

**Excavations at 9 St. Nicholas Place
Leicester 2004:
Post-Excavation Assessment
and Project Design**

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Plate 1: The undercroft building, photographed at its uncovering in 1861



Plate 2: The undercroft building revealed once again in 2003

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1: Introduction

This document represents an assessment of the potential for further analysis of an archaeological archive resulting from archaeological evaluation and excavation at 9 St. Nicholas Place, Leicester, on the site of the former Leicester Antiques Complex, located east of St Nicholas Place and north of Guildhall Lane, Leicester. Fieldwork on the site followed the design brief for an Archaeological Impact Assessment and Building Record prepared by the Archaeology Section of Leicester City Museum Service (Appendix One). An Archaeological Desk-Based Assessment compiled by the University of Leicester Archaeological Services (ULAS Report 2000/88) had earlier concluded that the site possessed considerable archaeological potential based on its known proximity to the historic core of the Roman and medieval town.

The development site is located at the intersection of Highcross Street/St. Nicholas Place/Applegate and Guildhall Lane. During the Roman period the site was situated at the junction of a road approximately aligned with the present Guildhall Lane, the Roman Fosse Way, and a north-north-east road on the eastern edge of the development area. To the west of the site was a second road of comparable alignment, the former the principal north-south road through the Roman town. This block of land, or *insula*, was situated directly opposite the eastern edge of the forum.

The medieval period saw the site positioned at the intersection of the former High Street and Holyrood Lane (now Highcross Street/St. Nicholas Place/Applegate and Guildhall Lane). The southern (Holyrood Lane/Guildhall Lane) street frontage is known to have been occupied by an eleventh- or twelfth-century undercroft structure, surviving as a cellared structure.

2: Background to the Project

In response to an application by Land Securities Trillium to redevelop the site of a derelict late Victorian warehouse building in order to provide new premises for BBC Radio Leicester and the Asian Network, the Leicester City Council Planning Archaeologist recommended the implementation of a phased programme of archaeological investigation in order to characterise the potential of the site. Proceeding from an initial Desk-Based Archaeological Assessment compiled by the University of Leicester Archaeological Services (ULAS Report 2000/88), an archaeological evaluation was conducted according to guidelines laid out in the design brief for an Archaeological Impact Assessment and Building Record prepared by the Archaeology Section of Leicester City Museum Service (Appendix One).

2.1: The Archaeological Evaluation

An archaeological evaluation was undertaken on the site between 2nd January and 20th February 2002, when the opening of a total of eleven trenches confirming the presence of well preserved and deeply stratified Roman and medieval archaeological deposits (Kipling 2002). Work was conducted in the cellars of the (then standing) Victorian buildings and in the associated external yard area.

The Roman Period

The archaeological evaluation confirmed that the proposed development area at 9 St. Nicholas Place lies over important archaeological deposits of Roman date. The evidence would suggest at least two main phases of Roman building on the site, the earliest pre-dating the formation of the Roman street grid. The second phase of building is aligned with the street grid. Evidence was also revealed of the remains of a large cobbled surface pre-dating the second phase of building. This is similar to that seen to have been laid out over the areas of the two major public buildings, the Forum and Jewry Wall Baths.

Phase 1

The earliest phase of building on the site was revealed within trench 7, wall (316), constructed of coursed granite blocks with a beige sandy lime mortar and with c.0.6m of superstructure surviving. The wall was significant as it lay on an alignment of almost 30 degrees difference to that of the later Roman street grid. No dating evidence associated with the construction of the wall was recovered, but by association with other dated contexts, the wall is stratigraphically earlier than late 1st century AD deposits. Within trench 10 a similarly constructed wall (202), with pale-yellow brown mortar was recorded. The small part of the wall revealed within the evaluation was substantially robbed, and its alignment is far less certain than that of wall (74), but would again be offset from the later Roman street grid alignment by some 20 degrees. It is not inconceivable that this wall may also belong to this first constructional phase of activity. The walls revealed within the evaluation from this early phase of construction could potentially be the earliest evidence for masonry structures within the Roman town of Leicester. The function of this building could not be ascertained from the evaluation, little was revealed of any associated floor levels. It would very likely be of high status, and potentially an early public building within the centre of the town. By the end of the first century AD, this structure was demolished, although the walls were partially left standing, to make way for buildings erected on the street grid alignment.

Phase 2

The lines of the Roman street grid were initially marked out with ditches, possibly by the end of the first- century AD. By the early second- century AD the Roman street grid becomes formalised with metalled surfaces being added. Evidence has also been revealed for a similar late first- century 'setting out' of the *insula* that were to contain the major public buildings. This was in the form of cobbling and has been recognised in the forum *insula* and those adjacent to it on the north, south and west, and interpreted as an open area for assembly for commerce before the construction of the forum (Mellor 1976, 14).

Within trench 7 a 0.10m deep well-compacted gravel surface was revealed (330) butting against the wall (316), but sealing its foundations. The surface is of similar character to the cobbled surface found within the forum and other *insulae*. Although by no means conclusive, this would suggest that the wall pre-dates the surface, giving credence to the idea that the wall is an earlier pre-street grid phase of activity. Within trench 3, at least three layers of well-compacted cobbled surfaces were revealed (355, 356, 358). The earliest of these lay directly upon the underlying natural sands and

gravels. The nature of these surfaces seems very similar in character to those seen within the forum *insula*. The foundations for the largely robbed wall recorded within the trench (352), is likely to have cut through these gravel layers. The wall is aligned with the street grid, and thus thought to represent part of the second constructional phase, during the first part of the second century. Other walls were revealed during the evaluation that align quite closely with the Roman street grid, in as far as can be ascertained from small lengths of wall revealed within the evaluation trenches. Destruction deposits, including fallen wall material and roof material were encountered within trenches 2 and 6. Such deposits are rarely found within Leicester and may contain significant material regarding the nature of the demise of the town at the end of the Roman period.

The character of the potential structures from the second main construction phase is very difficult to define due to the nature of evaluation. The masonry walls recorded within trenches 7, 8, 6 and 10 are all of size and constructional nature to be potentially internal walls of a public building. The location of this *insula* adjacent to the forum would certainly not preclude the existence of public buildings here. The size and substantial nature of the masonry revealed, and the lack of any ornately decorated wall plaster or mosaic flooring, would imply that the buildings were public, rather than domestic. The possible stylobate blocks within trench 10 could infer the existence of a grandiose structure, possibly even a temple, but this can only be conjecture from the keyhole nature of the evaluation.

The Medieval Period

Post-Roman deposits were targeted in the external yard area, with the opening of two trenches revealing medieval clay-bonded masonry walls and mortar floor surfaces surviving at a depth of 0.5m below the present ground surface. These deposits had been damaged by (no longer extant) modern buildings and service trenches.

The site revealed no Anglo-Saxon remains, although a few sherds of later Saxo-Norman pottery were recovered. It is thought that by the early medieval period the medieval street pattern had been established. The frontages of the main north to south route through the town, the former High Street (now Highcross Street/St. Nicholas Place/Applegate), were rapidly developed during this period, and were possibly the focus for the earliest post-Roman occupation of Leicester. As has been seen at archaeological investigations opposite the site in Castle Park Car Park (Meek 2000) and during the forum excavations of 1971 and 1973 (forthcoming), the plot boundaries established at this time became fossilised, and in part were still visible in the twentieth century.

Fossilisation of medieval boundaries may be apparent in the overall layout of those buildings on the proposed development site demolished in 2003, especially those in the centre of the area. The building projecting into the rear yard was long and narrow, and of c.5m width. The walkway between this building and that to the north was also of similar size and shape. These have the appearance of medieval tenements, and may well be the fossilisation of such projecting to the east from the former medieval High Street. These boundaries also display a curious kink in their alignment to the east of the street frontage. The reason for the kink in the alignment may even have its origins in the Roman period, being as it aligns with the Roman street grid, and may suggest

the survival of standing Roman masonry. Walls recorded in trench 9 continued the alignment of these possible medieval plot boundaries to the east of the existing buildings into the rear yard. The remains of a possible medieval mortar floor was also exposed at the northern end of this trench. The character of the medieval buildings that formerly stood within the proposed development area, excluding the undercroft, could not be ascertained from the evaluation. The existence of walls and the floor layer so far from the street frontage would imply that this area was densely occupied.

Trial trenching confirmed the presence of deeply-stratified archaeological Roman and medieval deposits. In the case of the cellared areas these comprised as much as c.1.6m of stratified floors and associated walls and, in the external yard areas, an additional overlying deposit of c.1.5m of (probably substantially damaged) medieval remains.

2.2: The Archaeological Excavation

Following the completion of an Archaeological Impact Assessment of the proposed development of 9 St. Nicholas Place, Leicester into the new home of BBC Radio Leicester, it was agreed that a stage of archaeological excavation was necessary prior to construction in mitigation of damage which would be caused to buried archaeological remains. The impact assessment included archaeological evaluation by trial trench which demonstrated that well preserved archaeological remains of Roman and medieval date survived across the development area.

Assessment of the proposed groundworks and foundation layout in relation to the results of the evaluation redirected that archaeological levels in the backyard areas of the former Antiques Centre warehouse would be adversely affected by the proposals. Archaeology below the basement floors of the building would, however, be unaffected. Consequently, a mitigation strategy of archaeological levels to be affected was implemented.

Hence, consultation with the Clients, Architect and Leicester City Archaeologist resulted in the alteration of design plans of the proposed building such that the impact of construction would be minimised on deeply buried archaeological remains, by utilisation of a piling and raft scheme, involving the excavation of archaeological deposits down to a formation level of 1.6m below present ground level, followed by stoning level. The undercroft was to remain in situ and be roofed over with a concrete floor slab, but to be surrounded by concrete foundation piles. The greatest impact from construction works was thought to stem from the reduction of the site level to a height of approximately 63.50m OD or 1.6m below present ground level, a level subsequently revised to 63.30m OD. Where archaeological deposits had survived at a depth above this level, these were to be archaeologically excavated in mitigation. The Norman Undercroft was to be preserved beneath the proposed building, with later brick additions and vaulted roof being removed. A number of areas of deeper excavation were also to be undertaken where mass concrete foundation bases were deemed necessary, including three areas surrounding the Norman Undercroft in order that groundbeams could be spanned across the structure, and so minimise damage.

The excavation phase, dating between 10th February and 23rd May 2003, targeted the yard areas occupying the western part of the development area, with investigation of the undercroft building known to front the present Guildhall Lane, and any possible associated deposits and features, deemed a particular research priority. Following demolition and clearance of the warehouse building, a 360° mechanical excavator equipped with a toothless bucket was employed to remove modern overburden down to the top of archaeological stratigraphy. Hand excavation of these deposits proceeded after initial cleaning and planning.

The presence of a series of medieval and later walls traversing the development dictated its logical division into three zones, providing a total excavation area of c.416m². These consisted of Area One, the northernmost of the three and occupied by at least two medieval buildings, a related sequence of cobbled yard surfaces and covered drains, and two substantial masonry - possibly industrial - kiln or oven features. A substantial post-medieval wall formed the division to this area and Area Two, which included a further sequence of medieval and post-medieval kilns or ovens overlying Roman stratigraphy, including a probable well. Finally, the undercroft building and a complex sequence of medieval rubbish pits dominated Area Three, which fronted onto Guildhall Lane on its southern side.

2.3: Summary of Excavation Findings

2.3.1: Area One

Area One produced the most complex occupational sequence of the excavation. In the northeastern corner of the c.120m² trench, the removal of a 1.5m-1.8m thick accumulation of fifteenth to sixteenth-century demolition layers containing ceramic building materials, slate and mortar revealed the rear of a possibly fourteenth-century building (Building One), its well-preserved walls defining a room of c.8.2m². The southern wall accommodated a partially surviving window and a central doorway opening onto a possible external yard area with a well (818). Buttresses had been constructed along the internal face of the wall in an apparent attempt to counteract visible subsidence of the structure into earlier rubbish pits. The building was flanked to the east by part of a probable secondary structure, one wall of which was pierced by a stone-lined drain (629). These properties are likely to have fronted onto the medieval Swinesmarket – the present High Street – to the north. The building(s) appear to have been demolished during the fifteenth or sixteenth centuries, their walls sealed buried beneath substantial demolition deposits.

The area to the west of Wall 501 was occupied by a sequence of carefully constructed twelfth- and thirteenth-century cobbled yard surfaces, traversed by stone-lined covered drains and covering an area of 5m x 7m minimum. An apparently contemporary building (Building Two) flanked the western side of the yard area, its three visible walls defining an area of at least 11m². A mortar floor was visible across most of this internal space, with the surface having undergone substantial damage as a result of slumping into earlier features. The southeast internal corner of the structure was occupied by a stone-lined semi-circular feature (770) of possible post-medieval date measuring c.0.9m in diameter and 1m deep. The absence of mortar bonding and

any form of base to the structure suggest its having functioned as a soakaway for liquids, suggesting that this building/room may have functioned as a kitchen.

Industrial activity was represented by two probable kilns (793 and 1487) occupying the eastern area of the trench and possibly of the same date as the yard and Building Two. The more complete of the two substantial features (793) consisted of a circular chamber set into the ground measuring c.1.5m in diameter and lined with coursed clay-bonded granite blocks with an accompanying base. Heavy blackening and cracking of the masonry indicated its having been exposed to high heat; an opening on the eastern side gave onto a linear flue. Function is as yet unconfirmed, but the discovery of gypsum fragments from overlying demolition deposits suggests that these features were linked to the production of building mortar.

2.3.2: Area Two

The smallest of the three excavation zones (66m²) was defined to the north by a substantial, solidly-constructed granite wall (678/771) traversing the trench east to west and measuring 0.4m wide and 1.2m in height. The wall reflects the line of a medieval parish boundary and may also represent the continuation of a major wall of the Roman forum previously identified to the west beyond High Cross Street. Fragmentary traces of walls (1473 & 942) in the northern area suggested the presence of a building, possibly abutting the aforementioned substantial property boundary wall. A sequence of kilns or ovens (924, 927, 961) was excavated along the eastern edge of excavation. Although of similar build to those encountered in Area One these were smaller in scale and of later (fourteenth- to seventeenth- or eighteenth-century date. Partial excavation of a medieval well (936) showed it to have been cut through a substantial (1.5m minimum) accumulation of gravel metalled street surfaces, probably relating to the Roman street believed to have run southeast to northwest through the site.

2.3.3: Area Three

Area Three was the most substantial of the three excavation zones, covering an area of 172m², or 230m² including the undercroft building. Although the early medieval undercroft building had previously been the subject of excavation and detailed structural survey by the Leicestershire Archaeology Unit in 1990 (Hagar 1990), the removal of the Victorian vaulted roof and internal brick divisions in 2003 offered an opportunity to further investigate the building and to ascertain whether any associated structures survived. The undercroft was constructed via the sinking of a foundation trench through an accumulation of Roman street metallings and overlying 'Dark Earth' deposits flanking the northern and eastern sides of the building; in the case of the latter these deposits were over 2m thick. The walls of the building were subsequently raised against the construction cut to ground level and above, with a line of putlog holes in the eastern wall and an external beam slot suggesting the use of a form of scaffolding. Partial excavation of the wall cut produced pottery suggesting an eleventh- to late thirteenth-century construction date. A series of Roman brick niches set into the internal face of the eastern wall probably accommodated candles or lamps, whilst the southern wall revealed traces of a second door and accompanying window opening onto the present-day Guildhall Lane.

Excavation of the area immediately west of the undercroft identified the building's footings, indicating that the external ground surface contemporary to the use of the building had been around 1.5m lower than on the opposing (eastern) side. It was also ascertained that a section of the west wall, including a window, had collapsed and been rebuilt at an unknown date. Principal access to the undercroft appears to have been via a wide doorway in the northwest corner. Excavation along the external western wall face revealed the doorway masonry to have been robbed out between the late eleventh and late thirteenth centuries. The length of the robber trench (794/870) does, however, hint at a secondary structure or wing once projecting west from the undercroft. A 1.5m- diameter semicircular masonry structure 860 built against the external undercroft wall face at its northeast corner may represent a support base for a rain barrel.

The area north of the undercroft appears to have been an open yard area, being heavily disturbed by a complex sequence of inter-cutting medieval rubbish pits cutting the post-Roman Dark Earths and ranging from the fourteenth to sixteenth centuries. The line of the eastern wall of the undercroft was continued north by wall 752, forming a corner with a second wall (562), in which was accommodated a substantial rectangular cess pit (877) measuring c.2m x 1.5m externally and 1.8m deep. It was unclear whether the pronounced concave character of the granite masonry lining was the result of deliberate design or simply of slumping. The pit produced several sherds of a rare, high-status pottery type of mid-fifteenth to mid-sixteenth century date as well as linen textile fragments and part of a bone comb. This feature was stylistically similar to two further nearby pits (687/1502 and 1284) ranged along wall 562, and apparently occupying the same parcel of land as the undercroft.

2.4: Aims and Objectives of Post-Excavation Analysis

The overall stated aims of the project were, from the outset:

- to establish the nature, character and extent of any archaeological deposits within the designated area;
- to establish a date range for any archaeological deposits located;
- to define the state of preservation of any such deposits including the potential for the survival of environmental data.
- to assess the local, regional and national importance of any deposits located;
- to produce an archive and report any results.

The excavation was also deemed to have the potential to contribute to certain issues in the stated research agenda regarding the investigation of the history and archaeology of Leicester, namely:

Roman Leicester

- The character, identity and extent of settlement in the Roman *civitas* through time.
- An analysis of settlement morphology and changing land-use patterns.
- A detailed study of the later Roman town, including evidence for fourth-century urban decline.

Anglo-Saxon and Medieval Leicester

- Evidence for the sub-Roman to Anglo-Saxon transitional period and the character and extent of occupation and/or activity within the town.
- Evidence for Danish (Viking) occupation and/or activity in the Mercian Borough.
- The development of the post-Roman street plan and defences, including the castle and Newarke.
- The evolution of churches, parishes and religious houses including the Abbey and the possible Anglo-Saxon cathedral.
- The evidence for zoning via occupation, trade/industrial activity and wealth.
- Evidence for the survival of Roman structures and other elements of Roman urban topography into the post Roman period.

