

**An Archaeological Field Evaluation on
land adjacent to the former Nat West
Bank, Grey Friars, Leicester
(SK 5861 0437)**

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Planning Authority: Leicester City Council

For: Kaikoura Investments Limited

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Summary

An archaeological field evaluation was carried out on land adjacent to the former Nat West Bank, Grey Friars, Leicester (SK 5861 0437) on the 6th-10th August 2007. This work was carried out on behalf of Kaikoura Investments Limited, by University of Leicester Archaeological Services (ULAS). One evaluation trench was excavated beneath the former single-storey extension to the bank and revealed well preserved Roman to late post-medieval occupation and activity at a relatively shallow depth. This included probable Roman clay floor surfaces and earlier cut features with at least 0.6m of stratigraphy present. Possible earlier medieval timber structures, medieval pits and metalled surfaces with at least one probable early post-medieval wall foundation and post-medieval pits were also identified. The site archive will be held by Leicester City Museum under the accession number A9.2007.

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 former Nat West building, Grey Friars, Leicester (SK 5861 0437) on behalf of Kaikoura Investments Ltd.

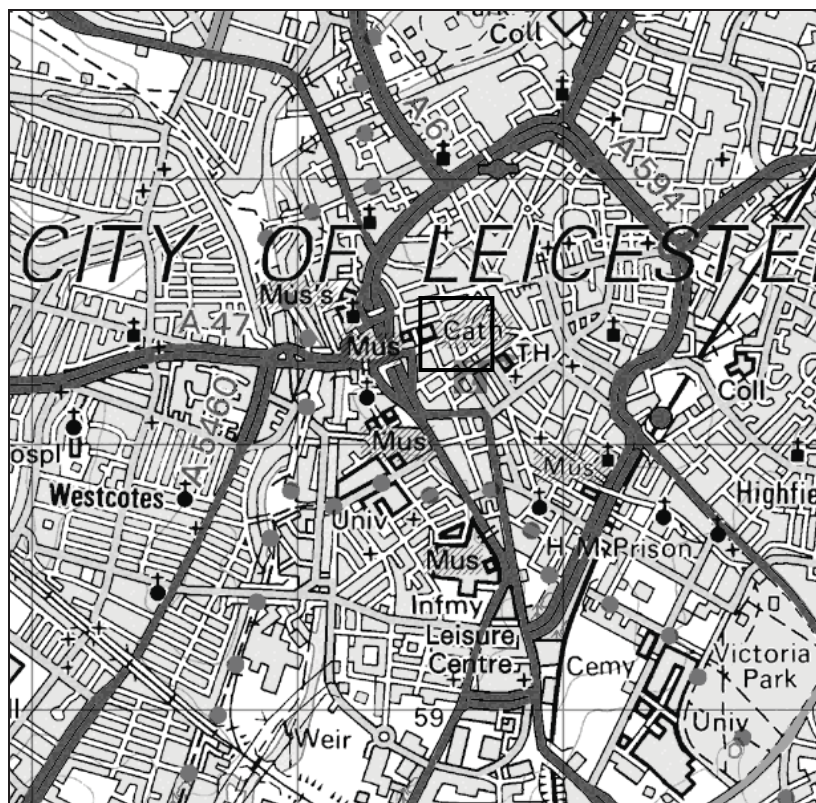


Fig. 1- Site Location (Scale 1:25000).

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1.2 The site lies within the city of Leicester, inside the inner ring road and within the Market Street Conservation Area (Fig. 1). Historically, it lies within the boundaries of both the Roman and medieval town defences, and within the precinct of the medieval Grey Friars Priory.

