

ARCHAEOLOGY IN LEICESTER, LEICESTERSHIRE AND RUTLAND 2020

Edited by Dr Gavin Speed

Archaeological watching briefs and evaluations, 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 below (p. iv). Some entries may relate to fieldwork undertaken before 2020 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, Ashton Green (SK 57582 09477)

Claire LaCombe

An archaeological excavation was undertaken by University of Leicester Archaeological Services (ULAS) in 2020; this followed on from a programme of trial trenching and an earlier excavation in 2018 and 2019. The work uncovered three prehistoric pit alignments in three separate areas. Each of the alignments had different characteristics, although all three boundaries were equidistant and parallel to each other. In Area 1 a double pit alignment contained 79 pits, some of which were inter-connected by a shallow gully. The pits were more substantial than those to the south. Between the alignments were various connecting shallow ditches and small pits. Area 2 contained a single pit alignment, which to the east was recut by a later ditch. Area 3 contained a single pit alignment, with a ditch running parallel close beside it. The ditch and alignment ran for over 300m across the site. There are suggestions of shallow enclosure ditches truncating the main ditch to the south, cutting through the pit alignment. These ultimately formed small 'L' shaped enclosures. Several large pond-like features were thought to be post-medieval marl pits. A23.2019.

Leicester, Aylestone, 10 Canal Street (SK 57582 09477)

Spencer Cooper

An archaeological watching brief was undertaken by ULAS in advance of the construction of a foundation trench for an attenuation tank associated with the construction of flats. The development site revealed modern and post-medieval deposits at a depth of 1.5m. A number of features were identified which were nineteenth and twentieth century in origin. A3.2020.

Leicester, Churchgate (SK 58656 04784)*Steve Baker*

An archaeological trial trench evaluation was undertaken by ULAS on land at the corner of St Peters Lane and Churchgate in advance of commercial development. A single trench revealed well-preserved archaeological deposits, representing demolition layers of Roman date. Significant disturbance of these levels by cellaring was identified towards the Churchgate street frontage. A5.2020.

Leicester, Dover Street (SK 59024 04139)*James Earley*

An archaeological watching brief was undertaken by ULAS during groundworks associated with the proposed construction of a five-storey extension to the side of The Little Theatre. This monitoring uncovered a nineteenth-century cellar, attached to the Little Theatre building and below the ground surface of the development site, which was subsequently backfilled during the groundworks. A16.2020.

Leicester, 59 Friar Lane (SK 58457 04246)*Steve Baker*

An archaeological evaluation and excavation was undertaken by ULAS in winter 2020 (Figure 1). The work revealed good survival of Roman activity, including part of a Roman street running north–south through the middle of the site. To the west of the street, evidence was found for a Roman timber building dating to the late first or early second century AD, and several pits which contained assemblages of mid-second to early third-century domestic refuse. Elsewhere on this side of the Roman street large areas of modern disturbance truncated into the natural substrate beneath the basement – destroying all stratified deposits. On the east side of the Roman street, a larger area was investigated, showing evidence for further Roman structures, roadside ditches, a large well, and pits. Of significance is the absence of medieval street frontage buildings. Proximity to the Blackfriars precinct suggests that the area was open ground, possibly cultivated, in the medieval period and a thick layer of dark garden soils, sealing the Roman deposits in the less disturbed south-east corner of the site, supports this. A7.2020.

Leicester, Humberstone, land off Thurmaston Lane (SK 6260 0648)*Richard Bradley*

An archaeological excavation was undertaken by Worcestershire Archaeology (following an evaluation reported in *TLAHS* Vol. 94) at Avanti Fields School, in advance of the construction of a school building and sports hall with external recreation areas. Geophysical survey and excavation during the past two decades had shown that extensive remains of the nearby mid to late Iron Age Humberstone ‘aggregated’ settlement, as well as ridge and furrow agriculture, extended within the site boundaries. As a result, excavation was targeted and took place in the northern part of the development, covering an area 0.28ha in size (Figures 2 & 3).



Fig. 1. Roman buildings and activity at 59 Friar Lane, Leicester.

Leicester, Jarvis Street (SK 58184 04943)

Mathew Morris

An archaeological evaluation by trial trenching was undertaken by ULAS on land at the Great Central Railway viaduct. Six trenches were excavated in viaduct arches and on open ground along Jarvis Street. The evaluation identified well-preserved medieval and post-medieval garden soils, a medieval pit, and possible Roman subsoil and stone surface. Much of the area examined was dominated by a large 'hollow', possibly a large post-Roman quarry pit. The line of the town defences was identified in the northern third of the site. The town ditch appeared to be well-preserved and had a high potential for waterlogged deposits at its base. Significantly, the archaeological sequences, both beneath and beyond the viaduct structure, were well preserved. A1.2020.

The known potential for the site was borne out during the investigations. A small background scatter of residual worked flint provided evidence of intermittent activity over a considerable period, but most of the archaeological features comprised elements of the known Iron Age settlement. There was some direct overlap between features found in earlier excavations and good correlation overall with the geophysical survey. Activity was defined by at least three roundhouses and an enclosure ditch and, in common with previous areas, the roundhouses were characterised by substantial encircling penannular drainage ditches, but only occasional evidence for the building structure itself. The roundhouses appeared to have domestic functions, with evidence for small-scale bone-working and metalworking, and much of the pottery and worked stone was locally made and/or traded from within the surrounding area. More unusual material however, such as a charred grape pip and a small piece of blue-green glass, may be Roman items representing significant trading contacts: such finds are characteristic of later deposits throughout the Humberstone Iron Age settlement. In general, the environmental remains suggested a mixed self-sufficient farming regime, and in this particular area pastoralism was probably the main economic activity.

Although only a small area was opened, the site adds an important new contribution to the dataset previously established for this settlement complex, thought to be one of the largest in Leicestershire. It provides comparable and complementary archaeological evidence to the other excavations nearby, and these can now be considered together to improve understanding of later prehistoric occupation more widely. A2.2020.



Fig. 2. View of Iron Age roundhouse in foreground, with modern housing behind, at Thurmaston Lane, Leicester.



Fig. 3. Plan of roundhouses at Thurmaston Lane, Leicester.

Historic Building Recording

Leicester, Rocket Studios (SK 58869 06165)

Jon Coward

A level 4 Historic Building Survey at Rocket Studios, Abbey Meadows, was undertaken by ULAS, in advance of demolition. The survey covered two industrial units to the rear of the studios; the two buildings were originally part of a Ropewalk, built in the early twentieth century. Virtually no evidence for their original use had survived within the fabric of the buildings; the roofs and floors had been replaced, two elevations had been rebuilt, and the windows look to have been replaced. Documentary research showed that the Ropewalk was originally built to the north of its present site, but became a hindrance to the continuing expansion of the Wolsey works in the area; Wolsey Ltd moved the Ropewalk to its present site in the late 1920s. Ropemaking continued on the site into the 1960s, when the company moved to Birstall. The buildings are now in mixed use for light industry.

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

12–20 Market Place (SK 58696 04444); *Ashton Green Road* (SK 57807 09720).

LEICESTERSHIRE

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Ashby-de-la-Zouch, Money Hill (SK 3621 1745)

Andrew Simmonds

An excavation was carried out by Oxford Archaeology during October 2020 at Money Hill, Ashby-de-la-Zouch, as part of a housing development. The excavation recorded a buried soil layer that contained a small quantity of worked flint, including a fragment from a Neolithic axe that had been reworked as a flake core, and part of two pit alignments (one a double alignment) that had been identified from cropmark evidence. Both alignments proved to extend further than had been indicated by the cropmarks, although the full extent was not established. Pit alignments are notoriously difficult to date and the recovery of a small quantity of Iron Age pottery from the pits is therefore particularly significant. The alignments descended down a hillside from a notable promontory that projects from the main ridge, which runs from north-west to south-east between Burton and Coalville – overlooking a brook, a tributary of the River Mease. The promontory may have been a significant feature in the contemporary landscape and thus became an important focus when landscape divisions were constructed. It is possible that the alignments were associated with a settlement 400m to the north, where similar pottery had been found. X.A55.2020 and X.A86.2020.

Barkby Thorpe, Thorpebury (SK 63244 08352)*Andrew Mann*

An archaeological evaluation of 55 trenches was undertaken by Worcestershire Archaeology in advance of a proposed housing development on the north-east edge of Leicester. The evaluation established that two zones of middle to late Iron Age activity exist at the site. These comprise of many small rectilinear and curvilinear enclosures, partially enclosed by a larger boundary ditch. The results do not suggest that either of these zones were permanently settled, and that they may have been used primarily for stock control and management. Several waterholes in the landscape, presumably for stock, adds weight to this interpretation, but earlier finds from one of them also suggests that there was a shift from unenclosed to enclosed activity at the site. X.A13.2021.

Barlestone, Newbold Road (SK 4342 0542)*Margaret Koumplis*

An archaeological evaluation was undertaken by Pre-Construct Archaeology in advance of a proposed development. This revealed a layer of made ground of eighteenth to twentieth century date, overlaying a natural depression. X.A23.2020.

Bottesford (SK 803 394)*Rachael Daniel*

In September 2018, Oxford Archaeology undertook an archaeological evaluation comprising 28 trenches to the north of Bottesford. A preceding geophysical survey had identified a number of enclosures and linear features across the site, and these features were targeted during the evaluation. The evaluation confirmed the presence of significant Iron Age and Roman settlement activity. Alluvial deposits appear to have aided the preservation of the archaeology in some areas. The evaluation identified two main foci of late Iron Age and late Roman activity in the western part of the site (Areas 1 and 2), two areas of possible Roman enclosures and field systems in the south-central part of the site (Areas 2 and 3), and an area of late medieval/post-medieval activity to the east (Area 6).

A significant quantity of middle to late Roman pottery and animal bone was recovered from the site. These were consistent with a moderate status settlement, but with some evidence of continental-style dining practices. Other notable finds included four Roman coins, a bone needle holder, worked bone, a hobnail, Roman tile and a quernstone. The recovery of charred cereal grains indicated a typical crop regime for the area, with weed seeds consistent with the spread of cultivation onto heavier clay soils. Cattle, sheep/goat and pig bones were recovered, while the presence of wildfowl specimens, including plover and snipe, highlight the exploitation of local wetlands. The archaeology was deeply buried in places and well-preserved from having been sealed by up to 1m of alluvium. Evidence of several possible rural 'dark earth' deposits was also identified at the western edge of the site. A sherd from one of these spreads was tentatively dated to the early to middle Saxon period and suggests that site may have been occupied into this period.

