

ARCHAEOLOGY IN LEICESTER, LEICESTERSHIRE AND RUTLAND 2021

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 that undertook the fieldwork. For abbreviations, please see below (p. iv). Some entries may relate to fieldwork undertaken before 2021 but not previously reported.

LEICESTER

Braunstone, Church Field (SK 5550 0283) *Braunstone Heritage Action Group*

In October 2021 a geophysical survey (magnetometer) of Braunstone Church Field revealed several potential archaeological features and modern paths. ELC1066.

Knighton, Church of St Mary Magdalen (SK 59970 01220) *Trent & Peak
Archaeology*

Archaeological recording of architectural fragments during the restoration of the spire was undertaken by Trent & Peak Archaeology in March 2021. It was made to identify graffiti and evidence of re-use of material within the spire's fabric. Most of the masonry was identified to be the result of probable nineteenth century restoration, with 1960s work also found. One graffito was identified during the recording 'J.E. 1872'. ELC1068.

Leicester, Aylestone Road (SK 5839 0267) *Andrew McLeish*

An archaeological evaluation was undertaken by University of Leicester Archaeological Services (ULAS) in an open area of hard standing in car park E at Leicester City Football club, adjacent to Aylestone Road, in advance of proposed development. The site lies immediately north of the Raw Dykes Scheduled Monument (Ref: 1017391), interpreted as a possible Roman aqueduct. Two 30m x 4m trenches were excavated across the projected line of the Raw Dykes. One contained heavy modern truncation, although the lower part of the dyke ditch was located below the modern truncation. The second trench located the main channel of the Raw Dyke, along with evidence for partial collapse of both banks subsequent to its silting up. The second trench also picked up evidence for post-medieval activity in the form of a possible quarry pit and a metallised surface, likely the same as identified in earlier trenching by ULAS in 2007. YA15.2021.



Fig. 1. View of the Raw Dykes looking south towards the Scheduled Monument off Aylestone Road.

Leicester, 115 Aylestone Road (SK 58575 03050)

Wayne Jarvis

An archaeological evaluation was undertaken by ULAS for land at the junction with Brazil Street (480m north of the site above), in advance of a proposed new development of student accommodation. The site lies within part of the agricultural hinterland of the Roman and medieval town (known as the 'South Fields' during the medieval period). The projected line of the possible Roman aqueduct known as the 'Raw Dykes' runs through the site along the western side of Aylestone Road, itself a former Roman road. Four trial trenches were excavated across the site, two along the line of the Raw Dykes. The trenches identified both the east and west sides of the channel of the Raw Dykes, indicated by a steep-sided cut feature over 7m wide. A small amount of Roman material was recovered from this, and samples were taken for pollen, waterlogged and charred plant remains. Assessment of these indicated a low density of material with only charcoal being preserved, although only a small part of the channel sequence could be evaluated at this stage. YA2.2021.

Leicester, Beauchamp City Free School (SK 5780 0972)

Claire LaCombe

An archaeological evaluation was undertaken by ULAS in advance of proposed development; 47 trenches were excavated, identifying features in 19 of the trenches.



Fig. 2. 115 Aylestone Road, west side of Raw Dykes ditch, looking south.

Two prehistoric ditches were located, aligned approximately east–west – the northernmost of which is a continuation of a prehistoric ditch excavated recently to the west of the site. A marl pit was also located to the north west of the area. Iron Age pottery and animal bone was recovered from the southernmost boundary ditch, and a secondary flint flake was found within the ditch in the northern boundary. Y.A11.2020.

Leicester, 96 Jarrom Street (SK 5843 0366)

Richard Huxley

An archaeological evaluation consisting of two trenches was undertaken by ULAS on the northern and western sides of the current building. In one trench several deposits of silt were found beneath the modern overburden. The cartographic evidence shows the area to be agricultural land known as South Fields, and the layers of silt containing medieval pottery are probably a series of ancient topsoil layers. A small sondage was dug into the base of the trench and a layer of compact sandy clay was found that could be an ancient subsoil. A greyish yellow sandy silt was found beneath it, which could be the natural substratum. In the western end of the trench a large pit was found dating to the seventeenth century. The base of the feature contained a concentration of butchered animal bones (especially horncores) and is likely connected to primary butchery or tanning. The pit appears to have been waterlogged and could be a tanning

pit, which was deliberately infilled at the end of the seventeenth century. Tanning has been previously identified in the area and the industry was important in Leicester during the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries. To the east of the pit a boundary ditch was also found, which is depicted on Burton's 1844 map of Leicester. The evaluation has shown that prior to the mid-nineteenth century the area has mostly been used for agricultural land; however, the site also contains evidence of the tanning industry during the seventeenth century. Y.A11.2021.

Leicester, 14 Jarvis Street (SK 5810 0477)

Jen Browning

An archaeological evaluation was carried out by ULAS in May 2021, to inform a planning application for a proposed new six-storey building. A single trench produced evidence for medieval and post-medieval features cutting through Roman stratigraphy. A possible mortar floor was seen in the side of an excavated medieval pit, which, along with the recovery of tile and slate, indicates that the remains of Roman buildings could exist within the site itself, in line with excavated evidence from the immediate north, south and west of the proposed development site. The artefactual and environmental evidence was rich, producing a variety of pottery, animal bones (including birds and fish), charred plant remains and industrial residues. The evaluation suggests that both Roman and medieval archaeology was well-preserved and appeared to have been little disturbed by modern intrusions. Y.A9.2021.

Leicester, Jewry Wall (SK 5817 0449)

Wayne Jarvis

An archaeological excavation and watching brief was carried out by ULAS, in advance of the redevelopment of the museum and grounds. The works had the potential to destroy or damage buried archaeological remains associated with the Scheduled Monument of the Jewry Wall Roman baths (list entry number: 1013312), particularly in the area for a new rear lobby, and during the construction of a new access ramp. Additional work consisted of a follow-up watching brief on groundworks for the new lift pit within the museum, the results of which were reported previously (*TLAHS* 94, 240).

For the new rear lobby, assessment of the area took the form of a strip, map and sample excavation. A series of pits produced early Roman pottery of late first or second century date, presumably activity pre-dating the Roman baths. Animal bone indicating primary butchery waste and plant remains were recovered, and also a small amount of metalworking evidence. A robbed out east–west wall-line was also observed, thought to be the line of the north wall of the north portico, and most likely robbed in the medieval period. Further medieval activity was also identified, with some pit-cutting. A design solution to the lobby build was decided upon due to the number of services in the footprint, with the new lobby having a concrete raft foundation rather than footings or a pile solution.

Along the south edge of the site, along the St Nicholas Circle frontage, further Roman material was recovered during a watching brief on the new ramp area. Two mortared walls were exposed: the lower courses of an east–west wall (the upper courses of which are currently displayed), and a north–south wall running almost

perpendicular to this. The north–south wall had at least one tile course of four tiles depth, and is the west wall of the large stone-built channel that encompasses the south and east side of the baths. The east–west wall is thought to be part of the south portico of the bath house. Within the internal angle of these two walls were surviving *opus signinum* floor levels. Stone foundations were also recorded below this level, probably from the partially robbed north-south channel wall. The floor corresponds well with levels seen in the 1930s’ excavations by Kathleen Kenyon, and this survival indicates that stratigraphic deposits remain on site. A modern brick-built well was also recorded adjacent to the St Nicholas Circle frontage. Finds recovered during this work consisted of pottery and remains of several glass vessels of a late first or early second century AD date. YA2.2021.

Leicester, Market Place (SK 58772 04478)

Wayne Jarvis

An Archaeological Watching Brief was carried out by ULAS during a feasibility study for regeneration of the Market Place. The site lies within the Market Place Conservation Area; this was a designated market place from the thirteenth century, and the location of the site suggests the potential for the possible presence of deposits relating to the origins and the development of the medieval market – as well as possible earlier activity. Assessment of the area took the form of eight evaluative trial holes. These were excavated by cutting and by hand to a level of soft ground, then augered by machine to extract core samples for assessment. The cores were exposed on site and recorded. Several deposits were recorded below modern levels, with indications of depths of up to 3.4m before natural ground was reached. A few sherds of pottery were recovered from the cores during recording. From a depth of 2m was recorded a sherd of medieval pottery, and from 3.2m depth a Samian ware sherd was identified in the core sample. YA5.2021, ELC1058.

Leicester, 47–55 Northgate Street (SK 5813 0514)

Steve Baker

An archaeological trial trench evaluation, was carried out by University of Leicester Archaeological Services (ULAS) on land at 47 –55 Northgate Street, Leicester (SK58134 05149) in advance of planning permission for residential use development.

The development site consists of a single-storey retail and commercial use property. A single trench to the rear of the existing building was opened on the site and revealed soil layers and an unexcavated feature of unascertained date cutting the underlying natural sands and gravels. A second proposed trench on the Northgates frontage was abandoned. A8.2021.

Leicester, St Nicholas Walk (SK 58224 04494)

Wayne Jarvis

An Archaeological Evaluation has been carried out by ULAServices, in advance of the proposed installation of a new pedestrian path. The proposed works lie immediately to the east of the ‘Jewry Wall’ bath house within the presumed Roman palaestra, and adjacent to St Nicholas church, a Grade I listed building. Five hand-dug evaluative trial pits were located along the length of the path. A graveyard soil

was identified across the area, just below the path at the south and at progressively deeper levels in the north where it was sealed by modern aggregate making up the level for the path base. In the southernmost trial pit, excavation through this graveyard soil produced a disturbed burial, 0.5m below the current path level. Previous work in the 1930s had identified burials further to the north, the indication being that the graveyard of St Nicholas church originally continued westwards of its modern extent. Disarticulated human bone was also recovered during the current work, and was also reburied on site. It is likely that further burials may survive at shallow depth along the line of St Nicholas Walk.

