University of Leicester

Archaeological Services

An Archaeological Evaluation at Peacock Lane/Carey's Close, Leicester SK 5830 0440

Tim Higgins

ULAS Report No 2010-120.

An Archaeological Evaluation at

Peacock Lane/Carey's Close

Leicester SK 5830 0440

Tim Higgins

For: Askam Construction Ltd

Checked by

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An Archaeological Evaluation at Peacock Lane/Carey's Close, Leicester

(SK 5830 0440)

Tim Higgins

Summary

An archaeological field evaluation by trial trenching was undertaken at Peacock Lane/Carey's Close, Leicester by University of Leicester Archaeological Services in response to development proposals for student accommodation in May 2010. Eight test-pits were excavated within a basement in an area defined as having archaeological potential as it was located within the known Roman and medieval town. The test-pits revealed potential Roman yard surfaces, a masonry building foundation and pits. A few medieval pits, observed cutting the Roman deposits, are thought to be associated with potential back yard properties that fronted on to either Peacock Lane or Applegate (the medieval High Street). The site archive will be held with Leicester Museum Service, under the accession code: A7.2010.

1. Introduction

An archaeological field evaluation (AFE) was undertaken as part of the requirements identified by the City Archaeologist at Leicester City Council as archaeological advisor to planning authority following Planning Policy Statement 5, Planning for the Historic Environment (PPS5 2010). The AFE was undertaken to assess whether any archaeological remains of significance were present within the proposed development site and propose suitable treatment to avoid or minimise damage by the development.

The project represents the second phase in the development of Student accommodation. The archaeological potential of the adjacent plot was previously assessed by a phased programme of work, commencing with archaeological desk-based assessment (Meek 2005), followed by intrusive field evaluation (Shore *et al* 2007) Subsequently the damage to the buried archaeological remains was mitigated by maintaining a watching brief during groundworks

This report presents the results of archaeological evaluation by test-pits carried out in May 2010 by University of Leicester Archaeological Services (ULAS).

2. Site Description, Topography and Geology

The proposed development is for the construction of new student accommodation on the corner of Applegate and Peacock Lane, Leicester. The development area is currently occupied by 19th- and 20th-century industrial buildings. The area comprises *c*.399 square metres (*c*.0.039ha) and lies at a height of *c*. 64m OD.

The current buildings occupying this phase of the development are to be demolished with exception of elements of Peacock Lane façade which are to be incorporated into new structure. The current buildings are entirely cellared, but an initial programme of test-pitting had been recommended in order to clarify the archaeological potential of the site prior to demolition.

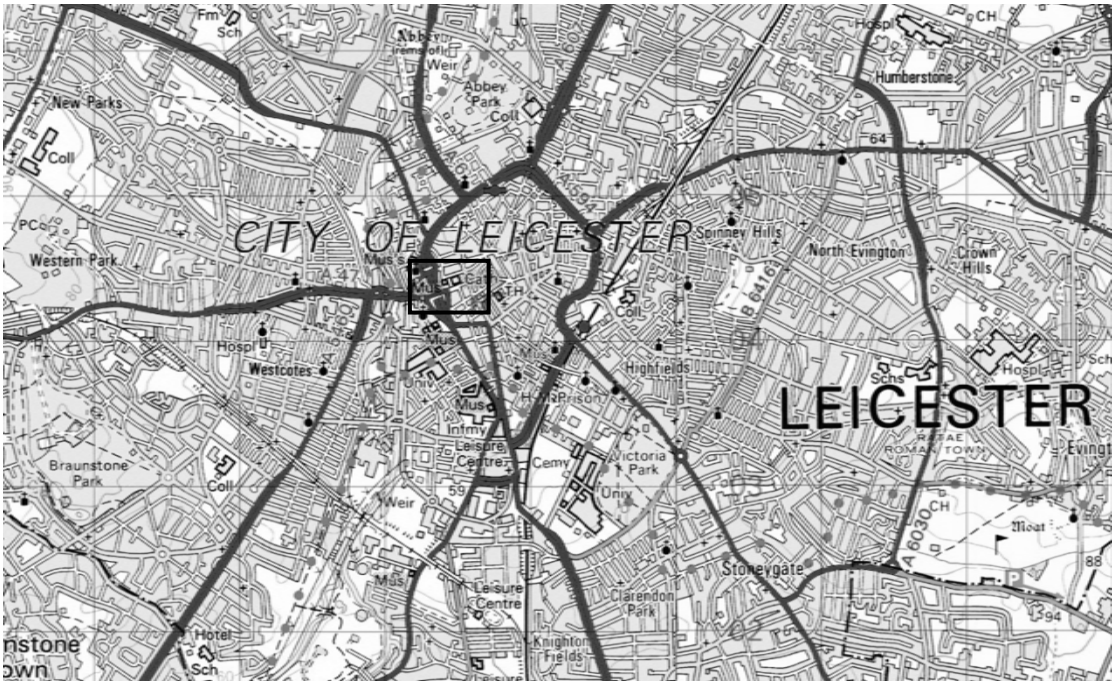

Figure 1 Location of the proposed development
Reproduced from Landranger® 1:50 000 scale by permission of Ordnance Survey® on behalf of The Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office.

3. Historical and Archaeological Background

An archaeological desk-based assessment, previously prepared by the University of Leicester Archaeological services for the first phase development of student accommodation on Peacock Lane (Meek 2005), highlighted the archaeological potential of the site's surrounding environs. The report concluded that it lay in area of high archaeological potential, within the heart of Roman and medieval Leicester, with the possibility of remains of Roman, medieval and post-medieval date. Possible late Saxon remains have also recorded directly to the north-east of the site. Although much of the building was cellared, it was thought possible that a significant depth of Roman remains could survive beneath the cellar floors

Subsequently, a programme of trial trenching revealed archaeological deposits of Roman and medieval date at depths shown in table 1 below (Shore *et al* 2007).

Since the impact of the piled foundations of the proposed building was not considered to be particularly great, a mitigation strategy comprising archaeological monitoring of ground works for the first phase of development took place in 2008 (Gnanaratnam 2009). The results indicated that the foundations for the new building largely sat in homogeneous dark soil deposits, probably inter-cutting refuse pits 'garden soils' of

medieval or post-medieval date. Possible Roman dump layers were seen at the base of the lift pit, but no other Roman deposits were observed. There was evidence for the processing of sheep skins in the form of pits containing sheep metapodials and probably dating to the later medieval or post-medieval period. No structural remains of any period were observed.

An archaeological evaluation of the car park immediately to the north of the site on Applegate in 2000 (Meek 2000, trenches 4 and 5) revealed extensive evidence of medieval and post-medieval activity with hints from a number of finds recovered that the levels were possibly quite close to the present ground surface and structures of high status may have been present in the vicinity. However, modelling the depth and thickness of the archaeological levels in this part of town is problematic due to their unpredictable nature. Whilst a depth of over 1.6m of Roman deposits existed beneath the floors at 9 St Nicholas Place to the north, elsewhere, lower intensities of activity in the medieval and post medieval periods may mean that the Roman levels are not as deeply buried and lie nearer to the present ground level. Indications from the phase 1 are that the Roman levels are between about 59.5 and 61m OD.

4. Aims and Objectives

As specified in the *Project Design Specification for Peacock Lane, Leicester* (2010). The specific aims and objectives of the project were:

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

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

Test-pitting is intrusive form of evaluation that will demonstrate the existence of the earth-fast archaeological features that may exist within the area

5. Methodology

The *Design Specification* (Appendix 3) agreed with the Senior Planning Archaeologist at Leicester City Council proposed to examine six test-pits within the existing basements, each measuring 1m square, located to provide a good spread across the building footprint and avoid structural elements of the building. Two additional test-pits were to be examined if necessary to clarify the nature and extent of the archaeological deposits.

After the initial six test-pits were excavated and examined, two were extended in length by 1m to clarify the nature and extent of the archaeological deposits. Subsequently, after a site meeting with the Senior Planning Archaeologist it was agreed that two more test-pits were to be excavated to further help with the clarification of the impact of proposed piles on archaeological deposits.

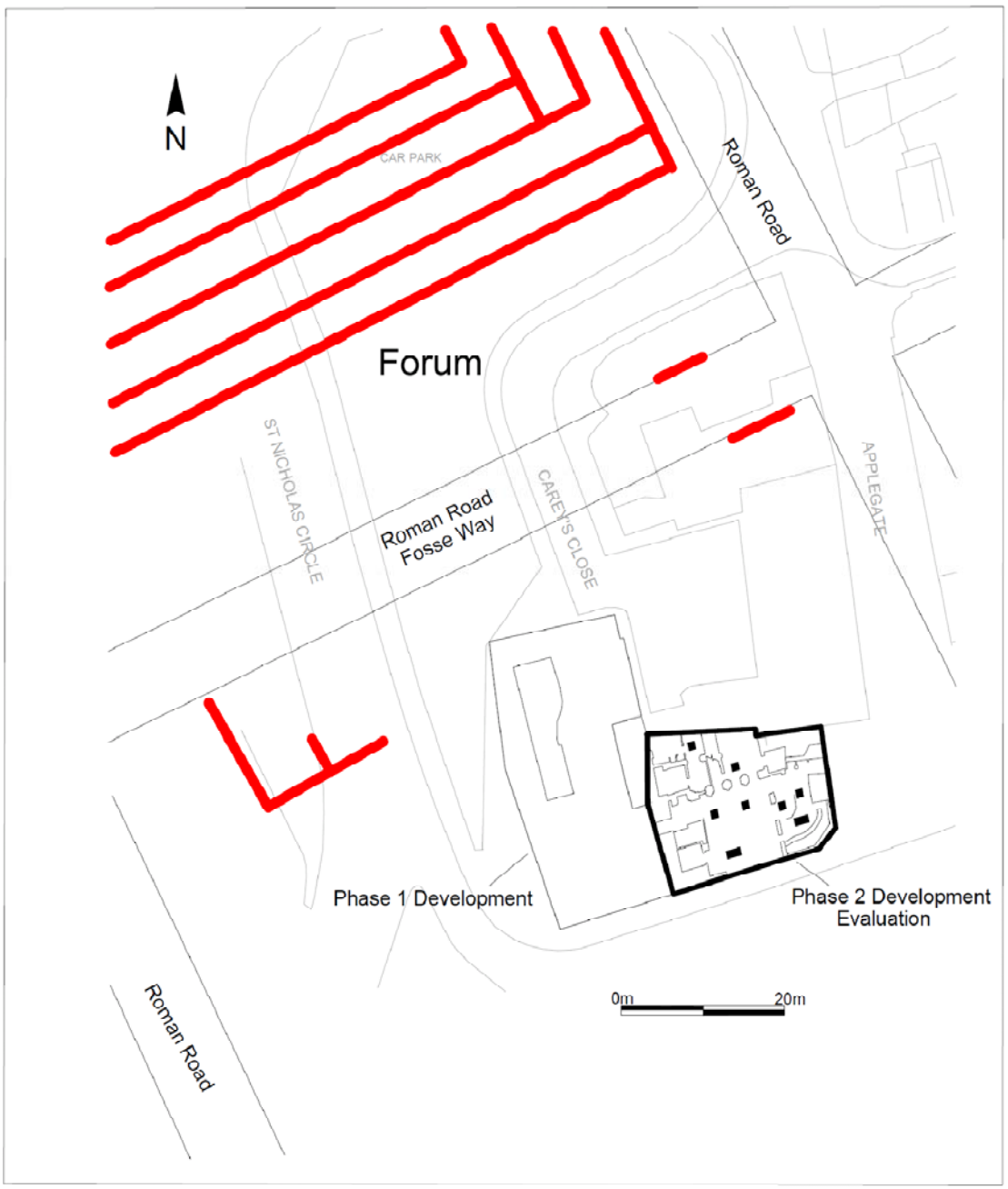

Figure 2 Location of development area and previous archaeological investigations of Peacock Lane in relation to the location of known Roman buildings (red)

All test-pits were initially to be subject to a CAT scan to locate any live services.

