



UNIVERSITY OF  
**LEICESTER**

Archaeological Services



**An Archaeological Evaluation on  
Land at 47 Clarence Street,  
Leicester**

**NGR SK 5900 0478**

Tim Higgins

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# An Archaeological Evaluation at 47 Clarence Street, Leicester

Tim Higgins

## Summary

*An archaeological field evaluation by trial trenching was undertaken at 47 Clarence Street, Leicester by University of Leicester Archaeological Services in response to development proposals for a seven-storey residential and commercial building in June 2018. Two trenches were excavated within the development site, which lies in an area defined as having archaeological potential due to its position on the eastern outskirts of the Roman and medieval town of Leicester and proximity to the Fosse Way Roman road. The evaluation revealed truncated Roman post holes, a beam slot and ditch located under a deep medieval/post-medieval horticultural soil. The Roman deposits, are thought to be associated with extra-mural properties that fronted on to Fosse Way. The pottery sherds recovered from the features formed a coherent group of material, which were dated to the first half of the 2nd century. The site archive will be held with Leicester Museum Service, under the accession code: Y.A11.2018.*

## Introduction

An archaeological field evaluation (AFE) was undertaken as part of the requirements identified by the City Archaeologist at Leicester City Council as archaeological advisor to planning authority in accordance with National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) Section 12: Conserving and Enhancing the Historic Environment. The AFE was undertaken to assess whether any archaeological remains of significance were present within the proposed development site and propose suitable treatment to avoid or minimise damage by the development.

The archaeological potential of the plot was to be assessed by a phased programme of work, commencing with archaeological desk-based assessment (Hyam 2016). This report presents the results of archaeological evaluation by trial trenching carried out in June 2018 by University of Leicester Archaeological Services (ULAS).





Figure 1: Site location (arrowed)

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### Site Description, Topography and Geology

The site consists of a roughly rectangular plot extending from Clarence Street, to the west, to Hill Street to the east (Figs 2-4). Lee Street forms the northern boundary to the site. A flat-roofed two storey brick built building with a cellar presently occupies the western side of the plot running along Clarence Street. Along the Hill Street frontage is a tarmac car park which occupies approximately one third of the site. A mix of 19th, 20th and more modern buildings surround the site which reflect the wholesale redevelopment of the area which has taken place over the past sixty years

The site is relatively flat and lies at a height of approximately 56m above OD. The Ordnance Survey Geological Survey of Great Britain Sheet 156 indicates that the underlying geology consists of river gravels overlying Branscombe Mudstone Formation bedrock. (BGS Geology Viewer <http://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home.html>)



Figure 2 Proposed Building Location

## Archaeological Background

The Historic Environment Record (HER) for Leicester indicates that there are no known archaeological sites within the site boundaries. This is due to no previous work being carried out there rather than a lack of potential archaeological remains. There are however a number of known sites and historic buildings within a 250m radius of the site. Those relevant to the site are shown below.

### *Prehistoric:*

There are no known prehistoric sites within a 250m radius of the site.

### *Roman:*

A reported fragment of a mosaic (**MLC87**) was found below the former Savoy Cinema at 30-40 Belgrave Gate 200m to the north-west of the site. A Roman cemetery was found in the 1920's (**MLC551**) to the east side of the Roman town walls. Further evidence of extra mural burials were found in Charles Street (**MLC559**) (**MLC1276**) to the west of the site. A lead coffin (**MLC1277**) was found in 1783 in Humberstone Gate approximately 50m due south of the site. In the early 20th century and in the 1970's a number of lead coffins and urns were found in the Charles Street and Clarence Street area immediately west of the site. Excavation

of the Wilkinson's Store site on the west side of Clarence Street in 2001 (**MLC1279**) revealed 97 burials from the mid-3rd to early 4th century.

A Roman pit with Samian pottery was found (**MLC560**) in 1965 in Humberstone Gate approximately 250m to the south-west of the site. The probable Roman extra mural suburb (**MLC603** and **MLC1786**) runs from Eastgate to the north-west of the site following the course of the Fosse Way (**MLC607**). A range of artefacts (**MLC851**, **MLC1061**, **MLC1062**, **MLC1065**, **MLC1274**, **MLC1278**, **MLC1294**) have been found along the course of this route. More pottery has been found (**MLC1063**) nearby on Mansfield Street and on Bedford Street (**MLC1273**). A coin and more Roman pottery (**MLC1282**) have been found to the east in Wharf Street. Further pottery finds have been recovered from the Lee Street area (**MLC1284**) and from Bread Street (**MLC1291**) to the west. Wells, pits and pottery (**MLC2472**) were found to the north of the site in Lower Lee Street which possibly fronted onto the Fosse Way. Work in Clarence Street in 1900 recovered a jar (**MLC1292**) 1.8m below ground level. More pottery from nearby in Humberstone Gate (**MLC1328**) has been found.

An archaeological field evaluation by trial trenching was undertaken at Lower Lee Street, Leicester by University of Leicester Archaeological Services 2014. Three were excavated within the development site and revealed truncated Roman post holes and pit located under a deep medieval/post-medieval horticultural soil. The Roman deposits, are thought to be associated with potential extra-mural properties that fronted on to Fosse Way (Figure 3) (Higgins 2014).

#### *Anglo-Saxon:*

A possible Anglo Saxon burial (**MLC82**) was found at Number 12 Belgrave Gate approximately 250m to the west of the site.

#### *Medieval:*

As noted above the area around the development site has been identified as being on the eastern edge of the medieval suburbs (**MLC1787**). Work on Humberstone Gate has revealed a cobbled surface (**MLC1345**) interpreted as a late medieval or post medieval road surface with tanning pits (**MLC1346**) alongside. A medieval jug (**MLC732**) was found at 16 Belgrave Gate 200m NNW of the site. More medieval pottery (**MLC859**) has been found around the Humberstone Gate area south of the site. Pottery and other artefacts (**MLC864**) have been found in the area of Bread Street 100m west of the site.

