

## PALAEOLITHIC

### Summary of key research questions posed in published Research Agenda

- 1 *Archaeological Period 1: The Cromerian and intra-Anglian (Oxygen Isotope Stages [OIS] 19-12, 780,000 – 450,000 years ago [kya])*
  1. Where is the evidence of earliest occupation found and what is its date?
  2. Do these locations indicate possible entry routes into western 'Doggerland'?
  3. How do we identify the material culture, and what was the way of life?
  4. Where were hominin colonisers during the Anglian glaciation (OIS12)?
  5. What can we learn of the culture of these early hominin groups?
  6. What are the differences between intra-Anglian and the pre/post Anglian cultures and where did these people come from?
  7. How can we explore known sediments to add to knowledge of this period, particularly those relating to the Bytham River?
  
- 2 *Archaeological Period 2: The pre-Levallois Lower Palaeolithic (OIS 12-18, 450kya-250kya)*
  1. What was the relationship and chronology of sites with handaxes (Acheulian) and sites with other tools (Clactonian: flakes and chopping tools)?
  2. If we compare tools from earlier assemblages (OIS11) with those of later assemblages (OIS9 and later) what can we discern about tool use and its implications?
  3. How did available raw materials influence these assemblages?
  4. Can we identify demographic patterns and social relations in this period?
  5. How can we monitor geological work and maintain contacts with other disciplines in order to engage with relevant ideas on sediments and gravels?
  
- 3 *Archaeological Period 3: The Levallois Lower Palaeolithic (OIS 8-6, 250kya-150kya)*
  1. How can we date and record sites of this period?
  2. What was the nature of assemblages at this time of both non-Levallois and Levallois (prepared core technology) type?
  3. What is the range and variability of prepared core technology within the region and why did this emerge in OIS8?
  4. What aspects of behaviours are unique to this period?
  5. Where do sites of this period occur?
  
- 4 *Archaeological Period 4: The Mousterian (OIS 3, 55kya – 20kya)*
  1. How can we identify, date and record sites and site assemblages of this period?
  2. How can we ensure that sites of this period are recognised and that the artefact collections are reviewed and adequately studied?
  
- 5 *Archaeological Period 5: The Upper Palaeolithic (OIS2, Early UP 40kya-25kya, Late UP 13kya-10kya)*
  1. How can we refine dates for the earliest anatomically modern humans?
  2. How can we test the validity of the temporal and cultural succession of the EUP?
  3. Is it possible to determine the demographic nature of settlement, and model the social pattern of mobile hunter-gatherer groups?
  4. What was the relationship between open and cave sites and between their artefacts assemblages?  
*5a, The Early Upper Palaeolithic*
    1. What was the relationship of sites of this period with earlier and later sites?
    2. When was western Doggerland reoccupied after the Late Glacial Maximum (c 22kya)?
    3. What was the relationship between western Doggerland groups at this time and their nearest European neighbours?
    4. What was the relationship between closed and open-air sites and can we discern typological differences in their assemblages?
  
- 6 *Overall Major Themes*
  1. How can we continue and extend the fieldwalking programmes?
  2. How can we best review and enhance the Historic Environment Records (HERs) for the Palaeolithic?
  3. How can we ensure that environmental evidence from sites which have no archaeology is sampled and studied?

### Reference

McNabb, J, 2006. The Palaeolithic, in N Cooper (ed.) *The Archaeology of the East Midlands: An archaeological Resource Assessment and Research Agenda*, Leicester Archaeology Monographs 13, 11- 49

## MESOLITHIC

### Summary of key research questions posed in published Research Agenda:

#### 1 *Major themes*

1. What can we learn of the transition from late-glacial to early post-glacial hunter- gatherer societies?
2. Can we identify continuity and change in the Mesolithic?
3. How can we find evidence for the transition from the later Mesolithic to the earlier Neolithic?

#### 2 *Sites and lithic artefacts*

1. How can we work towards characterising the regional and local distribution of earlier and later Mesolithic activity?
2. What can we do to identify lithic assemblage types of the earlier and later Mesolithic?
3. How can we identify types of sites?
4. Is it possible to define the spatial extent of lithic artefact types?

