

**Stage One Archaeological Field Evaluation
on the site of the proposed Business and Law
Building, The Newarke, Leicester (SK 5840 0400)**

John Tate

Planning Authority: Leicester City Council

For: De Montfort University

Checked by Project Manager

Signed:Date:.....

Name: Richard Buckley

**University of Leicester
Archaeological Services**

University Rd., Leicester, LE1 7RH
Tel: (0116) 2522848 Fax: (0116) 2522614
Website: <http://www.le.ac.uk/ulas/>

ULAS Report Number 2007-086 © 2007

**Stage One Archaeological Field Evaluation on the site of the proposed Business
and Law Building, The Newarke, Leicester (SK 5840 0400)**

Contents

	Summary	1
1	Introduction	1
2	Site background	2
3	Objectives and Methodologies	5
4	Results	6
5	Discussion	22
6	Conclusion	27
7	Impact Assessment	27
8	Acknowledgements	28
9	Bibliography	29
10	Appendices	30

Figures

Fig.1	Site Location (scale 1:25000).	2
Fig.2	The site showing building footprint, trench locations and proposed Trench locations.	7
Fig.3	Trench one plans and sections.	9
Fig.4	Trench three plan.	11
Fig.5	Sections from the southern end of trench three.	12
Fig.6	Sections from the centre and northern end of the trench.	14
Fig.7	Trench six (a) plan.	16
Fig.8	Sections from Trenched six (a) and (b).	19
Fig.9	Trench six (b) plan.	20
Fig.10	Representative profiles through trenches three and six (a and b).	24
Fig.11	Representative profile through Oxford Street illustrating change in road levels between 1888 and present, proposed formation level with basement and trench 6a profile representing archaeological levels.	24
Fig.12	Table of levels from evaluation trenches.	26

Plates

1	The Newarke Wall in Trench three, illustrating damage, facing stone and foundation.	14
2	Stone wall foundation and path in trench 6a.	18
3	Medieval or Roman metalling below 'garden' soils and wall foundation in trench 6a.	18
4	Properties 17-23 Oxford Street, Leicester (1963).	26

Stage One Archaeological Field Evaluation on the site of the proposed Business and Law Building, The Newarke, Leicester (SK 458450 304050)

Summary

An archaeological field evaluation was carried out on the site of the proposed Business and Law Building, The Newarke, Leicester (SK458450 304050 centre) on the 8th-24th May 2007. This work was carried out on behalf of De Montfort University by University of Leicester Archaeological Services. A total of five evaluation trenches were excavated in this stage of the project which, when outside of the demolition deposits of the former James Went building, revealed well preserved earlier medieval to late post-medieval occupation and activity. This included probable earlier medieval timber structures and associated surfaces, the Newarke Wall, 'garden' soils and a possible 'dark earth', a late medieval wall foundation, two early post-medieval stone wall foundations including probable floor surfaces and a path. The result of discovering these at such high levels meant that the evaluation of any Roman levels was hindered. One Roman pit was encountered dated to the first half of the second century. The site archive will be held by Leicestershire City Museums, accession number A2.2007.

1 Introduction

1.1 This document provides details of the results of archaeological field evaluation by the University of Leicester Archaeological Services (ULAS) carried out on the site of the proposed Business and Law Building, The Newarke, Leicester (SK 458450 304050 centre) on behalf of De Montfort University.

1.2 The site lies within the city of Leicester, just outside of the inner ring road, adjacent to Oxford Street. Historically, it lies outside the Roman town defences and to the west of the Tripontium Road. It is located outside the medieval town boundaries, but within the late medieval Newarke enclosure and part of the south suburbs.

1.3 De Montfort University propose to redevelop an area of *c.*3151 square metres of land to construct a new Business and Law Building. The City Archaeologist, in his capacity as archaeological adviser to the planning authority, requested that a preliminary archaeological assessment of the site area be carried out. The assessment was to be undertaken in two stages, the first an archaeological desk-based assessment, which was previously carried out by ULAS (Meek 2001), and a second stage of archaeological field evaluation following the results of the desk-based assessment.

1.4 Due to site constraints, the archaeological field evaluation was to be undertaken in two stages. Stage one consisted of five trenches around the recently-constructed Performance Arts building (PACE), whilst stage two will consist of two trenches in Oxford Street, once the road re-alignment works have been completed by Alfred McAlpine (*c.* October 2007).



Fig.1: Site Location

Reproduced from the OS map Landranger series 1:50000 map by permission of Ordnance Survey on behalf of The Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office. © Crown Copyright 1996. All rights reserved. Licence number AL 100021187.

2 Site Background

2.1 Context of the Project

2.1.1 The proposed development is for the construction of a new a Business and Law Building by De Montfort University on the west side of Oxford Street, Leicester. The new building lies partly within the footprint of the former James Went building, demolished in 2004-5.

2.1.2 An archaeological desk-based assessment of the proposed De Montfort University Leicester City Campus Developments was previously commissioned from ULAS by DMU, which incorporated the proposed development area (specifically included in section 8.3 Development Area 4; Meek 2001).

2.2 Archaeological and Historical Background

2.2.1 The archaeological desk-based assessment for the proposed DMU Leicester City Campus summarised the archaeological potential of the entire area as follows:

The desk-based archaeological assessment for the proposed De Montfort University Leicester City Campus Developments, has shown that the site is likely to contain important archaeological remains relating to the Roman and medieval south suburbs. Previous excavations in and around the area have

shown that significant remains of Roman, medieval and post-medieval date exist. Roman buildings, features and burials may be located within the development area. Two Saxon buildings have been recorded in the vicinity and occupation of this date is possible. The assessment area completely covers the former Newarke precinct, an originally medieval religious community, and later an autonomous enclave of Leicester for the wealthy. St. Mary's Vicarage, Trinity Hospital and Chapel, Wygston's Chantry House, two arches from the former Church, the Newarke (Magazine) Gateway and a small section of the former enclosure wall are the only structures that remain of the original religious community. The remains of other religious and ancillary buildings associated with the Collegiate Church of the Annunciation of the Blessed Virgin Mary are very likely to exist inside of the enclosure, including the former burial ground of the church itself. Medieval structures and back-yard activity are also likely to be found in the area outside of the Newarke. The Newarke was the main focus of attack during the two sieges of Leicester during the English Civil War in 1645. In addition, post-Civil War late 17th and 18th century buildings associated with post-dissolution occupation of the Newarke and the re-building of the south suburbs after the Civil War are likely to be present. The proposed development area, therefore, is recognised as having very significant archaeological potential. Archaeological field evaluation would be advisable on the site to better ascertain the archaeological potential and aid in the design of any future development proposals and mitigation strategies. (Meek 2001)

2.2.2 The archaeological potential for the specific area within which the proposed building lies was described within Section 8.3 of the desk-based assessment as follows:

Area 4 covers the area of the James Went Building and the surrounding grounds.

The eastern side of Area 4 lies adjacent to the former line of the Tripontium road, and thus has the potential for Roman suburban occupation, including archaeological evidence for buildings, plot boundaries and possible burials associated with the former occupants of the plots. This part of the area also has good potential for Anglo-Saxon occupation, suburban medieval occupation and post-medieval occupation. The report has shown that the majority of this area lies within the Newarke enclosure, and on the eastern side of the open square of possibly medieval origin, associated with the Collegiate Church of the Annunciation of the Blessed Virgin Mary. The area has thus high potential for the remains of either religious buildings, or ancillary structures associated with the religious community.

2.2.3 Roman archaeology has been recorded in a number of areas around the proposed development area, including cemetery sites to the East (DMU Elfed Thomas Building) and substantial amounts of suburban activity at Bonners Lane, Grange Lane, York Road and Oxford Street. Excavations by University of Leicester Archaeological Services at York Road and Oxford Street to the east of the development area and at Bonners Lane to the south-east have revealed evidence for Anglo-Saxon occupation in the form of structures and finds. Medieval archaeology is

represented by suburban occupation, as well as the Newark enclosure. The Newark Wall crossed through the footprint of the now completed Performance Arts (PACE) building, also revealing stratified medieval archaeological deposits. Post medieval archaeology is also known within the vicinity of the site, with the continued occupation of the Newark area and considerable activity during the English Civil War.

2.2.4 The potential for significant archaeology of Roman, Saxon, medieval and Post-medieval archaeology to have been present within the area is considered to be high. What is less certain is the disturbance that has occurred to the site area and any underlying archaeology that may have been present, from the construction of the former James Went Building. The structure is known to have been piled and with substantial ground beams. The ground beams were all removed during demolition, but the majority of piles were left *in situ* (Michael Moate, Umesh Desai – *pers. comm.*). The removal of floor slabs and ground beams was undertaken without any archaeological observation, thus the extent of disturbance to any remains that may have been present is unknown. The original ground level of the area is also unknown with evidence to suggest the area has been subject to a considerable amount of landscaping. If the area has been reduced in height then this may have had a detrimental effect on any underlying archaeology, but could have helped to protect remains should the area have been raised in height.

2.2.5 Archaeological field evaluation was undertaken on the site of the former James Went in advance of the construction of a new Performance Arts (PACE) building. Archaeological features relating to Roman, medieval and post-medieval occupation on the site were revealed in the two trenches. The densest activity was recorded in Trench 2, closest to the Oxford Street frontage where evidence of Roman property boundary activity was revealed beneath medieval garden soil. Later medieval and post-medieval pitting was also observed. The site area had been badly damaged by modern disturbances, including the footings of the former James Went building that stood on the site.

2.2.6 Subsequently, during construction, a watching brief within the footprint of the former James Went building revealed Roman boundary ditches, medieval and post-medieval pits and the foundations of the Newarke wall – a substantial sandstone wall built *c.*1400 to enclose the precinct of the College of the Annunciation of St Mary. Outside the footprint of the old building, preservation was better and salvage excavation and recording revealed further Roman boundary ditches, surfaces, possible structural features, a glass-working hearth, etc. relating to extra-mural properties adjacent to the Tripontium Road. Structure(s), pits, etc. of medieval/post-medieval date relating to suburban properties along Oxford Street were also recorded. A further short section of the Newarke wall was exposed, this surviving to a height of *c.*1.5m; this remains *in situ*. Photographs of this area in 1967, prior to construction of the James Went building, indicate that the Newarke wall survived to a height in excess of 3m right across the site at that time. The excavators concluded that a well-preserved stratified sequence should survive in this area, which is likely to include Roman road and roadside buildings/activity areas, medieval and post-medieval buildings and other settlement related features. From the topography of the landscaped area north of the current site, it appears that a further substantial section of the Newarke wall is also likely to be encountered.

3 Archaeological Objectives and Methodologies

3.1 Archaeological Objectives

3.1.1 The main objectives of the evaluation will be:

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

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

3.1.3 Trial trenching is an intrusive form of evaluation that will demonstrate the existence of earth-fast archaeological features that may exist within the area.

3.2 Methodologies

3.2.1 All work followed the Institute of Field Archaeologists (IFA) Code of Conduct and adhered to their Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluations.

3.2.2 Staffing, recording systems, Health and Safety provisions and insurance details were provided.

3.2.3 Internal monitoring procedures were undertaken including two visits to the site from the project manager. This ensured that the project targets were being met and professional standards were being maintained. Provision was made for external monitoring meetings with representatives of the clients and Leicester City Council.

Trial trenching

3.2.4 It was proposed to sample 12% of the footprint of the proposed structures, which in this instance amounted to about 378 sq. m (assuming a 3151 sq. m footprint), through the investigation of six 18m by 3m trenches (324 sq. m.).