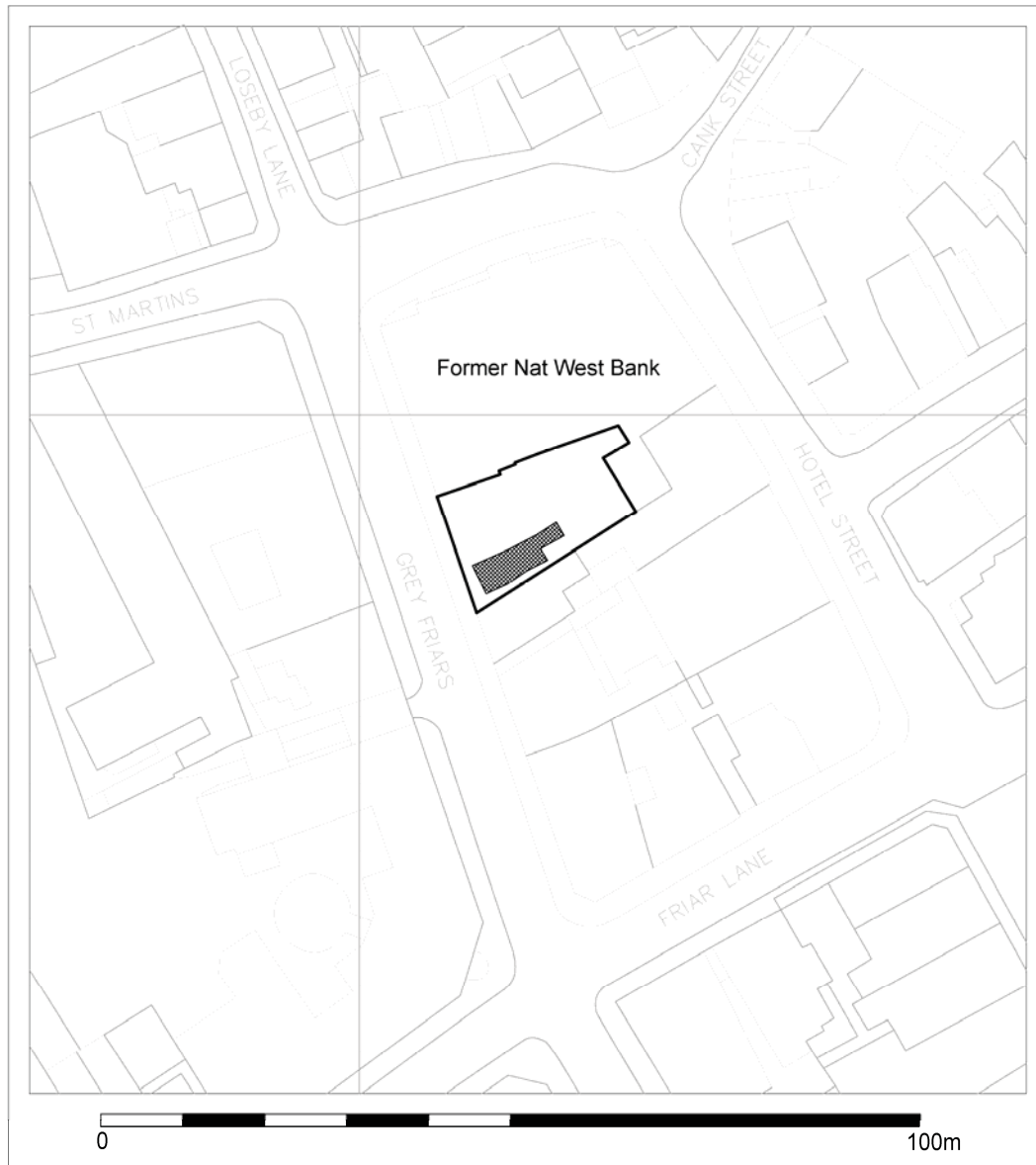


Fig. 2 - Site and Trench Location on Grey Friars, Leicester.

1.3 Kaikora Investments Ltd. propose to redevelop an area of *c.*285 square metres of land. Only *c.*110 square metres will be used for the construction of the flats with the remainder being a paved courtyard. 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 through trial trenching.

2 Site Background

2.1 Context of the Project

2.1.1 The proposed development is for the construction of flats with paved courtyard in an area that, until recently demolished, contained a single-storey extension to the bank.

2.1.2 An archaeological desk-based assessment of the proposed redevelopment of the former Nat West bank was previously commissioned from ULAS by Kaikora Investments Ltd., which incorporated the proposed demolition and construction of flats within the development area (Strachan, 2005).

2.2 Archaeological and Historical Background

2.2.1 The archaeological desk-based assessment for the proposed redevelopment summarised the archaeological potential of the area as follows:

A desk-based archaeological assessment undertaken by University of Leicester Archaeological Services on behalf of Kaikoura Investments Limited for the proposed redevelopment of the former Nat West Bank, St Martins, Leicester, has demonstrated that the area is known for finds of a number of different periods, though many of these are poorly located. Very little archaeological evidence of prehistoric activity has been found within the area. However the site is located within the southern half of the Roman and medieval walled town and there is high potential for intra-mural domestic and commercial use in the Roman and medieval period. The Grey Friars Priory and grounds lay within the proposed development area, and limited finds of Roman and medieval date have been recovered under or close to the former Nat West bank. The importance of the area continued into the post-medieval and modern period, where the site was incorporated in part within the grounds of the Grey Friars House owned by the Herrick and Pares family, and an earlier bank structure dating from 1800 to the 1890s. In conclusion, the area is seen to have high potential for containing archaeological deposits primarily medieval and post medieval in date, although Roman activity should also be apparent. There is a much lower potential for uncovering archaeological remains of a prehistoric date.

2.2.2 Previous archaeological work in the area has resulted in the discovery of remains from the Roman period onwards. These include evidence for Roman deposits close to the present ground level recorded during a watching brief by Leicestershire Museums Archaeological Survey Team for the St. Martin's Redevelopment (Cookson, 1983), just north of the proposed development area, and the discovery of Roman levels c.1m below present ground level, surviving for a further 1m, behind the buildings on the west side of Grey Friars with a medieval 'garden soil' above (Tate, 2007).

3 Archaeological Objectives and Methodologies

3.1 Archaeological Objectives

3.1.1 The main objectives of the evaluation were:

- 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.

3.1.2 Within the stated project objectives, the principal aim of the evaluation was 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*. The work was carried out in accordance with the Design Specification (ULAS xxxxx)

3.2.2 Internal monitoring procedures were undertaken including a visit 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 focus the trench (10m length and 3m width) on the area of the flats as these will have the greatest impact. This resulted in just over 25% of the proposed development area of the flats (c.110m sq) being investigated, or just under 10% of the area when incorporating the paved courtyard (Fig. 2).

3.2.5 The topsoil and disturbed subsoil was removed in spits by a JCB 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.

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 (Benchmark on west corner of Grey Friars and St. Martins). Spot heights were taken as appropriate.

4 Results

Due to the complexity of the archaeological deposits within the trench (Fig. 3), and the destructive nature and limited available time within an evaluation, sample excavation of the deposits was kept to a minimum to preserve relationships. Therefore a proportion of pottery recovered was from the surface of cleaned deposits and in some cases limited to one sherd. However, using the medieval and Roman pottery evidence and the observed stratigraphic relationships, a provisional phasing plan was produced which is considered relatively robust.

4.1 Trench 1

Trench 1 Details

<i>Dimension of Trench</i>	<i>c.10.8m x c.1.6-3.7m</i>
<i>Area of Trench</i>	<i>30.56sq.m</i>
<i>Pavement Level (m OD)</i>	<i>c.65.16</i>
<i>Surface Level (m OD)</i>	<i>c.64.70</i>
<i>Base of Trench (m OD)</i>	<i>c.63.70-64.45</i>

Initial machining was through soil below the former building (92) which consisted of a friable mid-brown sandy-silt with occasional charcoal, slate fragments (*c.*50-200mm), ceramic building material (CBM) fragments, mortar fragments, small-medium rounded and angular stone and red clay lumps. This layer varies in depth between *c.*0.2-0.45m and overlies earlier layers and cut features. It may even form the backfill of some pits as the clarity between this layer and some cut feature fills is very diffuse.

