

**An Archaeological Evaluation at
61 Oxford Street
Leicester**

By Tim Higgins



An Archaeological Evaluation

at 61 Oxford Street

Leicester

NGR: SK 5865 0391

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For: Evans Bros. Ltd

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An Archaeological Evaluation at 61 Oxford Street, Leicester (SK 5865 0391)

Tim Higgins

Summary

An archaeological field evaluation by trial trenching was undertaken on behalf of Evans Bros. Ltd at 61 Oxford Street, Leicester by University of Leicester Archaeological Services in July 2009. Four trenches were excavated in response to development proposals for student accommodation in an area defined as having archaeological potential, within the Roman and medieval south suburb. The trial trenching revealed a potential Roman road and evidence of pits and spreads suggesting settlement alongside the road. A possible disturbed Roman cremation urn and disarticulated human bone were also recovered from the site. Overlying and cutting the Roman deposits were medieval and post medieval layers and features associated with probable back yard properties that either fronted on to Oxford Street or Grange Lane. The site archive will be held with Leicester City Museum Service, under the accession code A7.2009.

1. Introduction

An archaeological field evaluation (AFE) was undertaken as part of the requirements identified by the City Archaeologist, Leicester City Council, as archaeological advisor to planning authority following Planning Policy Guidelines 16 (PPG16, Archaeology and Planning para.30). The AFE was undertaken to assess whether any archaeological remains of significance were present within the development site and propose suitable treatment to avoid or minimise damage by the development.

A desk-based assessment undertaken by University of Leicester Archaeological Services (Harvey 2004), for an adjacent site at 52 Grange Lane had highlighted the archaeological potential of the surrounding area.

This report presents the results of archaeological evaluation by trial trenching carried out in July 2009 by University of Leicester Archaeological Services (ULAS).

2. Site Description, Topography and Geology

The assessment area formerly consisted of an early 20th-century factory complex fronting onto Oxford Street. The area comprises *c.*1428 sq.m. (*c.*0.14ha), of which *c.*0.03ha consists of basement associated with the former factory. The area lies at a height of *c.*60m OD. The basement and its floor slab were to be retained for incorporation into the new build.



Figure 1 Location of the proposed development

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3. Historical and Archaeological Background

An archaeological desk-based assessment, previously prepared by the University of Leicester Archaeological Services for adjacent development at 52, Grange Lane (Harvey 2004), highlighted the archaeological potential of the site's environs.

The site lies to the south of the Roman and medieval walled area within the town's southern suburb; an area of known archaeological potential (Fig 2). Previous archaeological investigations in the vicinity of the proposed development area at Grange Lane, Bonners Lane, Mill Lane, Oxford Street and York Road have uncovered significant remains of Roman, Anglo-Saxon, medieval and post-medieval date.

An excavation immediately adjacent to the current site, at 52 Grange Lane, produced well-preserved and stratified remains from the Roman and medieval periods (Thomas 2005 a and b). Four early Roman urned cremation burials and an associated small timber building were apparently part of a small cemetery dating to the 1st century AD lying adjacent to the projected line of the Roman road to Tripontium. At least three phases of 3rd-4th century AD Roman roadside occupation included cobbled surfaces, pits, ditches and structural remains as well as a corn-drier and stone-lined well. In places an unexpectedly deep sequence of deposits was revealed – particularly in the northern half of the site adjacent to the current development area. Medieval activity associated with backyards of properties fronting Oxford Street included a sequence of substantial boundary ditches running along the Grange Lane frontage and a series of deep cess pits or wells, some of which contained exceptionally well-preserved environmental evidence.

An archaeological evaluation at 85-89 Oxford Street revealed evidence of a Roman cobbled surface overlying a probable ditch near to the Oxford Street frontage (Clarke 2003). A partially revealed ditch also contained hand-made pottery of either Iron Age or Anglo-Saxon origin. To the west a curving medieval ditch may have been associated with a windmill.

Excavations at Bonners Lane (Finn 1994, 2002), to the north of the development area, produced evidence of the main Roman road leading from the south gate of Leicester to the Roman town of Tripontium (Caves Inn). The projected line of the Tripontium road would pass through the current development area. Evidence for Roman timber buildings fronting on to this street, as well as pitting were also excavated. An Anglo-Saxon timber building was also found at Bonners Lane, representing the first structure from this period to be found in the city, and is considered of regional importance. Timber structural remains of the medieval period relating to properties fronting onto Oxford Street (medieval Southgates) were also revealed as well as ditches and pits from associated backyards. Evidence for post-medieval craft activities indicated hide processing on the site while several large ditches represented remains of Leicester's Civil War defences.

Excavations on the eastern side of Oxford Street, on the corner with York Road, revealed a similar level of archaeological survival (Gossip 1999a, b). The Roman period was represented by a complex of boundary ditches and a spread of burials associated with an extensive cemetery outside the town wall. Another Saxon timber building was found on the site and medieval suburban development including structural remains, pitting and wells was also recovered.

Further evidence for Leicester's Civil War defences was revealed during excavations at Mill Lane, on the corner with Grange Lane to the north of the present site (Finn 2002). Here also, evidence of prehistoric, Roman and medieval occupation outside of the town wall were discovered.

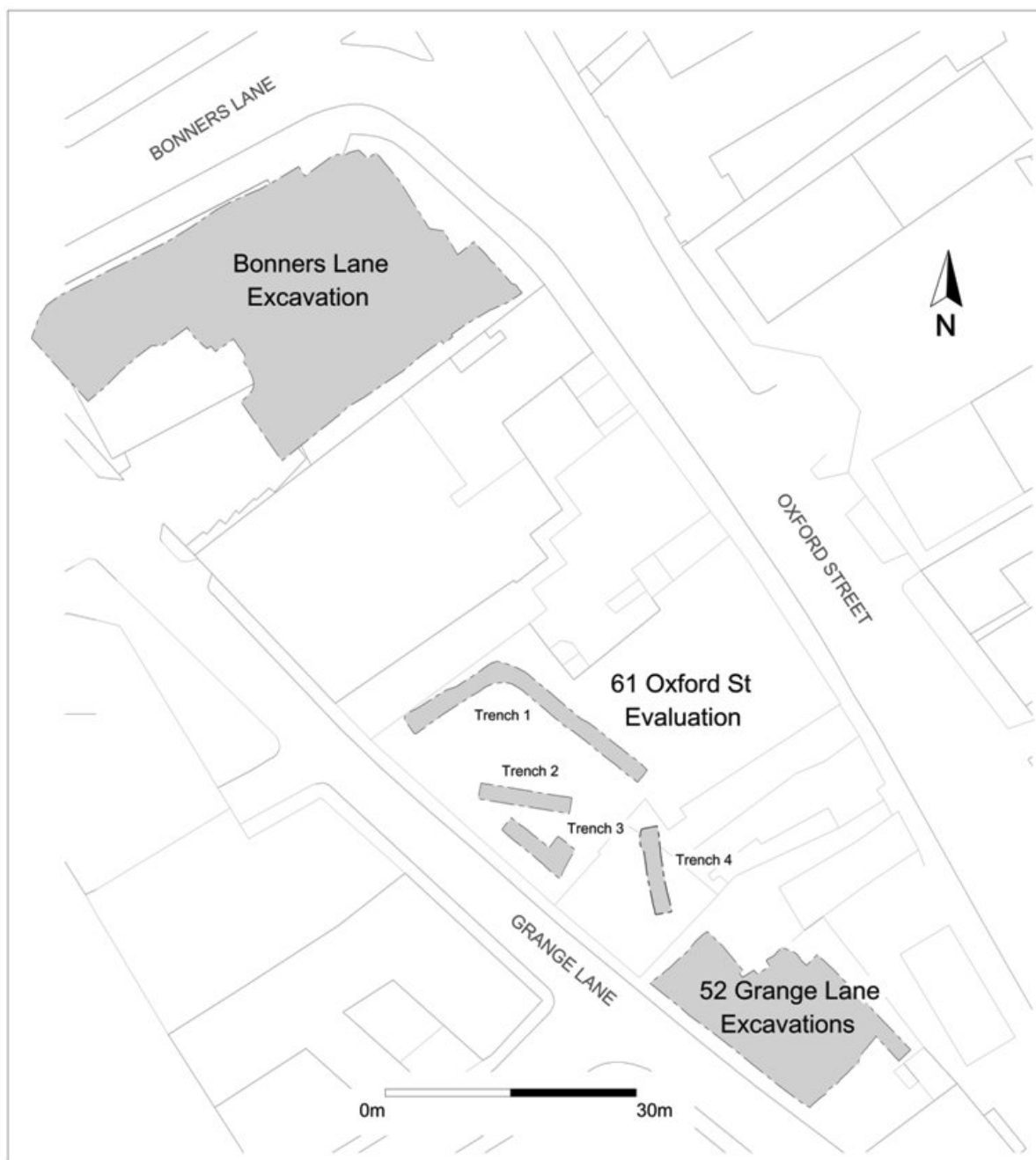


Figure 2 Location of development area and previous archaeological investigations of 52 Grange Lane and Bonners Lane.

4. Aims and Objectives

As specified in the *Project Design Specification for Archaeological Evaluation* (Thomas 2009). 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 excavate and record any archaeological deposits to be affected by the 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.

The following site-specific objectives are also to be considered:

- Establishment of the form, function and chronology of any preserved archaeological remains, utilising all appropriate scientific and analytical techniques;
- The recognition and investigation of activity and occupation areas
- The recovery of palaeo-environmental remains, including waterlogged deposits;
- Examination of evidence for settlement development within the hinterland around Leicester;
- Recovery of artefactual remains to assist in the development of local and regional type series;
- Further evidence to enable a fuller understanding of the nature of the occupation revealed during the excavation of the adjacent site at 52, Grange Lane.

5. Methodology

The *Design Specification* (Appendix 5), approved by the City Archaeologist, proposed a 12% excavation sample of the development area and comprised trial trenching totalling c. 120 sq m., the equivalent of four 20m x 1.6m trenches to maximum depth of 1.2m (Fig 2). The position of the trenches to be excavated within the development was restricted to existing open ground avoiding the area of the former factory basement. The site had been previously cleared of buildings and had been levelled with demolition material.

On arrival on site and prior to any machining starting, it was found that part of the available open ground on the eastern side was covered with a pile of concrete and brick rubble. As a result the proposed location and length trenches had to be altered. The trial trenching would now comprise one trench 34m x 1.9m wide and three trenches, which measured approximately between 8m x 1.9m to 11m x 1.9m in size (Fig 3).

