

5. MIDLANDS

By ALICE LYONS

CAMBRIDGESHIRE

(1) **Bourn**, *Bourn Airfield* (TL 3426 5916): evaluation revealed that Roman occupation of the site seems to have been relatively short-lived, ceasing, on the whole, by the end of the first century A.D. The only exception was an area of settlement in the north of the airfield (Field 6), which may have lasted until the third century. There was possible evidence for Roman land-use outside of the settlement area identified in Field 6, in the form of east–west-aligned shallow agricultural features in Fields 16 and 17. These features, which were truncated by north–south-aligned furrows, may represent part of a Roman bedding-trench system, or alternatively an earlier and less well-preserved furrow system. Shallow ditches identified in Fields 4, 7, 14, 15 and 19 perhaps formed Roman field-systems and outfields away from the areas of settlement.¹

(2) **Buckden**, *land north of Mill Road* (TL 5201 2677): evaluation of 45 trial-trenches (totalling 2360 m in length) was undertaken which provided evidence of a Roman settlement, probably established in the late first or early second century A.D. and continuing to be occupied throughout the Roman period. A relatively small assemblage of Roman pottery, a finger-ring, two coins, a brooch pin and animal bone was recovered from features and the plough soil.²

(3) **Caldecote**, *Highfields* (TL 3558 5918): an early Roman date was tentatively ascribed to a trackway and a series of ditches with a north-west–south-east alignment.³

(4) **Cottenham**, *land off Oakington Road* (TL 4405 6710): excavation (0.7 ha) revealed a Roman settlement. Significant features included an early Roman pottery kiln (A.D. 40–70), primarily producing coarse ware jars, as well as three contemporary ovens. A series of enclosure ditches and associated wells characterise the earliest Roman activity, with a number of the former retained and redefined in the mid- and later Roman periods. In the later Roman period, there is evidence for

¹ Work undertaken by A. Haskins, OA East, for Countryside Properties plc; OA East Report 2256. K. Hamilton and T. Phillips sent information.

² Work by A. Pullen, Pre-Construct Archaeology, for J Gladman Developments Ltd, c/o Pegasus Group. K. Anderson sent information.

³ Work undertaken by K. Blackbourn, OA East, for CgMs Ltd; OA East Report 2241. K. Hamilton and T. Phillips sent information.

small-scale iron-smithing, including three smithing-hearth bottoms. A large late Roman midden produced sizeable assemblages of pottery and faunal remains, as well as four late Roman coins.⁴

(5) **Haddenham**, *land north of Hardwicke Fields* (TL 4598 7576): evaluation revealed a relatively well-preserved Late Iron Age to early Roman enclosure, with surviving midden material backfilled into the ditches, along with a roundhouse drip gully and a large pond-like feature; all recorded in the north-eastern and central third of the area. Outside of this enclosure, other archaeological remains of the period were rare, with only a single ditch in Trench 2 possibly being contemporary with the enclosure.⁵

(6) **Hinxton**, *Hinxton Genome Campus* (TL 50257 45190): uncovered during an evaluation was a roughly north–south-aligned trackway, defined by ditches and hollow ways, extending through the middle of the site. Perpendicular field boundaries were present on both sides of the trackway. Whilst dating evidence was sparse, it is likely that these features may have been in use during the early Roman period. Elsewhere on the site, a possible route or version of the Icknield Way was uncovered, along with associated activity.⁶

(7) **Perry**, *land south of B661* (TL 16724 66324): evaluation in Field 1, revealed settlement activity dating to the mid- to late Roman period, comprising a pair of square or rectangular enclosures in the centre of the site, previously identified from cropmarks. Evidence for possible structures and other settlement related features was found within these enclosures, whilst large pottery assemblages were also recovered from the enclosure ditches.⁷

(8) **The Stukeleys**, *Grange Farm* (TL 23444 74416): a series of regular, parallel, early Roman cultivation ditches was revealed during evaluation. Extending along the eastern edge of the site, they correlated with findings from earlier evaluations and geophysical survey in the area.⁸

(9) **Warboys**, *Farriers Way* (TL 3103 7986): excavation revealed that occupation began in the Late Iron Age with a series of roundhouses and a field-system. Occupation continued into the early Roman period, when a series of rectilinear fields was constructed. Extending north-west to south-

⁴ Work by T. Revell, Pre-Construct Archaeology, for J Persimmon Homes. K. Anderson sent information.

⁵ Work undertaken by P. Moan, OA East, for Palace Green Homes; OA East Report 2203. K. Hamilton and T. Phillips sent information.

⁶ Work by L. Robinson Zeki, OA East, for The Wellcome Trust; OA East Report 2269. K. Hamilton and T. Phillips sent information.

⁷ Work by K. Blackburn, OA East, for Anglian Water; OA East Report 2263. K. Hamilton and T. Phillips sent information.

