

ARCHAEOLOGY IN LEICESTER, LEICESTERSHIRE, AND RUTLAND 2007

Editors, Nicholas J. Cooper and Diane Randle

Archaeological watching briefs which have produced no significant archaeological features or finds are listed below at the end of the relevant county sections. In each case, the parish/site name is followed by the name of the organisation which undertook the fieldwork. For abbreviations see p. iv. Some entries may relate to fieldwork undertaken before 2007 but not previously reported.

LEICESTER

All finds and records are deposited with LCMS under the accession number cited at the end of the entry.

Bath Lane (former Merlin Dye Works) (SK 580 045)

Roger Kipling

Excavations by ULAS, on behalf of Living in the City PLC between July and November 2007, revealed an important sequence of activity relating to the Late pre-Roman Iron Age settlement of *Ratae*, early Roman timber buildings, an early second century masonry public building, the Roman and medieval western town defences, and the Blackfriars precinct wall. Preceding this sequence, and for the first time in Leicester, was the discovery of a probable buried soil containing blades of late Upper Palaeolithic date.

The Late Iron Age and Roman period

The eastern part of the site produced deposits dated by imported Gallo-Belgic table wares to between the late first century BC and the mid-first century AD. These deposits comprised a steeply cambered bank overlain by a sequence of gravel surfaces and flanked by a shallow gully containing a large number of ceramic 'flan tray' fragments used for melting metals into pellets of fixed weight for coin production (Fig. 1). To the west of these deposits, the site was traversed by a shallow, open U-shaped ditch, *c.*3m wide and *c.*1m deep, its primary fill producing pottery dating to AD 50/60, which may represent the western boundary of the LPRIA settlement (Fig. 2). The LPRIA deposits were sealed by the construction of later first-century timber buildings, aligned on the street grid, and comprising timber beam-slots and sandy clay floors.



Fig. 1. Bath Lane, Insula XIII, fragments of 'flan tray' used for melting pellets of equal weight for LPRIA coin production. The complete tray is likely to have had an arrangement of seven by seven plus one indentations.

During the later first or early second century AD, a substantial masonry building with walls up to 1.3m thick was constructed across much of the site, following land reclamation on the western, riverward side. Waterlogged timbers situated west of the building at the ends of the main wall axes and consisting of reused oak timbers placed in shallow cuts in the river gravels may have functioned as scaffolding bases associated with the construction. The central structure, comprising a rectangular building with apses on its western and southern walls, is very similar in size to the southern *caldarium* of the Jewry Wall public baths

**Bath Lane (Merlin Works)
Principal Features**

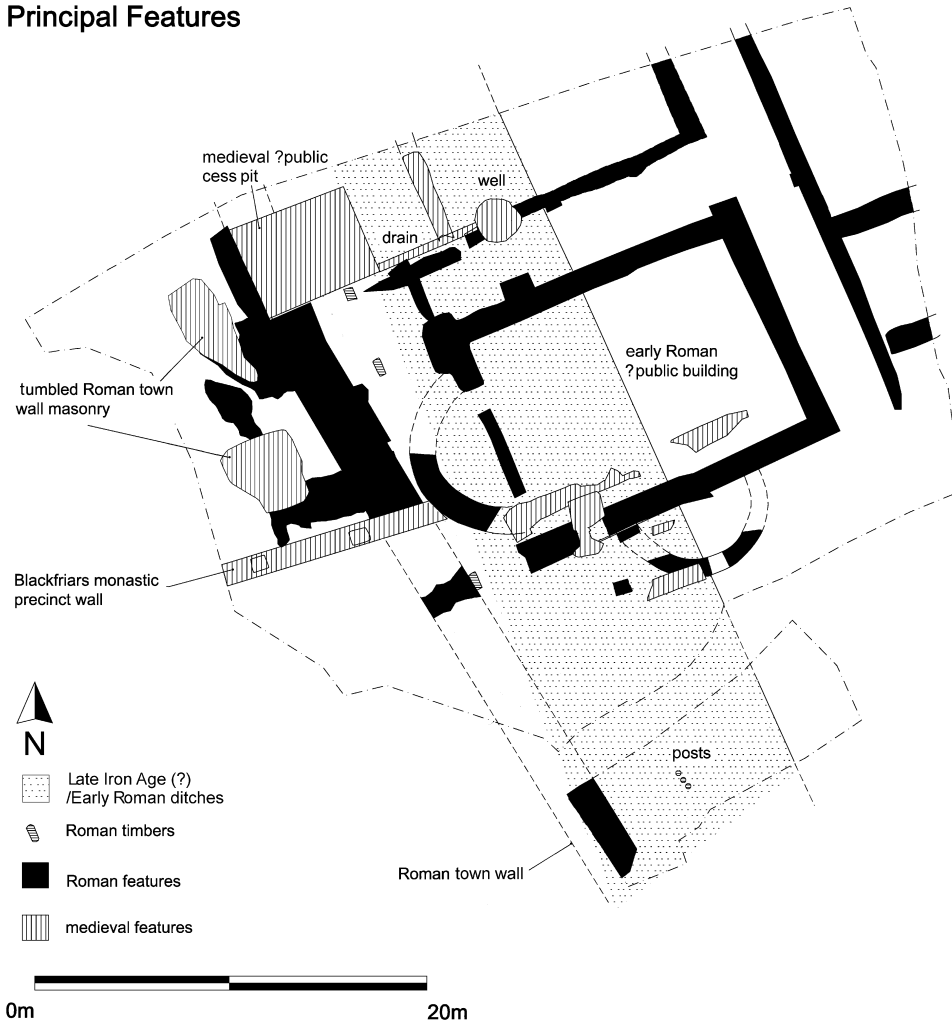


Fig. 2. Bath Lane, Insula XIII, showing location of second-century masonry building; possibly a public baths, sealing LPRIA settlement and sealed by line of later Roman western town defences and Blackfriars Precinct wall.

(Kenyon 1948, pl. XXVII), lying 160m to the south east, suggesting that it represents an earlier location for the public baths. Whilst the southern apse contained evidence for a hypocaust, there was insufficient room below the small area of surviving tessellated flooring in the main part of the building for it to have been heated in the same way. The western apse had no surviving internal structures. The northern and eastern sides of the building were flanked by corridors, the outer walls of which appear to have been possibly replaced by a colonnade, perhaps opening out on to a courtyard to the north.