The surfaces and underlying layers were removed by mechanical excavator under full archaeological supervision until either the top of archaeology or natural substratum/undisturbed ground was reached, or to a depth of 1.2m.

The bases of the trenches were cleaned in areas where potential archaeological deposits were observed. Where archaeological remains were identified, they were planned to scale and recorded. Limited sample excavation was also undertaken in order to determine the character and date of any remains.

The trenches were located using a Leica EDM and the final plans completed with the aid of TurboCad v.11 design software.

All the work followed the Institute of Field Archaeologists (IfA) *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluations*, and the *Guidelines and Procedures for Archaeological Work in Leicestershire and Rutland* (Leicestershire Museums, Arts and Records Service).

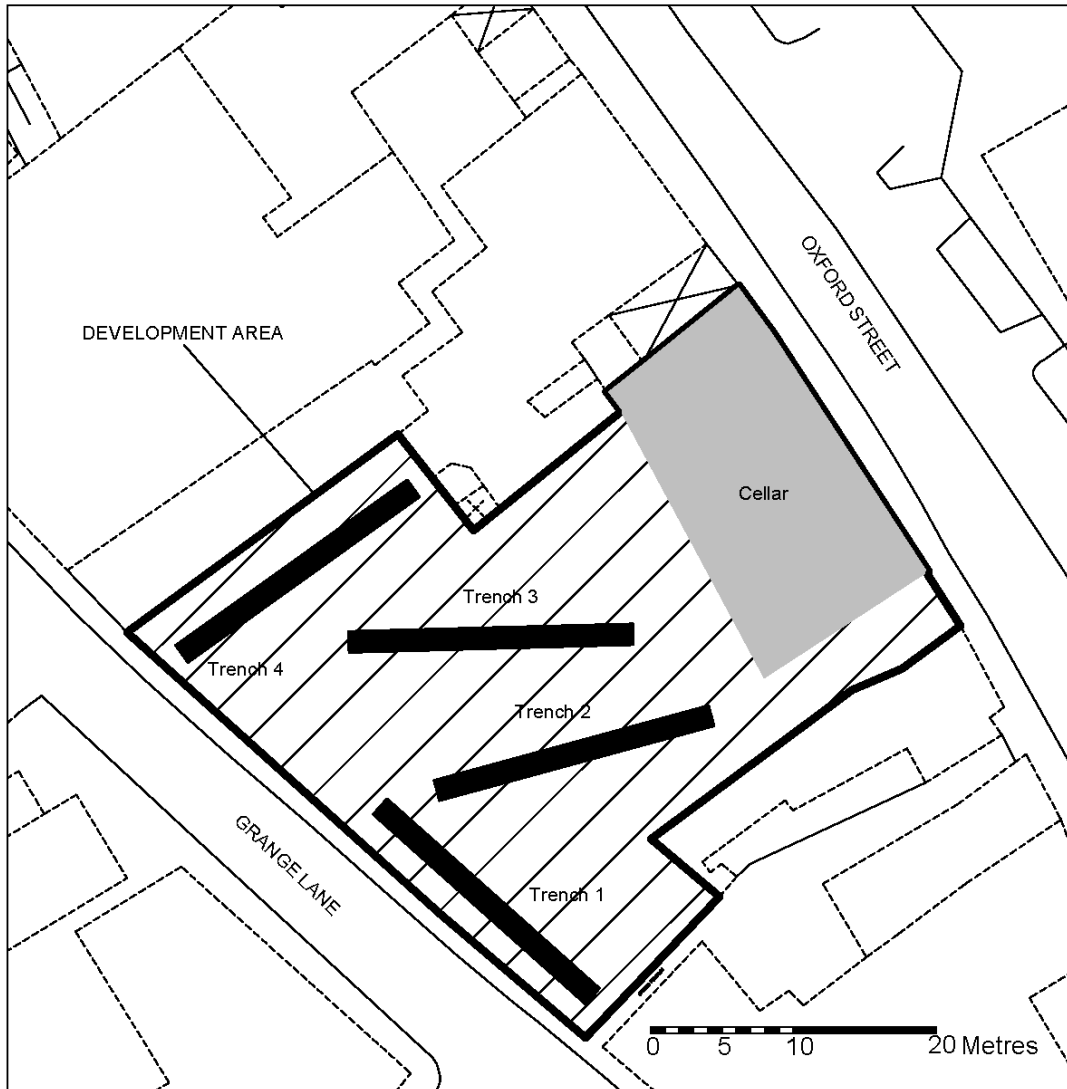


Figure 3 Proposed locations of evaluation trenches

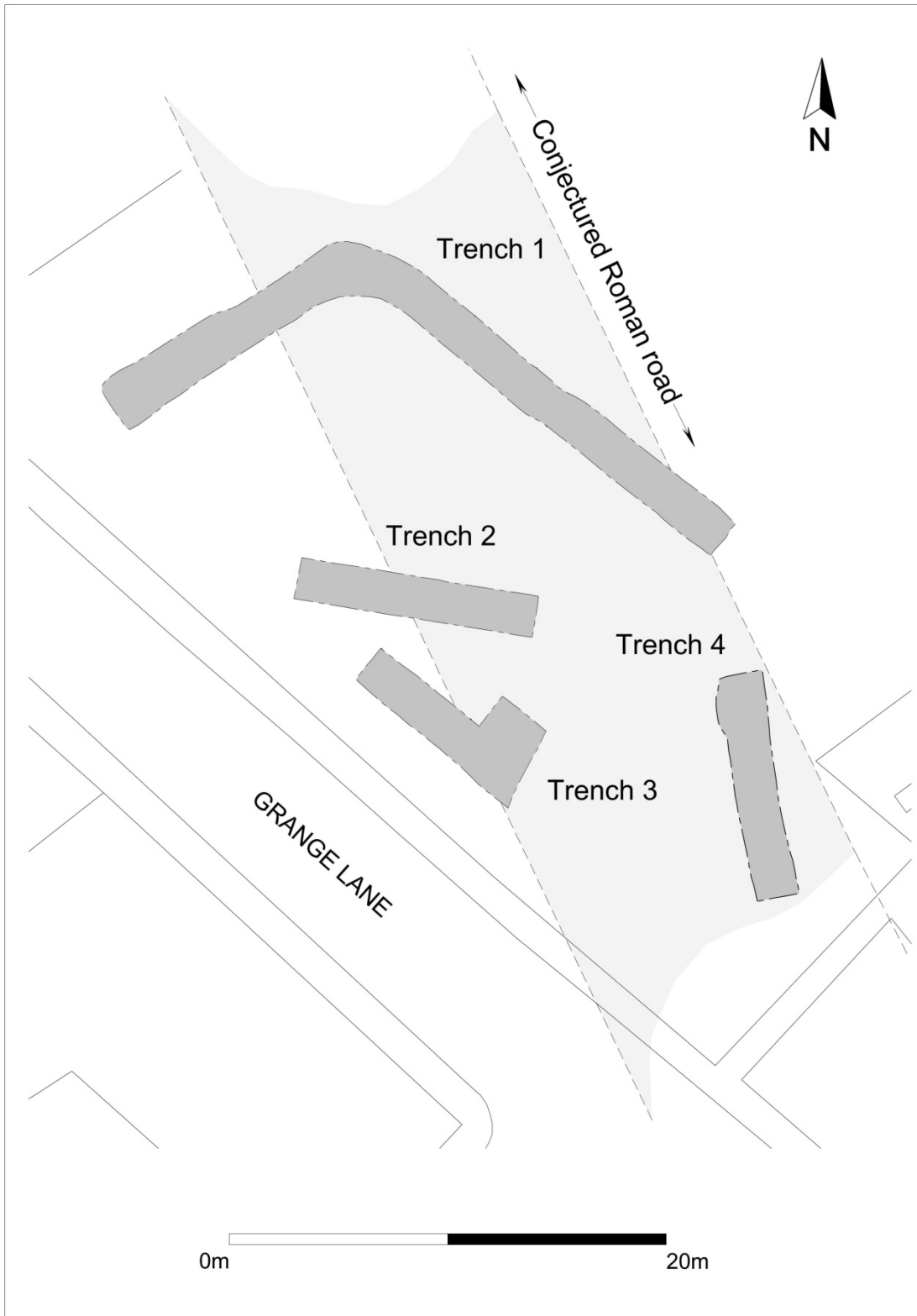


Figure 4 Excavated trial trench locations within the application area.

6. Results

Trench 1		
Length	34.00m	
Width	1.90m	
Depth	1.05m	
Ground Level	59.48m OD.	
Top of Archaeology and depth below ground level	59.37m OD.	Depth 0.11m
Natural Substratum	59.10m	

This trench was located in the north-east corner of the site, running west to east for 13m and turned at 90° to extend southwards for a further 21m (Fig 3 and 4). The natural substratum was found at the southern end of the trench at a depth of 0.50m below the present ground surface at 59.10m OD and comprised clean reddish-brown clay. The trench revealed four large modern intrusive features that are believed to be former foundations of the demolished factory. In spite of truncation, at the northern end of the trench, a scatter of archaeological features was observed cutting and overlying the natural. The top of the archaeological horizon was 59.37m OD and 0.11m below the present ground surface.

At the southern end of the trench, a compacted orange reddish-brown sandy clay fill or layer, context (20) was found, apparently within a large feature of unknown extent. This may represent an early Roman feature. Directly to the north, another compacted orange reddish-brown sandy clay fill or layer, context (13), was revealed. The deposit was mixed with frequent small pebbles and measured 0.54m deep. At the northern end of the trench, a similar, layer context (16), of compacted orange reddish brown sandy clay mixed with pebbles 0.38m deep, was found overlying the natural. These layers are thought to represent make-up layers for possible Roman road or yard surfaces.

A sub-rectangular Roman pit, context (11) cut [12], was found to be cutting the make-up layer context (13), towards the south end of the trench. The pit was back filled with refuse and the finds included late 1st to early 2nd-century Roman pottery, animal bone and oyster shell fragments with frequent charcoal flecks. The base of an early 2nd-century white-ware flagon associated with a concentration of burnt bone was found within the pit. This was similar to a disturbed cremation burial found at 52 Grange Lane.

