

HUGGLESCOTE & DONINGTON LE HEATH PARISH COUNCIL

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A listing of Heritage, Archaeological and items of Historical Interest and Importance in the Parish of Hugglescote and Donington Le Heath.

This document is an ongoing process and should not be considered to be complete. The author is extremely grateful to NW Leicestershire District Council (James White) and Leicestershire County Council (Helen Wells) for providing much of the information enclosed and their permission to use this information. Without their very kind help this listing would not have been possible.

The appearance of items in this list is currently at the discretion of the list author. Currently the criteria is if the item is deemed to be of a heritage nature and of archaeological, historical or architectural interest or if it's deemed that it is likely to be of interest to people of the Parish then it's included. The Parish would like to hear from members of the public that have information regarding this listing or more information on items which are or could be included.

There are currently two areas within the Parish that have been designated as 'Conservation Areas' by NWLDC. These are the centre of Donington Le Heath, date of designation 21st September 2010 and Dennis Street in Hugglescote, date of designation 18th October 2017. Details for these can be easily found on Northwest Leicestershire District Council website.

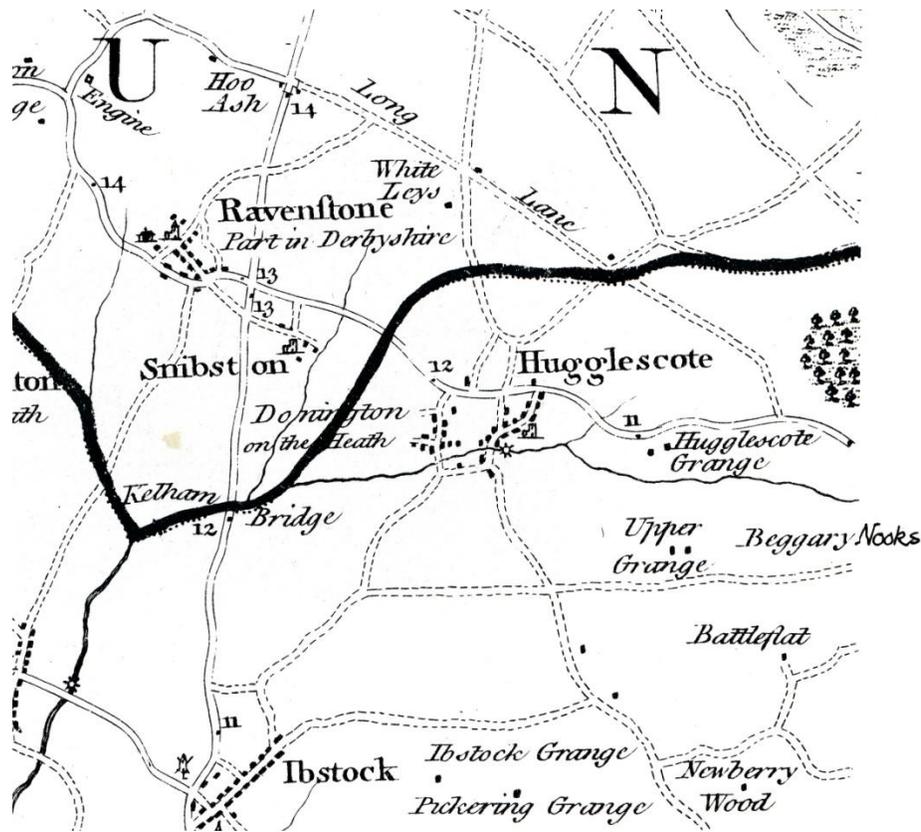
Hugglescote, Donington Le Heath & Snibston.

The first written reference to Hugglescote is in The Charter of Rolls of 1227 but the spelling Hukekscot, points to a much earlier origin. At this time the land was granted to Hugh Le Despencer, Steward to Henry III. He later opposed the King with Simon de Montfort and was killed at The Battle of Evesham in 1265. His lands in Hugglescote passed to his son and in 1279 were said to consist of 760 acres; ten free tenants; nine serfs; a water mill; a fish pond; a pool called Sheepy and nine gallows. The Parish was originally included in the parish of Ibstock. Hugglescote is not listed in the Domesday Book.

The first written evidence of The Manor of Donington Le Heath appeared in the Domesday Book of 1086. It states that William the Conqueror granted it to Hugh Lupus, Earl of Chester. During the thirteenth century the present fortified manor house was built, it is considered that this was built on the site of an already important building. The layout of the village is classic

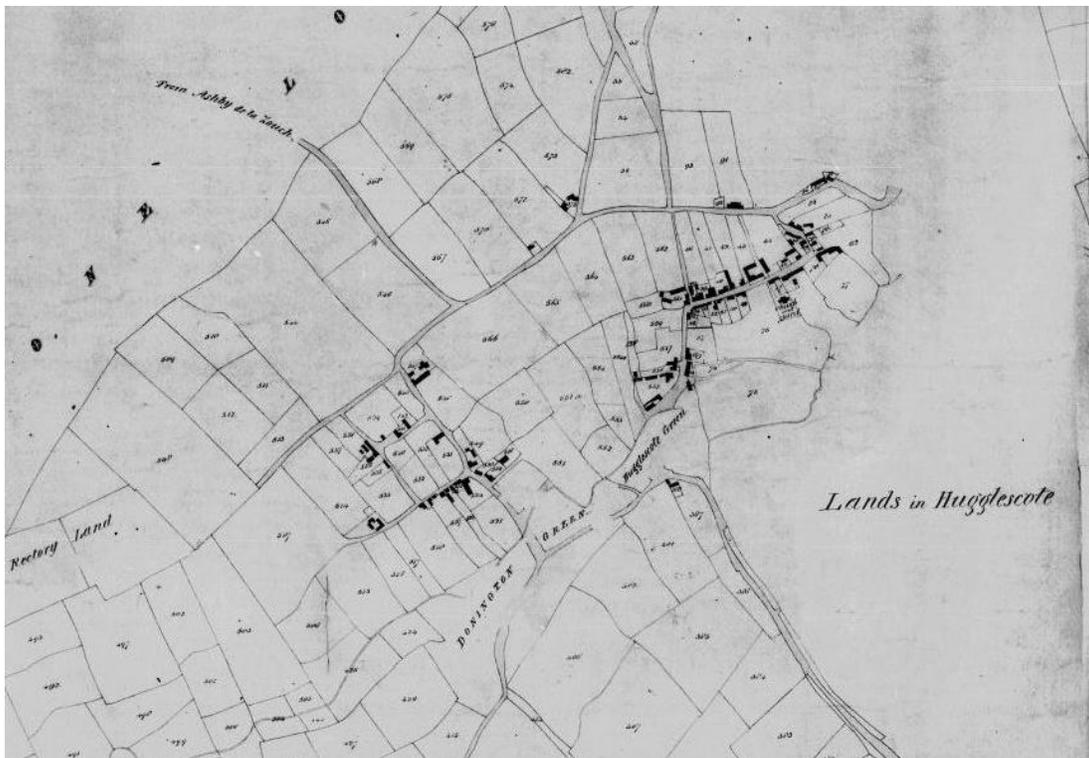
medieval. This building was restored by Leicestershire County Council, who obtained it from the Trustees of The Thomas Harley Trust. The Manor House is open to the public.

Snibston is also not included in the Domesday Book. Snibston is an area to the east and south of the village of Ravenstone. Originally all rural, part of Snibston was transformed into a mining village by the opening of coal mines by what was The Snibston Colliery Company in the early 1830's. This area of Snibston lies within the Parish of Ravenstone with Snibston. But the western part of Snibston is in the Parish of Hugglescote and Donington Le Heath. It's in this Parish that the older part of Snibston lies along with the C12 St Mary's Church. One of the smallest churches in the country which is still in regular use. The deserted village opposite the church may date from the eleventh century (see later notes).

