

**An Archaeological Evaluation by Trial Trenching
For a proposed Development at Carey's Close, Leicester.
(SK 5838 0438)**

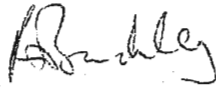
M. Shore, D. Parker & W. Jarvis

For:

**WSP Environmental Ltd/
Hyde Harrington Property Consultants**

Checked by Project Manager

Signed:



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By M. Shore, D. Parker and W. Jarvis

1. Summary

An archaeological evaluation was carried out between 22nd and 30th May 2007 by University Of Leicester Archaeological Services (ULAS) at Carey's Close, Leicester, (SK 5838 0438) on behalf of WSP Environmental Ltd/Hyde Harrington Property Consultants.

The site is located within the central part of Leicester, to the east of St. Nicholas Circle, north of Peacock Lane at the southern end of Careys Close within the historic Roman and medieval walled city. An evaluation trench was excavated using a mechanical excavator measuring 16m x 4m, orientated N/S across the development area. After the machine removal of the post-medieval garden soils, medieval and Roman features were evident, After hand cleaning of the machined area a small proportion of the medieval features were partially excavated to categorise the depth of the medieval and Roman archaeology. The finds and site records archive will be deposited with Leicester City Museums Service, accession number A5.2007.

2 Introduction

2.1 The proposed development site is located on land at Carey's Close, Leicester, (SK 5838 0438), and is currently open ground after the recent demolition of a 19th century factory. The former cellar on the Peacock Lane frontage was backfilled with demolition material. Due to lack of space for the mechanical excavator and the spoil, the size of the trench was limited. The trench was excavated up to the northern edge of the cellar, the cellar not being excavated.

2.2 A desk based assessment for the site area was previously prepared by ULAS in 2005 (Meek 2005) for previous owners of the site, but the report was never formally issued. The report highlighted the high potential of the site area to contain archaeological remains.

2.3 A Written Scheme of Investigation for the evaluation was prepared by WSP Environmental Ltd (Meek 2007) and approved by the City Archaeologist, which was used as the methodology for the trial trench evaluation.

2.4 The site lies at approximately 63m OD. The Ordnance Survey Geological survey of Great Britain Sheet indicates that the underlying geology is likely to comprise sands and gravels.

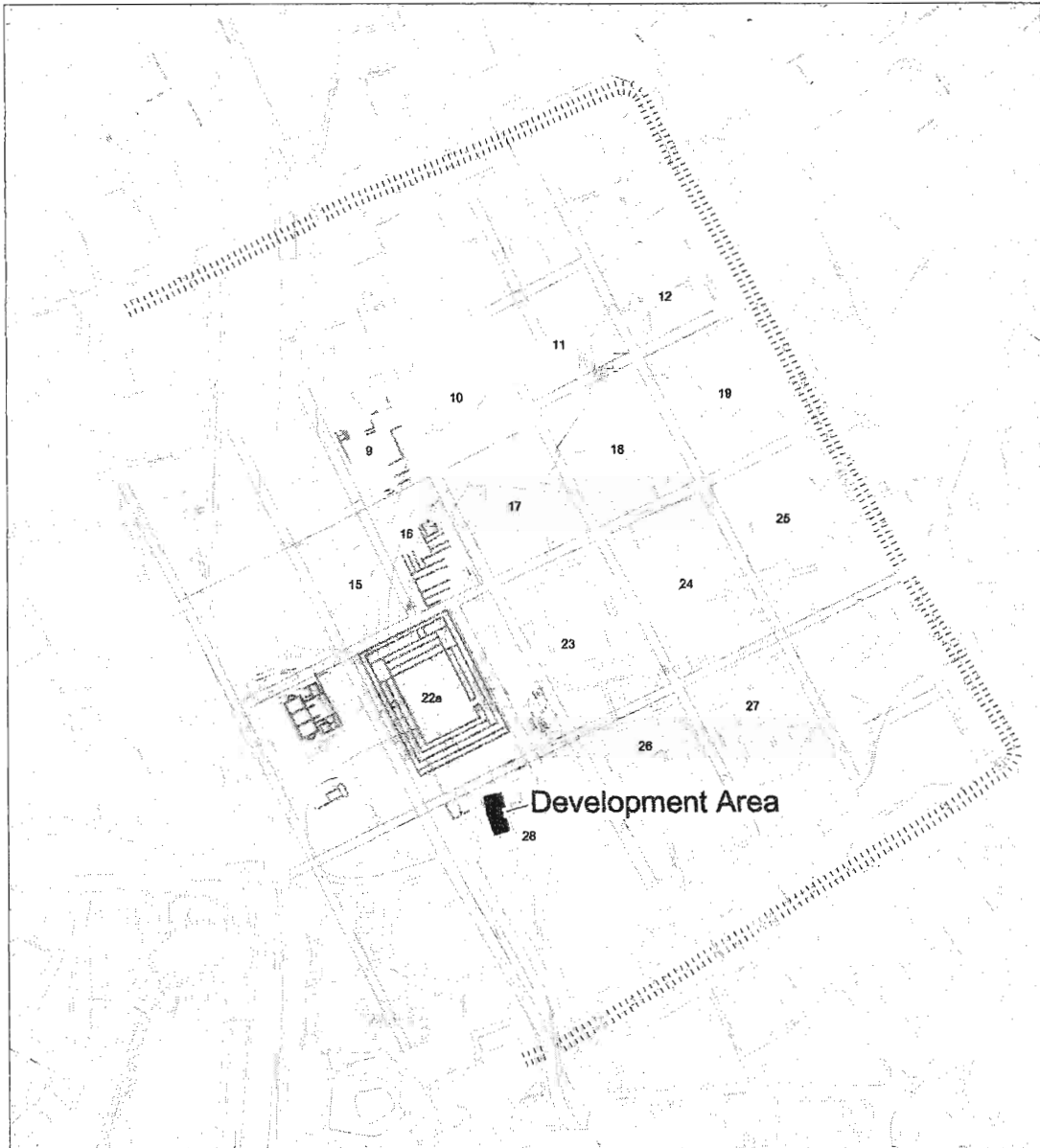


Figure 1: Site location with Roman town overlay.

3 General Archaeological and Historical Background

This area of Leicester has had numerous archaeological excavations/investigations undertaken, many lying in close proximity to the site area.

Directly to the west of the site on the opposite side of Southgates two recent investigations have been undertaken by ULAS, the first at Castle Street (Thomas 2001) and the second having just been completed at 72 St. Nicholas Circle (Priest forthcoming). Both revealed evidence for Roman and medieval activity.