⁸ Work by N. Cox, OA East, for CgMs Heritage for Urban & Civic; OA East Report 2286. K. Hamilton and T. Phillips sent information.

east along a ridge was a metalled trackway with accompanying ditches. These ditches were recut, suggesting that the trackway remained in use through multiple phases. Although not as well defined, remains of a second trackway were present in the north-western corner of the site. The settlement seems to have expanded eastwards beyond a main boundary ditch from the second century A.D. onwards, in a 'ladder enclosure' pattern. A small cremation cemetery containing four burials was identified and there was a separate cemetery containing six north-south-aligned inhumations accompanied by grave goods. Adjacent to the main trackway on its northern side was a potential 'shrine' consisting of a circular structure and an associated rectangular enclosure. Within the ditches of this enclosure were three neonate burials. There was also evidence for the deliberate deposition of cattle skulls within associated individual pits and ditch terminals. Evidence for industrial activity at the site included three kilns, pottery wasters, a large corn-drier and slag/charcoal. In addition, there was extensive evidence of cobbling within defined enclosed areas, potentially indicating 'craft areas'. As well as coins dating to the fourth century, evidence for later Roman or even post-Roman occupation included two rectangular post-hole structures. A further three inhumations within the main area of the settlement were on a broad east-west alignment; an associated juvenile burial was accompanied by grave goods including a bone hairpin in the shape of an axe, tentatively dated to the late Roman period.⁹

(10) **Willingham**, *Rockmill End* (TL 4094 7067): evaluation revealed that the earliest and primary focus of activity on the site was a large, long-lived, sinuous boundary ditch that ran south-east to north-west across the site, with further ditches denoting a field-system to the south. This network of ditches appears to date to the Late Iron Age to early Roman transition period. A roundhouse with a long occupation span was associated with the boundary ditch, along with a number of broadly contemporary pits and post-holes. In the early Roman period the large ditch was recut and extended to the south-west, reinstating the boundary but also emphasising a shifted focus of activity to the north-east. The third phase of activity was in the latter part of the early Roman period and was represented by a sub-rectangular enclosure and an adjacent trackway. After the enclosure went out of use the site appears to have been abandoned, with no evidence for later Roman (post early second century) activity being identified.¹⁰

(11) **Wimblington**, *land east of 38 March Road* (TL 4138 9277): excavations (c. 3 ha) identified evidence of a Roman rural farmstead. The archaeology comprised a series of rectilinear enclosures,

⁹ Work by S. Graham, OA East, for The Environmental Dimension Partnership, on behalf of Bellway Homes; OA East Reports 2218 and 2309. K. Hamilton and T. Phillips sent information.

¹⁰ Work by P. Lambert, OA East, for CgMs Consulting for Kier Living; OA East Report 2206. K. Hamilton and T. Phillips sent information.

field-systems, trackway, waterholes and, of most significance, two post-built structures. The first structure comprised ten post-holes forming a T-shaped structure measuring c. 6.8 m by c. 6.6 m. It is unclear as to whether this arrangement reflects a single phase of construction, in a square configuration with internal ‘aisles’, or multiple phases of construction. The second structure consisted of a two parallel lines of posts, forming a rectangular structure measuring approximately 18 m in length by 6.8 m in width. An assemblage of Roman daub and ceramic roof-tiles are indicative of timber-framed wattle structures with ceramic roofing. Evidence of small-scale iron-smithing is indicated by the associated metalworking debris.¹¹

DERBYSHIRE

(1) **Derby**, *Boulton Moor, east of Chellaston Lane* (SK 40025 31550): two areas were excavated (Areas A and B). In Area B, Roman pottery, principally of later second- to third-century date, was found within the fills of an enclosure ditch that enclosed an area measuring 62 m by at least 50 m. Within the enclosure a scatter of shallow pits, a hearth and short lengths of ditch or gully were found. The finds from the internal pits suggest domestic occupation.¹²

HAMPSHIRE

(1) **Fareham**, *Stubbington Bypass* (SU 55608 04847): an evaluation revealed a series of Romano-British ditches, thought to represent evidence of field-systems, and a small square enclosure of unknown purpose. The pottery recovered is indicative of multi-period activity with the Roman period extending into at least the second half of the second century A.D.¹³

(2) **Fleet**, *land at Netherhouse Copse, Hitches Lane* (SU 7958 5329): evaluation of a 21 ha site uncovered an early Roman settlement and associated field-system.¹⁴

(3) **Havant**, *land south of Bartons Road* (SU 731 077): an evaluation revealed a series of late Iron Age/early Romano-British pits and ditches. Despite the relatively large number of datable features, it was not possible to ascertain the type of activity they represented as, whilst large assemblages of unmortared brick and tile fragments, charcoal-rich fills and iron slag suggested industrial processes, the types of pottery recovered indicated domestic settlement. The pottery assemblage

¹¹ Work by M. Jones, Pre-Construct Archaeology, for CgMs Consulting. K. Anderson sent information.

¹² Excavation by G. Evans and T. Allen of Oxford Archaeology, for CgMS Heritage. K. Smith sent information.

¹³ Work carried out by G. Howland, Pre-Construct Archaeology, for Hampshire County Council. T. Vitali sent information.

¹⁴ Work undertaken by D. Sánchez of TVAS. S. Preston sent information.

also suggested two main phases of activity, one dating to the later Iron Age to early Roman period and the other to the mid-third to fourth century A.D., with a hiatus occurring between the two phases.¹⁵

(4) **Romsey**, *Roke Manor Farm, Shootash* (SU 3343 2272): this phase of excavation (actually in late 2017) revealed the eastwards continuation of a Late Iron Age/early Roman field-system and droveway previously seen to the west.¹⁶

(5) **Riseley**, *land to the west of Odiham Road* (SU 7217 6286): excavation of an area of around 0.45 ha revealed Late Iron Age/early Roman linear features, also some pits and post-holes.¹⁷

(6) **Waterlooville**, *Dunsbury Park* (SU 470175 109816): an evaluation revealed an early Romano-British enclosure ditch and a contemporary pit located within its interior. Although the ditch appears to have gone out of use after the first century A.D., the presence of fragment of post-medieval building material in its upper fill suggests the enclosure survived as an earthwork for much longer. The function of the feature could not be ascertained though its relatively elevated location in the landscape with views southward toward the coastal plain and Langstone harbour, may suggest it served a strategic role.¹⁸