3.2.5 The topsoil and disturbed subsoil was removed in spits by a 360 tracked machine using a toothless ditching bucket under full supervision, until archaeological deposits or undisturbed substrata were encountered.

3.2.6 The locations of trenches were surveyed using a Total Station Electronic Distance Measurer (EDM) linked to a Psion hand held computer, utilising Alfred McAlpine's survey stations.

3.2.7 Archaeological deposits that were located were hand cleaned and planned as appropriate to addressing the aims and objectives of the evaluation. Samples of the

archaeological deposits were hand excavated. Measured drawings of all archaeological features were prepared at a scale of 1:20 and tied into an overall site plan of 1:100. All plans will be tied into the National Grid using an Electronic Distance Measurer (EDM).

3.2.8 All excavated sections were recorded and drawn at 1:10 or 1:20 scale, levelled and tied into the Ordnance Survey datum. Spot heights were taken as appropriate.

3.2.9 Any human remains encountered will only be removed under a Home Office Licence and in compliance with relevant environmental health regulations. The client, Leicester City Council and the coroner will be informed immediately on their discovery.

4 Results

Stage one of the field evaluation represents four of the proposed six trenches of the overall evaluation. The remaining two trenches (four and five) cannot be investigated until the road realignment works have been completed (c.October 2007).

Due to site constraints, two of the trenches (one and six) were broken into 'a' and 'b' and trench seven was incorporated into the field evaluation to investigate the area between trenches two and three.

The various site constraints consisted of the remaining 'Interserve' compound near trench one, 'Alfred McAlpine's' compound near trench two, electrical cables near trench three and multiple services in the area proposed for trench six.

Of the proposed 252sq. m for stage one of the evaluation, 261.48sq. m were investigated. The total for the overall evaluation being 378sq. m based on 12% coverage of the 3151sq. m footprint.

4.1 Trench 1a

Trench 1a Details

<i>Dimension of Trench</i>	<i>c.9.1m x c.2.6-3.7m</i>
<i>Area of Trench</i>	<i>32.55sq.m</i>
<i>Surface Level (m OD)</i>	<i>c.61.07</i>
<i>Base of Trench (m OD)</i>	<i>c.57.87-58.27</i>

Trench one (a) was located in the very south-west corner of the site, orientated north-east by south-west (Fig.2). Demolition deposits from the former James Went building were known to exist here, and this trench established the depth of this destruction.

The southern end of the trench revealed this demolition deposit of crushed concrete to a depth of 57.87m OD, where a disturbed natural substratum of sandy gravel and red marl (clay) was reached.

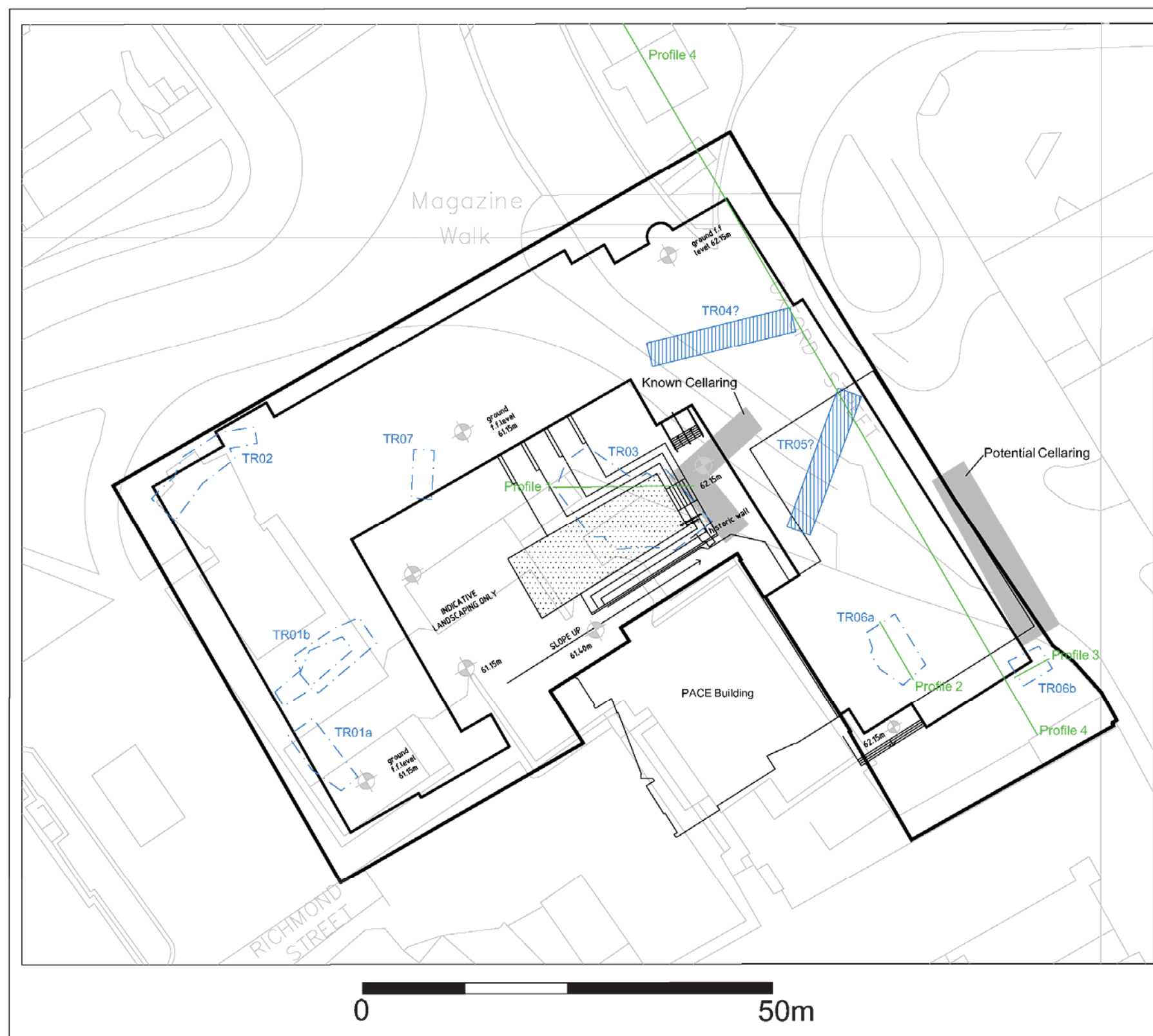


Fig. 2 – Showing Business and Law proposed footprint (inner black line), site boundary (outer black line) trench locations and proposed trench locations on modern OS map showing location of the former James Went Building. Reproduced from the OS map by permission of Ordnance Survey on behalf of The Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office. © Crown Copyright 1996. All rights reserved. Licence number AL 100021187.

At 4.4m from the southern end of the trench a cellar wall was observed to a depth of 2.8m from present. Although primarily of brick construction, two large Dane Hills sandstone blocks were observed at the very bottom of the wall, however, they did not appear to be *in-situ*, but re-used. The depth of the trench meant further investigation was impractical.

To the north of this cellar wall, more demolition deposits were encountered, including the remains of a pile core. Again, the natural substratum was disturbed, at a depth of 58.27m OD.

No artefacts were recovered from this trench.

4.2 Trench 1b

Trench 1b Details

<i>Dimension of Trench</i>	<i>c.12.0m x c.2.5-5.0m</i>
<i>Area of Trench</i>	<i>46.60sq.m</i>
<i>Surface Level (m OD)</i>	<i>c.61.08</i>
<i>Base of Trench (m OD)</i>	<i>c.58.00-60.00</i>

Trench one (b) was located in the very south-west corner of the site, orientated south-west by north-east, 3.5m to the north of trench one (a) (Fig.2).

The western 4.5m of the trench revealed further James Went demolition deposits to a depth of *c.58.00m OD*. Beyond this, to the east, a 'garden' soil (1) was reached at a depth of *60.00m OD*. This consisted of mid-dark greyish-brown friable silty clay with occasional gravel. The base of this deposit undulates, suggestive of ridge and furrow activity (Fig.3-S1.01).

Once this was removed, a level of archaeological deposits was reached at a depth of *59.60-59.80m OD* (Fig.3-P1.02).

The natural substratum consisted of a mid-light brownish-yellow firm clayey-sand. It was not truncated, so gives a true level of natural at *59.40m OD*. Above this were two similar subsoil layers (3) and (4) which both consisted of a mid brownish-yellow firm silty sand (layer (4) was slightly darker than (3)).

Overlying these subsoil layers was a layer of sparse metalling (5). The matrix is identical to (3) with frequent rounded gravel *c.30-70mm* in diameter. This metalling was also observed on the east of a small cellar that was removed in the middle of the trench. Above this was another layer (2) that consisted of a light-mid brownish-grey friable silty sand.

Cutting this layer in the west of the area was an undated posthole [6] *c.0.57m* in diameter which consisted of a mid brownish-grey friable silty sand with occasional rounded gravel (7) (Fig.3-S1.03). It was truncated and survived to a depth of *0.18m*.

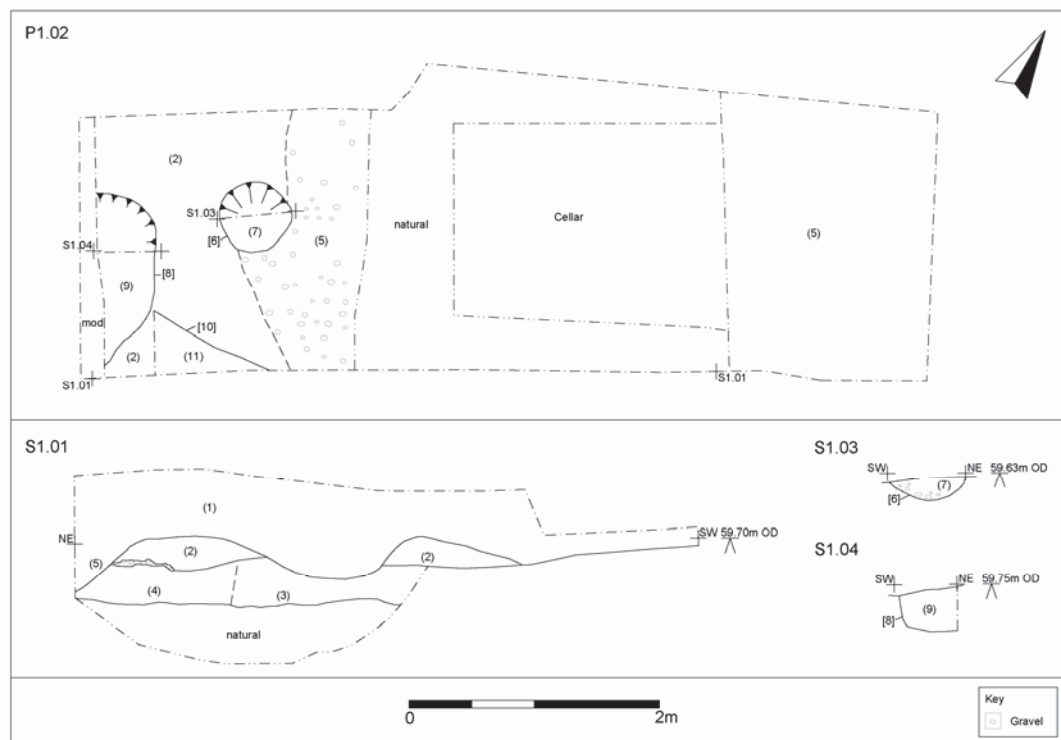


Figure 3 – Trench one plan and sections

To the west of this was an undated pit [8]. It was partially seen for 1.4m north-west by south-east and 0.4m north-east by south-west and consisted of a mid red firm clay (9), seen to a depth of 0.38m (Fig.3-S1.04).

