



University of  
**Leicester**

**Archaeological Services**

An Archaeological Evaluation of land  
on the junction of Highcross Street and  
Vaughan Way, Leicester (SK 58309  
04771 centre)

Mathew Morris



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of Land on the Junction of Highcross Street and  
Vaughan Way, Leicester  
(SK 58309 04771 centre)**

**Mathew Morris**

With contributions from:

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**For: Ingelby (1245) Ltd.**

Approved by:

**Signed:**



**...Date:** 17.7.2012

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## **An Archaeological Evaluation of land on the junction of Highcross Street and Vaughan Way, Leicester (SK 58309 04771 centre)**

Mathew Morris

### **Summary**

*During the spring of 2012 an archaeological evaluation was undertaken on a c.6150 sq. m parcel of land in Leicester, on the north-east corner of Highcross Street and Vaughan Way (SK 58309 04771 centre), as part of a pre-planning enquiry on behalf of Ingelby (1245) Ltd. Fieldwork was carried out over a three week period between 22nd April and 11th May, 2012 by staff of University of Leicester Archaeological Services (ULAS). In all, seven c.30m by c.3m trenches were excavated across the site with two further trenches not completed because part of the site was unavailable for evaluation, being still occupied by derelict and unstable buildings. The evaluation recorded significant survival of Roman archaeology across the site, including parts of a street, evidence of stone and timber buildings, a mosaic pavement, pits and yard surfaces. Medieval archaeology survived to a lesser extent, predominantly in the form of pits and garden soils with only Trench 5 on the Highcross Street frontage exposing structural evidence. The archaeology was typically found c.2m below present ground level sealed beneath thick deposits of medieval and post-medieval garden soil, but in places survived as shallow as c.1.3m (the mosaic) in Trench 2, c.1m in Trench 4 and c.0.9m in Trench 5.*

*Roman archaeology was present across the site in all of the trenches except Trench 6, with features ranging in date from the late 1st century AD through to the 4th century. Along the northern side of the site, compacted gravel street metalling for the east-west Roman street running between Insulae IV and X was recorded in the western half of Trench 1 and the northern end of Trench 7. Early Roman features either pre-dating this street or contemporary with its early use were found in Trenches 1 and 4. These appear to date to the late 1st century or possibly the early 2nd century AD. In Trench 1 a beam-slot/gully appeared to be at right-angles to the street; whilst in Trench 4 early occupational trample and yard surfaces were of broadly contemporary date.*

*Later Roman activity next to the street was recorded in Trench 7. Here a narrow gully running parallel with the street, post-holes and the robber trench for a road-side wall were all dug into soil containing mid-late 2nd century pottery. Activity continued into the 3rd century and a substantial concrete floor was also present lying on soil containing mid-late 3rd century pottery. The noticeable absence of Roman roof tiles in this trench may suggest that the floor was some sort of heavy-duty external surface and the wall a boundary wall surrounding a property rather than part of a building.*

*Further south, set back in the centre of Insula X, was evidence for timber and masonry buildings. The timber buildings, found in Trenches 2 and 5, survived as beam-slots and floor surfaces. These were a mixture of earth and concrete, each floor often separated by a layer of made-ground containing pottery dating to the latter half of the 2nd century AD, redeposited roof tiles and painted wall plaster. Little can be said of either building's plan or appearance at this stage. Robbed wall footings for masonry walls were found in Trenches 2, 3, 4 and possibly 5. As with the timber buildings, little can be said about the plan or the appearance of these masonry buildings. In Trench 3, the corner of a building was present; whilst in Trench 4 in-situ floors and robbed walls suggest a sizeable Roman building in the vicinity. Further west, closer to line of the north-south street leading to the town's north gate, the remains of the early timber building in Trench 5 were sealed beneath a substantial mortar and stone floor. It remains unclear whether this was part of a later building.*

*Perhaps the best evidence for an important Roman building was a mosaic pavement found in Trench 2. This is the largest fragment of tessellated pavement found in Leicester in recent years. The panel, of which approximately a quarter survives, measures c.3.2m by c.2.6m. Its pattern, picked out in red and grey tesserae, includes a hexafoil central motif surrounded by an octagonal band, heart-shaped leaves and swastika-meander. The pavement may well be part of the same building as a robber trench and floor make-up in the same trench. The robber trench, which was on the same orientation as the mosaic and the town's street grid, appeared to be an external wall with yard surfaces present beyond it to the east. The floor make-up contained early 4th century pottery, suggesting the building was late Roman in date. Several Roman pits were also sample excavated in Trenches 3 and 5. These contained late 2nd century to late 3rd century material.*

*No Anglo-Saxon or Saxo-Norman occupation was found on site, but 10th and 11th century pottery was present in later medieval features, particularly in Trench 5 close to Highcross Street. The few medieval pits and robber trenches excavated dated to the 12th or 13th century and the only post-Roman feature of note was a substantial masonry wall found at right-angles to Highcross Street in Trench 5. This may be part of St John's Hospital or the Town Gaol which replaced it in 1614. The wall was demolished and rebuilt in the 18th century or later.*

*The site archive will be held by Leicester Museum Service under the accession number A8.2012.*

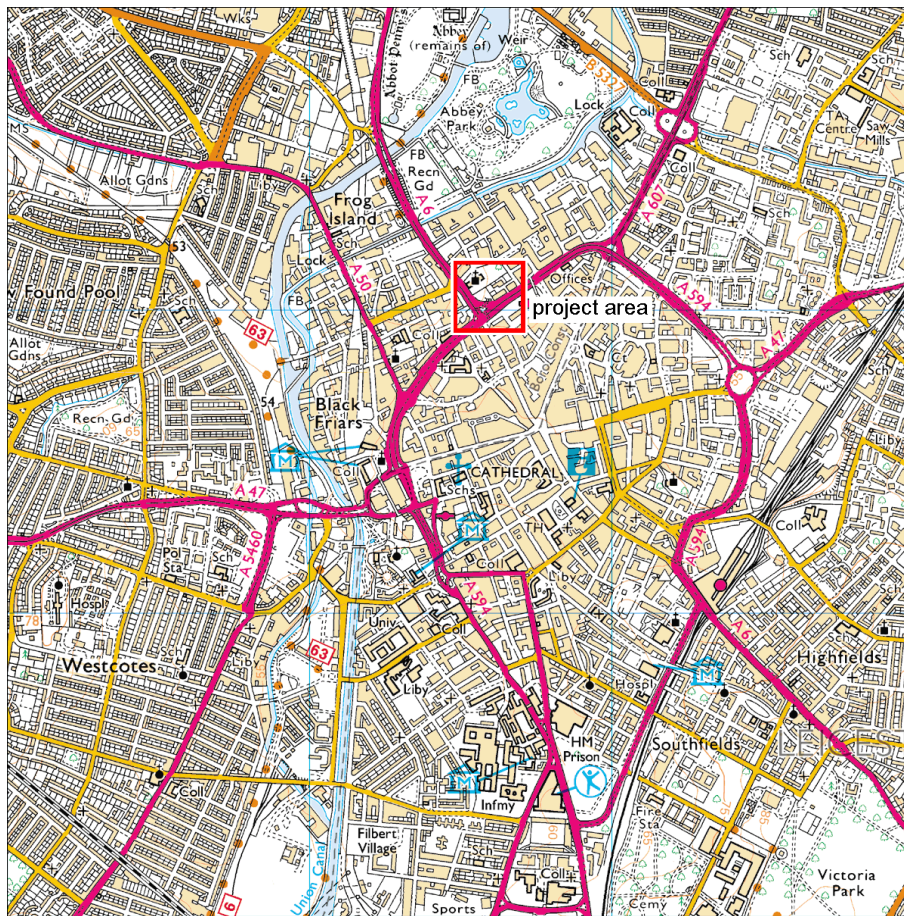


Figure 1: Location plans with development area highlighted

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## Introduction

This document constitutes a report on the results of an archaeological field evaluation carried out by University of Leicester Archaeological Services (ULAS) between 22nd April and 11th May, 2012. The work was commissioned by Ingelby (1245) Ltd as part of a pre-planning enquiry and the trial trenching was undertaken in accordance with National Planning Policy Framework Section 12: Conserving and Enhancing the Historic Environment (DCLG March 2012).

The site comprises a polygonal parcel of land of about 6150 sq. m located on the north-east corner of Highcross Street and Vaughan Way (SK 58309 04771 centre), approximately 450m north-west of Leicester's modern city

centre (Figure 1). At the time of the work, the site was waste ground with some derelict buildings still standing on the Highcross Street frontage, which have yet to be demolished (Figure 2). Formerly, the northern half of the site was occupied by 19th-century buildings including the All Saints Brewery whilst on the southern half, along Vaughan Way, was once an office block built during the latter half of the 20th century.



Figure 2: View of the site, looking west, from the top of the John Lewis car park

## Geology and Topography

The British Geological Survey of Great Britain, Sheet 156 (Leicester), indicates that the underlying geology is likely to consist of superficial deposits of colluvium and sand and gravel of the Wanlip Member overlying bedrock deposits of Triassic clay belonging to the Branscombe Mudstone Formation (BGS 2008). The site lies on relatively flat ground at *c.*60m above Ordnance datum (OD).

## Archaeological and Historical Background

Richard Buckley

The site lies within the historic core of Roman and medieval Leicester, in an area of significant archaeological potential. This has previously been considered as part of a wider archaeological desk-based assessment undertaken for the north-east quarter of the Roman and medieval town (Meek 2000). Since this assessment, a considerable number of archaeological investigations have been undertaken in the vicinity, principally in connection with the Highcross Leicester retail development. Analysis of the results of the latter (currently in progress) has enabled the following summary of the present site's archaeological potential.

### *Prehistoric and early Roman period*

Evidence of activity of the Mesolithic-Bronze Age periods is generally limited to a few isolated find spots in the vicinity but evidence has been found for two small Mesolithic pits on an adjacent site to the east, now the John Lewis car park (Higgins *et. al.* 2009).

Evidence for potential late Iron Age or very early Roman activity is also emerging on sites in the area, including a possible north-south trackway which pre-dates the main Roman street grid (Lucas & Buckley 2007), gullies and a possible roundhouse (Jarvis 2012). In the mid-late 1st century, there is now increasing evidence for activity pre-dating the establishment of Leicester as a *civitas*, including quarries, ground clearance, timber structures, pits, hearths and ditches.

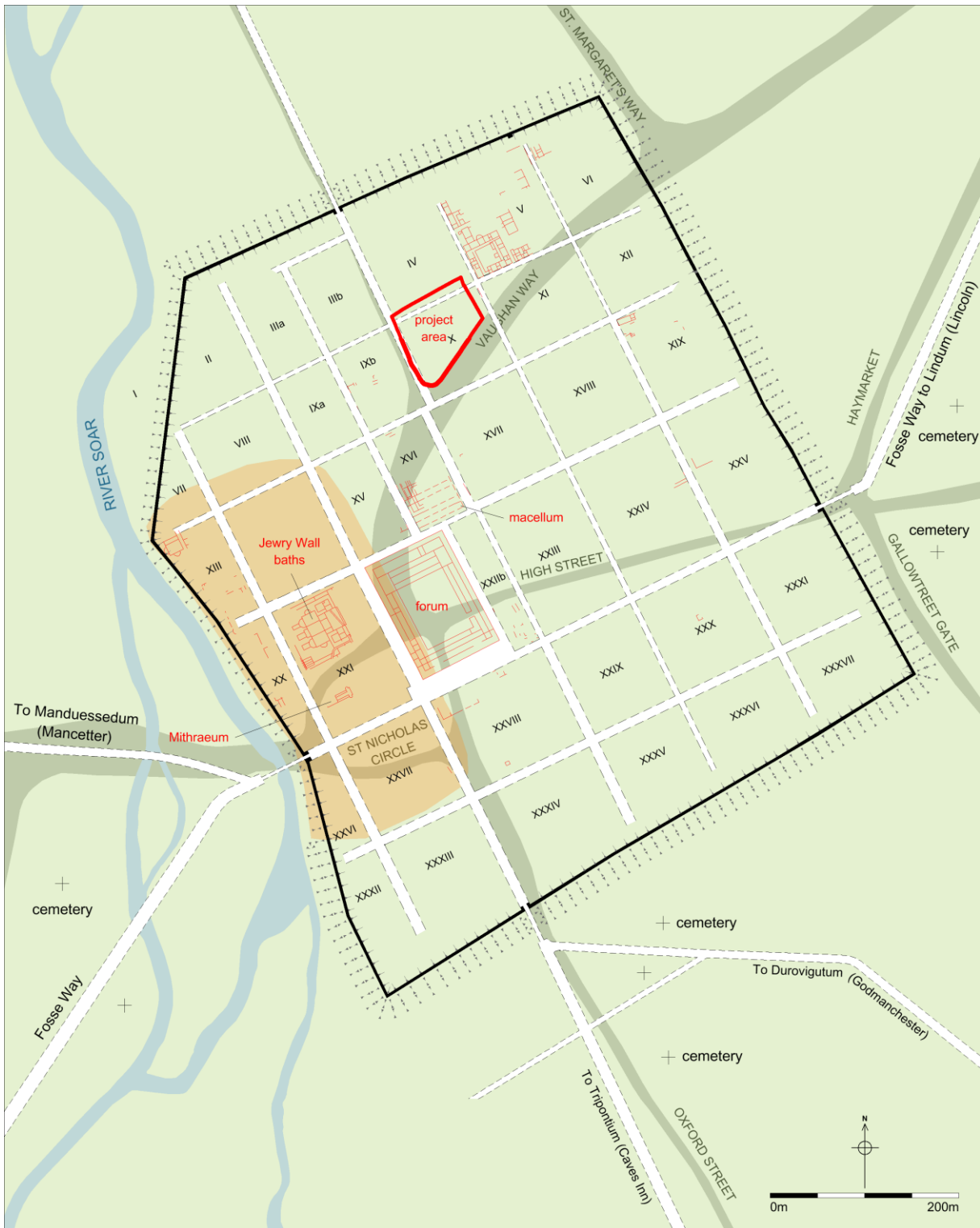


Figure 3: Plan of Roman Leicester, showing the project area in relation to the town

### Roman period

The Roman town's street grid appears to have been laid out between 100 and 120 AD, initially with side ditches, the metalling following later probably as *insulae* became developed (Figure 3). Earthen town defences, comprising a rampart and ditch, were established in the late 2nd century AD and augmented with a wall and interval towers perhaps in the later 3rd century. The site lies within *Insula* X, bordered on its west side by one of the principal streets of the Roman town (the *cardo maximus*), connecting the north gate with the administrative and commercial core, represented by the forum and macellum to the south.

