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Archaeological Services

**An Archaeological Excavation
on land adjacent to the
former DMU Law Building,
Newarke Street, Leicester**

NGR: SK 5855 0409

Sophie Clarke
& A.Gnanaratnam



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**Sophie Clarke &
A. Gnanaratnam**

For: J. A. Ball Ltd.

Planning App. No. 20101307

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An Archaeological Excavation on land adjacent to the former DMU Law Building, Newarke Street, Leicester

Sophie Clarke and A. Gnanaratnam

Summary

Archaeological excavations were carried out on land adjacent to the former De Montfort University (DMU) Law Building, Newarke Street, Leicester. The work focused on the stripping of four discreet areas of good archaeological survival, previously identified through earlier phases of investigation.

Area 1 comprised the route of a cable trench leading southwards from Newarke Street, towards the footprint of a proposed electricity substation to the north of the former DMU Law building. Here, the earliest phase of activity was represented by two Roman pits, but the remainder of the features in this area related to medieval occupation from the 13th to perhaps the early 15th century. The earliest medieval feature here was a large boundary ditch, aligned north-south, which may have gone out of use in the earlier 13th century. Overlying the ditch were the remains of a stone wall. This was associated with a series of pebble and plaster floor layers, suggesting the former presence of a substantial building. This in turn had gone out of use by the later 15th century. Later wall fragments and pits provide evidence for the continued occupation of the area in the later 15th century. Evidence for the later activity was removed by truncation perhaps in the 19th century.

Area 2 was located to the north, within the Roman cemetery which was excavated in 1993 (Cooper 1996). Following the demolition of standing buildings, only a small area of archaeology was observed to have survived modern truncation, including the base of a 2nd century Roman ditch previously recorded in 1993, with a partially truncated inhumation burial of 4th century date, cut into the top of this.

Area 3 comprised a small extension to the 2011 excavation area (Jarvis 2013), containing a small scatter of Roman deposits indicating occupation during the later 2nd century.

Area 4 comprised a watching brief undertaken during the excavation of a large cable trench running alongside the northern wall of the former school building. The area had been highly truncated by modern services and deposits of archaeological significance were recorded.

Area 5 comprised a watching brief on the connection of drains. However the intended area was found to be completely destroyed by a recent manhole and associated drains.

The Planning authority is Leicester City Council (Planning application No. 20101307), with whom the site archive will be held, under the accession no. A7.2013.

1. Introduction

Planning permission has been granted by Leicester City Council for the construction of student accommodation on land bounded by Newarke Street and Oxford Street, Leicester, following demolition of selected buildings (Planning application No. 20101307). The site lies immediately to the south of the walls of Roman and medieval Leicester, within an area known to have been used as a cemetery between the 1st and 4th centuries AD. This work was carried out as part of a condition placed on the development as requested by Leicester City Council. This report presents the results of this fieldwork, including summarising the initial evaluation project on site.

2. Site Description, Land use, Topography and Geology

The site is located between Newarke Street and Oxford Street in the south suburb of the city of Leicester, to the rear of the built up Newarke Street frontage (NGR: SK 5855 0409; Fig. 1). The proposed development area is approximately 350 sq. m.



Figure 1: Site Location. © contains OS data.

Until recently the excavation area contained modern standing buildings associated with the former De Montfort University School of Law. The original Oxford Street School building of 1874 located to the south of the excavation area, which had been proposed for demolition, is now to be retained and is in the process of being converted to form student accommodation at the time of writing. The remainder of the area has been levelled. Access into the site is from Newarke Street, in the north-west corner of the site. The area exhibits a gentle north to south gradient that descends by *c.* 0.3m from *c.* 64m AOD. The site development area is bounded by standing buildings to the east, south and west, somewhat restricting the availability of land for fieldwork immediately adjacent.

The Ordnance Survey Geological Survey of Great Britain Sheet 156 and previous observations indicate that the underlying geology consists of Mercia mudstone, with overlying river sands and gravels.

3. Historical and Archaeological Background

The site lies *c.* 150m to the south of the line of the Roman and medieval town defences. According to the City Historic Environment Record the building lies on the site of a Roman cemetery, a Roman extra-mural suburb, and a medieval extra-mural suburb.

The site is within an area containing both inhumation and cremation burials (Cooper 1996; Gossip 1998; Derrick 2009; Higgins 2009; Thomas 2010). It was therefore thought that the potential was greatest for further burial activity of this nature. In 1993 the area immediately to the north of the proposed new building was the subject of an archaeological excavation (Cooper 1996). This revealed Roman occupation between the 1st century AD until the mid-2nd century. Thereafter, between the mid-2nd century and the 4th century the area was used as an inhumation cemetery. The remains of 38 inhumation burials dating from this period were recovered. The south edge of the cemetery was believed to be demarcated by ditches running east/west. Immediately south of this, a now truncated road had been postulated. It was uncertain if there would be a continuation of the cemetery to the south. After the cemetery activity, there were few traces of any significant activity on the site between the 4th and the 12th century; thereafter the area was again used for human settlement.

More generally the site was thought to lie within the medieval south suburb of Leicester. Archaeological evidence for this has been revealed further south (Finn 2004; Gossip 1998), and this extended along Oxford Street towards the town gate. It is not clear whether it extended along Hangmans Lane, whose line is very approximately echoed by the modern Newarke Street. The first mention of the south suburb is around 1200, when a land grant mentions both burgesses and tenants living without the South Gate (Courtney 1998, 15). There is little further mention of the suburb during the medieval period; a handful of deeds relating to the west side of Oxford Street, (Records of the Borough of Leicester (RBL) II, 296, 346, 421, 431) and two deeds for land and cottage somewhere on Oxford Street (RBL II, 414, 415). One deed of 1337 records the grant of land on Hangmans Lane, it is not clear whether there would have been any domestic buildings on the property, and the area is referred to as the 'Southcrofts' (RBL II, 389). This however, probably reflects the paucity of Leicester's surviving records rather than a lack of settlement. The 14th century rental of Lord Grey lists

twelve properties outside the South Gate (RBL II, 200), a tax Roll of perhaps 1497 lists fifteen eligible tax payers with property excluding land, to the value of ten or more marks (RBL 11, 352), and a Benevolence Roll of 1505 lists fifty-four names in properties outside the South Gate (RBL II, 370). This suggests that the South Suburb was by the later medieval period a populous area with some prosperous inhabitants. The later Lay Subsidies of 1524 and 1544 however, show the area, taken together with Horsefair and Millstone Lane, to have been the poorest part of the town (Courtney 1998, 15). In preparations for the Civil War, this was the only one of Leicester's suburbs to have been demolished perhaps reflecting the relative poverty of its inhabitants (Courtney 1998, 15).

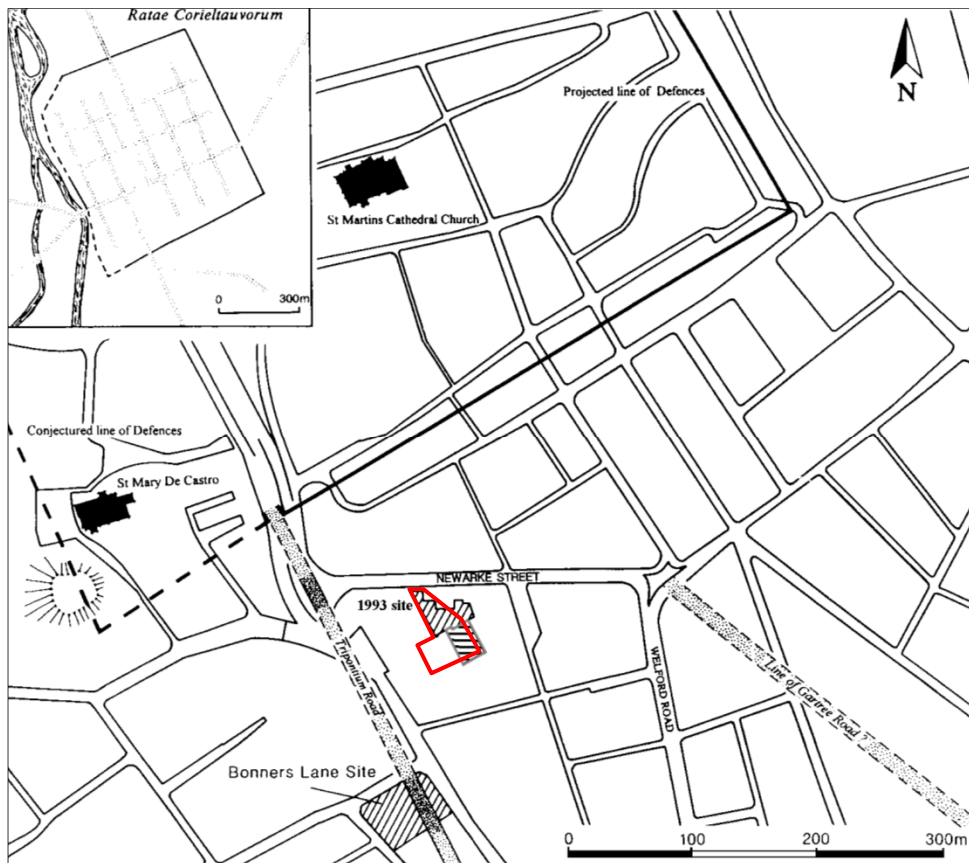


Figure 2: Location of site (highlighted in red) within historic Leicester.

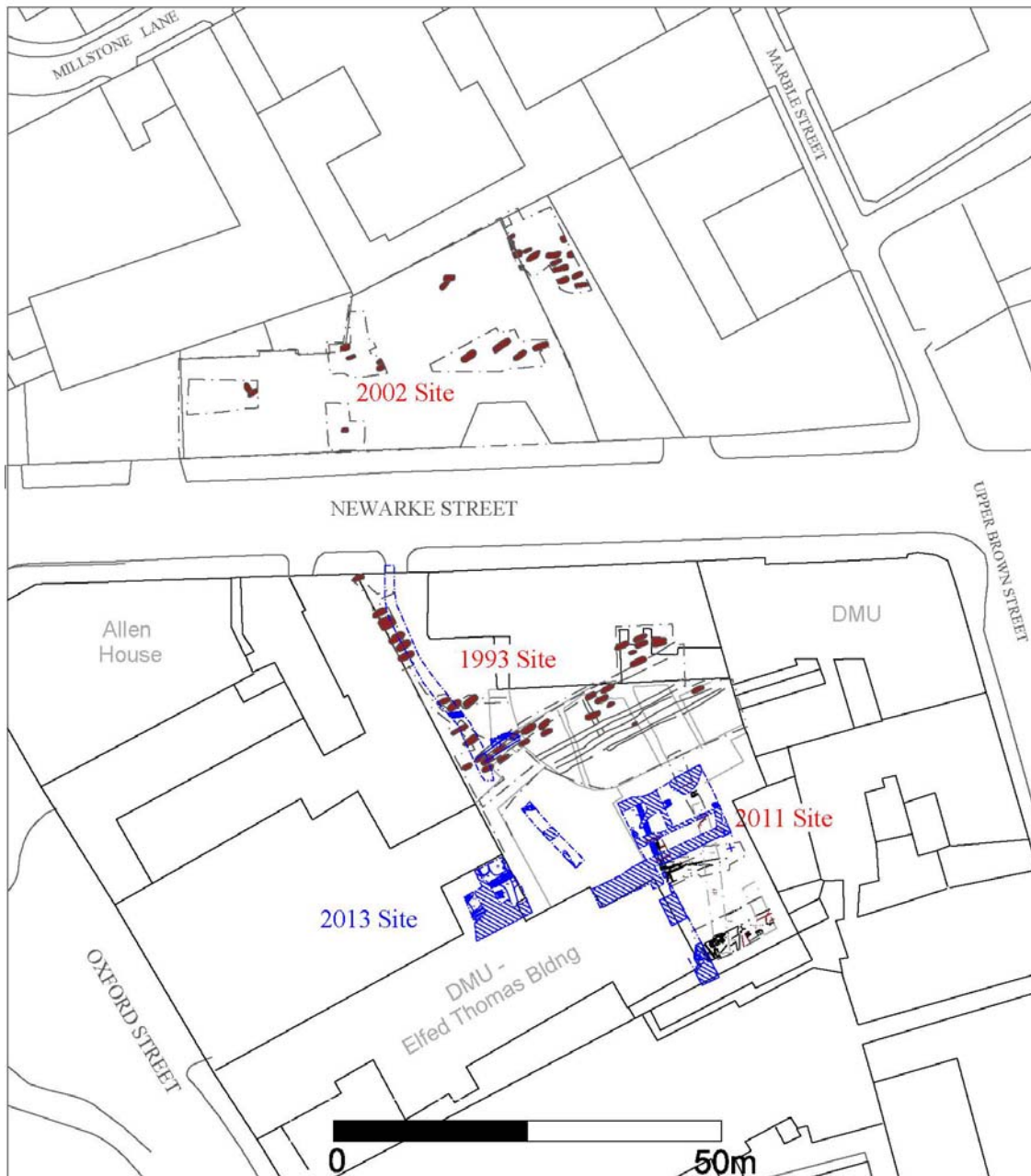


Figure 3: Location of current excavations (highlighted in blue) in relation to nearby Roman cemetery sites (1993 Site – Cooper 1996, 2002 Site – Derrick 2009, 2011 Site –Jarvis 2013).

