

# Leicestershire Landscapes

*Edited by*

**Paul Bowman and Peter Liddle**



LEICESTERSHIRE MUSEUMS ARCHAEOLOGICAL FIELDWORK GROUP

Monograph No. 1

2004



Supported by  
Leicestershire County Council

© Individual authors 2004

ISBN 0 95482 000 2

Published by

Leicestershire Museums Archaeological Fieldwork Group

All rights reserved. No part of this publication may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system, or transmitted in any form or by any means, electronic, mechanical, photocopying, recording or otherwise, without prior permission.



**Work on one of the numerous late Iron Age and Roman sites found by local Fieldwork Groups in Leicestershire and Rutland. This example is from southeast Leicestershire with the high ground of Langton Caudle rising from the River Welland floodplain to be seen in the background.**

# Contents

List of Contributors	v
Editorial Preface	vii
1. Community Archaeology in Leicestershire: The wider view beyond the boundaries ( <i>Tim Schadla-Hall</i> )	1
2. Community Archaeology in Leicestershire 1976-2001 ( <i>Peter Liddle</i> )	8
3. The work of two local Fieldwork Groups	10
4. The hunter-gatherers of Leicestershire and Rutland ( <i>Lynden Cooper</i> )	12
5. The First Farming Communities: ‘Out of the Unknown’ – but still not Out of the Woods ( <i>Matthew Beamish</i> )	30
6. The Bronze Age and Iron Age in Leicestershire and Rutland ( <i>Patrick Clay</i> )	40
7. Recent, and not so recent, work in Roman Leicester (Ratae Corieltavorum) ( <i>Nicholas J. Cooper and Richard Buckley</i> )	51
8. Roman Small Towns in Leicestershire and Rutland ( <i>Peter Liddle</i> )	63
9. The Roman Countryside of Leicestershire and Rutland ( <i>Peter Liddle</i> )	71
10. Pottery, Landscape and Trade: What are the sherds telling us? ( <i>Nicholas J. Cooper</i> )	81
11. The Anglo-Saxons in Leicestershire and Rutland ( <i>Richard Knox</i> )	95
12. Villages and their Territories: Part I ( <i>Paul Bowman</i> )	105
13. Villages and their Territories: Part II ( <i>Paul Bowman</i> )	120
14. Mapping the Medieval Landscape ( <i>Robert Hartley</i> )	137
15. Parks and Woodland in Medieval Leicestershire 1086-1530 ( <i>Anthony Squires</i> )	141
16. Investigating Past Environments, Farming and Food in Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland: the evidence from plant and animal remains ( <i>Angela Monckton</i> )	154

## List of Contributors

Matthew Beamish  
University of Leicester  
Archaeological Services  
University Road  
Leicester  
LE1 7RH

Paul Bowman  
50 Stoughton Road  
Stoneygate  
Leicester  
LE2 2EB

Richard Buckley  
University of Leicester  
Archaeological Services  
University Road  
Leicester  
LE1 7RH

Patrick Clay  
University of Leicester  
Archaeological Services  
University Road  
Leicester  
LE1 7RH

Lynden Cooper  
University of Leicester  
Archaeological Services  
University Road  
Leicester  
LE1 7RH

Nicholas J. Cooper  
University of Leicester  
Archaeological Services  
University Road  
Leicester  
LE1 7RH

Robert Hartley  
Leicestershire County Council  
Environment & Heritage Services  
County Hall  
Glenfield  
Leicestershire

Richard Knox  
Leicestershire County Council  
Environment & Heritage Services  
County Hall  
Glenfield  
Leicestershire

Peter Liddle  
Leicestershire County Council  
Environment & Heritage Services  
County Hall  
Glenfield  
Leicestershire

Angela Monckton  
University of Leicester  
Archaeological Services  
University Road  
Leicester  
LE1 7RH

Tim Schadla-Hall  
Reader in Public Archaeology  
Institute of Archaeology  
University College London  
31-4 Gordon Square  
London  
WC1H 0PY

Anthony Squires  
4 Tudor Drive  
Cosby  
Leicestershire  
LE9 1TU

## Preface

This book is largely made up of the papers presented to the 25th anniversary conference of the Leicestershire Museums Archaeological Fieldwork Group held on 7th and 8th September 2001 at the University of Leicester, which was well supported by the local archaeological community. The papers attempt to synthesise the most recent knowledge of Leicestershire and Rutland's archaeology. It is some twenty years since the last attempt to do this in the publication of 'Leicestershire Archaeology – The Present State of Knowledge' (Liddle 1982). It is the membership of the Fieldwork Group, along with the Museums' Survey Team and Archaeological Unit and, in more recent years, the University of Leicester Archaeological Services and other contracting units, that have expanded our body of knowledge so dramatically in this time.

The editors would like to thank the contributors who have made time in busy schedules to complete their papers (even if this has sometimes taken some time!). We would particularly like to thank Richard Buckley and Nick Cooper and Peter Liddle who produced papers to fill gaps caused by speakers at the conference who were unable to complete their contributions. It is regrettable that completion of the volume has taken 2½ years, but most papers have been updated to reflect recent discoveries.

## Acknowledgements

The editors would like to thank Kathy Harman for taking the brunt of the practical organisation of the conference and Ernie Miller for chairing the conference and dealing with the finances. The committee of the Leicestershire Museums Archaeological Fieldwork Group have been unceasingly supportive and we would like to thank those who attended the conference and paid for this book in advance for their patience.

*Paul Bowman and Peter Liddle*