No pottery was recovered from excavated sections through Roman deposits by pits [30] and [32] (Fig. 4a and 4b). However, with all Roman features in plan, and stratigraphically above, producing mainly artefacts from the 2nd century onwards, and pit fills of [30] and [32] containing residual pottery from mid 1st century, it could be suggested that the early Roman features described here are from the mid 1st to early 2nd century.

4.1.1 Early Roman

The earliest observed deposit was a possible pit or east-west linear feature [80]. The northern edge of the cut had an 80 degree slope. The fill comprised a firm light-mid brownish-orange clayey silt with occasional small to medium rounded stone and charcoal (81). The pit has been truncated and was just 0.69m in depth and measured 0.4m east-west (Fig. 4a, Plate 1).

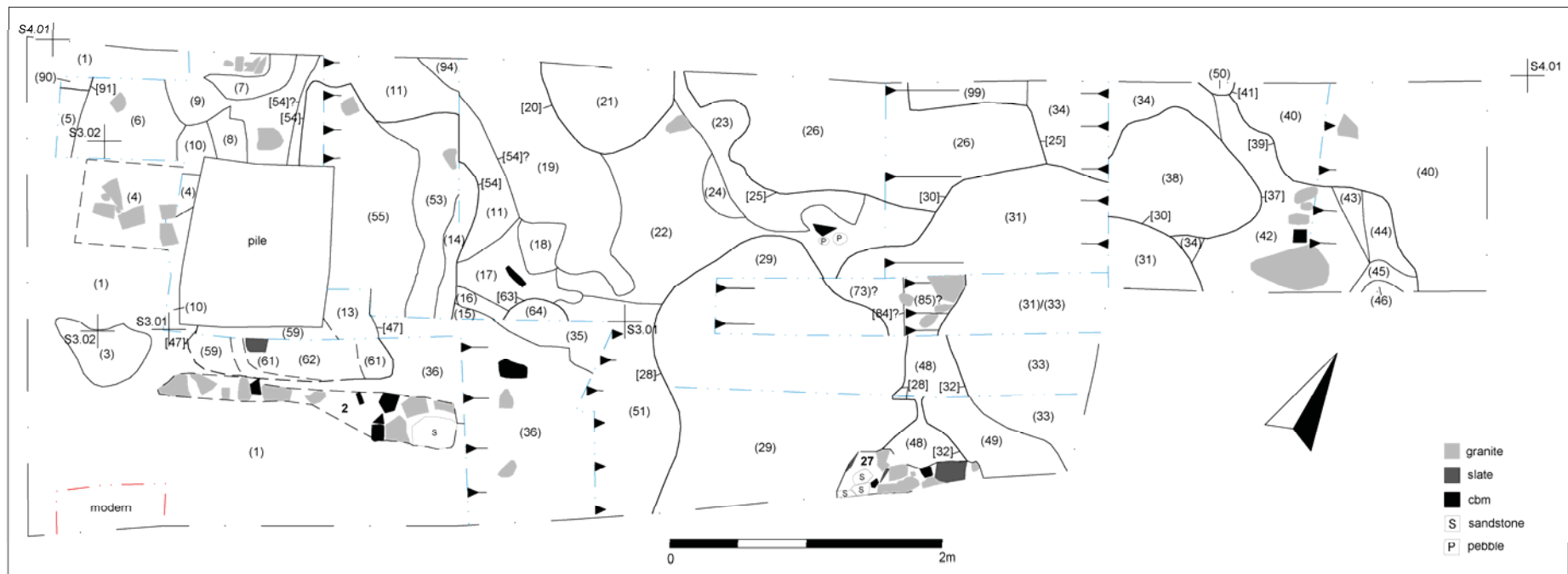


Fig. 3 - Trench One plan.

Above this, and truncating the top of [80], was cut feature [78]. The fill (79) was a light-mid orangey-brown clayey silt with occasional small rounded stone and charcoal (Fig. 4a, Plate 1).



Plate 1 – Photo of Fig.4a showing Roman cut features.

Truncating both of these was cut feature [74]. With a gentle break of slope on the visible north side, this feature may retain its original depth. This breaks to a 90 degree slope, breaking to 30 degrees before further dropping to 90 degrees. It was observed for 0.77m in depth and visible for 0.81m north-south and 0.28m east-west. It consisted of three light-mid yellowish and orangey-brown silty fills (75), (76) and (77), all reminiscent of ditch fills (Fig.4a and 4b).

Overlying this feature was layer (65) which consisted of a firm light-mid pinkish-brown clayey silt with frequent charcoal and occasional small rounded stone.

4.1.2 Mid-late Roman

Truncating layer (65), but uncertain whether truncating layer (22) (see below), is feature [66], a possible gully or posthole with a 90 degree slope to a curved base. This mainly consisted of a firm light greyish-brown clayey silt with occasional small rounded stone (67), was 0.37m in depth and observed for 0.3m north-south.

This feature is truncated by possible pit [70] observed for 0.2m north-south and 0.25m east-west and 0.65m deep. The earliest fill consisted of a loose friable light-mid greyish-green clayey silt with frequent charcoal and occasional small-medium angular stone (71). Above this was a loose friable mid yellowish-brown clayey sand with occasional very small rounded stone and rare charcoal (72). The uppermost fill observed here consisted of a firm light-mid greyish-brown clayey silt with frequent charcoal and granite *c.*0.2m (73) (Fig. 4a and 4b).

Heavily truncated deposit (86) appeared to overlie this, and was truncated by cut feature [84], to the east of [70] which consisted of a firm light-mid greyish-brown clayey silt with occasional charcoal, small rounded stone and granite *c.*0.1-0.2m (85).