Above this was the ‘garden’ soil layer (1) with its’ undulations, one of which truncated pit [8] in the south of the trench [10]-(11). The spacing of the bottom of the furrows would be every 2m and orientated east-west. One fragment of pottery dated from c.1100-1300 was recovered from this layer.

4.3 Trench 2

Trench 2 Details

<i>Dimension of Trench</i>	c.17.0m x c.2.1-3.6m
<i>Area of Trench</i>	49.36sq.m
<i>Surface Level (m OD)</i>	c.61.05
<i>Base of Trench (m OD)</i>	c.58.35-59.95

Trench two was located in the very north-west of the site, orientated north-east by south-west (Fig.2).

The western 12m of the trench revealed further James Went demolition deposits to a depth of 2.2m below present. Below this, in the first 4m of the trench, was a disturbed natural substratum of sandy gravels observed for a further 0.5m in depth. A land drain was encountered and avoided at this point, and the trench continued from 6.7m. The natural substratum of sandy gravels was reached below the demolition deposit of 2.2m depth. A pit filled with ‘garden’ soil was observed at this level however it had

been almost totally destroyed by a decommissioned service and was therefore not investigated.

At 12m from the west end of the trench, the demolition deposit terminated and a 'garden' soil (identical to (1) in trench one (b)) was located at a depth of 59.95m. Removal of this to a depth of 59.45m OD revealed a partially truncated sandy gravel natural substratum. No further archaeological deposits were observed. At 16m a decommissioned service was encountered.

Some fragments of Roman and medieval pottery were recovered from the modern disturbance within this trench.

4.4 Trench 3

Trench 3 Details

<i>Dimension of Trench</i>	various and 'zig-zag' shaped
<i>Area of Trench</i>	67.93sq.m
<i>Surface Level (m OD)</i>	c.62.20-62.90
<i>Base of Trench (m OD)</i>	c.60.38

Trench three was located in the centre of the site extending north and west from the exposed stretch of the Newarke Wall (Fig.2). From this point, the trench headed north-west for 8.5m, where a potentially live electric cable (11,000V) was located. Avoiding this, the trench turned south-west for 7m and returned to head north-west for a further 11m (Fig.4).

The modern overburden was observed to a depth of c.61.30m OD except for the extant remains of the Newarke Wall which still survived to a height of c.62.40m OD. Below the modern overburden, archaeological layers were reached.

4.4.1 Roman

A truncated pit [23] was partially observed for 1.85m north-west to south-east and 0.5m south-west to north-east on the north-eastern edge of the southern part of the trench next to the Newarke Wall. The fill consisted of a light pinkish-brown compact silty loam with occasional charcoal flecks and small rounded stone (24). The pottery recovered suggests a date from the first half of the 2nd century (Fig. 5-S5.03).

4.4.2 Earlier Medieval

A 'garden' soil was observed overlying the natural substratum (a mixed yellow sandy gravel and red clay marl). In the south-east of the trench this was identified as (22) which consisted of a mid reddish-brown clayey silt mottled with lumps of pink clay, occasional charcoal and small gravel. It was on average 0.6m deep. In the centre of the trench it was identified as (36), but consisted of a mottled greyish-brown friable silty clay with occasional small rounded stone and c.0.4m thick.

Below (22), though likely to have been cutting it, was pit [25] (Fig.5-S5.02). It was circular and c.2.2m in diameter, and although not bottomed, was excavated to a depth

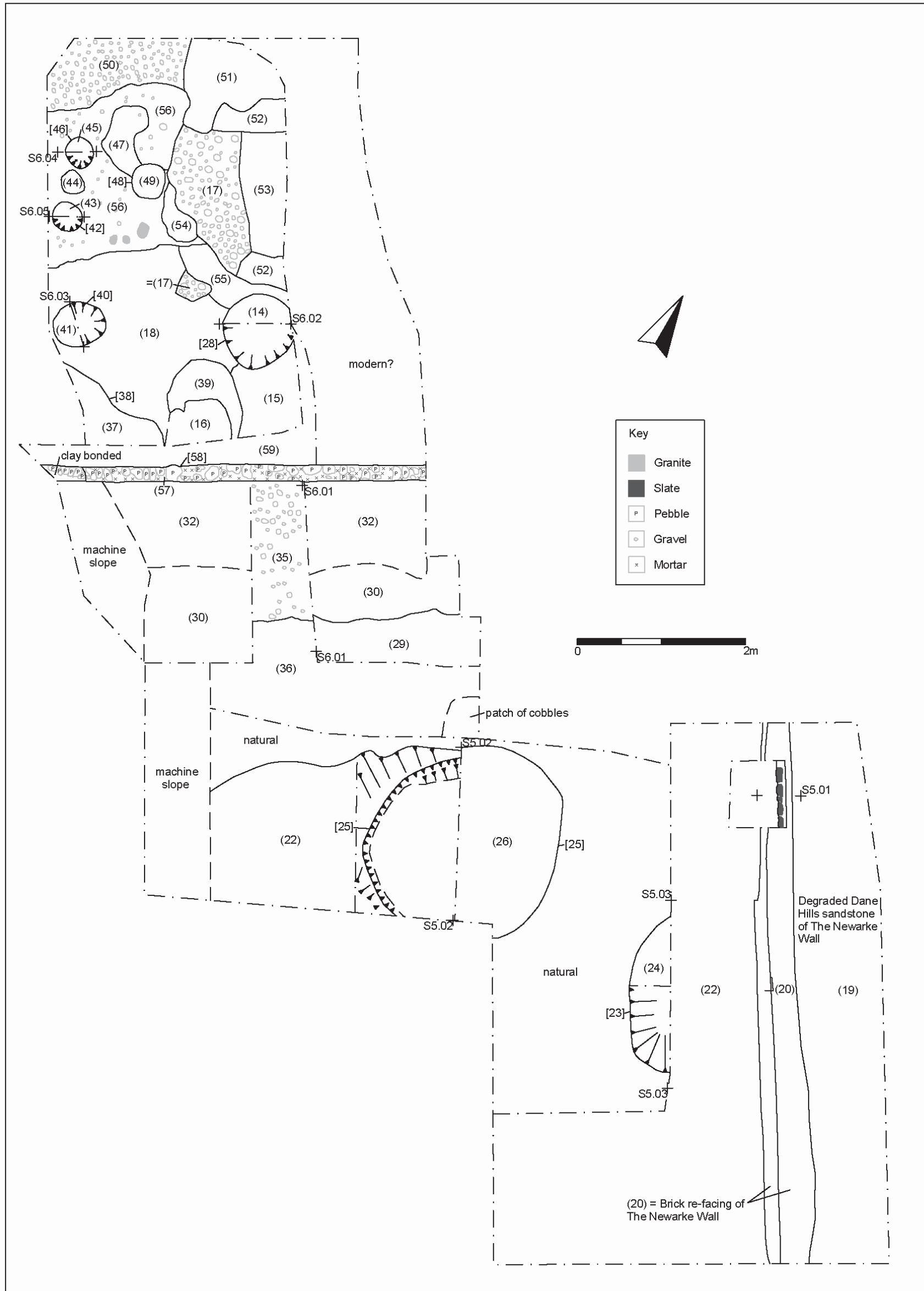


Figure 4 – Trench three plan

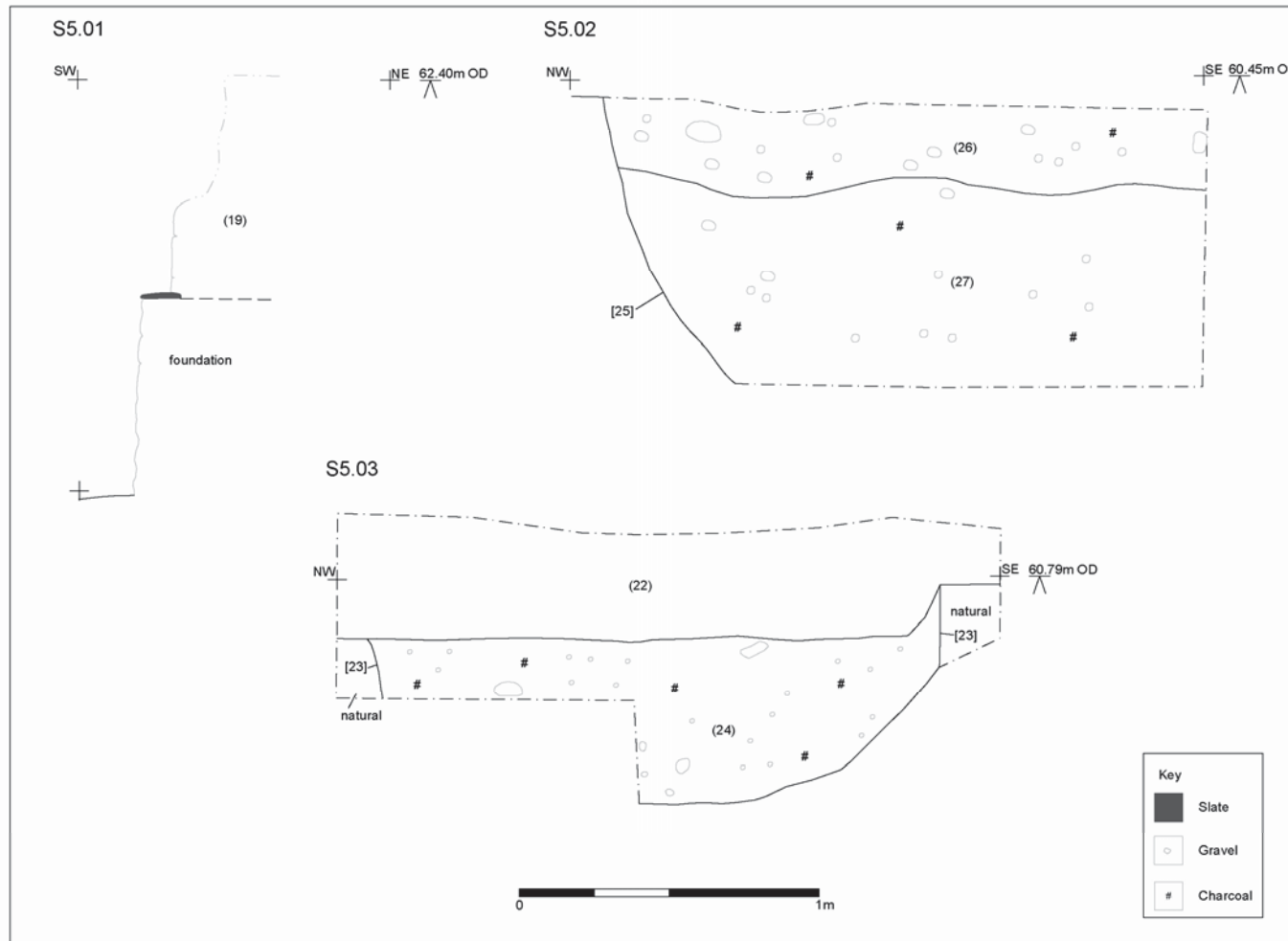


Figure 5 – Sections from the southern end of the Trench three.

of 1m. A further pit probably lay to the south-west but was also concealed by (22) which formed a consolidation layer in the top of both pits. Fill (27) was the lowest reached, consisted of a dark greyish-brown friable clayey silt with occasional small stone and rare charcoal, and dated to *c.*1100-1400 from 37 sherds of pottery if a single small sherd of 16th century pottery is considered intrusive. The uppermost fill (26) is identical to (22) and dated to the later 13th century.