(7) **Winchester**, *24 St Thomas Street* (SU 448009 129430): a watching-brief and excavation revealed multiple phases of activity on this site. Large amounts of Roman pottery dated between A.D. 50 and 410 was recovered from the site; however, most of the material is thought to be residual and was recovered from a series of intercutting Saxo-Norman pits. This included a fragment of stamped samian which reads OFBASSICOE[(a partial second impression is also visible below the stamp), from the workshop of Bassus and Coelius which was active between A.D. 40 and 80. A small area of undisturbed Roman material uncovered was thought to be the remains of a structural wall.¹⁹

¹⁵ Work carried out by K. Marshall, Pre-Construct Archaeology, for CgMs Consulting. T. Vitali sent information.

¹⁶ Work by L. Lewins and K. Beaverstock of TVAS in 2018. S. Preston sent information.

¹⁷ Work by A. Taylor of TVAS in 2018. The results are published in TVAS Occasional Paper 33. S. Preston sent information.

¹⁸ Work carried out by D. McAtominey, Pre-Construct Archaeology, for CgMs Consulting. T. Vitali sent information.

¹⁹ Work carried out by R. Wolfe, Pre-Construct Archaeology, for CFW Architects on behalf of Peter Chittick. T. Vitali sent information.

HERTFORDSHIRE

(1) **Bishop's Stortford**, *Wickham Hall, Hadham Road* (TL 47452 22985): the site is to the north-west of the Roman settlement at Bishop's Stortford. Evaluation (four trial-trenches) revealed many Roman pits and ditches (two possibly forming the corner of an enclosure), mostly dating to the late third/fourth century.²⁰

(2) **Hemel Hempstead**, *Spencer's Park* (TL 0806 0947): excavation uncovered two Roman cremation burials and a possible pyre pit within one of the smaller enclosures.²¹

LEICESTERSHIRE

(1) **Cadeby**, *Brascote Lane* (SK 44234 02717): evaluation in advance of an extension to Cadeby Quarry, following geophysical survey, identified evidence for a Roman pottery kiln alongside enclosure ditches and gullies. A large number of kiln bars together with fired and partially fired pottery were retrieved from the kiln. The forms of the jars were broadly consistent with production in the later decades of the first century A.D.²²

(2) **Carlton**, *42–44 Main Street* (SK 39751 05006): a strip, map and sample excavation in advance of a new detached dwelling revealed two clear phases of Roman boundary features possibly associated with an enclosure system dating to the first to second century onwards.²³

(3) **Donisthorpe**, *Acresford Road* (SK 31153 13597): open-area excavation in advance of residential development revealed a complex of Romano-British field-systems or stock-enclosures in association with a trackway. Small sections of compact pebble metalling survived between the trackway ditches forming part of a deliberately laid surface between different enclosures. The enclosures adopted two different alignments, suggesting at least two phases of activity, and ditches revealed in neighbouring fields show that it was part of a more widespread system. Few finds were

²⁰ Work by M. Baister, E. Holloway, N. Rayner, A. Tuffey, E. Hicks, A. Wade and R. Mathieson for Colchester Archaeological Trust on behalf of David Harvey. Howard Brooks sent information.

²¹ G. Clarke, OA East, for Orion Heritage on behalf of Barratt David Wilson North Thames; OA East Report 2260. K. Hamilton and T. Phillips sent information.

²² Work undertaken in 2017, led by L. Hunt of University of Leicester Archaeological Services, on behalf of Tarmac Trading Ltd, X.A42.2017.

²³ Work led by N. Flavell of University of Leicester Archaeological Services, on behalf of Mr. P. Page, X.A60.2018.

recovered, suggesting that the enclosures were not located near to any associated settlement, but a general third- to fourth-century date was indicated by the pottery assemblage.²⁴

(4) **Gilmorton**, *land at Lutterworth Road* (SP 5703 8747): excavation over two areas totalling 0.9 ha revealed a single pit and ditch of probable Roman date.²⁵

(5) **Great Bowden**, *Leicester Lane* (SP 473640 289120): open-area excavation in advance of a proposed new residential development followed earlier geophysical survey and evaluation. Early Roman activity consisted of two boundary ditches, three livestock enclosures and associated post-built structures, gullies and pit features, and a droveway. Evidence of crop processing was highlighted through charred plant remains, the recovery of many quern fragments, and the presence of a least two four-post structures often associated with grain storage. The evidence of both crop-processing features and livestock control management systems indicates a mixed arable and pastoral farming economy.²⁶

(6) **Great Bowden**, *Nether Green* (SP 74547 88969): evaluation revealed evidence for ditches, a pit and a post-hole, dated broadly to the Roman period.²⁷

(7) **Ibstock**, *Ravenstone Road* (SK 40554 11397): evaluation undertaken in advance of a potential planning application. Two trenches confirmed earlier geophysical survey results, comprising two ditches and a pit containing a possible cremation urn with a small quantity of burnt bone. The finds comprised a small quantity of late second- to third-century Roman pottery and a Roman coin.²⁸

(8) **Leicester**, *47 Clarence Street* (SK 59002 04775): a two-trench evaluation was undertaken in advance of proposed development for a seven-storey building. The evaluation revealed truncated Roman post-holes, a beam-slot and ditch (all of the first half of the second century A.D.). The Roman deposits are thought to be associated with extramural properties that fronted on to the Fosse Way (FIG. 1).²⁹

²⁴ Work in 2017, led by Donald Clark of University of Leicester Archaeological Services, on behalf of Mr G. Barney, X.A125.2017.