A further two small pits were found to be cutting directly into the potential road make-ups or early features, context fill (7), cut [8] and context fill (9) cut [10]. There were no associated finds, but the features are probably Roman or medieval based on the stratified sequence. A potential well or pit feature, context, (14), cut [15], was found at the northern end of the trench. A partial excavation of the feature revealed steep vertical sides and the fill contained 13th-century medieval pottery sherds. This well or pit was probably associated with the back yards of medieval properties that once fronted on to either Oxford Street or Grange Lane. A shallow linear feature, context (5) and (19), cut [6], was seen at the southern end of the trench, running north to south, filled with charcoal and ash and sealed by a red clay and pebble spread or surface context (2). There were no associated finds, but this spread and feature are probably post medieval in date and again may relate to Grange Lane or Oxford Street back yards. The archaeological features and modern intrusions were sealed under a layer modern overburden.

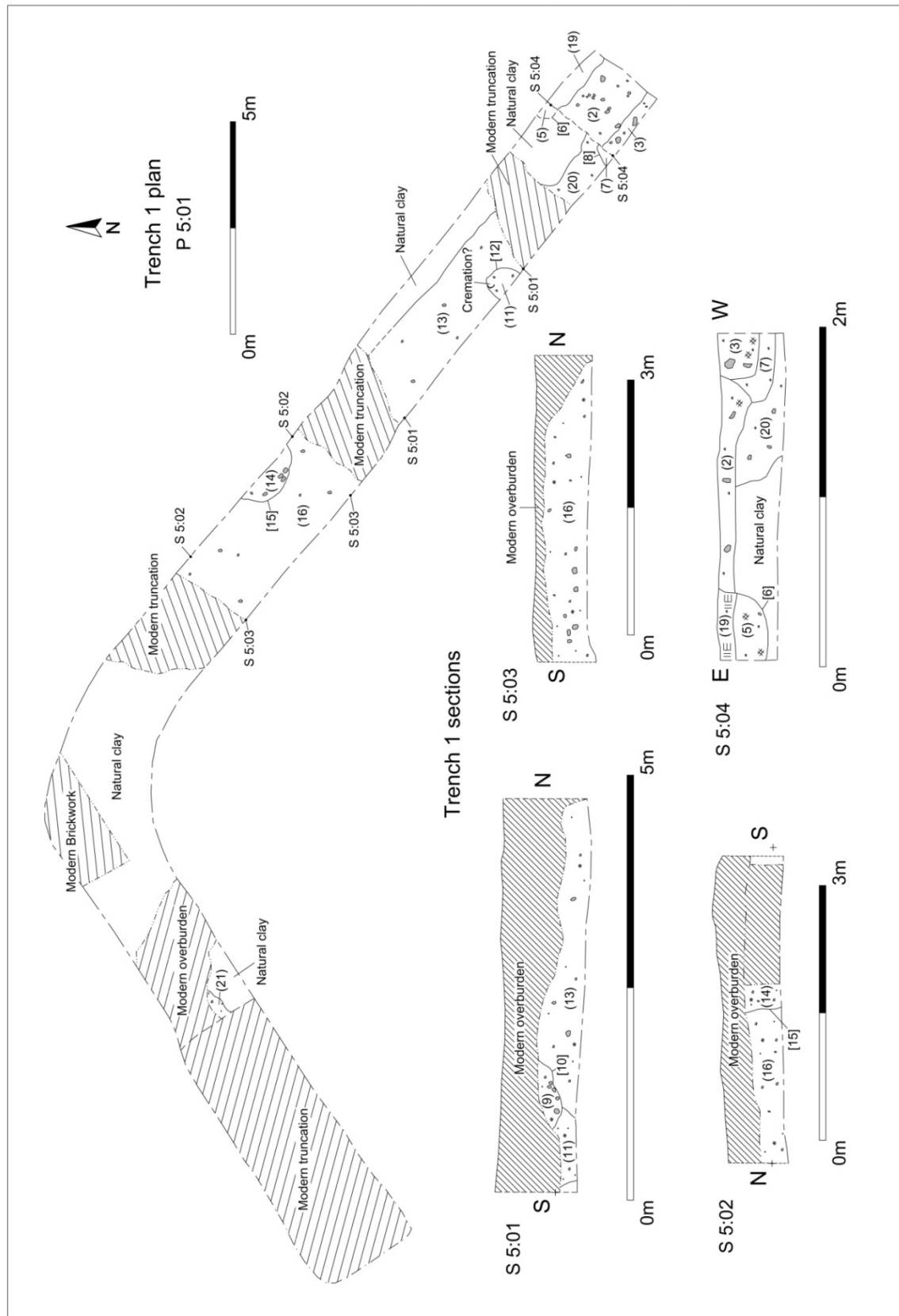


Figure 5 Trench 1 plan and sections

Trench 2		
Length	10.00m	
Width	1.90m	
Depth	1.20m	
Ground Level	59.43m OD.	
Top of Archaeology and depth below ground level	58.68m OD.	Depth 0.75m
Natural Substratum	Not reached	

Trench 2 was located on the west side of the site and was aligned north-west to south-east (Fig 3 and 5). The natural substratum was not reached within this trench. The uppermost archaeological horizon was found at 58.68m OD, which was 0.75m below the present ground surface. The earliest deposits revealed comprised mixed dirty sandy and red-brown clay mixed with pebble spreads, contexts (29) and (30). Although there were no finds associated with these spreads, they are thought to be possibly medieval or early post medieval based on their stratigraphic position and may be associated with the backyards of properties fronting on to Oxford Street. At the west end of the trench, a possible post-medieval demolition deposit was observed, context (32), consisting of dark grey clay silt mixed with frequent angular stones, slate, brick and tile. Towards the east end of the trench were various spreads of mixed light grey clay silt and orange brown sands which contained stones and charcoal flecks, contexts(33), (34), (35), (36) and (37). In the centre of the trench, two large pits, context (31), cut [80] and context (28), cut [41], were both back filled with dark-grey clay silts and are thought to date from the post-medieval period. These layers and pits were probably within backyard plots of post medieval properties.

The post medieval layers and pits were sealed under a 0.50m deep garden soil consisting of dark clay silt mixed with the occasional pebble, slate fragment, charcoal flecks and mortar flecks. A 0.30m-deep layer of modern overburden was found overlying the garden soil and this was disturbed by two deep modern trench features.

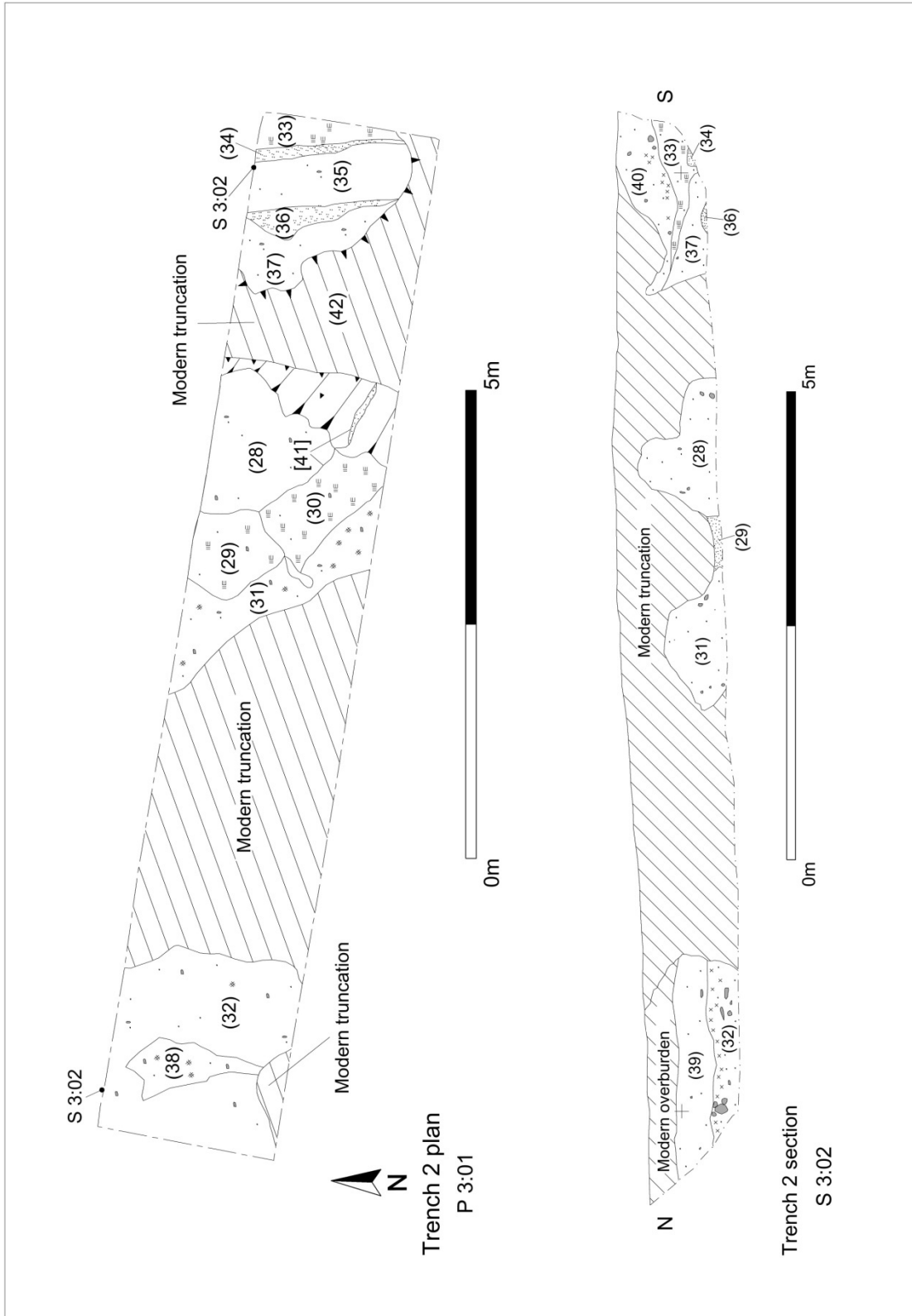


Figure 6 Trench 2 plan and section

Trench 3		
Length	8.80m	
Width	1.90m north end, 4.20m south end	
Depth	0.95m	
Ground Level	59.45m OD.	
Top of Archaeology and depth below ground level	59.05m OD.	Depth 0.40m
Natural Substratum	57.99m OD	

This trench was located on the west side close to Grange Lane frontage and was orientated in a north-west to south-east direction (Fig 3 and 6). The upper archaeological horizon was reached at a level of 59.05m OD, which was 0.40m below the present ground surface. Natural substratum was found towards the southern end of the trench at a depth of 1.46m below the ground level (57.99m OD). Overlying the natural were Roman spreads or features, contexts (26) (55), cut [27], which contained late 1st-century Roman pottery. A possible Roman pebble surface was seen in the south-east corner of the trench (spread 54) and consisted of mid-yellowish sandy clay mixed with pebbles. The spreads were cut by two potential post holes, contexts (56) and (55). No finds were retrieved directly from these features but their stratigraphic location suggests a possible Roman date. Towards the north-west corner of the trench a spread, context (42), of orange sand and dark-grey silt was observed, which was probably 18th century in date. This was sealed by dark greyish-brown sandy clay spreads, contexts (43) and (45), and mortar sandy clay spread context (44).