#### 3 *Chronology, technology and environment*

1. How can we refine the chronology of Mesolithic lithic industries?
2. Can we define the sources of lithic raw materials and understand their procurement and use?
3. How was technology organised? Can we refine site reduction sequences?
4. How can we work towards targeting deposits which may hold palaeoenvironmental data of this period?
5. What manipulation of the environment may be identified in the palaeoenvironmental record ?

#### 4 *Site prospection and interpretation*

1. What can be done to increase chronological and typological data from survey and excavation assemblages?
2. How can we extend fieldwalking surveys to previously untargeted areas?
3. How can we improve data on lithic scatters to include their sizes and shapes?
4. How can we ensure that scatters defined by surface collections are selected for research excavations?
5. Is it possible to ensure all known sites are published?
6. How can all data on Mesolithic sites be made available through HER records?

### Reference

Myers, A M, 2006. The Mesolithic, in N Cooper (ed.) *The Archaeology of the East Midlands: An archaeological Resource Assessment and Research Agenda*, Leicester Archaeology Monographs 13, 51-68

## NEOLITHIC AND EARLY TO MIDDLE BRONZE AGE

### Summary of key research questions posed in published Research Agenda:

- 1 *Later Mesolithic to earlier Neolithic transition*
  1. How did farming develop in the earlier Neolithic?
  2. To what extent was the hunter-gatherer way of life perpetuated into the earlier Neolithic?
  3. What is the significance of correlations between the distributions of later Mesolithic and earlier Neolithic surface lithic scatters?
  4. How may palaeoenvironmental sampling strategies assist in elucidating this transitional phase?
- 2 *Introduction, character and development of agricultural practices*
  1. How was the landscape used in this period?
  2. How may we refine the dating of sites of this period?
  3. To what extent may existing artefact and palaeoenvironmental data, particularly pollen, molluscs, buried soils and human bone, be re-evaluated with new techniques?
  4. Could these existing collections provide a resource for enhancing our understanding of issues such as population movement, dietary changes and the changing role of agriculture and economic activities?
- 3 *Exploitation of different landscape zones*
  1. How was the landscape used for different functions in society?
  2. How may the variety of landscapes throughout the region be surveyed and examined in a way which would allow previous land use to be determined across the area?
  3. Could survey and investigation provide information on the impact upon the environment of the growth of agriculture and changes in the character of settlement?
- 4 *Development of ceremonial monuments and their environs*
  1. How did areas with monument complexes develop through time?
  2. Why were some monument types seen in some areas and not others?
  3. What was the importance of single sites and groups of monuments in society?
  4. What criteria should be employed in deciding whether some monuments should be preserved whilst others are excavated?
- 5 *Nature of Neolithic and Bronze Age societies*
  1. What were the distribution patterns of sites and artefacts?
  2. Can we identify regional or intra-regional variations in the character of sites and artefacts?
  3. Can examination of burials and grave goods assist in discerning the status of individuals in society, and would the study of monuments and burials assist with better understanding of the nature of these groups?
  4. Can we identify spatially restricted styles of rock art and pottery which may highlight intra-regional variations in social or economic organisation?
- 6 *Access to resources and trade connections*
  1. Is it possible to evaluate the importance of the region's copper resource in this period?
  2. Can we identify some of the key sources of lithic raw materials?
  3. Can we identify some of the key routes of movement of artefacts forming components of exchange networks extending within and beyond the region, particularly in the proximity of or on the periphery of monument complexes?

### Reference

Clay, P, 2006. The Neolithic and Early to Middle Bronze Age, in N Cooper (ed.) *The Archaeology of the East Midlands: An Archaeological Resource Assessment and Research Agenda*, Leicester Archaeology Monographs 13, 69-88