Above (36), a layer of cobbling was observed (35) which consisted of a mid greyish-brown friable silty clay with 25% cobbles of *c.*20-70mm in diameter. A single sherd of pottery amongst the cobbles dated to the *c.*12th century, though is possibly earlier (Fig.6-S6.01).

Due to the recording of layers in plan, these will be described here briefly with assumptions made about contemporaneity.

Layer (18) is probably the same as 'garden' soil (36) with sparse cobbled surfaces (56)/(52)/(15) above being the same as (34) a stony, clayey layer above (35), and dated to *c.*1100-1300. Cobbled surfaces (50) and (17) appear to be later in the sequence and are more substantial surfaces.

Postholes [42] (Fig.6-S6.05) and [46] (Fig.6-S6.04) are *c.*0.34m in diameter, 0.19m deep and consisted of a mid greyish-brown (flecked with orange and black) friable silty loam, (43) and (45) respectively. Fill (45) contained pottery from *c.*1100-1300.

Two further possible postholes were not investigated, (44) and [48].

A large posthole or small pit [28] (Fig.6-S6.02) was *c.*0.8m in diameter, 0.55m deep and consisted of a mid pinkish-brown friable clay silt (14), also dated to *c.*1100-1300.

Above this level of occupation activity was layer (33) (Fig.6-S6.01), a mid grey-brown firm silty clay with occasional charcoal and mortar flecks *c.*0.25m thick. This presumably continues north of this section drawn over the area of cobbles. Layers (31) and (32) overlie (33) and are both *c.*0.25m thick. Layer (31) was also dated to *c.*1100-1300.

At this level, *c.*0.5m above the earlier medieval activity, a differently characterised set of features exist.

4.4.3 Medieval - Late medieval

The Newarke wall (19) was exposed for a length of 6.5m until an electrical cable was located. However, by this point the eastern side of the wall appeared (from the top) to have been severely truncated. It is orientated north-west by south-east. The western side of the wall was re-faced with brick (20). A section of the brick-work was removed to reveal the Newarke wall beneath (Fig.5-S5.01 and Plate 1). The upper 0.4m of the wall had been truncated whilst the lower 0.35m was still faced with Dane Hills sandstone. This appeared to be sat on a layer of slate (re-used as a base for the brick wall) which lay over the foundations of 0.65m depth, consisting of what appeared to be Dane Hills sandstone, slate and mortar. A cut was not visible. It is believed the wall was constructed *c.*1400.



Plate 1 – The Newarke Wall in Trench three, illustrating damage, facing stone and foundation.

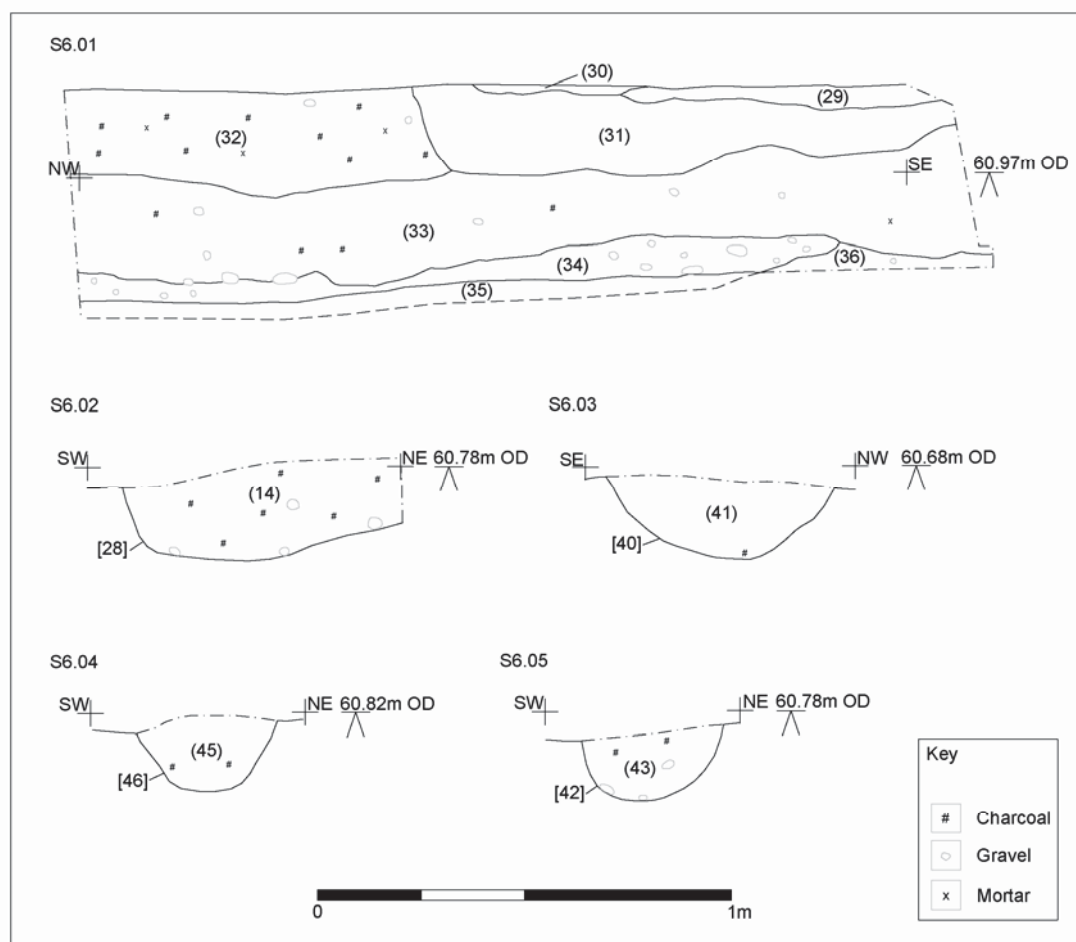


Figure 6 – Sections from the centre and northern end of the trench.

In the centre of the site, a wall foundation (57) of 0.2m width was located orientated south-west by north-east (perpendicular to the Newarke wall) through the trench for 4.5m. It primarily consisted of pebbles bonded with mortar however it was bonded with clay for 0.5m in the very west of the trench. It appeared to be the only surviving course of pebbles, being no more than 0.1m deep.

To the north of this wall foundation, demolition layer (59) was observed which consisted of a brownish-grey, mottled yellow, soft silt with 50% crushed sandstone and 20% mortar (crushed and fragments). This was machined away carefully to mitigate the earlier medieval activity mentioned above.

To the south of this wall foundation, overlying layer (31) is a light brownish-grey silty clay (29) which is overlain by layer (30) (Fig.6-S6.01). Layer (30) consisted of a light greenish-brown sand, essentially crushed Dane Hills sandstone and was also orientated south-west by north-east.

Although no artefacts were recovered from these features, their place in the sequence, orientation and character suggested a later date, and certainly contemporary with, or post-construction, of the Newarke wall.

4.4.4 Post-medieval

A post-hole or bottom of a small pit *c.*0.5m in diameter was located amongst the earlier medieval activity [40] (Fig.6-S6.03). However, this consisted of a mid greyish-brown firm silty-clay with occasional small gravel (41) dated to *c.*1500-1750.

4.4.5 Twentieth century

The brick re-facing to the Newarke wall and a crushed brick foundation observed during machining are both likely to relate to the barracks that were here in the twentieth century. The foundation was perpendicular to the Newarke wall, heading south-west from just north of section 5.01 (Fig.4). It then turned a right angle (parallel to the Newarke wall) and headed north-west over the area of the slot (S6.01) revealing cobbles (35), feature [28] and modern disturbance layer (51), travelling into the northern baulk.

4.5 Trench 6a

Trench 6a Details

<i>Dimension of Trench</i>	<i>c.</i> 7.6m x <i>c.</i> 4.6m
<i>Area of Trench</i>	34.39sq.m
<i>Surface Level (m OD)</i>	<i>c.</i> 62.90
<i>Base of Trench (m OD)</i>	<i>c.</i> 62.35/61.85/61.43

Trench six (a) was located on the east of the site adjacent to the new Performance Arts (PACE) building from the edge of the landscaped slope (Fig.2). It was orientated north-west by south-east. The trench could not extend east due to a fibre optic cable, south due to a BT cable or north due to a pedestrian barrier.

The modern landscaped topsoil was removed to a depth of 62.35-62.45m OD where extensive archaeological deposits were reached. A slot was placed through an archaeological clay layer to investigate a small area in the south of the trench. Archaeological layers (clay and mortar floor surfaces) were visible in the landscaped slope on the west of the trench (but to the south of the trench area), so a slot was placed into the slope to evaluate the depths and character of deeper stratified deposits.



Figure 7 – Trench six (a) plan.

4.5.1 Unknown (Roman – medieval)

The base of the western slot (Fig.8-S9.01 and Plate 3) in the side of the landscaped sloped partially revealed a deposit that consisted of a light-mid yellowish-brown friable silty sand with occasional small angular stone (97) 0.14m deep. A layer that consisted of a mid-dark brownish-grey silty clay with occasional rounded stone (72) overlay this. Its depth was observed for at least 0.16m.

In the north of the slot, an unknown partially observed feature [74] truncated this layer, also at least 0.16m deep. The lowest observed fill consisted of a mid brownish-grey soft sandy clay (76). Above this was a light-mid yellowish-brown friable silty sand (73) (identical to (97)). Directly above this, and possibly in the top of the cut feature (it respects the edge of cut [74], and interestingly, the stone wall foundation **86** above) was a metalling layer that consisted of an orangey-yellow sand matrix with 30% rounded gravel (10-50mm diameter) and 20% pea grit (75).

4.5.2 Medieval

The slot through the clay layer in the south of the trench (Fig.8-S11.01) revealed a layer that consisted of a mid-dark orangey-brown-grey friable clayey silt with occasional charcoal flecks, mortar lumps, crushed Dane Hills sandstone lumps, slate fragments, small angular and rounded stone, and pebbles (80). Pottery suggests a date of c.1250-1300 and possibly into the 14th century.

4.5.3 Late medieval - Post-medieval

Above metalling layer (75) and layer (72) in the western slot (Fig.8-S9.01), a layer was revealed that consisted of a dark blackish-grey friable silty clay with occasional charcoal flecks and mortar fragments (71). It varied in depth 0.1-0.35m, sloping down to the north-west and dated from pottery to c.1375-1550. Above this was another layer, which consisted of a mid-dark brownish-grey friable silty clay with occasional slate fragments and rounded stone and frequent charcoal flecks (70). It levelled the slope created by (71) and was therefore 0.24-0.55m in depth. It contained pottery dated to c.1475-1550.

Truncating layer (80) in the southern slot (Fig.8-S11.01), was a potential posthole [82], however it was only partially seen in plan (Fig.7). It consisted of a light-mid yellowish-brown friable sandy clay with occasional crushed sandstone and mortar flecks and lumps, charcoal and two granite stones (c.240x140x40mm) (81).

The south of the slot revealed a mid orangey-yellowish-brown soft fine sand deposit (89) that was overlain by a band of a possible occupation layer with frequent charcoal (88). This was overlain by layer (84), that consisted of a mid orangey-brown friable clay loam with occasional charcoal and crushed mortar/plaster. This layer also overlay feature [82].