The masonry building appears to have been demolished by the later second or early third century as the north-west corner was covered by the earthen rampart of the initial timber phase of the western town defences. Two substantial timber stakes identified *c.*15m to the south-east of the building, in association with a possible linear cut feature, may represent the timber rampart revetment and an associated external defensive ditch. The third century masonry phase of the town defences was traced ‘dog-legging’ around the western apse of the early Roman building. The town wall footings comprised substantial unmortared granite fragments in a construction trench, and a 6.6m length of superstructure, 3.2m wide, was found *in situ*.

The medieval and post-medieval period

The line of the medieval Friars Causeway/Blackfriars Street appears to have continued westwards across the site and towards the river as a crudely cobbled lane. This presumably then formed the southern boundary of the Blackfriars precinct which was later defined by a 1.5m high wall, an 11m length of which was observed extending across the line of the Roman defences and utilising both the Roman defensive wall and the cobbled surface as a foundation. To the north of the wall, inside the precinct, lay a large masonry structure of rectangular plan (*c.*9.50m by at least 5m). The feature appears to represent the re-use of a relict Roman structure as a medieval cess pit, as its fill contained medieval pottery and highly organic fills. Its discovery may also confirm the documentary reference in the Leicester Borough Records to the transfer of land from the Blackfriars monastic community to the corporation for the construction of a communal toilet in 1342/3. The cess pit may have been flushed by water from a stone lined well *c.*6m to the east linked to it by a stone-based open drain.

To the south of the precinct wall, on a plot of land known at Water Laggs owned by the Austin Friars, the cobbled surface was renewed and covered by a yard area, delineated by a series of short walls. Within the yard were small, square clay-bonded, granite-lined, tanks, a number of which contained degraded lime, traditionally associated with fellmongering activity. The yard area was overlain by a thick accumulation of organic waste containing considerable quantities of animal bone, including butchery waste. A fellmonger’s business is known to have occupied the site during the eighteenth century. A29.2006

REFERENCE

- Kenyon, K. M., 1948 *Excavations at the Jewry Wall Site, Leicester*. Res. Rep. Soc. Antiq. 15.

Bath Lane, Blackfriars (SK550 046)*Chris Wardle*

Between July and September 2007 Birmingham Archaeology carried out a field evaluation on a site of 1.5 ha. (c. 3.8 acres) to the east of Bath Lane, known to lie within the Roman and medieval town defences and the precinct of the 13th century Dominican friary. In the north-western corner of the site, a significant length of the Roman town defences was recorded on a roughly north-south alignment and comprised an earthen rampart with two ditches. In the central and southern parts of the site, Roman deposits up to 2m thick were identified. These included evidence for timber framed structures, a possible east/west street and a stone column base. The excavators believed the latter to be evidence for a substantial and important building with at least two distinctive phases of usage. They also identified an area of medieval industrial features, possibly associated with tanning. Of particular interest was what appears to be a section of defences close to, but pre-dating, the Roman town defences which may correspond with those found further to the south on the Merlin Works site on Bath Lane (see above). These early defences might belong to the Late pre-Roman Iron Age settlement of *Ratae* or perhaps to a Roman military fort. The most important artefact from the site is a crossbow brooch of 4th century date. A7.2007

Carey's Close (SK 5838 0438)*Wayne Jarvis*

An evaluation carried out by ULAS, on behalf of WSP Environmental Ltd/Hyde Harrington Property Consultants, revealed medieval and Roman features beneath post-medieval garden soils, which were sample excavated to gauge their depth. A5.2007

Great Central St (SK 5822 0487)*John Tate*

Following an evaluation in 2006 (*TLAHS* 81, 179) land fronting on to Highcross Street on the site of the former 'Pretty Legs' hosiery factory, and close to the Roman and medieval North Gate, was excavated by ULAS from November 2007 until May 2008. Two 'islands' of well preserved street frontage deposits had been identified close to the surface at the north and south ends of the site. At the south end, the first phase of excavation revealed a large, late medieval cellared stone building, lying along the frontage, the substantial foundations suggesting a two-storey stone building with a newel (spiral) stair probably accommodated in the semicircular projection in the rear wall (Fig. 3). The building was subdivided in the post-medieval and Victorian periods. The removal of 'back-yard' soils to the rear of the building revealed a surprisingly shallow sequence of stratigraphy. The area appeared to have been ploughed at some point between the post-Roman and early medieval periods, with a possible robber trench truncating this. Beneath were revealed Roman quarry pits, one re-used for the deposition of rubbish, some post-holes and two linear features.



Fig. 3. Aerial view of southern part of the Great Central Street showing late medieval building.

At the north end of the site, three successive phases of frontage wall were identified, each one closer to the current road. The earliest has been robbed out, with the latest serving as the foundation to the factory wall. One of the frontage buildings revealed evidence for copper alloy working, including a crucible and a potentially contemporary stone-lined hearth. Beneath this were two ovens, one of which lies beneath the frontage walls (Fig. 4). Other medieval structures included oval and tear-drop shaped wells set 3m apart, two stone-lined cess pits, and a number of stone cellars (some of which had been robbed) and part of the rear wall to a property that would have fronted on to Preachers Lane to the west. A length of Roman street with a kerb on its northern edge was recorded running westwards, perpendicular to the north/south line of the Roman street leading to the North Gate (which is assumed to lie directly beneath Highcross Street, or perhaps running or extending alongside its eastern edge as observed further south close to the junction with Freeschool Lane (*TLAHS* 81, 181 and Fig 5). The length of east/west Roman street and the medieval cellars sealed a mid first to mid second century sequence comprising a timber framed rectangular building and later compacted sand floors with occupation levels between. This represents the most easterly occurrence of first century activity in the town to date. A13.2006



Fig. 4. Medieval Oven at Great Central Street

Grey Friars, nos. 1–3 (SK 58600 04348)