Bottesford, Belvoir Solar Farm (SK 8203 3708)*Emma Brunning*

A geophysical survey was undertaken by Archaeological Services WYAS on 134ha of land located to the south of Bottesford. Anomalies of a possible archaeological origin include a ring ditch, sub-rectangular enclosures, linear features and pit-like responses. Medieval ridge and furrow cultivation have also been detected, along with former field boundaries and modern ploughing.

Brooksby, Brooksby Quarry (SK 66650 14950)*Wayne Jarvis*

Further work was carried out by ULAS during sand and gravel mineral extraction in the quarry. This phase of extraction was working out the Bytham deposits and was sited to the east of the deeper Brooksby deposits that survive at greater depth in a channel. From the rejects, heap and quarry floor 68 Lower Palaeolithic finds were recovered in the last year (with a total now of 993). Observations in the current phase (Phase 18) of the quarry floor have, however, identified the meander of a palaeochannel with Brooksby character deposits at the base of the mineral. These consist of muddy sands, gravels and finer grained deposits, and being of pre-Anglian age *c.*480,000ya. The channel deposits suggest a cut-off channel infilling gradually with clay, silts and sands, and a rich organic component with large amounts of wood surviving. The fine-grained deposits have the potential to produce valuable environmental evidence. Additionally, from these deposits a fragmented pelvis of a 'very large mammal' (cf. elephant) was recovered, and nearby the end of an elephant tusk some 0.9m long was also excavated (Figure 4). Recording of this area also identified 14 stone tool finds, these all being of quartzite and having variable abrasion to the surfaces – indicating more or less reworking of the finds from other deposits. Several exceptionally fresh artefacts were retrieved, indicating that they have not travelled far in the river deposits. The artefacts include chopper cores, cores and flakes (Figure 5). X.A57. 2006.

Burbage, Sketchley Lane (SP 42444 91892)*John Boothroyd*

In October 2019, Oxford Archaeology undertook a trial-trench evaluation at Sketchley Lane. The work was undertaken to inform a planning application for a mixed commercial and residential development. A total of 56 trenches were excavated across the site targeting the results of a geophysical survey. The geophysical survey identified activity associated with the agricultural use of the site, including areas of plough furrows. The trial trenching identified a series of linear features and post-holes that can be associated with medieval and post-medieval agricultural activity within the site. A sherd of residual Samian ware dating to the second century AD was recovered from a ditch in the southern part of the site. No anomalies identified by the geophysical survey were identified within the trenches, except those associated with extant and ploughed out ridge and furrow.



Fig. 4. Excavating the elephant tusk at Brooksby Quarry.

Burbage, Watling Street (SP 44310 90750)

Paolo Guarino

An excavation by Cotswold Archaeology, on land east of Hinckley Island Hotel, identified an Iron Age roundhouse, pit alignments and field boundary ditches. Roman remains consisted of a rural settlement comprising boundary ditches and enclosures (Figure 6). A post-built rectangular structure of mid-second to fourth century AD date was also identified. The structure measured 16m in length by 5m in width, with a possible entrance on the western side. A series of intercutting pits to the north of the structure were probably associated with it. The finds assemblage from the pits included abundant Roman ceramic building material, iron nails, glass fragments, sherds of Samian ware and mortaria, and other domestic waste. The remnants of medieval and post-medieval ridge and furrow cultivation were also present. X.A17.2018.

Castle Donington, Park Lane (SK 4363 2668)

R. Parker, I. H. Espley

A trial trench evaluation was undertaken by Trent & Peak Archaeology (T&PA) ahead of a scheme of works to construct a warehouse facility. The five-trench evaluation was placed in order to identify the continuation of Iron Age features previously identified during archaeological investigations in 2010. All trenches excavated demonstrated the presence of archaeology, which comprised medieval



Fig. 5. Fresh chopper core from deposits immediately over the infilled channel at Brooksby Quarry.

furrows, nineteenth/twentieth-century drainage features and several undated features that may relate to the aforementioned Iron Age activity within the site.

Castle Donington, Park Lane (SK 4363 2668)

Roger Kipling

An excavation was undertaken by ULAS, on the western edge of Castle Donington on land adjacent to the western bypass, prior to construction of housing. Work followed on from previous extensive archaeological investigation in the area by ULAS and MOLA. The evaluation identified the continuation of a pit alignment, running westwards across the site, along with three or four Iron Age rock-cut ditched enclosures, two of which were linked to a contemporary north-south ditch (Figure 7). Whilst the majority of features produced ceramic material, presenting a clear developmental sequence, a general absence of domestic refuse suggests the enclosures were functioning as stock pens. The ditch of the southern enclosure did, however, produce a beehive quern fragment and an iron axe.

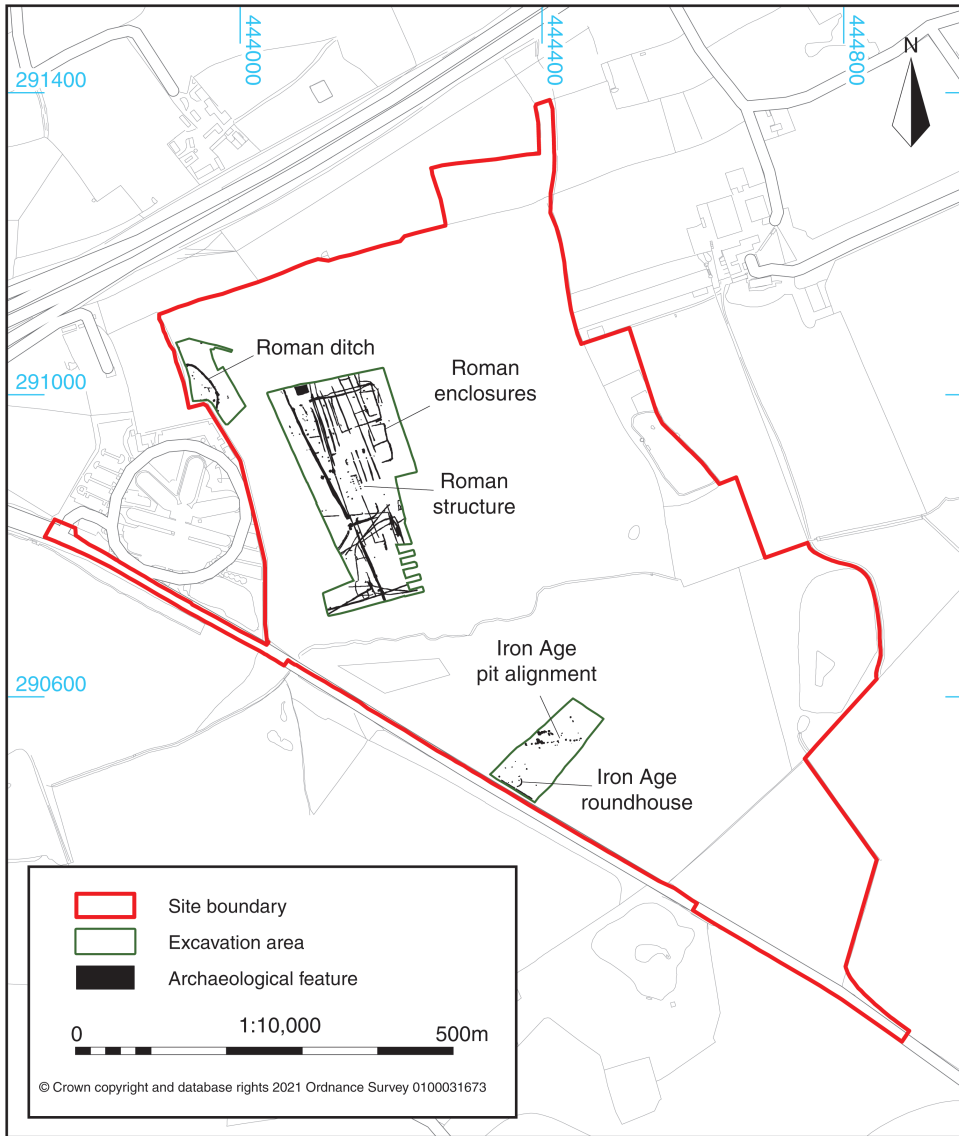


Fig. 6. Archaeological activity at Watling Street, Burbage.

Cotesbach, Solar Farm (SP 5248 8191)

Falcus Bradley

A geophysical survey was undertaken by Magnitude Surveys Ltd on a c.64ha area of agricultural land near Cotesbach. A large scale, multi-phase archaeological complex has been identified; with overlapping anomalies which are suggestive of numerous phases of activity. A settlement area with associated activity has been identified as several circular, linear and curvilinear anomalies, as well as evidence of occupation through multiple pits throughout the area. A zone of archaeological activity has also



Fig. 7. Pit alignment and Iron Age enclosures at Park Lane, Castle Donington.

been identified in the west of the settlement area, which has been disturbed by the intense agricultural regime that post-dates the underlying archaeology.

Croft, River Soar (SP 50810 95625)

Gwen Naylor, Luke Roberts

An archaeological watching brief was undertaken by Wessex Archaeology during the construction of a flood storage pond and earth bund adjacent to the River Soar at Croft, was undertaken and monitored 0.22ha. No archaeological features were observed, and the only artefact present was a fragment of modern drainage pipe. However, a soil sequence of potential palaeoenvironmental potential was observed, with the historical channel alignment of the River Soar evident in the form of a layer of generalised sandy clay alluvium at the base of the excavated area. This had been overlain by a peaty silt, probably reflecting slow-moving or standing water within a gradually infilling or relict channel. A band of gravels overlying the peat suggest a significant change in depositional environment, with some remobilisation of gravels from Pleistocene deposits during a high energy event such as a flood. Four small bulk samples were taken from the exposed soil sequence; all contained abundant vegetative plant material and the remains of seeds with a small number of caddis fly larva remains. The environmental data point to a ruderal and hedgerow environment at the time of deposition. X.A81.2019.

Desford, Desford Quarry (SK 4650 0618)*SLR Consulting Ltd*

An archaeological watching brief was undertaken by SLR Consulting. An extensive layer of made ground and a probable demolition deposit likely associated with a structure/outbuilding, along with a single NE/SW ditch, were located.

Desford, Little Lane (SK 4776 0368)*Adam Clapton, Andrew McLeish*

An archaeological evaluation, and subsequent strip, map, sample excavation, was undertaken by ULAS on land east of Little Lane, in advance of a residential dwelling. The trial trench evaluation highlighted the presence of a medieval pit within the development area. The subsequent excavation revealed three further features; these consisted of a small gully containing medieval pottery, a large shallow ditch feature containing late eighteenth–nineteenth-century pottery, and a tree throw. X.A39.2020.