At the centre of the trench was a large pit, cut [25], which had been back filled with various tip fills mixed with mortar and slate fragments suggesting potential demolition deposits. A single human bone (right femur) was also recovered from this pit fill, context (24). The pit was cut by two potential post holes or small pits, contexts (46) and (47), and they are probably associated with post-medieval back yard activity.

The post-medieval features and spreads were cut by a Victorian cellar which was located in the south-west corner of the trench, and was probably associated with terraced housing fronting on to Grange Lane, although it was unclear if the cellar continued along the western edge of the site. The cellar was sealed under a modern overburden layer which was 0.40m deep.

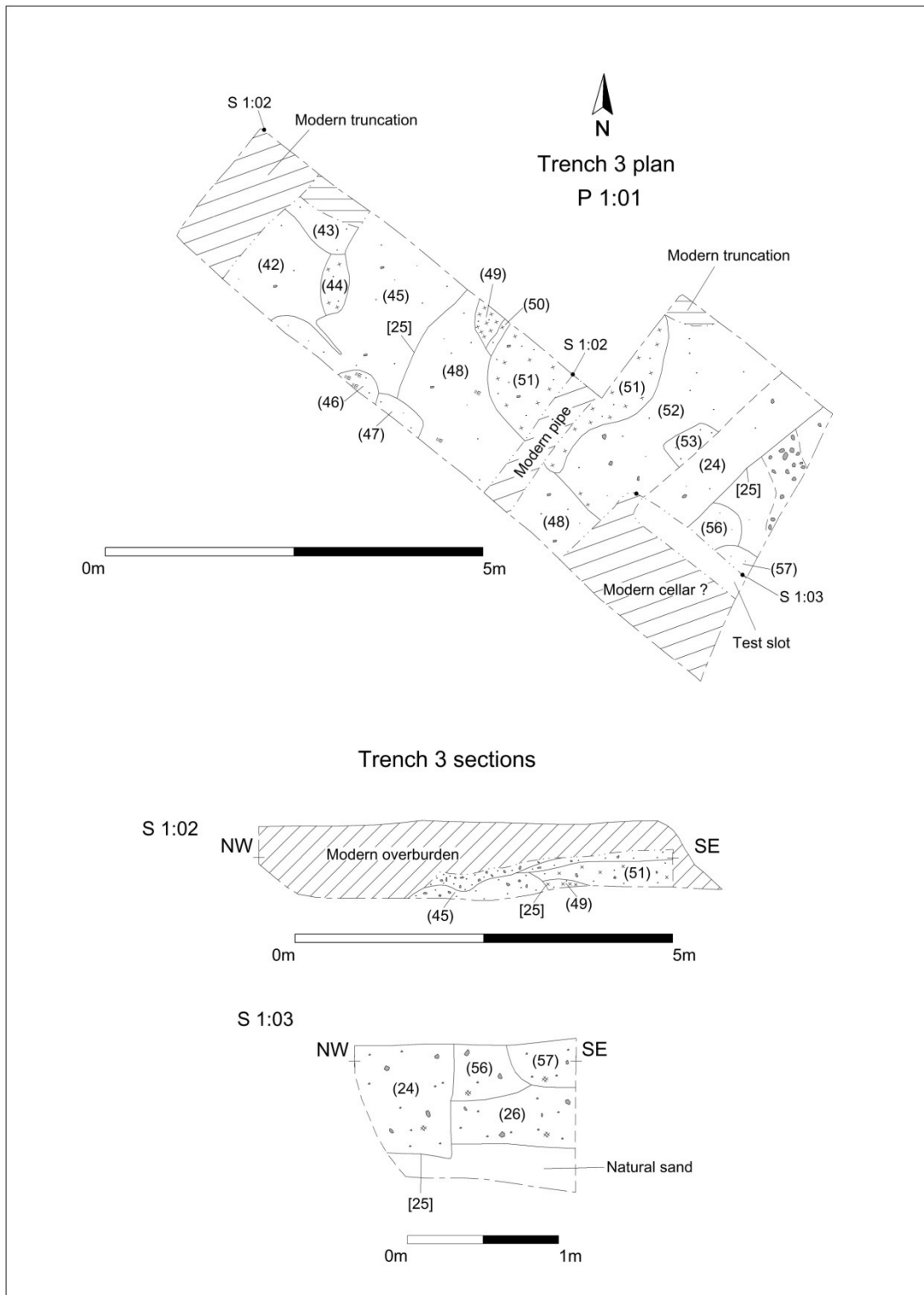


Figure 7 Trench 3 plan and sections

Trench 4		
Length	11.30m	
Width	1.90m	
Depth	1.45m	
Ground Level	59.79m	
Top of Archaeology and depth below current ground level	58.74m OD.	Depth 1.05m
Natural Substratum	58.44m OD.	

This trench was excavated towards the south-west corner of the development site and was orientated north to south (Fig 3 and 7). Natural clay was reached at a depth of 1.35m below the surface at the northern end of the trench and consisted of reddish-brown clay. The uppermost archaeological horizon in Trench 4 was at 58.74m OD, 1.05m below the present ground surface. The earliest feature comprised a possible Roman pit, context (75) cut [76], which was only seen in the north-facing section (Fig 7, S2.02). To the north, another possible cut for a feature was observed (Fig 7 S2.01), with a fill of reddish-brown clay mixed with pebbles, context (74). The full extent of the possible pit, cut [76], and layer or feature fill (74), is unknown, but they may represent pre-road features. No finds were associated with these features but they were sealed by later Roman deposits. A metallised pebble surface (73), consisting of frequent rounded pebbles concreted in a reddish-brown clay and sand, is thought to be the first phase of a possible Roman road or yard surface. Overlying the first phase pebble surface were two make-up layers consisting of red clay, context (68), and orange sand, context (61), which were then sealed by another metallised pebble surface, context (60). These layers and the pebble surface are believed to be a possible second phase of either a resurfaced Roman road or yard. A linear feature, cut [18], with steep sloping sides breaking into a narrow tapering point, was observed to be cutting the pebble surface and make-up layers on the east side of the trench. It contained three fills, contexts (17), (71) and (72), the uppermost of which (17), contained Roman 2nd- to 3rd-century pottery and an early 4th century coin. The feature is thought to be a possible roadside ditch.

Three undated possible post holes, context (62), cut [63]; context (67), cut [66] and context (69), cut [70], were found cutting the probable Roman road and ditch. They were sealed by post-medieval garden soils (context 79). Towards the north end of the trench, the post-medieval garden soil was cut by large pit context (77), cut [78]. On the eastern side of the trench, a brick lined Victorian well was found in the north-facing section cutting the garden soil layer. The garden soil along with the large pit [78] and Victorian cellar were sealed by a layer of modern overburden 0.80m deep.

