

Witham Archaeology

A report to Carr Tyres

November 2014



**72 SANVEY GATE, LEICESTER,
LEICESTERSHIRE**

Archaeological Monitoring and Recording

D Trimble

72 SANVEY GATE, LEICESTER LEICESTERSHIRE

Site Code: LCSG14
Museum Accession No.: Y.A26.2014
Planning Application No.: 20140586
NGR: SK 58289 04984

Archaeological Monitoring and Recording

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LAND AT 72 SANVEY GATE, LEICESTER, LEICESTERSHIRE ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING AND RECORDING

SUMMARY

A programme of archaeological monitoring and recording was undertaken by Witham Archaeology, during groundworks relating to the construction of new offices at 72 Sanvey Gate, Leicester, Leicestershire. The work was commissioned by Mr Ross Vinter of ARV Design on behalf of Carr Tyres Ltd to meet the requirements of a condition of planning permission imposed by Leicester City Council.

The site is considered to lie in an area of archaeological interest, with potential for the survival of deposits associated with the Roman defences and the medieval town wall. The current programme of monitoring and recording identified no archaeological deposit earlier in date than the 19th century.

1.0 INTRODUCTION

A programme of archaeological monitoring and recording was undertaken by Witham Archaeology, during groundworks relating to the construction at 72 Sanvey Gate, Leicester, Leicestershire. The work was commissioned by Carr Tyres, to meet the requirements of a condition of planning permission imposed by Leicester City Council.

Fieldwork was carried out on the 27th August and the 2nd of September 2014. The information in this document is presented with the proviso that further data may yet emerge. Witham Archaeology cannot, therefore, be held responsible for any loss, delay or damage, material or otherwise, arising out of this report. The document has been prepared in accordance with the Code of Conduct of the Institute of Archaeologists.

2.0 SITE LOCATION, TOPOGRAPHY & GEOLOGY (see Figs. 1 and 2)

The site of proposed development lies close to the centre of Leicester, at 72 Sanvey Gate, centred on National Grid Reference SK58285 304980. The site is generally level and is located on solid geology of the Branscombe Mudstone Formation overlain by clay, silt, sand and gravel alluvial deposits. These water lain surface deposits are associated with post-glacial deposition of sediments within flood waters of the nearby River Soar, located approximately 500m to the west of the site. (British Geological Survey, Solid & Drift, 1:50 000).

3.0 PLANNING BACKGROUND

Full planning permission was granted by Leicester City Council for development of new offices at the site, subject to a condition requiring the implementation of a programme of archaeological works as detailed in an approved Written Scheme of Investigation (Application 20140586).

4.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL & HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

The proposed development site lies within the commercial heart of Leicester, close to the line of the Roman defences which were reused to form the line of medieval town wall during the medieval period. Evidence of Roman occupation near Sanvey Gate comprises mainly casual discoveries of Roman pottery and other artefacts (HER references MLC 1068 and MLC 06). However, it is thought that the site of the Roman northgate lies close to the west, along the line of Highcross Street which is thought to follow the main road north out of the Roman town (MLC 128).

Further to the south in the Burgess Street area there is evidence of a Roman town house or villa built around a courtyard and incorporating a bathhouse (MLC1795). The medieval northgate is believed to be located on the site of the Roman gate although to what extent the fabric was re-used is not known.

5.0 AIMS & OBJECTIVES

The principal objectives of the project, as set out in a Witham Archaeology specification of 26th August 2014, were to:

- Allow the preservation by record of any surviving archaeological deposits and artefacts exposed by the development groundwork within the constraints imposed by the contractor's working methods, programme and development design.
- Produce a project archive for deposition with the appropriate museum together with a client report.
- Provide information for accession to the Leicester City Historic Environment Record.

6.0 METHODOLOGY

All drainage trenches were excavated from existing ground level, using mechanical excavator fitted with a 300mm wide bucket. Site visits were timed to coincide with the main phases of development groundwork. Monitoring was undertaken during the excavation of all drainage trenches excavated at the site.

The stratigraphic sequence on the site was recorded through the production of a series of representative sections. Plan and sections were drawn at scales 1:10 or 1:20 as appropriate, and individual context descriptions were made for each unit of stratigraphy. Archaeological deposits and features were photographed in monochrome (35mm film) and colour digital. The photographic record includes general views of the groundworks in progress.