Adjacent to the west wall of St Nicholas church a modern culvert was exposed in one of the trial pits, and examination inside this indicated that the culvert cut an east–west mortared structure 1.5m to the north of the trial pit. Based on the previous work on site, it is possible that this structure is the south wall of an earlier church, perhaps the original Saxon church of seventh century date. During the current work this structure was observed at a shallow level below current ground level, an additional indication that significant deposits may still survive at superficial depths.

To the north the majority of deposits below the path surface were of a modern date, consisting of levelling and make up layers for the current path surface, with several service trench intrusions also being observed. However, towards the base of two of the northern trial pits, further indications of a soil sequence surviving were recorded, again at a shallow depth.

In addition to the human bone, Roman building material fragments from modern levels were also recovered. Roman pottery recovered consisted of three sherds of grey ware, and a copper alloy dress pin of medieval or later date was also identified from the graveyard soil at the south end of the site. YA1.2021.

Historic Building Recording

Leicester, 97 Church Gate (SK 5862 0495)

Andrew Hyam

A level 2 historic building survey was carried out by ULAS, prior to the proposed demolition of the former factory and night club, and in advance of the construction of a new hotel and apartment complex. The corner of Church Gate and Gravel Street contains the upper two floors of a domestic house likely dating to the first half of the nineteenth century. Most of the ground floor of the house has been incorporated into later twentieth-century buildings. The buildings had a number of uses including a former print works and a large night club. A three-storey former box factory is located along the eastern side of the site. The ground floor of this building has also been amalgamated into the night club. YA14.2021.

Leicester, Raw Dykes Road (SK 5827 0277)

Steve Baker

A level 1 photographic historic building survey was carried out by ULAS at the National Grid building south of Raw Dykes Road. The survey was undertaken in

advance of the proposed demolition of the existing building. The National Grid building consists of a range of long rectangular brick-built buildings, originally constructed as a fuel unloading facility for coal from the railway and canal for the now non-existent nearby power station, dating from the early decades of the twentieth century. It is now used for the repair and refurbishment of National Grid Equipment. YA17.2021.

Leicester Royal Infirmary, Knighton Street Offices (SK 5869 0353) Andrew Hyam

A level 3 historic building survey was carried out by ULAS. The work was commissioned in advance of the proposed demolition of the building as part of a major redevelopment of the site. The locally listed four-storey building was opened in 1910 as the Edward Wood Nurses' Home and was originally built with an E-shaped floor plan. It was designed by Everard, Son & Pick. Gradual redevelopment of the crowded hospital site over the past century has reduced the size of the building, leaving only the easternmost third surviving. Internally the physical structure and layout of the building remains generally unchanged, although almost all fittings relating to its time as a nurses home have been removed. A number of fitted cupboards and wardrobes are still present, as are most doors and fittings. YA13.2021.

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

Abbey Park Road (SK 5867 0605); Ashton Green (SK 5735 0993); Aylestone, Grand Union Canal, Bridge 105 (SK 5681 0091); 19–23 Burleys Way (SK 586 050); 60 Charles Street (SK 5904 0457: ELC1069, Wardell Armstrong); 2–4 Humberstone Gate (SK 58807 04643: ELC1070, Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd); Leicester Castle Business School (SK 5823 0414); Putney Road (SK 58395 02595, ELC1071, Allen Archaeology Ltd); Richard III Road, Castle Mead Academy School (SK 58031 04434, Wessex Archaeology, ELC1067); 37 Welford Road (SK 58712 04038: ELC1072, Trent & Peak Archaeology).

LEICESTERSHIRE

All finds and records are deposited with Leicestershire County Council under the accession number given at the end of each entry (if known). The Leicestershire and Rutland Historic Environment Record 'event ID' (ELE) is also referenced if known.

Barlestone, Barton Road (SK 4194 0572)

D. Pirisino

A trial trench evaluation was undertaken prior to a residential development by Cotswold Archaeology. A total of 11 trenches were excavated, following on from an earlier geophysical survey that identified numerous linear and curvilinear trends. Two linear features of unknown date were identified in the form of a shallow gully and a shallow ditch. In another trench were two post holes, one of which

produced an iron nail of likely post-medieval date. No other artefactual material was recovered. ELE11600.

Barwell, Crabtree Farm (SP 4373 9617)

Deborah Leigh

A trial trench evaluation was undertaken prior to a residential development in February 2021 by Allen Archaeology Limited. The evaluation comprised seven trenches, two contained a ditch, possibly a corner of a possible enclosure feature. Dating evidence was extremely limited, comprising one residual flint, a sherd of medieval pottery and a sherd of very abraded Anglo-Saxon pottery. X.A22.2021, ELE11598.

Barwell, Hinckley Road (SP 4349 9612)

Claire LaCombe

An archaeological strip, map and sample excavation that was carried out by ULAS at a paddock to the south of Hinckley Road, in June 2021, in advance of construction of a new Ménage. The site lies immediately to the west of a rectangular earthwork enclosure believed to represent the remains of a possible medieval moated site. The work revealed three ditches and gullies. Roman pottery, and worked flint and animal bone, was retrieved from the large ditch. X.A52.2021.

Billesdon, Baptist Church (SK 7210 0277)

Roger Kipling

An archaeological watching brief was undertaken by ULAS in June 2021 during groundworking associated with construction of a single-storey extension to the church. The groundworks consisted of the excavation of foundation trenches and reduced level excavation for the new structure. A single-coffined inhumation, burial associated with the church of nineteenth century date was identified but left *in situ*. No finds or other features were identified. X.A66.2021.

Blaby, Bouskell Park (SP 5706 9761)

Mathew Morris, Sofia Picken

In June and July 2021, ULAS, in partnership with Blaby District Council, begun the ‘Buried Bouskell’ project – a community archaeology project to explore in more detail the history of Bouskell Park, a public park on the east side of Blaby; 22 test pits were excavated by over 130 volunteers and local schoolchildren to investigate various large rectangular enclosures and terraces, linear banks and hollows present in the park. Archaeological features were found in six test pits, whilst others were dug through a sequence of topsoil and subsoil. In most areas, ground was reworked in the past, most likely through a combination of agricultural and industrial disturbances (i.e. ploughing, gardening and quarrying) and landscape gardening. This was evident in the assemblage of finds of mixed date spread though the soil in most test pits.

The results from the project have shown that from at least the Roman period through to the twelfth century the park was under arable cultivation. The earthworks appear to form a series of medieval enclosures, probably the remains of tofts and crofts that would have fronted on to the road to the west of the park with open field

to the east. These represent expansion of the village in the thirteenth and fourteenth centuries. Activity in the different enclosures remains unclear, but cobbled surfaces, possible stone walls and ‘midden’ areas represent backyard activities alongside pastoral and arable agriculture. Settlement in the park appears to have been deserted by the end of the fourteenth century and from the fifteenth century onwards the land was given over to permanent pasture. In the post-medieval period, part of the park was quarried, probably a clay pit for local brick production. This was filled in before the park was landscaped as a Victorian pleasure ground in the mid-nineteenth century. More recent finds, mostly glass and plastic, represent current use of the park as public recreational space. X.A37.2020, ELE11570.

Braughton Astley, Sutton in the Elms Baptist Church (SP 52115 93767)

Wayne Jarvis

An archaeological watching brief was carried out by ULAS during the erection of a single-storey side and rear extensions, and alterations to existing buildings. The Sutton Elms Baptist Church is a Grade II listed building (NHLE 1360700). The groundworks consisted of minor reduced level works in the south of the site and the excavation of foundation trenches for the new structures. A brick-built well was identified in the north-east corner of the site, adjacent to the standing building to the east. This is probably related to a pump recorded on historic mapping. Across the surrounding area a cobbled surface was also identified. Footings from earlier phases of the modern structures were seen. No finds or other features were identified. X.A4.2021.

Church Langton, Church Causeway (SP 7255 9312)

Roger Kipling

An archaeological trial trench evaluation and subsequent excavation was carried out by ULAS on land east of Church Causeway in Autumn 2021. The work was undertaken for a proposed residential development. Previous desk-based assessment and geophysical survey had highlighted the potential for archaeological deposits to be present within the application area. The evaluation identified archaeology in two areas. The archaeological excavation produced features of Late Iron Age and transitional Iron Age and Roman date.

The follow-up programme comprised open area excavation conducted across two areas (Areas 1 & 2), which provided indications of moderate density of archaeological activity. Area 1 featured a curvilinear ditch from which a secondary linear branched off and was subsequently truncated by a ditch terminal or pit. Pottery from this and other features suggested a Late Iron Age to mid-first century AD date range. Area 2 was more densely occupied, the principal feature consisting of a ditch running diagonally north-east to south-west across the excavation, before terminating or being truncated in the vicinity of a group of undated pits. The former was subsequently cut by a ditch terminal containing a deposit of three quern stones and Mid to Late Iron Age pottery. The remains of the three querns were recovered from a single context, suggesting this was a deliberately placed deposit, similar to Pit 7 from the 1967 excavations at Burrough Hill (TLAHS 86, 2012, 74–5, figs.

21–23). This beehive quern is very similar to that recovered from Burrough Hill Iron Age hillfort, which was manufactured in Millstone Grit from the Peak District (*ibid.*, 94–6, fig. 31.60).

Environmental samples and faunal evidence from the excavation was largely inconclusive, but the pottery recovered appears to reinforce the conclusions from the evaluation phase that Area 2 points to low-level domestic occupation dating to the Mid to Late Iron Age, and that Area 1 is slightly later and dates to the Late Iron Age/Early Roman Transitional period. The recovery of a small assemblage of residual flint tools points to activity on the site during the Late Neolithic or Early Bronze Age period. X.A80.2021; X.A103.2021.

Coalville, Cartwright Way (SK 4559 1198)

Mick McDaid

An archaeological evaluation by trial trenching was undertaken prior to submission of a planning application for an HGV park, warehouse, workshop and office amenities by Allen Archaeology Limited. The evaluation took place in June and July 2021 and comprised 18 trenches. The trenching exposed a series of linear features in every trench, most likely representing a combination of recent plough scores and possible drainage features, as well as an undated post hole and pit, an undated ditch and another ditch corresponding with a field boundary present on historic maps from the late nineteenth to late twentieth century. X.A63.2021, ELE11509.

