

**The Former St. Mary's Vicarage,
The Newarke, Leicester:
Historic Building Record and Excavation**

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1. Summary

The former St. Mary's Vicarage, The Newarke, Leicester is a grade II listed stone building of probable late 14th century date, though subsequently much altered. It may have been built to accommodate the dean or one of the canons of the College of the Annunciation of St. Mary. The college was dissolved in 1547 and little is known of the later history of the building until it became the vicarage to the Church of St. Mary de Castro in the late 17th century, hence the appellation. In the mid 19th century major refurbishment was undertaken and the building may have been raised in height from two to three storeys at this time; certainly the façade was refaced in stone and the present doorway and windows on the east (front) elevation are attributable to this phase of work. The building functioned as St. Mary's vicarage until about 1920 and then housed the junior class of Wyggeston Girl's school for a time. Roberts and Sons who occupied the adjacent Portland Shoe Works (now De Montfort University's Portland Building) acquired the building in 1934. In 1947 the upper two storeys were removed and a makeshift roof added over the vestigial lower storey. Various other alterations were made around this time when the building was used to store leather. De Montfort University acquired the former vicarage in 1991 and it has been used most recently as a bicycle store; it is now in a poor state of repair.

Archaeological investigation was undertaken by University of Leicester Archaeological Services in advance of works to consolidate the building and convert it for use as a music practice studio for De Montfort University. The structure was surveyed in order to make a detailed record of the building in its current state, prior to the alterations. A series of small trenches were also excavated within the building to investigate the potential for survival of buried archaeological remains, at locations where mini-piles would be installed to support a new roof structure. Further trenches to the rear (west) of the building were excavated to assess the potential impact on buried archaeology of the installation of new services.

It has been possible to interpret, with some degree of confidence, the original form and function of the building and to identify a number of subsequent phases of alteration, based on the analysis of architectural, archaeological and historical data. The archive will be deposited with Leicester Museums Service under the accession code A2 2005.

2. Introduction

This report presents the results of an historic building survey and a limited programme of archaeological excavation at the Grade II listed former St. Mary's Vicarage, The Newarke, Leicester, undertaken by University of Leicester Archaeological Services (ULAS) on behalf of De Montfort University (DMU).

Archaeological investigation and recording was required in respect of an application (Plan perm: 2003/0917) for internal and external works to replace the present roof structure, associated with the conversion of the building into a music practice studio by DMU.

In response to the planning application, the Leicester City Archaeologist, in consultation with the Senior Buildings Conservation Officer, issued a Design Brief outlining the requirements for archaeological investigation of the building and site in order to ensure the proper assessment of the historic, architectural and archaeological character of the former St Mary's

Vicarage within the context of the proposed alterations (Clark 2004, project ref: LC596C). The Design Brief required the preparation of a Desk-based Archaeological Study and an Historic Building Impact Assessment. DMU commissioned ULAS to undertake this work, the results of which were presented in the ULAS report 2004/198 (Courtney 2004).

Following on from the assessment, a further stage of archaeological investigation and recording was agreed, the purpose of which was two-fold:

1. To provide a record of the historic building in its present state, prior to alteration; and
2. To identify and record any buried archaeological remains affected by intrusive ground works associated with the development programme.

This report presents the results of 1 and 2 above, and in doing so attempts to place the building within the wider context of the development of the medieval Trinity Hospital and later College of the Annunciation of St. Mary, of which it was an integral part.

A note on orientation

The long axis of the building is orientated approximately north-west – south-east, to simplify the following account this is taken to be north – south, with the principal elevation being the east front overlooking the junction of The Newarke and The Gateway.

3. Location and Context

The Grade II listed former St. Mary's Vicarage is located on the south side of The Newarke, close to its junction with The Gateway, at National Grid Reference SK 5825 0402. The stone-built structure is a vestigial fragment of a formerly three-storey building, the upper two storeys of which were demolished in 1947. The building, of medieval origin, is situated within The Newarke, the precinct of the College of the Annunciation of St. Mary.

The History of the Hospital and New College of the Annunciation of St. Mary in the Newarke, Leicester by A. Hamilton Thompson (1937) presents a definitive history of the establishment. A more concise account is included in the *Victoria County History* (McKinley 1954, 48-51). The purpose of the following, very brief account is to place the investigation of the former St. Mary's Vicarage building in its historic context.

The earliest component of the complex was the hospital founded in 1330 by Henry, third earl of Lancaster, in honour of the Annunciation of St. Mary. This lay on the south side of the castle precinct outside the medieval town. Associated structures included houses erected to accommodate the master and four chaplains of the hospital, and five women to tend the sick. Henry died in 1345. Henry, the fourth earl and later duke of Lancaster, set about the substantial enlargement of his father's foundation upon his return from foreign campaigns, overseeing its conversion into a secular college. All the necessary preparations were made and on 24 March 1355-6 the Charter of Foundation and Endowment was delivered. Such colleges functioned as 'prayer factories' where masses were said to speed the souls of the founders and their families through purgatory, in addition to alleviating the suffering of the poor in this life. This development was generally referred to as the 'new work', subsequently corrupted to 'The Newarke', a term that was in use before the middle of the 16th century (Smith 1964).

The College of the Annunciation of St. Mary in the Newarke was an extensive complex which included, in addition to the much enlarged hospital: a church, completed about 1414; separate houses to accommodate a dean and 12 canons, each of whom shared his dwelling with a vicar; a separate vicar's hall; a provost's house; a chorister's house; and a substantial

gatehouse (Hamilton Thompson 1937, 69-71). Subsequently three chantry houses were also erected within the college precinct (*ibid.*, 89-92). There are likely to have been other ancillary buildings also. The college precinct was enclosed by a stone wall in the years around 1400 (e.g. Hamilton Thompson 1937, 89; Courtney 2004, 8).

The college was suppressed in 1547 and all of the buildings were seized by the crown. The hospital was later re-founded as Trinity Hospital; the other collegiate buildings were sold off. Many of the stone houses were subsequently purchased by prominent townsmen and the Newarke, exempt from Borough rates, quickly developed into a wealthy residential suburb.

Surviving remains of the College of the Annunciation of St. Mary

Only fragments of the college precinct wall now survive above ground, but its circuit can be traced from historical records, early maps and photographs, and modern excavations (eg. Thomas Robert's 1741 map); (Courtney and Courtney 1995, 68); (Hallam and Webster 2001, 6). The main entrance gateway to the precinct, built c.1410, survives (now generally known as the Magazine Gateway), as does a gateway on the north side between the Newarke and Castle precincts; known as Rupert's or the Turret Gateway, this was built in 1422-3.

Very few of the collegiate buildings have survived. The former Trinity Hospital, now part of DMU, is a substantially altered version of the hospital founded by Henry third earl of Lancaster in 1330; the chapel at the east end represents the most complete medieval element. A stone-built chantry house, founded by William Wigston in c.1513, now forms part of Newake Houses Museum; this was the subject of a fairly unsympathetic restoration after it was bombed in 1940. The church of St Mary of the Annunciation, only completed about 1414, was demolished soon after the college was dissolved; this stood on the site now occupied by DMU's Hawthorn Building. Two stone arches - the only remnant of the church - which had been preserved within the cellar of a house built on the site in the late 17th century, have been reconstructed within a basement room of the Hawthorn Building. The former St. Mary's vicarage is the only other surviving medieval building within the precinct. Billson identified this as a 14th century structure and suggested that it was probably the residence of the Dean of the College (1920, 204). A substantial medieval stone house built onto the south wall of the Newarke was recorded during its demolition in 1935 (Herbert 1940-41, 187-90).

4. Documentary History

John Leland visited Leicester some time before 1542 (Dictionary of National Biography) and the Newarke College is described in some detail in his posthumously published *Itinerary* (Smith 1964). He said of the college church, it 'is not very great but it is exceeding fair' and noted that 'The Cloister on the South Weste side of the Chirch is large and faire: and the Houses in the Cumpace of the Area of the College for the Prebendaries be al very praty.'

A valuation of the buildings within the precinct was made in 1546, shortly before the college was dissolved (Hamilton Thompson 1910, 529-30; 1937, 209). At that time the dean's house, 12 canon's houses, three chantry houses, a lodging between the gates (presumably the Newarke - now Magazine - Gateway) and a lodging 'between the church and the great steeple' were recorded. The building that is the subject of this report was presumably amongst this list but cannot be specifically identified.

The earliest documentary reference dealing specifically with the extant structure occurs in the churchwarden's accounts of St. Mary de Castro in 1675. This records the acquisition by the church of a 'ston hous which Mrs Sharman bought and standeth in the Newark at Nether end

of the hospitall Alley' for the use of the vicar (TLAAS 1888, 367). The antiquarian John Nichols cites 'Mr. Carte, in 1712, speaking of the Newark' who noted that 'Of the old buildings scarcely anything remains except this house of Wigston's, and another much like it now settled on the vicar of St. Mary's' (Nichols 1815, 349).

According to an article published in the Leicester Mercury in 1958, the vicarage underwent a major refurbishment in 1850; a bazaar held at the Three Crowns Hotel in Gallowtree Gate raised £225 of the £445 required for the repair of the building (LM 11.6.1958; Courtney 2004, 2). Attempts to trace the original source of the information in this article have been unsuccessful. The church of St. Mary de Castro also underwent major restoration work around this time and the church architect between 1847 and 1853 was Joseph Mitchell. Joseph Mitchell was the youngest son of the Rev. George Berkeley Mitchell, vicar of St. Mary de Castro between 1813 and 1828 (Fancourt 1980-81, 71-87). Following the untimely death of G.B. Mitchell, the living of St. Mary's passed to his wife's elder brother, the Rev. William Lowfield Fancourt. Joseph Mitchell was only 8 years old when his father died and it appears that his uncle was responsible for ensuring that Joseph and his siblings received a good education (*ibid.*, 84). The Rev. William Lowfield Fancourt was the incumbent at St. Mary's until his death in 1840. No evidence has been found which firmly links Joseph Mitchell with the restoration of the vicarage, however there is a strong possibility that he was the architect.

The building was still in use as the vicarage of St. Mary de Castro in 1920 according to Billson (1920, 204), but the roof was letting in water and the vicar moved to new premises soon afterwards (LM 11.6.1958). The junior class of the Wyggeston Girls' school was housed in the building for a time (Courtney 2004, 3).

Roberts and Sons of the adjacent Portland Shoe Works (now DMU's Portland building) acquired the building in 1934. In exchange for the old vicarage building they constructed a new vicarage at 38 Redcross Street (subsequently renamed 78 St Nicholas Circle following changes to the road layout); regrettably this fine house was demolished without record in 2004.

In 1947 the upper two storeys of the former vicarage were taken down (Hoskins 1948), (Clarke and Simmons 1960, 45-8); photographs dated 12 May 1947 in the Leicester Records Office collections show demolition beginning (DE3736 box 23, folder 7). A makeshift roof was added to the vestigial lower storey, which was used as a store for the tanned hides that were fashioned into boots and shoes (Fancourt 1980-1, 78). Various other alterations are attributable to this period, for example the insertion of the two pairs of double doors in the south end wall. In 1953 the external chimneystack at the north end was partly reconstructed in brick (TLAS 30, 121). The building came into the ownership of DMU in 1991 and was used until recently as a bicycle store.

