



UNIVERSITY OF
LEICESTER

Archaeological Services

**An Archaeological Watching Brief at 7-9
Castle View, LE1 5WH, Leicester**

NGR: SK 5827 0415

Mireya González Rodríguez



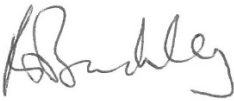

ULAS Report No. 2018-106
©2018

**An Archaeological Watching Brief at
7-9 Castle View
Leicester LE1 5WH
(SK 5827 0415)**

Mireya González Rodríguez

for

De Montfort University

Filename/Version	Checked by	Date
2018-106		17/8/2018
2018-106v2		23/8/2018

University of Leicester, Archaeological Services, University Rd., Leicester, LE1 7RH

Tel: (0116) 2522848
www.le.ac.uk/ulas

**ULAS Report Number 2018-106
©2018**

Accession Number Y.A.10.2018

CONTENTS

Summary	4
Introduction.....	4
Location and Geology.....	5
Historical and Archaeological Background.....	5
<i>Summary of Monument</i>	6
Archaeological Aims and Objectives.....	7
<i>Research Themes</i>	8
Methodology.....	8
Results.....	8
Acknowledgements.....	11
Archive.....	11
Publication	11
Bibliography	11
Appendix: OASIS data entry	13

FIGURES

Figure 1. Site Location.....	4
Figure 2. Castle Conservation Area with location of groundworks (marked in red).....	5
Figure 3. Location of Nos.7-9 Castle View (provided by Client).....	9
Figure 4. External connections at No.7 Castle view (provided by Client) and photographs after excavation.	10
Figure 5. External connections at No. 9 Castle View and results of monitoring of groundworks.....	10

An Archaeological Watching Brief at 7-9 Castle View, LE1 5WH, Leicester

Mireya González Rodríguez

Summary

An archaeological watching brief was carried out by the University of Leicester Archaeological Services on behalf of De Montfort University at 7-9 Castle View, LE1 5WH, Leicester on the 5th of June 2018. The site is a Scheduled Monument (Entry 1012147). Scheduled Monument Consent has been granted by the Secretary of State for the Department of Digital, Culture Media and Sport with the provision that archaeological monitoring was undertaken during the groundworks associated with the installation of mains gas supply. No archaeological features or deposits were recorded.

The site archive will be held by Leicester Art and Museums Service under Accession Number Y.A.10.2018.

Introduction

An archaeological watching brief was carried out at 7-9 Castle View on behalf of De Montfort University during groundworks related to the installation of a mains gas supply as part of the ongoing refurbishment of Grade II Listed Buildings 7, 8 and 9 Castle View (List Entry Number 1074068 and 1300670). The site is scheduled under the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979 and contains the remains of Leicester Castle, including John O’Gaunts cellar. The Secretary of State for the Department of Digital, Culture Media and Sport has granted Scheduled Monument Consent for the work (Ref. S00191150).

This document presents the results of the scheme of archaeological work in accordance with the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979 and National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) Section 12 Conserving and Enhancing the Historic Environment.