²⁵ Work by H. Daniel of TVAS North Midlands. S. Preston sent information.

²⁶ Work led by Adam Clapton of University of Leicester Archaeological Services, on behalf of Gladman Developments Ltd, X.A41.2018.

²⁷ In 2017, led by Roger Kipling of University of Leicester Archaeological Services, on behalf of Mr P. Grady, X.A35.2017.

²⁸ Work led by Claire Brown of University of Leicester Archaeological Services, on behalf of CgMS Heritage, X.A14.2018.

²⁹ Work led by Tim Higgins of University of Leicester Archaeological Services, on behalf of Anorex Developments, Y.A11.2018.

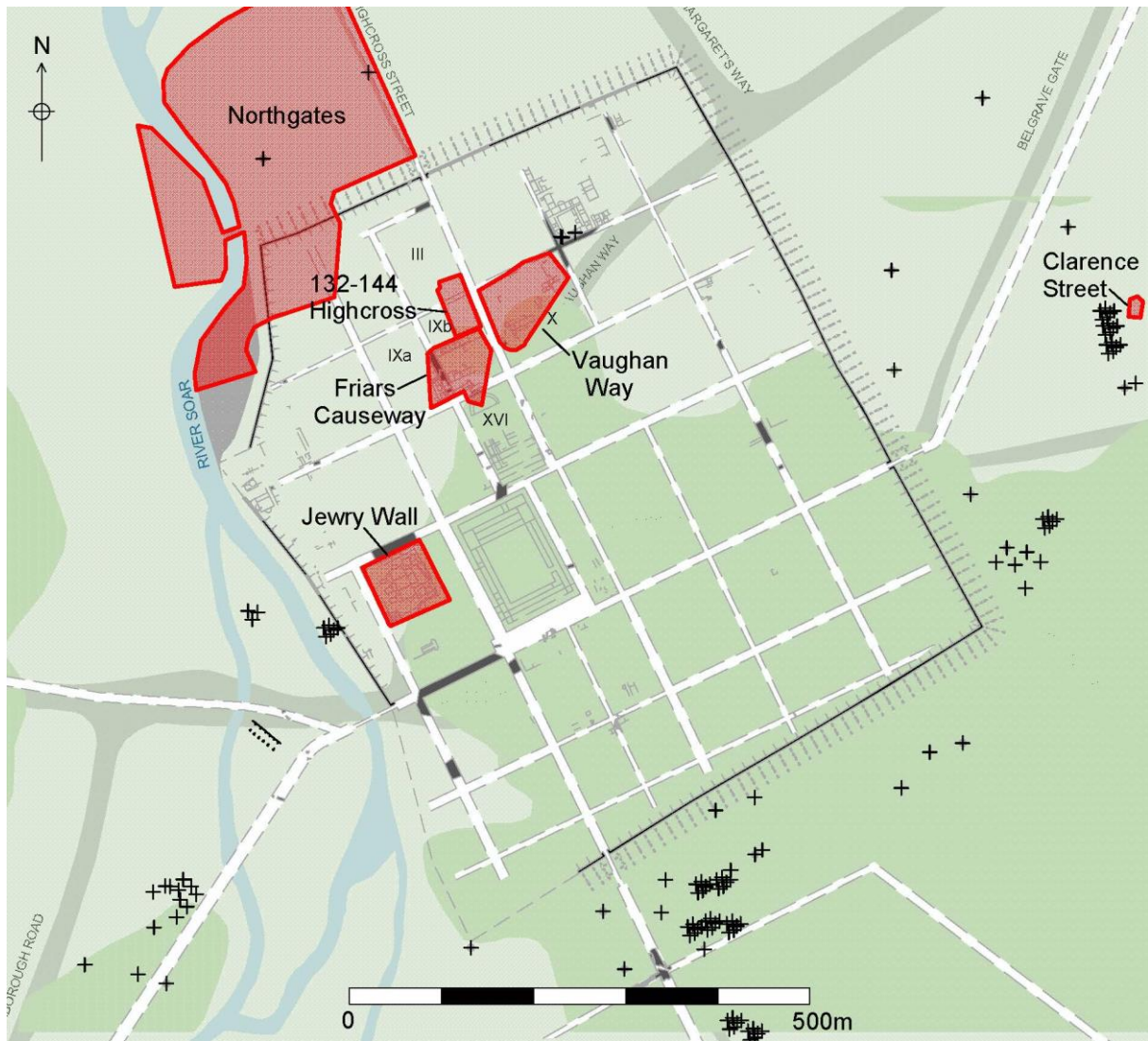


FIG. 1. Roman Leicester. ULAS sites mentioned in the text.

(9) **Leicester**, *61 Great Central Street* (SK 58249 04759): an evaluation located within Insula IXb revealed a Roman demolition layer and soils. This was located just to the north of the Stibbe excavations; the layers likely related to the extensive early Roman activity in Insula IXb.³⁰

(10) **Leicester**, *Forest East, Kingstand Farm* (SK 5195 0231): an area of 7.9 ha was evaluated. The only archaeological features were in the south-eastern corner of the site, comprising a ditch and two possible pits containing dumps of middle Iron Age to early Roman pottery with evidence for metalworking and possibly pottery production.³¹

³⁰ Work led by Dr Gavin Speed for University of Leicester Archaeological Services, on behalf of Architects Le1, YA18.2018.