Post-Medieval Leicester

- The character and possible zoning of industrial and trade activity.
- The development of property boundaries

2.5: Excavation Methodology

Following demolition and clearance of the warehouse building fronting High Cross Street, a 360° mechanical excavator equipped with a toothless bucket was employed to remove modern overburden down to the top of archaeological stratigraphy. Hand excavation of these deposits proceeded after preliminary cleaning and planning. Work progressed broadly north to south across the development area, beginning with Area One, enabling a phased handover of the site to demolition and construction contractors on completion of archaeological investigation. Hence, Areas One and Two were surrendered to the demolition company, Smiths PLC, on the 17th April 2003, Area Three was delivered on 8th May, and the undercroft building following at the close of the excavation on 23rd May.

Archaeological deposits were removed by hand down to the building formation depth of 1.8m below present ground level or 63.2m OD. However, the machine cutting of a number of deeper holes in order to accommodate concrete foundations for the new building and to support wall support stanchions provided valuable keyholes through deeper archaeological stratification.

3: Assessment for Further Analysis

3.1: Stratigraphic and Structural Data

3.1.1: Factual Data

The excavation archive consists of the following materials:

Artefacts

- Pottery (Roman): 1.5 box
- Pottery (medieval): 16 boxes
- Unsorted: 4 boxes
- CBM (Roman): 10 boxes
- CBM (post-Roman): 1.5 boxes

- Ridge tile (medieval): 3 boxes
- Unsorted ceramic material (Roman and medieval): 5.5 boxes
- Assorted ceramic material (medieval and post-medieval): 1 box
- Misc. stone, slate and mortar (Roman and medieval): 3 boxes
- Animal bone: 13 boxes
- Shell and glass: 0.5 box
- Small finds: 1 box (138 objects)
 - 79 metal objects
 - 9 coins
 - 13 glass objects
 - 12 bone objects
 - 25 stone/ceramic objects
- 28 mortar samples
- 37 environmental samples

Site Records

- c.1000 context records
- 125 A2 drawing sheets
 - 22 A2 plans on drawing film sheets
 - 60 A3 plans on drawing film sheets
 - 38 A2 section drawings on drawing film sheets
 - 55 A3 sections drawings on drawing film sheets
 - Total: 175 drawings*
- 138 small find records
- 65 environmental sample records
- 1215 level records
- 21 x 36 exposure colour slide films
- 21 x 36 exposure monochrome films (negatives and contact prints)

3.1.2: Range and Variety

Archaeological deposits recovered during the course of the excavation project consisted of structural features (streets, walls, kilns or ovens), negative cut and fill features (pits and wells), and site layers (building demolition layers, make-up/consolidation layers), of late Roman to modern date. As anticipated, the site's location at the centre of the Roman and medieval town guaranteed a complex and lengthy stratigraphic sequence, with clear indications of dense and frequently changing patterns of land use. Although the frequent inter-cutting and reworking of deposits did present problems in terms of phasing, residuality of material appeared to be reasonably low across the site, enabling the formulation of a broad chronological sequence, detailed below.

A broad chronology, based on current understanding of the site's stratigraphy, follows, to be read in conjunction with detailed site plans (Figures % to *). Provisional group numbers have been allocated to associated features. Each group has then been placed in provisional activity phases on an individual (Area Phase) and then overall (General Site Phase) basis.

A primary objective of the current post-excavation assessment and report is the re-examination and amalgamation of the results of the 1990 undercroft excavation (Hagar, unpublished) with the recent archaeological fieldwork. Hence, a provisional reinterpretation of Hagar's phasing sequence and suggested equivalent phasing from the 2003 programme are also detailed.

The groupings of features and assignation of phases are entirely provisional at this stage of the work and are likely to change as a result of further detailed analysis. Individual features are referred to by cut numbers only, to avoid confusion.

AREA 1

Area Phase 1 (1175-1299) (General Site Phase 3)

Group 1 (Building 2)

Walls

575, 632, 1278

Soakaway 770

?Walls 1135, 1479 (1275-1325)

Floor 550/571/572

Contexts 551/569, 570, 638

Group 2 (Associated Yard Area)

Yard Surfaces 531, 532, 533, 535, 554, 556, 766, 767, 916/917/918, 950, 1059

?Floor 947

Drains 555, 1482

Walls 954, 1077

Kilns 793, 1487

Pit 1053

Contexts 504, 920, 951, 955, 978, 979, 1026, 1027, 1056, 1057, 1058, 1060,

Area Phase 2 (1300-1550) (General Site Phase 3)

Group 3 (Building 1)

Wall 522

Buttresses 514, 722

Contexts 636, 728, 731, 768, 912, 913, 915

Group 4 (Additional Building 1 Elements or an Associated Structure)

Walls 501, 515, 505/640, 1478, 1483

Robber Trench 625/719

Drain 629

Yard Surface 911

Drain 629

Well 503/818

Group 5

Pit 596 (1300/1400-1550)

Site Layers 506, 623, 709

Wall 1474

Area Sub-Phase 2.1 (1450-1550)
(General Site Phase 3)

Group 6 (Building 1)

Robber Trenches 510, 624

Demolition layers associated with Building 1

516, 517, 518 523, 534, 546, 573, 579, 580, 581, 583, 584, 595, 600, 601, 602, 605, 637, 774, 775/1031, 776, 817, 882, 883, 919, 929, 948, 949, 952, 953, 1030, 1032, 1033

Hearth? 619

Pit 604

Group 7 (Building 3)

Walls ?558, 568, 986, 991, 995, 1471, 1472, 1473, 1476, ?1479

Contexts 981, 982, 983, 713

Floor 984/985, 989, 992

Pit 1094

Group 8 (Yard Area)

Contexts 508, 509, 511, 576, 577, 578, 582, 606, 607, 610, 869, 998

Area Phase 3 (1550-1650)
(General Site Phase 5)

Group 9

Feature 544

Site Layer 549

Area Phase 4 (1600-1780)
(General Site Phase 5)

Group 10

Robber Trench 547/592 (Building 2)

Walls ?666, ?678/771 (Areas 2 & 3 dividing wall)

Area Phase 5 (1780-1850)
(General Site Phase 6)

Group 11 (Building 2 Zone)

Pits 520, 593

Group 12 (Yard Zone)

Context 524

Pit 585

Undated, Unphased Contexts and Features

Group 13 (Yard/Building 1 Zone)

Contexts 525, 527, 528, 529, 543, 613, 621, 626, 635, 857, 944, 997, 999, 1092, 1093,

Pits 634, 1488

Building 3 Zone

Context 993

AREA 2

Area Phase 1 (Roman) (General Site Phase 1)

Group 14

Street metallings 1023, 1038, 1039, 1040, 1041, 1042, 1043, 1044, 1045,
Demolition Deposits 937, 1011, 1012, 1013, 1014, 1034, 1035, 1036, 1037

Area Phase 2 (1075-1299) (General Site Phase 2/3)

Group 15

Pits 1005, 1046?
Well 932 (1075-1299)
Robber trench 1009

Area Phase 3 (1300-1550) (General Site Phase 4)

Group 16

Kilns/Ovens 922, 924, 927
Pit 936?
Site Layers 938, 939, 940?, 970, 971, 972, 973, 974, 1050, 1051
Walls 562, 942

Area Phase 4 (1500-1750) (General Site Phase 5/6)

Group 17

Well 934
Pits 958, 1002?
Site Layers, 790, 791, 956, 957, 969
Wall 787

Area Phase 5 (1750+) (General Site Phase 7)

Brick cellared warehouse building (1000)

Unphased, Dated

Group 18

Pit 1003
Robber trench 1007

AREA 3

Area Phase 1 (later Roman period) (General Site Phase 1)

Group 19

Street Metalling and Silting Sequences

825, 826, 827, 828/1095, 829/1080, 861, 862, 1071, 1072, 1073, 1074, 1075, 1081, 1121, 1126, 1207, 1208, 1209, 1222, 1223, 1229, 1231, 1232, 1341/1450, 1346, 1347, 1348, 1349, 1350, 1351, 1352, 1353, 1354, 1355, 1356, 1357, 1364, 1365, 1366, 1367, 1368, 1369, 1370, 1371, 1372, 1373, 1374, 1375, 1379, 1380, 1381, 1382, 1383, 1384, 1385, 1386, 1387, 1423, 1448, 1449, 1451, 1452, 1453, 1454, 1455, 1456, 1457, 1458, 1459, 1460, 1461

Demolition Deposits 1068, 1069, 1076, 1079, 1082, 1198, 1199, 1343, 1344, 1345, 1407

Street frontage buildings (walls 674, 724/1491, 1424, 1426, 1493, 1497, 1499)

NB wall 1499 robbed at date unknown (Feature 1396)

Pits ?863, 1084, 1362, 1378

Area Phase 2 (Sub-Roman period) (General Site Phase 2)

Group 20

Dark Earth deposits 1271/1277/1293/1294/1297/1298/1299, 1361/1447

(NB 1271 produced pottery dating to 1050-1199)

Area Phase 3 (later 11thC – later 13thC) (General Site Phase 2/3)

Group 21 (Sub-Phase 3.1: Undercroft constructed (construction cut 1358; date: 1050-1299)

Posthole 1173 associated with undercroft?

Masonry (plinth?) feature 860 (date: 1175-1299).

Group 22 (Sub-Phase 3.2: Undercroft Alterations, Robbing)

Undercroft doorway robbing (date: 1175-1299); robber feature 794/870

Western wall rebuild 1394/1507

Demolition layer 905

Group 23 (Pitting and other Features West of the Undercroft (date: 1075-1299)

Stone-lined pit 1502 (date: 1175-1299)

Pits 703, 863, 900, 1248, 1263, 1268/1304, 1270/1317, 1274, 1291, 1296, 1301, 1309, 1320, 1336, 1408, 1410

Features 1148, 1153, 1158, 1159, 1162, 1163, 1419

Robber trench 1160

Wall 1489

Posthole 1316

Floor 1314

Contexts 899, 1096, 1097, 1098, 1099, 1100, 1104, 1105, 1106, 1107, 1108, 1109, 1110, 1111, 1112, 1113, 1114, 1115, 1116, 1117, 1118, 1119, 1120, 1137, 1143, 1145, 1147, 1150, 1151, 1152, 1155, 1156, 1157, 1262, 1264, 1265, 1266, 1285, 1326, 1327, 1328, 1330, 1331, 1332, 1333, 1337, 1418, 1430, 1431, 1432, 1438

Group 24 (Pitting and other Features North of the Undercroft (date: 1075-1299)

Walls 662, 888, 1490, 1494

Pits 736, 737, 805, 833, 836/856, 855, 858, 859, 884 (date uncertain), 885 (date uncertain), 1191, 1339

Stone-lined pit 667 north of the undercroft (date: 1175-1299)

Pit/Well 1127

Layers 655, 656, 844, 868

Group 25 (Pitting East of the Undercroft (date: 1075-1299))

1389 (date: 1150-1399), 1391, 1393

**Area Phase 4 (1300-1550)
(General Site Phase 4)**

Group 26 (Pitting & Other Features North of the Undercroft)

Stone-lined pits 877& 1284 (date: 1450-1550)

Pits 646, 664/735, 1166

Hearth 669

Drain/flue 1496

Walls 752, 1179, 1241, 1243, 1480

Metalled Surfaces 760/1186, 1168

Demolition Layers 641, 645/654/683/823, 649, 650, 652, 653, 745, 747

Contexts 642, 651, 657, 658, 659, 660, 741, 742, 743, 744, 746, 785, 841, 842, 843, 845, 848, 878, 879, 880, 881, 1167, 1171, 1172, 1170, 1178, 1180, 1181, 1183, 1184, 1185, 1187, 1188, 1189, 1190, 1196, 1205, 1213, 1214, 1215, 1216, 1217, 1218, 1219, 1220, 1233

Group 27 (West of the Undercroft)

Stone-lined pit 695

Context 1398 (1450-1650?)

**Area Phase 5 (1550-1600)
(General Site Phase 5)**

Undercroft building upper storey rebuilt?

**Area Phase 6 (1861-?)
(General Site Phase 7)**

Post-medieval upper storey of undercroft demolished in 1861 and replaced with brick superstructure.

UnPhased, Dated

(East of the Undercroft)

Pit 1428

Provisional Cross-Site General Phasing

General Site Phase 1 (Roman)

Area 2 (Phase 1)

Area 3 (Phase 1)

General Site Phase 2 (Sub-Roman – Saxo-Norman; AD 450-1175)

Area 2 (Phase 2)

Area 3 Phases 2 & 3)

General Site Phase 3 (Early Medieval – Medieval; 1175-1299)

Area 1 (Phase 1)

Area 2 (Phase 2)

Area 3 (Phase 3)

General Site Phase 4 (Medieval – Later Medieval; 1300-1550)

Area 1 (Phase 2)

Area 2 (Phase 3)

Area 3 (Phase 4)

General Site Phase 5 (Post-Medieval; 1550-1650)

Area 1 (Phase 3)

Area 2 (Phase 4)

Area 3 (Phase 5)

General Site Phase 6 (Post-Medieval; 1650-1750)

Area 1 (Phase 4)

Area 2 (Phase 4)

General Site Phase 7 (Modern; 1750+)

Area 1 Phase 5

Area 2 (Phase 6)

Area 3 (Phase 6)

9 St. Nicholas Place: Suggested Hagar 1990 Undercroft Excavation Phasing Revisions

Phase 1: Roman

- Roman gully and posthole
- street metallings
- soakaway
- drain
- timber structure/potholes

St. Nicholas Place 2003 Area 3 Phase 1

Phase 2: c.AD 440-900

- Dark Earth

St. Nicholas Place 2003 Area 3 Phase2

Phase 3: 900-1050

- undercroft constructed
- floors laid/build up

St. Nicholas Place 2003 Area 3 Sub-Phase 3.1

Phase 4: 1050-1150

- building derelict?

St. Nicholas Place 2003 Area 3 Sub-Phase3.2

Phase 5: 1150-1250

- window rebuild
- undercroft refurbishment
- undercroft partitioned
- pits F92 & F100 dug
- (robbing of porch?)

Phase 6: 1250-1350

- pits backfilled
- hearths
- doorway partially blocked

St. Nicholas Place 2003 Area 3 Phase 4

Phase 7: (1299) 1350-1600

Subphase 7.1: 1350-1500

- clay floor laid
- washing/dyeing area
- Pit F94

St. Nicholas Place 2003 Area 3 Phase 4

Subphase 7.2: 1500-1550

- Pit F94 backfilled
- building interior levelled

St. Nicholas Place 2003 Area 3 Phase 4

Subphase 7.3: 1550-1600

- upper storey rebuilt?

St. Nicholas Place 2003 Area 3 Phase 5

Phase 8: 1600-1860

- floor and levelling
- pitting
- racking
- clay floor

Phase 9: 1861 onwards

- construction of building above undercroft

St. Nicholas Place 2003 Area 3 Phase 6

3.1.3: Condition of the Records

Although the vast majority of contextual information was recorded onto *pro forma* A5 context record sheets during the course of the excavation, time constraints dictated that a small number of records were annotated onto site drawings. These will require transcribing onto context records sheets. All information relating to site indices is complete.

3.1.4: Methods of Data Collection

All quantities for the stratigraphic and structural assessment have been taken from the site archive. Provisional assessment and grouping of deposits has been made following discussion with finds specialists and based on current understanding of the stratigraphic sequence.

3.1.5: Statement of Potential

St. Nicholas Place project represents one of the larger open area excavations undertaken in the urban core of Leicester in recent years in an area known to be occupied by a rare and extremely well preserved example of an early medieval undercroft building. The excavation is particularly significant in terms of its lengthy stratigraphic sequence, the longest observed in Leicester since 1971, and the unusually dense character of its occupation. Also worthy of note is the presence of well-preserved structural remains, in addition to more typical back yard features of pits and wells. Hence the project offers the potential to investigate:

- structural sequences of buildings, including floor sequences, and changes in form and function over time,
- the development of medieval and post-medieval tenement plot(s),
- the presence of extensive 'Dark Earth' deposits offers the possibility of examining activity on the site in the transition between the Roman and Anglo-Saxon periods,
- craft or industrial functions in the form of the sequence of circular granite base or foundation structures.

In Area Three, excavation around the undercroft produced information regarding the building's possible means of construction and its external appearance, despite its having suffered heavy damage to its exterior. Re-examination of the building's interior also yielded further details of structural alterations to the undercroft. The undercroft appeared to occupy a well-defined block of land that had been subjected to heavy pitting activity from the twelfth century onwards. It is anticipated that the complete excavation of a high-status stone-lined cess pit will produce valuable dietary, economic and environmental evidence.

In Area One, substantial later medieval demolition deposits sealed the standing remains of two, possibly three, medieval buildings and associated yard areas traversed by stone-lined drains. At least one of these structures appears to have fronted the medieval Swinesmarket, the present-day High Street. Residues from a possible kitchen soakaway feature and from mortar flooring may yield clues as to the nature and status of occupation.

Industrial activity was identified in Areas One and Two in the form of several circular medieval granite-lined features. Specialist analysis of residues associated with these features is forthcoming, but they may be linked to brewing or the dyeing of cloth.

3.2: Project Director Task List

Proposed Task List

S1	Co-ordinate specialists	8 days
S2	Complete draft matrices	1 day
S3	Revise context database	4 days
S4	Produce context groups and phasing	3 days
S5	Produce site plans and section drawings	10 days
S6	Compile site phase plans	4 days
S7	Re-assess Hagar report	5 days
S8	Consult documentary sources/other excavations	7 days
S9	Write excavation report	20 days
S10	Incorporate specialist data into report	5 days
S11	Incorporate Hagar report into report	2 days
S12	Edit report	5 days
S13	Proof read final report	3 days
S14	Edit printers' proofs	3 days

Total Analysis Time: 80 person days

3.3: Roman Pottery and Ceramic Building Material

Nicholas Cooper

3.3.1: Provenance and Dating and Range of Fabrics

Although later Roman pottery was present in the St. Nicholas Place assemblage, the vast majority of the material was residual, deriving from later (medieval) or unstratified contexts, and hence of little value in terms of dating or socio-economic evidence. Of the seven stratified contexts of established Roman date (786, 862, 1012, 1076, 1081, 1455) three (786, 862 & 1455) produced second-century AD material. 862 dated to AD 120-150 or later, and 1455 mid- to late second century AD. The other four contexts (1012, 1076 & 1081) contained whitewares of broad late first or early second-century AD date.