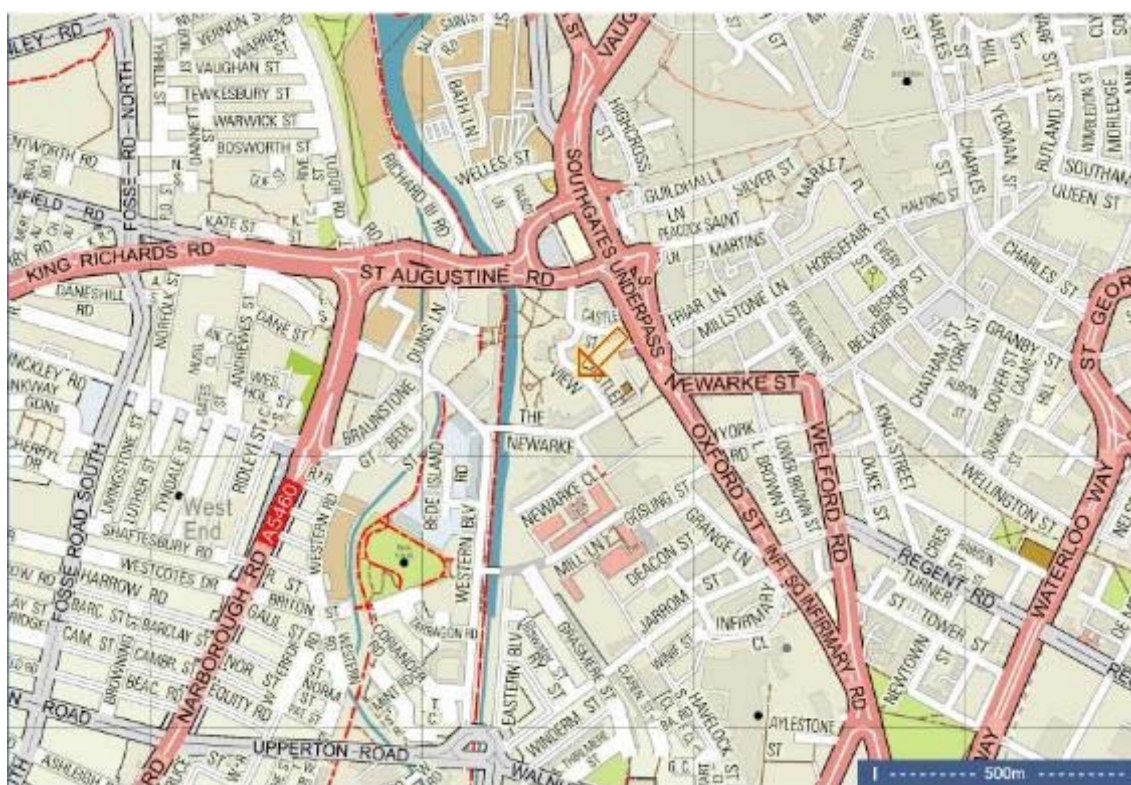


Figure 1. Site Location

Location and Geology

The site lies close to Leicester city centre, on the east bank of the River Soar and close to the inner ring road and St Nicholas Circle, which connects the ring road to the western approach roads crossing the river at that point (Fig. 1). The assessment area is located to the north of De Montfort University campus within the Castle Conservation Area boundary (Fig. 2).

The Ordnance Geological Survey of Great Britain indicates that the underlying geology of the site is likely to be mudstone of the Branscombe Formation. No superficial geology is recorded. The assessment area lies at a height of approximately 58m aOD.

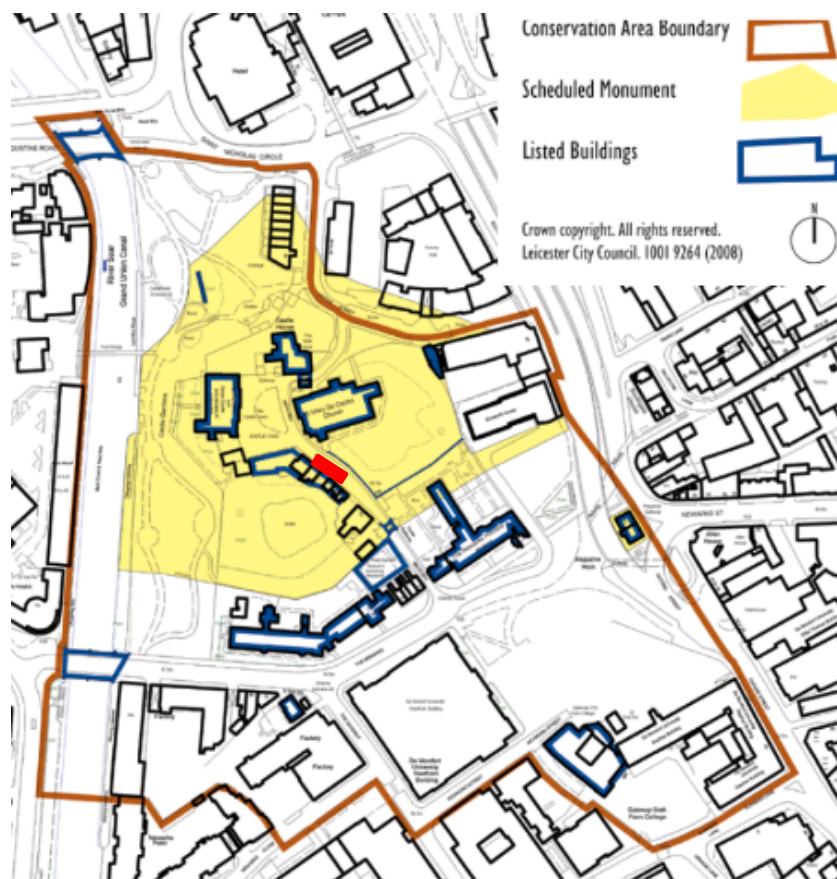


Figure 2. Castle Conservation Area with location of groundworks (marked in red)