7.0 RESULTS (Figs. 3 and 4)

Underlying natural deposits comprised moderately compacted mid brown sandy clay (002) with occasional small and medium sized angular stones identified at a depth of 1.12m in the test pit excavated towards the southern boundary of the site (Fig 4, Section 1). This layer was not identified elsewhere on the site, probably due to the shallow depth of excavation.

Overlying the natural deposits was loose dark greyish brown clayey sand with frequent flecks of charcoal, brick flecks and angular stone. This deposit extended across the site and in the test pit was recorded to a thickness of 0.94m (001) (Fig 4, Section 1). Over the remainder of the site the upper reaches of layer was recorded as (004) to a maximum thickness of 0.57m towards the north side of the area of investigation (Fig 4, Sections 2 and 3). Over much of the site (001)(004) was overlain by a 0.3m to 0.5m layer of loose dark greyish brown sandy clay with frequent bricks, occasional fragments of glass, occasional bone and occasional stones. Towards the southeast corner of the area of investigation a localised deposit (005) of loose dark grey sandy clay containing frequent 19th century broken bottles, plates, bowls and brick fragments was recorded. Among the finds from this layer was as a base of a bottle of mid nineteenth century date (Appendix B). Immediately to the north a spread of material very similar in character to (005) was recorded but with less artefactual material. Towards the northwest limits of the area of investigation a large pit (008) containing very recently deposited gravel was identified.

8.0 DISCUSSION & CONCLUSION

All of the deposits recorded during the investigation are likely to be of relatively recent date. The origin of the earliest layer (001) recorded on the site is unclear but its dark colouring and frequent inclusions of charcoal and

brick fragments could indicate an accumulation of waste or dumped material, perhaps from an industrial process. Overlying this was evidence of rubbish disposal of 19th century date represented by (005), followed by episodes of recent demolition (003).

The programme of monitoring and recording at 72 Sanvey Gate Leicester Rectory Place revealed primarily late deposits probably associated with waste disposal, demolition and disturbance of the site. It is possible that medieval and Roman deposits may survive at the site although no residual artefacts of these periods was retrieved during the excavations.

9.0 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The author of this report would like to thank Mr Ross Vinter of ARV Design and Carr Tyres for their assistance in ensuring that the project was brought to successful conclusion. Thanks are also due to Alex Beeby and Gary Taylor for production of the finds report (Appendix A).

10.0 BIBLIOGRAPHY

11.0 PROJECT/ ARCHIVE DETAILS

11.1 Project Details

SITE CODE: LCSG14

PLANNING APPLICATION No.: 20140586

FIELD OFFICER: D. Trimble

NGR: SK 58289 04984

CIVIL PARISH: Non Civil Parish

DATE OF INTERVENTION: 27th August and 2nd Septembe

TYPE OF INTERVENTION: Archaeological Monitoring and Recording

UNDERTAKEN FOR: Carr Tyres

11.2 Archive Details

PRESENT LOCATION: Witham Archaeology, Unit 6, Sleaford Station Business Centre, Station Road, Sleaford, Lincolnshire NG34 7RG

FINAL LOCATION: Leicester City Arts and Museums Service

MUSEUM ACCESSION No.: Y.A26.2014

ACCESSION DATE: - March 2015

The Site Archive Comprises:

Context Records	8
Section Drawings at Scale 1:20	3
Digital Photographs	9 files
Monochrome Negatives	3 shots
Set of Site Notes	1

It is intended that transfer of the archive in accordance with current published requirements will be undertaken following completion of this project.