An historic drainage system associated with the Newarke was first identified in 1897 when the west end of Trinity Hospital was realigned to permit road access to the new Newarke Bridge (TLAAS 8, 255). A large stone-built drain 6ft 9in deep and 11ft wide was discovered near the west end of the old hospital. This was probably the main drain, which presumably ran westward emptying into the river (*ibid.*; Courtney 2004, 6). A smaller stone-built drain 2ft wide and 2ft to 3ft high, was found to run beneath the north end of St Mary's vicarage. Two shafts opening into the top of the drain evidently related to garderobes within the building. This drain was seen again in 1953 when it was accidentally broken into (TLAS 30, 121).

The cartographic evidence was assessed in the ULAS report 2004-198 (Courtney 2004); most notable is Thomas Roberts' 1741 map which shows the building at the north end of a short

row of perhaps five apparently identical structures, with another building of different form to the south. This may be interpreted as the remains of a row of cannons houses forming the west side of a close, at the centre of which stood the collegiate church. The depiction of these buildings is somewhat stylised and Roberts singles them out with a particular form of hatching not used for any other building on his map; what this was intended to convey is uncertain. This map is generally considered to be reasonably accurate, for example it is the only historic map of Leicester which shows a wall defining the west side of the Newarke precinct, the existence of which has recently been confirmed by excavation (Hallam and Webster 2001).

5. Scope of the Development Work

The development plans involve the consolidation of the masonry structure and the replacement of the existing roof, which was constructed in 1947. Presently this roof structure is supported partly by the stonework of the walls and partly by a series of timber props and piles of bricks that rest on the medieval first floor structure. Water ingress has resulted in the decay and partial collapse of one of the principal transverse members of the floor frame at the north end of the building. The new roof structure will be supported by an internal steel frame, founded on a series of mini-piles. The medieval floor frame will be provided with additional support by suspending it from the new roof structure.

Alterations to the interior of the building will involve lining out the walls, whilst preserving the existing palimpsest of structural and decorative elements (see below). The present concrete floor will be broken out and re-laid in order to install a damp proof membrane. New services, including electricity, water and waste will be installed. These have been designed to minimise the impact upon the fabric of the building and on any buried archaeological remains. One of the two brick-built chemical stores, of recent date, on the west side of the building will be removed to expose more of the medieval wall fabric. It was intended to remove the second chemical store also, but it was found that this performs a structural role in supporting part of the medieval stonework; it will therefore be retained.

6. Scope of the Archaeological Work

Following completion of the desk-based assessment and building appraisal requested in the brief issued by the City Archaeologist, a mitigation strategy was agreed in discussion between the Senior Buildings Conservation Officer, the City Archaeologist, the Estates Manager of DMU and ULAS. This would provide a record of the building in its present state prior to repair/alteration and the concealment of historic elements of the interior. In addition, excavation of buried archaeological remains affected by the mini-pile foundations of the new roof structure and new service runs would be undertaken. This would enable an assessment of the potential impact of the proposed relaying of the existing concrete floor on any buried archaeological remains to be made. The results of the excavations conducted within the building suggest that this is unlikely to impact upon any significant buried remains. A series of trenches were excavated to the west (rear) of the building to assess the potential impact upon buried archaeological remains of the new service runs.

Details of the archaeological programme are given below:

Building recording

A detailed photographic record of the exterior and interior was made, covering items 1-6 in the Royal Commission on the Historical Monuments of England guidelines for recording historic buildings (RCHME 1996, 3rd edition).

Floor plans and external elevations, as existing, were recorded. A ground floor plan and external elevation drawings, produced by Greenhatch Surveys, were supplied by DMU; these were assessed on site for accuracy and amended/supplemented with historic architectural details as necessary. A survey of the first floor frame was produced from scratch. In the course of the work it became clear that there were various historic architectural details that were significant in terms of understanding the development of the building, which were visible internally but which did not appear on the external elevations; for this reason the internal elevations of the east and west walls were also surveyed.

A written account, appropriately illustrated, outlining the form, function, materials, date and development sequence has been compiled.

Excavation

The new roof structure will be supported on four mini-piles, the location of these was marked out and the concrete floor in these areas broken up by the building contractors; ULAS then excavated and recorded archaeologically the underlying deposits. The piles were positioned to avoid the stone-built drain located inside the north end of the building that was discovered in 1899 (TLAS 9, part 1, 4-5).

A fifth trench, positioned to establish the depth and character of the west wall foundation, was excavated within the building, in order to assess the suitability of this to provide a load bearing support for the new roof structure.

Externally, three trenches were excavated and recorded archaeologically in order to assess the potential impact of the installation of new services. All of the trenches, internal and external, were hand dug.

7. Description and Interpretation

The former St Mary's Vicarage measures 12.65m x 7.95m externally, excluding the projecting chimneystacks at either end. It is built from the local Dane Hills sandstone, quarried approximately 1 mile to the west. The building was reduced in height from three storeys to one in 1957, but there are reasons to suppose that it was originally a two-storey structure (see below). Various alterations have been made over the centuries, however sufficient evidence remains to infer something of the original form and function of the building. The retention of the first floor frame as a support for the roof structure added in 1957 has proved particularly fortuitous, for the light this sheds on the internal arrangement of both the ground and first floors.

7.1 The medieval building

The present footprint of the building, excluding the attached chemical store (which is omitted from the ground floor plan: Figure 2), appears to correspond with the original structure. It is

rectangular in plan, except that the west wall is stepped. External chimneystacks at either end indicate that it was built as a detached structure. There is the remnant of a chamfered plinth on the east side (Figure 4, below S window). Although now an empty shell, evidence for the internal arrangement of the medieval building remains in the form of various blocked window and door openings in the masonry of the walls, and in empty mortises cut into the top and soffit faces of the transverse members of the first floor frame. It is evident that not all of the early door and window apertures are of the same date and indeed some openings may be as late as the 16th century. However no clear chronology can be established based on the surviving evidence and all are broadly attributed to this 'early' phase. The first floor frame consists of a series of six transverse beams supporting the common joists, the principal beams are identified by the letters *a* to *f* (from north to south) on Figure 3 and their profiles are illustrated in Figure 6.

Ground floor plan (Figure 2)

The ground floor plan is a compact variant of the typical medieval hall plan. Opposed doorways in the east and west walls define a cross passage, corresponding with the closely spaced transverse beams *b* & *c* in the first floor frame. Mortises in the underside of *b* indicate the former existence of a short spere adjacent to either doorway, dividing the cross entry from the hall proper to the south. The doorway in the west wall survives largely intact, though partly blocked, and now with a 19th century 4-panelled door providing access to a small cupboard in the thickness of the west wall (Plate 11; Figure 5). It has a four-centred arch head with plain chamfered mouldings. Only the south jamb and part of the head of the east doorway survives, visible on the internal elevation (Plate 13; Figure 5); this appears to have been of similar form to the west doorway.

The hall occupied the area between *c* & *e*, with beam, *d*, over its centre embellished with an intricate moulding and corner bracing. Part of a tall window with a four-centred arch head, lighting the hall, was exposed on the internal face of the east wall (Plate 13). A timber partition wall on the line of *e* defined a narrow, unheated chamber beyond the hall at the south end of the building. This was lit by at least one window in the south elevation, now blocked. At the north end of the building, beyond the cross entry, service accommodation would be expected, conventionally a buttery and pantry. The absence of mortises in the underside of beam *b* however suggests that this area was open onto the cross passage and hall beyond. This arrangement meant that the fireplace in the north wall would heat the whole of this space. The medieval fireplace has been obliterated by later work, but the externally projecting canted chimneystack remains, albeit partly rebuilt in brick in the mid 20th century (TLAS 30, 121; Plate 2). A square-headed window in the west wall lit this space (Plate 7; Figure 4). The internal face of the west wall was originally continuous, corresponding with the line of the surviving northern section; this is indicated by the chamfered and stopped ends of beams *d*, *e* & *f*, which would otherwise be unsupported, and corroborated by the wall foundation exposed in the excavation trenches T2, T4 & T5 (see below; Figure 9). The wider portion of the west wall (originally 1.6m wide) appears to have incorporated a passageway and possibly a small chamber (garderobe?) at its southern end. A large square-headed window in the west wall, now blocked, lit the passageway and a much smaller window in the same wall lit the putative chamber; the head height of the two openings was identical (Plates 5 & 6; Figure 4). The reason for supposing that the small chamber within the wall thickness may have been a garderobe is that trench T1 revealed an infilled sub-surface feature which, it is suggested, may have been a drain equivalent to that discovered under the north end of the building in 1899 (TLAAS 9, 4-5). There is the remnant of a newel staircase at the point where the outer face of the west wall steps in. The door at the west end of the cross passage presumably led to the foot of the stair, the precise arrangement is uncertain however.

It is possible to infer something of the social geography of the ground floor space from the mouldings on the lower arrises of the transverse beams (Figure 6). Beam *d* over the centre of the hall is the most elaborate, and it seems likely that the same moulding was carried through onto the corner braces, though these have not survived. At either end of the hall, *c* and *e* have a matching moulding on their hall-facing arris. The same moulding occurs on *b* and *c* over the cross passage. The chamber on the south side of the hall is treated with plain chamfers on the room-facing arrises of *e* & *f*. The 'service' area at the north end has a plain chamfer on *b* only, with *a* lacking any embellishment at all.

First floor structure (Figure 3)

The floor frame, as noted above, is composed of a series of six transverse beams embedded in the masonry of the sidewalls. These are typically 260-270mm square (10¼-10½ inches). The common floor joists average about 130mm square (5 inches), a number of these have been truncated and others removed; empty matrices in the sides of the transverse beams indicate the former position of removed joists. A typical joint matrix is illustrated in Figure 8. The joists are carried over rather than being jointed into the outermost transverse beams *a* & *f*. Carpenter's assembly marks were identified on a number of the floor joists, invariably on the top face at their south end (Figure 3). The numbering sequence runs from west to east and each set of joists is distinguished with a different symbol for the number ten, presumably corresponding with equivalent marks on the transverse beams. It is probable that the first floor was originally boarded, however the survey recorded evidence of two successive floor surfaces of plaster-on-reed type (see below).