Historical and Archaeological Background

The Castle Conservation Area is one of the first conservation areas designated in Leicester in 1969. Virtually all the buildings are on the statutory list of buildings of architectural or historic interest and a large part falls within the boundaries of a Scheduled Monument (the Castle). Despite the loss of its historic links with the city centre that resulted from the 1960s road scheme to the east, this area still contains the best and most extensive elements of the city's archaeology and its visible history. The Castle area is sited in the south-west corner of Roman Leicester, an area rich in archaeology, and includes an extensive Scheduled Monument (Fig. 2). Castle Yard, the original inner bailey of the Norman castle, is a unique space that has importance for both national and local history. Many buildings within the conservation area are listed buildings, of which five have Grade I status and four have Grade II status. The Castle Hall (Grade I) is reputed to be one of the oldest surviving aisled and bay-divided medieval halls in Europe and the Norman Castle motte (mound) is another important survival from the 11th century.

Summary of Monument

The monument is located within Leicester city centre on the eastern bank of the canalised River Soar. It includes the earthwork and buried remains of a motte and bailey castle, the 12th century northern extension to the bailey, and the northern part of the fortified enclosure known as The Newarke, including the Turret Gateway and the Magazine Gateway. It is in two separate areas of protection.

Excavations in the vicinity of the castle have recovered evidence to indicate that Leicester Castle was originally inside the south west corner of the Roman town defences. The motte and bailey castle was constructed in c.1068 by order of William the Conqueror. It was handed over to Hugh de Grentmesnil and became headquarters of a feudal 'honour' of Leicester, a term applied to a group of estates which came under a single administration. The motte, approximately 50m in diameter and 9m high, is located in the south western part of the site. During the 19th century the motte was lowered and levelled and its summit used as a bowling green. The bailey lies to the north and north east of the motte and is approximately 6ha in area. Although no longer visible on the ground surface, the bailey ditch survives as a buried feature for much of its length and excavations have indicated that it was up to 12m wide and 5m deep. In the eastern part of the site, the ditch and the adjacent part of the bailey are intensively occupied by modern buildings, which have significantly modified the site and thus this part is not included in the scheduling.

There is no surface evidence for the buildings which were located within the bailey during the earliest period in the castle's history but remains are thought to survive as buried features. St Mary de Castro Church, Listed Grade I, stands within the bailey area. It is likely that the church originally served as the castle chapel and, when it was rebuilt in the mid-12th century parts of the early Norman chapel were retained within its fabric. Unlike the church, the churchyard is included in the scheduling albeit it is no longer used for burials, it retains important buried remains of the early buildings within the bailey and also underlying Roman archaeological deposits.

In 1101 Ivo, son of Hugh de Grentmesnil, was involved in a rebellion against Henry I and Leicester Castle was subsequently severely damaged. During the mid-12th century the castle was rebuilt in stone by Robert de Beaumont, who was later to become the first Earl of Leicester. A masonry wall was added to the earthen defences and a barbican added to the northern side of the bailey. Two sections of the defensive wall remain visible, one 50m to the west of the motte and the second to the north; the northern section is Listed Grade II and both are included in the scheduling. A number of buildings were also constructed within the bailey during this period of reconstruction, including a great hall and domestic accommodation. The hall was built by Robert le Bossu, second Earl of Leicester, and is thought to be one of the earliest surviving timber aisled halls in Europe. Its outer walls were constructed of sandstone and the interior was originally divided into a nave and two aisles by enormous timber arcades. It has been in continuous use for over 800 years and has been much altered, particularly during its conversion to court rooms in the 19th century. The hall is Listed Grade I and is not included in the scheduling. Medieval service rooms were constructed between the hall and the motte, and one of these, known as John of Gaunt's cellar, which is Listed Grade I, was added between 1400 and 1410 and remains visible. It lies beneath the ground surface with entrances at either end and has a tunnel vaulted roof.

A large enclosure, known as The Newarke (New Work), was added to the south side of the motte and bailey castle by Henry, Duke of Lancaster in 1330. This enclosure was approximately rectangular in plan, extending some 200m southwards from the castle bailey, and some 300m westwards from the original line of Highcross Street, as far west as the river. This large enclosure was bounded by a major stone wall along its eastern and southern sides and supported by at least two towers along its south side.