To the north of the site the current Castle Park Car Park has been subject to three stages of archaeological investigation. The first stages of excavation were undertaken in 1971 and 1973, which revealed substantial evidence for the Roman Forum, as well as later medieval activity. A more recent evaluation was undertaken closer to the existing street frontages, including an area to the west of Carey's Close and also on the Applegate frontage directly to the north-east of the site area (Meek 2000). These investigations demonstrated that a very good sequence of medieval, post-medieval and earlier deposits was preserved within the area, including possible late Saxon activity on the Applegate frontage. Archaeological excavations have also been recently undertaken on the corner of St. Nicholas Place and Guildhall Lane (now the BBC Radio Leicester building, Kipling 2002 and forthcoming)). Here evidence for a substantial sequence of medieval and post-medieval buildings and plot boundaries was revealed, including further evidence of the Norman Undercroft building. Investigations within the cellars of the former building that stood on the site also demonstrated the presence of well preserved Roman remains beneath the cellar floors.

3.1 *The Iron Age*

In Leicester the development of the Roman and medieval town has probably severely truncated evidence of Iron Age settlement. A possible circular house was found at St Nicholas Circle, and pits and a burial were present at Blackfriars Street (Clay and Pollard 1994; Clay and Mellor 1985). Evidence for the extent of the Iron Age settlement has relied on the distribution of Later Iron Age artefacts. These include pre-Roman imported pottery from Gaul, Italy and Spain represented by Arretine ware, Gallo-Belgic butt beakers and Terra Rubra/Terra Nigra ware (Clamp 1985; Clay and Pollard 1994). At Blackfriars Street and on Bath Lane fragments of flan trays may be evidence of coin manufacture. The distribution of Iron Age finds, however, does suggest a large lowland settlement covering c.8ha, and the type of material would suggest a high status settlement with extensive trading links by the time of the Roman conquest. It was this settlement which was to become the Civitas Capital during the Roman occupation (Clay 2001). The projected extent of the Iron Age settlement does not extend into the proposed development area, although this does not mean that deposits of this date do not exist here.

3.2 *The Roman period*

After the Roman conquest, there is limited evidence to suggest that a small fortlet was established to control the crossing point of the river near the present West Bridge (Clay and Pollard 1994, 46). Evidence for timber buildings of the pre-Flavian period has been encountered, with the suggestion, on the basis of uniformity of alignment, that they have more in common with buildings within a fort than with a native settlement or *vicus*. Timber buildings of later first century date are on a

different alignment, and are considered to represent the first Roman town (*Ratae Corieltavorum*), expanding to the east from the river, with the presence of wall plaster and *opus signinum* suggesting the gradual adoption of Roman tastes.

In the early second century, the street grid appears to have been formalised, if not entirely laid out, and at the same time, *Ratae* was probably established as a *civitas* capital. Timber buildings of this period are aligned on the street grid, and have been found beneath the northern and eastern defences, pointing to the rapid expansion of settlement (Buckley and Lucas 1987). In the middle and later years of the second century, a major programme of public and private building was undertaken. This included the construction of the Forum and Basilica complex (Hebditch and Mellor 1973), the Jewry Wall public baths, at least one temple and a variety of domestic, commercial and industrial premises (Clay and Mellor 1985; Clay and Pollard 1994). On most Roman sites in the town, masonry buildings begin to appear in this period, some perhaps commercial and domestic properties whilst others might be described as palatial town houses.

In the late second or early third century, the town was defended with a rampart and ditch, with a wall being added probably later in the third century (Buckley and Lucas 1987; Cooper forthcoming and Jarvis forthcoming).

There is some evidence for suburban occupation outside the walls, to the north (Northgates: Buckley 1987; Sanvey Gate: Finn 1993) and south (Oxford Street: Clarke 2003, Hunt 2004; Bonners Lane: Finn 1994, Finn 2004; Grange Lane: Shore forthcoming, Thomas forthcoming), comprising both timber and, possibly, substantial masonry buildings. To the west, across the river, excavations at Great Holme Street have suggested the existence of an industrial suburb, with evidence of pottery kilns and an abattoir (Lucas forthcoming). Cemeteries surrounded the town, with only those, at Newarke Street (Cooper 1996, Derrick 2002 and 2003) and Clarence Street (Crank 2002) being subjected to controlled excavation. Both of the areas have revealed fairly extensive cemetery sites.

Evidence from the fourth century still remains elusive. This may be due to truncation from medieval activity, although a decline in urban occupation is possible in view of the evidence for street metalling having been dug into (Redcross Street: Clay and Pollard 1994, 48) together with evidence for the illegal extraction of silver from coinage within the ruins of the *Macellum* (Wacher 1974, 353).

Previous fieldwork has shown that the site area lies within the heart of the Roman town (fig. 1). The Roman Forum lies directly to the north, with the possible temple site (the *Mithraeum*) and the site of the Jewry Wall Roman Baths to the west. Other substantial masonry buildings of Roman date have also been indicated on Applegate (including beneath the cellars of Wygston's House) and to the east of St. Nicholas Place. The line of the Fosse Way through Leicester runs directly between the site of the Forum and the site area, as was indicated during the Castle Park Car Park evaluation (Meek 2000). The area would have been the commercial heart of the Roman town.

3.3 The Post Roman Period

The nature of occupation in Leicester after the end of Roman Britain remains difficult to define due to the comparative dearth of archaeological evidence. Recent excavations some 250m to the south of the town, adjacent to the Roman road to *Tripontium* (Caves Inn) revealed the truncated remains of two sunken featured

buildings associated with finds of the fifth-sixth centuries (Finn 1994, 167; Gossip 1998, 159-60). These represent the first Anglo-Saxon structures to be located in or near the Roman town, but may indicate no more than a small suburban settlement and the evidence cannot be taken at present to suggest the continuation of urban life (P. Courtney pers. comm.). Within the walls, confirmed structures of this period have recently been identified, with pottery and other finds having been made in the north-east quarter at St Peter's Lane (Shires), Causeway Lane and elsewhere. Sunken feature buildings have recently been excavated at the former site of the St. Margaret's Baths, and on the frontage of Highcross Street (A. Gnanaratnam, G. Speed pers. comm.).

Leicester became a Mercian bishopric soon after 670, one of the five Boroughs of the Danelaw in 877 and - based on the Domesday Survey - was apparently a flourishing town at the time of the Norman Conquest, with 322 houses, 65 burgesses and six churches (Ellis 1976, p.38-9). There is little archaeological evidence so far, however, for late Saxon occupation, and only the church of St. Nicholas, to the west of the study area, has fabric of this period. Courtney (1998) argues that it cannot be assumed that the town had an urban character by the tenth century despite its strategic military importance. Instead he suggests, on the basis of the distribution of finds, that the main street of Leicester in the Saxo-Norman period was the N-S running axial road, the medieval 'High Street' (later renamed Highcross and Southgate Streets). This takes the shortest route between the north and south gates, and apparently respects the Roman forum (Buckley and Lucas 1987, p.56). As the town's widest street, it would initially have served as the chief market and was, perhaps, the focus of pre-Conquest occupation. The proposed development site lies adjacent to the route of the former High Street.

