



University of Leicester

Archaeological Services

**A Programme of Archaeological
Attendance, Inspection and Recording
(Watching Brief) at Guildhall Lane,
Leicester**

NGR: SK 58450 04453


Roger Kipling



**A Programme of Archaeological Attendance,
Inspection and Recording (Watching Brief)
at Guildhall Lane, Leicester
NGR: SK 58450 04453**

Roger Kipling

For: Leicester City Council

Approved by:	
Signed:	Date: 20/08/2013
	
Name:	Vicki Score

University of Leicester
Archaeological Services
University Rd., Leicester, LE1 7RH
Tel: (0116) 2522848 Fax: (0116) 2522614

ULAS Report Number 2013-135
©2013
Accession Number A11.2013.

CONTENTS

Summary	3
1. Introduction	3
2. Site Description, Topography and Geology	3
3. Archaeological and Historical Background	5
4. Aims and Objectives	5
5. Methodology	6
6. Results	7
7. Conclusions	9
8. Archive and Publications	10
9. Publication	10
10. Acknowledgements	10
11. Oasis Information	11

FIGURES

Figure 1: Site Location (Scale 1:50 000)	4
Figure 2: Plan of development area with trial trenches (1-3) locations (provided by client)	5
Figure 3: Trial trench 1: viewed south-east; 1m scale	7
Figure 4: Trial trench 2: view north-west	8
Figure 5: Trial trench 3: view south-east	9
Figure 6: Plan of proposed works.	10

A Programme of Archaeological Attendance, Inspection and Recording (Watching Brief) at Guildhall Lane, Leicester

NGR: SK 58450 04453

Roger Kipling

Summary

A programme of archaeological attendance, inspection and recording (watching brief) was undertaken in August 2013 by University of Leicester Archaeological Services on behalf of Leicester City Council during the excavation of trial trenches prior to groundworking activity. The fieldwork was a requirement by Leicester City Council as archaeological advisors to the planning authority in order to identify and record any archaeological identified during the work.

The watching brief did not reveal any archaeological deposits or features. This is most likely due to disturbance by numerous modern services beneath the roadway and pavements. The site archive will be deposited with the Leicester City Council under the accession number A11.2013.

1. Introduction

This report presents the results of a programme of archaeological attendance, inspection and recording (watching brief) carried out in accordance with the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF), (DCLG 2012). The work was undertaken in August 2013 by University of Leicester Archaeological Services on behalf of Leicester City Council during the excavation of trial trenches prior to groundworking activity.

The site lies within an area of high archaeological potential, being located within in the historic Roman and medieval town core and directly adjacent to the medieval Guildhall and cathedral. In view of the potential impact of the development upon archaeological remains, the Leicester City Council Planning Archaeologist, therefore recommended that archaeological work should be undertaken to determine if any buried heritage assets were likely to be affected by the proposed development. A strategy for a programme of archaeological attendance, inspection and recording during groundworks was set out in the Written Scheme for Investigation (ULAS 2013), hereinafter WSI.

2. Site Description, Topography and Geology

The proposed development (SK58450 04453; centre; Figs 1-2) is located on Guildhall Lane, Leicester, where ground works are to be undertaken as part of Leicester City Council's 'Connecting Leicester' project to improve streetscapes in the city centre.

The underlying geology of the area is shown by the British Geological Survey of Great Britain to consist of Branscombe Mudstone overlain with Wanlip Member -

Sand and Gravel formed from rivers depositing mainly sand and gravel material in channels to form river terrace deposits.

