

ARCHAEOLOGY IN LEICESTER, LEICESTERSHIRE AND RUTLAND 2012

Edited by John Thomas

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 organisation which undertook the fieldwork. For abbreviations, please see above (p. iv). Some entries may relate to fieldwork undertaken before 2012 but not previously reported.

LEICESTER

All finds and records are deposited with Leicester City Museums Service (LCMS) under the accession number cited at the end of the entry.

Leicester Abbey (SK 585 060)

Sophie Clarke

An archaeological watching brief was undertaken by ULAS in July 2011, during the restoration and reconstruction of the 1930s' piers located within the abbey church at Leicester Abbey, in Abbey Park. No traces of upstanding archaeological remains relating to the medieval church were revealed during the course of the work, with the piers being largely constructed of mortared granite and sandstone rubble, infilled with loose rubble and earth. Although it is possible that much of this material was brought in specifically for the work, the loose rubble was found to include occasional fragments of moulded architectural masonry, which is likely to have been recovered from the Beddingfield excavations of 1931–32. In addition to the masonry, a fragment of inlaid fourteenth-century floor tile was found. A8.2011.

Leicester, land at the junction of Highcross Street and Vaughan Way

(SK 58309 04771 centre)

Mathew Morris

During the spring of 2012 an archaeological evaluation was undertaken on a c.6,150 sq. m parcel of land in Leicester, on the north-east corner of Highcross Street and Vaughan Way (SK 58309 04771 centre), as part of a pre-planning enquiry on behalf of Ingelby (1245) Ltd. Fieldwork was carried out over a three-week period between 22 April and 11 May 2012 by ULAS. In all seven c.30m by c.3m trenches were excavated across the site, with two further trenches not completed because part of the site was unavailable for evaluation (Fig. 1). The evaluation recorded significant survival of Roman archaeology across the site, including parts of a street, evidence of stone and timber buildings, a mosaic pavement, pits and yard surfaces.

Medieval archaeology survived to a lesser extent, predominantly in the form of pits and garden soils, with only Trench 5 on the Highcross Street frontage exposing

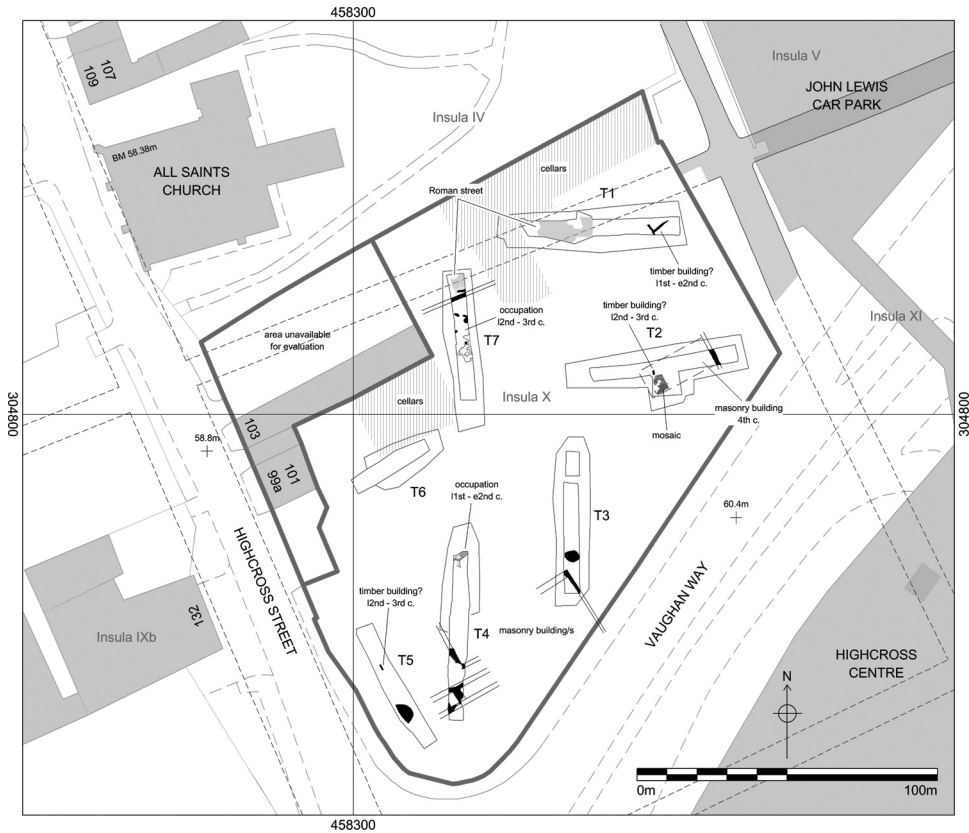


Fig. 1. Site plan showing the results of the evaluation.

structural evidence. The archaeology was typically found *c.*2m below present ground level sealed beneath thick deposits of medieval and post-medieval garden soil, but in places survived as shallow as *c.*1.3m (the mosaic) in Trench 2, *c.*1m in Trench 4 and *c.*0.9m in Trench 5.

Roman archaeology was present across the site in all of the trenches except Trench 6, with features ranging in date from the late first century AD through to the fourth century. Along the northern side of the site, compacted gravel street metalling for the east–west Roman street running between Insulae IV and X was recorded in the western half of Trench 1 and the northern end of Trench 7. Early Roman features either pre-dating this street or contemporary with its early use were found in Trenches 1 and 4. These appear to date to the late first century or possibly the early second century AD. In Trench 1 a beam-slot/gully appeared to be at right-angles to the street; whilst in Trench 4 early occupational trample and yard surfaces were of broadly contemporary date.

Later Roman activity next to the street was recorded in Trench 7. Here a narrow gully running parallel with the street, post-holes and the robber trench for a

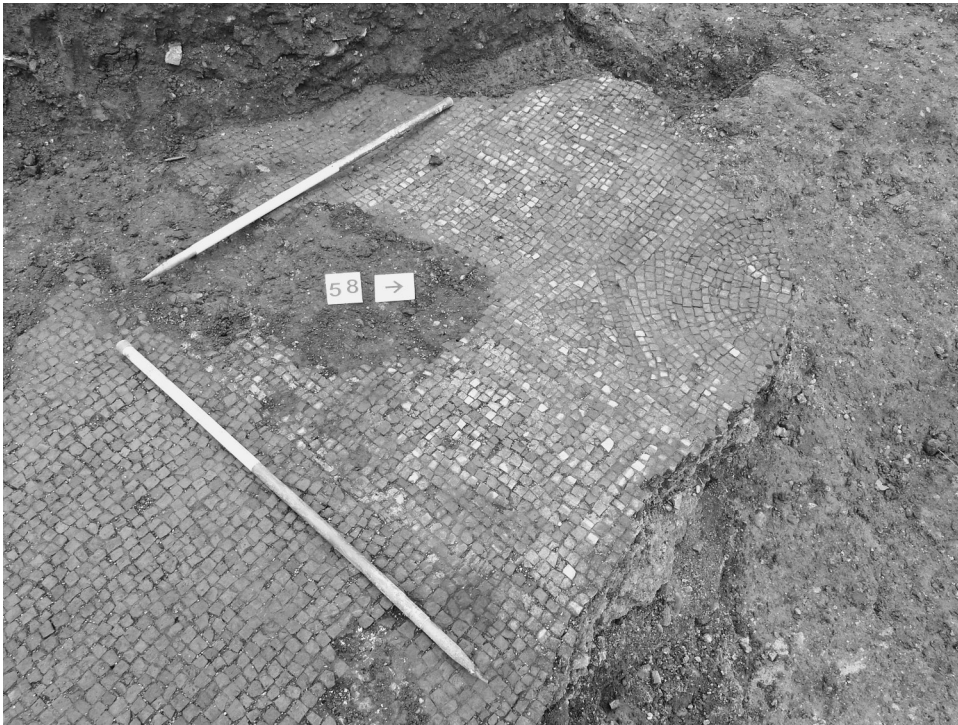


Fig. 2. The mosaic pavement found in Trench 2.

road-side wall were all dug into soil containing mid-late second-century pottery. Activity continued into the third century and a substantial concrete floor was also present lying on soil containing mid-late third-century pottery. The noticeable absence of Roman roof tiles in this trench may suggest that the floor was some sort of heavy-duty external surface and the wall a boundary wall surrounding a property rather than part of a building.

Further south, set back in the centre of Insula X, was evidence for timber and masonry buildings. The timber buildings, found in Trenches 2 and 5, survived as beam-slots and floor surfaces. These were a mixture of earth and concrete, each floor often separated by a layer of made-ground containing pottery dating to the latter half of the second century AD, redeposited roof tiles and painted wall plaster. Little can be said of either building's plan or appearance at this stage. Robbed wall footings for masonry walls were found in Trenches 2, 3, 4 and possibly 5. As with the timber buildings, little can be said about the plan or the appearance of these masonry buildings. In Trench 3, the corner of a building was present; whilst in Trench 4 *in situ* floors and robbed walls suggest a sizeable Roman building in the vicinity. Further west, closer to line of the north-south street leading to the town's north gate, the remains of the early timber building in Trench 5 were sealed beneath a substantial mortar and stone floor. It remains unclear whether this was part of a later building.