First floor plan (Figure 3)

Mortices in the top face of the transverse beams *c* & *d* define three first floor rooms. The larger north and south chambers were each heated by an end wall fireplace. A small, externally projecting chimneystack, canted and supported on a corbel, served the fireplace in the south chamber. Later remodelling has obliterated any details of these early fireplaces. The third, central, room was unheated. All three rooms were lit by windows in the east elevation in the 20th century, judging by the photographs taken shortly before the demolition of the upper storeys, the window apertures in the north and south rooms at least may have been early (e.g. Clarke and Simmons 1960, plate 30). The upper section of the newel stair was carried on a corbel over the angle of the stepped west wall (Plate 7); subsequent remodelling has removed most of the early fabric of the staircase. How the access from the stair to the first floor rooms was arranged is uncertain. Nor is it clear whether the suspected garderobe chamber within the thickness of the south wall on the ground floor, was repeated by an equivalent chamber on the floor above. The first floor rooms would have served as private accommodation and it therefore seems likely that garderobes would have been provided at this level, possibly with shafts within the thickness of the walls. The drain found in 1899 suggests a garderobe associated with the northern chamber, although no evidence of one has been found. The shaft within the thickness of the north wall recorded at this level is probably a flue serving the ground floor fireplace.

Roof structure

Photographs of the former vicarage before demolition of the upper storeys show that although the façade was of stone, the rest of the top storey was brick-built (e.g. Courtney and Courtney 1995, 62). It seems likely that the building was originally only two stories high, with the third storey being a later addition; William Wigston's chantry house was extended in a similar

manner, probably in the late 16th century (Courtney and Courtney 1995, 57). The evidence for the upper storey of the vicarage being a 19th century addition is considered in more detail below.

No evidence survives to indicate the form of the original roof structure, however comparisons may be drawn with surviving buildings of similar date elsewhere within the Newarke. The Newarke Gateway has a shallow-pitched originally lead-covered roof (Bellairs 1892) and Albert Herbert proposed a similar reconstruction for the roof of the building on the south side of the Newarke demolished in 1935 (Herbert 1940-41). The original shallow-pitched roofline of Wigston's Chantry house is preserved in its west gable wall (Plate 14). It seems likely that the former vicarage building, in its original form, had a similar low-pitched, lead-covered roof.

Boundary wall (Figure 9)

Attached to the north-west corner of the former vicarage is the stub of a wall constructed from the same Dane Hills sandstone. The excavation trench T6 exposed a section of the foundation of this wall just to the west of the upstanding fragment (Plate 20). It seems probable that this was a boundary wall, broadly contemporary with the construction of building, which seems to have defined the north side of the plot to its rear. The inventory of 1546 records that each of the canons houses within the precinct had a garden; in addition the dean's house also had an orchard (Hamilton Thompson 1910, 529-30). The Roberts' map of 1741 shows a wall in approximately this location running westwards then turning to the south to form the west precinct wall of the Newarke enclosure. It has been suggested in the past that the River Soar formed the western boundary to the Newarke and that there was never a wall on this side. Recent excavation, however, has located the foundation of a substantial wall constructed from Dane Hills sandstone in the same position as the west precinct wall shown on the Roberts map (Hallam and Webster 2001, 6).

7.2 Subsequent modifications

The mid 19th century remodelling, dealt with in the next section, was so extensive that no coherent sequence can be suggested for the development of the building between the dissolution of the college and c.1850. There are however a number of features which are attributable to the intervening period.

Built into the north end wall are two brick flues, of probable 18th century date, each apparently serving a ground floor fireplace (Plate 2). This suggests that the northern end of the building was divided into two rooms at that time.

A recess with basket-handle arch head, in the internal face of the west wall, probably dates to the later 18th or early 19th century. Set within the recess, behind decayed lathe and plaster attributable to the mid 19th century renovations, was a wooden frame that would have accommodated a picture or roundel of some kind (Plate 12; Figure 5). To the north of this, again covered by lathe and plaster, was an area of brickwork, apparently infilling another recess of unknown date. On the internal face of the east wall there is evidence that the tall opening with four-centred arch head was modified to create a smaller window, which was subsequently infilled with brick, probably in the mid 19th century (Figure 5). Other areas of brickwork relate to repairs and patching of decayed stonework at various times.

First floor structure

At some stage the first floor had become sufficiently uneven to warrant a major overhaul. The boards were lifted and the upper surface of the frame levelled by fixing length of scrap timber to it. This included several lengths of reused moulded timber with the same profile, which is illustrated in Figure 8; this may have derived from dismantled panelling, possibly from a ceiling. Reeds were fixed to the levelled frame and a gypsum plaster surface laid down to a depth of *c.*30mm. This was a lightweight, grey-coloured material, with a porous structure, consisting principally of wood ash and charcoal with fine aggregate consisting of crushed mortar and very occasional tile/brick fragments. Chemical analysis by Graham Morgan of the University of Leicester indicates a high gypsum content, although some lime was also present. It is difficult to date, but the use of wood rather than coal as fuel suggests an earlier rather than a later date.

Subsequently another gypsum plaster surface was laid directly over the first. This was a pinkish colour with aggregate consisting principally of crushed brick/tile, with some mortar and quartz fragments and odd pieces of coal. Although this was laid to a depth of only *c.*15mm, it was much heavier than the underlying surface. Again it is impossible to suggest an accurate date, but it could relate to the mid 19th century remodelling, or may be earlier. Survival of these two floor surfaces was only fragmentary.

7.3 Mid 19th century remodelling

The vicarage was extensively remodelled in the mid 19th century; the Leicester Mercury article of 1958 gives the date as 1850. The east front was largely refaced in Dane Hills sandstone, except for an area beneath the southern window where part of a heavily eroded chamfered plinth survives (Figure 4). The large timber mullioned windows and central pointed arch doorway were introduced at this time (Plates 1 & 4; Figure 4). As noted above, the top storey may have been added as part of this remodelling, since early photographs show this to have been brick-built on all but the east side. Before demolition in 1947 the roof was covered in Welsh slate and pitched accordingly, making a construction date in the 19th century likely. This said, there are hints that the vicarage may already have been raised in height to three storeys before this, for example in the illustration of *c.*1800 reproduced in Elliot (1999, plate 32) and Courtney and Courtney (1995, 44); the evidence is equivocal however.

The house was also extended to the west, either at this time or before. The first edition Ordnance Survey of 1888 is the earliest detailed map and shows a sizeable extension to the west (rear) of the medieval building. This was presumably demolished *c.*1947 and little more information is available on this range of building. One of the excavation trenches in this vicinity located an in-filled brick-built cellar immediately to the rear of the medieval structure at its south end (trench T8, Figure 9). A 19th century brick wall foundation and quarry tile floor was revealed in trench T7.

The internal layout of the medieval structure was reconfigured at this time, creating a central entrance corridor with a large room on either side. Both of the brick wall foundations defining this layout were partially exposed in the excavation trenches (Figure 9). The main staircase was located towards the west end of the entrance corridor and the lower flight of steps was reportedly still *in situ* five years ago (Revd. David Cawley *pers. com.*). Nothing of the staircase remained at the time of the survey, however its position is indicated by the inserted trimmer in the first floor frame, between the transverse beams *c* & *d*. In the north room, the doorway at the west end of the cross passage was in-filled and the lower section of the newel

stair converted into a cupboard with a four-panelled door (Plate 11). All of the stonework was lined internally with lathe and plaster. There are panelled internal shutters to the timber mullioned window in the east elevation and some sections of skirting, but otherwise very little of the 19th century décor has survived in this room (Plate 10). A projecting chimneybreast was created in the north wall by hacking away the stone on either side, presumably for aesthetic reasons. This left unsupported masonry above, which undoubtedly contributed towards the structural instability that led to the eventual demolition of the upper storeys. The fire surround has since been removed.

In the south room more of the 19th century fixtures and fittings have survived. There are again panelled shutters to the timber mullioned window in the east elevation (Plate 9). A fireplace was inserted into the south wall at ground floor level; this has a good quality white marble surround, now quite badly damaged, with a tiled cast iron insert (Plate 8). In the thickness of the west wall is a large recess with Tudor arch head and adjacent to this a serving hatch, now blocked, suggesting that this had been the dining room (Plate 8). Sections of skirting, picture rail and coving survive. Successive layers of wallpaper were noted in some areas, the earliest of these appeared to predate the mid 19th century remodelling. The scope of this commission did not permit detailed analysis of the wallpaper, however.

A series of timbers fixed to the medieval first floor frame form the basis of the removed 19th century ceiling (Plates 8 & 9). The 19th century timberwork is omitted from Figure 2 for the sake of clarity, but is included on an archive drawing.

The inner leaf of masonry forming the passageway in the thickness of the west wall was taken down at this time, presumably to maximise internal space. Additional softwood members were inserted to provide support to the ends of the first floor beams *d*, *e* & *f*. Here again details of the inserted timbers are included on archive drawings.

As noted above, the first floor may have been resurfaced and the fireplace in the south wall of the first floor room may also have been remodelled at this time.

7.4 Mid 20th century and later alterations

The 'unsafe' upper storeys of the former vicarage were dismantled in 1947; thirteen years after Roberts and Sons acquired the building (Hoskins 1948; Collins 1935, 6). There were already maintenance and/or structural problems with the building before it came into the possession of Roberts and Sons, however (LM 11.6.1958). Some of these problems can be attributed to the alterations that had been made in the mid 19th century. A makeshift roof was constructed over the lower storey, which was used as a store for the tanned hides that were fashioned into boots and shoes at the Portland Shoe Works (Fancourt 1980-1, 78). The mono-pitch roof consisted of a series of four transverse beams, carried on the east and west walls, supporting timber planking with a bituminous type waterproof covering. Timber props and piles of bricks resting on the first floor frame provided intermediate support to the roof. Some of the principal transverse members of the roof built in 1947 were evidently reused from an earlier building or buildings.

Various other alterations are attributable to Roberts and Sons' period of ownership. Two pairs of tall double doors were inserted into the south end wall (Plate 4). These opened onto a covered passageway with corrugated iron roof, which linked the former vicarage to the adjacent works (Courtney 2004, 3 & plate 1). The doors were matched by an equivalent pair in the north wall of the factory building. An overhead steel track was fixed to the first floor frame and further supported by a series of steel and timber stanchions (Plate 10). This track

evidently ran out through both sets of double doors and into the main factory building. Presumably the track provided a means of storing and moving the tanned hides, which would have been suspended from it. Another set of double doors was inserted into the centre of the west wall (Plate 3; Figures 4 & 5).

In 1953 the chimney at the north end of the building was taken down and rebuilt in brick (TLAS, 1954, 121; Plate 2).

A series of internal and external brick piers represent a recent attempt at stabilising the structure. The brick-built and concrete-roofed chemical stores against the external face of the west wall were added by DMU some time after 1991.

7.5 Buried archaeological remains

The eight excavation trenches are located on Figure 9 and illustrated in Plates 15-22; selected sections are presented in Figure 10. Detailed trench descriptions and deposit sequences are included in the site archive. Selected context numbers are cited in the following description, in parentheses, to identify features and deposits shown on the accompanying illustrations.

Trenches T1-T4 were within the building, positioned to coincide with the proposed locations of mini-piles to support the new roof structure. Removal of the concrete floor surface and associated formation deposits in trenches T2 (Plate 16) and T4 (Plate 18) exposed the Dane Hills sandstone foundation of the west wall of the medieval structure (Figure 10). An area of 19th century quarry tile flooring, cut into the earlier wall foundation, was also revealed in trench T4 (Plate 18). No further excavation was undertaken in either of these trenches.