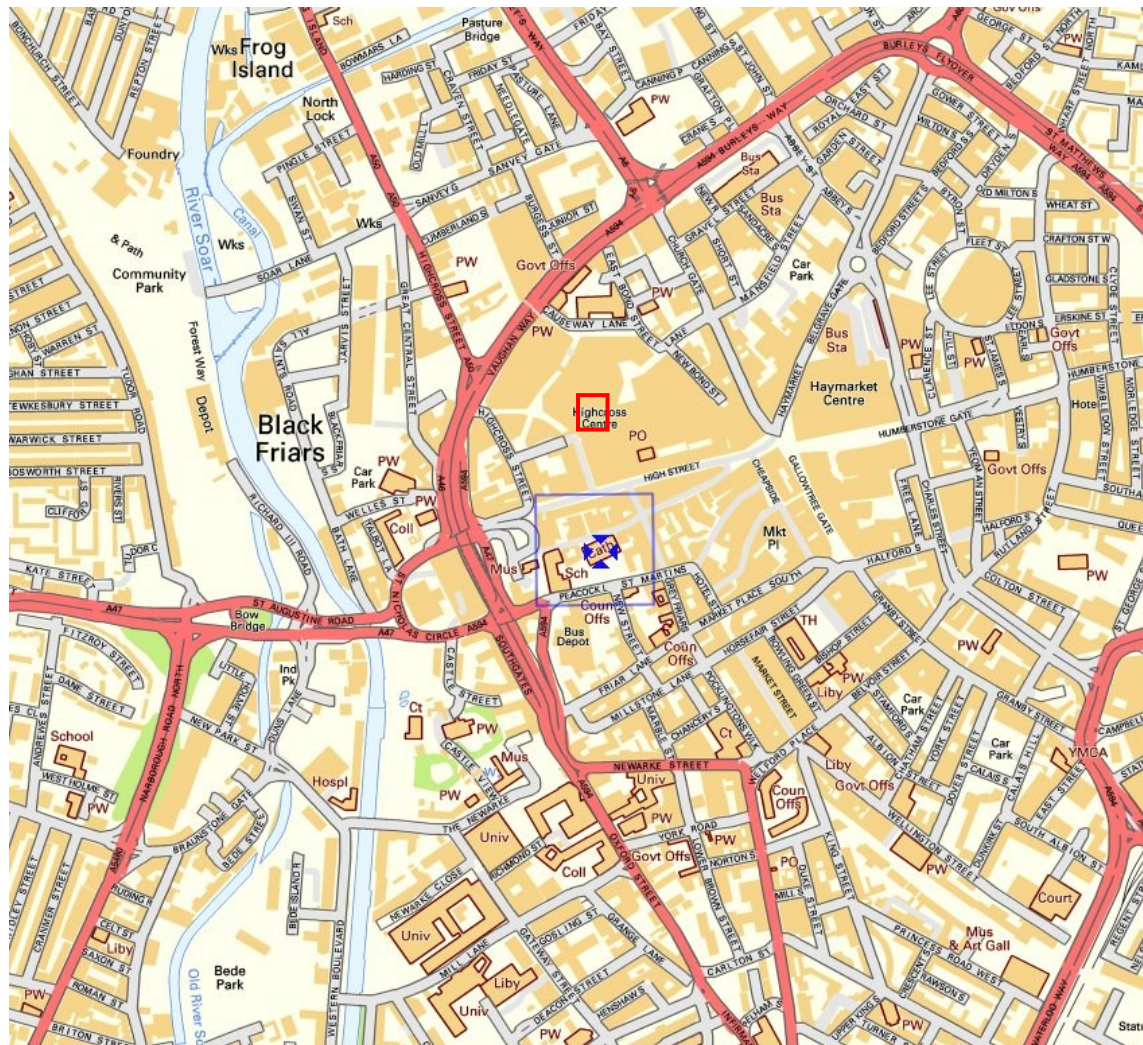


Figure 1: Site Location (Scale 1:50 000)

Reproduced from Landranger 1:50 000 by permission of Ordnance Survey® on behalf of The Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office. © Crown copyright. All rights reserved. Licence number AL 100029495.