John Tate

An archaeological watching brief was carried out by ULAS, on behalf of Leicester City Council, on land behind nos. 1–3 Grey Friars on the 24th and 31st July 2007. Roman street or yard metalling and silt layers were observed for a depth of 0.6m across an area of 16m sq., dating from the late 1st century to the mid third century AD. The area lies *c.*5m from the projected line Roman north/south street. The evidence was overlain by *c.*1m of medieval garden soil. A8.2007

Grey Friars, Nat West Bank (SK 5861 0437)

John Tate

An evaluation was carried out by ULAS, on behalf of Kaikoura Investments Ltd, on land adjacent to the former Nat West Bank on the 6th-10th August 2007. One evaluation trench was excavated beneath the former single-storey extension to the bank and revealed well-preserved Roman to late post-medieval occupation and activity at a relatively shallow depth. This included probable Roman clay floor surfaces and earlier cut features with at least 0.6m of stratigraphy present. Possible earlier medieval timber structures, medieval pits and metalled surfaces

with at least one probable early post-medieval wall foundation and post-medieval pits were also identified. A9.2007

Melton Road, no. 432 (SK 6032 0805)

Greg Farnworth-Jones

An evaluation was carried out by ULAS, on behalf of Shanti Niketan Ltd, on 1st–2nd March 2006, close to the line of the Roman Fosse Way. A parallel Roman ditch and gully, a pit and sealed layers containing Roman pottery were recorded. A12.2006

The Newarke (SK 5861 0437)

John Tate

An evaluation was carried out by ULAS on behalf of De Montfort University in May 2007, on the site of the proposed Business and Law Building. Five trenches were excavated which, when outside of the demolition deposits of the former James Went building, revealed well-preserved earlier medieval to late post-medieval occupation. This included probable earlier medieval timber structures and associated surfaces, the Newarke Wall, ‘garden’ soils and a possible ‘dark earth’, a late medieval wall foundation, two early post-medieval stone wall foundations, including probable floor surfaces, and a path. One Roman pit dated to the first half of the second century was also recorded. A2.2007

Oxford St, former Antiques Centre (SK 585 040)

Wayne Jarvis

An evaluation was undertaken by ULAS to the rear of 16–26, Oxford Street. The eastern trench revealed a probably Roman human burial, and a number of medieval pits. The other trench exposed medieval pitting and other possible structural deposits. A4.2007

Negative watching briefs and evaluations Leicester City

Knighton: Craighill Road, Craighill Nurseries (SK 59790168) Stoke-on-Trent Archaeology.

North Hamilton: St. Mary’s School (SK 636 071).

LEICESTERSHIRE

All finds and records have been deposited with Leicestershire County Council under the accession number given at the end of each entry.

Anstey, King William Bridge (SK 5564 0895)

Gerwyn Richards

ULAS undertook a building survey and watching brief for Leicester City Council prior to, and during, repair and resurfacing work to the late 17th century bridge. The structure is mainly rubble-built with two rounded arches and was widened on

the downstream (northern) face using brick, probably for the visit of King William III in 1696. XA12.2007

Belton, Mill Lane (SK 44732 20912)

Benchmark Archaeology

A watching brief at 3, The Toft on Mill lane, recorded a pit containing eight sherds of Late Saxon pottery. Pottery of Roman and medieval date was recovered from the topsoil. XA55.2007

Castle Donington, Castle Hill (SK 447 275)

Trent and Peak Archaeology

Excavations at no.3, Castle Hill revealed rubble layers from a demolished building containing thirteenth-century pottery, below c.1m of soil containing post-medieval and modern pottery.

Cropston, Causeway Lane (SK 539 155)

Mathew Morris

A watching brief was carried out by ULAS, for Mr A Chell, at The Gate House, 20, Causeway Lane in advance of an extension, and revealed the stone footings of the Grade II listed 16th/17th century timber building and a large rubble filled early modern pit. XA239.2007

Great Bowden, Upper Green Place (SP 739 890)

David Parker, Andy Hyam

An evaluation and watching brief were undertaken by ULAS for Mr and Mrs Van Herrewage at 7, Upper Green Place. The trench revealed a possible cobbled surface and a number of late medieval gullies and pits. (XA60.2007). The subsequent watching brief revealed features including a gully and pits or post-holes dating 12th to the 16th century. Unstratified finds also suggested prehistoric and Roman activity within the area. XA190.2007

Groby, Newtown Linford Lane (SK 524 075)

Martin Shore

An evaluation carried out by ULAS, on behalf of George Wimpey, adjacent to Groby Castle and the Old Hall, recorded granite wall foundations and building rubble associated with a sherd of medieval Stamford ware and a fragment of ridge tile. Four other trenches had very silty fills, indicative of fish ponds or possibly an outer castle ditch. XA22.2007

Hinckley, Argent's Mead (SP 42856 93858)

WM

Observation of the landscaping programme in the area of the castle recorded a clay layer that may be part of the bailey rampart or landscaping associated with Castle Hill House. XA87.2006

Kegworth, M1 Junction 24 (SK 475 273)*Matthew Hurford*

An evaluation by ULAS, commissioned by White Young Green, was undertaken on land adjacent to the A453 between the M1, Junction 24 and the A52 to Nottingham. During the first phase, 33 trial trenches were excavated across four sites. The northern part of Site 3 was situated on a gravel terrace on which were a number of linear features which may represent settlement boundary ditches or drainage features associated with land use. A sherd of early Anglo-Saxon pottery came from one of the ditches. Site 9 revealed a pit containing a late Neolithic flint assemblage as well as a number of possibly Roman ditches. At Site 11 two post-medieval or modern drainage ditches were recorded to the south of Mill Hill as well as a possible holloway. Site 27 produced no archaeological deposits although the presence of a ring ditch to the south demonstrates the presence of archaeological features in the vicinity.

