishing this building. Further evaluation work undertaken in 2007 which will be reported on in due course. X.A1 2006.

Long Clawson, Melton Road (SK 7189 2680)

Howard Jones

TPAU was commissioned by Hamilton Knight Development Co Ltd to carry out an archaeological watching brief during ground works for the construction of two new residential properties on land bordering Melton Road, at the western end of

the historic village core of Long Clawson. Prior to development the site comprised an area of rough pasture fronted by a brick wall set on a low stone footing with a gated entrance to Melton Road. No surface evidence of medieval cultivation was observed, although ridge and furrow survives in the field to the east. Several surface features and irregularities were noted and were confirmed during ground works as the remains of structures dating to the late nineteenth and twentieth-centuries. These represent the continuation of a range of farm buildings relating to the adjacent Holm Farm. This is consistent with the cartographic evidence. OS maps of 1892, 1921–31 and 1952 show buildings in this position. With the exception of a single sherd of possible medieval pottery, all finds and features dated to the nineteenth and twentieth-centuries. X.A22.2006.

Loughborough, Ashby Road (SK 533 198)

Paul Cope-Faulkner

Trial pits near the medieval core of Loughborough were monitored for Bowmer & Kirkland Ltd by M. Peachey of APS. Surface and make-up layers associated with the previous use of the site as a gasworks in the nineteenth century were revealed but no earlier archaeological remains were identified. X.A28.2006.

**Loughborough, The Canal Basin, Derby Road/Bridge Street
(SK 5334 1996)**

*Gerwyn Richards,
Greg Jones*

ULAS were commissioned by Metz Architects Ltd & William Davies Ltd to undertake a photographic survey at Loughborough Wharf. The photographic survey recorded the nineteenth and twentieth century industrial and canal side buildings prior to their demolition. There has been extensive Twentieth century redevelopment of the site. The survey indicated that none of the original Eighteenth and Nineteenth century wharf side buildings survive, nevertheless there a number of good examples of later Twentieth century prefabricated and mass produced architecture, architecture which is disappearing rapidly, generally without any suitable record being made. The survey also included nos. 25 to 35 (odd) Derby Road; a block of late Victorian terraced houses, which although now somewhat run down, the survey suggests were originally of a higher status. One of five subsequent evaluation trenches contained railway sleeper posts connected with the barge jetty.

Loughborough, Curzon Cinema, Woodgate/Mill Lane (SK 537 194)

John Tate

An archaeological evaluation was carried out on land adjacent to Curzon Cinema in advance of the proposed construction of a 6 storey mixed use retail and residential building. This work was carried out on behalf of North Midland Building Ltd. by ULAS. A total of two evaluation trenches were excavated which revealed three postholes and a rectangular pit of unknown, but possible prehistoric date, and two wells of possible late medieval date. These wells potentially contain important environmental data. X.A3.2006.

Loughborough, Dishley Mill, Derby Road (SK 5166 2104) *Paul Cope-Faulkner*

An evaluation, supervised by M. Peachey of APS for Mr R. Morley, was undertaken at the post-medieval mill which might be on the site of a medieval mill. A former watercourse, the Black Brook, was revealed. This was recorded on the 1886 OS map but is thought to have been ducted through a culvert in the 1970s. X.A93.2006.

Lubbenham, School (SP 706870)*Alan McWhirr*

A watching brief was undertaken on the site of the new school hall in April 2006. Although no structural remains were noted, an unstratified assemblage of medieval, late medieval and modern pottery was retrieved including Nottingham, Bourne Type D and Cistercian wares. X.A46.2006.

**Market Harborough, The Harboro' Rubber Co. Ltd.
(SP 739 872)***Richard Cherrington*

During July 2006, Benchmark Archaeology undertook a programme of Historic Building Assessment at the The Harboro' Rubber Co. Ltd. 124 St. Mary's Road, Market Harborough, Leicestershire (SP 739 872). The work was commissioned by JS&P Architecture on behalf of PDMS Vesty Ltd. As buildings on the site had been identified as being of historic interest, the Senior Planning Archaeologist for Leicestershire County Council recommended that a programme of Historic Building Assessment was required in support of the planning application (2006/00091/REM) in order that an informed planning decision can be made. The Historic Building Assessment identified industrial buildings dating from c.1867 to 1998. These buildings included a former flour mill (Grade II listed building) and extensions to the works dating from c.1904, 1925 and c.1934. X.A70.2006.