4. Aims and Objectives

The work was carried out in accordance with the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF), following advice provided by the City Archaeologist at Leicester City Council.

The objective of the fieldwork was to gain an indication of the nature, extent, date, depth, significance and state of preservation of any archaeological deposits present, in order to mitigate the impact of the proposed development.

The specific aims of the archaeological fieldwork 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 groundworks.
- To record to an appropriate level the archaeological remains revealed.
- To produce an archive and report of any results.

5. Methodology

The City Archaeologist requested the excavation of the following areas (Fig. 4).

- **Area 1:** A substation and service trench running from Newarke Street towards the old school building along the west side of the development area. The service trench was to utilise the existing disturbed area previously excavated and an archaeologist was present to make sure that the new service trench stays within the confines of the old trench. There was be a small area close to the old school building that is undisturbed that needed to be stripped and excavated.
- **Area 2:** A small triangle of land close to the cemetery area in the north of a site that has not previously been excavated.
- **Area 3:** Small areas to the east of the old school building. Excavations in 2011 showed that much of this area was disturbed by cellars from buildings that ran from the old school building to the east although small areas of undisturbed archaeological deposits were identified and there could be some small pockets of archaeology surviving in this area.
- **Area 4:** Watching brief along north of former school building.
- **Area 5 :** Watching brief on connection of drains to manhole by road.

Areas were stripped using a mechanical excavator (360 or similar) equipped with a wide toothless ditching bucket. The topsoil and other overlying layers were removed under full archaeological supervision until either the top of archaeological deposits or the natural undisturbed substratum was reached. The area was examined for archaeological deposits or finds by hand cleaning. The stripped area and features were tied into the Ordnance Survey National Grid and then after the end of fieldwork the area was backfilled and leveled.

The work followed the approved Written Scheme of Investigation (ULAS 2012) and adhered to the Institute for Archaeologists (IfA) *Code of Conduct* (2012) and adhered to their *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Evaluations and Excavations* (2008).

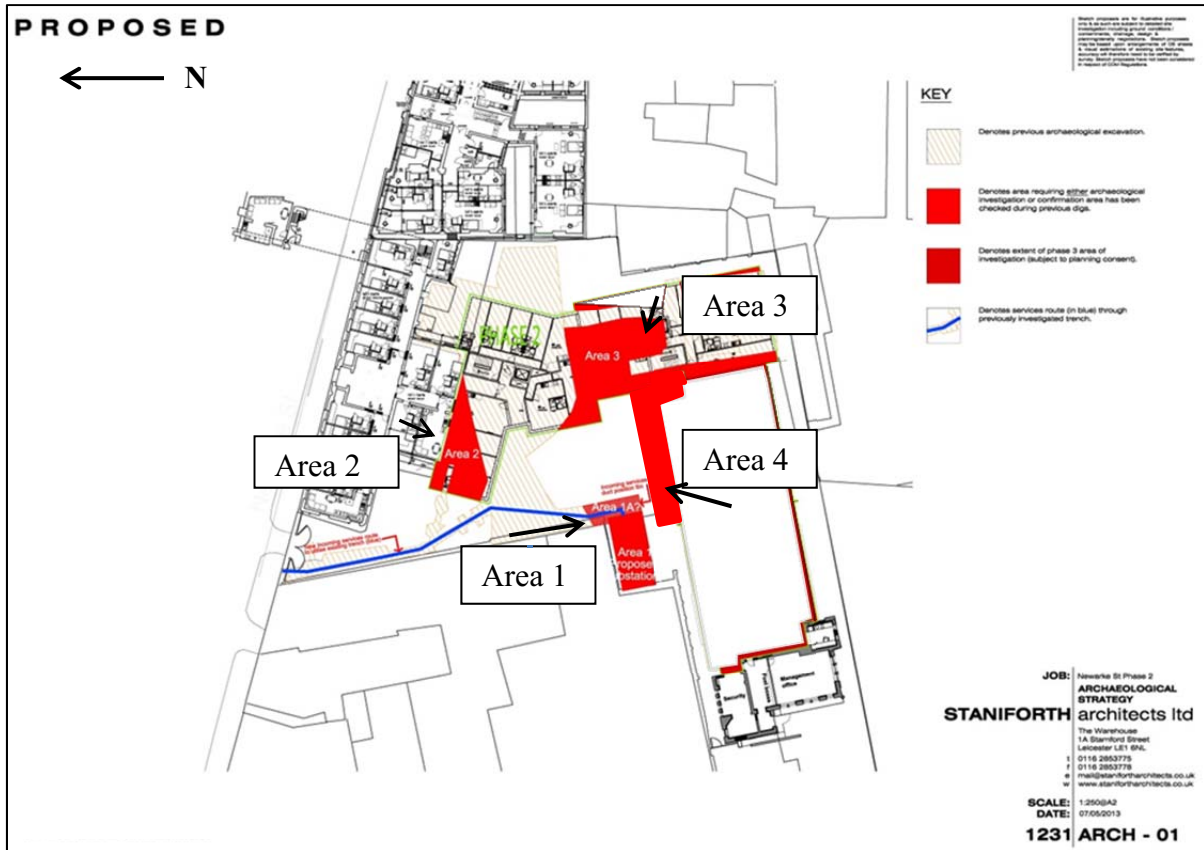


Figure 4: Location of Excavation Areas 1-4 (plan supplied by developer; not to scale)

6. Results

Salvage excavation was carried out with a 360 mini-digger used to reduce the level across the targeted areas 1-4 to the level of archaeological survival (Figure 4).

Area 1 - Service Trench

A new service trench was excavated under archaeological supervision from the site entrance on Newarke Street towards the site of the new electricity substation adjacent to the former Oxford Street School building (Figs 5-6). The trench measured *c.* 1m wide and ran for approximately 30m from north to south, the northern end cut entirely within the line of an earlier service trench. Two archaeological deposits were observed in this area. A ditch [2], filled with greyish brown silty-clay (1) and aligned roughly east/west was previously recorded as Ditch 16.3 during the excavations of 1993 (Cooper 1996, p.30) and produced sherds of 12th/13th century pottery. No further finds were recovered from the ditch fill during the watching brief. At the northern end of the cable run, the fill of a grave cut (3) [4] could be seen in the east facing section, which may equate to the remains of grave 15.37, recorded in the 1993 excavations. This grave had contained the remains of an adult individual, with a single nail possibly indicating a coffin. The burial had been heavily truncated by a medieval ditch, and only the right arm and some ribs remained *in situ*.

To the south of the main trench, was a short extension, measuring approximately 10m long. At the northern end of this were the remains of two cut features [72] and [74] (Fig. 7) which ran beneath the edges of the excavated area and were only partially seen

in plan. Each cut had vertical edges and flattish bases, but produced no finds from their fills. Form, function and date of each feature are unknown.

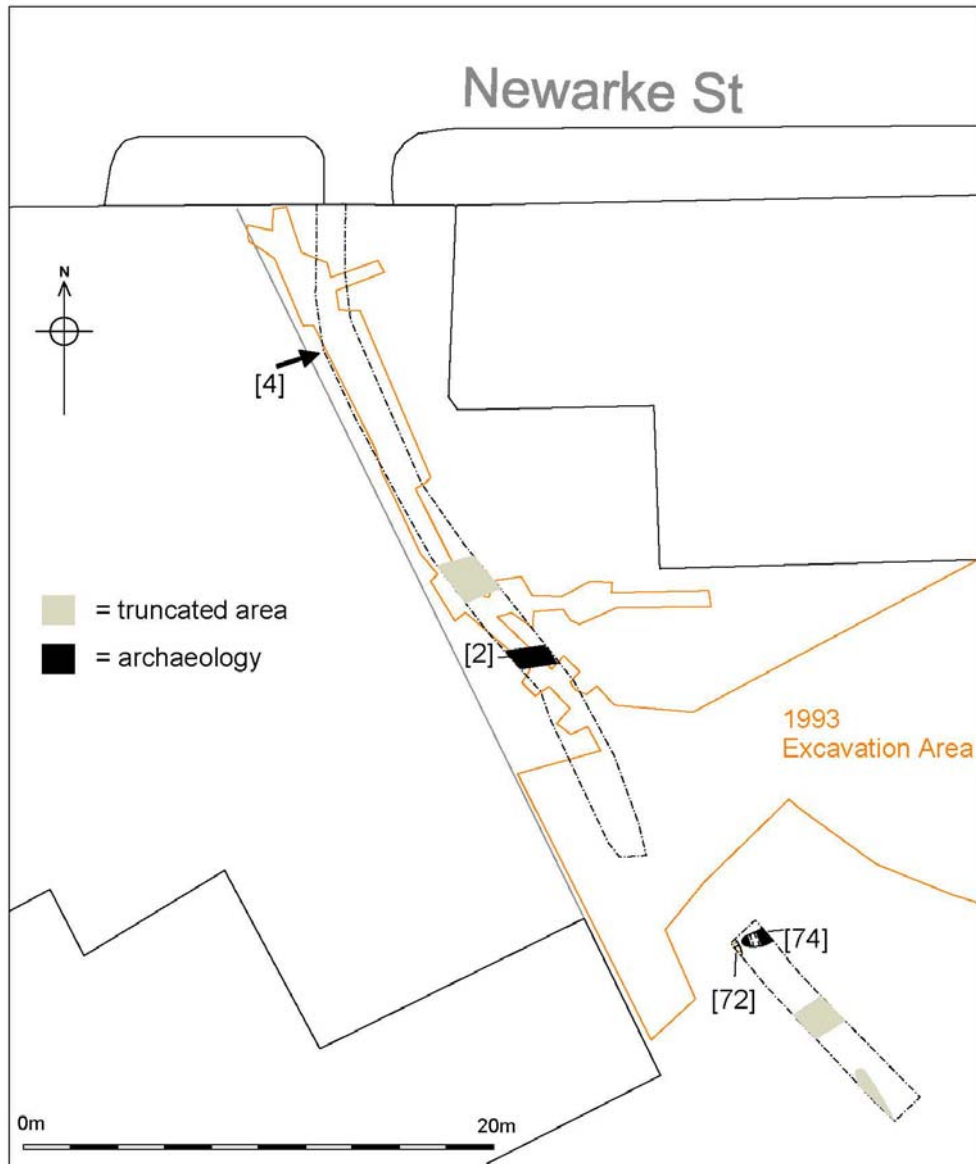


Figure 5: Area 1, service trenches, with Roman gully [2] and undated features [72] and [74].



Figure 6: Area 1 service trench, looking north.



Figure 7: Area 1 service trench, looking north, with undated features [72] and [74].

Area 1 - Substation

Following the demolition of a 20th century toilet block, a small area measuring approximately 8m sq was stripped of overburden under archaeological supervision to the north of the former school building, within the footprint of a proposed electricity substation (Fig. 8). Well-preserved, stratified archaeological deposits were recorded on the east and western sides of a large, modern pipe trench which ran from north-south, truncating all archaeological remains within the central part of the area.

Phase 1- Roman. Fig. 8

The earliest archaeological deposits in this area were features [39] and [49], located on the eastern side (Fig. 8). Possible post-hole [39] was oval in plan, measuring approximately 0.6m long by 0.4m wide and was 0.18m deep, with a circular depression in the base. Its fill (40) consisted of pale, greyish brown clay-silt, containing fragments of bone but no dating evidence. To the north of this was pit [49], a shallow, sub-circular pit, measuring approximately 0.85m in diameter. This was filled with pale greyish brown sandy-silt (48) and contained fragments of Roman brick or tile. Cut into the top of the pit was a small round post-hole [45], which measured 0.4m in diameter and 0.19m deep, with vertical sides and a rounded base. This was filled with granite rubble and small cobbles, within a matrix of mid-brown, sandy silt (44) which also yielded fragments of Roman ceramic building material (CBM). Post-hole [39] and pit [49] were truncated along their western edges by a large medieval ditch [34], aligned roughly north/south across the area.

Discussion of Phase 1

The probable Roman remains are limited to a post-hole and a small pit or posthole. Being isolated within such a small area examined there is no way of knowing what these indicate.