Above this was a small mid orange soft sandy clay deposit 0.03m deep and 0.32m long (83).

Above layer (80) in the north of the southern slot, a fragment of a possible mortar floor (79) was observed 0.07m deep and 0.5m long. It was also observed in the opposite section of the slot and in plan there also. Above this was a red compact clay layer (60), possibly a floor surface, at least 0.1m thick (Fig.8-S11.01).

Above this, and to the north is layer (85) which consisted of a red compact clay with occasional slate and granite and pressed in brick (Fig.7). This seems to be a part of, or a levelled part of, wall foundation **86** (Plate 2 – on the left). The wall foundation consisted of a red clay matrix with 60% granite, 10% mudstone, 5% sandstone (Dane

Hills and yellow sandstone), and occasional mortar and slate. It was orientated north-east by south-west and at least 0.9m wide.

Directly to the north of this, and of the same orientation, was a presumed stone path **87** (Plate 2 – on the right). It consisted of 80% granite, 10% large pebbles and Dane Hills sandstone, occasional mortar and ceramic building material (CBM) and 0.86m wide. Both are seen in the top of the western slot overlying layer (70).

Although no direct dating evidence was located for the wall foundation or path, they overlay layer (70), dated to *c.*1475-1550, and were overlain by a levelling layer (62), which was mostly cleaned away to reveal the stone, that contained pottery from *c.*1475-1550 and early-mid 17th century clay pipe bowls, along with the occasional piece of pressed in brick.



Plate 2 – showing stone wall foundation and path in trench 6a.



Plate 3 – showing medieval or Roman metallurgy below 'garden' soils and wall foundation in trench 6a (Fig.8-S9.01).

Truncating layer (60) to the south, as observed in the southern slot, was a large cut feature [77] seen throughout the southern end of the trench (Fig.7 and Fig.8-S11.01). It is 0.54m deep on this side of the slot, but cuts deeper on the opposite side where it can be seen in plan. It consisted of a mid pinkish red compact sandy-clay with 5% rounded stone, 5% mortar/plaster and occasional slate fragments, crushed sandstone, mudstone and charcoal (78). This feature has been dated to *c.*1500-1750.

To the north of path **87** layers were observed at a similar level OD (Fig.7). Deposit (94) was reminiscent of layer (70) and appeared to be below the others. Layer (92) was red compact clay layer/floor surface dated to the early 17th century from a pipe bowl, whilst layer (90) was dated from pottery to *c.*1500-1750. An area of (90) next to the path contained a high quantity of mortar, suggestive of demolition.

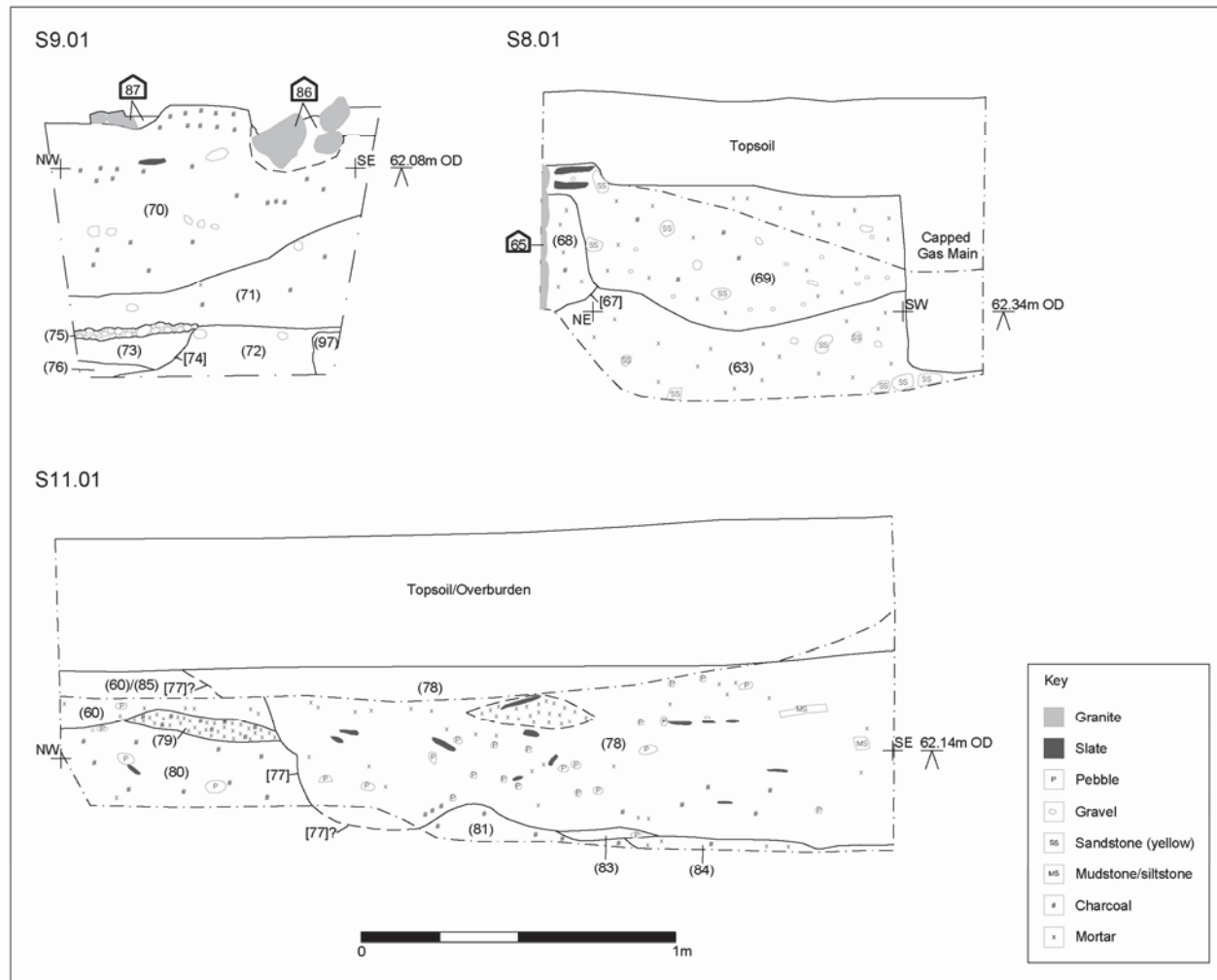


Figure 8 – Sections from Trenches six (a) and (b).

4.6 Trench 6b

Trench 6b Details

<i>Dimension of Trench</i>	<i>c.4.1m x c.3.4m</i>
<i>Area of Trench</i>	<i>13.95sq.m</i>
<i>Surface Level (m OD)</i>	<i>c.63.10</i>
<i>Base of Trench (m OD)</i>	<i>c.62.02</i>

Trench six (b) was located in the very south-east corner of the site orientated north-east by south-west (Fig.2). It could not extend east or north due to a pedestrian barrier, south due to two 11,000V electric cables, or west due to a capped mains and the fibre optic cable.

The modern landscaped topsoil was removed to a depth of 62.80m OD where a stone wall foundation was reached. A slot was placed through an archaeological demolition/make-up layer to the south-west of this to investigate (Fig.9).

4.6.1 Post-medieval

Layer (63) was only partially seen in the bottom of the trench and the slot sides (Fig.8-S8.01 and Fig.9). It was seen for at least 0.34m deep and throughout the base of the slot. It consisted of a light-mid pinkish-brown friable silty clay with frequent sandstone fragments and mortar flecks, and occasional charcoal and small rounded stone. Pottery was dated to *c.1650+*.

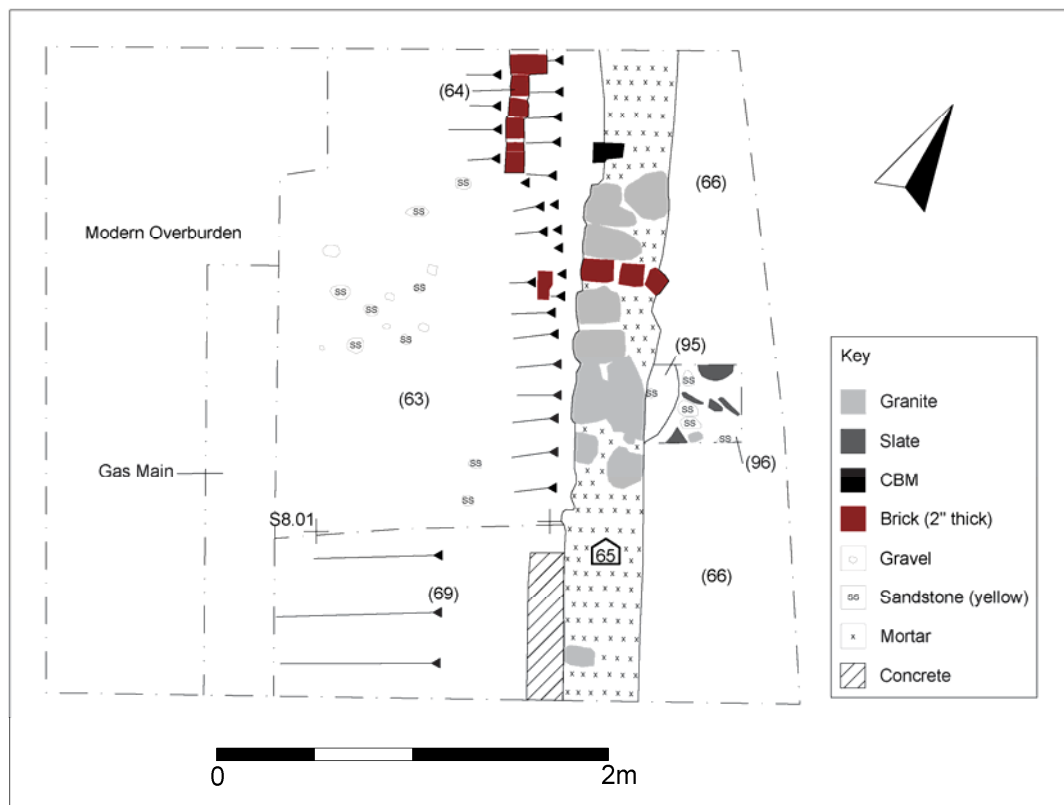


Figure 9 – Trench six (b) plan.

Near the base of the trench, and set in to layer (63) was a single course of bricks (64). The bricks were 2” thick and considered to date to no later than the later 17th century.

Truncating this was cut [67] for wall foundation **65**, orientated north-west by south-east. The wall foundation consisted of roughly hewn granite bonded with a light whitish mortar. To the north of the wall foundation between the granite was a one brick thick course of brick through the width of the foundation (Fig.9). The fill of the foundation cut consisted of a dark brown friable silty-clay with occasional slate and mortar fragments, and red clay lumps. This was potentially truncated by, but definitely overlain by, layer (69) which also abuts the wall foundation. It is 0.5m thick and observed for 1.1m to the south-west. It consisted of a light-mid greyish-brown friable silty clay with frequent mortar and sandstone fragments, and occasional slate fragments, pebbles, small rounded stone and charcoal flecks.

To the east of the wall foundation, a small hand dug slot was placed through layer (66) (very similar to (69)). The layer was 0.3m thick, and revealed further deposits. Deposit (96) consisted of a mid yellowish-brown loose matrix that consisted of 30% slate fragments, 30% crushed sandstone and 30% crushed sandstone fragments, and occasional charcoal. To the west of this next to the wall foundation was a red compact clay deposit (95).