To the north-east of the site, the Vine Street excavations (Higgins *et al.* 2009) have revealed extensive evidence for the development on neighbouring *insulae*, notably *Insula* V, during the Roman period, commencing with a series of strip buildings, later replaced by a substantial courtyard house and an adjacent warehouse. In the 4th



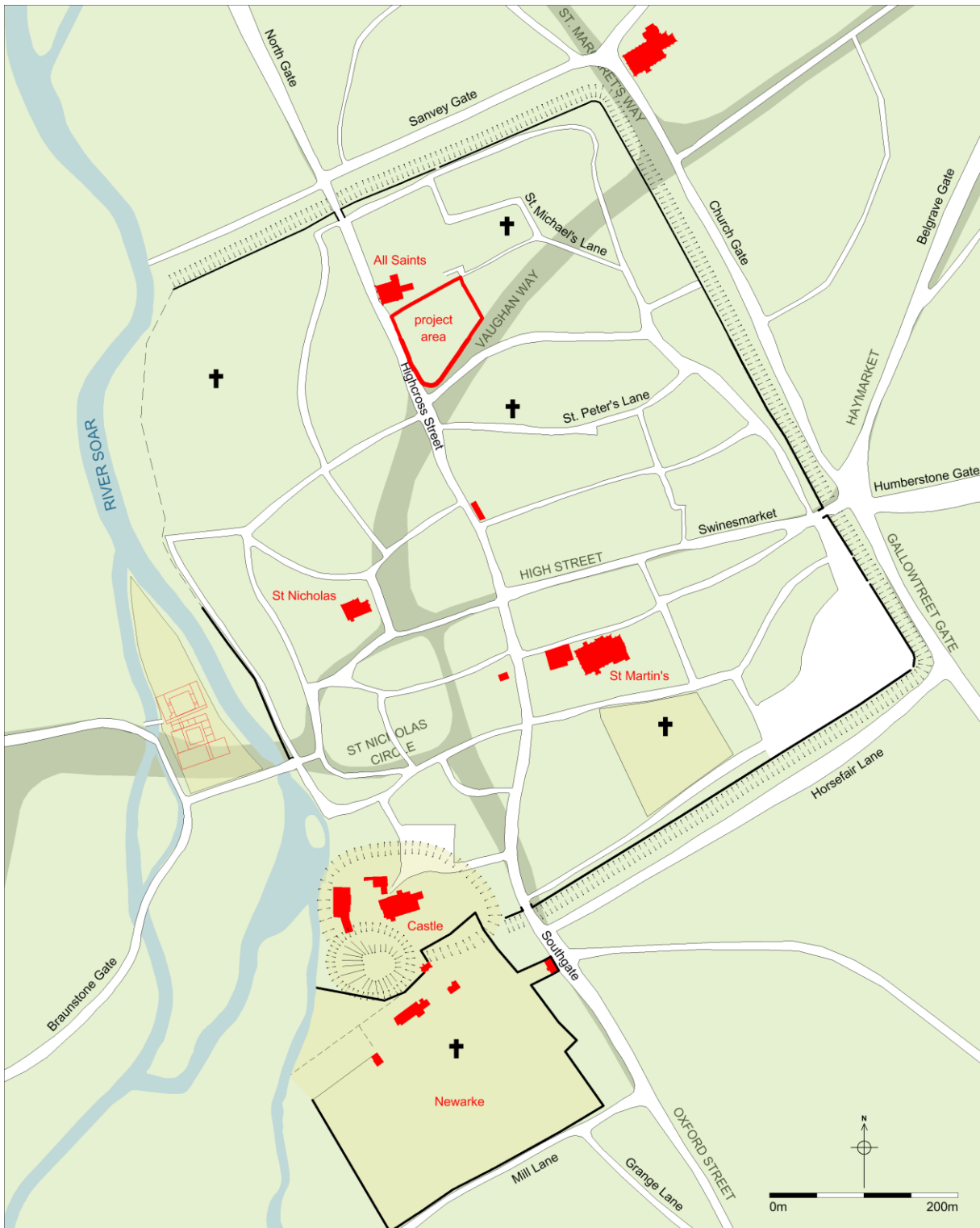


Figure 4: Plan of medieval Leicester, showing the project area in relation to the town

century, much of the town house was demolished, but elements of the structure remained in use for craft activities.

Little evidence emerged during these excavations for activity in *Insula X*, but the present site is considered to be of very high potential for deposits of this period, particularly in view of its proximity to the principal north-south street.

### *Early-Middle Anglo-Saxon period*

Evidence from isolated find spots and from excavations over the past thirty years now suggests extensive settlement during this period in the north-east quarter, including pits, sunken-featured buildings (SFBs) and possible halls. In addition, deposits known as 'dark earths' of this period have been found lying above Roman

street metalling. Based on the results of micromorphological analysis, these are now thought to be evidence for intensive occupation rather than desertion of the Roman town. Immediately adjacent to the north-east corner of the site, in *Insula IV*, evidence of a possible Anglo-Saxon post-built hall with hearth has been uncovered on Vine Street (Higgins *et. al.* 2009). Other Anglo-Saxon buildings have also been found to the south on Vaughan Way (Gnanaratnam 2009) and further north-east on Sanvey Gate (Jarvis 2012). However, at present the relationship of this intra-mural settlement with that of a similar period settlement which has been identified outside the town's south gate remains uncertain.

### *Later Anglo-Saxon/Saxo-Norman period*

Isolated find spots recorded in Leicester's Historic Environment Record (HER) suggest that what was to become the medieval High Street (now Highcross Street) was a focus for settlement in the Anglo-Scandinavian period of the 9th to 11th centuries (Courtney 1998). Recent excavations on Freeschool Lane (Coward & Speed 2007), to the south of the site, have revealed fragmentary evidence for late Anglo-Saxon structures close to the Highcross Street frontage. The Highcross Street frontage on this site has, therefore, very high potential for evidence of this period.

By the 11th century, evidence from Vine Street and other sites in the vicinity suggests that occupation was beginning to spread eastwards beyond the principal thoroughfare into the rest of the north-east quarter of the walled town.

### *Medieval and post-medieval periods*

The medieval street pattern of the north-east quarter, beyond Highcross Street, was probably established in the 11th to 12th century and the area seems to have been intensively occupied in the two centuries following the Norman Conquest (Figure 4). Wide plots or 'hagae' may have been established in the Saxo-Norman period on the Highcross Street frontage, but most were probably later subdivided into much narrower plots, reflecting the commercial significance of the street and higher property values. It has been suggested that some wider plots persisted and may have been utilised later for more public developments, one possible instance being the establishment of St John's Hospital in the southern extremity of the application area in the 12th century. Excavations at Vine Street (Higgins *et. al.* 2009) have suggested a series of large medieval plots occupied by timber buildings with the usual range of backyard features such as pits and wells. Domestic activity seem to have declined considerably during the 14th century, perhaps following documented famine in the first decade, and thereafter the north-east quarter of Leicester was mostly under cultivation until the population increased in the late 18th century in response to Leicester's rise as a textile manufacturing centre.

The frontage to Highcross Street is unlikely to have suffered such a decline and the expectation is that the site will contain several plots, probably with stone boundary walls exhibiting evidence for multiple rebuilds, as encountered at Freeschool Lane (Coward & Speed 2007) and 9 St Nicholas Place (Kipling 2010) to the south. If the site's Highcross Street frontage has not been damaged by 19th and 20th century cellars, this may represent a rare example in Leicester of a site with an intact medieval frontage. We might also expect evidence for medieval industry, such as brewing, malting and smithing as noted on other Highcross Street sites.

A number of important medieval buildings may also be present on the site's Highcross Street frontage. These include the Hospital of St John the Evangelist and St John the Baptist which is documented to have stood on the corner of the medieval High Street (Highcross Street) and St John's Lane, subsequently Causeway Lane (Billson 1920, 83). The church appears to have been an ancient foundation but little is known about its early history. It seems to have been in existence in the 12th century and a reference to a burial in 1313 indicates that there was a cemetery. The hospital with its church passed to the Borough of Leicester in 1589 and part of the site was used as a wool hall before reverting to a charitable role as an almshouse for poor widows. Other important buildings on the site may include the Town Gaol (first referred to in 1297), the County Gaol (finished in 1309) and the Shirehall (completed sometime after 1332). These are all thought to have been sited between St Johns' Hospital and All Saints' Church. The County Gaol continued into the 16th century before it was moved to a new site on Highcross Street, south of Freeschool Lane. In 1614, the Town Gaol was also rebuilt on the site of the chapel of St Johns' Hospital. When a new gaol was erected on the same site in 1792 the ruin of the chapel was found to be incorporated into the fabric of the old gaol (Billson 1920, 42-45). This was sketched by the antiquarian John Throsby who recorded it's nave to be 17ft 4in (5.3m) wide and 41ft long (12.5m) (1791, 386).

From the beginning of the 19th century the northern half of the site was occupied by the All Saint's Brewery complex. The Town Gaol remained in use until 1828 and was demolished in 1837, being replaced by a row of four small houses. Between the two, St Johns' Hospital, and from the late 17th century Bent's Hospital, remained in use until the 1960s when they were demolished prior to the widening of Highcross Street. During the latter half of the 20th century the northern half of the site remained occupied by 19th century buildings including the brewery whilst the southern half contained a large office block.

## Archaeological Objectives

The principal objectives of the work were:

1. To identify the presence or absence of any archaeological deposits.
2. To establish the character, extent and date range for any archaeological deposits to be affected by future ground works.
3. To excavate and record any archaeological deposits to be affected by future ground works.
4. To produce an archive and report of any results.

Within these parameters, it was also hoped that the work would help to address the following specific research objectives:

- What evidence was there for the east-west Roman street between *Insulae* IV and X?
- What evidence was there for the main north-south Roman street between *Insulae* IX and X, leading to the north gate?
- What evidence was there for potential Anglo-Saxon occupation in the north-east corner of the site?
- What evidence was there for late Anglo-Saxon and medieval Highcross Street frontages and plot boundaries?
- What evidence was there for late Anglo-Saxon and medieval backyard activity?
- What evidence was there for St John's Hospital, its cemetery and the town gaol?

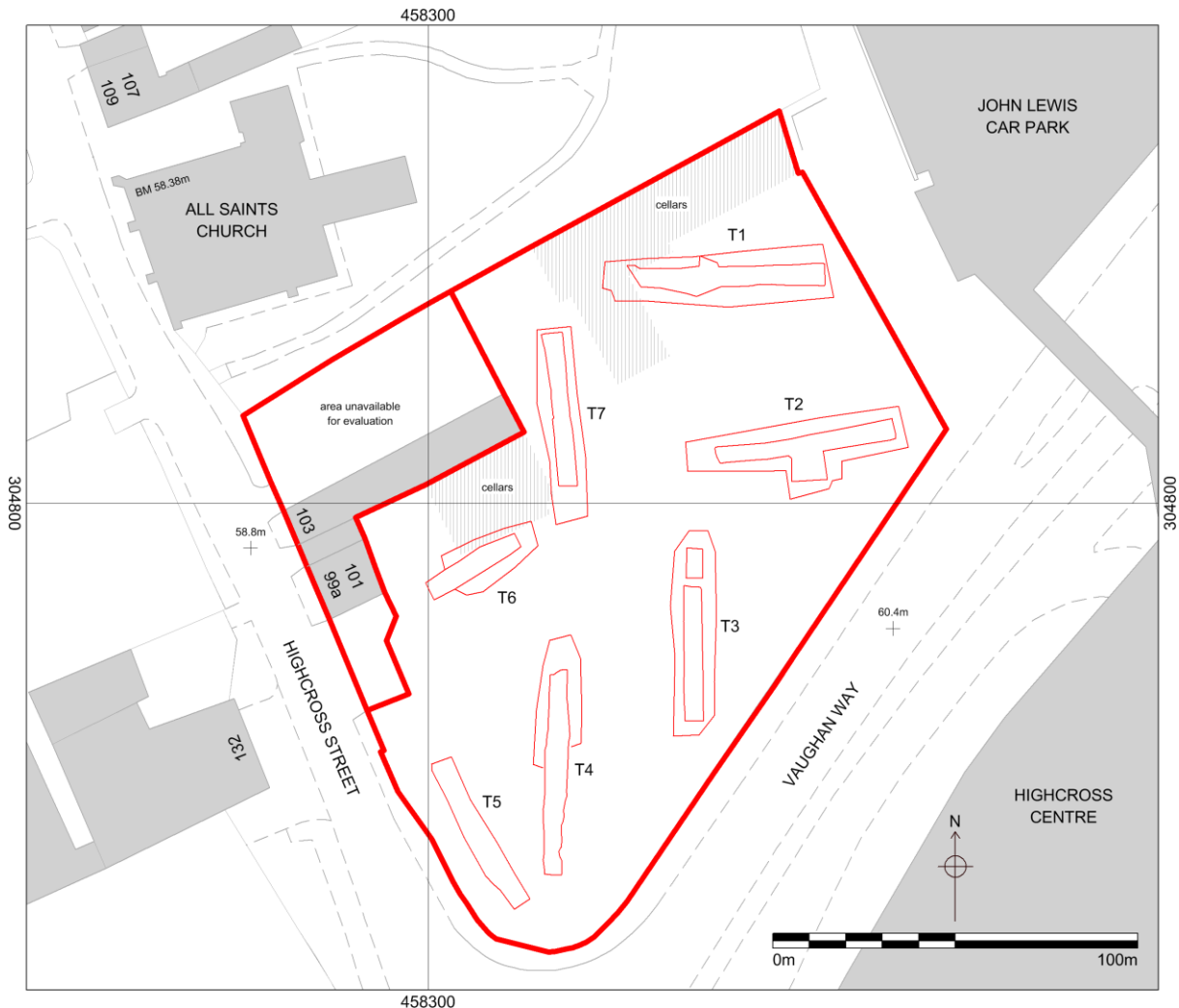


Figure 5: Trench location plan

## Methodology

The project's *Design Specification* proposed the examination of nine 30m by 3m trenches (810 sq. m) to provide a 13% sample of the site (Figure 5). These were positioned to provide an even spread across the site, to avoid known areas of disturbance, and to address the specific research objectives listed above. Two trenches in the site's north-west corner could not be excavated at the time of the work because 896 sq. m of the site was

unavailable for evaluation, being still occupied by derelict and unstable buildings. Of the remaining 5254 sq. m of the site, 608 sq. m was believed to be extensively cellared to a depth of c.2.4 - 4.3m (W. Eyre *pers. comm.*).

Trenches exceeding 1.2m in depth were stepped where appropriate. This affected six of the seven excavated trenches and placed restrictions on the length and placement of some of them – i.e. leaving enough access for heavy plant to move safely around them and enough room for spoil to be safely stored. This meant that, although machining affected 987 sq. m (19%) of the site, only 465 sq. m (9%) of archaeology could be exposed.

Modern overburden and soil was removed in level spits under continuous archaeological supervision down to the uppermost archaeological deposits or the natural substratum, depending on which was reached first. This was carried out with a tracked 13 tonne 360° mechanical excavator using, where necessary, 1.8m or 0.6m-wide ditching buckets and a 1.2m toothed bucket (modern overburden only).

All trenches, exposed sections and spoil heaps were visually inspected for features and finds. Archaeological features were hand cleaned, planned, photographed and sample excavated as appropriate to addressing the objectives of the evaluation. Field notes were recorded on pro-forma ULAS urban trench recording forms whilst all stratigraphic units were given a unique context number and recorded on pro-forma ULAS context sheets. Trench and feature plans/sections were drawn at an appropriate scale and tied into the National Grid using an electronic distance measurer (EDM). Spot heights were taken as appropriate and tied into the Ordnance Survey Datum using a benchmark of 58.38m OD on the north-west corner of All Saints Church. A photographic record of the excavation was prepared, illustrating in both detail and general context the principal features and finds discovered. Colour digital and 35mm black and white photographs were taken throughout the excavation. The photographic record also included ‘working shots’ to illustrate more generally the nature of the archaeological operation mounted.

All work followed the Institute for Archaeologists (IfA) *Code of Conduct* and adhered to their *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluation* (2009) and the *Guidelines for Archaeological Work in Leicestershire and Rutland* (LMARS).

## Results

### Trench 1

Length (m)	Width (m)	Area (sq. m)	Min. depth (m)	Max. depth (m)	Surface level (m OD)		Ave. depth to archaeology (m)
					E end	W end	
26	3	78	1.8	2.8	60.12	59.73	2.21
<b>Interval (m) from E end</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>to W end</b>
<b>Overburden depth</b>	2.1	2.4	2.95	1.8	1.8	2.00	
<b>Sub layer(s)</b>	0.5	0.1	-	-	-	-	
<b>Top of Natural?</b>	2.6	-	-	-	-	-	
<b>Base of trench</b>	2.8	2.5	2.95	1.8	1.8	2.00	

Trench 1 (Figure 6, Figure 7) was located in the site’s north-eastern corner, orientated approximately east to west, with Trench 2 to the south and Trench 7 to the south-west. Initial machining removed a surface of granite sets and c.1.8m to c.2.95m of modern overburden and garden soil exposing archaeology between 57.32m OD (east end) and 57.73m OD (west end). The modern overburden and garden soil was dark grey sandy-silt mixed with large quantities of building rubble. This was believed to be extensively disturbed medieval and post-medieval garden soil. At the east end of the trench the soil overlay c.0.5m of brown silty-sand, possibly Roman or medieval made-ground. At the west end of the trench a brick-walled cellar filled with brick and concrete rubble was uncovered. It was partially excavated to identify its depth, which exceeded c.2.5m.

A large number of sub-circular and sub-rectangular pits, ranging in size from c.1.1m to 9.8m, were recorded along the length of the trench. These were filled with similar deposits of dark soil and in the trench sections could be seen to have been dug down from within the accumulating garden soil. At least two contained 19th-century material and the rest also appeared to be medieval or later in origin.

In the western half of the trench a c.9.4m by c.3.9m area of compacted orange sand and gravel was uncovered c.1.8m below ground level. In section, this could be seen to be a c.0.8m thick sequence of cambered surfaces laid over c.60mm of pale grey silt, possibly a preserved turf-line, and c.0.2m of greyish-orange silty-sand

subsoil. This is believed to be the east-west Roman street running between *Insulae* IV and X. The line of the street was extensively truncated by pits, including one substantial feature which may have been dug to quarry out the street gravel.