Floors and concrete/mortar sub-bases were removed from the test-pit locations by Askam Construction, after which any remaining deposits were removed by hand by archaeologists down to top of the archaeological levels or the natural substratum (which ever was higher). Trenches were to be investigated to a maximum depth of 0.50m.

The bases of the test-pits were hand-cleaned in areas where potential archaeological deposits were observed and these were then planned to scale, recorded and sample excavated as appropriate to determine the character and date of any remains.

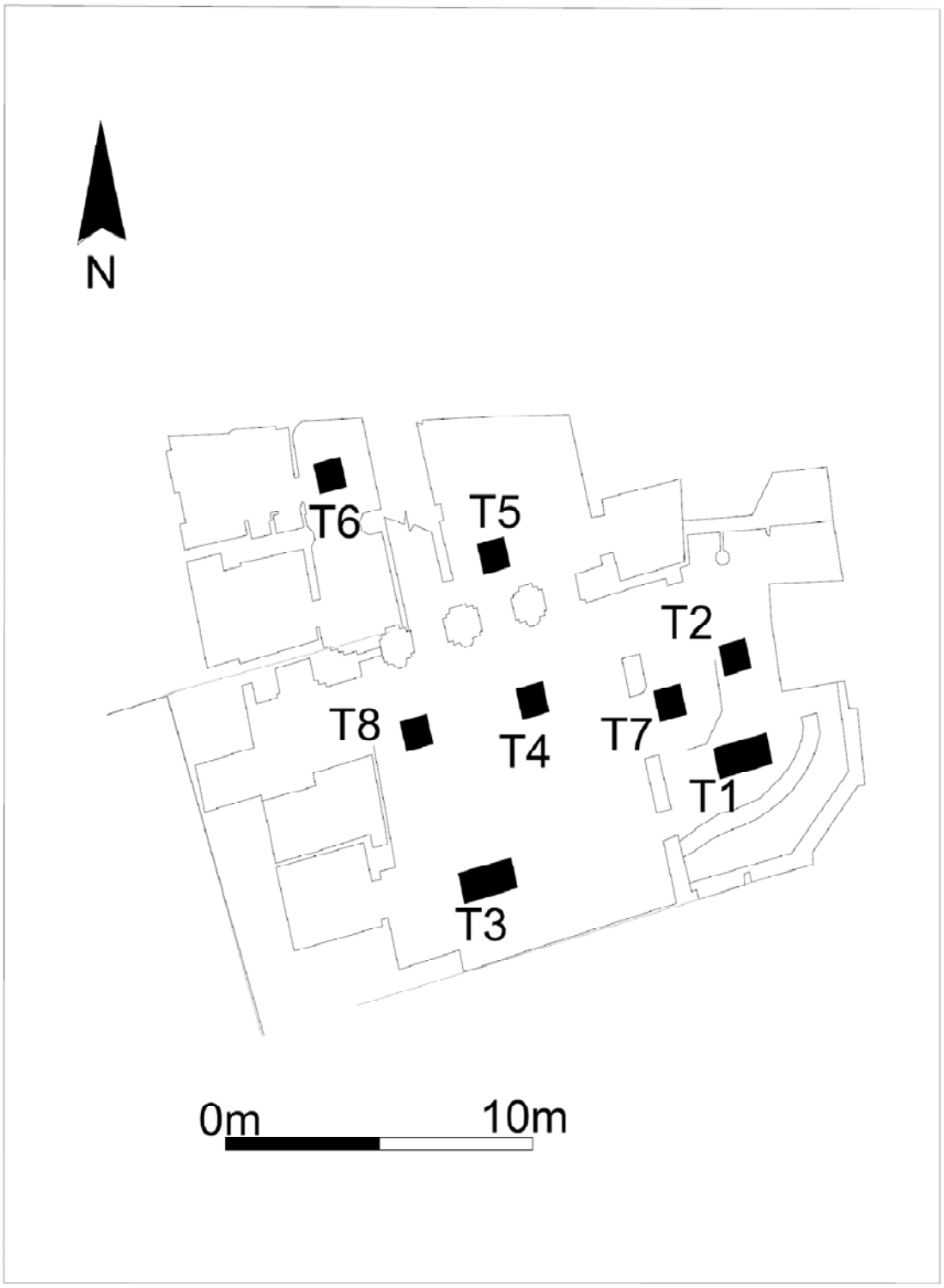

Figure 3 Location of test-pits excavated within the existing basement

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

The trenches were located using a Leica EDM and the final plans completed with the aid of TurboCad v.11 design software. Context fills are recorded in round brackets e.g. (8) while cuts are in square brackets e.g. [16].

All the work followed the Institute for Archaeologists (IfA) *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluations*, and the *Guidelines and Procedures for Archaeological Work in Leicester* (Leicester City Council).

6. Results

The test-pits were all hand excavated and covered a total area of 10 square metres, or 2.5% of the development footprint and comprised six 1m square test-pits and two test-pits that were 2m by 1m in size. A number or archaeological features were partially excavated for dating evidence and to determine the depth of archaeology. The excavated depths of the test-pits varied from of 0.70m minimum to 1.50m maximum.

Test-pit 1

Length	2.00m
Width	1.00m
Depth	0.75m
Basement floor level	60.45m OD
Top of Archaeology	60.05m OD
Lowest level of Archaeology seen	59.70m OD
Natural Substratum BSP Borehole WS3	58.50m OD Approximate

Test-pit 1 was located in the south-east corner of the basement running west to east. The test-pit had an excavated depth of 0.75m OD (59.70m OD) below the basement floor. Natural substratum was not reached within this test-pit. The top of the archaeological horizon was reached at 0.30m (60.15m OD) below the basement floor level of 60.45m OD.

At the east end of the test-pit, a test slot was excavated which revealed a metalled surface (68), that comprised frequent small rounded pebbles and occasional medium size sub-angular stone concreted in a reddish-brown silty-sand. This surface may be evidence for a possible external Roman yard (59.70m OD). The yard surface was sealed under a layer (67), which consisted of very compacted or concreted pale grey silty-clay mixed with occasional small rounded pebble and measured 0.20m thick.

Layer (67) was thought to be deposit of made-up ground or a possible bedding layer to support another metalled pebble surface (9) found above. The metalled surface (9) was 0.18m deep and comprised abundant small rounded pebbles concreted within a mid-grey brown silty-sand and was perhaps another external Roman yard surface (60.05m OD).

Overlying the yard surface (9) was a layer or spread (4) consisting of a compacted mid-grey sandy-silt mixed with frequent small rounded pebbles and measured 0.10m deep. Spread (4) was sealed by layer (3) a reddish-grey compacted or concreted silty-sand mixed with occasional pebble. Both spread (4) and layer (3) are thought to be probable Roman deposits of made-up ground and pottery found within layer (3) suggests a possible late 1st to 2nd century date (Appendix 1). The archaeological

levels were sealed under a layer of brick and mortar rubble 0.20m deep, which supported the concrete basement floor 0.10m thick above.

Plate 1 Test-pit 1 looking east

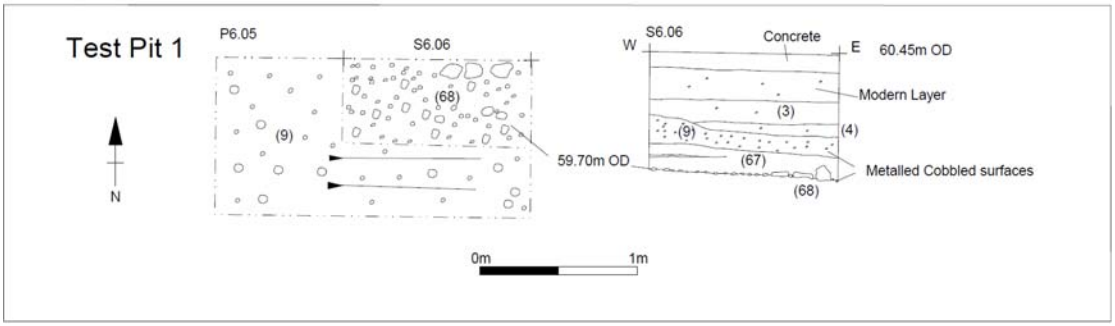

Figure 4 Test-pit 1 plan and section

Test-pit 2

Length	1.00m
Width	1.00m
Depth	1.05m

Basement floor level	60.45m OD
Top of Archaeology	60.10m OD
Lowest level of Archaeology seen	59.40m OD
Natural Substratum BSP Borehole WS3	58.50m OD Approximate

Test-pit 2 was located in the north-east corner of the basement and was 1.00m square. The test-pit had an excavated depth of 1.05m (59.40m OD) below the basement floor. The natural substratum was not reached within this test-pit. The top of the archaeological horizon was found at 0.30m (60.10m OD) below the basement floor level of 60.45m OD.

Plate 2 Test-pit 2 looking south

The earliest deposit reached comprised layer (66) of reddish-brown sandy-clay mixed with frequent patches pale brown sandy silt and the occasional charcoal flecks. The top of the deposit was reach at depth of 0.85m below the surface (59.60m OD) and was excavated to a depth of 0.20m (59.40m). Layer (66) was sealed by probable made-up ground (42) and consisted of reddish-brown sandy-clay gravel mixed with frequent flecks of charcoal and mortar. The layer was fairly compacted and had a depth of 0.20m. Layer (42) was sealed under a bedding layer (41), which measured 0.15m thick and consisted of very compacted or concreted olive brown sandy-silt mixed with occasional small rounded pebbles and charcoal flecks.

Layer (41) appears to be a bedding layer for a metalled surface (6) found above. Metalled surface (6) comprised abundant small rounded pebbles concreted within a mid-grey brown silty sand 0.15m deep and was perhaps an external Roman yard surface (60.10m OD).

The yard surface (6) appeared to be cut by a possible Roman robber trench cut [40] and due to the limitations of the test-pit excavation the full extent remains unknown. However the feature's shape in plan, although not fully exposed, was suggestive perhaps of a corner between two adjoining robber trenches. The first robber cut appeared to be running north to south with a minimum width of 0.70m and a depth of 0.70m. The robber trench appeared to turn at a right angles towards the west. This east to west cut had a minimum width of 0.60m and a shallower depth of 0.40m. Both

cuts had very steep sloping sides breaking sharply into a flat base. At the base of the robber trench was a deposit (65) of large angular granite stones wedged together and are thought to be remnants of rubble stone foundations. The foundation stones were sealed by various backfill deposits contexts (5), (7), (36), (37) and (39). These deposits comprised of pale green clay or pale brown sandy-silts, and were mixed with frequent charcoal flecks, mortar flecks, and occasional small angular granite fragments. A few small fragments of Roman painted wall plaster were also found within these deposits (Appendix 3). Pottery sherds from within the robber trench fills suggest a possible late 1st to mid-2nd century date (Appendix 1).