Layer (66) above these was dated to *c.*1650+

4.6.2 Early Modern

A layer of bricks was machined off the top of the wall foundation. Their date is uncertain. However, machining of the upper soil in the trench produced unstratified pottery dating to the 19th century (Debbie Sawday *pers comm.*).

4.7 Trench 7

Trench 7 Details

<i>Dimension of Trench</i>	<i>c.</i> 6m x <i>c.</i> 2.5m
<i>Area of Trench</i>	14.70sq.m
<i>Surface Level (m OD)</i>	<i>c.</i> 61.40
<i>Base of Trench (m OD)</i>	<i>c.</i> 58.50

Trench seven was located in the centre of the site between trenches two and three (Fig.2). It revealed James Went demolition deposits to a depth of at least 2.9m below present.

5 Discussion

5.1 Roman

5.1.1 Only one feature dating to the Roman period was located, pit [23] in trench three, which dated to the first half of the second century. This certainly illustrates that there was activity outside the Roman town walls on the west side of the Tripontium road heading north into the town.

5.1.2 Unstratified Roman pottery was recovered from trenches one and six (a). Trench three produced a large quantity of residual pottery in a medieval pit [25] that dated from the second to the fourth centuries.

5.1.3 Although no dating evidence was recovered from the metalling (5) in trench one and feature [74] in trench six (a), the leached colours of the fills are indicative of Roman features. The metalling (75) above feature [74] with its bright orange matrix is also reminiscent of Roman street metalling. It may even be the fragmentary remains of the very western edge of the Tripontium road.

5.2 Late Roman – Saxo-Norman

5.2.1 The soil layer below the cobbles (35) in trench three remains undated. This may be either a ‘dark’ earth from this period, or it may represent an early agricultural ‘garden’ soil from the start of the earlier medieval period.

5.3 Earlier medieval

5.3.1 Extensive earlier medieval deposits were located in trench three indicative of occupation. Cobbled surfaces and postholes would suggest timber structures. The date of this activity pre-dates the enclosure of the Newarke c.1400, is highly significant and would aid in the understanding of medieval activities in this area prior to the enclosure, particularly questions of status from environmental remains from pits such as pit [25] and [28].

5.3.2 Earlier medieval activity is suggested in trench six (a). With the preservation such as it is for the post-medieval activity, the earlier medieval deposits should have survived below these levels.

5.3.3 The garden soils present in trenches one, two and three are likely to originate from this period. Trench one illustrated the presence of ridge and furrow. Ridge and furrow earthworks were formed by repeated ploughing, using a coulter, share and mouldboard. Although the mouldboard had been in use since prehistoric times, this type of ploughing equipment was common from the 11th century. It required a team of oxen or horses to provide traction. The coulter and share were pulled through the earth and the mouldboard turned the sod to one side. When the team had turned, the process was repeated from the opposite direction, turning the sod so that it abutted the first, forming a ridge. The ridge was thought to aid drainage and also to define the limits of a person’s land (Astill, 1988, 70). From the 16th century onwards fields were turned over to permanent pasture, which has led to the effect of ‘fossilising’ ridge and furrow in the landscape (Astill 1988, 71). Similar earthworks have also been

made by more modern processes, such as 19th – early 20th century steam ploughing; however, these tend to be very straight and exactly parallel with hedge boundaries. Generally the ‘garden’ soils are rather barren, however, occasionally ephemeral medieval structures can be located within the soil (Tate, forthcoming, Gnanaratnam, forthcoming, Finn, forthcoming).

5.4 Medieval – Late medieval

5.4.1 The Newarke wall in trench three is considered to have been built *c.*1400 to enclose the precinct of the College of the Annunciation of St. Mary. The wall foundation (57) in trench three, being perpendicular to the Newarke wall, is likely to date from this period or later. Perhaps forming a property boundary or more likely to support a timber structure, due to its’ width. The crushed sandstone layer (30) to the south of the foundation wall could be either a floor surface within a timber structure, or debris from the construction of the Newarke wall. The sandstone demolition layer (59) is also intriguing in this respect. It could represent debris from when stone was being dressed for the Newarke wall here or alternatively, later damage or destruction, perhaps even during the Civil War.

5.4.2 The soil layers (70), (71) and (80) in trench six (a) dated to this period, and are likely to be ‘garden’ soils or build up of soils in the backs of properties that fronted onto Oxford Street. With the presence of the Newarke wall to the rear of, and containing, these properties, the build up soils may have been accelerated.

5.4.3 The complex archaeological deposits in the southern slot of trench six (a) are likely to date to the late medieval period.

5.5 Post-medieval

5.5.1 The stone structures in trenches six (a) and (b) are likely to date to this period with re-use continuing into the early modern period. It was observed that the 1888 OS map, when aligned with the trench plan, reveals a backyard property boundary wall on the exact alignment of the stone wall foundation in trench six (a). However, the floor surfaces observed in this trench would not suggest backyard, but the inside of a building. It may be that an outer wall survived into the later period to be used as a boundary wall.

5.5.2 The stone wall foundation in trench six (b) is also likely to be have been re-used, and originally been an internal wall between a front room and a back room. The extensive demolition or make-up deposits either side of the foundation would also suggest a former structure here.

5.6 Survival of archaeological levels and potential impacts

The following illustrations (Profiles 1-3) are representative cross-sections through the known archaeological levels in trenches three, six (a) and six (b) (Fig.10a, b and c). The heights are accurate, whilst the lengths are representative. The last profile (Profile 4) represents changes in the road level to Oxford Street between 1888 and present within the foot-print of the proposed Business and Law building (Fig.11). This has been constructed to establish the likelihood of survival of archaeological deposits in

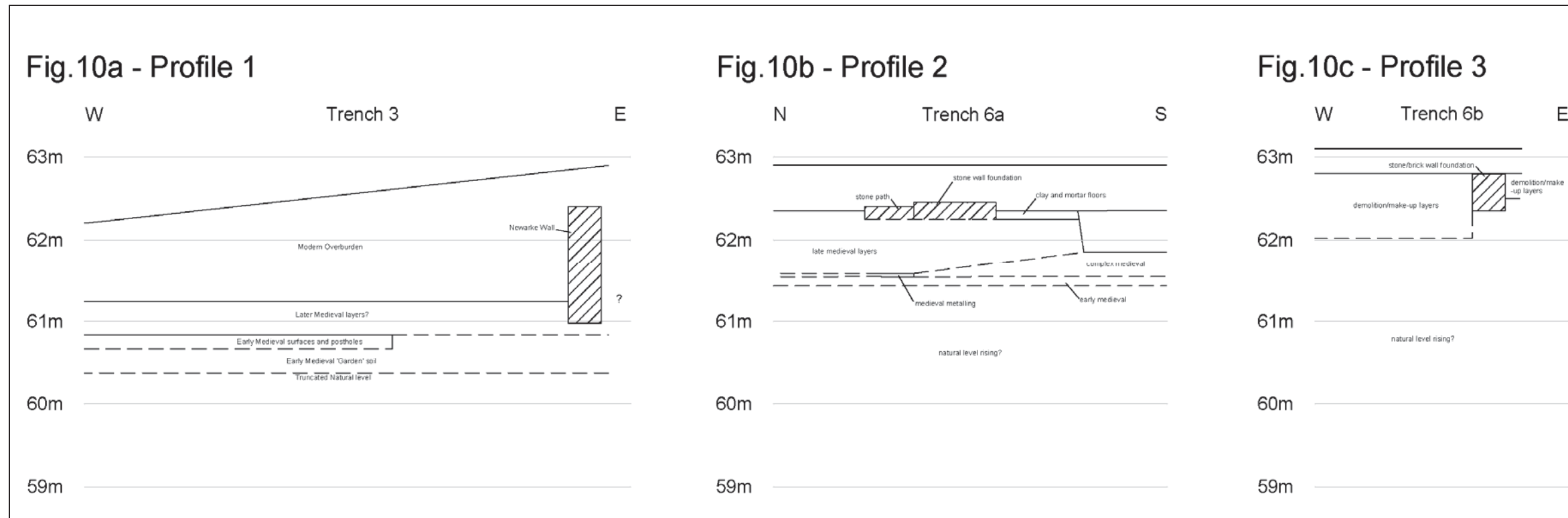


Figure 10 – Representative profiles through trenches three and six (a and b). Profile location can be found on Figure 2 (lengths not to scale).

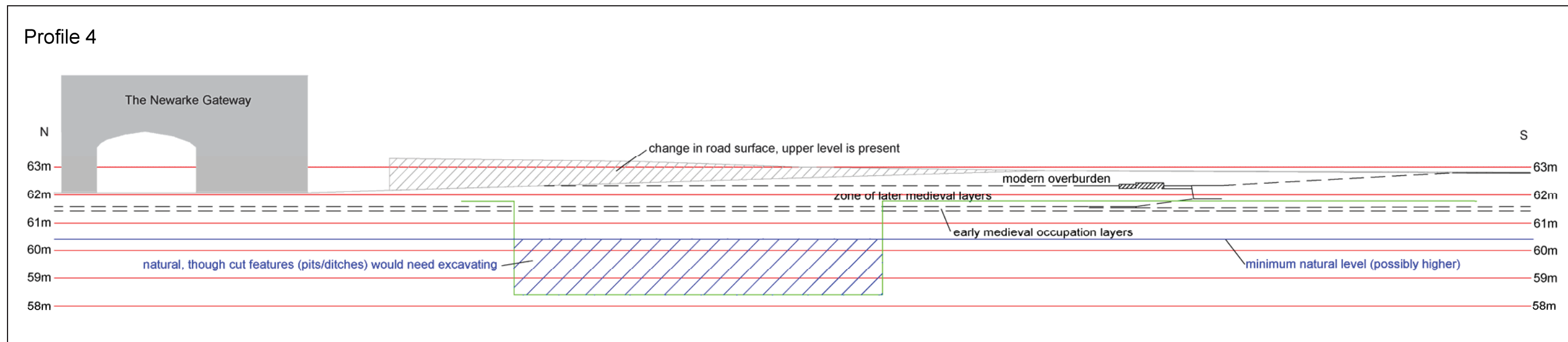


Figure 11 - Representative profile through Oxford Street illustrating change in road levels between 1888 and present with trench 6a profile representing archaeological levels. Natural substratum level taken from truncated natural seen in trench 3. The green line indicates the 'proposed formation' level for the new building (heights to scale, lengths not to scale).

this area as stage two of the evaluation cannot take place until the road re-alignment works in Oxford Street has been completed (Proposed trenches four and five, *c.* October, 2007 (Fig. 2)). The levels used here for the Victorian road height are a guide only as Victorian spot heights have been converted from feet to metres OD (which also includes the datum relocation adjustment). The location of the profiles can be found on Figure 2. The levels for all of the trenches can also be found in tabular form (Fig. 12).

Trench three (Fig.10a) is located within the courtyard area of the proposed building (Fig.2). Dependent upon the location of the slab level change between the northern and western wing of the proposed building, the 'amphitheatre' arrangement and the borehole heating system depths (criss-cross of pipes one metre below courtyard level, linked to a 5m grid of boreholes), the archaeological deposits may be impacted upon. Although the surviving stretch of the Newarke wall revealed in the trench will definitely be impacted upon, in view of its degraded nature, the City Archaeologist has agreed that there will be no requirement for preservation in situ. Instead, an appropriate programme of excavation and recording, including a cross section, will be undertaken to secure 'preservation by record'.

Trenches six (a and b) (Fig.10b and c) both contain high survival of archaeological deposits well above the proposed bottom of slab level of 61.775m OD. Based on this, *c.*1.25m of stratigraphy will need to be excavated here just to reach that level.