Earl Shilton, Breach Lane and Station Road (SP 4634 9681)

Neil Finn

An archaeological area excavation on the site of a former brick works was undertaken by Archaeology & Built Heritage, in advance of an application to develop the site for residential use. The fieldwork was undertaken in two stages: in May (Area A) and October (Area B) 2021.

The excavation uncovered part of a Scotch kiln, the complete plan of a second structure that probably served as a moulding shed, part of a trackway that gave access to the brick works from Station Road, other associated surfaces, and drainage features. Documentary sources indicate that the brick works was established around 1888 by John Edward Cotton and operated into the early years of the twentieth century. The brick works is first illustrated on a 1901 Ordnance Survey map. This shows a complex of buildings likely to include circular and rectangular kilns, a moulding shed and a drying shed, in addition to a well and clay pit. On the subsequent Ordnance Survey map edition, revised in 1914, the brick works is marked as disused, and only the circular kiln and part of the moulding shed were still standing by then. No earlier archaeological remains were identified and all of the excavated features were associated with the brick works. X.A85.2021, ELE11594.

Earl Shilton, land west of Leicester Road (SP 466 984)

John Walford

An archaeological geophysical survey was undertaken by Museum of London Archaeology on *c.*9ha of land on the northern edge of Earl Shilton, prior to a possible submission of a planning application for residential development. The



Fig. 3. Church Langton, ditch terminal with placed quern; view east (0.5m scale).

survey was carried out in February 2021 and identified medieval or later ridge and furrows, as well as former post-medieval field boundaries, which were identified from historic maps. A few other detected anomalies may relate to ditches (or drains) of indeterminate date. Modern features include a pipeline. X.A33.2021.

Fleckney, 32 Main Street (SP 6468 9337)

Groundworks Archaeology

A watching brief was undertaken by Groundworks Archaeology during the groundworks for a new dwelling at 32 Main Street from January to July 2021. The watching brief identified a cobbled surface of likely twentieth century origin within the footprint of the new build plot, but did not identify any other evidence of archaeological activity across the site. The lack of subsoils suggests some measure of past truncation that may have removed any other features. ELE11390.

Frisby on the Wreake, Wreake C of E Primary (SK 6971 1739)

*Povilas
Cepauskas*

A level 2 earthwork survey and trial trench evaluation was undertaken by Headland Archaeology Ltd, in advance of residential development. The trial trenching took

place in January 2021. The 28 trench evaluation uncovered poorly preserved remains of north-west–south-east aligned ridge and furrow in the western field. Post-medieval gullies and pits were also uncovered, together with a small assemblage of post-medieval pottery, a clay pipe fragment and glass. ELE11506.

Gaddesby, Pasture Lane (SK 6909 1357)

Peter Thompson

An archaeological evaluation was carried out by Archaeology Warwickshire, in advance of a residential development, in November 2021. An earlier geophysical survey had detected several linear anomalies, and the evaluation was able to confirm that they reflected underlying archaeological features; namely, a series of ditches. The pottery assemblage was modest, but all the features yielded some pottery and this was largely confined to a single phase of use in the fourth century AD. This later Roman activity appears to represent parts of a bounded field system with a possible trackway. An associated settlement may lie to the east. Ridge and furrow earthworks are present on the site, which illustrate continued agricultural use during the medieval or post-medieval period. X.A109.2021, ELE11597.

Great Bowden, Dingley Road (SP 7485 8880)

Anna Chmielowska

A fluxgate gradiometer survey was undertaken by Magnitude Surveys over an area of c.0.6ha of land, in November 2021. Anomalies suggestive of archaeological activity were identified across the area, in the form of linear ditch features, along with likely ridge and furrow, and several uncertain anomalies. ELE11591.

Great Bowden, Nether Green (SP 7468 8897)

Roger Kipling

An archaeological watching brief was carried out at ULAS on paddock land to the east of Sutton Road during groundworks associated with the construction of a single residential property and vehicular access. Following on from evaluation work in 2017 (TLAHS 92, 2018, 266), the works provided further indications of Roman and medieval archaeological remains in the form of ditches and a single pit. X.A28.2021.

Great Bowden, Sutton Road (SP 7461 8899)

Leon Hunt

An archaeological strip, plan and sample excavation was carried out by ULAS during groundworks associated with the construction of a new detached dwelling and separate garage. The archaeological work revealed three medieval ditches and gullies, plus several medieval pits and post holes. Pottery from the twelfth–fourteenth centuries was retrieved from several of the features. Post-medieval pottery was retrieved from a layer of made ground lying across much of the site. X.A26.2020.

Higham on the Hill, 83 Main Street (SP 38228 25516)

Claire LaCombe

An archaeological strip, plan and sample excavation was carried out by ULAS during groundworks associated with the construction of a new detached dwelling and

garage. Recent archaeological evaluation undertaken nearby had revealed evidence for medieval ditches. A boundary feature to the north of the site was previously recorded as an earthwork, which apparently marked the western extent 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 visible and are now occupied by a ménage and stables. The archaeological work revealed medieval ditches, several cattle burials (adult and infant), pits and post holes. Pottery indicates this activity dates from AD 1200 to AD 1475. X.A14.2021; 21–558.

Hinckley, 11 Wood Street (SP4290 9400)

Mathew Morris

An archaeological evaluation was carried out by ULAS in advance of proposed residential development. Two trenches were excavated across the footprints of the proposed building and extension. The southern trench uncovered garden soil and several post-medieval pits and post holes, whilst the northern trench uncovered the footings and floors of nineteenth-century buildings overlying garden soil. The evaluation produced slight evidence for backyard activity dating back to the late seventeenth/eighteenth century which could be related to activity to the rear of Nos 112 and 114 Castle Street as well as a hosiery factory that occupied the Wood Street frontage in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries. X.A95.2021.

Ketton, Chater Field, Station Road (SK 9817 0497)

Robert Evershed

A geophysical survey using magnetometry was undertaken by Allen Archaeology Limited on land west at Chater Field, in advance of an application for a residential development. The survey revealed some potential evidence for archaeological activity, consisting of possible linear features, along with a former building and demolition rubble and adjacent rectangular pit. Linear positive and negative features with the field likely represent cultivation trends. ELE11494.

Kibworth Harcourt, Langton Road (SP 6887 9440)

James Wright

During May 2021, Triskele Heritage were invited to conduct a historic graffiti survey of Kibworth Harcourt Mill by the Society for the Protection of Ancient Buildings. The building contains a main post that dates to at least 1711 (according to a graffiti inscription), a buck that contains timbers felled in 1773 and a brick wheelhouse constructed in the 1850s. The windmill was in active use until the early twentieth century and has seen several programmes of conservation since the mid-1930s. In total, 264 graffiti inscriptions were recorded within the interior of the ground, first and second floors. The inscriptions were made with pencil, paint and sharp points.

The majority of inscriptions (185; 70.07 per cent) are literate – comprising initials, names and other information. Of these literate graffiti, eight can be positively identified as former millers active at the windmill – many of them members of the nineteenth century Smith family. There is a significant assemblage of apotropaic marks (47; 17.8 per cent). This is considered significant as the traditional

archaeological view has been that the use of such marks was in decline by the later eighteenth and nineteenth centuries. Two inscriptions were found to be located upside-down on timbers, which also featured chamfers unnecessary to the status of windmill, and may offer evidence that elements of the structure may have been re-used from another building. ELE11516.

Kirby Bellars, 55 Main Street (SK 7173 1794)

Jamie Patrick

An archaeological evaluation was carried out by ULAS on land north of 55 Main Street as a condition of planning permission for a housing development; it took place in June 2021. Three evaluation trenches were excavated across the site. One trench contained a pit and ditch, both were heavily truncated and undated. Recent landscaping, including establishment of hardstanding material, had taken place across much of the site impacting into the top soils. X.A23.2021, ELE11452.

Kirby Bellars, Thorpe Satchville Road (SK 722 157)

Jan Butler, Richard Knox

In November 2021 The Wreake Valley Fieldwork Group with members of the Melton Fieldworkers surveyed a previously unsurveyed field off Thorpe Satchville Road. Although the field was only scuffed, rather than ploughed, several sherds of Roman pottery were recovered as was a small amount of worked lithics and evidence of medieval manuring.

Kirby Muxloe, Barons Park Farm (SK 51208 04511)

Michael Lobb

A Level 2 historic building assessment of Barons Park Farm was undertaken by Trent & Peak Archaeology in May 2021, in advance of proposed conversion of the buildings to residential use. The main farmstead forms a U-shaped enclosure around a central yard which had been infilled by 20th century buildings. To the west of this is a small single storey agricultural building aligned northwest-southeast and a long single-storey cartshed and stable block aligned northeast-southwest. The farmstead appears to have originally comprised two L-shaped buildings around a central courtyard, with later additions reutilising portions of these earlier buildings to form an enclosed courtyard plan. ELE11536.

Kilby, 8 Main Street (SP 6191 9556)

Jamie Patrick

Archaeological trial-trenching undertaken by ULAS revealed a ditch and a parallel ditch terminus. Pottery suggests that the westernmost ditch was early medieval in date. The terminus appears to be on the same alignment as the Roman ditch from earlier trenching; however, a whetstone was found within the ditch terminus deposit, together with abundant amounts of grain, and small fragments of fired clay suggest this is more likely to be early medieval associated with the western ditch. Modern truncation deposits of made ground lying across the southern half

of the site made it hard to determine the exact relationship of the features. The features probably represent plot boundaries parallel with Spinney Road to the east. X.A92.2020.

Knaptoft, Knaptoft Hall Farm (SP 62641 89601)

Alice Forward

Archaeological trial-trenching undertaken by Allen Archaeology Ltd in April 2021, in advance of a residential development. Knaptoft is known to be an early pre-Norman conquest settlement, recorded in Domesday. The current farm has Tudor elements still surviving and earlier work at the site has produced evidence for earlier settlement activity. The four trenches excavated as part of this evaluation targeted an area to the south of the main farm complex. A series of ditches were exposed within the trenches, many of which were absent of any dating evidence; however, in two of the trenches pottery dating from the early Anglo-Saxon period, as well as a group of middle Saxon sherds, were recovered. X.A30.2021.