#### *Post medieval:*

Late medieval or post medieval timber-framed houses (**MLC88**) were found on Belgrave Gate in the 1950s.



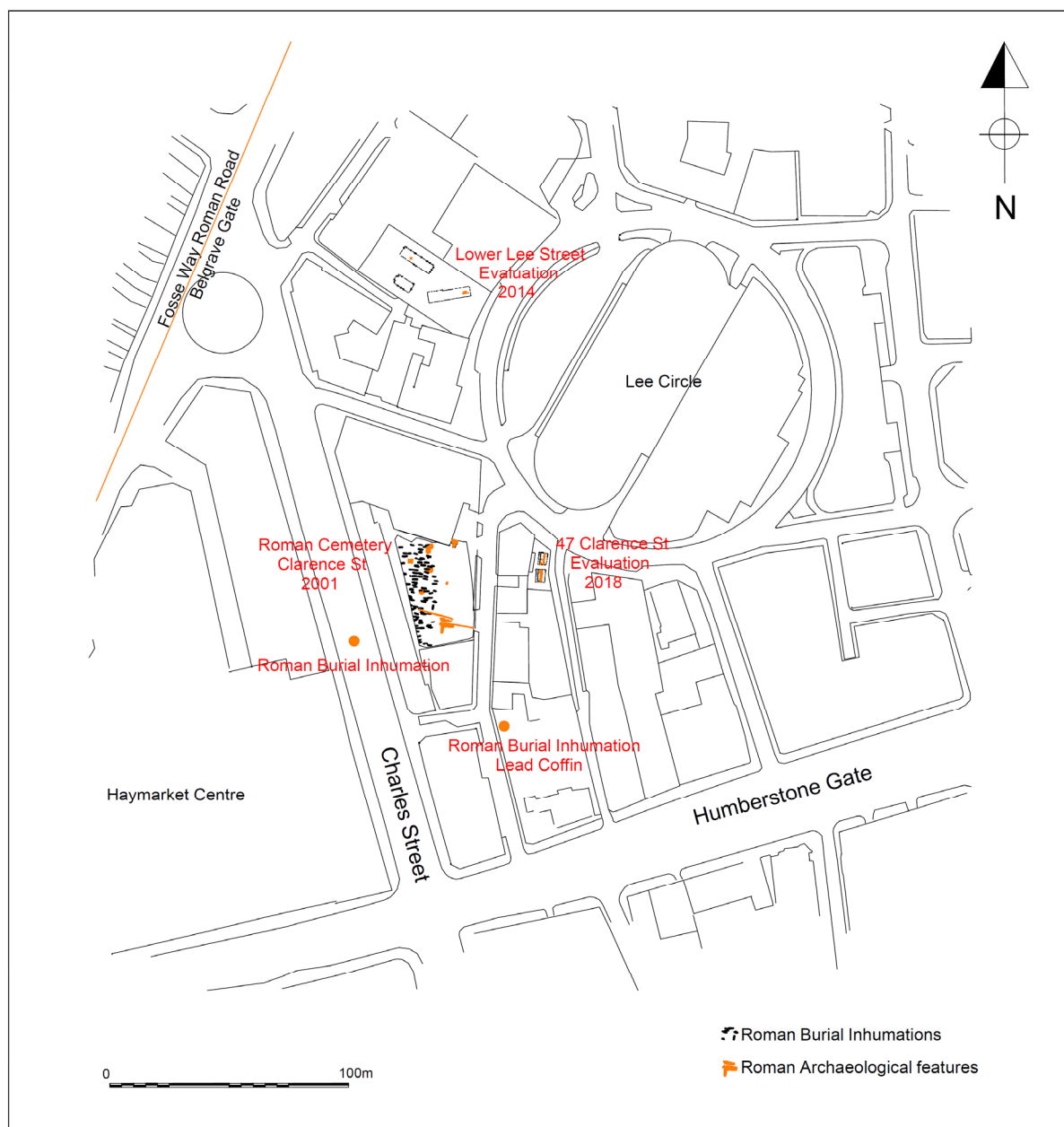


Figure 3 Location of the site and other Roman archaeological sites in the near vicinity

## Aims and Objectives

As specified in the *Project Design Specification for Land at Lower Lee Street, Leicester* (2014). The specific aims and objectives of the project were:

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

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



Trench excavation is intrusive form of evaluation that will demonstrate the existence of the earth-fast archaeological features that may exist within the area.

## **Methodology**

The Written Scheme of Investigation agreed with the Senior Planning Archaeologist at Leicester City Council proposed the investigation of three 10m by 1.6m wide trial trenches (48 sq. m) trial trenches to achieve a 26% sample of the total site area of *c.*180 sq. m. The plan (Fig. 3) shows the proposed locations of the trenches. The trenches were located to provide a good spread across the available site area within the proposed building footprint.

The initial location of all three trenches was subject to a services plan survey and a CAT scan to locate any live services. The number position and length of the trenches within the car park subsequently had to be revised due to the presence of live services located at the southern end of the site and also due to the initial results from Trench 1. Here, overburden was found to be over 1.60m deep down to top of the archaeological levels and the natural substratum. This meant that all trenches would need to be stepped to allow safe access and that the number of trenches would be reduced to two of varying size and placed on a north to south orientation. Trench 1 would now measure 4.70m long x 3.70m wide and was located within the south-east corner of the car-park yard running north to south. A second trench was located in the northern half of the yard and was orientated north direction. The trench measured 4.40m long and 3.20m wide.

Topsoil and overburden was removed carefully in level spits, under continuous archaeological supervision using a mechanical excavator using a toothless bucket. Trenches were excavated down to the top of archaeological deposits or natural undisturbed ground, whichever was reached first.