³¹ Trial-trench evaluation by R. Daniel and C. Champness for CgMS Heritage. K. Smith sent information.

(11) **Leicester**, *Jewry Wall Museum, St Nicholas Circle* (SK 58198 04506): a watching-brief was carried out at Jewry Wall Museum to observe landscaping works. The remains of a floor were exposed in Room VIII. The uncovering of an *opus signinum* floor in Room VIII required a revision of the landscape works in order to mitigate damage to possible archaeological deposits. Thus, the regrading of Rooms VII and VIII was abandoned and a strategy was established for the preservation of the floor *in situ* after exposure and recording (FIG. 1).³²

(12) **Leicester**, *Jewry Wall Museum, St Nicholas Circle* (SK 58226 04453): an archaeological investigation, consisting of an open area strip evaluation, was located at the southern edge of the Jewry Wall baths ruins, immediately adjacent to the public footpath to the south, in advance of a proposed pedestrian access ramp for the museum (FIG. 1). Archaeological evidence consisted of two Roman walls, a patch of tessellated pavement and associated floor make-up levels. These could relate to the baths complex, or else be evidence for a separate building adjacent to the baths.³³

(13) **Leicester**, *Jewry Wall Museum, Welles Street* (SK 58191 04509): four trial trenches were undertaken in the car park close to the ruins of the Roman bath complex (FIG. 1). The work took place in an area originally excavated in the 1930s, and later occupied by Vaughan College.³⁴ Despite heavy truncation and disturbance, the work revealed areas of surviving archaeology. One trench located remains associated with two parallel walls excavated in the 1930s — part of the ‘northern shops’ which are believed to pre-date the construction of the bathhouse. The trench also revealed a series of pits representing Roman activity, as well as intact buried soil/trample layers. Finds from the mid to late first to mid-second century are consistent with earlier archaeological work on this part of the site, which indicates activity pre-dating the construction of the baths *c.* A.D. 130.³⁵

(14) **Leicester**, *Northgates* (SK 580 049 – centre): 19 trial trenches were excavated within a large parcel of land located to the west of Northgates and to the east of the river Soar and the Grand Union canal (FIG. 1). The trenches were located within the projected line of the town walls, on All Saints Road, and revealed the remains of a substantial Roman town-house, including a well-preserved tessellated pavement. Trenches outside the town defences, located adjacent to the river

³² Work in 2017, led by M. González Rodríguez, of University of Leicester Archaeological Services, on behalf of Leicester City Council, A8.2017.

³³ Work led by Dr Gavin Speed of University of Leicester Archaeological Services, on behalf of Leicester City Council, YA1.2018.

³⁴ K. Kenyon *Excavations at the Jewry Wall Site, Leicester* (1948).

³⁵ Work in 2017, led by J. Browning for University of Leicester Archaeological Services, on behalf of Leicester City Council, A3.2017.

Soar recorded deep alluvial/channel deposits. An extensive spread of late prehistoric and early Roman activity was located on the low-lying ground to the east of the deeper river-channel deposits on Swan Street, Pingle Street and Soar Lane, including both occupation and burial evidence. Multi-period activity dating from the Roman to post-medieval period was recorded along Northgate Street frontage, including evidence of both timber and stone buildings.³⁶

(15) **Lockington**, *Lockington Quarry* (SK 4828 1193): evaluation of 45 trenches was carried out in advance of continuing sand and gravel extraction. The trenches targeted potential features (indicated by geophysical survey, aerial photography, aerial LiDAR assessment and fieldwalking). A concentration of undated ditches and gullies, some with adjacent post-holes and/or small pits, was identified in the north and west of the area. Features in the north of the site are likely to be associated with domestic activity potentially relating to the known Iron Age/Roman settlement which lies 200 m further to the north of the site.³⁷

(16) **Lutterworth**, *land at Shawell Quarry, Gibbet Lane* (SP 5318 8040): evaluation trenching during September and October 2018 sampled some 17 ha and confirmed the archaeological significance of geophysical anomalies identified in 2016. The main area of interest is of early Roman date, towards the southern end of the site in the zone nearest to the Roman town of *Tripontium* and Watling Street. The deposits seem to include a rectilinear enclosure, but it is not obvious that the deposits represent occupation remains rather than an agricultural complex, although over 400 sherds of pottery were recovered, suggesting that occupation cannot be far away.³⁸

(17) **Market Harborough**, *Burnmill Road* (SP 73019 88637): evaluation, following a geophysical survey, revealed areas of Romano-British settlement activity. The area of settlement comprises a series of adjoining enclosures, along with larger enclosures, boundary ditches and pits. Pottery suggests an occupation period of the first to third centuries A.D. with the majority of finds from the late first and second centuries. Archaeobotanical samples revealed evidence of grain processing, used for bread and/or beer making.³⁹

³⁶ Work in 2017, led by J. Harvey and S. Baker of University of Leicester Archaeological Services, on behalf of G. L. Hearn, A9.2017.

³⁷ Work led by L. Brown of University of Leicester Archaeological Services, on behalf of Tarmac Trading Ltd, XA117.2017.

³⁸ Work by H. Daniel of TVAS North Midlands. S. Preston sent information.

³⁹ Work in 2017, led by C. Brown of University of Leicester Archaeological Services, on behalf of David Wilson Homes East Midlands, X.A129.2017.