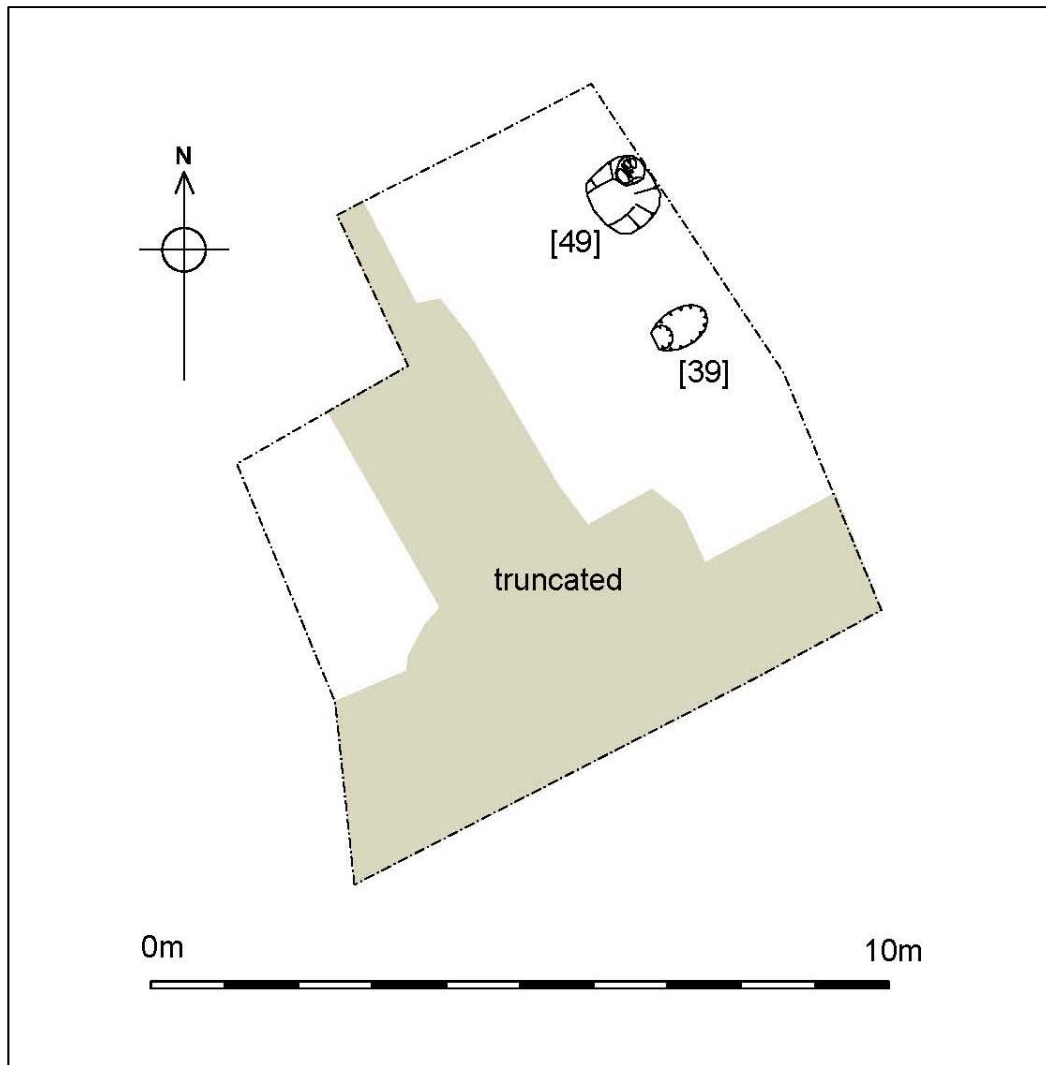


Figure 8: Area 1 substation: Phase 1 Roman features.

Phase 2- Medieval, Ceramic Phase 8 1100 – 1250 and Ceramic Phase 9 1250 - 1400

Phase 2A – (Ceramic Phase 8, 1100 -1250). Fig. 9

On the eastern side of the trench, ditch [34] was revealed, running north – south. It measured 2.4m wide and was excavated to a depth of 0.7m, with sides sloping at an angle of *c.* 45°. Fill (36=38) consisted of mid-dark, greyish brown, silty clay, lenses of pebbles indicated filling or tipping into the ditch from the east. It contained medieval pottery dating from the 12th-13th centuries, perhaps before 1250. Residual Roman brick and tile fragments were also found.

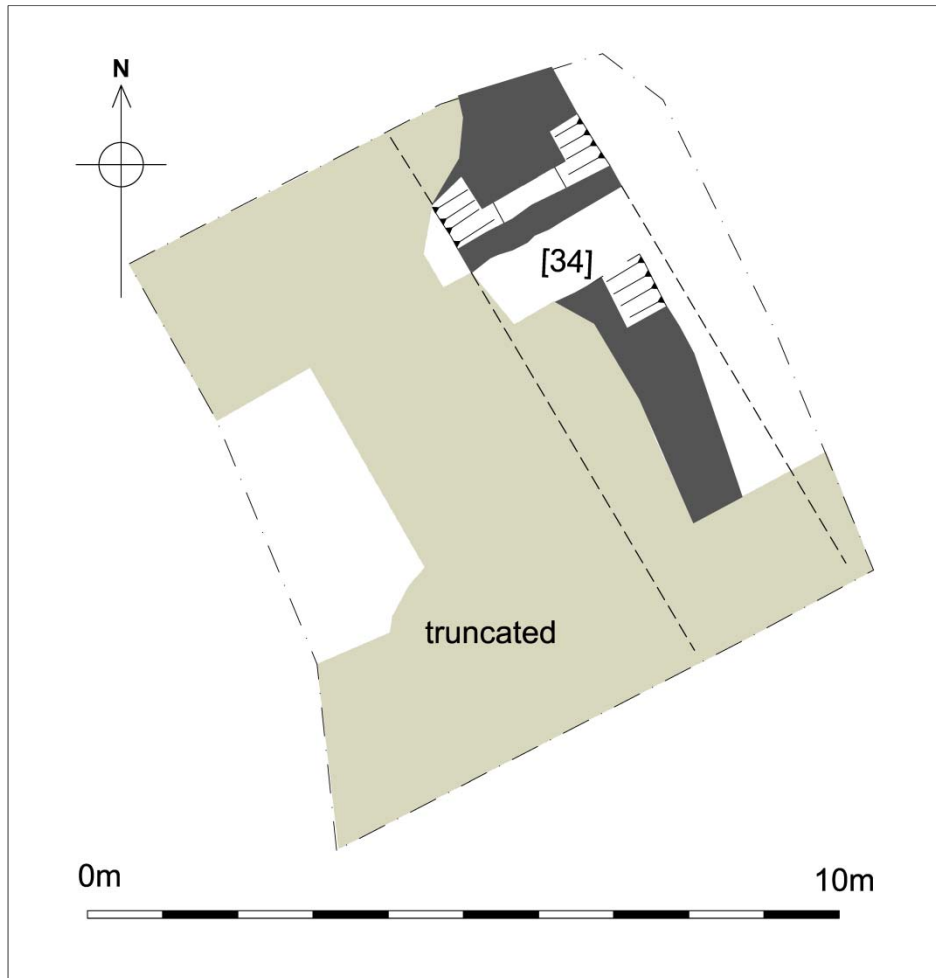


Figure 9- Phase 2A. Projected line of the ditch shown as dashed line

Phase 2B – (Ceramic Phase 8 1100 – 1250). Fig. 10

Overlying ditch [34] were the remains of a substantial wall (23) (Fig. 13). The wall was truncated at either end, but a 3.2m length survived, measuring between 0.85 and 1.05m wide. This was aligned east to west and was constructed almost entirely of granodiorite rubble blocks, typically 0.25 – 0.30m in length, with occasional fragments of slate and Danehills sandstone. The wall was roughly coursed, each *c.* 0.10m deep and ‘faced’ on the external surfaces, with irregular rubble infill in between. This was largely soil bonded; towards the eastern end however, stones were bonded with red clay. The wall is likely to have been associated with the remains of a series of floor surfaces located to the north (see below): a single course of the superstructure survived above this presumed floor level, with two courses of footings surviving below. The external face appeared to have been trench built, although the trench was not itself observed. This would suggest that the floor would have been near to or at the contemporary ground level. On the inner face a number of stones were missing for a length of 0.50m and to a depth of 0.24m, leaving a flat base with two vertical sides. This appeared to be a deliberate feature rather than the result of later truncation, and may relate to an internal feature of the building.

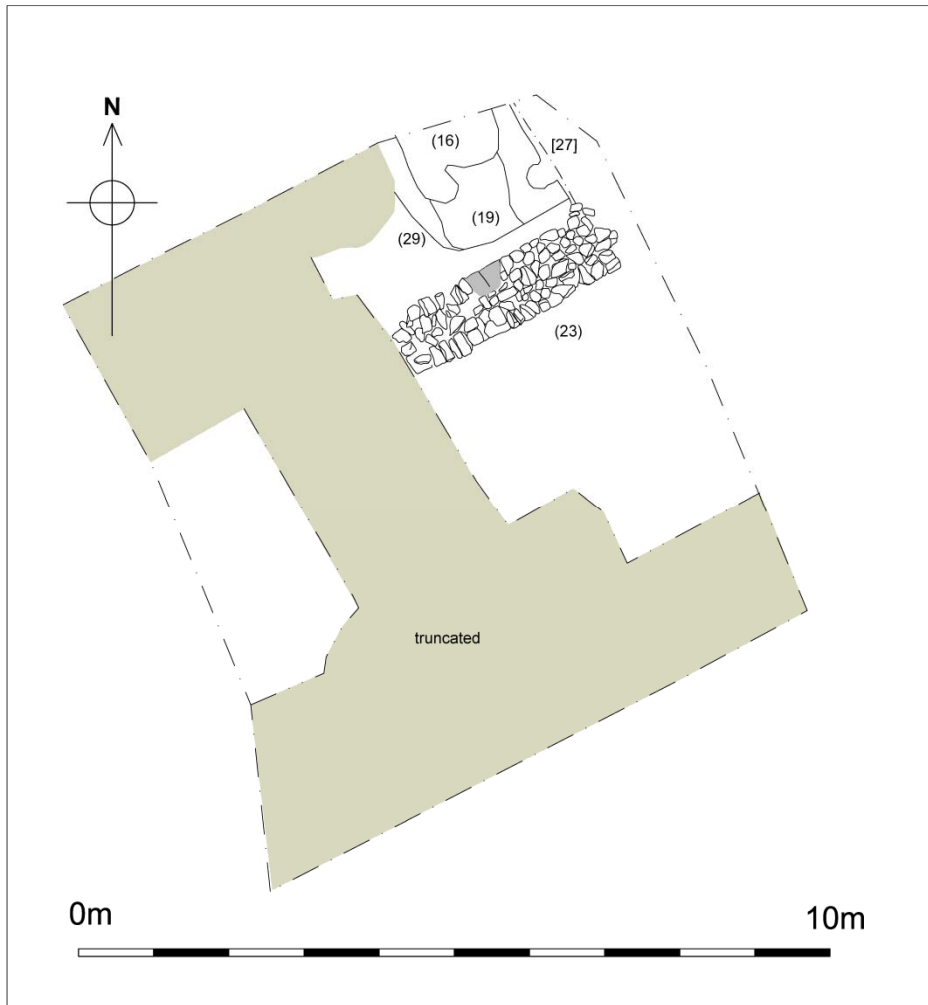


Figure 10 - Phase 2B. The 'socket' in wall (23) is shown in grey

Immediately north of wall (23) were the remains of two sequences of floors (Figs 12, 15-16). Over the first was a reddish brown clay silt (14), which produced late medieval pottery (1450-1550). Below this was a crushed mortar layer (16) overlying a plaster floor (18), which sat above a pebble surface (21). Below this was a plaster floor over a pebble surface, amalgamated as (22) and compacted pebble surfaces (21, 22), which survived within a slight depression in the natural clay [24]. Immediately next to the wall was a thin plaster floor (20), which had been patched in places with reddish brown clay (19).

Phase 2C – (Ceramic Phase 9, 1250 – 1400) Fig. 11

At the eastern end of wall (23) was a linear feature comprising mid red clay and clayey silt (26), sat in a shallow 'cut' [28]. This measured 0.16m wide, 0.06m deep and 1.46m in length, although cut by later activity. The clayey material is much the same as that occurring in the eastern part of the wall. It is likely that this is either the remnants of an, at least partly, earth built partition or perhaps a beam slot. Attached to this was a shallow post-hole (27) which measured 0.28m across. Fill (26) contained a fragment of medieval ridge tile, of 13th-14th century date.