Laughton (SP 665 894)

Robert Gale

In October 2020, Oadby & Wigston Fieldworkers started walking a number of fields around Laughton, Gumley and Smeeton Westerby. A number of Romano-British sites – probably farmsteads – were identified. One field near Laughton also located a small number of sherds of Anglo-Saxon pottery. This field had also been visited by metal detectorists from out of county and their finds closely matched the area where most of the fieldwalking finds were located. In the summer of 2021, Oadby & Wigston Fieldworkers linked up with the Hallaton Fieldworkers, and over several weeks carried out a detailed geophysical survey of the site and also adjoining pasture fields. The results showed a complex picture of settlement, probably indicating continuous occupation for more than a thousand years. Test-pitting confirmed a layer of Anglo-Saxon pottery over Romano-British pottery, which included Samian-ware and Nene Valley. This is some suggestion that the site was first occupied in the Iron Age and the finds would suggest it was abandoned in the late Saxon period.

Lockington Quarry (SK 4707 2808)

Jamie Patrick, Matthew Beamish

A programme of archaeological monitoring was undertaken by ULAS at Lockington quarry south of Radcliffe Lane. This involved exposure of remains dating from the Bronze Age through the post-medieval periods. To the west, adjacent to the M1 motorway, the remains of an Romano-British settlement were uncovered, including an enclosure ditch; elsewhere to the south-east were a series of undated ditches and discreet features. Further to the north the archaeological remains were located around a north-west to south palaeochannel, including pits of possible Neolithic date and burnt mound material within the upper channel alluvium, although no actual trough was found. To the north-west were the remains of a multi-phased pit. Of particular interest were some pits that contained alternate deposits of peat and channel sands adjacent to the palaeochannel. Two driveway ditches of probable medieval/ post-medieval date were also identified.

Lutterworth, Magna Park (SP 501 859)*Jim Burke*

An archaeological evaluation by Museum of London Archaeology comprising 67 trenches was undertaken on land north of Magna Park (parcels C1, C2 and D), to inform the design of proposed landscaping and habitat creation. A total of 11 trenches contained archaeological features. Many of the identified features lay on the eastern edge of a previously identified ladder settlement. The features uncovered in the evaluation corresponded well with results of the previous geophysical survey within the site. The small quantity of dateable evidence recovered during the evaluation spanned the mid-late Iron Age through to the mid-Roman period. The paucity of the artefactual assemblage most likely relates to their peripheral location away from the main areas of occupation. Later medieval ridge and furrow cultivation was recorded across the site. An additional trench excavated to the rear of Bittesby House revealed the foundation of a modern brick structure. X.A28.2020.

Market Harborough, Hillcrest Farm (SP 7229 8873)*M. F. R. Steinmetzer*

An archaeological evaluation was carried out by Oakford Archaeology in July 2021. The work comprised of six trenches. The evaluation identified the presence of a north–south aligned linear feature at the northern end of one trench, below the remnant ridge and furrow. The single fill contained four sherds of Late Neolithic or Early Bronze Age pottery and the feature probably forms part of an agricultural ditch system. A well-defined ridge and furrow was identified in all the trenches. ELE11524.

Market Harborough, Northampton Road (SP 7418 8570)*Adam Meadows*

An archaeological geophysical survey was undertaken by Museum of London Archaeology on land east of Northampton Road, in September 2021. It identified two concentrations of archaeological remains linked by a linear ditch. The shape and form of these remains look typical of settlements originating from the Iron Age to Roman periods. Two small outlying enclosures were also identified. Medieval ridge and furrow cultivation was present throughout much of the site, although seemingly absent from its western field. X.A89.2021.

Market Harborough, 14 Northampton Road (SP 7349 8698)*Roger Kipling*

An archaeological strip, map and sample excavation was carried out by ULAS in May 2021, prior to the commencement of groundworks associated with the construction of a new residential development. The archaeological work revealed two parallel medieval ditches, a pit and two post holes. Pottery from the thirteenth–fourteenth centuries was retrieved from one of the ditches, whilst the post hole produced fired clay or daub of possible medieval date. The brick foundations of a probable greenhouse were found along the northern property boundary, likely associated with the nineteenth-century house fronting Northampton Road. X.A26.2020.

Markfield, London Road (SK 48918 09389)*Donald Clark*

An archaeological evaluation was carried out by ULAS on land south of London Road, prior to groundworks associated with a proposed housing development. The work took place in January 2021; 53 evaluation trenches were excavated across the site, with two containing archaeological features (an undated quarry pit and a circular pit that contained Roman pottery). X.A3.2021, ELE11582.

Medbourne, 7 Ashley Road (SP 7974 9290)*James Coyne*

An archaeological evaluation was carried out by Cotswold Archaeology in July 2021. A total of six trenches were excavated, recording a series of pits and ditches. Associated artefactual evidence was relatively limited, but where present was late Iron Age/Roman in date. Three pits and one ditch contained artefacts suggestive of the disposal of Roman waste from domestic and small-scale industrial activity in the near vicinity of the evaluation site – presumably associated with the known Roman villa at Saddlers Cottage and Gardens, approximately 100m north-east of the site. Other ditches corresponded to post-medieval/modern field boundaries visible on aerial photographs and historic cartographic sources. ELE11523.

Melton Mowbray, Leicester Road (SK 7336 1773)*Poppy Forshaw-Perring*

A geophysical survey was undertaken by Magnitude Surveys Ltd over a c.9.38ha of land off Leicester Road in June 2021. Archaeological activity has been identified across the survey area. A ring ditch and a possible trackway or boundary have been identified, as well as more ephemeral possible archaeological anomalies. Anomalies relating to ridge and furrow and ploughing trends were also recorded. ELE11504.

Melton Mowbray, Sandy Lane (SK 7605 1662)*Andrew Hyam, George Issitt*

An archaeological trial trench evaluation, walkover survey and historic assessment was carried out by ULAS on land to the east of Sandy Lane, prior to the proposed construction of a new housing development, in February and March 2021. It located several plough furrows, along with modern disturbance, and no other evidence for finds or archaeological features. The site was used during the Second World War as a Dispersed Mess Suite, part of Melton Mowbray's Second World War airfield. Most of the surviving wartime buildings have been removed in the recent past, leaving only a single Stanton air raid shelter. Following the end of the war the site was used as part of a Displaced Persons Resettlement Camp for the local Polish community before becoming part of a poultry farm. X.A21.2021, ELE11499.

Newbold Coleorton, Pipeyard Lane (SK 39890 19337)*Tom Rose-Jones*

An archaeological strip, map and sample excavation at the former Crusher Yard Site was undertaken by John Moore Heritage Services in February 2021, in advance of redevelopment of the site for residential use. The excavation recorded evidence of

the Cloud Hill Plateway, a mineral tramway dating to the early nineteenth century. This was constructed in 1802 to transport limestone from Cloud Hill quarry to the Ashby Canal. The date at which the tramway fell out of use is not known; however, the opening of the Coleorton railway in 1833 and the Derby to Ashby branch of the Midlands Railway in 1868 presumably resulted in its obsolescence, and no evidence of the plateway was present when the site was depicted on the first edition Ordnance Survey map of 1882. Where the trackway was encountered within the area of investigation it was terraced into the landscape. The terrace was faced with a stone revetting wall. The route of the tramway was indicated by the presence of a line of sleeper stones set into the natural geology at intervals of 3ft. Evidence of a nineteenth-century cottage, Pipe Yard House, was also recorded. X.A16.2021, ELE11436.

Newbold Verdon, Brascote Lane (SK 447 030)

Adam Meadows

A magnetometer survey was undertaken by Museum of London Archaeology across c.15ha of land east of Brascote Lane, in advance of determination for residential development. The survey carried out in December 2021 detected a three-sided enclosure of broadly rectilinear shape, measuring c.60m across and open to the north-east in the western portion of the survey area. X.A117.2021.

Newton Harcourt, Elms Court (SP 6355 9692)

Wayne Jarvis

An archaeological Strip, Map and Sample Excavation was undertaken by ULAS in advance of four new dwellings with associated infrastructure. An earlier evaluation of three trenches had identified several features, which produced a small amount of late Iron Age or early Roman material, and a modern pond. This follow-up excavation identified various features potentially of an archaeological nature. These features included several concentrations of cobbles (one clear surface), a stone drain and also further evidence of pond-like features. All these features produced post-medieval material including pottery, clay pipe stem, brick/tile fragments and several iron nails. The site has been subject to considerable disturbance in the past. Several large features were identified, perhaps ponds or marl pits – these producing some modern material in their fills. Additionally, much of the site had previously been stripped with a reduced level dig, presumably when the modern barns were added in the twentieth century. The footprint within these now demolished barns had been truncated down to natural. X.A60.2021.

Newton Harcourt, Wistow Road (SP 6384 9677)

Mick McDaid

An archaeological evaluation was undertaken by Allen Archaeology Limited in September 2021, prior to submission of a planning application for a residential development. A geophysical survey carried out on the site in 2021 recorded linear features interpreted as ridge and furrow in the west half of the site, with further linear anomalies at the east end likely to be of archaeological interest – possibly associated with medieval settlement. Four trenches were excavated across the

proposed development area. A single furrow was noted at the west end of the site, whilst one post hole and three ditches were recorded in the eastern half of the site. Pottery, animal bone and charred plant remains from these features suggest the site lies on the periphery of a potential settlement area dating to the twelfth century. X.A102.2021, ELE11601.