## Results

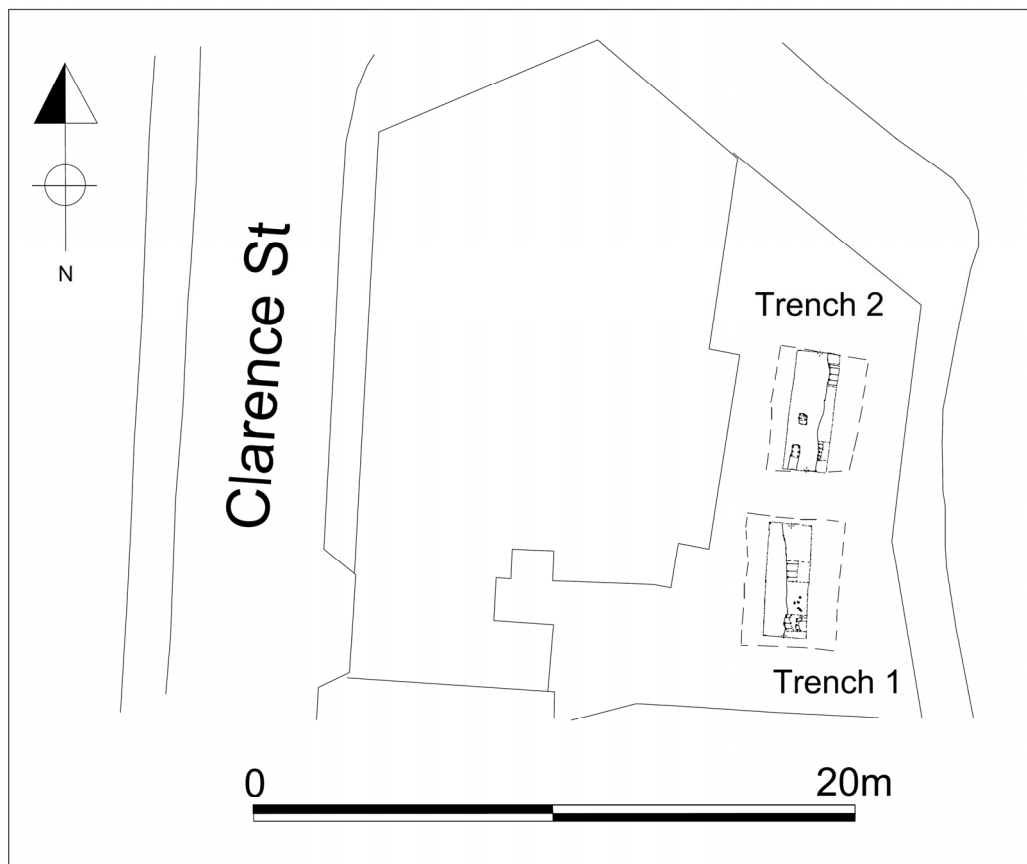


Figure 4 Trench location Plan

The two trial trenches covered a total area of 31.50 square metres, or 17.5% of the development footprint. A scatter of archaeological features was partially excavated for dating evidence and to determine the depth and quality of archaeology. Both trenches were excavated to a maximum depth of 1.60m.

### Trench 1

<b>Length 1st step</b>	<b>4.70m</b>
<b>Width 1st Step</b>	3.50m
<b>Length lower trench</b>	4.70mm
<b>Width Lower trench</b>	1.70m
<b>Depth</b>	Min 1.00m Max 1.60m
<b>Current ground floor level</b>	58.20m AOD
<b>Top of Archaeology</b>	56.60m AOD
<b>Natural Substratum</b>	56.60m AOD

Trench 1 was located towards the south-eastern corner of the development area and measured 4.70m long by 3.50m wide (Figure 4). This trench had a maximum excavated depth of 1.60m (56.60m OD) below current ground floor surface and was stepped to allow safe access. A secondary lower trench measuring 4.70m long and 1.70m wide was excavated down the centre of the first trench. The natural substratum was reached within this lower trench at minimum depth of 1.60m (56.60m AOD) and comprised dark orange and yellow sandy clays. The top of the archaeological horizon was reached at the same depth.

Within the trench a linear feature, aligned north-south was located at the eastern end (Figure 5), the full width of which was unknown as it was only partially exposed. Trial slots excavated at the northern and southern ends of the feature revealed some complexity to the feature. The northern slot revealed a linear ditch [100] and the southern slot revealed a potential post hole [103] that truncated the ditch. The primary feature or cut [100] appeared to be regular in plan with steep very sides that broke gradually into a rounded base an uneven base (Figure 6). The feature measured at least 3.20m in length x at least 0.78m wide and had a depth of 0.49m. Although the full width of the feature was unknown the profile suggests that it perhaps did not extend too far beyond the edge of excavation. The ditch contained pale brown sandy clay fill (101) mixed with fragments of dark pink clay, rounded pebbles, rare charcoal flecks and occasional animal bone. Pottery sherds retrieved from the fill comprised a range of grey, oxidised, white and shell-tempered wares, along with a mortarium and some samian fine ware dating to the first half of the 2nd century.

The southern trial slot suggests that the ditch had been cut by a sub-square post hole or pit [103] (Figure 5). The profile of the feature had a shallow lip at top which gradually broke into a steep slope and a rounded base (Figure 6). The remainder of the feature lay beneath the eastern and southern edges of excavation but what was visible measured 0.75m long, 0.70m wide and had a depth of 0.37m. The fill (102) consisted of pale brown sandy clay mixed with fragments of dark pink clay, rounded pebbles, rare charcoal flecks and occasional animal bone. A further ten sherds of pottery were retrieved from (102) which comprised mortarium a shell-tempered ware jar, a white ware flagon, a rusticated grey ware jar and a small grey ware jar. All these vessels were believed to be contemporary and dated to the first half of the 2nd century.