Market Harborough, Northampton Road (SP 7421 8623)*David Gilbert*

Fourteen evaluation trenches were excavated by John Moore Heritage Services, totalling 420 metres in length, to reveal the underlying geology. The remains of the ridge and furrow in the area were sampled, as was one of the old field boundaries consisting of parallel ditches and a fence line. These features were recorded on aerial photographs in 1969, but since 1980 have been ploughed out by modern agriculture. Surviving below this horizon were three ditches that were undated. Subsequently a watching brief was conducted during further groundwork. It located several undated pits below the medieval agricultural activity. The features may be associated with the Neolithic flint artefacts recovered from the site. X.A81.2006.

Market Harborough, Riverside Nursery (SP 7440 8803)*Jim Brown*

Northamptonshire Archaeology were commissioned by John Samuels Archaeological Consultants (JSAC), acting on behalf of MDA Consulting to excavate five trial trenches Furrows from medieval or post-medieval ridge and furrow cultivation were identified, but no other archaeological features or deposits were present. X.A66.2006.

Market Harborough, Roman Way and King's Head Place (SP 733 874)*Greg Jones*

ULAS were commissioned to undertake an archaeological evaluation on behalf of Darian Homes. A total of five evaluation trenches was excavated which revealed two medieval field boundary ditches, evidence of medieval furrows and a number of post-medieval pits. This site highlights the urban expansion of the core of Market Harborough, from the medieval period through to post-medieval phases of the town. X.A13.2006.

Melton Mowbray, Leicester Road (SK 743 189)*Tobin Rayner*

Development on the west side of Melton Mowbray and near to previous discoveries of prehistoric and later remains was the subject of a watching brief, carried out by Archaeological Project Services for Barratt East Midlands. An undated quarry or ditch terminus was revealed and a small collection of medieval and later artefacts was recovered. X.A47.2003.

Melton Mowbray, Leicester/Dalby Roads (SK 7485 1880)*James Harvey*

An archaeological evaluation was undertaken by the ULAS for Jelson Ltd. This work represents the second phase of evaluation that was required to establish the extent of the surviving archaeology as well as help form a mitigation strategy in advance of the new residential development granted for the site. Nine trenches totalling 240m in length and 1.6m wide were machine excavated (equalling 384m²). The location of these trenches was limited due to site various constraints including gas/electric mains and spoils heaps. Positive results were obtained from five of the trenches excavated although much of the archaeology uncovered remains undated. During the initial phase evaluation Trench 8 identified a dense area of archaeology close to the western boundary of the ambulance station. Trenches 5, 6 and 9 were located in close proximity to this trench where further archaeological features were identified. These included potential domestic activities and enclosure ditches. Elsewhere further ditches were observed in Trenches 1 and 2 although these features were less clustered than the ones observed further north. X.A32.2006.

Moira, Bath Lane (SK 4310 3155)*Matt Hurford*

An archaeological watching brief by control and supervision was undertaken by ULAS during the excavation of foundation trenches for a proposed new building. The foundation trenches were located twenty metres to the north of a major Roman road, the 'Via Devana' that had been examined by a previous watching brief, evaluation and excavation. No earth-fast archaeological features were identified during the watching brief confirming that there was no ribbon development adjacent to the road during Roman and later periods and that post medieval industrial activity was confined to the west of the development. X.A17.2006.

Noseley, Nosely Hall (SP 7394 9892)*Duncan Hale*

Archaeological Services Durham University conducted a geophysical survey in advance of proposed development in October 2006. The works comprised a geomagnetic survey of approximately 2ha of paddock to the north of Noseley Hall, east of Noseley deserted medieval village. The works were commissioned by CgMs Consulting. Former ridge and furrow cultivation was detected by the survey. These features were also evident on the ground. No other features of archaeological interest were identified in the survey.

Orton-on-the-Hill, Church Farm (SK 303 038)*TR Projects*

TR Projects were asked by ULAS to undertake a Historic Building Record of an outbuilding at Church Farm, Orton-on-the-Hill. The single, corrugated iron, roofed bay of brick building was all that remained of what had been a larger, brick outbuilding of at least four bays. The brickwork of the present building contained two distinct phases and it appeared that an earlier brick building had been pulled down and the lower courses of its walls used as a base from which to raise the brick walls of the present building. The rear, north-east, brick wall of the outbuilding is set on top of a stone base that may represent part of an even earlier building however there is insufficient evidence to enable this to be confirmed. The bricks used in both stages of building bore substantial evidence of being 'seconds,' the lower courses being an early local brick and the later series of being 'Haunchwood' bricks.