Fig. 4a

Fig. 4b

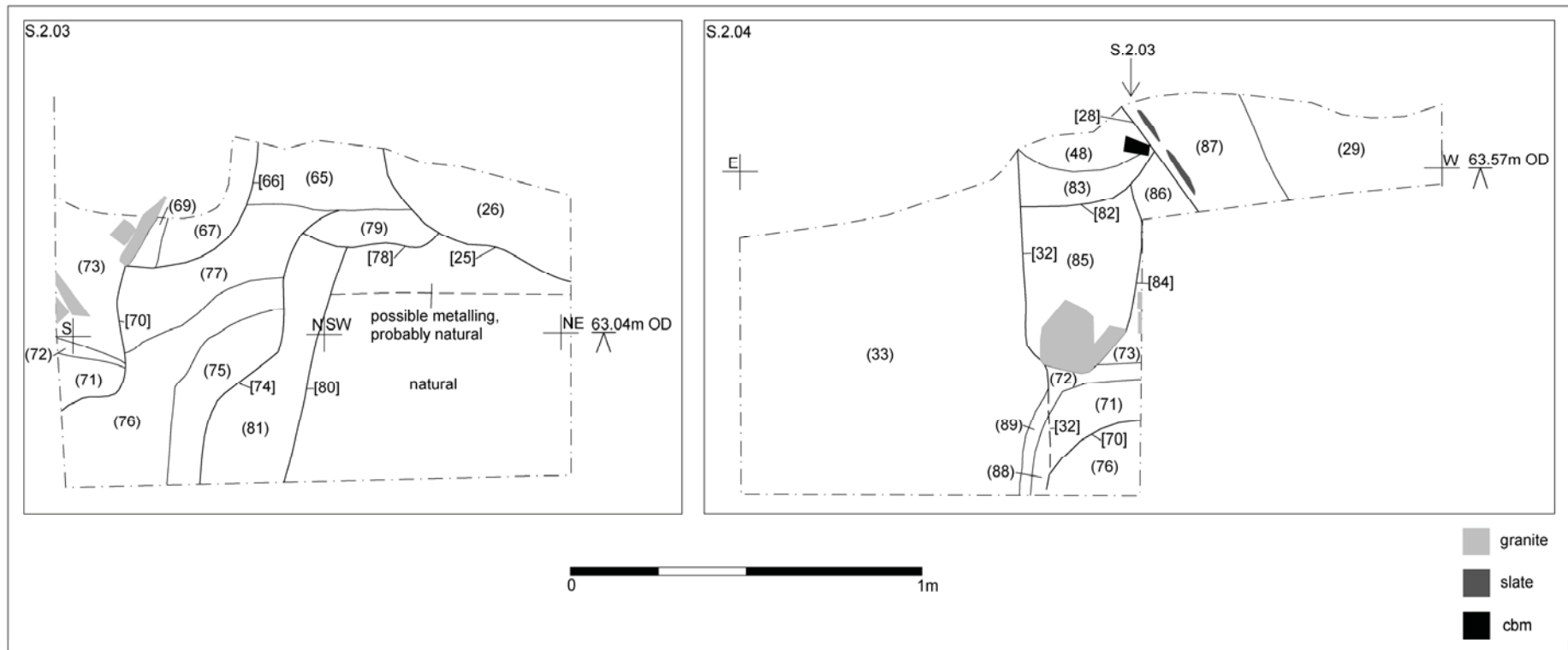


Fig. 4 - Sections through Roman archaeology revealed through medieval pit cuts [30] and [32].

It was observed that possible silt or make-up layer (22) overlay layer (65) behind the section created by pit [30] and [32]. It consisted of a firm light-mid brown/reddish-yellow slightly sandy silt with occasional oyster fragments, small rounded and angular stone, medium-large rounded stone, large and small fragments of slate and charcoal. A date of mid-late 2nd century is suggested from two sherds of pottery.

In plan (Fig.3), an identical layer to (22) was also observed in the west of the trench (10) and east of the trench (42). Overlying (10) is a possible clay floor which consisted of a very compact mid pinkish red slightly silty clay with occasional small rounded stone (3), (5), (7) and (8). Context (3) yielded pottery of a late 2nd to early 3rd century date. Possibly overlying (22) in the middle of the trench was an identical clay floor (23) which contained pottery of a mid-late 2nd century date. However, layer (42) was overlying red clay floor layer (43) (identical to (3) etc.) in the east of the trench.

Layers (42) and (43) were overlain by a friable mid orangey-brown sandy clay with occasional small rounded stone, rare charcoal, calcium carbonate flecks and small angular stone (45). Pottery recovered dated to the 2nd to mid 3rd century

Layer (34) to the west of this contained pottery of a mid to late 2nd century and consisted of a friable mid yellowish-brown slightly sandy silt with occasional charcoal and rare small rounded stone, calcium carbonate flecks and mortar lumps. There is possibility this is a pit fill that truncated layer (42).

In the middle of the trench a number of 'Roman-looking' deposits were observed, (15) make-up layer, (16) and (17) 'cessy' layers, (18) and (19) possible fills or disturbance as contain lumps of red clay. Only (19) contained pottery of a 2nd century date (Fig. 3).

Medieval pits [30] and [32] were partially excavated and, as mentioned above, contained a large quantity of residual Roman pottery from the mid 1st century through to and including the 4th century, indicating the longevity of occupation in the immediate vicinity.

4.1.3 Earlier medieval

Probable posthole [63], pits [20], [25], [37] and [54] are all likely to date to this period. Although no pottery was recovered from these features, they are stratigraphically below features or layers which yield pottery dates from the medieval period, 1250+, and only truncate Roman deposits. Layers (51), (56), (93), (94) and (103) are also likely to date from this period, but seal the backfilled features mentioned above (Figs. 3, 5 and 6).

Context (9) in the north-west of the trench was in plan reminiscent of beam slots and a posthole (Fig. 3, Plate 2). One feature next to the trench edge was orientated east-west containing granite, with another orientated north-south to the east of this. The 'posthole-like' circular feature lies within the corner of these two possible beam slots. However, excavation was not undertaken due to time constraints and the obvious complexity of the deposit.



Plate 2 – Feature (9) cutting? through a Roman red clay floor.