Directly overlying the natural geology and Roman features was a thick layer of post-medieval horticultural soil measuring 1.20m deep and comprising dark grey loamy sand mixed with rounded pebbles and charcoal flecks. Towards the southern end of the trench, a modern brick foundation, 0.20m thick, was observed overlying the horticultural soil and located at depth 0.30m below the current ground surface. The brick foundations were sealed by a layer of modern overburden between 0.20m and 0.40m deep and comprised crushed brick rubble tarmac.

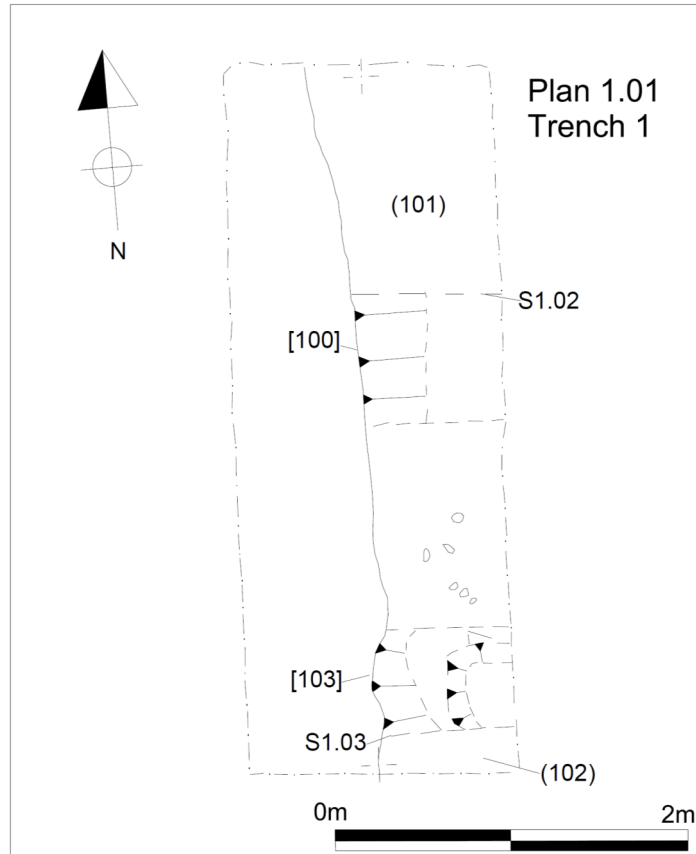


Figure 5 Trench 1 Plan

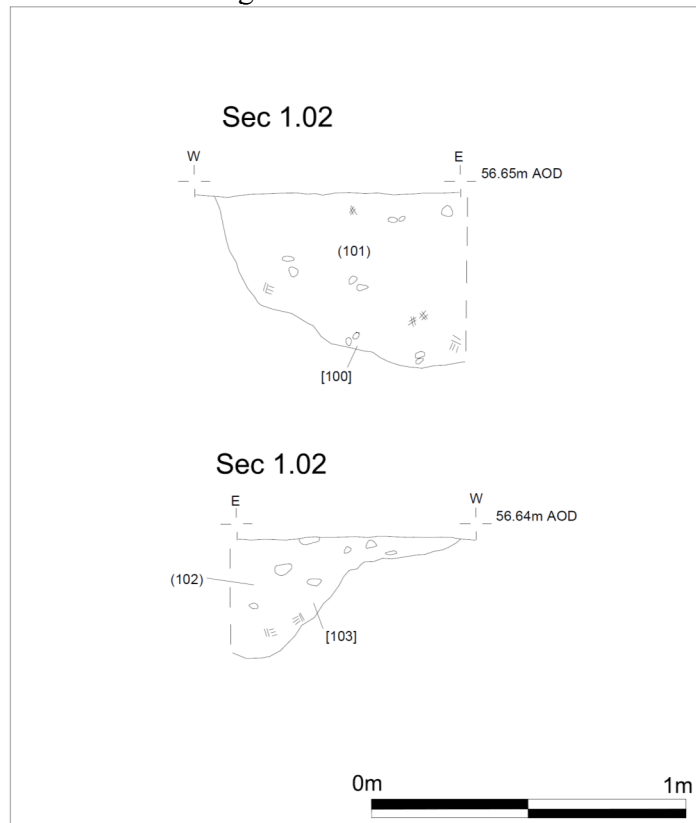


Figure 6 Trench 1 Sections





Figure 7 Trench 1 looking south



Figure 8 Trench 1 looking north

## Trench 2

<b>Length 1st step</b>	<b>4.70m</b>
<b>Width 1st Step</b>	3.20m
<b>Length lower trench</b>	4.30m
<b>Width Lower trench</b>	1.70m
<b>Depth</b>	1.60m
<b>Current ground floor level</b>	58.20mm AOD
<b>Top of Archaeology</b>	56.60m AOD
<b>Natural Substratum</b>	56.60m AOD

Trench 2 was located towards the north-eastern corner of the development area and measured 4.40m long and 3.20m wide and was orientated north to south (Figure 4). This trench had an overall excavated depth of 1.60m (56.60m OD) below current ground floor level. A secondary lower trench measuring 4.40m long and 1.70m wide was excavated down the centre of the first trench. The natural substratum was reached within this lower trench at minimum depth of 1.60m (56.60m AOD) and comprised dark orange-pink and yellow sandy clays. The top of the archaeological horizon was reached at the same depth.

Archaeological features were located at the eastern and southern sides of this trench and comprised a possible ditch [104], post hole [106] and beam-slot [108] (Figure 9). The ditch was only partially exposed but appeared to be linear in plan and extended beyond the eastern edge of excavation.