After the Conquest, a motte and bailey castle was constructed in *c.* 1068 at the south-west angle of the Roman defences in a position where it would dominate the town. In the early twelfth century, the timber elements of the castle began to be replaced in stone and St Mary de Castro was endowed as a collegiate church. Other churches were clearly rebuilt at this time, as shown by surviving Romanesque fabric, and work commenced on the great abbey of St Mary de Pratis outside the north suburb after 1143. Of domestic occupation in this period, archaeology has furnished little evidence. The stone undercroft on Guildhall Lane may relate to a high status merchants house (Hagar and Buckley 1990; Kipling 2002 and forthcoming), whilst at Causeway Lane and Sanvey Gate (Finn 1993) intensive backyard activity in the twelfth century suggests a growth in population. The archaeological record also attests robbing of Roman walls on a large scale at this time, which it is tempting to associate with a building boom in major secular and religious structures.

By the thirteenth century, the topography of medieval Leicester comprised the core of settlement contained within the Roman walls, with suburbs outside each of the gates. The intra-mural area was dominated by the castle; the Friaries of the Dominicans and Franciscans (Greyfriars which lies to the east of the proposed development area), which were established in the thirteenth century; the Saturday Market; and six churches. Another friary, that of the Augustinians was established outside the west gate in the mid thirteenth century (excavated 1973-8; Mellor and Pearce 1981). The street pattern was perhaps largely in place by this time, and remained relatively intact until the late nineteenth-twentieth century.

Peacock Lane lies adjacent to the former High Street running through medieval Leicester, that is thought to have been a focus for late Saxon activity. Investigations on Applegate revealed possible occupation of this period within 40m of the site area (Meek 2000). The streets surrounding the site area, Applegate, Carey's Close, Peacock Lane and Southgates, all roughly follow the medieval street pattern. The extant late medieval buildings of Wygston's House and the Guildhall both lie to the north of the proposed development area.

4 Aims & objectives

The purpose of the archaeological evaluation was to ascertain if any archaeological deposits were present and if so, to establish their nature, extent, date and significance in order that an informed decision may be taken by the planning authority on the impact of the development proposals. Recording of these archaeological deposits would be carried out as appropriate, and an archive and this report produced. The work followed the Institute of Field Archaeologists (IFA) Standard and Guidance for *Archaeological Evaluations*, and adhered to the University's Health and Safety policy.

5 Methodology

All work followed the Institute of Field Archaeologists (IFA) Code of Conduct and adhere to their *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluations* (1999). The work also followed the Design Specification of April 2007 approved by Leicester City Council (Meek 2007).

6 Trial Trenching Methodology

Prior to any machining of trial trenches general photographs of the site areas were taken. Topsoil and modern overburden was removed in level spits, under continuous archaeological supervision, down to the topsoil base by JCB 3C using a toothless ditching bucket. Exposed trenches were examined by hand cleaning to locate any archaeological deposits, which were planned and sample-excavated. The trench locations were recorded and all plans were tied into the Ordnance Survey National Grid.

7 Results

The evaluation trench was excavated using a mechanical excavator and covered a total area of 64.87 square metres, measuring 16 metres by 4 metres, and tapering to 3 metres towards the south end of the trench (see plate 1). The Post medieval garden soils were machined by the mechanical excavator to the top of the medieval stratigraphy, which from the present ground surface, varied from 1.27m depth at the north to 1.82m at the south of the trench. The excavated area was then cleaned by hand with trowels. A small number of the medieval pits were partially excavated for dating evidence and to determine the depth of archaeology. Additionally, at the more southern area of the trench, a late well (11) (12), was quarter sectioned to a depth of 3.38m from present ground level (fig. 4, section 1:03). The side of this well showed the top of medieval soils below present ground level at 1.58m, and the top of Roman

stratigraphy at 2.21m. The depth of the Roman stratigraphy seen was 1.17m. Also located in the side of the well, was the natural sub soil of sands and gravels at a depth of 3.38m below the present ground level.

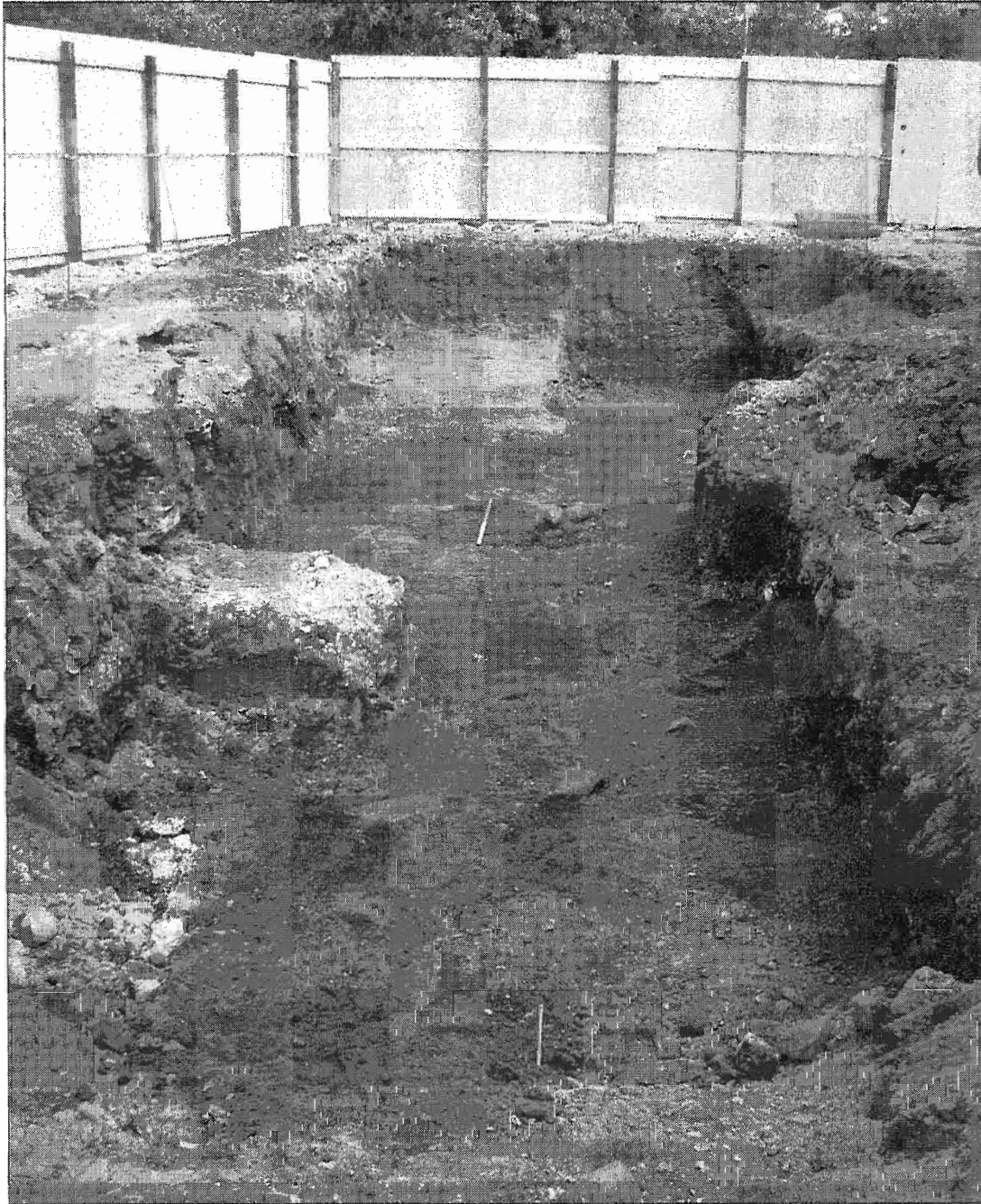


Plate 1: Evaluation trench after machining, looking north.