The second phase of evaluation, undertaken on the offline section of the A453 from Clifton to Barton Lane, Nottinghamshire, saw eight more trenches excavated across three sites. At Site 7 a medieval plough furrow was recorded, whilst Site 12 contained no archaeological deposits. Site 28 revealed an early Roman enclosure ditch containing late first to second century pottery together with possible beam slots to the southeast and indications of further ditches extending to the south. Medieval plough furrows were also detected. XA6.2007

Kirby Muxloe, Kirby Muxloe Castle (SK 523 046)*John Tate*

A watching brief, undertaken by ULAS on behalf of English Heritage, revealed a layer associated either with the construction of the Castle, or occupation prior to its construction. XA106.2007

Launde, Launde Abbey (SK 796 043)*Andy Hyam*

An evaluation undertaken by ULAS around the scheduled ha-ha, and within the earthworks to the east of the grade II listed stable block, revealed structural evidence of the western claustral buildings and the south wall of the church nave, within the ha-ha ditch, indicating that the priory buildings may be more extensive than originally thought. The earthworks in the orchard to the east of the stable block relate to 19th-century and later structures. XA113.2006

Lockington, Warren Farm (SK 475 295)*Matt Hurford, Alistair Macintosh*

Following magnetometry survey, excavations directed by ULAS during 2007 and early 2008, revealed an Iron Age and Roman agricultural landscape across an area of 8ha close to the scheduled villa. A series of Iron Age livestock enclosures was succeeded in the second or third century by a Roman field system, both aligned on a sequence of ditched 'drove ways' heading in the direction of the villa. In the fourth century two Roman buildings, possibly associated with the villa were constructed. XA58.2006

Loughborough, Derby Road/Bridge Street (SK 5334 1996)*Greg Jones*

An evaluation was carried by ULAS on behalf of Metz Architects Ltd and William Davies Ltd, on land at The Canal Basin (TLAHS 81, 220), revealed limited nineteenth century remains. XA62.2006

Melton Mowbray, Asfordby Road (SK 74309 19258)

NA

Evaluation by NA, on land to the rear of 137–199, Asfordby Road, revealed six ditch features containing 27 sherds of Iron Age pottery and thought to be part of a large enclosure centring on land to the east probably destroyed by the railway line.

Melton Mowbray, King Street (SK 75228 19201)

ULAS

Evaluation undertaken by ULAS at 5, King Street, revealed medieval structural features including a 13th-century lime kiln. XA51.2007

Melton Mowbray, Leicester Road (SK 7452 1866)*James Harvey*

An evaluation by ULAS at the former Leicester Road Day Care Centre, revealed two undated ditches and medieval ridge and furrow. XA2.2007

Melton Mowbray, Windsor Street (SK 75355 19202)

NA

Trial trenching and subsequent excavation by NA revealed a large medieval boundary ditch, aligned east-west which had been recut on three occasions. Internal plot divisions within the boundary were indicated by post-holes and gullies. Iron Age, Roman, Anglo-Saxon as well as medieval pottery was also retrieved. XA75.2007

Mountsorrel, Market Place (SK 5834 1509)*Greg Jones*

An evaluation was carried out by ULAS, on behalf of Clegg Construction, at the site of the former Mountsorrel Library in Market Place, revealed the lower courses of a seventeenth-century stone wall, belonging to the timber-framed building which stood on the site before the construction of the library. Nineteenth-century additions to the building were also discovered including a ceramic quarry tiled floor and a nineteenth century chimney base. XA.33.2008

Narborough, Leicester Road (SP 541 975)*Caroline Rann*

A watching brief undertaken by Warwickshire Museum on behalf of Mr and Mrs McGrane at Narborough House, 14, Leicester Road revealed a pre-c.1700 cobbled surface, several 18th-century pits and post-holes and a path and drainage features from the 19th and 20th centuries. A few residual sherds of 13th to 15th-century pottery were recovered but no medieval features were noted. A residual, prehistoric retouched flint flake was also recovered. XA195.2007

Old Dalby, Main Road (SK 674 238)*Andy Hyam*

An excavation and watching brief was undertaken by ULAS for Truman Contractors (East Midlands). Possible plot boundaries containing twelfth-century pottery were revealed together with occupation activity from the late 9th to the 14th century and a small stone structure containing charred plant remains. XA189.2007

Plungar, Church Lane (SK 76903 34066)

LAS

Evaluation recorded medieval features including two pits and a gully of 12th or 13th century date and a ditch and possible pond of 13th or 14th century date. XA34.2007

Rearsby Bypass Road Scheme (SK 648 128 – SK 663 150)*Matthew Beamish,
Sophie Clarke*

Following evaluation (*TLAHS 78 171*) excavations by ULAS in advance of Leicestershire County Council's bypass construction in 2004 revealed evidence of a landscape rich in archaeological activity, locating a number of occupation sites ranging from the 4th millennium BC (Neolithic) through to the 4th century AD (Roman) period. Six sites were identified and recorded using combinations of area excavation and windrow stripping. All radiocarbon calibrations are at 95% probability.

Site 1 *Queniborough* (SK 648 128) (Accession XA35.2004)

Excavations focused on transitional Iron Age to Roman occupation, comprising boundaries and enclosures, in addition to a small roundhouse with west facing entrance and a ring ditch with central pit, which may represent the remains of a funerary monument such as a barrow. A group of parallel beam slot features may represent a long rectangular building or several smaller rectangular structures. Pottery of 'Belgic' style indicates a date in the middle decades of the first century AD. Re-evaluation of recorded crop-marks in the vicinity (*MLE774*) has identified two further small square enclosures some 250m east of the putative barrow. Further crop-marks of rectangular enclosures including the sharply defined lines of probable robbed-out walls from buildings covering an overall area 125m by 50m, have been recorded in vertical photographs 400m to the east of Site 1. These marks show some affinity with known villa complexes.

(<http://www.flashearth.com/?lat=52.709803&lon=-1.035666&z=18.4&r=0&src=ggl> last accessed 7/3/2008).

Site 2 *Rearsby* (SK 650 133 – SK 652 137) Accession XA36.2004*Neolithic*

Two substantial pits were clearly Neolithic in date. The earlier contained Peterborough ware in the Mortlake sub-style; radiocarbon dates of 3530BC-3350

cal BC (4594±41 Wk-20447) and 3410BC- 3310 cal BC (4642±41 Wk-20446) were determined on hazelnut shell and field maple charcoal respectively. The latter contained quantities of pottery (including fragments of Grooved Ware) and flint, in addition to some fire-cracked stone. Hazelnut shell from this layer dated to 2870–2490 cal BC (Wk20443: 4098±39).