COLOUR PLATES



Plate 1: General view of site from northeast



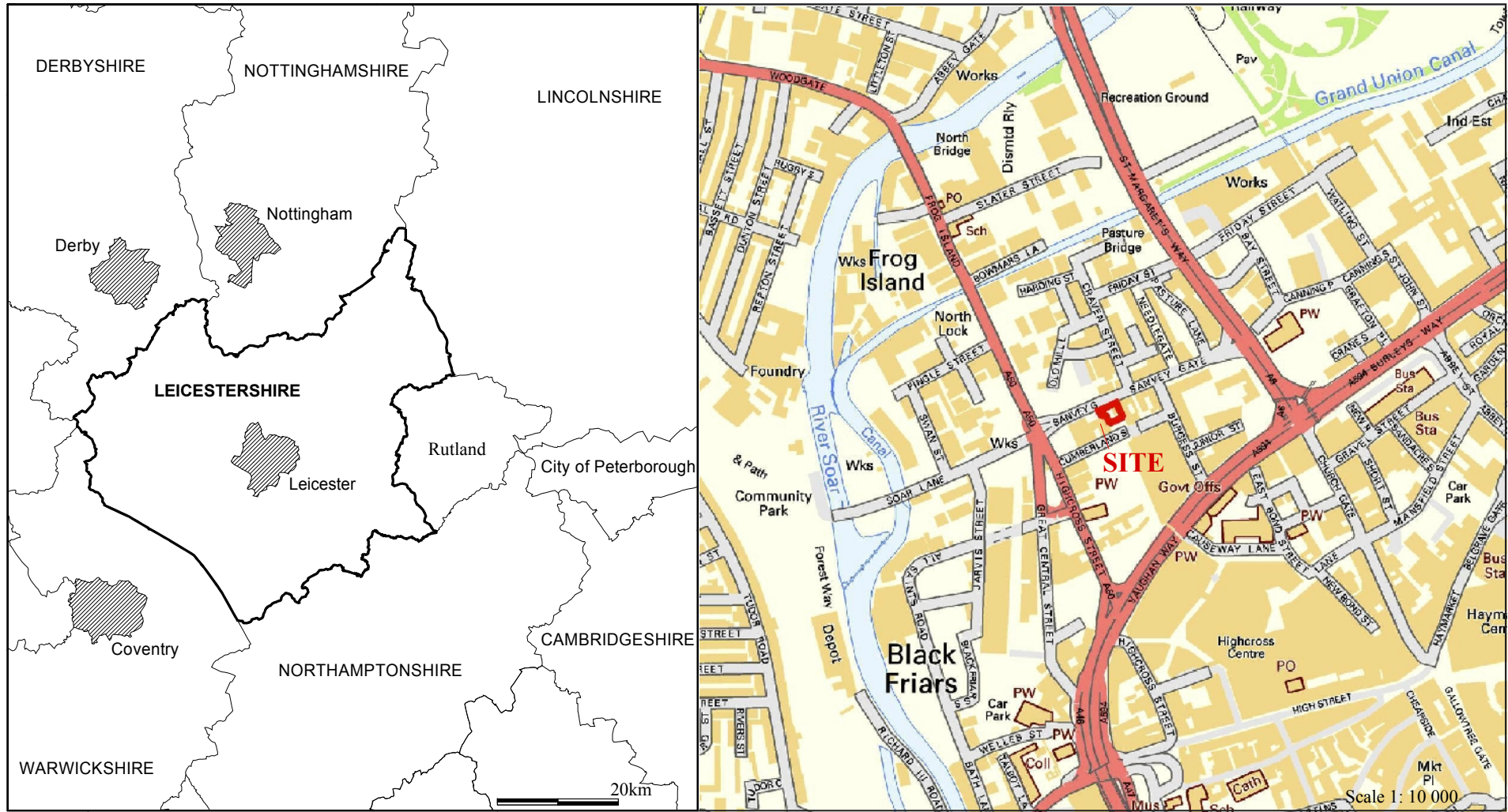
Plate 2: Test Pit Section 1, looking southwest; 1m scale