Owston, Main Street (SK 7765 0777)*Gary Taylor*

On behalf of Clive Breakspeare Chartered Architect, staff of APS carried out an evaluation in the historic core of Owston. Drainage and boundary ditches of post-medieval date were revealed, together with spreads of demolition rubble from a former cottage that was located at the street frontage. Pottery of seventeenth/eighteenth-century date was recovered from the demolition debris, together with a single redeposited medieval sherd. X.A7.2006.

Owston, Main Street and Washdyke Road (SK 775 078)*Danny McAree*

Northamptonshire Archaeology carried out a watching brief, on behalf of Central Networks, during the excavation of trenches for electric cabling on land beside Main Street and Washdyke Road. An earlier cobbled road surface in Main Street was exposed in the trenches. No other archaeological remains were present. X.A 25.2006.

Ragdale, Old Hall Farm, Six Hills Road*Neil Finn, Sam Boccock*

ULAS carried out an assessment of agricultural buildings and land at Old Hall Farm, adjacent to the site of Ragdale Old Hall, which was demolished in 1958. Development plans proposed the conversion of a number of the buildings for residential use, construction of two new dwellings and associated landscaping, car parking, etc. Most of the buildings proposed for conversion were of mid-late nineteenth century date. Along the Six Hills Road frontage was an 18th century brick wall, now incorporated into a modern farm building. An illustration by W.E. Cooke of *about* 1888 shows a series of earlier agricultural buildings occupying this frontage, including a cruck-framed barn.

Ravenstone with Snibston, Ashby Road (SK 390 130)*James Harvey*

An archaeological field evaluation by trial trenching was undertaken at the proposed Long Moor Surface Mining scheme, by ULAS in advance of the proposed coal extraction. Three archaeological sites dating between the Neolithic to the Romano-British period have been identified close by. The vicinity of the proposed development site to these sites was seen to necessitate prior archaeological investigation. Thirty-five trenches were excavated across about 2km of present arable farmland in order to evaluate the proposed line of the haul road, areas of potential alluvium/colluvium and an area immediately adjacent to a known flint scatter. Only Trenches 3 and 6, located on the proposed line of the haul road, identified any clear archaeological deposits that included two undated pits and a series of ditches. A single sherd of 13th century pottery was recovered from one of the excavated ditches. X.A99.2006.

Rearsby, Rearsby Home Farm (SK 647 144)*Gerwyn Richards*

ULAS were commissioned by J.S Bloor (Measham) Ltd to undertake an historic building assessment of Rearsby Home Farm. Outline planning permission had been granted for the demolition of some of the buildings and the conversion to residential use of other buildings during the re development of the site. Home Farm is a very fine example of a typical Midlands Farm and appears on the First Edition Ordnance Survey. Such farms are a rapidly dwindling resource. The farm is exceptional in the fact that it reflects over 300 years of farming development within its standing buildings. This assessment suggests that further work must be

carried prior to any of the proposed works being carried. The work should encompass all of the building and not be limited to the older red brick building.

Rothley, The Grange (SK 586 127)

Dave McNicol

Oxford Archaeology continued an evaluation begun in 2005 on behalf of John Samuels Archaeological Consultants (JSAC), which uncovered a inhumation cemetery, possibly of late Roman or early medieval date. Fragments of late Roman pottery and ceramic building material were also recovered, suggesting the presence of nearby settlement activity. No evidence was encountered that could help determine the extent of the medieval village of Rothley. X.A174.2005.

Sapcote, Rear of Methodist Church, Leicester Road (SP 490 933) *Caroline Rann*

Trial trenching and observation on a site within the medieval village in May-June 2006 on behalf of The Breson Partnership Ltd revealed single fragments of Roman pottery and tile. Medieval features included postholes and a small ditch overlaid by a rubble yard surface containing twelfth/thirteenth-century pottery. To the east a larger boundary ditch contained twelfth/thirteenth-century pottery, as did the layer over the surface. X.A63.2006

Sapcote, Methodist Church, Leicester Road (SP 4910 9338) *Catherine Coutts*

The interior of the Grade II Listed Methodist Church of 1902–3 was photographically recorded by WM in June 2006 in advance of alterations, on behalf of Sapcote Methodist Church Council. Thirty-nine inscribed foundation stones on the exterior of the north and west walls affected by the construction of a new link building to the adjacent Church Hall were also recorded. The site lies within the medieval viillage and observation of groundworks for the link building and an extension to the Hall revealed a large ditch, probably the continuation of a medieval boundary recorded on a site to the south in May-June 2006. Brick foundations of the east wall of the earlier, 19th-century Methodist Chapel were also recorded. X.A69.2006

