

An Archaeological Evaluation  
of the Proposed  
'Centre of Excellence in Performance Practice'  
Building at land off Oxford Street,  
De Montfort University, Leicester  
SK 5846 0404 (centre)

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For: De Montfort University

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## **An Archaeological Evaluation of the Proposed ‘Centre of Excellence in Performance Practice’ building at land off Oxford Street. De Montfort University, Leicester SK 5846 0404 (centre)**

### **Summary**

*An archaeological evaluation was undertaken by University of Leicester Archaeological Services on land at the former James Went Building, off Oxford Street, Leicester (SK 5846 0404) on behalf of De Montfort University. The work was carried out in response to development proposals for a new ‘Centre of Excellence in Performance Practice’ building as a part of the larger redevelopment of the De Montfort University Leicester Campus in February 2006 and consisted of two trial trenches. Archaeological features relating to Roman, medieval and post-medieval occupation on the site were revealed in the two trenches. The densest activity was recorded in Trench 2, closest to the Oxford Street frontage where evidence of Roman property boundary activity was revealed beneath medieval garden soil. Later medieval and post-medieval pitting was also observed. The site area had been badly damaged by modern disturbances, including the footings of the former James Went building that stood on the site.*

*The finds and records from the site will be deposited with Leicester City Museums under the Accession Number A11.2006.*

### **1. Introduction**

- 1.1 University of Leicester Archaeological Services (ULAS) were commissioned by De Montfort University to carry out an archaeological evaluation at the Former James Went Building, southwest of Oxford Street, Leicester, Leicestershire (SK 5846 0404). The work was undertaken in response to planning proposals for redevelopment of the site. Planning permission with conditions has been granted by Leicester City Council to build the ‘Centre of Excellence in Performance Practice’ (CEPP) building.
- 1.2 The proposed development area was included as part of the desk-based assessment for the entire De Montfort University Leicester Campus (Meek 2001), which highlighted that the area had a high archaeological potential for remains dating between the Roman and post-medieval periods. In view of the potential damage that might be caused to any surviving archaeological levels by the proposed redevelopment, the City Archaeologist of Leicester City Council, in his capacity as advisor to the planning authority, recommended prior archaeological assessment of the area. This recommendation was in accordance with the guidelines set out in Planning Policy guidance Note 16 (PPG 16, Archaeology and Planning, paragraph 30).

- 1.3 This report presents the results of an archaeological evaluation by trial trench carried out between the 21<sup>st</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup> February 2006, by University of Leicester Archaeological Services (ULAS). The trial excavation met the requirements of the Project Design prepared by ULAS (Appendix 6) and approved by the City Archaeologist at Leicester City Council.

## 2. Site Description, Topography and Geology

- 2.1 The site is located within the Newarke area of Leicester and is situated approximately 130m south of the Roman and medieval south gate of the town. It comprises of an area of 850 sq. m lying over part of the footprint of the former James Went Building and surrounding grounds (centred on SK 5846 0404).



Figure 1 Site location

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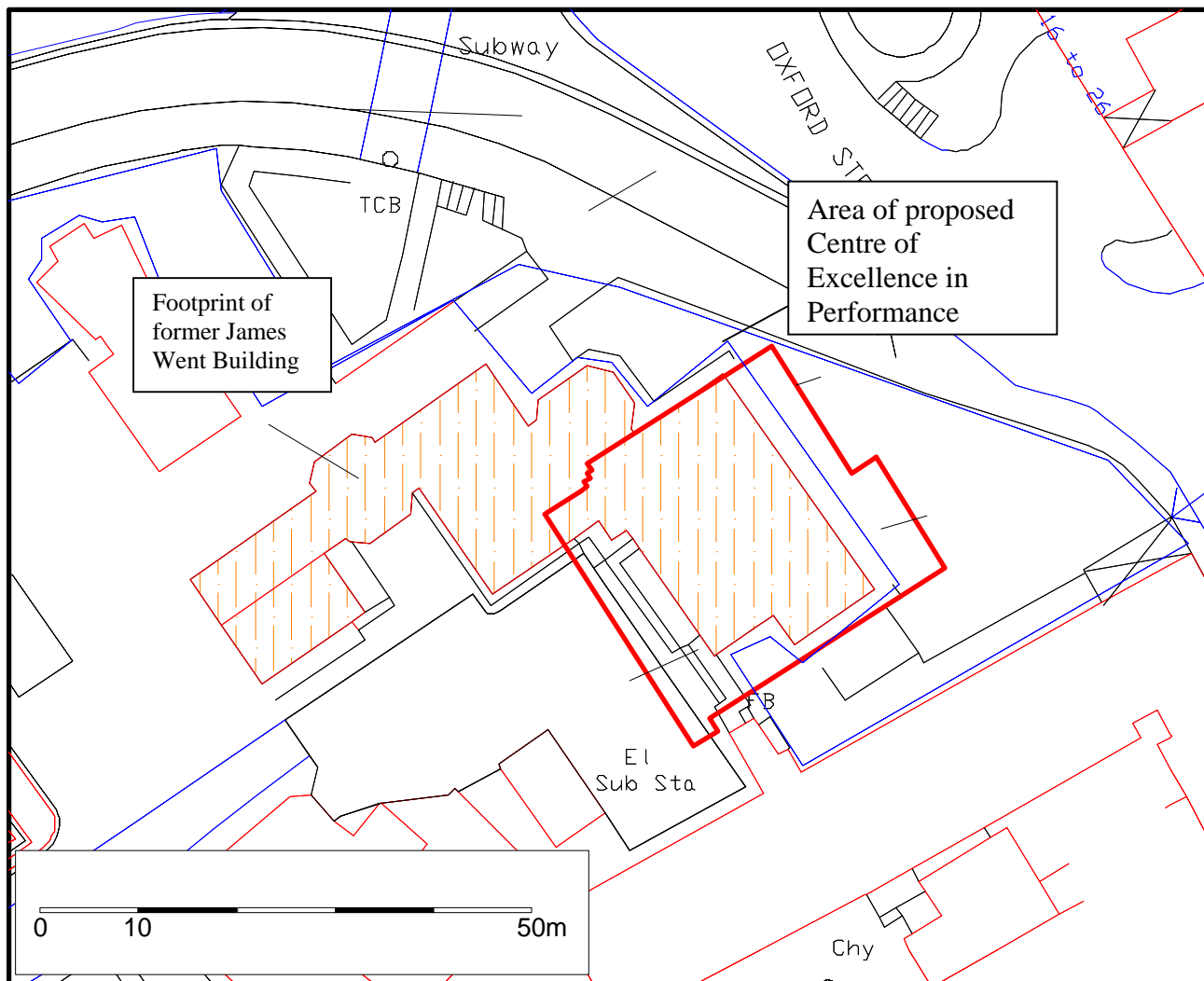


Figure 2 Site Location (close up incorporating James Went Building footprint)

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- 2.2 The Ordnance Survey Geological Survey of Great Britain Sheet 156 indicates that the underlying geology consists of river gravels overlying red marl and this was confirmed by borehole data taken from the site. The proposed development area lies between a height of 62.67 and 63.40m OD on land the slopes gently down towards the west.

### 3. Archaeological Background (Meek, 2001)

- 3.1 The archaeological desk-based assessment for the De Montfort University Leicester Campus summarised the archaeological potential of the proposed development area as:

*“Development Area 4 covers the area of the James Went Building and the surrounding grounds. The ‘Framework’ envisages that the existing*

*building would be replaced by one of mainly three to four storeys height, with a maximum of six. The eastern side of Area 4 lies adjacent to the former line of the Tripontium road, and thus has the potential for Roman suburban occupation, including archaeological evidence for buildings, plot boundaries and possible burials associated with the former occupants of the plots. This part of the area also has good potential for Anglo-Saxon occupation, suburban medieval occupation and post-medieval occupation. The report has shown that the majority of this area lies within the Newarke enclosure, and on the eastern side of the open square of possibly medieval origin, associated with the Collegiate Church of the Annunciation of the Blessed Virgin Mary. The area has thus high potential for the remains of either religious buildings, or ancillary structures associated with the religious community” (Meek 2001)*