At the east end of the trench was an indistinct T-shaped gully or beam-slot [2] cut into orangeish-grey silty-sand subsoil. One arm was *c.*2m in length, extending north-west from the southern trench side until it was truncated by a pit to the north. The second arm extended north-east at right-angles away from the first for at least *c.*3m before becoming too indistinct to trace. Overall, the feature was *c.*0.27m to *c.*0.36m wide and *c.*0.2m deep with a shallow, concave profile. It was filled with greyish-orange silty-sand (1) containing charcoal, mid-late 1st century pottery and a copper-alloy ‘bow’ brooch (SF1). The gully appeared to be on a similar alignment to the projected line of the Roman street but its depth would suggest that it was either associated with the earliest street surfaces or pre-dated it.



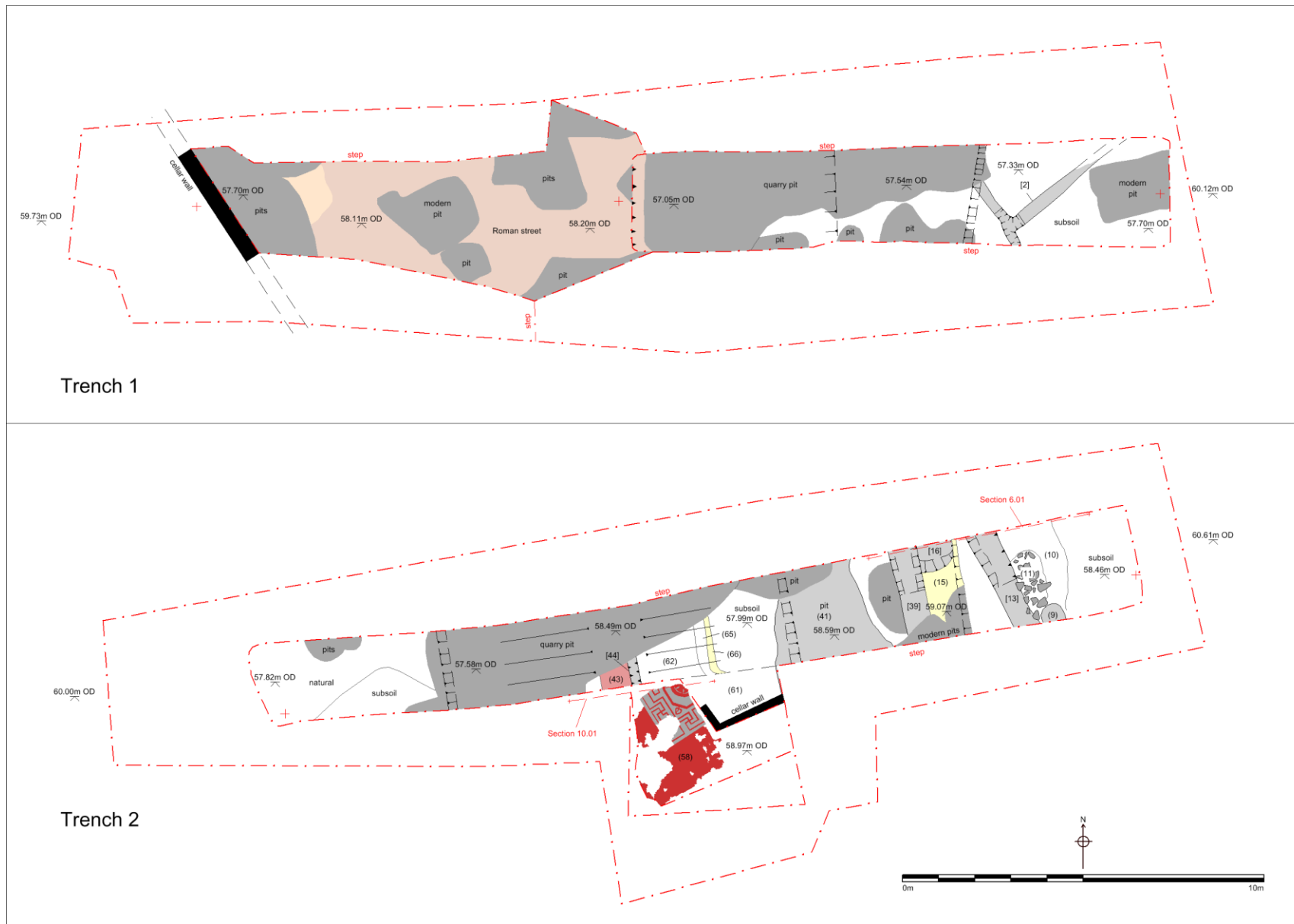
Figure 6: Trench 1 from the east (left) and west (right)

On the left, beam-slot/gully [1] is highlighted, with the gravel of the Roman street visible in section at the back of the trench. On the right, the metallated street surface is visible truncated by medieval and post-medieval pits

### Trench 2

Length (m)	Width (m)	Area (sq. m)	Min. depth (m)	Max. depth (m)	Surface level (m OD)		Ave. depth to archaeology (m)
					E end	W end	
25	2.6	65 (+ 17 mosaic area)	1.8	2.4	60.61	60.00	2.03
<b>Interval (m) from E end</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>To W end</b>
<b>Overburden depth</b>	0.4	0.36	0.36	-	0.30	0.20	
<b>Sub layer(s)</b>	1.54	1.53	1.70	1.80	2.10	1.98	
<b>Top of Natural?</b>	-	-	-	-	-	-	
<b>Base of trench</b>	1.94	1.89	2.06	1.80	2.40	2.18	

Figure 7: Plans of Trenches 1 and 2



Trench 2 (Figure 7) was located in the site's eastern corner, orientated approximately east to west, with Trench 1 to the north, Trench 3 to the south-west and Trench 7 to the west. Initial machining removed *c.*1.8m to *c.*2.4m of modern overburden and garden soil exposing archaeology between 58.67m OD (east end) and 57.82m OD (west end). Further machining to enlarge an area on the trench's southern side removed *c.*1.3m of modern overburden and dark brownish-grey garden soil (**59**) exposing archaeology at *c.*59.00m OD. Garden soil (**59**) was loosely compacted silty-clay containing scattered pebbles, mortar, stone rubble and redeposited red clay. Pottery from it ranged in date from *c.*1050 to *c.*1730 AD.

The trench area had sustained relatively little modern disturbance; a modern concrete pile was visible in the southern section *c.*9m from the eastern end and a small brick cellar or tank, measuring *c.*2m by *c.*3m, had truncated all archaeological deposits down to a depth of *c.*58.4m OD between *c.*10m and *c.*14m. This was backfilled with loose brick rubble and discarded roof slates and was largely machined out to uncover the archaeological deposits beneath it.

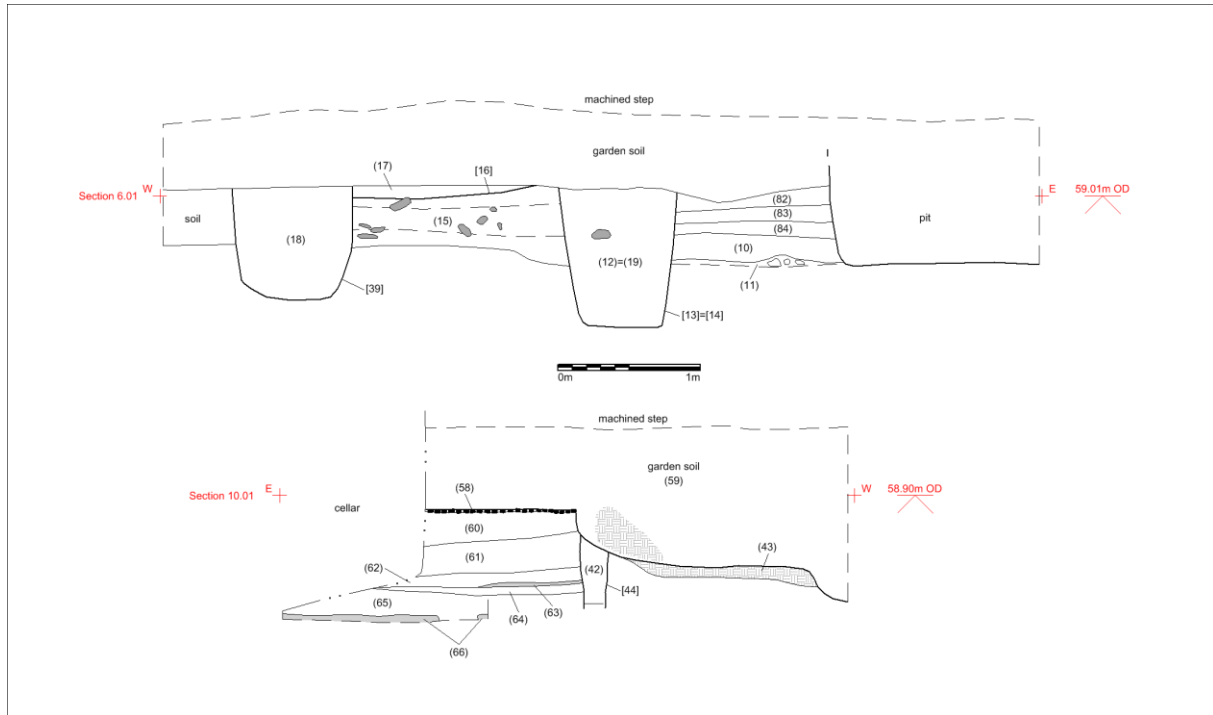


Figure 8: Sections 6.01 and 10.01, Trench 2

At the eastern end of the trench archaeology was exposed between *c.*59.07m OD and *c.*58.46m OD (Figure 8: Sec. 6.01). The first *c.*2m of the trench was truncated by a large pit which appeared to have been dug down from within the medieval/post-medieval garden soil. It was at least *c.*0.6m deep. Machining removed it, exposing pale greyish-orange silty-sand subsoil beneath. To the west, a robber trench [13] bisected the trench on a north-west to south-east orientation. With vertical sides and flat bottom, this was *c.*0.83m wide and *c.*0.97m deep, filled with dark grey sandy-silt (**12**) and (**19**). Pottery from its fills dated to the latter half of the 13th century.

On the robber trench's eastern side, it truncated *c.*0.18m of charcoal rich dark greyish-brown sandy-silt (**10**) which covered a scatter of granite rubble mixed with brown silt (**11**). These produced a small quantity of mid-late 2nd-century pottery. In Trench 2's northern section, above (**10**), layers of orange sandy-silt (**82**), dark greyish-brown silty-gravel (**83**) and orange sandy-gravel (**84**) could be seen beneath the garden soil. These were *c.*0.38m thick in total and may have once been Roman yard or floor surfaces. On the south side of the trench, layers (**10**) and (**11**) were cut by a small circular pit, *c.*0.6m in diameter, filled with dark grey silty-sand (**9**).

West of the robber trench was a *c.*0.6m thick deposit of compacted yellowish-orange sand, grey silt, sandy-mortar, granite, sandstone, slate, gravel and redeposited wall plaster (**15**). At first this was thought to be the remains of a wall footing, possibly of medieval origin, but excavation of a sondage across it suggests that it is more likely to be late Roman floor make-up associated with the robbed-out wall to the east [13]. Pottery from it dates to the early 4th century AD. Layer (**15**) was heavily disturbed by later features. On its north side, its surface was truncated by a shallow, flat-bottomed rectangular pit [16], *c.*0.99m by *c.*0.74m and *c.*0.1m deep, filled with greyish-brown silty-sand (**17**) containing late 17th to 18th century pottery. It and (**15**) were both truncated by a second robber trench [39] to the west. This had vertical sides and a concave base, *c.*0.84m wide and *c.*0.79m deep, and was orientated north-north-west to south-south-east - a noticeably different alignment to [13] to the east. It was filled with dark brownish-grey silty-sand (**18**) which contained abundant pebbles, charcoal, redeposited clay, slate and CBM. Although its fill only produced a small quantity of 4th century

pottery it post-dates pit [16], and therefore must be 18th century or later. Along the trench's southern side, both make-up (15) and robber trench [39] were truncated by pits which contained 19th century material.

West of these features a series of large pits bisected the trench between c.7m and c.10m from its eastern end. A single sherd of 12th or 13th century pottery was recovered from the surface of one (41). None was investigated in detail and it was believed that they were medieval or post-medieval in origin. Archaeology across the western half of the trench appeared to have also been truncated by the overlying garden soils which increased in thickness from c.1.8m to over c.2.4m. This appeared to fill or settle into a large pit, measuring over c.10m by c.2m, which continued below 57.58m OD. It was believed to be medieval or post-medieval in origin and may have been some sort of quarry pit, possibly extracting the local sand and gravel. Beyond the pit, at the western end of the trench, natural brownish-yellow silty-gravel covered with clean, brown silty-clay subsoil was exposed at c.57.82m OD.



Figure 9: Roman floor surfaces and make-ups including mosaic pavement (58) in Trench 2, looking south-west

Amongst these pits, one area of intact stratigraphy survived in the middle of the trench in the vicinity of the small brick cellar (Figure 8: Sec. 10.01). Measuring c.5m by c.2.5m this appeared to represent a c.0.8m thick sequence of floor surfaces resting on greyish-orange silty-sand subsoil. These had been partially truncated by the cellar but c.0.35m of the floor sequence still survived beneath it (Figure 9). When the cellar was removed it was realised that the highest surviving surface was a substantial fragment of tessellated pavement (58). The area to the south and west of the cellar was enlarged to expose the pavement in plan, in total measuring c.3.2m by c.2.6m (see *The Mosaic Pavement* below). The mosaic was set in c.20mm of greyish-pink *opus signinum* laid on c.0.22m of orangey-brown sandy-silty-clay (60). This was laid over a further c.0.27m of brownish-grey silty-clay (61) which contained two sherds of 2nd century pottery. Cutting (61) to the west, but sealed beneath (60) was a narrow north-north-west to south-south-east orientated beam-slot [44]. Only visible for c.0.8m in the trench, it was c.0.2m wide and over c.0.48m deep (unbottomed), filled with greyish-brown silty-sand (42) containing mid-late 2nd century pottery. To the west of the beam-slot, a c.0.1m thick layer of brownish-red clay (43) was initially thought to be the remains of a clay floor but it produced a single sherd of pottery dating to the 11th – 12th century AD. This may have been contamination but the clay could be redeposited material in the large pit garden soil (59) was settling into.

Beneath (61), to the east of beam-slot [44] was a c.70mm thick layer of orangey-brown silty-clay (62), possibly a clay floor or further floor make-up. This covered c.30mm of greyish-white mortar or plaster (63), possibly a floor or redeposited wall-plaster, and a c.60mm second clay floor or floor make-up (64) which was similar to (62). These were laid over c.0.15m of dark, charcoal-rich greyish-brown silty-clay (65) which covered a c.30mm thick yellowish-brown concrete floor (66) laid on 'natural' subsoil. Judging by its high organic content,



(65) appeared to be some sort of occupation layer rather than floor make-up. Both it and (64) contained pottery dating to the latter half of the 2nd century AD.

The beam-slot clearly pre-dated the mosaic floor and was on a noticeably different alignment to it too. It would appear that it and contexts (61-66) probably represent one building, whilst context (60) and the mosaic (58) represent a second, later building. The mosaic appeared to be on the same alignment as robber trench [13], c.6.6m to the east, and was at the same level as 4th century made-ground (15), suggesting it may be part of the same building phase.

### *The Mosaic Pavement*

Only the south-east corner of the mosaic in Trench 2 was uncovered, measuring c.3.2m by c.2.6m, the rest having been destroyed by medieval and post-medieval pitting and a small 19th century cellar; overall, the surviving fragment probably represents a quarter of the original scheme (Figure 10, Figure 11). The floor was constructed using coarse red and grey tesserae set into c.20mm of greyish-pink *opus signinum*. The tesserae were typically 20mm wide but did vary in size from c.10mm to c.35mm. Red tesserae were made from recycled Roman tile, the grey from local sandstone. The floor slumped down to the north into the centre of the panel. The highest surviving section, along the southern border, was at c.58.97m OD, whilst the lowest, in the northern corner, was at c.58.77m OD (a settling of c.0.2m). Stratigraphically, it had to be late 2nd century or later established from pottery recovered from floor make-ups beneath it – (61), (64) and (65).