Seagrave, Land adjacent to 35 King Street (SK 61845 17680)

Paul Gajos

Three trenches were excavated by JSAC ahead of proposed residential development. Work revealed an undated cobbled track heading from north to south in the western part of the site. X.A42.2006

Sibley, Mountsorrel Lane (SK 599 151)

Matt Hurford

An archaeological evaluation was undertaken by ULAS and was commissioned by RJH Building Construction Ltd. In total three trial trenches were excavated in order to assess the potential for the survival of archaeological remains. The trial

trench evaluation has demonstrated considerable truncation throughout the site associated with the building and demolition of the vicarage and subsequent landscaping. The evaluation revealed potential twelfth-century activity in the form of two possible pits and an earlier feature, possibly a ditch located in the south west of the development area. X.A94.2006.

Stoke Golding, Crown Hills Farm (SP 3933 9725)

Sophie Clarke

ULAS carried out an historic buildings assessment of farm buildings at Crown Hills Farm, Station Road, Stoke Golding in December 2005, in advance of proposed residential redevelopment. Crown Hills Farm consists of a traditional farm complex, with a central yard enclosed on four sides by auxiliary farm buildings, including a threshing barn, cow-sheds, stables, cart-shed and granary with pigeon-loft. The present arrangement appears to date back at least as far as 1844, as indicated by the parish Tithe map of this date and some of the farm buildings may be earlier.

Stoke Golding, Park House (SP 398 970)

Gerwyn Richards

ULAS were commissioned to undertake an historic building appraisal (rapid assessment) of three barns at Park House, Main Street, Stoke Golding. Outline planning permission has been granted to convert the barns into three residential units and Park House into three apartments. Although much altered the barns are late eighteenth or early nineteenth century in date and are of local historical interest and further limited examination and recording should be carried out prior to alteration work being carried out. Although subject to planning permission Park House itself was not included in this historic building appraisal.

Swannington, 53–57, Main Street (SK 415 163)

John Tate

An archaeological watching brief was undertaken in 2005, on behalf of Lychgate Homes Ltd, prior to the construction of two residential dwellings, access roads and car parking spaces. No previous archaeological work had been undertaken on the site and no structures had been built on the site other than the Stone House in the seventeenth-century. The watching brief revealed four features, a ditch of medieval date, a gully of post-medieval date and an undated pit at the south west end of the site, and the remains of a demolished sandstone outbuilding/structure of probable medieval date to the north east of the Stone House. X.A148.2005.

Theddingworth, adjacent to Grand Union Canal (SP 654 873)

David Elks

Stratascan were commissioned by Andrew Granger and Co. to undertake a geophysical survey of an area outlined for development as a marina attached to the Grand Union Canal. The geophysical survey has identified anomalies indicating agricultural activity and modern features.

Thurmaston, Melton Road (SK 610 094)*Jennifer Kitch*

Development alongside the Fosse Way Roman road and near to the medieval core of Thurmaston was the subject of a watching brief, undertaken by Archaeological Project Services, for Westleigh Developments. An undated ditch was revealed, together with recent levelling and floor deposits. X.A28.2005.

Whetstone, 5–7, Station Street (SK 452 151)*Matt Hurford*

An archaeological evaluation was undertaken by ULAS for David Haynes, Architect. Three trial trenches were excavated in order to assess the potential for the survival of archaeological remains. The evaluation revealed probable property boundary ditches aligned east to west in the north and south of the area. A post medieval or modern date is likely for both. Two postholes of unknown date were also located during trenching. X.A16.2006.

Walton On The Wolds, Rose Villa Farm (SK 5945 1975)*Victoria Mellor*

On behalf of Mr J. Bacon, M. Wood of APS carried out a watching brief in the medieval core of the village. A single pit containing a dog burial and a quantity of pottery of seventeenth-nineteenth-century date was revealed. X.A90.2006.

Wymondham, Spring Farm, Spring Lane (SK 849 186)*Rachael Hall*

Building recording and a watching brief were undertaken by APS for Mr P. Mitchell, on the south-western edge of the village in an area of earthworks of the shrunken settlement, and close to a Roman villa. Monitoring of development revealed an ironstone wall and adjacent mortar spread, perhaps a floor, though these were undated. Building recording of two barns revealed them to comprise two major phases of construction, the earlier being a former threshing barn perhaps of 18th century origin. The second barn, perhaps added in the mid 19th century, may have been a stable or for storage but had been extensively altered, removing any fixtures or fittings indicative of its original use. X.A166.2005.