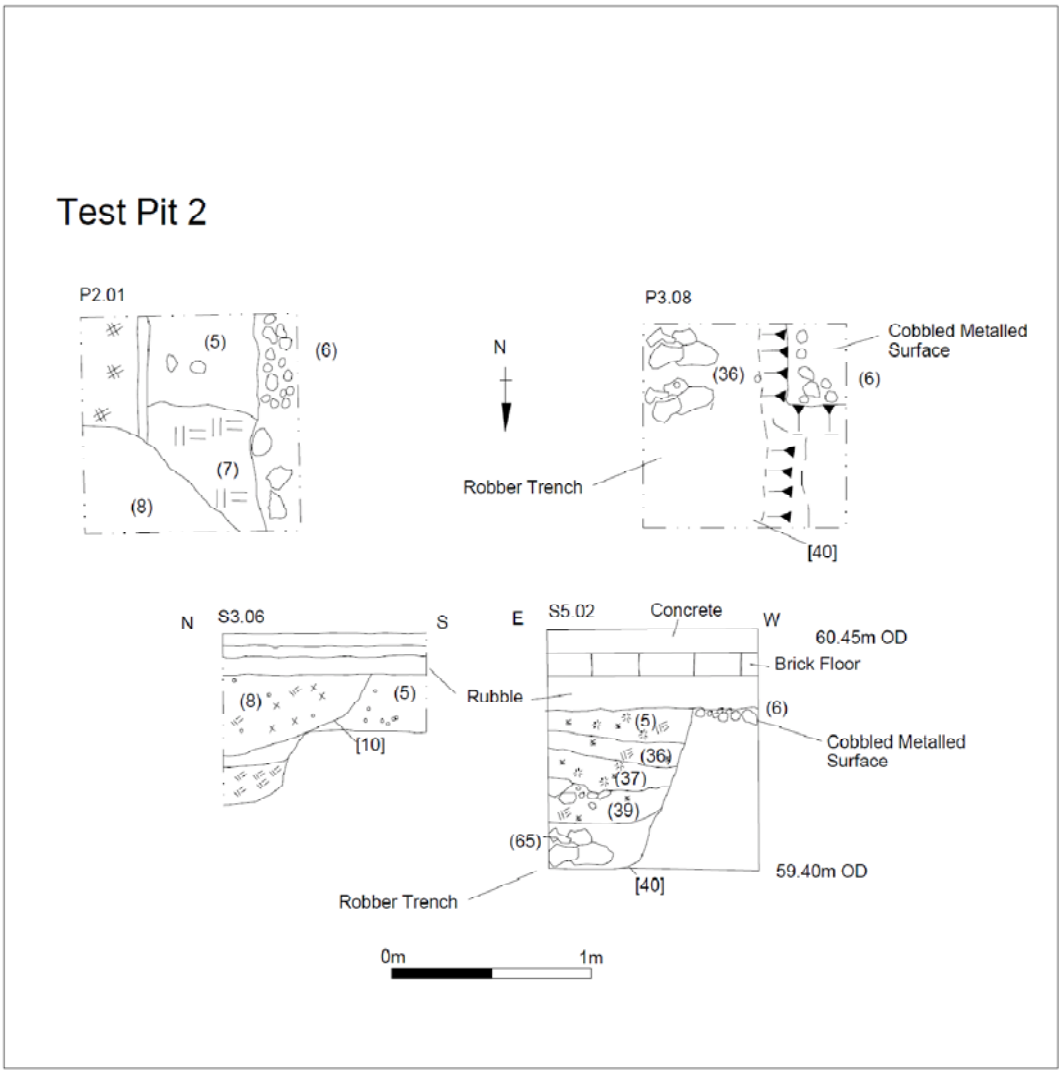

Figure 5 Test-pit 2 plans and sections

Directly in the north-west corner of the test-pit part of a pit cut [34] was found cutting the robber trench running under the west baulk. The pit had steep sloping sides breaking sharply into a rounded base and measured 0.60m wide by 0.40m deep. The pit contained a single fill (33) consisting of dark reddish clay mixed with frequent mortar flecks, crushed sandstone fragments and slate. In the north-east corner of the test-pit a shallow pit [10] was found cutting the robber trench. The pit had gradual sloping sides breaking gradually into a rounded base and measured 0.55m wide and 0.35m deep. The pit contained a single fill (8) consisting of dark greyish silty-clay

mixed with frequent charcoal and mortar flecks. Potters Marston ware pottery sherds were present within the pit (Appendix 2).

Sealing the pit was a layer of garden soil or trample layer (2) that consisted of dark greyish sandy-silt-clay mixed with occasional pebble and charcoal fleck. A pottery sherd found within this deposit suggested a possible 13th to 14th century date (Appendix 2)

The archaeological levels were all found below a layer of brick and mortar rubble 0.15m deep, which supported the brick floor above 0.10m thick. The brick floor was sealed by a concrete surface 0.10m deep.

Test-pit 3

Length	2.00m
Width	1.00m
Depth	1.50m
Basement floor level	60.45m OD
Top of Archaeology	60.05m OD
Lowest level of Archaeology seen	58.95m OD
Possible Natural Substratum	59.15m OD
Natural Substratum BSP Borehole WS3	58.50m OD Approximate

Plate 3 Test pit 3 looking north

This test-pit was located towards the south-west corner of the basement measured 2.00m long by 1.00m wide and was orientated west to east. Test-pit 3 had an overall excavated depth of 1.50m (58.95m OD) below the basement floor. The possible natural substratum was reached within this test-pit and comprised red clay (54) found at depth of 1.30m (59.15m OD). The top of the archaeological horizon was reached at 0.40m (60.05m OD) below the basement floor.

An undulating layer (48) of pale yellow-brown silt was found at the base of the trench at a depth of 0.85m below the surface (59.40m OD), and had a excavated minimum

depth of 0.22m (59.18m OD). Sealing layer (48) was a series of undulating spreads or tip layers contexts (22), (31), (32), (35), (38), (43), (45), (46), (47), (49), (50). The tip layers and spreads all appeared to be generally sloping down towards the east side of the test-pit. These various tip layers comprised either pale or dark grey silty clay, mixed red clay and gravels or olive green sandy-silts. All were mixed with frequent charcoal flecks, and mortar flecks and occasional Roman pottery sherds, which suggested that the deposits date to late 1st to mid-2nd century. These various Roman tip layers had a combined minimum excavated depth of 0.97m and were perhaps part of a large deep feature such as a pit or quarry.

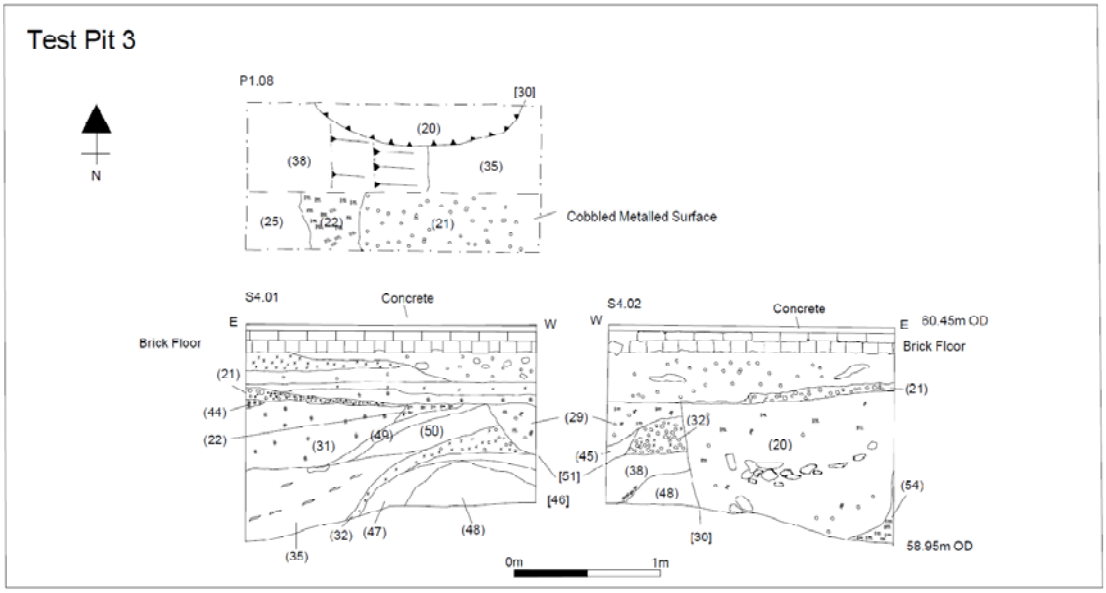

Figure 6 Test-pit 3 plan and sections

On the west side of the test-pit a shallow pit [51] was found cutting the quarry pit. The pit had gradual sloping sides breaking gradually into a rounded base and measured 1.00m wide and 0.40m deep. The pit contained two fills consisting of a grey silty-clay (45) found at the base, which was sealed by a dark grey-brown sandy-silt fill (29) that was mixed with frequent patches of red clay and charcoal flecks. Pottery sherds found within the pit indicated a possible late 1st to mid-2nd-century date. Towards the north-east corner of the test-pit was a very large pit [30] running under the north baulk. The pit, although only partially exposed, appeared to be circular in plan with steep almost vertical sides and rounded base. Contained within the pit was a grey-brown silty-clay fill (20) mixed with frequent small angular stones, tile fragments, Roman pottery sherds, animal bone and charcoal flecks. Pottery sherds found associated with this pit fill suggested a possible late 1st to mid- 2nd-century date (Appendix 1).

The pit was sealed by bedding layer (44) 0.12m deep consisting of dark grey charcoal rich clay-silt. The bedding layer was found below metalled surface (21) that comprised abundant small rounded pebbles concreted within grey-brown silty-sand. The surface measured 0.10m deep and was perhaps an external Roman yard surface (60.03m OD). Pottery sherds found embedded within the surface suggested that it could date from the mid-2nd century onwards.

All the archaeological levels were sealed by a layer of brick and mortar rubble 0.35m deep, below the 0.15m thick brick floor. The brick floor was sealed by a concrete surface 0.10m deep.

Test-pit 4

Length	1.00m
Width	1.00m
Depth	0.80m
Basement floor level	60.45m OD
Top of Archaeology	60.08m OD
Lowest level of Archaeology seen	59.65m OD
Natural Substratum BSP Borehole WS3	58.50m OD Approximate

Test-pit 4 was located towards the centre of the basement and measured 1.00m square. Natural substratum was not located within this test-pit which had a maximum excavated depth of 0.80m (59.65m OD) below the basement floor. The top of the archaeological horizon was reached at 0.37m (60.08m OD) below the basement floor.

Plate 4 Test-pit 4 looking west

A possible Roman layer (69) was reached at a depth of 0.37m below the surface (60.08m). It consisted of pale yellow-brown clay-silt and reddish-brown sandy-clay gravel-silt which was excavated to a depth of 0.40m (59.65m OD). Layer (69) was cut by a medieval pit [70], which was only partially exposed but appeared to be circular in plan with steep almost vertical sides and measured 0.90m wide with a minimum excavated depth 0.40m. Contained within the pit was a dark grey-brown silt-clay fill (15), which was mixed with frequent small angular stones, tile fragments, pottery sherds, animal bone and charcoal flecks. The medieval pottery sherds retrieved from this deposit indicated a potential 12th- to 13th-century date for this feature (Appendix 2).

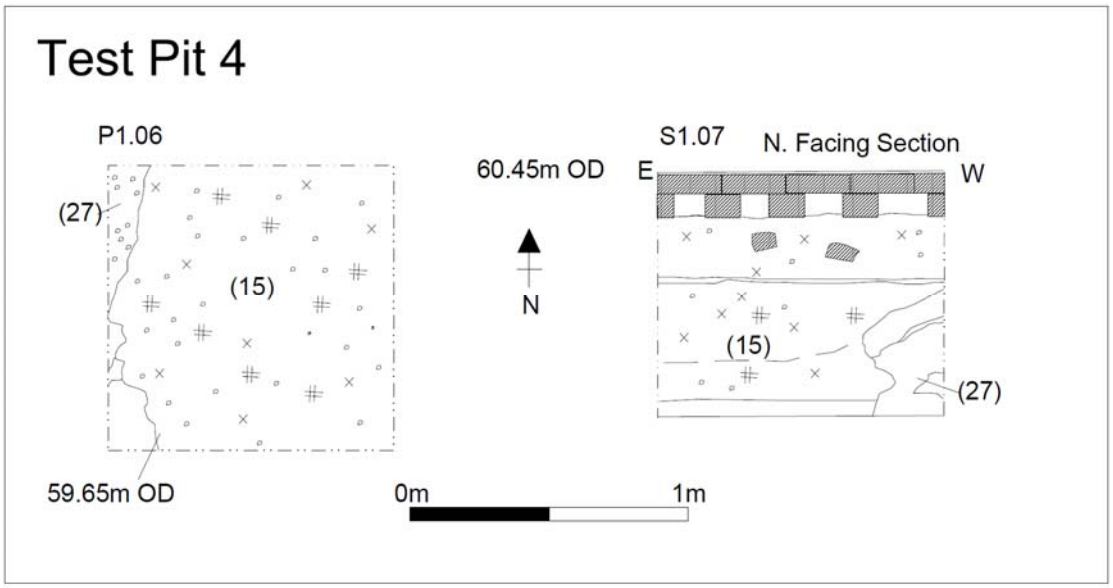

Figure 7 Test-pit 4 plan and section

Sealing the archaeological levels below was a layer of brick and mortar rubble 0.20m deep, which supported the 0.07m thick brick floor above, which was in turn sealed by a concrete surface 0.10m deep.