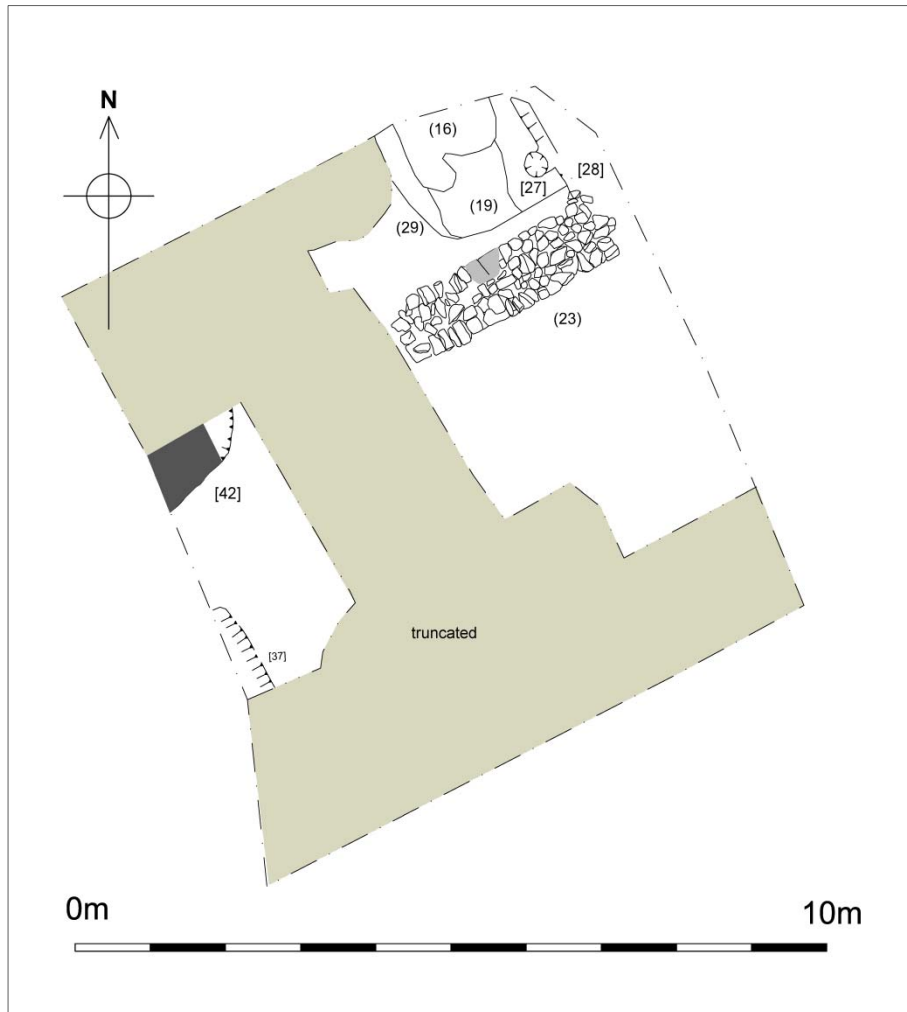


Figure 11 - Phase 2C. The 'socket' in wall (23) shown in grey

Although not observed on site, the photographic record indicates a possible disruption to the wall at the junction of wall (23) and (26). This might possibly indicate the structure suggested by (26) may have been built into the wall at this level. The dating is poor for [28] but it seems to post-date the initial construction of the building.

On the western side of the excavated area, a small part of what appeared to be a second linear feature aligned north-south was observed to run beneath the edge of excavation, allowing only partial excavation. This possible ditch [37] had sides sloping at an angle of approximately 45° down to a flat base at a depth of 0.23m. Fill (35) consisted of dark greyish brown, sandy silt and contained fragments of Roman and medieval pottery (1250-1350), in addition to a fragment of a residual Roman bone pin.

In the north western part of the trench, part of a pit [42] was exposed. This had near vertical sides, but was only dug to a depth of 0.20m and not bottomed. It was filled by (41), a dark grey brown, sandy silt, which overlay (43) a pinkish clay. This contained pottery and ridge tile fragments of Potters Marston and Fabric CCI.



Figure 12: Area 1 substation: Phase 2b structural remains wall (23) with surface (21)



Figure 13: Wall (23) showing possible post socket

Discussion of Phase 2

The date for the initial excavation of the north/south aligned ditch is unknown. However, there was no indication of recuts so it may not have had a particularly long lifespan. This presumably indicates a property boundary aligned with Oxford Street, perhaps the rear of a plot fronting onto Oxford Street. The ceramic assemblage indicates that it was backfilled in the 12th-13th centuries, probably before 1250. This would suggest the extension of the plot eastwards.

This was followed by the construction of a building represented by wall (23) and associated floor and make up layers. Whether it extended much further westwards is unclear, due to truncation from later service trenches. It is likely to have extended further eastwards although the extent is unknown. Although subject to considerable later damage, no evidence for floors was seen south of (23) and thus it was probably the southern wall of the building.

Truncation may well have removed evidence for later flooring, however the clay feature (28) seems to indicate some alteration or remodelling of the building, perhaps the insertion of a partition. This may have occurred in the late 13th century. This may also be relevant to the possible socket on the northern face of the wall. The possibility exists that it is a setting for a post, such as would support a screen (Neil Finn pers comm), although this cannot be verified.

Phase 3- Ceramic Phase 10 (1400 – 1500)

Phase 3A (Ceramic Phase 10, 1400 – 1500). Fig. 14

To the south of wall (23) was a large circular pit [31]. The pit was not fully observed in plan, due to modern truncation to the west and south, but may have originally been up to 3m in diameter, with near vertical sides. Its fill (32) consisted of mid-greyish brown clay silt, and contained sherds of later medieval pottery (c. 1375-1550), in addition to residual Roman pottery.

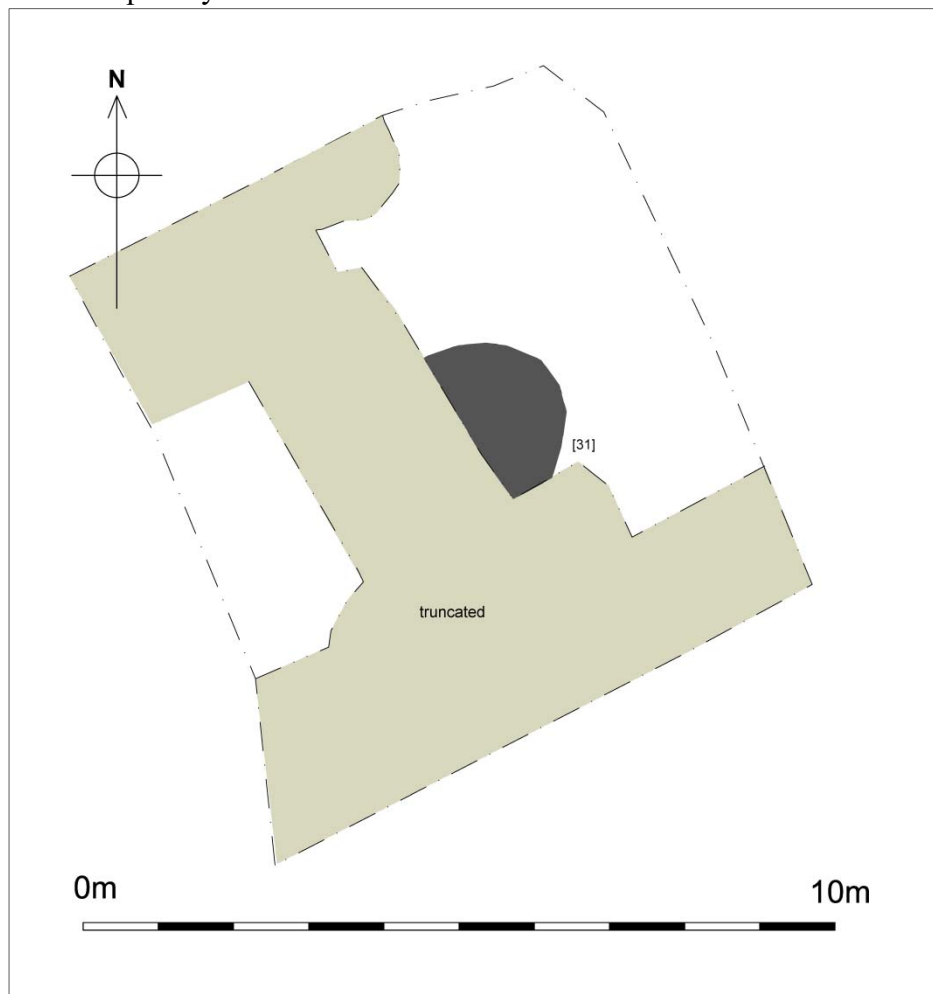


Figure 14: Phase 3A



Figure 15: Phase 2a medieval ditch [34] running beneath phase 2b wall (23), looking south



Figure 16. As above, looking north.

Phase 3B - Ceramic Phase 10 (1400 – 1500). Fig. 17

A wall seems to have been constructed in this phase across the area, which comprised two sections, wall (9) and wall fragment (30) (Fig. 18).

On the western side of the excavation area was a second stretch of wall (9), also aligned east-west, measuring 1.6m long, by 0.22m wide and 0.19m high. The wall comprised two courses of limestone and granite rubble, bonded with reddish brown clay.

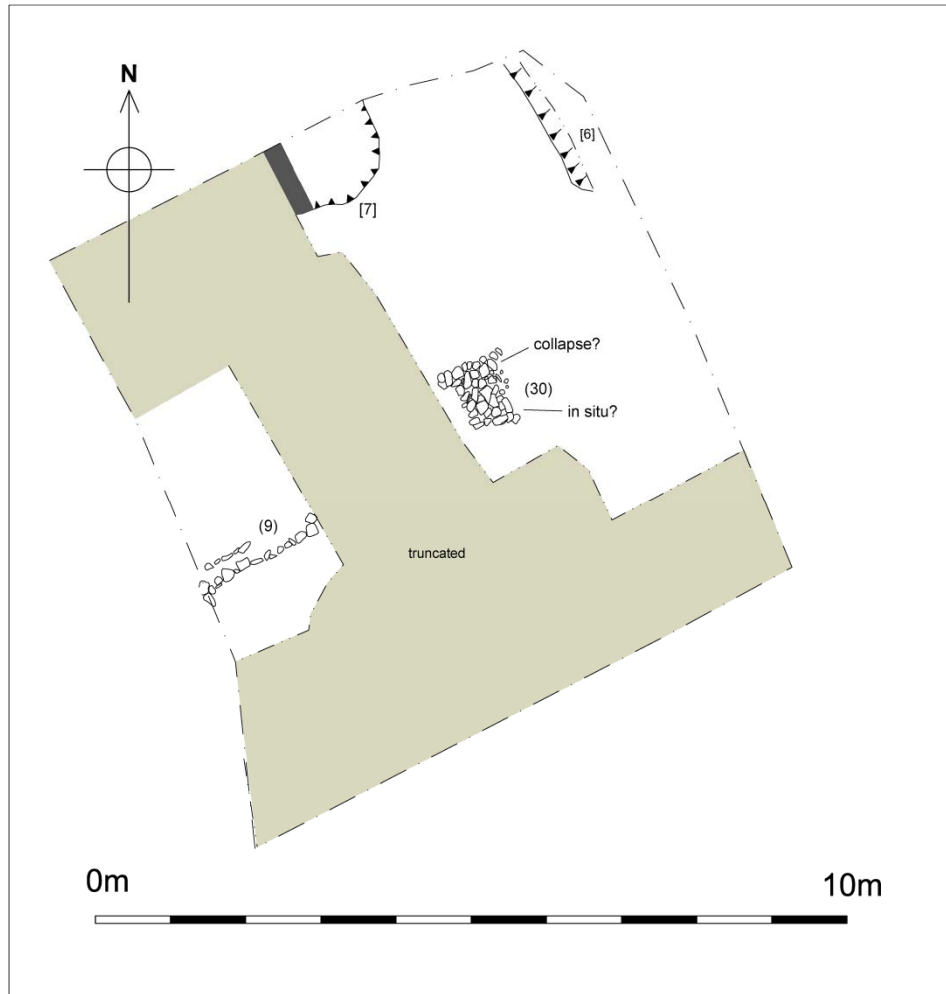


Figure 17: Phase 3B

Wall fragment (30) was constructed of earth-bonded Daneshill Sandstone rubble, with occasional slate fragments. This seems to have comprised a course of pitched rubble at the base of an unrecorded cut, above this course was an apparent levelling course of local Swithland slates. The wall seems to have subsided into pit [31] and details of alignment and construction have been lost, however it seems to have been aligned east-west. This is likely to be a continuation of the wall (9). A single sherd of later medieval pottery (14th century +) provided the only dating evidence.