Earl Shilton, Thurlaston Lane (SP 47803 98143)*Richard Huxley*

An archaeological excavation was undertaken by ULAS on land south of Thurlaston Lane, in advance of a proposed residential development. The work comprised three areas, each measuring 30m by 10m in two neighbouring fields (Figure 8). The areas targeted ditches that were identified during an evaluation in 2010. The excavation revealed two parallel ditches in Area 1 with a single post-hole to the west. The ditches contained small fragments of Iron Age pottery and appeared to represent a droveway. A single ditch was found in Area 3 to the south, which represented one side of the droveway. The second ditch is projected to continue beyond the western edge of the excavation. A flat layer of stones was identified next to the ditch, and this may have been metalling for the droveway surface. The ditches in Areas 1 and 3 had been deliberately consolidated or infilled during the late medieval period. In Area 2 another ditch containing Iron Age pottery was found, which appears to represent a contemporary field system. A second relatively flat layer of stones was also found to the west of the ditch; this may have been another metalled surface, with a second relatively flat layer of stones to the west which may have been another metalled surface. Small fragments of fired clay or burnt daub were found above the stones and a fragment of late medieval pottery was found whilst cleaning the top of the ditch. It was unclear whether these features represented a contemporary field system or part of another drove way. The site produced low numbers of artefacts and environmental evidence, implying that settlement was located elsewhere. The evidence from the excavation suggests that depressions from Iron Age features were infilled or consolidated during the late medieval period; this may be due to the area being farmed. It was unclear whether the drove way was a visible depression or was still being used until this point. The post-medieval field boundaries and furrows did not respect it and by this time all evidence of the feature had been removed from the landscape. X.A66.2020.

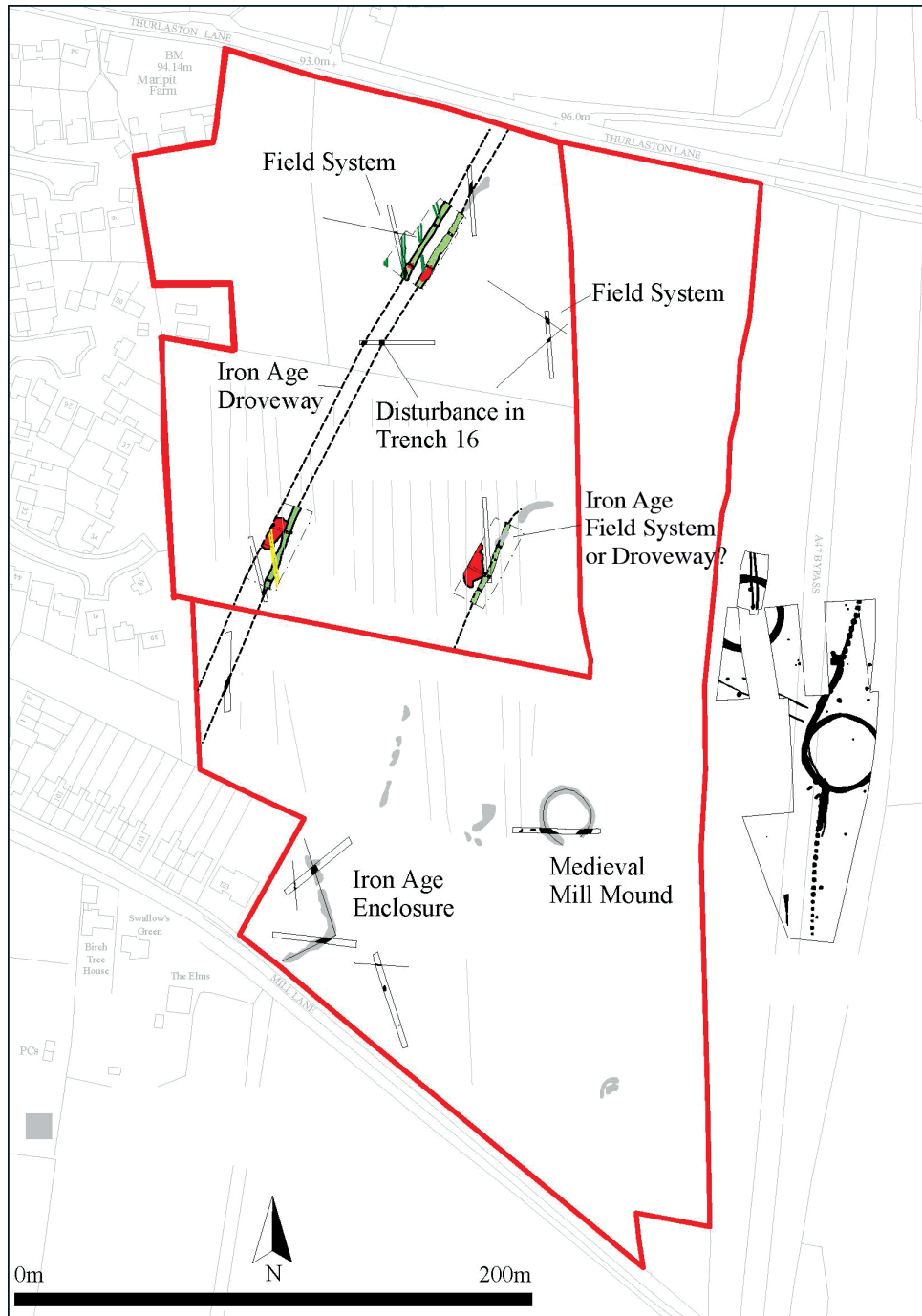


Fig 8. Iron Age droeways at Earl Shilton.

Foston, Barley Lane, Church of St Bartholomew (SP 6034 9499) *Neil Finn*

An archaeological watching brief was undertaken by Archaeology & Built Heritage (A&BH), during the excavation of two engineering test pits at the Church of St Bartholomew, Barley Lane. The test pits were located against the external face of the east wall of the chancel and were required to assess the foundations and ground conditions, to inform a programme of remedial work to address structural cracks in the masonry at the east end of the church. The foundations of the east wall were exposed, in addition to which a substantial east–west aligned wall foundation was partially exposed in one of the test pits. This is likely to have been the remains of the south wall of the old chancel, which was demolished in 1766 along with the south aisle. No finds were recovered. X.A42.2020.

Great Easton, Brook Lane (SP 84654 93034) *Nathan Flavell*

An archaeological evaluation was carried out by ULAS at Nubrook House in advance of a proposed residential development. Two trenches revealed a ditch or pit, and an early post-medieval stone wall foundation. X.A94.2020.

Hallaton, Church of St Michael and All Angels (SP 78653 96529) *Mathew Morris*

An archaeological evaluation by test-pitting was undertaken by ULAS and the Hallaton Field Work Group. The test pits revealed few archaeological features. Inside the church, late nineteenth-century restoration had removed earlier floor surfaces and deposits down to the natural substratum. No intrusive features were observed, but the wall of the medieval crypt was identified. Some mud-bonded stonework still survived, but the wall was extensively rebuilt in brick – probably during the late nineteenth century. Outside, a modern coal chute and drains were dug into the burial soil of the graveyard in front of the original crypt entrance. These concealed or had destroyed the steps leading down into the crypt. X.A62.2020.

Higham on the Hill, 81 Main Street (SK 3819 9552) *Neil Finn*

A trial trench evaluation, and subsequent archaeological watching brief, was undertaken by A&BH on land to the rear (north) of Fox House, in advance of construction of one dwelling house and two detached garages. Two ditches, one medieval (pottery recovered dated to c.1250–1400) and the other undated, were located in the trench. A further stage of investigation involved archaeological attendance during groundwork for the foundations. In addition to exposing further sections of the two ditches, this stage also located an eighteenth or nineteenth-century pit and various twentieth-century features. A boundary feature on a similar alignment was previously recorded as an earthwork to the north of the development site. This apparently marked the western extent (i.e. rear boundary) of a series of medieval crofts and tofts on the west side of the lane leading from Main Street to the

church. These earthworks, surveyed in 1989, are no longer extant, and the area is now occupied by a manège and stables. X.A14.2020.

Hoby, Main Street, All Saints Church (SK 6692 1736)

Neil Finn

An archaeological watching brief was undertaken by A&BH, during groundwork for the installation of a mains water supply and foul drain, serving a new accessible WC and servery within the north aisle of All Saints Church. The watching brief monitored the excavation of a service trench between the north-west corner of the north aisle and the gate at the north-east corner of the churchyard, at the junction of Main Street and Church Lane. A few fragments of charnel were collected for reburial.

Houghton on the Hill (SK 68856 02747)

James Harvey

An archaeological evaluation of 135 trenches was undertaken by ULAS over an area of *c.*85ha to the south and west of Houghton on the Hill, in advance of the proposed relocation of Scraftoft golf course. The evaluation covered eight fields, located to the north and south of the River Sence. Archaeological activity was identified within five of these areas, mainly corresponding with anomalies identified by previous geophysical survey.

In a field immediately west of Gaulby Lane, the trenches confirmed the presence of a double-ditched linear monument, previously identified by a geophysical survey. The ditches are spaced at *c.*17–24m distant from one another and can be traced over *c.*600m. The positioning of the ditches is clearly related to the local topography, closely mirroring the 137m and 139m contour lines across the entire area. This included a prominent V shaped change in its tracking across a steep natural gully, located along the eastern side of the field. Unfortunately, no artefactual material was recovered from the various excavated sections through the linear monument to facilitate the interpretation of its date or function. It seems unlikely that the ditches formed part of an enclosure, considering the lack of activity recorded within the trenches to the north, and the lack of evidence for its continuation west. It is most likely that the ditches represent a prehistoric linear monument. This may have functioned as both a boundary and trackway. The deliberate siting of the ditches (which transverse the lower slope of the hill along the same contour line) could have facilitated the movement of animals across this topographically challenging landscape, avoiding a wetter area located southwards towards the river. A shallow ditch also correlating with an anomaly highlighted by the geophysical survey, was located broadly parallel to the River Sence, located *c.*50m distant. Both its date and function remain uncertain.

In the same field, to the north, a previously unknown pit alignment was located at the northern end of the area. A total of six pits were recorded (across three separate trenches), spanning a distance of *c.*70m. The recorded section of the pit alignment appears to be sinuous in nature, broadly orientated north-west to south-east. The pits themselves varied in plan from sub-oval to sub-rectangular; a small amount of

Iron Age pottery and animal bone was recovered from the backfills. The full extent of the pit alignment is currently unknown. The pit alignment clearly continued to form an important boundary for a protracted period, considering that it had at least been partially refined by a ditch, long after the pits had become silted up.

Also in the same field, to the south, was a large stone 'mound', located *c.*50m from the River Sence. The partially exposed feature was made up of at least three separate layers of river cobbles that were interleaved between bands of silt. The dating and interpretation of this feature is uncertain, but it could possibly represent an area of hardstanding within this wet area of the site. Animal bone recovered from one of the layers of silt was submitted for radiocarbon determination, but has failed to yield a date for the feature.