Test-pit 5

Length	1.00m
Width	1.00m
Depth	0.80m
Basement floor level	60.45m OD
Top of Archaeology	60.15m OD
Lowest level of Archaeology seen	59.65m OD
Natural Substratum BSP Borehole WS3	58.65m OD Approximate

Plate 5 Test-pit 5 looking north

Test-pit 5 was located in the northern half of the basement and had an excavated depth of 0.80m OD (59.65m OD) below the basement floor. The natural substratum was not reached within this test-pit. The top of the archaeological horizon was found at 0.30m (60.15m OD) below the basement floor level of 60.45m OD.

Excavations within this test-pit revealed a metalled surface (28) at a depth of 0.80m (59.65m OD) below the basement floor. The metalled surface comprised frequent small rounded pebbles and occasional medium sized sub-angular stones concreted in a reddish olive-brown silty-sand. This surface was thought to be a possible external Roman yard surface. Sealing the yard surface was a 0.20m thick bedding layer (27) consisting of very compacted or concreted pale brown silty-clay mixed with occasional small rounded pebbles and charcoal flecks. Layer (27) was found below a compacted or concreted dark olive brown sandy-silt (14) mixed frequent oyster shell, small pebbles and occasional charcoal fleck. Pottery sherds retrieved from this layer suggested a possible late 1st to mid-2nd century date (Appendix 1). The layer measured 0.08m deep and was perhaps another levelling layer of made-up ground.

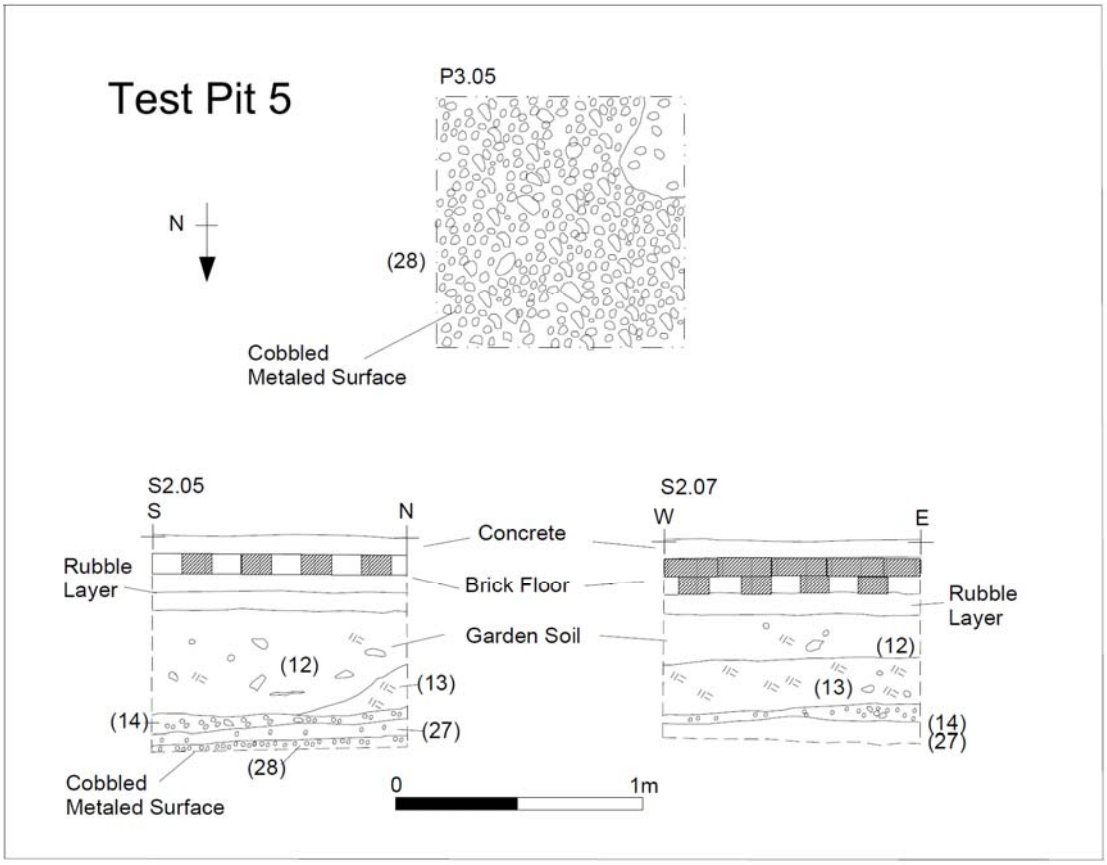

Figure 8 Test-pit 5 plan and sections

Overlying (14) was a mixed tip layer or spread (13), which comprised compacted red clay mixed with frequent mortar flecks, charcoal flecks and small rounded pebbles. The spread measured 0.20m deep and sloped down towards the south-west and contained pottery sherds suggesting a date from the mid-2nd century onwards (Appendix 1).

A possible garden soil layer (12) sealed spread (13) below and comprised dark grey-brown sandy-clay-silt mixed with frequent mortar, charcoal flecks, crushed small angular sandstone pebbles and small round pebbles.

Sealing the archaeological levels below was a modern layer of brick and mortar rubble 0.08m deep, which supported the brick floor, which measured 0.15m thick. The brick floor was sealed by a concrete surface with a depth of 0.07m.

Test-pit 6

Length	1.00m
Width	1.00m
Depth	0.95m
Basement floor level	60.45m OD
Top of Archaeology	60.04m OD
Lowest level of Archaeology seen	59.48m OD
Natural Substratum BSP Borehole WS3	58.50m OD Approximate

Plate 6 Test-pit 6 looking north

This test-pit was located towards the north-west corner of the basement and was 1.00m square. The test-pit had a maximum excavated depth of 0.95m (59.48m OD) below the basement floor. The natural substratum was not reached within this test-pit, however the top of the archaeological horizon was identified at 0.41m (60.04m OD) below the basement floor level of 60.45m OD.

A layer (71) of compacted red clay was revealed in the wall of a pit at a depth of 0.64m below the surface (59.81m OD), and was excavated to a depth of 0.31m (59.48m OD). Overlying the red clay was another layer (18), which consisted of pale olive brown sandy-silt mixed with occasional charcoal flecks, small angular granite fragments and pebbles. Layer (18) is interpreted as a possible Roman deposit, which had been cut by a medieval pit [19] located in the southern half of the test-pit. The pit was only partially exposed but appeared to be circular in plan with steep almost vertical sides, and measured 0.85m wide with a minimum excavated depth 0.54m.

Two fills were found within the pit, which consisted of a red clay deposit (17) pressed against the side wall of the pit. A second fill (16) sealed the red clay, and comprised a dark grey-brown clay silt mixed with occasional small slate fragments, pottery sherds, animal bone and charcoal flecks. Pottery sherds found within this deposit suggest that this pit was probably of 12th- to 13th-century date (Appendix 2).

Sealing the archaeological levels below was a layer of brick and mortar rubble 0.19m deep, which supported the 0.15m thick brick floor. The brick floor was sealed by a concrete surface 0.07m deep.

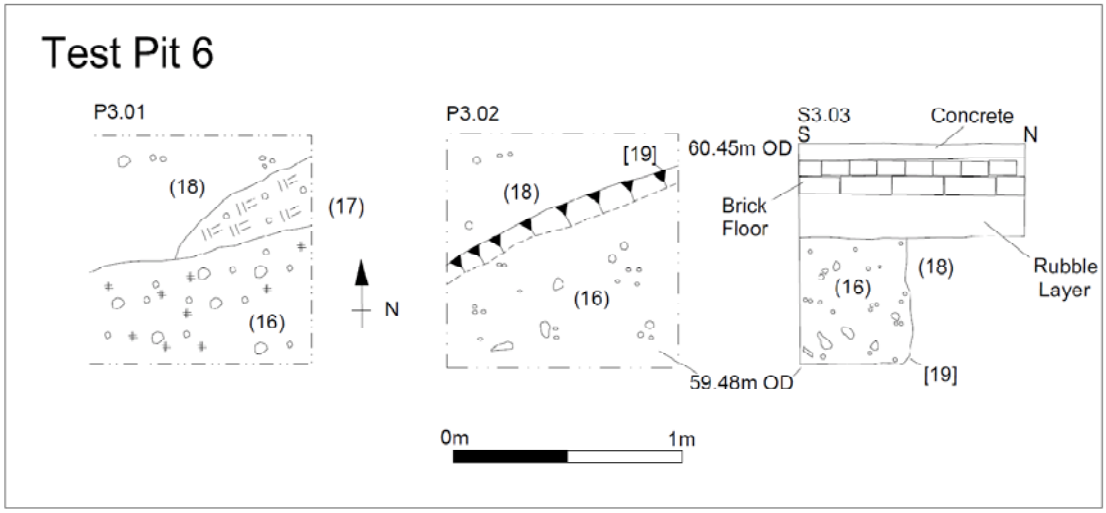

Figure 9 Test-pits 6 plans and section

Test-pit 7

Length	1.00m
Width	1.00m
Depth	0.70m
Basement floor level	60.45m OD
Top of Archaeology	60.04m OD
Lowest level of Archaeology seen	59.75m OD
Natural Substratum BSP Borehole WS3	58.65m OD Approximate

Test-pit 7 was located towards the centre of the basement and measured 1.00m square. The test-pit was excavated to a depth of 0.80m OD (59.65m OD) below the basement floor. The top of the archaeological horizon was reached at 0.41m (60.04m OD) below the basement floor level of 60.45m OD, but the natural substratum was not reached within this test-pit.

A metalled or cobbled surface (55) was found at depth 0.41m below the basement floor, which comprised frequent small rounded pebbles mixed with medium size sub-angular stones and all concreted in reddish olive brown silty-sand layer. This surface was thought to be a possible Roman yard surface (60.04m OD).

Plate 7 Test-pit 7 looking south

A pit [70] was found in the south-west corner of the test-pit. The pit, only partially revealed, appeared to be circular in plan with steep almost vertical sides. The pit measured 0.80m wide with a minimum excavated depth of 0.39m. A lower fill found within the pit comprised a group of large angular granite stones (63) wedged together. A second fill (56) was found overlying stones and comprised dark reddish-brown clay-silt mixed with occasional modern brick, bone and charcoal flecks. The modern brick found within the upper fill suggests that this feature may have been disturbed during the construction of the basement. However the granite fragments found within the lower fill may indicate a possible pre-modern date.

