

# ARCHAEOLOGY IN LEICESTER, LEICESTERSHIRE AND RUTLAND 2013

*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 2013 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, Charles Street (SK 58854 04787)**

*Andrew McLeish, Vicki Score*

An archaeological watching brief was undertaken by ULAS during Site Investigation works at Haymarket Bus Station, Leicester. Previously drilled samples were also assessed for potential archaeological deposits. The results suggested significant truncation by modern deposits down to varying depths, but two samples (WS03 and WS04) found possible archaeological deposits – c.0.9m thick, dark soil containing post-medieval finds. Other extra-mural sites in the area suggest archaeological cut features at around 1.1m deep, and the depth of the modern and post-medieval deposits here suggest either a high level of truncation or more intensive (and therefore deeper) activity. No evidence was identified for any deposits earlier than post-medieval or the continuation of the known Roman cemetery to the east.

**Leicester, the Grey Friars Project: Phase 2 (SK 585 043)**

*Mathew Morris*

Much has happened since the excavation in 2012 on the Grey Friars site and the identification of skeletal remains in the choir of the friary church as that of King Richard III (*TLAHS*, 87, 9–14). In July 2013, ULAS carried out a second four-week excavation on the site as part of its ongoing interpretation as a heritage asset. The continued investigation of the area around the grave of the King was aimed at acquiring further information regarding the relationship of the grave within the friary church and a better understanding of the development of the friary itself. This would aid the development of the visitor centre which is to be built on the site and protect any archaeology threatened by the new build, either through excavation or the development of an appropriate mitigating scheme. Work was carried out in partnership between the University of Leicester, Leicester City Council and Morgan

diamond. The bezels are formed to represent flowers, and the pink/red and white colour leads to the assumption that these represent the roses united by the Tudors.

The fact that Launde abbey was occupied by Elizabeth Seymour, sister to Jane, and her husband Gregory Cromwell in the 1540s may allow us to speculate that this ring may have royal connections, and was probably lost by someone staying at the abbey. This case is currently awaiting valuation.

*Post-Medieval posy finger ring 2013T163 (Fig. 15).*

This posy ring has unusual imagery as it depicts a foxhunting scene. These were given as tokens of affection, so perhaps the giver was hinting that he would not give up the chase! The internal inscription, 'in time may I', seems to fit with this theme. It was found in Frisby parish and, given its hunting theme, it has been purchased by the museum service, and will be a fitting addition to the Melton Carnegie museum.



Fig. 15.