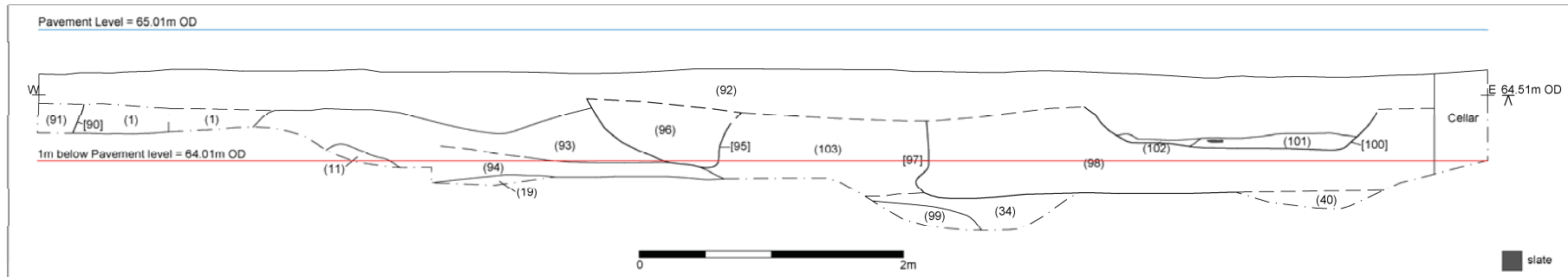
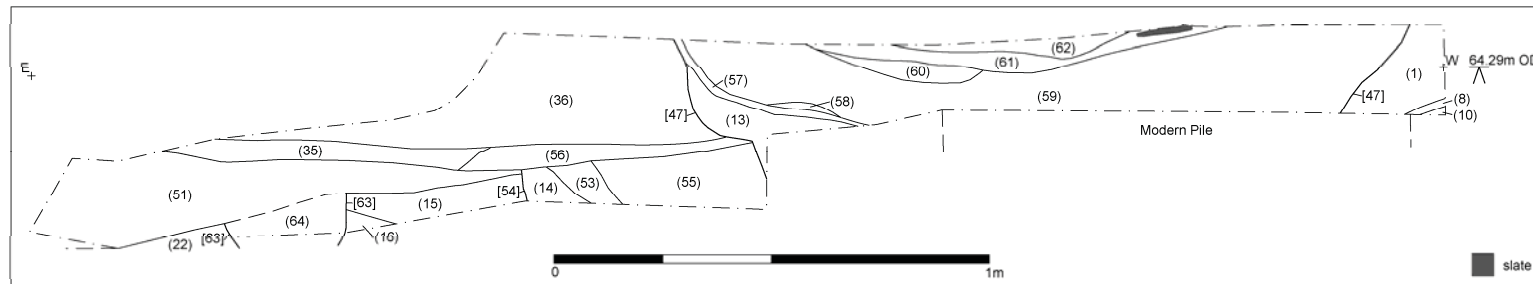
Truncating layer (51) but sealed by layer (56) was pit [54]. It is likely that layer (11) (although identical to Roman red clay floor surface), is disturbed and within pit [54]. This would give the pit a less irregular nature and (11) contained pottery of an 11th to 13th century date. If so, then possible structural evidence (9) would pre-date this. If not, pit [54] is of a very irregular nature. This would also suggest that pit [54], along with context (9), are 11th to 13th century in date rather than earlier (Figs. 3 and 5).

4.1.4 Medieval

Overlying layer (51) and (56) was metalled surface (35) which consisted of a compact light-mid brownish-yellow sandy silt with 70% small rounded stone. It was 30-40mm thick and observed for 0.4m north-south and 0.6m east to west (Fig. 5).

In plan, pits [28], [30], [32] and [39] and possible posthole [41] were observed (Fig. 3). These were all greater than 1.5m in diameter and contained pottery from 1200-1400 ([28]), 1100-1450 ([30]) and later 13th century ([32]). These generally contained loose to friable mid-dark brown clayey silts with occasional charcoal and small rounded stone, granite *c.*0.2m, slate *c.*0.1m and rare mortar and calcium carbonate flecks (29), (31), (33), (40) and (50) (respectively).

In section (Fig. 6), pit [95] and elongated pit [97] truncate layers (93) and (103). Pit [95] was *c.*1.1m in diameter and consisted of a friable mid brown sandy silt with occasional charcoal, small rounded and angular stone, rare slate fragments and red clay lumps (96) containing pottery dating to 1250+. Elongated pit [97] to the east of this, was *c.*4m east-west, truncated on the east by a cellar, contained pottery from the 12th-13th centuries (possibly residual) and was identical in consistency to (96), (98).



Fig's. 5 (top – S3.01) and 6 (bottom – S4.01) - showing a section through pits [47] and [54] and the south facing trench edge, respectively. Both located on Fig. 3. Figure 6 also illustrates the impact from the development.

4.1.5 Late Medieval – Early Post-Medieval

Truncating elongated pit fill (98) was a small sunken feature with a flat base [100] (Fig. 5). It was 2.1m east to west and 0.2m deep. In the base of this feature was a compact mid reddish-brown silty clay with very frequent red clay lumps, occasional mortar lumps, slate c.0.1m and charcoal, and rare small rounded and angular stone (101) c.1.26m east to west. On the west side of this, partially overlying (101) and cut [100] was fill /layer (102) which consisted of a friable dark blackish-brown sandy silt with 80% charcoal, was 20-40mm deep and observed for c.0.6m east-west. It is sealed by layer (92) and although no dating evidence was retrieved, it is likely to be of this period.

Layer (1) consisted of a friable mid brown sandy silt with occasional charcoal, medium rounded stone and slate fragments c.50-200mm, rare ceramic building material (CBM) fragments c.30mm, mortar fragments, small rounded and angular stone and red clay lumps (identical to (92) above this). Pottery recovered from this context dates to c.1375-1550. The differentiation is made by the discovery of 2.24m long wall foundation **2** orientated east-west in the very south-west of the trench (Fig. 3, Plate 3). It was between 0.18-0.35m wide and consisted of granite, tile fragments and one large sandstone block set into layer (1). Some of the granite had mortar attached as if re-used. No bonding material was present for the structure. Further stone was observed below this line of stone but not investigated. One sherd of pottery from around the stone dated to c.1450-1650.



Plate 3 – Stone wall foundation **2**.