Elsewhere, an undated trackway was identified in the western area, over a distance of *c.*25m. The trackway led south-east towards a deeply colluviated natural gully, which could have acted as a natural funnel for stock control. A large undated pit lay *c.*5m north-east of the trackway. The proximity of the trackway to the historic core of Houghton could hint at a medieval origin, although this interpretation is highly tentative.

To the south of the River Sence, the trenches confirmed the results of the geophysical survey, recording part of a curvilinear ditch system marking the northern boundary between the natural mudstone and an area of localised sand and gravel, located along the 141m contour line. Again, this is likely to represent a landscape feature, like the double-ditch system recorded to the north of the river. A single sherd of mid-late Iron Age pottery was recovered from the excavation sections. A tight cluster of intercutting pits was located towards the southern extent, presumably indicative of a phase of small-scale quarrying. A possible corn drying oven was located at the southern edge of the site. X.A88.2020.

Kilby, Broadway Farm, 8 Main Street (SP 6188 9553)

Georgia Day

An archaeological trial trench evaluation was undertaken by ULAS on land north of Broadway Farm in advance of a residential development. A large amount of modern truncation was identified across the site. Two trenches both contained the remains of furrows: in one trench a shallow undated pit was identified; in another trench a ditch containing fragments of animal bone, two sherds of Roman pottery and a fragment of Roman CBM likely represents a boundary or drainage ditch, of the late first or second century AD. X.A92.2020.

Kirby Muxloe, Ratby Lane (SK 5221 0489)

Steffan Golby

An archaeological trial trench evaluation consisting of eight trenches was undertaken by Archaeological Services WYAS, in advance of proposed residential development. Extraction pits of Roman date were identified in one trench. A post-medieval ditch, in another trench in the north-east part of the site, is likely either a precursor to the current Ratby Lane or a roadside ditch associated with it.

Leicester Forest East, Hinckley Road (SK 52000 02904)*Joseph Peters*

An archaeological trial trench evaluation was undertaken by ULAS in advance of a proposed residential development. Undated ditches were located in six trenches. X.A65.2020.

Lockington, Lockington Quarry Extension (SK 4828 1193)*James Patrick,
Matt Beamish*

The final phase of archaeological work was undertaken by ULAS in 2020. The main objective of this phase of fieldwork was to locate and record a complex multi-phase pit alignment, possibly dating from the late Bronze Age. Previous excavations undertaken by ULAS in 2011, in advance of a haul road revealed up to three pit alignments and associated linear features all orientated north to south (Figure 9). Recently topsoil stripping had shown a double pit alignment to continue 85m south from the haul road, and to narrow to a single line of pits that then turned near to a palaeochannel and continued to the south-west for a further 91m. At the same point as the turn to the south-west, an alignment of small circular double pits continued toward the palaeochannel (although 20m of this is only partly exposed on the edge of the quarry phase).

The eastern side of the main double alignment generally comprised larger circular shaped pits, while the western side pits of the main line are of a smaller diameter. The single row of pits extending to the south-west are generally of a large oval shape. The pits revealed little in the way of artefactual evidence, with just pottery of Iron Age date found on the surface of one pit. Further north, two sherds of Romano-British pottery were retrieved out of a stratigraphically later ditch on the east side of the eastern pit alignment.

Lubbesthorpe, Abbey Farm (SK 54230 01040)*Richard Huxley*

An archaeological trial trench evaluation of five small trenches was undertaken by ULAS in advance of a proposed development of the farm. Two of the trenches contained modern pits and building rubble, which included fragments from earlier buildings. Several other pits containing building materials were found, and one contained twelfth–thirteenth-century pottery. A twelfth–fourteenth-century feature was found in the southern end of one trench, and this contained well preserved animal bones and environmental evidence. Pits containing medieval and later building rubble were found throughout the rest of the trench, along with pottery dated to AD 1475–1550. X.A76.2020.

Lutterworth, Market Street (SP 54551 84531)*Leon Hunt*

An archaeological trial trench evaluation and subsequent excavation was undertaken by ULAS in advance of a proposed new museum. Located within the historic core of the town, the work uncovered a complex sequence activity within three separate medieval burgage plots, each with different activities being undertaken, dating from

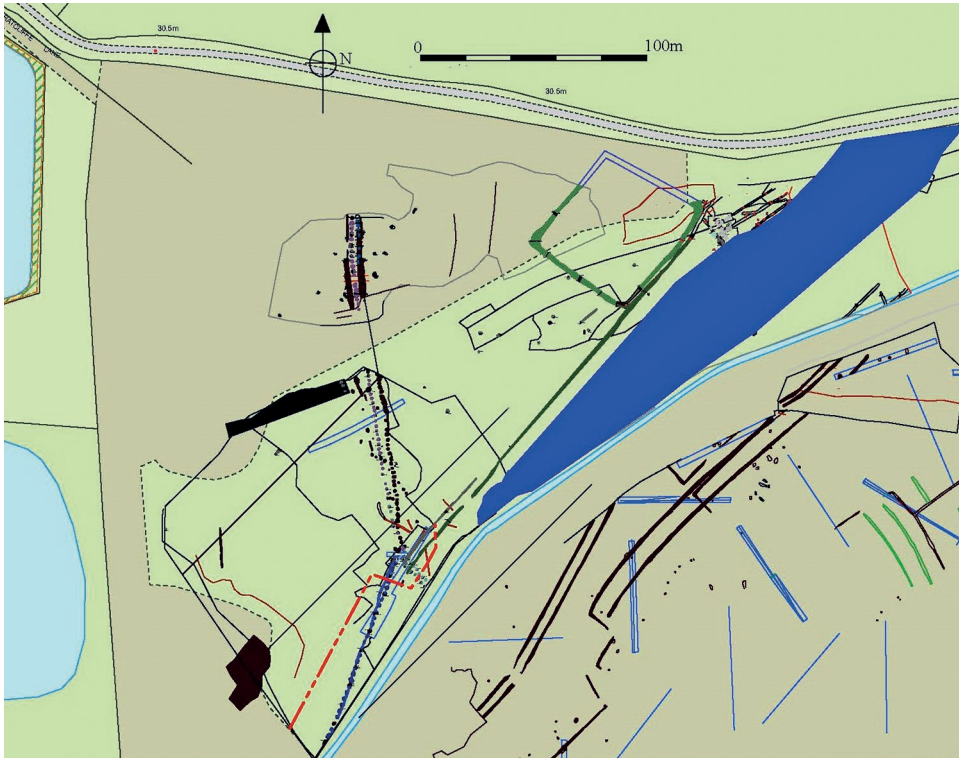


Fig 9. Pit alignments and ditches at Lockington Quarry.

the twelfth–fourteenth centuries through to the seventeenth–eighteenth centuries (Figure 10).

The northern part of the site contained many deep pits, with at least one clearly used as a cess pit, with several post-holes around them – possibly representing a contemporary shelter. Some pits contained twelfth-century pottery, and a post hole yielded a small glass bead, with another close by containing industrial residue. Most of the other pits, including a very large (3.5m) circular pit at the eastern end of the site, with a depth of at least 1m, suggested quarrying activity. A faint compacted area lay between the northern area and the central part of the site, possibly a trackway or plot boundary.

The central part of the site was mainly covered in a metalled yard area, with post-holes cut into the surface throughout. A further bead was recovered from one of the post-holes and a pin from another. The surface had been patched in places by cobbling, and was overlain by various patches of clay and sandy material. Beneath the surface and cobbling, a long narrow pit contained several substantial stake-holes and areas of burning, possibly indicating a partly sunken structure with an industrial function. Between the central area and the southern ‘plot’ was the continuation of the linear feature, plus several smaller pits and post-holes, partially obscured by a Victorian drain.

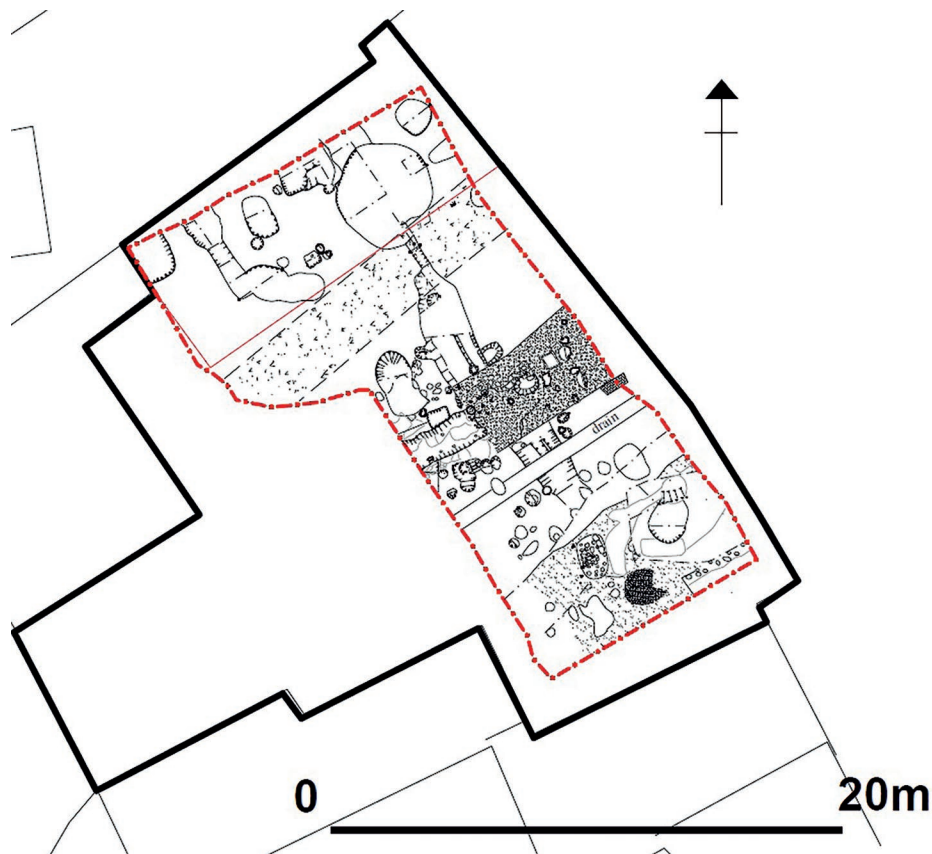


Fig 10. Plan of medieval activity at Market Street, Lutterworth.

Archaeology in the southern part lay under the remains of Victorian foundations and drains, and lay on a lower level to the rest of the site. Here pits had been cut into another different style of surface of compacted reddish sand and gravel, with crushed pottery and clay pipe remains in patches as repairs. Below this were layers of demolition and at a level around 1m below the surface were further large pits, one of which was surrounded by wooden stakes (some still extant), possibly representing a small fence. X.A67.2020.