Perhaps the best evidence for an important Roman building was a mosaic pavement found in Trench 2 (Fig. 2). This is the largest fragment of tessellated pavement found in Leicester in recent years. The panel, of which approximately a quarter survives, measures *c.*3.2m by *c.*2.6m. Its pattern, picked out in red and grey tesserae, includes a hexafoil central motif surrounded by an octagonal band, heart-shaped leaves and swastika-meander. The pavement may well be part of the same building as a robber trench and floor make-up in the same trench. The robber trench, which was on the same orientation as the mosaic and the town's street grid, appeared to be an external wall with yard surfaces present beyond it to the east. The floor make-up contained early fourth-century pottery, suggesting the building was late Roman in date. Several Roman pits were also sample excavated in Trenches 3 and 5. These contained late second-century to late third-century material.

No Anglo-Saxon or Saxo-Norman occupation was found on site, but tenth- and eleventh-century pottery was present in later medieval features, particularly in Trench 5 close to Highcross Street. The few medieval pits and robber trenches excavated dated to the twelfth or thirteenth century and the only post-Roman feature of note was a substantial masonry wall found at right-angles to Highcross Street in Trench 5. This may be part of St John's Hospital or the Town Gaol which replaced it in 1614. The wall was demolished and rebuilt in the eighteenth century or later. A8.2012.

Leicester, 40–46 Western Road (SK 578 038)

Mathew Morris

Further archaeological work on the Roman cemetery found on the former Equity Shoe site on Western Road in 2010 (TLAHS 85) has completed the removal of the remaining skeletons, bringing the total assemblage to 58. This is probably still only a minute percentage of the cemetery population in the vicinity which, based on nineteenth-century records, must extend over a large area between the river and Narborough Road and the old line of the Fosse Way. Fieldwork was carried out over a three-week period between 1 October and 23 October 2012 by ULAS.

Carbon dating of six of the burials from the 2010 evaluation has now come back; producing dates of cal AD 78–127; cal AD 132–214; cal AD 230–324; cal AD 274–334; cal AD 282–324 and cal AD 328–89. These cover a broader period than we suspected, the original expectation being that they were going to be late Roman and that some of them could have been early post-Roman in date.

Further evidence for the edge of the paleochannel, first found in 2010, has allowed us to better define the limits of the cemetery; again confirming that the inhumations are restricted to rising ground above the river edge in the site's south-western corner. In places, the underlying geology was a weak mudstone and the graves were rock-cut. The only other archaeological feature of note in the cemetery was a substantial pit, possibly Roman in origin, which had been dug through some of the burials. No obvious reason for this pit's position was readily apparent, but it could have been dug to extract the natural clay.

Post-excavation analysis of the assemblage has not yet been finalised but burial traditions in the assemblage are diverse, with orientations varying from north-south through to east-west. In general, where relationships survived, east-west



Fig. 3. Grave goods *in situ*.



Fig. 4. The decapitation burial.

graves are typically later than the north–south graves. Graves appear to be scattered haphazardly across the cemetery, clustering in small concentrations which might represent family groups. Many were buried in coffins, some with grave goods including pottery, hobnailed shoes, jewellery (beads, brooches, bangles) and one with a small glass vessel. One grave contained three pottery vessels, four bangles and a glass hairpin, all placed beside the person’s right leg (Fig. 3); whilst they were also wearing hobnailed shoes and a chain-link necklace. Seven of the skeletons were found to have been buried prone and one had been decapitated (Fig. 4). No cremations were found. A12.2010.

Thurmaston, Barkby Thorpe Road (SK 6251 0829)

Gavin Speed

An archaeological fieldwalking survey was carried out by ULAS on land to the north of Barkby Thorpe Road, Thurmaston, on behalf of Charles Church North Midlands Ltd. The fieldwalking survey revealed a low-density scatter of worked flint (four tools and five flakes), and a low level of post-medieval pottery across the survey area. A1.2012.

Historic Building Recording

Leicester 40 Market Place (SK 58714 04503)
Leicester College Hall, Knighton Road (SK 600 017)

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

Leicester land to the rear of 45 East Bond Street (SK 58558 04813)
Leicester land between Braunstone Gate and Narborough Road (SK 578 041)

LEICESTERSHIRE

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

Ashby-de-la-Zouch, Holywell Spring Farm (SK 349 174)

Les Capon

A programme of archaeological evaluation was undertaken by AOC Archaeology at Holywell Spring Farm, Ashby-de-la-Zouch in response to development proposals. The farm comprises the farm buildings and eight fields, three of which were evaluated. Trial trenching followed a programme of fieldwalking and geophysical survey. The most significant feature discovered was a post-medieval clamp kiln. This feature was some 6m diameter with a flat base showing fuel scars, but little in the way of industrial residue. Pottery from the upper fill of the kiln indicates a broadly eighteenth century date for its infilling. The products of the kiln may have been brick, tile or pottery. If this were a charcoal pit or a limekiln, residues suggesting either of these uses would have been expected to be present. The geophysical survey suggested

that there are three other such features in the vicinity, one of which is respected by a field boundary, suggesting that there was industrial activity of probable post-medieval date just 60m from Holywell Spring. Elsewhere the evaluation revealed only the bases of furrows associated with former medieval agriculture in the area. X.A140.2011.

Ashby-de-la-Zouch, land at Moira Road (SK 346 165) *Rebecca Riley*

An archaeological evaluation was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology at Moira Road, Ashby-de-la-Zouch, in February 2012 in response to proposals for housing development. Eighteen trenches were excavated revealing mixed results across the area examined. A number of trenches contained vestigial remains of ridge and furrow, one of which contained a sherd of medieval pottery. Two post-medieval ditches mirrored the alignment of the ridge and furrow, and may represent a later phase of agricultural activity. An area of undated shallow pits containing burnt material was recorded in Trench 3 on the higher ground. There was some evidence for burning *in situ* and the pits contained abundant charcoal, but their date and function remain unknown. X.A13.2012.

Ashby Parva, land off Main Street (SP 528 882 centre) *Maria Piirainen*

Allen Archaeology Ltd undertook an archaeological strip map and record on land off Main Street in Ashby Parva. The site lies within the historic core of Ashby Parva and in a wider area of archaeological potential, with scattered evidence of prehistoric and Roman activity. The fieldwork identified a small number of undated pits and post-holes, as well as two linear boundary features, producing pottery of sixteenth to nineteenth century date. These features correspond to a boundary shown on historic mapping until at least the 1980s. X.A84.2012.

Billesdon, land at Gaulby Road (SK 719 021) *Leon Hunt*

Following geophysical survey by NA which identified anomalies believed to represent part of a multi-phased settlement of Iron Age or Romano-British date, an archaeological field evaluation was carried out by ULAS. Seven trenches were excavated in the northern fields as much of the area to the south was waterlogged. All but two of the seven trenches revealed archaeological features, many of which contained Romano-British pottery mainly dating from the second century. These were mostly linear features representing enclosure ditches and gullies, most likely associated with the outlying enclosures of a Romano-British farm or settlement. X.A125.2012.

Brooksby Quarry (SK 655 155) *Matt Beamish, Lynden Cooper, Wayne Jarvis, Gavin Speed and Steve Baker*

A watching brief has continued during topsoil stripping and gravel extraction at Brooksby Quarry, for Lafarge Aggregates (TLAHS 81, 211).

Monitoring of the topsoil strip for Phase 8 identified evidence of Iron Age occupation mid-way down the south-facing valley slope at SK 673 155 at 73m OD. Two small enclosures, an area of pebble surface and the encircling ditches of two possible roundhouses were found adjacent to a linear feature some 8m wide. The feature was aligned northeast to southwest and was defined by parallel ditches each side of an eroded hollow, and is interpreted as a trackway. It could feasibly be continuous with, or have formed an extension to, a probable trackway previously identified by a geophysical survey some 120m to the northwest outside the quarry boundary (Challis 2000, 15).

In February 2012, evaluative test pitting of the Pleistocene gravels at the west end of Phase 7, in anticipation of palaeochannel deposits first identified in 2010 (*TLAHS* 85 (2011) 213), resulted in the cutting of a trench to expose a full channel profile at SK 6713 1543, at around 62m OD. A sequence of channel cut and infill up to 2m deep sitting toward the base of the Thurmaston sands, and gravels of the Bytham Baginton formation, was recorded and sampled. Over 70 samples were taken from organic silt and channel lag deposits. No clear evidence of associated hominin activity was found.

A series of four test pits were excavated within the incised channel exposed on the quarry floor to the south-east to confirm the channel edge and gradient, and investigate the suitability of the mineral for extraction. In each pit the same sequence of coarse sand and gravels overlying a much finer grained sand/silt deposit (the Brooksby deposits) was recorded. A possible core from the silt at the top of the Brooksby deposits from a test pit at SK 6729 1538, at 60m OD, was extremely sharp. Further trenching of these deposits planned for later in 2012 was not undertaken due to water levels.

363 Lower Palaeolithic artefacts have now been recovered from pre-Anglian deposits from the quarry, of which 158 were found during 2012. Of these, 137 have been recovered from the quarry reject heaps and 21 from the quarry floor.