The Newarke enclosure was not densely packed with buildings during the medieval period. The central part was occupied by the major collegiate Church of St Mary of the Assumption, of which a small reconstructed arch within the basement of the De Montfort University is the only known surviving fragment. This masonry is *ex situ* and is not included in the scheduling. In addition to the collegiate buildings, The Newarke also contained the important Hospital of the Holy Trinity. This institution was

sited along the northern side of the enclosure and part of its hall and chapel, along with the remains of other buildings incorporated into later houses, still survive. The most impressive of these domestic buildings is the Chantry House, thought to date from about 1511, sited to the northeast of Trinity Hospital (now Trinity House).

The enclosure was entered from the east via a large gatehouse situated at the bottom of Newarke Street, near the centre of the eastern wall. It is known as the magazine by virtue of its use as such during the Civil War. This gatehouse, Listed Grade I, survives intact and is a three-storeyed structure, built of sandstone ashlar, with the gate passage offset to the north side. The vaulted gate hall was entered through one of two arches, one for pedestrians, and a larger one for wheeled vehicles. There is, however, only a single archway towards the enclosure itself. A porter's lodge occupied the ground floor chamber south of the gate passage and above were two pairs of fine chambers reached from the porter's lodge by means of a spiral staircase near the centre of the west wall. The chamber on the second floor has a passage in the thickness of the south wall which originally gave access to The Newarke curtain wall. Small garderobe chambers survive in the thickness of the wall in the south west corner on both upper floors.

The gatehouse is now completely isolated from its surroundings and all traces of associated structures have been removed. It has been quite heavily restored externally but internally it retains many of its medieval features and has not been extensively modernised. It is now used as a museum and storeroom and is included within the scheduling in a second protected area, detached from the remainder of the castle.

A third major period of construction at Leicester Castle occurred during the 15th century when the entire castle was remodelled. In 1399, Henry, Duke of Lancaster and Earl of Leicester became King of England and Leicester Castle assumed new importance. The line of the enclosure walls was altered, the new enclosure around the castle hall being much smaller in area than that preceding it. New gates were constructed to the north and south. The new northern gateway was constructed to the north west of St Mary de Castro Church, indicating that the northern bailey ditch had been abandoned by that time. This new northern gateway was burnt down in 1444-5 and was subsequently rebuilt as a timber-framed gatehouse. It is an inhabited Listed Building Grade II*, and excluded from the scheduling, however the ground beneath it is included. The southern gateway, known as the 'Turret Gateway', was built in 1422-335m east of the motte. It was erected as the main gate from the castle to The Newarke. The gateway survives as a two storey stone building with an arched gate passage and a portcullis chamber above. A third storey was destroyed in an election riot in 1832. It is and is a scheduled Grade II Listed Building. Two lengths of 15th century wall run from the gate towards St Mary de Castro Church, and along the south side of the churchyard. The latter stands to a height of approximately 5m and contains many put-log holes, used in the construction of the wall which were later used as musket holes during the Civil War when this part of the town came under severe attack. The wall along Castle View is Listed Grade II and both sections of wall are included in the scheduling. A length of wall dividing the motte and Trinity Hospital dates from this period and is also included in the scheduling.

A number of features within the two areas are excluded from the scheduling; these are the castle hall (Listed Grade I), St Mary de Castro Church, which remains in ecclesiastical use, the inhabited northern gatehouse (Listed Grade II*), the houses and associated buildings of Nos.5-12 Castle View, Castle House and its cellar (Listed Grade II), Nos. 5, 7, 9, 11, 13, 15, 20, 22, 24 and 45 Castle Street, that part of the 20th century warehouse building to the north of Castle Street which falls within protected area, the Iron Gates which are Listed Grade II*, the buildings to the rear of the Newarke Houses which lie in the protected area, all garden furniture, display boards, street lights, modern walling, litter bins, the surfaces of all paths and driveways; the ground beneath all these features, however, is included.

Archaeological Aims and Objectives

The principal aim of the archaeological work was to monitor the groundworks in order to identify the presence of any archaeological deposits and, where present, to establish their nature, date, significance and state of preservation in order to determine the impact upon them from the proposed groundworks.

The objectives of the archaeological programme may be summarised as follows:

- To identify the presence/absence of any archaeological deposits.
- To establish the character, extent, and date for any archaeological deposits to be affected by the proposed works.
- To record any archaeological deposits to be affected by the ground works.
- To advance understanding of the heritage assets.
- To produce and archive and report of any results
- To deliver archaeological supervision of works and on site guidance to contractors with the purpose of minimising risk of accidental damage and disturbance to the scheduled monument.