Part of the north eastern side of the trench was excavated to a greater depth due to modern truncation. This revealed Roman levels at 1.52m (Section 1:02) and 1.94m (section 1:04) below present ground level, and also a probable linear feature (18), running Northwest-Southeast, which was partially excavated by hand, and revealed a mortared wall (30), appearing to run N/E-S/W. Also probably contemporary with the

wall were at least two mortar floor levels. Finds from (18) included an assemblage of later Roman pottery and several sherds of Saxo-Norman wares.

The cellar at the south of the development area was mainly backfilled, however the eastern edge was mainly open to the base which was approximately 2.34m below present ground level, so the probability of Roman archaeology surviving beneath the cellar floor is high. No evaluation trench was placed within the cellar area due to health and safety considerations.

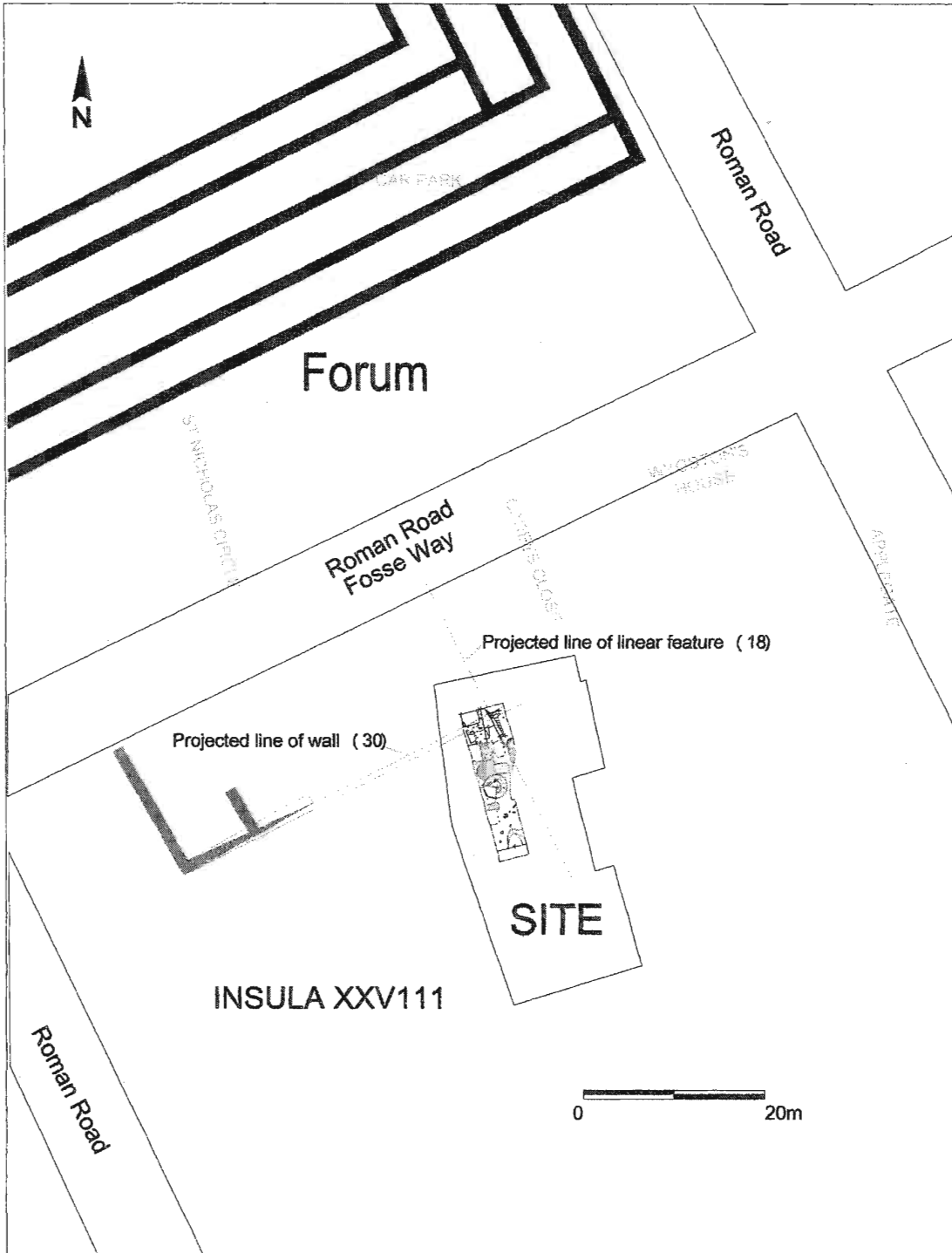


Figure 2: Trench location, and site in relation to Roman town

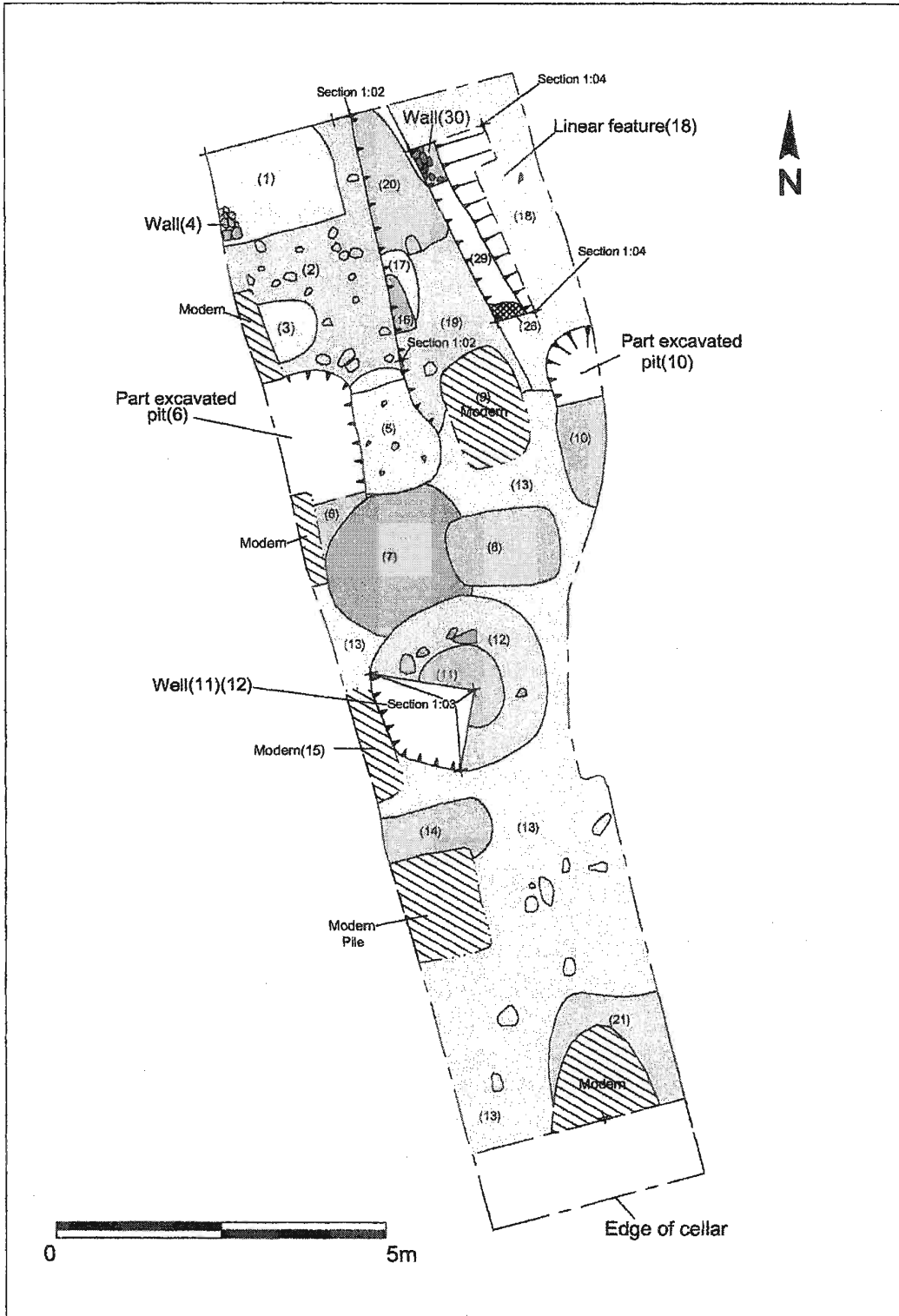


Figure 3: plan of trench. For sections see figs. 4, 6

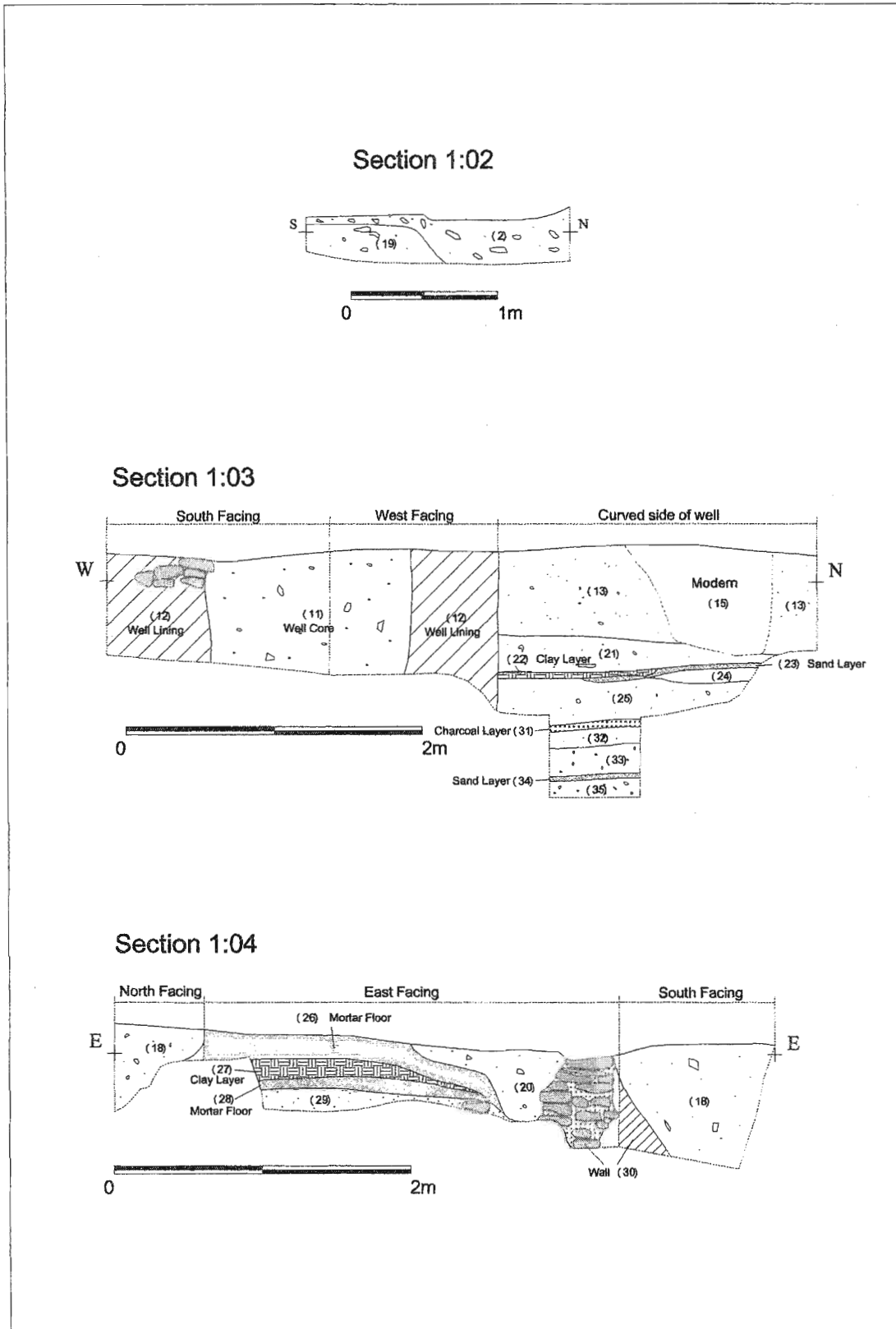


Figure 4: Sections 1:02, 1:03 & 1:04 as located on fig. 3.

8 Conclusion

Finds from the evaluation trench suggest activity throughout the Roman period from the second to fourth centuries, with an emphasis on the later Roman period perhaps a product of the disturbance of these later deposits in later periods. The reasonable levels of preservation of the pottery imply little reworking of these earlier deposits however, although there is some disturbance from later activity. As regards this later (early medieval onwards) activity, material is present from the Saxo-Norman period, through the medieval and also the post medieval periods and up to the 18th century. The level of preservation of this post-Roman material indicates relatively undisturbed levels of this date in addition in the area.

Overall the potential for surviving archaeology was very good (fig. 5). The northern end of the trench (area A) revealed medieval and Roman deposits surviving at shallow depth, with minimal damage from modern truncation. Area B also had good potential for medieval and Roman deposits, although the area had been subjected to more frequent medieval pitting than area A. Area C was unclear, the area appeared to be made up of medieval garden soils, or large pits, but the probability is that archaeology would survive in parts. The cellar at the southern area of the site would have destroyed most of the medieval deposits although some of the deeper medieval pits may survive. The Roman levels, although probably partly truncated by the cellar, would also still survive to a reasonable depth.