Electro Spin Resonance dating samples were taken from several sandy units of the Bytham exposed in Phase 7 by a team from Royal Holloway University of London and Institute of Human Palaeontology (IPH), Paris. X.A57.2006.

Reference

- Challis, K., 2000 Unpublished. Brooksby Agricultural College: Stage 2 Archaeological Evaluation of a Potential Quarry for Lafarge Redland Ltd. Nottingham; Trent and Peak Archaeological Unit.

Broughton Astley, land east and west of Broughton Way (SP 531 930 and SP 527 931)

Andrew Hyam

A fieldwalking survey was undertaken by ULAS on land to the east and west of Broughton Way, in December 2011 in advance of a proposed housing development. A small scatter of pottery was recovered with dates ranging from the mid-thirteenth century to post-medieval and modern. The finds are indicative of the continued practice of manure scattering. X.A180.2011.

Burbage, land west of Britannia Road (SP 440 919)*Tim Higgins*

An archaeological excavation was undertaken by ULAS on land west of Britannia Road, on behalf of David Wilson Homes in August 2012. The excavation comprised the supervision of overburden removal in four areas located over Roman deposits that had been revealed during a previous evaluation. The excavation revealed a network of possible enclosure and field ditches that contained late first- to second-century Roman pottery and was probably located close to a Roman settlement. X.A78.2010.

**Burrough Hill Hillfort, Burrough on the Hill
(SK 7605 1195 centre)***John Thomas, Jeremy Taylor,
Andrew Hyam and Gavin Speed*

The third season of excavation by University of Leicester at Burrough Hill took place in June and July 2012. This season's work examined three areas of the hillfort interior (Trenches 5, 6 and 7), targeting anomalies revealed during the earlier geophysical survey. Trench 5 was located to sample an area of pits, Trench 6 looked at an area of pitting, a roundhouse and part of the hillfort rampart, while a third evaluation-style trench (Trench 7) was dug to investigate geophysical anomalies in the northern part of the hillfort.

Trench 5 revealed a spread of pits around 50m inside the hillfort entrance dating from the Iron Age to early Roman period (Fig. 5). The Iron Age pits may have originally been excavated for use as storage features with many being rock-cut, preserving their deep profiles very well. The presence of Roman pits was also an



Fig. 5. Trench 5 showing the excavated pit group and proximity to the hillfort entrance.

unexpected bonus, giving a clearer picture of activity of this date across the hillfort. Previous activity dating to the Roman period was restricted to the northern part of the site where the current excavations had begun in 2010. The pits produced a wide array of finds including large pottery and bone assemblages, as well as a large tally of small finds. These included a complete loom weight, querns, metalwork, spindle whorls and a decorated blue glass bead.

One of the early Roman pits also revealed evidence for a human burial containing a skull, part of an arm and a rib, as well as a quarter of a rotary quern (lying above the persons head), an inverted horse skull, a copper alloy penannular brooch and remains of a copper alloy bowl.

Trench 6 contained a complete roundhouse (the first to be fully examined inside the hillfort itself) and attendant features, as well as a section through the rampart on the western side of the hillfort (Fig. 6). The roundhouse remains consisted of a penannular eavesdrip gully with an east-facing entrance, a scatter of very shallow post-holes and a circular area of heat-reddened soil indicating the position of the main hearth. Lying adjacent to this was a small pit which had been filled with charcoal-rich hearth rakings and also contained Iron Age pottery and a bone dice. The eavesdrip gully was well-preserved with a sharp rock-cut profile preserving a distinct slot in its base, but unlike the roundhouses excavated on the hillfort exterior in 2010, it contained very few finds. In contrast, the pits surrounding the building were full of domestic debris, offering a rich source of information, and it seems likely that this must be the explanation for the unusual lack of finds from the roundhouse



Fig. 6. Trench 6, with the rampart section in the foreground and roundhouse in the background.

gully. A group of pits to the rear of the roundhouse were contained within a ditched annexe attached to the building, suggesting that at least some of these features may have been contemporary with the building. Among these, one produced a significant assemblage of ironwork including a spearhead, two knives, hooks and other tools, all of which had apparently entered the pit in a still usable condition.

As with Trench 5 the pits from around the roundhouse produced a very good assemblage of pottery and bone, predominantly of mid-late Iron Age date. A range of small finds, including several bone gaming pieces, two Iron Age long dice (one shale and one bone), a possible terret ring and a highly polished bone flute, provided insights into Iron Age social life at Burrough Hill. A spread of iron slag was present across the trench, suggesting that metalworking took place in the vicinity, and an outdoor hearth and a small clay-lined pit, possibly for 'quenching' hot metalwork, may have been the focus of such activity. The rampart area revealed remains of two stone banks (internal and external), which appeared to have been built to contain the main soils laid down to form the rampart core. In the final days of this year's excavation a collection of five complete triangular loom weights, a possible Iron Age razor and two pieces of bronze edging from a horned shield were found in a pit beneath the inner rampart bank. This pit produced a remarkable array of finds and will hopefully provide a *terminus ante quem* for the construction of this part of the ramparts.

Trench 7 was excavated in the northern part of the hillfort adjacent to an area previously excavated in 1967. A number of Iron Age features were revealed here, including several intercutting pits and gullies. The main feature within the trench was an undated linear ditch characteristic of a large palisade slot, suggesting that an imposing internal division existed within the hillfort at some stage of its occupation. X.A93.2010.

For further details of the Burrough Hill Project, please visit the website: <http://www2.le.ac.uk/departments/archaeology/research/projects/burrough-hill/burrough-hill-iron-age-hillfort>

Charley, Mount St Bernard Abbey, Oaks Road (SK 460 159)

Neil Finn

An archaeological watching brief was undertaken by Archaeology & Built Heritage on land to the south-east of Mount St Bernard Abbey, Oaks Road, Whitwick, during groundwork associated with the construction of two wind turbines. The only archaeological feature encountered was an undated stone-filled land drain within the area of one of the wind turbine bases. No earlier archaeological remains were encountered and no finds were recovered. X.A119.2012.

Croxton Kerrial, Goose Field (SK 835 293)

Alan Morris and FLAG

A resistivity survey was undertaken on Goose Field in Croxton Kerrial by Alan Morris, together with FLAG members, in November 2011. Goose Field in the centre of the village gave uncertain results, interpreted as indicating rubble, possibly from demolished buildings – the survey area needs to be extended to provide a clearer picture. The estate map of 1799 shows no structures within the survey area.

Croxton Kerrial, Pinfold Field (SK 836 294)*Alan Morris and FLAG*

A resistivity survey was undertaken on Pinfold Field, Croxton Kerrial by Alan Morris, together with FLAG members, in November 2011. Results from the field adjacent to the church show the remains of a substantial building approximately 15m × 6m. No structure is shown on the site on the estate map of 1799 or subsequent available mapping.

Earl Shilton, land north of Clickers Way (SP 472 973)*John Walford
and Andy Chapman*

Northamptonshire Archaeology was commissioned by Amec Environment and Infrastructure UK to conduct an archaeological geophysical survey, comprising the detailed magnetometer survey of c.50ha of land on the south-east side of Earl Shilton, across a patchwork of 15 fields between the present built-up area and the A47 Clickers Way. The geophysical survey was managed by Mark Holmes, and the fieldwork was supervised by Ian Fisher and John Walford. The survey mapped extensive areas of ridge and furrow cultivation, but identified only a few other features of possible, but unproven, archaeological significance.

During the survey a polished stone axe was recovered from the surface of a ploughed field at SP 4697 9707. This is a Group VI axe, an epidotised tuff from the volcanic rocks of Langdale, Cumbria, with a distinctive uniform green hue (Fig. 7). It is a small example that is near complete, at 101mm long by 49mm wide and up to 25mm thick, tapering to 25mm wide at the butt. It has flattened side-facets, which are characteristic of Langdale axes. The surface of the axe is weathered and there is considerable old damage around the butt end, but little of the length has been lost. There are three substantial old overlapping flakes taken out of the concave cutting edge and some minor nicks, perhaps use damage, and two small recent scars have removed a little of the weathered surface.

In the Neolithic, Langdale axes were traded throughout the British Isles, and are the most commonly found type across much of England. The agreement of the landowner is being sought for the axe to be deposited with the Leicestershire Archaeology Collections.

Enderby, land at Seine Lane (SP 528 993)*Robert Evershed*

A geophysical survey by magnetometer was undertaken by Allen Archaeology Ltd on land off Seine Lane in Enderby, in response to a planning application for residential development on the land.

The site conditions proved receptive to geophysical surveying and this has identified evidence for potential archaeological activity across the site. The majority of the anomalies within the data are of limited significance comprising land drainage, former field boundaries, ponds and a footpath that are shown on earlier mapping. A number of anomalies, however, do not correspond with features depicted on earlier mapping and these may be of archaeological interest, although a geological origin cannot be ruled out at this stage. These comprise a number of circular and



Fig. 7. The Group VI Langdale axe.

linear anomalies, which morphologically resemble later prehistoric/Roman activity; however, they may also be a result of patterned ground geology and former channels, for example. A number of scattered strong and weak dipolar signals across the site are indicative of near surface ferrous metal or other highly fired material.