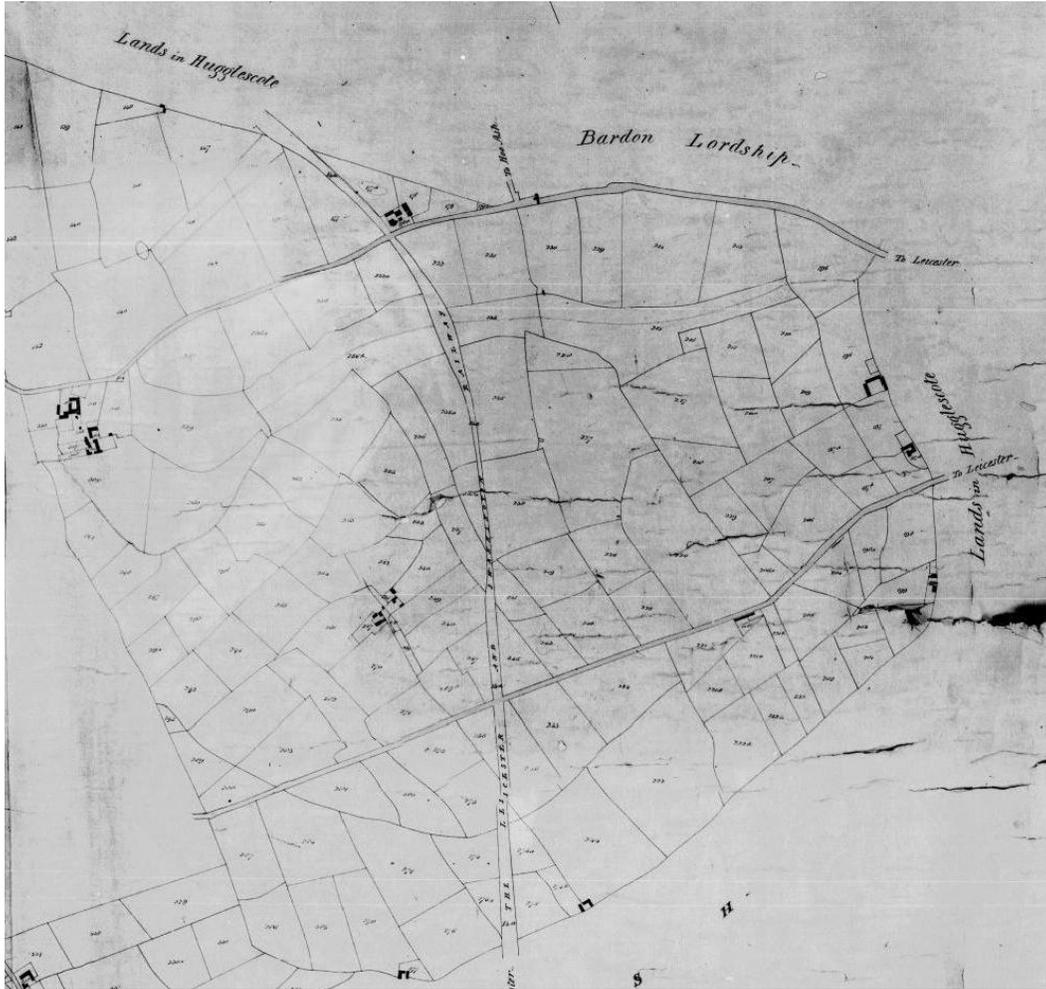


Copy from John Prior's map of 1777. The first properly surveyed map of Leicestershire. John was the Headmaster at Ashby Boys Grammar School. The map was the first to show road detail and other information. The numbers alongside what became known as Grange Road and Ashburton Road shows the milestones on the Leicester to Ashby Turnpike. The twelfth milestone is the only remaining milestone in the Parish and it can still be seen. This was erected in 1753.

The map below is the first OS map of 1814



Tithe Map of June 1838. (West sheet).



Tithe Map of June 1838 (east sheet)

Listed Buildings in the Parish.

Hugglescote and Donington Le Heath Parish: Entries on the National Heritage List for England

Asset type	Property	Street	Township	Grade	Asset No
Listed Building	15 Dennis Street	Dennis Street		II	1178089
Listed Building	16 Dennis Street	Dennis Street		II	1074358
Listed Building	26 and 28 Dennis Street	Dennis Street		II	1178098
Listed Building	Church of St John the Baptist	Grange Road		II star	1178164
Listed Building	Garden building in the garden of 77 Station Road	Station Road		II	1078225
Listed Building	The Manor House	Manor Road	Donington le Heath	II star	1074361
Listed Building	Barn adjoining the Manor House	Manor Road	Donington le Heath	II	1178160
Listed Building	Church of St Mary	St Mary's Lane	Snibston	II	1178183

15 Dennis Street.

House, dated 1757 on brick above door, of red brick on a granite plinth, with a Swithland slate roof and central brick ridge stack. 2 storeys, 2 window range. Raised band between storeys. Brick dentil eaves. 5 steps up to plank door in segmental headed recess at right hand side. Ground floor has C20 windows, with segmental heads. 1st floor has 2-light horizontally-sliding sash windows with glazing bars, at eaves level.



16 Dennis Street.

Cottage, C17 or earlier. Timber-framed with red brick infill part of facade reclad in red brick. Tiled roof with end and off-centre chimneys. Queen posts, collar and tie-beam exposed in west gable. 1½ storeys. Now of about 2 bays in length. Ground floor has a C19 canted bay shop window with cornice, a small fixed light and a large 3-light late C18/early C19 casement with cambered head - all with glazing bars. Above, 2 dormers, one gabled, small casements, the eastern with glazing bars. Plank door set in segmental arched recess. Rear has semi-circular projection containing staircase. C19 brick facade to rear cross wing.

The building has a C19 shop window. In 1838 the property was occupied by William Wayte. In the 1848 census William is described as a framework knitter, but in White's Directory of 1846 he is described as a shopkeeper. This is an excellent example of an early shop window that can be dated to the 1840's.



26 and 28 Dennis Street.

2 houses, originally one, dated 1583 on collar beam timber-framed on a brick and granite plinth, extended 1761 to the E in brick, now painted white. Plain tile roofs. Original house has gable end to street and is of 2 storeys, a box frame with angle braces brick and plastered infill panels now painted white. The gable end has collar and tie beam and queen struts. C19 and C20 windows. The brick extension is of 2 storeys (and may have been raised) and 3 window range. It has a central twin ridge stack and brick eaves with diagonally set dentils, broken by 3 2-light windows. The ground floor has horizontally-sliding sash windows with glazing bars, a fixed window with small panes and 2 C19 doors.



Church of St John the Baptist.

Church, 1878, was begun by King Vann (d April 1879) and completed by Thomas Stirk. The foundation stone was laid in July 1878 and the church was consecrated in October of 1879. Phase two which includes the transepts, tower, chancel and vestry was constructed by Thomas and Henry Herbert and consecrated in October 1879 Built of Charnwood granite rubble with ashlar dressings and Swithland slate roofs. 5-bay nave, aisles, transepts. Baptistry, S transeptal chapel, vestry, tower one bay to E of crossing, chancel. "French Gothic" style. Buttressed aisles with string course, lit by single lancets. Clerestory of twin cusped lancets. Plate tracery to transepts, "Geometrical" 5-light E window. Tower has pyramidal roof, NE stair turret with conical roof, bell-stage. Lit by 3 cusped lancets within arcade, and arcaded storey below. W front has "Geometrical" oculus, 2 2-light windows beneath, and an arched doorway with 3 orders of mouldings and gabled surround. Interior arcade carried on polished granite columns. Terra-cotta cornice. Contemporary fittings, including gas-jets beneath clerestorey.



Garden Building in the garden of 77 Station Road.

Garden building. c1700, altered c1820, restored c2006. Built as an important element of the formal garden to the former Hugglescote Manor, home of the Hastings family. Red brick with ashlar dressings and a stone slate roof. Single storey, square plan. South front has ashlar Venetian doorway, with later plank door, and blocked side lights. Above a moulded ashlar band and a restored brick parapet with ashlar coping.



The Manor House.

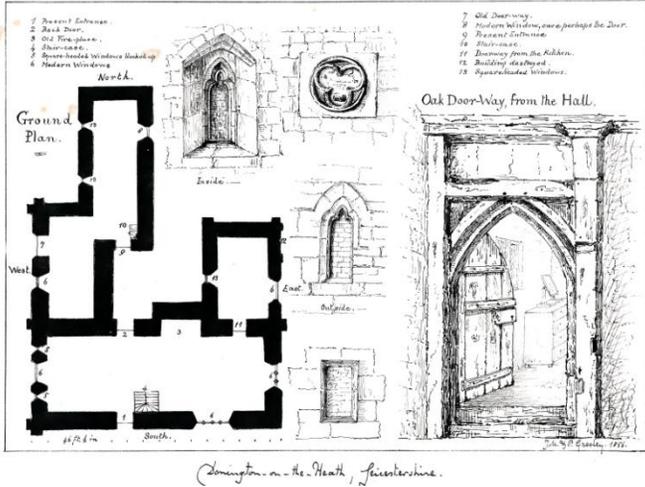
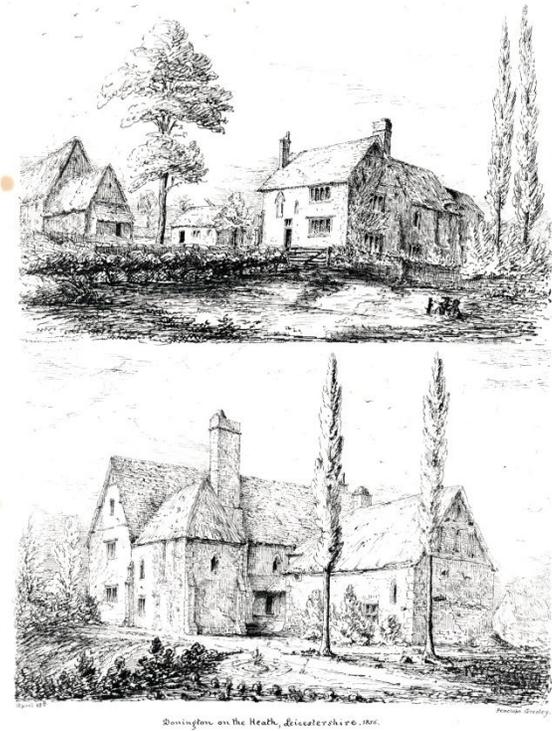
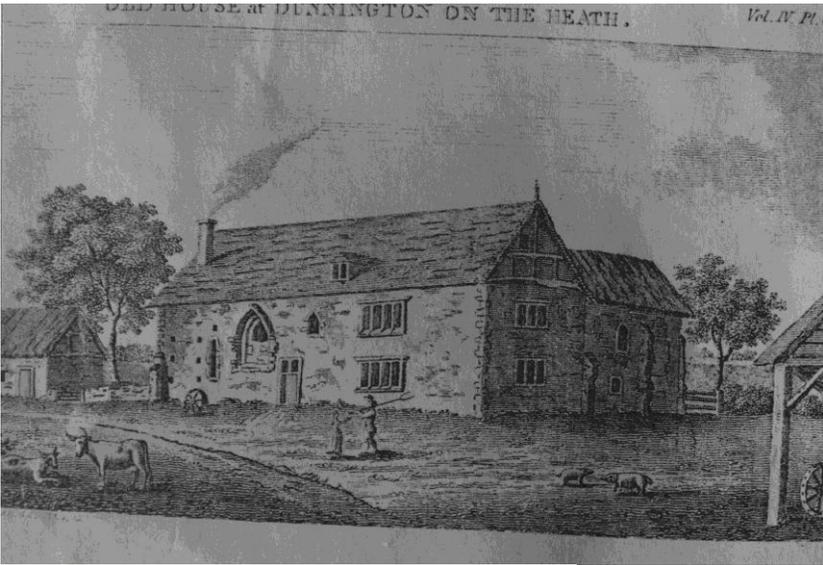
House, c.1280, altered C17, restored 1966-71, of Charnwood granite rubble with ashlar dressings, C20 timber-framed gables and Swithland slate roofs. Massive rubble stack to rear (truncated). Main hall block of 2 storeys lies E-W with wings projecting N at each end to form a half-H plan, and a further wing of slightly later date extends from the NE angle. S wall contains original 1st floor entrance to hall, holes for staircase still visible. Shallow angle buttresses (except at SE corner and in N wing). C13 cusped lancets, restored. S, N and E walls largely rebuilt during restoration. Ground floor fireplace C17, dates from conversion of undercroft to kitchen, when the height of the ceiling was also raised. 1st floor hall has C17 fireplace (fragment of stone wall bracket only remains of C13 fireplace). 3 C17 roof trusses, one closed and 2 open. Hall separated from wings by timber-framed partitions. Part of original plaster infilling survives by doorway to E wing. C17 mullioned windows of 3 and 4 lights with hood bands above, inserted in S and E walls. Window at W end of hall is single large lancet.