(18) **Pickwell**, *Stygate Lane* (SK 79989 12166): evaluation revealed a concentration of Roman material including several stone structures which are likely to form part of a range of buildings of a Roman villa complex.⁴⁰

(19) **Sapcote**, *Leicester Road* (SP 49321 93437): a strip, map and sample excavation revealed a section of a Roman ditch containing broadly dated Roman pottery, this is likely part of a field boundary associated with a known Roman villa to the south.⁴¹

(20) **Tugby**, *Hallaton Road* (SK 76331 00814): evaluation in advance of residential development revealed evidence for ditches, a possible pit and a post-hole, dated by pottery to the late third or fourth century. The ditches may represent the boundary to an enclosure occupying higher, flatter ground immediately to the north-west. The presence of several recuts suggests that this boundary was maintained over a lengthy period, and likely formed a square or rectangular enclosure. The discovery of a third-century military baldric terminal plate from one of the ditches is a rare and unexpected find.⁴²

NORTHAMPTONSHIRE

(1) **Braybrooke**, *Substation* (SP 756 859): an evaluation comprising 20 trenches was carried out at the site of a proposed substation. This identified two concentrations of archaeological features, situated in the north and south-western parts of the evaluation area. All the features were ditches and it is likely that they represent the boundaries of enclosure complexes or groups of fields. Only two features produced dating evidence — one in the northern group and one in the south-western group. In both instances the pottery was Roman, and further Roman pottery was recovered from the subsoil of a third trench. The small amount of pottery recovered from the site is indicative of peripheral activity, perhaps suggesting that the features were not particularly close to any associated areas of domestic occupation.⁴³

(2) **Raunds**, *Warth Park* (SP 98183 72660): excavation uncovered Roman archaeology within the western half of the site. The peripheral, settlement-related and industrial remains comprised

⁴⁰ Work in 2017, led by W. Jarvis of University of Leicester Archaeological Services, on behalf of Intelligent Environment Ltd, X.A8.2017.

⁴¹ Work led by Donald Clarke of University of Leicester Archaeological Services, on behalf of Mrs J. Clark, XA.65.2018.

⁴² Work in 2017, led by R. Kipling of University of Leicester Archaeological Services, on behalf of Langton Developments Ltd, X.A30.2017.

⁴³ Trial-trench evaluation by K. Brady for the National Grid. K. Smith sent information.

ditches, pits and post-holes, gravel quarrying, a cobbled trackway, a pottery kiln, a corn-drier, five inhumations, a cremation and six stone-lined wells.⁴⁴

OXFORDSHIRE

(1) **Bicester**, *Bicester Heritage Hotel* (SP 59250 24783): twelve evaluation trenches were excavated alongside the Roman road from Alchester to Towcester. A Roman ditch was revealed, which lay parallel to the road. It was set too far back from the road to be interpreted as a roadside ditch and is likely to be a field boundary.⁴⁵

(2) **Bicester**, *land to the north of Coopers, Buckingham Road* (SP 5912 2418): recording over a small area (420 sq m) in November 2018 found a series of shallow gullies that represent parts of an early Roman field-system, perhaps including a trackway.⁴⁶

(3) **Grove**, *Airfield* (SU 3907 8955): an evaluation was carried out at the former Grove Airfield. A total of 34 trenches revealed settlement features dating from the early to late Roman periods, with a focus in the south-eastern part of the evaluation. Ditches located beyond the apparent settlement focus most probably relate to associated field-systems.⁴⁷

(4) **Oxford**, *former Acland Hospital, Keble College* (SP 5132 0639): excavation uncovered a Roman ditch, possibly a field boundary associated with the settlement in the University Science Area to the east.⁴⁸

(5) **Shipton-under-Wychwood**, *land at Milton Road* (SP 2730 1790): 28 evaluation trenches over around 3 ha revealed some Late Iron Age or Roman features towards the centre of the site.⁴⁹

(6) **Shrivenham**, *land at Highworth Road* (SU 2325 8920): excavations in late 2017 and early 2018 revealed a surprising density of archaeological deposits of multiple periods from this c. 1.3 ha site. Roman activity on the site is relatively modest with several stone-lined wells and a few

⁴⁴ Work by L. Moan, OA East, for CgMs Heritage on behalf of Roxhill Developments Ltd; OA East Report 2225. K. Hamilton and T. Phillips sent information.

⁴⁵ Trial-trench evaluation by B. Rzadek for Bicester Heritage. K. Smith sent information.

⁴⁶ Work by A. Taylor, TVAS. S. Preston sent information.

⁴⁷ Trial-trench evaluation by D. Sykes and S. Teague for Persimmon Homes (Wessex). K. Smith sent information.

⁴⁸ Excavation by M. Sims, K. Smith and A. Simmonds for Keble College, Oxford. K. Smith sent information.