3.3.2: Condition of the Material

The condition of the material is good, with no conservation required.

3.3.3: Means of Data Collection

The assessment of the ceramic assemblage was undertaken following a scan of the material.

3.3.4: Storage and Curation

Storage space will be required for approximately 1.5 boxes. The material is stable and does not require conservation.

3.3.5: Proposed Analysis Task List

RP1: Prepare basic catalogue of material

1 day

RP2: Compile and write report

1 day

Total Analysis Time: 2 person days

3.4: Medieval and Later Pottery

Debbie Sawday

3.4.1: Quantity of Material

A total of 3027 sherds of stratified pottery, weighing a total of 20314 grams, were recovered from the 2003 St. Nicholas Place excavation. The results from the 1990 Hagar excavation are shown as a comparison, producing a total of 1067 sherds, or 20314 grams. The pottery may be subdivided into the following categories:

	Sherd Nos.	Weight (Grams)	Average Sherd Weight	% by sherd Nos.	% by weight (Grams)
Late Saxon	120	1037	8.6	11.2	5.1
Early Medieval	690	13749	19.9	64.6	67.6
Medieval	89	1392	15.6	8.3	6.8
Later Medieval/Early Post-Medieval	55	1319	23.9	5.1	6.4
Post-Medieval/Modern	113	2817	24.9	10.5	13.8
Totals	1067	20314	19.0	99.7	99.7

Post-Roman Pottery Totals (Hagar 1990; provisional)

	Sherd Nos.	Weight (Grams)	Average Sherd Weight	% by sherd Nos.	% by weight (Grams)
Late Saxon	56	711	12.6	1.8	0.7
Early Medieval	655	17141	26.1	21.6	17.9
Medieval	783	18107	23.1	25.8	18.9
Later Medieval/ Early Post-Medieval	1323	54017	40.8	43.7	56.6
Post-Medieval/Modern	210	5362	25.5	6.9	5.6
Totals	3027	95338	31.4	99.8	99.7

Post-Roman Pottery Totals (9 St. Nicholas Place 2003; provisional)

3.4.2: Provenance and Dating and Range of Fabrics

The pottery and roofing tile has been provisionally catalogued with reference to the ULAS fabric series (Sawday 1989), (Davies and Sawday 1999).

Late Saxon Pottery

Only a small quantity of late Saxon Stamford Ware was found at St. Nicholas Place, and is possibly residual in later contexts.

Medieval Pottery

The majority of the twelfth and thirteenth-century Potters Marston and Splashed wares – which generally occur in contexts together with thirteenth-century or later Chilvers Coton, Nottingham and medieval Sandy wares – are also likely to be residual. The bulk of the pottery appears to date from the fourteenth century or later. A coarse Medieval Sandy ware, possibly from Ticknall in Derbyshire, predominates, but late medieval Midland Purple and Cistercian wares are also present and, in the early post-medieval period, the green Surrey Whitewares, as well as Midland Blackwares and Yellow wares. A small number of other regional and continental imports have also been identified.

3.4.3: Condition of the Material

The condition of the material is good, with no conservation required.

3.4.4: Means of Data Collection

The assessment of the ceramic assemblage was undertaken following a scan of the material.

3.4.5: Statement of Potential

The pottery recovered from the excavation will assist in the dating of medieval and later features. Further analysis will also add to our understanding of the range of pottery fabrics found in Leicester during this period and assist in the refinement and update the current fabric series (Davies & Sawday 1999). This in turn will also contribute to knowledge of trade and distribution patterns in Leicester and its environs. Similarly, analysis of the pottery vessels with reference to the MPRG Guide to the Classification of Medieval Ceramic Forms will also enhance our understanding of both the pottery and the excavation.

The south-east quarter of medieval Leicester was a prosperous part of the town, and the presence of a stone undercroft clearly indicates that this was an important building. Medieval pottery is not always a sensitive indicator of status – but the evidence here may suggest otherwise – and requires closer examination. One of the indicators comes from pottery found in a cesspit (877) associated with the undercroft. This was a highly unusual fragment, apparently imitating a metal goblet, thought to have been made in Lincoln some time around the mid-fifteenth to mid-sixteenth century. Another rare find, also indicative of high status, consisted of three tiny fragments from a large wine jug or spouted pitcher from the Santonge region of northern France, dating to the thirteenth to fifteenth century.

A number of possible kiln or oven features have been identified on the site, and the pottery may assist in both dating and clarifying the nature of that industrial activity. Several vessels have already been identified with residues – and further examination may reveal more – which will require residue analysis. The vessel forms also require study in order to establish whether they relate to the industrial activity on the site.

3.4.6: Storage and Curation

Storage space will be required for approximately 16 boxes. The material is stable and does not require conservation.

3.5: Medieval and Later Ceramic Building Material

	Frag Nos.	Weight (Grammes)	Average Weight	% by frag. Nos.	% by weight (Grammes)
Early Medieval	38	4.69	107.0	12.1	14.5
Medieval	144	9593	66.6	46.0	34.4
Later Medieval	131	14209	108.4	41.8	50.9
Totals	313	27871	89.0	99.9	99.8

Post-Roman Ridge Tile Totals (9 St. Nicholas Place 2003; provisional)

The relatively large proportions of medieval ridge tiles on site are of note, as it is generally associated with buildings of higher status. Further analysis will assist in dating the medieval structures and features on the site, to refine and update the current fabric series (Davies & Sawday 1999) and the ridge tile series (Allin 1981). This in turn should also contribute to our knowledge of the nature of the trade and distribution patterns of ridge tile in Leicester and its environs. The few inlaid medieval floor tiles which were recovered may also relate to the stone building.

Proposed Analysis Task List Post-Roman Pottery and Ceramic Building Material	
P/CBM1: Detailed analysis of selected groups	5 weeks
P/CBM2: Residue analysis	½ day
P/CBM2: Illustrations of pottery	2 weeks
P/CBM3: Compile and write report	5 weeks

Total Analysis Time: 60 days

3.6: Animal Bone

Jennifer Browning

3.6.1: Quantity of Material

A medium sized assemblage of animal bones was recovered during excavations at St. Nicholas Place in 2003. The assemblage comprises 3922 fragments, weighing 56.700kg, from 160 contexts. It is currently stored in 14 standard-sized finds boxes. All of the fragments examined so far have been hand-recovered. However, a small quantity of material from the bulk environmental samples may be made available in due course.

3.6.2: Provenance and Dating

In addition to cut features, the site was covered by a series of medieval and later walls, which indicated a logical division into 3 zones or areas. Area 1 was occupied by a least two medieval buildings and associated features. A sequence of medieval and post-medieval kilns and ovens overlay stratified Roman deposits in Area 2, whilst Area 3 was dominated by the undercroft building and a complex series of rubbish pits. Seven phases have been defined for the site, ranging in date from the Roman through to the modern period (AD1750+). The excavator has suggested that a number of deposits are given special emphasis based on the fact that they belong to well-stratified pits and features deemed particularly important or interesting. A total of 1452 fragments were recovered from these deposits.

Area	Fragments	Weight
1	893	13.490kg
2	33	1.055kg
3	526	10.550kg
	1452	25.095kg

Table 1: showing fragment and weight of bone from priority deposits.

3.6.3: Means of Data Collection

This assessment was produced following a rapid scan of the hand-retrieved bone from the excavation. Bone was weighed in its bags, separated where possible into species divisions and counted. The number of identified and unidentified fragments was recorded for each context and the bones were examined for signs of butchery, burning and gnawing. The incidence of obvious butchery marks was counted and noted. Information was recorded onto a computerised pro-forma assessment sheet.

3.6.4: Range and Variety

The following species were identified within the assemblage: cattle, sheep/goat, pig, cat, dog, horse, deer, fish, bird (including domestic fowl and goose), frog/toad and various rodent. The main domesticates, cattle, sheep and pig, constituted the largest proportion of the identified fragments and were consistently found throughout the assemblage; in addition many of these were butchered. Epiphyses and mandibles are present, especially for sheep/goat. Analysis of these should provide useful information concerning the ageing of the animals represented. A fairly high proportion of bones also derived from smaller species, most of which would not have

been food refuse. Some of the rodents are likely to have been scavenging animals while others may provide information about the surrounding environment. Rodent bones, including rat, were recovered from seven contexts: 573, 579, 600, 602, 606, 869, 906. The bones of cat, are a fairly frequent find, recovered from 17 contexts: 507, 573, 576, 580, 581, 584, 589, 600, 602, 620, 637, 783, 792, 809, 874, 909, 981. Both cranial and post-cranial elements were recovered, some of which are juvenile.

A total of 165 fish bones were retrieved from 21 contexts, with 90 from a single context alone (920). Amphibian bones were recovered from context (1411) and consist of post-cranial elements of frog/toad. A total of 478 bird bones were recovered from 83 contexts (comprising 12% of total assemblage). These appear to mostly consist of domestic fowl and goose but wild species are also likely.

3.6.5: Condition of the Material

The bones are generally in very good condition, enabling the examination of the bone surfaces for butchery marks, pathological conditions, gnawing and other modifications.

3.6.6: Statement of Potential

The excavations at St. Nicholas Place constituted one of the larger projects undertaken in Leicester in recent years. This imbues the bone assemblage with particular importance. The parent deposits range in date from the Roman to the modern period, however the majority of bone is likely to originate from medieval features. However, two potential problems may limit the level of analysis possible for particular phases. Firstly, the division of the assemblage into phase groups will reduce the numbers upon which analysis can be based, which may reduce the reliability of some analyses. The question of residuality within deposits should also be addressed, perhaps by the use of an index based on the pottery results.

The assemblage does have potential to provide important information on the utilisation of animals at a high status site in Leicester. It is hoped that analysis will provide information on diet and rubbish disposal and may help suggest the purpose of the features. Study of the main domesticates, cattle, sheep/goat and pig, can yield information on patterns of consumption, butchery and craft activities and, possibly stock improvement. Comparison of data between phases may demonstrate differences or similarities over time in terms of utilisation of species. The varieties of wild species present can help suggest the nature of the past environment and may even help suggest phases of abandonment.

There are a number of local bone assemblages which will provide relevant comparisons, including assemblages from excavations on the Shires project in the 1980s. Of prime importance is the assemblage recovered from the 1989-90 excavations, which took place within the Norman undercroft. A wide range of wild species was identified, in addition to the usual range of domesticated animals. Two medieval pits were found to contain a large proportion of bird bones, with sheep/goat comprising the most numerous non-avian bones (270 bird bones). The bones are mostly thought to be food refuse (Baxter *n.d.*).

3.6.7: Proposed Analysis Task List

B1: Identification of material:	15 days
B2: Analysis of material:	5 days
B3: Writing of report:	5 days
Total Analysis Time: 25 days.	

3.6.8: Storage and Curation

Storage space will be required for 14 standard finds boxes.

3.6.9: References

Baxter, Ian L. *n.d.* 'Animal bones from the 1989-90 Excavations, Guildhall Lane Leicester (A38.1989)' in Julian Hagar *The Excavation And Structural Survey Of A Medieval Undercroft In Guildhall Lane, Leicester*. Unpublished draft

3.7: Worked Stone

Tony Gnanaratnam

The worked stone from St. Nicholas Place consisted of eight architectural fragments, of which three are of sufficient interest to merit detailed description and further research. These pieces consist of:

521 – an arch fragment with billet moulding of Dane Hills sandstone that may relate to the church of St Martin's (the present cathedral) in Guildhall Lane, where fragments of billet moulding are visible in the nave close to the north side of the chancel arch.

Unstratified – a colonette fragment in Dane Hills sandstone, likely to be of medieval date and likely to relate to ecclesiastical rather than domestic architecture.

987 (Small Find 106) – an octagonal shaft fragment, possibly of shelly oolite? Of probable medieval date, and likely to relate to ecclesiastical rather than domestic architecture.

CONTEXT	FEATURE NO.	SF NO.	DATE	NOTES
521	wall 522	-	1300-1550	Norman arch fragment with billet moulding, Dane Hills sandstone. Potential good – datable. May relate to St Martin's, fragments of billet moulding visible in nave by north side of chancel arch.
987	wall 986	106	1450-1550	Octagonal shaft fragment, shelly oolite? Potential good – probably datable. Medieval, likely to relate to church architecture than domestic.
U/S	-	-	-	Colonette fragment, Dane Hills sandstone. Potential good, not very datable. Medieval likely to relate to church rather than domestic architecture.
780	oven/kiln 793	-	1175-1299	Rough squared block with small lewis/cramp hole or similar, sandstone. Potential – low, probably not datable, interest only in the lewis/cramp hole.
883	-	-	1450-1550	Two probable mortar fragment, oolitic limestone.
1400	wall 1358	-	1050-1299	Possible angled fragment or random breakage, sandstone/ironstone. Potential inspection needed to see if genuine and low otherwise none at all.
521	wall 522	-	1300-1550	Rough squared block with three very small holes, Dane Hills sandstone.

Proposed Analysis Task List

WS1: Detailed analysis and research on selected finds	2 days
WS2: Produce illustrations	2 days
WS3: Write report	1 day
Total Analysis Time: 5 days	

3.8: *Small Finds*

Nicholas Cooper

Out of a total of 138 small finds, 79 were metal objects, 25 stone or ceramic objects, 13 were glass objects, 12 bone, and nine coins. Those finds of particular interest and meriting further research are detailed below.

SF No.	Context	Date	Description
139	790	1500-1750	18 th century pipeclay wig curler
76	623	1300-1550	parchment pricker
25	583	1450-1550	Bird (goose?) wing bone quill?
147	573	1450-1550	Bone working offcut?
32	589	1780-1850	Post-medieval ivory knife handle with Fe tang
111	1080	Roman	slate cosmetic palette
146	549	1600-1850	worked bone toggle
89	679	1300-1550	worked bone apple corer or scoop
138	679	1300-1550	?post-medieval knife handle in the form of a woman in medieval head dress
39	586	1780-1850	whetstone

Proposed Analysis Task List

SF1: Catalogue and detailed analysis, research on selected finds	4 days
SF2: Conservation of selected metal objects	2 days
Produce illustrations	2 days
SF3: Write report	1 day
Total Analysis Time: 9 days	

3.9: *Environmental Material*

Angela Monckton

3.9.1: Introduction

Archaeological excavations carried out by ULAS were directed by Roger Kipling and during the excavation samples were taken from some deposits in order to recover charred and mineralized plant remains and other remains which can provide evidence of diet, trade, environment and activities on sites in the past. The features sampled were of Roman and medieval to post-medieval in date. It was hoped that the samples would add to the abundant evidence for food and environment recovered from the excavation of the Undercroft (Hagar et al 1989) and compare evidence from a variety of plants and animals remains from other sites in the town (Monckton 1995, 2003).

3.9.2: Previous Work on the Site

During the excavation of the Undercroft in 1989 three large pits, occupation layers and underlying stratigraphy was investigated. From these features 68 samples of 5 to 20 kg were taken and processed from 54 contexts, as well as recovering animal bones by hand amongst other finds. Of the samples 21 were selected for analysis from Roman to late medieval in date. The pits within the Undercroft were very productive, two were of early medieval and one of late medieval date. They contained a range of food remains including cereals, herbs, animal and bird bones, together with environmental evidence of the surroundings. The bones were identified as food refuse and included a variety of fowl and meat bones (Baxter 1990). The pits were identified as cesspits from the presence of microscopic parasite ova of worms of the human gut (Boyer 1990a). These deposits also preserved mineralized seeds fruit stones and pips as further evidence of diet (Boyer 1990b). In addition fish bones and scales were found which could not be identified at the time, and more detailed work on the cereals is possible to define the types present and add to the interpretation of the activities represented. There was some debate as to whether the pits were in use when the Undercroft was roofed or during a phase of abandonment. The plant remains suggested that the pits were in the open, but other interpretations are possible because some of the plants could have been used as medicinal herbs and arrived in the pits after use, although cesspits in the cellar seem undesirable they have been found in some other towns. One of the main objectives of sampling was to compare pits of the same date outside the Undercroft with those inside to try to settle this question.

3.9.3: Sampling

Sampling was carried out at the discretion of the Site Director and samples were only taken from fully excavated features which could be securely dated. Of the 83 contexts which produced bird bones and 22 with hand recovered fish bones only five were securely dated and sampled. The samples represent the main phases of the site with the most from a late medieval cesspit 877 which preserved fragments of cloth and contained a number of very organic deposits with potential to contain food and other remains. This pit was rich in finds and well dated pottery fragments. A total of 35 environmental samples were taken including 17 contexts from cesspits or drains, 15 contexts for charred material, and three contexts for sediment analysis. The samples ranged from 0.5 to 30 litres in size, 46 bags of samples are available to process.

Phase	Groups	Type	Quantity
Ph.1 Roman	Gp. 19 Area 3.	Occupation and Road	7 bulk 3 small
Ph.2 Sub-Roman	Gp.20 Area 3	Dark earth	3 bulk 3 sediment samples
Ph.2/3 Early Med	Gp. 24 Area 3	Cesspit N. of Undercroft	1 bulk, 2 small
	Gp.25 Area 3	Cesspit E. of Undercroft	2 bulk
	Gp21 Area 3	Charcoal fill 860	1 small
Ph. 3 Medieval	Gp. 2 Area 1	Oven 793, Drain 1482.	2 small, 1 small.
	Gp. 4 Area 1	Drain 629.	3 bulk
	Gp.6 Area 1	Building 1, yard features.	4 bulk
	Gp. 7 Area 1	Building 3, floor, ash	1 small
Ph.4 Late Med	Gp. 26 Area 3	Cesspit 877	10 bulks, 1 small.
	Gp. 16 Area 2	Oven 924	1 small
Ph.4 Late Med	Gp. 26 Area 3	Cesspit 1284	1 small

Samples by Phase A4.2002

3.9.4: Potential of the Samples

The Phase 1 Roman samples have some potential to produce charred plant remains which may indicate the type of occupation of the site and characterise the deposits associated with the road. Phase 2 sub-Roman samples are of the dark earth deposit which may represent desertion, rubbish accumulation or even cultivation in this period. Samples were taken for soil micromorphology which may provide evidence for the build up of this deposit. In addition bulk samples may produce charred plants or other remains which may assist in interpreting the nature of the deposit.