The profile through Oxford Street (Fig.11) has been constructed using the Victorian road spot heights so are only a suggestive level for the original properties on the Oxford Street frontage. It suggests that the road level has been built up towards the north and by as much as 1m just south of The Newarke Gateway. Dependant upon destruction from modern services, and assuming a 0.5m destruction level for the present road surface, survival increases significantly to the north. It was also noted that the 1888 map shows undulation in the road surface, in particular a dipping around The Newarke Gateway. This may follow undulations in the medieval road. The levels of medieval layers and occupation illustrated here, are taken from trench six (a) and although drawn on a level, are most likely to undulate also.

Figure 2 also illustrates the site plan with areas of known cellaring marked (taken from Goad insurance plans). One cellar occurs within the building foot-print behind the Bull's Head pub ('L' shape to the east of trench three). A photograph of properties 17-23 on Oxford Street (Plate 4) has also revealed potential cellaring at the front of two properties in the south-east of the site, just outside the building foot-print. The remainder of the properties between these and The Newarke Gateway are terraced houses and always have the potential to contain cellars on the frontage. However, these will also lie just outside of the foot-print of the proposed building.



Plate 4 – Properties 17-23 (right-left) Oxford Street, Leicester (1963). Source: Courtney, P. and Courtney, Y., 1995. *The Changing Face of Leicester*. Britain in Old Photographs Series. Stroud: Alan Sutton Publishing. Page 111.

Trench	Present Ground Level	Bottom of Overburden	Archaeological Levels (m OD)	
1a	c.61.07	57.87-58.27	n/a	n/a
1b	c.61.08	58.00/60.00	Top of 'garden' soil Top of archaeology Top of natural substratum	60.00 59.60- 59.80 59.40
2	c.61.05	West end - 58.85 East end - 59.95	Top of 'garden' soil Top of natural substratum	59.95 59.45
3	c.62.20-62.90	c.61.20	Top of The Newarke wall Top of wall foundation Top of lower medieval Top of medieval pit Top of natural (truncated?)	c.62.40 61.24 60.67- 60.84 60.40 60.38
6a	c.62.90	c.62.45-62.30	Top of wall foundation Top of soils next to wall Bottom of slot (complex archaeology) Top of lower medieval Top of lowest archaeology seen	62.45 62.35 61.85 61.58 61.43
6b	c.63.10	c.62.80	Top of wall foundation Top of lowest archaeology seen	62.80 62.02
7	c.61.40	c.58.50	n/a	n/a

Figure 12 – Table of levels from evaluation trenches.

6 Conclusion

6.1 The first stage of field evaluation within the footprint of the proposed Business and Law building has revealed that whilst much of the western and northern area of the site has been severely truncated by the former James Went building, and associated demolition deposits, small pockets of archaeological deposits do survive. It is worth noting here that the very north-west of the site lies within the potential burial ground for the Collegiate Church of the Annunciation of St. Mary, and the likelihood of disturbing burials of this date would still be a possibility.

6.2 The eastern and central areas of the site have revealed that extensive archaeological deposits survive in this area of high ground as little as 0.3m below the present ground surface, dating from at least the earlier medieval period through to the late post-medieval period and beyond. The survival of these deposits and apparent absence of cellaring within the building footprint would suggest a very high likelihood for the survival of Roman deposits, including the Tripontium road below these. It is worth noting here that Roman burials are known to extend south from the Roman town defences either side of the Tripontium road, so the likelihood of disturbing burials of this date increases towards the north and centre of the site.

6.3 Whilst the Newarke wall still survives to a height of 0.65m in places, it is in a very degraded state. Only 6.5m was visible within the trench, but due to landscaping to the north, this cannot extend more than a further 4m or so. The City Archaeologist has agreed at a site meeting that preservation *in-situ* would not be required, due to the considerable decay of the remaining facing stones as a result of being buried.

6.4 The current developer plans would have a considerable impact on the higher archaeological deposits in the east of the site, with at least 1m of stratigraphy threatened by the formation level. The absence of later cellaring with the discovery of stone wall foundations also suggests that a mitigation strategy for the pile caps also be considered.

7 Provisional impact assessment

7.1 Courtyard area and 'amphitheatre'

Groundworks within the proposed courtyard area are likely to impact on areas of archaeology observed in trench three. Detailed plans are required to establish the extent of impact by the proposed heating scheme and other works in this area, although it is understood that higher levels of archaeology will be affected by a grid of horizontal pipes, laid at a depth of 1m below present. More deeply buried remains will be affected by the 5m grid of boreholes. A full or partial design solution could be explored which seeks to reduce the impact to the archaeology, thereby reducing the scale of archaeological excavation works which may be required to mitigate the damage. The early medieval archaeology observed here is highly significant as it represents activity prior to the establishment of the Newarke enclosure. The Newarke wall will also need to be recorded prior to its demolition as this is the only extant portion within this stretch. It is also worth noting that there is still potential for more deeply buried remains, including burials of Roman date, which might be affected by the proposed boreholes.

7.2 South-east wing

The east wing of the proposed building, although having a higher floor level, will have a high impact on the archaeological deposits observed in trenches six (a and b) in the south-east corner of the site. The archaeological remains are very high, being just below the present ground surface. These remains of the Oxford Street frontage are also highly significant, and the potential for the survival of deeper deposits (earlier medieval and Roman) is increased somewhat by this discovery.

7.3 Potential for archaeological remains within the second stage evaluation area (East wing)

Due to a delay in implementing the second stage of trial trenching until road realignment works have been completed, a map-based assessment has been undertaken of the likely survival of archaeological deposits along the former Oxford Street western frontage, with a view to determining the likely impact of the proposed building on buried remains.

As noted above, a photograph from 1963 (Plate 4) shows the presence of 18th and 19th-century brick-built terraced properties on Oxford street, with clear cellar lights to numbers 21 and 23, indicating that some damage to buried remains on the frontage is likely to have occurred, although this is largely outside the footprint of the proposed building. Examination of the Goad insurance plans suggests that other cellars from previous buildings lie outside the footprint of the proposed new building, although within the development area (Fig.2). The only known cellaring is mainly between the Newarke wall (re-use?, on same alignment) and the building foot-print, but will have only destroyed an area of *c.*15sq m (Fig.2). Likewise, a small segment of the underpass in the very north-east corner of the building foot-print, will have destroyed a similar sized area.

Spot heights on the 1888 and 1954 Ordnance Survey maps have also been checked to determine the extent to which later road alignments may have cut into archaeological remains on the street frontage. Oxford Street appears to have been built up towards the north by as much as 1m by The Newarke Gateway between 1888 and the present day. This would increase the chances of survival of archaeological deposits in the north-east corner of the building foot-print. Towards the south-east corner of the site the levels are similar, and truncation may have occurred during the construction of the road to as much as 0.5m, or possibly more, below present. Projected slab soffit levels for the proposed building suggest a significant impact upon medieval deposits on the former Oxford street frontage, with further damage to deeper remains from pile caps and piles.

8 Acknowledgements

I would like to thank the clients, De Montfort University and Alfred McAlpines, for their assistance and co-operation on site. Richard Buckley, who managed the project, and the fieldwork was carried out by the author with the assistance of David Parker, Sue Henderson and Dan Prior, all of ULAS.

9 Bibliography

Astill, G., 1988 'Fields' in G. Astill and A. Grant (eds) 1988 *The Countryside of Medieval England* Blackwell pp62-85

Meek, J., 2001 *An Archaeological Desk-based Assessment for the Proposed De Montfort University Leicester City Campus Developments, Leicester (SK 583 040)* ULAS Report 2001-164

Courtney, P. and Courtney, Y., 1995. *The Changing Face of Leicester*. Britain in Old Photographs Series. Stroud: Alan Sutton Publishing. p111

John Tate
University of Leicester Archaeological Services
University of Leicester
University Road
Leicester LE1 7RH

Tel: 0116 252 2848
Fax: 0116 252 2614
Email: jbt5@le.ac.uk

15.6.2007

10 Appendices

10.1 Appendix 1 – The finds

10.1.1 Roman

Romano-British Pottery from Evaluation Excavations at De Montfort University, Leicester. Accession No: A2.2007

Elizabeth Johnson

Assemblage Size and Condition

A stratified assemblage of 66 sherds of Roman period pottery weighing 0.832kg was retrieved, along with an additional 0.215kg of re-deposited material. Material was recovered from three trenches as detailed in table 1 below. Most material was recovered from Trench 3 with only three sherds from Trench 1 and one sherd from Trench 6A. Although the small amount of pottery from Trench 1 is abraded, better levels of preservation are suggested in Trench 3 and 6(a) with average sherd weights of 13.2g and 11.0g respectively.

Trench	No of Sherds	% of Assemblage	Weight (g)	% of Assemblage	Average Sherd Weight (g)
Trench 1	3	4.5%	5	0.6%	1.7
Trench 3	62	93.9%	816	98.1%	13.2
Trench 6 (a)	1	1.5%	11	1.3%	11.0
Total	66	100.0%	832	100.0%	12.6

Table 1: Composition of stratified assemblage by trench number.

Methodology

The material was classified using the Leicestershire Museums Fabric Series (Pollard 1994), a summary of which is given below in table 1. Within the archive database, specific fabrics were assigned to all sherds wherever possible, however in this report the generic ware groups summarised below are used to simplify data presentation. Vessel forms were also assigned where diagnostic sherds allowed, using the Leicestershire Fabric Series and other published typologies (Howe *et al* 1980; Pollard 1986; Holbrook and Bidwell 1991; Pollard 1994; Tyres 1996; Webster 1996). The material was quantified by sherd count and weight. The complete dataset was recorded and analysed within an Excel workbook, which comprises the archive record.

Fabric Code:	Fabric Type:	Fabric Code:	Fabric Type:
Samian	Samian ware	MO	Mortaria
C	Colour-coated wares	WW	White wares
AM	Amphorae	OW	Oxidised wares
GW	Grey wares	BB1	Black Burnished ware
CG	Calcite gritted (shelly)	WS	White slipped wares
GT	Grog-tempered wares		

Table 2: Summary of Leicestershire Museums Fabric Series (Pollard 1994: 112-114).

Summary of Major Pottery Fabrics within the Assemblage

Table 3 below details a summary of the major pottery fabrics within the assemblage as a whole. Grey wares comprise just over half the assemblage at 51.5%. These are most likely locally made, spanning the Roman period from the second to fourth centuries. Almost all the vessels are jars, the dateable forms including barbotine dot, burnished lattice decoration and everted rims indicating a date from the late first-early/mid-second century (24), through to highly burnished East Midlands Burnished ware type fabrics dating from the third century onwards (26) (Todd 1968; Pollard 1994: 77-79). The latest dateable grey ware is a bowl in (27) copying a Black Burnished Ware form which dates to the late third and fourth centuries (Holbrook and Bidwell 1991: 109-110). The grog-tempered ware jar is probably locally made and dates from the late first century to the very early second century (Pollard 1994: 114). The shell-tempered fabrics are again mostly local, the exception being a single sherd of South Midlands shelly ware, dating to the third and fourth centuries in (26) (Tyres 1996: 192-193). The oxidised, white and white slipped wares are probably from the Mancetter-Hartshill or Northamptonshire industries dating from the early second century onwards (Pollard 1986: 4-7). Black Burnished Ware generally starts to appear in Leicester *c.*AD120. The two vessels present here are both plain rim dish forms which are produced from the late second century through to the end of the industry in the fourth century (Holbrook & Bidwell 1991: 112).