*Figure 10: The mosaic pavement, looking north-east (top left); the main panel, looking west (top right); and details of the central 'hexafoil' motif (bottom left) and heart-shaped leaf (bottom right)*

The corner of the main panel was bordered with a thin right-angled band of grey tesserae (3 wide) and a band of swastika-meander, picked out in red. The pattern was a single red tesserae thick, with each line separated by areas of grey tesserae laid 4 wide. In the centre of the panel an octagonal band of red tesserae (2 wide) surrounded a circular band of red tesserae (3 wide) and a grey band of tesserae (1 wide) which contained part of a red 'hexafoil' with curving equal arms (1 complete and 2 incomplete). In addition, projecting off the octagonal band in the panel's south-east corner was a small heart-shaped leaf. Around the mosaic was a border of red tesserae. On its southern side this was 43 tesserae wide (c.1.27m), on its western side it was at least 18 tesserae wide (c.0.54m) before continuing beyond the edge of the excavation. Reconstructing the full scheme from the surviving quarter suggests that the mosaic would have measured c.5m by c.5m when complete.

After discussion with Leicester Museum Service and the client it was decided to preserve the mosaic in-situ for the time being. With this in mind, it was carefully covered with geo-permeable membrane and reburied, initially by hand and then with machine.

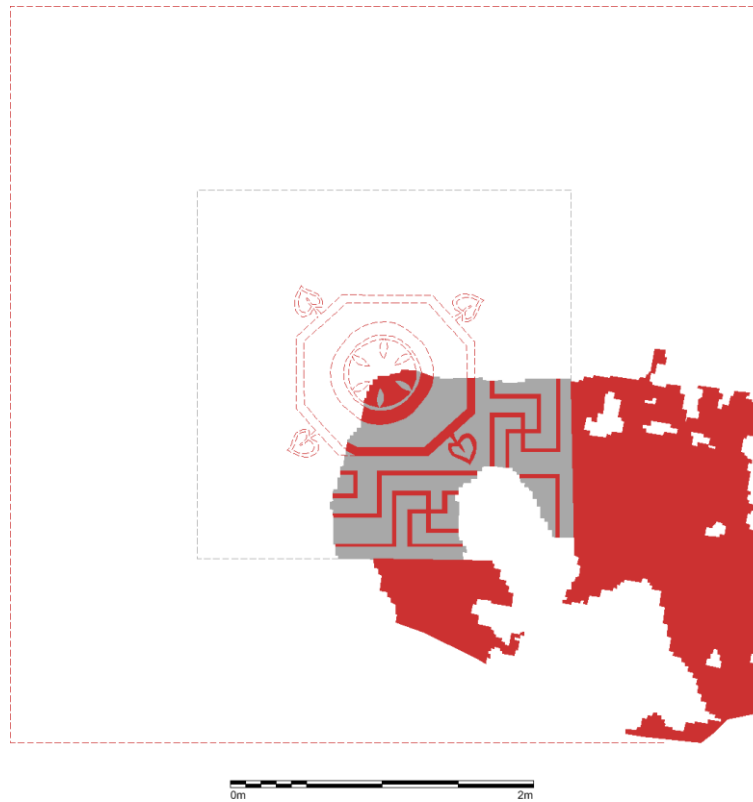


Figure 11: Trench 2 mosaic reconstruction, north-east to top

### Trench 3

Length (m)	Width (m)	Area (sq. m)	Min. depth (m)	Max. depth (m)	Surface level (m OD)		Ave. depth to archaeology (m)
					S end	N end	
24	2.8	67.2	1.95	2.4	60.33	60.12	2.11
Interval (m) from S end	0	6	9	12	15	18	To N end 24
Overburden depth	0.90	1.15	1.05	1.26	1.34	1.19	1.12
Sub layer(s)	0.99	0.80	0.98	0.85	0.90	0.99	1.28
Top of Natural?	2.30	-	-	-	2.24	-	2.40
Base of trench	2.30	1.95	2.03	2.11	2.24	2.18	2.40

Trench 3 (Figure 12, Figure 13) was located on the site's southern side, orientated approximately north to south, with Trench 2 to the north-east, Trench 4 to the west and Trenches 6 and 7 to the north-west. Initial machining removed *c.*0.9m to *c.*1.34m of modern overburden and *c.*0.8m to *c.*1.4m of garden soil, exposing archaeology between *c.*58.44m OD (south end) and *c.*57.72m OD (north end). The modern overburden was dark brownish-grey silty-clay mixed with large quantities of discarded modern building material (brick, concrete, slate etc.) overlying cleaner greyish-brown silty-clay. These were believed to be extensively disturbed medieval and post-medieval garden soils.

In the southern half of the trench was a linear 'robber' trench [3] orientated approximately north-west to south-east. It could be traced for *c.*3.3m before possibly turning at right-angles to the south-west. Unfortunately a small group of inter-cutting medieval pits masked this corner of the feature leaving it unclear whether this turn was truly the case. It was clear, however, that the robber trench did not continue to the north-west or turn to the north-east, making its suggested turn to the south-west more likely. A *c.*0.5m wide slot excavated across the trench showed that it was *c.*0.74m wide, vertical sided and over *c.*0.4m deep; filled with dark brownish-grey

silty-clay (4), it produced some medieval pottery, animal bone, mortar and painted wall plaster. It is thought that this feature most likely represents the line of a Roman wall footing robbed of its masonry sometime in the mid 11th to 12th century AD.

Cut by the robber trench to the south-west was a parallel linear feature [5]. This was c.0.69m wide, vertical sided, flat bottomed and c.0.25m deep; filled with greyish-yellow sandy-silty-clay (6) which contained large quantities of Roman tile. It may represent an earlier wall footing or the construction cut for the wall footing robbed by trench [3]. Overlying it, and also truncated by robber trench [3] was a small area of floor surface (c.0.49m by c.0.28m). This was comprised of 40mm of reddish-orange silty-clay (67) covering 60mm of greyish-yellow silty-gravel (68). East of robber trench [3] was more mixed orange sandy-silt and reddish-orange clay (69). This covered an area c.1.74m by c.0.91m and appeared to be c.90mm thick. It was unclear whether this was the remains of another floor or trampled building debris. All these features and layers were cutting or overlying c.0.27m of greyish-brown silty-clay subsoil which covered natural orange sandy-gravel.

At the very southern end of the trench, linear cut [5] was also truncated by a circular pit, c.1.4m in diameter, lined with orangey-red silty-clay and filled with lime mortar. This was only partially observed and mostly continued beyond the edge of the trench so could not be properly examined. It did, however, appear to be truncated by robber trench [3].

North of the evidence of a possible Roman building was a large sub-circular pit [7] filled with cassy material (8). The was c.1.95m in diameter and over c.0.35m deep; filled with greenish-brown cassy-silty-clay which contained mid-late 3rd century pottery, animal bone, charcoal, roof slates, Roman tile and a number of iron nails. It appeared to pre-date the robbing [3] of the Roman wall footing to the south.

The northern half of the trench contained numerous other large sub-circular or sub-rectangular pits, all filled with dark greyish-brown silty-clay which was very similar to the overlying garden soil. These are believed to be medieval or post-medieval in origin.

At the northern end of the trench all archaeology appeared to have been truncated by the overlying garden soils and modern overburden which increased in thickness to c.2.4m. This could be seen to rest directly on natural orange sandy-gravel.



Figure 12: Trench 3 from the south (left) and north (right)

*On the left, robber-trench [3] is clearly visible in the foreground. On the right, the northern half of the trench contained numerous large pits of medieval and post-medieval origin.*

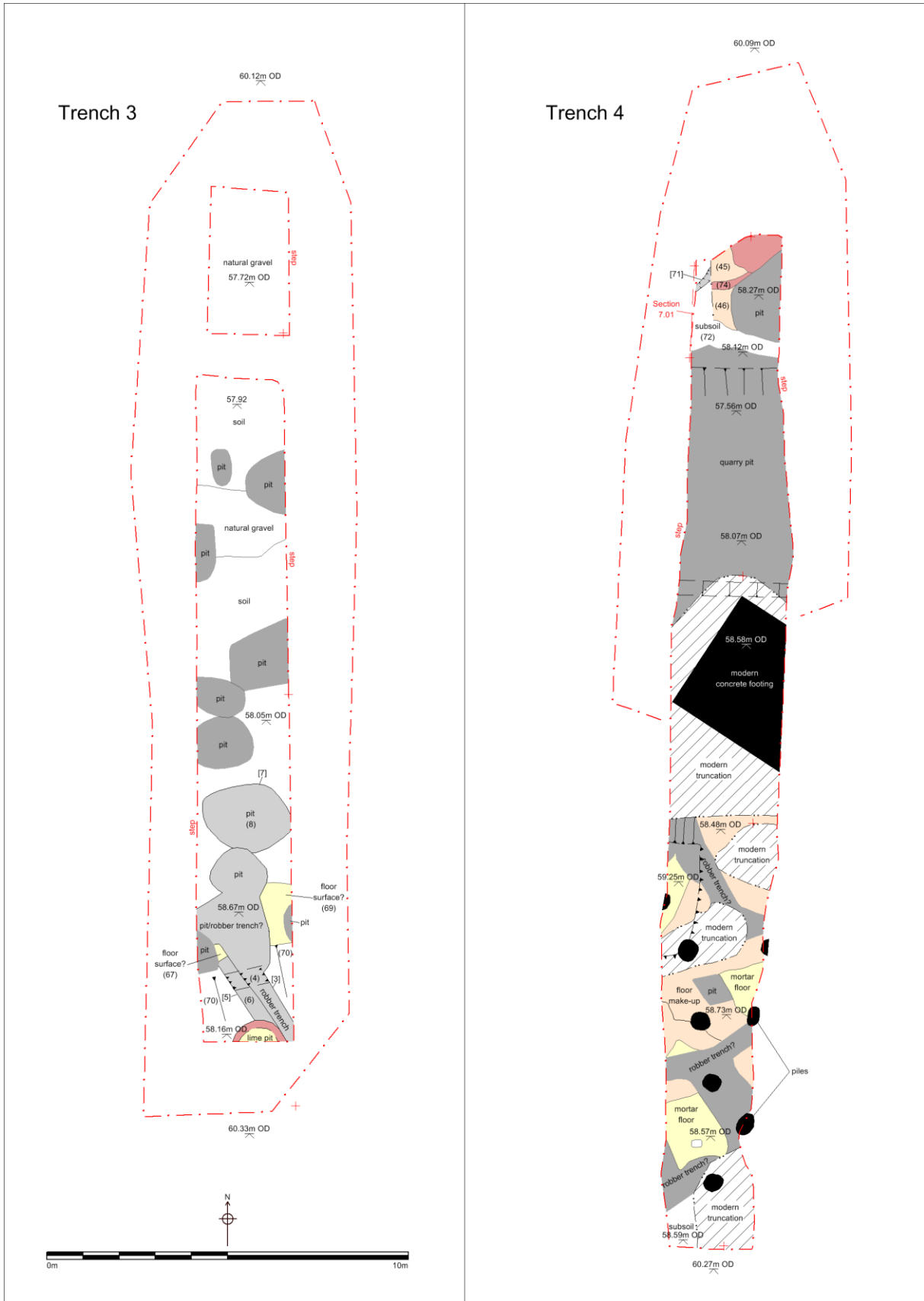


Figure 13: Plans of Trenches 3 and 4

*Trench 4*

Length (m)	Width (m)	Area (sq. m)	Min. depth (m)	Max. depth (m)	Surface level (m OD)		Ave. depth to archaeology (m)
					S end	N end	
28.30	2.80	79.24	1.54	2.08	60.27	60.09	1.65
<b>Interval (m) from S end</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>To N end 28</b>
<b>Overburden depth</b>	0.88	0.40	0.47	1.76	0.44	0.60	0.71
<b>Sub layer(s)</b>	0.80	1.50	1.07	-	1.64	1.10	0.80
<b>Top of Natural?</b>	-	-	-	-	-	Archaeology 1.70	Archaeology 1.51
<b>Base of trench</b>	1.68	1.90	1.54	1.76	2.08	1.80	1.76

Trench 4 (Figure 13, Figure 14) was located on the site’s southern side, orientated approximately north to south, with Trench 3 to the east, Trench 5 to the west and Trenches 6 and 7 to the north. Initial machining at the trench’s southern end removed c.0.44m of modern overburden and c.0.8m to c.1.5m of garden soil, exposing archaeology between c.58.59m OD (south end) and c.58.67m OD (at 10m). Machining was seriously impeded by densely clustered concrete piles (c.0.5m in diameter spaced c.1-1.5m apart) which once belonged to a 1960s office block which previously occupied the south-western corner of the site. Other disturbance associated with the piles included brick and concrete inspection chambers, service trenches and a c.4m square concrete plinth which had destroyed all archaeology between 12m and 18.5m from the trench’s southern end. The piles were bored rather than driven into the ground which had caused little vertical displacement of the archaeology, but their tight spacing made it difficult to characterise the surviving stratigraphy and the only investigation done in the southern half of the trench simply involved planning and recording the trench base.



*Figure 14: Trench 4 from the south*

Amongst this modern disturbance was a series of linear features all dug broadly parallel or at right-angles to each other. These were typically c.0.6 to c.1m wide and were all filled with dark greyish-brown clayey-silt similar to

the overlying garden soils. Between them was a series of well preserved floors which appeared Roman in character, although no dateable evidence was recovered which could conclusively date them as such. At the southern end of the trench was a c.2.6m by c.1.5m surface of pale brown sandy-mortar, partially covered across its northern extent by brownish-orange sandy gravel. Similar gravel was also present to the east; and to the north where again it could be seen to cover a mortar floor. Here the gravel was c.0.16m thick and was covered by the remains of a second, concrete floor which bore some evidence of burning on its surface. North of this, on the western side of the trench a c.2.1m by c.0.9m area of floor make-up and mortar surfaces was found to survive just c.0.96m below ground level. This was c.0.4m higher than any other archaeology in the southern half of the trench. Again, it appeared to be part of the same sequence of Roman flooring seen across the rest of the trench.

It is suggested that the linear features are medieval robber trenches delineating the outline of a Roman building which, despite the piling, still exhibited good stratigraphic survival of its 'internal' surfaces. At the southern end of the trench, possibly outside the building was an olive-brown clayey-silt very similar to soil (75) seen to the west in Trench 5.



Figure 15: The northern end of Trench 4, looking north-west

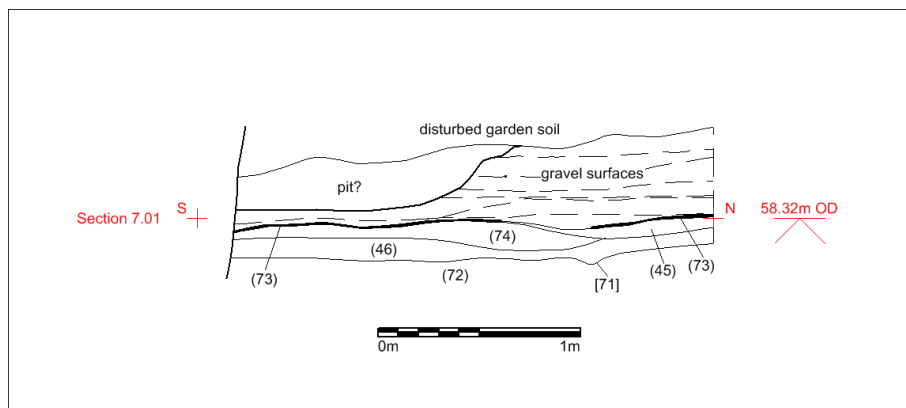


Figure 16: Section 7.01, Trench 4

In the northern half of the trench, initial machining removed c.0.58m of modern overburden and c.0.8m to c.1.64m of garden soil. This uncovered a substantial quarry pit, measuring at least c.7.9m in length, which occupied much of the northern half of the trench. It was filled with thick tips of garden soil and redeposited natural sand and gravel. Machining removed its fills down to a depth of c.2.08m (58.07m OD) without reaching its bottom.