Late Bronze Age

Features of Late Bronze Age date were recorded over a 120m length of road-line. Within an area opened for excavation, a cluster of pits and post-holes containing Post-Deverel Rimbury pottery were recorded. These included a probable four post structure, and short length of curvilinear gully possibly part of a round house or part circular structure. A pit containing much of a single vessel also contained charred environmental remains, from which two radio-carbon dates were determined; the first calibrated to 1130BC-910BC (Wk-20444: 2848±36) and the second calibrated to 5480BC-5310BC (Wk-20445: 6418±49), providing both perhaps a contemporary date and residual evidence of a nearby episode of burning during the late Mesolithic period, activity also evidenced in the flint assemblages.

Romano-British

A length of gully 50m north of the Queniborough Brook contained late 1st century AD pottery, and further isolated features of Romano-British date were recorded 250m to the north-east.

Site 4 *Rearsby* (SK 656 142) Accession XA38.2004

A number of undated pits and post-holes were recorded adjacent to a 17m length of pit alignment which comprised seven pits, also undated. These features are likely to be of later Bronze Age or Iron Age origin. The pit alignment which was broadly parallel with the Gaddesby Brook 250m to the east, and perpendicular to the Rearsby Brook some 400m to the north was conceivably aligned on the ring ditch of a probable round barrow identified from aerial photography 240m north-north-east (MLE865).

Site 5 *Rearsby* (SK 659 146) Accession XA39.2004

Evidence of Middle Iron Age settlement was located at Site 5, comprising an enclosure ditch and the remains of a round house found in association with several, deep, stone-filled pits. Environmental remains from the site indicate that processing of cereals, including wheat and barley, was being carried out on the site and the relatively high densities of material recovered from the features may suggest a bias towards arable agriculture.

Three radiocarbon dates were determined of 410–340 and 300–200 cal BC (Wk20448: 2300±36), 350–310 and 210–40 cal BC (Wk20449: 2111±35) and 410–350 and 300–200 cal BC (Wk20450: 2303±35). Diagnostic pottery was in the tradition of East Midlands Scored Ware.

Site 6 *Rearsby* (SK 663 148) XA40.2004

Evidence of a small Roman farmstead dating from later 1st/early 2nd century AD to the 4th century was recorded, comprising enclosures, structural remains, a probable watering hole for livestock and the remains of three graves. The remains of a round-house on the site suggests a continuation of Iron Age building traditions, although this clearly went out of use relatively early in the occupation of the site, probably during the second century, possibly having been superseded by a building of rectilinear form, of more 'Roman' character.

Soil samples produced a low density of cereal remains, whilst pollen analysis indicated that the local environment had consisted of grassland vegetation, with evidence for disturbed or abandoned ground. A relatively high density of nettle seeds may indicate soils with a high organic content, such as farmyards or grazing areas, and this, together with the sparse cereal remains and the possible watering hole, may suggest that activity on the site was related to rearing livestock. Cattle bone dominated the poorly preserved bone assemblage, with pigs and sheep also represented.

The unstratified find of a figurine or possibly a small flagon in the form of a lion was a remarkable find in terms of its rarity and early date (Fig. 5). Paralleled at Baldock, Hertfordshire (Stead and Rigby 1986, fig. 96.1), the object may have held a small amount of perfume or oil and had an origin in the Allier Valley in Central Gaul which is the suggested production site for four known French examples. Such figurines would have been imported from Central Gaul alongside other fine ware pottery (including small numbers of glazed vessels) as evidenced at Baldock and Colchester and although such wares get to Leicester in the second



Fig. 5. Rearsby bypass site 6: composite picture of ceramic lion figurine with illustration of the head taken from a complete example excavated at Baldock, Herts. (Stead and Rigby 1986, fig. 96.1).

half of the first century, none come from the Rearsby assemblage. The figurine thus predates the larger scale importation of pipeclay figurines during the second century, such as those of Venus and Dea Nutrix, used as votive offerings. Lions are not specifically linked with any deity but as an exotic and ferocious animal imported from Africa specifically for use in the arena they are represented in Roman art including pottery vessels such as samian mortaria. They are also represented in stone and a large carved lion in similar pose to the present example comes from Bath.

REFERENCE

Stead, I. M. and Rigby, V., 1986 *Baldock: the excavation of a Roman and pre-Roman settlement, 1968–72*. Britannia monograph 7. London: Society for Roman Studies.

Rearsby, Mill Road (SK 647 144)

Greg Farnworth-Jones

An evaluation carried by ULAS, on behalf of JS Bloor (Measham) Ltd, in advance of proposed residential development, revealed medieval and late or post-medieval features including pits, ditches, sand quarry pits and a post-hole. XA99.2007

Rothley, Station Road (SK 555 110)

Susan Henderson

A watching brief was carried out by ULAS at Sandfield Farm, 240, Station Road, Cropston. A shallow back-filled cut, with a partial, granite lining was filled with slate and handmade brick of post-medieval date. XA62.2007

Stonesby, Main Street (SK 8241 2472)

Andy Hyam

An evaluation undertaken by ULAS for Mr Thompson, on land within the medieval village core adjacent to the eighteenth-century manor house and associated earthworks, recorded an alignment of three post-holes, a large ditch, possibly relating to the earlier manor house, and evidence of probable landscaping. XA24.2008

Swinford, Rugby Road (SP 56905 79301)

Northamptonshire Archaeology

An evaluation at Home farm recorded six gullies, perhaps forming an enclosure, and a ditch all containing pottery of early medieval date. XA37.2007

Wymeswold, Wysall Lane (SK 603 237)

Gerwyn Richards

An evaluation undertaken by ULAS for George Wimpey East Midlands Ltd in advance of proposed residential development, recorded two twelfth-century features adjacent to the village and a considerable build-up of colluvium, which

could have masked other features. Ridge and furrow earthworks and a possible trackway were also recorded. XA88.2006

Wymondham, Main Street (SK 8526 1870)

A. Pickstone, A. Connor

Excavation by CAM ARC (Cambridgeshire County Council) between May and July 2007 took place on the site of the former Space Foods factory, previously the site of a manor house close to the thirteenth century parish church of St Peter's. Predating the manor house was at least one phase of activity comprising pits, post-holes and ditches provisionally dating from the tenth-twelfth centuries. The alignment of the ditches is particularly significant as they follow an orientation that is completely at odds with that of the subsequent manorial buildings and the medieval street pattern.