Research Themes

The archaeological programme could contribute to national and regional research themes as identified by Cooper (2006) and Knight *et al.* (2012). Leicester Castle is a good example of a castle which has been adapted for over 900 years in its role as an administrative centre. The site occupies part of the Roman town and thus it will retain important information for the understanding of the Roman town itself and how its remains have been adapted for use as a castle in the medieval period. The remains of the motte and bailey castle are of great interest in illustrating the adaptation to its changing role in the medieval and post-medieval periods, with major internal building being reconstructed in stone and old defences being abandoned in favour of a newly built core around the Castle Hall. The addition of a large religious precinct to the south, The Newarke, is also of interest since it was used as the home for ecclesiastical institutions. This close association between the administrative focus of the county and major churches St Mary de Castro and then St Mary's College, is also of interest.

Thus, archaeological work in Castle view could support research on:

- Investigating provisioning of medieval Leicester.
- analysing the development of industry and its impact upon landscape and settlement morphology.

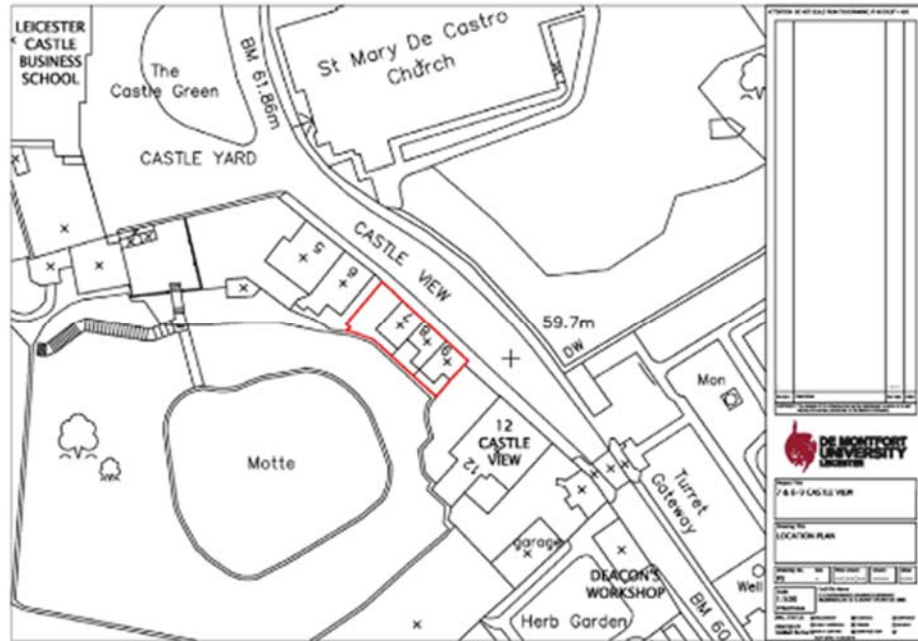
Methodology

The programme of attendance and recording followed the guidelines established by the Chartered Institute for Archaeologist (CIfA). The project involved the monitoring of the excavation of two trenches related to the installation of gas mains in numbers 7-9 Castle View to determine the presence/absence of any archaeological remains. The stone slabs were manually removed and the two trenches were also manually excavated with the aid of a handheld hydraulic breaker to split concrete.

A photographic record of the assessment area was made prior and during commencement of the ground works following the *Standard Brief for Archaeological Attendance* from Leicestershire County Council. This includes 'working shots' to illustrate the nature of the archaeological operation mounted.

Results

The fieldwork, consisting of monitoring and observation of groundworks, was carried out on 5th of June 2018 and was intended to ensure that the works would not have an impact on any buried archaeological remains as well as to ensure no unnecessary collateral damage to the Scheduled Monument occurs. Permission was granted for the installation of mains gas supply to numbers 7, 8 and 9 Castle View (Fig. 3). The pipe trenches were hand-dug under constant archaeological monitoring and recording.



a. Location of groundworks (facing N)