At the northern end of the trench a small area of intact archaeology survived (3.2m by 2.4m) between 58.77m OD (north end) and 58.36m OD (south end). This comprised a c.0.65m thick sequence of clayey-gravel and clay surfaces laid across pale greyish-yellow silty-sand subsoil (72) (Figure 15, Figure 16). In section, at least eight

distinct phases of surface could be identified. Covering the subsoil at the bottom of the sequence was a c.0.11m thick layer of orangeish-grey sandy-silt (46) containing mid-late 1st century pottery, animal bone and charcoal. This also appeared to fill a shallow north-east to south-west orientated channel [71], possibly the ephemeral remains of a beam-slot or gully. This was at least c.0.65m long, c.0.15m wide and c.30mm deep; cut into subsoil (72). Covering layer (46) was a c.60mm to c.0.15m thick layer of soft yellowish-orange sandy-gravel, possibly a gravel surface. This in turn was partially covered with c.70mm of greenish orange-grey sandy-silt (45) containing mid-late 1st century pottery and charcoal; and a 10mm thick orangeish-yellow sandy-clay layer (73), possible an earth floor which was scorched black/reddish-orange in places. Above these was a further c.0.43m of clayey-gravel surfaces which were observed in section only on the western side of the trench. On the eastern side of the trench these had all been truncated by a c.2.6m diameter pit filled with dark greyish-brown clayey-silt. These are most likely yard surfaces dating to the early Roman period (mid 1st to mid 2nd century AD).

*Trench 5*

Length (m)	Width (m)	Area (sq. m)	Min. depth (m)	Max. depth (m)	Surface level (m OD)		Ave. depth to archaeology (m)
					SSE end	NNW end	
20	3	60	1.50	2.10	60.30	59.95	1.61
Interval (m) from SSE end	0	5	10	15	20		to NNW end
Overburden depth	0.50	-	-	-	Cellar 2.10		
Sub layer(s)	0.9	1.38	1.30	1.69	-		
Top of Natural?	-	-	-	-	2.10		
Base of trench	1.40	1.54	1.30	1.69	2.10		



Figure 17: Trench 5 from the south-east (left) and wall-footings (47) and (48), looking south-west (right)

Trench 5 (Figure 17, Figure 19) was located in the site’s south-western corner parallel with Highcross Street, orientated approximately north-north-west to south-south-east, with Trench 4 to the east and Trench 6 to the north. Initial machining removed c.1.3m to c.1.69m of modern overburden and disturbed garden soil, exposing archaeology between 58.9m OD (southern end) and 57.85m OD (northern end). The garden soil was a disturbed

mixture of greyish-brown, greyish-orange and greenish-grey clayey-silts mixed with large quantities of broken brick, granite, sandstone, slate, mortar and concrete which appeared more modern than medieval.

At the northern end of the trench were a large, rubble-filled brick cellar and two modern sewer trenches. These were dug through all visible archaeology. The cellar occupied the northern *c.*5.5m of the trench and was divided into at least two rooms by a single-skin brick wall running parallel with the street (visible in the trenches western side). Beneath the cellar floor at 57.9m OD was natural orange gravel truncated by a single pit filled with dark brownish-grey silty-clay. No other archaeological features survived. The cellar corresponds with the site of No. 93 Highcross Street, as shown on the 1888 Ordnance Survey map and 1895 Goad map.

At the southern end of the trench was a substantial masonry wall footing (47) (Figure 17). This was orientated north-east to south-west, at right-angles to Highcross Street. The footing was heavily disturbed but appeared to be constructed of granite with some brick and slate, set in yellowish-orange sandy mortar. It was *c.*0.65m wide, sitting in a foundation trench which was over *c.*0.28m deep. The wall was partially robbed [50] and the footing trench backfilled with dark brownish-grey silty-clay (51) mixed with building rubble, mortar and 18th-century pottery. Over this was constructed a second wall (48) [49] orientated more north-north-east to south-south-west (Figure 18: Sec. 6.03). This was also constructed of granite and brick set in a much paler greyish-white lime mortar. It was *c.*0.6m wide and *c.*0.58m high with at least two courses of brickwork running along the top of it.

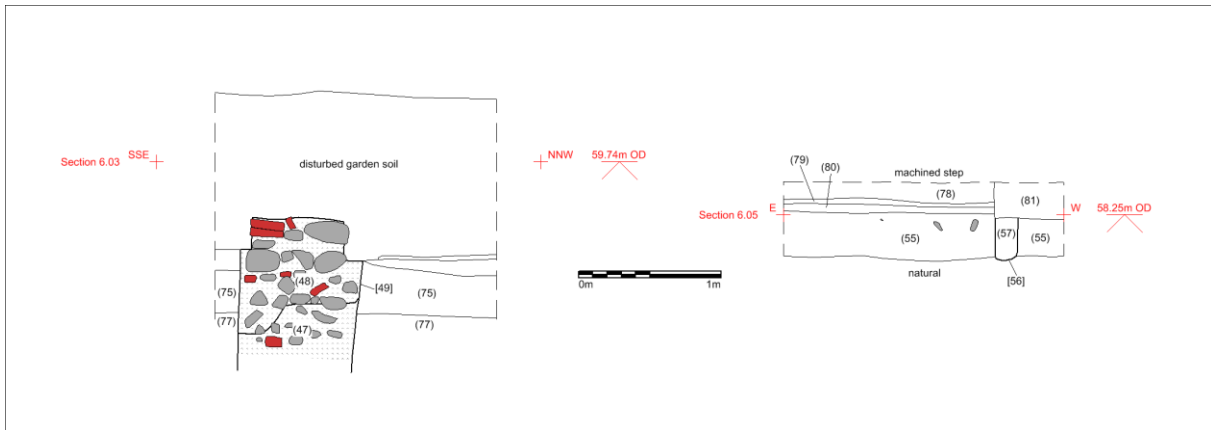


Figure 18: Sections 6.03 and 6.05, Trench 5

North of these wall footings, garden soil was machined off to reveal *c.*0.3m of olive-brown clayey-silt (75). This was present across the rest of the trench to the cellar at its northern end and could also be seen in section continuing south of wall footings (47) and (48). This was truncated by a possible large, circular pit [76] filled with greyish-brown sandy-silt (54) containing scattered pebbles, tile and mid 2nd-century pottery and animal bone. This was *c.*2.1m in diameter and over *c.*0.44m deep but its sides were diffuse and difficult to define. Along its eastern edge a quantity of granite and orange gravel slumped down into the feature. This curved with the pit edge and may have been the remnant of a stone lining.

North of pit [76], a substantial vertical-sided linear feature [52] also cut soil (75). This was orientated north-east to south-west, again at right-angles to Highcross Street, and was filled with dark brownish-grey silty-clay (53) mixed with mortar and building rubble. It was *c.*1.6m wide and over *c.*0.3m deep and had the appearance of a robber trench despite its exceptional width. Pottery from its fill appeared to date to the 12th century. Further north the garden soil covering (75) became increasing mixed with large quantities of granite and sandstone rubble, much of which still had yellowish-orange sandy mortar still adhering to it. This was first thought to be a possible wall, perhaps relating to medieval or post-medieval properties fronting onto Highcross Street, but closer examination led to the conclusion that it was redeposited building rubble. It was truncated by at least two pits which produced 19th-century material.

Beneath soil (75), at the southern end of the trench was a substantial stone and mortar surface (77) – measuring *c.*2.47m by *c.*1.72m. This had been made by pouring *c.*0.1m of pinkish-yellow concrete or *opus signinum* over a bedding layer of granite rubble and re-used Roman tile fragments. The floor was laid on orangey-brown silty-sand subsoil. Similar surfaces, at similar levels in the stratigraphic sequence were also seen in section beneath (75) *c.*1m to the south in feature [49], *c.*4m to the north in feature [52] and *c.*9m to the north on the southern side -of a modern service trench.

At the north end of the trench, between two modern service trenches located immediately south of the brick cellar, a small sequence of archaeology survived (Figure 18: Sec. 6.05). At the bottom of the sequence, overlying natural gravel was a *c.*0.18m thick layer of grey silty-clay (55) which contained two sherds of early-mid 2nd-century pottery. This was truncated by a narrow, north-north-west to south-south-east orientated beam-slot [56] filled with compact orangey-brown sandy-gravel (57). The beam-slot was vertical-sided and flat-



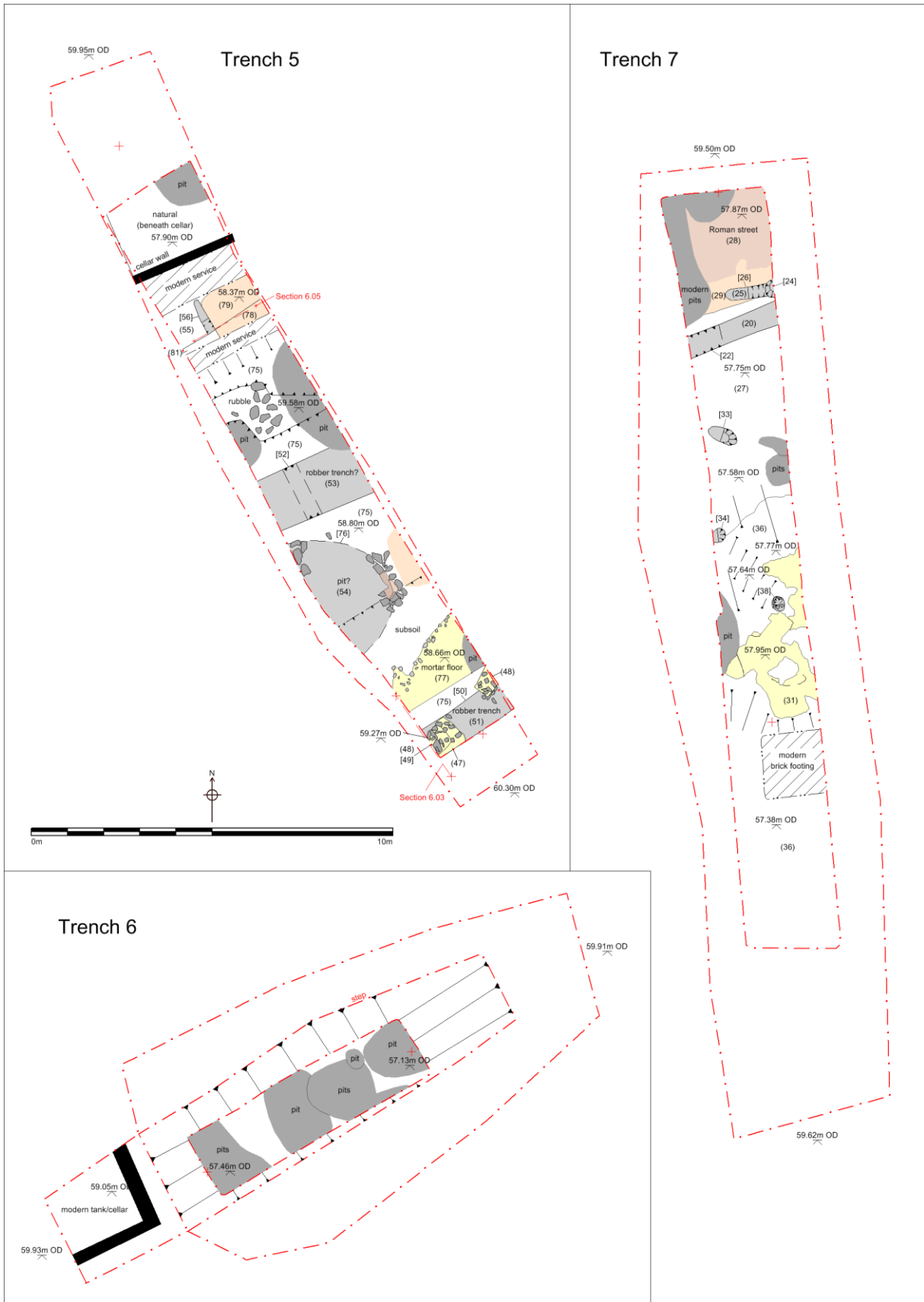


Figure 19: Plans of Trenches 5, 6 and 7

bottomed, c.0.15m wide and c.0.25m deep, and could be traced for c.0.9m before being truncated to the north and south. To the east of the beam-slot a c.80mm thick layer of reddish-orange silty-clay (80), a c.40mm thick layer of yellowish-orange sandy-silt (79) and c.0.12m of brown silty-clay containing fragments of undecorated wall-plaster (78) may have been the remains of floor-surfaces and made-ground. These appeared to respect the beam-slot and were not present to the west of it. Butting-up against the floor-surface but covering the beam-slot and continuing to the west was c.0.26m of grey silty-clay (81). In the trenches western side this could be seen to be sealed beneath soil (75). It is suggested that these represent part of the western side of a Roman building running parallel with the Roman street to the west. The beam-slot does not appear to have been intended to directly house a timber but rather to act as a firm, easily drained gravel plinth on which a timber could rest.

*Trench 6*

Length (m)	Width (m)	Area (sq. m)	Min. depth (m)	Max. depth (m)	Surface level (m OD)		Ave. depth to archaeology (m)
					WSW end	ENE end	
14	3	42	0.88	2.65	59.93	59.91	2.61
Interval (m) from WSW end	0 Step	2 Step	4	6 Cellar	8 Cellar	10 Cellar	to ENE end 12
Overburden depth	0.88	0.88	2.07	2.20	2.20	2.28	0.93
Sub layer(s)	-	-	-	0.45	0.41	0.30	-
Top of Natural?	-	-	-	2.65	2.61	2.58	-
Base of trench	0.88	0.88	2.07	2.65	2.61	2.58	0.93



*Figure 20: Trench 6 from the east*

Trench 6 (Figure 19, Figure 20) was located on the west side of the site, orientated approximately west-south-west to east-north-east, with Trenches 4 and 5 to the south and Trench 7 to the east. Initial machining at the west end of the trench encountered the eastern corner of a brick-walled cellar or tank which was filled with brick and concrete rubble. After reaching a depth of c.0.9m the cellar was found to be also filled with water and machining was shifted east beyond the limit of the intact brickwork to avoid flooding the rest of the trench. The rest of the trench was severely truncated down to a depth of c.2.2m by a second rubble-filled cellar which continued away to the north. In places the overburden could still be seen to be dark brownish-grey silty-clay

mixed with bricks and building rubble. Beneath this and the cellar floor was *c.*0.4m of less disturbed brown silty-clay.

Significantly, some extremely truncated archaeological features, i.e. deep pits, did survive beneath the cellars, cutting natural yellowish-orange sandy-gravel. These were typically sub-circular, *c.*2m in diameter and filled with dark brownish-grey silty-clay containing charcoal and building rubble. They appeared to be medieval or later in origin.

*Trench 7*

Length (m)	Width (m)	Area (sq. m)	Min. depth (m)	Max. depth (m)	Surface level (m OD)		Ave. depth to archaeology (m)
					N end	S end	
21	2.7	56.7	1.59	2.20	59.50	59.62	1.79
<b>Interval (m) from N end</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>20</b>		<b>to S end</b>
<b>Overburden depth</b>	0.26	0.30	0.37	0.36	0.70		
<b>Sub layer(s)</b>	1.46	1.15	1.25	1.36	1.50		
<b>Top of Natural?</b>	-	-	-	-	-		
<b>Base of trench</b>	1.72	1.59	1.74	1.72	2.20		

Trench 7 (Figure 19) was located on the site’s northern side, orientated approximately north to south, with Trenches 1 and 2 to the east, Trench 4 to the south and Trench 6 to the south-west. Initial machining removed a surface of granite sets, *c.*0.4m of modern overburden and *c.*1.15m to *c.*1.5m of garden soil, exposing archaeology between 57.78m OD (north end) and 57.42m OD (south end). The garden soil was dark orangey-grey clayey-silt containing charcoal and pebbles but otherwise fairly clean, becoming increasingly disturbed with modern building rubble as it rose to ground level.



Figure 21: The Roman street surface (28) at the north end of Trench 7, looking south-east

Covering a *c.*2.7m by *c.*3.4m area at the north end of the trench was compacted yellowish-orange sandy-gravel (28) overlying compacted yellowish-orange silty-sand (29) (Figure 21). Although partially truncated by modern pits along its western extent, this is thought to be the southern side of the same Roman street which was seen in Trench 1 to the east. Encroaching over the edge of these layers was mottled greyish-orange and orangey-grey sandy-silt (27) containing some mid 2nd-century pottery, charcoal, pebbles, small pieces of granite and extensive evidence of bioturbation. This appeared to be subsoil or made-ground extending into Roman *Insula* X and it was

visible across the northern half of the trench. Further south it disappeared under a layer of mottled greyish-brown sandy-silt (36), containing late 3rd century pottery, which covered the rest of the trench.

Cut into layers (27) and (29) on the edge of the street was a shallow gully orientated approximately east to west [26]. This was concave, measuring *c.* 1.2m by *c.* 0.32m and was only 70mm deep, terminating at its western end. It was filled with clean greenish-orange silty-sand (25) which contained some pebbles but otherwise no finds and it appeared to have accumulated naturally, suggesting it may have been a drainage gully or a channel created by erosion from water running off the street. To the east, on the edge of the trench, it was truncated by a possible post-hole [24] filled with soft greyish-orange silty-sand (23). This was *c.* 0.4m in diameter and *c.* 0.31m deep with near vertical sides and a concave base.