**Negative watching briefs and evaluations in Leicestershire
(all undertaken by ULAS unless otherwise stated)**

Anstey: 169–171 Gynsill Close (SK 5539 0820), X.A65.2006), JSAC; **Ashby Parva:** The Limes ('Ifafa'), Main Street (SP 527 883); **Ashby-de-la-Zouch:** Ashby School, Nottingham Road (SK 364 167); **Asfordby:** White House Farm, 144 Main Street (SK 7070 1909); **Burton Overy:** Wheatridge (SP 677 979) NA; **Catthorpe:** Station Road, Manor Farm (SP 555 781) NA; **Cosby:** 20 – 22 Main Street (SP 546 951) NA; **Frolesworth:** White House, Main Street (SK 5070 9040); **Great Glen:** Beggars Roost, 23 London Road (SP 656 974) NA; **Great Glen:** Recreation Ground, Purdview Close (SP 655 981); **Groby:** The Brantings (SK 536 074);

Hallaton: Hallaton Hall (SP 790 066); **Harby:** Stathern Road Lane (SK 7512 3112) X.A59.2006. APS; **Harby:** Watsons Lane (SK 7455 3105) X.A154.2005 APS; **Leire:** Main Street, The Firs (SP 525 904) NA; **Littlethorpe:** 7 Cosby Road (SP 542 960); **Loughborough:** Curzon Cinema, Woodgate/Mill Lane (SK 537 194); **Lubenham:** Old Hall Lane (SP 707 872) NA; **Lutterworth:** Sewage Treatment Works (SP530 828) TPAU (X.A33.2006); **Market Bosworth:** 42 Barton Road (SK 406 031) NA; **Melton Mowbray:** 21 King's Road (SK 7573 2822); **Melton Mowbray,** Rosebery Avenue (SK 7566 1911) X.A8.2006 APS; **Orton-on-the-Hill:** Church Farm (SK 303 038); **Peckleton:** The Old Mill (SK 468 009); **Peckleton, Shericles Farm** (SK 4677 0272) X.A4.2006 WM; **Quorndon:** 1–5 High Street (SK 561 165); **Ratby:** 113 Main Street (SP 442 964); **Sapcote:** 6 Church Street (SP 488 933) NA; **Sharnford:** Tollgate Cottage, Bumblebee Lane, Highcross (SP 471 888); **Shepshed:** Little Haw Farm, Ticklow Lane (SK 471 195) X.A40.2006 Stoke on Trent Archaeology; **Somerby:** High Street (SK 7802 1053) X.A51.2006 APS; **Stapleford:** Woodend Cottage, Stapleford Road (SK 814 191); **Stapleton:** Whitehouse Farm, Ashby Road (SP 4350 9925); **Stoke Golding:** Park House (SP 398 970); **Swinford:** Rugby Road (SP 566 793) X.A211.2004 APS; **Syston:** Syston Health Centre, Main Street (SK 603 152); **Thornton,** 169, Main Street (SK 4651 0780) X.A83.2006 WM; **Whetstone:** land adjacent to St Peter's Parish Hall, Cemetery Road (SK 557 974); **Witherley:** Homefield, 3 Bridge Lane (SP 3254 9708) Benchmark Archaeology.

RUTLAND

All archives will be deposited with Rutland County Museum (RCM) under accession given at the end of each entry. Accession numbers are pending in some cases.

Barrowden, Tippings Lane (SK 9473 0012)

Gary Taylor

A watching brief, by staff of APS for Mr R. Jones, was undertaken close to known medieval remains in the historic village core. A probable medieval dog burial within a pit was revealed beneath dumped deposits of probable late medieval or early post-medieval date that had been laid down to create a terrace on the natural slope. Cut into these terrace deposits was an undated but probably post-medieval pit. Above this pit were subsoil and topsoil deposits of 18th-20th century date. 2007.41.

Belton-in-Rutland, Old Baptist Chapel (SK 8172 0151)

Gerwyn Richards

ULAS was commissioned by Mr & Mrs Tempest to undertake a photographic survey of the Old Baptist Chapel, Belton-in-Rutland. Planning permission has been granted to convert the Chapel to residential use. The Planning Archaeologist of the Historic and Natural Environment Team of Leicestershire County Council, as archaeological advisor to Rutland County Council, recommended that a

photographic survey of the building be undertaken prior to conversion. The Chapel dated to 1843, a relatively early date for a nonconformist chapel in this region. It consists of a single storey rectangular Chapel house of red brick with a hipped roof of apparently Welsh slate.