- 3.2 The site is situated to the south of an Iron Age settlement occupying an area of c.10ha, probably a tribal centre of the Corieltauvi, established in the late first century along the east bank of the Soar. The development site is likely to lie outside the main focus of the settlement though it is possible that smaller farmsteads were located close to the central place. Excavations to the southeast at 85-89 Oxford Street produced handmade pottery from a large east/west ditch that could date to this period (Clarke 2003). Iron Age activity was thus considered a possibility within the proposed development area.
- 3.3 The site is located c.130m to the south of the defences of Roman Leicester. Excavations at Bonners Lane (Finn 2002), to the south of the proposed development area, produced evidence of a Roman road constructed early in the second century that probably ran from the south gate of Roman Leicester to Tripontium, a small town on Watling Street (on the border between the modern counties of Leicestershire and Warwickshire). A series of ditched enclosures were laid either side of the road at this time, or soon afterwards, that may have been fields or a series of individual property holdings. Enclosure ditches dating to the same period were also encountered during the excavations at York Road to the east of the proposed development area (Gossip 1999b) and during excavations at Oxford Street (Gossip 1999a). Evidence of activity within these southern roadside enclosures in the early Roman period includes a possible structure on the west side of the Tripontium road at Bonners Lane (Finn 2004). Domestic activity, such as human cess and domestic rubbish disposal as well as structural features was found at Newarke Street (Cooper 1996). At Bonners Lane and Newarke Street this activity did not continue beyond the middle of the second century. At York Road it was unclear how long the boundaries remained in use though it is likely that at least two were maintained into the late third century (Gossip 1999b). Small-scale industrial/craft activity at Bonners Lane in the later Roman period may represent ribbon development strung out along the southern approach road (Finn 2004). Therefore there the proposed development area was seen as having a potential to contain similar deposits, possibly associated with domestic activity dating to the early Roman period.
- 3.4 Burials dating to the fourth century have been located to the north of the proposed development area during the Newarke Street excavations (Cooper 1996) and to the east during the York Road excavations (Gossip 1999b).

Other Roman burials listed on the Leicester City Sites and Monuments Record include an inhumation associated with Roman pottery from Cromwell Street. In compliance with Roman law, which forbade burial within the town boundary, cemeteries were established south of the town. Also cremations were found during recent excavations at 52 Grange Lane to the south. Roman cemetery activity was therefore considered a possibility within the proposed development area.

- 3.5 The Bonners Lane excavation to the southwest produced evidence for an Anglo-Saxon sunken-floored building (Finn 1994 and 2004). Located only 40m to the east another sunken-floored building was discovered during excavations at Republic Car Park (Gossip 1999a). These two buildings are likely to be associated and may be part of a larger farmstead or proto-urban settlement. Given their proximity to the proposed development area it was possible that similar remains are present there.
- 3.6 Medieval suburban development is known to have existed along Southgate Street (now Oxford Street) by *c.*1200 when a charter shows both burgesses and customary (peasant) tenants were living outside the Southgate (RBL.1, 10-11). However, it is not possible to define the exact extent of medieval settlement, though the boundary of the Newarke precinct suggests it abutted suburban settlement along the west of Oxford Street. Building and rear yard activity identified off York Road (Gossip 1999b) and Oxford Street (Gossip 1999a) suggests intensive occupation of the south suburb. The Bonners Lane excavation to the south also produced evidence of medieval structures and associated back-yard features (including pits and wells), some of which were apparently associated with industrial activity. Similar remains may be present in the proposed development area.
- 3.7 The development is located on the projected boundary of the former Newarke precinct. The area was a religious enclosure, and by the 15th century contained The Church of the Annunciation of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Trinity Hospital, Trinity Chapel, six Chantry Houses and St. Mary's Vicarage. The enclosure contained a fairly large community of priests, poor persons, choristers and servants, all of whom may have been housed and fed within the area, thus there is a likelihood that kitchens, dormitories and other buildings associated with the welfare of this community would have existed within the precinct. The Newarke was surrounded by a large sandstone wall, with three gateways.. The projected line of the wall does cross the development area. The Newarke precinct was built for a secular religious community, and as such any evidence for the former layout would potentially be of national importance, as very few others existed. Far more is known about the workings within religious enclosures of Augustinian or Cistercian communities, such as those excavated at the Abbey or the Austin Friars in Leicester.
- 3.8 The borough records show that a well developed and extensive suburb existed in the post-medieval period. The Speed map of 1610 indicates the suburb extended south of Bonners Lane and it is unlikely to have grown since the early 14th century. The nearby Bonners Lane excavation produced extensive evidence of both street frontage and back-yard activity of this period. However, it is possible that by the time of the Civil War the south suburbs could have been in a state of semi-abandonment and dereliction. The



excavations off York road indicated that most of the site was covered with dark cultivation soil and pit digging almost completely ceased (Gossip 1999b). The excavations off Oxford Street also revealed a decline in the number of features suggesting that activity was less intense than it had been in the medieval period (Gossip 1999a). There was also a general lack of typical backyard features, such as pits, wells and latrines at Newarke Street (Cooper 1996).

- 3.9 During the English Civil War the town was besieged twice, first by the Royalists under Charles I and his nephew Prince Rupert on 30th May 1645, and then by Parliamentary forces under Sir Thomas Fairfax, who recaptured the town a fortnight later, on June 16th. Evidence for a civil war defensive ditch was uncovered in the Bonners Lane excavation (Finn 2004), parallel to Bonners Lane. This activity is likely to date to 1645. An excavation on the southern corner of York Road and Oxford Street in 1997 (Gossip 1999b) located part of a substantial ditch representing a further section of the Civil War defences. This appeared to be a continuation of the section of ditch found parallel with Bonners Lane and was seen to turn northward, east of Oxford Street, presumably to pick up the line of the medieval town wall around the south-east quarter. A further stretch of defensive ditch was also recovered at Mill Lane (Finn 2002). On both occasions it was the Newarke which bore the brunt of the attack from artillery stationed somewhere in the vicinity of the present day Leicester Royal Infirmary. The defences probably ran from the current site of Welford Place to the South Gate. The Parliamentarians garrisoned the town after the second siege and it is they who completed strengthening of the town defences. A series of earthworks were added around the Newarke but were demolished in 1648. These included a hornwork outside the Newarke Gate in Mill Lane (Fairfax St.).
- 3.10 The proposed development area lay within the southeast part of the former Magazine Square until the 1960s. It partially lay within the military parade ground and partially in the area of terraced houses that ran along its south-eastern boundary.
- 3.11 By 1969 the terraced houses and parade ground had been cleared and the western part of the former James Went Building had been constructed. By the 1970s the road layout and underpasses had been constructed and the eastern part of the James Went Building, the part that formerly stood in the proposed development area, had been finished. Details of the foundation design and basement details for the building were not available.
- 3.12 The James Went Building was demolished in 2004 / 2005. The building was levelled and floor slabs and footings were removed. Photographs were taken of this process by De Montfort University, a number of which show the ground conditions during removal of footings. These clearly showed that the proposed development area had suffered considerable damage both from the construction and demolition of the James Went Building. It was anticipated prior to the start of the evaluation that disturbance was likely across the majority of the area, but that islands of archaeology could still survive intact. The former Newarke Wall, the line of which is projected to run through the site area, has been shown elsewhere to have had deep foundations and thus could potentially survive beneath areas of disturbance.

#### **4. Aims and Objectives**

4.1 As specified in the *Project Design Specification for Archaeological Evaluation* (Meek 11/04/2005). The specific aims and objectives of the project were:

- To identify the presence/absence of any archaeological deposits.
- To establish the character, extent and date range for any archaeological deposits to be affected by the proposed ground works.
- To excavate and record any archaeological deposits to be affected by the ground works.
- To produce an archive and report of any results.

4.2 Within the stated project objectives, the principal aim of the evaluation is to establish the nature, extent, date, depth, significance and state of preservation of archaeological deposits on the site in order to determine the potential impact upon them from the proposed redevelopment.

4.2 The following site-specific objectives are also to be considered:

- establishment of the form, function and chronology of any preserved archaeological remains, utilising all appropriate scientific and analytical techniques;
- the recognition and investigation of activity and occupation areas
- recovery of paleo-environmental remains, including waterlogged deposits;
- examination of evidence for settlement development within the hinterland around Leicester;
- recovery of artefactual remains to assist in the development of local and regional type series;
- establish the impact that the former James Went building has had on any surviving archaeology

#### **5. Methodology**

##### *5.1 General Methodology and Standards*

5.1.1 All work followed the Institute of Field Archaeologists (IFA) Code of Conduct and adhered to their *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluation* (1999).

##### *5.2 Trial Trenching Methodology*

5.2.1 Two trenches were excavated during the evaluation of the site. Trench 1 was located in the middle of the site on a north-south orientation. The trench was not continuous and therefore has been divided into Trench 1A and 1B. Trench 2 was situated along the northeastern boundary of the site. This trench was

moved from its proposed location to avoid the position of an existing drain on the northeastern part of the site area.