Oadby, Brascote Lane (SK 6366 9944 & 6177 9411)

*A. Swann,
P. Orczewski, H. Dabill*

An archaeological evaluation was undertaken by Wessex Archaeology along the proposed course of the Oadby to Arnesby Trunk Main Renewal. Two separate sets of archaeological remains were identified, both of which are of local significance. Four Iron Age features were revealed across two trenches, and comprised of ditches that spread and appear to represent linear boundaries that may be elements in a field system. One trench revealed a small portion of a brick kiln. Reliable dating evidence was not obtained, but the presence of unfrogged machine bricks may suggest an approximately late-nineteenth century date. The kiln exhibited some design complexity, suggesting that it was more than a simple clamp kiln and it may be that the kiln was a downdraught/updraught kiln. If the features on the west side of the kiln represent fireboxes, this may be consistent with a ‘Scotch’ type kiln (fireboxes on the side) or a ‘Newcastle’-type kiln (fireboxes on the end). The surviving upper course of bricks may represent latticed under-floor flues as seen in ‘Suffolk’ type kilns. The kiln was situated adjacent to the Turnover Bridge of the Grand Union Canal and may be of later date than the original construction of the canal. It is possible that bricks from the kiln were used during subsequent repairs or modifications to the canal, or it may be that the kiln was sited next to the canal for the ease of transportation of raw materials or finished bricks. Further identified features, deposits and artefacts are of minimal significance and include undated pits, a land drain, a hedgerow, modern demolition rubble and residual prehistoric flint flakes. X.A117.2021.

Quorn, Barrow Road and Poole Farm (SK 5634 1788)

Thomas Cockroft

A magnetometer survey was undertaken by SUMO in January and February 2021. Areas of probable later prehistoric and Romano-British occupation and farming were identified in the form of linear and curvilinear features in the south-east, central and north-west of the proposed area. A ring ditch (MLE825) of suspected Bronze Age date was shown to possibly comprise two circuits of ditch, although there was discontinuity to the ditches – possibly caused by a buried discharge service pipe from the sewage works to the south. Further circular and curvilinear features in the vicinity of the ring ditch may be associated. ELE11402.

Quorn, Barrow Road and Poole Farm (SK 5634 1788)

Donald Clark

An archaeological trench evaluation was carried out by ULAS in February and March 2021, in advance of construction of a solar farm; 68 trenches were excavated, and

several circular and curvilinear features were identified across the area. X.A24.2021, ELE11403.

Quorn, Barrow Road and Poole Farm (SK 5634 1788) *Joseph Bartholomew,
Matthew Beamish*

An aerial LiDAR topographic data and an assessment of the geomorphology for an area at Poole Farm, was undertaken in March 2021. Evidence of ridge and furrow agriculture was found to be variably preserved within the study area, with medieval ridge and furrow fossilised within enclosed fields, and some post-enclosure fields of strip cultivation. Palaeochannels of the River Soar were identified and the likely continuation of channels explored in the wider landscape. A combination of geological, topographic and map evidence has led to the identification of a probable main channel of the River Soar to the west of the proposed area. There is clear evidence for the erosion of ridge and furrow plough lands probably by river channel scouring, and it is suggested this was a direct impact from the Little Ice Age (c.1450–1850). Buried palaeochannel deposits to the north-east of the proposed area have indicated an environmental sequence from Mesolithic to the Bronze Age: these deposits are likely to continue into the proposed area, although they may in part have been truncated by the medieval or later period channel scouring identified. There is no indication of the survival of archaeological deposits as earthworks bar in the area of a ring ditch, probably a Bronze Age burial mound, where a very slight mound can be detected in topographic data. X.A24.2021, ELE11451.

Ragdale, Old Hall Farm (SK 6610 2003) *Deborah Leigh*

A programme of strip, map and record was undertaken by Allen Archaeology in advance of the erection of five glamping pods in January 2021. Medieval settlement earthworks are recorded to the north of the church, extending onto the site itself. The works did not identify any discrete archaeological deposits of significance, beyond a single shallow ditch of unknown date – the orientation of which suggests it was potentially associated with the medieval settlement. X.A5.2021, ELE11394.

Ratby, Markfield Road (SK 5076 0641) *Dimitrios Katsifas*

A trial trench evaluation was undertaken by Archaeological Research Services Ltd in advance of a proposed development in August 2021. The evaluation comprised the excavation of 13 trenches, the positions of which were informed by geophysical survey and an archaeological desk-based assessment. The evaluation revealed one ditch, with plough furrows in other trenches. X.A34.2021, ELE11562.

Rolleston, Rolleston Folly (SP 7361 9990) *Kyle Beaverstock*

A magnetometer survey was carried out by Thames Valley Archaeological Services in January 2021. The survey showed the potential for the presence of ridge and furrow in the northern area of the site, and a circular positive anomaly in the central

area of the site. The latter circular feature could be a ditch surrounding a clump of woodland, a feature often encountered in post-medieval parkland settings. However, the anomaly corresponds with a circular mound and a more plausible interpretation is that this feature is a round barrow with surrounding ditch of Bronze Age date. ELE11376.

Rothley, Broadnook Garden (SK 58631 11344)

Adam Clapton

An archaeological evaluation was carried out by ULAS on land north of Birstall, in advance of a Sustainable Urban Extension. Six 30m-long trenches were excavated in a field in the north-east corner of the site. Archaeological features were identified in two trenches located downslope in the eastern half of the field. These consisted of a pit containing Iron Age pottery and burnt material and a large ditch, running north-east to south-east. X.A79.2021.

Rotherby, Main Street (SK 676 169)

Jan Butler, Richard Knox

A fieldwalking survey was undertaken by Wreake Valley Fieldwork Group with members of the Melton Fieldworkers, in December 2021. A small number of early Anglo-Saxon sherds were recovered, suggesting a western extension to a large early medieval site in the adjacent field. Metal detecting has recorded further evidence of this here.

Scalford, 29 Church Street (SK 7633 2408)

Chris Clay

An archaeological investigation was undertaken at Quorn House, following the unexpected discovery of human remains inside the property during ground reduction to the internal floors of the property, in April 2021. Allen Archaeology Limited recorded and removed the remains, which were likely to be more than 100 years old. ELE11419.

Scalford, St Egelwyn the Martyr Church (SK 7629 2413)

Jamie Patrick

A watching brief was undertaken by ULAS in advance of a new drainage system around the Church with associated groundworks. Three partially exposed articulated skeletons were identified in two pits; the skeletons were left *in situ*. Moderate amounts of disarticulated bone was also found in the two southern pits and during the drainage excavation around the north side of the church. A small amount of unstratified medieval pottery was also recovered within the sub-soil. X.A15.2021.

Scraptoft, Beeby Road (SK 6504 0609)

Ian Reeds

An archaeological evaluation by trial trenching was carried out by ULAS during January 2021, as part of an archaeological impact assessment in advance of a proposed residential development. The results show excellent survival of archaeology pertaining to the site's former use as 'Camp March Hare' for the American 325th

Glider Regiment during 1944, and subsequent use as a German prisoner of war camp 'Camp 4' from 1945 to 1948. There is also an indication that the mid-twentieth-century archaeology is masking Iron Age features of unknown quantity and preservation. X.A98.2020, ELE11550.

A subsequent archaeological watching brief was carried out by ULAS in September 2021, as part of the mitigation strategy to deal with land contamination prior to residential development. The watching brief entailed the monitoring of 196 test pits. Excavation revealed well-preserved remains of the Second World War POW camp, and the substantial consolidation that took place in certain areas for road construction prior to the camps construction and ground levelling after the camp's demolition. Some of the test pits were slightly re-positioned to avoid damage to the archaeology, and give a better indication of soil contamination. This work also demonstrated the good preservation of the ridge and furrow ploughing system of the site, and a preserved metal surface situated on the southern extent of the site. X.A84.2021.

Sileby, 7 King Street (SK 6010 1524)

Roger Kipling

An archaeological evaluation was carried out by ULAS in Summer 2021, in advance of a residential development. Two evaluation trenches were excavated across the site, with the trenches targeting the two proposed building footprints. Trench 1 featured a single substantial Late Roman ditch, representing the first evidence of Roman activity in Sileby. The remainder of the trench had been heavily disturbed by modern pitting. Trench 2 revealed the brick foundations of the now-demolished structure formerly linking two standing eighteenth/nineteenth-century farm buildings, in addition to an undated ditch and two truncated pits or scoops. X.A51.2021.

Swinford, Swinford Barn (SP 5688 8168)

Cotswold Archaeology

An archaeological evaluation of 70 trenches was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology between April and May 2021. The results of the trial trenching also expanded upon previous archaeological investigations within the wider area of the current wind farm, suggesting that remains associated with a Late Iron Age/Early Roman farmstead, excavated by ULAS in 2010/11, extend into the current site. Across the rest of the site, evidence for archaeological activity was sparser, comprising a small number of undated, poorly preserved pits and ditches in the south-western part of the site that may possibly relate to Late Iron Age/Early Roman activity further to the south-east. The poorly preserved remnants of medieval or post-medieval ridge and furrow cultivation were evident particularly in the northern and western parts of the site, with broad alignments and spacing between individual furrows matching the geophysical anomalies. ELE11531.

Tugby, The Mead (SK 7628 0079)

Wayne Jarvis

An archaeological Strip, Map and Sample Excavation was undertaken by ULAS in advance of residential development, in January 2021. The work revealed evidence

for two linear features of Roman date. One was a steep-sided gully, probably part of a curvilinear system and continuing beyond the extent of the proposed building. The second was a large multi-phase ditch system, only seen in part in the south of the current area. Both of these had been observed in the earlier evaluation and no further features were identified. It is likely that both features were continuous between the current area and Roman activity seen on the adjacent plot to the south-east. The large ditch probably formed the south-west line of a large enclosure. The smaller gully demarcated an area to the south-east. Excavation of the features produced a small amount of pottery, Roman coins and animal bone. The gully produced first or second century material, the large ditch considerably later material (of fourth century date). The combined evidence indicates a substantial Roman site, probably with the main focus of occupation to the north-east and well beyond the current site. XA1.2021, ELE11322.