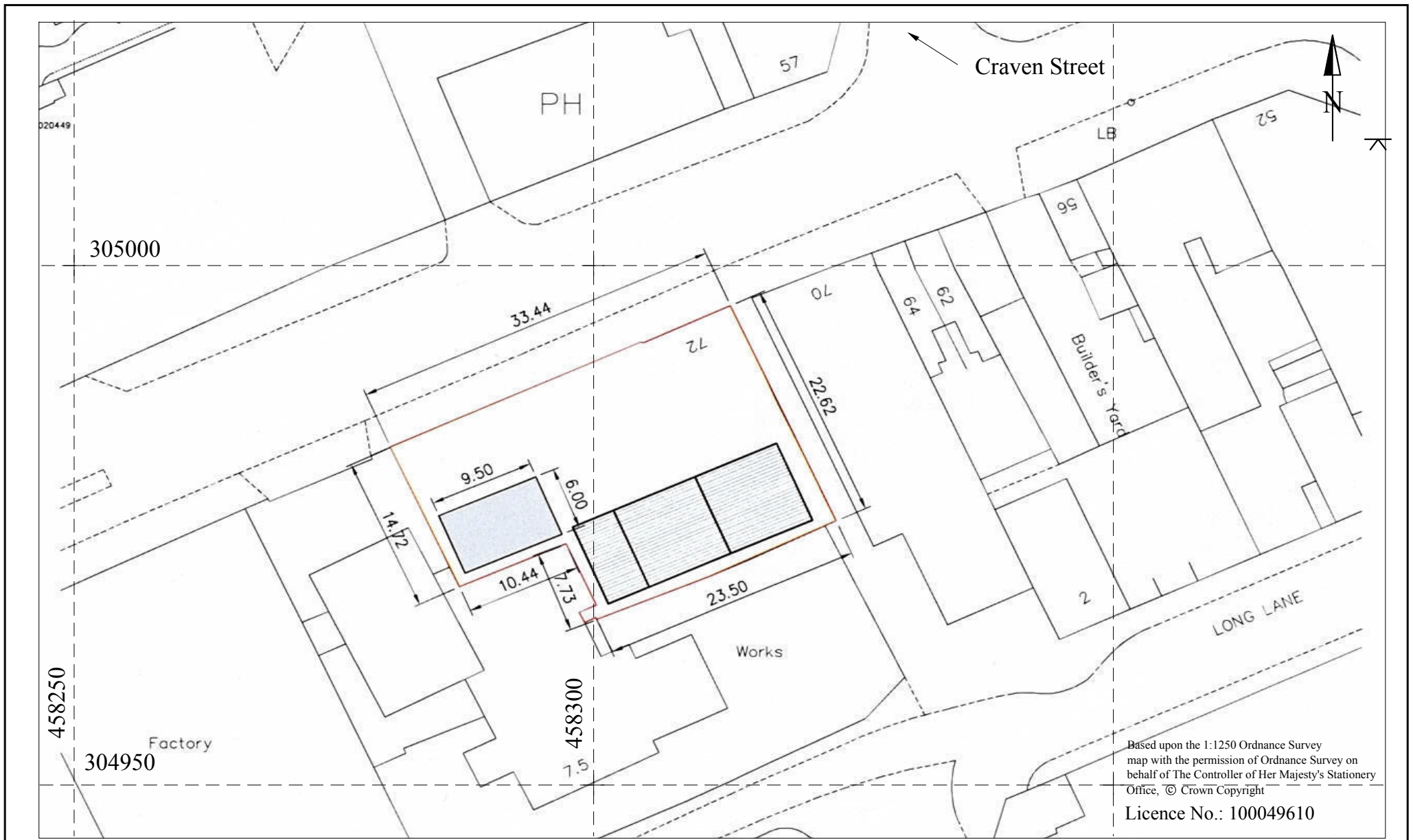
Plate 3: Section 2, looking southeast; 1m scale