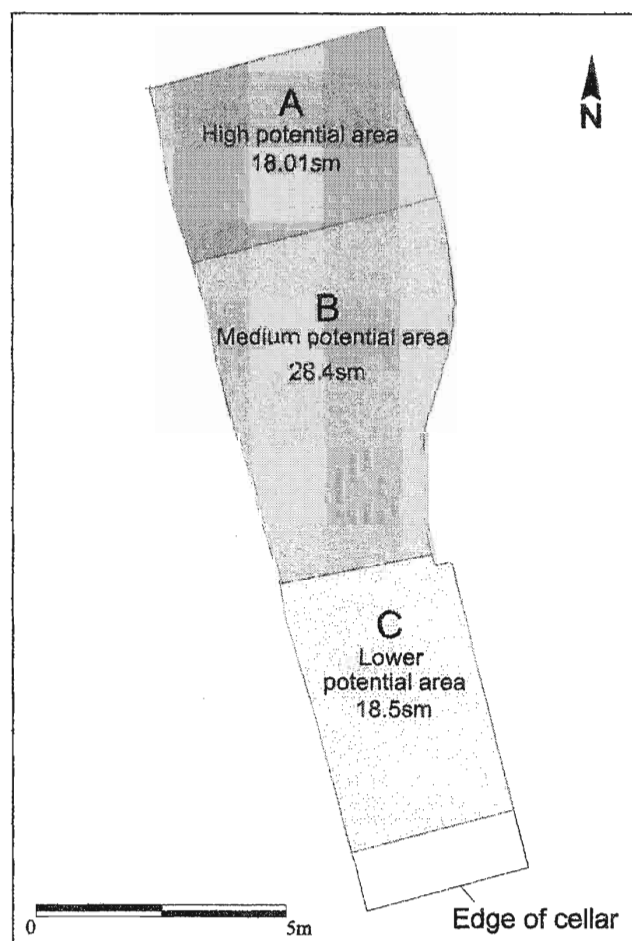


Figure 5: Plan of archaeological potential.

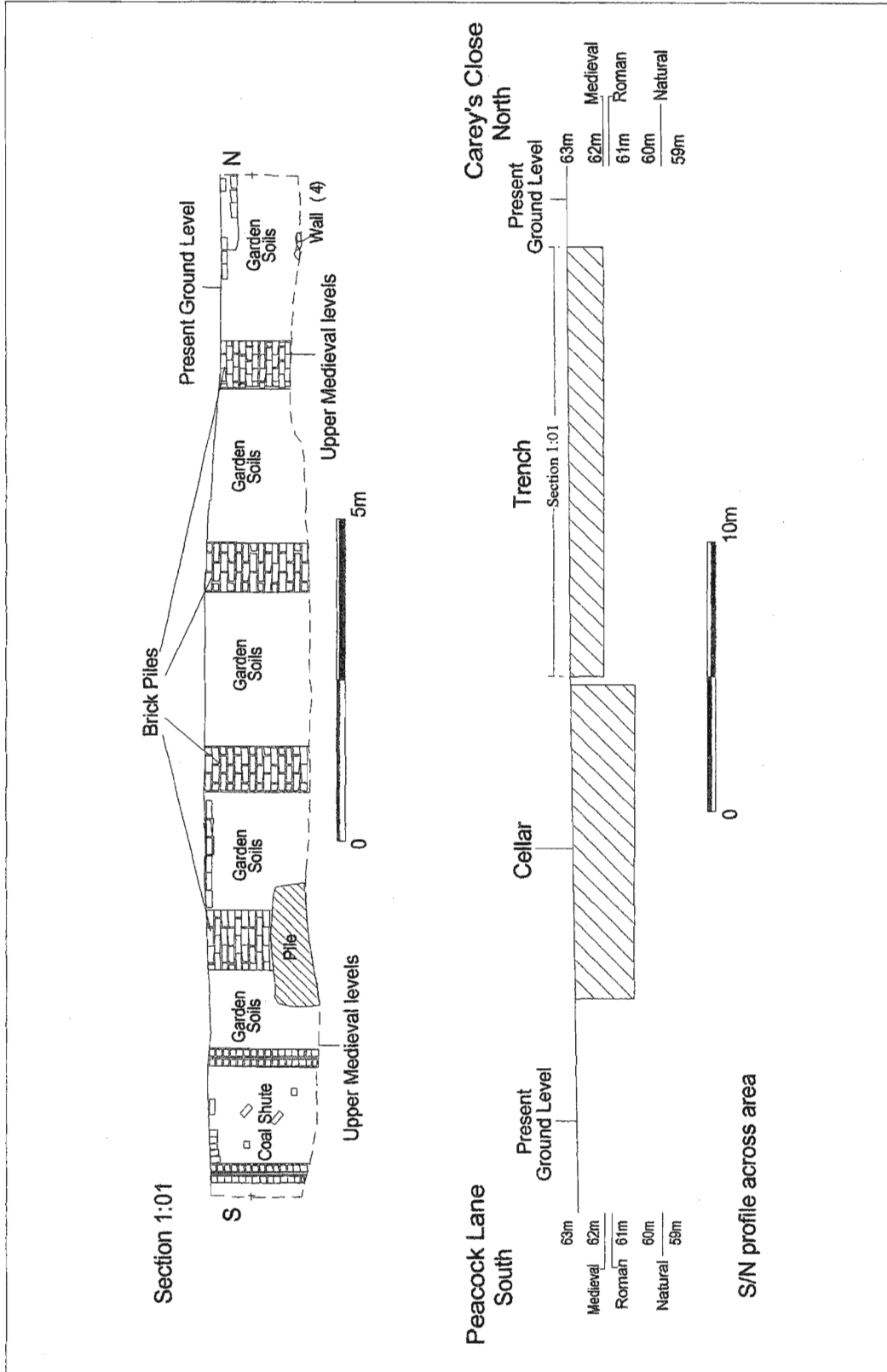


Figure 6a: Section 1:01 & Depth profile across area

Levels OD 64.99	South end of trench	Middle of trench	North end of trench
Top of trench	62.98	63.02	63.07
Base of trench	61.31	61.36	61.13-61.70
Top of medieval archaeology	61.31	61.36	61.70
Top of Roman archaeology	Not seen	60.73	61.49
Base of Roman archaeology	Not seen	59.56-To subsoil	60.28 Lowest level Seen.
Base of cellar	60.64	Not seen	Not seen

Figure 6b Level table/



Plate 2: Showing Roman wall (30), and floor levels in section.