## LATER BRONZE AGE AND IRON AGE

### Summary of key research questions posed in published Research Agenda:

- 1 *Chronology*
  1. How is it possible to improve the dating and framework of the chronology for the archaeology of the first millennium BC?
- 2 *Archaeological visibility, site prospection and landscape exploration*
  1. What mechanisms may underlie intra-regional variations in site densities?
  2. Is it possible that the spatial extent of sites of this period is underestimated?
  3. How can we expand our comparatively limited knowledge of first millennium BC settlement in the claylands and upland valleys?
- 3 *The Late Bronze Age and Early Iron Age c. 1000-450BC: settlement archaeology*
  1. Why is there a lack of sites of this period and why are they often found by chance, commonly stratified below later Iron Age sites?
  2. How can we better understand the nature of the LBA-EIA transition and the relationship between LBA-EIA and Middle/Late Iron Age societies?
- 4 *The Middle Iron Age c. 450-100BC: hillforts and settlement archaeology*
  1. Why were settlements enclosed and what was the function and date of hillforts and other enclosed upland sites?
  2. How are unthreatened sites to be investigated and managed for long-term conservation?
  3. Why was land divided and how and why did village clusters develop?
  4. What was the relationship of settlement change to agriculture?
  5. Were upland areas abandoned and were local changes related to wider events?
- 5 *Late Iron Age c. 100BC-AD50*
  1. What is the relationship of settlement sites of the period to each other and to overlying Roman settlements?
  2. Why were aggregated settlements seen in this period and what factors influenced their positioning and development?
  3. What can coin assemblages from these sites tell us?
- 6 *Linear monuments, land divisions, ritual, structured deposition and religion*
  1. What was the role of pit alignments and linear ditch systems within the landscape?
  2. What can the above-mentioned boundary features tell us about the environment, ritual and material culture of this period?
  3. Do these boundaries relate to settlements and/or field systems?
  4. What is the nature of structured deposits in this region and are there any patterns or trends within different areas of the region?
- 7 *The agricultural economy*
  1. How can the role of agriculture in the processes of settlement and social change be determined?
  2. What can palaeoenvironmental data contribute to our understanding of diet and land use?
- 8 *Finds, craft, industry and exchange*
  1. How can we add to our existing knowledge of industries and crafts in this region, particularly iron extraction and smelting, lead sources, and the salt industry?
  2. How can we ensure adequate analysis and publication of artefacts, particularly those recorded under the Portable Antiquities Scheme?
- 9 *Social relations and society in the first millennium BC and Regional themes*
  1. What was the social structure in this period?
  2. How can we obtain better data on settlement morphology, expansion and location?
  3. How can we further investigate the Peak region, Lincs Fens and coastal and riverine areas?

### Reference

Willis, S, 2006. The Later Bronze Age and Iron Age, in N Cooper (ed.) *The Archaeology of the East Midlands: An Archaeological Resource Assessment and Research Agenda*, Leicester Archaeology Monographs 13, 89-136

## ROMAN

### Summary of key research questions posed in published Research Agenda:

- 1 *Chronology*
  1. How can we improve our lack of knowledge on the region's pottery industry in some areas and our knowledge of fabric schemes, particularly during the Late Iron Age - Romano-British transition and the third and fourth centuries?
  2. How can recording and publication of fieldwalking and metal detected assemblages be improved?
  3. Can we advance our knowledge of the chronology of metal finds, particularly brooches?
  4. Could scientific dating methods, particularly radiocarbon dating, be better used?
- 2 *Late Iron Age landscapes and the strategy and consequences of the Conquest*
  1. How should we analyse the continuity, abandonment and relocation of settlements?
  2. What was the morphology and extent of later Iron Age landscapes and what was their relationship to early Roman forts, particularly in Lincoln and Leicester?
  3. What was the nature of the supply chain from this area to other regions?
  4. What was the impetus for the foundation of *vici* and other small towns?
- 3 *Urbanism*
  1. What were the origins of urban centres? Were these already established centres or were they spurred by military occupation?
  2. How did nucleated settlements grow and develop, and what was the pace of growth in the first century?
  3. Did neighbouring military communities or the proximity of major roads affect the growth of *vici*?
  4. How were the settlements structured and what was their role? Why were some centres defended?
- 4 *Communications and new geographies of power*
  1. Can the chronology of the road network construction be established?
  2. What influenced the development of the road routes?
  3. How did the role of roads and waterways affect the social status of both urban and rural communities?
- 5 *Rural Settlement, landscape and society*
  1. What can survey data add to our knowledge of rural settlements?
  2. How did rural networks of communities work and relate to each other?
  3. How did rural communities use and change the landscape?
- 6 *Artefact production, exchange and consumption*
  1. How can we add to our knowledge of the Roman iron industry?
  2. Can movement of materials and patterns of consumption of Roman pottery aid our understanding of the local economy?
  3. What production techniques and exchange networks were involved in the manufacture and marketing of salt and building materials?
  4. Can the study of coins add to our understanding of the process of monetisation and can examination of the patterns of material consumption improve our knowledge of the economy?
- 7 *Ritual, religion and identity*
  1. Can we establish the nature and context of indigenous Late Iron Age rituals?
  2. Can data from surveys and the Portable Antiquities Scheme assist in locating religious sites?
  3. What beliefs and practices were associated with particular site types?
  4. Why are few burials of the early Roman period found and is it possible to locate and investigate later cemeteries or burials?