Pit [7] located in the north of the area, ran under the edge of excavation and was only partially excavated (Fig. 19). The exposed plan indicated a large sub-circular pit, of at

least 2m in diameter, with near vertical sides. The pit was excavated to a depth of 1m, but the base was not reached. The earliest excavated fill (17) consisted of yellowish brown clay silt and contained material consistent with domestic refuse- lots of animal bone and pottery sherds ranging in date from *c.* 1450-1550. Above this was a fill of darker brown clay silt, containing sherds of later medieval pottery and early post medieval pottery.



Figure 18: Wall (9) looking east

Discussion of Phase 3

During this phase the building represented by wall (23) went out of use, if not in phase 3A, certainly in phase 3B when refuse pit [7] was dug through the floors and [6] through wall (23). The wall line represented by (9) and (30) could be a simple boundary wall, and presumably (9) does not represent the full thickness of the wall, merely one face thereof. No evidence for floors was observed however the area had been subject to later horizontal truncation. It is possible that this represents the southern boundary wall of a property fronting onto Oxford Street.

Undated

In the north-east corner of the site, was a truncated possibly linear feature, [6] filled by (5), a reddish brown clayey-silt. The feature cut [26]. This contained two sherds of later 13th to 14th century date. These may have been residual.

Modern

To the south of a series of deposits were noted (10-13), which were modern. The whole area appeared to have been subject to horizontal truncation, as part of the construction of the modern structure which overlay it.



Figure 19: Area 1 Substation: Phase 3 Pit [7] looking east.

Area 2- Roman cemetery

Stripping of the overburden within Area 2 revealed that most of the area had been disturbed by cellarage and modern services. In the south-western corner however, a small area of truncated archaeological stratigraphy survived, within an area of the Roman cemetery which was not exposed during the 1993 excavations (Fig. 20).

The earliest feature observed [51=53=57=59] comprised the base of a truncated linear feature, which corresponded with the projected line of ditch G13, identified during the 1993 excavations as one of a series of east-west ditches dating to the late 3rd century (phase 2), which was cut by several late 4th century graves.

Cut into the northern edge of the ditch [59] was grave [55], which contained the remains of an inhumation burial (Figs 21-22). The grave contained the truncated remains of an adult male individual (SK1.A7), 36-45 years, orientated west to east, in supine position. Only *c.* 30% of the skeleton survived, the grave having been truncated laterally from east to west by the cut for a basement for a now demolished building, located to the north.

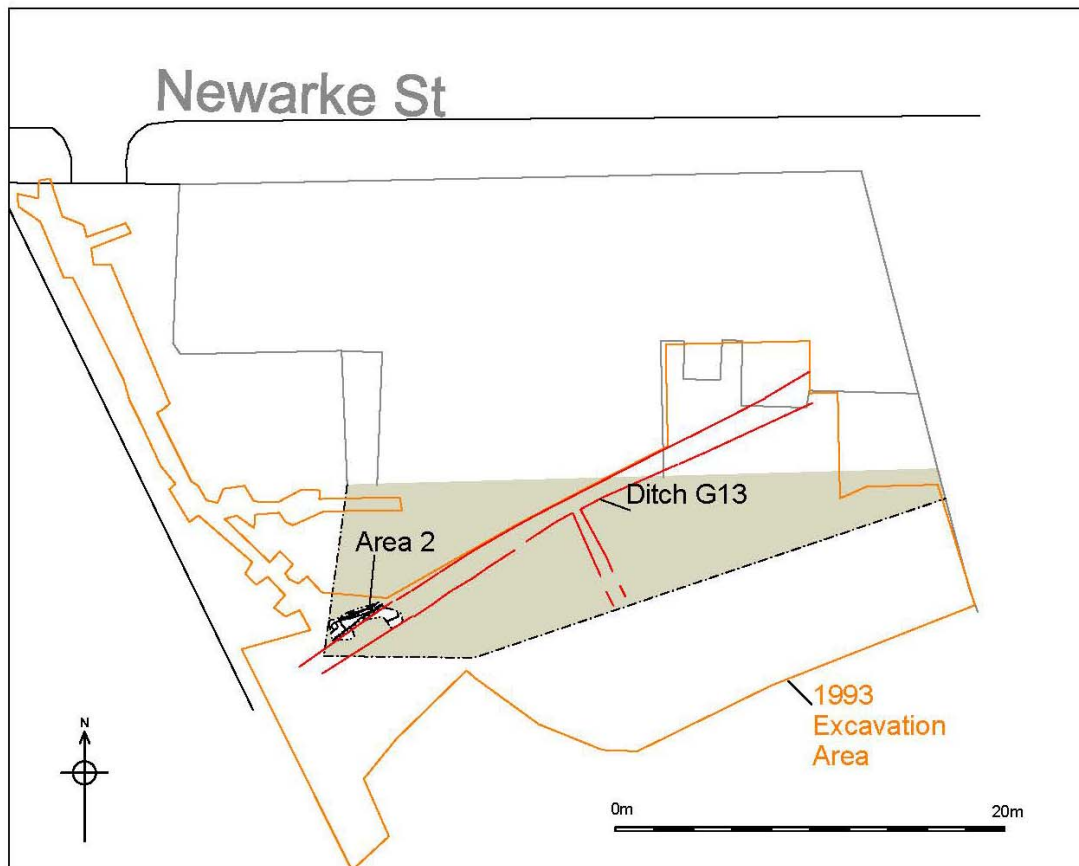


Figure 20: Area 2 within Roman cemetery excavation area of 1993.

Whilst there was no direct evidence for a coffin, two granite blocks had been deliberately placed vertically against the southern edge of the grave cut. This had been observed in clearly coffined burials at the Newarke Street/Oxford Street site (Thomas pers. comm.). Also the disposition of the legs and arms resembles the ‘parallel sided effect’ recorded by Boddington at Raunds (1996, 36-7), suggestive of coffined burials

of the excavations of 2011 (Jarvis 2013) and overlapping with some of the 2011 evaluation trenches. Most of the area, particularly around the building itself, had been truncated away by modern services. A small scatter of archaeological deposits was located here, all likely to date to the late 2nd century Roman period.

On the western side of the site and running beneath the edge of excavation, was the remains of a circular pit [62], measuring approximately 1.4m in diameter, with gently sloping sides and a rounded base. This was filled with dark, greyish brown clay silt (60) and produced a single sherd of Roman pottery. On the eastern side of this, was a linear ditch, running from north to south across the area [63], on the same alignment as ditch [28]=[38] recorded during the 2011 excavations (Jarvis 2013). The ditch was 0.85m wide and 0.28m deep, with near vertical sides and a flat base. Fill (62) consisted of dark greyish brown clay silt and produced a single sherd of 2nd century greyware.

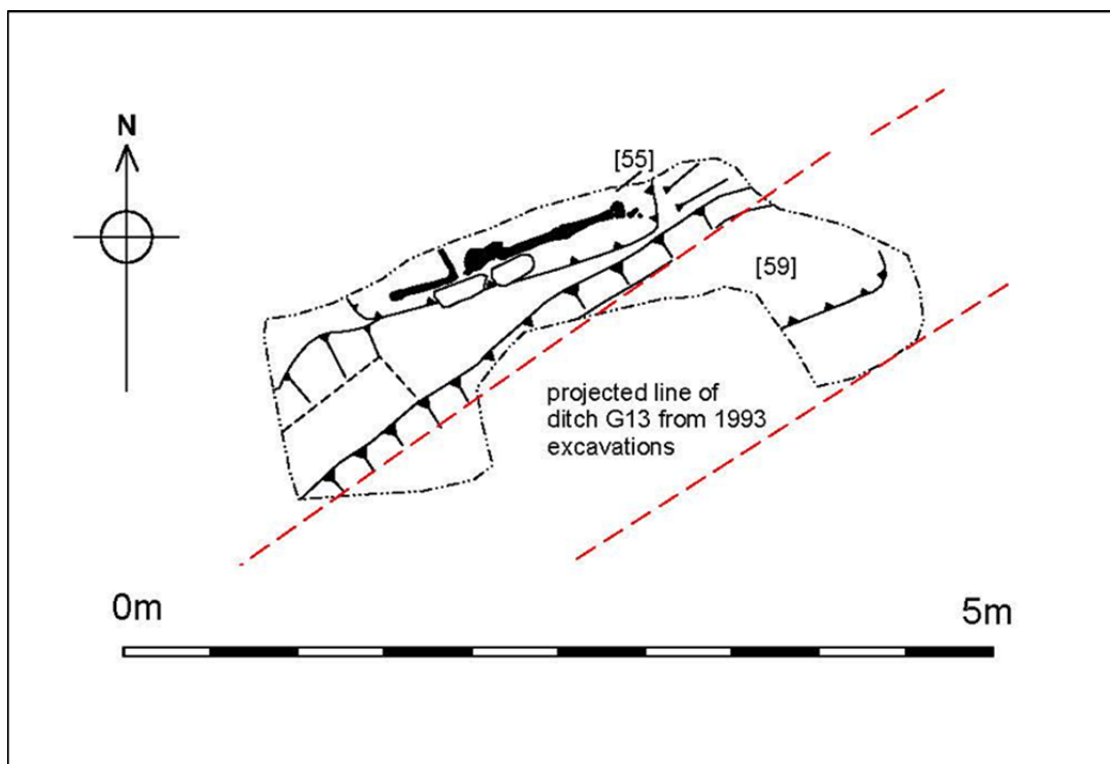


Figure 21: Area 2 excavation, with truncated Roman burial within grave [55].



Figure 22: Truncated burial SK1, within grave [55].

Ditches on a similar alignment were recorded during the excavations of the cemetery in 1993 (Cooper 1996) and on the northern side of Newarke Street (Derrick 2009), reflecting the general alignment of the Roman street grid.

Area 3

Area 3 was located just to the west of the former DMU Law building, close to the site (Figs 23-24).

To the east of ditch [62], a rectangular shaped feature [65] projected from an area of modern truncation (Fig. 25). The feature was aligned east-west, measuring 0.8m long, by 0.64m wide and 0.15m deep, with vertical sides and a flat base. Fill (64) consisted of dark greyish brown silty-clay, but produced no dating evidence. On the eastern side of the excavation area was a small, sub-circular post-hole [67] measuring 0.5m by 0.65m across and 0.24m deep. This was filled with dark greyish brown, clay-silt and produced sherds of 2nd century Roman greyware.

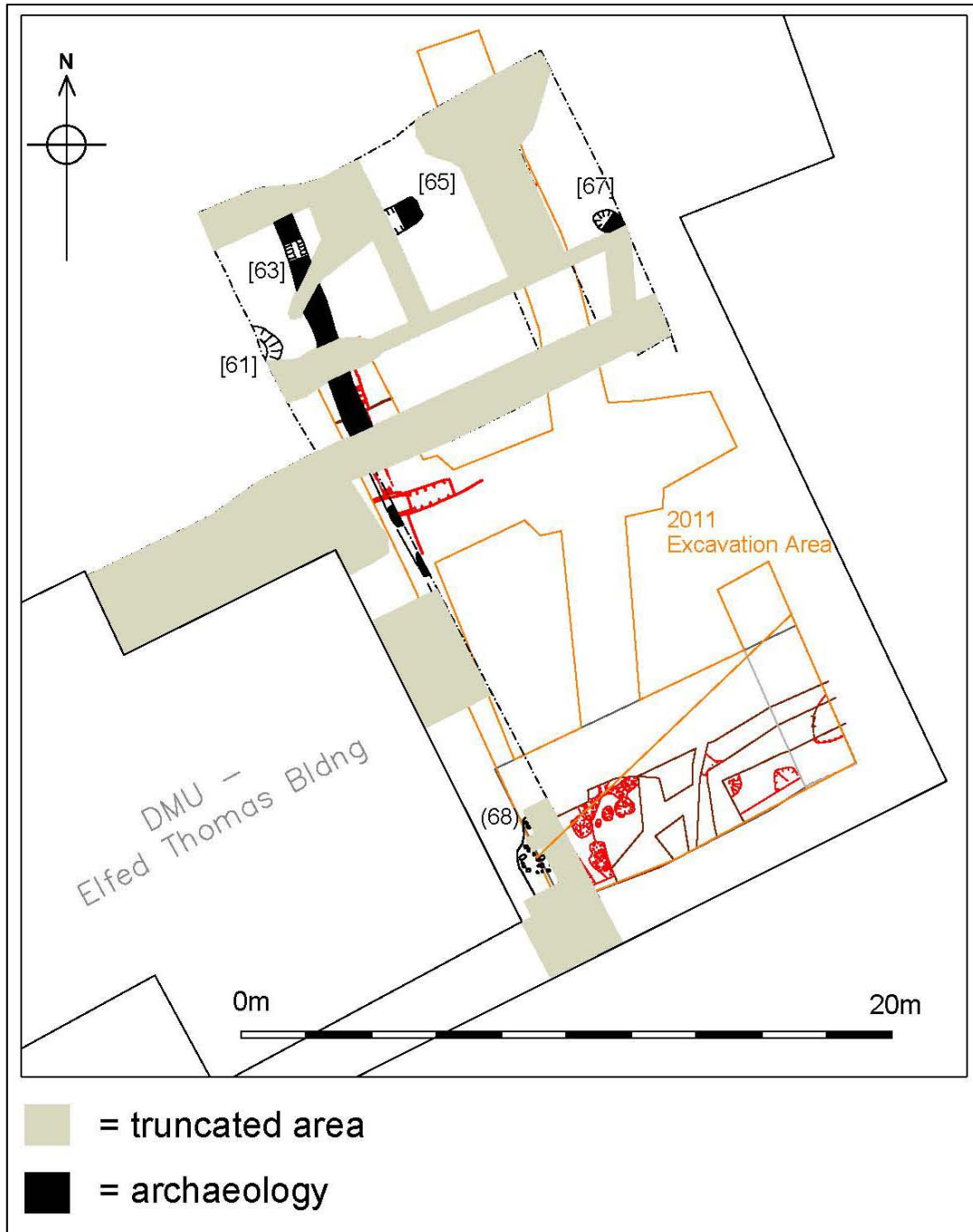


Figure 23: Area 3 excavation area.