Other features recorded in 2020 have included scattered pits that are undated and further examples of parallel ditches that would appear to define stock routes. A number of these were recorded by ULAS in 2018, and where dated are late medieval to early post-medieval. The palaeochannel is still an active channel at some stage, as these later stock route features are partly sealed below late alluvium. X.A117.2017.

Market Harborough, Burnmill Road (SP 73019 88637)

Roger Kipling

An archaeological excavation continued at Burnmill Road in 2020, undertaken by ULAS. The site was evaluated in 2017, and the excavation continued on from the

2019 season (see *TLAHS* 94, 264). Archaeological remains were located across two fields, showing phases of mid-late Iron Age activity to the west, running to late Iron Age/early Roman in the middle of the site and north-east, and later Romano-British activity to the south-east (Figure 11).

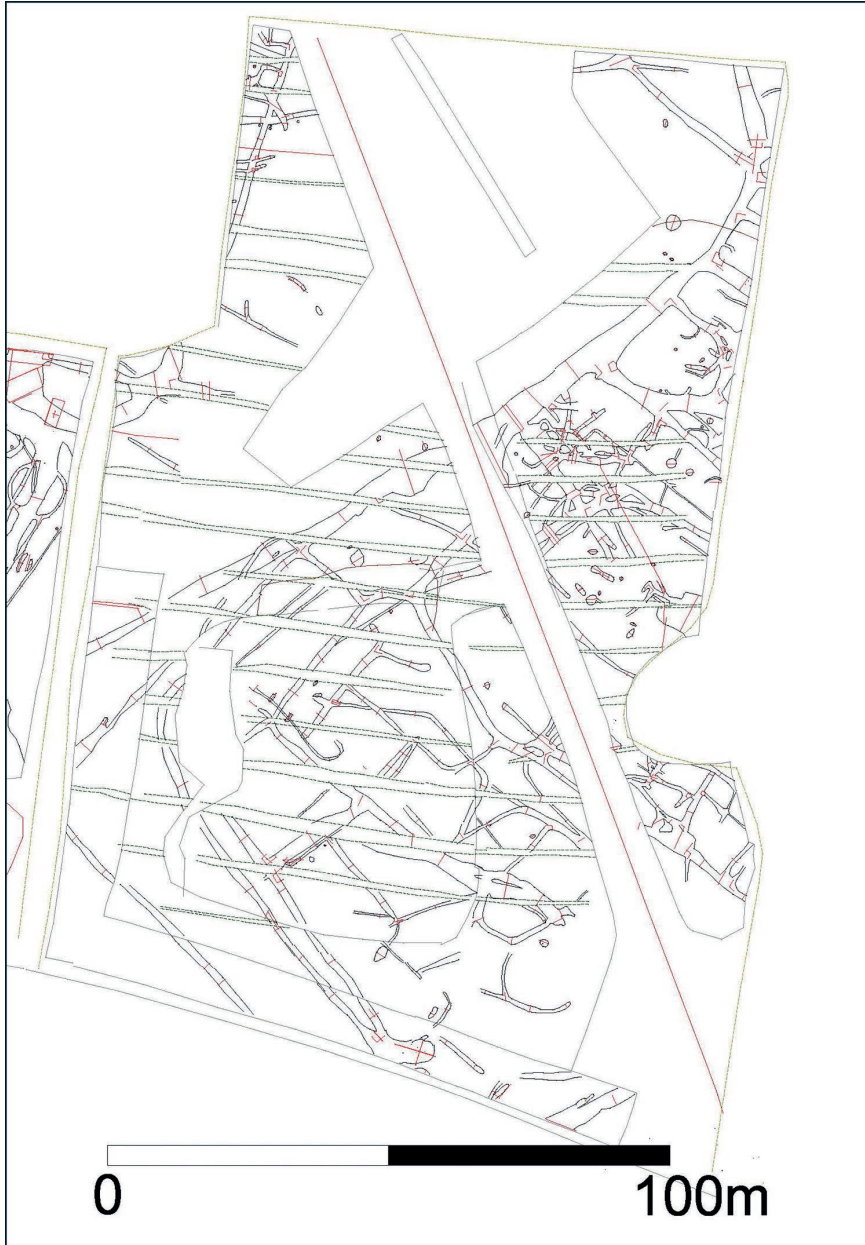


Fig. 11. Plan of Roman activity below later furrows, at Burnmill Road, Market Harborough.

The 2020 work took place in the eastern field and was characterised by a series of small adjoining enclosures, linked to a substantial ditch running north-east–south-west. The enclosures were occupied by dense, complex multiphase occupation dating to the first to third century and indicative of a Roman ladder settlement. The activity comprised of further ditched enclosures ancillary to the settlement to the north-east. Highlights included a further two inhumation burials, located in the upper fills of ditches on the peripheries of the occupation area. One adult was buried supine and in a seemingly constricted position, with his/her legs bent backwards to the torso. A third ditched burial comprised a butchered sheep carcass lacking any limbs. X.A129.2017.

Market Harborough, 14 High Street (SP 73242 87257)

Andrew Hyam

An archaeological watching brief was undertaken by ULAS during the groundworks in advance of residential development on land to the rear of 14 High Street. The work revealed an 11m-long stone-built wall, which is likely to belong to a former plot boundary wall. This dry-stone structure used a large quantity of dressed ferruginous limestone, which appears to have been taken from an earlier mortar-bonded building. Close to the northern end of the boundary wall were the remains of the corner of a well-built building, which may have been the source of stone for the boundary wall. It is possible that the corner belonged to a stable, as there are a number of other similar structures within the back yard plots facing onto High Street. Finds recovered from within the boundary wall include pottery from between the sixteenth and nineteenth centuries, along with clay pipe fragments from the eighteenth century. X.A38.2020.

Market Harborough, north of Tymecrosse Gardens (SP 72566 88402)

Georgia Day

An archaeological trial trench evaluation was undertaken by ULAS on land north of Tymecrosse Gardens, in advance of a residential development. An L-shape trench was opened to evaluate the survival of evidence relating to a windmill mound. The trench revealed the construction of the mill mound to comprise four consecutive layers of material above the natural substratum. The upper fill contained a single sherd of stoneware dating to the nineteenth century. Elsewhere in the trench a trackway associated with the perimeter of the mill mound was located. It also revealed a substantial ditch to the north-east of the mill mound; this was visible at ground level and extended around the north and north-east edges of the mill mound, continuing down the slope of the hill to the south-east. This was likely created as a by-product of quarrying to generate material to build the mill mound, and filled by a deposit containing late eighteenth and nineteenth-century pottery and glass sherds. This ditch was shown to cut an earlier, pre-existing ditch that extended beyond the limit of excavation. X.A112.2020.

Measham, 6 Queens Street (SK 33412 12323)*Nathan Flavell*

An archaeological trial trench evaluation was undertaken by ULAS. The three trenches excavated revealed a number of ditches, gullies and pits, probably dating to the later post-medieval period, with brick and tile suggesting that some of these may be related to the demolition of outbuildings associated with the farm. X.A85.2020.

Melton Mowbray, Leicester Road (SK 741 176)*Martyn Allen*

In 2018, Oxford Archaeology undertook an archaeological excavation in advance of housing development at Leicester Road, 1.9km south-west of the centre of Melton Mowbray. The excavation revealed the remains of a Romano-British double-ditched rectilinear enclosure. The enclosure was identified during previous geophysical survey and evaluation trenching of the site, which also detected the remains of a larger, possibly nucleated Iron Age settlement that lay within the development boundary about 300m to the north. Investigation of the Iron Age settlement has been undertaken independently of the excavation of the Romano-British enclosure (*TLAHS* 93, 265–8).

Pottery from the enclosure dates the period of occupation at the site to the second and third centuries AD, and it was probably abandoned around the turn of the fourth century. Initially, the distinctive plan of the enclosure gave the impression that it was unusual in a settlement context and thus possibly had a ritual/religious function. However, features within the enclosure were fairly limited and there was no evidence that the enclosure was a shrine. Artefacts were comparatively lacking, and there was no sign of structured deposits or votive finds that might suggest a ritual site. Instead, charred plant remains indicated that cereal processing was a primary concern of the inhabitants, while the more limited animal bone assemblage supported the interpretation of a small, if slightly enigmatic farmstead. There was evidence that local arable cultivation was expanding onto the less fertile heavy clays nearby, and there were also signs that hay meadows may have been managed for livestock husbandry.

Overall, the site is significant in a regional context. Its plan is fairly unique if not unknown, but it importantly contributes to the understanding of settlement types around Melton Mowbray, and potentially within the wider hinterland surrounding the civitas capital at Leicester (*Ratae Corieltavorum*) during the middle Roman period. X.A6.2019.

Melton Mowbray, Scalford Road,(SK 75250 20123)*Daniel Firth,
Daniele Pirisino*

An evaluation by Cotswold Archaeology identified an undated ditch. Police excavation of a burial identified during demolition works identified skeletal remains later radiocarbon dated to AD 635–85. A worked flint broadly attributable to the prehistoric period and a sherd of probable Roman pottery were recovered from the grave fill. X.A59.2019.

Melton Mowbray, St Bartholomew's Way (SK 7405 2105) *Andrew Simmonds,
Steve Teague*

Between August and October 2018, Oxford Archaeology excavated a middle Iron Age settlement in advance of a residential development at St Bartholomew's Way, Melton Mowbray. The initial phase of activity comprised a boundary ditch with adjoining rectilinear enclosures. This was superseded by a settlement situated within a square ditched enclosure, which contained a sub-enclosure and evidence for a single roundhouse. Unusually, the enclosure had its entrance at the corner and was linked to a trackway by means of a short, ditched passageway. Evidence for the agricultural regime included wheat and barley, and the community also reared sheep/goat and cattle with smaller numbers of horse and pigs. The excavation produced a moderately large pottery assemblage that belongs to the Scored Ware tradition, dated to the third to first centuries BC, and radiocarbon dates were obtained with ranges of 365–200 cal BC and 360–120 cal BC (at 95 per cent confidence). The latter date came from a human skull fragment that was recovered from the enclosure ditch, and which may be evidence for the deliberate manipulation and ultimate deposition of defleshed human remains within the settlement. Two quernstones placed at opposite corners of a subsidiary enclosure adjoining the trackway, one of them associated with a jar that was apparently smashed *in situ*, may also represent evidence for ritual deposition. X.A83.2018.