- 5.2.2 Trenches 1 and 2 were 11m and 18m in length respectively, and both were c.2.2m wide. The total area of the trenches (c. 64 square metres) provided a c. 8% sample of the site area.
- 5.2.3 The present ground surfaces and underlying modern overburden was removed in level spits, under continuous archaeological supervision, down to the uppermost archaeological deposits by JCB 3C mechanical digger using a toothless ditching bucket. The trenches were excavated to a width of 2.2m and down to the top of archaeological deposits. Both of the trenches were stepped and battered for safety reasons. The trenches were backfilled and levelled at the end of the evaluation.
- 5.2.4 Following the removal of the overlying layers the base of both trenches was examined by hand cleaning and archaeological deposits located were planned at an appropriate scale and sample-excavated by hand as appropriate to establish the stratigraphic and chronological sequence. All plans were tied into the Ordnance Survey National Grid. Relative spot heights were taken as appropriate. Sections of sample-excavated archaeological features were drawn at an appropriate scale. All sections were levelled and tied to the Ordnance Survey Datum.
- 5.2.5 The trenches were located using an Electronic Distance Measurer linked to a hand-held Psion data logger. The data was processed using N4ce survey software and the final plans completed with the aid of TurboCAD version 11 design software that was used to tie the plans into the Ordnance Survey National Grid.

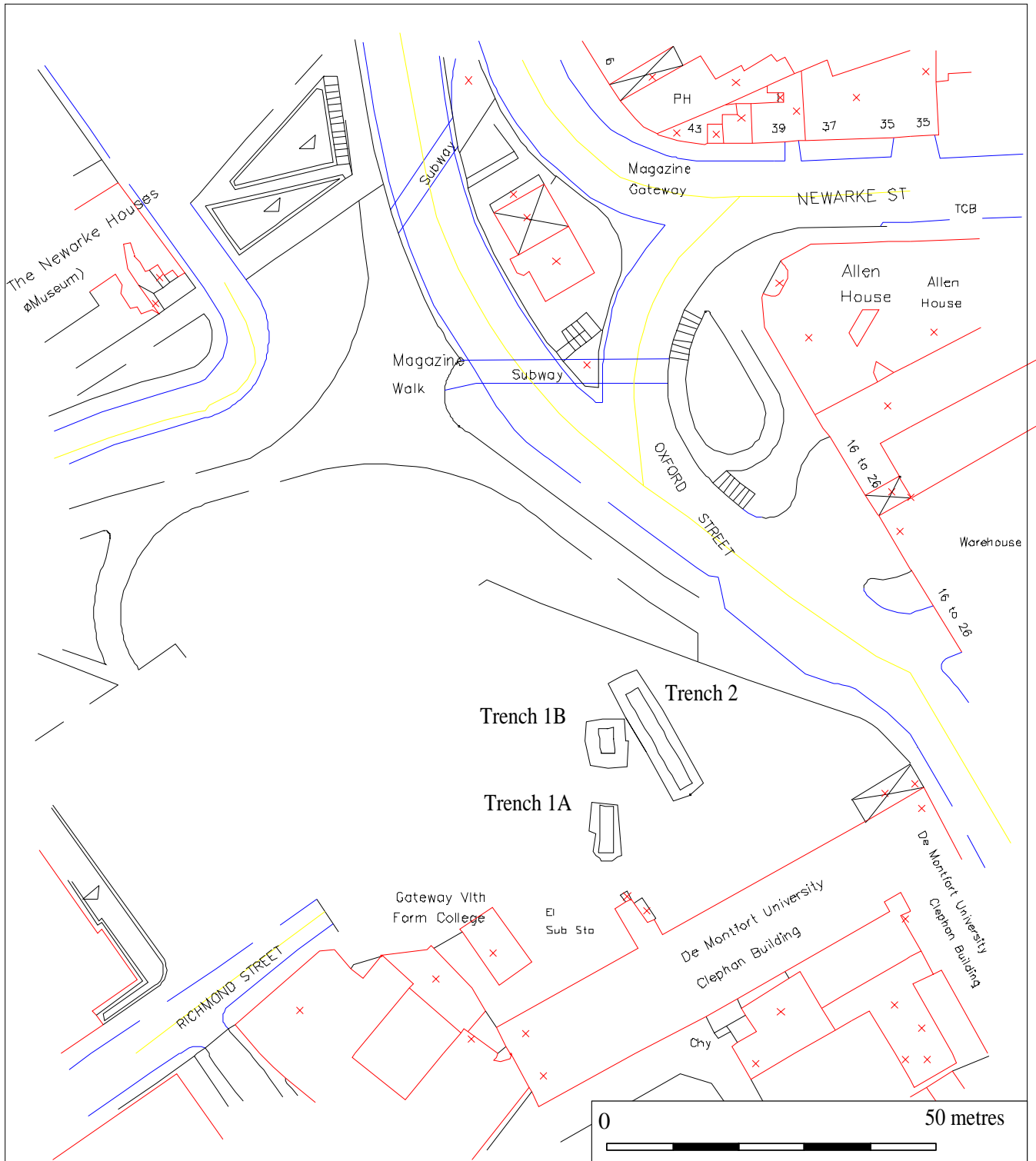


Figure 3 Trench Location

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## 6. Results

### 6.1

	<i>Trench 1A</i>	<i>Trench 1B</i>
<b>Length:</b>	<b>7.0m</b>	<b>3.8m</b>
<b>Width:</b>	<b>2.2m</b>	<b>2.2m</b>
<b>Ground Level:</b>	<b>62.51-63.23m OD</b>	<b>62.68-63.00m OD</b>
<b>Base of Trench:</b>	<b>59.01-59.73m OD</b>	<b>60.41-61.00m OD</b>
<b>Natural Ground</b>	<b>Not Reached</b>	<b>61.67m OD</b>

- 6.1.1 Excavation of Trench 1 commenced at the southeast end of the trench but the overburden consisting of loose rubble was not penetrated at a depth of 3.5m below the existing ground level. The trench was excavated at this depth for approximately 7 metres but was abandoned due to the amount of spoil that was being created in order to make the trench safe. Excavation recommenced at the north end of the trench where a garden soil deposit (1) was observed at a depth of 0.97m below present ground surface at c.62.3m OD. This was truncated by modern disturbance that cut down from the east side of the trench. The garden soil was machined off and some of the truncation was removed in order to observe any underlying deposits.
- 6.1.2 The natural undisturbed sand and gravel was observed at a depth of 1.33m below present ground surface at 61.67m OD and this overlaid the solid red marl substratum. A possibly rectangular shaped pit [3] was observed cutting the natural substratum 0.74m from the north end of the trench, although its southwest side has been truncated away. It measured 1.8m x 0.8m and had a depth of at least 1.5m (taken from the top of truncation) that cut the garden soil. The base of the feature was at a level of 60.55m OD. The pit had right-angled corners with almost vertical sides and a reasonably flat base and was filled by two clearly distinguishable deposits. The upper fill (4) consisted of a mid greyish brown sandy silty loam soil that contained occasional inclusions of charcoal flecks and rare rounded stones. The fill measured c.0.12m thick but was almost completely truncated away by modern truncation and only clearly seen in the eastern trench section. The lower ?usage fill (2) consisted of dark brown sandy silty loam soil with occasional inclusions of slate and pebble and rare charcoal and limestone flecks. It measured 0.39m thick and was rich in cess material at the base of the feature. The fill also contained two late medieval ridge tile fragments as well as a complete, sub rectangular, medieval roof slate in Swithland stone, measuring 0.11 x 0.21 m, with a bored hole at the top. Excavation of the trench was continued to the south for a distance of 4 metres but it became clear that the truncation that cut the garden soil here was the same deep truncation seen at the other end of the trench so excavation was abandoned.