### Reference

Taylor, J, 2006. The Roman Period, in N Cooper (ed) *The Archaeology of the East Midlands: An Archaeological Resource Assessment and Research Agenda*, Leicester Archaeology Monographs 13, 137-159

## ANGLO-SAXON (cAD400-850)

### Summary of key research questions posed in published Research Agenda:

- 1 *Major themes*
  1. How can we better evaluate the archaeology of the Roman/Anglo-Saxon transitional period?
  2. Can we locate evidence for the role of the Trent a major cultural boundary and for human activity on the Derbyshire and Nottinghamshire sandstones?
  3. How does the adoption of coinage reflect changes in the economy and society?
- 2 *Demography*
  1. How can sub-Roman or British cemeteries be identified?
  2. How can cemeteries of the seventh to ninth centuries be identified?
- 3 *Political and social groups*
  1. Can settlements be classified and their origins discerned, particularly in relation to estate centres?
  2. May studies of sites yielding late Roman metalwork clarify the relationship between indigenous and Germanic populations?
  3. Can dress be reconstructed from the archaeological evidence and how may this evidence reflect social/political groupings?
- 4 *Ritual and belief*
  1. What was the relationship between pagan temples and other contemporary or later sites, particularly in Northamptonshire?
  2. Can we define the extent of cremation cemeteries?
  3. Were flat cemeteries associated with high status burials?
  4. Can we identify grave-side practices from archaeological evidence?
  5. Can the location of pre-Viking church sites be determined, particularly in Lincoln and Leicester?
- 5 *The road network*
  1. Were the Roman roads maintained in the fifth to ninth centuries?
  2. Were unmetalled routeways, for example at river crossings, established or re-used?
- 6 *Burhs, inland towns and 'central places*
  1. How did Anglo-Saxon and British society use the Roman walled towns, particularly in Leicester and Buxton, and can we identify middle Anglo-Saxon defensive works?
  2. How can we enhance our understanding of the Anglo-Saxon burh at Nottingham?
  3. Can we identify centres of seventh century cross-channel and North Sea trade in the region?
  4. How can the locations of riverbank trading centres in the seventh and eight centuries be identified and was Torksey one of these?
- 7 *Industry and trade*
  1. What do we know about industrial activity in the early to mid Anglo-Saxon period?
  2. Can we identify Anglo-Saxon salt production sites, and how was salt distributed?
  3. What evidence is there for the Derbyshire lead industry between the fifth and ninth centuries?
  4. What do we know of the extraction and smelting of iron ore in this period, and of its impact on the environment (for example at Medbourne and Rockingham Forest)?
  5. Could our understanding of pottery production be improved, for example by study of fabrics? How can we identify imported pottery in this period?
  6. Could we establish the origins of glass in this period?
  7. Does the quantity and quality of imported goods reflect the status of early sites? Could analysis of imported goods from cemeteries (particularly Sleaford) assist this study?
- 8 *Settlement hierarchy, subsistence and the agrarian landscape*
  1. How can palaeoenvironmental studies add to our data on woodland regeneration and the pattern of land use in the fifth to ninth centuries?
  2. Can investigation of the settlement patterns and land use of the region reflect the economy?
  3. Can studies elucidate the changes in ploughing at this time, farming of sheep, consumption of fish and marine mammals?

