



Primus Edge Phase 2

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL
WATCHING BRIEF AND
EVALUATION**

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Primus Edge Phase 2


Leicester

ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF AND EVALUATION

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Primus Edge, Leicester

Archaeological Watching Brief and Evaluation 2015

TABLE OF CONTENTS

<i>SUMMARY</i>	ii
1. INTRODUCTION	1
2. LOCATION AND GEOLOGY	1
3. AIMS AND OBJECTIVES	1
4. ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND	2
5. METHODOLOGY	3
6. RESULTS	2
7. CONCLUSIONS	3
8. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS	4
9. REFERENCES	4

List of Figures

Figure 1: Site Location and Plan

Figure 2: Location of the evaluation trenches

List of Plates

Plate 1: Trench 1

Plate 2: Trench 2

Plate 3: Trench 3

Primus Edge, Jarrom Street, Leicester

Archaeological Watching Brief and Evaluation 2015

SUMMARY

The Centre of Archaeology was commissioned in by Primus Edge Ltd to undertake an archaeological watching brief and evaluation in respect of a proposed construction of the Primus Edge Phase 2 development at Jarrom Street, Leicester, (centred on NGR SK 584 036). Groundworks at this site involved the removal of the concrete slab and foundations of the existing building on the site under watching brief conditions followed by the excavation of three evaluation trenches. No surviving archaeological remains were revealed during these works. Upon consideration of the stratigraphic record identified at the site, no further work is warranted on the site.

Primus Edge, Leicester

Archaeological Watching Brief and Evaluation 2015

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1.1. The Centre of Archaeology based at Staffordshire University was commissioned by Primus Edge Ltd to undertake an archaeological watching brief and evaluation during demolition and construction work for the Primus Edge Phase 2 development at Jarrom Street, Leicester (hereinafter referred to as the site, Planning Application Number 20/14/1905).
- 1.1.2. This report outlines the results of the watching brief and evaluation and has been prepared in accordance with the Written Scheme of Investigation (Centre of Archaeology 2015) which was approved by the City Planning Archaeologist prior to implementation, in accordance with guidelines laid down in Planning Policy Guidance Note 16 (DoE 1990). The project conformed to the Institute for Archaeologists Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Watching fieldwork (IFA 2001)

2. LOCATION AND GEOLOGY

- 2.1.1. The site is located at 9 Jarrom Street, Leicester, LE2 7DF in Leicester City Centre and is centred on NGR SK 584 036. The development site covers a total area of 0.11ha and is centred on NGR SK 584 036. It is located within a predominantly commercial/light industrial area and is located to the north of Leicester Royal Infirmary
- 2.1.2. The underlying geology consists of the Branscombe Mudstone Formation. Marl was also recorded in British Geological Survey boreholes to the north and east of the site. The underlying drift geology comprises of alluvium comprising clay, silt, sand and gravel, underlain by the Syston Member comprising sand and gravel. Drift deposits comprise sands and gravels to the north, clay underlain to the southwest and no superficial deposits to the east.
- 2.1.3. The present character of the site is occupied by buildings dating to the late 1960s comprising of light commercial warehouses and a Dulux Decorating Centre. The site is bounded to the north by bounded by Henshaw Street to the north, Atkins Street to the east and Jarrom Street to the south. The west of the site is bounded by residential dwellings.

3. AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

- 3.1. The principal aim of the watching brief during demolition is to monitor the groundworks and record any features and deposits which are revealed during this process.
- 3.1.1. The principal aim of the subsequent archaeological evaluation is to determine the character, extent, date, state of preservation and the potential significance of any buried remains and to produce a report which will aid in further archaeological mitigation to protect and preserve the archaeology during construction.
- 3.1.2. More specific aims were to:
- identify and record evidence for the development history of this part of Leicester
 - identify evidence for Roman activity at this location
 - identify and record any remains which are regionally, nationally or internationally important

4. ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

4.1.1. The proposed site boundary was included in an archaeological desk based assessment report by the Centre of Archaeology at Staffordshire University This report was completed as a condition of planning permission for the proposed construction. Several known archaeological and historical sites are known from the surrounding area of the development site. A total of 38 sites, with 15 entries having multiple entries, are registered on the Leicester City Council HER within the study area; however, of these, none are located within the development site itself. Full details of these can be viewed in the above mentioned desk- based assessment report. To summarize the results of the desk based assessment, six periods have been identified ranging from the prehistoric to modern.