In the south-western corner of the excavation area, close to the former school building were the truncated remains of a loose cobbled or pebble surface (68). This consisted of small and medium sized cobbles (approx. 80mm x 500mm), contained within a dark, greyish brown clay-silt [69] which produced several sherds of Roman pottery, ranging in date from the mid-late 1st century to the late 2nd century.



Figure 24: Area 3 excavation area, looking south.



Figure 25: Area 3, Roman ditch [62], looking north.

Area 4 - Watching Brief

The fourth phase of archaeological work during the groundworks consisted of a watching brief during the excavation of a service trench along the northern wall of the former school building. The trench ran for approximately 20m from east to west and measured 0.8m wide with a short stretch at the east, which was 3m wide and. The natural geological clay was recorded at approximately 0.8m below the ground surface, and the area had been heavily truncated by modern services, to around 1.3m below ground surface in some areas. At the eastern end of the trench was an area of dark, greyish brown silty-clay, flecked with charcoal, which may have been archaeological in origin- possibly representing the remains of a north/south ditch. Contamination of the trench with recent sewage however, meant that further investigation of the feature was impossible on health and safety grounds.

No other features were recorded in this area.

Area 5 - Watching Brief

The final phase of archaeological work was a watching brief carried out on the connection of drains from the refurbished building to the manhole in the north-west corner of the site. Inspection showed that the connection could more usefully be made to the large manhole in the entrance way to the site. Inspection of the manhole indicated considerable disturbance from a) its installation and the fact that it had previously been connected to the building by two and possibly three connections during a previous stage of works, entirely separate from this development.

7. Conclusions

The current phase of work on site has not only confirmed previous observations on site but has provided new evidence for medieval activity.

The burial SK1 lay just outside the extent of the previous excavation (Cooper 1996) and although severely truncated may have been buried within a coffin or cover. The use of stone slabs against the grave wall, is recorded in the 1996 excavation and in the adjacent excavation to the west (J. Thomas pers. comm.).

The features uncovered in Area 3 were essentially those observed in previous work immediately adjacent to the trench (Jarvis 2013, 12-16) comprising a north/south aligned ditch of 2nd century date and a gravelled surface, although too little of the surface survived to indicate whether it was a yard or a path. No evidence was found for burials continuing south of the putative southern boundary ditches found during the 1993 excavations. However it is unlikely that any would have survived due to the levels of truncation.

In the remainder of Area 3 was a scatter of poorly dated, small, cut features about which little can be usefully interpreted.

The area of substation was the most significant part of the site. Although the Roman remains cannot provide meaningful interpretation, the medieval sequence revealed a pattern of shifting boundaries and structures.

The north/south ditch is likely to represent the rear of a property fronting onto Oxford Street. Notably it is within two metres of the modern boundary immediately to north. Perhaps by the mid-13th century this became redundant and was backfilled and a building constructed over it. Given its 1m wide surviving wall (23) this is likely to have been a substantial building, although its limits are unknown. The possible post socket and clay structure (26) hint at internal partitions.

This building is likely to have become defunct during the 15th century. Although not closely dated the construction of wall (9)/(31) may mark the property boundary to the original burgage plot in which the building stood. The fate of the eastern boundary at this point is unknown.

It is feasible that the ditch [34] represents the original eastern boundary of properties fronting onto Oxford Street. This would indicate a plot 45m metres in length, while the properties immediately north of the site have comparable boundaries 48 metres in length and further south on Oxford Street are narrower, plots nearly 40m in length. An alternative interpretation, however, is that the plot fronted onto Hangman's Lane (Newarke Street).

The building represented by wall foundation (23) and the associated floors is of unknown size, as only a 3m length of wall survived. However, given the width of the wall it may have been substantial. Although earth bonded, a stone wall could feasibly have been supported, as was located at St Nicholas Place, Leicester (Kipling 2009, 76-77), while alternatively it could have supported 'monolithic' mud walling. The presence of patched plaster floors indicates a domestic character to the building, being too fragile for a barn or byre. The hints of partition [28] might also suggest a structure large enough to warrant sub-division. Its position back from the frontage is surprising, given the tendency for medieval buildings to be located next to the street.

Although, the Suburb was apparently not a rich area (Courtney 1998, 15), tax records for 1497, indicate the presence of wealthier individuals, of whom one was taxed on two houses as well as his goods. The goods were typically valued between 10 – 40 marks, a substantial sum comparable with some of richer inhabitants of the North Suburb (RBL II, 351- 352). Therefore it is likely that the area did not solely comprise lower quality buildings.

The demise of the building is unexplained, and seems to have preceded the construction of a boundary wall (9)/(31). Severe horizontal truncation to allow the construction of the overlying 19th century toilet block, had removed any evidence for that later history of the area particularly that relating to the razing of the area during the Civil War and its subsequent rebuilding.

8. The Finds

The Roman Pottery by Elizabeth Johnson

Assemblage size and condition

A stratified assemblage comprising 46 sherds of Roman pottery weighing 417g, with an EVEs value of 0.555 was retrieved from the excavations. The average sherd weight of 9.1g suggests fairly reasonable levels of preservation, though there are some small and abraded sherds. Pottery was recovered from four areas and some groups were found alongside medieval or post-medieval material.

Methodology

The material was examined in hand specimen using a binocular microscope at x20 magnification and classified using the Leicestershire Fabric Series (Pollard 1994). Quantification was by sherd count, weight (grams) and estimated vessel equivalents (EVEs) using rims only. Vessel forms were assigned where diagnostic sherds allowed, using the Leicestershire Form Series and other published typologies. The complete dataset was recorded and analysed within an Excel workbook, which comprises the archive record.

Table 1: Pottery Catalogue

Area	Cut	Cont	Fabric	Form	Shds	Wgt (g)	EVEs	Dating
WB	2	1	Amphora	Amphora	1	81		Late 1st-early 3rdC
WB	2	1	Grey ware	Jar	1	1		late 1stC+
1	6	5	White ware	Flagon/bowl	1	13		late 1st-2ndC
1		25	Grey ware	Jar	1	8	0.08	late 1st-mid 2ndC
1	31	30	White-slipped ware	Flagon	1	2		late 1st-2ndC
1	31	32	Samian	Bowl	1	6	0.075	late 1st-early 2ndC
1	37	35	Grey ware	Jar/beaker	1	2		late 1st-2ndC+
2	51	50	White ware	Flagon	1	1		late 1st-2ndC
2	51	50	Samian	Dish	1	5		early-mid 2ndC
2	51	50	Samian	Bowl	1	1		late 1st-early 2ndC
2	51	50	Samian	Misc	2	1		mid 1st-early 2ndC
2	51	50	Nene Valley colour-coat	Beaker	1	1	0.075	3rdC
2	51	50	Black burnished ware	Dish	1	8	0.025	mid 2nd-3rdC
2	51	50	Black burnished ware	Jar	1	5		3rdC
2	51	50	Black burnished ware	Jar	1	2		mid 2ndC+
2	51	50	Grey ware	Jar	1	2		3rdC
2	51	50	Grey ware	Jar/beaker	1	1		2ndC+
2	51	50	Grey ware	Jar	4	12		2ndC+
2	55	54	Samian	Misc	1	1		2ndC
2	55	54	Black burnished ware	Jar	1	3		mid 2ndC+
2	55	54	Grey ware	Jar	3	15		2ndC+
2	55	54	Grey ware	Jar	2	4		2ndC+
2	55	54	Grey ware	Jar/bowl	1	3		2ndC+
2	59	58	Black burnished ware	Bowl/dish	1	10		mid 2ndC+
3	61	60	Nene Valley mortarium	Mortarium	1	25		mid 3rdC+
3	63	62	Grey ware	Jar	1	22		2ndC+

3	67	66	Grey ware	Jar	3	9		2ndC+
3	69	68	Shelly ware	Jar	2	72		mid-late1stC+
3	69	68	White-slipped ware	Flagon	1	6		late1st-2ndC
3	69	68	White ware	Flagon	1	15		late1st-2ndC
3	69	68	Oxidised ware	Jar	1	33	0.225	2ndC
3	69	68	Oxidised ware	Beaker	1	7	0.075	2ndC
3	69	68	Grey ware	Jar/beaker	1	6		late1st-2ndC
3	69	68	Grey ware	Jar	3	34		late1st-2ndC+

Area 1 - Service Trench

Context: [2] (1).

Two sherds (82g) of pottery were recovered from a Roman ditch at the western edge of the site where a watching brief was carried out. The material comprises one sherd of grey ware and one sherd of amphora. The grey ware is probably a jar and has a trace of a burnished line on the outer surface. The amphora fabric is that associated with the Dressel 20 olive oil amphora from Southern Spain. This is the most common type of amphora found in Leicester and dates from the late-1st century through to the early 3rd (Peacock and Williams 1986, 136). The grey ware is also not particularly datable, but most likely dates from the later 1st or 2nd centuries.

Area 1 - Substation

Contexts: [6] (5); (25); [31] (30), (32); [37] (35).

No Roman features were uncovered in this area and the five sherds (31g) of Roman pottery were recovered from medieval and post-medieval pits and gullies. The material comprises a white ware flagon or bowl, a white-slipped ware flagon, a samian ware Drag.30 or 37 decorated bowl and grey wares. The grey wares include a small jar or beaker and a lid seated jar dating from the late 1st century to the mid-2nd. The samian ware is South Gaulish and dates to the 1st century. The white and white-slipped wares could easily be contemporary with the grey wares, dating to the later 1st or 2nd century.

Area 2- Roman Cemetery

Contexts: [51] (50); [55] (54); [59] (58).

Twenty-four sherds (75g) of pottery were recovered from three features in Area 2. Ditch [59] (58) was the largest feature however, only one sherd (10g) from a Black Burnished ware bowl or dish base was recovered. Unfortunately, this cannot be closely dated and a date from the mid-2nd century onwards is all that can be given.

Most of the pottery (15 sherds, 39g) was recovered from [51] (50) comprising white ware, samian ware, Black Burnished ware, grey ware and a Nene Valley colour-coated ware beaker. The date of the material ranges from 1st and early 2nd century samian ware through to the funnel necked colour-coated beaker dating to the 3rd century (Webster 1996; Perrin 1999). A Black Burnished ware jar with obtuse lattice also dates to the 3rd century and one of the grey ware jars may also date into the 3rd century (Holbrook and Bidwell 1991, 96). It is unclear stratigraphically whether or not [51] is part of ditch [59] or a later feature cutting the ditch. Some medieval pottery was also recovered from [51] and it is possible that the Roman pottery originates from the ditch [59], its recovery from a potentially later feature being the result of disturbance. However, all the sherds are small and some are abraded, suggestive of re-deposited material. It was also noted on site that disturbed topsoil was present

(A.Gnanaratnam *pers. comm.*) and it is not possible to associate the pottery from (50) with ditch [59] with any certainty.

The final feature from Area 2 was a grave [55] (54), from which eight sherds (26g) were recovered. The material comprises samian ware, a Black Burnished ware jar and grey ware jars and bowls, all most likely dating within the 2nd century. Again the pottery sherds are small and have presumably found their way into the grave cut through disturbance.

Area 3

Contexts: [60] (61); [63] (62); [67] (66); [69] (68).