### Reference

Vince, A, 2006. The Anglo-Saxon Period (c.400-850), in N Cooper (ed) *The Archaeology of the East Midlands: An Archaeological Resource Assessment and Research Agenda*, Leicester Archaeology Monographs 13, 161-184

## MEDIEVAL (850-1500)

### Summary of key research questions posed in published Research Agenda:

- 1 *Urbanism*
  1. What was the influence and character of Danish occupation and what were the differences between Danish and non-Danish burhs and other urban settlements?
  2. How can we gain a better knowledge of the chronological development of major towns, their industrial activities and suburbs in the Post-Conquest period?
  3. How can we elucidate the origins and development of Anglo-Scandinavian smaller medieval market towns?
  4. Is it possible to identify urbanism and the extent of urban influence to the countryside?
  5. How best can we establish the resource of medieval standing buildings (including those that are currently unlisted)?
  6. How can we investigate the vital role of fairs and of ports like Boston?
- 2 *Rural settlement*
  1. What was the impact of the Danelaw? Can place-name evidence be evaluated alongside archaeological evidence to evaluate the influence of Danelaw?
  2. What was the origin of nucleated villages? What was the relationship between these villages and the Danelaw and how can these sites be dated?
  3. How can we gain an understanding of the evolution, pattern and status of the buildings within rural settlements?
  4. How can we elucidate the origin and development of dispersed medieval occupation sites and of medieval settlements which are still occupied?
- 3 *The manor*
  1. How did the medieval manor and early estates and their landscapes develop from the Anglo-Saxon period? Could classification of manorial and moated sites be improved?
  2. What do we know of moated sites in the region and can palaeoenvironmental data add to our knowledge? What standing buildings are present on these sites and what was the purpose of associated features found during surveys?
- 4 *Castles and military sites*
  1. How can East Midlands' sites make a contribution towards the understanding of the origins of castles?
  2. What was the chronology and role of undated minor motte and bailey castles? What was the landscape context of these sites? Have castle sites been lost?
  3. How should battle sites such as Edgecote and Bosworth be further investigated?
- 5 *Religion*
  1. Is it possible to identify lesser minster and early monastic sites? How can sculptural evidence assist our understanding of these sites?
  2. How can we elucidate further the Gilbertine site of Sempringham Priory, temporary monastic sites, such as Haverholme, Lincs, groups of monasteries, Templar sites, chapels, early church buildings and lost churches?
  3. How should we investigate hospitals and colleges?
  4. Can we study the development of early parishes, chapels and early church buildings?
  5. By what methods can we further examine human remains from this period?
- 6 *Industry*
  1. How were pre-Conquest and post-Conquest pottery wares manufactured and distributed? Would study of the communication systems add to this study?
  2. Were extractive mineral industries controlled or organised by royal, monastic or lay lords?
  3. Can we identify, investigate and date sites associated with iron production, coal mining, lead mining, cloth production, leather working and fishing?
- 7 *The agrarian landscape*
  1. How can we establish the chronology of medieval field systems? Can environmental data explain changes in land use and agriculture, including stock rearing, both in lowland and upland areas?
  2. Can we better understand the use and management of woodland in this period?

### Reference

Lewis, C, 2006. The Medieval Period (850-1550), in N Cooper (ed.) *The Archaeology of the East Midlands: An Archaeological Resource Assessment and Research Agenda*, Leicester Archaeology Monographs 13, 185-216