Walton, Cruck Cottage (SP 5950 8700)

*Lutterworth Fieldworking &
Archaeology Group*

A 1m test pit was dug in 2021 following a community event organised by L FAG during the Festival of Archaeology in 2019, in which seven test pits were dug around the village. Finds included: one worked flint, two pieces of Iron Age pottery, two Roman pottery, eight medieval, one early post-medieval, 12 post-medieval, various modern objects, and some animal bone. ELE11537; ELE11538.

Welby deserted medieval village (SK 7244 2087)

David Budge

At the invitation of local group Force Archaeology (FA), Mercian Archaeological Services CIC (MAS) ran an archaeological training field school at the deserted village of Welby, Leicestershire, in June 2021. Examination of the surviving earthworks suggests that the tofts of the (presumed) medieval settlement may have been established within a large rectangular enclosure, two sides of which have survived industrial development and modern cultivation. FA suggested this enclosure might be Roman on morphological grounds. At their invitation, MAS excavated two trenches that sought to date the earthwork of the putative enclosure, and to investigate the relationship between it and one of the village tofts.

The provisional results are promising, although at least one further season of fieldwork, planned for 2022, is required to complete the excavations. The trench investigating the village toft revealed evidence suggesting more or less continuous activity from at least the twelfth until the eighteenth centuries. When this toft it was established was not determined conclusively, although there are grounds for suspecting an early post-Norman Conquest date. The earliest pottery recovered in quantity from the trench was Stamford Ware. The presence of several relatively large and unabraded sherds of Stamford Ware in the make-up of the toft boundary bank therefore suggests a post-Conquest date.

In contrast, the finds associated with the putative enclosure bank include definite late Saxon material. The bulk of the assemblage is Stamford Ware, which includes pre-Conquest forms and fabrics, including the rim of a bowl of Kilmurry form 1

with diamond roller stamping to the rim, form and decoration being most popular in the late tenth and eleventh century (Kilmurry 1980, 130); there is also part of a St Neots Type Ware inturned rim bowl, most common away from its heartland in the first half of the eleventh century (Mellor 1994, 54; Young and Vince 2005, 97). Significantly, there are very few ceramics that can be dated to the mid-twelfth century or later from this trench, suggesting an end of activity in the second half of the eleventh or early twelfth century. Although it would be unwise to take speculation too far before the fieldwork is complete, it may be noted in passing that this appears broadly the same period that the village toft boundary seems to have been constructed.

Residual finds from earlier periods were also encountered in both trenches. Artefacts of note included a small assemblage of struck flint, a few pot boiler stones (MDA 1997), a fragment of burnt gritstone quern (although this could be medieval) and a few sherds of Roman pottery. The flint is a palimpsest. Some of the debitage is patinated and displays technological traits suggesting a Mesolithic date, although no evidence was recovered to suggest significant activity of this period in the vicinity of the excavations. In contrast, unpatinated debitage and a possible broken piercer, from a crude industry employing simple hard hammer technology, may derive from a probable Bronze Age knapping event in the vicinity of trench 2. It is intended that further excavation will be undertaken in 2022. X.A71.2021, ELE11548.

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Wigston, Cooks Lane (SP 60499 99499)

Tim Higgins

An archaeological evaluation was carried out by ULAS prior to groundworks associated with a proposed housing development; 114 evaluation trenches were excavated across the site, one containing an undated ditch (likely to post-medieval) and another containing a circular pit that contained Iron Age pottery. X.A23.2021.

Witherley, 5 Church Road (SP 3251 9739)

Neil Finn

An archaeological trial trench evaluation was undertaken by Archaeology & Built Heritage, in advance of a change of use of the vacant field to a cemetery, including an associated car parking area. The evaluation involved the excavation of three trenches, and was undertaken in June and July 2021. Archaeological remains were

present in all three trenches. In trench 1, towards the Church Road frontage, a ditch and three post holes were recorded; these features all appeared to be Roman in date. In trench 2, two shallow, linear ditch-like features were recorded. One of these produced a single sherd of medieval pottery and the other was undated. In trench 3, a substantial medieval ditch was recorded, in addition to a modern land drain. In all three trial trenches a substantial deposit of very compact redeposited clay was recorded beneath the topsoil. X.A88.2021, ELE11543.

Wymondham, Main Street (SK 84870 18958)

James Harvey

An archaeological evaluation was carried out by ULAS in advance of a proposed residential development. A total of seven trenches were excavated; the work was carried out in August 2021. Single ditch features were recorded within two trenches along the eastern side of the area. The features may form part of a contemporary field system, although their actual date and function remains uncertain. Traces of north–south aligned ridge and furrow were recorded across most of the area, suggesting it formed part of an open field system during the medieval or early post-medieval period. A small amount of prehistoric flint mostly recovered from the topsoil suggest some prehistoric activity in this area. X.A70.2021, ELE11546.

Historic Building Recording

Blackfordby, The Blue Bell Inn (SK 3297 1794)

Joe Mitson, Toby Ebbs

A level 2 building survey was carried out in January 2021. The building dates to the nineteenth century, and consisted of two-storeys. There are some re-used roof timbers oak, presumably reclaimed from a timber-framed building. ELE11398.

Breedon on the Hill, 22 Main Street (40569 22848)

Andrew Hyam

A level 2 historic building survey was carried out by ULAS. The site consists of three barns forming an L-shaped layout to the side of Grade II Limes Farmhouse. The barn, which is attached to the farmhouse, has a timber-framed outer wall and is likely to date to the seventeenth century, although it has been extensively modified over the years. The other two barns are likely to be of mid-nineteenth century date and have also been modified in the twentieth century. All of the barns are brick-built with some timber framing surviving on one wall of the northern barn. Surviving evidence suggests that they were used as stabling, loose boxes and a milking parlour, before falling out of use. X.A101.2021.

Carlton, St Andrew's Church (SK 3965 0498)

A level 2 historic building recording and watching brief was carried out by ULAS in advance of a single-storey extension to be built against the south-western corner of the church and tower. The footprint of the extension was stripped to reveal the foundations of the present church and tower, but no earlier foundations were

exposed. This suggests that the earlier church either had the same footprint or a smaller one than this. Only ceramic finds from the late nineteenth century and later were recovered during the excavation work. Removal of some pew platforms and some wall plaster to the rear of the church did not expose any earlier phases of church building. The exposed stonework indicates that the nave walls are all of one phase, which probably relates to the 1764 rebuilding of the church. The creation of a new doorway through the south side of the tower wall also indicated that the base of the present tower dates to the same 1764 rebuilding. X.A49.2021.

Countesthorpe and Leysland Community College

*Kari Bower SP 57045
95747)*

A level 3 building survey was undertaken by AOC Archaeology Group in April 2021. The school comprises a single building that is largely one storey, but has two areas of first flooring at the east and west side. The survey revealed that the building has a concrete and steel frame, with exterior and interior walls constructed from engineering bricks and breeze blocks. The majority of the roof is flat with the exception of the glass rooflights located throughout the building, which have pyramidal and triangular designs and that lend the building an interesting visual look. The design resulted from the Leicestershire Plan and a design motif of Farmer and Dark and Thomas Locke, which was intended to create a top-lit effect. The classroom and communal areas were interlinked, and allowed for free-flowing movement for students and staff alike. The building is largely intact to this day. The fabric is mostly original, with the internal spaces having had minor alterations to adapt to the working life of the school throughout its 46-year history. ELE11489.

Earl Shilton, Leicester Road (SP 4683 9829)

Andrew Hyam

A level 3 historic building survey was carried out by ULAS, at two barns on land west of Leicester Road, undertaken in advance of their demolition as part of a redevelopment of the site to create new dwellings. The site consists of a former dairy farm containing a modern farmhouse, and a range of barns and outbuildings in various states of repair. The two barns forming the subject of this survey are a late eighteenth or early nineteenth century barn with a hayloft and an early twentieth-century barn, which has been added to the eastern end of the earlier barn. Both barns are brick-built and were associated with the nearly Grade II listed late eighteenth or early nineteenth century Top House. The earliest phase of the barn has supported cruck blades at hayloft level. X.A77.2021.

Oakthorpe, the Holly Bush Inn (SK 3232 1306)

*Cathy Coutts, Rob Jones,
Adam Griffiths*

Archaeological investigations were carried by Archaeology Warwickshire, prior to the alteration of the building to form two dwellings and the erection of three new dwellings to its south-east. The earlier archaeological evaluation in July 2021

uncovered levelling deposits, which suggested the site formerly sloped down to the south. Structural material in the form of demolished red brick wall sections were found in an area identified as the location of the pigsty recorded on historic mapping, and on the early twentieth-century drawing of the inn and buildings to its south. Level 3 Historic Building Recording was carried out on the inn in August 2021, following the demolition of the modern extensions to the building. Significant alterations had already been undertaken within the building during the twentieth century, with walls and fireplaces removed on both floors and the roof replaced. The south-western extension, which is shown on the first edition mapping and on an early twentieth-century drawing of the ground floor of the inn, appears to have been replaced in the later twentieth century on the same footprint, but with a flat roof. The stable and coach house shown on the drawing of the inn was subsequently converted into the pub's toilet block. ELE11595; ELE11596.

Old Dalby, Old Cow Shed, Church Lane (SK 6724 2354) *Gerwyn Richards*

A photographic survey of the old cow shed was undertaken by Archaeological Building Recording Services in September 2021. The building is a traditionally built redundant agricultural building, believed to date from the early twentieth century. X.A93.2021, ELE11522.

Sileby, 7 King Street (SK 6013 1527) *Andrew Hyam*

A level 2 historic building recording was carried out by ULAS; the work was undertaken in advance of the conversion of the main farmhouse and outbuilding, and demolition of other barns and outbuildings. The site consists of an eighteenth century brick-built range with at least two phases identified by blocked windows, which were replaced to create a more symmetrical façade. To the rear of this range is an earlier rear range built mostly of local stone, patched with brick. Traces of possible earlier stonework can also be seen on the gable end of the eighteenth-century range. Within the house many of the larger timbers are clearly older and have been re-used from elsewhere. Also on site are two brick-built barns, one of late eighteenth century date and the other is later nineteenth century, which both belonged to an earlier open-courtyard range of buildings. Two small outbuildings are also present. A boundary wall built of stone and brick, with a range of different ages, runs around the west and north of the site. X.A50.2021.