Prehistoric

4.1.2. A lithic implement was recovered from Jarrom Street and a sherd of Iron Age pottery was recovered 483m northeast of the current site.

Roman

4.1.3. The site is located in the centre of Roman Leicester. Therefore, there is a high concentration of Roman monuments and find spots from the study area. These include a cremation (267m southeast), Roman monuments, boundary ditch and the Tripontium Road and proto-Newarke Road (381m northeast), two hearths, a building, a timber building, an extra mural suburb and a hut (211m northeast), a cremation (332m northwest) traces of an early Roman cremation cemetery was identified at Watling Street, situated 1.5km to the northeast of the site. A possible aqueduct recorded as a scheduled monument is located 274m northeast of site. Several other Roman find spots are known from the area.

4.1.4. A Roman inhumation burial was excavated from the south of Mill Lane, located 332m to the northwest of the site. It is believed that this interment belongs to a larger cemetery complex based on the identification of an additional three inhumations from the same site.

4.1.5. A late Roman cemetery was identified and excavated in 1997. The cemetery is located near York Road 331m. it is believed that the burials recorded during archaeological fieldwork belong to a larger cemetery.

4.1.6. The possible course of Tripontium Road was excavated in 2009. The excavation took place on the southwest side of Bonners Lane and Oxford Street, located 226m to the northeast of the site, and uncovered around 25m of a NNW-SSE aligned road surface.

Anglo-Saxon

4.1.7. There is little evidence for Anglo-Saxon activity within the study area. Two Anglo-Saxon monuments were identified from the SMR, a Grubenhaus and possible enclosure, both of which are situated on Bonner's Lane, located 232m to the northeast of the site.

Medieval

4.1.8. Several sites and find spots are known from the Medieval to Modern periods, to summarise there are structures associated with St Sepulchre Church/St James Chapel and cemetery have been identified (143m east). Sub-surface deposits indicating medieval extra mural suburbs were identified during excavations sporadic excavations from 2002-2014 (538m northeast).

Post-Medieval to Modern

4.1.9. A significant amount of post-medieval finds and monuments have been recorded from the study area, including ditches (232m and 285m northeast) and a millrace serving Castle Mill (428m southeast). Leicester Royal Infirmary is situated 121m to the south of the site. The earliest part of the Infirmary was built in 1771

close to the site of a medieval hospital. Deacon Street School opened in 1865 and attached to St Andrews Church is located 83m northwest of site. The former Luke Turner and Co. Factory dates to the 19th century and is situated 139m to the northeast of the site. An extant Post Medieval to Modern machine works is located on 100(?) Havelock Street (55m west). The Post Medieval to Modern Great Central Railway is located 868m to the northeast of the site. Similar to the prehistoric and Anglo-Saxon period, there is limited modern activity around the site. However, a late 19th century industrial building located on Havelock Street is of interest and is situated 55m to the west of the site.

5. METHODOLOGY

- 5.1.1. An archaeologist was present during the breaking and removal of the floor slab associated with the recently demolished building on the site.
- 5.1.2. A total of three evaluation trenches were subsequently excavated. Trench 1 measured 15m by 2.5m, trench 2 measured 14m by 2.5m and trench 3 measured 7m by 2.5m. Trenches 1 and 3 were moved with the permission of the City Archaeologist due to space restrictions on site. Overburden and modern material were removed with a 360° mechanical excavator fitted with a toothless bucket down to the top of the natural geology (as no archaeology was encountered).
- 5.1.3. All stratigraphic sequences were recorded, even where no archaeology was present. Features were planned at a scale of 1:50, and sections were drawn of all cut features and significant vertical stratigraphy at a scale of 1:50. A comprehensive written record was maintained using a continuous numbered context system on *pro-forma* cards. Written records and scale plans were supplemented by photographs using digital photography.
- 5.1.4. Buried soils and sediment sequences were inspected and recorded on site. Examination of soil sediments conformed to guidelines set out in *Geoarchaeology: using earth sciences to understand the archaeological record* (English Heritage 2007).
- 5.1.5. An assessment of each deposit was conducted to establish the preservation conditions and potential for analysis of biological remains. The environmental sampling policy followed the guidelines contained in the Centre of Archaeology Fieldwork Manual (2013) and *Environmental Archaeology: a guide to the theory and practice of methods, from sampling and recovery to post-excavation* (English Heritage 2002). Sampling strategies for wooden structures conformed to guidelines set out in *Waterlogged wood: Guidelines on the recording, sampling, conservation and curation of waterlogged wood* (Brunning 1996).
- 5.1.6. The full site archive includes all artefactual remains recovered from the site. The site archive will be prepared according to guidelines set down in Appendix 3 of the Management of Archaeology Projects (English Heritage, 1991), the Guidelines for the Preparation of Excavation Archives for Long-term Storage (UKIC, 1990) and Standards in the Museum Care of Archaeological collections (Museum and Art Galleries Commission, 1992). The paper archive will be deposited with Leicester Museum and Art Gallery subject to permission from the landowner.

6. CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

- 6.1.1. The investigations permitted preservation by record of deposits identified at this site. No surviving archaeological remains were observed during the work.
- 6.1.2. It is considered that the aims and objectives have been achieved and that the results are representative of the nature of the archaeology across the development area.
- 6.1.3. **Based on the stratigraphic record identified, no further work is warranted at this site.**

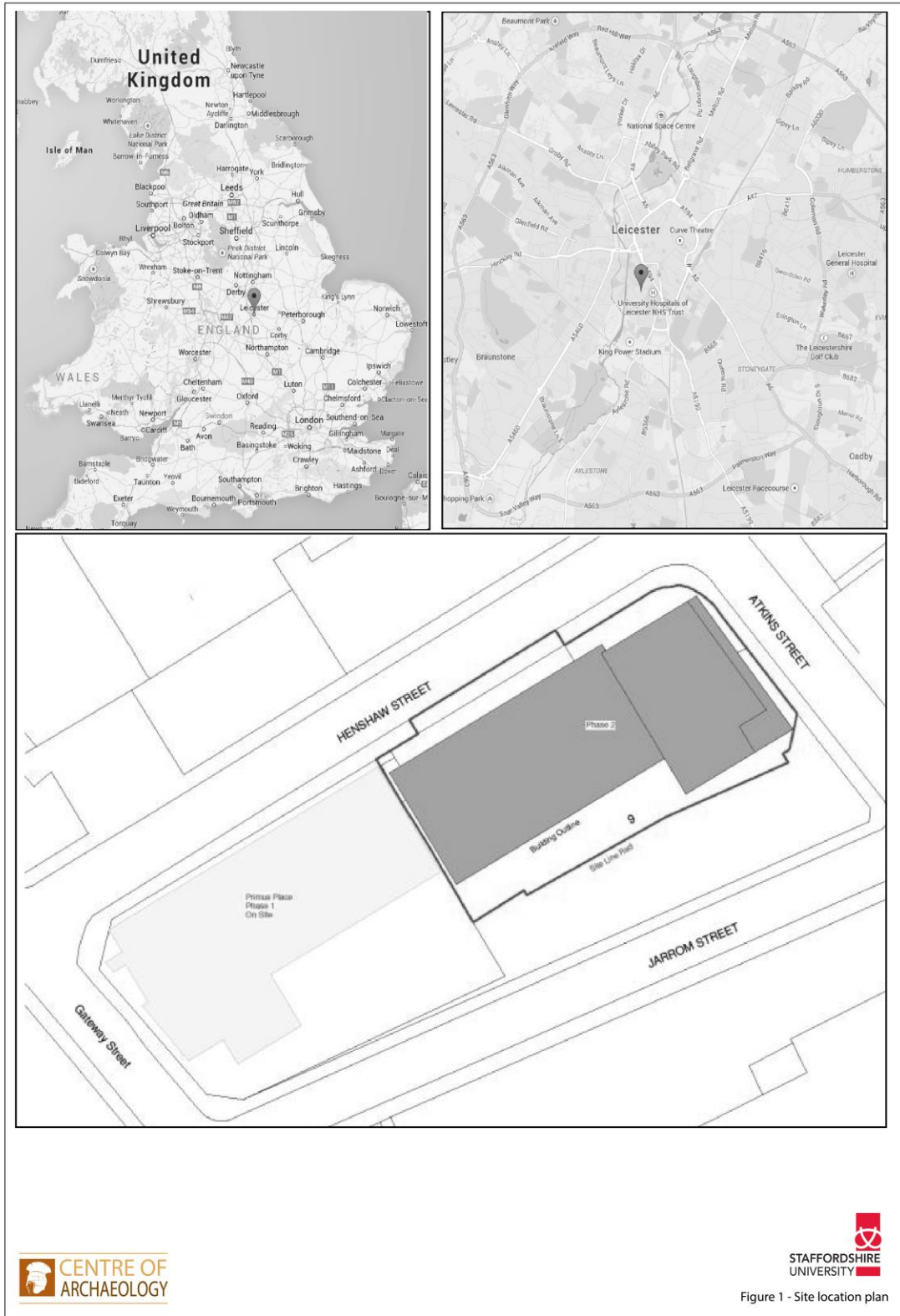
7. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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Figures and Plates