Fifteen sherds (229g) were recovered from four features within Area 3, which provided the best preserved material. Pit [60] (61) revealed a sherd (25g) from a Nene Valley mortarium. The vessel is a hammerhead form and although it is abraded, traces of orange paint are visible on the flange. This vessel would date to at least the mid-3rd century. One sherd (22g) of pottery was recovered from ditch [63] (62). The vessel is a grey ware jar with a burnished lattice zone, girth groove and lower zone of burnished bands. A date within the 2nd century is most likely. Three small sherds (9g) were recovered from a post-hole [67] (66). All are grey wares, probably jars, including one with burnished bands. The pottery is not closely datable and a 2nd or 3rd century date is most likely.

Ditch [69] (68) produced 10 sherds (173g) of pottery, providing the best preserved group from the site. The pottery comprises shelly, white, white-slipped, oxidised and grey wares. The shelly ware jar is rilled/combed and could date to the 1st century. The oxidised wares comprise an everted rimmed jar with roulette decoration and an everted rimmed beaker, both possibly from Northamptonshire. One of the grey ware vessels is also possibly a beaker, the rest are jars. The white and white-slipped wares are both flagons. All the pottery dates within the 2nd century, and could be as early as late 1st to mid-2nd century. Examination of the plans also highlights the strong possibility that ditch [69] is an extension of the same feature found at an adjacent site excavated in 2011 (Jarvis, 2013). The pottery is comparable dating within the 2nd century with the exception of one apparently anomalous 3rd century sherd (Johnson 2013, 18).

Discussion

Overall, the pottery assemblage suggests activity within the 2nd century with very little material dating after this. The assemblage is fairly typical of 2nd century occupation insofar as Black Burnished, white and oxidised wares are the main regional wares present, and the small amount of fine ware is mostly imported samian. There is one sherd of colour-coated ware, one mortarium sherd and a couple of jars dating to the 3rd century.

The assemblage is small and there is an element of disturbance from post-Roman activity, however, the assemblage does compare well with two neighbouring excavations, one of which was a cemetery site (Cooper, 1996; Jarvis, 2013). At both these sites, it was difficult to ascertain whether or not small quantities of material dating after the 2nd century were intrusive as a result of later disturbance or an indication that the ditches remained open for some time. This is also the case here, particularly regarding ditch [59] in Area 2. The focus of activity at both these sites

also appeared to focus on the 2nd century, with little evidence of activity from the later 2nd-3rd century onwards. The possibility that ditch [69] is the same feature as that discovered at an adjacent site also adds weight to the suggestion that the whole area was used for the same purpose during the 2nd century before the later Roman cemetery was created.

The Roman Ceramic Building Material - Deborah Sawday

Table 2: The Roman ceramic building material by type, count and weight.

Type	Count	Weight (grams)
Wall tile	9	1784
Roof Tile - Tegula	2	137
Roof Tile - Imbrex	2	767
Misc.Tile/Brick	15	437
Totals	28	3125

A small assemblage of Roman building material was recovered during the excavations from both medieval and earlier contexts, including the backfill of the Roman grave [55] and the Roman ditch [59] (Tables 2 and 3). Similar material from archaeological work to the north of the site was thought to relate to ribbon development along the Gartree Road or to other suburban activities to the south of the defences of Roman Leicester (Derrick 2002, 4).

Table 3: The Roman ceramic building material by context, count and weight.

Context	Count	Weight(g rams)	Material Type
8 [7]	1	78	Wall tile
17 [7]	1	77	Tile/brick
22	1	69	Tile/brick
23	2	790	Wall tile
30	1	66	Tile/brick
31 [32]	1	290	Wall Tile
31	1	25	Tile/brick
38 [34]	1	105	Tile – tegula
38	2	361	Wall Tile
43	1	19	Tile/brick
44	1	82	Tile/brick
48	1	413	Tile – imbrex
50 [59]	1	32	Tile – tegula
50 [59]	7	24	Tile/brick
54 [55]	1	17	Tile/brick
58 [59]	1	58	Tile/brick
60 [61]	1	130	Wall Tile
62	2	135	Wall Tile
68 [69]	1	354	Tile - imbrex

The Medieval Pottery and Ridge Tile - Deborah Sawday

Sixty seven sherds of medieval pottery, weighing 2.442g with an average sherd weight of 36.44gr and an EVEs of 0.9965 (where 1.00 = one vessel) were recovered from the excavations. The pottery and tile was catalogued with reference to the guidelines set out by the Medieval Pottery Research Group, (MPRG 1998; MPRG, 2001) and the ULAS fabric series (Sawday 1989; Davies and Sawday 1999; Sawday 2009). The results are shown below (Tables 4 – 6).

The nine fragments of ridge tile, weighing 415 grams, were all glazed, save for single fragments in Potters Marston and the Medieval Sandy ware fabric MS8. Part of a serpentine crest was recorded on a tile in the Chilvers Coton fabric CC2. A similar Type VIII crest at the Austin Friars, Leicester was dated from the latter half of the 14th century onwards (Allin 1981, fig.17.15, 62).

Table 4: The Medieval Pottery by fabric, sherd number, EVEs and weight (grams), in approximate chronological order.

Fabric	Common Name	Sherds	Weight (grams)	EVE	Average Sherd Weight
Late Saxon/Saxo Norman					
ST3		1	13		
RS		1	3		
Sub-Total		2	16		8.0
Early/High Medieval					
ST2	Fine Stamford	1	8		
PM	Potters Marston	14	235	0.130	
SP3	Splashed	1	34	0.100	
CS	Coarse Shelly	2	62	0.060	
CC1	Chilvers Coton	6	193		
NO3	Nottingham	1	8		
BR2	Brill/Boarstall type	2	39		
Sub-Total		27	579	0.290	21.44
Later Medieval/Early Post Medieval					
CC2	Chilvers Coton	13	330	0.040	
MS3	Medieval Sandy	10	279	0.0685	
MS7	Medieval Sandy	1	19		
MP2/4	Midland Purple	12	1034	0.288	86.16
CW2	Cistercian	2	185	0.310	92.5
Sub-Total		38	1847	0.7065	48.60
Site Totals		67	2442	0.9965	36.44

The Ceramic Phases

The stratified pottery and ridge tile has been divided into ceramic phases based on the range of pottery and ridge tile fabrics and forms present.

Phase 8 – Earlier Medieval

A tiny chip, weighing 2 grams, of early medieval Potters Marston was intrusive in the back fill of the Roman grave [59]. The fills, (36) and (38) of the medieval ditch [34] produced single sherds of Reduced Sandy ware and part of a flared Coarse Shelly ware bowl with an externally thickened rim, probably dating from the 12th or 13th centuries together with early medieval Potters Marston, including part of a carinated bowl. A similar vessel was recorded at Causeway Lane, Leicester (Davies and Sawday 1999,

fig.92.95), also present was a decorated strap handle, possibly from a large storage jar, a relatively early form in this ware. A jar rim in the Leicester Splashed ware, fabric SP3 was also paralleled at Causeway Lane (*ibid* 1999, fig.94.135).

The externally sooted base of a Potters Marston jar and a fragment of Coarse Shelly ware were found in the floor (20), and an abraded fragment of the fine Stamford ware ST2 in the pebble surface (22); whilst the layer (25) produced three sherds of Potters Marston, including a collared jar rim with a slashed neck (*ibid* 1999, fig.88.39) and an everted bowl rim (Sawday 2009 Vaughan Way, fig.14.35). These contexts all lay above the wall, (23), which contained two fragments of Potters Marston.

Phase 9 – Medieval

The gully context (5) contained two sherds of developed Stamford ware, ST1, and the Chilvers Coton ware, fabric CC1, the latter dating from *c.* 1250 or possibly into the 14th century. A sherd of Nottingham ware, fabric NO3, was the only medieval find in the ditch [37] with a similar date to the above. A single piece of glazed Potters Marston ridge tile was found in the beam slot, (26) which is thought to be associated with the floor (20) and associated contexts which overlay the ditch [34] (T. Gnanaratnam, pers. comm.). The ridge tile at the Austin Friars, Leicester was thought to date from *c.* 1270, if not earlier, (Allin 1981, 54). A single fragment of CC1 pottery, and parts of three medieval ridge tiles in Potters Marston and CC1 were the only finds from the pit (41). Two more fragments of pottery and ridge tile in Potters Marston were found in the pit (43).

Phase 9/10 – Medieval/Late Medieval

Part of a wide mouthed bowl in a hard-fired example of the Medieval Sandy ware MS3, possibly 14th or early 15th century in date, and a Chilvers Coton ridge tile, fabric CC2 with a serpentine crest, which is paralleled at the Austin Friars, Leicester where it was dated from the latter half of the 14th century (*ibid* 1981, fig.17.15) were found in the wall, context (30).

Phase 10 – Late Medieval

Late medieval Midland Purple ware, fabrics MP2 and MP4, including part of a cistern base with stacking evidence underneath and a bung hole in the lower wall, paralleled at the Austin Friars, Leicester, (Woodland 1981, fig.39.190), and the Cistercian ware, fabric CW2 were recorded in the back fill of the pit [31]. The layer (14) contained a CW2 base, either of a wide bodied cup (*ibid* 1981, fig.41.215 and 220) or a posset pot (*ibid.* 1981, fig.41.204).

The largest pottery assemblage from the excavations, 34 sherds weighing 1.512 kg was recovered from contexts (8) and (17) in the pit [7], together with an MS3 ridge tile fragment in (8). The pit cut the phase 8 surfaces and layers above the floor (20) noted above. The late medieval Midland Purple ware, fabrics MP2 and MP4, and Cistercian ware, fabric CW2 predominated. The identifiable vessels included part of a thumbled jar or cistern rim in MP2 (Woodland 1987, fig.36.14), and in the same fabric a rare ceramic find, part of a mortar, glazed internally, with characteristically heavy stabbing under the base and, also uncommon, the profile of a one handled pedestal cup in CW2, (Woodland 1981, fig.41.219). The residual material included joining fragments from a jar or cistern in the later medieval fabric CC2, which could be matched with material from the production centre at Chilvers Coton in Warwickshire, in contexts dated from

the 15th century (Mayes & Scott 1984, fig.138.744). This context also contained a mid or later 13th century sherds in Chilvers Coton fabric CC1, and part of jug (McCarthy and Brooks 1988.fig.174.1054) in the Brill Boarstall type ware BR2; the latter a relatively uncommon find in Leicester. The pottery and ridge tile in the pit [7] has a terminal date in the late medieval period, only a fragment of nib tile from the same context, [7], which is described below, is possibly early post-medieval rather than late medieval in date.

Conclusions

The earlier medieval date for the group of contexts associated with the medieval ditch and the building above the ditch in phase 8 is of note. The range of pottery fabrics present, and the generally typologically early characteristics of the Potters Marston sherds in particular, including not only the vessel forms; the sherds are thin walled, and generally reduced to a pale grey or buff, in colour all suggest a pre-1250 date. The absence of wheel thrown glazed sherds, such as the Chilvers Coton fabric CC1, which are dated from the mid-13th century, also appears to support this, although the small size in the pottery assemblage as a whole may suggest the dating should be treated with some caution. However, this relatively early date does tie in with the documentary evidence which records the development of the southern suburb by *c.*1200 (Courtney 1998,124) and the archaeological evidence from elsewhere suggests that that development was under way in the suburb by at least *c.* 1100 (Finn 2004, 63).

Most of the remaining finds appeared to be concentrated in phase 10 and included the largest pottery group from the excavations, 34 sherds weighing 1.512 kg, in the pit [7]. This assemblage had a relatively large average sherd weight of 44.47 grams, confirming that there had been occupation in the vicinity.

Over-all, the range of fabrics are typical of that found in the city and environs (Sawday 1999; Sawday 2009; Sawday 2010) as are many of the vessel types, with jars and bowls predominant in the earlier phases, whilst many of the wheel thrown glazed ware sherds dating from the mid or later 13th century are probably from jugs. However, a couple of interesting and relatively uncommon vessel forms were present in the phase 10 assemblage.

Table 5: The medieval ridge tile by fabric, fragment number and weight (grams) in approximate chronological order.

Fabric	Common Name	Fragments	Weight	Average Weight
Early/High Medieval				
PM	Potters Marston	4	102	
CC1	Chilvers Coton	1	34	
Sub-Total		5	136	27.50
Late Medieval				
CC2	Chilvers Coton	2	128	
MS3	Medieval Sandy	1	68	
MS8	Medieval Sandy	1	83	
Sub-Total		4	279	69.75
Site Totals		9	415	51.81

Table 6: The medieval pottery and ridge tile by context, sherd numbers, weight (gr) and EVEs.