Bisbrooke, Village Farm (SP 8856 9955)

Katie Murphy

Proposals for redevelopment in the centre of Bisbrooke were examined by a programme of desk-based study and building survey by staff of APS for C. T. Breakspeare Chartered Architect. The desk-based research indicated that the site was in the medieval core of the village and in proximity to prehistoric remains. Place-name evidence indicated there was a brick or tile kiln at the site, and a rabbit warren adjacent, no later than the 18th century. Building survey revealed an 18th century stone-built threshing barn incorporated into 19th century and later farm structures. Three sides of the barn survived and there was evidence it had been shortened in the 19th century and the opposed threshing doors substantially infilled. 2007.9.

Cottesmore, Church of St Nicholas (SK 9024 1361)

Tim Upson-Smith

An archaeological watching brief was carried out by Northamptonshire Archaeology during groundworks for the installation of a toilet for the disabled in the tower of the church. A single inhumation burial of probable medieval date was seen during the excavation of the manhole, no other features were observed.

Essendine, Bourne Road (TF 0474 1267)

Paul Cope-Faulkner

Development close to the historic core of Essendine was monitored by staff of APS for Mr & Mrs Delve. A pit was revealed beneath the subsoil and although undated, is probably ancient. Artefacts of 19th-20th century date were recovered. 2007.28.

Greetham, Greetham Quarry (SK 930 149)

Matthew Brudenell

Excavations were undertaken by Cambridge Archaeological Unit on behalf of M. Dickerson Ltd in advance of the first phase extension to the quarry. A residual assemblage of Neolithic and Bronze Age flint preceded a narrow swathe of evidence for settlement beginning in the latter part of the Early Iron Age and with a second phase extending through the Middle Iron Age. The first phase settlement comprised two roundhouses and an isolated four-post structure. The houses were framed by enclosure ditches to the east and west which bisected the development area, creating a narrow corridor. One of the houses produced a group of Early Iron Age pottery, a rubbing stone and a bone weaving comb. The second phase of settlement involved the re-cutting of the western enclosure ditch and the construction of a small trapezoidal enclosure on the eastern side, around which

the Middle Iron Age settlement focused. A number of pits associated with the enclosure produced deposits of finds including Scored ware pottery, a complete rotary quern, triangular loomweights and iron objects.

Ketton, Bull Lane (SK 9820 0466)

Paul Cope-Faulkner

R. Hall of APS carried out a watching brief and building recording, for Boss Stone Masonry Ltd, during development close to the medieval heart of Ketton. The site is occupied by a listed late seventeenth to early eighteenth-century cottage. The watching brief did not reveal any archaeological remains. However, the building survey provided a record of the seventeenth-century building and showed it to comprise three principal phases, the latter two both of the nineteenth-century. The original mullioned windows survived in the lower front elevation and blocked doors and windows were also recorded. 2007.33.

Ketton, The Green (SK 9794 0437)

Paul Cope-Faulkner

Construction close to the medieval core of Ketton was monitored for the Richard Oakley Partnership by B. Martin of APS. However, the only remains revealed were of nineteenth/twentieth century date and included a posthole, wall and drainage culvert. Artefacts of eighteenth to twentieth-century date were retrieved. 2007.36.

Ketton, Stamford Lane, Fishponds (SK 985051)

Nathan Flavell

Archaeological investigation was undertaken by Northamptonshire Archaeology on land at Fishponds, Stamford Lane. A small number of features were uncovered, including undated linear features and a section of curving ditch with fills containing four flints of broadly Neolithic to early Bronze Age date; two flakes, a blade and a possible core, and a few medieval pottery sherds dated to the twelfth to mid-thirteenth centuries. OAKRM 2006.7.

Manton, Dairy Farm, Lyndon Road (SK 882 047)

John Tate

An archaeological evaluation was carried out in advance of the proposed construction of one dwelling with garage. This work was carried out on behalf of McCrombie Smith Architects by ULAS. A total of two evaluation trenches were excavated which revealed well preserved Late Saxon and medieval features of varied use. These included Late Saxon quarry pits, presumably for building materials, sealed by an early medieval layer, an early medieval furrow and structural evidence in the form of a wall footing and postholes, with further pitting. This site, when discussed with a previous ULAS excavation immediately to the north, highlights the continuities of land use and probable Late Saxon origin to the core of the current village of Manton. RT.01.2006.