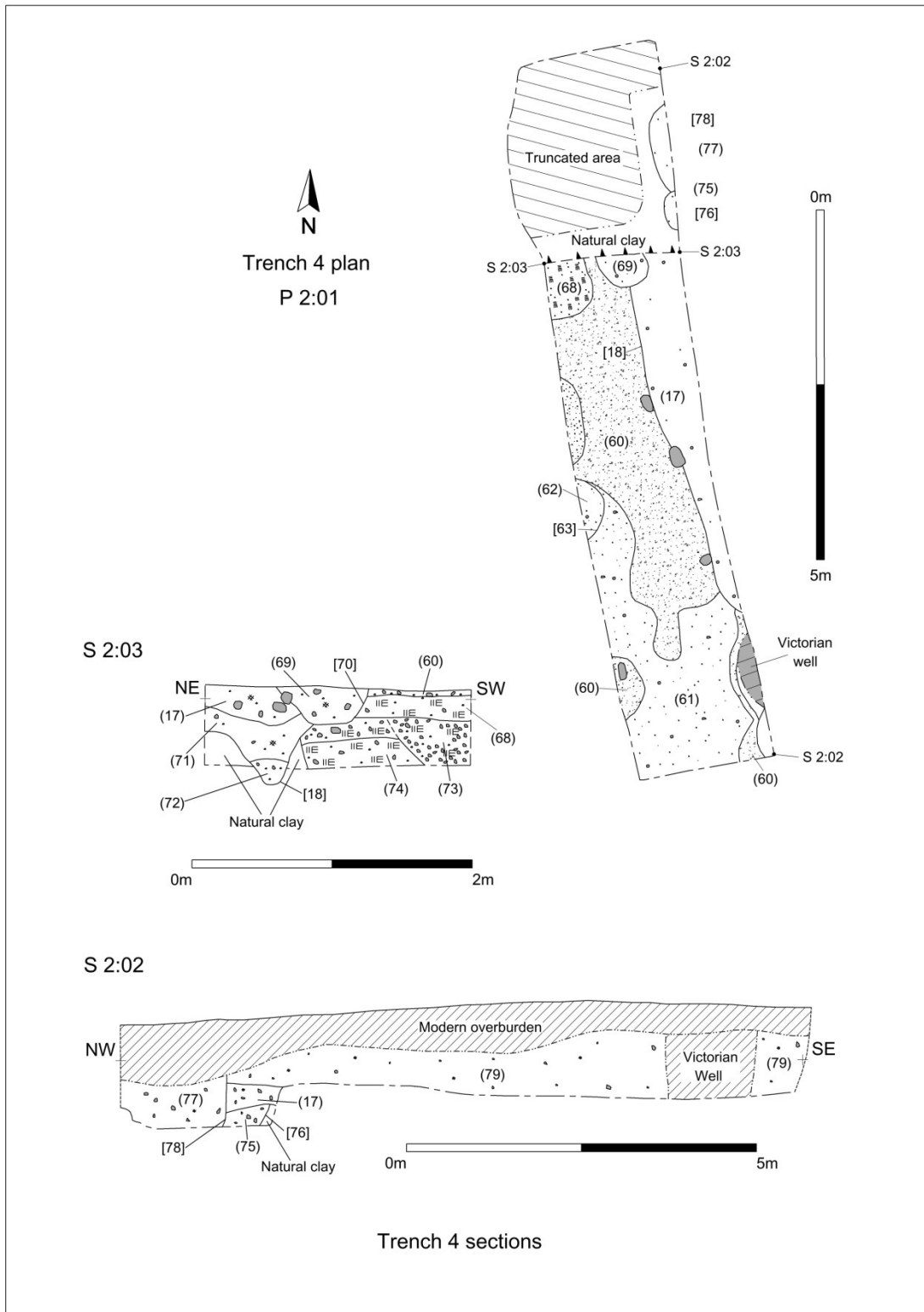


Figure 8 Trench 4 plan and sections

7. Discussion

Roman

Evidence for Roman activity was found in three of the four trenches and is thought to represent more evidence of occupation from this period located in the south suburbs of Leicester. The projected line of the Tripontium Roman road, discovered during excavations at nearby Bonners Lane to the north (Finn 2004) passes close or perhaps through this site. The excavation of a neighbouring site directly to the south, at 52 Grange Lane, (Thomas 2005) found cobbled metalled surfaces and a ditch, which appear to have to been on the same alignment as similar features observed in Trench 4 from this evaluation (Fig 8 and Plate 1 below). The available evidence is not sufficient to fully characterise the remains, but the conjectured alignment suggests the cobble surfaces and ditch could be associated with the Tripontium road. Other reasonably deep Roman features and spreads along with the finds (see Appendix 2 below) found in other trenches suggest that there is potential for long term activities alongside the road. The Grange Lane excavations (Thomas 2005) produced evidence of various post holes, pits and boundary ditches suggesting the existence of Roman domestic plots and structures alongside the road.

The base of a Roman mid- 2nd-century white-ware flagon was found within a pit in Trench 1 and was thought to be perhaps a displaced cremation urn (Plate 2 below). A single disarticulated human bone was also retrieved from a post-medieval pit suggesting the potential for inhumations on the site. Four disturbed urned cremation burials were recovered during the 52 Grange Lane excavation, one of urns being a white ware flagon. Cremations in general from Leicester conform to an early Roman date range and their distribution patterns tend to be in clusters close to main route ways into Leicester. Given the suggested location of the site in relation to the Tripontium road and the discovery of cremations at 52 Grange Lane, a similar development may be suggested here. Disarticulated human bone has also been recovered from other nearby excavations at 52 Grange Lane and Mill Lane (Finn 2002) and may point to a different burial tradition than cremation at certain times.

Medieval

Pottery dating to the 12th or 13th centuries was recovered during the evaluation and was concentrated on the eastern side of the site, in Trench 1. Sample excavation suggested the potential for episodes of pitting in the back yards of medieval properties fronting onto Grange Lane or Oxford Street. The most revealing of the medieval features sampled suggested a potential well. It is a possibility that further features relating to these activities exist on the site. Medieval remains dating from the 12th to 13th centuries were also revealed at the 52 Grange Lane excavation and comprised boundary ditches, pits and two wells. The pits contained evidence for iron-working, possible horn-working and needle work. Exceptional waterlogged deposits were found in one of the ditches and both wells. There is high potential that these types of deposits could produce important environmental information.

Post Medieval

Demolition layers or spreads were revealed in Trench 2 dated to the 17th to 18th century and a similar deposit was found within a large pit in Trench 3. These deposits could be associated with rebuilding of the south suburbs in the post Civil-War period of the late 17th to 18th century. In Trench 2 a garden soil layer was revealed and pottery found within it suggested that it dated to the 18th century. The sample excavations across all of the trenches suggested episodes of post-medieval pitting and accumulation of garden soils in the back yards of properties fronting onto Grange Lane or Oxford Street.

In Trench 1 a pebble and clay surface of possible 18th to 19th century date was revealed and perhaps related to yards behind buildings fronting onto Grange Lane or Oxford Street.

Modern

Modern disturbance was evident, particularly on the northern and eastern sides of the site, where the north end of Trench 1 had suffered badly from modern trenches, and the uppermost archaeological horizon was at a level of 59.37m OD, or 0.11m below the present ground surface. Trench 2 had a large modern trench cut across the middle. Effects of modern activities were less evident in Trenches 3 and 4 apart from modern test pit located towards the northern end and Trench 4.

Impact

It is evident from the evaluation trench results that important archaeological remains do survive close to the present ground level and as such, they could be vulnerable to any ground disturbance associated with the redevelopment programme particularly in the northern half of the site.

The present plans for the development (Savage Hayward Architects) indicate that the proposed building is based on pile and ground-beam foundations and finished ground level would be between 250mm and 300mm above the current ground level. The depth of the ground beams and pile caps will be kept to a minimum at 900mm below the depth of the finished ground level. The top of the archaeology horizons found Trenches 1 and 3 would be 410mm and 700mm respectively below the proposed finished ground level. The relatively shallow depths would suggest that any archaeological remains within those areas could be more vulnerable to any ground disturbances. However the archaeological horizons found in Trenches 2 and 4 would be 1050mm and 1350mm below the proposed finished ground level, and are probably less likely to be disturbed by ground beams and pile caps.

The density of the piling arrangement should be considered and could still have a detrimental effect on all surviving remains. Service diagrams were not supplied with the piling plans and these too could impact upon the archaeology.

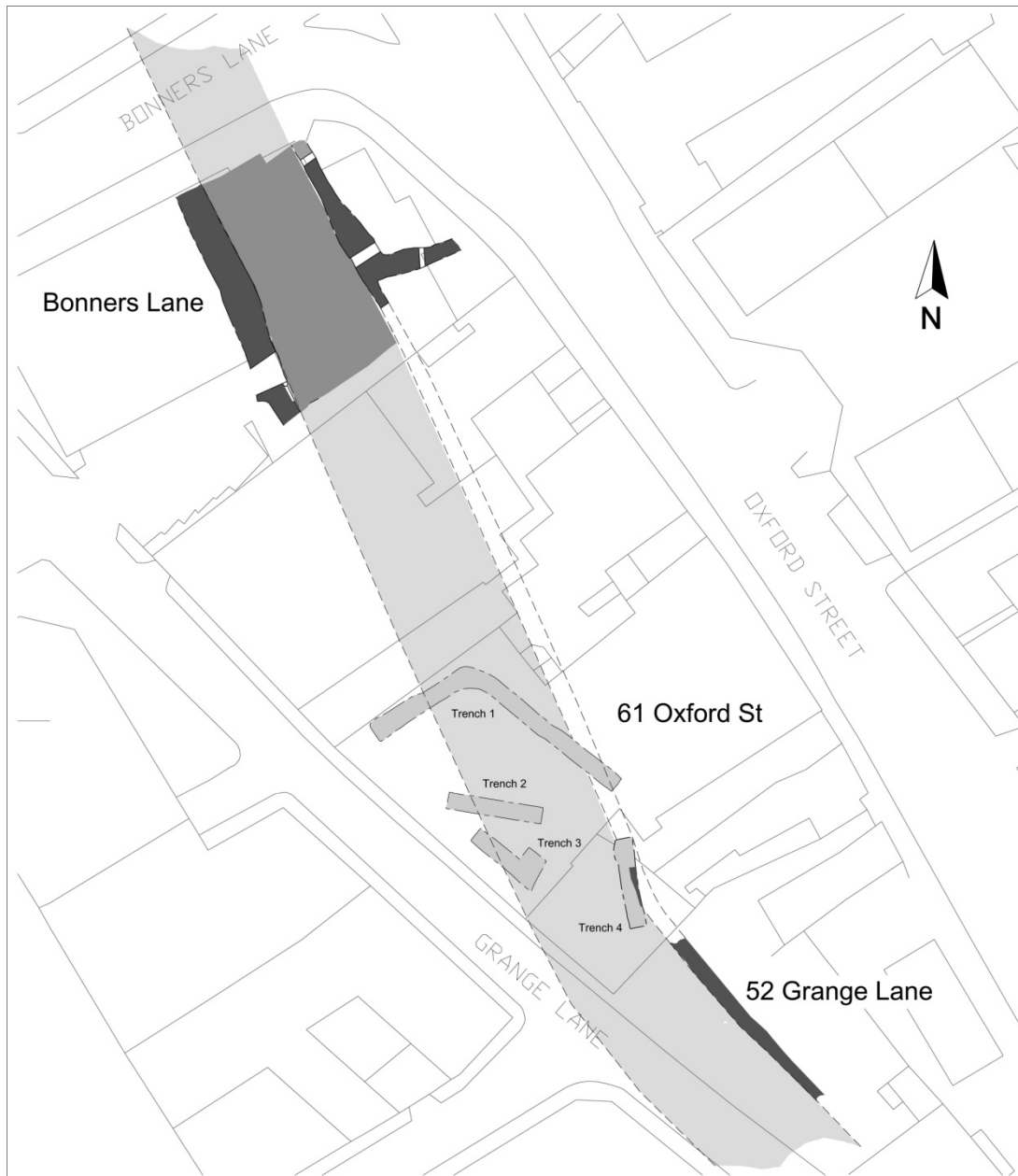


Figure 9 Conjectured Roman road alignment between Bonners Lane (Finn 2004), 61 Oxford Street and 52 Grange Lane (Thomas 2005)

8. Archive

A full copy of the archive as defined in the Guidelines for the Preparation of Excavation Archives for long-term storage (UKIC 1990), Standards in the Museum: Care of Archaeological Collections (MGC 1992) and Guidelines for the Preparation of Site Archives and Assessments for all Finds (other than fired objects) (Roman finds Group and Finds Research Group AD 700-1700, 1993) will usually 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

Four trench recording sheets

80 context sheets

6 plan and section drawing sheets

Digital and B+W photos with contact prints, photographic index

Finds comprising sherds of pottery, animal bone and miscellaneous (Appendix 1, 2 and 3)

The site archive will be held by Leicester City Museum Services under the accession number A7.2009

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 the clients for their help and co-operation on site. The project was managed by Richard Buckley and John Thomas and the fieldwork was carried out by the author, Tim Higgins, with Gregory Jones and Martin Shore. Post-excavation analysis was undertaken by Harriet Jacklin (Human Bone), Jennifer Browning (animal bone) Elizabeth Johnson (Roman pottery) and Debbie Sawday (Post Roman pottery) all of ULAS.