Two trial slots were excavated across the ditch, which showed a regular linear plan with steep sloping sides that broke into a rounded base. The feature measured a visible 4.30m in length, 0.40m wide and had a depth of 0.30m (Figure 9). Although the full width of the feature was unknown the profile suggests that it perhaps did not extend to far beyond the edge of excavation (Figure 10). The ditch contained a pale brown sandy clay fill (105) mixed with fragments of dark pink clay, rounded pebbles, rare charcoal flecks and occasional animal bone. The pottery sherds recovered from the ditch were comparable to that found in Trench 1, comprising a range of white, grey sandy wares all of which date within the 2nd century.

Directly to the west the remaining two features appeared to be structural in character. The first was a potential beam-slot [108] that entered the trench from the south west corner and extended northwards into the trench (Figure 9). This narrow regular linear feature ended in a squared butt-end with steep but shallow sides and flat base (Figure 10). The feature had a visible length of 0.84m, and was 0.30m wide and only 0.05m deep. The fill (109) comprised pale brown sandy clay fill mixed with frequent fragments of dark pink clay, rounded pebbles and rare charcoal flecks. No finds were associated with this feature but it is thought to be contemporary with the other two.

Located directly to north of the beam-slot was a single sub-square post hole [107] that had been placed on the same alignment and was probably associated. This feature had steep sloping sides leading to a rounded flat base and measured 0.36m long, 0.28m wide and 0.12m deep. The fill (106) comprised pale brown sandy clay fill mixed with frequent fragments of dark pink

clay, rounded pebbles and rare charcoal flecks. A single sherd of mortarium pottery, dated to 2nd century, was recovered from this feature.

Overlying the natural subsoil and Roman features was a thick layer of post-medieval horticultural soil measuring 1.20m deep which was very similar to the deposits found in Trench 1. Towards the southern and northern ends of the trench, a modern brick foundation 0.20m thick was observed overlying the horticultural soil and located at depth 0.30m below the current ground surface. The brick foundations were sealed by a layer of modern overburden between 0.20m and 0.40m deep and comprised crushed brick rubble and tarmac.