Picture and text taken from the July 1818 issue of "The Gentleman."

hours at Christmas. HINYBORO.

Mr. URBAN, July 2.
WITH this you will receive a sketch of an old building at Dunnington on the Heath, in the parish of Ibstock, and County of Leicester, (See Plate II.) The building is of stone, and is now used as a farm-house. It stands in a field; which field, with two others, are called "The Parks;" the quantity of land in the three fields, is between 20 and 30 acres. The house and the farm belong to the Hospital at Osgathorpe, in the same county; and the family of Burgess have been so long tenants, that it is generally known by the name of "Burgess's Old House." VISOR LEIC.



Original engravings by Penelope Greasley 1856.

Barn adjoining the Manor House.

Barn (now tea room), mediaeval origin, restored C20. Charnwood granite rubble, C20 Swithland slate roof. Central carriage entrances, that to N side with small windows within deep embrasures to either side. E end converted to kitchen. Included for group value.



Church of St Mary. Snibston.

Church, C12/C13, restored 1847 of rubble stone with plain tile roof. Of 2 bays, aisle less, with 2 C19 lancets to either side and buttressed at either end. Single lancet to E end. Round-headed S doorway with plank door. Plain plaster ceiling inside.



Non-listed buildings of historic or archaeological interest.

30 Dennis Street.

This property was built in 1785. It is faced in smooth render with mock timber framing beneath a gabled plain tile roof. It is two storeys tall. The off centre door has a bracketed porch. To the left there is a two-light window. To the right there is an alley entrance.

The building has been given a mock Tudor appearance, probably in the 1920's.



22 Dennis Street.

Built before 1836 this house is faced in Flemish bond brickwork with coggled eaves below a gabled concrete tiled roof. It has two storeys. The first floor has two three-light windows with flat heads. The ground floor has a similar window opening with a segmental head and a modern buff brick doorcase.



33 and 33A Dennis Street.

A house built before 1838, the date range being 1700 to 1838. The house is faced in render on a rubble stone plinth, beneath a gabled concrete tiled roof. It is two storeys tall. There is an off-centre door with a shallow gabled porch, flanked by bow windows. To the left again, there is a large four-light window opening with a flat head.



41 Dennis Street.

A house built between 1700 and 1838. The house is faced in roughcast render beneath a gabled slate roof. It is two storeys high. On the ground floor there is a continuous lean-to containing a central entrance porch and two bay windows. On the first floor there are two three-light windows with flat heads.



44 Dennis Street.

A farmstead built between 1700 and 1838. This farmhouse is faced in red brick beneath a gabled plain tile roof. It is two and a half storeys tall. There is an off-centre entrance door with a modern doorcase. To the left, there is a five-light window with a segmented head. To the left there is an attached farm building, now in commercial use.



48 Dennis Street.

Another farmstead built between 1700 and 1838. The building comprises a farmhouse and attached farm buildings. The farmhouse is faced in red brick beneath a gabled plain tile roof. It is a 'T' shaped plan and two and a half storeys tall. There is a central entrance door with a segmented head, flanked by vertical sash windows. Attached farm buildings are arranged in an 'L' shape to the rear, now in use as two dwellings.



Hugglescote Community Centre.

A much loved and prized church owned village building. Formally a National School and teacher's house. Designed by Dain and Smith of Leicester. Built in 1862 and extended eastwards in 1883 to provide an infant school. The school is faced in red brick in English bond, beneath gabled roofs covered in fibre cement slate. Window openings generally have stone surrounds with mullions and transoms. The teacher's house has simple window openings with segmental heads.

Schools built in the period c1840 – 1870 are generally considered suitable for listing, provided that they are well preserved and of good architectural quality. Generally this building meets those criteria.

The building also has strong links with the 'Famous Fifty' many of whom attended this school.



The Castle Inn, Dennis Street.

See also MLE22693

Built in the late seventeenth or early eighteenth century (1667 to 1733). Current thinking is that it wasn't built as an inn. It was converted to five flats in 2013. In 1838 it was described as a house owned by Thomas Cooper. But an entry in an 1855 trade directory lists it as an inn.

The building is two and a half storeys tall. It is faced in render beneath a half hipped plain tile roof. There is a central entrance door flanked by three-light windows. There is also a central ridged stack.

To the right the inn incorporates a Victorian house.

The western part of the frontage was the original inn. A rectangular building with two floors, an attic and a cellar, originally with a central chimney stack. The earliest remaining elements are the brick walls on stone foundations, the first floor and attic beams and joists, parts of the chimney stack and roof timbers.



The Cottage, Farm Lane.

This house on Farm Lane in Donington Le Heath was built between 1700 and 1838. It is faced in red brick with coggled eaves beneath a gabled plain tiled roof. It is two storeys tall. The windows are mostly two-light casements. The ground floor openings have segmental heads while the first floor openings have flat heads. There is a single story element to the left.



20 Holts Lane. Holly Cottage.

This cottage would have been built between 1700 and 1838. The house is faced in roughcast render beneath a gabled plain tiled roof. It is two storeys tall. There is a central enclosed porch with a gabled roof. Above, there is a three-light window with a flat head. To the rear, there is a continuous lean-to range faced in painted rubble stone.



55 Manor Road. Ingle Cottage.

A house built between 1700 and 1838. The house is faced in smooth render with cogged eaves beneath a gabled plain tiled roof. It is one and a half storeys tall. There is an off centre door flanked by two-light windows with flat heads. To the left there is a similar window. Above, there are through-eaves dormers with flat roofs. The house stands at right angles to Manor Road and in the past consisted of three adjoining dwellings.



1 Townsend Lane. Donington House.

Two houses built between 1700 and 1838. Now a single house built of red brick with cogged eaves beneath gabled plain tile roofs. It is two storeys tall. The left hand part has vertically sliding sashes and a ground floor bay window. The right hand part has irregular fenestration and an off-centre buttress.



The Gate Inn, Fairfield Road.

A very old building on Fairfield Road, The Gate Inn dates from 1774, is shown on John Priors Map of 1777. The date can be seen on the gable in blue brick, the later added top window has sadly removed some of the date.

The Inn also appears on the 1838 Tithe Map, at this time it was owned by Dr John Orton and occupied by Samuel Heward. Trade directories name the subsequent

publicans including Elizabeth Heward (1846 and 1855) and William Wilkins (1863 and 1891).

In 1892 the Urban Council approved alterations to the Old Gate Inn for James Eadie esq. The architect was Willie Thomas Hampton. The drawings indicate two-storey extensions to the left and right of the original building (the latter a 'club room') as well as alterations to window openings throughout. This is when some of the brick date would have been removed.

The Inn was still tied to James Eadie Ltd in the early 1960's.

Many thanks to James White at NWLDC for this later information.



Fishpond.