Enderby, land to the south of Soar Valley Way (SP 554 998) *Roger Kipling*

An archaeological evaluation was undertaken by ULAS in March 2012 on behalf of Everards Ltd in advance of commercial development on land south of Soar Valley Way. The archaeological evaluation revealed some evidence for archaeological activity, probably relating to stock management of late prehistoric and/or early Roman date. This agricultural activity appeared to be concentrated in the western part of the site, with a possible concentration of Roman activity centred on the

south-west corner. Archaeological features included a small rectangular stock enclosure associated with a possible pond or watering hole feature. A number of ditches identified in the vicinity may have been functionally linked to this arrangement, possibly as drove roads. X.A33.2012.

Glenfield, County Hall (SK 5499 0713)

Timothy Higgins

ULAS carried out an archaeological evaluation at County Hall, Glenfield, in August 2012. Ten trenches were excavated to evaluate an area for a proposed new car park and access road located within a field to the north-east of County Hall. Archaeological features were identified in seven of the 10 trenches. The features appear to represent the remains of a Roman field system and associated features and yielded a small assemblage of late first- to second-century pottery, animal bone and charred plant remains, indicating domestic activity nearby. There is also Roman building material, suggesting the presence of a stone-founded building in the area of similar date to the pottery. The remaining three trenches contained no archaeological deposits with the exception of modern field drains. X.A76.2012.

Great Bowden, Fernie Hunt Kennels, Nether Green (SP 747 891) *Andrew Hyam*

ULAS carried out an archaeological strip, plan and sample excavation at the Fernie Hunt Kennels, Nether Green, Great Bowden, Leicestershire (SP 747 891). The work was commissioned by the Trustees of the Fernie Hunt in advance of the construction of new buildings on the site. The work followed on from an evaluation by trial trenching carried out by ULAS in July 2011, when a number of archaeological features dated to the Late Anglo-Saxon to Early High Medieval period (c.850–1250) were discovered. A subsequent excavation was undertaken by ULAS in August 2011 to the east. This strip map and sample excavation revealed a number of intercutting ditches, gullies and pits. The features contained datable artefacts giving a series of phases and dates ranging from the Late Saxon period to the late medieval period, a similar range to dates and material to that of the previous evaluation and excavation. X.A86.2011.

Great Bowden, Knights End Close (SP 747 885)

Rosemary Culkin

Knights End is one of several outlying settlement areas around the central core of Great Bowden (MLE9021), creating a polyfocal settlement pattern. The site was subject to topographical survey, metal detecting, a probe survey and the excavation of a series of trial trenches. Two medieval rubbish pits or trenches were noted, suggesting the site was within the medieval village boundary. There was a complete lack of finds in the area of earthworks in the south-east corner of the field, suggesting perhaps that they are debris from ditch digging and not house platforms. The main ditch may have formed the settlement boundary with a hedge, though excavation in this area had to be abandoned due to waterlogging.

Great Easton, land at Rectory Farm (SK 544 082)*Louise Bush*

An archaeological evaluation was undertaken by NA on land at Rectory Farm, Great Easton, within an area of known archaeological interest. The work revealed a small number of medieval features, probably dating to the twelfth–thirteenth centuries. The medieval activity, which included ditches and pits, suggests that they were part of the rear of plots which may have fronted onto the area adjacent to the church. A number of post-medieval and modern features were also exposed. This activity related to the use of the site as a farmyard for at least the last 200 years, and comprised a former yard surface and the stone foundations of barns. X.A122.2012.

Great Glen, land off Orchard Lane (SP 656 972)*Maria Piirainen*

Allen Archaeology Ltd undertook an archaeological evaluation on land east of Orchard Lane, Great Glen in response to development proposals. The proposed development lies in an archaeologically sensitive area, with earthworks of possible medieval date being present in the immediate vicinity. The evaluation has shown that buried structural remains of medieval or post-medieval date and a cobbled surface of possible later medieval date survive within the proposed development area, whilst an archaeological sterile area towards the eastern end of the proposed development may be the result of modern landscaping works. X.A65.2012.

Hallaton, Hare Pie Bank (SP 478 296)*Vicki Score and HFWG*

The second year of excavations with the Hallaton Field Work Group have confirmed the location of St Morrell's Chapel, thought to be the site of a medieval cult and a place of pilgrimage (Fig. 8). The village of Hallaton has long since been known as a 'holy place', and Hare Pie Bank which stands on the hill to the south overlooking the village is the starting point for the annual bottle kicking and hare pie scramble held each Easter. A will of 1532 describes pilgrimages to five shrines, among them 'St Mawrell of Hallaton'. A Glebe Terrier of 1606 indicates that beside Hare Pie Bank, there stood a Chapel of St 'Morrill', and notes by Burton in the seventeenth century mentions multitudes of people going to Hallaton to be healed and to die. St Michael's Church has the remnants of one, possibly two outdoor pulpits, and it was thought that this might have been part of a monstration platform where a reliquary might have been displayed to crowds of people. These same people might then have made their way up from town to St Morell's Chapel to complete their pilgrimage.

John Tailby, writing in 1796, describes Hare Pie Bank as 'about a quarter of a mile south of the town, a small oblong bank, 10 yards long and 6 wide; with a small olde trench around it, and a circular hole in the centre' (Nichols 1798, 600). Geophysical survey by HFWG showed a square enclosure (approximately 36m across) with a possible inner square feature. Trenches across the outer square in 2011 showed it to be a ploughed out rubble bank containing Roman and medieval pottery. The inner features were the target of the 2012 excavations.

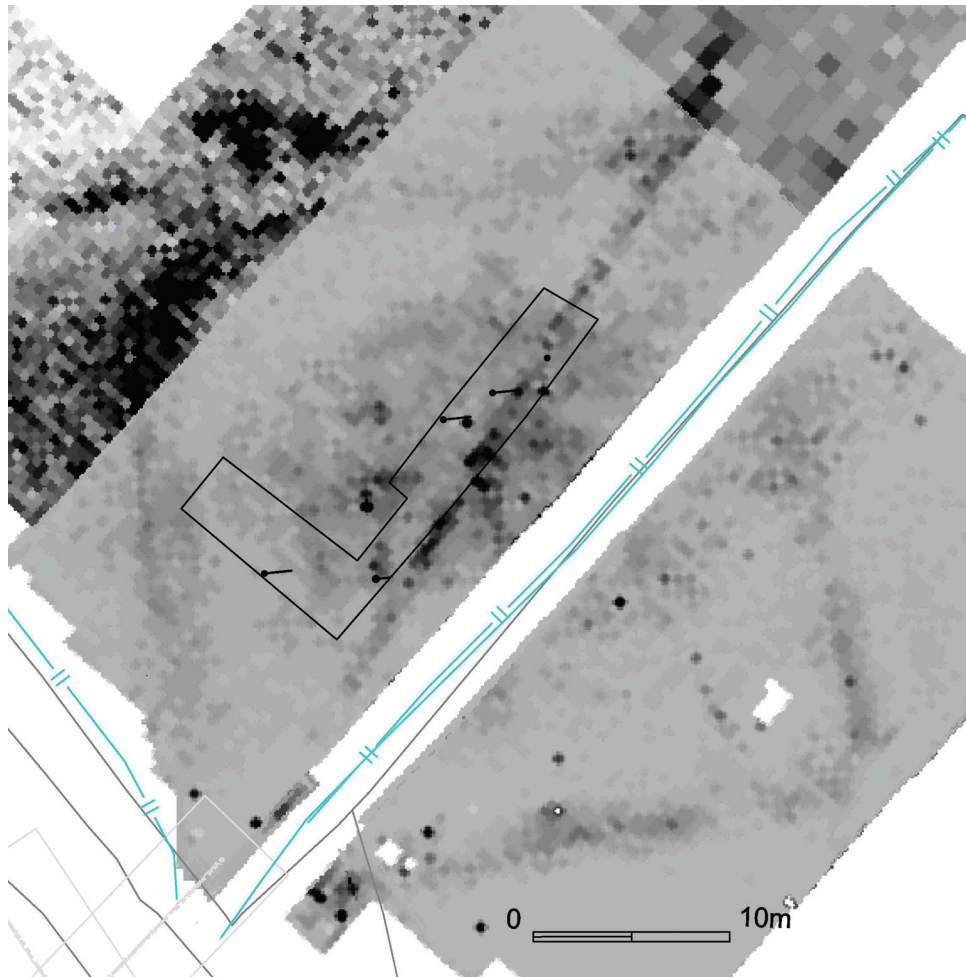


Fig. 8. Geophysical survey showing the outer bank and 2012 trench with the burials shown.

Excavation revealed two robber trenches which appear to form the north and west walls of the chapel. Both have small buttresses associated with them. Although the interior of the chapel itself lies on natural clay the land slopes to the north-east and south-west, and both these areas seem to have been infilled to make the land level for building. Within the interior, orange sand make-up for a floor level was identified with patches of mortar floor still *in situ*, with broken plain glazed and decorated tiles found in the debris.

It is thought that the chapel was demolished and robbed, probably in the early post-medieval period. A small feature cut through the floor levels and containing scraps of lead might be associated with the collection and melting of the lead into ingots to take away.



Fig. 9. The burial with a small triangular hole in the forehead.