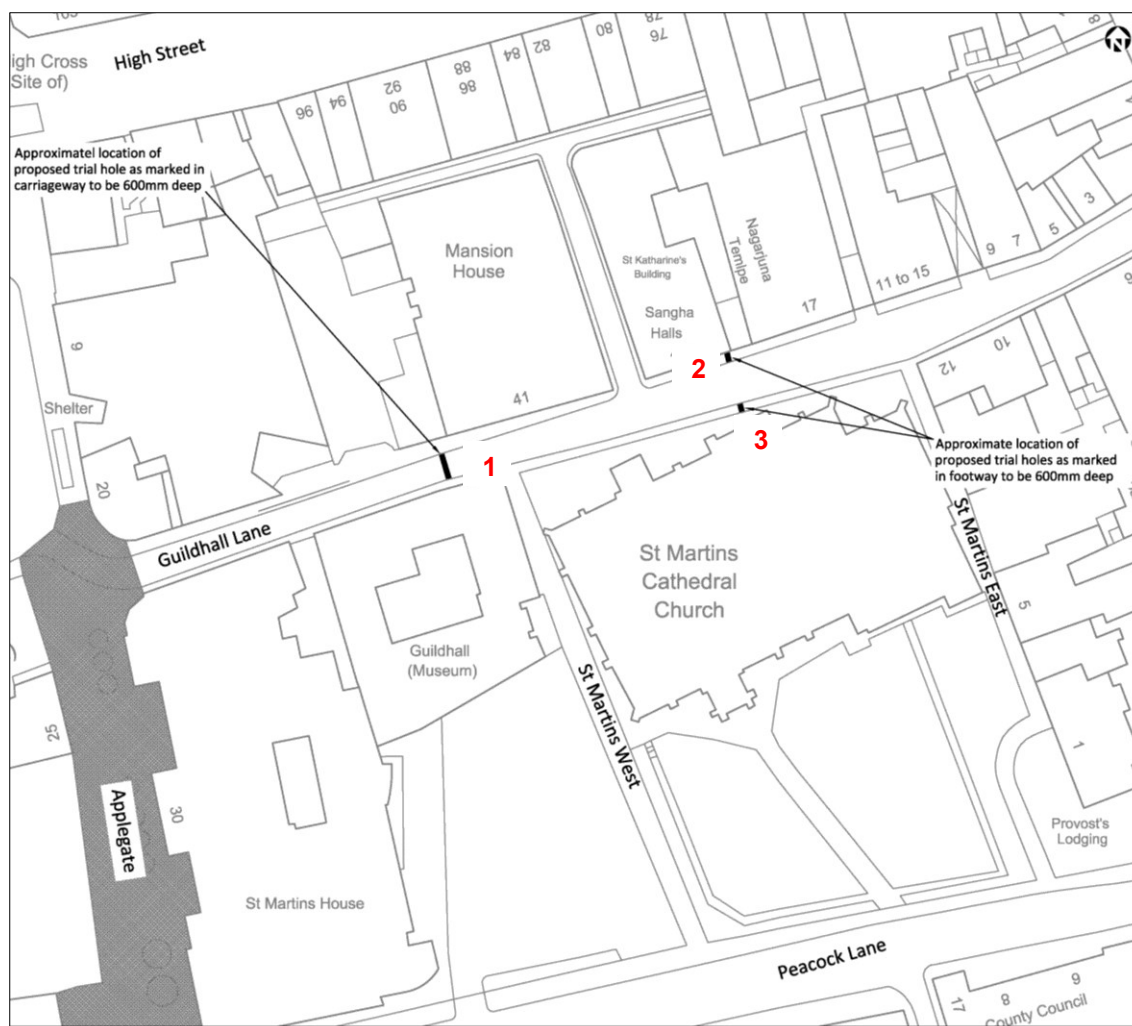


Figure 2: Plan of development area with trial trenches (1-3) locations (provided by client)

3. Archaeological and Historical Background

Leicester's Guildhall began with the Great Hall, built around 1350 for the meetings of the Corpus Christi guild. There was also accommodation for chantry priests who sang masses for the members of the guild in their chapel in St. Martin's church and no doubt kitchens and service buildings or rooms.