The majority of the excavated remains belong to the former manor house and two standing barns may also have been part of the complex. Preliminary analysis has identified that at least seven phases of building relate to the construction and use of the manor house. The earliest phase is provisionally dated from the 12th to 14th centuries and comprises a large sunken-featured structure (6.8m by 9.2m by 0.55m deep) possibly associated with a timber building. This building was extended with the addition of a post-built structure (7m × 5m) within which a central hearth was placed. Further extensions both in timber and in stone were added during the 13th to 15th centuries. There is evidence that a fire may have partially gutted the east end of the building in the later part of this period resulting in rebuilding in the sixteenth century with the addition of a stone-lined cellar, cess-pit, stone chimney stack and fireplace which archaeomagnetic dating places in the period 1520 to 1600. The building seems to have reached its peak in the 17th century and the Jacobean gabled house depicted on Partridge's map of the village in 1652 would appear to be a reasonably accurate portrayal of the manor house which by that time had dimensions of approximately 40m by 20m. The building may only have held its status for a short time after this since a new manor house was built on the opposite side of Main Street in the 18th century, resulting in the downgrading of the old manor house to a farmhouse by 1795 (Nichols 1795, 403–4). Cobbled yards, open sided animal pens and various demolitions and alterations to the internal structure of the house all attest to its change of use. Since little building material survived on the site it is likely that it was gradually taken for use elsewhere in the village and by the 19th century there was little left standing.

Although somewhat limited in quantity (for example only 9.632kg of pottery, 13.512kg of animal bone) some very interesting finds have been recovered. Alongside roof-tile and nails, building materials include decorated window glass and a sprue from the end of a lead casting. Similar debris is typical of most substantial medieval buildings that had leaded roofs, guttering or fittings such as tanks connected with water supply. The pottery assemblage includes at least one midSaxon Maxey ware vessel, which is unusual for the area, and an imported Saintonge vessel. Provisional analysis of the animal bone assemblage has identified bantam, goose, duck, rabbit, partridge, pigeon and lapwing. XA31.2007



Fig. 6. Aerial view of the site looking east, showing the foundations of the manor house during excavation. (Copyright CAM ARCH/Aerial-Cam).

REFERENCES

- Nichols, J., 1798 The History and Antiquities of the County of Leicester, vol II pt II (republished 1971).
- Partridge, S., 1652 *A Survey of the Manor of Wymondham in the County of Leicester*, LLRRO Ma/367/1.

Historic Building Recording

- Blaby** The Baker's Arms (Grade II listed) (SK 56979 97933) *TR projects*
- Barkstone le Vale** Manor Farm, 1, Jericho Lane (SK 77821 34901) XA69.2007 *Trigpoint Conservation and Planning*
- Cadeby** barn at Old House Farm (Grade II listed), Wood Lane (SK 42441 02312) *TR Projects*
- Castle Donington** 29–33, Borough Street (SK 44677 27406) *ULAS*
- Diseworth** Barn at 13, Hall Gate (SK 45026 24563) *AOC Archaeology*
- Donington le Heath** Smiths Farm (SK 41864 12548) XA221.2007 *Trent and Peak Archaeology*
- Enderby** Narborough Wood House, Desford Road (SK 522 010) XA50.2007 *ULAS*
- Enderby** The Old Manor House (Grade II listed) (SK 53706 99377)

<i>Kibworth Beauchamp</i>	39, Church Road (SP 68451 94231) XA192.2007 <i>TR Projects</i>
<i>Kirby Muxloe</i>	Poplars Farm, Desford Road (SK 52112 04659) <i>TR Projects</i>
<i>Loughborough</i>	Radmoor House, Radmoor Road (SK 529 195), X.A104.2007 <i>ULAS</i>
<i>Lutterworth</i>	12, Market Street (Grade II listed) (SP 54498 84530) <i>TR Projects</i>
<i>Market Harborough</i>	The Harboro Rubber Company Ltd, 12, St Mary's Road (SP 73973 87244) XA70.2006 <i>Benchmark Archaeology</i>
<i>Market Harborough</i>	Talbot Yard (SP 731 873), X.A23.2008 <i>ULAS</i>
<i>North Kilworth</i>	Top House Farm, Pincet Lane (SP 624 870) XA46.2007 <i>ULAS</i>
<i>North Kilworth</i>	'Hanglands', Kilworth Road (SP 60103 84991) <i>NA</i>
<i>Noseley</i>	Cotton's Field House (SP 72592 98144) <i>TR Projects</i>
<i>Shawell</i>	Cotesbach Fields Farm (SP 539 813) X.A105.2007 <i>ULAS</i>
<i>Shenton</i>	Shenton Hall (SK 38733 00296)
<i>Sileby</i>	Baptist Church, Cossington Road, Sileby (SK 60216 14937) <i>TR Projects</i>
<i>Sproxton</i>	Hall Farm, Stonesby (SK 822 246) <i>ULAS</i>
<i>Sproxton</i>	Pear Tree Farm, Stonesby (SK 82260 24707)
<i>Thorpe Satchville</i>	Klondyke Farm, Hall Lane (SK 72978 12512) XA90.2007 <i>TR Projects</i>
<i>Whitwick</i>	Aucott's Garage, 9, Cademan Street (SK 43703 16326) <i>TR Projects</i>
<i>Earl Shilton</i>	Beechrome, Candle Lane (SP 46729 97589) <i>CgMs Consulting</i>
<i>Wymondham</i>	Manorial barn complex, Main Street (SK 85286 18692) <i>Cam Arch</i>

Negative watching briefs and evaluations in Leicestershire

(all undertaken by ULAS unless otherwise stated)