Trench T1 was located just inside the south-east corner of the building (Plate 15; Figure 10). Beneath the concrete floor surface a series of soil deposits was encountered (15, 16 & 17). Excavation was terminated at a depth of 1.4m (57.23m above OD). Pottery and clay pipe fragments recovered from the excavated deposits suggest a date in the 18th or possibly the early 19th century for these contexts (see Appendix 2). The stepped foundations of the east and south walls of the medieval structure were exposed in the sides of the trench.

Trench T3 was located towards the centre of the east wall of the building (Plate 17; Figure 10). Beneath the modern concrete floor surface an east-west aligned brick wall foundation (2) was encountered (brick dimensions: 241 x 105 x 59mm); this was constructed on a course of Swithland slate pieces (3) laid on a thick bed of mortar (4). This was the foundation of the wall separating the central hallway from the north room in the 19th century layout. Below (4) a structure (5), composed of Dane Hills sandstone blocks bonded with mortar, may be interpreted as a foundation for the sill plate of the spere on the south side of the blocked early doorway (see above). A series of deposits below this (6, 7, 8 & 9) contained a few sherds of transitional Iron Age/Roman pottery, Roman Samian ware, and medieval wares of 12th to 14th or 15th century date. In addition a single fragment of 18th or 19th century clay tobacco pipe was recovered. These deposits appeared to post-date the construction of the stepped east wall foundation. Excavation was terminated at a depth of 1.10m below floor level or 57.55m above OD.

Trench T5 was positioned to establish the depth and character of the west wall foundation, in order to assess the suitability of this to provide a load bearing support for the new roof structure (Plate 17; Figure 10). It was excavated down to the base of the wall foundation, 2.00m below the internal floor level at 56.70m above OD. Beneath the modern concrete floor surface, a brick wall foundation (25) was exposed in the north section of the trench (brick

dimensions: 241 x 105 x 59mm). This wall had separated the central corridor from the south room in the mid 19th century layout (Figure 9); it was founded on a mortar bed (26). A series of dumped deposits (27, 28 & 29) overlay the backfilled construction cut (32) for foundation of the west wall. Medieval pottery recovered from the lower fill of the construction cut (31) ranged in date from *c.*1250 to the later 13th or early 14th century (see Appendix 2). The construction trench for the wall was cut through a series of earlier deposits (33-37) from which pottery and medieval ridge tile, roofing slate and possibly medieval window glass, of a similar date range to (31) was recovered. The earliest of these deposits (37) overlay natural orange gravelly clay which occurred at 57.06m above OD. This in turn overlay natural pinkish red Mercia mudstone clay at 56.88m above OD.

The external trenches were positioned to assess the potential impact of the installation of new services on any buried archaeological remains. Trench T6 (Plate 20; Figure 10) exposed a ceramic drainage pipe (48), of 19th or early 20th century date, at a depth of 0.85m below ground level (at 57.73m above OD). All of the excavated material (46 & 47) was made up of backfill associated with the installation of this pipe. The foundation of the boundary wall attached to the northwest corner of the medieval building was partially exposed along the north side of the trench. Three courses of mortared Dane Hills sandstone were visible but the base of the wall foundation was not reached.

In trench T7 (Plate 21; Figure 9), a 19th century brick wall foundation, orientated approximately east-west, was exposed. This survived to a depth in excess of 10 courses, laid in Flemish bond pattern (brick dimensions: 241 x 120 x 67mm). To the south of this a quarry tile floor and brick floor were partially uncovered.

Trench T8 revealed a brick-built wall (brick dimensions: 241 x 120 x 61mm) (Plate 22; Figure 9). This defined the west side of a cellar approximately 2m wide adjacent to the medieval building. The cellar, of 19th century date, was backfilled with brick rubble and appeared to be capped, in part at least, with large slate slabs.

8. Discussion

The medieval building: form & function

It has variously been suggested that the former vicarage was built to house the dean of the College of the Annunciation of St. Mary, or one of the canons, or that it was one of the chantry houses subsequently established within the college precinct (Billson 1920, 204); (Courtney 2004, 2); (Hoskins 1948, 12); (Listing Description: Appendix 1); (First Edition OS). The specific context of its construction is not known, and it should be remembered that there were several other buildings within the precinct, including those houses erected in the 1330s to accommodate the master, chaplains and serving-women of earl Henry's original foundation (Hamilton Thompson 1937, 19). Having said this, there are reasons to suggest that it *may* have been the house of either the dean or one of the canons of the college, built after the middle of the 14th century.

The dean and each of the canons shared a dwelling house with one of the 13 vicars (McKinley 1954, 49). The foundation statutes of the college, dated 24 March 1355-6, are specific in the detail of the accommodation: 'The dean...and every canon shall have a suitable dwelling-house for himself, apart and separate from the other canons...the which buildings after they have been completely constructed the dean and each of the canons shall be bound to make good and repair fittingly at their own expense...' (Hamilton Thompson 1937, 42; 69-70).

Whether there would have been any significant material difference between the house of the dean and those of the canons is not known. In the 1546 valuation the dean's house was rated at 40s compared with 26s 8d for each of the canons' houses, however this valuation included an orchard attached to the dean's residence, which might account for the discrepancy (Hamilton Thompson 1910, 529-30).

The size and internal layout of the extant building indicate that it was intended to house two people. This can be demonstrated by comparison with William Wigston's chantry house of c.1513, which was certainly built to accommodate two chantry priests (Plate 14). The two buildings are near identical in size and there are also similarities in their internal layout. Although Wigston's chantry house is now of three storeys, the upper floor was probably added in the late 16th century (Courtney and Courtney 1995, 57). Buildings of this type were generally of two storeys rather than three, and there are good grounds to suggest that the upper storey of the former St. Mary's vicarage was a late addition also (see above and Courtney 2004, 3-4).

Each of the large heated chambers on the first floor presumably constituted the private accommodation of one of the residents. The hall on the ground floor may have been intended principally for the use of the dean/canon, since the vicars had their own communal hall with kitchen, bakehouse and brewhouse elsewhere within the precinct (Hamilton Thompson 1937, 70-71).

The prime location of the building, in close proximity to the collegiate church, lends weight to the interpretation that this was the house of the dean or one of the canons of the college. The depiction of what may be a row of similar structures on Roberts' 1741 map, forming the west side of the church close, serves to reinforce this interpretation. Whether all thirteen houses would have been arranged along this side of the precinct is uncertain.

The 18th or early 19th century deposits encountered in the excavation trench T1 have been tentatively interpreted as the backfill of a medieval stone-lined drain equivalent to that located under the north end of the building in the late 19th century. The assumption is that this would have served one or more garderobes at the south end of the building, forming part of the medieval drainage system associated with the Newarke (TLAAS 1900, 4-5). Possibly arguing against this interpretation, however, is the fact that no evidence was seen for a drain passing through either the east or south wall foundations within this trench. An alternative interpretation of the trench T1 deposits is that they represent the backfill of a former cellar at the south end of the building. However, this contradicts the evidence of trench T5, just a few metres away, where there was certainly not a cellar. Further excavation would be required to resolve this quandary.

Date

The college was founded in 1355-6 and construction of the canons houses presumably began soon afterwards; it is not clear when they were completed. The will of Henry, duke of Lancaster, made at Leicester Castle on 15 March 1360-1 and proved a fortnight later, included provision for the completion of 'the said collegiate church and all the other houses devised and ordained round about the said church' (Hamilton Thompson, 1937, 38). The building work seems to have progressed slowly, however, and various payments were made in the latter part of the 14th century for 'completing the church, cloister, houses, walls and other necessary things' (ibid., 88-90). The church at least was still unfinished in 1414, when a writ was made for the hire of workmen, however this was the final writ of its type and Hamilton Thompson took this as an indication that the church was completed soon after that date (ibid.,

96). In broad terms, the construction of the dean and canons' houses can be attributed to the second half of the fourteenth century.

The excavated evidence dates the construction of the former vicarage building to some time after the late 13th or early 14th century, based on the pottery recovered from the backfill of the construction trench for the west wall and the underlying deposits through which this wall had been cut (Appendix 2).

Architecturally there are few clues to the precise construction date, though a late 14th century date would not be inconsistent with the evidence of the extant fabric. There is little in the way of surviving diagnostic detail in the early windows; jamb and head profiles are illustrated in Figure 7. The doorways with four-centred arch heads at either end of the cross passage could date to the second half of the 14th century, but might equally be a century later.

The 'paired' arrangement of the early door and window in the east wall is comparable with that recorded at the late 14th century Rupert's Tower, on the south side of the Newarke (Herbert 1940-1, 187-90). Here paired doorways, with four-centred arch heads, were inserted some time after the early-mid 15th century (*ibid.*, 189).

Tree-ring dating of timbers in the first floor frame may have been informative, but was outside the scope of this commission.

Later history

After the college was dissolved, the building is likely to have become the residence of a wealthy Leicester family. When the house was acquired for the use of the vicars of St. Mary de Castro in 1675, Mrs Sharman was noted as a former owner (TLAAS 1888, 367). Mrs Margaret Sharman (Sherman) was the widow of John Sherman whose grandfather was identified as 'John Sherman of the Newark' in Nichols (1815, 504) and must have been one of the early private residents of the former college precinct.

The building is likely to have been altered at various times in accordance with changing expectations over standards of accommodation and contemporary fashion. However, little evidence of this has survived the extensive alterations of the mid 19th century and the partial demolition of 1947.

There is a strong possibility that Joseph Mitchell was responsible for the 1850 remodelling, given his close family associations with the vicarage. This might also explain the unusual arrangements that were made to pay for these renovations. Normally, the incumbent was responsible for repairs to the vicarage, presenting a schedule of dilapidations to the diocese for reimbursement. In this case, however, a bazaar was held to raise money towards the cost of repairs (Leicester Mercury 11.6.1958). The restoration of the house where Joseph Mitchell was born might be seen as a memorial to his father the Rev. George Berkeley Mitchell, a noted social reformer of the time, and to his then recently deceased uncle the Rev. William Lowfield Fancourt, who was responsible for Joseph's training as an architect.

Ultimately, however, these modifications contributed towards the structural failure that resulted in the partial demolition of the former vicarage in 1947. Alterations to the west wall removed support from the medieval first floor frame, and areas of masonry in the north gable wall were left unsupported. It is fortunate that the building was not completely demolished in 1947; the vestigial lower storey was adequate for the purposes of Roberts and Sons and was therefore retained.

The current works by DMU to stabilise the structure and convert it into a music practise studio should ensure the continued survival and use of the building for the foreseeable future.

9. Archive

The site archive consists of:

14 x A3 permagraph sheets with annotated plan, section, elevation and profile drawings
6 x A3 paper sheets with annotated plan, section and elevation drawings (based on site survey by Greenhatch Ltd.).
14 x A5 paper sheets of field notes
Indices
c.120 colour slides
c.120 monochrome negatives and contact prints

The archive and finds will be deposited for storage in perpetuity with the Leicester Museums Service under the site accession code A2 2005.