Stapleton, Winfrey Farm, Dadlington Lane (SP 4234 9844) *Andrew Hyam*

A level 2 historic building survey of redundant farm buildings was carried out by ULAS in advance of proposals to redevelop the site to create four new dwellings. The site consists of seven farm buildings, including a cart shed, former threshing barn, loose boxes and stabling. All of the buildings are brick-built and date from the early to later nineteenth century. The two barns that are to be demolished are from the late 1960s and 1970s. X.A111.2021.

Stoke Golding, Laburnum Cottage (SP 0490 7490)*Andrew Hyam*

A level 2 historic building survey was undertaken by ULAS, at the early nineteenth-century brick-built cottage. The cottage is attached to the side of Grade II listed Woodyard Cottage. The cottage has two clear phases, as does an associated barn. Both phases are likely to be from the early nineteenth century. X.A6.2021.

Sutton Cheney, Alms House (SK 4167 0048)*Amir Bassir*

A level 3 building survey was undertaken by The Environment Partnership (TEP) Ltd on the Grade II listed Alms House. The building was founded in 1612 by Sir William Roberts, one of the freeholders of Sutton Cheney. The Alms House was founded to accommodate six elderly and infirm men, and comprised a one-and-a-half storeyed, stone-built, linear range 22m in length, and was divided into six individual residences each measuring approximately 3.5m × 4m. The building's principal elevation was to the west, facing the church, and included a central through passage and paired doorways providing separate access to the rooms.

Three chimney stacks were built along the axis on the party walls and provided a fireplace in each direction. Each residence had its own stair to the upper floor, although it is possible that the building as originally constructed did not include full upper floors. The compact stairs were located in the space between the chimney stacks and the rear wall. The building included a series of pigeon or dove nesting holes built into the south gable. The building was repaired and altered in 1811 as part of which works the west elevation was raised in brick. A large-scale phase of alteration took place in 1977 at which time the building was converted to a single dwelling and many of the former partitions, as well as the former stairs and fireplaces, were removed.

The Alms House was a well-built structure that, as well as providing a social service, was also intended to commemorate and memorialise its founder, Sir William Roberts, whose initials and shield, and the date of the building's construction, are included above the central entrance. The building demonstrates many characteristic features of Alms Houses of the period and, despite later alterations, remains a good example of this type of architecture. X.A110.2020, ELE11399.

Swadlincote, Saltersford Farm (SK 3096 1246)*Andrew Hyam*

A level 2 photographic building survey was carried out by ULAS, in advance of a proposed conversion of barns to two dwellings, erection of three new dwellings and the demolition of existing buildings. Saltersford Farm consists of a range of agricultural buildings dating from the mid-nineteenth century through to the early 20th century. The earliest part of the buildings appears to be a small two-storey cottage that was extended to include a hayloft. The buildings form a loose courtyard complex used as a dairy farm to the early part of the present century, after which it has been used as a garage and car breakers. X.A31.2021, ELE11423.

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

Brooksby, Former Spinney Campus (SK 67455 15787); **Burton Overy**, St Andrews Church (SP 6781 9822); **Desford**, Bosworth Academy (SK 4858 0333); **Glooston**, 20 Goadby Road (SP 75097 95976); **Horninghold**, St Peter's Church (SP 8069 9707, Jain Soden Heritage Services Ltd); **Hugglescote**, Standard Hill/Highfield Street (SK 41855 13460, MOLA); **Hungarton**, Hope Farm (SK 469397 307534); **Husbands Bosworth**, Bosworth Lodge, Welford Road (SP 6347 8733, Archaeological Research Services Ltd); **Leire**, Leire Lodge, Main Street (SP 5289 9019); **Lubbesthorpe**, Land Parcel R5 (SK 5306 0184); **Market Harborough**, Angell Drive (SP 7249 8663); **Market Harborough**, Tymecross Gardens (SP 7256 8840); **Measham**, Queen Street (SK 3341 1232); **Medbourne**, 41A Main Street (SP 8008 9341); **Melton Mowbray**, Samworth Way (SK 7335 1805); **Melton Mowbray**, St Mary's Church (SK 7527 1902); **Oakthorpe**, Main Street (SK 3208 13044); **Oakthorpe**, Springfield Farm (SK 32148 12772, MOLA); **Old Dalby**, Church Lane (SK 6740 2343); **Osgathorpe**, Dodgeford Lane (SK 4385 2088); **Peckleton**, Peckleton Manor (SK 4669 0054); **Ratby**, Desford Lane (SK 5100 0565, Cotswold Archaeology); **Ravenstone**, 11 Fosbrooke Close (SK 3999 1365); **Redmile**, St Peter's Church, Main Street (SK 7970 3553, Midland Archaeological Services); **Silby**, Homefield Road (SK 5994 1593); **Sutton Cheney**, Alms House (SK 4169 0049, MOLA); **Swadlicote**, Main Street (SK 3208 1304); **Thorpebury**, Hamilton Lane (SK 63244 08352, MOLA); **Walton**, Chapel Lane (SP 5959 8701).

RUTLAND

All archives are deposited with Rutland County Museum (RCM) under the accession number given at the end of each entry (if known). The Leicestershire and Rutland Historic Environment Record 'event ID' is also referenced (ELE).

Great Casterton, Main Street (SK 9994 0920)

Hannah Dabill

An archaeological evaluation was undertaken by Wessex Archaeology in April 2021, in advance of construction of residential dwellings, a new children's play area, and associated access and footpaths. Archaeological remains were encountered in two of the four trenches. Romano-British field boundary ditches were exposed in the two western trenches. The eastern two trenches were sited within an area previously remodelled for a bowling green and were archaeologically sterile. Pottery recovered from the ditches, subsoil and topsoil, were dated to between the second and fourth centuries AD. A small quantity of animal bone was also found. Remains of cereal crops – namely spelt, barley and oats – were present in the environmental samples taken from the features on the site. The archaeological remains probably relate to the former cultivation of the site, which appears to have lain within the agricultural hinterland of the Romano-British precursor to Great Casterton. ELE11508, OAKRM:2021.7.

Ketton, Stamford Road (SK 967 031)*Jennifer Browning, John Thomas*

In 2020 a new Roman villa was identified in Rutland, following initial discovery and limited investigation by a local landowner. Work in 2021 by ULAS, funded by Historic England, involved recording of the initial landowner excavation, which had revealed part of a figurative mosaic, geophysical survey of the wider area by SUMO Surveys Ltd and trial trench excavations that targeted some of the survey results. In 2021, ULAS returned to the site to complete the excavation of the mosaic as part of a training excavation with University of Leicester archaeology students. This work revealed a large rectangular mosaic in a well-defined room measuring c.11m × 7m with an apse at one end. The room appears to represent a triclinium, or dining area, at the northern end of a complex-looking villa dwelling. The geophysical survey was exceptional in showing in clear detail the villa complex, which consists of a range of buildings including the main domestic focus, aisled barns, possible bath houses and circular structures, all contained within a multiple ditched boundary system. Finds recovered during the limited work to date have indicated a third or fourth century AD date for the occupation of the villa. The mosaic itself is unique in being the first example from Britain to depict scenes from the Trojan War. The mosaic is arranged into three panels that illustrate, in comic-book form, the battle between Achilles and Hector towards the end of *The Iliad* as told by Homer. The orientation of the mosaic was designed to be viewed from the apse, which was plainly decorated and presumably where guests were seated. The nearest panel to the apse shows the battle between Achilles and Hector on chariots; the middle panel shows the victorious Achilles dragging Hector's body behind his chariot while King Priam, Hector's father, looks on in despair. Finally, the gruesome last part of the story is shown on the third panel, where a seated Achilles looks on as Priam loads gold vessels onto a massive pair of scales to counterbalance the weight of the dead Hector. In this scene, which is a departure from the Homeric version of the story, Achilles is releasing the body of Hector, but only for his weight in gold. Areas of the mosaic were burnt and damaged subsequent to the room going out of its original use, and two human burials were found within the rubble filling the apse. It is hoped that radiocarbon dating will help shed further light on the time at which the later activities took place. The villa is now a Historic England Scheduled Monument (list entry: 1477234). OAKRM2020.11.

Langham, Cold Overton Road (SK 8368 1075)*Sophie Peel, India Terry*

A fluxgate gradiometer survey was undertaken by Magnitude Surveys in October 2021. The geophysical survey detected a range of anomalies of archaeological, agricultural and modern origins. Possible archaeology has been identified in the form of ditches disturbed by ridge and furrow cultivation in the south-west corner, and a ditch in the centre of the survey area. ELE11587.



Fig. 4. Large mosaic within Ketton Roman villa.

Oakham, Braunston Road (SK 8489 0815)

Alistair Webb

A geophysical (magnetometer) survey was undertaken by Headland Archaeology in advance of a proposed planning application for residential development, in February 2021. Ridge and furrow anomalies were recorded across the site. Part of a possible enclosure was identified in the south-western corner of the area, although this is considered most likely to be of post-medieval date. ELE11393.

Oakham, Oakham Castle (SK 8620 0895)

Mathew Morris

An archaeological watching brief was carried out by ULAS in February 2021. Work was undertaken during groundworks associated with installation of an underground fibre cable. Oakham Castle is a Scheduled Monument (no. 17018) and the work was carried out to fulfil the requirements of Scheduled Monument Consent S00240424. The cable trench was hand dug, and was c.300mm wide and on average 350mm deep. It extended c.90m from the gateway on Castle Lane, north along the east side of the surface car park, around the east side of the Castle Hall and connected to a junction point on the north side of Court No. 1. Overall, the watching brief identified rubble-rich topsoil, several modern services and backfilled excavation trenches. Artefacts in the soil dated from the late seventeenth century to the twentieth century. No medieval artefacts, features or deposits were observed.

and the soil generation probably post-dated clearance of the castle ruins by George Villiers, Duke of Buckingham in the early seventeenth century. OAKRM:2021.2.