Context	Fabric	No	Gr	Comments
Pottery				
5	CC1	1	11	Hard fired, sooted externally
5	ST1	1	13	
8 [7]	BR2	1	25	Rounded jug body with part of handle, green glaze internally, (McCarthy & Brooks 1988, fig.174.1054).
8	CC1	1	7	
8	CC2	2	28	One links with 17
8	MS3	3	122	Body/trimmed base, hard fired
8	MS3	2	51	Part of wide mouthed bowl rim, green glaze, same pot, exterior rim diameter 260mm, 0.0675 EVEs
8	MP2	2	83	one dark brown/one metallic glaze on exterior
14	CW2	1	21	Base – either a wide bodied cup (Woodland 1981, fig.41.215 and 220) or posset pot (ibid. 1981, fig.41.204).
17 [7]	BR2	1	14	Green glazed rod handle, joins 8
17	CC1	3	165	Jug body with triple thumb smeared strap handle base, abraded, possibly one pot
17	CC2	8	244	Jar/cistern rim & base, some joins, orange glaze internally – same pot exterior rim diameter 165mm, 0.040 EVEs, similar at Chilvers Coton (Mayes & Scott 1984, fig.138.744) Site 15, kiln 34, dated from the 15 th C.
17	MS3	4	72	Body, greenish brown glaze externally – same pot
17	MP2	1	23	Jar/cistern rim, brown glaze (Woodland 1987, fig.36.14) exterior rim diameter 180mm, 0.060 EVEs
17	MP2	1	273	Mortar base, c. 25mm thick, stabbed under, glazed internally, rare but similar known elsewhere in Leicester (A302 1971 8653 drawing 201).
17	MP2	1	86	Jar/cistern rim thumbed strip under, brown glaze exterior (Woodland 1987, fig.38.31) exterior rim diameter 210mm, 0.130 EVEs
17	MP2	2	126	Join, green/brown glaze,
17	MP2	1	29	Body, strap handle stub
17	CW2	1	164	Pedestal cup profile, definite evidence only for one handle (Woodland 1981, fig.41.219). Exterior rim diameter 90mm, 0.310 EVEs
20	PM	1	5	Basal angle, sooted exterior, not trimmed 13-14 th C.
20	CS	1	30	
22	ST2	1	8	Abraded
22	PM	1	4	
23 wall	PM	2	16	Sooted exterior
25	PM	1	15	Jar rim, collared neck, slashed, sooted, abraded, (Davies and Sawday 1999, fig.88.39), exterior rim diameter 150mm, 0.065 EVEs
25	PM	1	19	Bowl rim, everted & sooted, (Sawday 2009 Vaughan Way, fig.14.35), exterior rim diameter 240mm, 0.065 EVEs.
25	PM	1	11	base
30	MS3	1	34	Wide mouthed bowl rim, exterior rim diameter 230mm, 0.001 EVEs, rim chipped
32 [31]	CC1	1	10	Thumbed jug base fragment, yellow green glaze.
32	CC2	2	57	Body, orange glaze internally, base glaze spots
32	MS7	1	19	Base, glaze spots internally
32	MP2	3	348	Cistern base with complete plain bung hole, typical of Leicester, for example (Woodfield 1981, fig.39.190) stacking evidence under base, join
32	MP4	1	66	Cistern/jar rim, thumbed strip under rim, brown glaze, exterior

				rim diameter240mm, 0.098 EVEs.
35 [37]	NO3	1	8	Green glazed ?jug body, buff/pink interior
36 [34] ditch	CS	1	32	Everted bowl, with external thickening, externally sooted exterior rim diameter240mm, 0.060 EVEs
38 [34]	RS	1	3	Black surfaces, reddish core, possibly a Torksey type
38	PM	3	25	Misc. body
38	PM	1	46	Carinated bowl body – 13 th C. (Davies and Sawday 1999, fig.92.95)
38	PM	1	86	Large strap handle, thumbled and stabbed, possibly from a storage jar.
38	SP3	1	34	Jar rim similar at Causeway Lane, (Davies and Sawday 1999, fig.94.135) exterior rim diameter210mm, 0.100 EVEs.
41	CC2	1	1	
43	PM	1	6	
56 [59]	PM	1	2	
Context	Fabric	No	Gr	Comments
Ridge Tile				
8 [7]	MS3	1	68	Some glaze
26	PM	1	43	Green glaze with patches of mortar
30	CC2	1	86	Mottled green glaze, part of a serpentine crest (Allin 1981, fig.17.15) –found at the Austin Friars, where dated from the latter half of the 14 th C.
30	MS8	1	83	Or possibly under-fired MP
32	CC2	1	42	Glaze spots
41	PM	2	13	Glazed
41	CC1	1	34	Glazed
43	PM	1	46	

The Nib Tile - Deborah Sawday

A single fragment of nib tile, weighing 141 grams was recovered from a pit, context (8) [7]. The dense hard red sub-angular quartz fabric also contains sparse inclusions of grog, ironstone, marl and possibly, sand stone suggests a possible late medieval date. The context also produced late medieval pottery in fabrics CC2, CW2, MP2 and MP4. Assuming that the broken half of the nib, which protruded 14mm above the flat surface, was placed centrally at the top end of the tile; the estimated width of the tile was 160mm; the thickness varied between 12-14mm. Similar moulded nib tile, with five sanded surfaces except for the side which would have been uppermost in the mould, which would have been had been smoothed or fettled off, were also found during previous excavations to the north of this site where they were associated with a possible kiln structure. However the dimensions were slightly larger than that of the one tile recovered here; the thickness varied between 10 and 20 mm, the majority measuring between 14 and 18 mm, and between 165 and 166 mm wide.

No evidence for peg holes was found on either site, whilst in both instances the nibs were formed on the smooth side of the tile, hence the sanded side would have appeared uppermost on the roof, a characteristic shared with most nib tiles in the region (Allin 1981) and elsewhere (Moorhouse 1988, 36). Cartographic and documentary records point to a brickworks at the end of Hangman's Lane, now Newarke Street, possibly as early as 1711 or 1712, (McWhirr 1997), and it seems likely that brick kiln found during the ULAS excavations in 2002 was part of that industrial complex. Whether or not nib tile was made there is not clear.

However, medieval nib tiles were made Chilvers Coton at Nuneaton in Warwickshire from the 14th century (Mayes and Scott 1984), and are dated from the 13th century at Coventry (Ratkai and Woodfield 2005). Medieval or early post-medieval nib tile with similar characteristics to those found on Newarke Street, including surface treatment, and dimensions have been recorded on medieval excavations elsewhere in Leicester, including the Austin Friars, (Allin 1981) and by the author at Greyfriars, Great Central Street, Mill Lane, Leicester Abbey and the Newarke.

Table 7: The Post Roman Nib Tile and Slate by context, number and weight (gr).

Context	Fabric	No	Weight	
NIB TILE				
8 [7]	MS	1	141	Half of nib protruding 14mm from smooth side of tile fragment, dense sandy red fabric. Estimated tile width 160mm, thickness 12-14mm.
SLATE				
17 [7]	slate	1		Roofing slate, average width (max) 86mm, length (max) 172mm
33	slate	1		Roofing slate, average width (max) 86mm, length (max) 207mm
33	slate	1		Roofing slate fragment

The Medieval Roofing Slate -Deborah Sawday

Three fragments of Swithland slate included two complete examples from contexts [7] and 33, both approximately 86mm in width, and approximately 172 and 207mm in length respectively and up to 13mm thick. The slates are sub rectangular in shape and evidently graded in size, a characteristic of medieval and later tiles which increased in size from the ridge of the roof down to the eaves (Allin 1981, fig.19.30 and fig.20.30). They have bored holes, whereas at the Austin Friars whilst most of the medieval slates had also been bored, some of the thinner examples had been pecked. This is in contrast to the typically diamond shape of Roman slates which all have pecked holes (Gnanaratnam 1999, 305).

Discussion

Tiles first appear in the Castle building accounts of 1313-14, and are documented in the Borough Records in 1357-8 with reference to re-tiling the hall, that is the Guildhall, and again in 1365-6 regarding the tiling of roof of the chamber of the West Bridge (Allin 1981, 65). Allin notes that the documentary evidence suggests that tiles were only being used on some of the more important buildings in Leicester from the 14th century onwards. Similarly building accounts in the Borough Records and for Leicester Castle show that slate was certainly being used to roof major buildings in Leicester in the 1300s (*ibid* 1981).

Miscellaneous Finds

Table 8: Miscellaneous finds by material and context.

Context	Material	No	Weight (grams)	
STONE				
54 sk1 <3>	pebble	1		?placed in grave
35 [37]	flint	1		?blade fragment, pre-historic.
INDUSTRIAL RESIDUE				
25	slag	1	482	Tap slag, evidence of iron smelting
38 [34]	slag	1	478	?Bottom of hearth – significant weight.
SHELL				
8	Oyster	2		Oyster
17 [7]	Oyster	6		Oyster
41	Oyster	1		Oyster
MISC				
35 <1>	Bone	2		Join – lower part of shaft of a bone hairpin.
38 [34]	Mortar/Op Sig.	1		
68 [69]	?Fe	1		Possibly part of a corroded nail

A possibly prehistoric blade fragment was residual in context 35 [37] and a pebble from context 54 [55] had perhaps been placed as a marker within the Roman grave <SK1> (L. Cooper, pers. comm.). Two fragments of iron production debris (identified by Heidi Addison), tap slag and hearth bottom, weighing 960 grams in total, were recovered from medieval contexts. These are evidence of iron working, possibly in the vicinity, during the Roman or medieval periods. Two joining fragments from the lower part of a bone hairpin occurred in context 35, the swollen shaft suggests that this is late Roman (N. Cooper, pers. comm.). Oyster shell was recovered in contexts 8, 17 [7] and 41; and fragments of mortar and iron in contexts 38 [34] and 68 [69].

9. Archive

The site archive will be held by Leicester City Council, with the accession no. A7.2013. The archive also includes the initial fieldwork material and contains:

- 1 skeleton record sheet
- 2 context summary record sheets
- 56 A5 context sheets
- 2 site photographic indices recording sheets
- 1 small find index sheet
- 1 sample records sheet
- 1 drawing index sheet
- 1 section drawing record index sheet
- 37 Site drawing permatrace sheets -
- CD containing digital photographs
- Unbound copy of this report 2013-011
- Thumbnail prints of digital photographs
- 35mm black and white contact sheets and negatives (3 part films)
- Index of these photographs

The report is listed on the Online Access to the Index of Archaeological Investigations (OASIS) held by the Archaeological Data Service at the University of York. Available at: <http://oasis.ac.uk/>

	OASIS entry summary
OASIS ID	
Project Name	Elfed Thomas Newarke Street Leicester
Summary	
Project Type	Evaluation and excavation
Project Manager	Vicki Score
Project Supervisor	Tony Gnanaratnam
Previous/Future work	Previous: A9.2011 Future: none
Current Land Use	Brown field
Development Type	Residential
Reason for Investigation	NPPF Section 12 Conserving and Enhancing the Historic Environment
Position in the Planning Process	Condition
Site Co ordinates	SK 5855 0409
Start/end dates of field work	2013
Archive Recipient	Leicester Museums
Study Area	350 sq. m
Associated project reference codes	Museum accession A7.2013

10. Publication

A summary of the work will be submitted for publication in the local archaeological journal *Transactions of the Leicestershire Archaeological and Historical Society* and *Rutland Record* in due course. The report has been added to the Archaeology Data Service's (ADS) Online Access to the Index of Archaeological Investigations (OASIS) database held by the University of York.

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25/02/2014

Appendix I: Context Index Details

Cont	Cut	Feat. Description
1	2	
2	“	
3	4	
4	“	
5	6	Bam slot fill
6	“	Cut of (5)
7	7	Pit cut
8	7	Pit fill
9		Stone wall
10		layer
11		Fill of 9
12		Layer
13		Layer
14		Layer
15		Layer
16		Layer
17	7	Pit fill
18		Plaster floor
19		layer
20		Plaster floor
21		layer
22		Pebble surface
23		wall
24		Shallow depression
25		Layer
26	6	Beam slot
27		Post hole
28		Beam slot
29		layer
30		Wall remnant
31	31	Pit cut
32	31	Pit fill
33		Layer
34	34	Ditch cut
35	37	Ditch fill
36	34	Ditch fill
37	37	Ditch cut
38	34	Ditch fill
39	39	Cut of post hole
40	39	Fill of post hole
41	42	Pit fill
42	42	Pit cut
43	42	Pit fill
44		Post hole packing
45	45	Post hole cut
46	46	Post hole cut
47	46	Post hole fill
48	49	Pit fill
49	49	Pit cut
50	51	Ditch fill
51		cut
52		fill
53		cut
54	55	Grave fill (SK1)
55		Grave cut
56		Ditch fill
57		Ditch cut

58		Ditch fill
59		Ditch cut
60	61	Pit fill
61		Pit cut
62	63	Ditch fill
63		Ditch cut
64	65	Pit fill
65		Pit cut
66	67	Posthole fill
67		Post hole cut
68		Layer
69		Ditch cut
70		-
71	72	Pit fill
72		Pit cut
73	74	Pit fill
74		Pit cut



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