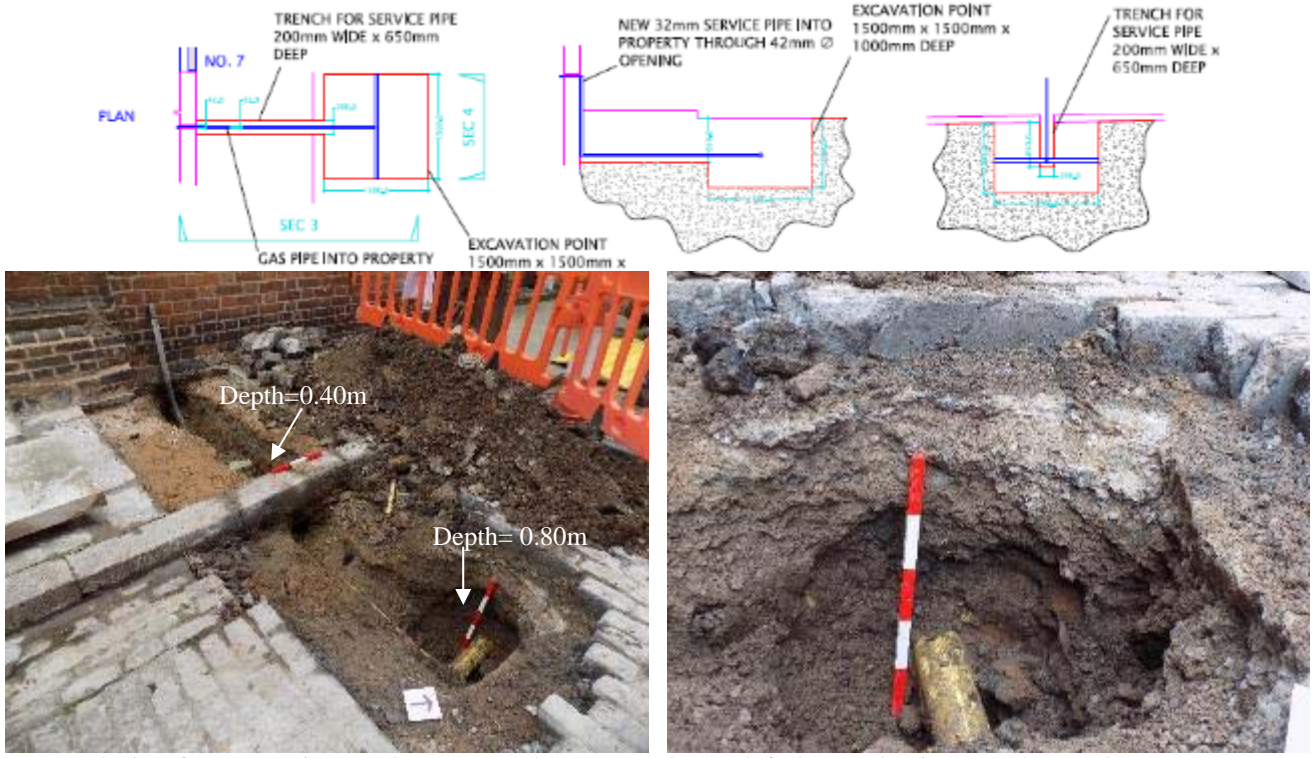


b. Slot in No. 9 after removal of stone slabs

Figure 3. Location of Nos.7-9 Castle View (provided by Client)