Immediately south of the street was a more substantial linear feature [22] orientated east-north-east to west-north-west. This was *c.* 0.67m wide and *c.* 0.36m deep, with vertical sides and a flat base. Its fills were soft orangey-grey sandy-silt (20) and greyish-orange silty-sand (21) mixed with frequent small fragments of mortar, scattered granite, charcoal, mid 3rd century pottery and animal bone. It appeared to be an extremely well-robbed wall footing running along the street edge. Apart from numerous pieces of mortar, the backfill of the footing contained very little discarded building material and pieces of roof slates or tiles were noticeably absent, as were any associated floors. This may suggest that the footing was for a boundary wall built against the street rather than part of a building.

Further south was a cluster of small pits or post-holes. Two of these were excavated – [33] and [34]. Pit or post-hole [33] was filled with yellowish-orange clayey-sand (32) which contained small quantities of mid 2nd century pottery, animal bone and charcoal. It was oval with near vertical sides and a flat base, measuring *c.* 0.8m by *c.* 0.42m and was *c.* 0.38m deep. Post-hole [34] was filled with mottled greyish-orange and orangey-grey silty-sand (35). It was only partially present on the western edge of the trench but appeared to be circular, *c.* 0.44m in diameter and *c.* 0.24m deep, with steep sides and a tapered base. It cut soil (36) and was probably Roman going on the nature of the fill, although this could not be proven as it contained no dateable finds.



Figure 22: Trench 7 from the south with concrete floor (31) in the foreground

In the southern half of the trench, laid across soil (36) was a substantial concrete surface (31), measuring at least *c.* 4.3m by *c.* 2.6m (Figure 22). The concrete was formed from poorly sorted gravel bound within yellowish-orange sandy-mortar. This had been poured across the uneven surface of (36) so that it varied from *c.* 80mm to *c.* 0.18m in thickness. For the most part what survived of the surface was in good condition, except along its eastern edge which was severely degraded, but it had been truncated by a pit on its western side. Only one structural feature – post-hole [38] – may have been associated with the surface and it remains unclear whether it was laid inside or outside a building. The post-hole was circular, *c.* 0.4m in diameter and *c.* 0.36m deep, with vertical sides and a concave base. Its sides were tightly packed with flat pieces of granite, slate, tile and sandstone which had probably been driven into the hole around a post. The post-pipe was *c.* 0.18m in diameter and was filled with brownish-grey clayey-silt (37) which contained a small quantity of mid 2nd – early 3rd century pottery. Both surface (31) and post-hole [38] were sealed beneath a *c.* 0.1m thick layer of dark brownish-grey clayey-silt (30) containing mid 13th-century pottery. This was the lowest layer of accumulated garden soil.

The Roman ground level dropped away south of the concrete floor with the medieval garden soil thickening to the south. The ground was machined down to soil (36) across the rest of the trench but no further features were found; the only disturbance coming from a large modern brick footing. Once removed, natural sand could be seen in section c.0.2m below the bottom of the trench at 57.18m OD.

## Finds

### Roman Pottery

Nicholas J. Cooper

#### Assemblage Size and Condition

A stratified assemblage of 170 sherds of Roman period pottery weighing 2.667kg (Average Sherd Weight 16g) was retrieved from 19 Roman contexts across the site. Additionally, 1.5kg of Roman pottery was recovered residually within medieval contexts or unstratified.

#### Methodology

The material was classified using the Leicestershire Museums Fabric Series (Pollard 1994), a summary of which is given below (Table 1). Within the archive database, specific fabrics were assigned to all sherds wherever possible (see *Appendix Three*). However in this report the generic ware groups summarised below are used to simplify data presentation. Vessel forms were also assigned where diagnostic sherds allowed, using the Leicestershire Form and Fabric Series and other published typologies (Howe *et al* 1980; Holbrook and Bidwell 1991; Pollard 1994; Tyers 1996; Webster 1996). The material was quantified by sherd count and weight. The complete dataset was recorded and analysed within an Excel workbook, which comprises the archive record.

Table 1: Summary of Leicestershire Museums Roman Pottery Fabric Series (Pollard 1994: 112-114).

Fabric Code:	Fabric Type:
Samian	Samian ware
C	Colour-coated wares
AM	Amphorae
GW	Grey wares
CG	Calcite gritted (shelly)
MG	Mixed Gritted
GT	Grog-tempered wares

Fabric Code:	Fabric Type:
MO	Mortaria
WW	White wares
OW	Oxidised wares
BB1	Black Burnished ware
SW	Sandy wares

#### Analysis of the Assemblage by fabric

Table 2: Quantified summary of the Roman pottery assemblage by fabric

Quantified Summary of Roman Pottery			
Fabric	Sherds	Weight	%Sherds
Samian	15	178	9
Gaulish CC	1	3	<1
Nene V CC	41	462	24
Amphora	2	255	1
Mortaria	1	165	<1
White	9	153	5
Oxidised	2	9	1
Grey ware	35	436	21
BB1	41	564	24
Shell-temp	16	336	9
Grog-temp	2	17	1
Mixed Grit	1	20	<1
Sandy ware	4	69	2
Total	170	2667	100

Table 2 presents a quantified summary of the assemblage as a whole which is discussed stratigraphically below. The assemblage as whole is in good condition with a high proportion of joining sherds, particularly from (8).

Whilst the date of the material spans mid-late 1st century to the early 4th century, the bulk of it dates to the 2nd and mainly 3rd century with correspondingly high levels of BB1 and Lower Nene Valley colour-coated ware. There are therefore similarities with the Phase 3 and 4 assemblages from the adjacent site of Vine Street A22.2003 (Johnson 2009). Samian is at 9%, mostly of 2nd century date with much of it being residual in later features. Amphorae only feature as single sherds of Dressel 20 and Gauloise 4 carrying olive oil and wine respectively. A single mortarium of early bead and down curved flange form (with bead below the flange) was recovered from (8), made at Mancetter-Hartshill, with a stamped rim and dating *c.*100-150.

### Stratigraphic Analysis

The earliest feature is the beam slot [2] in Trench 1, the fill of which (1) contains pottery of mid-late 1st century date possibly going into the early 2nd. The lack of samian ware precludes closer dating but the group includes a rusticated grey ware jar with everted rim and a channel rim jar with combed decoration consistent with this date range. Other contexts which are broadly contemporary with the beam slot are surfaces (45) and (46) in Trench 4 although small sample size might disguise a later date.

Layers (10), (11), (61), (64) and (65) and beam-slot (42) [44] in Trench 2; together with pit (54) [76] in Trench 5; and subsoil (27) and post-hole (32) [33] in Trench 7 are of 2nd century date and usually characterised by the appearance of central Gaulish samian and early BB1 jar and bowl forms (Holbrook and Bidwell 1991, Forms 12 and 38) with most falling into the middle or later part of the century.

Pit (8) [7] in Trench 3; and robber trench (20) [22] and soil (36) in Trench 7 date to the middle or later 3rd century and are characterised by funnel-rimmed indented beakers from the Lower Nene Valley (Howe *et al.* 1980 no.38/39 and 43) as well as earlier bag-shaped beakers with cornice-rims and *en barbotine* animal decoration (Howe *et al.* 1980 no. 26). A bead and flange bowl in BB1 also supports a date after AD 250 for (8) (Holbrook and Bidwell 1991 Form 45). These contexts may be broadly contemporary with floor make-up (15) in Trench 2 since sherds of the same heavily vitrified *en barbotine* beaker were found in (15) and (20). However, a date in the early 4th century is probably more likely for (15) given the occurrence of a later funnel necked beaker form (Howe *et al.* 1980 no.52) dating to the 4th century, alongside later forms of BB1 jar with obtuse lattice (Holbrook and Bidwell 1991 Form 20).

### Post-Roman Pottery and Tile

Deborah Sawday

### Assemblage Size and Condition

Table 3: The medieval and later pottery by fabric, sherd numbers and weight (grams) in approximate chronological order.

Fabric	Common Name	Sherds	% of Total by Sherds	Weight (grams)	% of Total by Weight	Average Sherd Weight (grams)
<b>Late Saxon/Early Medieval</b>						
ST3	Coarse Stamford	1		5		
SN	Saint Neots type	1		3		
ST2	Fine Stamford	5		50		
ST1	Very Fine Stamford	1		4		
RS	Reduced Sandy	1		9		
PM	Potters Marston	8		144		
SP3	Splashed ware 3	1		37		
	Sub-Total	18	36	252	17.07	14.00
<b>High/Late Medieval</b>						
NO3	Nottingham	19		937		49.3
MP1/2	Midland Purple	2		56		
CW2	Cistercian	4		61		
	Sub-Total	25	50	1054	75.17	42.16
<b>Early &amp; Later Post Medieval</b>						
MB	Midland Black	1		9		
MY	Midland Yellow	1		16		
EA2	Earthenware	1		53		
EA3	Mottled	3		13		
EA7	Slipware	1		5		
	Sub-Total	7	14	96	6.84	13.71
	Totals	50	100	1402	99.08	28.04

The pottery, 50 sherds, weighing 1.402 kg., and a vessel rim equivalent of 1.175, (by adding together the circumference of the surviving rim sherds, where one vessel equals 1.00) was catalogued with reference to the guidelines set out by the Medieval Pottery Research Group, (MPRG 1998), (MPRG, 2001) and the ULAS fabric series (Davies & Sawday 1999) (see *Appendix Four*). Two unidentifiable fragments of pottery or roof tile were also present.

### The Ceramic Evidence

The assemblage was made up of a range of domestic pottery, including a thumbled handle base from a spouted pitcher or bowl in Stamford ware, with thick yellow glaze, Kilmurry form 5 or 8 (Kilmurry 1980), possibly dating to the late 10th or 11th century and a 12th-century jar rim in the same ware. A Potters Marston jar in a typical 12th-century form with a cylindrical profile (Davies and Sawday 1999, fig.88.34) and a Splashed ware jar or jug fragment dating from the 12th or early to mid 13th century were also present. Secondary refuse is suggested by the substantial remains of the upper part of a tall bodied green glazed Nottingham jug with triangular rim (Young *et al* 2005 fig.145.1132 and 1133) in the robber trench context **(19)**, which dates from the mid or later 13th century. The eighteen sherds making up this vessel had an average sherd weight of over 50 grams. The later medieval pottery included jugs, bottles or jars in Midland Purple and Cistercian ware. A number of cups occurred in the early post medieval wares; part of what may be a narrow mouthed vessel in Midland Yellow ware, Woodfield form Gc (Woodfield 1984), another in Mottled ware (Goode 1984, fig.12), and a small two handled vessel in Midland Black ware. The identifiable later post medieval wares comprised a jar and a press moulded dish in Earthenware 2 and Slipware.

The fragments of pottery or tile from context **(19)**, were made up of two wheel thrown pieces luted together, the join strengthened with the addition of at least one clay strip linking the two parts. The whole object is green glazed and may be part of a pot made with a combination of wheel thrown (and occasionally hand-made) pieces to form a complex vessel such as a zoomorphic water container or aquamanile, or a highly decorated knight jug. Alternatively the fragments may represent a ridge tile ventilator or louver for use on a roof. The whole has been over-fired, and the glaze has crawled, especially on the exterior surfaces.

### The Stratigraphic Evidence

Most of the pottery, 33 sherds, 1149 grams, came from Trench 2, and 13 sherds, 194 grams from Trench 5. Trenches 3 and 7 produced one and two sherds respectively. Two sherds of medieval pot or roof tile were also found in robber trench **(19)** **[14]** in Trench 2. One sherd of Saxo Norman Stamford ware was intrusive in Roman floor make-up **(62)** in Trench 2, which had been truncated by a modern feature.

Single sherds of 12th-century Potters Marston and Saxo Norman Stamford ware respectively were found in pit **(41)** and in another possible pit **(43)**, both in Trench 2. Two sherds weighing 50grams of Saxo Norman and 13th-century medieval pottery were recovered from garden soil **(30)** in Trench 7. Pottery of a similar date range, from the mid or late 11th to c.1300 and representing the bulk of the assemblage, was found in robber trenches in Trenches 2, 3, and 5.

The only exception was robber trench **(51)** **[50]** in Trench 5, which contained both medieval and post medieval pottery, the latter dating to the 17th or 18th centuries; whilst the two sherds of post medieval pottery pit **(17)** **[16]** in Trench 2 had a similar terminal date. The garden soil above the Roman mosaic in Trench 2 **(59)** produced predominantly medieval pottery and two sherds of post medieval Mottled ware which is dated generally from c.1650 to 1780.

### Conclusions

The range of ceramic wares and fabrics is similar to that recovered from the Highcross excavations on the adjacent medieval parish churchyard of St Michael (Sawday 2009). Most of the robbing of the Roman buildings in the vicinity evidently took place in the medieval period, with post medieval pottery chiefly occurring in robber trench **(51)** **[50]**; the latter possibly relating to the post medieval demolition of St John's Hospital or the Town Gaol. Similarly the bulk of the finds in garden soils **(30)** and **(59)** are medieval date, with only a few post medieval fragments in the backfill of a pit **(17)** **[16]** and two post medieval sherds in context **(59)**.

The relative proportions of the wares over time (Table 3) the preponderance of Late Saxon and medieval material and relative paucity of the post-medieval pottery is also similar to that found other excavations in the north-east quarter of the medieval town. These finds, suggest activity if not occupation from the late Saxon period and a decline in that activity by the later Middle Ages.

The chief items of note were the substantial remains of a jug suggesting secondary refuse, and possibly nearby occupation and the unidentifiable pottery or tile fragments, both from context **(19)** in Trench 2. Whether the latter was part of a high quality table ware such as a knight jug or an aquamanile or a decorated roof tile or ventilator, this find may be indicative of some status, and perhaps relate to either the Church of St Michael or the church of All Saints nearby.

## *Small Finds*

*Nicholas J. Cooper (conserved by Graham Morgan)*

Just one small find was found during the evaluation, an early Roman brooch from beam-slot/gully (1) [2] in Trench 1.

1. Roman bow brooch. Poorly preserved and much surface detail lost. Copper alloy sheet with indications of forging (Graham Morgan pers. comm). Complete, gently curving bow formed from a tapering strip, terminating in a blunt tip with small solid catch plate in form of sheared-off triangle. Trace of longitudinal groove down midline of bow and possible 'eyes' (ring and dot motifs) on either side of the bow as it expands below the hinge, which is formed by rolling the strip under itself to hold an iron axis pin. Stub of copper alloy pin *in situ* with length of shaft separate. Length of bow 50mm.

This is an early hinged strip-bow type related to continental Hod Hill/Aucissa brooches which arrived with the Army in AD43. It can be grouped within what Mackreth terms the Durotrigian Type (Mackreth 2011, 146-8, pls. 99-102) and distinguished by the rolled under head rather than the rolled (back) over head, characteristic of the Hod Hill. There is huge variation amongst these copies, and no precise parallel is published in the Mackreth corpus. If the 'eyes' are not a figment of the imagination (the bow expands to accommodate them but they are not always put on anyway) then this example is close to those in subgroup 1a, 1b or 1c of the Alesia-Aucissa series (Mackreth 2011, 146, pl. 99 nos.6724, 6736 and pl.100 no.6725 but in all cases lacking their more ornate feet). The dating of these parallels is in the decade or so after the Conquest and usually before AD 60. Its occurrence in the north-east quarter is therefore of significance.

## *Building Material*

*Nicholas J. Cooper*

### **Roman Tile**

Roman tile was recovered from mid-late 3rd century Roman pit (8) [7] in Trench 3 weighing 2.5kg and including *imbrex* roofing tiles. Other Roman contexts containing tile were (15), containing box flue, (11), (42) and (64), all in Trench 2. Roman tile was recovered residually, notably from robber trench (12) [13] (1.4kg).

### **Medieval Tile**

A single of a brown glazed tile was recovered unstratified from Trench 5.

### **Tesserae**

Two grey sandstone tesserae were recovered from mid-late 3rd century pit (8) [7] in Trench 3 and another from beam-slot (42) [44] in Trench 2, with another residually from robber trench (4) [3] in Trench 3. A single tessera manufactured from broken tile with mortar attached was recovered from robber trench (18) [39] and another 14 were recovered residually from garden soil (59) above mosaic (58), both in Trench 2.