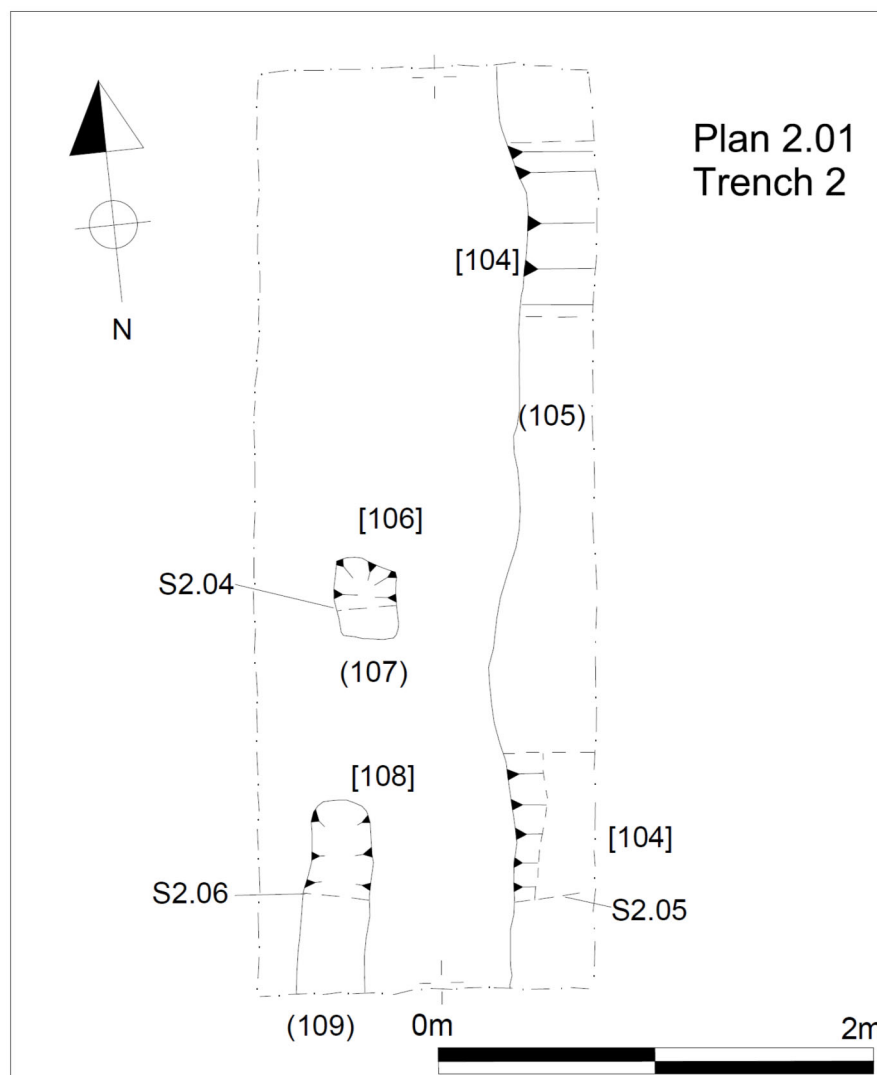


Figure 9 Trench 2 Plan



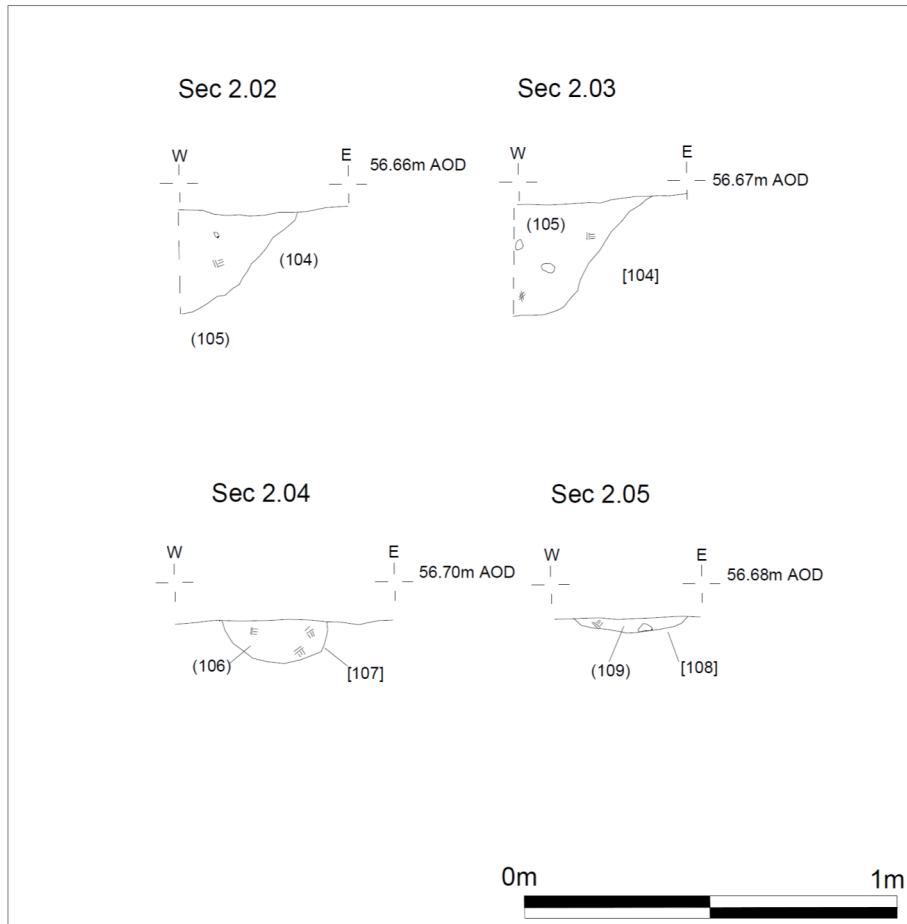


Figure 10 Trench 2 Sections



Figure 11 Trench 2 looking south



## Finds

### The Roman Pottery – Elizabeth Johnson

#### *Assemblage Size and Condition*

An assemblage comprising 52 sherds of Roman pottery weighing 858g with an EVEs value of 1.045 was retrieved from the evaluation excavations. The material is in good condition overall, reflected by the average sherd weight of 16.5g. Pottery was recovered from four contexts within two trenches.

#### *Methodology*

The pottery was examined in hand specimen using a binocular microscope at x15 magnification, and classified using the Leicestershire fabric series for Roman pottery as summarised in the table below (Pollard 1994).

Table 1 Summarised Leicestershire Fabric Series (after Pollard 1994).

<b>Fabric Code:</b>	<b>Description:</b>
CGSam/SGSam	Central and South Gaulish samian wares.
GW3, GW5	Fine and medium sandy grey wares.
OW2, OW3	Fine and coarse sandy oxidised wares.
SW4	Early coarse sandy wares.
MO4, MO18	Mancetter-Hartshill mortaria.
CG1A	Calcite gritted (shelly) wares.

Quantification was by sherd count, weight (grams) and estimated vessel equivalents (EVEs based on rim values). Vessel forms were assigned where diagnostic sherds allowed, using the Leicestershire Museums form series and other published typologies. The dataset was recorded and analysed within an MS Excel workbook, which comprises the archive record.

#### *Trench 1*

Twenty-nine sherds (685g) of pottery were recovered from two contexts within Trench 1. Most of the material (19 sherds, 357g) was retrieved from [100] (101), comprising a range of grey, oxidised, white and shell-tempered wares, along with a mortarium and some samian fine ware. Two samian ware vessels are present; a Drag.18/31R dish from South Gaul dating to *c.*AD90-110, and a Drag.27 cup from Central Gaul dating to the first half of the 2nd century (Webster 1996, 34-38). Both these forms are commonly found in Leicester. The mortarium is from Mancetter-Hartshill, with the form also indicating a date within the first half of the 2nd century. A fine grey ware jar with barbotine ring and dot decoration dates from the later 1st century to the middle of the 2nd century (Pollard 1994, 77-79), as does a fine oxidised ware hemispherical flanged bowl with white painted scroll decoration on the flange. The remaining coarse wares include two oxidised ware jars, one with an everted rim and one with a cordon; a white ware jar and a shell-tempered ware jar or bowl.

A further ten sherds of pottery (328g) were retrieved from [103] (102). A Mancetter-Hartshill mortarium accounts for 259g of the total weight, and dates from the late 1st century to the middle of the 2nd century. The flange is stamped. The remaining material comprises a shell-

tempered ware jar, a white ware flagon, a rusticated grey ware jar and a small grey ware jar with an out-curved rim. All these vessels could easily be contemporary with the mortarium, dating within the first half of the 2nd century (Ibid).

### ***Trench 2***

Twenty-three sherds (173g) of pottery were recovered from two contexts within Trench 2. All but one sherd (12g) was retrieved from [104] (105). The material is comparable to that found in Trench 1, comprising a range of oxidised, white, grey and sandy wares. The oxidised ware jar has an everted rim and roulette decoration, suggesting a late 1st-2nd century date. The two grey ware jars also date to the late 1st-2nd century and include a cordoned necked jar. The remaining pottery comprises a white ware flagon (12 sherds), a sandy ware jar or bowl and a shell-tempered ware jar; all of which date within the 2nd century. The single sherd of pottery recovered from [106] (107) is from a Mancetter-Hartshill mortarium. The sherd is abraded and not closely datable, however given the nature of the rest of the assemblage, a date within the 2nd century is most likely.

### ***Summary***

The pottery recovered during this evaluation is in good condition and forms a coherent group of material essentially dating within the first half of the 2nd century. In this respect, it suggests the underlying archaeology is well preserved and further work would enhance our understanding of this part of Roman Leicester. The range and variety of fabrics present is comparable to that found elsewhere in the centre of Leicester, and demonstrates access to a wide range of local and traded wares.