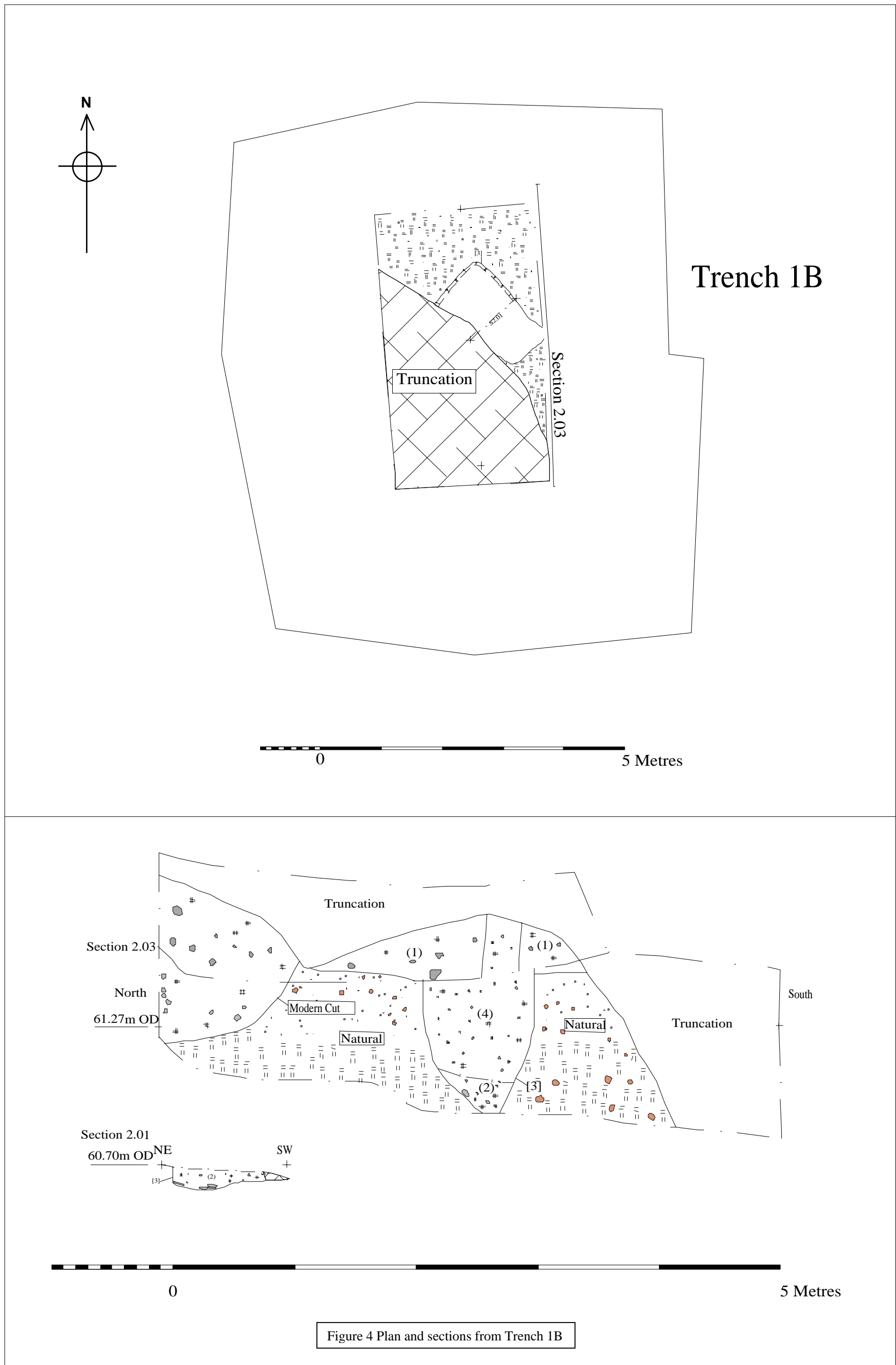


Figure 4 Plan and sections from Trench 1B

## 6.2 Trench 2

<b>Length:</b>	<b>16.8m</b>
<b>Width:</b>	<b>2.2m</b>
<b>Ground Level:</b>	<b>63.01-63.39m OD</b>
<b>Base of Trench:</b>	<b>61.25-61.57m OD</b>
<b>Natural Ground</b>	<b>61.40m OD</b>

- 6.2.1 Excavation of Trench 2 commenced from its south-eastern end. The overburden was removed to expose the clay natural at 1.82m below the present ground surface. Here modern truncation was observed on the northeast side of the trench at 61.4m OD. At 1.0m from the end of the trench a rectangular pit [5] was observed cutting the natural in the southwest side of the trench. It was 1.5m wide and at least 1m long that extended into the trench section. The feature was at least 0.63m deep although the top of the feature had been truncated. The sides of the feature were vertical and it had a flat base. It was filled by a mid pinkish brown sandy clay deposit (6) with rare round pebble and slate inclusions and occasional charcoal flecks. The fill contained sherds from a Nottingham ware jug dating to the late thirteenth to early fourteenth century and a single sherd of Midland Purple dating to the middle to late fifteenth century. However the pit proved to be modern as close examination of the trench section showed that the feature cut through modern tarmac.
- 6.2.2 The natural became vastly more truncated further to the northwest and only a thin strip of undisturbed deposits was observed towards the centre of the trench against the southwest section. Here a layer of garden soil (11) was observed that measured 3.5m long and 0.5m wide that extended under the southwest section of the trench. This dark greyish brown sand loam deposit was very similar to the garden soil seen in Trench 1B and is likely to be the same layer. The soil was machined off and underneath a loose gravel surface (10) was revealed that consisted of subrounded gravel that varied in size between 0.2-0.4m and some of the gravel was found to be metallated together in a matrix of mid greyish brown sandy clay. The top of the surface was measured at 1.31m below the present ground level at a depth of 61.70m OD. It covered an area of c.5.0m x 0.52m, although it was truncated to the northeast and northwest by modern disturbance and extended under the southwest section of the trench and its southeast side was truncated by a possible linear feature [8]. A slot was excavated into the modern disturbance to observe the relationship between [8] and (10). The section showed that the gravel surface was 0.11m deep and directly overlying the natural clay and also clearly showed that the surface was cut by feature [8]. This feature was truncated on all its visible sides by modern disturbance although two small areas of surviving edge did show that the feature was linear. The surviving area measured 1.8m in width and 1.0m in length that extended under the southwest section of the trench on a northeast to southwest alignment. The removal of the modern disturbance showed that the top of the cut on the northwest side was straight with an incline of c.45° but this slot was only taken to depth of

0.35m. The feature was sample excavated along the surviving edge on the southeast side. This side was also straight and had an incline of *c.*60°. The base was reached at 60.66m OD but this had been truncated away by the modern disturbance. It was filled by a mid orangey brown clayey silt with rare inclusions of medium subrounded stones, pea grit and charcoal flecks. A reasonable density of Roman pottery was retrieved from the fill dating between the late first to late second century AD.