The early medieval samples Phase 2/3 from the area of the Undercroft Area 3 provide a few samples to compare the contents of the cesspits outside the building with the cesspits found in the earlier excavation A38.1989 pits F99 and F100. These may contain uncharred plants to compare those found inside the building to show if this was roofed or open at the time. They may also show some of the same range of food plants to establish diet and status at the time. Parasite tests may establish the function of the features and give indications of public health at the time.

The medieval samples from Phase 3 of Area 1 may provide limited evidence to compare with the Area 3 samples from the Undercroft area but as no pits were excavated in Area 1 the drain is the only feature with such potential. This and the other features sampled may produce some indications of activities in this area. Should other layers be datable better evidence may be found from the animal bones although not recovered from samples.

The late medieval cesspit was well sampled and has the potential to produce a wide range of food remains from both plant remains and animal bones including fish bones. The recovery from samples will ensure the complete recovery of small bones missed in hand recovery. This should recover good evidence of diet. Comparison with other well sampled features may suggest the status of the inhabitants which in this period perhaps from variety in the diet or consumption of imported foods so is worthy detailed investigation of the organic deposits. The pit from inside the Undercroft A38.1989 F 94 should provide good comparative material as well as other pits from such sites as the Shires (Moffett 1993).

Because of the nature of the excavation there are insufficient samples to provide evidence to compare diet and activities on the different areas of the site. The samples taken do have the potential to produce mineralized remains and charred plant remains may also be present in some. The samples may provide evidence compare the pits outside the Undercroft with those inside. The main potential of the samples is to examine a late medieval cesspit in detail to reveal diet and possibly status of the inhabitants of a defined property in this part of town.

3.9.5: Potential of the Site

The samples have the potential of the site to produce a range of remains including charred and mineralised plant remains, fish remains, and small bones. Deposits of a type which may also produce microscopic evidence of gut parasites and perhaps pollen were also sampled. Mineralized remains have the potential to show the range

of food consumed including fruits and fish as well as showing conditions of the surroundings. Charred plant remains have the potential to add to the information of the cereals consumed in Leicester in the past, particularly important is the preservation of wheat chaff which if identifiable and well dated can add to knowledge of the types of wheat grown at different times. There is little evidence of rivet wheat before the Norman conquest and the date of introduction and spread is of interest. The weeds found with the cereals may be used to compare with sites in the countryside to investigate the supply of cereals to the town. Investigation of fish remains can give information about trade as well as diet. Hence the site has the potential to contribute to evidence from Leicester from Roman to medieval times.

The samples from a late medieval cesspit have the potential for preservation by mineralization or even waterlogged preservation of plant material and has potential for detailed analysis of the plant macrofossils to produce evidence of diet to compare with other areas of the town. The good preservation in the deposit opens the possibility of investigating the remains for small fragments of food plants consumed as leaves such as cabbages and onions as found in investigations carried out at York or of fragments of spices as found at Shrewsbury (James Greig pers. comm). The deposit also has the potential to contain pollen, and pollen analysis is recommended as well as an investigation of the deposit for the preservation of evidence from gut parasites. Weed seeds may be found to suggest the local environment or activities.

Detailed investigation of other sites in Leicester have produced a wide range of remains (eg at Causeway Lane, Monckton et al 1999). Cesspits contained mineralised maggots and woodlice which with other remains give evidence about conditions in the town, while the food remains provide important evidence of diet. Rubbish pits have produced a wide range of meat bones, charred cereals and other useful plants as well as eggshell, oyster shell and trade waste. Other features such as hearths, occupation layers and rubbish deposits in ditches can also provide this evidence. Considered with other evidence the environmental evidence can help trace the history of occupation of different areas of Leicester in medieval times. Intense occupation in the northeast quarter of the town was found in the early medieval period 11-13th century. At these times there was less evidence of domestic occupation of the southern suburb but this increased in the later medieval period (Monckton unpublished) when there was less evidence from the northeast quarter. Investigation of further sites is needed to fill in the details for other parts of the town and this site will contribute to this information for the centre of the town particularly for the early and late medieval periods.

3.9.6: Suggested Analysis

The samples from the cesspits should all be treated as waterlogged samples and investigated for preserved plant material as well as seeds (17 samples); selected samples should be submitted for pollen analysis, including observation of gut parasites (?12 samples). The remainder of the samples should then be bulk sieved to recover more of the range of material present in the pits (16 samples). The samples with potential for charred remains should be wet sieved with flotation and examined for plant remains. The large samples (14 samples) will be processed in a sieving tank, the small samples (7 samples) in the laboratory. (NB Bulk processing should not be

carried out until after the waterlogged assessment). Sediment samples should be assessed for micromorphology by a soil scientist (3 samples).

3.9.7: Proposed Analysis Task List

E1: Waterlogged assessment of cesspit and drain samples for plant macrofossils (17 samples): 6 days AM.

E2: Pollen analysis of cesspit samples (? 12 samples): c.6 days James Greig Birmingham University.

E3: Lab sieving small charred samples and scanning remains (7 samples): 2 days AM

E4: Bulk sieving and sorting residues (30 samples): 10 days Environmental Assistant.

E5: Sorting Flots and scanning plant remains (30 samples): 3 days AM.

E6: Analysis (UNKNOWN if more time will be needed depending on the productivity of the samples) AM

E7: Writing of report: 4 days AM.

Total Analysis Time: 31 days

Additional Work: Sediment Samples

3.9.8: References

Baxter I. L. (1990) Animal Bones from the Norman Undercroft on Guildhall Lane Leicester. Archive report for LAU.

Boyer P. (1990 a) Parasite evidence from deposits from the Norman Undercroft on Guildhall Lane Leicester. Archive report for LAU.

Boyer P. (1990 b) The plant remains from the Norman Undercroft on Guildhall Lane Leicester. Archive report for LAU.

Monckton A., 1999a *The plant remains* p346-362 in A. Connor and R. Buckley 'Roman and Medieval Occupation in Causeway Lane, Leicester.' Leicester Archaeology Monograph No.5, University of Leicester 1999.

Monckton A., 1999b *Environmental sampling* p309-310 in A. Connor and R. Buckley 'Roman and Medieval Occupation in Causeway Lane, Leicester.' Leicester Archaeology Monograph No.5, University of Leicester 1999.

Monckton A., 1995 *Environmental Archaeology in Leicestershire*, Transactions of the Leicestershire Archaeological and Historical Society, 69, 1995 pp32-41.

3.10: Consolidated Project Task List

3.10.1: Project Director Task List

Proposed Task List

S1	Co-ordinate specialists	8 days
S2	Complete draft matrices	1 day
S3	Revise context database	4 days
S4	Produce context groups and phasing	3 days
S5	Produce site plans and section drawings	10 days
S6	Compile site phase plans	4 days
S7	Re-assess Hagar report	5 days
S8	Consult documentary sources/other excavations	7 days
S9	Write excavation report	20 days
S10	Incorporate specialist data into report	5 days
S11	Incorporate Hagar report into report	2 days
S12	Edit report	5 days
S13	Proof read final report	3 days
S14	Edit printers' proofs	3 days

Total Analysis Time: 80 person days

3.10.2: Roman Pottery Task List

Proposed Analysis Task List

RP1:	Prepare basic catalogue of material	1 day
RP2:	Compile and write report	1 day

Total Analysis Time: 2 person days

3.10.3: Post-Roman Pottery and Ceramic Building Material Task List

P/CBM1:	Detailed analysis of selected groups	5 weeks
P/CBM2:	Illustrations of pottery	2 weeks
P/CBM3:	Compile and write report	5 weeks

Total Analysis Time: 60 days

3.10.4: Animal Bone Task List

B1:	Identification of material:	15 days
B2:	Analysis of material:	5 days
B3:	Writing of report:	5 days

Total Analysis Time: 25 days.

3.10.5: Small Finds Task List

SF1:	Catalogue and detailed analysis, research on selected finds	4 days
SF2:	Conservation of selected metal objects	2 days
	Produce illustrations	2 days
SF3:	Write report	1 day

Total Analysis Time: 9 days

3.10.6: Environmental Material Task List

E1:	Waterlogged assessment of cesspit and drain samples for plant macrofossils (17 samples):	6 days AM.
E2:	Pollen analysis of cesspit samples (? 12 samples):	c.6 days James Greig Birmingham University.
E3:	Lab sieving small charred samples and scanning remains (7 samples):	2 days AM

E4: Bulk sieving and sorting residues (30 samples):

10 days Environmental Assistant.

E5: Sorting Flots and scanning plant remains

(30 samples): 3 days AM.

E6: Analysis (UNKNOWN if more time will be needed depending on the productivity of the samples) AM ✱

E7: Writing of report:

4 days AM.

Total Analysis Time: 31 days

4: Updated Project Design

4.1: Potential of the Project to Address Stated Research Aims and Objectives

Whilst not constituting the most extensive urban excavation undertaken within the urban core of Leicester, the St. Nicholas Place excavations were notable in terms of the lengthy and well-preserved character of the archaeological sequence. Hence, the project was deemed to have high potential in terms of addressing the stated project research aims.

4.1.1: Roman Leicester

Preliminary archaeological evaluation at St. Nicholas Place was characterised by the observation of well preserved and deeply stratified Roman deposits in the warehouse cellars. However, as the excavation phase essentially targeted the overlying medieval archaeology in the external yard areas, the underlying Roman levels were only fleetingly observed – in the immediate vicinity of the undercroft (Area Three) and in Area Two – where the design of foundations for the new building had required the sinking of deep foundation piles. Hence the excavation possesses limited potential in terms of addressing the stated research aims regarding the Roman period.

As anticipated, the likely junction of two Roman streets, the Fosse Way and a lesser road was identified, along with indications of associated roadside structures. Although precise road alignments or structural details could not be ascertained from the small keyholes examined, (second-century) dating was confirmed for the uppermost of the 1.5m+ deep accumulation of road metallings. Comparisons with data from previous excavations in the locality may serve to further elucidate the development of the Roman street system.

4.1.2: Anglo-Saxon and Medieval Leicester

The potential of the excavation to supply valuable information regarding the post-Roman town is far greater. Firstly, environmental analysis of the extensive post-Roman 'Dark Earths' uncovered in the vicinity of the undercroft offers the potential to characterise land use within the urban core during the poorly understood sub-Roman to Anglo-Saxon transitional period. Secondly, the fact that Roman street surfaces were used as a foundation for the undercroft and that relict Roman materials were utilised in its construction, have implications for the survival of relict Roman structures into the medieval period.

The most significant information to be gained from the excavation pertains to the extensive, deeply stratified and relatively uncontaminated medieval deposits, enabling the reconstruction of changing land use patterns. Although analysis is in its early stages, it would appear that the excavation area comprises parts of four, possibly five, tenement or burgage plots of land, defined by substantial medieval and later property boundary walls. The presence of certain other walls may also be indicative of subsequent property subdivisions and infilling. The recovery of glazed roof ridge and floor tile demolition layers and pits across the site are indicative of the higher status of this locality of the medieval town.

Zoning is also evident, with a series of wells, possible brewing or dyeing features and cobbled yard areas ranged along a shared north-south rear property boundary and representative of trade and/or industrial activity. Beyond these, the rear walls of buildings once fronting High Cross Street (the medieval High Street) and High Street (the medieval Swinesmarket) are likely to pertain to domestic as well as commercial activity. The property occupied by the undercroft appears to represent the highest status area of the site, reflected in the presence of several stone-lined cess pits in addition to the substantial building itself. Pottery and metal and bone objects from these features reflect the elite character of occupation in this area of the site, whilst it is anticipated that the fish and animal bone assemblages will provide further details of the socio-economic conditions of those individuals living and working on the site. Excavation around the undercroft has enabled the re-evaluation of work undertaken inside the building in 1990-1 by Jules Hagar and, hopefully, assisted in its interpretation and setting within the wider context of the surrounding archaeology. Notably, environmental analysis of pit fills excavated in and around the undercroft will, hopefully, ascertain whether the building was at any point roofless and/or derelict.

5: Publication Strategy

- It is intended that the findings of the excavation will initially appear in the form of a client-funded ULAS publication, serving to concentrate on the archaeological stratigraphy and specialist study areas.
- Subsequently, it is intended that detailed analyses of significant excavation data will be made available as an internet-based resource.
- Finally, St. Nicholas Place will be the subject of an academic article in an appropriate journal and/or as an element of a proposed thematic publication concerning the archaeology of medieval Leicester.

6: Bibliography

Hagar, J. 1990. *The Excavation and Structural Survey of a Medieval Undercroft in Guildhall Lane, Leicester*. Unpublished Leicestershire Archaeological Unit report.

Kipling, R. 2002. *An Archaeological Evaluation and Impact Assessment at 9, St. Nicholas Place, Castle, Leicester (NGR SK 5840 0448 centre)*. University of Leicester Archaeological Services Report No. 2002/046.

**APPENDIX ONE:
PROJECT DESIGN FOR ARCHAEOLOGICAL EXCAVATION
AT 9 ST. NICHOLAS PLACE**

UNIVERSITY OF LEICESTER ARCHAEOLOGICAL SERVICES

Project Design for Archaeological Excavation

9 St. Nicholas Place, Castle Ward, Leicester

SK 5842 0448 (centre)

For Land Securities Trillium

Summary

Following the completion of an Archaeological Impact Assessment of the proposed development of 9 St. Nicholas Place, Leicester into the new home of BBC Radio Leicester, it has been agreed that a stage of archaeological excavation is necessary prior to construction in mitigation of damage which will be caused by buried archaeological remains. The impact assessment included archaeological evaluation by trial trench which demonstrated that well preserved archaeological remains of Roman and medieval date survived across the development area. Roman archaeology was recorded directly beneath the cellar floors of the existing buildings, which were located mostly along the St. Nicholas Place frontage. Medieval archaeological remains were located within trial trenches within the open yard area to the rear of the existing buildings. The rear yard also contains the Norman Undercroft, a subterranean building of possible 12th century date.

Consultation with the Clients, Architect and Leicester City Archaeologist have resulted in the alteration of design plans of the proposed building such that the impact of construction will be minimised on deeply buried archaeological remains, by utilisation of a piling and raft scheme. The greatest impact from construction works will be the reduction of the site level to a height of approximately 63.50m aOD. Where archaeological deposits have survived at a depth above this level, these will be archaeologically excavated in mitigation. The Norman Undercroft is to be preserved beneath the proposed building, with later brick additions and vaulted roof being removed. A number of areas of deeper excavation will also be undertaken where there is a need for mass concrete foundation bases, including three areas surrounding the Norman Undercroft in order that groundbeams can be spanned across the structure, and minimising damage.

1 Introduction

1.1 Definition and scope of the Technical Method Statement

1.1.1 This document constitutes a Design Specification for work University of Leicester Archaeological Services propose to implement on behalf of the Client to ensure the satisfactory excavation and recording of surviving archaeological remains that are affected by the proposed construction of the new BBC Radio Leicester building.

1.1.2 A number of cellars exist within the proposed development area, with important Roman remains surviving directly below the cellar floors. The development plans involve the backfilling of these cellars with demolition material from the above ground structures, in order that the archaeological remains will be preserved beneath. The backfill within the cellars will eventually be reduced to a level of 63.5m aOD, through which a small number of piles will be drilled, with a series of ground beams, floor layers and

levelling layers placed on top. This will result in a minimum of disturbance to the archaeological levels surviving beneath the cellar floors.

- 1.1.3 The outdoor yard and uncellared areas in the north-eastern part of the site will be reduced in height by c.1.5m under archaeological excavation conditions to a height of 63.5m aOD. A small number of piles will be drilled beneath this layer, with ground beams, levelling layers and floor levels laid on top.
- 1.1.3 An early medieval stone built cellar (the Norman Undercroft) exists within the development area and its preservation and long-term conservation will be undertaken as part of the development plans for the site. Three small areas surrounding the Undercroft will be excavated to a greater depth, in order that a series of concrete foundation bases can be created to support ground beams over the structure. The exact size, location and depth of these areas will be confirmed on-site.
- 1.1.4 This document specifies a scheme of works for:
- Archaeological observation of the removal of the existing 19th century brick vault of the Norman Undercroft and other later Victorian brick additions. Including the completion of pre-existing elevation drawings of the interior walls of the undercroft exposed by these works.
 - Archaeological recording of reused medieval structural timbers within the 19th century building fronting Guildhall Lane during demolition.
 - Archaeological observation of the breaking of concrete floor slabs.
 - Archaeological excavation of the non-cellar area of the site to the level of 63.50m aOD.
 - Archaeological excavation and recording of three deeper holes, for concrete foundation bases, surrounding the Norman Undercroft.