Plate 4: Section 3, looking northwest; 1m scale

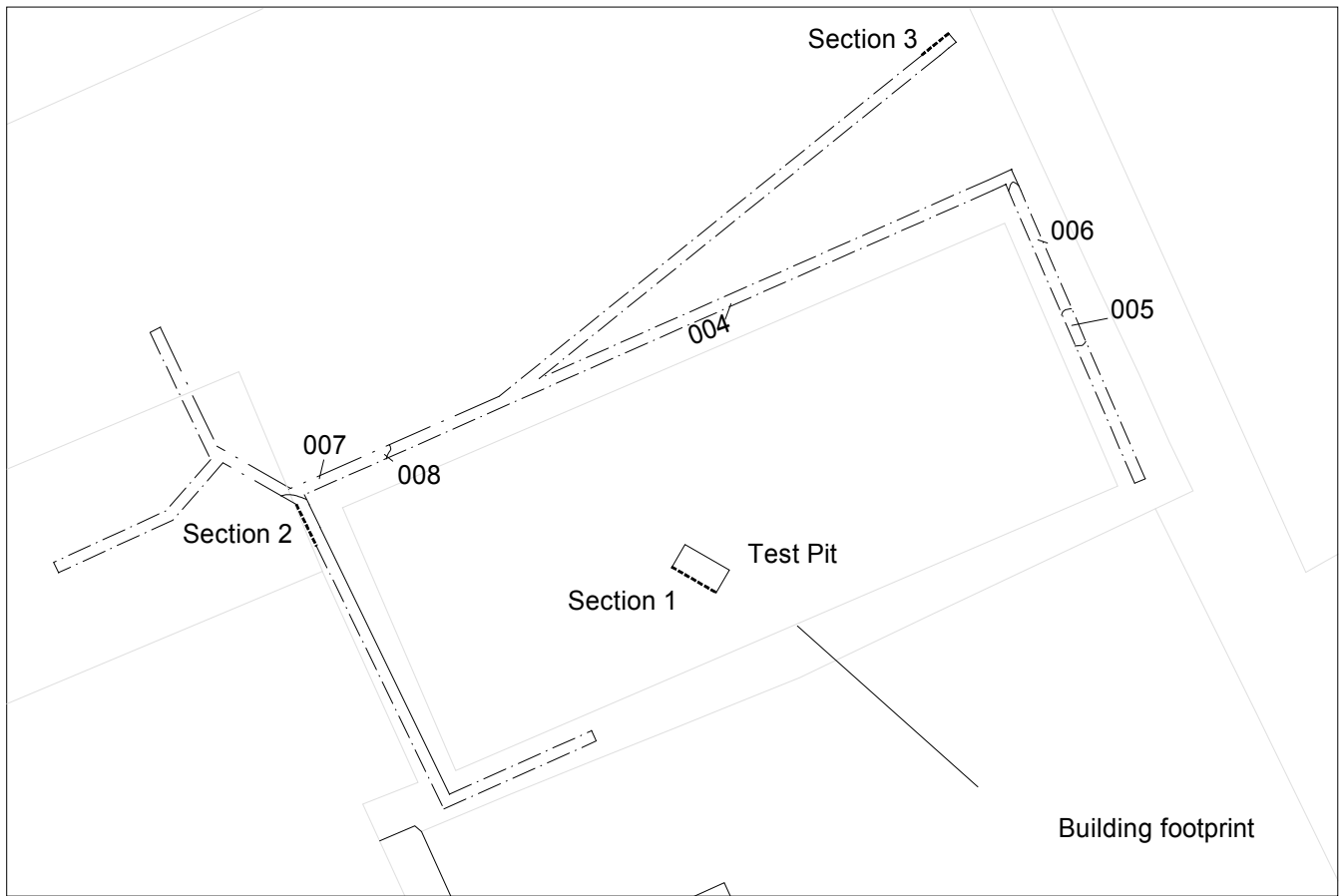


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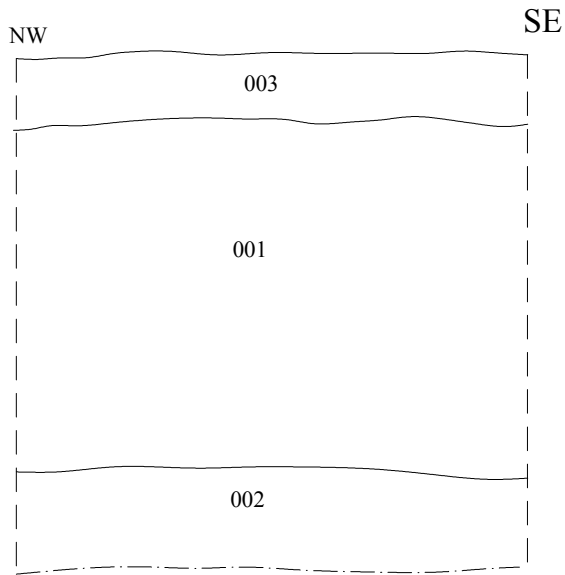
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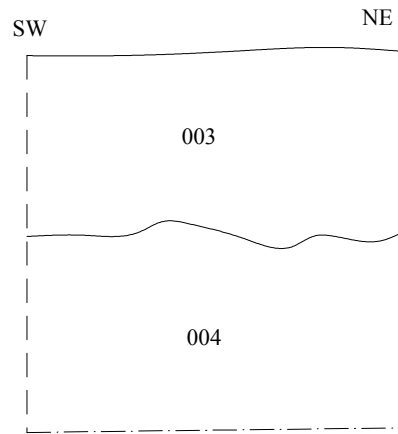