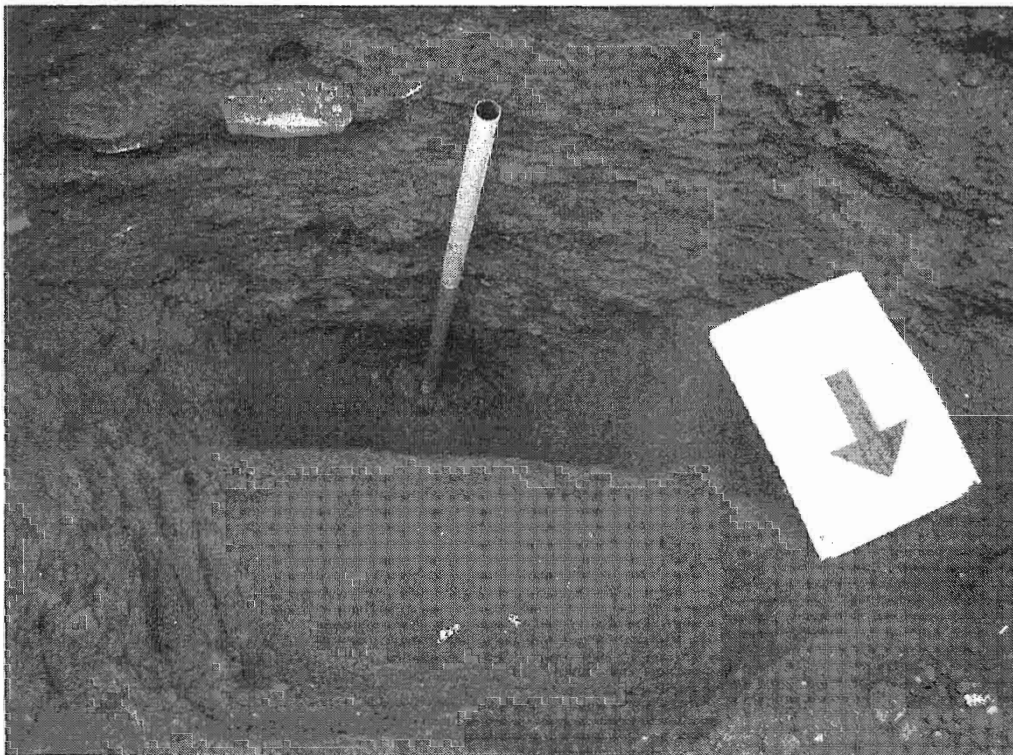


Plate 3: Showing side of well, (section 1:03) with Roman stratification.

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10 Archive

The archive (accession number A5.2007) will be deposited with Leicester City Service, and consists of the following:

1 CD of digital photographs and contact sheet prints

A4 Site indices

35 Context recording sheets

4 Permatrace sheets with plans and sections

Finds

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

11 Acknowledgments

ULAS would like to thank WSP Environmental UK Ltd and Hyde Harrington Property Consultants for their help and co-operation. The project was managed by Richard Buckley.

12 Appendices

12.1 Context index

Context	Deposit	Description	Feature type	Date/period	Section No
1	Fill	Mid orange brown silty sandy clay	Pit?	Medieval	/
2	Fill	Dark greyish brown silty sandy clay	Spread/pit?	Medieval	1:02
3	Fill	Yellowish grey brown silty sandy clay	Pit	Medieval	/
4	Construction	Large pebbles/granite	Stone Wall	Medieval/Post Medieval	/
5	Fill	Light orange brown silty sandy clay	Pit	Medieval	/
6	Fill	Light greyish brown silty sandy clay	Pit	Medieval	/
7	Fill	Dark brown silty sandy clay	Pit	Medieval/ Roman?	/
8	Fill	Orange/red brown silty sandy clay	Pit	Medieval	/
9	Fill	Greyish brown silty sandy clay	Modern Pit	Modern	/
10	Fill	Light orange brown silty sandy clay	Pit	Medieval	/
11	Fill	Very dark brown silty sandy clay	Well	Medieval	1:03
12	Fill	Mid reddish brown silty sandy clay	Well	Medieval	1:03
13	Layer	Dark greyish brown silty sandy clay	Garden soils?	Medieval	1:03
14	Fill	Mid grey/green brown silty sandy clay	Pit	Medieval	/
15	Fill	Light yellow brown silty sandy clay	Modern	Modern	1:03
16	Fill	Red/orange brown silty sandy clay	Hearth?	Roman	/
17	Fill	Dark greyish brown silty sandy clay	Pit?	Roman	/
18	Fill	Dark greyish brown silty sandy clay	Ditch?	Medieval/ Roman?	1:04
19	Layer	Light yellow brown silty sandy clay	Layer	Roman	1:02

20	Fill	Dark greyish brown silty sandy clay	Pit	Medieval/ Roman?	/
21	Layer	Yellowish brown silty sandy clay	Layer/Pit	Roman	1:03
22	Layer	Red/orange clay	Floor make up?	Roman	1:03
23	Layer	Dark yellow brown silty sandy clay	Floor make up?	Roman	1:03
24	Layer	Mid reddish brown silty sandy clay	Layer	Roman	1:03
25	Layer/Fill	Greyish brown silty sandy clay	Layer/Fill	Roman	1:03
26	Layer	Creamy/yellow	Mortar floor	Roman	1:04
27	Layer	Orange/red clay	Floor make up	Roman	1:04
28	Layer	Creamy/grey	Mortar floor	Roman	1:04
29	Layer	Yellowish green brown	Floor make up?	Roman	1:04
30	Construction	Granite with creamy yellow mortar	Mortared wall	Roman	1:04
31	Layer	Very dark grey brown silty sandy clay	Charcoal layer	Roman	1:03
32	Layer	Yellow/green brown silty sandy clay	Layer	Roman	1:03
33	Layer	Mid reddish brown silty sandy clay	Layer	Roman	1:03
34	Layer	Orange brown silty sand	Sandy layer	Roman	1:03
35	Layer?	Greyish brown silty sandy clay	Layer/fill	Roman	1:03

12.2 The Romano-British pottery. By Elizabeth Johnson

Assemblage Size and Condition

A stratified assemblage of 46 sherds of Roman period pottery weighing 531g was retrieved from excavations carried out as part of an archaeological evaluation. The average sherd weight of 11.5g suggests reasonable levels of preservation, although the surfaces of some sherds were abraded.

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
6	Samian	Cup	1	22	2ndC
11	White ware	Flagon	1	23	2ndC
11	Grey ware	Jar	1	11	2ndC
11	Amphora	Amphora	1	3	mid1st-mid3rdC
11	Cologne ware colour coat	Beaker	1	5	2ndC
12	Shelly ware	Jar	1	63	late1st-2ndC
12	Lyon ware colour coat	Beaker	1	6	mid1stC
12	Oxidised ware	Jar	3	13	2ndC+
12	Samian	Plate	1	8	mid-late1stC
12	Samian	Bowl	1	12	late1st-early2ndC
12	Samian	Bowl	1	3	2ndC