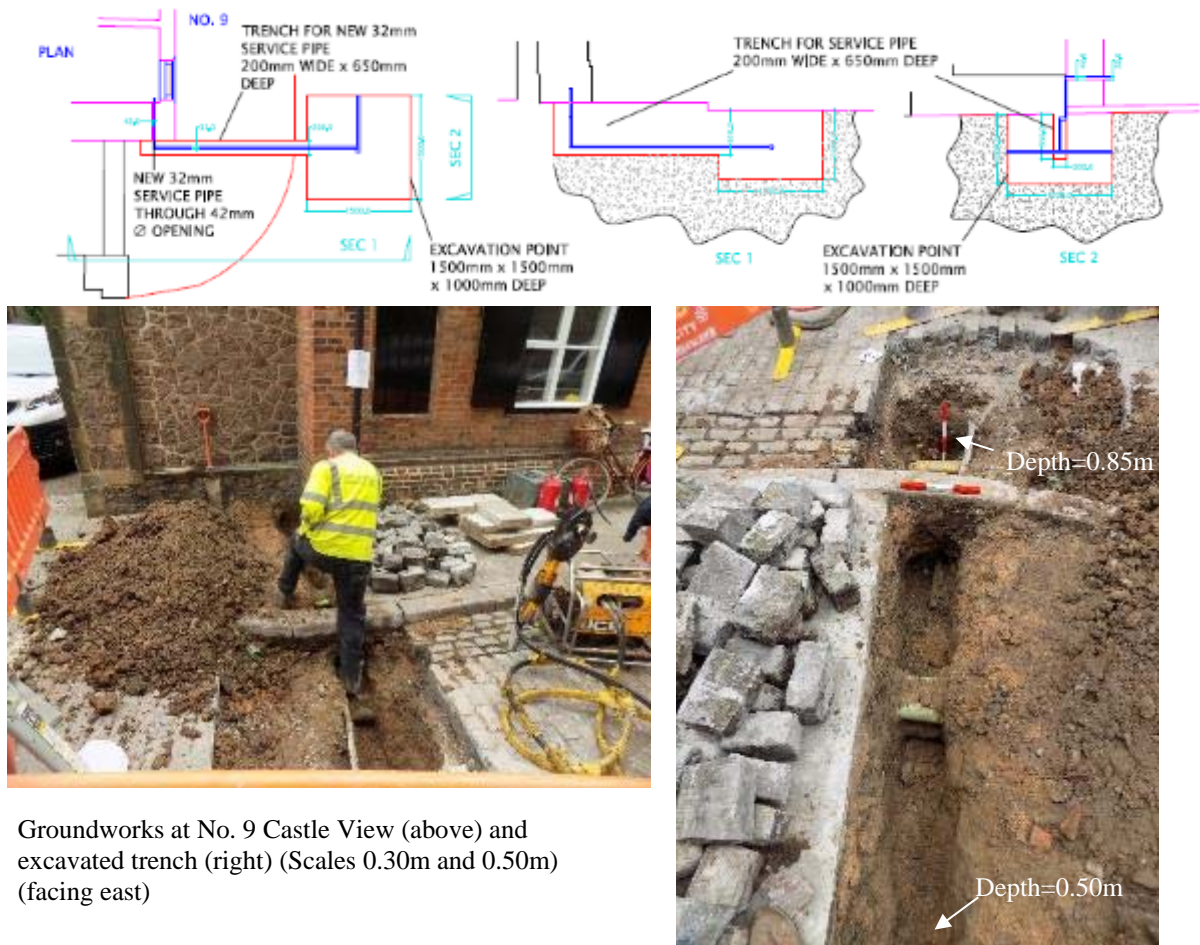
In order to install the gas mains two trenches were excavated. At No. 7, the trench measured 2.55m in length and a minimum of 0.35m (to the west) and maximum of 0.60m (to the east) in width (Fig. 4). All ground was previously disturbed, consisting of gravels and sand used as make up and levelling deposits. No archaeological deposits or features were revealed.

A second trench was excavated at No. 9, measuring 2.80m in length and a minimum of 0.30m on its west side and 0.60m to the east (Fig. 5). The depth of excavation varied from 0.50m and 0.85m on its east side. Similarly to the north slot, the ground was disturbed with fragments of concrete and tarmac seen in section at a depth of 0.25m below ground surface. Thus, no archaeological deposits or features were recorded.



a. North slot after excavation (Scales 0.30m and 0.50m) b. South facing section in north slot (Scale 0.50m)

Figure 4. External connections at No.7 Castle view (provided by Client) and photographs after excavation.



Groundworks at No. 9 Castle View (above) and excavated trench (right) (Scales 0.30m and 0.50m) (facing east)

Figure 5. External connections at No. 9 Castle View and results of monitoring of groundworks.

Acknowledgements

The project was managed by Dr Richard Buckley and the fieldwork directed by Dr Mireya González Rodríguez. Thanks are extended to the De Montfort University Estates staff and contractors.

Archive

The site archive will be deposited with Leicester City Museums Service under Accession Number Y.A.10.2018.

The archive consists of:

- This report,
- Historic England Application for Scheduled Monument Consent
- 1 ULAS pro-forma Watching Brief Record sheet,
- One DVD of 18 digital photographs in .jpeg format, photographic index in an excel file and pdf_A copy of this report.

Publication

The University of Leicester Archaeological Services supports the Online Access to the Index of Archaeological Investigations (OASIS) project. An OASIS record will also be produced and this report will be uploaded onto the Archaeology Data Service website.