**Summarised Pottery Catalogue**

Table 2 Summarised Pottery Catalogue

Tr	Cut	Cont	Fabric	Form	Shds	Wgt (g)	Diam (cm)	EVEs	Dating
1	100	101	CG1A	Jar/bowl	2	13			late 1st-2ndC+
1	100	101	WW2	Flagon	1	3			late 1st-2ndC
1	100	101	CGSam	Cup	1	15			early-mid2ndC
1	100	101	SGSam	Dish	1	36			late 1st-early2ndC
1	100	101	MO18	Mortarium	1	31			early-mid2ndC
1	100	101	GW3	Jar	2	41			late 1st-mid2ndC
1	100	101	OW2	Bowl	2	56	18	0.1	late 1st-mid2ndC
1	100	101	OW3	Jar	3	33	18	0.1	late 1st-mid2ndC
1	100	101	OW2	Jar	1	2			late 1st-2ndC+
1	100	101	OW3	Jar/bowl	3	41			late 1st-2ndC+
1	100	101	OW3	Jar	2	86			late 1st-2ndC+
1	103	102	MO12	Mortarium	1	259			late 1st-mid2ndC
1	103	102	CG1A	Jar	1	16			late 1st-2ndC+
1	103	102	WW2	Flagon	4	21			late 1st-2ndC
1	103	102	GW3	Jar	1	6			late 1st-early2ndC
1	103	102	GW5	Jar	3	26	9	0.17	late 1st-2ndC+
2	104	105	OW2	Jar	1	26	11	0.2	late 1st-2ndC
2	104	105	WW2	Flagon	12	42			late 1st-2ndC
2	104	105	CG1A	Jar	1	15			late 1st-2ndC
2	104	105	GW3	Jar	6	48	12	0.475	late 1st-2ndC
2	104	105	SW4	Jar/bowl	1	19			late 1st-early2ndC
2	104	105	GW5	Jar	1	11			late 1st-2ndC+
2	106	107	MO4	Mortarium	1	12			late 1st-2ndC+

**The Animal Bone – Rachel Small****Introduction**

A very small animal bone assemblage (8 fragments) was collected by hand, from two Roman contexts (101) and (105), during an evaluation at Clarence Street, Leicester. Soil samples were collected, however, no animal bones were present in the residues or flots. The remains were identified by comparison to the reference material held at the University of Leicester and preservation was scored according to Harland et al's (2003) criteria. The results are presented here along with a discussion of what can be revealed about diet and animal husbandry at the site.

**Results**

The animal bones were of 'fair' preservation, the surface was solid in places but flaky or powdery on up to 49% of specimen. The specimens were all large mammal (table 1) and it was only possible to identify one fragment to species and this was a cattle humerus. The only other identifiable element was a mandible. Two of the fragments had been subject to carnivore gnawing and three fragments were root etched.

Table 3 a catalogue of the hand collected animal bone

Context	Cut	No. of frags	Identification	Notes
101	100	1	Large mammal long bone shaft fragment	Root etched
101	100	2	Large mammal mandible fragments	
101	100	1	Indeterminate large mammal fragment	Root etched
105	104	3	Large mammal indeterminate fragments	Larger fragment gnawed
105	104	1	Cattle humerus, distal end	Root etched and gnawed
<b>Total</b>		<b>8</b>		

### ***Discussion***

The remains likely represent waste from food preparation and consumption at the site. Small sample size has hindered interpretation, along with fragmentation and poor preservation. However, if further work is carried out at the site, collection and analysis of animal bones is recommended as a larger sample size might reveal more detailed information on diet and husbandry at the site.

## **The Charred Plant Remains Adam Santer**

### ***Introduction***

During an archaeological evaluation at Clarence Street, Leicester three bulk soil samples (numbered 1 to 3) were taken and processed for the analysis of charred plant remains. Samples 1 and 2 were from the fills (101) and (105) of ditches [100] and [104]. Ditch [100] was of early/middle 2nd century Roman date and ditch [104] was of early 2nd century Roman date. Sample 3 was from the fill (109) of undated beam slot [108]. The analysis of the charred plant remains recovered from the samples is presented here, together with a discussion of what this can potentially tell us about past diet, crop husbandry strategies and environment at the site.

### ***Methodology***

The samples consisted of a mostly mid-brown clayey silt and were processed in a York tank using a 0.5mm mesh with flotation into a 0.3mm sieve. The flotation fractions (flots) were sorted for plant remains and other artefacts under an x10-40 stereo microscope. The residues were air dried and the fractions over 4mm were sorted in their entirety whilst the fraction under 4mm was only scanned for remains. Plant remains were identified by comparison to modern reference material available at ULAS and their names follow Stace (1991). Each whole grain or those representing over 60% of the specimen was counted as one.

### ***Results***

One charred specimen was found in each of the three samples. Indeterminate cereal grains were found in samples 1 and 3 while a single wild or cultivated oat (*Avena* sp.) was found in sample 2.



Table 4 The charred plant remains in samples 1-3

Sample	1	2	3	
Context	101	105	109	
Cut	100	104	108	
Feature type	Ditch	Ditch	Beam slot	
Date	Early/Mid 2nd century	Early 2nd century	N/A	
Plant remains				
Indeterminate cereal	1		1	Indeterminate cereal
<i>Avena</i> sp.		1		Oat (wild or cultivated)
Total	1	1	1	
Soil volume (L)	8	8	6	
% Analysed	100%	100%	100%	
Items per litre	0.125	0.125	0.166	

### A note on the charcoal

Some charcoal fragments were found in all of the samples but very few pieces measured over 2mm in diameter, and are therefore would not be deemed suitable for radiocarbon analysis.