Oakham, Knight's Yard, Gaol Street (SK 8596 0870)*Gary Taylor*

T. Bradley-Lovekin of APS carried out a watching brief for Rutland Planning, during development on the southern edge of the historic core of Oakham. Two medieval pits containing pottery of mid 12th century date were revealed. Additionally, a ditch and pit, both of post-medieval date, were identified and contained slag and iron objects indicating a smithy in the area. 2007.16.

Oakham, Oakham Bypass (SK 8467 1033 – SK 8674 0745)*Victoria Mellor*

Investigations along the line of the proposed bypass around the north and southeast sides of Oakham were supervised by V. Mellor of APS for Alfred McAlpine Capital Projects Ltd on behalf of Rutland County Council. The route crosses a cropmark of a prehistoric multiple ditch boundary. The excavations examined the triple ditched boundary and recovered pottery dating between the Neolithic and Late Bronze Age periods, including Peterborough ware, Beaker pottery and Collared Urns. A possible Beaker period date for construction of the boundary is suggested, with the earlier ceramics perhaps derived from disturbed sites nearby. Infilling of the ditches appears to have occurred no earlier than the Late Bronze Age. Between the ditches a circular pit containing a crouched inhumation of an adult male was revealed, and radiocarbon dated to the Middle Iron Age period, 301 +/- 35 BC (Wk-20879). The boundary appears to have had an extended period of use, with parts recut into the Roman period and a Roman ditch was identified linking to, but not crossing, the system. A double pit alignment was also revealed and yielded prehistoric pottery including a few Beaker sherds, possible Collared Urn and a single piece of early Iron Age ceramic. 2007.15.

Pickworth Wood (SK 4979 3150)*Carol Simmonds*

Northamptonshire Archaeology was commissioned by the Forestry Commission to carry out a measured earthwork survey in the western part of Pickworth Wood. The principal feature recorded was a rectangular ditched enclosure approximately 70m square, with an internal bank. There is no available dating evidence, but it could either be the survival of an Iron Age or Roman settlement enclosure or a small ditched enclosure of medieval date. The earthworks have been partly disturbed by later gullies that are related to woodland rides and drainage. OAKRM 2006.2.

Seaton, Church Farm (SP 9035 9825)*Gavin Speed*

ULAS were commissioned by Stoneleigh Planning to undertake a photographic building survey at Church Farm. The farm and its associated buildings are of historical significance, therefore, the planning archaeologist at Leicestershire County Council has advised the planning authority that a photographic survey of the existing buildings should be undertaken prior to conversion. RT08.2006.

Seaton, Old School House, Church Lane (SP 9041 9817)*Eleanor Ramsey*

Birmingham Archaeology undertook an historic building photographic survey of the Old Schoolhouse, prior to alterations to the Grade II listed mid-Victorian building. Built in 1858 with minor alterations carried out in 1872, this former school is 'T'-shaped in plan with the schoolmaster's house to the west, and the gabled schoolroom projecting to the east. It is constructed of coursed limestone rubble with limestone dressings. It has a Collyweston slate roof and ashlar chimneys.

Whissendine, 5 Melton Road (SK 8251 1432)*Andy Hyam*

A small scale evaluation was undertaken for Mr C. Underwood by ULAS. The purpose of the work was to excavate two evaluation trenches in advance of construction of a new bungalow. The site is located within the historic settlement core of Whissendine village and within an area of archaeological potential. In view of this the proposed building works were seen as being likely to uncover and disturb any surviving archaeological deposits and features. The two trenches, one measuring 6.5m long and the other 15m long, were excavated down to the natural substrate of pale grey brown silty clay through approximately 0.4m of topsoil and subsoil. Two north to south linear features were observed along with a potential pit and a single posthole. Sherds of late 5th or early 6th century Saxon and eleventh/twelfth-century Saxo-Norman pottery were recovered from these features. The finds represent more evidence of early Saxon activity in the locality and the early origins of Whissendine village. RT04.2006.

Uppingham, Leicester Road, Rutland (SK 854 007)*John Tate*

An archaeological evaluation was carried out in 2005, in advance of the proposed conversion of the land into a cemetery and the provision of car parking spaces. This work was carried out on behalf of Uppingham Town Council by ULAS. A total of six evaluation trenches were excavated which revealed three undated linear features, the possible remnants of one medieval furrow, and a small Mesolithic to Neolithic flint assemblage. RT.08.2005.