Outside the chapel building several burials were found. In one, on the west side of the building, lay a skeleton orientated east–west with a small triangular hole in his head (Fig. 9). The lack of fractures around the hole suggests that this was not caused by damage after burial, but perhaps something more sinister. It could represent some kind of medical surgery, but the most likely explanation is that it was caused by a blow to the head with a sharp weapon of some kind, although so far no weapon that could cause this kind of injury has been identified.

The burials to the east of the building were also unusual (Fig. 10a and b). One appeared to be a small child placed on their side. Another had been laid to rest in an elongated pit rather than a grave (although still orientated east to west like the other graves) in an unusual position that looked almost as if they had been flung in on their back. A line of dense rubble to the east of the trench had a skull and fragments of a hand placed upright on the top, while a foot was also found close by. The head and shoulders of a fifth skeleton was found inside the building, although much of this had been disturbed by a modern water pipe.

Bones from two of the skeletons were radiocarbon dated and came back with a fourteenth century date consistent with the pottery from the building. A number of medieval pennies were found on the site dating from the thirteenth–fifteenth centuries and much of the pottery was of a similar date. It is not known when the chapel went out of use and was demolished, but it seems to have been little more than a hollow in the ground by the seventeenth century.

The outer bank and chapel are on the same orientation and the bank could represent the boundary of the cemetery. The building looks to have been a rectangular



Fig. 10. Unusual burials east of the church: a) rubble with disarticulated bones; and b) unusually positioned burial in elongated pit.

building, and recent work by Anthony Goode shows that it was similar in size and shape to several other chapel buildings still in existence in the area (e.g. at Blaston, Drayton and Sutton Bassett). There is a projection at the west end which is similar to the bell tower on the church of All Saints at Sutton Bassett.

As to the reasons behind the strange burials found, perhaps burial at the chapel was reserved for pilgrims with particular illnesses or conditions who had travelled there on pilgrimage to be healed and ended up staying? The 12 silver pennies seems an unusually high number to represent casual losses on the site; it seems more likely that they represent offerings by pilgrims seeking healing or favours from the saint.

Given the current use of the site it is possible that the existing bottle-kicking rituals (which dates back to at least the eighteenth century) harks back to the earlier use of the site. Roman features and finds were also recorded, and with the presence of the important Iron Age shrine just a few hundred metres away, the Hallaton bottle-kicking tradition could actually reflect over 2,000 years of tradition and ritual in this area.

Hinckley, land to the south of Coventry Road (SP 404 930)

Roger Kipling

An archaeological evaluation was undertaken on land south of Coventry Road, Hinckley in April 2012 by ULAS on behalf of Paynes Garages Ltd. The fieldwork was a pre-determination requirement on a proposed planning application for residential development with associated landscaping and an access road. The

work revealed minimal evidence of possible late prehistoric activity, consisting of a possible shallow linear feature and a single Iron Age pottery sherd, despite the close proximity of the site to a known Iron Age settlement. It is therefore likely that the present site lies on the peripheries of the known site a short distance to the south. X.A47.2012.

Hugglescote (SK 430 125)

Anne Roseveare

A geophysical survey was carried out by ArchaeoPhysica Ltd as part of an archaeological evaluation prior to proposed development. A number of buried structures were discovered, including probable culverts, a former track or road, previous land divisions and cultivation, and coal mining-related features.

Hungarton, Village Farm, Baggrave Road (SK 684 076)

Neil Finn

A programme of archaeological investigation (strip, plan and sample excavation) was undertaken by Archaeology & Built Heritage at Village Farm, Baggrave Road, Hungarton during groundwork associated with the erection of a wind turbine in a field to the west of the farm. Archaeological remains revealed within the area of the wind turbine base included a substantial Roman ditch broadly attributable to between the second to fourth centuries AD. Post-dating this ditch was a structural slot or gully possibly representing the remains of a late Roman timber building. A possible post pad may have formed part of the same structure. A small collection of Roman pottery and tile was recovered from these features. An undated archaeological feature was observed within the electricity cable trench linking the wind turbine base to Village Farm. Scatters of Roman pottery have previously been found in the vicinity of Village Farm (though not in this field) and a large collection of Roman material including pottery, animal bone, lead casting waster, a third-century coin and a bronze strip were found during the excavation of a trench within the farmyard in 2010 (HER refs.: MLE1680 and MLE18285). X.A73.2012.

Ibstock, land at Ravenstone Road (SK 405 112)

Ian Fisher

In February 2012, an archaeological trial trench evaluation was carried out by NA on land at Ravenstone Road, Ibstock. The works identified a pit alignment of possible Iron Age date and two undated ditches that could be part of a Roman ditch system associated with a known Roman settlement to the north of the site. Only a single sherd of Iron Age pottery was recovered from the excavations.

Leire, St Peter's Church Tower (SP 525 900)

Excavation work within the Church Tower at St Peter's, Leire was watched by the local Archaeological Warden. The work was undertaken during the installation of a lavatory and was focused on an area 82 × 72cm on the south side of the tower floor. A series of layers of clay, cobbles and larger stone were encountered. These were associated with a single sherd of Potters Marston ware, together with pieces of bone and occasional fragments of charcoal throughout.

**Little Bowden, land at the Cherry Tree Public House,
Little Bowden Manor (SP 7398 8701)**

Leon Hunt

An archaeological watching brief was undertaken during groundworks on a site adjacent to the Cherry Tree Public House, Little Bowden, Market Harborough. The watching brief was undertaken by ULAS for Everards Brewery during the excavation of a single foundation trench on the site associated with a new dwelling. An undated layer containing cobbles was observed around 0.11m below the surface, running for around 5m along the trench. The cobbles petered out at around 2m and brick and other building material could be seen following the same line as the cobbles. Further work on the site may reveal the extent of the layer to the east and west. X.A116.2012.

**Loddington, Allerton Research Centre, Manor Farm, Main Street
(SK 790 023)**

Simon Carlyle

In February 2012, an archaeological strip, map and sample excavation was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology, prior to the construction of a car park and access road at the Allerton Research Centre, Manor Farm, Main Street, Loddington. No archaeological remains were found during the groundworks for the car park construction, however, subsoil removal for the access road revealed evidence for earlier activity on the site. Here, a metal-detector survey of the stripped area recovered a late fifteenth-century silver coin, a fifteenth-century brass candlestick and pieces of lead. To test the thickness of the subsoil and establish the potential for archaeological deposits surviving at a lower level, a hand-dug slot was excavated in the south-east corner of the area. This revealed a stony layer, approximately 0.1m thick, beneath the subsoil, from which was recovered a small assemblage of thirteenth- to fourteenth-century pottery. X.A2.2012.

Loddington Parish Survey – interim results

Peter Liddle

Leicestershire Fieldworkers have now completed four seasons of fieldwalking in the parish of Loddington, completed as part of the annual training of new fieldworkers; 28 areas (fields or parts of fields) have been walked, although much remains to be done. As yet only one dense scatter of lithic material, probably Neolithic, has been located – on high ground north of the village at SK 788029. This consists of debitage, tools and a flint axe fragment. However, cultural flint has been recovered in small quantities from every field.

Handmade pottery has been difficult to find and this may relate to the new minimal cultivation regime of the farmers, which may mean that new material is not being brought to the surface each year. Three Roman occupation sites, most probably starting in the Late Iron Age, have been identified at SK 790 025, SK 791 017 and SK 797 012, with an area of Iron Age and Roman activity also noted around SK 801 025, although here a dense scatter could not be pinned down.

In 2012 the first concentration of Early Anglo-Saxon pottery was located at SK 798 008, although only a small handful of sherds was recovered. This was associated with a dense scatter of ironworking debris in the form of tap slag.

A very dense scatter of Later Saxon and Early medieval pottery around SK 791 020 represents an area of Loddington village which seems to have been abandoned in or around the fourteenth century. Earthworks around SK 788 022, south of the modern village, were also recorded with the help of Robert (Fred) Hartley, although the parish church, very unusually for Leicestershire, seems always to have been detached from the village. Manuring scatters reveal the area of arable land in the Saxo-Norman period, expanding through the Early Medieval period, although a broad area along the eastern boundary of the parish seems never to have been ploughed at this time, presumably representing meadow and pasture land.

The survey has been made possible by the kindness and co-operation of the Allerton Project and Parker Farms. It is planned to continue the survey in future years.

Loughborough, 29–30 Derby Square (SK 5352 1972)

Tim Higgins

An Archaeological Watching brief of groundworks at land adjacent to 29 Derby Square, Loughborough, Leicestershire was undertaken by ULAS on behalf of Masterplan Design Solutions. The initial groundwork consisted of the removal of overburden and ground for new extension. Attendance at the site occurred from 24 November 2011.

The watching brief revealed potential archaeological deposits during the inspection of the site. The archive will be deposited with Leicestershire County Council, subject to their confirmation with accession No. X.A173.2011.

Lutterworth, land at Leaders Farm (SP 5302 8423)

Gavin Speed

ULAS carried out an archaeological evaluation by trial trenching on land at Leaders Farm, Lutterworth as part of an archaeological impact assessment in advance of a proposed residential development. The evaluation revealed significant archaeological evidence dating to the Iron Age and Roman periods, consisting of a probable roundhouse, enclosures and ditches. Elsewhere, an undated earthwork enclosure was evaluated. XA.178.2011.