10. Publication

A summary of the results of the project will be submitted to the editor of the *Transactions of the Leicestershire Archaeological and Historical Society* for inclusion in the next available issue of that journal.

11. Acknowledgements

De Montfort University commissioned the survey, the principal contact being David Lockhart, Estates Manager, whose assistance with access and logistics is gratefully acknowledged. Thanks are also extended to the Revd. David Cawley, Vicar of St Mary de Castro church, who provided much useful information on the building. Dr Paul Courtney produced the initial desk-based assessment and has subsequently discussed various aspects of the history and development of the building and the Newarke generally. Deborah Sawday analysed and reported on the finds; and read and commented on the first draft report. The survey was carried out by Neil Finn and Neil Pollock of ULAS between the 15th and 23rd March 2005. ULAS project management was by Richard Buckley.

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Appendix 1

Listing description

The Newarke
(South side)
Remains of St. Mary's Vicarage

Ref. No: SK 5804 SW 2/301

Date listed: 14 March 1975

Grade: II

THE NEWARKE 1. 5304 (South side) Remains of ST Mary's Vicarage (Store at Portland Shoe SK 5804 SW 2/301 Factory) II 2. Probably originally C16 chantry house, and later St Mary's Vicarage. Before its virtual demolition in 1949 it was a three-storey three window stone house with slate gable-ended roof, rectangular window openings with wood mullion/transom and leaded panes. All that remains is the ground floor stage: coursed masonry, rectangular on plan, central pointed archway, rectangular window each side, C19 fenestration with four-centred headed lights. The other elevations are patched with modern brickwork. Used as store.

Appendix 2

The pottery and miscellaneous finds from an excavation at the former St. Mary's Vicarage, The Newarke, Leicester

D. Sawday

The pottery, thirty nine sherds, weighing four hundred and sixty five grams, was examined under a binocular microscope and catalogued with reference to the ULAS fabric series (Connor and Buckley 1999), (Table 1). Also present were two fragments, weighing one hundred and sixty six grams, of medieval ridge tile and seven fragments of modern clay pipe.

Fabric/Ware	Sherd Nos.	Weight Grams	Av. Sherd Weight
Late Iron Age/Roman			
GT – Grog Tempered ware	1	32	
SW – Samian ware	1	7	
GW – Grey ware	2	67	
Sub Total	4	106	26.5
Late Saxon			
ST2 – Fine Stamford ware	4	19	
ST1 – Very Fine Stamford ware	1	19	
Sub Total	5	38	7.6
Medieval			
PM – Potters Marston	14	152	
LY4 – Stanion Lyveden type ware 4	1	2	
CC1 – Chilvers Coton ware 1	2	23	
CC2 – Chilvers Coton ware 2	1	5	
Sub Total	18	182	10.1
Later Medieval/Early Post Medieval			
MS3 – Medieval Sandy ware 3	2	28	
MP2 – Midland Purple ware 2	2	38	
MY – Midland Yellow ware	2	14	
Sub Total	6	80	13.3
Post Medieval			
EA2 – Earthenware 2	1	25	
EA3 – Mottled ware	2	7	
EA7 – Slipware	3	27	
Sub Total	6	59	9.8
Totals	39	465	

Table 1: The pottery totals by fabric, sherd numbers, and weight (grams)

The Stratigraphic Record

The presence of a sherd of Late Iron Age or early Roman pottery, and of three sherds of Roman pottery dating from the second to the fourth century AD, is of note, although all were residual in later contexts.

Contexts 15, 16 and 17 in trench T1, produced a range of residual medieval pottery and also post medieval sherds in Midland Yellow ware, Earthenware 2, Mottled ware and Slipware. The assemblage may have a terminal date in the eighteenth, or possibly the early nineteenth century, the latter date suggested by the presence of two clay pipe stem fragments in context 16.

The finds from contexts 8 and 9 in trench T3, included a sherd of late Iron Age or Roman pottery, Roman Samian ware and five sherds of medieval pottery dating from the twelfth to the fourteenth or, possibly, the fifteenth centuries, together with a clay pipe stem dating to the eighteenth or nineteenth centuries.

Trench T5 produced an interesting sequence of medieval pottery, (Table 2). Residual Roman pottery and late Saxon Stamford ware was recovered from contexts 33, 34 and 36 as well as Potters Marston and Stanion Lyveden type ware dating from the twelfth century and Chilvers Coton and a piece of Medieval Sandy ware ridge tile, both dating from *circa* 1250 into the later thirteenth or early fourteenth centuries. Context 31 in the foundation trench 32 which cut these layers, produced pottery and another fragment of ridge tile with a similar date range to the above.

Fabric	Context 33, 34, 36	Comments	Cut/Context 32/31	Comments
POTTERY				
ST2 – Fine Stamford ware	3/9	Body sherds - residual	1/10	
ST1 – Very Fine Stamford ware			1/19	
PM – Potters Marston	6/81	Two externally sooted convex base sherds, one body sherd with incised horizontal line decoration	4/41	Small upright jar rim with external thickening
LY4 – Stanion Lyveden type ware 4	1/2	Small jug neck with incised horizontal lines		
CC1 – Chilvers Coton ware 1	1/12	Convex basal angle, heavily knife trimmed externally	1/11	Thick walled body sherd
Totals	11/104		7/81	
RIDGE TILE				
CC1 – Chilvers Coton ware 1			1/158	Orange glaze speckled green
MS2 – Medieval Sandy ware 2	1/8			
Totals	1/8		1/58	

Table 2: The medieval pottery and ridge tile by fabric, sherd/fragment numbers and weight (grams) from stratified levels from trench T5, with a possible *terminus post quem* of 1355-6 to *circa* 1400.

Clay pipe fragments dating to the late eighteenth or early nineteenth centuries were found in context 47, trench T6 and context 41, trench T7.

Conclusions

Whilst the finds from trenches T1, T3, T6 and T7 clearly post-date the medieval structure, those from trench T5 appear to pre-date the building. Contexts 30 and 31 represent the backfill of the construction cut, 32, for the foundation of the building. These in turn cut a series of roughly contemporary layers, including those with finds - 33, 34 and 36, which may represent make up levels, or rubbish deposits from the walled town which lay to the north

east. Alternatively, do the latter relate to earlier occupation on the site of what was to become the Newarke?

Documentary evidence suggests that the finds from trench T5, as they come from levels which are earlier than the building, may have a *terminus post quem* of *circa* 1355-6 to *circa* 1400 – which makes them of some archaeological interest to the pottery researcher, although, apart from a residual jar rim in Potters Marston, no other pottery sherds had any significant diagnostic features. However the range of medieval pottery and tile fabrics lies well within what the researcher would expect to find within an assemblage with this terminal date, whilst allowing for the obvious residuality of the Stamford wares, which are generally thought to have gone out of circulation by the mid thirteenth century at the latest. In fact, both groups could date from the mid to late thirteenth century, or, possibly the early fourteenth century at the latest, suggesting that there might have been some cessation in activity in the locality before the construction of the College buildings.

Any further opportunity to excavate in this area of the site, which has not, apparently, suffered from modern disturbance, would be of great archaeological significance, especially given the fact that the dating of medieval pottery by correlation with documentary evidence is a relatively rare event. Any further opportunity to study this part of the site could potentially be of great importance in refining the dating of the medieval pottery in Leicester and the county.

Bibliography

Connor, A., and Buckley, R., 1999. *Roman and Medieval Occupation in Causeway Lane, Leicester*, Leicester Archaeology Mon. **5**

Site/Parish: former St Mary's Vicarage, The Newarke, Leicester Accession No/ Doc Ref: A2 2005/newarke2 Material: pottery & misc. finds Site Type: Religious College	Submitter: N. Finn Identifier: D. Sawday Date of Id: 1.8.05 Method of Recovery: Excavation
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context	fabric/ware	sherd nos.	weight grams	comments
	POTTERY			
9 - T3	GT - Grog Tempered ware	1	32	Basal angle, coil built vessel, late Iron Age/early Roman
9	SW - Samian ware	1	7	2nd C. AD
9	PM - Potters Marston	3	13	
9	MS3 - Medieval Sandy ware 3	2	28	Small flared bowl with internally bevelled rim, sooted ext, ?14th C
15 - T1	PM	1	17	Upright jar rim
15	CC2 - Chilvers Coton ware 2	1	5	
15	MY - Midland Yellow ware	1	4	c. 1500+
16 - T1	MP2 - Midland Purple ware 2	2	38	Under fired
16	MY	1	10	Rod handle
16	EA2 - Earthenware 2	1	25	17/18th C .+
16	EA3 - Mottled ware	2	7	
16	EA7 - Slipware	1	22	Press moulded - ?early 18th C.
17 T1	EA7	2	5	Press moulded - probably later 17th - 18th C.
27 - T5	PM	1	4	
31 - T5	ST2 - Fine Stamford ware	1	10	Thin lead glaze
31	ST1 - Very Fine Stamford ware	1	19	Convex base, thin lead glaze, heavily knife trimmed ext.
31	PM	3	37	Includes small upright jar rim
31	CC1 - Chilvers Coton ware 1	1	11	Abraded ext.
33 - T5	PM	2	14	
34 - T5	LY4 - Stanion Lyveden type ware 4	1	2	
36 - T5	GW - Grey Ware	2	67	2nd - 4th C AD
36	ST2	3	9	Two with traces of glaze
36	PM	4	67	Convex base, one sherd decorated with incised horizontal lines
36	CC1	1	12	
	MED RIDGE TILE			
31 - T5	CC1	1	158	1250-1300+
33 - T5	MS2 - Medieval Sandy ware 2	1	8	1250-1300+
	CLAY PIPE			
8 - T3	China clay	1		Stem
16 - T1		2		Stems
41 - T7		3		Stems
47 - T6		1		Bowl - late 18th - early 19th C.

Site/Parish: Former St Mary's Vicarage, The Newarke, Leicester Accession No/ A2 2005/newarke3.doc Material: Misc. finds, floor tile, cbm, shell, glass etc Site Type: Religious College	Submitter: N. Finn Identifier: D. Sawday Date of Id: 5.08.05 Method of Recovery: Excavation
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context	Material	Fragment nos.	weight grams	Comments
MEDIEVAL FLOOR TILE				
9 – T3	MS	1		Very worn fragment of inlaid floor tile
33 – T5	MS	3		Very worn fragments, at least two probably inlaid
CBM				
9	EA	2	13	? Roman tile
14		3	72	Modern glazed white tiles
34		1	16	
36		1	23	
36		1	60	Roman tile
41		1	73	Post Medieval/Modern brick
47		1	272	? Drain Pipe – possibly Medieval or later
MEDIEVAL ROOFING SLATE				
14		1		
31		2		
33		3		
34		1		
? MEDIEVAL OR LATER WINDOW GLASS				
8		1		
14		2		
15		2		
31		1		
33		1		
MISC. GLASS				
16		3		
17		1		
27		2		Victorian bottle glass fragments with ring top and fine kick up in the base
47		9		? Hamilton cod mineral water bottle, 1814+
-		1		Meat paste pot <i>c.</i> 1947
ANIMAL BONE				
9			60	
14			8	
16			47	
17			12	
27 T5			538	
31			185	
33			6	
36			4	
OYSTER SHELL				
15		1		
27 T5		1		
31		1		
MORTAR/WALL PLASTER				
9			27	
15			8	

31			133	
33			128	
34			52	
STONE FLOOR TILE				
9		2		Fragments
14		4		
27		1		
34		1		
MISC. ? WORKED STONE				
9		1		
27		1		? Architectural fragment
36		1		
GYPSUM PLASTER FLOORING				
50		1		Gypsum based flooring with high charcoal/wood ash content
51		2		Gypsum based flooring laid over (50), high brick/tile content
OTHER				
		3		'Wild Woodbine' cigarette packets W.D. & H.O. Wills Bristol & London. 2 x 10s and 1 x 20s packets. c.1947? Note: slide packets of 20 were first introduced in 1930



Plate 1. Former St. Mary's Vicarage: East elevation.