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20.07.2009



Plate 1 Evaluation Trench 4 potential Roman road and roadside ditch.



Plate 2 Evaluation Trench 1 base of a Roman flagon a possible disturbed cremation urn.

Oasis Record

INFORMATION REQUIRED	
Project Name	An Archaeological Evaluation by Trial Trenching 61 Oxford Street, Leicester
Project Type	Evaluation
Project Manager	Richard Buckley, John Thomas
Project Supervisor	Tim Higgins
Previous/Future work	Previous work: Desk base assessment
Current Land Use	Factory
Development Type	Apartments
Reason for Investigation	PPG16
Position in the Planning Process	Requirements planning permission
Site Co ordinates	NGR: SK
Start/end dates of field work	6th to 14th July 2009
Archive Recipient	Leicester City Museum Service
Study Area	c. 1428 sq m.

APPENDIX: 1

The Post Roman Pottery and Miscellaneous Finds

Deborah Sawday

The Post Roman Pottery

The pottery was catalogued with reference to the ULAS fabrics Series (Sawday 1989), (Davies and Sawday 1999). This material and the miscellaneous finds are listed below.

Six sherds of medieval pottery, weighing 76 grams and dating from the 13th century were recovered from context [15]. The remainder of the pottery, thirteen sherds weighing 666 grams, probably dated from the first three of four decades of the 18th century.

The Miscellaneous Finds

Animal and human bones, including part of what may be a possible cremation, were recovered from both Roman and medieval contexts. Two fragments of Roman tile occurred in contexts 11 and [15], the latter presumably residual in a feature which also contained medieval pottery, the remainder of the finds sharing a similar date to that of the post medieval pottery noted above.

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Context	Fabric/Ware	Nos	Grams	Comments
POT				
14 [15]	PM – Potters Marston	6	76	Thick walled body sherds including the neck & shoulder of a jug – 13th C+
24 [25]	EA3 - Mottled Ware	1	26	Upper part of a mug strap handle with decorative rilling on the body.
32	EA1 – Earthenware 1	2	215	Warped jar rim – black glaze internally. Similar at Temple Balsall, Gooder 1984, fig.35.
32	EA3	7	112	Mug rim, strap handle, base and body fragments
32	EA3	1	261	Complete base of mug, simple rilling at base, similar Gooder 1984, fig.13.122, where dated

				c.1700-1730. Sooted under base.
32	EA3	1	42	Hollow ware body sherds, vessel type unknown.
32	EA7 - Slipware	1	10	Hollow ware – feather decoration.
MISCELLANEOUS FINDS				
11	EA - Earthenware	1	202	
14	EA	1	115	Roman tile
32	Bottle Glass	1		Complete base with pronounced kick up, pale green glass.
42	Mortar	1		Painted Black
42	China Clay	1		Tobacco pipe stem
42	Bottle Glass	1		?18th C.
BONE				
11	Human/Animal?	4		Possibly part of a cremation.
11	Animal	4		
14	Animal	2		
23	Animal	3		
24	Human	1		Right femur
42	Animal	3		

APPENDIX: 2

Romano-British Pottery

Elizabeth Johnson

Assemblage size and condition

A stratified assemblage comprising 30 sherds of Roman pottery weighing 645g with an EVEs value of 0.67 was retrieved from the excavations, along with a further two sherds (37g) of re-deposited material. The average sherd weight of 21.5g suggests a good level of preservation. The excavations were carried out as part of an archaeological evaluation at the site and pottery was recovered from three trenches.

Methodology

The material was examined in hand specimen using a binocular microscope at x20 magnification and classified using the Leicestershire Fabric Series (Pollard 1994). Quantification was by sherd count, weight (grams) and estimated vessel equivalents (EVEs) using rims only. Vessel forms were assigned where diagnostic sherds allowed, using the Leicestershire Form Series and other published typologies (Webster 1996). The complete dataset was recorded and analysed within an Excel workbook, which comprises the archive record.

Pottery Catalogue

Tr	Cut	Cont	Fabric	Form	Sherds	Weight (g)	Dating
1	12	11	Samian	Cup	1	49	late 1st-early 2ndC
1	12	11	WW	Flagon	20	310	early 2ndC+
4	18	17	GW	Jar	1	35	2ndC+
4	18	17	GW	Jar	1	12	3rdC+
1		23	C	Bowl	1	9	4thC
1		23	GW	Bowl	1	74	late 2ndC+
1		23	GW	Jar	2	91	2ndC+
1		23	GW	Jar	1	15	2ndC+
1		23	GW	Jar	1	17	2ndC+
3	27	26	Samian	Plate	1	33	late 1stC

Trench 1

Contexts (11), (23)

Trench 1 revealed the most pottery with 27 sherds weighing 565g and an EVEs value of 0.58 recovered. Two vessels were found in pit (11) comprising a South Gaulish samian ware Drag.27 cup and a white ware flagon. The flagon accounts for 20 sherds including an intact base but unfortunately no neck or rim. There is some light sooting on a few of the sherds and the vessel was found in association with a small amount of burnt bone, possibly representing a disturbed cremation. The site is adjacent to another site at Grange Lane, Leicester, where four disturbed cremations were found

including one in a white ware flagon (Johnson forthcoming). The flagon most likely dates to the early or mid-2nd century, whilst the samian ware cup dates to the late 1st-early 2nd century (Webster 1996, 38). The remaining pottery was recovered from (23) including an Oxfordshire colour-coated ware. As only one body sherd is present it is not possible to firmly identify a form, but it is likely to come from a bowl or dish derived from samian forms which became popular during the later 3rd and 4th centuries. In Leicester Oxfordshire colour-coated wares are not generally found before the 4th century (Young 1977, 133). The grey wares include a flat rimmed bowl dating from the later 2nd century onwards and grey wares jars, probably dating to the 2nd or 3rd century.

Trench 3

Context (26)

One sherd (33g) of samian ware was recovered from (26). The vessel is a Drag.18 plate from South Gaul dating to the late 1st century (Webster 1996, 35).

Trench 4

Context (17)

Two sherds (47g) of grey ware representing two vessels were recovered from (17). The roll necked jar dates from the 2nd century onwards, whilst the other jar is hard fired with burnished line decoration suggesting a 3rd century date.

Summary

The assemblage is small, but shows potential for Roman activity from the late 1st-early 2nd century through to the 4th, including the possibility of a cremation burial. The pottery recovered is similar to that found at the neighbouring site on Grange Lane, which may indicate an extension to the features and type of occupation discovered there.

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APPENDIX: 3

Small Finds

Martin Shore

Context	Small find number	identification
U/S	1	Warwickshire – John Wilkinson Halfpenny Token 1792
17	2	Roman coin Constantine I AD 333 to 334
24	3	Belt buckle
1	4	Victorian Farthing 1861

APPENDIX: 4**Context list**

Cont No.	Cut No.	Below	Type	Area	Description	Period
1				Trench 1	Modern layer	Modern
2		4	spread	Trench 1	Reddish brown clay and pebble spread. Possible surface 0.12m deep full extent unknown.	Post Med
3	4	1	fill	Trench 1	Dark greyish clay and sand mixed with modern brick rubble.	Modern
4		3	cut	Trench 1	Shallow cut feature full extent unknown 0.23m deep.	Modern
5	6	19	fill	Trench 1	Dark greyish silt mixed with ash and charcoal.	Post Med
6		5	cut	Trench 1	Shallow cut feature full extent unknown 0.18m deep.	Post Med
7		2	fill	Trench 1	Olive brown silty sand fill. Could be a post-medieval feature or earlier	Post Med
8		7	cut	Trench 1	A shallow cut feature seen in section only and full extent unknown. 0.24m deep	Post Med
9	10	1	fill	Trench 1	Dark greyish sandy clay mixed with pebbles and charcoal flecks	Post Med
10		9	cut	Trench 1	A shallow cut feature seen in section only with steep sides and rounded undulating base 0.29m deep 0.80m wide. Could be Post medieval or earlier	Post Med
11	12	10	fill	Trench 1	Olive brown sandy silt mixed reddish brown clay, mixed with charcoal flecks. oyster shell fragments, Roman pottery and animal bone. Possible Burial urn found?	Roman
12		11	cut	Trench 1	Truncated sub-rectangular pit. 0.98m long, 0.70m wide, 0.3m deep. Full extent unknown. Roman refuse pit.	Roman
13		12	layer	Trench	Compacted layer of orange reddish	Roman

				1	brown sandy clay mixed with small pebbles. A make-up layer 0.50m deep 3.64m wide. A possible make-up layer for road or yard surface	
14	15	1	fill	Trench 1	Olive brown sandy silt mixed with frequent pebbles. Occasional medieval pottery sherd.	Medieval
15		14	cut	Trench 1	Semi circular shape full extent unknown. Vertical sides. 0.64m dia, 0.50m minimum depth. Medieval back yard pit or well	Medieval
16		15	layer	Trench 1	Compacted layer of orange reddish brown sandy clay mixed with small pebbles. A make-up layer 0.54m deep 3.50m wide. A possible make-up layer for road or yard surface	Roman
17	18	70	fill	Trench 4	Dark yellowish brown silty sandy clay. Top fill of possible ditch. A early 4 th century Roman coin found in this fill.	Roman
18		72	cut	Trench 4	Narrow linear cut full extent unknown 4.40m long, 0.80m wide and 0.70m deep. Roman road side ditch	Roman
19	6	1	fill	Trench 1	Reddish brown clay. Top capping fill of a feature. 0.12m deep	Post med
20		8	layer	Trench 1	Orange reddish brown clay layer 0.60m deep 0.70m wide. Part of Roman road or yard make-up deposit.	Roman
21	22	1	fill	Trench 1	Olive brown sandy silt fill of truncated feature.	Post Med
22		21	cut	Trench 1	Disturbed truncated feature seen in plan only 0.70m long and 0.28m wide	Post Med
23				Trench 1	Context allocated to finds found in Trench 1. Finds from disturbed Roman feature	
24	25	52	fill	Trench 3	Dark greyish brown silty sandy clay. Tip layer side	Post Med
25			cut	Trench 3	Cut very large quarry pit 4.20m long 3.60m wide and 0.75m minimum depth. Back yard pit	Post Med
26	27	56	layer/fill	Trench 3	Greyish yellowish brown. Probable Roman layer seen in section only 0.40m deep Roman occupation layer or feature	Roman
27		26		Trench 3	Possible cut full extent unknown 0.40m deep.	Roman
28	41	58	fill	Trench 2	Dark greyish clay silt mixed with occasional round pebble and charcoal fleck	Post Med
29		80	spread	Trench 2	Light orange silty sand mixed with charcoal flecks	Post Med
30		80	spread	Trench 2	Red brown clay mixed with occasional small pebble	Post Med
31	80		fill	Trench 2	Dark grey clay silt mixed with frequent angular stones.	Post Med