## POST-MEDIEVAL (1500-1750)

### Summary of key research questions posed in published Research Agenda:

- 1 *Urban*
  1. How can we investigate the social, administrative and economic role of towns? Can we see their importance as trading centres and the role of towns in regional marketing?
  2. Can studies discern the emergence and material culture of the urban middle classes and of wage-labour?
  3. How did social space change in towns as it adapted to meet population rise?
  4. How can we investigate key urban industries such as tanning?
- 2 *Rural landscapes and country houses and gardens*
  1. Can we identify the social use of space in buildings and landscapes?
  2. Is it possible to determine Continental influences in garden designs and the effects of changing fashions? What can palaeoenvironmental data add to these studies?
  3. How can we ensure the recording of the material culture of tenants and servants and the investigation of outbuildings and tenants' houses?
- 3 *Agricultural landscape, vernacular architecture and commons*
  1. How can we better understand the early landscapes of enclosure and improvement?
  2. What was the inter-relationship between arable, woodland, commons and waste and rural industry? How can palaeoenvironmental information help this study?
  3. How and why were farms and farm buildings developed?
  4. Can we gain some knowledge of the poor in the rural landscape in this period?
- 4 *Industry and communications*
  1. How can we better understand the organisation of the workplace and the industrial processes which took place?
  2. What was the importance of changing technology, organisation and capitalisation?
  3. How can we find evidence for the material culture of the workers?
  4. What can we learn about the economic changes of the period, and in particular patterns of marketing and consumption?
- 5 *Ecclesiastical and military*
  1. How can we investigate most effectively the archaeology of the Reformation?
  2. How can we ensure that redundant chapel sites, graveyards, skeletal assemblages, and the material culture of burial and remembrance are fully recorded?
  3. How best can we record and study battlefield and siege sites, Civil War garrison locations, suburbs demolished in the Civil War and post-siege redevelopment?
- 6 *Material Culture*
  1. What was the pattern of inland distribution of ceramic imports?
  2. How can we identify competition between regional potteries?
  3. Can we identify the material culture and changing fashions of different classes?
  4. Were there different patterns of consumption between town and countryside?
  5. Can we recognise the symbolic use of material culture (for example, in social competition)?

### Reference

Courtney, P, 2006. The Post-Medieval Period (1500-1750), in N Cooper (ed.) *The Archaeology of the East Midlands: An Archaeological Resource Assessment and Research Agenda*, Leicester Archaeology Monographs 13, 217-235

## MODERN (1750-2000)

### Summary of key research questions posed in published Research Agenda:

- 1 *Settlements*
  1. What can we learn of the transition from the post-medieval to modern period?
  2. Can we establish the nature and impact of settlements and of their expansion and relationships?
  3. Who owned land plots, and how were workers' colonies organised? Are issues of power and control reflected in buildings? How were industrial buildings re-used?
  4. What civic buildings were established and what do we know of prisons, schools, workhouses and places of entertainment? What was the impact of public utilities?
- 2 *Multiculturalism*
  1. What do we know of settlement patterns and how can we identify cultural diversity?
  2. Can we record and study religious buildings and approaches and perceptions regarding the cultural heritage?
  3. What were the associated industrial activities?
- 3 *Religion and cemeteries*
  1. What types of locations and buildings were developed in this period? What designs and materials were used?
  2. What was the social context of these designs and buildings?
- 4 *Transport systems*
  1. What was the relationship between different types of transport?
  2. What was the impact of linear transport systems on industry and settlement?
  3. Can we identify associated construction sites, such as navy camps?
  4. What was the impact of 20th century airports upon the landscape, existing transport infrastructure, etc?
- 5 *Landscapes, estates, parks and gardens and woodland*
  1. What survives of these landscapes and locations and what was their distribution?
  2. What was the social role and influence of country houses and estates?
  3. What do we know of woodland industries and their workforce?
- 6 *Farming and the processing of its products*
  1. Can we determine the relationships between enclosure, settlement and industry?
  2. What was the distribution and nature of planned and model farms?
  3. How and why did estate farming and rural agricultural industries develop? What was the impetus?
  4. Can we identify the archaeology of tied cottages, freehold land, allotments, education and milling and malting?
- 7 *Extractive industries*
  1. How can we record and study underground workings and their relationships to markets, settlements, communities and transport?
  2. How can we establish records of slate and stone industries, brick-making, ceramics and clay pipe manufacture?
- 8 *Textile mills and outworking*
  1. How did wool, cotton, hosiery and lace mills and their water management systems fit into the economic landscape? Was there resistance to new technology?
  2. What craft industries existed prior to 1850 and can we identify the remains of associated buildings?
  3. What was the relationship between outworking and mill production and who were the workers? What was the impact of villages which were 'open' or 'closed' to outworking?
- 9 *Military sites*
  1. What is the nature and survival of military sites from 1750-1914?
  2. How did industries respond and contribute to war and what was the impact of war and post-war decline on settlements, infrastructure, technology and investment?

### Reference

Campion, G, 2006. The Modern Period (1750-2000), in N Cooper (ed) *The Archaeology of the East Midlands: An Archaeological Resource Assessment and Research Agenda*, Leicester Archaeology Monographs 13, 237-257