Market Harborough, land at Glebe Road (SP 744 866)

Jason Clarke

Following an evaluation in March 2012, NA undertook an excavation on land at Glebe Road, Market Harborough in advance of housing development. The work identified Roman enclosures and a driveway, with activity beginning in the late 1st century AD and continuing until the fourth century. The site was the western margin to a probable substantial field system located east of the excavation area. Two inhumation burials were recorded, including a decapitation burial. They were both probably interred in the fourth century. During the sixth or seventh centuries activities resumed on the site with the excavation of three isolated pits, indicating Saxon settlement within the vicinity. The site was also traversed by remnant furrows of medieval ridge and furrow cultivation. X.A41.2012.

Melton Mowbray, land at Thorpe End (SK 7561 1915)*Leon Hunt*

An archaeological field evaluation was carried out by ULAS on land to the rear of 36–44 Thorpe End, Melton Mowbray in advance of a proposed new development at the site, consisting of the erection of three new retail units and 12 two-bedroom flats. The site lies within the historic medieval core of Melton and close to archaeological finds of medieval date, including a medieval oven from a site less than 100m east of the site. A single 19m × 3.5m trench was excavated to a depth of between 0.6m and 1m. No archaeological features were discovered; however, a sherd of medieval pottery and a prehistoric flint core were discovered from within soil sequences within the trench. Therefore, there may be some potential for archaeological deposits from these periods across the site. X.A14.2012.

Nailstone, land off Bagworth Road (SK 420 076 centre)*David Hibbit,
Mark Allen and Chris Clay*

A geophysical survey by magnetometer was undertaken by Allen Archaeology Ltd on land off Bagworth Road, Nailstone in advance of a planning application for a proposed new farmhouse and other agricultural buildings. The site lies within a known landscape of later prehistoric cropmarks, comprising possible enclosures and ditches to the northwest of the site.

The survey has identified a number of ephemeral positive magnetic anomalies at the north end of the survey that may relate to later prehistoric activity, although the limited responses means that any interpretation at this stage should be taken with some caution. In addition, an L-shaped negative anomaly may be evidence of a former wall or structure, although a natural origin cannot be ruled out at this stage. A concentrated linear area of dipolar response relates to a former boundary of at least nineteenth century date that was infilled at some point after 1966, according to map evidence. There are many dipolar responses in the magnetic data which are likely to have been caused by modern ferrous detritus or other highly fired material on or close to the surface.

Oadby, 29 Brambling Way (SP 622 999)*Neil Finn*

An archaeological watching brief was undertaken by Archaeology & Built Heritage during groundwork for the construction of an extension to 29 Brambling Way, Oadby, in an area where Roman and Anglo-Saxon remains have previously been found. A substantial ditch was located within the area of the new extension. Four prehistoric flint flakes and a collection of animal bones were recovered from the upper fill of the ditch. An unstratified sherd of Roman pottery was also found. X.A78.2012.

Quorn, land off Wood Lane (SK 565 157 centre)*Robert Evershed*

A geophysical survey by magnetometer was undertaken by Allen Archaeology Ltd on land off Wood Lane, Quorn. The survey has revealed evidence of archaeological

activity, almost certainly relating to the Second World War prisoner of war camp and associated military base that was in existence on the site. These remains include tracks and possibly services, as well as responses within earthworks that were observed during the survey. A number of dipolar responses were detected across the survey area, which are likely to be associated with ferrous waste or highly fired material within the ploughsoil.

The magnetometer survey has shown that there is considerable magnetic disturbance across the site, the majority of which is associated with the Second World War prisoner of war camp and military base. The previous desk-based assessment indicated that the site probably lies within the environs of a former Roman town; although the survey has not identified any elements associated with this, and there is no evidence to indicate the presence of the Roman Saltway running across the site. It should be noted, however, that the magnetic noise generated by the Second World War remains may have masked earlier deposits, although equally there is a likelihood that the activity associated with the Second World War camp may have truncated any earlier deposits on the site.

Ravenstone, Melbourne Road (SK 405 133)

An archaeological fieldwalking survey was carried out by ULAS on land to the west of Melbourne Road, Ravenstone, Leicestershire, on behalf of CgMs Consulting Ltd. The fieldwalking survey proved mainly negative, revealing a single flint flake and a single sherd of Roman pottery, both located on the eastern edge of the site. In addition to this, a low density of medieval and post-medieval pottery was identified across the entire survey area. XA.60.2012.

Sharnford, 6 Coventry Road (SP 480 917)

Neil Finn

An archaeological watching brief was undertaken by Archaeology & Built Heritage on land adjacent to 6 Coventry Road, Sharnford during groundwork for the construction of a new double garage and parking/turning area. A quarry tile floor surface of nineteenth- or early twentieth-century type, associated with a building that formerly occupied the street frontage to the north of the existing dwelling at 6 Coventry Road, was partially exposed. Map evidence indicates that this building was constructed before 1888 and was demolished sometime after 1988. Elsewhere on the site there was evidence of ground disturbance in the twentieth century. No earlier archaeological remains were encountered. X.A64.2012.

South Wigston, Pochin's Bridge Road (SP 596 977)

Richard Smalley

A detailed gradiometry survey was conducted by Stratascan over approximately 3.4h of agricultural land near South Wigston in response to development proposals. The survey identified a series of ditched enclosures of a possible Roman British origin in the northern region of the site. Anomalies indicative of ridge and furrow were also be noted within the survey area.

Stanton-under-Bardon, land off Main Street (SK 467 103)*Ed Oakley and
Maria Piirainen*

Allen Archaeology Ltd undertook an archaeological evaluation by trial trenching on land off Main Street in Stanton-under-Bardon in response to a planning application for residential development. The site lies within an area of archaeological potential, to the east of the historic core of the medieval village and to the west of a former medieval manor, Horsepool Grange. The line of a Roman road passes nearby to the north-east of the site. Five trenches were excavated in the proposed development area in order to provide further information upon the nature and extent of the archaeological resource. The trenches exposed a number of undated pits and probable natural features, as well as two undated shallow linear features interpreted as medieval plough furrows. X.A121.2012.

Swinford, Home Farm, Rugby Road (SP 568 792)*Neil Finn*

A watching brief was undertaken by Archaeology & Built Heritage at Home Farm, Rugby Road, Swinford between March and July of 2012. Development involved the conversion of two former agricultural buildings and construction of a new-build range to form a single dwelling, within the curtilage of the Grade II listed Home Farm. The former agricultural buildings were an early nineteenth-century brick-built cattle shed with thatched roof, known as the Bull Shed, and a mud-walled structure, also thatched, referred to as the Earth Shed. Buried archaeological remains revealed in the area of the new-build range included a cobbled yard surface and land drain, both likely to date to the nineteenth century. A sherd of medieval Potters Marston ware of later twelfth or thirteenth century date was found along with nineteenth-century pottery and glass fragments in a bedding layer beneath the cobbled floor surface of the Earth Shed. Various historic architectural details of the Bull Shed and Earth Shed were recorded in the course of their conversion, supplementing the Historic Fabric Survey prepared by TR Projects prior to commencement of the development. Of particular note was the discovery of a dried cat which appeared to have been deliberately incorporated into the thatched roof of the Earth Shed. X.A35.2012.

Historic Building Projects

<i>Billesdon</i>	Stables at Home Farm, Billesdon Coplow, Tilton Lane (SK 7078 0423) ULAS
<i>Bitteswell</i>	Green Farm (SP 535 859) Julian Cowie Architects
<i>Bottesford</i>	The Former Police Station, 22 Queen Street (SK 805 389) Trigpoint Conservation & Planning Ltd
<i>Cosby</i>	Brooks Edge, 62 Main Street (SP 548 947) TR Projects
<i>Enderby</i>	Rose Cottage, Strawberry Gardens (SP 530 996) Allen Archaeology
<i>Great Bowden</i>	9 Dingley Road (SP 747 888) PCA
<i>Great Bowden</i>	49 Main Street (SP 74150 88835) ULAS
<i>Great Dalby</i>	Farm buildings at Gelbe Farm, 21 Nether End (SK 746 145) Trigpoint Conservation & Planning Ltd

<i>Groby</i>	The Stamford Arms (SK 5242 0752) ULAS
<i>Higham on the Hill</i>	Former Airfield Control Tower, MIRA (formerly RAF Nuneaton) (SP 37125 96130) ULAS
<i>Higham on the Hill</i>	The Stables, 112 Main Street (SP 384 954) TR Projects
<i>Knaptoft</i>	Knaptoft Hall Farm (SP 626 895) Allen Archaeology
<i>Lutterworth</i>	The White House, 31 Woodmarket (SP 542 842) TR Projects
<i>Market Harborough</i>	Former Ritz Cinema, Northampton Road (SP 7348 8706)
<i>Narborough</i>	Wexford Cottage, 11 Church Street (SP 540 975) Archaeology & Built Heritage
<i>North Kilworth</i>	Outbuilding range at Ivy House, Back Street (SP 615 834) TR Projects
<i>Ravenstone</i>	Alton House, Alton Hill (SK 383 149) Simon Foote Architects
<i>Shangton</i>	Shangton Holt Farm, Gartree Road (SP 7138 9755) ULAS
<i>Somerby</i>	Somerby House Farm (SK 177 104) NA
<i>Staunton Harold</i>	2 Nursery Cottages (SK 376 209) Trigpoint Conservation & Planning Ltd
<i>Sutton Cheney</i>	Hercules Inn, Main Street (SK 417 004) Archaeology & Built Heritage
<i>Swinford</i>	Home Farm, Rugby Road (SP 568 792) TR Projects/ Archaeology & Built Heritage
<i>Whetstone</i>	The Whittle Estate, Cambridge Road (SP 5565 9685)