### Conclusion and statement of potential

Because very few charred plant remains were found in the analysis little was learned regarding past diet and crop husbandry at Clarence Street. It is likely that the remains represent food spillage that had become burnt on a hearth. The ash from the hearth would have formed a general scatter across the site collecting in open features.

Due to the scarcity of charred plant remains found in the samples it is not recommended that further sampling is carried out in the immediate vicinity. Should further work be carried out at the location in future however, a suitable sampling strategy should be implemented.

### Discussion

#### *Natural Substratum*

A possible natural substratum was reached at minimum depth of 56.60 AOD in Trenches 1 and 2 at a depth of 1.60m below the below the modern ground floor level.

#### *Archaeological Levels*

The very top of archaeological levels was found at a level of 56.60m AOD at 1.60m in Trenches 1 and 2 where features were observed cutting directly into the natural substratum.

#### *Roman*

Evidence of Roman activity was found in Trenches 1 and 2 and the top of the deposits was generally found at levels of between 55.60m and AOD. The Roman levels had all been truncated by post-Roman activity, which was principally caused by the medieval/post medieval horticultural activity.

Due to limitations of test trench evaluation, the available evidence is not sufficient to fully characterise the remains, but the surviving excavated Roman archaeology consisted broadly of a boundary ditch, timber post holes and beam slot. The pottery found associated within these deposits and features suggest a late 1st- to late 2nd-century date. The Roman deposits, are thought to be associated with potential extra-mural properties that once fronted on to Fosse Way. In a nearby excavation on Clarence Street evidence of Roman extra-mural occupation dated to 2nd-century has been found which pre-dated the 3rd- to 4th- century cemetery (Figure 3). Extra-mural features included a well, several pits and boundary ditches (Gardner 2002). The features revealed during this present evaluation are thought to be perhaps a continuation of those properties.

An evaluation undertaken at Lower Lee Street located approximately 100m to the north, further evidence of potential extra-mural Roman properties were also revealed and comprised potential post holes, beam-slot and a pit, (Figure 3) (Higgins 2014).

### *Medieval*

The horticultural soil found in all of the trenches has probably truncated the medieval levels. The horticultural soil was thought to have accumulated during the medieval and post medieval periods.

### *Post-Medieval to Modern*

The brick foundations and two brick lined wells were observed within trenches 2 and 3. These foundations and wells are thought to be associated with the poor quality housing that once occupied Bedford Street on Lower Lee Street (Hyam 2014). These buildings stood until they were demolished during clearance and redevelopment in the mid-20th-century.

## **Archive**

A full copy of the archive as defined in Brown (2008) will normally be presented within six months of the completion of the fieldwork. This archive will include all written, drawn and photographic records relating to the investigations undertaken.

The archive consists of:

A copy of the report,

Indices

10 context sheets

2 plan and section drawing sheets

Digital with contact prints, photographic index

Finds

The site archive will be held by Leicester City Museum Services under the accession number Y.A11.2018

A summary of the work will be published in the *Transactions of the Leicestershire Archaeological and Historical Society* in due course.

## Acknowledgements

I would like to thank Anorex Developments for their help and co-operation on site. The project was managed by John Thomas and the fieldwork was carried out by the author and Mireya Gonzalez. The post-excavation analysis was undertaken by Elizabeth Johnson (Roman pottery), Rachel Small (Animal Bone) and Adam Santer (Environmental) all of ULAS.

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**Appendix: Oasis**

<b>PROJECT DETAILS</b>	<b>Oasis No</b>	universi1-321460		
	<b>Project Name</b>	An Archaeological Evaluation Land at 47 Clarence Street, Leicester		
	<b>Start/end dates of field work</b>	11-06-2018 - 14-06-2018		
	<b>Previous/Future Work</b>	Yes / Not known		
	<b>Project Type</b>	Evaluation		
	<b>Site Status</b>	None		
	<b>Current Land Use</b>	Industrial Unit		
	<b>Monument Type/Period</b>	Ditch, Post Holes/Roman		
	<b>Significant Finds/Period</b>	Pottery / Roman		
	<b>Development Type</b>	Residential		
	<b>Reason for Investigation</b>	NPPF		
	<b>Position in the Planning Process</b>	Planning condition		
	<b>Planning Ref.</b>	Planning Application no: 20180404		
	<b>PROJECT LOCATION</b>	<b>Site Address/Postcode</b>	47 Clarence Street, Leicester/LE1 3RW	
<b>Study Area</b>		180 sqm		
<b>Site Coordinates</b>		SK 5900 0478		
<b>Height OD</b>		58.20m OD		
<b>PROJECT CREATORS</b>	<b>Organisation</b>	ULAS		
	<b>Project Brief Originator</b>	Local Planning Authority Leicester City Council		
	<b>Project Design Originator</b>	ULAS		
	<b>Project Manager</b>	John Thomas		
	<b>Project Director/Supervisor</b>	Tim Higgins		
	<b>Sponsor/Funding Body</b>	Developer / Anorex Developments		
<b>PROJECT ARCHIVE</b>		<b>Physical</b>	<b>Digital</b>	<b>Paper</b>
	<b>Recipient</b>	LCC MusService	LCC MusService	LCCMusService
	<b>ID (Acc. No.)</b>	YA.11.2018	YA.11.2018	YA.11.2018
	<b>Contents</b>	Pottery	Photos Survey data	Field Notes
<b>PROJECT BIBLIOGRAPHY</b>	<b>Type</b>	Grey Literature (unpublished)		
	<b>Title</b>	An Archaeological Evaluation at 47 Clarence Street, Leicester		
	<b>Author</b>	Tim Higgins		
	<b>Other bibliographic details</b>	ULAS Report No 2018-117		
	<b>Date</b>	03/07/2018		
	<b>Publisher/Place</b>	University of Leicester Archaeological Services / University of Leicester		
	<b>Description</b>	Developer Report A4 pdf		



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