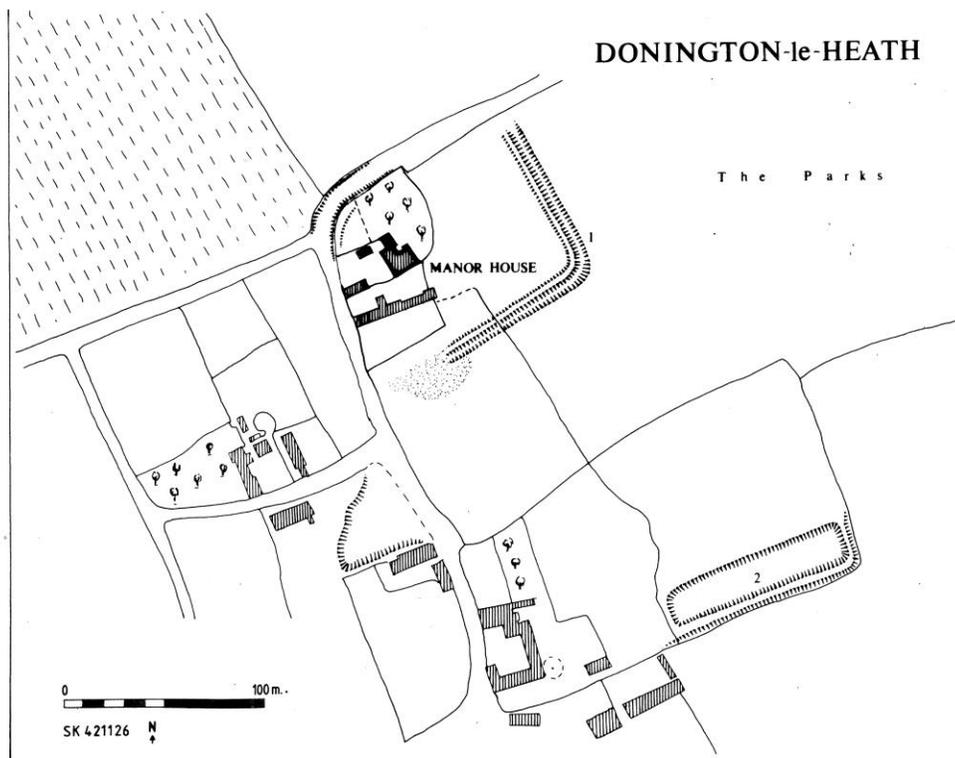
See also MLE4573

This earthwork off the end of Townsend Lane is the remains of a fishpond. This fishpond is medieval and dates from between 1066 and 1538. It is a rectangular depression oriented east-west. It is about 100 metres long and 30 metres wide. The

fishpond is bounded by on its south side by a ditch and the remnants of a hedgerow. It is bounded on its north side by the remnants of a hedge row. This fishpond is considered locally to be associated with fish breeding for the Manor House and it is thought that water from the River Sence would have been diverted into and out of the fishpond.

These remains appear in Harley's Medieval Earthworks of NW Leicestershire.

The location is shown on the attached map. The Fishpond is no. 2



Hugglescote Grange.

See also MLE4559

A very important archaeological site, perhaps the most important in our Parish. **Much of which is sadly to be lost due to extensive housing development.**

The site lies to the south of Grange Road between the old railway embankment and south of Lower Grange Farm.

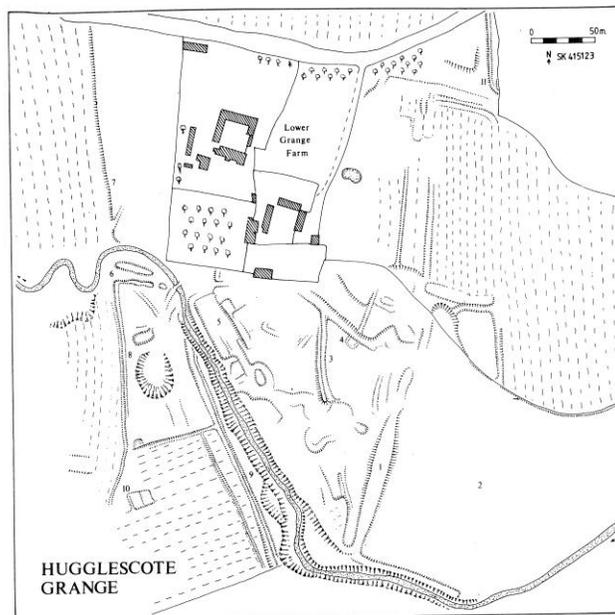
A grange of Garendon Abbey was formed Stanton Under Bardon in the late twelfth century. This was apparently also known as Hukklescote Grange; the two parishes are contiguous and were presumably represented by the extensive earthworks around the

present Lower Grange Farm. Because of mining subsidence it is difficult to imagine the original lie of the land and the stream is now deeply incised through much of the site.

There is a broad low bank which might possibly have dammed up water on the broad area to the east which has no ridge or furrow on it. The stream course seems to have been moved across the south side of the valley. Hence the deep incision as the stream has reasserted its profile. There is a possible water supply channel and the foundations of a small building. South of these is an area patterned with old stream courses. To the west is a rectangular fish pond hollow. Straight sections of bank define the western side of the site with a gap, perhaps representing the original exit point of the stream. Another bank and ditch follow the line of the stream and are parallel immediately by yet another bank and ditch joining the south side of a rectangular close with foundations of a small building in its south west corner. South again are two terraces cut into the ridge and furrow. Another formally existed to the west on land which now has spoil tips on it.

North east of the farm is another bank formally extending into areas now flattened due to ploughing.

I can find little evidence that Hugglescote Grange has been excavated or researched to any extent. Some trial trenching was conducted in 2014 and recorded a cobbled surface, three ditches, one post hole and two gullies. No dating evidence was found although some may be Roman.



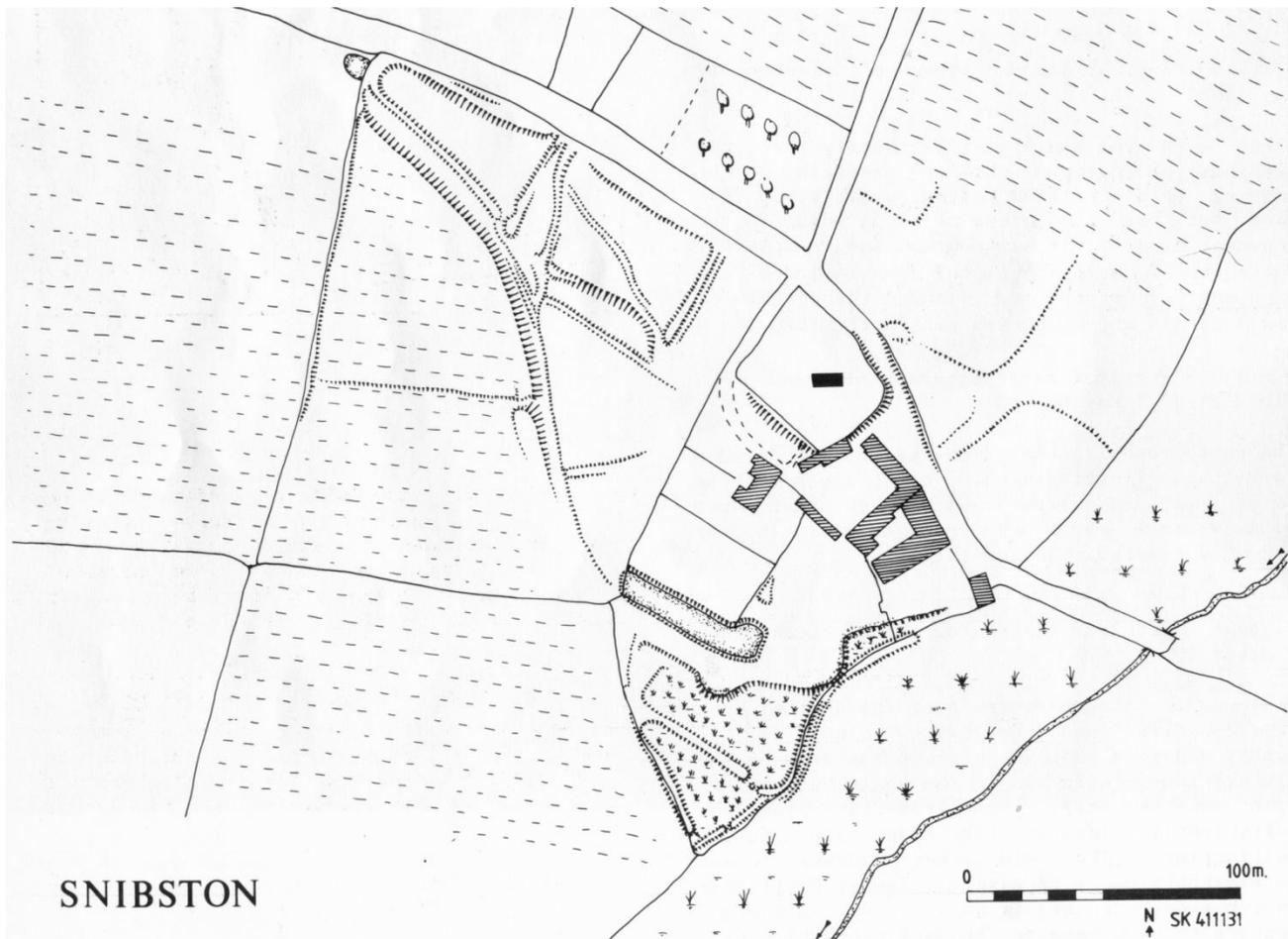
Snibston deserted medieval village.

See also MLE4553

The remains of a medieval village occupy a triangle of land between Grange Farm, St Mary's lane and a hollow way about 200 metres in length. The remains comprise the hollow way and a number of closes separated by banks and ditches. The meadow to the south west contains well preserved ridge and furrow. The date is between 1066 and 1538. Much of the site has been destroyed by farming.

The old village surrounded the Church of St Mary across the entrance road to the farm. As can be seen from the picture below the earthworks are comprehensive and the village must have been of considerable size. St Mary's Church being the small black rectangle shown in the map below.

West of the Church appear to be the remains of old closes extending to the hollow way and ridge and furrow. On the south side beyond the present Grange Farm is a rectangular pond which seems to have formed one arm of the moat and south again are two fishponds with traces of stone facings and a connecting sluice gate between them.