Negative Watching Briefs in Rutland (by ULAS unless otherwise stated)

Barrowden: 27, The Hay, Wakerley Road (SP 950 002); *Barrowden*: Redhill Lodge, Seaton Road (SK 927 993); *Edith Weston*: Weston Road (SK 924 054), 2007.46, APS; *Empingham*: Beckworth Grove (SK 951 089), 2007.47, APS; *Empingham*: Loves Lane (SK 9526 0881), 2007.49, APS; *Glaston*: Coppice Paddock, Coppice Farm (SK 8958 0071); *Greetham*: 26, Church Lane (SK 925 144); *Market Overton*: Main Street (SK 8893 1624), 2007.14., APS; *Ridlington*: Rindlington Park Farm (SK 833 019); *Seaton*: Church Farm (SK 903 981); *Stoke Dry*: Curtis House (SP 854 967) Benchmark Archaeology; *Uppingham*: Ayston Road (SK 8656 0053).

PORTABLE ANTIQUITIES SCHEME ANNUAL REPORT
FOR LEICESTERSHIRE 2006

Wendy Scott, Finds Liaison Officer

This section of Archaeology in Leicestershire and Rutland highlights some of the remarkable finds from the county which members of the public have submitted for identification and recording under the Portable Antiquities Scheme in the County

Prehistoric

Late Bronze Age copper alloy spearhead LEIC-96FB06

Found just over Northamptonshire border in Middleton parish and submitted to Harborough Museum by Mr Smith, a builder digging foundations.

Neolithic Leaf shaped flint blade LEIC-7F2043

Found in plough-soil in Scalford, Melton, by a friend of Mr R. Howitt who submitted it. The finder was metal detecting for a coin at the time (Fig. 15).

Roman

Crossbow brooches

Evidence of two rare crossbow brooches was recovered by the same person in two areas of the County. Mr W. Gemmell found a complete silver crossbow brooch LEIC- 9C94D1, in the Charnwood area, which was processed as treasure but later disclaimed. He also found an 'onion' shaped copper alloy terminal from another crossbow brooch LEIC-8471B8, just south of Leicester in Narborough Parish (Fig. 16).

Early Medieval

Merovingian Gold Tremissis LEIC-6BAA60

Found in the Langtons of south Leicestershire by Mr Dudley. A rare tremissis, minted in Bourges, Aquitaine, between 590 and 670 and only the second Merovingian coin from this area to be found in Britain (Fig. 17).

Frankish sword chape fragment LEIC-7F2E18

Found in Sproxton by Mr R. Howitt. Copper alloy zoomorphic mounts of this kind are extremely rare in Britain. They date between AD400–700 and are usually found in Northern Germanic burials. Decoration comprises a helmeted warrior who has serpent-headed 'arms' emerging from his sides. One previous example came from Lowesby Parish found by a Mr Dawson in 1995 (HER ref. 70NW.AM), whilst another was recently found in Nottinghamshire (Fig. 18).



Fig. 15. Neolithic leaf-shaped flint blade from Scalford, Metton. Length 52mm.



Fig. 16. Roman crossbow brooch from Charnwood. Length 75mm.



Fig 17. Merovingian gold tremissis from the Langtons. Diameter 11mm.

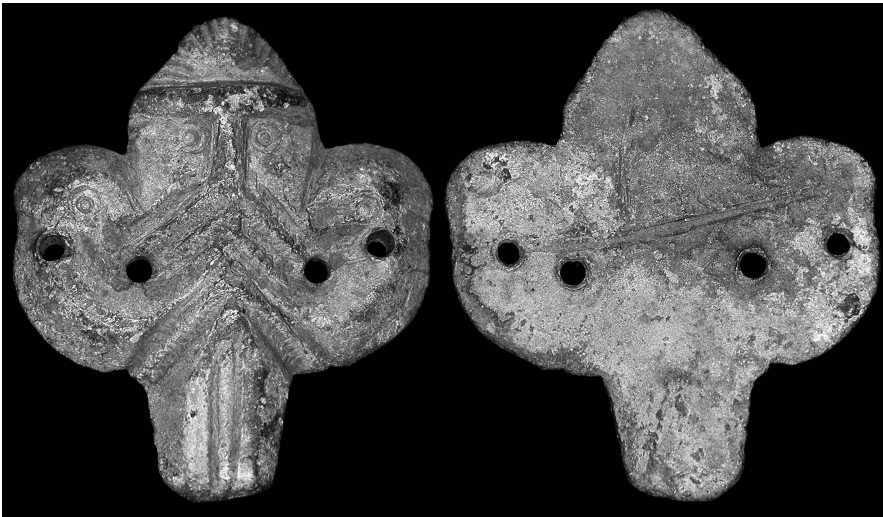


Fig 18. Frankish sword chape mount from Sproxton. Length 30mm.