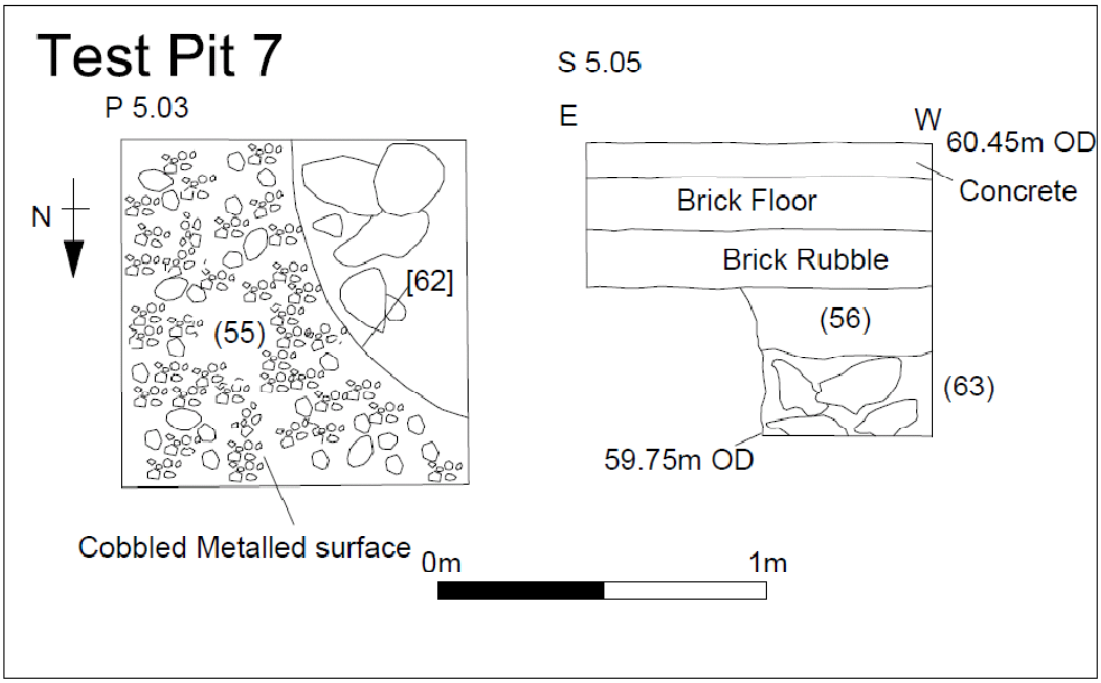

Figure 10 Test-pit 7 plan and section

Overlying the archaeological levels was a layer of brick and mortar rubble 0.16m deep, which supported the 0.15m thick brick floor above. The brick floor was sealed by a concrete surface 0.10m deep.

Test-pit 8

Length	1.00m
Width	1.00m
Depth	0.80m
Basement floor level	60.45m OD
Top of Archaeology	60.05m OD
Lowest level of Archaeology seen	59.55m OD
Natural Substratum BSP Borehole WS3	58.50m OD Approximate

Plate 8 Test-pit 8 looking south

Test-pit 8 had been excavated in the south-west corner of the basement and measured 1.00m square. An archaeological horizon was found at 0.40m (60.05m OD) below the basement floor level of 60.45m OD. The test-pit had an excavated depth of 0.90m (59.55m OD) below the basement floor but a natural substratum level was not found within this test-pit.

A layer (60) of pale olive grey silt was reached at a depth of 0.90m below the surface (59.55m OD) and appeared to be undulating. Layer (60) was sealed beneath a series of undulating spreads or tip layers (58), (59), (61) and (64). The tip layers and spreads all appeared to be generally sloping down towards the west side of the test-pit, with a combined excavated depth of 0.38m. These deposits comprised either of dark olive grey silty-clay, pale yellowish olive sandy-silts or dark grey charcoal rich sandy-silt. All were mixed with frequent charcoal and mortar flecks, oyster shell and occasional Roman pottery sherds and tile fragments. The pottery sherds found associated with these deposits indicated a possible late 1st -mid- 2nd century date (Appendix 1) and were perhaps fills within a Roman pit or quarry.

The quarry and pit fills were sealed by a 0.50m deep layer of garden soil (57), which consisted of dark grey clay-silt mixed with frequent charcoal flecks, mortar flecks, and occasional pebbles. The pottery sherds found within this deposit suggest a possible 12th- to 13th-century date (Appendix 2).

The archaeological levels were all sealed by a layer of brick and mortar rubble 0.25m deep, which supported the 0.08m thick brick floor above. The brick floor was sealed by a concrete surface 0.07m thick.

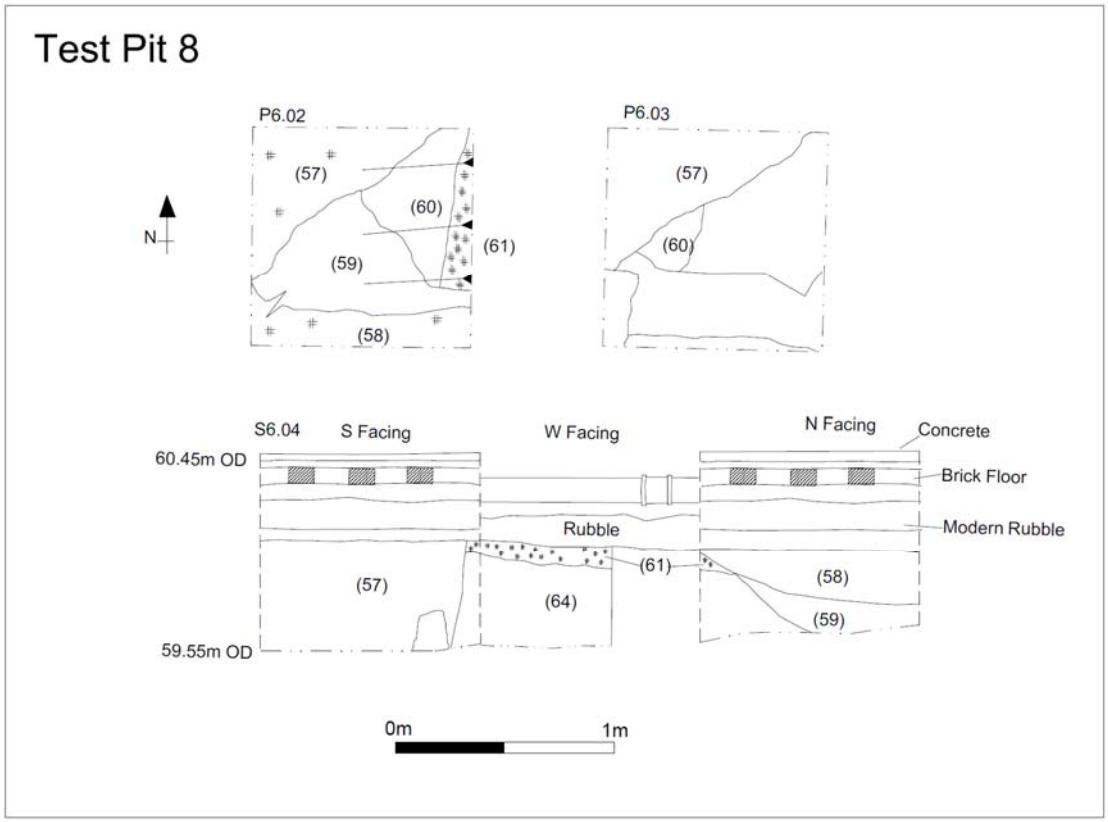

Figure 11 Test-pit 8 plans and sections

7. Discussion

Natural Substratum

A possible natural substratum was seen in test-pit 3 at a depth of 1.30m below the basement floor at 59.15m OD. In all the other test-pits a true natural substratum was not reached. A borehole survey was undertaken in the adjacent phase 1 development by BSP Consulting on behalf Askam Construction. The nearest bore hole was located towards the east side of the phase 1 development (WS3) which was directly adjacent to the phase 2 development. The WS3 borehole indicated that a natural substratum was found at a potential depth of 4.50m (58.50m O.D) below a ground level of 63.00m OD.

Archaeological Levels

The very top of archaeological levels was found at a level of 60.15m OD and a possible natural substratum level was found at depth of 59.15m suggesting that the archaeological deposits could have a minimum depth 1.00m. The borehole survey has a natural substratum level of 58.50m which suggests a possible maximum archaeological thickness of 1.65m.

Roman

Evidence of Roman activity was found in all eight test-pits and the top of the deposits was generally found at levels of between 59.59m and 60.15m OD. The Roman levels had all been truncated by post-Roman activity, which was principally caused by the basement although some test-pits had demonstrated that Roman levels could have been heavily truncated by medieval or post-medieval cultivation or pit digging activity. However the test-pits suggest that Roman deposits still had an overall surviving depth of between 1.00m and 1.50m deep.

Due to limitations of test-pit evaluation, the available evidence is not sufficient to fully characterise the remains, but the surviving excavated Roman archaeology comprised broadly of two phases of activity. The early phase comprised tip layers, which were possibly associated with large quarry or refuse pits and metalled yard surfaces. The pottery found associated with these deposits and features suggests a late 1st- to mid- 2nd-century date.

Another later phase of spreads, layers, metalled yard surfaces and a robbed masonry wall foundation was identified. The pottery found within this phase suggested a probable mid- 2nd-century date. The robbed wall foundation and yard surfaces were possibly part of Roman masonry building.

The possibility that later Roman deposits were truncated by medieval activity is suggested by the occurrence of a single 4th-century pottery sherd residually in a garden soil layer. Otherwise the majority of the residual material is similar to that from the stratified contexts (Appendix 1).

Previous fieldwork has shown that the area lies within the heart of the Roman town (Figure 12). The Roman forum lies directly to the north, with a 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 been located on Applegate (including beneath the cellars of Wygston House) and to the east of St Nicholas Place (Figure 12). The line of the Fosse Way through Leicester runs directly between the site and the forum, as indicated during the Castle Park Car-park evaluation (Meek 2005). The area would have been the commercial heart of the Roman town. The evaluation undertaken prior to the Phase 1 development on the adjacent plot had revealed various Roman levels, which included mortared walls and at least two mortar floors (Shore et al 2007).

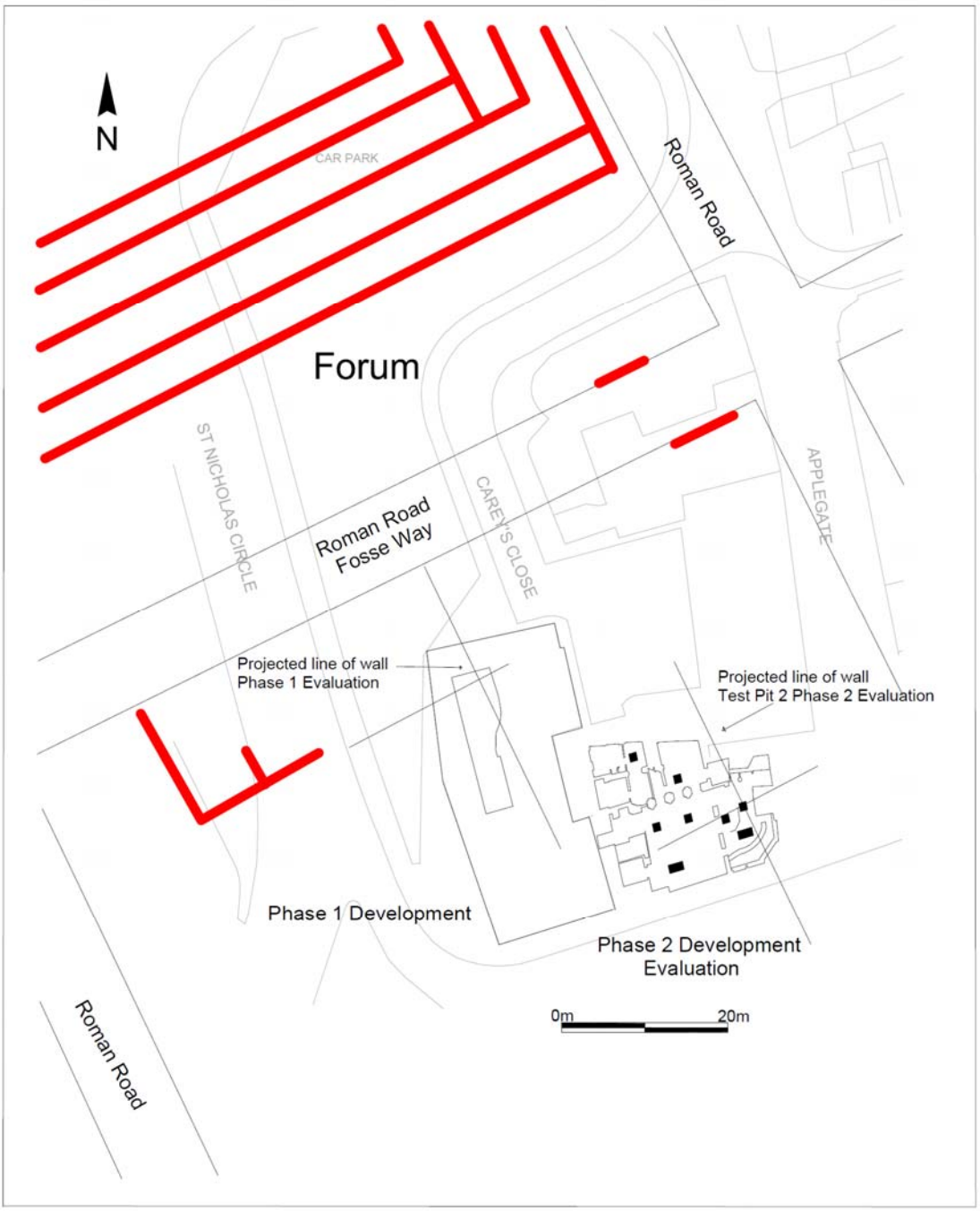

Figure 12 Location of projected Roman walls with previous archaeological investigations of Peacock Lane, Carey's Close and St Nicholas Circle.