Edward VIII posting box. 9 Central Road.

See also MLE23436

Very rare Royal Mail post box from 1936. Only about a score are thought to have been installed in the country during the very short reign of Edward VIII. Two exist in Leicestershire and these can be found outside the sub post-offices (or ex-sub post offices) in Hugglescote and Earl Shilton.



Victorian Posting Box. 62 The Green. Donington Le Heath.

See also MLE23437

Rare Queen Victoria wall mounted posting box. Difficult to determine the date of this item, but between 1837 and 1901. More likely to be mid C19th.



Post medieval Milestone. 149, Ashburton Road. Hugglescote.

See also MLE23678

Many of you will have passed by this milestone and not noticed it or if you did, not knowing what it was. The Leicester to Ashby Turnpike was enabled in 1753, at each measure mile between Leicester and Burton there would have been milestones. These would have started at the first mile from Leicester and all were on the left hand side of the road if travelling westwards. There would have been a cast iron plaque which on this one is very sadly missing, with the words.....

TO
ASHBY DE LA ZOUCH
5
TO
LEICESTER
12

This would have been the 12th Milestone. It is clearly shown on John Priors map of 1777, which is shown earlier. The milestone almost certainly dates back to 1753. Milestones thirteen and fourteen can be easily found in Ravenstone and well worth finding as few remain. A listing request has been filed for this milestone which has been declined, due to the loss of the cast facing plate. Perhaps if it was restored we could get grade 2 listing. There are only three other remaining milestones from this Turnpike, two in Ravenstone and the other in Little Packington.



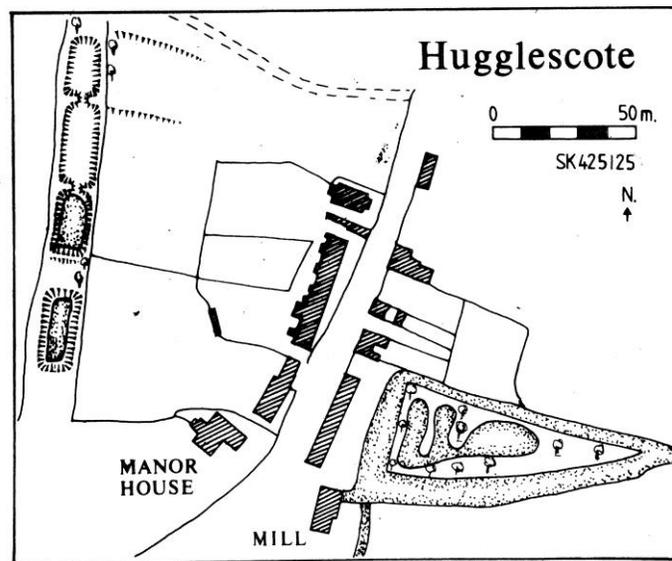
Hugglescote Ponds and Hugglescote Manor House.

The first edition O.S 25" map shows a corn mill in Hugglescote with a very curious mill pond (now the site of Millfield recreation ground) containing an island which had another pond within it, shown in the following map. Opposite the mill was Hugglescote Manor House which had a flight of four ponds behind it. These small ponds had terraces to one side, these ponds still survive and should be protected but the mill and millpond have long vanished. The ponds were almost certainly a fishery; the small stream that fed them was rerouted.

The only surviving evidence of Hugglescote Manor House is the grade II listed Garden building to the rear of 77 Station Road. See listed buildings.



An artist's impression of Hugglescote Manor and millpond, if you look closely you can see Bardon Hill in the background.



Oak Tree Corner.

Whilst there sadly isn't anything to see, Oak Tree Corner is still a rather famous place in the Parish. This is the junction of Manor Road and Ashburton Road.

For many years, some say as many as 300 an oak tree stood in the middle of the road. There was little traffic and the oak tree was a major landmark. It was a tree that had been much loved and held a special place in the hearts of the locals. A land mark and regular meeting place and in later years when it became hollow a place where children played and would hide inside the tree.

Sadly on the afternoon of Monday March the 6th 1950 a bunch of Coalville Urban District Council workers turned up and within a very short period of time chopped the old tree down and carted it away.

Sadly the residents and local people weren't notified or consulted; they were extremely upset to lose what was regarded as an old friend. I suppose it became an issue with the increase in the motor car!

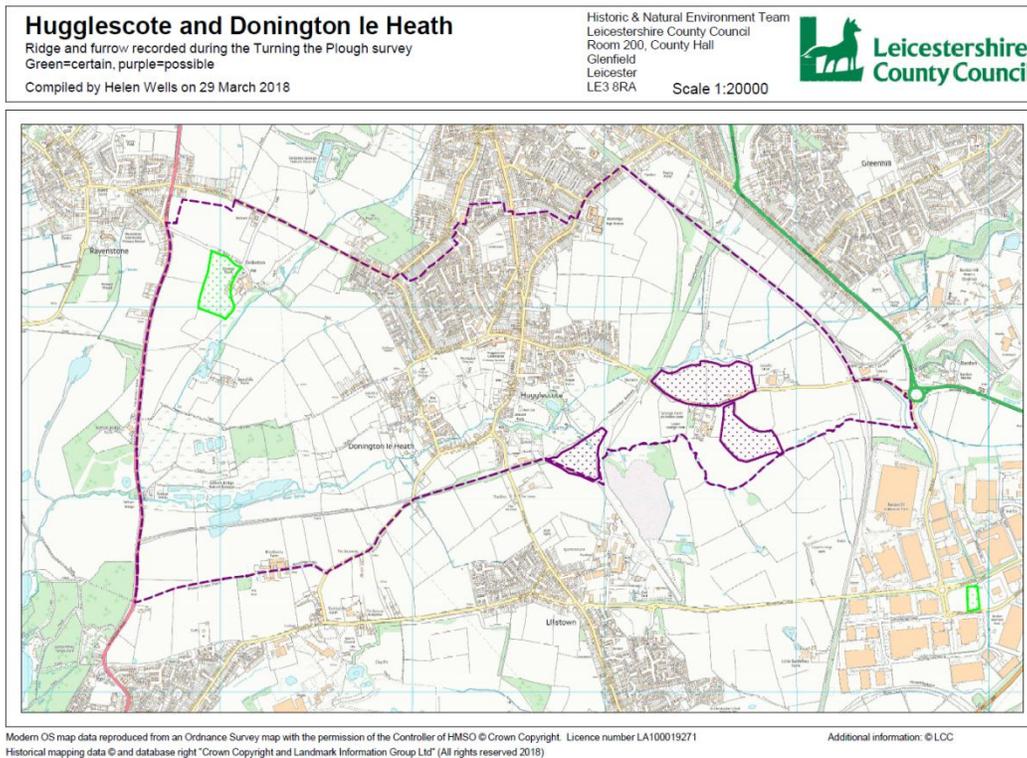
But the memory still exists and the name has thankfully stuck.



Huge thanks to Coalville Heritage society for the use of the photograph which dates from before 1900

Turning the Plough Survey. 2000.

Very kindly provided by Leicestershire County Council.



This survey was carried out in 2000 and shows areas identified as being ridge and furrow. There are many areas that are not included. Ashburton Road recreation ground and its adjoining field, the fields to the south of The Green towards the old railway line in Donington Le Heath should also be included.

A better idea of the areas within the Parish that were ridge and furrow can be seen from the landscape plan shown below. Even this is not comprehensive. The amount of ridge and furrow in the Parish is startlingly small compared with other local areas. The reason for this is not clear.

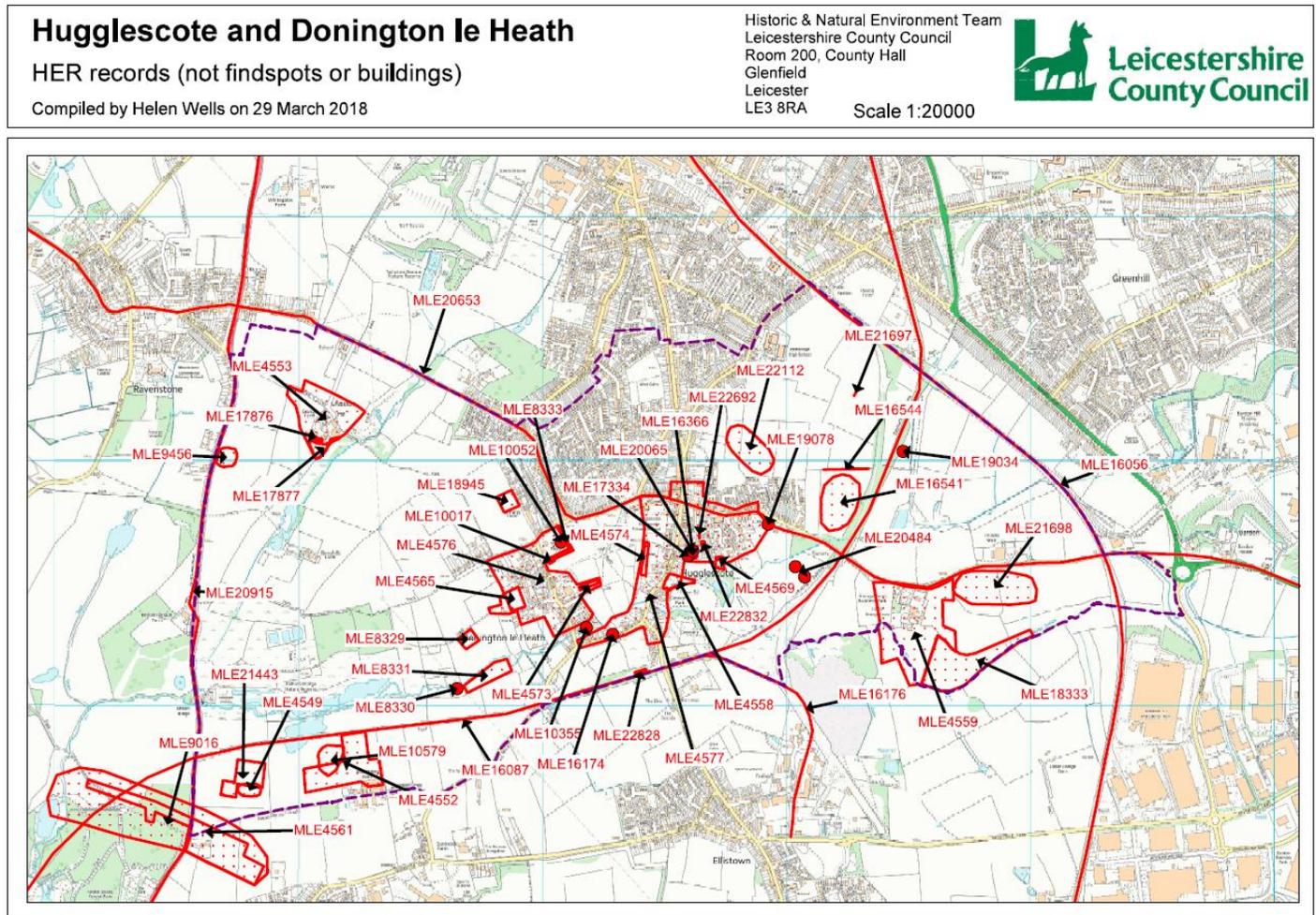
The plan also shows that the central area of the two villages (east of the Manor House) was known as "The Parks".