1.2 ***Archaeological background***

- 1.2.1 The Archaeological Impact Assessment for 9 St. Nicholas Place incorporated an Archaeological Desk-Based Assessment of the area which confirmed the archaeological significance of the area. The results of the report were summarised as follows:

“The desk-based archaeological assessment for the proposed redevelopment of 9 St. Nicholas Place, Leicester has confirmed that the site will contain important archaeological remains of the Roman and medieval period, lying in the middle of the historic core of the Roman and medieval town walls. The south-eastern part of the site lies partially over the Norman Undercroft, a 12th century structure excavated in 1989, the floor of which stands directly on a Roman road, with a considerable depth of road surface metalling beneath. The north-eastern part of the site is thought to lie on the junction of two Roman roads, an important junction opposite the Roman Forum, and thus very likely to contain a high status Roman building. Roman tessellated pavements, mosaics, painted wall plaster and masonry walls have all been recorded in the area. The site lies on the eastern edge of the main north-south road through the Roman and medieval towns (now Highcross Street/St. Nicholas Place/Applegate), which was thought to be a focus for Anglo-Saxon and pre-Norman conquest settlement, and thus there is a great

potential for the survival of archaeological remains of this date. The site lies on the junction of two medieval roads, the former High Street (now Highcross Street/St. Nicholas Place/Applegate) and Holyrood Lane (now Guildhall Lane). There are many other known sites of archaeological interest in the near vicinity of the site, including the Roman Forum, other high status Roman buildings, the medieval Guildhall, St. Martin's Cathedral and Wygston's House. The current building on the site is mostly cellared along the St. Nicholas Place street frontage, which will have caused substantial damage to medieval street frontage remains, although previous archaeological investigations suggest that Roman remains are likely to survive beneath their floors, and to a considerable depth in some areas. The rear yard of this building, and the Guildhall Lane frontage is likely to contain well preserved medieval remains. Archaeological evaluation would be advisable on the site to better ascertain the archaeological potential and aid in the design of development proposals and mitigation strategies. The redevelopment would also involve the alteration of the Norman Undercroft, a building, which is of great architectural and historical interest" (Meek 2002 in Kipling 2002).

- 1.2.2 The evaluation stage of the Archaeological Impact Assessment involved the excavation of 11 trenches within the development area, 9 hand excavated through the brick floors of the basements and two machine excavated within the rear yard area of the site.
- 1.2.3 The results of the evaluation were summarised as follows:

"An archaeological evaluation was undertaken on the site of the former Leicester Antiques Complex at 9, St. Nicholas Place, Castle, Leicester, between 2nd January and 20th February 2002 on behalf of BBC Resources North as a preliminary to construction of new premises for BBC Radio Leicester and the Asian Network. The opening of a total of eleven trenches confirmed the presence of well-preserved and deeply stratified Roman and medieval archaeological deposits. Work was conducted in the cellars of the Victorian buildings currently occupying the site and in the associated external yard area. Investigations in the cellars revealed two major phases of Roman building activity, with masonry walls surviving to a height of approximately 0.5m and associated with successive floor surfaces. The Roman deposits had suffered a limited degree of later disturbance in the form of post-Roman pitting and wall robbing. Although some evidence of domestic occupation was recovered, the character of the floor deposits coupled with certain architectural features indicate the possible presence of a monumental Roman public building.

In the external yard area, two trenches revealed medieval clay-bonded masonry walls and mortar floor surfaces surviving at a depth of 0.5m below the present ground surface. These deposits had been damaged by (no longer extant) modern buildings and service trenches. On the southern part of the property, the north-western corner of the early medieval undercroft known to have fronted onto Guildhall Lane and now surviving as a below-ground cellared structure was identified. Although the structure was badly affected by nineteenth-century service trenching and the construction of a vaulted brick roof, the building's doorway was partially revealed on the western wall.

Trial trenching has confirmed the presence at 9 St. Nicholas Place of deeply stratified archaeological Roman and medieval deposits. In the case of the cellared areas these comprise as much as c.1.6m of stratified floors and associated walls and, in the external yard areas, an additional overlying deposit of c.1.5m of (probably substantially damaged) medieval remains. In

terms of the latter area, archaeological remains are likely to include two major intersecting Roman roads" (Kipling 2002).

- 1.2.4 The report drew the following conclusions (Section 8: Kipling 2002)

The Roman Period

The archaeological evaluation has confirmed that the proposed development area at 9 St. Nicholas Place lies over important archaeological deposits of Roman date. The evidence would suggest at least two main phases of Roman building on the site, the earliest pre-dating the formation of the Roman street grid. The second phase of building is aligned with the street grid. Evidence was also revealed of the remains of a large cobbled surface pre-dating the second phase of building. This is similar to that seen to have been laid out over the areas of the two major public buildings, the Forum and Jewry Wall Baths.

Phase 1

The earliest phase of building on the site was revealed within trench 7, wall (316), constructed of coursed granite blocks with a beige sandy lime mortar. The wall was significant as it lay on an alignment of almost 30 degrees difference to that of the later Roman street grid. The two areas where the wall was revealed demonstrated that c.0.6m of superstructure survived. No dating evidence associated with the construction of the wall was recovered, but by association with other dated contexts, the wall is stratigraphically earlier than late 1st century AD deposits.

Within trench 10 a similarly constructed wall (202), with pale-yellow brown mortar was recorded. The small part of the wall revealed within the evaluation was substantially robbed, and its alignment is far less certain than that of wall (74), but would again be offset from the later Roman street grid alignment by some 20 degrees. It is not inconceivable that this wall may also belong to this first constructional phase of activity.

The walls revealed within the evaluation from this early phase of construction could potentially be the earliest evidence for masonry structures within the Roman town of Leicester. The function of this building could not be ascertained from the evaluation, little was revealed of any associated floor levels. It would very likely be of high status, and potentially an early public building within the centre of the town. By the end of the first century AD, this structure was demolished, although the walls were partially left standing, to make way for buildings erected on the street grid alignment.

Phase 2

The lines of the Roman street grid were initially marked out with ditches, possibly by the end of the first- century AD. By the early second- century AD the Roman street grid becomes formalised with metalled surfaces being added. Evidence has also been revealed for a similar late first- century 'setting out' of the *insula* that were to contain the major public buildings. This was in the form of cobbling and has been recognised in the forum *insula* and those adjacent to it on the north, south and west. At the Jewry Wall site, in the *insula* to the west of the forum, the cobbled surface was identified beneath the street lying to the north of the complex and spread some 30 feet south, sealing earlier pits (Kenyon 1948, 10). The cobbled surface was separated from the natural ground by a layer of 'occupation earth', whilst above it, was a deposit of thick dark soil, water laid, suggestive of flooding (*ibid*, 10). At Thornton

Lane, excavations in 1963 revealed a cobbled surface one course thick, sealing pits and a possible circular structure dating to the late first century BC and pits of the early-mid first century AD (Clay and Pollard 1994, 37-38). Above the cobbled surface, was a dark brown fine clay loam and a series of make up deposits for the first masonry structure, dated to the late 1st - early 2nd aligned approximately to the street grid, believed to have been laid out c. 100-120 AD (Connor and Buckley 1999, 51). Within the forum itself, the earliest layers encountered in excavations within the south range in 1971 consisted of small cobbles or pebbles, one stone thick, lying immediately on, or embedded in, the natural sand and gravel and, where it was undisturbed, forming a solid surface (Mellor, archive report). The cobbling has also been found elsewhere within the footprint of the later forum, though not always as a continuous layer (Hebditch & Mellor 1973, 7, 32). Above the cobbled surface, or, in some cases above the natural sand and gravel, the most consistent layer appears to have been clean grey or greenish grey sand containing very few finds and interpreted as possible turf (Mellor archive report).

The cobbled surface has been interpreted as an open area for assembly for commerce before the construction of the forum (Mellor 1976, 14). Given that the surface spreads into adjacent *insulae*, it would seem likely that it relates to the initial phase of formal urban planning of c. 100, when Ratae was constituted as a *Civitas* capital. Space was perhaps reserved in the central *insulae* of Leicester for public and probably religious buildings.

Within trench 7 a 0.10m deep well-compacted gravel surface was revealed (330) butting against the wall (316), but sealing its foundations. The surface is of similar character to the cobbled surface found within the forum and other *insulae*. Although by no means conclusive, this would suggest that the wall pre-dates the surface, giving credence to the idea that the wall is an earlier pre-street grid phase of activity.

Within trench 3, at least three layers of well-compacted cobbled surfaces were revealed (355, 356, 358). The earliest of these lay directly upon the underlying natural sands and gravels. The nature of these surfaces seems very similar in character to those seen within the forum *insula*. The foundations for the largely robbed wall recorded within the trench (352), is likely to have cut through these gravel layers. The wall is aligned with the street grid, and thus thought to represent part of the second constructional phase, during the first part of the second century. These surfaces were overlaid by a layer of densely packed material (355), possibly representing levelling for the mortar floor layer associated with the wall. This wall was constructed of uncoursed granite and sandstone blocks, set in a compact pale yellowish-brown mortar.

Other walls were revealed during the evaluation that align quite closely with the Roman street grid, in as far as can be ascertained from small lengths of wall revealed within the evaluation trenches. In trench 7, wall (74) and trench 8, wall (118), are assumed to be part of the same wall which is parallel with wall (352) in trench 3. Wall (58) in trench 6 and wall (148) in trench 10, are also assumed to be the same, and are also parallel with these other walls and aligned to the street grid. As far as can be told from the limited evidence revealed within the evaluation trenches for these walls, they are of roughly similar character, and of quite substantial nature, with a small amount of superstructure surviving beneath the cellar floors. The possible walls recorded within trench 2, (252 and 257) are also roughly aligned with the street grid, although these are obviously of very different construction.

Destruction deposits, including fallen wall material and roof material were encountered within trenches 2 and 6. Such deposits are rarely found within Leicester and may contain significant material regarding the nature of the demise of the town at the end of the Roman period.

The character of the potential structures from the second main construction phase is very difficult to define due to the nature of evaluation. The masonry walls recorded within trenches 7, 8, 6 and 10 are all of size and constructional nature to be potentially internal walls of a public building. The location of this *insula* adjacent to the forum would certainly not preclude the existence of

public buildings here. The size and substantial nature of the masonry revealed, and the lack of any ornately decorated wall plaster or mosaic flooring, would imply that the buildings were public, rather than domestic. It must be noted that a mosaic floor was found beneath the building on the corner of High Street and Highcross Street to the north of the site, lying within the same *insula*, which may suggest that a mix of public and domestic buildings existed. The possible stylobate blocks within trench 10 could infer the existence of a grandiose structure, possibly even a temple, but this can only be conjecture from the keyhole nature of the evaluation.

The Medieval Period

The site revealed no Anglo-Saxon remains, although a few sherds of later Saxo-Norman pottery were recovered. It is thought that by the early medieval period the medieval street pattern had been established. The frontages of the main north to south route through the town, the former High Street (now Highcross Street/St. Nicholas Place/Applegate), were rapidly developed during this period, and were possibly the focus for the earliest post-Roman occupation of Leicester. As has been seen at archaeological investigations opposite the site in Castle Park Car Park (Meek 2000) and during the forum excavations of 1971 and 1973 (forthcoming), the plot boundaries established at this time became fossilised, and in part were still visible in the twentieth century.

Fossilisation of medieval boundaries may be apparent in the overall layout of the existing buildings on the proposed development site, especially those in the centre of the area. The building projecting into the rear yard is long and narrow, and of c.5m width. The walkway between this building and that to the north is also of similar size and shape. These have the appearance of medieval tenements, and may well be the fossilisation of such projecting to the east from the former medieval High Street. These boundaries also display a curious kink in their alignment to the east of the street frontage. The reason for the kink in the alignment may even have its origins in the Roman period, being as it aligns with the Roman street grid, and may suggest the survival of standing Roman masonry. Walls recorded in trench 9 continued the alignment of these possible medieval plot boundaries to the east of the existing buildings into the rear yard. The remains of a possible medieval mortar floor was also exposed at the northern end of this trench. The character of the medieval buildings that formerly stood within the proposed development area, excluding the undercroft, could not be ascertained from the evaluation. The existence of walls and the floor layer so far from the street frontage would imply that this area was densely occupied.

The Norman undercroft lies on the northern frontage of Guildhall Lane. The substantial masonry construction would suggest that it was part of a building of quite high status, possibly a merchant's house. The structure has never been accurately dated, the early 12th century date coming from the style of the construction of the windows. Domestic buildings of this period are comparatively rare in Britain, but many conform to a standard hall and cellar type. The hall would have been approached by an external staircase, and used as the main accommodation of the occupant. Although now a cellar, approximately two thirds of the undercroft would have been above ground level at the time of construction, with the windows in the west wall providing

light to the interior. The contemporary ground level associated with the cellar was not revealed within evaluation trench 11, due to the area exposed being very heavily truncated by modern services, but is thought likely to exist between 1.5-2.00m below the existing yard surface. The west-facing doorway was partially exposed, which would have given access to the cellar via a staircase leading downwards. No remains of this staircase were revealed. In contrast to the long and narrow medieval tenement plots discussed above, the undercroft must have had an associated yard on its western side to provide access and light to the windows. This would imply a wider plot projecting to the north of Guildhall Lane. The northern wall of the undercroft is likely to have marked the furthest northern extent of this plot, and the possibly part of the southern boundary of a long narrow plot projecting to the east from the former High Street. The early date of the cellar fits in with the theory that the main north to south road through the town was the focus for early occupation and development of Leicester.

Although the cellars of the existing buildings on the site had destroyed all medieval strata, a number of deeper cut medieval features, possibly rubbish or cess pits, were revealed within the trenches excavated through the cellar floors. No structural remains were revealed within the trenches excavated within the buildings, but potentially such fabric may exist incorporated into the existing cellar walls as has been recorded at a number of sites in Leicester.

Post-Medieval Period

No particularly significant post-medieval deposits were revealed within any of the evaluation trenches. The majority of activity later than the medieval period was of more modern date, and included the existing buildings and associated services etc. The development of the site through the post-medieval period is assessed in the Appendix 1.

The trenches excavated within the rear yard area of the buildings demonstrated that medieval archaeological levels survived at an average depth of c.0.60m of the existing tarmac surface. In one area of the rear yard a likely medieval stone wall (126/127) was observed 0.25m below the tarmac surface. The evaluation would suggest that any groundworks associated with the development within the non-celled areas of the site would be likely to seriously damage underlying medieval archaeological remains if the groundworks exceeded 0.60m in depth (and potentially less in other areas).

The evaluation has shown that significant medieval and Roman archaeological deposits survive on the site. The construction of the existing cellars would appear to have removed all medieval deposits, other than deeper cut features such as pits, but have sealed well preserved Roman remains beneath their floors. The archaeological remains of walls with surviving superstructure were revealed. The yard area of the site has good potential for well preserved medieval remains, and potentially earlier post-Roman deposits. The majority of this area during the Roman period is thought to have been a road, as visible beneath the floor of the undercroft, although there is a potential for Roman structures pre-dating the street grid to exist, and thus these may survive beneath the later road surfaces. The yard area also contains the Norman undercroft (for Condition Report, see Appendix 6. Evaluation trenches were not placed through the concrete floors of the existing buildings on the

Guildhall Lane frontage nor in the north-eastern part of the development area. Both of these areas are likely to contain similar deposits to those seen within trench 9 in the yard area of the site.

The existing buildings on the site are not considered to be of great significance. They are of mid-19th century date and later. The buildings have been already been recorded in detail, including photographic and three-dimensional surveys of all floors, including basements and roofs.

2 Archaeological Objectives

2.1 General Aims

- 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 excavate and record any archaeological deposits to be affected by the ground works.
- To assess the local, regional and national importance of excavated deposits with reference to the period-based East Midlands Regional Research Frameworks¹ and national frameworks given by English Heritage (1998).

- To produce an archive and report of any results to appropriate professional and academic standards.

2.2 Observation and recording of preliminary works associated with the Norman Undercroft

- 2.2.1 The archaeological observation and recording of the removal of roof structure and modern internal additions to the Norman Undercroft will be undertaken prior to the commencement of the archaeological excavation within the rear yard area of the site.
- 2.2.2 The aim of the work will be to ensure that the removal of the existing roof structure and modern additions to the undercroft cause minimal damage to the existing structure. Any archaeological deposits disturbed by the works will also be recorded, this will include the areas beneath the brick cellar floor that survives beneath the brick piers in the south-western part of the Undercroft.
- 2.2.3 The completion of pre-existing elevation drawings of the interiors of the undercroft will also be undertaken, of the areas obscured by the Victorian brick additions and brick vaulted roof.

2.3 Archaeological recording of re-used structural timbers within the building fronting Guildhall Lane during demolition

- 2.3.1 Previous observation of the floor joists within the building fronting Guildhall Lane, partially overlying the Norman Undercroft, has highlighted that they have been reused from another structure. There is a potential that other

¹ The East Midlands Archaeological Regional Research Frameworks meetings have produced period-based County Resource Assessments and nine synthetic papers (draft) which form the Archaeological Research Agenda for the East Midlands. Copies of these can be accessed via the web: http://www.le.ac.uk/archaeology/east_midlands_research_framework.htm

structural timbers within the building are also reused and of archaeological/architectural merit.

- 2.3.2 During the demolition of this building the structural timbers are to be carefully removed to enable their recording and an assessment made of their significance.

2.4 ***Archaeological observation of the breaking of concrete floor slabs***

- 2.4.1 Both the buildings in the north-eastern part of the site and that fronting Guildhall Lane have concrete floors. The archaeological potential of these areas is less well defined than elsewhere on the site as no evaluation trenches were excavated through the floors of these buildings.

- 2.4.2 An archaeologist will be present during the breaking of the concrete floor slabs of these buildings. This will happen after the superstructure has been removed. The archaeologist will ensure that minimal damage will be caused to the underlying ground surface which may contain archaeological remains. Any archaeological remains exposed by the works will be defined to ensure that they would not be further disturbed prior to the archaeological excavation stage of work.

2.5 ***Archaeological excavation of the non-cellaried area of the site to the level of 63.50m aOD.***

- 2.5.1 The IFA defines archaeological excavation as a programme of controlled, intrusive fieldwork with defined research objectives which examines, records and interprets archaeological deposits, features and structures and, as appropriate, retrieves artefacts, ecofacts and other remains within a specified area or site on land. The records made and objects gathered during fieldwork are studied and the results of that study published in detail appropriate to the project design.

- 2.5.2 The excavation will preserve by record all archaeological deposits within the rear yard area of the site to a level of 63.5m aOD with reference to an agreed programme of research objectives.

- 2.5.3 Any 'Soft spots' in the resulting ground surface will be archaeologically excavated and recorded to a greater depth, such as wells or loose filled pits or ditches, to avoid subsidence of the levelling layers to be added at a later date. Once excavated to an agreed depth these will be backfilled with stone by the demolition contractor to prevent further subsidence. 'Soft spots' will be excavated under contingency provision after prior consultation with the Client.