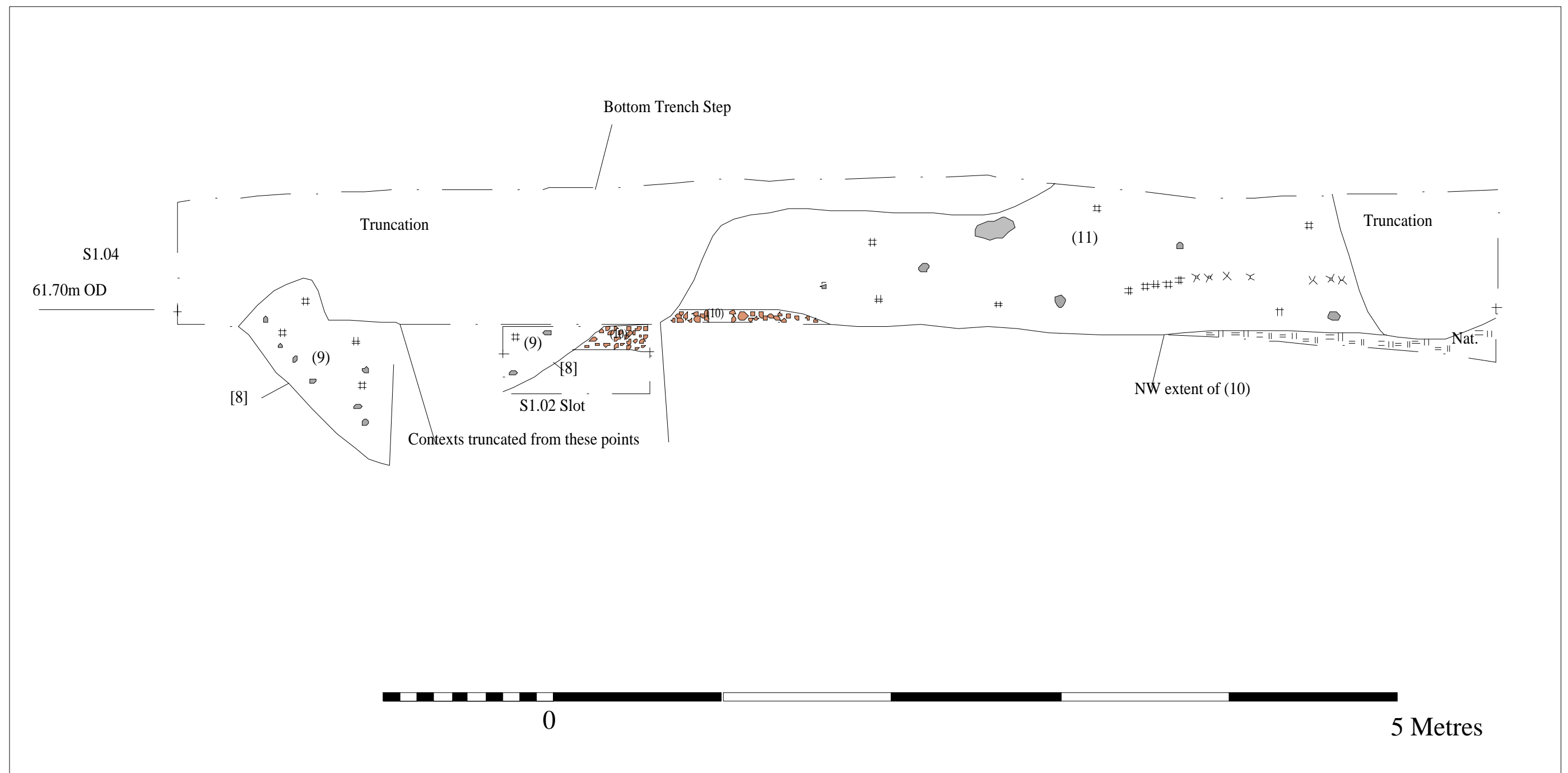


Figure 5 Sections from Trench 2

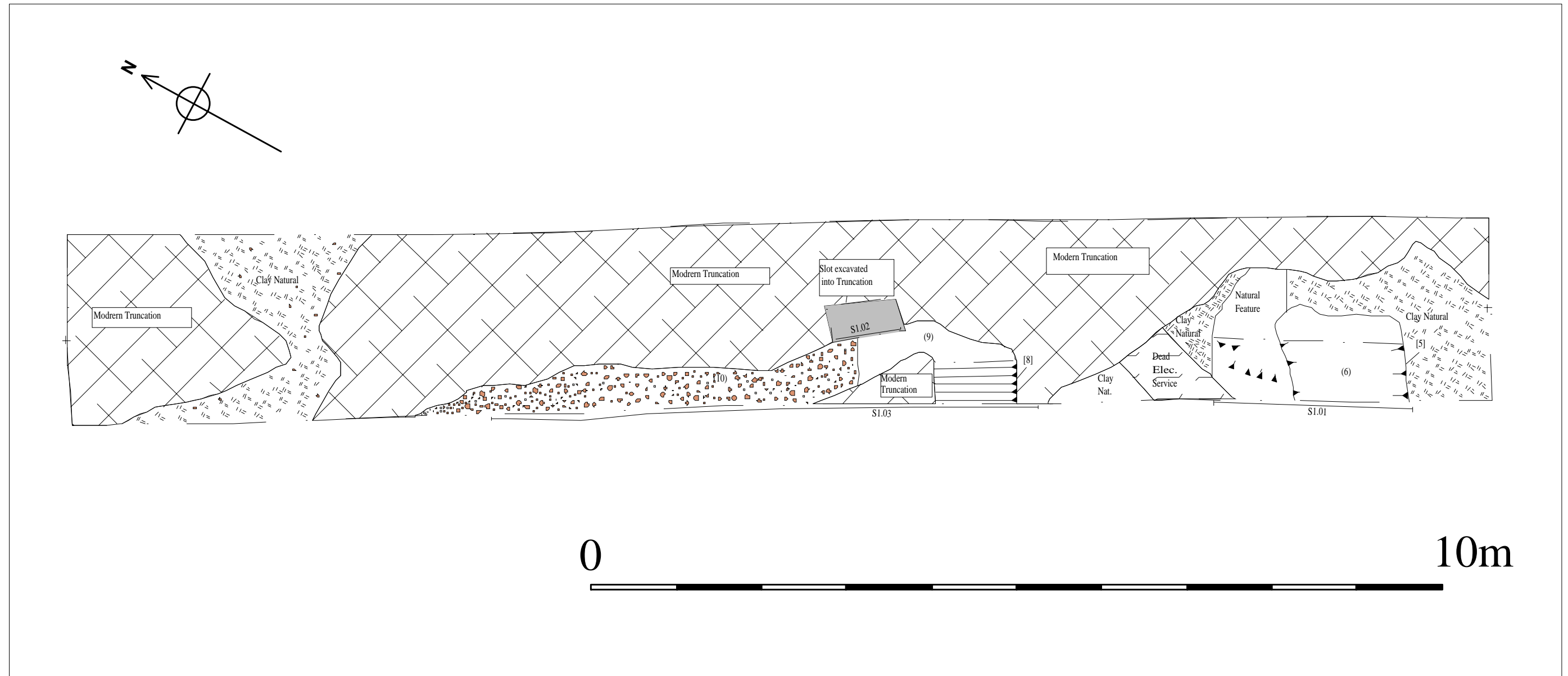


Figure 6 Plan of Trench 1

## **7. Discussion**

- 7.1 In terms of the specific aims of the evaluation both trial trenches have revealed evidence of surviving archaeological remains within the development site, although these are generally in a poor state of preservation.
- 7.2 Evidence for Roman activity was revealed in Trench 2, supporting similar evidence from other sites in the area for activity throughout the period in the south suburbs of Leicester. The projected line of the Tripontium Roman road, discovered during excavations at nearby Bonners Lane (Finn 2004) passes close to the site. The presence of a ditch that is orientated roughly perpendicular with the projected line of the road is not unexpected and would suggest further evidence of property boundaries along this road. Many sites in the southern suburbs have recorded evidence of boundary ditches associated with plots fronting the Roman road. During excavations at Bonners Lane a series of rectilinear ditched enclosures laid out either side of the Tripontium road were revealed. These enclosed areas may have been fields, or alternatively, a series of individual property holdings. Evidence of activity within these southern roadside enclosures in the early Roman period includes the possible structure on the west side of the Tripontium road at Bonners Lane and the structural remains and domestic pits recorded at Newarke Street (Cooper 1996). At both sites this activity appears to have been relatively short lived, however, not continuing beyond the middle of the second century. However evidence from York Road suggests the boundaries were still formalised well into the third century. The ditch found during this evaluation seems to fall into line with the dates obtained from Bonners Lane as none of the pottery from the fill dates later than the second century.
- 7.2 Evidence of late medieval or early post-medieval activity was observed in Trench 1. A rectangular pit, possibly a cesspit was recorded that contained demolition material dating to the late medieval period. These remains are likely to be located within the Newarke Precinct and therefore it is conceivable the building material has come from relatively high status buildings associated with this religious enclosure.
- 7.3 There was widespread modern disturbance across both of the trenches. A brick wall was revealed built from un-frogged 3" thick bricks that may have been a part of the militia housing associated with the Militia Headquarters built in 1863, surrounding Magazine Square. The remaining disturbance could all be attributed to the construction of the James Went building in the late 1960s / early 1970s and its subsequent demolition in 2004 / 2005.

## **8. Archive**

- 8.1 The finds and records from the site will be deposited with *Leicester City Museums* under the Accession Number A11.2006. It consists of trench record sheets, site records, plans and digital photographs.
- 8.2 A brief summary of this report will published in the *Transactions of the Leicestershire Archaeological and Historical Society* in due course.

## 9. Acknowledgements

- 9.1 The fieldwork was carried out by the author with assistance of John Tate. Elizabeth Johnson and Deborah Sawday identified the pottery, Nicholas Cooper examined the small finds and Lynden Cooper examined the flint. James Meek managed the project. Also I am grateful to Mr Moate and his colleagues at De Montfort University for their cooperation during the fieldwork.

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## Appendix 1: Context summaries

Former James Went Building, DMU Evaluation. A11.2006				
Context	Cut	Below	Area	Description
1		3	T1	Garden soil
2		4	T1	Fill of pit
3		2	T1	Cut of pit
4			T1	Fill of pit
5		6	T2	Cut of pit
6			T2	Fill of pit
7		5	T2	Layer
8		9	T2	Cut of ditch/pit
9			T2	Fill of ditch/pit
10		8	T2	Gravel surface
11			T2	Garden soil

**Appendix 2 The Pottery***E. Johnson & D. Sawday****Romano-British Pottery***

Seven sherds of Romano-British pottery and four fragments of ceramic building material were recovered as detailed below:

The Samian is a South Gaulish Drag. 27 cup, dating to the late 1<sup>st</sup>-early 2nd century (Webster 1996: 38). The oxidised ware jar has roulette decoration suggesting an early to mid 2nd century date (Pollard 1986:4). Mixed gritted wares are early Roman fabrics also known as “transitional” wares (Pollard 1994: 114), the comb decoration present here suggesting a late 1st century date. The beaker is classified as GW1, which is used within the Leicestershire Fabric Series to denote sherds very similar in both fabric and form to Black Burnished ware (Pollard 1994: 114). The beaker here is similar to a Black Burnished ware form of Antonine date (Holbrook & Bidwell 1991: 94-95).

The fragments of Romano-British ceramic building material were too incomplete to positively classify, however they are most likely to be either *tegula* roof tiles or *pedalis* general-purpose wall tiles.