Historic Environment Record.

Very kindly provided by Leicestershire County Council.

This a complete record of all the Historic Environment Records for our Parish.



MLE4549 Roman pottery kilns north of Blackberry Lane

In 1982 a concentration of ash, charcoal, kiln debris and pottery of a homogenous nature (including wasters) was found when field drains were being cut at SK 408 116. The pottery includes flanged bowls, plain dog dishes and cooking pots.

Rescue excavation was undertaken on the site in 1983. The kilns lay immediately south of the rectilinear cropmark. They were of the single flue updraught type, kiln 2 having a pair of clay pedestals. Grey ware necked jars/bowls, ledged everted rim small jars, bead and flange bowl/dishes and a single plain rim 'dog' dish were recovered, together with reduced fragments of combed flue tile. Geophysical survey in 2013 recorded a set of strong dipolar anomalies that could be buried kilns. Trial trenching in 2014 recorded a further kiln, a semi-circular pit and a linear feature. The kiln was to be reported on separately. The pit contained 14 sherds of pottery and 2 pieces of brick.

MLE4552 Cropmarks north of Blackberry Farm.

Various cropmarks were noted here, some of which are the result of recent agricultural practices, some of which are rectilinear marks that may represent an earlier field system.

MLE4553 Snibston deserted village.

Earthwork remains formerly surrounded the church at Snibston, though most have now been ploughed/destroyed by the farmyard. In the 1980s the remains of old closes, extending to a hollow way, with ridge and furrow, were noted.

MLE4558 Watermill south-west of Hugglescote Grange.

The watermill is shown on Prior's 1777 map. The last mill was rebuilt in 1797 and demolished in the 1950s. The mill pond was a curious shape.

MLE4559 Hugglescote Grange.

Much of this site will be lost to housing development; the rest may be damaged during construction.

A grange of Garendon Abbey was formed in the late C12th and is presumably represented by the earthworks around the present Grange Farm. There are various banks, building foundations, fishpond hollows, etc, though the earthworks are confused by quarrying. Trial trenching in 2014 recorded a cobbled surface, 3 ditches, 1 post hole and 2 gullies. Unfortunately no dating evidence was recovered. Some of the features may be medieval; alternatively some may be Roman and associated with the site to the east (see MLE21698).

MLE4561 Roman Town, cropmarks near Highfield Farm.

Two parallel dark lines were noted on aerial photographs, with other ditches at right angles. These were interpreted as a field system but since they lie within the area of a Roman town (see MLE9016) they are probably closes relating to Roman settlement. They were also recorded during geophysical survey in 2014.

The Roman town is MLE9016.

Geophysical survey in 2011 provides a clear view of the Roman settlement.

Report is in ADS Library: 10.5284/1022516 - <http://dx.doi.org/10.5284/1022516>

The closes in the south-east part of the town were recorded during geophysical survey in 2014.

MLE4565 Earthworks to the west of Donington Le Heath.

Earthworks are recorded on aerial photographs, presumably medieval/post-medieval settlement remains.

MLE4569 St James's Church, Hugglescote.

The church is mentioned in the Matriculus of 1220 as a chapelry of Ibstock. It was demolished in 1881, having been replaced by St John the Baptist. It is marked on the late C19th OS map as 'disused'.

MLE4573 Fishpond to the south-east of Donington Le Heath.

There is a drained fishpond to the south of the Manor House.

MLE4574 Fishponds behind Hugglescote Manor House (site of).

May be lost due to housing development.

The manor house has, behind it, a flight of four small ponds with terraces to one side. When examined in 2000 there were three fishponds, the northernmost of which was dry. The ponds were thought to be C17th ornamental ponds.

MLE4576 Historic settlement core of Donington Le Heath.

The historic core of the medieval and post-medieval village has been deduced using landscape maps, etc. A chapel at Donington was mentioned in the Matriculus of 1220 as being a chapelry of Ibstock. It stood in 'Chapel Yard' and was demolished in 1770.

Old key, apparently from the chapel at Donington, is in the museum's collection.

MLE4577 Historic settlement core of Hugglescote.

The historic core of the medieval and post-medieval village has been deduced using landscape maps, etc.

A C17th coin hoard was found in the foundations of a house at Hugglescote according to Nichols (1811). The exact location of this findspot is unknown.

MLE8329 Possible medieval house platform west of Townsend Lane.

A flat, square area raised above the surrounding ridge and furrow was seen on an aerial photograph. This may represent a house platform or a later levelled dump...

MLE8330 Medieval watermill site, Mill Meadow.

The fieldname Mill Meadow appears on the tithe map of Donington le Heath and Hugglescote of 1838. It is immediately adjacent to a leat seen on APs. This represents the site of a watermill.

MLE8331 Mill leat west of Richmond Road.

A clear earthwork leat was seen adjacent to the River Sence on aerial photographs.

MLE8333 Bank and ditch surrounding Donington Le Heath Manor House.

The manor house formerly had a bank and ditch on the south and east sides. This has been described as a moat but the topography makes this seem unlikely.

MLE9016 Roman Town near Highfield Farm.

A large area of Roman occupation, which must represent a town site with a cemetery and industrial areas (including kilns to the north-west). Various investigations have taken place on site including fieldwalking, excavations and watching briefs.

Cropmarks predominantly relating to the Roman town are clearly visible on c.2006 aerial photographs (see MLE4561).

In 1976 a late Roman rubbish pit was located and excavated. It contained pottery, slag and an iron chisel.

After ploughing in 1976 it became clear that there was material scattered down the hill to the north-west. Four concentrations were noted, including pottery, tile and a flat quern. Across the railway an amphora handle and other pottery was found.

In 1982 various items were submitted for identification - a silver coin of Valerian, 10 copper alloy coins and an enamelled disc brooch.

In 1983 the area east of the railway was fieldwalked and 88 sherds of Roman pottery were recovered, 1 tile fragment and 5 quern fragments. The pottery was re-assessed in 1999 - there were 86 sherds of Roman pottery with 50 sherds of grey ware, 12 Mancetter Hartshill mortaria, 2 Samian and 4 Derbyshire ware.

In 1984 an excavation at SK 4037 1156 consisted of the excavation of a rectangular area c.25 square metres approximately on the proposed site of the coal preparation plant. Six phases were discerned, dated from AD80-300, and comprising ditches, a pit and a wall (late C1st to mid C2nd) and a building, furnace and workshop of c.250-300. (See MLE4819.)

In 1984 a watching brief was carried out on the area fieldwalked in 1983. One building (7.5m x 6m) was recorded, with pitched stone foundations and a possible entrance on the south side. The

associated watching brief revealed at least 7 other buildings and some other walls (see MLE4819), 2 ditches plus one other that turned at right angles and had a V-shaped ditch with a rectangular slot at the bottom (possibly military, see MLE9964).

In 1982 and 1987 Roman pottery from the site was donated to the Museums Service.

In 1996 two unidentified but probably Roman objects were found on the northern edge of the site.

One is a strip of embossed silver foil and the other a small silver gilt object in the form of a head.

Fieldwalking in 1998 recovered a further 18 sherds of Roman pottery.

In 1999 more material from 'Ibstock 1984' was donated to the Museums Service.

Three kilns were excavated in 1980/1 (see MLE4820). Subsequently LAU undertook more excavations in the area. An additional kiln was found. Three were pottery kilns producing sandy grey ware. A large rectangular kiln was probably a tile kiln. Several gullies were excavated as well as post holes and depressions. There were at least three graves (see MLE4824). A large ditch running NW-SE was revealed filled in the early C4th. On the hill top in Area C another ditch/gulley was found, some post holes and slots and a timber building 4m x 4m (possibly Anglo-Saxon, see MLE4823). To the SW a large Roman ditch (see MLE18553) and a circular building with a coin of Tetricus in the foundations (see MLE4822) were noted. Finds included 12 Roman coins, 5 copper alloy objects, Roman pottery, tile, ironwork, etc.