Melton Mowbray, Sysonby Farm (SK 74530 21049) *Adam Clapton*

An archaeological trial trench evaluation, consisting of 70 trenches, was undertaken by ULAS on 18ha of land on the northern edge of Melton Mowbray, in advance of a residential development. A small area of archaeology was found on a plateau of high ground in the north of the site, close to earlier discoveries by ULAS. A series of structural post-holes were found, possibly part of a larger circular post-built structure. A pair of adjacent ditch terminals were also recorded, indicating an entrance into at least one enclosure in the area. Two more pits and three smaller post-holes were also excavated. Pottery recovered from features indicates a mid-late first century AD date, with some possibility of extension into the second century. Other finds included fired clay indicating wattle and daub structures, a large piece of iron fayalite hearth slag indicative of iron forging, and charred plant remains suggesting crop processing in the immediate area. X.A3.2020.

MIRA Technology Park (SK 36915 96987) *Ian Reeds*

Work has finished at the MIRA Technology Park, monitoring the topsoil strip in advance of the construction of a new automatic vehicle high-speed handling test track. In total just over 33ha of land has been stripped under archaeologically controlled conditions, with a number of interesting features showing in the northern sector in the form of silted up field ponds of an unknown date; one had a furrow cutting the upper fill. A systematic metal detector sweep of each area prior to the topsoil being removed, and then of the exposed furrows once it was removed (in

addition to the intensive metal detector survey that was carried out by ULAS in June 2019), produced a number of finds, but none can be directly attributed to the 1485 battle without further lab analysis. There was no further battle-related evidence seen, which does suggest that this was the very extremity of the field of action in August 1485. Later, conflict evidence was evidenced by wires that had been sunk into the ground seen a number of times in the central area. These could possibly be the remains of a communication system and relate to the Second World War airfield directly next door to the site. X.A8.2020.

North Kilworth, Church Street, Church of St Andrew (SP 6160 8319)

Neil Finn

An archaeological watching brief was undertaken by A&BH, during external drainage works at the Church of St Andrew. Within a surface water drainage trench (excavated around the organ chamber on the south side of the chancel) was a ditch that contained a large assemblage of early Roman pottery and a number of loom weights of Iron Age type. Analysis of these finds suggests that they were deposited over a short period of time during the middle decades of the first century AD, between about AD 30–60, immediately before or soon after the Roman Conquest of Britain. These remains indicate the existence of a previously unknown settlement of Late Iron Age/Early Roman date in the immediate vicinity of the church. The groundwork uncovered a sculpted design on the east face of the lowest quoin at the north-east corner of the north aisle. This was a depiction of a human figure, possibly intended to represent a knight holding a shield and wearing a helmet with visor, although this interpretation is open to question. This may date from the fourteenth century, when the north aisle was constructed, or could possibly be earlier. Two inhumation burials were encountered during excavation for the soakaway located on the north side of the church. No finds were recovered, but these burials were presumably medieval or later in date. Decayed wood fragments at the base of the soakaway, located on the south side of the church, may have been the remains of a coffin, although no human remains were exposed. A few fragments of charnel were also found in the course of the groundwork. All of the human remains were reburied within the churchyard. A stone and brick foundation at the north-east corner of the north porch may have been associated with a railing or post-and-chain fence enclosing a grave or monument, probably dating from the nineteenth century. X.A19.2019.

North Kilworth, Ivy House (SK 6160 8336)

Donald Clark

An archaeological strip, map and sample was undertaken by ULAS on 255m² of land opposite Ivy House. An undated pit, and a post-medieval pathway, were identified and recorded. X.A4.2020.

North Kilworth, Nether Hall, Church Street (SP 61626 83248) *Donald Clark*

An archaeological trial trench evaluation was carried out by ULAS prior to groundworks associated with the construction of a basement. The excavation revealed a gully cutting through natural orange-brown stony clay. The gully was fully excavated, but no dating evidence was recovered. X.A41.2020.

Oadby, Gartree Road (SK 46874 301907)*Tim Higgins*

An excavation has been undertaken by ULAS, in advance of residential development. The work revealed a first century AD farmstead, which extended south-westward from the Gartree Road into the site (Figure 12). This work follows an archaeological evaluation undertaken in 2018 by Cotswold Archaeology. The site is located directly to north-west of the University of Leicester Recreation Ground, where excavations in 1996 revealed an Early Roman circular structure with stone foundations and wall foundations for a rectangular apsidal building.

The farmstead settlement is bound to the north by Gartree Road, which is a Roman road, and is thought to have run from Leicester and headed in a south-east direction towards Medbourne, eventually joining Ermine Street. The earliest activity consists of boundary ditches, dating to the mid-first century AD. In a later phase an east-west boundary ditch appears to be removed and replaced by four large adjoining sub-enclosures to create a farmstead. Overall excavations identified at least seven potential roundhouses or buildings within the farmstead. They were grouped around or placed inside the sub-enclosures. All of the buildings were located towards the centre and south-west corner of the settlement. A complete pottery vessel was found in one of the gully's terminal. Four of the buildings were typical roundhouse designs with south-east facing entrances, whilst two of the buildings appear to be 'D' shape structures. Another potential building appears to be radically different from the other potential structures, as it is sub-rectangular in shape. It also has two potential entrances, with one located on the south-east corner and a second in the north-west corner. Towards the north-east corner, the settlement broadly consists of two large sub-rectangular enclosures. One of the enclosures was located on the east side of the site and appeared to be extending eastward off the site under B582 road. To the north was a second enclosure that extended northwards off site towards the Gartree Road.

Between the two enclosures were a scatter of features that included large storage pits, in which one of them contained significant pottery assemblages and loom weights. Some heat-cracked stone features contained struck flint, indicating earlier activity in a part of the site which naturally infilled with water. Features with heat-cracked stone most likely date to this phase. The area was reworked as a larger monument with a series of water pits surrounded by a U-shaped metalled surface. Evidence suggests that this occurred in the Iron Age, perhaps contemporary with the domestic activity in the environs. Just to the east a large shallow pit, probably for sand extraction, produced Roman material.

The farmstead settlement changed from generally an open settlement, to one that is sub-divided by a late north-south orientated boundary ditch. During the later



Fig 12. First-century activity at Gartree Road, Oadby.

Roman period the settlement appears to be abandoned, with numerous large quarry pits excavated in the north-east corner of the site. The quarry pits have truncated parts of the northern enclosure close to the Gartree Road. These were back filled and sealed under a spread of Roman features, which included large pits and substantial post-holes that contained significant quantities of pottery sherds. These features perhaps suggest the encroachment of another potential Roman settlement that spreads eastward off site under the B582 road. X.A21.2020.

Rothley, 11 North Street (SK 5835 1269)

Sean Cook

An archaeological evaluation was undertaken by One Ten Archaeology at the former St John's Ambulance site, in advance of a commercial development. An earlier desk-based assessment showed that by the late eighteenth century the area had become partly developed, with a large house occupying the corner between

North Street and Woodgate Street. Two cottages, one constructed with local stone in the eighteenth century and the other in the nineteenth century with brick, were later added to the south of the building. The partial remains of these structures were revealed within one of the evaluation trenches near the street frontage. Cartographic and photographic sources show that this range of buildings had been demolished by the second half of the twentieth century. A series of features were recorded in the south-west area of the site; two of these comprised two closely aligned nineteenth or twentieth-century linear ditches, probably associated with former rear property boundaries. A single sherd of residual medieval pottery within one of these fills indicated some background medieval activity.

Sapcote, Castle Moat, Bassett Lane (SP 48700 93200)

Leon Hunt

An archaeological evaluation was undertaken by ULAS in advance of a proposed development. The site lies close to the site of the medieval motte and bailey Sapcote Castle, which now lies under a modern playing field. The site lies 200m to the south-east of the castle and lies on land once associated with the local Rectory. A large ornamental pond is shown on early maps of the village, within the proposed development area. The Historic Environment Record for the area lists the pond as most likely post-medieval. However, due to its proximity to the castle, it may be medieval in date. The evaluation was intended to find evidence for this pond, along with possible environmental data and dating evidence. A total of four larger trenches were to be excavated across the garden to cover the footprint of the proposed buildings, and the site of the former pond. However, access around garden features and the depth of the trenches, combined with water ingress, reduced the evaluation to seven small trenches. Despite the reduction in size and coverage, all the proposed footprints were covered and evidence of the pond, as a thick humic layer, was observed in many of the trenches, along with a deep layer of made-up ground above. No other archaeological features were observed, and it was not possible to carry out sampling for environmental data. X.A6.2020.

Sapcote, Hinckley Road (SP 4830 9343)

Lawrence Billington

Between January and June 2019, Oxford Archaeology carried out archaeological excavations to the south of Hinckley Road in Sapcote. Three separate excavation areas were investigated, covering a total of 1.7ha. Evidence for prehistoric activity was restricted to a small quantity of residual flintwork and a single pi, which contained late Bronze Age/early Iron Age pottery. Most of the features revealed by the excavations related to Romano-British activity, with a set of conjoined rectangular enclosures representing a long-lived, relatively low-status Romano-British farmstead. Although no structural remains were found, a small, ditched enclosure may have represented a building compound. The enclosures were associated with a number of discrete pits, including a large well.

The finds assemblages from the enclosure ditches and associated features included over 300 sherds of Roman pottery, dating from the mid-first to fourth

century AD. The fills of several pits within and around the enclosures produced evidence for crop processing and smithing, as well as assemblages of fired clay and reused ceramic building material, probably representing the remains of ovens. The most notable individual find was a large fragment of quernstone bearing an unusual grooved decoration, recovered from one of the enclosure ditches. Roman activity at the site seems to have ended in the fourth century. Later activity is represented by a single pit containing a small quantity of Anglo-Saxon pottery, and the remains of extensive medieval to post-medieval ridge and furrow cultivation. X.A7.2019.

Scraptoft, Beeby Road (SK 6490 0614)

Robbie Austrums

An aerial photogrammetry survey was conducted by SUMO Services Ltd on land west of Beeby Road, Scraptoft. The survey recorded ridge and furrow, as well as numerous features that are likely to relate to a Second World War prisoner-of-war camp.

Shawell, Shawell Quarry (SK 4814 1778)

Andrew McLeish

An archaeological excavation of 17ha was undertaken by ULAS in advance of quarry extension to the west. One area on a ridge revealed evidence for a mid-late Iron Age settlement, consisting of a cluster of four roundhouses along with fragments of another two, indicative of at least two phases of occupation (Figure 13). Accompanying these were an enclosure/boundary ditch which had evidence for two phases. In another area at the bottom of the ridge, Roman activity consisting of enclosures and drainage channels were revealed. Pottery from the features date to the late first to second century; these field systems or paddocks are likely associated with the Roman town of Tripontium to the south-east, and possible ribbon development along Watling Street to the immediate west. Any potential roadside Roman building activity lay under the verge of the A5 and the topsoil bunds for the extraction area. X.A94.2019.