Medieval

The basement had probably truncated the medieval levels and only deep pits and a shallow depth of garden soil survived.

Pottery dating to the 12th or 13th centuries was recovered during the evaluation and was principally found within various pits. A level of garden soil was identified in three of the test-pits suggesting various medieval activities or cultivation had probably truncated some of the later Roman deposits. Pottery found associated within the test-pit deposits suggested that they date from the 13th to 14th centuries (Appendix 2). The medieval pits and cultivation soils are probably associated with the back yards of properties that once fronted on to Peacock Lane and Applegate. The streets surrounding the site area, Applegate, Carey's Close, Peacock Lane and Southgates, are all thought to 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 (Meek 2005).

Post-Medieval to Modern

The current building was entirely cellared and potential post-medieval levels have probably been truncated by these modern foundations. The basement had probably reduced the top of the surviving archaeological levels to 60.15m OD

Table 1 Levels of test-pits

Levels OD	**Tp1**	**Tp2**	**Tp3**	**Tp4**	**Tp5**	**Tp6**	**Tp7**	**Tp8**
Top test-pit	60.45m	60.45m	60.45m	60.45m	60.45m	60.45m	60.45m	60.45m
Base test-pit	59.65m	59.40m	58.95m	59.65m	59.60m	59.48m	59.75m	59.55m
Top medieval archaeology	Not seen	60.15m	Not seen	60.07m	60.05m	60.04m	60.04m	60.05m
Top of Roman archaeology	60.15m	60.05m	60.05m	60.07m	59.95m	60.04m	60.04m	60.05m
Base Roman archaeology	Not seen	Not seen	Not seen	Not seen	Not seen	Not seen	Not seen	Not seen
Natural Substratum Seen in test-pit	Not reached	Not reached	Possible Natural 58.95m	Not reached	Not reached	Not reached	Not reached	Not reached
BSP Borehole possible natural substratum	58.50m	58.50m	58.50m	58.50m	58.50m	58.50m	58.50m	58.50m

Impact

The present plans for the development (Askam Construction Ltd) indicate that the current buildings occupying this phase of the development are to be demolished, with the exception of elements of the Peacock Lane façade, which are to be incorporated into the new structure, while the basement is to be backfilled.

It is evident from the evaluation trench results that important archaeological remains survive close to the basement floor level and as such, they would be vulnerable to any disturbance associated demolition of the basement and removal of encounter obstructions within the redevelopment programme

The present plans for the development (Askam Construction Ltd) indicate that the proposed building is based on pile and ground-beam foundations.

The proposed piled foundations are to be designed to have a minimal impact upon buried archaeological remains. Given the depth of the presumed modern disturbance which includes the backfilled basement, the pile caps and ground beams will be designed to sit within this deposit.

The piling scheme itself has been partly designed to have a minimal impact upon any buried archaeological remains. Rather than use Continuous Flight Augered (CFA) piles, driven steel tubular piles will be used. The locations will be pre-augered to determine whether the piles will encounter obstructions and if this proves to be the vase, they can then be re-located if necessary. The other effect of the pre-augering appears to be to minimise any lateral distortion of the surrounding deposits during pile driving (Williams et al 2007, 17). The piling scheme is to be partly designed to follow some of pre-existing modern wall foundations.

8. Archive

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

The archive consists of:

A copy of the report,

Indices

71 context sheets

6 plan and section drawing sheets

Digital with contact prints, photographic index

Finds (Appendix 1, 2 and 3)

The site archive will be held by Leicester City Museum Services under the accession number A7.2010

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

9. Acknowledgements

I would like to thank Askam Construction Ltd for their help and co-operation on site. The project was managed by Richard Buckley and the fieldwork was carried out by the author, Tim Higgins and Dave Parker and post-excavation analysis was undertaken by Nicholas Cooper (Roman pottery) and Debbie Sawday (Post Roman pottery) all of ULAS.

10. Bibliography

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21.06.2010

11. Oasis record

INFORMATION REQUIRED	
Project Name	An Archaeological Evaluation by Test-pits Peacock Lane/Careys Close
Project Type	Evaluation
Project Manager	Richard Buckley
Project Supervisor	Tim Higgins
Previous/Future work	Previous work: Desk base assessment
Current Land Use	Factory
Development Type	Student accommodation
Reason for Investigation	Planning Policy Statement 5, Planning for the Historical Environment
Position in the Planning Process	Requirements planning permission
Site Co ordinates	NGR: SK 5830 0440
Start/end dates of field work	17th to 28th May 2010
Archive Recipient	Leicester Museum Service
Study Area	*c*.399 sq metres

Appendix: 1 Romano-British Pottery

Nicholas J. Cooper

Introduction and summary analysis by form and fabric

A total of 75 sherds of Roman pottery weighing 1763g was retrieved from 17 stratified Roman contexts. An additional 26 sherds weighing 416g were residual within overlying medieval deposits or unstratified. The material was classified using the ULAS/Leicestershire Museums Fabric Series (Pollard 1994, 112-114) and quantified by sherd count and weight as detailed in the following table. The full record is held on an MS excel spreadsheet in archive.

Peacock Lane A7.2010 Roman Pottery Quantified Summary				
Fabric	**Sherds**	**Weight**	**Av.Sh.Wt**	**%sherds**
Samian	27	807	30	36
Amphora	1	90	90	1
Mortaria	1	85	85	1
Whiteware	19	250	13	26
Whiteslip	1	25	25	1
Oxidised	5	63	13	7
BB1	3	47	16	4
Greyware	14	310	22	19
Shell temp	4	86	21	5
Total	**75**	**1763**	**23**	**100**

The average sherd weight of 23g is fairly good for stratified Roman material in the Town and most of the sherds were in good condition, particularly the samian ware at 30g. The broad date range of the stratified Roman material spans the middle of the 1st century to the middle or possibly later 2nd century but the overall proportion of fabrics (notably the high level of samian, the low level of BB1 and the lack of Nene Valley colour-coated ware) and the consistent occurrence of diagnostic samian forms, suggests that most of it was deposited during the first half of 2nd century rather than later. The possibility that later Roman deposits were truncated by medieval activity is suggested by the occurrence of a sherd of Nene Valley colour-coated ware from 4th-century vessel residually in (12) from Test-pit 5. Otherwise the majority of the residual material is similar to that from stratified contexts.

Analysis of form and Fabric by Test-pit

Test-pit 1 produced only two grey ware sherds from (3) dating to the later 1st or 2nd century.

Test-pit 2 produced seven sherds from (36) and (37) in Group 3, including samian forms 18 and 37, the latter with a light fabric and animal decoration similar to some East Gaulish vessels, which might put the date of (37) in the later 2nd century rather than the later 1st.

Test-pit 3 produced the most pottery, some 35 sherds from Group 2 contexts (22), (31) and (35) which are part of a series of tip layers back filling a possible pit or quarry. This group included five examples of samian Form 18/31 ranging in date from 90-150 and one example of Form 37, along with two sherds of BB1 from 2nd century forms and a range of local grey ware forms of later 1st and early 2nd-century date. Group 3 (20) and (29) included a samian Form Curle 11 dating from *c*.70-100 and another Form 18/31.

Test-pit 5 context (27) included samian Forms 27 and 37 of 2nd-century date and sherd of Dressel 20 amphora from southern Spain, fashioned into a counter.

Test-pit 8 (64) produced another example of samian Form 18/31 again indicating an early or mid-2nd-century date.

References

Pollard, R., 1994 The Iron Age and Roman Pottery *in* P. Clay and R. Pollard *Iron Age and Roman Occupation in the West Bridge Area, Leicester; Excavations 1962-71*, 51-114. Leicester: Leicestershire County Council, Museums, Arts and Records Service.

Tyers, P. 1996 *Roman Pottery in Britain*. London: Batsford

Appendix: 2 Post-Roman Pottery

Deborah Sawday

The medieval pottery, 22 sherds, weighing 839 grams, was catalogued with reference to the ULAS fabric series (Sawday 1989; Davies and Sawday 1999). The results are shown below (Table 1).

Apart from the later 13th or 14th century sherd of Medieval Sandy ware, fabric MS8, in context TP2 (2) , the rest of the pottery could all lie within a date range of *circa* 1100-1250. The presence of medieval pits on the site and the relatively large average sherd weight of 38 grams, suggests that the pottery relates to medieval occupation in the area.

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

Context	Fabric/Ware	Nos	Grams	Comments
TP2 (2)	PM – Potters Marston	1	81	Body with applied thumbed strips
TP2 (2)	MS8 - Medieval Sandy ware 8	1	7	Orange glaze – later 13th - 14th C
TP2 (8)	PM – Potters Marston	1	22	
(15) pit	ST2 – Fine Stamford ware	1	12	Late 11th – mid 12th C thin patchy lead glaze
(15)	PM – Potters Marston	2	118	Abraded jar rim
(15)	PM – Potters Marston	1	110	Body sherd
(15)	SP3 – Splashed ware 3	1	11	Green glazed
(15)	SP - Splashed ware	1	20	
TP6 (16)	PM – Potters Marston	2	129	Jar rims – collared – 12th/early 13th century types
TP6 (16)	PM – Potters Marston	2	29	Flat base fragments.
(57)	ST2 – Fine Stamford ware	1	12	Glazed, plus incised horizontal lines, neck of jug/tubular spouted pitcher, mid 12th C+
(57)	PM – Potters Marston	7	242	Base fragments, several vessels
(57)	SP3 – Splashed ware 3	1	46	Jug neck

Appendix: 3 Miscellaneous Finds

Building Materials

Tile CBM

Context	Test-pit	Period/Feature	Type	Nos	Weight Grams
7	Test-pit 2	Roman Robber Trench	Tile/CBM	3	1123
8	Test-pit 2	Medieval Pit	Tile/CBM	4	789
15	Test-pit 4	Medieval Pit	Tile/CBM	6	597
16	Test-pit 6	Medieval Pit	Tile/CBM	6	598
20	Test-pit 3	Roman Pit	Tile CBM	5	861
29	Test-pit 3	Roman Pit	Tile/CBM	2	174
31	Test-pit 3	Roman Quarry/Pit	Tile/CBM	2	302
35	Test-pit 3	Roman Quarry/Pit	Tile/CBM	11	3734
36	Test-pit 2	Roman Robber Trench	Tile /CBM	1	477
37	Test-pit 2	Roman Robber Trench	Tile/CBM	1	165