⁴⁹ Work by P. Manisse, TVAS. S. Preston sent information.

substantial ditches which were redefined several times. It is anticipated that the core of any Roman settlement lies away from the excavations here.⁵⁰

(7) **Standlake**, *land at The Downs* (SP 3918 0411): evaluation trenching over a 10 ha site revealed many subsoil features, but most were furrows of little archaeological interest. The remaining deposits represented occupation of prehistoric, Roman and early Saxon dates.⁵¹

(8) **Sutton Courtenay**, *Sutton Courtenay Lane* (SU 50078 92420): a watching-brief was carried out to the east of Sutton Courtenay Lane, along a 250 m service trench. While large sections of the trench were heavily truncated, several concentrations of archaeological features were identified. This activity appeared to be associated with the Roman settlement identified in an adjacent evaluation in 2016. At least four main areas of archaeological features were identified in the trench consisting of intercutting ditches, pits, gullies and a post-hole. The pottery assemblage is diagnostic of the early Roman period.⁵²

(9) **Tackley**, *land at Street Farm* (SU 48 20): excavations in late 2017 and early 2018 revealed foundations of a Roman villa with a small, badly damaged mosaic floor. Post-excavation work is in its early stages, but the coins suggest a fourth-century emphasis.⁵³

(10) **Wallingford**, *Winterbrook, Reading Road* (SU 604 886): excavation in 2017 uncovered a single Roman pit close to the western edge of the site which produced a coin and dumps of pottery. Other isolated Roman features and finds indicate that activity during this period was at a low level.⁵⁴

STAFFORDSHIRE

(1) **Tamworth**, *Windmill Hill Farm* (SK 194 059): during April and May 2017 a programme of archaeological investigation undertaken in advance of a residential development. The site lay on the north-western edge of Tamworth, in a former arable field. Geophysical survey of the entire 7.9 ha development area identified only limited evidence for archaeological features, comprising linear ditches and recent land drains and plough furrows. A ditch and pit in a trench at the south-western corner of the area, at the proposed location of the development compound, were Roman

⁵⁰ Work by P. Manisse, TVAS. S. Preston sent information..

⁵¹ Work by Anne-Michelle Huvig of TVAS in 2018. Text compiled by Steve Preston.

⁵² Watching-brief by John Carne for CgMs Heritage. K. Smith sent information.

⁵³ Work by David Sanchez of TVAS in 2018. Text compiled by Steve Preston.

⁵⁴ Trial-trench evaluation and excavation by Carl Champness for CgMs Heritage on behalf of Miller Homes. K. Smith sent information.

and this area was consequently targeted for archaeological excavation. Excavation revealed a substantial part of a Romano-British farmstead composed of a complex of rectilinear enclosures that was occupied during the second and third centuries. Two phases were identified, the settlement having been extended and additional enclosures added to the north and east around the middle of the second century. The latter phase included construction of a post-built aisled building, and two discrete dumps of burnt crop-processing debris attested to the crops that the population cultivated. An article is due to be published in the *Transactions of the Staffordshire Archaeological and Historical Society*.⁵⁵

WARWICKSHIRE

(1) **Brinklow**, *land at Brinklow Quarry, Coventry Road* (SP 4090 7900): excavation comprised seven area strips that were targeted at features found during an evaluation, the total area coming to around 3 ha. Roman finds from the excavation were exclusively from Area G and comprised a shallow hollow or cluster of intercutting pits containing second- to third-century pottery, also an L-shaped ditch, probably part of a rectangular enclosure. Residual Roman pottery was also recovered from nearby post-medieval features.⁵⁶

(2) **Kenilworth**, *Crew Lane* (SP 3136 7234): an archaeological excavation and watching-brief was undertaken in advance of development south of Crew Lane and bounded to the east by the A46 Kenilworth bypass. The project exposed the southernmost corner of a Romano-British enclosure which had previously been recorded north of Crew Lane during archaeological investigations in 1971. The enclosure was delineated by a single ditch, with no evidence of re-cutting or palisading, as there had been north of Crew Lane. The artefactual assemblage indicates that the enclosed settlement was primarily occupied from the second to fourth centuries A.D., although some background first-century A.D. pottery probably relates to smaller scale activity from this period. The dating is consistent with the 1971 archaeological works and the 2014 archaeological evaluation in advance of this project. No structures, aside from the building identified within the evaluation, were observed within the excavation area. Of particular note was the presence of large quantities of Roman building material within the backfill of the enclosure ditch. This included both *pilae* and *tegulae* tile fragments, as well as 42 fragments of sandstone rubble. A quantity of the sandstone had been squared and is considered likely to have originated from the Roman building identified within the evaluation. The presence of such building material is indicative of

⁵⁵ Excavation by Andrew Simmonds, Kirsty Smith and Carl Champness for CgMs Heritage on behalf of Persimmon Homes. K. Smith sent information.

⁵⁶ Work by L. Esteves of TVAS East Midlands. S. Preston sent information.

something other than a basic rural agricultural settlement. This is supported by the presence of Spanish amphora fragments within the enclosure ditch. The enclosed settlement may be part of a larger estate, potentially associated with the settlement located c. 750 m south-west at Glasshouse Wood. Other features comprised a single Roman pit and a smaller north-west–south-east-aligned ditch, both within the enclosure. The function of the pit is unknown, but a small pottery assemblage indicates a third- to fourth-century date, which is consistent with dating from the enclosure. The second, smaller ditch potentially relates to a partition within the larger enclosure.⁵⁷

(3) **Lighthorne Heath**, *Gaydon* (SP 3559 5605): evaluation followed on from a desk-based assessment, geophysical survey and a previous phase of evaluation, which were all undertaken in 2015. 125 trenches were excavated across the site. Roman activity appears to be concentrated around Trenches 41, 73/75, 93 and 104. In Trench 41 activity comprised a large pit, a ditch and an undated but probably associated gully. Around Trenches 73/75 activity appears to be focused on a number of ditches in Trench 75 and a possible feature in or around Trench 73. Although the pottery from these areas was only of limited diagnostic use, it was indicative of types dating to the mid-third to late fourth centuries A.D., suggesting that activity in these two areas was mid- to late Roman. Roman activity in Trench 93 was largely identified during the post-excavation analysis of a number of fragments of ceramic building material that have been identified as Roman and hint at the presence of a Roman building in or around the trench. Early Roman activity was also identified in a ditch in Trench 104.⁵⁸

(4) **Rugby**, *Cawston Farm* (SP 46701 72766): an evaluation revealed a first- to second-century A.D. field-system, possibly used well after the Roman period, and several pits and isolated linear ditches likely of the same date range.⁵⁹

(5) **Stoneleigh**, *land north of Stoneleigh Road* (SP 3228 7343): excavation covered six small areas totalling 0.7 ha. One ditch is very tentatively dated as Roman by a single sherd of sandy greyware.⁶⁰

⁵⁷ Work by J. Wilkins and R. Hedge, Worcester Archaeology. Commissioned by Wood plc on behalf of Western Power Distribution.