Stockerston, Stone Cottage (SP 8376 9754)

Georgia Day

An archaeological watching brief was undertaken during groundworks associated with the erection of a two-storey rear extension to the rear of Stone Cottage. Excavations revealed the remains of the stone wall foundations of a medieval building/room, including a possible doorway. The works also revealed a make-up layer within the interior of the structure overlain by the remains of a floor surface or occupation layer, which was dated to between AD 1100 and 1400 by pottery sherds. The occupation layer or floor surface showed signs of repair, and also contained a burnt semi-circular feature comprising heat-affected stone and compacted burnt remains, which may indicate the location of a possible hearth or fireplace. A demolition event associated with the dismantling of the building was identified and dated to the early nineteenth century.

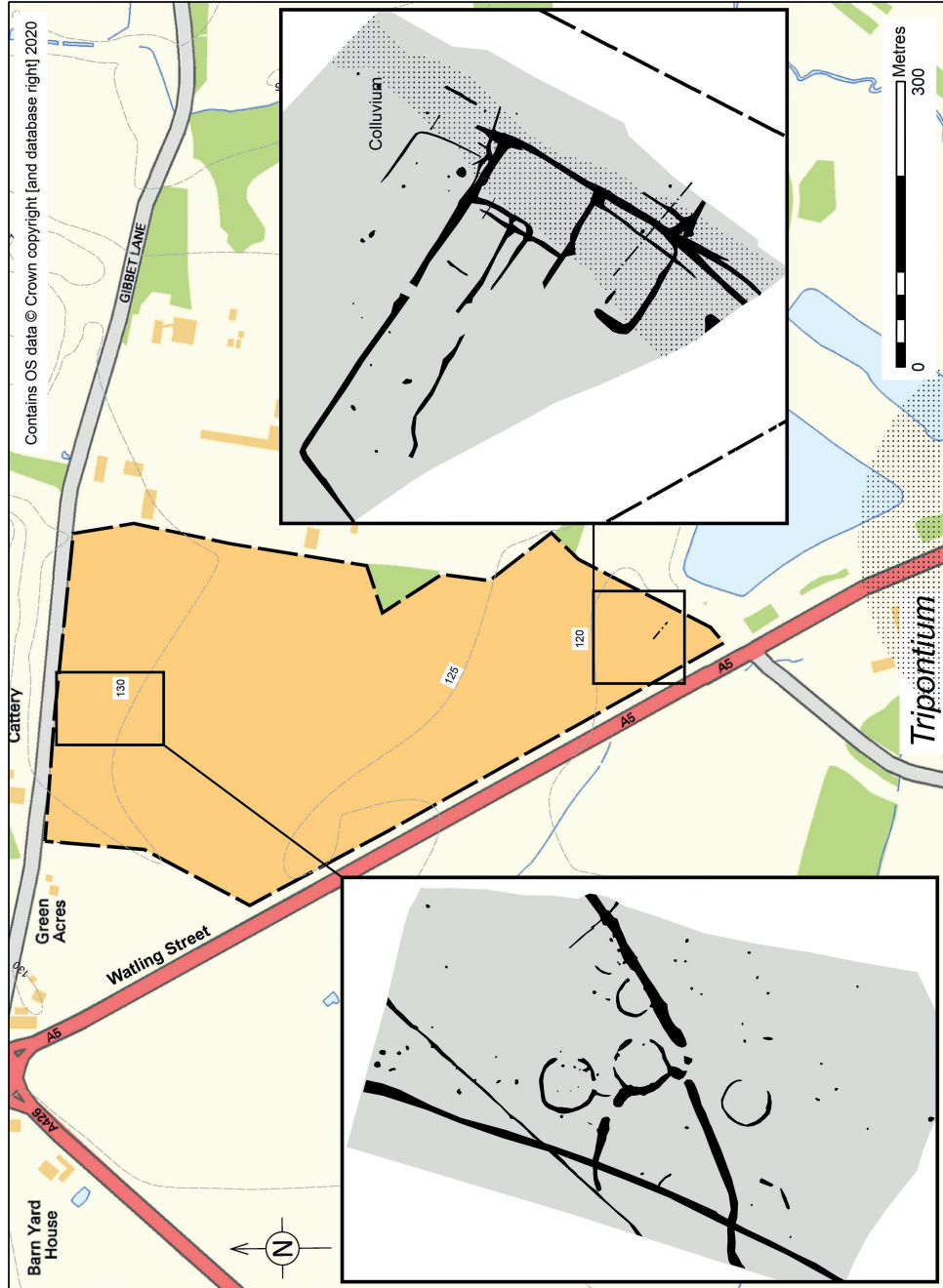


Fig. 13. Plan of Iron Age and Roman activity at Shawell Quarry.

Sutton Cheney, Hangman's Hall (SP 41896 99259)*Matthew Beamish,
Donald Clark*

An archaeological metal-detecting survey was undertaken by ULAS and members of the Ambion Historical and Archaeological Research Group. Hangman's Hall and the surrounding fields, approx. 62ha, lie at the north-east end of the Bosworth Battlefield, as identified by an extensive metal-detector survey in 2013. A new solar farm installation has been proposed for the area and the survey was intended to identify potential archaeological deposits. A total of 307 small finds were recorded during the survey. The finds ranged in date from Roman to modern. X.A82.2020.

Swannington, Califat Colliery (SK 4123 1717)*Leicestershire Industrial
History Society*

Swannington Heritage Trust and the Leicestershire Industrial History Society have been carrying out monthly excavations of the coal mine buildings since June 2006. The work has included consolidation of the mining buildings and excavation of the miner's cottages.

Swinford, Lutterworth Road (SP 5688 8168)*Rebecca Fradgley*

A detailed magnetometer survey was undertaken by SUMO over approximately 30ha of land. Several linear and curvilinear anomalies of possible archaeological interest have been mapped; they may relate to known Roman settlement immediately to the west. Linear and discrete anomalies of uncertain origin are present in the data, along with remains of historic field boundaries, ridge and furrow cultivation and old ponds.

Tugby, Hallaton Road (SK 76331 00814)*Jen Browning*

An archaeological excavation was undertaken by ULAS on land off Hallaton Road. The work revealed ditches, gullies, pits and post-holes predominantly dating to third and fourth century AD, and representing peripheral settlement activity. The intercutting ditches and gullies suggest that the excavated area comprised an extensive water management system on the site, renewed on a regular basis, perhaps to alleviate issues with silting and keep the area habitable. X.A5.2020.

Tugby, Hallaton Road, The Mead (SK 76286 00800)*Steve Baker*

An archaeological trial trench evaluation was undertaken by ULAS on land at The Mead in advance of residential development. A single trench was opened; this revealed a substantial ditch and a gully, yielding pottery of Romano-British date and animal bone, and two undated linear features that could be projected from the adjacent land. X.A61.2020.

Tugby, Main Street, Whiteacres (SK 76052 00821)*Roger Kipling*

An archaeological trial trench evaluation was undertaken by ULAS on land at Whiteacres in advance of residential development. Three trenches were opened; one revealed a single post-medieval ditch and associated spread, the former likely representing either a field ditch or demarcating the rear boundary of the Main Street property. X.A57.2020.

Historic Building Recording**Appleby Magna, 14–16 Top Street (SK 3175 0971)***Gerwyn Richards*

A photographic historic building survey was undertaken by Archaeological Building Recording Services (ABRS) due to the removal of the external render. The building is a traditionally built residential property, believed to date from the seventeenth century. Removal of the render on no. 14 revealed mullioned windows on the ground and first floor. There was alteration to the ground floor, with a potentially blocked door to the south-west and the current door potentially inserted into a window opening. There was apparently a straight join between 14 and 16, suggesting the two are not contemporary. The gable of no. 16 had undergone significant repair; the groundfloor consists of poorly executed repair, with a twentieth-century door and casement window. The first and second floor was constructed of twentieth-century brick, the original structure having collapsed in a storm in 1962.

Blaby, Bouskell Park Ice House (SP 57160 97640)*Andrew Hyam*

A level 2 historic building survey and watching brief was undertaken by ULAS, in advance of a proposed programme of structural repairs to the nineteenth-century ice house. The brick-built ice house is Grade II-listed and lies close to a small pond which was the source of winter ice. Both were once within the grounds of nearby Blaby Hall, but now form park of Bouskell Park which is a publicly accessible space. A construction date of 1843 is given for the ice house, which coincides with a late eighteenth and early nineteenth-century phase of rebuilding at Blaby Hall. The ice house consists of a simple domed circular structure with an arched entrance tunnel. Insulation was provided by a double skin of brickwork with a thick covering of clay excavated from the adjacent ice pool. The watching brief was undertaken whilst the entrance tunnel was being repaired and reconstructed, following a partial rebuild in the 1990s.

Claybrooke Parva, Claybrooke Hall (SP 49586 88038)*Andrew Hyam*

A level 2 historic building survey was undertaken by ULAS of the cellar and north facing elevation, and an archaeological strip map and sample was carried out in advance of a proposed orangery with a basement swimming pool. The site consists of the Grade II-listed eighteenth and early nineteenth-century Claybrooke Hall with

a garden area around it. The proposed orangery will be built to the northern, rear side of the Hall. Access to the swimming pool will be via the existing Hall cellar, with access to the orangery being from the ground floor of the Hall. Excavation within the stripped footprint of the orangery revealed a probable early nineteenth century-vaulted brick drain and another stone-capped brick-built drain. The base of a stone wall of probable similar date was also observed, along with a small brick-lined drain running beneath it and connected to the vaulted drain. An undated, but probable post-medieval, burnt deposit containing brick and coal ash was cut by the vaulted drain. Two undated possible garden features of late nineteenth or early twentieth century date were found in the north-west of the site.

Drayton, 8 Hall Lane (SK 8301 9211)

Neil Finn

A level 2 historic building survey was undertaken by Trigpoint Conservation & Planning Ltd, of an outbuilding adjoining the rear of The Cottage, 8 Hall Lane. The Cottage is an eighteenth-century three-unit ironstone house with thatched roof. The adjoining outbuilding was probably constructed around the same time as the house, although it incorporates part of an earlier structure associated with a neighbouring property. The study building was altered around 1900, when the original thatched roof was replaced by a lightweight softwood roof structure covered in corrugated iron. This involved alterations to the west wall and the south (front) wall seems to have been rebuilt at the same time. The new roof structure was later modified with the removal of two trusses at the east end and addition of a hip. Further alterations were made in 1987, when the eastern half of the building was converted into a study and utility room. A series of round-headed openings in the south front were introduced at that time. A greenhouse located against the west end of the study building includes brickwork that may be the remnant of an earlier lean-to structure.