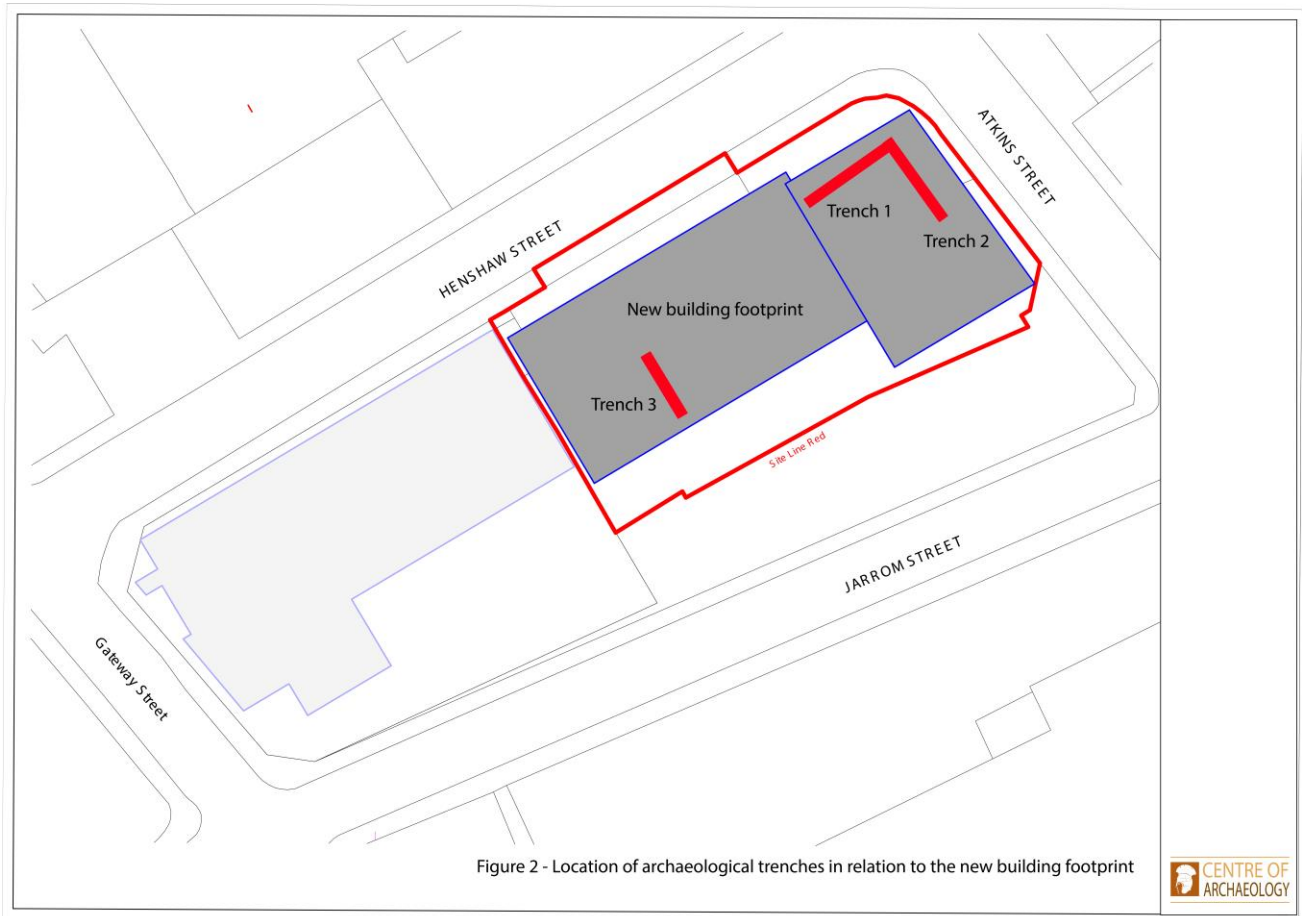




Plate 1 – Trench 1



Plate 2 – Trench 2



Plate 3 – Trench 3