Anstey: 21, Latimer Street (SK 550 085); *Ashby de la Zouch*: Bath Lane, Ashby Woulds (SK 4310 3155); *Barrow on Soar*: 105, Cotes Road (SK 5710 1814); *Barlestone*: 1, New Street (SK 427 056); *Blaby*: 7, Cosby Road, Littlethorpe (SP 542 960); *Bottesford*: 17, Easthorpe Road (SK 81060 38811) Tony Sumpter Archaeological Consultancy; *Branston*: 1, The Rock (SK 81068 29334) PCA; *Bringham*: Great Easton Road (SK 844 926); *Burbage*: Outwoods Timber Yard, The Outwoods (SP 601 900); Stretton Croft (SP 43098 91143) Stoke on Trent Archaeology; *Bushby*: 917a, Uppingham Rd (SK 65874 03958) Birmingham Archaeology; *Cadeby*: Cadeby Quarry (SK 434 025); *Clawson, Hose and Harby*: 10, West End, Long Clawson (SK 718 269); 2, Boyers Orchard, Harby (SK 74799 31179); Rushland Farm (Plot 2), Church lane, Long Clawson (SK 72540 27464) APS; *Claybrooke Magna*: Claybrooke Mill, Frolesworth Lane (SP 4988 8912) WM; Lawrence House, Back Lane (SP 492 886); *Coalville*: St John the Baptist Church, Whitwick (SK 43488 16195) APS; *Cossington*: The Old Manor House, Main Street (SK 605 135); *Desford*: Hillside, Main Street, Botcheston (SK 4878 0642); *Donnington le Heath*: The Manor House (SK 42019 12687); *Dunton Bassett*: former Crown and Thistle, 3, The Mount (SP 54548 905 43) *NA*; *Earl Shilton*: 41–43, High Street/Almeys Lane (SP 468 979); Breach Farm, Breach Lane

(SP 468 966); Earl Shilton Castle (SAM 17035); **Enderby**: Clark's Garage, 57–65, St John's (SP 55202 99114) **Fenny Drayton**: 43, Old Forge Road (SP 35036 96788) APS; **Freeby**: Woodend Cottage, Stapleford Road, Stapleford (SK 814 191); **Gaddesby**: King William IV Public House, Main Street, Barsby (SP 695 114); Woodbine Cottage, 1, Pasture Lane (SK 6913 1355); **Garthorpe**: St Mary's Church (SK 83163 20940) APS; **Great Easton**: Barnsdale and Brook Lane (SP 84836 92914); **Goadby Marwood**: Goadby Hall (SK 77979 26411) Stoke on Trent Archaeology; **Great Glen**: New Leicester Grammar School, Mount Farm (SP 650 989); **Groby**: 30, Markfield Road (SK 522 077); Newtown Linford Lane (SK 52566 07712); **Hallaton**: North End (SP 78884 96805) APS; **Hathern**: The Green (SK 504 224); **Hinckley**: Nutt's Lane (SP 413 925); 12, Mansion Street (SP 425 940); **Husbands Bosworth**: Cotehill Farm, Station Road (SP 63730 82771) APS; **Kibworth Beauchamp**: School Road (SP 681 937); (SP 68005 94041) Stoke on Trent Archaeology; **Kirkby Mallory**: 34, Main Street (SK 45451 00867); **Littlethorpe**: 16, Station Road (SK SP 54182 97027); **Loughborough**: Thorpe Acre Road, Thorpe Acre (SK 51592 20180); Woodgate/Mill Lane (SK 537 194); **Lutterworth**: Moorbarns (SK SP 532 834); **Market Harborough**: 9, St Martin's Yard (SP 73301 87458); **Measham**: Westminster Industrial Estate, Repton Road (SK 320 120); **Melton Mowbray**: 9, Somerset Close (SK 75641 17451) APS; **Mountsorrel**: Church House, The Green (SK 5834 1474); **Narborough**: 11, Copt Oak Road (SK 554 129); **Newbold Verdon**: The Rectory, 57, Main Street (SK 44571 03751) NA; **Newtown Linford**: 6, Main Street (SK 520 098); **North Kilworth**: West End (SP 61364 83592) **Peatling Magna**: Beech Lodge, Watt Lane (SP 594 927); **Plungar**: 4, Granby Lane (SK 76795 34086) APS; **Ravenstone with Snibston**: Long Moor Surface Mine, Ravenstone (SK 390 130); **Saltby**: Holderness House, Back Street (SK 85073 26186) APS; **Skeffington**: Main Street (SK 740 025); **Smeeton Westerby**: 19, Saddington Road (SP 673 926); **Swithland**: Main Street (SK 554 129); **Thurlaston**: Poacher's Bistro (former Dog and Gun Inn) (SP 50180 99030) LAS; **Tilton on the Hill**: The Sycamores, Old Melton Road (SK 742 056); **Twycross**: 1–5, Flax Lane (SK 337 047) WM; **Ullesthorpe**: 5, Mill Road (SP 506 878); **Waltham on the Wolds**: 5, Burgins Lane (SK 804 251); **Whetstone**: St. Peter's Parish Hall (SK 557 974); **Willoughby Waterleys**: Orchard Lea, Main Street (SP 575 922); **Woodhouse**: 209, Forest Road (SK 538 151).

RUTLAND

NB All archives have been deposited with Rutland County Museum (RCM) under the accession number given at the end of each entry.

Manton, Dairy Farm, Lyndon Road (SK 8815 0469)

John Tate

An excavation carried out by ULAS for McCrombie Smith Architects revealed sparse evidence for the prehistoric, Roman and Late Saxon periods through residual or unstratified finds, with later periods being represented through occupation evidence. The village appears to have originated in the Late Saxon

period. The earlier medieval to late medieval periods demonstrate a growth in the village core after the Norman Conquest. They are represented by stone-quarrying and subsequent occupation of the land evidenced through the construction of walls, cobbled surfaces, post-hole activity and wells. The post-medieval to early modern periods are represented by a potential change in land-use with landscaping making way for earth-fast timber 'hay-barn'-like structures, presumably the origin of Dairy Farm. By the end of the early modern period it appears that these structures had been demolished and no further structural activity occurred. OAKRM:2008.13

Market Overton, Main Street (SK 8913 1624)

Martin Shore

An archaeological strip plan and sample excavation was carried by ULAS on behalf of T. Denham and Sons (Melton Mowbray) Ltd. The site had been extensively quarried for the ironstone in the early to middle part of the 20th century to a depth of 1.00m-1.50m, leaving a north to south spine of 632 square metres of un-quarried ground. This area included a network of ditches and gullies, two probable structures, pits and post-holes of Iron Age and Roman date. Large demolition deposits of Roman painted wall plaster and flue tile suggests the site lay near to a Roman villa. In the north-eastern part of the area, an early Mesolithic flint scatter was located. OAKRM:2008.33