### **Roman painted wall plaster**

A single fragment (540g) of a coarse pebble mortar, angled on the interior surface as if filling a recess, and with a convex outer surface was recovered residually from Roman floor make-up (62) in Trench 2. The convex surface was coated with a deep red paint, similar to that used on the wall painting from the nearby Blue Boar Lane town house of 2nd century date. The curved surface might suggest the plastering of an architectural feature such as a window recess. Smaller fragments (210g) of red painted wall plaster (one with a white border) in a finer mortar came from early 4th century context (15) and 2nd century contexts (54) and (64), all in Trench 2. Other fragments came residually from (4), (12) and (53), in Trenches 3, 2 and 5 respectively.

## *Industrial Material*

*Nicholas J. Cooper*

### **Iron**

A small lump of iron (300g) was recovered from robber trench (12) [13] in Trench 2; it is not clear if it is part of and artefact or scrap. A number of iron nails were also recovered from several contexts: late 3rd century pit (8) [7] in Trench 3; early 4th century floor make-up (15) and late 2nd century occupational trample (65), both in Trench 2.

## *Environmental Evidence*

*Nicholas J. Cooper*

### **Animal Bone**

Notable amounts of animal bone came from Roman pit (8) [7] in Trench 3 and medieval robber trench (12) [13] in Trench 2. No further work is warranted on this material at present.



## Oysters

Small numbers of oyster shells were recovered from Roman contexts (8), (11) and (42), all in Trench 2, but too few to warrant further analysis.

## Environmental Samples

Environmental samples were taken from four contexts during the evaluation: early Roman beam-slot (1) [2] in Trench 1; mid Roman cessy pit (8) [7] in Trench 3; and early Roman occupation layers (45) and (46) in Trench 4. No further work is warranted on this material at present.

## Discussion

### *Archaeological Survival*

The evaluation recorded significant survival of Roman archaeology across the site, including parts of a street, evidence of stone and timber buildings, a mosaic pavement, pits and yard surfaces. Medieval archaeology survives to a lesser extent, predominantly in the form of pits and garden soils with only Trench 5 on the Highcross Street frontage exposing any structural evidence. The archaeology was typically found c.2m below present ground level sealed beneath thick deposits of medieval and post-medieval garden soil, but in places survived as shallow as c.1.3m (the mosaic) in Trench 2, c.1m in Trench 4 and c.0.9m in Trench 5.

Aside from the damage sustained by recent concrete piles in Trench 4, it was noticeable that the trenches along the Vaughan Way frontage (2, 3 and 4) contained well-preserved archaeology. There was little evidence of damage from cellars and even in Trench 2, where a small cellar had partially truncated Roman levels, at least c.0.35m of stratified archaeological deposits survived beneath it. Stratified floor sequences survived in all three trenches (as well as Trenches 4 and 7) which is unusual for this area of Leicester, where usually the only evidence for Roman buildings is their wall footings, the floors having been removed by later disturbances.

Little can be said regarding the archaeological survival along the Highcross Street frontage. Only two of the four planned trenches (5 and 6) could be excavated reasonably close to the frontage. The other two (8 and 9) could not be excavated because of the remaining Brewery buildings in the site's north-western corner. In Trench 5 archaeology was typically uncovered at a depth of c.1.6m but the northern end of the trench was bisected by a cellar (for No. 93 Highcross Street) down to a depth of c.2.1m. Beneath the cellar, only the deepest of archaeological features, namely one pit, survived. A similar situation was recorded in Trench 6, where further cellaring (behind Nos. 101 and 101a Highcross Street) had removed all archaeology down to a depth of c.2.6m.

Along the northern side of the site evidence for extensive, deep cellaring associated with the former All Saints' Brewery was recorded. However, archaeology was still well preserved beneath the brewery's yards at a depth of c.1.8m in Trenches 1 and 7. It is the centre of the site which appears to have sustained the most damage. At the western end of Trench 2, the northern end of Trench 3 and the southern end of Trench 7 it was noticeably that the medieval and post-medieval garden soils increased in thickness up to c.2.4m, removing all archaeology down to the lowest Roman levels on natural ground in the process. This may indicate that the centre of the site has sustained some widespread ground reduction in the past, possibly caused by sand and gravel extraction in the post-Roman period.

### *Pre-Roman Period*

No archaeological deposits or finds were recorded from the pre-Roman period on the site. However, this does not preclude their possible existence as in most instances the trenches were not excavated to a depth where pre-Roman remains would have been found, because of higher surviving archaeology.

### *Roman Period*

Roman archaeology was present across the site in all of the trenches except Trench 6, with features ranging in date from the late 1st century AD through to the 4th century (Figure 23). Along the northern side of the site, compacted gravel street metalling for the east-west Roman street running between *Insulae* IV and X was recorded in the western half of Trench 1 and the northern end of Trench 7. This street line was first recorded on the Vine Street site to the east in 2004-2006 (Higgins *et. al.* 2009, 22) and the fragments found in Trenches 1 and 7 sit within its projected alignment, providing further confirmation of its line. On Vine Street evidence suggests that it was laid out sometime between c.100-120 AD.

Early Roman features either pre-dating this street or contemporary with its early use were found in Trenches 1 and 4. These appear to date to the late 1st century or possibly the early 2nd century AD. In Trench 1, an argument for the latter is suggested by the orientation of beam-slot/gully [2] which appeared to be at right-angles to the street. In Trench 4, little can be said about the small area of early occupational trample (45) and (46) and associated yard surfaces but they were of broadly contemporary date.

Later Roman activity next to the street was recorded in Trench 7. Here a narrow gully running parallel with the street, possibly a drainage gully or channel created by erosion from water running off the street, post-holes, and the robber trench for a road-side wall were all dug into soil containing mid-late 2nd century pottery. Activity continued into the 3rd century and a substantial concrete floor was also present lying on soil containing mid-late 3rd century pottery. The road-side wall [22] and this floor (31) may be contemporary, but it is unclear whether they are part of a building or other, external structures. The noticeable absence of Roman roof tiles in this trench may suggest the later, with the floor being some sort of heavy-duty external surface and the wall a boundary wall surrounding the property. Similar walls have been found nearby in the same *insula* on the Vine Street site to the east (Higgins *et. al.* 2009, 159).

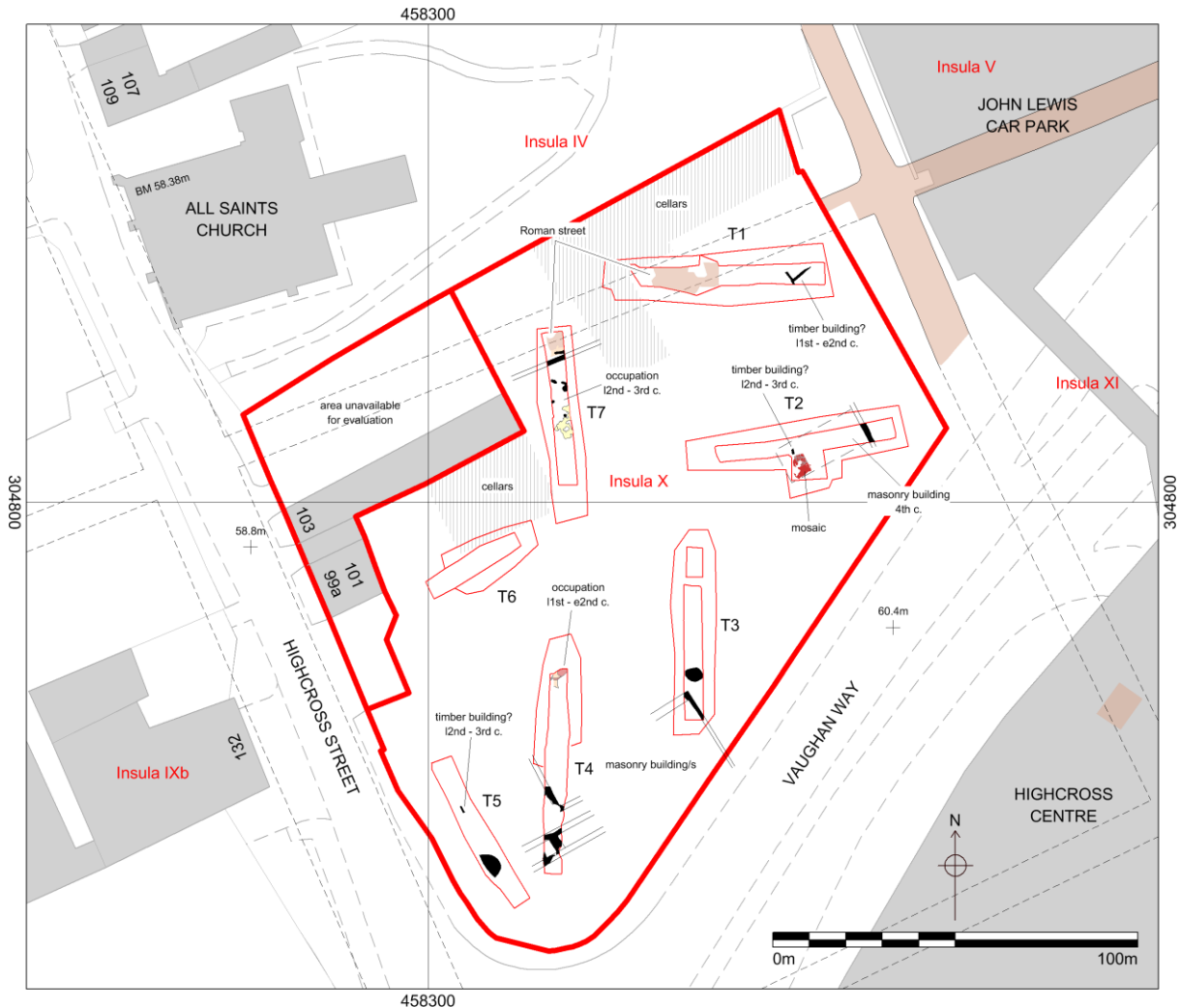


Figure 23: Interpretation plan showing the principal areas of Roman occupation

Further south, set back from any street in the centre of *Insula X*, was evidence for timber and masonry buildings. The timber buildings, found in Trenches 2 and 5, survived as beam-slots and floor surfaces. These were a mixture of earth and concrete, each floor often separated by a layer of made-ground. The floor make-ups contained pottery, most likely from the latter half of the 2nd century AD, redeposited roof tiles and painted wall plaster. This almost certainly did not come from the building's themselves, being only present in made-ground. Little can be said of either building's plan or appearance at this stage, but the beam-slot in Trench 2 suggests that the building did not align perfectly with the town's street-grid, unlike the later masonry building which replaced it or the other timber building in Trench 5.

Robbed wall footings for masonry walls were found in Trenches 2, 3, 4 and possibly 5. As with the timber buildings, little can be said about the plan or the appearance of these masonry buildings. In Trench 3, the corner of a building was present in the southern end of the trench; whilst in Trench 4 in-situ floors and robbed walls suggest a sizable Roman building was present in the vicinity. These are some distance from any known Roman streets, occupying the centre of *Insula X*. Further west, closer to line of the north-south street leading to the town's north gate (between *Insulae IX* and *X*), the remains of the early timber building in Trench 5 became sealed beneath soil accumulation and a substantial mortar and stone floor. It remains unclear whether this floor was part of a later building and no other conclusive structural evidence was recorded.

Perhaps the best evidence for an important Roman building was the mosaic pavement found in Trench 2. This is the largest fragment of tessellated pavement found in Leicester in recent years. The panel, of which approximately a quarter survived, probably once measured *c.*5m by *c.*5m, a reasonable size for a Roman room. No wall footings were found around it but these could easily have been lost considering the high degree of medieval pitting in the vicinity. The pavement may well be part of the same building as robber trench [13] and floor make-up (15) to the east. The robber trench, which was on the same orientation as the mosaic and the town's street grid, appeared to be an external wall with yard surfaces present beyond it to the east – (82), (83) and (84). This would mean a building measuring at least *c.*5m by *c.*11m internally, allowing for two similarly sized rooms in the trench area, was present in Trench 2. The floor make-up contained early 4th century pottery, suggesting the building was late Roman in date.

Several Roman pits were also sample excavated in Trenches 3 and 5. In Trench 5 the pit [76], which may have had a collapsed stone lining, contained late 2nd century material. In Trench 3 the pit [7] contained cessy material which produced late 3rd century pottery.

### *Medieval and Post-Medieval Period*

No evidence for Anglo-Saxon or Saxo-Norman occupation was found on site. However, as many of the medieval pits were left unexcavated this may not preclude such occupation being present. Pottery of 10th- and 11th-century date was certainly recovered residually from other medieval and post-medieval features and garden soils – notably robber trench (53) [52] in Trench 5 on the Highcross Street frontage.

The few pits which were excavated produced material ranging in date from the 12th century through to the 18th century, these were all typically characteristic of the sort of pits found in medieval and post-medieval back yards in Leicester and were comparable with similar activity found on the Vine Street site (Higgins *et. al* 2009) to the east and the Freeschool Lane (Coward & Speed 2009) site to the south. The robber trenches were typically 12th century in date, again comparable with Vine Street, but one in Trench 2 [39] was 18th century or later. This, however, may not have been robbing a Roman wall as its alignment did not match that of any of the Roman features in the area.

The only post-Roman feature of note found during the evaluation was the substantial masonry wall footing at the southern end of Trench 5. The earliest wall (48) was at right-angles to Highcross Street and may be associated with St John's Hospital or the Town Gaol building which replaced it in 1614. The wall was demolished no earlier than the 18th century, broadly corresponding with when the Town Gaol was being demolished and replaced by a new building in 1792. It was replaced by a second wall (47) on a slightly diverged alignment. This corresponds with the property boundary between No. 87 Highcross Street and St John's Hospital visible on the 1888 Ordnance Survey map. Photographs of these buildings show them to be of brick construction so it is likely that this wall may be part of the new Town Goal which occupied the site until 1837. Throsby records the Hospital walls as generally 3ft 8in (1.12m) thick (1791, 386), a comparable width for robber trench [52] which was for a footing *c.*1.5m wide, but too wide for wall (48) which was only *c.*0.82m in width.

A small excavation immediately south of Trench 5, in the cellar of No. 87 in the 1950s (Clarke 1958, 78) found that the brick cellar was built on stone foundations which were 18th century or later in date. These were suggested to be the remains of the new prison built in 1792, reusing material from the old Goal and the chapel of St John's Hospital. It appears likely that walls (47) and (48) represent a similar scenario, and at least two courses of brickwork did still survive on top of wall (47).

### **Archive**

The site archive consists of:

- 1 site index containing
  - 3 A4 Context Index Sheets
  - 1 A4 Drawing Index Sheet
  - 2 A4 Photo Index Sheets
  - 1 A4 Level Index Sheet
  - 1 A4 Small Finds Index Sheet
  - 1 A4 Samples Index Sheet
- 7 A4 trench recording sheets
- 65 A5 Context Record Sheets
- 5 A3 Permatrace Sheets containing 5 plans and 11 sections
- 5 A2 Permatrace Sheets containing 6 plans and 4 sections
- 120 Digital Photographs

100 Black and White Photographs

Assorted Roman pottery, medieval and post-medieval pottery, painted wall plaster, ceramic building material, glass, metalwork, slag, bone and shell

The archive will be held by Leicester Museum Service under the accession number A8.2012.

## Publication

Since 2004 ULAS has reported the results of all archaeological work to the *Online Access to the Index of archaeological investigations* (OASIS) database held by the Archaeological Data Service (ADS) at the University of York (see Table 4).

Table 4: Summary of OASIS information

<b>Project OASIS no.</b>	universi1-129622
<b>Project Name</b>	Land on the junction of Highcross Street and Vaughan Way, Leicester
<b>Project Type</b>	Trial Trench Evaluation
<b>Project Manager</b>	Richard Buckley
<b>Project Supervisor</b>	Mathew Morris
<b>Previous/Future work</b>	None/Unknown
<b>Current Land Use</b>	Waste ground
<b>Development Type</b>	Urban commercial
<b>Reason for Investigation</b>	NPPF Section 12: Conserving and Enhancing the Historic Environment
<b>Position in the Planning Process</b>	Pre-condition
<b>Site Co-ordinates</b>	SK 58309 04771 centre
<b>Start/end dates of field work</b>	22/4/2012 – 11/5/2012
<b>Archive Recipient</b>	Leicester Museum Service
<b>Study Area</b>	6150 square metres

A summary of the work will also be submitted for publication in the local archaeological journal, the *Transactions of the Leicestershire Archaeological and Historical Society*, in due course.