Tessara

Context	Test-pit	Period/Feature	Nos	Weight Grams
8	Test-pit 2	Medieval Pit	1	44

Mortar/Plaster

Context	Test-pit	Period/ Feature	Colour	Nos	Weight Grams
31	Test-pit 3	Roman Quarry Pit	Painted Yellow	2 small frags	68
37	Test-pit 2	Roman Robber Trench	Painted White	5 small frags	91

Industrial Materials

Context	Test-pit	Period/Feature	Material	Nos	Weight Grams
20	Test-pit 3	Roman Pit	Slag	1	188

Animal Bone

Context	Test-pit	Period/Feature	Nos Fragmemts	Weight Grams
2	Test-pit 2	Medieval layer	5	91
3	Test-pit 1	Roman Layer	1	45
8	Test-pit 2	Medieval Pit	3	44
15	Test-pit 4	Medieval Pit	4	89
20	Test-pit 3	Roman Pit	28	1405
27	Test-pit 5	Roman Layer	1	19
35	Test-pit 3	Roman Quarry/Pit	5	469
57	Test-pit 8	Medieval Layer	1	103

Shell

Context	Test-pit	Period/Feature	Type	Weight Grams
7	Test-pit 2	Roman Robber Trench	Oyster	33
13	Test-pit 5	Roman Layer	Oyster	34
31	Test-pit 3	Roman Quarry/Pit	Oyster	19
35	Test-pit 3	Roman Quarry/Pit	Oyster	23
36	Test-pit 2	Roman Robber Trench	Oyster	61

Appendix: 4 Design Specification

UNIVERSITY OF LEICESTER ARCHAEOLOGICAL SERVICES

Design Specification for archaeological evaluation
Peacock Lane/ Carey's Close, Leicester

SK 583 044

For: Askam Construction Ltd

1. Definition and scope of the specification

1.1 This specification is for preliminary archaeological evaluation by test-pitting in advance of the redevelopment of a site at 24 Peacock Lane, Leicester (at the corner of Peacock Lane and Applegate, SK 583044). It addresses the requirement for an initial phase of archaeological evaluation from the City Archaeologist, Leicester City Council as archaeological advisor to the planning authority following Planning Policy Statement 5, Planning for the Historic Environment 2010.

1.2 The definition of archaeological field evaluation, taken from the Institute for Archaeologists Standards and Guidance: for Archaeological Field Evaluation (IfA S&G: AFE) is a limited programme of non-intrusive and/ or intrusive fieldwork which determines the presence or absence of archaeological features, structures, deposits, artefacts or ecofacts within a specified area or site on land, inter-tidal zone or underwater. If such archaeological remains are present field evaluation defines their character, extent, quality and preservation, and enables an assessment of their worth in a local, regional, national or international context as appropriate.

1.3 All archaeological work will adhere to the Institute for Archaeologist's (IfA) *Code of Conduct* and *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Evaluations* and the *Guidelines and procedures for archaeological work in Leicester* (Leicester City Museum Service).

2. Background

2.1. *Context of the Project*

2.1.1 The proposed development is for the construction of new student accommodation on the corner of Applegate and Peacock Lane, Leicester, on a site occupied by 19th and 20th-century industrial buildings.

2.1.2 The project represents the second phase in the development of student accommodation. The archaeological potential of the adjacent plot was previously assessed by a phased programme of work, commencing with an archaeological desk-based assessment (Meek 2005), followed by intrusive field evaluation (Shore et al 2007). Subsequently the damage to buried archaeological remains was mitigated by maintaining a watching brief during groundworks (Gnanaratnam 2009).

2.1.3 The current buildings occupying this phase of the development are to be demolished, with the exception of elements of the Peacock Lane façade which are to be to be incorporated into the new structure. The current buildings are entirely cellared, but an initial programme of test-pitting has been recommended in order to clarify the archaeological potential of the site prior to demolition.

2.2 Archaeological and Historical Background

2.2.1 The archaeological desk-based assessment for the adjacent site concluded that it lay in an area of high archaeological potential, within the heart of Roman and medieval Leicester, with the

possibility of remains of Roman, medieval and post-medieval date. Possible late Saxon remains have also been recorded directly to the north-east of the site. Although much of the building was cellared, it was thought possible that a significant depth of Roman remains could survive beneath the cellar floors.

2.2.2 Subsequently, a programme of trial trenching revealed archaeological deposits of Roman and medieval date at depths shown in table 1 (Shore et al 2007).

2.2.3 Since the impact of the piled foundations of the proposed building was not considered to be particularly great, a mitigation strategy comprising archaeological monitoring of groundworks was then put into effect between September and November 2008 (Gnanaratnam 2009). The results indicated that the foundations for the new building largely sat within homogeneous dark soil deposits, probably inter-cutting refuse pits or 'garden soils' of medieval or post-medieval date. Possible Roman dump layers were seen at the base of a lift pit, but no other Roman deposits were observed. Evidence for the processing of sheep skins was also observed. This took the form of pits containing sheep metapodials and probably dating to the later medieval or post-medieval period. No structural remains of any period were observed.

Table 1: depths of archaeological deposits from evaluation of adjacent site.

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

2.2.4 Archaeological evaluation of the car park immediately to the north of this site on Applegate in 2000 (Meek 2000, trenches 4 and 5) revealed extensive evidence of medieval and post-medieval activity with hints from the number of finds recovered that Roman levels were possibly quite close to present ground level and that a structure of high status might exist in the vicinity. However, modelling the depth and thickness of archaeological levels in this part of the town is problematic due to their unpredictable nature. Whilst a depth of over 1.6m of Roman deposits existed beneath cellar floors at 9 St Nicholas Place to the north, elsewhere, lower intensities of activity in the medieval and post medieval periods may mean that Roman levels are not as deeply buried and lie nearer to present ground level. Indications from phase 1 are that the Roman levels are between about 59.5 and 61m OD.

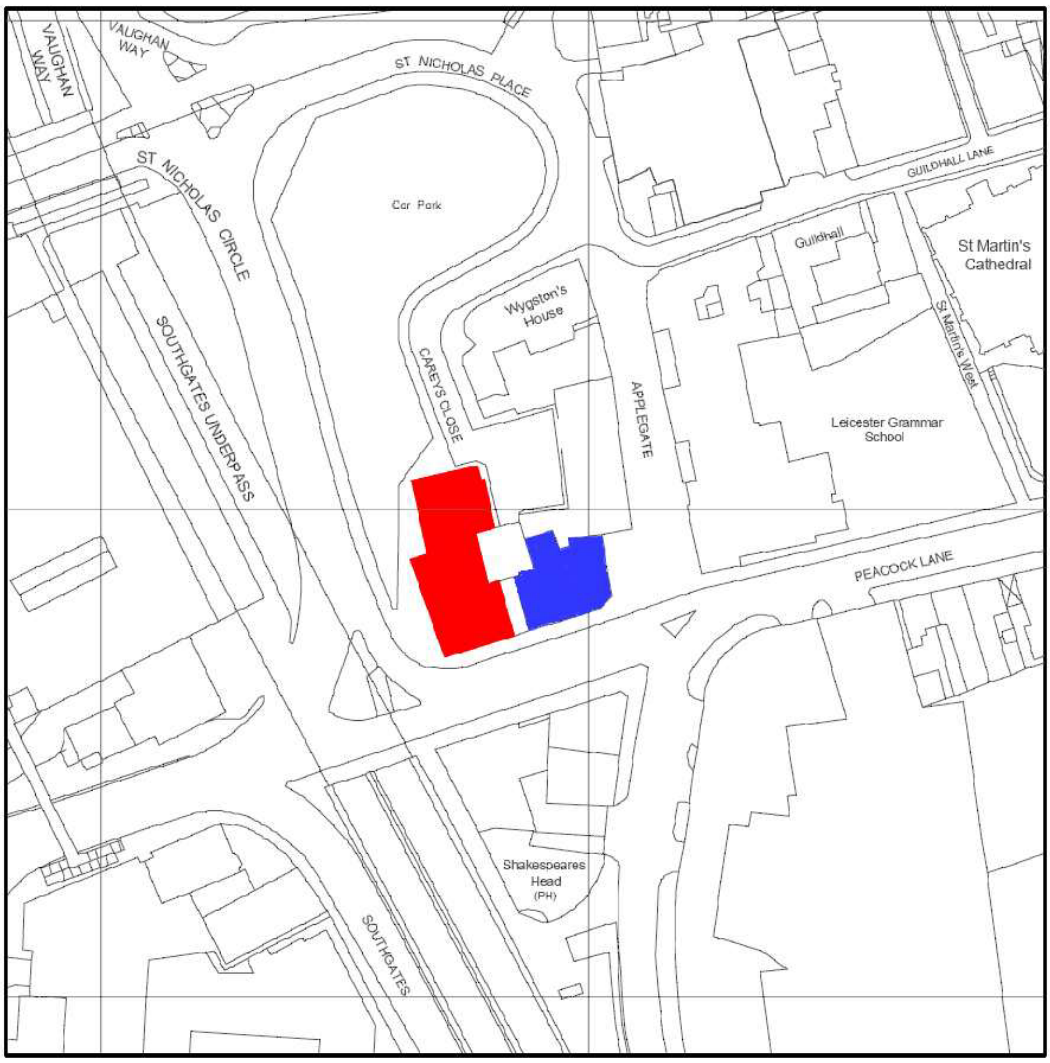

Figure 1: Site location. Phase 1 in red, current phase, Phase 2, in blue
Reproduced by permission of Ordnance Survey.

3 Archaeological Objectives

3.1 The main objectives of the evaluation will be:

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

3.2 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.

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

4 General Methodology

4.1 All work will follow the Institute for Archaeologists (IfA) *Code of Conduct* and adhere to their *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluations.*

4.2 Staffing, recording systems, Health and Safety provisions and insurance details are provided.

4.3 Internal monitoring procedures will be undertaken including visits to the sites from the project manager. These will ensure that project targets are being met and professional standards are being maintained. Provision will be made for external monitoring meetings with representatives of the clients and Leicester City Council. The strategy will be reviewed in the light of the quality of the archaeological resource as revealed at different stages of the fieldwork.

4.4 Trial trenching

4.4.1 It is proposed to examine six test-pits within the existing basements, each measuring 1m square, located to give a good spread across the building footprint and to avoid structural elements of the building. Two additional text pits will be examined if necessary to clarify the nature and extent of archaeological deposits.

4.4.2 Trenches will initially be subject to a CAT scan to locate any live services.

4.4.3 Floors and concrete/mortar sub-bases will be removed from proposed trench locations by Askam construction, after which any remaining deposits will be removed by hand by archaeologists down to the top of archaeological levels or natural ground (whichever is higher). Trenches will be investigated to a maximum depth of 0.5m.

4.4.4 The location of the trenches will be surveyed using a Total Station Electronic Distance Measurer (EDM) linked to a Psion hand held computer.

4.4.5 Any archaeological deposits located will be hand cleaned and planned as appropriate to addressing the aims and objectives of the evaluation. Samples of any archaeological deposits located will be hand excavated. Measured drawings of all archaeological features will be 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).

4.4.6. Particular attention will be paid to the potential for buried palaeosols in consultation with ULAS's environmental officer. Deposits which may provide radiocarbon dating evidence will be sampled.