32		39	layer	Trench 2	Dark greyish clay silt mixed frequent angular stones and slate, brick tile fragments. 1.90m long and 1.80m wide. Back yard layer Pottery 1700s	Post Med
33		40	layer	Trench 2	Orange clay re-deposited natural	Post Med
34		33	spread	Trench 2	Orange sand re-deposited natural	Post Med
35		36	spread	Trench 2	Dark greyish clay silt mixed with the occasional charcoal fleck	Post Med
36		37	spread	Trench 2	Mixed orange sand and grey clay silt with charcoal flecks and tile	Post Med
37		33	layer	Trench 2	Light grey silt mixed with occasional stone and sand patches	Post Med
38		39	spread	Trench 2	Dark greyish clay silt mixed with frequent small angular stones, charcoal flecks, slate and brick	Post Med
39		58	layer	Trench 2	Dark greyish brown clay silt mixed with occasional charcoal flecks, slate fragments and tile. 17 th to 18 th garden soil	Post Med
40		58	layer	Trench 2	Dark grey silt mixed with red clay and mortar flecks	Post Med
41		28	cut	Trench 2	Irregular cut steep and gradual sloping sides. Not fully excavated. Excavated depth 0.52m	Post Med
42			spread	Trench 3	Orange sand and dark grey silty sandy clay. 1.40m long and 1.20m wide Spread or layer. 18 th century finds	Post Med
43		45	spread	Trench 3	Dark grey brown silty sandy clay	Post Med
44		45	spread	Trench 3	Orange grey brown mixed sand and clay	Post Med
45			layer	Trench 3	Dark greyish brown silty sandy clay	Post Med
46			fill	Trench 3	Orange greyish brown mottled silty sand with clay. Possible post hole fill	Post Med
47			fill	Trench 3	Very dark greyish brown silty sandy clay.	Post Med
48	25		fill	Trench 3	Mid yellowish grey brown silty sandy clay Fill of a pit	Post Med
49	25		fill	Trench 3	Light yellow mortar and sand. Fill of pit	Post Med
50	25		fill	Trench 3	Dark greyish brown silty sandy clay mixed with mortar flecks. Fill of pit	Post Med
51	25		fill	Trench 3	Mixed orange sand with mortar flecks and greyish brown clay silts.	Post Med
52	25		fill	Trench 3	Mid yellowish brown silty sandy clay	Post Med
53	25		fill	Trench 3	Mid yellowish brown silty sandy clay	Post Med
54			spread	Trench 3	Mid yellowish brown silty sandy clay mixed with pebbles. Possible surface	Post Med
55		56	spread	Trench	Yellow brown mottled silty sandy clay	Roman

				3	Same as 26.	
56			fill	Trench 3	Mid yellowish brown silty clay. Fill of possible post hole	Roman/Med?
57			fill	Trench 3	Mid greyish brown silty sandy clay	Roman/Med?
58	59		fill layer	Trench 2	Modern overburden and disturbance	Modern
59		58	cut	Trench 2	Irregular modern pit	Modern
60		18	layer	Trench 4	Abundant pebbles concreted in sandy clay matrix of reddish orange sand. Roman yard or road surface.	Roman
61		60	layer	Trench 4	Orange sandy make-up. Roman yard or road make-up layer	Roman
62	63		fill	Trench 4	Very dark grey brown silty sandy clay	Med/Post Med
63		62	cut	Trench 4	Semi circular full extent unknown. possible post hole	Med/Post Med
64		65	cut	Trench 4	Full extent unknown semi circular cut	Modern
65	64		fill	Trench 4	Victorian well	Modern
66		67	cut	Trench 4	Semi circular in plan full extent unknown	Med/Post Med
67	66		fill	Trench 4	Very dark greyish brown silty sandy clay	Med/Post Med
68		60	spread	Trench 4	Red clay make-up spread. Roman road or yard make-up layer 0.12m deep	Roman
69	70		fill	Trench 4	Dark greyish brown sandy clay. possible pit or post hole	Med/Post Med
70			cut	Trench 4	Cut for possible post hole. Steep sides broad rounded base. 0.70m long, 0.45m wide and 0.26m deep	Med/Post Med
71	18	17	fill	Trench 4	Dark greyish brown silty sandy clay.	Roman
72	18	71	fill	Trench 4	Dark brown and red clay. Silty sandy clay.	Roman
73		68	layer	Trench 4	Red clay mixed with frequent pebbles 0.30m deep. Possible. Roman road make-up or surface	Roman
74		73	layer	Trench 4	Red clay. Make-up layer for Roman road or yard surface. 0.20m deep	Roman
75	76	18	fill	Trench 4	Mid brown sandy clay. Fill of possible pit	Roman
76		75	cut	Trench 4	Full extent unknown seen in section only. Semi circular in plan steep side.	Roman
77	78		fill	Trench 4	Mid brown silty sandy clay. Fill of a pit	Med/Post Med
78		77	cut	Trench 4	Full extent unknown. Seen in section only.	Med/Post Med
79			layer	Trench 4	Dark grey brown silty sandy clay Garden soil layer	Post Med
80		31	cut	Trench 2	Irregular cut pit truncated by a modern feature	Post Med

APPENDIX: 5

UNIVERSITY OF LEICESTER ARCHAEOLOGICAL SERVICES Project Design Specification for Archaeological Evaluation

Proposed Student Accommodation, 61, Oxford Street, Leicester NGR SK 5865 0391

Client: *Savage Hayward Architects*

Summary

A planning application has been made for the construction of student accommodation on the site of a former factory at 61, Oxford Street, Leicester (SK 5865 0391). The proposed development involves demolition of the current factory building and construction of a five storey building plus basement accommodation. The site lies to the south of the Roman and medieval walled towns of Leicester, in an area adjacent to a number of sites with known archaeological remains. The development area is therefore seen as having high potential to contain archaeological deposits, and thus the City Archaeologist for Leicester City Council has requested that an archaeological evaluation be undertaken prior to the commencement of construction.

1 Introduction

1.1 Definition and scope of the specification

1.1.1 In accordance with Planning Policy Guidelines 16 (PPG16, Archaeology and Planning, para. 30), and the condition placed on planning permission, this specification provides a 'written scheme for archaeological investigation by trial trenching which ULAS intends to implement on behalf of the Client in mitigation of any damage which may be caused to buried archaeological remains from the development.

1.1.2 The definition of archaeological field evaluation, taken from the Institute of Field 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.

1.1.3 The document provides details of the work proposed by ULAS on behalf of the client for:

2. Background

2.1 Context of the Project

2.1.1 A planning application has been made for the construction of student accommodation on land at 61, Oxford Street, Castle Ward, Leicester (SK 58650391), Planning Application No. 2009/0560.

2.1.2 An archaeological desk-based assessment, previously prepared by University of Leicester Archaeological Services for an adjacent development at 52, Grange Lane (Harvey 2004), has highlighted the archaeological potential of the site's surrounding environs.

2.1.3 The assessment area formerly consisted of an early 20th century factory complex fronting onto Oxford Street. The area comprises c.1428 square metres (c.0.14ha), of which c.0.03ha consists of basement associated with the former factory. The area lies at a height of c.60m OD. At the time of writing the factory buildings were in the process of demolition. The basement and its floor slab were to be retained and incorporated into the new build.

2.1.4 A scheme of archaeological works involving evaluation by trial trenching has been verbally agreed between the Client, the Leicester City Archaeologist and ULAS. This document provides a written scheme of archaeological works, as required by the planning permission, which ULAS intends to implement on behalf of the Client in mitigation of any damage, which may be caused to buried archaeological remains from the development.

2.2 Present State of the Area

2.2.1 A site visit was undertaken on 16th June 2009.

2.2.2 The demolition work was nearing completion. All former buildings and floor surfaces had been demolished although rubble still had to be removed. The basement of the former factory, adjacent to the Oxford Street frontage, had been retained.

3.2 Archaeological and Historical Background

3.2.1 The site lies to the south of the Roman and medieval walled area within the town's southern suburb; an area of known archaeological potential. Previous archaeological investigations in the vicinity of the proposed development area at Grange Lane, Bonners Lane, Mill Lane, Oxford Street and York Road have uncovered significant remains of Roman, Anglo-Saxon, medieval and post-medieval date.

3.2.2 A recent excavation immediately adjacent to the current site, at 52 Grange Lane, produced well-preserved and stratified remains from the Roman and medieval periods (Thomas 2005 a and b). Four early Roman urned cremation burials and an associated small timber building were apparently part of a small cemetery dating to the 1st century AD lying adjacent to the projected line of the Tripontium Road. At least three phases of 3rd-4th century AD Roman roadside occupation included cobbled surfaces, pits, ditches and structural remains as well as a corn-drier and stone-lined well. In places an unexpectedly deep sequence of deposits was revealed – particularly in the northern half of the site adjacent to the current development area. Medieval activity associated with backyards of properties fronting Oxford Street included a sequence of substantial boundary ditches running along the Grange Lane frontage and a series of deep cess pits or wells, some of which contained exceptionally well-preserved environmental evidence.

3.2.3 An archaeological evaluation at 85-89 Oxford Street revealed evidence of a Roman cobbled surface overlying a probable ditch near to the Oxford Street frontage (Clarke 2003). A partially revealed ditch also contained hand-made pottery of either Iron Age or Anglo-Saxon origin. To the west a curving medieval ditch may have been associated with a windmill.