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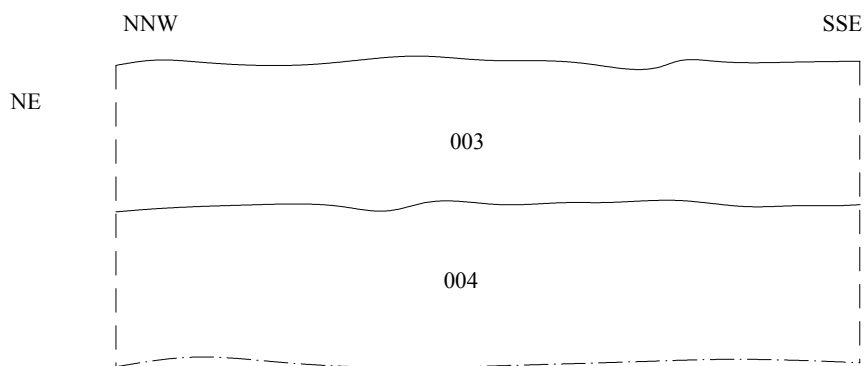
Section 1



Section 3



Section 2



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APPENDIX A - CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS

<i>Context</i>	<i>Interpretation</i>	<i>Description</i>
001	Make up\Backfill	Loose, 1.2m thick, dark greyish brown clayey sand with frequent flecks of charcoal, brick flecks and angular stone. Recorded in Test Pit 1
002	Natural	Moderately compacted mid brown sandy clay with occasional small and medium sized angular stones
003	Demolition deposit	Loose dark greyish brown sandy clay with frequent bricks, occasional fragments of glass, occasional bone and occasional stones
004	Make up\Backfill	Same as 001 but recorded across the site
005	Dump of 19 th century waste	Up to 0.2m thick, loose dark grey sandy clay with frequent bricks, broken bottles, plates, bowls.
006	Demolition layer	Loose, up to 0.2m dark greyish brown mix of sandy clay & brick rubble. Also stone cobbles
007	Dump of recent rubble	Loose mid greyish sandy clay with frequent bricks and angular gravel
008	Pit for disposal of rubble	Large pit approximately 5m west to east and at least 300mm deep

APPENDIX B

LEICESTER SANVEY GATE (LCSG14) – FINDS REPORT

POST ROMAN POTTERY*By Alex Beeby***Introduction**

The material was recorded at archive level in accordance with the guidelines laid out in Slowikowski *et al.* (2001). The pottery codenames (Cname) are in accordance with the Post Roman pottery type series for Lincolnshire, as published in Young *et al.* (2005), which can also be used to record material from surrounding counties. An equivalent code from the type series for Leicestershire (c.f. Sawday, unpublished) is included in Table 1 below. A single sherd from a single vessel, weighing 40 grams was recovered from the site.

Methodology

The material was laid out and viewed in context order. Sherds were counted and weighed by individual vessel within each context. The pottery was examined visually and using x20 magnification. This information was then added to an Access database. An archive list of the pottery is included in Table 1 below. The pottery dates to the Early Modern period.

Condition

There is a single fresh sherd.

Results*Table 1, Post Roman Pottery Archive*

Cxt	Cname	Leics Cname	Full Name	Form	NoS	NoV	W(g)	Decoration	Part	Date
005	PEARL	EA9	Pearlware	Dish	1	1	40	Blue transfer print - Willow Pattern	Rim	19th

Range

There is a single fragment from a large meat dish in Pearlware (PEARL). The vessel is of 19th century date.

Potential

There is no potential for further work. The pottery can be discarded.

GLASS*By Gary Taylor***Introduction**

A single piece of glass weighing 210g was recovered.

Condition

Although naturally fragile the glass is in good condition. It exhibits slight iridescent decay.