## Acknowledgements

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**Appendix One: Feature List**

Cut/layer no.	Fill nos.	Feature	Trench	Below	Ceramic Spot Date	Period	Notes
2	1	Beam-slot/gully	1	Machine	Mid 1st-early 2nd century	Roman	
3	4	Robber trench	3	Machine	c.1050-1200	Medieval	
5	6	Wall construction cut?	3	3	-	Roman	
7	8	Pit	3	Machine	Mid-late 3rd century+	Roman	
9	-	Pit?	2	Machine	-	Unknown	
10	-	Occupational trample?	2	9, 84	Mid-late 2nd century+	Roman	
11	-	Stone spread	2	10	Mid 2nd century+	Roman	
13	12	Robber trench	2	Machine	12th or possibly 13th century	Medieval	Same as 14
14	19	Robber trench	2	13	-	Medieval	Same as 13
15	-	Floor make-up	2	13, 14, 16	3rd century+	Roman	
16	17	Pit	2	39	c.1650-1780	Post-medieval	
22	20, 21	Robber trench	7	Machine	c.225+	Roman	
24	23	Post-hole	7	Machine	-	Roman	
26	25	Gully	7	24	-	Roman	
27	-	Subsoil	7	22, 26, 33, 36	Mid 2nd century+	Roman	
28	-	Roman road surface	7	27	-	Roman	
29	-	Roman road sub-surface	7	28	-	Roman	
30	-	Soil over concrete floor	7	Machine	c.1230-1300+	Medieval	
31	-	Concrete floor	7	30	-	Roman	
33	32	Post-hole	7	Machine	Mid 2nd century+	Roman	
34	35	Post-hole	7	30	-	Roman	
36	-	Subsoil	7	31	Late 3rd century	Roman	
38	37	Post-hole	7	30	Mid 2nd – early 3rd century	Roman	
39	18	Robber trench	2	Machine	Late 3rd – 4th century	Post-medieval	Post-medieval feature
40	-	Pit?	2	39	-	Medieval+	
41	-	Pit?	2	Machine	12th-13th century	Medieval+	
43	-	Clay layer	2	59	c.1000-1200	Medieval	

Cut/layer no.	Fill nos.	Feature	Trench	Below	Ceramic Spot Date	Period	Notes
44	42	Beam-slot	2	60	Mid 2nd century+	Roman	
45	-	Occupation layer	4	73	Late 1st-early 2nd century	Roman	
46	-	Occupation layer	4	74	Late 1st-early 2nd century	Roman	
47	-	Stone wall footing	5	50	-	Medieval+	
49	48	Stone wall footing	5	Machine	-	Post-medieval	
50	51	Robber trench	5	49	18th century	Post-medieval	
52	53	Robber trench	5	Machine	12th century	Medieval	
55	-	Floor make-up	5	56	Early-mid 2nd century	Roman	
56	57	Beam-slot	5	81	-	Roman	
58	-	Mosaic	2	59	-	Roman	
59	-	Garden soil	2	Machine	c.1050-1730	Medieval+	
60	-	Floor make-up	2	58	-	Roman	
61	-	Floor make-up	2	44	2nd century+	Roman	
62	-	Clay floor?	2	61	c.1100-1250	Roman	Pottery = contamination
63	-	Mortar floor?	2	62	-	Roman	
64	-	Clay floor?	2	63	Mid 2nd century+	Roman	
65	-	Occupation trample	2	64	Mid 2nd century+	Roman	
66	-	Concrete floor	2	65	-	Roman	
67	-	Clay floor	3	3	-	Roman	
68	-	Gravel floor	3	67	-	Roman	
69	-	Clay floor?	3	3	-	Roman	
70	-	Subsoil	3	69	-	Roman	
71	-	Beam-slot?	4	46	-	Roman	
72	-	Subsoil	4	71	-	Roman	
73	-	Earth floor	4	Machine	-	Roman	
74	-	Gravel surface	4	45	-	Roman	
75	-	Subsoil	5	47, 52, 76	-	Roman	
76	54	Pit?	5	Machine	Mid 2nd century+	Roman	
77	-	Mortar floor	5	75	-	Roman	

<b>Cut/layer no.</b>	<b>Fill nos.</b>	<b>Feature</b>	<b>Trench</b>	<b>Below</b>	<b>Ceramic Spot Date</b>	<b>Period</b>	<b>Notes</b>
78	-	Floor make-up	5	81	-	Roman	
79	-	Earth floor?	5	78	-	Roman	
80	-	Earth floor?	5	79	-	Roman	
81	-	Made-ground	5	75	-	Roman	
82	-	Yard surface	2	Machine	-	Roman	
83	-	Yard surface	2	82	-	Roman	
84	-	Yard surface	2	83	-	Roman	



## Appendix Two: Finds List

Context	RB Pot	Med Pot	PWP	CBM	Mortar	Glass	Flint	Metal	Slag	ClayP	Bone	Shell	Charc	Misc. notes
1	✓										✓			
4	✓		✓	✓	✓						✓			tessera
6				✓										
8	✓			✓				✓ Fe, Cu			✓	✓		Fe nail, tessera, oyster shell. Mortaria with stamp
10	✓													
11	✓			✓								✓		
12	✓	✓	✓	✓				✓ Fe	✓ Fe		✓	✓		slag is Fe
15	✓		✓	✓		✓		✓ Fe			✓			Fe nail, Roman glass
17		✓												
18	✓			✓							✓			tessera
19	✓	✓												
20	✓			✓							✓			
27	✓													
30		✓		✓										
32	✓										✓			
37	✓													
40											✓			
41		✓												
42	✓			✓							✓	✓		oyster shell, tessera
42				✓										
43		✓												
45	✓			✓							✓			
46	✓										✓			
51	✓	✓	✓								✓			
53	✓		✓	✓										Slate fragment

Context	RB Pot	Med Pot	PWP	CBM	Mortar	Glass	Flint	Metal	Slag	ClayP	Bone	Shell	Charc	Misc. notes
54	✓			✓										
55	✓			✓				✓ Fe			✓			
59	✓	✓		✓								✓		tesserae-many broken fragments
61	✓							✓ Fe						
62	✓	✓	✓	✓				✓ Fe			✓	✓		
64		✓		✓										
65	✓							✓ Fe			✓			Fe-nails

RB Pot = Romano-British pottery; Med Pot = medieval pottery; PWP = painted wall plaster; CBM = ceramic building material; ClayP = Clay pipe; Charc = Charcoal

### Appendix Three: The Roman Pottery Assemblage

Context	Cut	Trench	Fabric	Form	Type	Dec	Sherds	Weight	Date	Comment	Cont WT	Cont Spot
1	2	1	GW5	jar	evertrim	rusticated	2	60	50-120		210	L1st-E2nd
1	2	1	GW5	jar	misc		3	32				
1	2	1	CG1A	jar	chanrim	vertcomb	5	93		form WB279		
1	2	1	WW2	flagon?	misc		1	5				
1	2	1	GT5/6	jar	misc	acute latt	2	17				
1	2	1	MG1	jar	misc		1	20		handmade		
8	7	3	sam	cup	Dr33/18/31		4	50	2nd	residual		
8	7	3	BB1	bowl	B&F		7	125	250-E4th			
8	7	3	GW5	misc			8	95	2nd+	Good Group	980	
8	7	3	WW2	flagon			4	120	2nd			
8	7	3	MO4/12	mort	BbeloFlan	STAMPED	1	165	100-150	black grits		
8	7	3	CG1A	jar	misc		1	20	50-150			
8	7	3	C2NV	beaker	HPM43	folded	14	290	M-L3rd	roulette	joining	M-L3rd
8	7	3	C3	flagon			6	75	3rd?			
8	7	3	C2NV	beaker	HPM26	barbotine	1	10	150-250	vitrified		
8	7	3	C12CG	beaker		roulette	1	3	L2nd-3rd			
10	-	2	sam	cup	Dr33		2	27	150-200		65	M-L2nd+
10	-	2	BB1	jar	HB12		1	6	120-160			
10	-	2	CG1A	jar	chanrim		1	28	50-150			
10	-	2	WW2	flagon	misc		1	3	2nd			
11	-	2	sam	dish	18/31/31		2	77	2nd		136	M2nd+
11	-	2	BB1	jar	misc		3	22	2nd+			
11	-	2	GW5	dish			1	20	2nd			
15	-	2	AM9A	amph	Dr20		1	185	L1st-2nd			
15	-	2	C2NV	beaker	HPM52		2	10	E4th			
15	-	2	C2NV	beaker	HPM38/9		1	5	M-L3rd			
15	-	2	C2NV	beaker	HPM26?	barbotine	8	35	150-250	vitrified orange surface		
15	-	2	BB1	jar	HB20	obtuselat	5	90	Later3rd+			

Context	Cut	Trench	Fabric	Form	Type	Dec	Sherds	Weight	Date	Comment	Cont WT	Cont Spot
15	-	2	GW5	misc			8	92	2nd-E4th		235	E4th+
18	-	2	C3NV	beaker	HPM52		3	15	E4th		40	L3rd-4th
18	-	2	sam	bowl	DR37		3	5	2nd	residual		
18	-	2	OW2	misc			1	8	2nd+			
18	-	2	BB1	misc			2	5	150-350			
20	22	7	sam	bowl	Curle 11		1	8	2nd		70	
20	22	7	BB1	bowl	HB12		3	36	120-160			
20	22	7	C2NV	beaker	HPM38/39		4	11	M-L3rd	same ves as 15		250+
20	22	7	GW5	jar	misc		1	12	2nd+			
27	-	7	BB1	bowl	HB38		3	44	120-160		60	M2nd+
27	-	7	WW1	jar	chanrim		1	14	Flav-Ant			
32	33	7	BB1	bowl	HB38		1	12	120-160		50	M2nd+
32	33	7	GW5	jar	misc		3	39	2nd+			
36	-	7	BB1	jar	HB20		2	100	L3rd		110	L3rd
36	-	7	C2NV	beaker	misc		1	6	L2nd-3rd			
37	38	7	C2	beaker	cornice	barbotine	1	5	M2nd-E3rd		5	M2nd-E3rd
42	44	2	AM12	amph	Gaul4		1	70	2nd		92	M2nd+
42	44	2	BB1	jar	HB12	acute latt	1	5	120-160			
42	44	2	CG1A	jar	lidseat		1	10	L1st-2nd			
45	-	4	CG1A	jar	storage	combed	1	35	M1st-2nd		40	L1st-2nd
45	-	4	SW	jar	misc	lattice	1	4	M1st-2nd			
46	-	4	CG1A	jar	storage	combed	7	150	M1st-2nd		220	L1st-E2nd
46	-	4	SW	jar	misc		3	65	M1st-2nd			
46	-	4	WW2	flagon	misc		1	1	2nd			
46	-	4	OW2	misc		roulette	1	1	L1st-2nd			
54	76	5	sam	jar	72 or 67	plain	1	5	2nd		105	M2nd+
54	76	5	BB1	bowl	HB38		3	66	120-160			
54	76	5	GW5	misc			3	30	2nd			
55	-	5	WW2	flagon			1	10	2nd		20	E-M2nd

Context	Cut	Trench	Fabric	Form	Type	Dec	Sherds	Weight	Date	Comment	Cont WT	Cont Spot
55	-	5	GW5	jar	misc		1	10	2nd			
61	-	2	sam	misc			1	1	2nd		7	2nd+
61	-	2	GW5	misc			1	6	2nd			
64	-	2	BB1				1	3	120+		5	M2nd+
65	-	2	sam	misc			1	5	2nd		100	M2nd+
65	-	2	BB1	jar	HB12	acute latt	9	50	120-160	miniature jar?		
65	-	2	GW5	misc			4	40	2nd			
		<b>Total</b>					<b>170</b>	<b>2667</b>	<b>ASW 16g</b>			

**Appendix Four: The Post-Roman Pottery and/or Tile Assemblage**

Context	Cut	Trench	Fabric/Ware	No.	Gr.	Comments
4	3	3	ST2 – Fine Stamford	1	5	Body sherd, lead glaze, c.1050-1200
12	13	2	PM – Potters Marston	1	22	Everted & externally thickened jar rim jar, typical 12th century form, in Leicester with a cylindrical profile (Davies and Sawday 1999, fig.88.34). Est. rim diameter, c.300mm, EVE 0.025%
17	16	2	MY – Midland Yellow	1	16	Simple upright rim, possibly from a narrow mouthed cup, Woodfield form Gc (Woodfield 1984), rim diameter 120mm, EVE 0.1%. Ware dated generally c. 1500-1725.
17	16	2	EA3 – Mottled	1	6	Body sherd with external cordon, probably part of a cup (Gooder 1984, fig.12), c.1680/1700+ Ware dated generally c. 1650-1780.
19	14	2	NO3 – Nottingham Green Glazed	18	903	Wheel thrown jug rim & upper body with pulled lip & part of a strap handle which is smeared on to neck & shoulder of pot. %Rim diameter c.96mm, EVE 1.0%. Mottled dark green glaze on exterior. Glaze runs on inner rim which is abraded. The latter is possible evidence that the pot was fired upside down and stacked on top of another vessel in the kiln & then separated after the glaze had fused the two vessels together – which is typical of light bodied Nottingham green glazed wares. Tall bodied with triangular rim (Young <i>et al</i> 2005 fig.145.1132 and 1133); this & fabric colour suggests a date from mid/late 13th C. Many if not all sherds join together, secondary if not primary refuse?/
30	-	7	ST2	1	16	Fragment of thumb handle base from a spouted pitcher or bowl, with thick yellow glaze, Kilmurry form 5 or 8 (Kilmurry 1980) – possibly late 10th or 11th century
30	-	7	NO3	1	34	Shoulder from a jug, with an externally mottled dark green glaze, buff interior, some reduction in core of fabric, probably mid/late 13th century.
41	-	2	PM	1	25	Thin walled, suggesting 12th century, sooted externally.
43	-	2	ST2	1	8	Knife trimmed externally, flat base, 1050-1200.
51	50	5	MP2 – Midland Purple 2	1	38	Thick walled body sherd, probably part of a cistern or jar, late medieval.
51	50	5	CW2 – Cistercian ware 2	2	50	Joining body sherds with decorative, rilling, with?lime scale internally, possibly part of a rounded jug (Woodland 1981, fig.42.224) or jar, late medieval..
51	50	5	CW2	2	11	Misc. body sherds.
51	50	5	MB – Midland Black	1	9	Base of strap handle from a small vessel probably a two-handled cup, c.1550-1750.
51	50	5	EA2 – Earthenware 2	1	53	Flat base of a jar, externally knife trimmed, brown glaze on interior, 17th – 18th C.
51	50	5	EA7 - Slipware	1	5	Fragment of a press-moulded dish, with trailed slip and pie-crust decoration on

Context	Cut	Trench	Fabric/Ware	No.	Gr.	Comments
						rim. Diameter not measurable, 17th - 18th C.
53	52	5	SN – Saint Neots type	1	3	Body, externally sooted, c.850-1100..
53	52	5	ST3 – Coarse Stamford	1	5	Abraded, c.900-1050.
53	52	5	ST2	1	4	Thin yellow lead glaze, c.1050-1200
53	52	5	RS – Reduced Sandy	1	9	Burnt, base fragment, flat, early medieval – possibly PM.
53	52	5	PM	1	7	Thin walled, suggesting 12th century, sooted externally
59	-	2	ST2	1	17	Jar rim, Kilmurry form 5, 12th C., rim diameter c.200 mm, EVE 0.05.
59	-	2	PM	5	90	Misc., body and base sherds, two sooted externally. Base convex, trimmed externally.
59	-	2	SP3 – Splashed ware 3	1	37	Part of a large vessel, a storage jar or jug, with applied clay strip, and stamped/rouletted decoration under lead glaze.
59	-	2	MP1 – Midland Purple 1	1	18	Shoulder from a narrow bodied jug or bottle, glazed externally.
59	-	2	EA3	2	7	?Mug fragment with rilled decoration
62	-	2	ST1 - Very Fine Stamford ware	1	4	Intrusive in a Roman context, c.1100-1250.
POT/TILE						
19	14	2	CC1 – Chilvers Coton 1	1	77	Two wheel thrown pieces joined together with at least one clay strip, the whole green glazed. The whole has been over-fired, and the glaze has crawled, especially on the exterior surfaces. This is presumably part of a complex pot such as a zoomorphic water container or aquamanile or a highly decorated knight jug or perhaps a ridge tile ventilator or louver for use on a roof.

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