Plate 2. Former St. Mary's Vicarage: North elevation.



Plate 3. Former St. Mary's Vicarage: West elevation.



Plate 4. Former St. Mary's Vicarage from the SE.



Plate 5. S end of W elevation after demolition of chemical store.



Plate 6. Detail of brick-blocked windows at S end of W elevation.



Plate 7. Window head & stair turret remnant N end of W elevation.



Plate 8. Interior of S end of former vicarage, looking W.



Plate 9. Interior of S end of former vicarage, looking E.



Plate 10. Interior of N end of former vicarage, looking N.



Plate 11. Medieval cross passage door & C19 cupboard in W wall.



Plate 12. C18 or early C19 recess with ?picture frame in W wall.



Plate 13. Blocked medieval openings on inner face of E wall.



Plate 14. William Wigston's chantry house of c.1513 in the Newark.



Plate 15. Excavation trench T1, looking SE. Scale: 1m.



Plate 16. Excavation trench T2, looking SW. Scale: 1m.



Plate 17. Excavation trench T3, looking NE. Scale: 1m.



Plate 18. Excavation trench T4, looking NW. Scale: 1m.



Plate 19. Excavation trench T5, looking W. Scale: 1m.



Plate 20. Excavation trench T6, looking NW. Scale: 1m.



Plate 21. Excavation trench T7, looking SE. Scale: 1m.



Plate 22. Excavation trench T8, looking NW. Scale: 1m.

St Mary's Vicarage, The Newark

Plan 1: Site Location

Compiled by Mr R Clark on 13 July 2004

Leicester Site: Monuments Record
Jewry Wall Museum
St Nicholas Place
Leicester
LE1 4LB



ereGIS
Spatial Data Management

Scale 1:1250



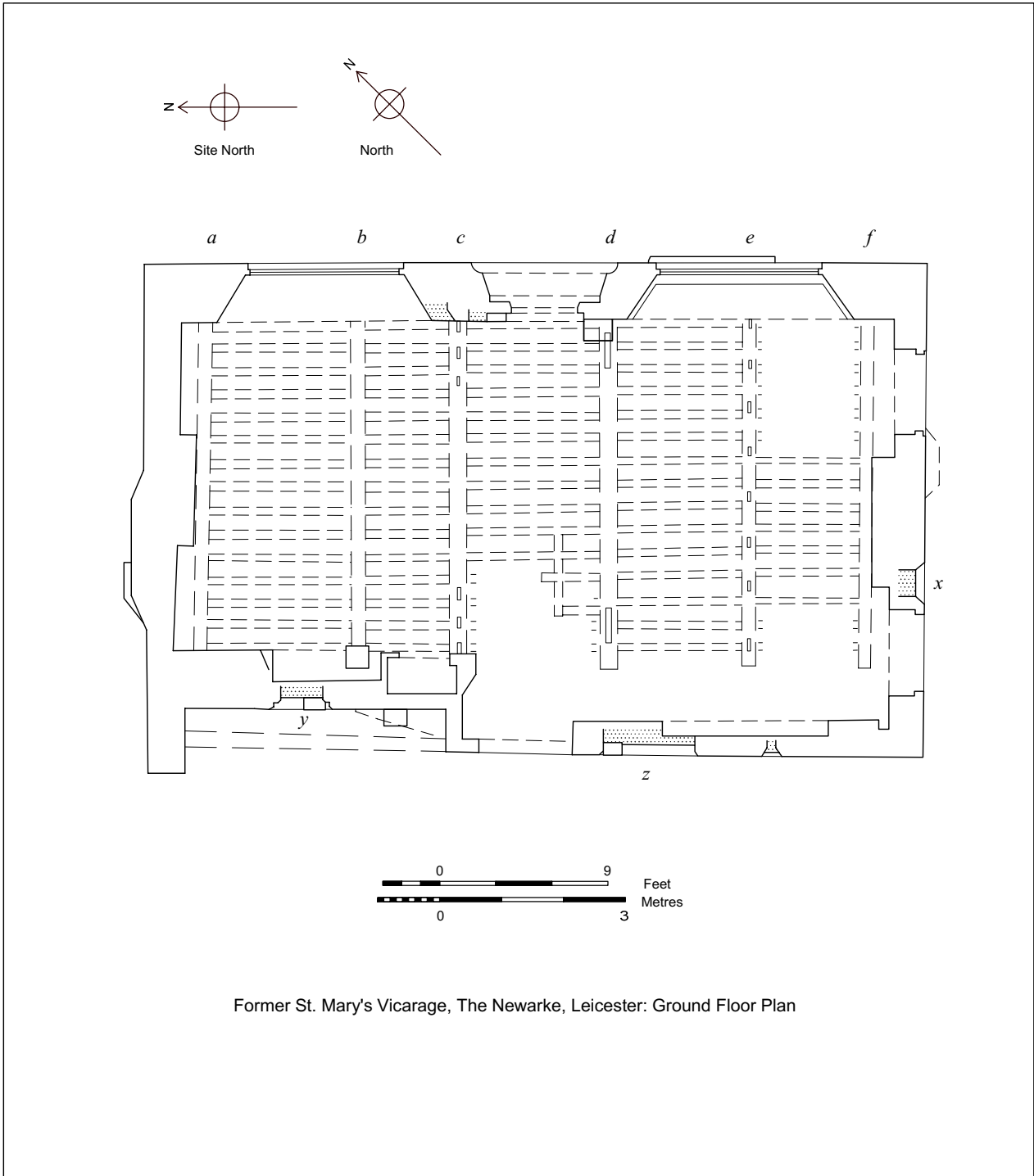


Figure 2. Former St. Mary's Vicarage, The Newarke, Leicester: Ground Floor Plan. Scale 1:100.

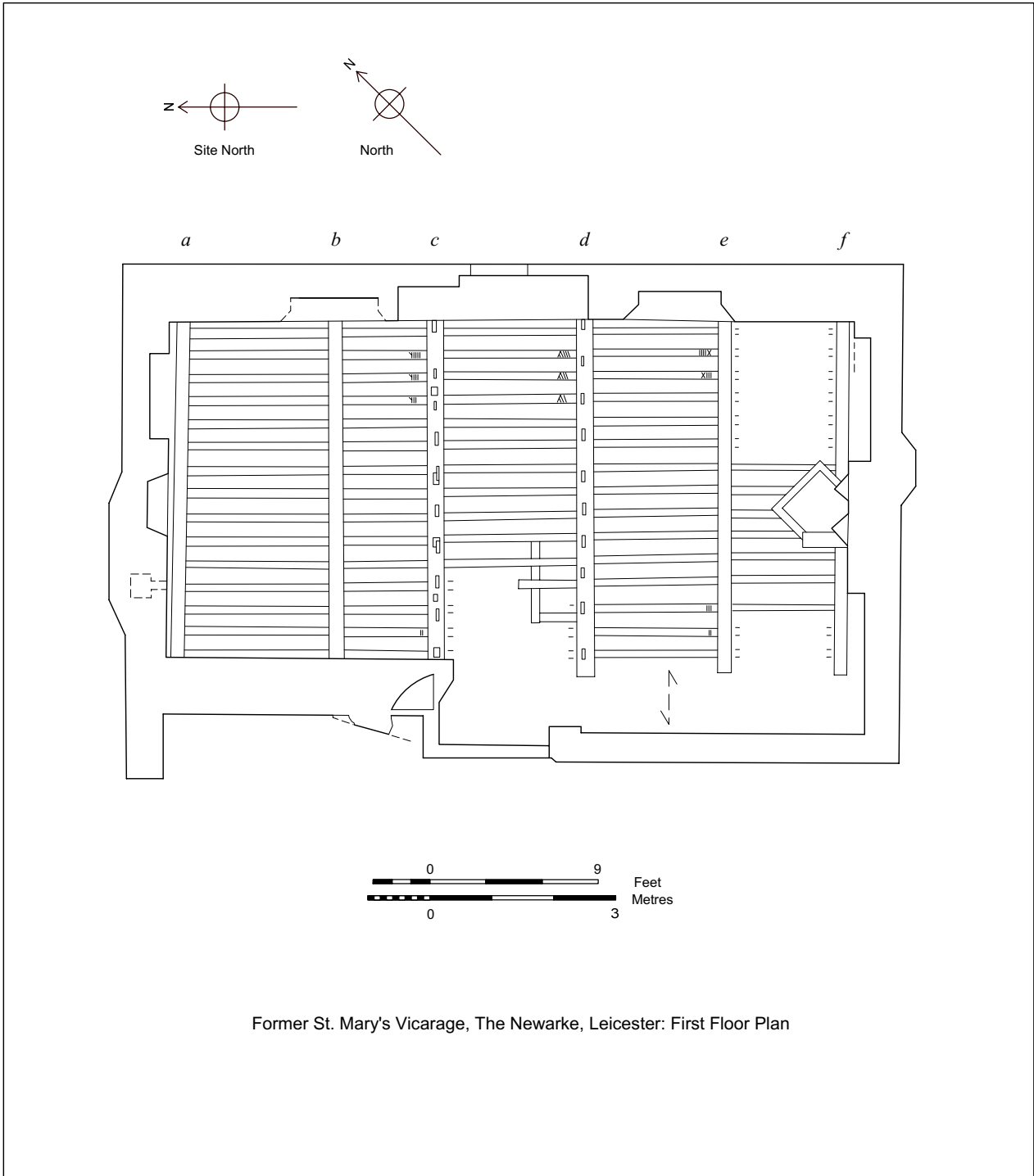


Figure 3. Former St. Mary's Vicarage, The Newarke, Leicester: First Floor Plan. Scale 1:100.