As it was deemed likely that the proposed development would have a damaging effect on any archaeological deposits, if present, within the application area, an archaeological attendance for inspection and attendance during trial trenching was required by the planning authority following the approved WSI.

4. Aims and Objectives

The purpose of the archaeological work were to:

- Identify the presence/absence of any earlier building phases or archaeological deposits.
- Establish the character, extent and date range for any archaeological deposits to be affected by proposed ground-works.
- Record any archaeological deposits to affected by the ground-works.
- To advance understanding of the heritage assets
- Produce an archive and report of any results.

Within the stated project objectives, the principal aim of the watching brief was 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 development.

5. Methodology

The work followed the WSI (Clay 2013) and adhered to the Institute for Archaeologists (IfA) *Code of Conduct* (rev. 2012) and adhered to their *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Briefs* (rev. 2008). The LCC *Guidelines and Procedures for Archaeological work Leicestershire and Rutland* (1997) were also adhered to.

Fieldwork was carried out on 5th and 6th August 2013 and involved the hand and machine excavation of three small trial trenches measuring *c.*3.37sq m in total, one of which (1) was cut across the Guildhall Lane roadway and with the other two (2 & 3) located in the pavement.

Excavation of Trench 1 was undertaken using a JCB mechanical excavator fitted with a 0.25m wide toothed ditching bucket, with topsoil and overburden removed carefully in level spits, under continuous archaeological supervision, whilst Trenches 2 & 3 were hand-dug due to the constraints of space and presence of live services.

6. Results

Trial Trench 1

The first and largest trench was located adjacent to the Guildhall and cut across the roadway on a north-west – south-east alignment (Figs 2-3). It measured 3m x 0.70m x 1.05m deep. 0.1m of tarmac, 0.35m of roadstone overlay 0.5m+ of mid grey-brown gritty clay silt garden soil with pebble and gravel inclusions. The trench was crossed by a number of service pipes. There were no indications of archaeology.



Figure 3: Trial trench 1: viewed south-east; 1m scale

Trial Trench 2

Trench 2 targeted the pedestrian footpath on the northern side of Guildhall Lane, its size (1.5m x 0.50m x 0.25m deep) necessitating its being dug by hand (Figs 2 & 4). The external wall of a 19th/20th century cellar and services cables and pipes were encountered. There were no indications of archaeology.



Figure 4: Trial trench 2: view north-west

Trial Trench 3

The third and final trench was positioned in the southern footpath of Guildhall Lane and measured 1.3m x 0.4m x 1m deep (Figs 2 & 5). Approximately 0.25m of roadstone overlay 0.75m+ of mid grey-brown gritty clay silt garden soil. Again, there were no indications of archaeology.



Figure 5: Trial trench 3: view south-east

7. Conclusions

The archaeological programme of archaeological attendance, inspection and recording (watching brief) undertaken at Guildhall Lane, Leicester, revealed no indications of archaeological finds or features, likely due to the presence of numerous modern service pipes and cables in both the road line and beneath the pavements.

The remaining work will involve excavations to a depth of 450mm in the footway area and will plane a maximum of 200mm in the road area for out construction (Fig. 6). Based on the results of the watching brief it seems unlikely that archaeological deposits will be encountered at these depths.