Bibliography

- Atkins Heritage, 2008. *Leicester Castle & Castle View Properties Conservation Management Plan*.
- Baker, S. 2017. *An Archaeological Investigation at Castle Hall, Leicester*. University of Leicester Archaeological Services Report No. **2016-120**.
- Brown, D. 2011. *Standard and Guidance for the Preparation of Archaeological Archives* (Institute for Archaeologists).
- CIfA 2014. *Code of Conduct*. The Chartered Institute for Archaeologists. December 2014.
- Cooper, N.J. 2006. *The Archaeology of the East Midlands*. Leicester Archaeology Monograph **13**.
- Cowle, L. 2015. *The Castle Hall, Castle Yard, Leicester. Heritage Statement*.
- English Heritage 1997. *Draft Research Agenda*.
- English Heritage 2010. *English Heritage Thematic Research Strategies*. Consultation Draft June 2010.
- Historic England 2016. *Preserving Archaeological Remains. Decision-taking for Sites under Development*. Historic England: Swindon.
- Knight, D., Blaise, V. and Allen C. 2012. *East Midlands Heritage. An Updated Research Agenda and Strategy for the Historic Environment of the East Midlands*.
- Leicester City Council. 2007. *Castle Conservation Area Character Appraisal. Supplementary Guidance to the City of Leicester Local Plan 2006*. Leicester City Council.

Lewis, C. 2006. The Medieval Period. In N.J. Cooper (Ed) 2006: 185 -21.

LMARS 2014. *The Transfer of Archaeological Archives to Leicestershire Museums, Arts and Records Service.*

Liddle, P. 1983. *A Guide to 20 Archaeological Sites in Leicestershire.*

Other sources:

<https://historicengland.org.uk/listing/the-list/list-entry/1012147>, accessed on 05/06/2018

https://www.leicester.gov.uk/media/178032/castle_conservation_area_character_appraisal.pdf, accessed on 05/06/2018

Dr Mireya González Rodríguez

University of Leicester Archaeological Services (ULAS)
University of Leicester, University Road, Leicester, LE1 7RH, UK

t: +44 (0)116 2525665

m: +44 (0) 07568469805

e: mgr8@le.ac.uk

w: www.le.ac.uk/ulas/



© ULAS 2018

Appendix: OASIS data entry

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

PROJECT DETAILS	Oasis No	Universi1-318860		
	Project Name	7-9 Castle View, Leicester		
	Start/end dates of field work	04-06-2018/05-06-2018		
	Previous/Future Work	Yes/Yes		
	Project Type	Recording (Watching Brief)		
	Site Status	Scheduled Monument		
	Current Land Use	In use as a building		
	Monument Type/Period	Medieval/Post-Medieval		
	Significant Finds/Period	None		
	Reason for Investigation	Scheduled Monument Consent		
	Position in the Planning Process	As Condition		
Planning Ref.	Scheduled Monument Consent Reference S00191150			
PROJECT LOCATION	Site Address/Postcode	7-9 Castle View, Leicester LE1 5WH		
	Study Area	c.38m ²		
	Site Coordinates	SK 5827 0415		
	Height OD	58m aOD		
PROJECT CREATORS	Organisation	University of Leicester Archaeological Services		
	Project Brief Originator	Historic England/ Leicester City Council		
	Project Design Originator	Dr Andy Hammon		
	Project Manager	Dr Richard Buckley		
	Project Director/Supervisor	Dr Mireya González Rodríguez		
	Sponsor/Funding Body	De Montfort University		
PROJECT ARCHIVE		PHYSICAL	PAPER	DIGITAL
	Recipient		Leicester City Museums	Leicester City Museums
	ID (Acc. No.)		Y.A.10.2018	Y.A.10.2018
	Contents		Context Sheet Correspondence Report	Digital photography Spreadsheet Text
PROJECT BIBLIOGRAPHY	Type	Grey Literature		
	Title	An Archaeological Watching Brief at 7-9 Castle View, Leicester LE1 5WH		
	Author	González Rodríguez, M.		
	Other bibliographic details	University of Leicester Archaeological Services Report No. 2018-106		
	Date	2018		
	Publisher/Place	University of Leicester/Leicester		
	Description	A4 pdf_A developer report		

Contact Details

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

T: +44 (0)116 252 2848

F: +44 (0)116 252 2614

E: ulas@le.ac.uk

W: www.le.ac.uk/ulas



INVESTOR IN PEOPLE



THE QUEEN'S
ANNIVERSARY PRIZES
FOR HIGHER AND FURTHER EDUCATION
2013



2013
THE AWARDS
AWARD WINNER
RESEARCH PROJECT OF THE YEAR