- 2.5.4 Three deeper areas are to be archaeologically excavated and recorded around the Norman Undercroft to allow for the construction of large concrete bases onto which ground beams will be laid to protect the subterranean structure. The exact locations and sizes of these deeper areas of excavation will be confirmed on-site.

- 2.5.5 An area in the north-eastern part of the site will also require a mass concrete foundation of a depth below the 63.50m aOD level of excavation. This area will be archaeologically excavated and recorded to the depth of the required foundation (to be confirmed at a later date).

2.6 ***Specific Research Aims***

- 2.6.1 A series of draft research themes are included below (section 5). These outline the potential themes that the results of the project will address as applied to our understanding of the history, development and archaeology of Leicester.
- 2.6.2 The excavation will specifically target the archaeological remains within the lesser disturbed areas of the site, concentrated on the eastern side of the proposed development area. The remains to be excavated will include any archaeological remains that exist between the present ground surface and a level of 63.50m aOD. A few areas will be subject to deeper excavation.
- 2.6.3 It is envisaged that the excavation will encounter almost entirely post-medieval and medieval archaeology. Potentially higher areas of standing masonry of Roman date may be encountered, but for the majority of the excavation area stratified Roman deposits are very unlikely. There is a potential for Roman deposits to be exposed within the areas requiring deeper excavation, for the mass concrete foundations, bases and the removal of soft spots.
- 2.6.4 Of great interest will be the date, function and status of structures pre-dating the currently existing buildings on the site. It is hoped that the excavation will give information regarding the nature of activity within this area close to the centre of post-medieval and medieval Leicester.
- 2.6.5 It is hoped that archaeological information contemporary with the construction of the Norman Undercroft will be excavated such that a more accurate date for the structure can be obtained. Evidence for the contemporary ground level will also demonstrate to what extent the undercroft was a subterranean structure. An attempt will be made to define other associated features and structures to place the Norman Undercroft into a meaningful context within its plot.
- 2.6.6 It is hoped that information regarding the ground surface within the site area contemporary with that of the medieval Guildhall, which lies at the present ground level directly opposite across Guildhall Lane, will also be recorded.

2.7 *Post fieldwork and reporting objectives*

- To create an ordered and fully documented archive to a recognised standard for storage in perpetuity.
- To present the archaeological results in sufficient detail to enable an understanding of the excavated remains to be made without recourse to the site archive.
- To produce a report interpreting the significance of the results in a local, regional and national context to a high academic standard.
- To disseminate the results through publication in an appropriate academic journal.

3 **Monitoring and standards**

- 3.1. All work will follow the Institute of Field Archaeologists (IFA) Code of Conduct and adhere to their *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Excavations*. The project will also be undertaken in accordance with *Guidelines and Procedures for Archaeological Work in Leicester*. English

Heritage's *Environmental Archaeology* guidelines will also be utilised during the excavation and post-excavation analysis (English Heritage 2002).

- 3.2. Staffing, Recording systems, Health and Safety provisions and Insurance details are provided.
- 3.3. Unlimited access to monitor the project will be available to both the Client and his representatives and the Planning Archaeologist subject to the health and safety requirements of the site.
- 3.4. All monitoring shall be carried out in accordance with Institute of Field Archaeologists Guidelines.
- 3.5. The archaeological works will be monitored internally by the ULAS project manager to ensure that project targets are being met and professional standards are being maintained. Provision will be made for external monitoring meetings with representatives of Leicester City Museums Service, the Planning Authority and the Client.

4 Methodology

4.1 *Observation and recording of works associated with the Norman Undercroft*

4.1.1 Observation and recording of the removal of the existing roof and modern additions of the Norman Undercroft will be undertaken.

4.1.2 Elevation drawings of the areas of original wall exposed from behind the later modern additions will be recorded at an appropriate scale. A photographic and written record of the works will be maintained.

4.2 *Observation and recording of timbers within the building fronting Guildhall Lane*

4.2.1 It is envisaged that an archaeologist will be present during the removal of the structural timbers of the building fronting Guildhall Lane.

4.2.2 The timbers will be assessed in situ and once they have been removed to determine their archaeological significance or architectural worth. Timbers will be recorded using the ULAS recording manual as a guide, should this be required. A photographic and written record of the works will be maintained.

4.3 *Archaeological observation of the breaking of concrete floor slabs*

4.3.1 An archaeologist will be present on-site during the breaking and removal of concrete floor slabs within the excavation area.

4.3.2 The archaeologist will ensure that minimal damage will be caused to the underlying ground surface which may contain archaeological remains. Any archaeological remains exposed by the works will be defined to ensure that they would not be further disturbed prior to the archaeological excavation stage of work. A photographic and written record of the works will be maintained.

4.3 *Excavation Methodology*

4.3.1 The rear yard of the site will remain undisturbed during demolition of the existing buildings.

- 4.3.2 The concrete floor slab of the uncellared buildings in the north-eastern part of the site will be broken and removed under archaeological supervision prior to the commencement of the excavation.
- 4.3.3 The existing roof of the Norman Undercroft and modern internal additions will be removed prior to the commencement of the excavation.
- 4.3.4 Excavation of the 439 sq m area, as shown on Fig. 3, will commence after the completion of the demolition works, backfilling of the cellars and works detailed in 4.1.2 and 4.1.3 above.
- 4.3.5 The initial work will involve the machining of the tarmac yard surface and modern overburden across the whole of the excavation area using a JCB excavator, or equivalent, under constant archaeological control and supervision.
- 4.3.6 Archaeological excavation and recording of the resultant surface will then commence. All archaeological deposits will be hand dug, save for larger homogenous deposits or layers that can be justifiably removed by machine.
- 4.3.7 Archaeological excavation of the site will cease when the site area level has been reduced to a height of 63.50m aOD. At this point only those areas specified above (see sections 2.5.3-5) will be excavated deeper, including areas for concrete bases, mass foundations and soft spots such as wells or loosely filled pits or ditches). The exact areas and size for these deeper excavations will be confirmed on-site.
- 4.3.8 Any archaeological deposits located will be planned at 1:20 scale and sample-excavated by hand as appropriate to establish the stratigraphic and chronological sequence. Where possible, modern intrusions will be initially excavated to provide a 'window' through stratified deposits in order to determine their nature, date and depth.
- 4.3.9 All finds will be retained, except for unstratified material of the 19th century or later. All plans will be tied into the Ordnance Survey National Grid. Section drawings will be made at a scale of 1:10 of any smaller excavated archaeological features and at 1:20 for large area sections, such as along the edges of the excavation area. All sections will be levelled and tied to the Ordnance Survey Datum. Spot heights will be taken as appropriate.
- 4.3.10 Any human remains will initially be left *in situ* and will only be removed if necessary for their protection, under a Home Office Licence and in compliance with relevant environmental health regulations.

4.4 **Recording Systems**

- 4.4.1 The ULAS recording manual, fully compatible with the Leicester City Museums' archives standards, will be used as a guide for all recording.
- 4.4.2 Individual descriptions of all archaeological strata and features excavated or exposed will be entered onto prepared pro-forma recording sheets.
- 4.4.3 A site location plan based on the current Ordnance Survey 1:1250 map (reproduced with the permission of the Controller of HMSO) will be prepared. This will be supplemented by a trench plan at appropriate scale which will show the location of the areas investigated in relationship to the site area and OS grid.

4.4.4 Some record of the full extent in plan of all archaeological deposits encountered will be made on drawing film, related to the OS grid and be at a scale of 1:10 or 1:20. Sections including the half-sections of individual layers of features will be drawn as appropriate. The OD height of all principal strata and features will be calculated and indicated on the appropriate plans.

4.4.5 A photographic record of the investigations will include black and white prints and colour transparencies illustrating in both detail and general context the principal features and finds discovered. The photographic record will also include 'working shots' to illustrate more generally the nature of the archaeological operation mounted.

4.4.6 This record will be compiled and checked during the course of the excavations. A copy of the ULAS recording manual is lodged with Leicester City Museums Service.

4.5 *Environmental Sampling*

4.5.1 If significant archaeological features are subject to excavation, the sampling strategy will include the following:

- i. A range of features to represent all feature types, areas and phases will be selected on a judgmental basis. The criteria for selection will be that deposits are datable, well sealed and with little intrusive or residual material.
- ii. Any buried soils or well-sealed deposits with concentrations of carbonised material present will be intensively sampled taking a known proportion of the deposit.
- iii. Spot samples will be taken where concentrations of environmental remains are located.
- iv. Waterlogged remains, if present, will be sampled for pollen, plant macrofossils, insect remains and radiocarbon dating provided that they are uncontaminated and datable. Consultation with the specialist will be undertaken.

4.5.2 Wet sieving with flotation will be carried out using a York Archaeological Trust sieving tank with a 0.5mm mesh and a 0.3mm flotation sieve. The small size mesh will be used initially as flotation of plant remains may be incomplete and some may remain in the residue.

4.5.3 The residue > 0.5mm from the tank will be separated into coarse fractions of over 4mm and fine fractions of > 0.5-4mm. The coarse fractions will be sorted for finds. The fine fractions and flots will be evaluated and prioritised; only those with remains apparent will be sorted. The prioritised flots will not be sorted until the analysis stage when phasing information is available.

4.5.4 Flots will be scanned and plant remains from selected contexts will be identified and further sampling, sieving and sorting targeted towards higher potential deposits.

4.6 *Finds and Samples*

4.6.1. The IFA Guidelines for Finds Work will be adhered to.

4.6.2 All antiquities, valuables, objects or remains of archaeological interest, other than articles declared by Coroner's Inquest to be subject to the Treasure Act,

discovered in or under the Site during the carrying out of the project by ULAS or during works carried out on the Site by the Client shall be deemed to be the property of ULAS provided that ULAS after due examination of the said Archaeological Discoveries shall transfer ownership of all Archaeological Discoveries unconditionally to Leicester City Museums Service for storage in perpetuity.

- 4.6.3 A Museums accession number will be obtained from the Keeper of Archaeology, Leicester City Museums Service.
- 4.6.4 During the excavations different sampling strategies may be employed according to the perceived importance of the strata under investigation. Close attention will always be given to sampling for date, structure and environment.
- 4.6.5 All identified finds and artefacts are to be retained, although certain classes of building material will, in some circumstances, be discarded after recording with the approval of the Planning Archaeologist.
- 4.6.6 All finds and samples will be treated in a proper manner. Where appropriate they will be cleaned, marked and receive remedial conservation in accordance with recognised best-practice. This will include the site code number (museum accession number), finds number and context number. Bulk finds will be bagged in clear self sealing plastic bags, again marked with site code, finds and context numbers and boxed by material in standard storage boxes (340mm x 270mm x 195mm). All metal objects will be x-rayed and then selected for conservation. All materials will be fully labelled, catalogued and stored in appropriate containers.

5 Draft research themes

- 5.1 It is not envisaged that many stratified archaeological remains of Roman date will be revealed in plan during the excavation of the site, as they are likely to be present at a level beneath 63.50m aOD. Potentially deeper areas of excavation such as for mass concrete foundations or removal of soft spots may reveal Roman remains in smaller areas or in section, thus research themes for the Roman period are included, but are unlikely to be addressed to the same extent as those for later periods.

5.2 Roman

- The chronology of Roman Leicester (transitions - from Iron Age and to sub-Roman; the growth of the Roman town, periods of prosperity and decline, artefact dating)
- Land-use, town planning and settlement patterns (early activity, public buildings and public works, character of land-use and changes over time, zones of occupation)
- The built environment (building plans - typology and dating, constructional techniques, building materials, interior decoration)
- Evolving social conditions in Roman Leicester (food and drink, health, wealth and social status)
- Trade and industry (the town and its hinterland, commerce, raw materials, crafts, industries, trading links)

- The fourth century and later (the decline of Roman Leicester)

5.3 *Anglo-Saxon*

- Leicester in the 5th - 6th centuries (nature of occupation, extent of survival of Roman fabric, artefact dating)
- Middle and Late Saxon Leicester (artefact dating, nature of occupation)

5.4 *Medieval and post-medieval*

- The chronology of medieval and post-medieval Leicester (transitions - Late Saxon/post-Conquest; the growth of the medieval and post-medieval town, periods of prosperity and decline, artefact dating)
- Land-use, town planning and settlement patterns (focus of early post-Conquest occupation, public buildings and public works (including religious buildings), character of land-use and changes over time, zones of occupation, location and evolution of plots)
- The built environment (building plans - typology and dating, constructional techniques, building materials, interior decoration). The construction date of the Norman Undercroft and associated structures, contemporary ground surface etc. will be of particular interest.
- Evolving social conditions in medieval and post-medieval Leicester (food and drink, health, wealth and social status)
- Trade and industry (the town and its hinterland, commerce, raw materials, crafts, industries, trading links)

6. *Added Value*

- 6.1 University of Leicester Archaeological Services is the local archaeological unit for Leicester and the surrounding counties of Leicestershire and Rutland. Amongst its staff are people with many years experience of excavating within the city. Richard Buckley, one of the ULAS Directors, was in charge of the Norman Undercroft investigations in 1989, as well as running many of the large-scale excavations within Leicester in recent years, including those at Causeway Lane and the Shires.
- 6.2 ULAS is committed to disseminating archaeological information to the general public. Members of ULAS staff regularly give talks to local societies, including local history groups such as the Leicestershire Archaeological and Historical Society and the Rutland Fieldwork Group, and other-interest local groups such as the Inter Varsity Society and the Rotary Club. Lectures and seminars have been given by staff members to classes of the School of Archaeological Studies at Leicester University and the Workers Educational Association. Seminars have also been presented at archaeological conferences such as those run by the European Association of Archaeologists and the Council for British Archaeology. ULAS has been involved in many public events, including archaeological site open days, guided walks, and displays at museum events. ULAS staff have been involved in the creation of permanent public displays within buildings erected on the archaeological sites they

excavated, such as the Inland Revenue's Saxon House on Causeway Lane and De Montfort University's Elfed Thomas Building on Newarke Street. Potentially the site may be made visible to the general public, by the use of a viewing platform or similar. A web-cam may also be set up so that internet users will be able to observe the progress of the excavation.

- 6.3 ULAS often contributes articles to, and subsidises the production of, the local county archaeological journal, *Transactions of the Leicestershire Archaeological and Historical Society*.
- 6.4 Archaeological sites, excavated by ULAS, have often received and encouraged media coverage, as seen by recent BBC Radio Leicester interviews and television coverage during the St. Nicholas Place evaluation, Radio Leicester interviews regarding the recent Cossington barrow excavation and Abbey Park evaluation. Articles have regularly appeared in the Leicester Mercury regarding ULAS archaeological work, such as at Husbands Bosworth, Huncote and Hemington Quarry. Within the last few months, worldwide media coverage has occurred after Paleolithic findings at Glaston in Rutland.
- 6.5 ULAS is currently involved in large-scale research projects within the city of Leicester, including the South Suburbs Project. Desk-based assessments have recently been undertaken for areas of Highcross Street, to the north of its junction with High Street. ULAS carried out the desk-based assessment and evaluation of St. Nicholas Place and Applegate, opposite the development area, in 1999. The ULAS medieval pottery consultant has produced the fabric series for Leicester.
- 6.6 Building surveys have been undertaken within Leicester by ULAS staff at 42 Silver Street, 10-12 Guildhall Lane, 62-64 Churchgate and the Great Hall and John O' Gaunt's Cellar at Leicester Castle.
- 6.7 ULAS has the widest collective available knowledge of Leicester's archaeology.

7. Report and Archive

7.1. In accordance with the Brief, the report will comprise:

- a non-technical summary
- a consideration of the nature, location, extent, date, significance and quality of any archaeological remains likely to be present within the study area. This should include an assessment of the reliability of the available sources
- an appraisal of the likely degree of preservation of any archaeological remains, including identification of areas of destruction by existing or previous structures, landscaping or other groundworks
- an appraisal of the development impact upon any archaeological remains
- appropriate illustrative material, including maps, plans, drawings and photographs;
- a summary of the academic and research potential of the remains should be assessed with reference to current or proposed research themes

- recommendations for appropriate archaeological mitigation of the development impact, or where necessary, for further evaluation of the archaeological potential

7.2 The Archaeological Impact Assessment report will be in A4 format and will follow within eight weeks of completion of the fieldwork. In addition to any copies required by the Client, two copies of the-report will be provided to the City Archaeologist as advisors to the planning authority, one for verification, assessment and to facilitate on-going project monitoring, and the second for deposition with the City's SMR.

8 Archive

A full copy of the archive as defined in the 'Guidelines for the preparation of site archives' (Roman Finds Group and Finds Research Group AD 700-1700 1993) will be presented to Leicester City Museums Service within six months of the completion of fieldwork. This archive will include all written, drawn and photographic records relating directly to the investigations undertaken.

9 Health and Safety

9.1 ULAS is covered by and adheres to the University of Leicester Statement of Safety Policy and uses the Standing Committee of Archaeological Unit Managers (SCAUM) manual, as revised in 1997, as its Health and Safety Manual with appropriate risks assessments for all archaeological work. A draft Health and Safety statement for this project is attached as Appendix 1. The relevant Health and Safety Executive guidelines will be adhered to as appropriate. The HSE has determined that archaeological investigations are exempt from CDM regulations.

9.2 Health and Safety procedures will be agreed between ULAS and the site tenants prior to the commencement of work, and will be subject to review by both parties for the duration of the works.

9.3 The HSE have advised the Institute of Field Archaeologists that archaeological investigations are exempt from CDM regulations.

10 Insurance

10.1 All employees, consultants and volunteers are covered by the University of Leicester public/products liability insurance is with Gerling Insurance Service Co. Ltd. (leading policy no. 62/99094H/D). Professional indemnity insurance is with Sun Alliance, £10m cover (policy no. PI45000A). Employer's Liability Insurance is with Zurich Commercial cover £10m (policy no. JO198732). Copies of the certificates of insurance are provided below.

11 Copyright

The copyright in all finished documents shall remain vested in ULAS.

12 Acknowledgement and publicity

12.1 ULAS shall acknowledge the contribution of the Client in any displays, broadcasts or publications relating to the site or in which the report may be included.