Results*Table 2, Glass Archive*

Cxt	Description	NoF	W (g)	Date
005	very pale green round-based ('Lincolnshire cucumber') bottle, embossed, 'JAWSON', 'JTED WATER', 'JTURER', slight iridescence	1	210	mid-late 19 th century

Provenance

The glass was recovered from 005

Range

The lower part of a round-bottomed bottle, known as a 'Lincolnshire cucumber' was recovered. It is embossed with the words '...AWSON', '...TED WATER, ...TURER', , the latter two lines probably indicating 'aerated water manufacturer', while the first line is the end of the maker's name.

Potential

Other than providing dating evidence the glass is of limited potential and could be discarded.

SPOT DATING

The dating in Table 3 is based on the evidence provided by the finds detailed above.

Table 3, Spot dates

Cxt	Date	Comments
005	19th	Based on a single sherd and glass

ABBREVIATIONS

BS	Body sherd
CXT	Context
NoF	Number of Fragments
NoS	Number of sherds
NoV	Number of vessels
W (g)	Weight (grams)

REFERENCES

- Sawday, D, Unpublished, Pottery codenames for Leicestershire
- Slowikowski, A. M., Nenk, B., and Pearce, J., 2001, *Minimum Standards for the Processing, Recording, Analysis and Publication of Post-Roman Ceramics*, Medieval Pottery Research Group Occasional Paper 2
- Young, J., Vince, A.G. and Nailor, V., 2005, *A Corpus of Saxon and Medieval Pottery from Lincoln* (Oxford)

APPENDIX C – OASIS FORM

OASIS DATA COLLECTION FORM: England

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OASIS ID: withamar1-197576

Project details

Project name	Archaeological monitoring and recording at 72 Sanvey Gate, Leicester
Short description of the project	A programme of archaeological monitoring and recording was undertaken by Witham Archaeology, during groundworks relating to the construction of new offices at 72 Sanvey Gate, Leicester, Leicestershire. The work was commissioned by Mr Ross Vinter of ARV Design on behalf of Carr Tyres Ltd to meet the requirements of a condition of planning permission imposed by Leicester City Council. The site is considered to lie in an area of archaeological interest, with potential for the survival of deposits associated with the Roman defences and the medieval town wall. The current programme of monitoring and recording identified no archaeological deposit earlier in date than the 19th century.
Project dates	Start: 27-08-2014 End: 02-09-2014
Previous/future work	No / No
Any associated project reference codes	20140586 - Planning Application No.
Any associated project reference codes	Y.A26.2014 - Museum accession ID
Any associated project reference codes	LCSG14 - Sitecode
Type of project	Recording project
Site status	None
Current Land use	Industry and Commerce 2 - Offices
Monument type	DUMPING Post Medieval
Significant Finds	GLASS BOTTLE Post Medieval
Investigation type	"Watching Brief"
Prompt	National Planning Policy Framework - NPPF

Project location

Country	England
Site location	LEICESTERSHIRE LEICESTER LEICESTER 72 Sanvey Gate

Postcode LE1 4BQ
 Study area 0.73 Hectares
 Site coordinates SK 58289 04984 52.6391151544 -1.13851937835 52 38 20 N 001 08 18 W Point

Project creators

Name of Organisation Witham Archaeology
 Project brief originator City/Nat. Park/District/Borough archaeologist
 Project design originator Dale Trimble
 Project director/manager Dale Trimble
 Project supervisor Dale Trimble
 Type of sponsor/funding body Developer

Project archives

Physical Archive recipient Leicestershire Museums
 Physical Archive ID Y.A26.2014
 Physical Contents "Ceramics","Glass"
 Digital Archive recipient Leicestershire Museums
 Digital Archive ID Y.A26.2014
 Digital Contents "Ceramics","Glass","Stratigraphic"
 Digital Media available "Images raster / digital photography","Images vector","Text"
 Paper Archive recipient Leicestershire Museums
 Paper Archive ID Y.A26.2014
 Paper Contents "Ceramics","Glass","Stratigraphic"
 Paper Media available "Context sheet","Drawing","Photograph","Plan","Report","Section"

Project bibliography 1

Publication type Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
 Title Land at 72 Sanvey Gate, Leicester, Leicestershire Archaeological Monitoring and Recording
 Author(s)/Editor(s) Trimble, D
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