Layer (36) to the east of this is identical in consistency and likely to be the same layer.

Pit [47] was observed truncating layer (1) at this level also (Fig.5). This was only partially observed due to a modern pile cap but appeared to respect **2**, being on the north side of this wall foundation and c.1.4m wide. The earliest observed fill consisted of a soft-friable mid-dark brown sandy silt with frequent charcoal,

occasional small rounded and angular stone, granite fragments *c.*50mm, slate fragments *c.*100mm and red clay lumps (13). Pottery recovered dated to *c.*1450+. Upper fills of the pit included charcoal deposits (57) and (61) and ash deposit (60) which yielded a number of corroded iron nails. Fish bone was also present on the surface.

Deposit (4) was allocated to an area that contained a large quantity of granite within layer (1) (Fig.3 and 7). A slot placed through this revealed a gulley shaped intrusion only revealing its cut when truncating lower Roman deposits including clay floor surface (3). The intrusion was *c.*30 degrees on the south with a curved base, that steepened to a 60 degree slope on the north. The main area of the 'gulley' was *c.*0.8m wide (north-south) and orientated east-west, similar to wall foundation 2. A similar profile was observed on the west edge of the pile adjacent to this. The very frequent granite varied in size from 170mm x 120mm x 100mm to 190mm x 180mm x 120mm. Frequent slate fragments *c.*250mm and CBM fragments, occasional sandstone fragments *c.*50mm, small round and angular stone, rare oyster and crushed mortar were also observed within (4). Only residual Roman pottery from the 2nd to 4th centuries was recovered from this feature.

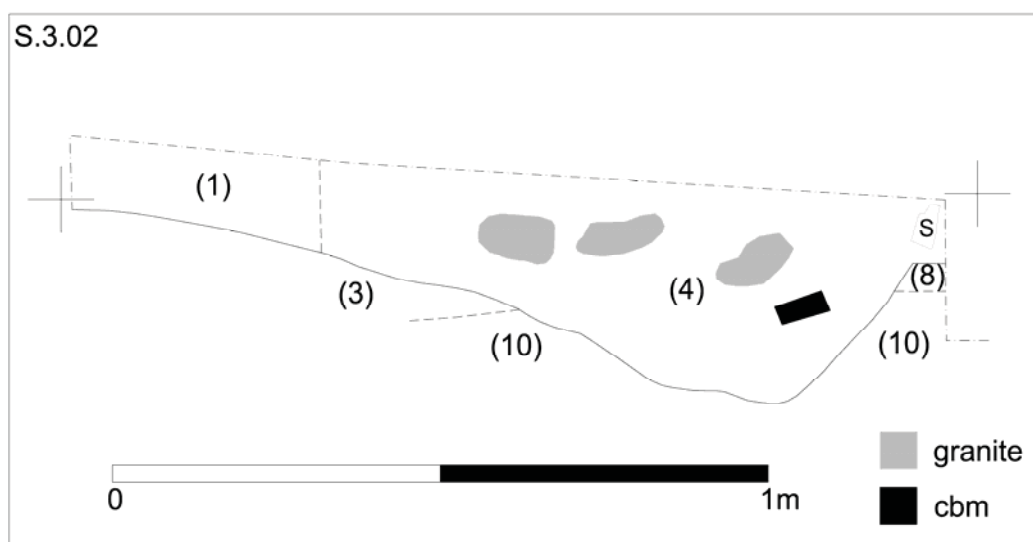


Fig. 7 - Section through feature (4). Located on Fig. 3.

Cut feature [90] also truncating (1) was only partially observed in a slot in the north-west of the trench. It consisted of a friable mid-brown slightly sandy silt with occasional small rounded stone and rare charcoal, slate fragments and mortar (91).

Structure 27, observed on the south edge of the site contains similar building materials to wall foundation 2 and overlies pit [28] which dates to 1200-1400. It is therefore considered to be comparable in date to 2, and possibly contemporary. Being only partially observed its function was indeterminable. The stretch of stone observed here is also on the same east-west alignment, and in-line with wall foundation 2 (Fig.3).

4.1.6 Late Post-medieval - Modern

Layer (92), mentioned above, is likely to date from the late post-medieval through to the modern period. The diffuse nature of feature edges, [95], [97] and [100] at the base of this layer could suggest agricultural activity.

5 Discussion

5.1 Although the evaluation trench only revealed a 30sq m area, it was full of complex archaeological deposits. Natural substratum was only encountered when a medieval pit was partially excavated to reveal underlying Roman stratigraphy. This revealed that there is at least 0.6m of Roman stratigraphy, not including cut features, in the central and east end of the trench. In the west end of the trench there may be up to 1m of stratigraphy. The fact that some of these deposits were uncovered *c.*0.6m below the present ground surface was unexpected, but not unusual. The character of the Roman deposits was difficult to interpret, with cut features and layers observed in section, and make-up layers, 'cessy' layers and possible floor surfaces in plan. No identifiable structural evidence was apparent, but may still exist underlying other deposits.

5.2 The remaining activity above this, from the earlier medieval through to the modern period is also significant. Pits and possible structures were observed from the earlier medieval periods through to early post-medieval periods. This is certainly unexpected as the area was not considered to have been developed during the medieval period onwards due to the proximity of the Grey Friars property immediately adjacent to the site.

5.3 Although the majority of the trench has been machined to a level through what appeared to be homogenous deposits, some finer detail not evident in plan has been observed when viewed in section and still date from the medieval period onwards.

5.4 Layer (92), the uppermost deposit observed is likely to be from agricultural or horticultural activity from the early post-medieval period until the single-storey extension to the former Nat West bank was constructed sometime between 1952-5. As observed on the first edition OS map from 1887, the area is clearly shown to contain a small area bound with trees (Strachan, 2005). The tree root activity would explain the occasional loose holes that appeared within the trench once it had been machined, and also the diffuse nature of the tops of features observed in section.

6 Conclusion

6.1 The archaeological field evaluation on land adjacent to the former Nat West bank, Grey Friars, Leicester has revealed a complex picture of archaeological deposits from the Roman period through to the present. Due to the complexity of the archaeology and the nature of the investigation, a fuller understanding and interpretation was not possible at this stage.

