

# NE MMDR- Melton Mowbray Distributor Road UPDATE June 2023

## Local Archaeology

Numerous archaeological discoveries have been made in recent years at Melton Mowbray, mainly when development works have taken place. Flint artefacts of Mesolithic to Bronze Age date, as well as a Neolithic mortuary enclosure radiocarbon dated between 3790 and 3460 BC and an Early-Middle Bronze Age funerary site on the west/south-western side of Melton Mowbray, indicate occupation by both hunter-gatherer and early farming communities during the 6<sup>th</sup>-2<sup>nd</sup> millennium BC.



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There is evidence for farming settlements in the Late Bronze Age and Iron Age on the west and north-east edges of the town. Roman farmsteads and field systems are more numerous than Iron Age sites in the immediate environs, and include agricultural boundaries and enclosures recorded in the course of archaeological evaluation fieldwork undertaken on the route of the Melton Mowbray Distributor Road. Medieval activity is represented by ridge and furrow representing agricultural activity on the periphery of the medieval town of Melton Mowbray.



The Melton Mowbray site is a potentially significant site for Leicestershire as it is the furthest north of those that have been investigated previously. A range of new scientific techniques, including geochemical analysis, will be deployed by ARS Ltd to find out as much as possible about how the site functioned both before and during the Roman period.

We have recently uncovered the remains of a large Roman farmstead complex during topsoil stripping for the new road. Whilst it is still early days, a possible holloway, cultivation rows with planting beds and traces of ditched enclosures have been investigated.



Planting beds of this nature that have previously been found in England are considered to be associated with a Mediterranean style of plantation agriculture such as viticulture, or the production of other fruit bearing trees, and would more likely be a commercial endeavour.



Finds so far include abraded fragments of pottery and a copper alloy brooch dating to the 1<sup>st</sup>-2<sup>nd</sup> century.

## Progress and upcoming works

### Summary of work progressed in May 2023

- Work began for the temporary rail bridge crossing.
- Access provision and site clearance works are ongoing in preparation for the project compound and offices installation.
- Archaeological works between B676 and Burton Road have begun.
- Severn Trent Water (STW) diversionary works have also commenced.
- Perimeter and ecology fencing installations underway.



### Summary of planned work for June 2023

Archaeological works and the haul road preparation works will continue throughout June.

Installation of main compound and offices will begin. National Grid and STW diversionary works will continue throughout June.

There will be temporary two way traffic lights on the A606 Nottingham Rd at the junction of St Bartholomews Way. This will be in place from the 19<sup>th</sup> June for a 2 week period. The Traffic light system will only be in use between 9:30am- 3:30pm to minimise peak time traffic congestion.

#### Scalford Rd Closure Notification



A temporary weekend road closure is required on Scalford Rd located at the roundabout adjacent to the Bloor Homes housing development. The closure will be in place from 6:00am Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> June and reopen at 6:00am on Monday 12<sup>th</sup> June 2023.

#### Melton Spinney Road Closure Notification



A temporary road closure is required on Melton Spinney Road from Monday 12<sup>th</sup> June 2023 until Friday 16<sup>th</sup> June 2023. To minimise disruption there will be overnight work with a full closure requirement and a daytime partial closure with traffic light system in place to maintain access.

The above traffic management restrictions are required to allow us to install the construction traffic crossing points. The construction traffic crossing points form part of the wider temporary haul road which is designed and installed across the scheme to remove our construction traffic from the existing network and Melton Town Centre. Clear diversion signage will be in place and access for residents and landowners will be maintained at all times.

If you know somebody who would be interested in subscribing to our newsletter, please email:

[gino.salvatore@gallifordtry.co.uk](mailto:gino.salvatore@gallifordtry.co.uk)

Alternatively, you can visit the project website for further details and view traffic management plans and the overall scheme design.

[www.leicestershire.gov.uk/nemmdr](http://www.leicestershire.gov.uk/nemmdr)

For any enquiries, please email: [gino.salvatore@gallifordtry.co.uk](mailto:gino.salvatore@gallifordtry.co.uk) or call 07918640481