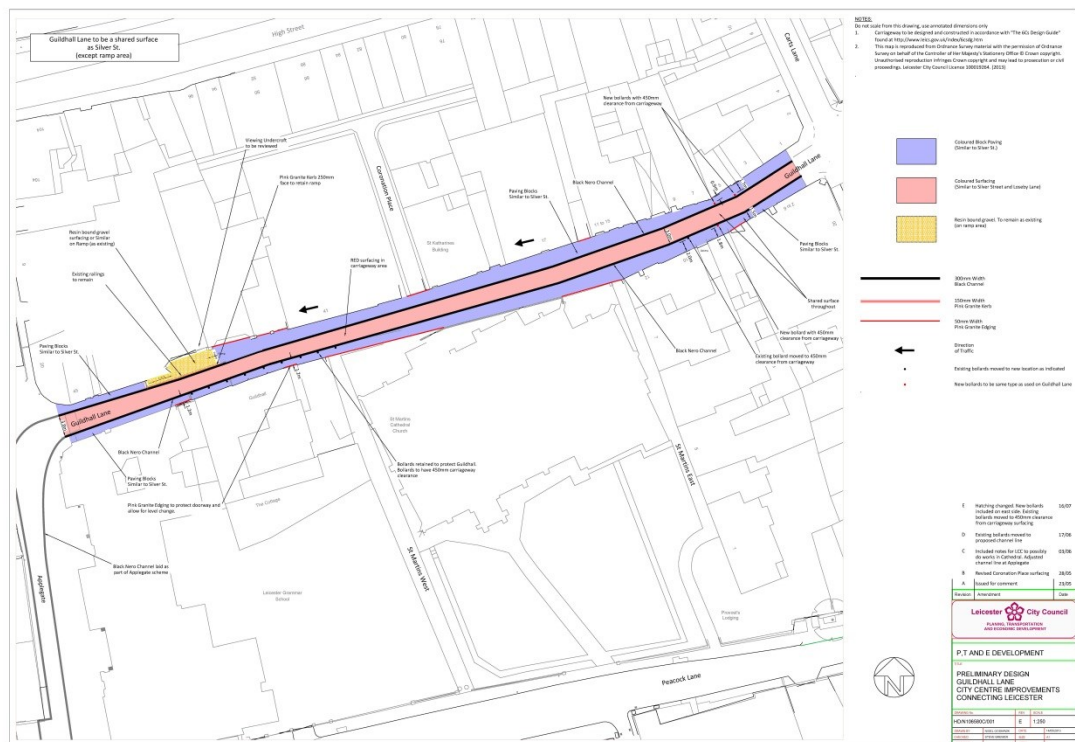


Figure 6: Plan of proposed works.

8. Archive and Publications

The site archive (A11.2013), consisting of paper and photographic records, will be housed with Leicester City Council.

The archive consists of:

- A watching brief recording sheet
- 14 digital photographs
- A risk assessment form

9. Publication

A version of the excavation summary (see above) will appear in due course in the *Transactions of the Leicestershire Archaeological and Historical Society*.

10. Acknowledgements

Roger Kipling of ULAS undertook the archaeological evaluation on behalf of Leicester City Council. The project was managed by Patrick Clay.

11. Oasis Information

Project Name	Guildhall Lane
Project Type	Archaeological watching brief
Project Manager	Patrick Clay
Project Supervisor	Roger Kipling
Previous/Future work	Construction
Current Land Use	Highway
Development Type	Highway improvements
Reason for Investigation	PPS5
Position in the Planning Process	Post-determination requirement
Site Co ordinates	SK58450 04453
Start/end dates of field work	5th and 6th August 2013
Archive Recipient	Leicester City Council
Study Area	

Dr Roger Kipling
ULAS
University of Leicester
University Road
Leicester LE1 7RH
Tel:0116 252 2836
Fax: 0116 252 2614

Email: rwk1@le.ac.uk

© ULAS 12/08/2013

Contact Details

Richard Buckley or Patrick Clay
University of Leicester Archaeological
Services (ULAS)
University of Leicester,
University Road,
Leicester LE1 7RH

T: +44 (0)116 252 2848

F: +44 (0)116 252 2614

E: ulas@le.ac.uk

w: www.le.ac.uk/ulas



INVESTOR IN PEOPLE



THE Awards Winner
2007, 2008, 2009, 2010, 2011, 2012