<i>Context</i>	<b>Fabric</b>	<b>Form</b>	<b>Sherds</b>	<b>Weight (g)</b>	<b>Dating</b>
9	Oxidised ware	Jar	1	12	early 2ndC
9	Samian	Cup (Dr27)	1	4	late1st-early2ndC
9	Mixed gritted ware	Jar	1	52	late 1stC
9	Grey ware	Jar	3	32	
9	Grey ware (GW1)	Beaker	1	22	mid-late 2ndC
9	CBM	Unclassified	4	808	

***The medieval and later pottery and miscellaneous finds***

The pottery, three sherds, weighing 107 grams, and ridge tile, two fragments, weighing 212 grams, were as examined under a binocular microscope and catalogued with reference to the ULAS fabric series (Davies and Sawday 1999) (Allin 1981).

The fill of the presumed pit, context 2, contained the two late medieval ridge tile fragments. Also present in the same context was a complete, sub rectangular, medieval roof slate in Swithland stone, measuring 110x210 mm, with a bored hole at the top. Context 6, the backfill of another probable pit, contained two sherds of Nottingham ware dated to the late thirteenth or early fourteenth century, and a fragment of sixteenth century midland purple ware.

The site is close to the Trinity Hospital, which was established in 1330, and probably lay within the Newarke precinct walls, which were refurbished in the early fifteenth century. The ridge tile and roofing slate, together with the fragments of window came, suggest the presence of relatively high status buildings nearby.

Although the finds were few in number, their average weight suggests that archaeological levels may survive relatively intact in the vicinity. Certainly further archaeological work would provide a useful addition to our understanding of the development of the southern suburb, and the impact of the Newarke on that development (Finn 2004, 64).

Context	Fabric/ware	Sherd nos.	Weight grams	Comments
<b>POTTERY</b>				
6 – Trench 2 - ? Pit	NO3 – Nottingham ware 3	2	62	Later 13 <sup>th</sup> or early 14 <sup>th</sup> C jug base
6 – Trench 2 - ? Pit	MP2 – Midland Purple ware 2	1	45	Later medieval; or possible early post medieval ie., mid/late 16 <sup>th</sup> C.
<b>RIDGE TILE</b>				
2 – Trench 1 - ? Rectangular pit	MS3 – Medieval Sandy ware 3	2	210	
<b>BUILDING MATERIAL</b>				
2	Roof Slate	1		Complete, sub rectangular, with bored perforated hole, 110x210 mm – Swithland slate, probably medieval
<b>MISC.</b>				
6	Lead			Window Came

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## Appendix 3 Design Specification

J. Meek

### UNIVERSITY OF LEICESTER ARCHAEOLOGICAL SERVICES

#### Design Specification for Archaeological Evaluation of the proposed 'Centre for Excellence in Performance Practice' building, De Montfort University, Leicester

<i>Client:</i>	De Montfort University
<i>Site:</i>	Proposed 'Centre for Excellence in Performance Practice', De Montfort University, Leicester
<i>NGR:</i>	SK 5846 0404 (centre)
<i>Development:</i>	construction of new 'Centre for Excellence in Performance Practice' building
<i>Project:</i>	Archaeological Trial Trench Evaluation
<i>Planning Authority:</i>	Leicester City Council

## 1. Introduction

### 1.1 *Definition and scope of the specification*

In accordance with Planning Policy Guidance Note 16 (PPG16, Archaeology and Planning, paragraph 30), and the condition placed on planning permission, this specification constitutes a 'written scheme of archaeological investigation' which University of Leicester Archaeological Services (ULAS) intends to implement on behalf of the Client in mitigation of any damage which may be caused to buried or standing archaeological remains from the development.

1.2 The document provides details of the work proposed by ULAS on behalf of the client and will be submitted to the Planning Authority for approval.

1.1.3 The document provides details of the work proposed by ULAS on behalf of the client for:

- The archaeological evaluation by trial trench of the proposed footprint of the new De Montfort University "Centre for Excellence in Performance Practice Building" (DMU CEPP).

## 2. Background

### 2.1 *Context of the Project*

2.1.1 Planning permission with conditions has been granted by Leicester City Council for the proposed 'Centre for Excellence in Performance Practice', De Montfort University (DMU), Leicester. The proposed DMU CEPP building lies at the north-eastern end of Richmond Street, to the west of Oxford Street and directly north of the existing DMU Clephan Building.

2.1.2 The site area is approximately 800 sq m. The site was mostly occupied by the former James Went Building (demolished 2004-5). It is likely that the proposed development area has suffered significant damage from the construction of the former building.

2.1.3 An archaeological desk-based assessment of the proposed De Montfort University Leicester City Campus Developments was previously commissioned from ULAS by DMU, which incorporated the proposed development area (specifically included in section 8.3 Development Area 4; Meek 2001).

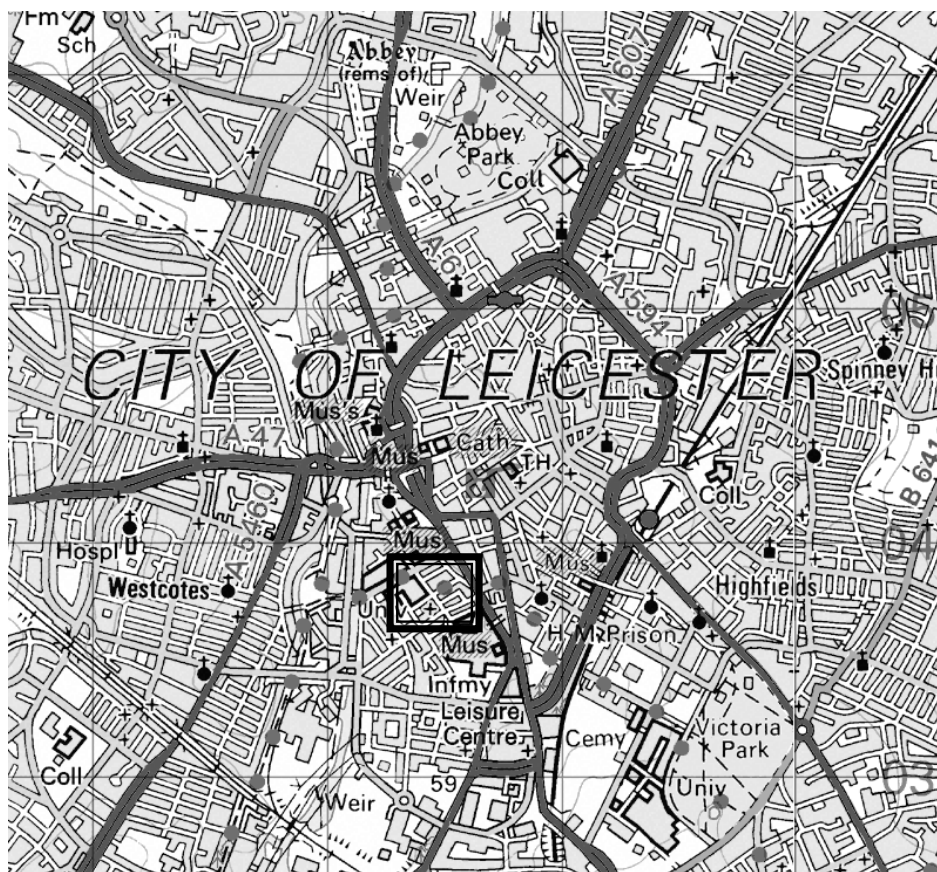


Figure 1. Site location

Reproduced from the Landranger series maps, 1:50000 map by permission of Ordnance Survey on behalf of The Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office.

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## 2.2 **Archaeological and Historical Background**

### 2.2.1 The archaeological desk-based assessment for the proposed DMU Leicester City Campus summarised the archaeological potential of the entire area as follows:

*The desk-based archaeological assessment for the proposed De Montfort University Leicester City Campus Developments, has shown that the site is likely to contain important archaeological remains relating to the Roman and medieval south suburbs. Previous excavations in and around the area have shown that significant remains of Roman, medieval and post-medieval date exist. Roman buildings, features and burials may be located within the development area. Two Saxon buildings have been recorded in the vicinity and occupation of this date is possible. The assessment area completely covers the former Newarke precinct, an originally medieval religious community, and later an autonomous enclave of Leicester for the wealthy. St. Mary's Vicarage, Trinity Hospital and Chapel, Wygston's Chantry House, two arches from the former Church, the Newarke (Magazine) Gateway and a small section of the former enclosure wall are the only structures that remain of the original religious community. The remains of other religious and ancillary buildings associated with the Collegiate Church of the Annunciation of the Blessed Virgin Mary are very likely to exist inside of the enclosure, including the former burial ground of the church itself. Medieval structures and back-yard activity are also likely to be found in the area outside of the Newarke. The Newarke was the main focus of attack during the two sieges of Leicester during the English Civil War in 1645. In addition, post-Civil War late 17th and 18th century buildings associated with post-dissolution occupation of the Newarke and the re-building of the south suburbs after the Civil War are likely to be present. The proposed development area, therefore, is recognised as having very*