Fleckney, Main Street, Manor Works (SP 6478 9346)

*Maria Stockdale,
Harvey Tesseyman*

A historic building survey was undertaken by Allen Archaeology Ltd in advance of the demolition of existing buildings and the erection of three dwellings at Manor Works. The buildings comprise a central two-storey structure, with later single-storey extensions to the north and south. The two-storey structure is likely to have been present since the later nineteenth century, with the smaller extensions probably dating to the first half of the twentieth century. The extension to the south appears to have replaced an earlier building, removed prior to 1929, and was present by 1963. The buildings are located in an area historically associated with the hosiery industry. There is no evidence for domestic occupation, and they may originally have been stores or industrial buildings. X.A80.2019.

Hallaton, Churchgate, Hallaton Grange (SP 78728 96510) *Andrew Hyam*

A level 2 historic building survey was carried out by ULAS at Hallaton Grange, focusing on elements within the house scheduled for alteration during a proposed programme of works. Internal alterations include the re-instatement of an earlier staircase and the removal of inserted internal walls. Hallaton Grange is Grade II listed and has a construction date of 1691, with a large extension added to the rear in the eighteenth century. Later additions and modifications have taken place in subsequent years. At present the second floor has limited access and is therefore little used, which has contributed towards the survival of parts of the servant's quarters including boarded partition walls with leaded windows.

Husbands Bosworth, 31 & 33 High Street (SK 6432 8431) *Gerwyn Richards*

A level 2 historic building survey was undertaken by ABRS. The historical and cartographic sources suggest that the buildings originated as a pre-enclosure village farm, the house fronting the High Street and outbuildings to the rear. A straight joint between no. 31 and 33 suggests the two are not contemporary. The survey recorded sufficient evidence to indicate that no. 31 dates to the mid-eighteenth century, but with potentially an earlier core. Extensive internal works have removed the majority of the historical or architectural features within no. 33. The building is likely to have undergone nineteenth and early twentieth-century remodelling; this remodelling also included the possible additional second floor. X.A117.2019.

Leire, Little Lane, Poplar Farm (SP 52548 89881) *Michael Lobb*

A level 3 historic building survey was undertaken by Trent and Peak Archaeology at Poplar Farm. The building forms the south range of an open courtyard and is orientated east–west, with the principal entrances to the building facing north into the courtyard. The main access is from Little Lane to the west. The building represents a mixed-use agricultural range comprising a stable block and hayloft, with a collection of storage/workshop rooms and a possible frame-knitting workshop. The possible presence of this workshop adds to the significance of the building, as these are poorly documented outside of purpose-built frame-knitter's cottages.

Lubbesthorpe, Bridle Road, Abbey Farm (SK 54241 01042) *Andrew Hyam*

A level 3 historic building survey was undertaken by ULAS at Abbey Farm, in advance of a proposed residential redevelopment and refurbishment of the existing farmhouse and associated farm buildings. The site consists of a farmhouse and its agricultural buildings, which are focused around a large courtyard and smaller foldyard. Externally the farmhouse consists of two key phases dating to the late eighteenth to early nineteenth century, with mid to later nineteenth century alterations. However, a surviving area of stone wall on the south-western side of the house suggests that the building has earlier origins that may belong to the manor house. Internally, a probable sixteenth-century truncated roof structure survives

within the later nineteenth-century shell. The timber roof structure consists of a single bay, but sawn-off purlins indicate that it was likely to have been at least two bays in length. Most of the barns and agricultural buildings are from the same mid to later nineteenth century date as the farmhouse alterations. A two-storey former threshing barn has an earlier initial construction date, which is likely to be late eighteenth to early nineteenth century, with mid to late nineteenth century modifications. It is also on the same alignment as the timber roof structure, which might suggest that it sits on earlier foundations. X.A90.2020.

Orton on the Hill, Pipe Lane, Lower Farm (SK 3051 0365) *Richard Cherrington*

A level 2 historic building survey was undertaken by Benchmark Archaeology at Lower Farm. Two agricultural buildings were to be converted to dwellings, but one had been demolished prior to the fieldwork taking place. Building A is of probable late eighteenth to early nineteenth century date, with late nineteenth to twentieth-century alterations. The building was probably originally designed as a small cowhouse, used for milking and/or housing up to four cows.

Sapcote, Leicester Road, Mill Bank House (SP 49818 93327) *Andrew Hyam*

A photographic historic building survey was undertaken by ULAS at the later nineteenth-century brick-built Mill Bank House. Mill Bank House has close associations with the adjacent Sapcote Quarry. The style and building materials used suggest that the house was built around 1860–80 and is shown in its current form on the First Edition Ordnance Survey map of 1886. The main part of Mill Bank House is of a single phase, with some small additions being made to the rear outbuildings. The internal rooms of the house appear to have remained largely unchanged since its construction date. Most doors and windows are likely to be part of the original build.

Thurlaston, Normanton House Farm (SK 4843 9847) *Michael Lobb*

A historic building survey was undertaken by T&PA in advance of the demolition of several outbuildings and the erection of an extension on the main house at Normanton House Farm. The buildings compose of an agricultural yard and ranges typical of a small dairy/beef farm of the early to mid-nineteenth century. The buildings allow for the housing of horse, and associated carts and implements needed to work the farm, along with a barn and haylofts for storing feed, and cow houses and calf houses for rearing and fattening cattle. It is likely that the farm also had a dairy room, but this was most probably located in the main farmhouse, which was not covered by this survey.

Negative watching briefs & evaluations in Leicestershire
(undertaken by ULAS unless otherwise stated)

Ashby De La Zouch: 11–13 Bath Street (SK 35629 16618); **Blaby:** Yennards Farm (SP 5077 9830, K. Wogan); **Chilcote:** Netherseal Road (SK 2850 1148, Thames Valley Archaeological Services); **Countesthorpe:** Countesthorpe and Leysland Community College (SP 5708 9553, AOC Archaeology); **Desford:** Barns Way (SK 4853 0365); **Desford:** 51 Main Street (SK 47710 03453); **Enderby:** Leicestershire Police HQ (SP 5553 9954); **Frisby by Gaulby:** Rose Retreat (SK 70260 01560); **Gaddesby:** 7 Ashby Road (SK 69062 12747); **Hose:** Dairy Lane (SK 73748 29384); **Hugglescote:** Grange Road (SK 43453 12439); **Kegworth:** Ashby Road (SK 4767 2678, L-P Archaeology); **Ketton:** 52 Luffenham Road (SK 9775 0421, Groundworks Archaeology); **Long Clawson:** Mill Lane (SK 72606 27285); **Lubbesthorpe:** Land parcel R9 (SK 52970 01700); **Market Harborough:** Scott Close (SP 73474 88374); **Newtown Linford:** Hallgates to Field Head (SK 5275 1162, Wessex Archaeology); **Osbaston:** Home Farm, Hall Lane (SK 42573 04417); **Ratby:** Markfield Road (SK 51239 06481); **Seagrave:** 29 King Street (SK 61820 17670); **Seagrave:** 44 King Street (SK 61938 17688); **Stapleford:** Holygate Farm (SK 8213 1666, Headland Archaeology Ltd); **Swinford:** Rugby Road (SP 56738 79249); **Swinford:** Shawell Road (SP 56660 79590); **Tilton on the Hill:** The Old Vicarage, Oakham Road (SK 74420 05640); **Western By Welland:** Home Farm (SP 77625 91565); **West Langton:** 2 The Walled Garden (SP 7146 9309, Archaeological Research Services Ltd); **Whetstone:** Enderby Bridge (SP 5505 9840, Wessex Archaeology).

RUTLAND

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

Tinwell, Crown Lane (TF 0049 0636)

Filipe Santos

An archaeological evaluation of 55 trenches was undertaken by Witham Archaeology at the Crown Inn, Tinwell, in advance of a residential development. The work revealed a possible medieval pit and ditch, two field boundaries possibly from the post-medieval period, a limestone structure, a modern small refuse pit and a large modern truncation, possibly associated with the construction of a cellar in the eastern part of the site. OAKRM:2020.14.

Whissendine, Manor Farm (SK 83501 14349)

Wayne Jarvis

An archaeological evaluation of six trenches was undertaken by ULAS at Manor Farm, in advance of a proposed new residential development. The site lay within the historic core of the village, located within an area of recorded earthworks that probably relate to the historic manorial site.

Results indicated that much disturbance has occurred on site. The east and south area of the site has been truncated in recent times, with a reduction in level of as much as 1.2m and truncation even into natural ground. Survival of archaeological deposits in the east consisted of only deeper cut features. A large north–south ditch was identified along the east edge of the trenching. This did not produce any dating evidence, but environmental results indicated that it held preserved waterlogged organic material. It is most likely that this ditch is associated with an L-shaped earth bank and parallel ditch to the east, which survive outside the current site area to the north. These two features may represent a moat or terrace walk and ditch, being associated with the manorial site. The indication from historic mapping is that the L-shaped bank previously ran through most of the length of the proposed site, but this has been lost due to truncation, with only the ditch feature to the east surviving at below ground level.

In the west half of site survival from truncation was less severe, and numerous features were identified. Here, removal of modern hard standing and make ups exposed a sequence of demolition deposits above a subsoil, which in turn sealed a range of features. These features included gullies or truncated ditches, pits and post-holes; some of which produced pottery indicating an early medieval date. Other material recovered from sample excavation of the features included animal bone, brick and tile, and single finds of metal and flint material. Trenches in the south of the site area also indicated a somewhat truncated sequence, although some features were recorded. These features included a metallised surface, a large dump of early modern material probably backfill into a pond and also make ups for a further surface, both of the latter being indicated on the first edition Ordnance Survey map. OAKRM:2019.20.

Historic Building Recording

Langham, 6A Cold Overton Road (SK 8417 1083)

Russell Trimble

A historic building survey was undertaken by Witham Archaeology prior to the demolition and rebuilding of a post-medieval stone and mud wall. The recorded wall appears to have formed part of a rectangular building or buildings shown on the 1885 and 1904 OS 1:2500 maps. The south-western part of the building or range is not shown on the 1975 OS map and had presumably been demolished earlier in the century. The recording identified an early phase of construction comprising a section of stone and cob walling. The stub of a stone return near the north-eastern part of the wall probably formed part of the gable end of the building, while a similar stub of modern concrete blocks at the opposite end probably formed part of the south-west end wall. The latter was probably erected after part demolition of the structure or structures shown on the 1885 map. OAKRM:2019.21.

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

Barleythorpe: Hackamore Way, Hawksmead Business Park (SP 85378 10148);
Great Casterton: MUGA Great Casterton Church of England School (TF 00030 09194); **Langham:** Cold Overton Road (SK 83900 10880).