12	Samian	Cup	1	7	late2ndC
12	Samian	Misc	1	2	2nd-mid3rdC
12	Nene Valley colour coat	Beaker	1	16	mid-late3rdC
12	Nene Valley colour coat	Beaker	1	32	3rdC+
12	Nene Valley colour coat	Beaker	1	3	late2ndC+
12	Nene Valley colour coat	Beaker	1	1	late2nd-early3rdC+
12	Nene Valley colour coat	Misc	2	7	3rdC+
12	White ware	Flagon	4	71	2ndC
12	White ware	Flagon	3	15	2ndC
12	White ware	Bowl	1	7	2ndC
12	White ware	Unguentarium	1	6	2ndC+
12	Mortarium	Mortarium	1	44	mid2nd-early3rdC
12	Grey ware	Jar	2	22	late1st-mid2ndC
12	Grey ware	Jar	1	5	2ndC
12	Grey ware	Jar	1	12	2ndC
12	Grey ware	Jar	1	12	2ndC+
12	Grey ware	Jar	1	27	2ndC+
12	Black Burnished ware	Jar	1	11	late2ndC+
12	Grey ware	Jar	1	4	2ndC+
18	Samian	Cup	1	5	late1st-early2ndC
18	Samian	Misc	1	3	late1st-early2ndC
18	Samian	Dish	1	7	early-mid2ndC
18	Oxford colour coat	Bowl	1	9	AD325+
18	Nene Valley colour coat	Beaker	1	16	4thC
18	Nene Valley colour coat	Beaker	1	2	late2ndC
18	Black Burnished ware	Jar	1	16	3rdC+

Context (6)

A Central Gaulish Samian ware Drag.33 cup was recovered from (6), dating to the second century (Webster 1996: 45).

Context (11)

Four sherds (42g) were recovered from (11) comprising a white ware flagon, grey ware jar with roulette decoration, Gauloise 4 wine amphora and Cologne ware roughcast decorated beaker suggesting a date within the second half of the second century (Pollard 1994: 77-79; Tyres 1996: 95; 148).

Context (12)

Thirty four sherds (409g) accounting for most of the assemblage as a whole, were found in (12). The grey and shelly ware jars are most likely locally made, with barbotine dot and roulette decoration indicating a date within the second century (Pollard 1994: 77-79). The oxidised ware jar also most likely dates within the second century, as do the white ware flagons, bowl and unguentarium. Possible sources for the oxidised and white wares are Mancetter-Hartshill or Northamptonshire (Pollard 1986: 4). The Black Burnished ware jar is not closely dateable but would not date before the middle of the second century. A mortarium, most likely from a Midlands

source and dating from the mid-second to early third century, was also present (Pollard 1994: 113).

Imported fine wares include a Lyon ware roughcast decorated beaker dating to the mid-first century. The remaining imports comprise Gaulish Samian table wares typical of the second century (Tyres 1996: 150; Webster 1996: 115-116). Nene Valley colour coated ware beakers account for the rest of the fine wares, ranging in date from the late second-early third century to a funnel necked form dating to the mid-late third century (Howe *et al* 1980: 16-19).

Context (18)

Seven sherds (58g) were recovered from (18). The latest dateable material is the Oxfordshire colour coated ware bowl and Nene Valley pedestal base beaker dating to the fourth century (Young 1977: 164-167; Howe *et al* 1980: 20-21). The remaining pottery comprises a Black Burnished ware flared jar rim dating to at least the third century, a further Nene Valley colour coated ware beaker dating to the later second or third century, and a Samian ware dish and cup dating within the second century.

Summary

The material in the assemblage suggests evidence for activity throughout the Roman period from the second to fourth centuries and the range of fabrics and forms is typical of assemblages from urban Leicester. There is an element of residuality with second century pottery mixed in with fourth century material. It should also be noted that post-Roman pottery was found within the same contexts as the Roman material suggesting disturbed deposits.

12.3 The medieval and later pottery and miscellaneous finds. By D. Sawday

The pottery, thirty four sherds, weighing 850 grams, was examined under a binocular microscope and catalogued with reference to the ULAS fabric series (Davies and Sawday 1999, Sawday forthcoming). The results are shown below (table 1). Also present were three fragments of medieval ridge tile, weighing 107 grams, and three clay pipe stems.

Fabric/Ware	Sherd Nos.	Weight Grams	Av. Sherd Weight
Late Saxon/Early Medieval			
ST2 – Fine Stamford ware	1	13	
ST1 Very Fine Stamford ware	1	3	
PM – Potters Marston	4	41	
OS – Oxidised Sandy ware	1	27	
SP2 – Nottingham Splashed ware	2	45	
CO1 – Coventry D ware	1	13	
Sub Total	10	142	14.2
Medieval			
CC1 – Chilvers Coton ware 1	4	299	
CC2 – Chilvers Coton ware 2	1	6	
Sub Total	5	305	61.0

Late Medieval/Post Medieval			
MP2 - Midland Purple ware	2	128	64.0
MP3 - Midland Purple ware 3	2	38	
CW2/MB – Cistercian/Midland Blackware	5	62	
MY – Midland Yellow ware	1	23	
EA2 – Earthenware 2	8	127	
EA3 – Mottled ware	1	25	
Sub Total	19	403	21.2
Totals	34	850	

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

Much of the pottery dated from the later fourteenth or fifteenth centuries, to the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries. However, sherds in the post medieval Midland Yellow ware, Midland Black ware and the Earthenwares EA2 and EA3, all in context 11, are possibly eighteenth century in date.

The average sherd weight of 21.2 grams suggests that relatively undisturbed archaeological levels may survive in the area.

Site/Parish: Carey's Close, Leicester	Submitter: D. Parker
Accession No/ Doc Ref: A5 2007/careys close1.doc	Identifier: D. Sawday
Material: pottery	Date of Id: 23.7.07
Site Type: historic town core	Method of Recovery: Evaluation

Context	Fabric/ware	Sherd nos.	Weight grams	Comments
POTTERY				
6	MP3 - Midland Purple ware 3	1	3	Later medieval , c.1375+
10	CC1 – Chilvers Coton ware 1	3	296	Base, 2 joining, sherds, ?cylindrical jug, form not paralleled at Chilvers Coton, 14C
10	MP3	1	35	Later medieval , c.1375+
11	SP2 – Nottingham Splashed ware	2	45	residual
11	CC1	1	3	residual
11	CC2 – Chilvers Coton ware 2	1	6	residual
11	CO1 – Coventry D ware	1	13	residual
11	MP2 – Midland purple ware 2	2	128	residual
11	CW2 – Cistercian ware 2	1	10	Posset pot rim & handle fragment, residual
11	CW2/MB – Cistercian/Midland Blackware	4	52	Latter dated c.1550-c1750
11	MY – Midland Yellow ware	1	23	c.1500-c.1725
11	EA2 – Earthenware 2	8	127	17C+
11	EA3 – Mottled ware	1	25	c.1650-1750/80
12	ST1 – Very Fine Stamford ware	1	3	12C+
12	PM – Potters Marston ware	4	41	12-13 C
18	ST2 – Fine Stamford ware	1	13	Jar rim, sooted – possibly form 4-58, early/mid 12C
18	OS – Oxidised Sandy ware	1	27	Sooted/burnt. Flat base. ? Hand built, coarse fabric, quartz + calcareous inclusions
RIDGE TILE				
6	MS3 – Medieval Sandy ware 3	1	47	Hard fired, 14C+
10	CC1 – Chilvers Coton ware 1	1	45	c.1250+
11	CC1	1	15	c.1250+, rather thin walled, possibly pot

CLAY PIPE			
11	China clay	3	Pipe stems. ? 17 th C+