

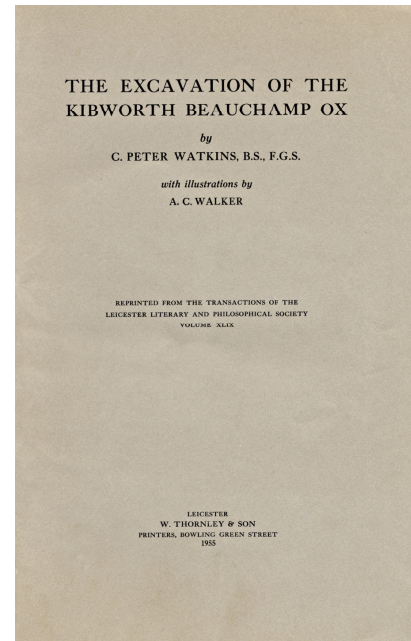
Pre-Historic Kibworth Ox

In 1954, the remains of a huge buried ox were discovered in Kibworth Beauchamp.

Whilst digging a foundation trench in the back garden of Tudor Cottage in Weir Road, Kibworth, Mr Henry Phipps (builder) came upon the skull, atlas and metatarsal of a large ox. He reported this discovery to the Leicester Evening Mail which led to an archaeological excavation being organised by Leicester Museum.

This find was important because the extinct ox proved to be the largest ever found in Leicestershire. The span between its horns measured 96 centimetres (38 inches). Interestingly, the ox was buried in an upright position which led to the conclusion that the animal became trapped in soft sand and died in situ. Archaeologists recovered the skull, vertebrae and parts of the pelvis and limbs and these items have been preserved in the Leicester Museum. A report entitled 'The Excavation of the Kibworth Beauchamp Ox' was produced in 1955.

Although no carbon-dating on the ox bones was carried out, it has been estimated that the animal was trapped well in excess of 5000 years ago.



Members of the Kibworth History Society visited the Museum in 2010, by prior arrangement, to view the ox bones and discuss associated documents and photographs.