Seaton, Church Farm (SP 903 981)

Jennifer Haywood

An evaluation undertaken by ULAS for London and Country Homes Ltd, revealed wall footings and flag-stone floors from a domestic building. OAKRM:2008.31

Historic Building Recording

<i>Essendine</i>	Outbuildings at Manor Farm (TF 04727 13110) <i>TR Projects</i>
<i>Oakham</i>	4-6, Church Street (SK 85964 08805) <i>AOC Archaeology</i>
<i>Oakham</i>	Flore's House (SK 86042 08736) <i>Nick Hill</i>
<i>Preston</i>	Holly Farm, Main Street (SK 870 024) <i>Trigpoint Conservation and Planning</i>
<i>Seaton</i>	The Ridings, Moles Lane (SP 90060 98100) <i>APS</i>

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

Ashwell: The Old Hall (SK 86759 13825) *APS*; *Barrowden*: 21, Main Street (SK 94768 00019) *Benchmark Archaeology*; *Belton in Rutland*: Goughs Lane (SK 81527 01111) *Bisbrooke*: 3, Glaston Road (SP 88650 99718) *CgMs*; *Caldecott*: 1, The Green, Church Lane (SP 86820 93592) *APS*; *Cottesmore*: The Grange, Main Street (SK 904 137); *Edith Weston*: Tyler Close (SK 92880 05183) *APS*; *Essendine*: 18, Manor Farm (TF 047 127); *Glaston*: Coppice Paddock,

Coppice Farm (SK 8958 0071); *Ketton*: Fishponds (SK 98556 05058); *Market Overton*: 7, Main Street (SK 88720 16402) APS; *Oakham*: Lands End Way, Barleythorpe (SK 85346 09842 and SK 85127 09944) APS; *Ridlington*: Ridlington Park Farm (SK 833 019); *South Luffenham*: West Farm, Angle Lane (SK 93919 02054); *Tixover*: Bankside (SK 97685 00587) APS; *Uppingham*: Seaton Road (SP 87325 99488).

PORTABLE ANTIQUITIES SCHEME ANNUAL REPORT FOR LEICESTERSHIRE AND RUTLAND 2007

This report highlights some of the remarkable finds from the county which members of the public have submitted for identification and recording.

Roman Coinage

Finds from Leicestershire are contributing to a study of coin use in England by Dr Sam Moorhead of the British Museum. Local metal-detectorist Dr Phil Harding has carefully mapped coins from a number of sites across the county including a large number of Valentinianic (AD 364–78) coins from a potential temple site in Barkby Thorpe parish. The study so far suggests that many sites across the county see a decline in coin use after AD 350, except in the east where the decline does not begin until after AD 380.

Republican silver denarius, LEIC-BA55E4 (Fig. 7)

Found by Mr D. Hoyle near Measham. Denarius of L. Saufeius, minted in Rome, 152BC, (RRC p. 248, No. 204/1). Helmeted bust of Roma with Victory, in a Biga (two-horse chariot), on the reverse. This issue is one of the earliest Roman coins found in Britain and is the oldest found in Leicestershire.



Fig. 7. Republican silver denarius, LEIC-BA55E4.



Fig. 8. Gold Aureus of Gordianus, LEIC-196037.

Gold Aureus of Gordianus, LEIC-196037. (Fig. 8)

Found by Mr Warren Gemmell near Lutterworth. Aureus of Gordian III (AD238–44), *IOVI CONSERVATORI*, Rome, 1st Issue, AD 238. (Sear 8570/RIC IV, pt. 3, no. 8).

This is the first gold coin recorded by the scheme in Leicestershire

Roman Pottery Kiln Sites

A number of kiln bars have been found recently; some extend our knowledge of production in the Leicester Forest and one has identified a new kiln site in Rutland. Kiln bars are made of fired clay, usually grey in colour and have a rectangular section tapering at both ends.

Kiln bars

LEIC-574128, LEIC-8B7ED1, LEIC-63B791

Found by Mr Mick Morris and Mr Neil Glenister in Peckleton and Huncote.

LEIC-B19972 and LEIC-56EBE4

Found by Mr Andy Tansley at Leighfield. This find indicates another new kiln site.

Anglo-Saxon

Copper alloy mount LEIC-40DB05 (Fig. 9)

Found by Mr Chris Bursnall in Frisby and Kirby parish. Mount in the form a horned head with a central raised angular nose (or nose guard?) flanked by raised circular eyes. The face has a long moustache which protrudes out slightly at each side, above a lentoid open mouth and a very triangular bearded chin. Probably seventh-century in date. The mount appears to be in the form of Odin and is closely parallel with one from Leatheringsett with Glandford (*Medieval Archaeology* 2002, 208, fig. 2C.) which was dated to the 7th century and made in Sweden.



Fig. 9. Copper alloy Mount LEIC-40DB05.



Fig. 10. Brooch LEIC-380105.



Fig. 11. Penny of Offa LEIC-94EB56.

Brooch LEIC-380105 (Fig. 10)

Found by Mr Chris Bursnall in Frisby and Kirby parish. The brooch consists of a central curved arm which has faceted corners and a sub circular section. Each terminal is sub-rectangular in form and section and identical. The terminals consist of a flat base from which emerge two curved motifs which mirror each other. This is a very unusual find in Leicestershire. The brooch is similar in form to Continental Ansate brooches, but Kevin Leahy (pers. comm.) believes it is more likely to be an earlier Anglo-Saxon brooch, perhaps fifth or sixth century.

Penny of Offa LEIC-94EB56 (Fig. 11)

Found by Mr David Mann near Peckleton. Silver penny of Offa dated to the eighth century (EMC 2007.0165). This is a new type, combining the same reverse design as Chick 45 with an obverse design that has the same full legend and segmented inner circle as Chick 47, but with a different variety of bust. Unlike Chick 47, this bust features banded drapery similar to Chick 18 (Ciolhard), 23, 48 (both also Ealhmund), 67–71 (Pendred) and 126–9 (Pehwald).

WENDY SCOTT is Finds Liaison Officer, Archaeological Services Team, Leicestershire County Council.