12.2 ULAS and the Client shall each ensure that a senior employee shall be responsible for dealing with any enquiries received from press, television and any other broadcasting media and members of the public. All enquiries made to ULAS shall be directed to the Client for comment.

13 Timetable and Staffing

- 13.1 A start date for the archaeological works on the site has not been specified, but can usually be commenced within two weeks of the notification of contract. Appendix 1 provides details of the key staff to be used on the project.

14 Bibliography

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- Thompson, J. 1845 Letter in Proceedings of the Committee, *Archaeol. 3'*, 1 (1845), .390-91

Appendix 1

The Project team

Project Managers:

Richard Buckley (Director ULAS): BA Hons Archaeology University of Durham
1979

Hon Museums Research Fellow Leicester University (1992-3), Hon Research
Fellow De Montfort University (1994)

M.I.F.A (Member of the Institute of Field Archaeologists)

Richard Buckley was a Field Officer with Leicestershire Archaeological Unit from 1980-1995, and formed ULAS with Patrick Clay in 1995. Between 1980 and 1989 he worked mainly in the field as director/asst. director of a number of excavations of various periods, and co-directed the Shires Excavations, a major urban project in Leicester. During this period he also carried out post-excavation analysis on Leicester urban backlog excavation projects and on finds such as Roman painted wall plaster, Roman coins and medieval roofing furniture. His publications include *Leicester Town Defences* (with J. Lucas, 1987), *Leicester Castle Hall* (with N.W. Alcock, 1987) and *Roman and Medieval Occupation in Causeway Lane, Leicester* (with A. Connor 1999) along with a number of interims and notes in *Transactions of the Leicestershire Archaeological and Historical Society*, a journal which he has edited since 1990. With the advent of PPG16, his role changed to that of Project Manager, mainly of urban projects from initial desk-study through the stages of evaluation, excavation and post-excavation. The sites managed have varied in scale, the largest being the Causeway Lane excavation in 1991 (team of 50). He has also been involved in survey, interpretation, evaluation and recording of historic buildings through PPG15 legislation, and has attended an English Heritage one-week master class on the Conservation and Recording of Historic Buildings (1996). As both a consultant and contractor, he has been a member of the project team for two major schemes for the display and interpretation of Scheduled Ancient Monuments - Leicester Abbey and Leicester Castle. Following the closure of LAU in July 1995, he established, with Patrick Clay, a new archaeological unit based within the University of Leicester.

Richard has one of the best understandings of the archaeology of the City of Leicester, and has been involved as site director or project manager of most of the archaeological work undertaken in the city since the 1980s.

James Meek (Project Manager) B.A (Hons) Archaeology (University of Southampton) 1990,

MIFA (Member of the Institute of Field Archaeologists)

Since 1988 James has worked for Winchester Archaeological Unit, Test Valley Archaeological Trust, Bedfordshire Archaeological Unit, Warwickshire Archaeological Unit, Leicestershire Archaeological Unit and University of Leicester Archaeological Services. He has supervised a variety of evaluations and excavations through to assessment and report preparation. He supervised work on an Iron Age gravel terrace site at Wanlip and the Hemington Bridges Project and directed the excavation of the Iron Age site at Enderby. He

has experience in EDM survey, computer aided design, post-excavation work and computerised databases. He has directed urban evaluations at St. Nicholas Place and Applegate, and the former Stibbe Buildings site in Leicester, both complex multi-period urban projects. He has been completed archaeological desk-based assessments for a number of sites in Leicester, including the former Stibbe Buildings on Vaughan Way, the Proposed Redevelopment of the Highcross Street and St. Peter's Lane Area, 9 St. Nicholas Place and the Newarke area. James has been involved in the project management of urban sites at the former Stibbe Buildings and at 9 St. Nicholas Place, as well as rural sites at Walsgrave in Coventry, the excavation of an Iron Age settlement at Rothwell in Northamptonshire and salvage excavation of a multi-period site at Wanlip in Leicestershire.

Site Director:

Dr. Roger Kipling BA, MA, PhD (University of Leicester)

AIFA (Associate Member of the Institute of Field Archaeologists)

After gaining an HND in Practical Archaeology at the Dorset Institute of Archaeology in 1981, Roger worked extensively with archaeological field units in Hampshire and Lincolnshire, notably in Winchester and Southampton, as a site photographer and supervisor. Roger has been based at the University of Leicester since 1991 when he commenced a BA (Hons.) degree in 'Archaeology', following which he acquired an MA (with a distinction) in 'Landscape Studies'. In April 2000 he completed a Doctoral Research Studentship on the subject of urban development in England, Gaul, Ireland and Scandinavia between c.AD 300-1050. Since 2000 he has been employed by ULAS as a site supervisor, undertaking a number of archaeological evaluations and watching briefs in the East Midlands.

He has supervised teams of Birmingham and Leicester undergraduates on archaeological fieldwork projects in Britain, France and Italy since 1983 and continues to produce articles on the subject of his doctoral research.

Roger directed the evaluation stage of work at 9 St. Nicholas Place, as well as supervising on other urban excavations in Leicester, Southampton and Winchester.

Finds Officer: Iron Age-Roman Pottery

Patrick Marsden B.A.(Hons) University of London; M.A (University of Leicester)

Pat has eleven years field experience with Hereford and Worcester Archaeology Unit, Leicestershire Archaeological Unit and ULAS. Since 1993 he has been researching into prehistoric pottery in Leicestershire and has published reports on several large assemblages. He has also published reports on Roman pottery and lime and mortar analysis. With history and archaeology qualifications he has completed over fifty desk-based assessments for ULAS.

Finds Officer: Roman Pottery

Nick Cooper BSc, Diploma in Post-Excavation Studies

Nick Cooper took his degree at Leicester in 1984, followed by a graduate diploma in Post-Excavation Studies in 1985. Since then he has been a Research Assistant here working on Roman post-excavation projects.

Since 1997 he has been Finds Officer for ULAS and continues to teach for the School on both undergraduate and postgraduate courses.

His specialisms are in Roman pottery and smallfinds and his research interests include the Romanization of material culture and the Roman to Anglo-Saxon transition. Currently he is co-ordinator of the East Midlands Archaeological Research Framework project.

Saxon, Medieval and Post-medieval Pottery Consultant

Deborah Sawday B.A. Dip.Ed

Debbie Sawday has been working on medieval pottery for over twenty years and has a particular expertise in local small scale pottery industries in the East Midlands. She has considerable knowledge of the eastern counties industries including Bourne, Lincoln and Stamford. She has worked on many large urban assemblages from Leicester, including the Forum sites (A302.1971 and A295.1973), The Shires excavations (A39.1988 and A40.1988) and has co-authored a substantial specialist report on the Post Roman pottery from the Causeway Lane site (With S. Davies, 1999). She has published widely on a ceramic theme, and also produced the successful popular account of the Shires excavations - *Peepholes to the Past*. Debbie has produced the fabric series of medieval and post-medieval pottery for Leicester.

Environmental: Plant remains

Angela Monckton BSc(Hons) Botany (University of Leeds)

Leicester University Extra Mural Advanced Certificate in Archaeology.

AIFA (Associate Member of the Institute of Field Archaeologists)

A.E.A (Member of the Association of Environmental Archaeologists)

Angela obtained her BSc in Botany at the University of Leeds, she also holds a Leicester University Extra Mural Advanced Certificate in Archaeology, and is a Member of the Institute of Field Archaeologists and the Association of Environmental Archaeologists.

Angela began work in field archaeology in 1985 and has worked on various excavations in various roles, including supervisor and site environmentalist. From 1989 she specialised in the environmental aspects of archaeological excavation and was Environmental Supervisor on a number of sites including the major urban excavations at the Shires and Causeway Lane, Leicester. Angela is currently Environmental Officer for ULAS where she co-ordinates the sampling and processing strategies for sites. She is also working towards the publication of the environmental data for a number of sites. As part of this work she co-ordinates reports from external environmental specialists, as well as contributing reports on her own specialisms. Angela has published reports in *Transactions of the Leicestershire Archaeological and Historical Society*, contributed to the volume on *Causeway Lane*, Leicester, and has a number of published reports and Ancient Monuments Laboratory Reports on Midland sites. Prior to joining ULAS she worked for the Leicestershire Archaeological Unit and was an English Heritage contractor during 1996-7 at Birmingham University.

Environmental: animal bone

Jennifer Browning BA (Hons) Archaeology (University of Nottingham) 1994,

MA (Post Excavation Studies) University of Leicester 1995

Jennifer has been working in professional archaeology since January 1996, joining ULAS in March of that year. She has directed evaluations, small excavations and numerous watching briefs. She has a wide experience of archaeological fieldwork, including excavation, field-walking and EDM-based surveying. In addition, she has produced many reports and desk-based assessments. She is proficient in a variety of computer software, including Microsoft Office, and holds a City and Guilds qualification in AutoCAD. She is currently working towards a City and Guilds in Desktop Publishing.

Since 1997, Jennifer has developed particular expertise in the analysis of faunal remains, with the help of Dr. Annie Grant BA, MA, Ph.D, FSA, a leading expert in Zooarchaeology. She frequently produces reports upon a

variety of assemblages, from both urban and rural sites. These have recently included those from the former Stibbe Buildings evaluation, Mill Lane excavation, Castle Street evaluation and 9 St. Nicholas Place evaluation all urban sites within Leicester.

Environmental: human bone consultant

Simon Chapman BA M.A University of Leicester

Simon obtained both a first class hon. degree in Archaeology and a Masters degree in Post-excavation studies from the University of Leicester. During his post-excavation training he specialised in the analysis of human remains from archaeological sites, working with Dr Jennifer Wakely on material from the ecclesiastical sites of St Bees, Cumbria and Abingdon, Oxfordshire. Formerly he has been employed as a human remains specialist and assistant site supervisor for ULAS. Recent work includes the analysis of a large number of bronze age cremations from Eye Kettleby, Leicestershire, several Roman burial sites in Leicester city and with an ongoing research project in Libya. He is a member of the Osteoarchaeological Research Group and is an affiliated member of the IFA.

ULAS Consultants

Dr. Patrick Clay (Director ULAS) BA PhD AMA MIFA FSA

AMA (Associate of the Museums Association)

MIFA (Member of the Institute of Field Archaeologists)

FSA (Fellow of the Society of Antiquaries)

Formerly a Field Officer with Leicestershire Archaeological Unit, in 1995 Patrick was joint founder, with Richard Buckley, of ULAS, where he is a Director.

A leading expert in East Midlands prehistoric archaeology, he has directed numerous Bronze and Iron Age excavations. His doctorate at Leicester was into prehistoric settlement and land use on the East Midlands clay-lands, and he has published over twenty archaeological reports, several small finds reports and was a founder member of the Roman Finds Group. Since 1990 he has managed over 400 projects including major fieldwork programmes in advance of the construction of roads and pipelines, and of gravel and opencast coal extraction, throughout the East Midlands. He teaches in several of the School's courses, including Professional Skills. Patrick co-authored the Bath Lane Excavations report in 1995 with Jean Mellor, and was involved in a number of the excavations.

Neil Finn (Project Officer)

Fourteen years' experience of field archaeology, previous employment with Milton Keynes Archaeology Unit. Supervisor and director of a number of major excavations including multi-period urban, prehistoric, Saxon and post-medieval rural. Areas of expertise include photography, EDM survey, buildings survey, stratigraphic analysis, teaching and adult education, PC skills: word-processing, databases and survey software. Publications consist of interim reports in local journals. Forthcoming are major reports on an urban excavation and a large multi-period rural site.

Lynden Cooper (Project Officer) BA (hons)

Lynden has been involved in archaeological fieldwork since 1983 and has been employed professionally since 1986. Previous employment includes Northamptonshire Archaeology Unit, Reading University, Trent & Peak Archaeological Trust, Norfolk Archaeological Unit, Museum of London (DGLA) and York University.

Since 1991 he has been based in Leicester firstly with LAU, joining ULAS at its inception in 1995/6. He has directed major rural and urban projects and has published reports on a Roman cemetery and the Northern defences in Leicester, and numerous interim reports in the *Transactions of the Leicestershire Archaeological and Historical Society*. These have been augmented by national and international conference reports, local popular reports and WEA teaching. Forthcoming publications include a prehistoric and Romano-British site at Kirby Muxloe, the Hemington Bridges Project (with S. Ripper) and a Late Upper Palaeolithic site at Launde. He has recently managed the nationally significant Early Upper Palaeolithic Project at Glaston, Rutland and will be contributing to the academic report.

He is a member of the Lithics Studies Society and undertakes lithics analysis for ULAS. Published lithics work includes reports on a large multi-period assemblage from Wanlip and Late Glacial material from N.W. Leics. Forthcoming reports include the Glaston and Launde Upper Palaeolithic assemblages and several later prehistoric sites, including Eye Kettleby.

Principal Curator:

Dr Graham Morgan MPhil PhD FIIC FSA AMUKIC

FSA (Fellow of the Society of Antiquaries)

Graham Morgan trained at the Ancient Monuments Laboratory, and was Conservator at the Council of Museums in Wales before joining the University of Leicester. He has been Principal Curator here since 1974.

While he deals with materials analyses of all kinds, his particular current interests are in mortar, plaster, and paints.

In collaboration with Prof Vincent Megaw, formerly of this university, and with the University of Marburg, he is currently involved in fieldwork on an Iron Age salt-working site at Dürrenberg, near Salzburg in Austria.

Graham has been involved in almost all conservation work required by ULAS, including the preservation and long term curation of waterlogged artefacts.

Academic advisers

Professor C. C. Dyer (

Professor of Regional and Local History; Director of the Centre for English Local History, University of Leicester)

Interests: economic and social history, especially of the medieval period, which includes rural and agricultural history, and the history of towns and commerce; social history of regions, communities and families; settlement and landscape history; medieval archaeology and material culture; vernacular architecture; mentalities and popular culture. Special area of interest : the west midland region (Gloucestershire, Staffordshire, Warwickshire, Worcestershire); has worked recently on the east midlands (Buckinghamshire, Leicestershire, Northamptonshire) and East Anglia, especially Suffolk.

Dr. Neil Christie BA PhD FSA

Senior Lecturer in Archaeology

Neil Christie received his BA in Archaeology at the University of Newcastle Upon Tyne in 1981; he completed his PhD there in 1985. He held a British School at Rome Scholarship (1986-87), the Sir James Knott Fellowship (Newcastle - 1987-89), and a British Academy Post-Doctoral Fellowship (Oxford - 1989-92), before joining Leicester in 1992.

Research interests chiefly cover late Roman and early medieval archaeology with particular reference to Italy. He has published books dealing with the Lombards and with urban archaeology, edited volumes related to Italian Archaeology, and various articles on early medieval Italy. He is currently involved in fieldwork in central Italy (Sangro Valley) and in preparing for final publication work on this survey and on the Cicolano Castles Project.

Appendix 4

Draft Project Health and Safety Policy Statement

1. Nature of the work

1.1. The work will involve machine excavation by wheeled mechanical excavator during daylight hours to remove overburden and modern deposits. The excavation will mostly be undertaken to a depth of around 1.5m below present ground surface. Where the depth to the top of archaeological deposits is perceived to be unsafe, the excavation area will be stepped at the to achieve safe working conditions. Spoil will be removed from site. Remaining works will involve the examination of the exposed surface with hand tools (shovels, trowels etc) and excavation of archaeological features.

1.2. All work will adhere to the University of Leicester Health and Safety Policy and follow the guidance in the Standing Committee of Archaeological Unit Managers manual, as revised in 1997, together with the following relevant Health and Safety guidelines.

HSE Construction Information Sheet CS8 Safety in excavations.

HSE Industry Advisory leaflet IND (G)143 (L): Getting to grips with manual handling.

HSE Industry Advisory leaflet IND (G)145 (L): Watch Your back.

CIRIA R97 Trenching practice.

CIRIA TN95 Proprietary Trench Support Systems.

HSE Guidance Note HS(G) 47 Avoiding danger to underground services. HSE Guidance Note GS7 Accidents to children on construction sites

2. Risks Assessment

2.1. *Working on an excavation site.*

Precautions. The site will have been demolished and rubble removed across the site area. The cellars of the buildings will be backfilled with demolition material and compacted. The excavation area will be kept at least 1m away from any remaining standing structures or walls to avoid undermining of foundations. Spoil will be removed from site. Protective footwear will be worn at all times. Hard hats will be worn when working in deeper sections or with plant. A member of staff qualified in First Aid will be present at all times. First aid kit to be kept in site accommodation. Mobile phone to be kept on site in case of emergency.

Staff welfare will be catered for by the provision of a mess cabin, portaloos and tool store.

The demolition contractor will be in overall charge of the site and will be responsible for the provision of shoring for deeper sections, removal of spoil from the site and for the provision of other health and safety mitigation on-site.

2.2. *Working with plant.*

Precautions. Archaeologists experienced in working with machines will supervise modern overburden stripping at all times. Hard hats, protective

footwear and hazard jackets will be worn at all times. Machine driver to be suitably qualified and insured. If services or wells are encountered machining will be halted until extent has been established by hand excavation or areas where it is safe to machine have been established. Machines will normally be supervised by two archaeologists.

2.3. Working within areas prone to waterlogging.

In the unlikely event of waterlogging occurring on site preventing work continuing, it is proposed to excavate a sump, suitably fenced and clearly marked to enable the water to drain away. If this is insufficient a pump will be used. Protective clothing will be worn at all times and precautions taken to prevent contact with stagnant water which may carry Vials disease or similar.

2.4. Working with chemicals.

If chemicals are used to conserve or help lift archaeological material these will only be used by qualified personnel with protective clothing (i.e a trained conservator) and will be removed from site immediately after use.

2.5. Other risks

Precautions. If there is any suspicion of unforeseen hazards being encountered e.g. chemical contaminants, unexploded bombs, hazardous gases, work will cease immediately. The client and relevant public authorities will be informed immediately.

2.6. Other constraints

No other constraints are recognised over the nature of the soil, water, type of excavation, proximity of structures, sources of vibration and contamination.