*significant archaeological potential. Archaeological field evaluation would be advisable on the site to better ascertain the archaeological potential and aid in the design of any future development proposals and mitigation strategies. (Meek 2001)*

- 2.2.2 The archaeological potential for the specific area within which the proposed DMU CEPP building lies was described within Section 8.3 of the desk-based assessment as follows:

### **8.3 Development Area 4**

*Area 4 covers the area of the James Went Building and the surrounding grounds.*

*The eastern side of Area 4 lies adjacent to the former line of the Tripontium road, and thus has the potential for Roman suburban occupation, including archaeological evidence for buildings, plot boundaries and possible burials associated with the former occupants of the plots. This part of the area also has good potential for Anglo-Saxon occupation, suburban medieval occupation and post-medieval occupation. The report has shown that the majority of this area lies within the Newark enclosure, and on the eastern side of the open square of possibly medieval origin, associated with the Collegiate Church of the Annunciation of the Blessed Virgin Mary. The area has thus high potential for the remains of either religious buildings, or ancillary structures associated with the religious community.*

- 2.2.3 Roman archaeology has been recorded in a number of areas around the proposed development area, including cemetery sites to the East (DMU Elfed Thomas Building) and substantial amounts of suburban activity at Bonners Lane, Grange Lane, York Road and Oxford Street. Excavations by University of Leicester Archaeological Services at York Road and Oxford Street to the east of the development area and at Bonners Lane to the south-east have revealed evidence for Anglo-Saxon occupation in the form of structures and finds. Medieval archaeology is represented by suburban occupation, as well as the Newark enclosure. The Newark Wall crosses through the footprint of the proposed DMU CEPP building. Post medieval archaeology is also known within the vicinity of the site, with the continued occupation of the Newark area and considerable activity during the English Civil War.
- 2.2.4 The potential for significant archaeology of Roman, Saxon, medieval and Post-medieval archaeology to have been present within the area is considered to be high. What is less certain is the disturbance that has occurred to the site area and any underlying archaeology that may have been present, from the construction of the former James Went Building. The structure is known to have been piled and with substantial ground beams. The ground beams were all removed during demolition, but the majority of piles were left *in situ* (Michael Moate, Umesh Desai – pers. comm.). The removal of floor slabs and ground beams was undertaken without any archaeological observation, thus the extent of disturbance to any remains that may have been present is unknown. The original ground level of the area is also unknown with evidence to suggest the area has been subject to a considerable amount of landscaping. If the area has been reduced in height then this may have had a detrimental effect on any underlying archaeology, but could have helped to protect remains should the area have been raised in height.

### **3. Archaeological Objectives**

- To identify the presence/absence of any archaeological deposits.
  - To establish the character, extent and date range for any archaeological deposits to be affected by the proposals.
  - To excavate and record any archaeological deposits to be affected by the ground works.
  - To produce an archive and report of any results.
- 3.1 Within the stated project objectives, the principal aim of the evaluation is to establish the nature, extent, date, depth, significance and state of preservation of archaeological deposits on the site in order to determine the potential impact upon them from the proposed redevelopment.
- 3.2 Potentially the evaluation scheme may quickly clarify that the site area has been severely disturbed by past activities (landscaping and construction of the former James Went Building).

It is still possible in such a case that some of the deep foundations of the Newark Precinct Wall may still survive.

#### **4. Methodology**

##### **4.1 *General Methodology and Standards***

- 4.1.1 All work will follow the Institute of Field Archaeologists (IFA) Code of Conduct and adhere to their *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluation* (1999).
- 4.1.2 Staffing, recording systems, health and safety provisions and insurance details are included below.
- 4.1.3 Internal monitoring procedures will be undertaken including visits to the site by the project manager. These will ensure that project targets are met and professional standards are maintained. Provision will be made for external monitoring meetings with the Planning authority and the Client, if required.

##### **4.2 *Trial Trenching Methodology***

- 4.2.1 A proposed trench location plan is included, figure 2. The trenches will attempt to cross over the probable line of the Newark Precinct Wall. They will also be located in an attempt to evaluate both the area of the former footprint of the James Went building and also investigate an area that lay just outside of the footprint to the east. This should both give information on the extent of disturbance from the former structure whilst also giving an indication of the extent of any disturbance outside of the footprint. ULAS have been told that there are no services present within the proposed evaluation area.
- 4.2.2 The site area is *c.*800 sq m in size. It is proposed that two trenches are excavated, both of 20m length and *c.*1.6m – 3m width. This would give a *c.* 8% sample of the site area.
- 4.2.3 Trench 1: This will be located running from the southern corner of the proposed structure, avoiding existing paving slabs and steps, crossing the line of the probable line of the Newark Precinct Wall and into the footprint of the former James Went Building.  
  
Trench 2: This will be located to the east of the former James Went Building footprint. The probable line of the Newark precinct Wall should run through much of this trench.
- 4.2.4 The exact locations and size of the trenches may alter due to unforeseen constraints, and underlying ground conditions. The area has been leveled with demolition material derived from the former James Went Building, which is likely to be very loose and will necessitate the battering of the trench edges to allow access to the trenches. This will be particularly important if the trenches are needed to be excavated to a depth below 1.2m.
- 4.2.5 The present ground surfaces and underlying modern overburden will be removed in level spits, under continuous archaeological supervision, down to the uppermost archaeological deposits by Hymac (or equivalent) using a toothless ditching bucket. Trenches will be excavated to a width of 1.6m – 3m and down to the top of archaeological deposits or undisturbed natural (whichever is encountered first). The trenches will be backfilled and levelled at the end of the evaluation, but surfaces will not be reinstated.
- 4.2.7 Trenches will be examined by hand cleaning and any archaeological deposits located will be planned at an appropriate scale and sample-excavated by hand as appropriate to establish the stratigraphic and chronological sequence. All plans will be tied into the Ordnance Survey National Grid. Relative spot heights will be taken as appropriate.
- 4.2.8 Sections of any excavated archaeological features will be drawn at an appropriate scale. At least one longitudinal face of each trench will be recorded. All sections will be levelled and tied to the Ordnance Survey Datum, or a permanent fixed benchmark.
- 4.2.9 Trench locations will be recorded using an electronic distance measurer. These will then be tied in to the Ordnance Survey National Grid.
- 4.2.10 Any human remains will initially be left *in situ* and will only be removed if necessary for their protection, under a Home Office Licence and in compliance with relevant environmental health regulations.