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

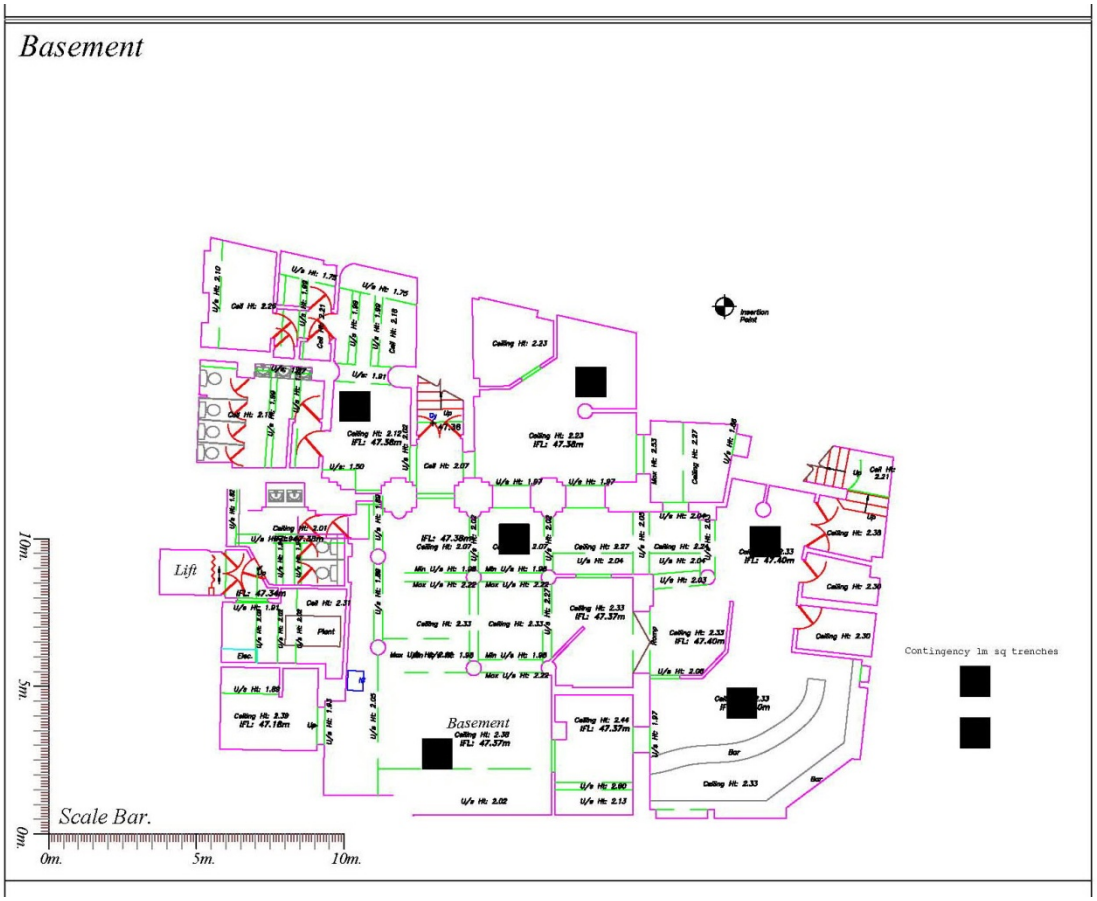

Fig. 2: proposed Trench locations

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

4.5 Mitigation Strategy

4.5.1 Depending on the results of the trial trenching and following consultation with the City Archaeologist and the client, further trenching and/or a mitigation strategy may need to be formulated.

4.6 ***Recording Systems***

4.6.1 The ULAS recording manual will be used as a guide for all recording.

4.6.2 Individual descriptions of all archaeological strata and features excavated or exposed will be entered onto pro-forma recording sheets.

4.6.3 A site location plan based on the current Ordnance Survey 1:1250 map (reproduced with the permission of the Controller of HMSO) will be prepared. This will be supplemented by a trench plan at appropriate scale, which will show the location of the areas investigated in relationship to the investigation area and OS grid.

4.6.4 A record of the full extent in plan of all archaeological deposits encountered will be made. Sections including the half-sections of individual layers of features will be drawn as necessary, typically at a scale of 1:10. The OD height of all principal strata and features will be recorded.

4.6.5 A photographic record of the investigations will be prepared illustrating in both detail and general context the principal features and finds discovered. The photographic record will also

include 'working shots' to illustrate more generally the nature of the archaeological operation mounted.

4.6.6 This record will be compiled and checked during the course of the excavations.

5. Finds and Samples

5.1 The IfA *Guidelines for Finds Work* will be adhered to.

5.2 Before commencing work on the site, a Site code/Accession number will be agreed with the Planning Archaeologist that will be used to identify all records and finds from the site.

5.3 During the fieldwork, different sampling strategies may be employed according to the perceived importance of the strata under investigation. Close attention will always be given to sampling for date, structure and environment. If significant archaeological features are sample excavated, the environmental sampling strategy is likely to include the following:

i. A range of features to represent all feature types, areas and phases will be selected on a judgmental basis. The criteria for selection will be that deposits are datable, well sealed and with little intrusive or residual material.

ii. Any buried soils or well sealed deposits with concentrations of carbonised material present will be intensively sampled taking a known proportion of the deposit.

iii. Spot samples will be taken where concentrations of environmental remains are located.

iv. Waterlogged remains, if present, will be sampled for pollen, plant macrofossils, insect remains and radiocarbon dating provided that they are uncontaminated and datable. Consultation with the specialist will be undertaken.

5.4 All identified finds and artefacts are to be retained, although certain classes of building material will, in some circumstances, be discarded after recording with the approval of the Senior Planning Archaeologist. The IfA *Guidelines for Finds Work* will be adhered to.

5.5 All finds and samples will be treated in a proper manner. Where appropriate they will be cleaned, marked and receive remedial conservation in accordance with recognised best-practice. This will include the site code number, finds number and context number. Bulk finds will be bagged in clear self sealing plastic bags, again marked with site code, finds and context numbers and boxed by material in standard storage boxes (340mm x 270mm x 195mm). All materials will be fully labelled, catalogued and stored in appropriate containers.

6. Report and Archive

6.1 Following the fieldwork the on-line OASIS form at http://ads.ahds.ac.uk/project /oasis will be completed. The full report in A4 format will usually follow within eight weeks of the completion of the fieldwork and copies will be dispatched to the Client, their consultant, Leicester City Archaeologist, and Leicester Historic Environment Record.

6.2 The report will include consideration of:-

- The aims and methods adopted in the course of the evaluation.
- The nature, location, extent, date, significance and quality of any structural, artefactual and environmental material uncovered.
- The anticipated degree of survival of archaeological deposits.
- The anticipated archaeological impact of the current proposals.
- Appropriate illustrative material including maps, plans, sections, drawings and photographs.
- Summary.
- The location and size of the archive.
- A quantitative and qualitative assessment of the potential of the archive for further analysis leading to full publication, following guidelines laid down in *Management of Archaeological Projects* (English Heritage).

6.3 A full copy of the archive as defined in the *IfA Standard and Guidance for archaeological archives (*Brown 2008) will normally be presented to Leicestershire County Council within six months of the completion of fieldwork. This archive will include all written, drawn and photographic records relating directly to the investigations undertaken.

7 Publication and Dissemination of Results

7.1 A summary of the work will be submitted for publication in the *Transactions of the Leicestershire Archaeological and Historical Society*.

8. Acknowledgement and Publicity

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

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

9. Copyright

9.1 The copyright of all original finished documents shall remain vested in ULAS and ULAS will be entitled as of right to publish any material in any form produced as a result of its investigations.

10. Timetable

10.1 The evaluation start is proposed for 17.5.2010 with two staff.

10.2 The on-site director/supervisor will carry out the post-excavation work, with time allocated within the costing of the project for analysis of any artefacts found on the site by the relevant in-house specialists at ULAS.

11. Health and Safety

11.1 ULAS is covered by and adheres to the University of Leicester Archaeological Services Health and Safety Policy and Health and Safety manual with appropriate risks assessments for all archaeological work. A draft Health and Safety statement for this project is attached as Appendix 1. The relevant Health and Safety Executive guidelines will be adhered to as appropriate. The HSE has determined that archaeological investigations are exempt from CDM regulations.

11.2 A Risks assessment will be completed prior to work commencing on-site, and updated as necessary during the site works.

12. Insurance

12.1 All ULAS work is covered by the University of Leicester's Public Liability and Professional Indemnity Insurance. The Public Liability Insurance is with St Pauls Travellers Policy No. UCPOP3651237 while the Professional Indemnity Insurance is with Lloyds Underwriters (50%) and Brit Insurances (50%) Policy No. FUNK3605.

13. Monitoring arrangements

13.1 Unlimited access to monitor the project will be available to both the Client and his representatives and Planning Authority subject to the health and safety requirements of the site. .

13.2 All monitoring shall be carried out in accordance with the IfA *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluations.*

13.3 Internal monitoring will be carried out by the ULAS project manager.

14. Contingencies and unforeseen circumstances

14.1 In the event that unforeseen archaeological discoveries are made during the project, ULAS shall inform the site agent/project manager, Client and the Planning Authority and prepare a short written statement with plan detailing the archaeological evidence. Following assessment of the archaeological remains by the Planning Archaeologist, ULAS shall, if required, implement an amended scheme of investigation on behalf of the client as appropriate.

10. Bibliography

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Gnanaratnam A, 2009 *An Archaeological Watching Brief at Carey's Close, Leicester (SK 5838 0438)* Unpub. ULAS Report 2009-120

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MGC 1992, *Standards in the Museum Care of Archaeological Collections* (Museums and Galleries Commission)

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Shore, M., Jarvis, W. and Parker D. 2007 *An Archaeological Evaluation by trial Trenching at Carey's Close, Leicester (SK 5838 0438)*. Unpub. ULAS Report 2007-117

SMA 1993, *Selection, retention and Dispersal of Archaeological Collections. Guidelines for use in England, Wales and Northern Ireland* (Society of Museum Archaeologists)

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18.5.2010

Draft Project Health and Safety Policy Statement

Peacock lane/Applegate/Carey's Close, Leicester

SK583044

For: Askam Construction Ltd

1. Nature of the work

1.1 This statement is for trial trenching. It will be revised following the commencement of operations when the extent of risks can be assessed in full.

1.2 The work will involve hand dug trial trenching within the basements of standing buildings and recording of any underlying archaeological deposits revealed. Overall depth is likely to be *c.* 0.2-0.5m. This will involve the examination of the exposed surface with hand tools (shovels, trowels etc) and excavation of archaeological features. All work will adhere to the University of Leicester Health and Safety Policy and follow the guidance in the Standing Committee of Archaeological Unit Managers manual, as revised in 1997, together with the following relevant Health and Safety guidelines, including the following.

HSE Construction Information Sheet CS8 Safety in excavations.
HSE Industry Advisory leaflet IND (G)143 (L): Getting to grips with manual handling.
HSE Industry Advisory leaflet IND (G)145 (L): Watch Your back.
CIRIA R97 Trenching practice.
CIRIA TN95 Proprietary Trench Support Systems.
HSE Guidance Note HS(G) 47 Avoiding danger to underground services. HSE Guidance Note GS7 Accidents to children on construction sites

1.3 The Health and Safety policy on site will be reassessed during the evaluation .All work will adhere to the company's health and safety policy.

2 Risks Assessment

2.1 Working within an excavation.

Precautions. No work will be undertaken beneath section faces deeper than 0.75m. Loose spoil heaps will not be walked on. Protective footwear will be worn at all times. A member of staff qualified in First Aid will be present at all times. First aid kit, vehicle and mobile phone to be kept on site in case of emergency.

2.2 Working inside a disused building

Precautions.

Hard hats, protective footwear and hazard jackets will be worn at all times.

Lighting will be provided by Askam Construction, but each member of staff will carry a torch at all times as a precaution against power failure.

Trenches will be clearly marked and a 'Deep Excavation' sign will be displayed at the entrance to the basement.

The location of emergency exits will be clearly marked and staff will familiarise themselves with safe routes out of the building in the event of fire or other emergency.

There will be no smoking inside the building.

As the work is within a basement with no windows, Staff will take regular breaks.

2.5 Working with chemicals.

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

2.6 Other risks

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

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

6 May 2010

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Archaeological Services

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