6.2 There is between 0.5-1m of medieval and post-medieval stratified deposits that increases in complexity with depth, which overlies between 0.5-1m of Roman deposits that also appeared to increase in complexity with depth.

6.3 The discovery of Roman deposits was not surprising considering the site lies within the Roman Town defences. The shallow depth overlying these deposits was surprising, but not unusual.

6.4 The discovery of possible earlier medieval to late medieval and early post-medieval structural activity in this area was surprising considering the proximity to the boundary of the Grey Friars property and map evidence that suggests there were no structures from at least the early post-medieval period. Any further work here for this period would be enlightening.

7 Impact Assessment

7.1 It is proposed that the ground-works for the residential development in this plot of land adjacent to the former Nat West bank will comprise CFA piles with ground-beams spanning between them. Allowing for the thickness of the floor slab, the underside of the ground-beams (with an allowance for blinding beneath) will be approximately 875-1000mm below present ground level (i.e. down to about 64.01m OD). (Fig.6)

7.2 Although this will not have a large impact upon the Roman stratigraphy, the medieval deposits will be impacted upon significantly. Any further evidence of activity from this period will increase the knowledge of any possible properties adjacent to the Grey Friars priory, and any activity either side of the period that the Priory existed.

7.3 On the assumption that this foundation strategy is to be adopted, the City Archaeologist has agreed to a proposed mitigation strategy of archaeological excavation down to a maximum of 1m below present overall, after which the pile locations would be assessed to determine whether there are likely to be any obstructions.

8 Acknowledgements

I would like to thank the clients, Kaikoura Investments Ltd. and Sapcote, for their assistance and co-operation on site. Richard Buckley, managed the project, and the fieldwork was carried out by the author with the assistance of Dan Prior, all of ULAS.

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10 Appendices

10.1 The Romano-British Pottery

Elizabeth Johnson

Assemblage Size and Condition

A stratified assemblage of 53 sherds of Roman period pottery weighing 787g was retrieved from excavations carried out as part of an archaeological evaluation. The average sherd weight of 14.9g suggests good levels of preservation. A further 15 sherds (465g) were recovered from re-deposited layers.

Methodology

The material was classified using the Leicestershire Fabric Series (Pollard 1994) and quantified by sherd count and weight as shown in the catalogue below. Vessel forms were also assigned where diagnostic sherds allowed using published typologies (Young 1977; Howe *et al* 1980; Pollard 1994; Tyres 1996; Webster 1996).

Pottery Catalogue

Cont	Fabric	Form	Sherds	Weight (g)	Dating
1	Nene Valley colour coat	Misc	1	17	3rd-4thC
1	Nene Valley colour coat	Beaker	3	33	late2nd-early3rdC+
1	Oxfordshire colour coat	Bowl	1	10	4thC
1	Black Burnished ware	Dish	1	13	mid/late2ndC+
1	Grey ware	Misc	1	19	2ndC+
3	Nene Valley colour coat	Beaker	1	10	late2nd-early3rdC+
4	Shelly ware	Jar	6	107	2ndC+
4	White ware	Misc	1	6	2ndC
4	Grey ware	Bowl	1	15	mid3rd-4thC
4	Nene Valley colour coat	Bowl	1	22	3rd-4thC
11	Shelly ware	Jar	1	10	2ndC+
11	Grey ware	Misc	1	4	2ndC+
11	Nene Valley colour coat	Flagon	1	6	4thC
13	Shelly ware	Jar	4	55	2ndC+
19	Samian	Bowl	1	3	2ndC
21	Black Burnished ware	Bowl	2	16	mid/late2ndC+
22	Nene Valley mortarium	Mortarium	1	34	mid/late2ndC+
22	White ware	Misc	1	4	2ndC
23	Black Burnished ware	Jar	2	14	mid/late2ndC
26	Nene Valley colour coat	Dish	1	10	4thC
28	Nene Valley colour coat	Flagon	1	32	4thC
31	White ware	Misc	1	7	2ndC
31	Shelly ware	Jar	1	12	2ndC+
31	Amphora	Amphora	1	63	mid1st-mid3rdC
31	Nene Valley mortarium	Mortarium	1	42	mid3rd-4thC
31	Grey ware	Misc	1	11	2ndC+
31	Grey ware	Jar	1	7	3rdC+
31	Grey ware	Jar	1	6	3rdC+
31	Grey ware	Dish	1	54	mid2ndC+

Cont	Fabric	Form	Sherds	Weight (g)	Dating
31	Samian	Cup	1	9	2ndC
31	Samian	Misc	1	1	2ndC
31	Samian	Plate	1	6	late1stC
31	Samian	Cup	1	21	late1st-early2ndC
31	Oxfordshire colour coat	Bowl	1	7	4thC
31	Oxfordshire colour coat	Bowl	1	6	4thC
31	"Rhenish" ware colour coat	Beaker	1	7	mid2nd-early3rdC
33	Amphora	Amphora	1	21	mid1st-mid3rdC
33	Shelly ware	Jar	1	31	3rdC+
34	Amphora	Amphora	1	6	mid/late1st-early 2ndC
45	Samian	Dr33	1	26	2nd-mid3rdC
50	Shelly ware	Jar	1	4	2ndC+

Context (1)

Seven sherds (92g) were recovered from (1) comprising a Black Burnished ware dish, grey ware and Romano-British colour coated wares from the Nene Valley and Oxfordshire. The Oxfordshire colour coat bowl has roulette decoration under the rim and dates to the 4th century (Young 1977: 162-164). Post-Roman pottery was also found in this context.

Contexts (3) and (4)

A colour coated ware beaker from the Nene Valley dating to the late 2nd-early 3rd century was found in (3). A grey ware bead and flange bowl and a Nene Valley colour coated ware castor box (bowl) in (4) suggest a date from the mid-3rd to 4th century (Pollard 1986: 5; Howe *et al* 1980: 24-25). However context (4) is considered residual on the basis of stratigraphic relationships.