Negative watching briefs, evaluations in Leicestershire

(undertaken by ULAS unless otherwise stated)

Anstey: Land off Groby Road (SK 544 082 – Oxford Archaeology East); *Belton*: 1–3 Vicarage Lane (SK 44767 20763); *Blaby*: Winchester Road (SP 571 566); *Bringham*, *Great Easton*: Bringham Primary School (SP 8441 9256); *Burton Overy*: Mount Pleasant, Back Lane (SP 6775 9803); *Carlton*: land at Nailstone Road & Barton Road (SK 401 054); *Castle Donington*: Land at Towles Pastures (SK 442 271 – Albion Archaeology); *Coalville*: Little Battleflats Farm, Ellistown (SK 437 112); *Cold Newton*: Land at Sludge Hall Farm (SK 721 058 – Pre-Construct Archaeology); *Cotes de Val*, *Fleckney*: Land at the Cherry Tree Public House, Little Bowden Manor (SP 6487 9370); *Foxton*: Land at North Lane (SP 69954 90153); *Gilmorton*: Pen Hill Farm (SP 55349 88610); *Glenfield*: Glenfield Park North-Eastern Residential Area (SK 533 055 – Cotswold Archaeology); *Great Bowden*: 49 Main Street (SP 74150 88835); *Gumley*: Hall Farm, Main Street (SP 6812 9008); *Harby*: Former White Hart Inn (SK 743 310 – TPAT); *Higham on the Hill*: Hilary Bevins Close (SP 379 956); *Hinckley*: The Chestnuts, 25, Mount Road (SP 4280 9367); *Hinckley*: Sketchley Brook (SP 418 928 – NA); *Ilston on the Hill*: land at the Manor House (SP 705 991 – NA); *Kegworth*: Packington Hill (SK 4793 2714); *Loughborough*: Aumberry Gap (Cemetery Place) (SK 743 310 – TPAT); *Market Bosworth*: 10 Harcourt Spinney (SK 4046 0356); *Market Harborough*: Land at Northampton Road (SP 7400 8599); *Market Harborough*: Ridgeway Primary School

(SP 7373 8825); *Melton Mowbray*: Pate Road (SK 736 179 – TPAT); *Mountsorrel*: Manor Holt (SK 588 138); *Narborough*: Ashcroft Hostel, Huncote Road (SP 5321 5731); *Packington*: 4, Measham Road (SK 3590 1445); *Queniborough*: 33 Main Street (SK 657 121); *Rothley*: Tower House, 4 School Street (SK 586 127); *Sharnford*: Cosford Works, 70 Leicester Road (SP 48297 91897); *Stanton-under-Bardon*: Hallcroft Farm (SK 4656 1010); *Stoney Stanton*: Manorfield Primary School (SP 4869 9399); *Stoughton*: Old Charity Farm, Thurnby Lane (SK 641 022); *Thringstone*: Land adjacent to 1 The Green (NGR); *Ullesthorpe*: ‘The Bank’, Main Street (SP 5065 8771); *Ullesthorpe*: Manor Farm, Manor Road (SP 506 865).

RUTLAND

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

Ashwell, The Old Hall (SK 865 139)

Paul Cope-Faulkner

An archaeological evaluation was undertaken by APS on land at the Old Hall, Cottesmore Road, Ashwell in order to determine the archaeological implications of proposed development at the site. The evaluation was required as the site lay alongside an area of a scheduled monument comprising the remains of a medieval (AD 1066–1540) settlement, watermill, millponds and gardens. Previous investigations close by have revealed Late Saxon (AD 850–1066) and medieval occupation remains. The evaluation identified a sequence of dumped deposits which appear, by their nature, to be infilling a large feature, probably a quarry. Former topsoil development and a probable post-medieval pit containing building debris were also encountered during the investigation. OAKRM:2012.17.

Barleythorpe, land at Barleythorpe Road/Huntsmans Drive (SK 855 092)

Tim Higgins

An archaeological field evaluation by trial trenching was undertaken by ULAS on land at Huntsmans Drive, Oakham, in November and December 2011. The initial potential of the site was highlighted by information held in the Leicestershire and Rutland Historic Environment Record, indicating that the area was close to known Iron Age and Roman remains. Nine trenches were excavated. Towards the south-west corner two trenches contained archaeological remains including ditches, post-holes and pits, one of which was associated with pottery dating to the eleventh–thirteenth century. To the north, five of the trenches contained ditches, post-holes and pits. One ditch contained pottery dating to the Late Iron Age or Roman Conquest period, slag burnt daub and animal bone. OAKRM:2011.32.

Barleythorpe, land off Main Road (SK 849 099)

Andrew Failes

An archaeological evaluation was undertaken by APS on land off Main Road, Barleythorpe in order to determine the archaeological implications of proposed

development at the site. The development site is located within a rich archaeological landscape with evidence for significant archaeological remains dating from the early prehistoric period to the present day. An initial evaluation at the site revealed remains of a possible Saxon sunken floored building containing metalworking evidence. A subsequent geophysical survey suggested that more of these features may be present at the site.

Further evaluation identified a number of other features including two possible Saxon sunken floored buildings, a group of undated possible post-holes, a post-medieval fence line and two probable pits of uncertain date. One of these pits contained a small, probably residual flake of Neolithic worked flint. Dating of the possible sunken floored buildings was also problematic, as one contained no dateable material, while the other contained pottery suggesting a Roman date. The largest category of finds retrieved from the evaluation comprises pottery of prehistoric and Roman date; however, all the fragments of pottery recovered, with one exception, were fragmentary and heavily abraded, suggesting they were residual. Although two possible Saxon sunken-floored buildings were identified on morphological grounds, no material clearly dating from the Saxon period was recovered during the investigation. However, a single fragment of residual iron smithing slag recovered from a post-medieval post-hole may be Saxon in date. OAKRM:2012.1.

Cottesmore, land adjacent to Hall Close (SK 9048 1375)

Roger Kipling

A programme of archaeological investigation by strip, map and sample excavation, combined with watching brief, was undertaken by ULAS on behalf of Hazleton Homes on land adjacent to Hall Close, Cottesmore, Rutland, between March and April 2012. The work proceeded from an earlier archaeological evaluation undertaken by ULAS in 2011, which revealed a number of stone- and brick-built structures likely representing part of a demolished range associated with the likely post-medieval standing building flanking the north side of the present farmyard. This arrangement of buildings may have been associated with the hall which lay a short distance to the north, possibly as stable. The 2012 work revealed the east end of the aforementioned post-medieval standing building and later porch, and demonstrated that the structure post-dated a sizeable possible barn structure of likely post-medieval date. The full plan of the likely modern building located to the east was also uncovered and shown likely to have formed a separate structure built against a boundary wall that probably represented a missing fourth side to the group of farm buildings. OAKRM:2011.4.

Great Casterton, The Old Rectory (TF 000 087)

Sarah Henley

On 12 and 13 April 2012, OA East undertook a small archaeological evaluation in advance of the proposed construction of an extension to the Old Rectory in Great Casterton. The single evaluation trench revealed evidence of a significant ditch, possibly the boundary to the Roman town. Overlying the ditch was a stratified sequence of walls and floor surfaces which continued beyond the limit of excavation towards the Old Rectory itself. These deposits were sealed by demolition layers

containing medieval pottery, indicating a significant sequence of settlement activity prior to the construction of the current Rectory. OAKRM:2012.6.

Gunthorpe, Gunthorpe Hall (SP 4869 3056)

Jason Clarke

Excavation by NA in advance of the construction of a new access for Gunthorpe Hall recorded a series of earthwork and buried remains associated with the deserted medieval village of Gunthorpe. A trackway and plot boundaries dating from the late Saxon to the late fourteenth-century medieval periods were present, associated with a low-status rural economy.

Ketton, Kilthorpe Grange (SK 9873 0342)

Leon Hunt

An archaeological strip plan and sample excavation and watching brief were carried out by ULAS on land at Kilthorpe Grange, Ketton during groundworks associated with the excavation of a new fishing lake. A previous evaluation by ULAS has revealed a number of small discrete features, which were mostly undated apart from a small number of flints dating from the Mesolithic period. The excavations were carried out by a box grader until archaeological horizons were reached, at which point the upper soils were slowly stripped using a JCB with a flat-bladed bucket. A number of small discrete features were revealed along with parts of two small ring ditches. Only a single find, part of a flint knife, was found during the work. The decision was taken by the client not to excavate further, and so the features were not excavated and were covered in geotextile material before being reburied. The ring ditches were most likely Neolithic–Bronze Age in date, but the Mesolithic flint from the evaluation and the fact that one of the ring ditches appears to cut another feature may indicate a multi-phased site. OAKRM:2011.12.