3.2.4 Excavations at Bonners Lane (Finn 1994, 2002), to the north of the development area, produced evidence of the main Roman road leading from the south gate of Leicester to the Roman town of Tripontium (Caves Inn). The projected line of the Tripontium road would pass through the current development area. Evidence for Roman timber buildings fronting on to this street, as well as pitting were also excavated. An Anglo-Saxon timber building was also found at Bonners Lane, representing the first structure form this period to be found in the city, and is considered of regional importance. Timber structural remains of the medieval period relating to properties fronting onto Oxford Street (medieval Southgates) were also revealed as well as ditches and pits from associated backyards. Evidence for post-medieval craft activities indicated hide processing on the site while several large ditches represented remains of Leicester's Civil War defences.

3.2.5 Excavations on the eastern side of Oxford Street, on the corner with York Road, revealed a similar level of archaeological survival (Gossip 1999a, b). The Roman period was represented by a complex of boundary ditches and a spread of burials associated with an extensive cemetery outside the town wall. Another Saxon timber building was found on the site and medieval suburban development including structural remains, pitting and wells was also recovered.

3.2.6 Further evidence for Leicester's Civil War defences was revealed during excavations at Mill Lane, on the corner with Grange Lane to the north of the present site (Finn 2002). Here also, evidence of prehistoric, Roman and medieval occupation outside of the town wall was discovered.

4. Archaeological Objectives

To identify the presence/absence of any archaeological deposits.

To establish the character, extent and date range for any archaeological deposits to be affected by the proposed ground works.

To excavate and record any archaeological deposits to be affected by the ground works.

To produce an archive and report of any results.

4.2 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.

4.3 Trial trenching is an intrusive form of evaluation that will demonstrate the existence of earthfast archaeological features that may exist within the area.

4.4 The following site-specific objectives are also to be considered:

Establishment of the form, function and chronology of any preserved archaeological remains, utilising all appropriate scientific and analytical techniques.

The recognition and investigation of activity and occupation areas.

The recovery of palaeo-environmental remains, including waterlogged deposits.

Examination of evidence for settlement in the hinterland of Leicester.

Recovery of artefactual remains to assist in the development of the local and regional type series.

Further evidence to enable a fuller understanding of the nature of occupation revealed during the excavation of the adjacent site at 52, Grange Lane.

5. Methodology

5.1 *General Methodology and Standards*

5.1.1 All evaluation work will follow the Institute of Field Archaeologists (IFA) Code of Conduct and adhere to their *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluation* (1999).

5.1.2 Staffing, recording systems, health and safety provisions and insurance details are included below.

5.1.3 Internal monitoring procedures will be undertaken including visits to the site by the project manager. These will ensure that project targets are met and professional standards are maintained. Provision will be made for external monitoring meetings with the Planning authority and the Client, if required.

5.2 *Trial Trenching methodology*

5.2.1 A proposed trial trench location plan is shown in Figure 2. The trenches avoid the area of the former factory basement.

5.2.2 Not including the basement, the site area totals c.1355 sq m in size. It is proposed that four trial trenches are excavated, each measuring 20m in length by 1.5m wide. This would provide a c.12% sample of the site area.

5.2.3 Trench 1: This will be located parallel to Grange Lane along the south-western edge of the area. This is located in order to assess the potential for medieval street frontage activity on Grange Lane and also the possibility of a continuation of the stratified Roman remains encountered during the excavations at 52, Grange Lane. It is also possible that surviving remains of the Roman Tripontium road will be revealed on this part of the site.

5.2.4 Trench 2: This will be situated to the north east of Trench 1 and has the potential to reveal remains of the Tripontium road, as well as any adjacent Roman occupation. There is a possibility that early Roman cremation

burials might also lie adjacent to the Tripontium road. Medieval pitting and other associated features are also likely.

5.2.5 Trench 3: This trench may encounter similar deposits and remains to Trench 2. It will enable an assessment of the relative survival of archaeology across the central part of the site.

5.2.6 Trench 4: The fourth trench is positioned to assess a small area of the Grange Lane frontage and also an area to the rear. There is potential on this side of the site for Roman occupation on the western side of the Tripontium road as well as Medieval backyard activity. The large medieval boundary ditches located on the 52, Grange Lane site might also be expected in this trench.

5.2.7 The exact locations of the trenches may alter due to unforeseen constraints, underlying ground conditions and locations of services.

5.2.8 The present ground surfaces and underlying modern overburden will be removed in level spits, under continuous archaeological supervision, down to the uppermost archaeological deposits by JCB 3C or equivalent using a toothless ditching bucket. The trenches will be backfilled and levelled at the end of the evaluation, but surfaces will not be reinstated.

5.2.9 Trenches will be examined by hand cleaning and any archaeological deposits located will be planned at an appropriate scale and sample-excavated by hand as appropriate to establish the stratigraphic and chronological sequence. All plans will be tied into the Ordnance Survey National Grid. Relative spot heights will be taken as appropriate.

5.2.10 Sections of any excavated archaeological features will be drawn at an appropriate scale. At least one longitudinal face of each trench/test pit will be recorded. All sections will be levelled and tied to the Ordnance Survey Datum, or a permanent fixed benchmark.

5.2.11 Trench locations will be recorded using an electronic distance measurer. These will then be tied in to the Ordnance Survey National Grid.

5.2.12 Any human remains, if present, will initially be left *in situ* and will only be removed if necessary for their protection, under a Home Office Licence and in compliance with relevant environmental health regulations.

6.2 **Recording Systems**

6.2.1 The ULAS recording manual, fully compatible with the Leicester City Museums' archives standards, will be used as a guide for all recording.

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

6.2.3 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 1:200 (or 1:100) which will show the location of the areas investigated in relationship to the investigation area and OS grid.

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

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

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

6.3 Environmental Sampling

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

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

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

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

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

6.4 Finds and Samples

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

6.4.2 All antiquities, valuables, objects or remains of archaeological interest, other than articles declared by Coroner's Inquest to be subject to the Treasure Act, discovered in or under the Site during the carrying out of the project by ULAS or during works carried out on the Site by the Client shall be deemed to be the property of ULAS provided that ULAS after due examination of the said Archaeological Discoveries shall transfer ownership of all Archaeological Discoveries unconditionally to Leicester City Museums Service for storage in perpetuity.

6.4.3 A Museums accession number has been obtained from the Keeper of Archaeology, Leicester City Museums Service: A7.2009.

6.4.4 During the excavations different sampling strategies may be employed according to the perceived importance of the strata under investigation. Close attention will always be given to sampling for date, structure and environment.

6.4.5 All identified finds and artefacts are to be retained, although certain classes of building material will, in some circumstances, be discarded after recording with the approval of the City Archaeologist.

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

6.5 Post fieldwork and reporting objectives

To create an ordered and fully documented archive to a recognised standard for storage in perpetuity.

To present the results in sufficient detail to enable an assessment to be made of the archaeological impact of future development proposals without recourse to the site archive.

To produce a report interpreting the significance of the results in a local, regional and national context to a high academic standard.

To disseminate the results through publication in an appropriate academic journal.

6 Monitoring and standards

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

6.2. Staffing, Recording systems, Health and Safety provisions and Insurance details are provided.

6.3. Unlimited access to monitor the project will be available to both the Client and his representatives and the City Archaeologist subject to the health and safety requirements of the site.

6.4. All monitoring shall be carried out in accordance with Institute of Field Archaeologists Guidelines.

6.5. The on-site works will be monitored internally by the ULAS project manager to ensure that project targets are being met and professional standards are being maintained. Provision will be made for external monitoring meetings with representatives of Leicester City Museums Service, the Planning Authority and the Client.

7 Report and Archive

7.1 It is a possibility that the results of the excavation of Areas 3 and 4a will be incorporated with those of other areas that may be excavated on the site in the near future.

7.2 The eventual report will comprise:

a non-technical summary

appropriate illustrative material, including maps, plans, drawings and photographs;

a summary of the academic and research potential of the remains assessed with reference to current or proposed research themes details of the archaeological remains excavated within the excavation areas assessing their worth in a local, regional and national context.

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

8 Archive

A full copy of the archive will be presented to Leicester Museums Service within six months of the completion of fieldwork. This archive will include all written, drawn and photographic records relating directly to the investigations undertaken.

9 Timetable and Staffing

9.1 The site work will take 5 days on site with three attendant archaeologists. Specialist staff, a

Project Design for Archaeological Evaluation project officer and the project manager will also visit the site at appropriate times. If necessary an interim statement could be prepared within a week of the fieldwork.

9.2 The work is scheduled to begin w/c 6 July 2009.

9.3 The evaluation report will be completed at the end of the work. The on-site director/supervisor will carry out the post-excavation work, with time allocated within the costing of the project for specialist reports.

10 Contingencies and Unforeseen Circumstances

10.1 In the event that unforeseen archaeological discoveries are made during the archaeological evaluation, ULAS shall inform the site agent/project manager, the City Archaeologist and the Planning Authority and prepare a short written statement with plan detailing the archaeological evidence. Following assessment of the archaeological remains by the City Archaeologist, the Archaeological Contractor shall, if required, implement on behalf of the client a contingency scheme for the emergency excavation of affected archaeological features.

11 Copyright

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

12 Acknowledgement and publicity

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

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

12.3 University of Leicester Archaeological Services is the local archaeological unit for Leicester and the surrounding counties of Leicestershire and Rutland. ULAS is heavily committed to disseminating archaeological information to the general public.

12.4 ULAS contribute articles to, and subsidises the production of, the local county archaeological journal, *Transactions of the Leicestershire Archaeological and Historical Society*.

12.5 Archaeological sites excavated by ULAS have often received media coverage, as seen by recent BBC Radio Leicester interviews and television coverage during the Highcross Leicester excavations. Articles have also regularly appeared in the Leicester Mercury regarding other ULAS archaeological work, such as at Husbands Bosworth, Huncote and Hemington Quarry.

In 2000, worldwide media coverage occurred after Palaeolithic findings at Glaston in Rutland. It could be seen as good publicity for both the Client and ULAS for such media attention to be encouraged during the archaeological evaluation.

13 Health and Safety

13.1 ULAS is covered by and adheres to the University of Leicester, Statement of Safety Policy and the ULAS Health and Safety Policy (2001). Generic risk assessments and relevant legislation guidelines are contained within the ULAS Health and Safety Manual (2001). This augments and updates the Standing Committee of Archaeological Unit Managers (SCAUM) Health and Safety Manual (1997).

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

13.3 The HSE have advised the Institute of Field Archaeologists that archaeological investigations Project Design for Archaeological Evaluation are exempt from CDM regulations.

14 Insurance

14.1 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.

15 Bibliography

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