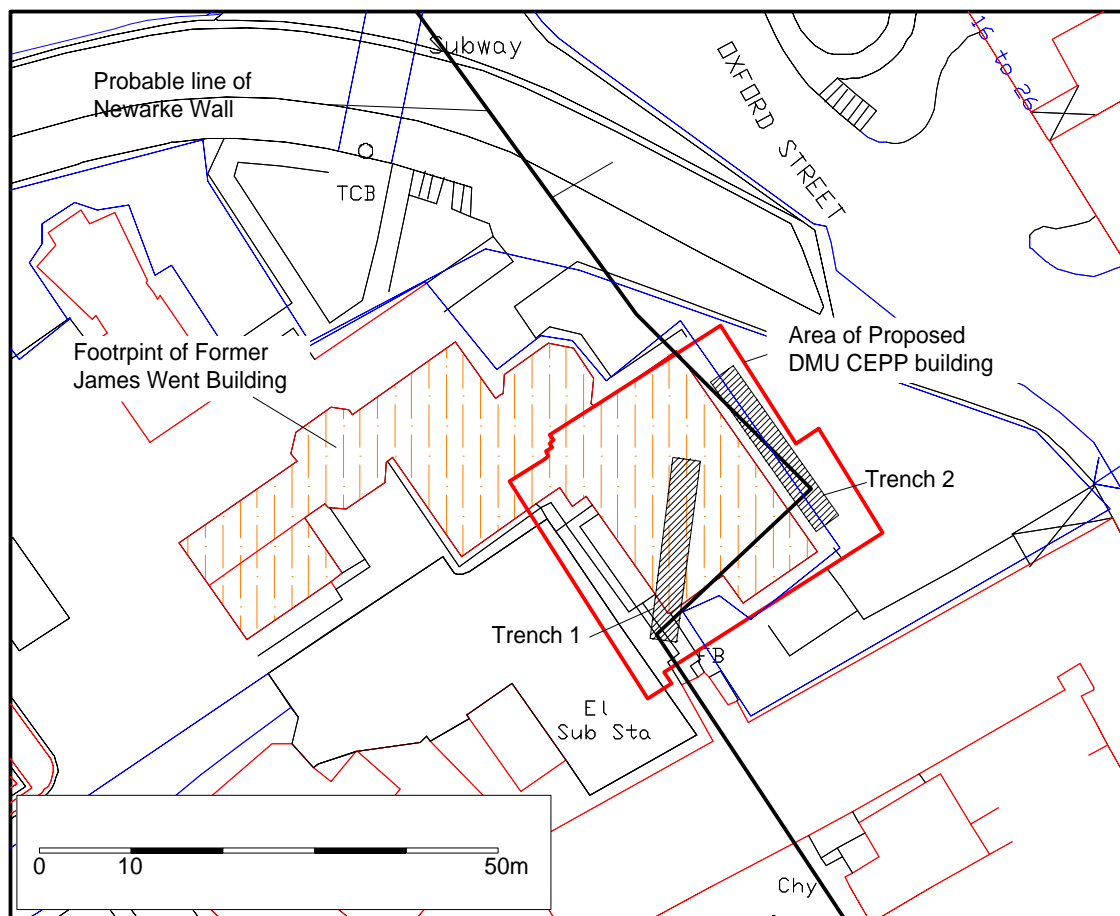


Figure 2: Proposed trench location plan

#### 4.3 **Recording Systems**

- 4.3.1 The ULAS recording manual will be used as a guide for all recording.
- 4.3.2 Individual descriptions of all archaeological strata and features excavated or exposed will be entered onto pro-forma recording sheets.
- 4.3.3 A site location plan based on the current Ordnance Survey 1:1250 map (reproduced with the permission of the Controller of HMSO) will be prepared. This will be supplemented by a trench plan at appropriate scale, which will show the location of the areas investigated in relationship to the investigation area and OS grid.
- 4.3.4 A record of the full extent in plan of all archaeological deposits encountered will be made. Sections including the half-sections of individual layers of features will be drawn as necessary. The relative height of all principal strata and features will be recorded.
- 4.3.5 A photographic record of the investigations will be prepared illustrating in both detail and general context the principal features and finds discovered. The photographic record will also include 'working shots' to illustrate more generally the nature of the archaeological operation mounted.
- 4.3.6 This record will be compiled and checked during the course of the excavations.

#### 5. **Finds and Samples**

- 5.1 The IFA Guidelines for Finds Work will be adhered to.

- 5.2 All antiquities, valuables, objects or remains of archaeological interest, other than articles declared by Coroner's Inquest to be subject to the Treasure Act, discovered in or under the Site during the carrying out of the project by ULAS or during works carried out on the Site by the Client shall be deemed to be the property of ULAS provided that ULAS after due examination of the said Archaeological Discoveries shall transfer ownership of all Archaeological Discoveries unconditionally to Leicester City Museums for storage in perpetuity.
- 5.3 Before commencing work on the site, an accession number to identify all finds and records from the site will be obtained from the City Archaeologist.
- 5.4 During the fieldwork, different sampling strategies may be employed according to the perceived importance of the strata under investigation. Close attention will always be given to sampling for date, structure and environment.
- 5.5 All identified finds and artefacts are to be retained, although certain classes of building material will, in some circumstances, be discarded after recording with the approval of the City Archaeologist. The IFA Guidelines for Finds Work will be adhered to.
- 5.6 All finds and samples will be treated in a proper manner. Where appropriate they will be cleaned, marked and receive remedial conservation in accordance with recognised best practice. This will include the site code number, finds number and context number. Bulk finds will be bagged in clear self sealing plastic bags, again marked with site code, finds and context numbers and boxed by material in standard storage boxes (340mm x 270mm x 195mm). All metal objects will be x-rayed and then selected for conservation. All materials will be fully labelled, catalogued and stored in appropriate containers.

## **6. Report and Archive**

- 6.1 The full report in A4 format will usually follow within eight to twelve weeks and copies will be dispatched to the Client (2 copies), Leicester City Council (2 copies) and the planning authority (1 copy).
- 6.2 The report will include consideration of: -
- The aims and methods adopted in the course of the evaluation.
  - The nature, location, extent, date, significance and quality of any structural, artefactual and environmental material uncovered.
  - The anticipated degree of survival of archaeological deposits.
  - The anticipated archaeological impact of the current proposals.
  - Appropriate illustrative material including maps, plans, sections, drawings and photographs.
  - Summary.
  - The location and size of the archive.
- 6.4 A full copy of the archive as defined in *The Guidelines For The Preparation Of Excavation Archives For Long-Term Storage* (UKIC 1990), and *Standards In The Museum: Care Of Archaeological Collections* (MGC 1992) and *Guidelines for the Preparation of Site Archives and Assessments for all Finds* (other than fired clay objects) (Roman Finds Group and Finds Research Group AD 700-1700 1993) will usually be presented to within six months of the completion of fieldwork. This archive will include all written, drawn and photographic records relating directly to the investigations undertaken.
- 6.5 The archive and finds, including a copy of the excavation report, shall be deposited at the Leicester City Museum. The museum guidelines regarding the acceptance of such material should be taken into account and the recipient museum shall be informed in advance of the date when the site excavation is to commence. There is likely to be a charge for the deposition of the archive with Leicester City Museum, although the charges and eventual size of the archive are not known at this time.

## **7 Publication and Dissemination of Results**

- 7.1 The field evaluation report will be submitted to Leicester City Museum for inclusion in the Sites and Monuments Record. A summary of the work will be submitted to the *Transactions of the Leicestershire Archaeological and Historical Society*. A larger report will be submitted for inclusion if the results of the evaluation warrant it.
- 7.2 ULAS and the Leicester City SMR support the Online Access to the Index of Archaeological Investigations (OASIS) project. ULAS will complete the online OASIS form at <http://ads.ac.uk/project/oasis> on completion of the project and report. ULAS will contact Leicester City SMR prior to completing the form. Once a report has become a public document following its incorporation into Leicester City SMR it may be placed on a web-site. LMP Consultants Ltd. should agree to this procedure in writing as part of the process of submitting the report to Leicester City SMR.

## **8. Acknowledgement and Publicity**

- 8.1 ULAS shall acknowledge the contribution of the Client in any displays, broadcasts or publications relating to the site or in which the report may be included.
- 8.2 ULAS and the Client shall each ensure that a senior employee shall be responsible for dealing with any enquiries received from press, television and any other broadcasting media and members of the public. All enquiries made to ULAS shall be directed to the Client for comment.

## **9. Copyright**

- 9.1 The copyright of all original finished documents shall remain vested in ULAS and ULAS will be entitled as of right to publish any material in any form produced as a result of its investigations.

## **10. Timetable**

- 10.1 It is anticipated that if the archaeological evaluation reveals that the site has been very badly disturbed and no archaeological remains survive within the area then the works may last 1 – 2 days. If surviving archaeological deposits are revealed then the works will be extended to adequately record the remains. The work will involve the presence of two archaeologists on site for the duration of the works (excluding backfilling of the trenches).
- 10.2 The work is scheduled to commence on 21st February 2006.
- 10.3 The evaluation report will be completed at the end of the evaluation. The on-site director/supervisor will carry out the post-excavation work, with time allocated within the costing of the project for specialist reports.

## **11. Health and Safety**

- 11.1 ULAS is covered by and adheres to the University of Leicester Archaeological Services Health and Safety Policy and Health and Safety manual with appropriate risks assessments for all archaeological work. A draft Health and Safety statement for this project is attached as Appendix 1. The relevant Health and Safety Executive guidelines will be adhered to as appropriate. The HSE has determined that archaeological investigations are exempt from CDM regulations.
- 11.2 A Risks assessment form will be completed prior to work commencing on-site, and updated as necessary during the site works.
- 11.3 the site area to be evaluated is free from any services.

## **12. Insurance**

- 12.1 All employees, consultants and volunteers are covered by the University of Leicester public liability insurance, £20m cover with St. Paul Travellers (policy no. UCPOP3651237).

Professional indemnity insurance is with Lloyds Underwriters 50% and Brit Insurance 50%, £10m cover (policy no. PUNIO3605). Employer's Liability Insurance is with St. Paul Travellers, cover £10m (policy no. UCPOP3651237).

### **13. Monitoring arrangements**

- 13.1 Unlimited access to monitor the project will be available to both the Client and his representatives and City Archaeologist subject to the health and safety requirements of the site. The City Archaeologist has been informed of the start date for commencement of these works.
- 13.2 All monitoring shall be carried out in accordance with the IFA *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluations*.
- 13.3 Internal monitoring will be carried out by the ULAS project manager.

### **14. Contingencies and unforeseen circumstances**

- 14.1 In the event that unforeseen archaeological discoveries are made during the archaeological evaluation, ULAS shall inform the site agent/project manager, the City Archaeologist and Planning Authority and prepare a short written statement with plan detailing the archaeological evidence. Following assessment of the archaeological remains by the City Archaeologist, the Archaeological Contractor shall, if required, implement on behalf of the client a contingency scheme for emergency excavation of affected archaeological features.

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