Martinsthorpe (SK 867 045 centre)

Jon Tanner

A geophysical survey was undertaken on land near to the Deserted Medieval Village of Martinsthorpe by GSB Prospection. Numerous anomalies that lack clear form or obvious patterning were detected. These are likely to be of archaeological interest due to their context, as they may be part of the adjacent medieval village. Such an interpretation is supported by a strong linear response that appears to form a southern boundary to the settlement; however, a natural origin for the latter is also entirely possible. Evidence of probable ridge and furrow and more recent agriculture was detected, as was an anomaly likely to be of natural origin.

Oakham, 11 Finkey Street (SK 858 089)

Neil Finn

An archaeological watching brief was undertaken by Archaeology & Built heritage at 11 Finkey Street, Oakham. An early medieval ditch was revealed, interpreted as the boundary of the Oakham Deanshold or Church Manor. The ditch contained a small assemblage of pottery and animal bones, the pottery consisting mainly of Stamford wares and Oxidised Sandy wares with a general date range of *c.*AD 900–1250 AD. OAKRM:2012.7.

Oakham, Uppingham Road (SK 860 080)

Gavin Speed

ULAS carried out an archaeological excavation on land to the west of Uppingham Road, Oakham in advance of a proposed development. The work revealed archaeological settlement evidence dating to the Mid to Late Iron Age (400 BC–AD 43), and the early Roman period (first to second century AD). The settlement consisted of a complex system of field boundaries, pit alignments, roundhouses and pits. Excavation resulted in an assemblage of pottery and animal bone associated with the settlement remains. OAKRM:2010.36.

Thorpe-by-Water, Tudor House, Main Street (SP 893 964)

Neil Finn

An archaeological watching brief was undertaken by Archaeology & Built Heritage during groundwork for the construction of an extension to Tudor House, a grade II* listed building of late sixteenth century date, and creation of a new driveway and parking area adjacent to the house. The watching brief also covered alterations to the fabric of the listed building. Within the area of the new driveway a Roman ditch and two post-holes were encountered. The ditch contained pottery ranging in date from the mid-first to early fourth centuries AD. Within the area of the new extension on the west side of the house was a shallow Roman gully. Wall foundations and a stone flagged floor were also recorded in this area, associated with a former extension to the house illustrated on nineteenth- and early twentieth-century maps and photographs. OAKRM:2012.12.

Whitwell, Whitwell Rising Main Replacement (SK 925 083 centre)

Anne Foard-Colby

Archaeological attendance was undertaken by NA during the replacement of a rising main by Anglian Water, to the north of Rutland Water, at Whitwell. Two archaeological features were located at the top of a south-facing slope on the north shore of Whitwell Creek. They comprised one gully and one pit; neither contained datable finds. In addition, an undated ditch was observed in a section to the west of the grassed boat storage area, beside the access road. Two worked flints were recovered from the topsoil of Test Pit 4. Dark organic silty clay was observed at the head of Whitwell Creek, but no further archaeological features or finds were present. OAKRM:2012.24.

Historic Building Recording

Barleythorpe

Manor House, 2 Manor Lane (SK 848 096) Archaeology & Built Heritage

Burley

Chapel Farmhouse (SK 891 122) TPAT

Cottesmore

Mill Lane (SK 9042 1375) ULAS

Market Overton

Morcott: School Hall, School Lane (SK 924 007) TR Projects

Oakham

Neville House, 49 High Street (SK 859 087) Tim Shears

Negative watching briefs and evaluations in Rutland

(all undertaken by ULAS, unless otherwise stated)

Brooke: Grange Farm, 2 Church Lane (SK 848 057 – Minerva Heritage); **Cottesmore:** Little Cottage, 8 Clatterpot Lane (SK 9022 1363); **Whitwell:** Chantry Cottage, Church Lane (SK 9243 0880).

PORTABLE ANTIQUITIES SCHEME ANNUAL REPORT FOR LEICESTERSHIRE AND RUTLAND 2012

Wendy Scott, Finds Liaison Officer, Archaeological Services Team,
Leicestershire County Council.

103 individuals presented 1,595 objects found in Leicestershire this year. Yet again Roman finds dominate, largely through coinage, with Medieval and later the next largest categories (see Fig. 11 for a period breakdown). The Leicestershire team recorded 1,788 objects; 1,384 from Leicestershire, 210 from Rutland, 194 from elsewhere.

Throughout the year the FLO was assisted by seven volunteers, mostly Archaeology students from the University of Leicester who added 654 records, and by Phil Harding who meticulously records his own finds, adding 91.

Discovery and recording

1,420 of these finds were metal detected, 111 were field walked (mostly ‘eyes only’ finds made by metal-detectorists) and 38 were chance finds.

203 ‘find spots’ were recorded with a 10-figure grid reference and 826 with an eight figure, all being provided by the finders using a GPS device. 524 had grid references of six figures, mostly created by the FLO from paper maps with the finders or ‘centred’ on villages, parishes etc. at the finders request. This is an improving situation and vastly enhances the quality of the data.

Interesting finds

The number of Roman coins presented for recording remains high and several notable examples prove the value of ensuring each one is fully recorded. LEIC-92E6E5, a radiate of Carausius (286–93) from Hungarton parish, Harborough, has a reverse showing Hercules with a spear and sceptre, a previously unrecorded variety.

A number of Roman coins and artefacts were found during the survey to find Bosworth Battlefield. These are being systematically added to the PAS database so that they are accessible. Amongst them are a few interesting issues.

FAPJW-56DBC8 nummus of Maximian (286–310) and FAPJW-EAA981 a radiate of Carausius (286–93) both have previously unrecorded Obverse combinations.

An unusual Early Medieval artefact was found and recorded by Phil Harding. LEIC-D62660, found in Hoby with Rotherby parish, Melton, is a cruciform brooch terminal of the Klapperschmuck (literally ‘rattle-jewellery’) variety. This is a rare and early sub type dating to 430–80. Instead of a small integral loop the brooch has

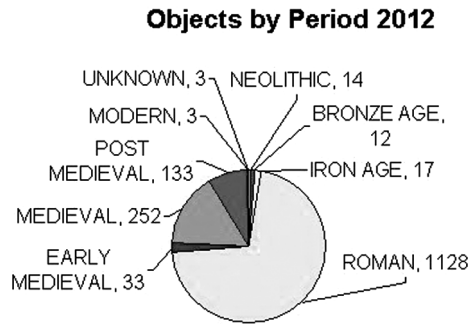


Fig. 11. Proportion of PAS finds, by period, recorded in 2012.

a barrel-shaped terminal at the animals snout, with a tubular hole, to which would have been attached a loose spangle or pendant.

2012 ended with a Viking artefact, a great Christmas present for me. LEIC-E7A016 is a silvered gilded bronze disc brooch (Fig. 12a). It has distinctive Scandinavian features, such as a dished form and an attachment loop. It also has strong parallels in Denmark, particularly with a lead brooch model from Gudme which has an almost identical design of three intertwined gripping beasts (Fig. 12b). The brooch was found in Cossington parish and is the first distinctly Scandinavian brooch type found within the county. In addition to this it displays very unusual gilding which imitates filigree work, making it so far unique.

Treasure cases

2012 saw 26 Treasure cases reported to the FLO; 16 coming from Leicestershire, the remainder coming from Warwickshire and Northamptonshire.

The most interesting Treasure case was recorded by a colleague in the West Midlands. It is still going through the Treasure process, but is worthy of a quick note here:

WMID-B1C4E3 is a silver nummular (coin-shaped) brooch which is imitating the reverse of a coin type issued by Cnut (106–1035) and Edward the Confessor (1053–56). It was found in Kirby Mallory parish and is inscribed as follows:

+PVLFGYFEMEAHAGHIRE which is read + *wulfgyfe me ah ag hire*

This is Old English and means ‘+ Wulfgyfu owns me; owns (me) for her (or Ag could read as property – i.e. owns her property)’. Translation by Elisabeth Osaka.

An interesting coin hoard was recovered in Billesdon Parish, Harborough in October. LEIC-F68117 is a rare hoard of 16 Tealby pennies dating to 1150–70. This was found on two occasions by a group from the Loughborough coin and search society. I am currently waiting to receive a third group, taking the hoard to over 30 pennies.



Fig. 12. a) The Danish brooch from Cossington; note the loop attached at 3 o'clock and the imitation filigree gilding (photo © Jane Kershaw; and b) Lead Brooch model from Gudme, Denmark with the same design.

Finally, a reminder that it is never too late to present objects to your FLO for recording. LEIC-11D227 is a shilling of Elizabeth I. There is nothing remarkable about the coin, but the way it came to be recorded is unusual. It was reported to me at the LAHS History fair at Beaumanor Hall in March. The finder had discovered it 60 years ago in Swithland whilst using a horse-drawn plough! It is remarkable that it was spotted at all, even more so that it has been kept safe for that many years. It must have made a lasting impression as the finder remembered exactly where it was found, allowing me to accurately record a find spot.