⁵⁸ Work by A. Walsh, L. Griffin and L. Pearson, Worcestershire Archaeology. Commissioned by Orion Heritage in advance of a large residential development for which outline planning permission has been granted.

⁵⁹ Work carried out by V. Pinna, Pre-Construct Archaeology, for Environmental Dimension Partnership (EDP) on behalf of db symmetry. T. Vitali sent information.

⁶⁰ Work by L. Esteves of TVAS East Midlands. S. Preston sent information.

(1) **Bretforton**, *The Paddocks, Station Road* (SP 0907 4409): an eight-trench archaeological evaluation (284 m² in area) was excavated within a 1.42 ha paddock. The majority of the features were indicative of Roman activity, both agricultural and probable sand and gravel extraction on site, with settlement activity nearby. Environmental sampling has identified the production of cereal crops and suggested that there may be evidence of an early change in the type of cereal being grown.⁶¹

(2) **Evesham**, *Cheltenham Road* (SP 0321 4178): excavations revealed a series of features indicative of a Romano-British rural landscape. These included a system of field boundaries and possible stock droveways, comprised of ditches which appeared to be regularly maintained. Environmental analysis showed species common to open marshy and wet ground rather than cultivars which, combined with the bones of cattle and sheep or goat, supports the interpretation of a predominantly pastoral landscape of livestock management. The ceramic assemblage was represented by local types that were in use throughout the Roman period, therefore it was not possible to date the features more closely.⁶²

(3) **Worcester**, *The Hive, The Butts* (SO 8470 5507): archaeological fieldwork undertaken prior to and during the redevelopment for the Worcester Library and History Centre (The Hive) included area excavations, evaluation trenching, building recording and watching-brief observations. The investigations successfully retrieved a range of evidence for settlement of Roman date. A range of features demonstrated the organisation and development of the Roman settlement, particularly the layout of a street frontage and the types of buildings constructed. Alongside this, secondary deposition indicated the suite of material culture associated with the population and supported and expanded on existing knowledge for the economic base of the settlement. Roman activity was recorded on the edge of the gravel terrace and the terrace slope, and down across the floodplain of the river Severn, where extensive dumping of slag demonstrated that large-scale land reclamation was occurring. Structural and occupation evidence was focused along the northern edge of the excavated area, where the gables of three small buildings abutted a road aligned east to west which probably led to the river frontage. The buildings have been interpreted as commercial in function and perhaps represent a small-scale trading district that serviced riverside and roadside industrial working.

⁶¹ Work by A. Mann, J. Brewer, D. Hurst and E. Pearson, Worcestershire Archaeology. It was commissioned by Rooftop Housing Group, in advance of a proposed residential development.

⁶² Work carried out by R. Weaver, Pre-Construct Archaeology, for Environmental Dimension Partnership (EDP). T. Vitali sent information.

Roman occupation was dated between the first and the late fourth century A.D. but was most intensive between the mid- to late second century and the early fourth century. In this period the settlement at Worcester was at the height of its economic development, during which iron-working was a major focus, potentially alongside cattle trading. A later change of land use saw the construction of a large aisled building, probably part of a suburban property associated with, or subsidiary to, a large town-house or villa nearby. High-status building material has been recovered from a number of features on sites in this area of the settlement, and later finds from The Hive, including stone roof-tile, box-flue tiles, an antefix and slipped *tegulae* correlate well with this localised evidence.⁶³

(4) **Worcester**, *Taylor's Lane* (SO 8579 51634): an archaeological evaluation was undertaken comprising 26 trenches over the four fields in a modified grid array. Within two adjacent trenches to the south of the site, small fragments of second- to fourth-century date Malvernian pottery were retrieved from one small oval pit as well as large fragments of charred oak with narrow growth rings. Similar pottery fragments were retrieved from a pit in an adjacent trench as well as fired clay and glass slag. It is thought that these pits are likely to be contemporary and may represent the remains of charcoal or ceramic production. To the south of the second pit a Malvernian oven plate was retrieved from a small ditch.⁶⁴

(5) **Wychavon**, *Evesham Leisure Centre* (SP 0324 4336): an archaeological excavation revealed a Roman field boundary ditch known from the previous investigation. No environmental samples were taken, and no significant artefacts were recovered.⁶⁵

⁶³ Work by R. Bradley, C.J. Evans, E. Pearson, S. Richer and S.A. Sworn, Worcestershire Archaeology.

⁶⁴ Work by A. Mann, J. Brewer, E. Pearson and R. Hedge, Worcestershire Archaeology. It was commissioned by CgMs Heritage on behalf of St Modwen, in advance of a proposed mixed-use development.

⁶⁵ Work by A. Mann and E. Chubb, Worcestershire Archaeology. It was undertaken on behalf of D. Niblett, Project Manager for Wychavon District Council.