In 2011, geophysical survey produced a clear view of the settlement.

Report is in ADS Library: 10.5284/1022516 - <http://dx.doi.org/10.5284/1022516>

"Magnetometer survey on c.10ha of land east of Ravenstone Road mapped part of a substantial Roman roadside settlement lying along the course of the Roman road from Leicester to Chester. Several highly magnetic anomalies were thought to indicate the locations of kilns or similar industrial features."

Trial trenching in 2012 showed that the town did not extend to the south of the cropmark area.

Report is in ADS Library: 10.5284/1022545 - <http://dx.doi.org/10.5284/1022545>

In 2014 geophysical survey recorded the closes in the south-east part of the town.

Report is in ADS Library: 10.5284/1028854 - <http://dx.doi.org/10.5284/1028854>

Trial trenching in 2014 in a north/south line across the town recorded three pits and an E/W boundary ditch (see MLE21637).

MLE9456 Possible Roman site south-west of Snibston Village.

In November 2000, Witan Archaeology found a tight scatter of Roman pottery up against Melbourne Road during fieldwalking.

MLE10017 Possible gatehouse, Donington Le Heath Manor House.

In 1999, fieldwalking took place immediately to the south of the Manor House. A distinct structure with stone, slate, ridge tile fragments and early medieval pottery was found adjacent to the Manor House Garden. It may be the site of a gatehouse.

MLE10052 Neolithic / Bronze Age finds, Donington Le Heath Manor House.

Excavation took place on the site of a replica Iron Age roundhouse in 1989. Six fragments of Late Neolithic/Early Bronze Age pottery, an unfinished Late Neolithic/Early Bronze Age arrowhead, a Neolithic stone axe and four flint flakes were recovered.

MLE10355 Old water channel, land off Manor Road.

During evaluation work in 1996 alluvial deposits were found in two of the trenches. They were close to the river and may represent an old river channel.

MLE10579 Flint scatter northwest of Blackberry Farm.

FLINT SCATTER (Early Mesolithic to Late Neolithic - 10000 BC? to 2501 BC

FLAKE (Early Mesolithic to Late Neolithic - 10000 BC? to 2501 BC?)

SCRAPER (TOOL) (Early Mesolithic to Late Neolithic - 10000 BC to 2501 BC)

MLE16056 Leicester to Swannington Railway / Midland Railway, Leicester and Burton Branch Line.
Included because part of this line runs through the Parish.

The railway was the sixth steam railway in the country. It was designed by Robert Stephenson and opened in 1832. At Swannington an incline was built to haul the coal trucks up the track from the mines. It became part of the Midland Railway system in 1846.

The construction of the railway was motivated by the desire to make the exploitation of the north-west Leicestershire coalfield cost effective and to supply coal cheaply to Leicester and the surrounding region. Prior to the construction of the railway, following the failure of the Charnwood Forest Canal, Leicestershire coalminers had been out-competed by the Nottinghamshire industry, who could supply Leicestershire via the Erewash Canal and the Soar Navigation far more cheaply. In 1794 the situation was worsened by the extension of the Navigation to Leicester.

In 1828 William Stenson, having visited George Stephenson's Stockton & Darlington Railway, approached a range of potential sponsors, including John Ellis of Beaumont Leys, a prominent local landowner, with a view to the construction of a railway linking Leicester with the coal fields around Long Lane, Whitwick. Ellis approached Stephenson, who recognised the viability of the project. The first meeting to discuss the line was held at the Bell Inn in Leicester, where subscriptions amounting to £58,250 were raised. The remainder of the £90,000 was raised through Stephenson's financial contacts in Liverpool.

The line obtained Royal Assent on Saturday 29 May 1830 under the title 'Leicester and Swannington Railway Company', authorising the construction within five years of a railway: 'for the passage of wagons and other Carriages, to be drawn, propelled, or moved thereon by stationary and other locomotive Steam Engines, Horses or other adequate Power.' It was to run from West Bridge, Leicester to a termination 'at the public turnpike Road from Hinckley to Melbourne Common', with four branches, to North Bridge, Leicester and to collieries at Bagworth, Ibstock and Whitwick. The first part of the line was opened in 1832.

The line was only the fifth such line to be authorised, opening six years before the London and Birmingham, and required techniques, particularly for the tunnel, that were then virtually untried .

The original railway included two inclines (Bagworth and Swannington) and the Glenfield tunnel.

When the track became part of the Midland Railway in 1846 two parts were bypassed - the Bagworth incline and the Glenfield tunnel (it was impractical to double the track).

The line closed to passenger traffic in 1928. The Desford to West Bridge section of the track closed to goods traffic in 1966, but the remainder of the line to Coalville is still used for goods traffic.

MLE16087 Ashby & Nuneaton Joint Railway / Charnwood Forest Railway.

The line opened in 1873, with the Charnwood Forest part opened in 1883. The Shackerstone to Coalville section joined with the Coalville to Loughborough 'Charnwood Forest' section. This was also known as the 'Bluebell Line' and was apparently very picturesque, with a halt at Grace Dieu.

In 1873 the London North Western Railway and the Midland Railway opened a joint line between Moira West and Nuneaton. A further branch of the line ran from Shackerstone Junction to Coalville. In 1883 the Charnwood Forest Railway was opened. Timetabled passenger excursions finished in 1931. The Coalville-Shackerstone line closed completely in 1964. The Ashby-Nuneaton line survived until early 1970. The Charnwood Forest Line closed in 1963.

The Ashby & Nuneaton line was a joint line between the London & North Western Railway and the Midland Railway. The Charnwood Forest part was L&NWR. Passenger services ran until 1931 but the lines survived as mineral lines into the 1960s.

Information from the Battlefield Line website,

'<http://www.shackerstonefestival.co.uk/ANJR/HaShortHistory.HTM>'

MLE16174 Post-medieval remains, 54 The Green, Donington Le Heath.
Evaluation in 2004 revealed evidence of a stone wall, drain and pit, probably all of late C18th or early C19th.

Evaluation by trial trenching undertaken by ULAS at the above site yielded evidence of considerable recent truncation. However, a small area of undisturbed ground to the south-east of the site, produced evidence of a stone-built wall of c. the late 18th to early 19th century aligned NW-SE, together with an adjacent drain and nearby pit, the latter lacking dating evidence.

MLE16176 South Leicestershire Colliery Railway.
Colliery railway shown on Epochs 1-4 mapping (1889-1938). It joined onto the Ashby & Nuneaton Joint Railway, which opened in 1883 and closed in 1965, so it must have been in use between these dates.

MLE16366 Baptist Church, Dennis Street. Hugglescote.
Sadly the last service at the Chapel was on the 18th of June 2005. Several years later in 2009 the building was demolished to make way for a small housing development.

This substantial chapel opened in 1875, with 625 'sittings'. A large school was built to the rear in the late 1870s (the Day School apparently closed in 1924). The school building had been enlarged by 1902. The old school rooms were used as meeting rooms, a vestry, a performance space and a kitchen used by the congregation.

The church is the third chapel in the village. In the mid 1700s the Baptists met in a farmhouse on Dennis Street. In 1796 a wooden church was built at the graveyard on Grange Road. The present building was built in 1874.

The building was surveyed in September 2008, by which time most of the internal fixtures and fittings had been removed. The frontage of the building is brick with giant pilasters, topped with Roman Corinthian capitals, with a moulded frieze above. Internally, the church has a gallery, with railings that had cast iron panels. Benches had survived in the gallery though they had been replaced by chairs in the main body of the church in the 1960s. The church (unusually) has two baptismal pools. The building to the rear was constructed in the late 1870s as a village school. It was enlarged soon after with a single cell extension. The fireplaces in the extension suggest it was office accommodation for staff.

MLE16541 Prehistoric flint from north of Grange Road.
This site due to be lost due to housing development.
Fieldwalking in 2002 recovered c.34 pieces of worked flint including blades, core rejuvenation flakes and scrapers.

MLE16544 Trackway, north of Grange Road.
This site lost due to housing development.
Field walkers in 2002 reported a four metre wide track made of large cobbles running along the northern hedge boundary.

MLE17334 Medieval and post-medieval finds, 16-22, Dennis Street, Hugglescote.
Trial trenching in 2008 recorded an undated posthole, an unexcavated circular feature, 2 sherds of medieval pottery and 9 sherds of post-medieval pottery. The site had been significantly disturbed but the finds indicate activity within the historic settlement core.

MLE17876 Possible moat, Snibston.
In the 1980's a rectangular pond was noted south of Grange Farm, which may have formed one arm of a moat.

MLE17877 Fishponds at Snibston.

In the 1980's two fishponds were noted south of Grange Farm, with traces of stone facings and a connecting sluice gate between them.

MLE18333 Damned area east of Hugglescote Grange.

May be lost due to housing development.

There is a broad low bank associated with other Grange earthworks, which might have damned up water in a large area to the east (the area has no ridge or furrow on it).

MLE18945 Middle Iron Age site. Berryhill Lane.

This important site now lost due to housing development.

Geophysics, trenching and excavation in 2010, 2011 and 2015 recorded a Middle Iron Age site. Inside an enclosure was a roundhouse with a small ancillary structure/enclosure to its north-east. Pottery and a beehive quern were recovered.