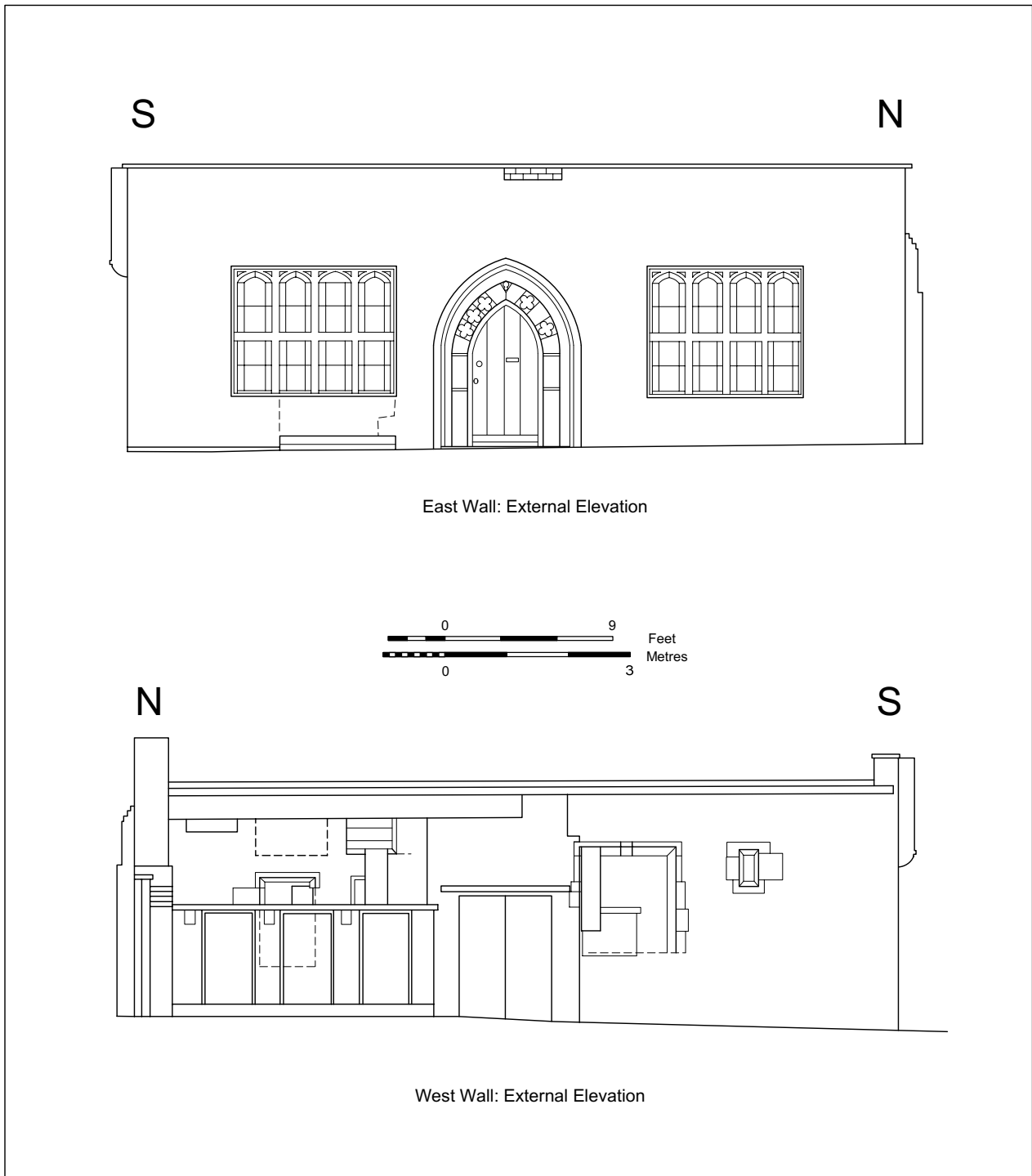


Figure 4. Former St. Mary's Vicarage, The Newarke, Leicester: External Elevations East and West Walls. Scale 1:100.

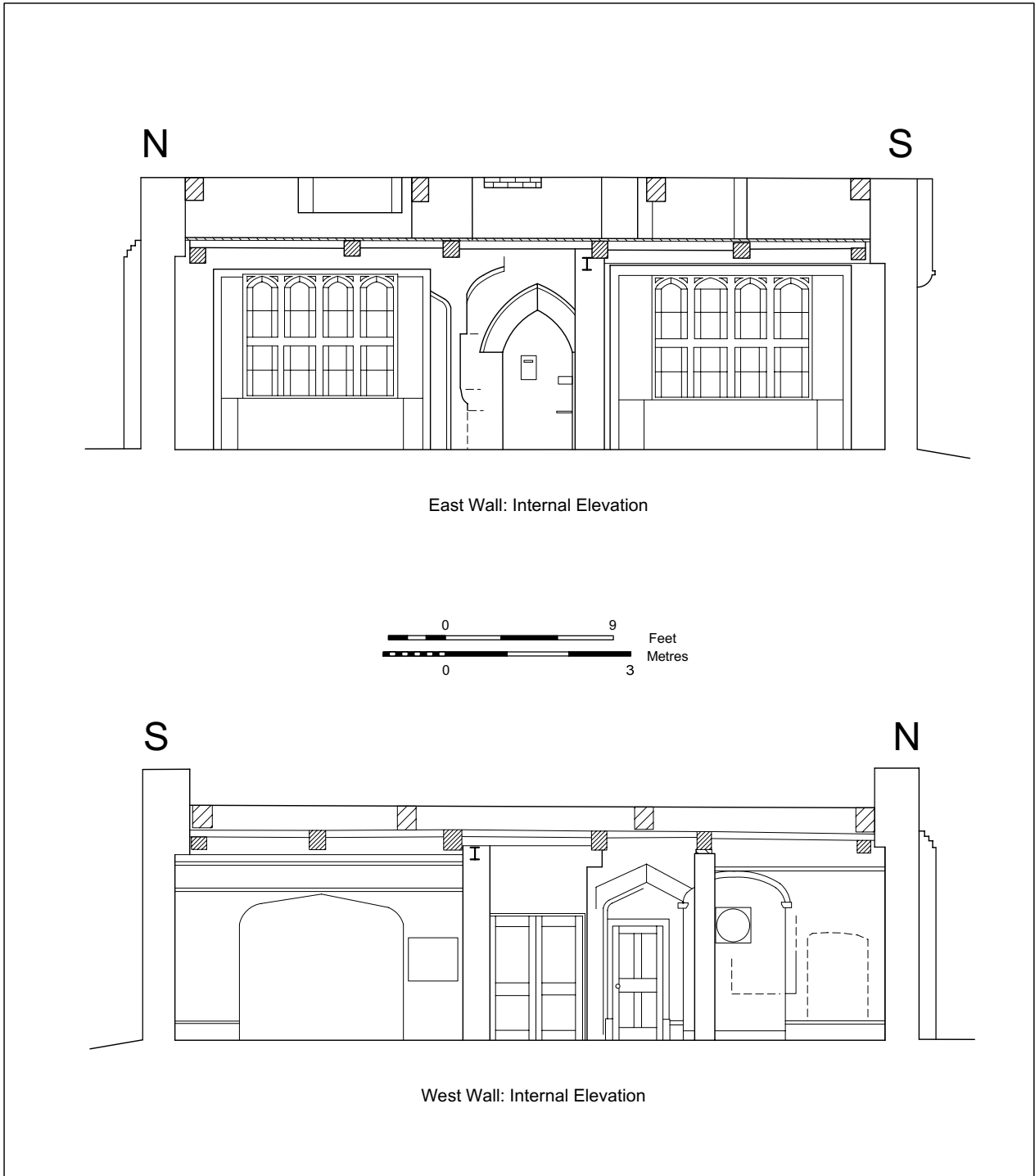
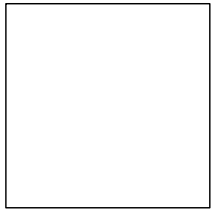
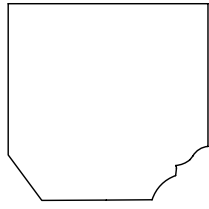


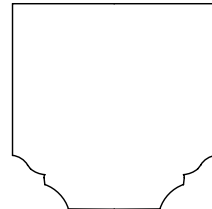
Figure 5. Former St. Mary's Vicarage, The Newarke, Leicester: Internal Elevations East and West Walls. Scale 1:100.



a

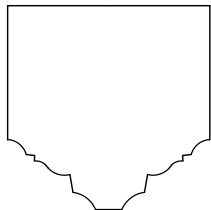


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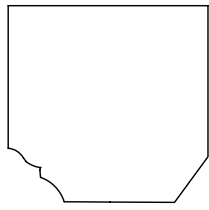


c

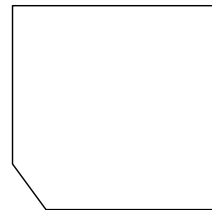
Profiles of transverse beams in first floor frame (located on Fig. 3). Scale 1:10.



d

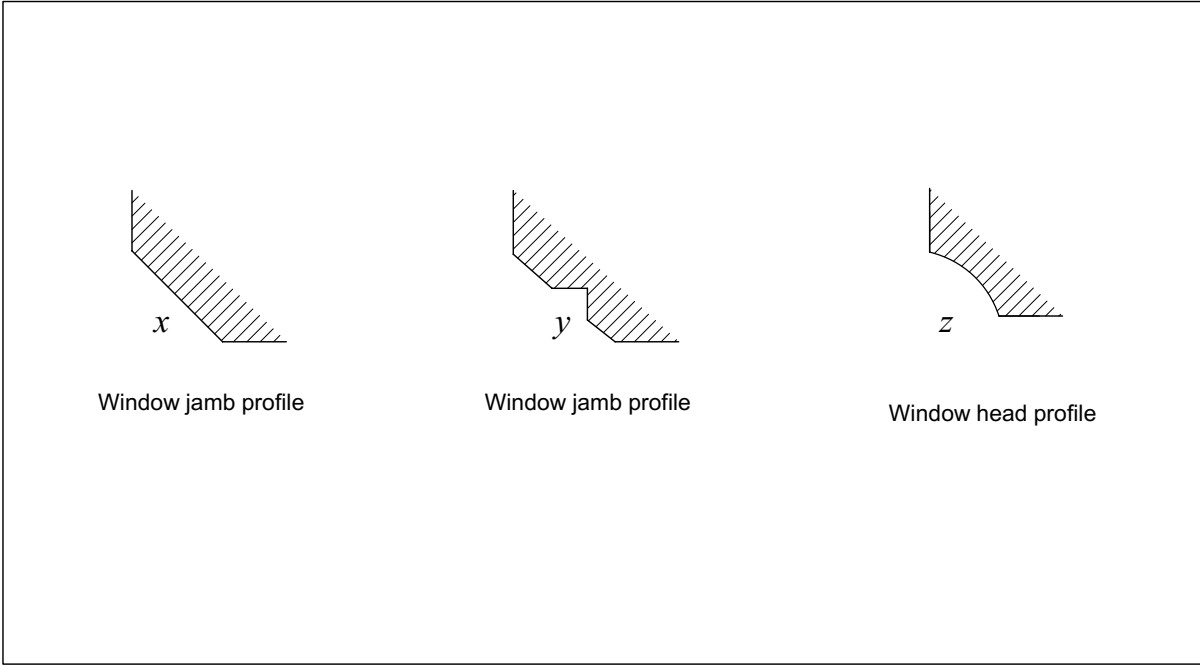


e



f

Figure 6. Profiles of transverse beams in first floor frame (located on Fig. 3). Scale 1:10 .