Uppingham, Duddington Way (SK 8655 0063)

T. Bell

An archaeological evaluation was undertaken by Pre-Construct Archaeological Services Ltd, in advance of new roadside services at Uppingham, in May 2021. Extensive ridge and furrow can be observed in Lidar and aerial photographic data of the wider area, and geophysical survey of the current site has defined linear anomalies as further ridge and furrow. Archaeological trenching has clarified the presence of ridge and furrow. No other features were identified, and the site is considered to have limited potential for further study. OAKRM:2021.8, ELE11449.

Uppingham, Leicester Road (SK 8555 0024)

Rebecca Fradgley

A detailed magnetometer survey was conducted by SUMO in October 2021. The survey identified a number of anomalies of archaeological interest. A small square enclosure, some 12m × 12m, has been mapped, along with a sub-circular enclosure and numerous ditch-type anomalies that are suggestive of former occupation or settlement activity. Numerous additional linear, curvilinear and rectilinear trends have been recorded, although their form is less clear; they could be archaeological or agricultural. Ridge and furrow is mapped across the site, while modern ploughing effects are visible in the west. ELE11589.

Historic Building Recording

Ketton, Home Farm, High Street (SK 9802 0472)

*Christer Carlsson,
Paul Riccoboni*

A level 3 historic building recording was conducted by Independent Archaeology Consultants at Home Farm in March 2021. The building's recording revealed much information about the farm complex, even though many alterations had occurred in the buildings over the last 250 years. A Grade II listed dovecote was the most important structure within the site, and it was thoroughly investigated and documented. The remaining buildings within the farm complex consisted of a mix of barns, sheds and storage units. The buildings clearly showed the change of focus from being a largely arable farm to a unit focused more on animal husbandry. ELE11421.

Negative watching briefs and evaluations in Rutland

Ketton, Home Farm, High Street (SK 9799 0474, Independent Archaeology Consultants); *Oakham*, 57 Stamford Road (SK 8685 0844, DRP Archaeology; *Ridlington*, 2 Church Lane (SK 8476 0265, Wessex Archaeology).

Period	Number of finds recorded 2019	Number of finds recorded 2020	Number of finds recorded 2021
Prehistoric	1,495	465	40
Roman	162	123	148
Early Medieval	56	31	32
Medieval	230	107	166
Post-Medieval	191	101	208
Modern	14	6	0
Unknown	172	208	13

Table 1. Summary of finds reported to the PAS in 2019–21.

THE PORTABLE ANTIQUITIES SCHEME FOR LEICESTERSHIRE ANNUAL REPORT 2019–21

*Megan Gard, Finds Liaison Officer, Museums Service,
Leicestershire County Council*

I am the new Finds Liaison Officer for Leicestershire and Rutland. I am based at Rutland County Museum and have been in post since the start of March 2020. Prior to becoming the FLO for Leicestershire and Rutland, I was an intern for the Portable Antiquities Scheme in Dorset and a volunteer with the Wiltshire FLO.

SUMMARY OF FINDS FROM 2019

2019 saw the recording of 2,320 objects found in Leicestershire. During this year a large jump in prehistoric records can be seen due to the hard work from volunteers in recording the Massey flint collection. An object from 2019 that particularly stands out is LEIC-705DCA (Fig. 5), an Early Medieval copper-alloy comb. Combs in metal are extremely rare in this period, the majority being made of bone or wood. Less than 20 have been recorded on the PAS database.

SUMMARY OF FINDS FROM 2020

2020 saw the start of the global COVID-19 pandemic. During this period metal detecting was prohibited for several months; the periods of isolation and lockdowns reduced the number of finds unearthed and subsequently recorded over the year. Much of the process was temporarily moved online and virtual recording took place. Regardless, 1,045 records were created under the LEIC domain over 2020, 23 of these treasure cases.

Roman lead ingot from Witherly, LEIC-62F9AF (Fig. 6). Inscribed possibly with ‘CCCXXXVI’ (336), the lead ingot from Witherly has possible associations with the lead mining industry operating during the Roman period in the Peak District. Other Roman ingots found in the Peak District have a similar shape and angled lettering, rather than curved lettering. The ingot weighed 75kg, not very portable!

Another important find for the year was recorded virtually with the FLO for Derbyshire and Nottinghamshire, an Early Medieval drinking horn, Stonton



Fig. 5. Early Medieval copper-alloy comb.



Fig. 6. Roman lead ingot from Witherly.

Wyville, Harborough. DENO-55E157 (Fig. 7). Another uncommon Early Medieval find was recorded from Leicestershire on the PAS database. The drinking horn terminates in a zoomorphic terminal with a pronounced eye and brow, straight protruding snout and four circular perforations along the mouth, probably indicating teeth.



Fig. 7. Early Medieval drinking horn from Stonton Wyville.

ARTEFACTS RECORDED WITH THE PORTABLE ANTIQUITIES SCHEME 2021

In 2021, 407 records containing 613 objects records were recorded for the county of Leicestershire. Finds from the post-Medieval period were of the largest group, totalling 208 objects. 2021 was a challenging year; recording and meeting with finders was prohibited and restricted through much of the year due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic.

PREHISTORIC

40 prehistoric objects were recorded from Leicestershire in 2021. Of the 40 objects recorded 13 are worked tools, ten are made of flint and three stone, one object is ceramic and the remainder metal. LEIC-4821A1 (Fig. 8) depicts a late Neolithic to Early Bronze Age stone-perforated battleaxe. This is the first battleaxe recorded from Leicestershire. The object differs to other examples on the database in that it has been perforated twice. An incomplete hourglass shaped recession can be seen towards the butt of the axe, where an original attempt at drilling a hole is visible; it is possible that this drilling has caused the object to break, and rather than dispose of the object a second perforation has been made closer to the blade.



Fig. 8. Neolithic to Early Bronze Age stone-perforated battleaxe.

ROMAN

LEIC-E3A6AB (Fig. 9) is an incomplete early Roman anthropomorphic horse-and-rider type figurine; just the rider remains. The figurine is incomplete, with much of his arms missing and legs slightly distorted from their original pose. The finder kindly donated the object to Harborough Museum. The figurine has been nicknamed 'Eric' by staff and is currently on display at Harborough Museum. Included within the 148 Roman finds are 59 coins, 28 brooches and a copper-alloy zoomorphic handle from a folding knife.

EARLY MEDIEVAL

The only glass object to be recorded from Leicestershire in 2021 was LEIC-4E8C39 (Fig. 10), a wound bead dating to *c.*AD 450–700. The matrix of the glass is dark blue with opaque yellow trailing. Beads are usually hard to date out of context; there is the odd exception such as this example, which is identifiable through its shape and features. Alongside the bead, ten fragments of brooch and five pins were recorded.

MEDIEVAL

LEIC-B9F590 (Fig. 11) is a Medieval mount in the form of an angel. Mounts in this style are possibly from a crucifix, they would have been riveted in to the centre of a cross terminal as part of the furniture or liturgical accessories of a church. It may alternatively be part of a composite circular mount, from the centre of the base of a bowl or mazer (drinking vessel). It dates to AD 1350–1500. The object was found in



Fig. 9. LEIC-E3A6AB from Harbrough (Derby Museums, CC licence CCBy2.0).



Fig. 10. Wound bead, c.AD 450-700.



Fig. 11. Medieval mount from Harborough district.

the Harborough district. Coins dominated the Medieval recordings for the year with 55 records created; also reported were four spindle whorls, one lamp hanger and a horse harness pendant.

POST-MEDIEVAL

LEIC-06DBA9 (Fig. 12) is an incomplete pocket sundial dating from AD 1600 to 1750, from Charnwood. These sundials are known as simple ring dials or poke dials – ‘poke’ being an alternative word for pocket. The sliding collar would be set into position for the month of the year and, when the dial was suspended vertically, the sun would shine through the hole, through the slot, and onto the interior of the ring. The time could then be read by looking at the closest number to the spot of light on the interior of the ring. These dials were popular during the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries. The post-Medieval period saw the most diversity in object type recorded, including 18 buckles, two powder measures and an incomplete candle holder.

TREASURE CASES

2019 – 1,131 treasure cases were reported nationally; 16 treasure cases were found in Leicestershire.

2019T735 – A silver and gilt brooch made from a Medieval coin of Philip IV of France (AD 1268–1314). The coin is a Gros Tournois that appears to have been



Fig. 12. Pocket sundial from Charnwood.

gilded on the obverse face only. On the reverse there are a fixing loop and the remains of a pin (Somerby, Melton).

2020 – 1,077 treasure cases were reported nationally, 23 of these from Leicestershire.

2020T410 – An Early Medieval (Viking) ingot, dating to *c.*AD 850–950. The object comprises of a cut fragment of silver. It is rectangular in cross section and trapezoidal in plan. There are cut marks at the narrowed ends; the shorter of the two has been cut twice as two cutting marks can be seen. The weight corresponds to two ertugar, or two-thirds of an ounce – a recognised weight unit in this this period. (Heather, North West Leicestershire).

2021 – 1,021 treasure cases were reported nationally, 24 of these from Leicestershire.

2021T481 – An incomplete Early Medieval gold pommel cap with beaded wire filigree ornament, mounted onto a copper-alloy core (Fig. 13). The pommel is of elongated or ‘cocked-hat’ form, with one end missing. The front and back faces of the pommel cap have different decoration. One face side is decorated with two filigree beasts facing each other, their positions mirrored. Each beast is seated with its head and chest upright, a front paw raised to meet that of its opposite in the centre of the field. The opposite face is decorated with a stylised, zoomorphic design in Salin’s Style II comprising a pair of opposed beasts, bodies entwined at the neck and breast (Harborough).



Fig. 13. Early Medieval gold pommel cap from Harborough.