Geophysical survey in 2010 recorded a series of anomalies that appear to form an enclosure ditch and roundhouse.

Trenching in 2011 recorded a sub-rectangular enclosure and ring ditch, 1 Neolithic/Bronze Age flint and 3 sherds of probable Middle Iron Age pottery. Preservation was poor due to truncation. The focus of occupation was probably to the east.

The site was excavated in 2015. The enclosure had two phases. Phase 1 was a an enclosure with excavated measurements of 53m x 52m (the eastern side must be under the houses to the east), with ditches 0.75m deep and 2.2m-2.6m wide, with entrances on the north and south sides. Phase 2 saw a recut of the southern ditch further to the south (0.16m deep, 2.6m wide). Inside the enclosure, in the north-east corner, was a roundhouse with a SE facing entrance. The ring gully ditch was 0.6m deep and 1.06m wide, c.15.5m diameter. The gully was packed with stones and a beehive quern was found in it. There were two further ring gully cuts in the area of the roundhouse. To the NE of the roundhouse was an oval ring gully that could be an ancillary structure or a small enclosure. It had a SW facing entrance and the ditch was 0.33m deep, 1.2m wide, with a E/W diameter of c.12.9m and a N/S diameter of c.8.9m. Two pits were recorded to the S of the enclosure. Finds consisted of 40 sherds of Middle Iron Age pottery, 3 Neolithic/Bronze Age flint flakes, 1 Early Neolithic blade, 4 burnt stones and a beehive quern. Environmental sampling produced remains of wheat, barley, grass, hazelnuts and pieces of charcoal.

MLE19034 Undated ditch, Grange Road.

This site lost due to housing development.

A north/south ditch was located during trial trenching in 2011. It was 1.0m wide, 0.4m deep and had a V-shaped profile. It was overlain by medieval ridge and furrow, suggesting it was earlier than the open field system.

MLE19078 Site of original Baptist Chapel. Hugglescote.

According to the plaque here the first chapel was built 1760, replaced by a second building 1797, rebuilt 1859 and removed when a new church was built in Main Street (Dennis Street).

MLE20065 Post medieval stone culvert at Dennis Street.

A watching brief in 2009 identified a stone culvert, running northwest-southeast, which predated the Baptist Church. It appeared to be draining water from no.16 Dennis Street towards the River Sence, and may follow under the 19th Century outhouse at no.22.

A narrow stone-lined culvert runs from north-west to south-east in this location. It was constructed at the base of a 0.4m wide tapered linear cut, c.1.2m to c.1.3m deep, using pitched irregular sized

granite stones capped with further large flat granite and slate slabs to create an inverted triangular channel c.0.1m to c.0.2m wide. Deposited on the culvert's roof was further well packed rubble (including granite, brick and slate) before the trench was backfilled with redeposited clay indistinguishable from the surrounding natural. This culvert appeared to be draining water away from 16 Dennis Street beneath the chapel, which it pre-dated, following the natural drop of the ground down to the south into the valley of the River Sence. As clearly as could be distinguished from the little of its alignment revealed it appeared to be heading beneath the 19th century brick outhouse in the garden to the rear of 22 Dennis Street. This, however, could be coincidental. Its exact purpose other than to carry away water, a role it appears to still be adequately fulfilling judging by the presence of fresh water-born sediment in its channel, remains unclear, as does its date, although it clearly predates the construction of the church in 1874. The small quantity of brick within its construction was of similar fabric and size to the bricks used to infill the timber-framing of the 17th century building (no. 16) to the west and, as it also appears to extend away from this building, it is possible it could be contemporary with it.

MLE20484 Coalmining evidence south of Grange Road.

This site due to be lost due to housing development.

Geophysical survey in 2012 recorded possible brick bell pits or brick shaft collars, likely of post-medieval origin.

The slightly rougher area in the middle of the southern field is clearly due to previously disturbed ground. Although the form of the earthworks is generally indistinct, there appears to be a wide, roughly circular depression with upcast on the northern side. Given the geological context, this could be a former bell pit or shaft associated with coal mining. This structure has unfortunately had a geotechnical test pit excavated into it, however, the anomaly would not be caused by this and instead would be typical of a fill containing magnetic debris like bricks and ferrous items. Bricks were noted in the side of the stream slightly further to the west. Alternatively, there could be a brick shaft collar buried within the hollow. A further anomaly 50m to the southeast lacks surface expression. Here the outline of a magnetic structure is more clear and although it could be the remains of a building an uncapped brick shaft collar would also be possible. These features appear to be post-medieval as they do not respect the former furrows of medieval or early post medieval ridge and furrow cultivation.

MLE20653 Turnpike Road, Leicester to Ashby De La Zouch.

Turnpike (toll) Road running from Leicester to Ashby De La Zouch. Later became the A50. See John Prior's map (earlier) the Turnpike was established in 1753. See also Turnpike Milestone on Ashburton Road and list of road and street name changes. 1753 Act of 1st Authorisation, turnpike expired 1874

MEL21443 Enclosure cropmark north of Blackberry Lane.

A rectilinear cropmark, possibly with a second to its south-west, was noted on aerial photographs in the 1980s. Fieldwalking has recovered various sherds of Roman pottery from the area and geophysical survey a complex of anomalies.

Jim Pickering photographed a rectangular enclosure from the air, with a possible second to its south-west.

Fieldwalking in 1984, "Arthur Hirst found a scatter of Roman pottery which corresponds to a rectangular cropmark photographed by Jim Pickering a number of years ago. The pottery includes grey ware, samian, colour-coated wares and mortaria. Pieces of granite under the adjacent hedge may well have come from the site." There were 33 sherds of greyware pottery, 4 colour-coat, 3 samian and 6 mortaria. A ditch was noted, 1m deep and 1m wide, in the area of the cropmark at SK 4080 1170. No finds were recovered from the ditch.

Witan Archaeology walked the field in 2001 and found a scatter of Roman pottery centred around SK 4079 1166.

Geophysical survey was carried out in 2013. A possible ring ditch and enclosure ditches were noted.

MLE21697 Iron Age ditch south-east of Newbridge High School.

This site to be lost due to housing development.

During trial trenching in 2014 a NE/SW orientated ditch was recorded, approximately 1.88m wide and 0.54m deep. It contained 50 sherds of Iron Age pottery.

MLE21698 Iron Age/Roman site south of Louella Stud.

This site to be lost due to housing development.

Trial trenching in 2014 recorded an Iron Age sub-rectangular enclosure, possibly with a roundhouse, and a number of Roman field boundaries. 5 sherds of Iron Age and 24 sherds of Roman pottery were recovered. Environmental sampling was carried out very successfully, demonstrating that the dominant crop grown was glume wheat.

MLE22112 Medieval and post-medieval finds from north of Wainright Road.

This site to be lost due to housing development.

Fieldwalking in 2013 recovered 10 sherds of medieval/post-medieval pottery as well as an unusually large quantity of whiteware marmalade/jam jar fragments from the C19th/C20th. They also found 2 clay pipe stems and a bowl fragment.

MLE22692 Post-medieval wall, Dennis Street. Hugglescote.

It was reported that this stone wall contained various fragments of earlier buildings. Apparently destroyed in 2016.

Trial trenching in 2015 to the west of the wall did not identify any building remains - it is likely they were truncated/removed with later landscaping of the garden.

MLE22828 Site of Hugglescote Railway Station. West of Midland Road.

A small brick-built station, it opened in 1873 and closed finally in 1964. The buildings were still standing on the 1969 aerial photographs but sadly nothing remains today.

MLE22832 Post-medieval/modern activity, 33A Dennis Street. Hugglescote.

Trial trenching in 2015 recorded a post-medieval/modern pit, a brick floor surface, a tile surface and a brick wall. The features relate to buildings and other activity to the rear of cottages shown on the late C19th mapping, shown on maps up to 1929 but demolished by 1960.

Trial trenching in 2015 recorded a pit containing post-medieval/modern finds, a brick floor surface made from unfrosted bricks, a tile surface and a modern brick wall on a concrete base. The pit was oval in shape, measuring 1.13 x 1.26m and 0.2m deep. It contained pottery and glass dating from the post-medieval to the early C20th. The brick surface consists of unfrosted, handmade, standard 9" red brick. It was abutted by a tile floor surface. The brick wall abutted the floor surfaces and consisted of at least two rows of standard 9" stretcher brick, orientated north/south. Most of the finds came from the pit; in total 16 sherds of post-medieval pottery, 3 C19th sherds, 27 early C20th sherds, 1 piece of C19th tile, 3 pieces of C19th/C20th glass, a piece of bone and a C19th/C20th pearl button were recovered. The brick and tile surfaces were thought to be Victorian in date and presumably are the structures shown on historic mapping.

DLE6821 This is the HER record for Donington Le Heath Conservation Area.

Road name changes.

On a lighter note, during March 1928 several of the Parish's roads and streets were changed by Coalville Urban District Council. Which itself changed to Northwest Leicestershire District Council on the 30th of June 1973.

Ashby Road became Manor Road in Donington Le Heath.

Ashby Road, Hugglescote from Oak Tree Corner to Hugglescote Cross Roads became Ashburton Road.

Ashby Road, Hugglescote from Bardon Station to Hugglescote Cross Roads became Grange Road.

Burton Road from its junction with Highfields Street to Oak Tree Corner became Ashburton Road.

Castle Yard became Holms Court.

Wilkins Lane became Fairfield Road.

Meadow Lane became Tweentown.

Upper Main Street changed to Dennis Street.

Ibstock Lane became Richmond Road.