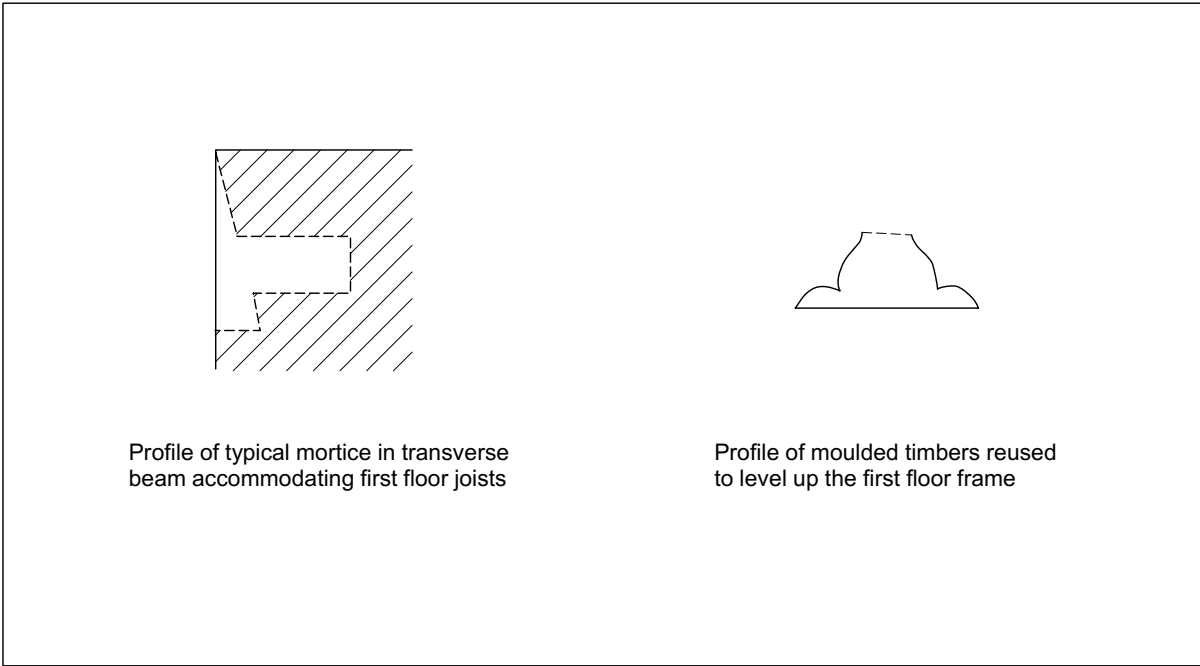


Window jamb profile

Window jamb profile

Window head profile

Figure 7. Profiles of stone window jambs & head (located on Fig. 2). Scale 1:10.



Profile of typical mortice in transverse beam accommodating first floor joists

Profile of moulded timbers reused to level up the first floor frame

Figure 8. Profiles of typical floor joist mortice & reused moulded timber. Scale: 1:10.

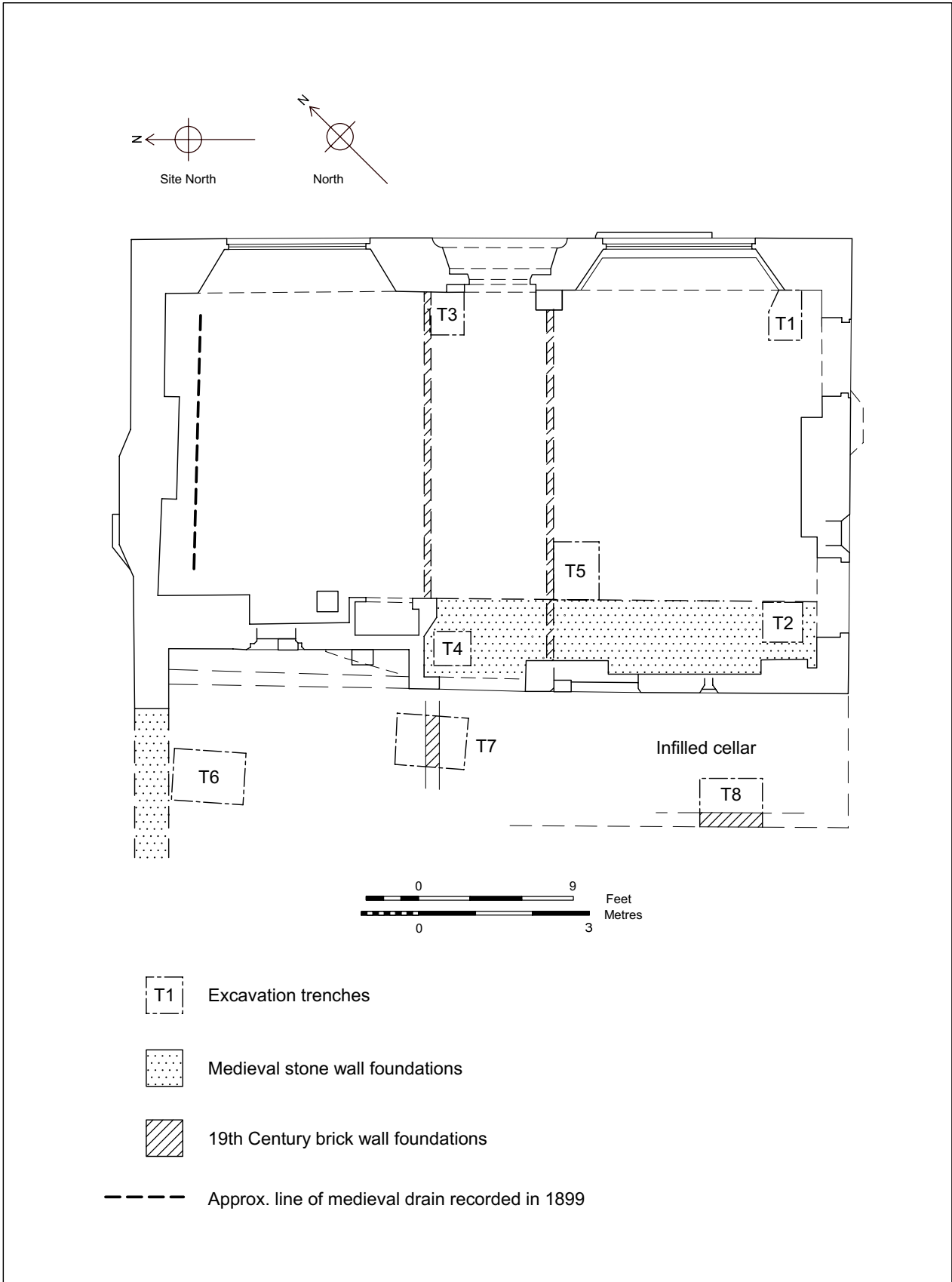


Figure 9. Former St. Mary's Vicarage, The Newarke, Leicester: Excavation Trench Locations. Scale 1:100.

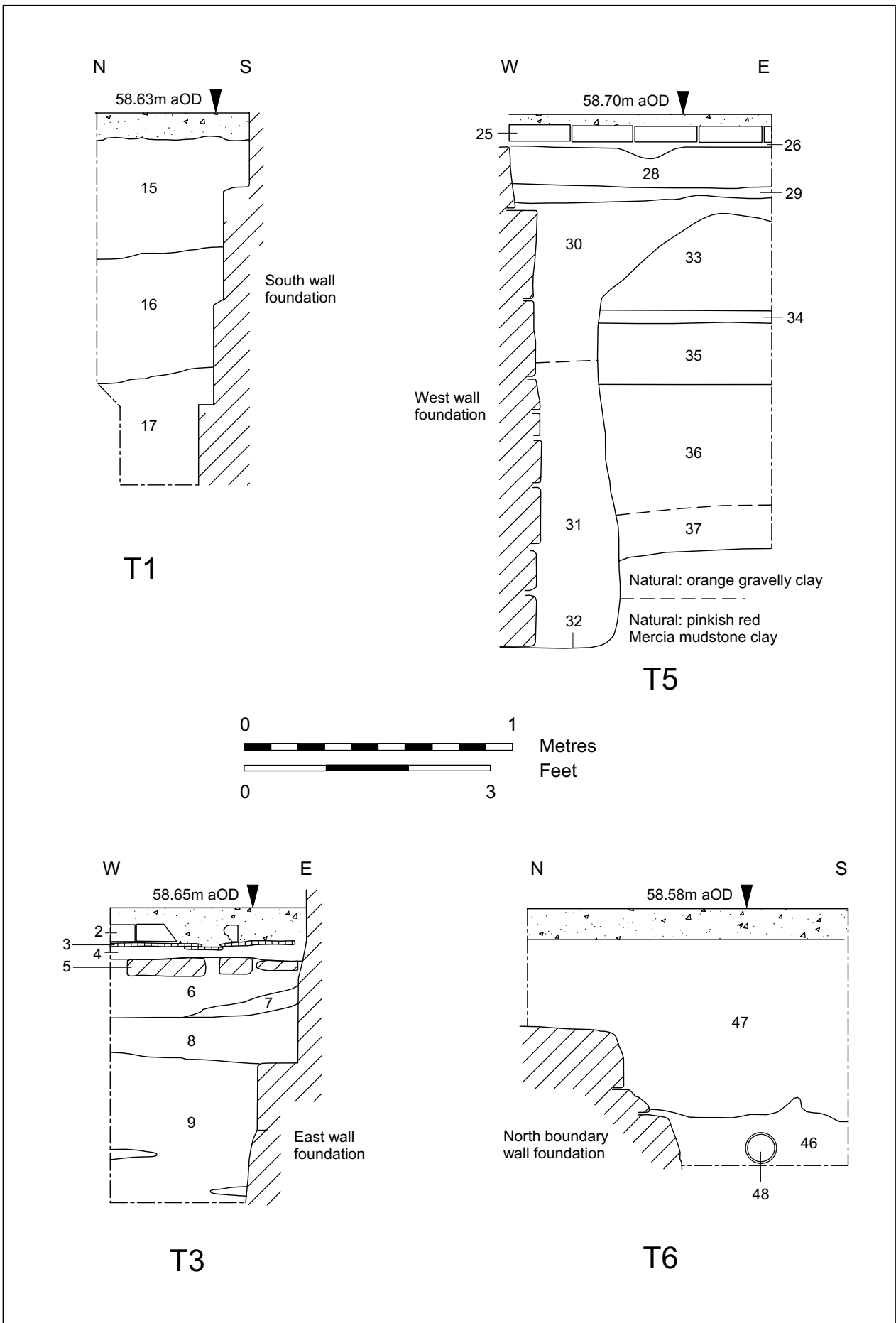


Figure 10. Selected Excavation Trench Sections. Scale 1:20.