Fabric	No of Sherds	% Sherds	Weight (g)	Average Sherd Weight (g)
AM	1	1.5%	19	19.0
BB1	2	3.0%	57	28.5
C	9	13.6%	74	8.2
CG	5	7.6%	102	20.4
GT	1	1.5%	33	33.0
GW	34	51.5%	420	12.4
MO	3	4.5%	52	17.3
OW	3	4.5%	38	12.7
Samian	3	4.5%	12	4.0
WS	2	3.0%	20	10.0
WW	3	4.5%	5	1.7
Total	66	100.0%	832	12.6

Table 3: Major fabric groups present within the assemblage as a whole.

Fine wares account for 18.1% of the assemblage and comprise Continental Samian and Romano-British colour-coated wares. The Samian wares are from South and Central Gaul dating from the late first and second centuries. The forms present are Drag.37 decorated bowls in (27) and a Drag.18 platter in (26) (Webster 1996: 32; 47). Romano-British colour-coated wares account for most of the fine wares (13.6%). A single sherd of Oxfordshire red-brown colour-coated ware dating to the fourth century was recovered from (27) (Young 1977: 160-161). The remaining colour-coated wares are all from the Nene Valley. Beakers dating from the third century onwards were found in (11) and (34). Bowls, jars and flagons common during the fourth century were recovered from (18), (26) and (27) (Howe *et al* 1980: 16-25).

The specialist wares present in the assemblage comprise mortaria and amphorae. A single sherd from an imported Gaulish Gauloise 4 wine amphora was recovered from (26). This type of amphora is common on Romano-British sites from the mid-first to the mid-third centuries (Tyres 1996: 94-96). The two mortaria are from Mancetter-Hartshill (26) and the Nene Valley (27).

Discussion

Overall there is evidence of activity from the late first-early second century through to the fourth century however most of the stratified pottery was recovered from post-Roman layers, including all the later third and fourth century material. Pit (24) in Trench 3 was a secure Roman feature comprising grey, oxidised, white and white slipped ware flagons and jars. The forms and decoration present suggest a date within the second century, most likely the first half of the second century. The remainder of the assemblage is residual in post-Roman features.

Bibliography

- Holbrook, N. and Bidwell, P., 1991: *Roman Finds from Exeter. Exeter Archaeological Reports: Volume 4*. Exeter: University of Exeter Press.
- Howe, M. D., Perrin, J. R. and Mackreth, D. F., 1980: *Roman Pottery from the Nene Valley: A Guide. Peterborough City Museum Occasional Paper No. 2*. Peterborough: Peterborough City Museum.
- Pollard, R., 1986 *Roman Pottery in Leicestershire*. Unpublished: Leicestershire Archaeological Unit.
- Pollard, R., 1994 The Iron Age and Roman Pottery. Pp 51-114. In Clay, P. and Pollard, R. (eds): *Iron Age and Roman Occupation in the West Bridge Area, Leicester. Excavations 1962-1971*. Leicester: Leicestershire County Council Museums, Arts and Records Service.
- Todd, M., 1968: The Commoner Late Roman Coarse wares of the East Midlands. *Antiquaries Journal* **48**: 192-209.
- Tyres, P., 1996: *Roman Pottery in Britain*. London and New York: Routledge.
- Webster, P., 1996: *Roman Samian Pottery in Britain*. Practical Handbooks in Archaeology no. 3. York: Council for British Archaeology.
- Young, C. J., 1977: *Oxfordshire Roman Pottery*. Oxford: BAR 43.

10.1.2 Medieval and later

The medieval and later pottery from an evaluation at Oxford Street and the Newarke on De Montfort University land.

D. Sawday

The pottery, 115 sherds, weighing 1.753 kg, And the medieval ridge tile, seven fragments, weighing 75 grams, were catalogued with reference to the ULAS fabric series (Davies and Sawday 1999). The results for the pottery are shown below (Table 1), the range of medieval ridge tile fabrics being very similar to that for the pottery. Also present were eight fragments of post medieval clay pipe.

Fabric/Ware	Sherd Nos.	Weight Grams	Av. Sherd Weight	% of total by sherd nos.
Late Saxon/Early Medieval				
ST3 – Coarse Stamford ware	1	4		
ST2 – Fine Stamford ware	4	12		
ST1 – Very Fine Stamford ware	2	12		
(Stamford Sub Total)	(7)	(28)	(4)	
RS – Reduced Sandy ware	3	28		
PM – Potters Marston	59	711	12.0	
CS – Coarse Shelly ware	5	110		
SP3 - Splashed ware 3	1	7		
Sub Total	75	884	11.7	65.2
Medieval				
CC1 – Chilvers Coton 1	4	27		
CC2 – Chilvers Coton 2	2	66		
NO1 – Nottingham ware 1	1	8		
NO3 – Nottingham ware 3	2	24		
CO3 – Coventry ware 3	1	12		
MS – Medieval Sandy ware	2	24		
Sub Totals	12	161	13.4	10.4
Later Medieval/Early Post Medieval				
MS/MS3 - Medieval Sandy ware/ware 3	4	51		
MP1 – Midland Purple ware 1	4	82		
MP2 – Midland Purple ware 2	1	42		
MP3 – Midland Purple ware 3	5	136		
CW2 – Cistercian ware 2	4	258		
MY – Midland Yellow ware	7	113		
MAI-II – Martincamp Stoneware	1	5		
EA3/4 – Mottled wares	2	21		
Sub-Totals	28	708	25.2	24.3
TOTALS	115	1753		99.9

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

Over sixty five percent of the pottery dated to the late Saxon and early medieval period (Table 1). The presence of medieval pottery dating from *circa* 1250, and of later medieval and post medieval material, including the medieval ridge tile, and the post medieval clay pipe, the latter dating from the early or mid seventeenth century, points to continuing activity in the vicinity throughout these periods.

The earliest pottery dates from at least the eleventh century if not before. However, the relatively small number of sherds and low average sherd weight for the some of the earliest material, the Stamford ware, (*ibid*) suggests that this pottery may be the result of agricultural activity, perhaps the manuring of the fields, rather than representing domestic rubbish from occupation nearby.

The Potter Marston, the Coarse Shelly ware and the Splashed ware, dating from the twelfth century, appear to confirm the structural evidence from this and previous excavations in the area and from the documentary records, of suburban development along Southgate Street, now Oxford Street, by *circa* 1200, (Courtney 1998). More importantly, the structural evidence together with the associated pottery, also points to early medieval occupation pre-dating the construction of the east wall of the Newarke, (John Tate, pers. comm.), which is thought to have been built *circa* 1400.

Clearly, more work is needed to extend and clarify the archaeological evidence from the site, in order to enhance our understanding of the archaeology and history of the eastern suburb and the Newarke, and the relationship between the two.

Bibliography

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

Courtney, P., 1998. 'Saxon and Medieval Leicester: The Making of an Urban Landscape' *Trans. Leicestershire Archaeol. and Hist. Soc.* **72**, 110-145.

Davies, S., and Sawday, D., 1999. 'The Post Roman Pottery and Tile' in A. Connor and R. Buckley, 1999, 165-213.

Higgins, D. A., 1999. 'The Clay Tobacco pipes' in A. Connor and R. Buckley 1999, 215-234.

Site/Parish: Oxford Street/The Newarke, De Montfort University, Leicester Accession No/ Doc Ref: A2 2007/De Montfort Uni1.doc Material: Site Type: Medieval Suburb/The Newarke, Leicester	Submitter: J. Tate Identifier: D. Sawday Date of Id: 15.4.07 Method of Recovery: evaluation
--	--

Context	Fabric/ware	Nos	Grams	Comments including latest date
POT				
1	PM – Potters Marston ware	1	10	c.1100-c.1300+
14	PM	5	46	c.1100-c.1300+
14	CO3 – Coventry ware 3	1	12	13 th C.
14	CC1 – Chilvers Coton ware 1	1	5	c.1250+
16	PM	1	6	c.1100-c.1300+
17	PM	1	2	c.1100-c.1300+
18	PM	3	11	c.1100-c.1300+
26	PM	4	23	c.1100-c.1300+
26	NO3 – Nottingham ware 3?	1	23	Later 13 th C.
27	ST3 – Coarse Stamford ware	1	4	Saxo Norman, c.10 th /11 th C+
27	ST2 – Fine Stamford ware	4	12	c.1050-1250
27	ST1 – Fine Stamford ware	2	12	c.1150+
27	RS – Reduced Sandy ware	2	20	?Saxo Norman/early med, one with some shelly inclusions

27	PM	22	410	c.1100-c.1300+
27	SP3 – Splashed ware 3	1	7	c.1100-1250
27	CS – Coarse Shelly ware	4	100	c.1100-c.1400
27	CC1	1	1	c.1250+
27	MAI-II – Martincamp Stoneware	1	5	16 th C, fairly common import from France
31	RS – Reduced Sandy ware	1	8	?Saxo Norman/early med.
31	PM	5	48	c.1100-c.1300+
31	CC1	1	3	
34	PM	1	7	c.1100-c.1300+
35	PM	1	10	Flat base, 12 th C (or possibly earlier!)
41	PM	2	13	c.1100-c.1300+
41	CS	1	10	c.1100-c.1400. bowl rim with ?pierced hole from exterior at neck
41	MY – Midland Yellow ware	4	81	c.1500-c.1725/50
45	PM	4	22	c.1100-c.1300+
61	MP1 – Midland Purple ware 1	1	12	c.1375-1550
62	PM	2	13	c.1100-c.1300+
62	NO3	1	1	Mid/late 13 th C.
62	CW2 – Cistercian ware 2	2	44	c.1475-1550
63	MS - Medieval Sandy ware	1	18	c.1250+, possibly a coarse Nottingham or a Brill/Boarstall type.
63	EA4 - Mottled ware	1	20	c.1650+
66	MP1	1	34	Late med
66	?EA3 – Mottled ware	1	1	Tiny sherd, ?1650+
70	PM	5	88	c.1100-c.1300+
70	CC1	1	18	c.1250+
70	CC2	1	6	c.1300+
70	MS/MS3	3	37	c.1250+
70	MP3– Midland Purple ware 3	5	136	c.1375-1550
70	CW2	1	212	Base of cylindrical vessel c.1475-1550
71	MS	1	6	c.1250+
71	MP2 – Midland Purple ware 2	1	42	c.1375-1550
78	MY	2	21	c.1500-c.1725/50
80	PM	1	1	c.1100-c.1300+
80	?NO1 – Nottingham ware 1?	1	8	c.1250-1300
80	MS3 – Medieval Sandy ware 3	1	14	?later 13 th – 14 th C.
90	PM	1	1	c.1100-c.1300+
90	CC2	1	60	c.1300+
90	MP1	2	36	c.1375-1550
90	CW2	1	2	c.1475-1550
90	MY - Midland Yellow ware	1	11	c.1500-c.1725/50
MEDIEVAL RIDGE TILE				
14	SP3 – Splashed ware 3	1	30	13 th C.
26	CC1 – Chilvers Coton ware 1	1	15	c.1250+
41	CC1	2	18	c.1250+
80	CC1	1	5	c.1250+
90	CC1 – Chilvers Coton ware 1	1	7	c.1250+
90	MS	1	19	
CLAY PIPE				
62	China clay	4		Stems, post med
62	China clay	2		Bowls, early/mid 17 th C., flat heels
90	China clay	1		stem
92	China clay	1		Bowl fragment, ?early 17 th C.