Corporate Division

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN

P.O. Box 35
9 South Parade
Leeds LS1 1JW
Tel: (0113) 2915004
Fax: (0113) 2830251

E-Mail: dennis.poundford@ars.aon.co.uk

11 October 2002

Our Ref: **EU/DP/SN**
Direct Dial 0113 2915004
Direct Fax 0113 2830251

Dear Sirs

Liability Insurances – University of Leicester

We act as Insurance Brokers for the above and can confirm that we have arranged on their behalf the following liability insurances:-

Employers' Liability

Insurer : Zurich Insurance
Policy Number : J0198732
Expiry Date : 31 July 2003
Indemnity Limit: : £10,000,000 any one occurrence
Extension : Indemnity to Principal

Public/Products Liability

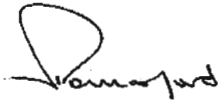
Insurer : Gerling Insurance Service Company Ltd
Policy Number : 62/99094H/D
Expiry Date : 31 July 2003
Indemnity Limit: : £10,000,000 any one occurrence
£10,000,000 any one period for Products

Liability
Extension : Indemnity to Principal
Liability assumed under Contract or

Agreement

We trust that the above information is sufficient for your needs if not, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Yours faithfully



Dennis Poundford
Associate Director
Education Unit
For and on behalf of Aon Limited

AON

Education Unit

P.O. Box 35
9 South Parade
Leeds LS1 1JW
Tel: (0113) 2915004
Fax: (0113) 2830251
E-Mail: dennis.poundford@ars.aon.co.uk

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN

13 August 2002

Dear Sirs

Professional Indemnity Insurance – University of Leicester

We act as Insurance Brokers for the above and can confirm that we have arranged on their behalf the following insurance:-

Insurer : Royal & Sun Alliance Insurance London
Policy Number : PI45000A
Expiry Date : 31 July 2003
Indemnity Limit: : £10,000,000 any one claim and in all
Deductible : £25,000 each and every claim

We trust that the above information is sufficient for your needs if not, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Yours faithfully



Dennis Poundford
Associate Director
Education Unit
For and on behalf of Aon Limited



Corporate Division

P.O. Box 35
9 South Parade
Leeds LS1 1JW
Tel: (0113) 2915004
Fax: (0113) 2830251
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TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN

11 October 2002

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Direct Fax **0113 2830251**

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Expiry Date	:	31 July 2003
Indemnity Limit:	:	£10,000,000 any one occurrence £10,000,000 any one period for Products
Liability		
Extension	:	Indemnity to Principal Liability assumed under Contract or

Agreement

We trust that the above information is sufficient for your needs if not, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Yours faithfully

Dennis Poundford
Associate Director
Education Unit
For and on behalf of Aon Limited

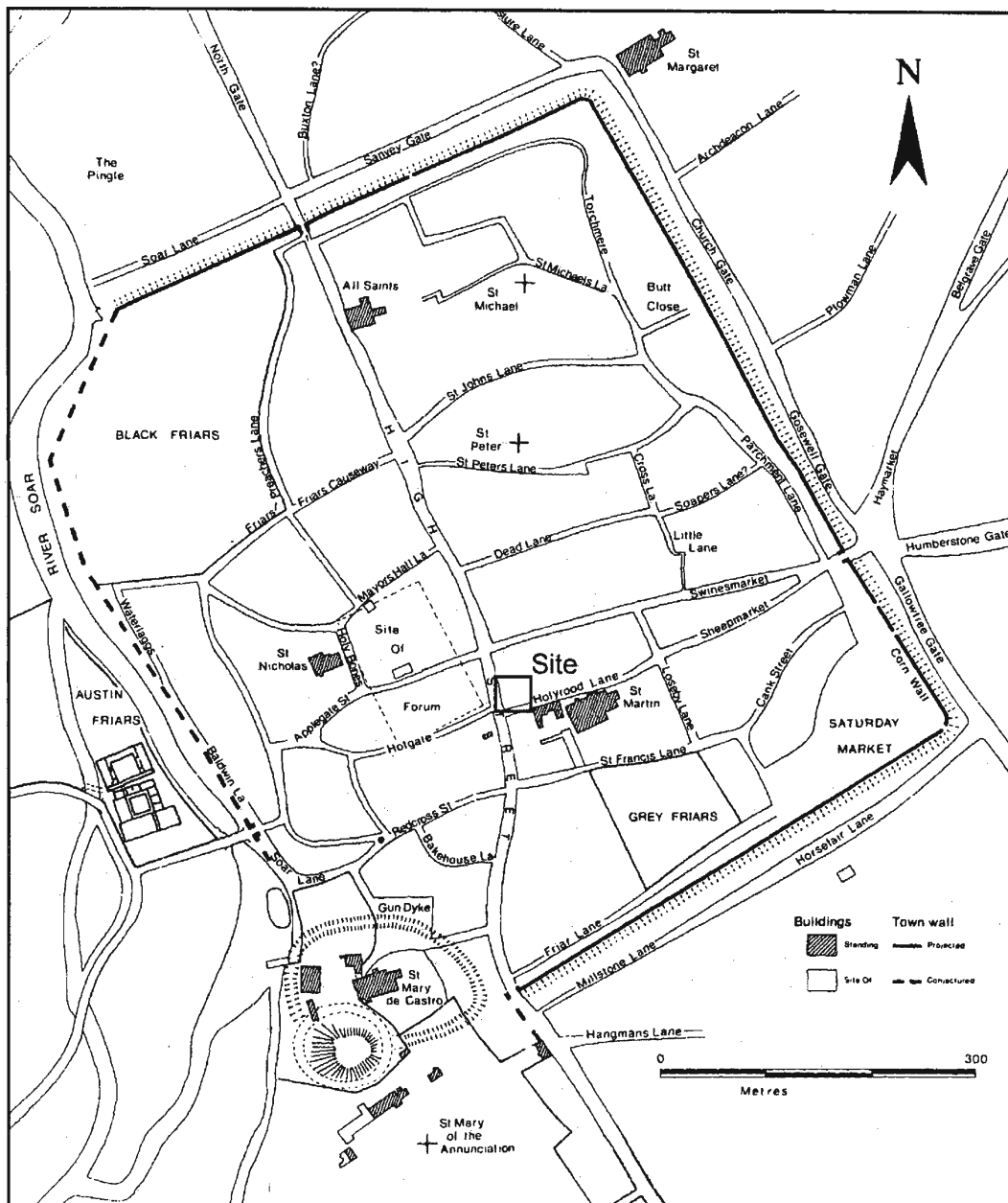


Figure 1: Map of medieval Leicester showing location of 9 St. Nicholas Place

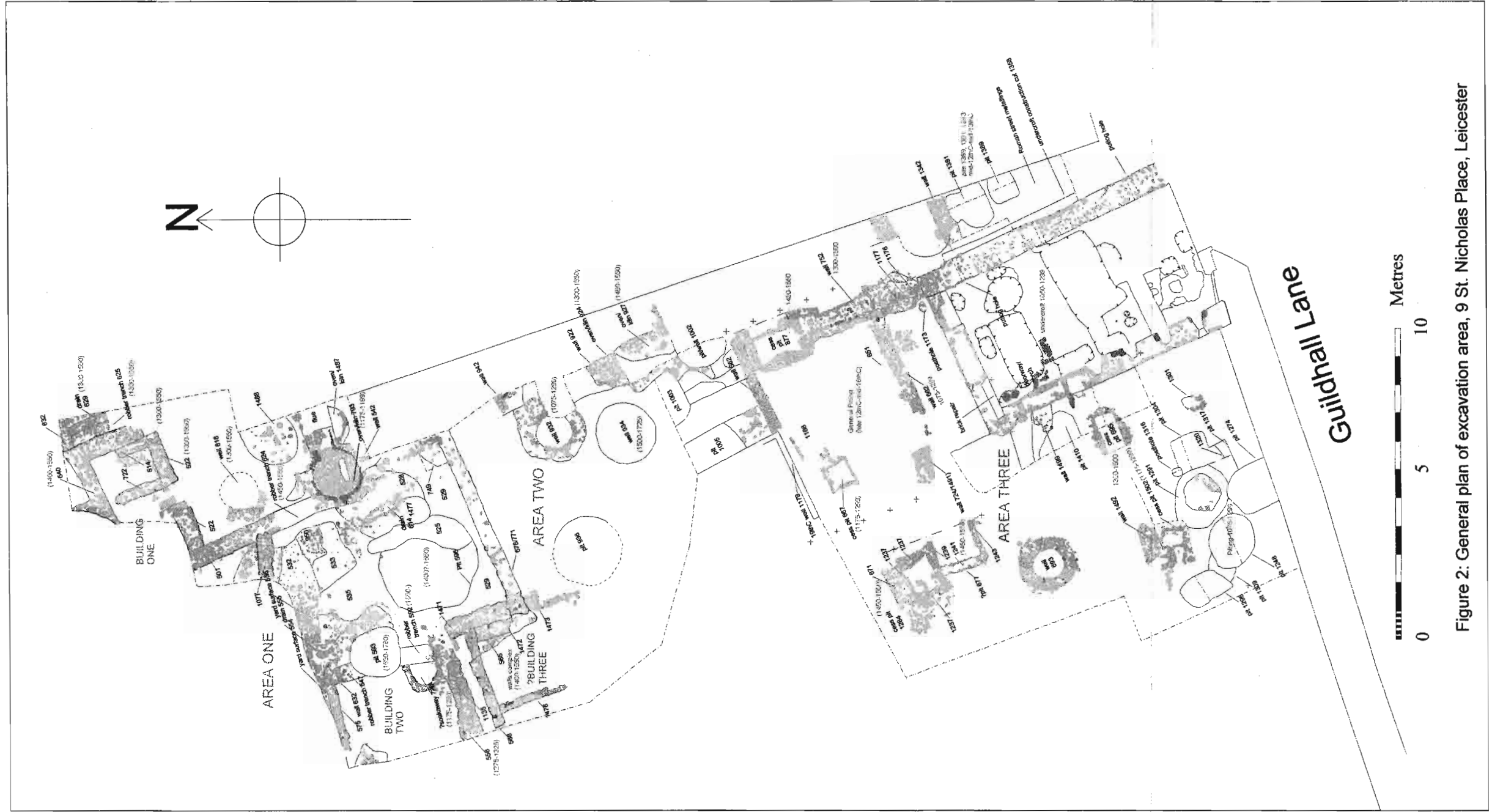


Figure 2: General plan of excavation area, 9 St. Nicholas Place, Leicester

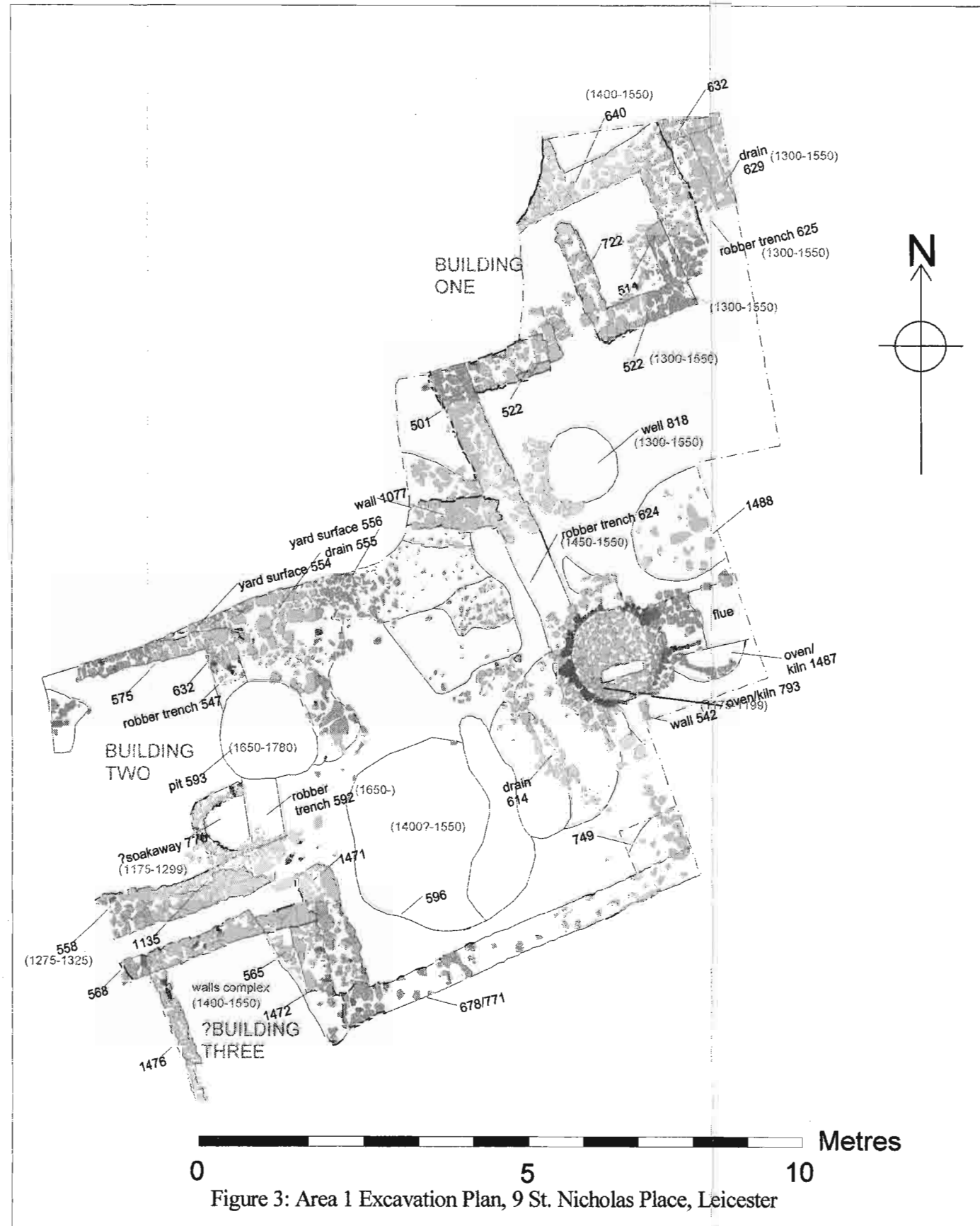


Figure 3: Area 1 Excavation Plan, 9 St. Nicholas Place, Leicester

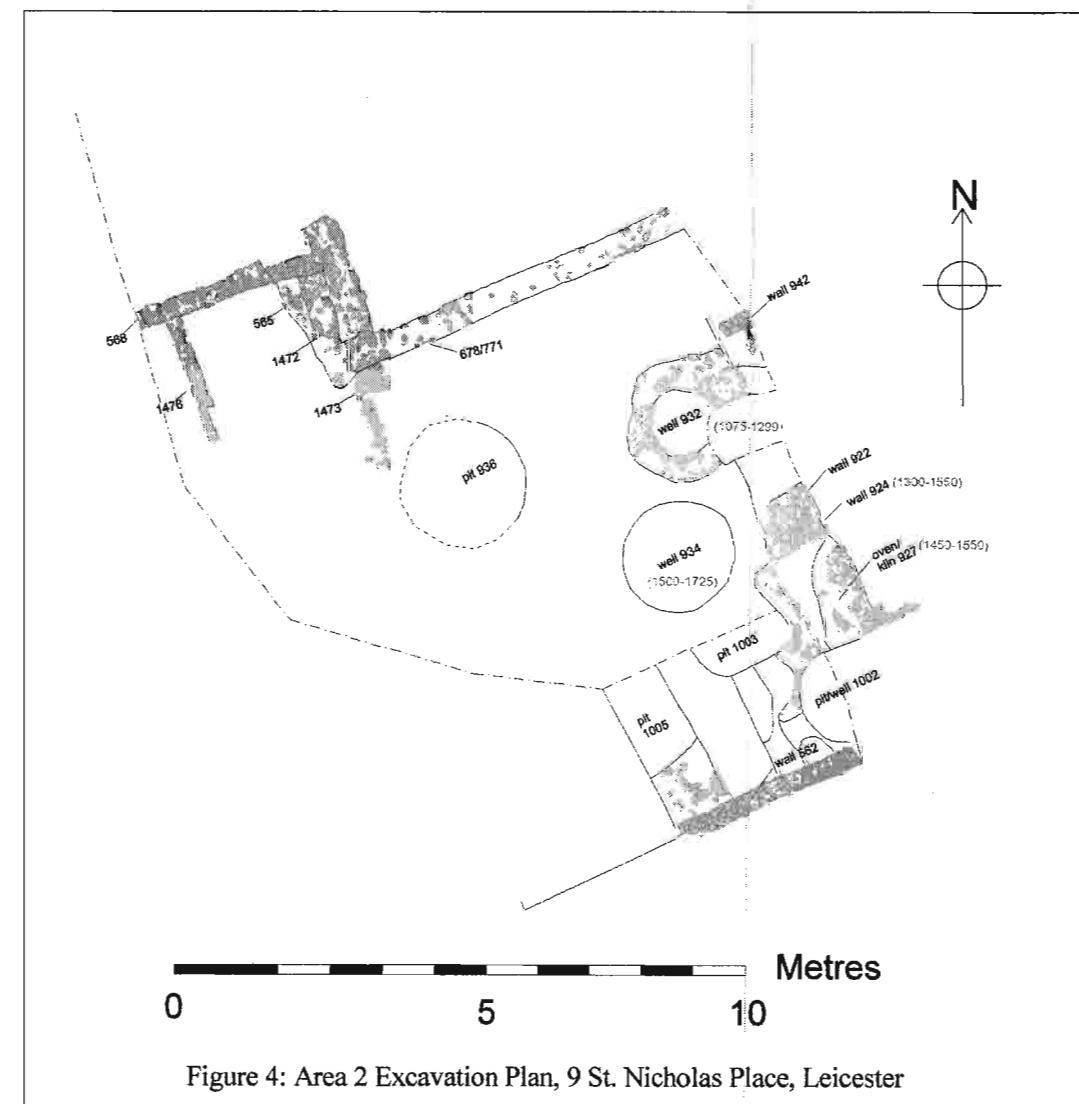


Figure 4: Area 2 Excavation Plan, 9 St. Nicholas Place, Leicester