Contexts (11) and (13)

The pottery from these contexts comprises grey and shelly ware jars and a Nene Valley colour coated ware flagon. The jars are not closely dateable however the flagon dates to the 4th century (Howe *et al* 1980: 22-23). Post-Roman pottery was also recovered from these contexts.

Contexts (19) to (28)

A Samian ware Drag.37 decorated bowl from Central Gaul dating to the second century was found in (19) (Webster 1996: 47-48). The Black Burnished ware jar in (23) dates to the mid-late 2nd century. The bowl in (21) has no diagnostic features but would not date before the mid-late 2nd century. Two sherds were recovered from (22). The white ware is most likely from a flagon dating within the 2nd century and the mortarium is from the Nene Valley dating from at least the middle of the 2nd century. The Nene Valley colour coated wares are 4th century, comprising a dish in (26) and a flagon handle with a lustrous colour coat in (28) (Howe *et al* 1980: 10; 22-25).

Contexts (31) and (33)

Context (31) proved to be the largest single context, comprising 15 sherds (259g), albeit within a feature believed to be a medieval pit. The white and shelly wares most likely date within the 2nd century; however, the grey wares include East Midlands Burnished ware type jars which date from the 3rd century onwards (Todd 1968). The amphora is most likely a South Spanish Dressel 20 amphora used for transporting olive oil. The Samian ware includes vessels from South and Central Gaul including a Drag.18 plate dating to the late 1st century along with Drag.33 and Drag.46 cups dating to the 2nd century and late 1st-early 2nd century respectively (Webster 1996: 32-35; 45; 47). A “Rhenish” ware colour coated beaker from Central Gaul is of particular interest as it displays figurative decoration similar to that found on Samian ware vessels. Central Gaulish “Rhenish” wares date from the mid-2nd to the early 3rd century (Tyres 1996: 137-138). The latest datable sherds are the Oxfordshire colour coated ware bowls, including a form copying the Samian Drag.36 form. These date to the 4th century (Young 1977: 158-159). Two sherds were recovered from (33) which also forms part of the medieval pit fill, comprising one sherd of Dressel 20 amphora and a shelly ware jar. The jar may be South Midlands shelly ware, though not enough of the body is present to ascertain the presence of diagnostic rilling on the surface. The rim form is comparable to 3rd century necked jars from the Harrold pottery industry in Bedfordshire industry (Brown 1994). Post-Roman pottery was also recovered from these contexts.

Contexts (34), (45) and (50)

Single sherds were recovered from each of these contexts. The sherd from (34) could be from a Fishbourne 148.3 amphora, however it is small (6g) and difficult to positively identify. This amphora type dates from the mid-late 1st century to the early 2nd century (Cunliffe 1971: 208-210). The Samian ware Drag.33 cup in (45) could be from Central or East Gaul with a date range from the 2nd to mid-3rd century. The shelly ware jar from (50) is undiagnostic and cannot be closely dated.

Summary

The material in the assemblage suggests evidence for activity throughout the Roman period possibly from the late 1st century, certainly from the 2nd to 4th centuries, with a range of fabrics and forms typical of assemblages from urban Leicester. There is an element of residuality with 2nd century pottery mixed in with 4th century material. In some cases post-Roman pottery found within the same contexts as the Roman material suggesting disturbed deposits. The 15 sherds of re-deposited material were comparable with the stratified assemblage including 3rd century grey wares and Nene Valley colour coated wares along with small amounts of 2nd century coarse wares and Samian.

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10.2 The medieval and later pottery

D. Sawday

The stratified pottery, 31 sherds, weighing 361 grams, was examined under a binocular microscope and catalogued with reference to the ULAS fabric series (Davies and Sawday 1999). The results are shown below.

Site/Parish: National Westminster Bank, Greyfriars, Leicester Accession No/ Doc Ref: A9 2007/greyfriars 1.doc Material: pottery Site Type: historic town core	Submitter: J. Tate Identifier: D. Sawday Date of Id: 15.07.07 Method of Recovery: evaluation Job No. 06132
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Layer	Fabric/ware	Nos.	Grams	Comments
1	MP2 – Midland Purple ware 2	1	11	c.1375-1550
2	CW2/MB – Cistercian/Midland Black ware	1	33	Possibly a posset pot base, c.1450 - 1650
11	PM – Potters Marston	1	5	?early - late 11-13 th C
13	PM	1	9	12-13 th C
13	CS – Coarse Shelly ware	1	15	c.1100-c.1400

13	CW – Cistercian ware	1	4	Jug rim, oxidised – c.1450+
29	PM	1	7	12-13 th C
29	CC1 –Chilvers Coton ware 1	2	5	c.1250+
29	MS7 – Medieval Sandy ware 7	1	5	Later 13 th or 14 th C?
31	ST2 – Fine Stamford ware	1	2	Mid/late 11c-c.1200
31	PM	8	66	12-13 th C includes ext thickened bowl/jar rim
31	?CO1 – Coventry D ware	1	4	Or pos NO2, c.1150-c.1250
31	NO3 – Nottingham ware 3	1	1	c.1230/1250+
31	NO3	1	10	Heavily reduced internally, late 13 th , early 14 th C.
31	CC1	3	9	c.1250+ - one hard fired post 14 th C
31	MS8– Medieval Sandy ware 8	1	10	?14 th – mid 15 th C.
33	PM	1	12	12-13 th C
33	NO3	1	55	Later 13 th C, jug handle base
87	PM	1	29	12-13 th C
96	CC1	1	1	c.1250+
98	PM	1	68	12-13 th C. Storage jar body with thumbled applied clay strip
U/S	CC1	1		c.1250+
U/S	CC2	1		Jar rim, everted & externally thickened, thick glaze & decorative rilling on body
U/S	MS2 - Medieval Sandy ware 2	2		
U/S	MP2	3		One under fired, 3 cistern/jar rims
U/S	MY - Midland Yellow	1		c.1500+
U/S	SW - Stoneware	1		Post med/modern

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