



Castle Mead Temporary School Accommodation Leicester, Leicestershire

Archaeological Watching Brief



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Summary

Wessex Archaeology was commissioned by Elliot Group Ltd on behalf of Mott MacDonald, to undertake an archaeological watching brief during geotechnical ground investigations and services installation on land off St Augustine Road, Leicester. The excavation of eight test pits and twelve trenches was observed, centred on NGR 457950 304447.

The aims of the watching brief have been met.

All of the structural remains identified during this watching brief were likely remnants of the industrial past of the site during the 19th and 20th century. The majority of structures were likely 20th-century in date as demonstrated by the use of cement as the bonding agent. However, some structural elements may be older. It is probable that stone sett surface 1805 recorded in Trench 18 was of 19th-century date. Surface 1805 appeared to stratigraphically precede the other recorded structures, although the limitations of a watching brief approach do not allow for this to be said with certainty. Surface 1805 may have represented a trackway or other linear feature and ran approximately parallel to the Soar. Another candidate for a 19th-century date was firebrick surface 303, although this surface could also be 20th-century in date. The firebricks did not appear to have had a refractory function and had probably been used or re-used opportunistically; the possibility of re-use somewhat supports a 20th-century date for the structure. The firebrick surface was at a similar level to, and somewhat associated with nearby 20th-century structures.

Any 19th-century remains would have probably been associated with the 'Bow Bridge Works (Elastic Fabrics &c)' shown on the 1887 Ordnance Survey map as well as earlier maps dating back to at least 1828. Preservation of these remains across the site as a whole appears to be poor but not non-existent. The 20th-century structures are probably part of the depot shown on 20th-century maps.

Archaeological deposits primarily fall into two categories: made ground layers laid down prior to construction of 20th-century buildings, and demolition layers following demolition of those buildings. Natural deposits were commonly reached, generally from below 1.35 m BGL.

It is possible that a black waterlogged layer (709) recorded at a depth of 3.3 m BGL may represent a peat layer buried beneath subsequent natural alluvial layers. The desk-based assessment (Wessex Archaeology 2018) mentions that a Mesolithic peat layer had previously been recorded a short distance to the east during excavations at the Austin Priors site. Layer 709 was not sampled and could not be accessed due to the depth of the intervention.

The archive will be offered to Leicester City Museum. An OASIS online record has been initiated under the OASIS id wessexar1-344676.

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The fieldwork was undertaken by Martina Tenzer, Jon Whitmore, Simon Brown, Luke Roberts, Amy Derrick and Gwen Naylor. This report was written by Ashley Tuck, Martina Tenzer, Gwen Naylor and Emily Eastwood and edited by Patrick Daniel. Lorraine Mephram assessed the finds. Figures and plates were prepared by Ian Atkins. The project was managed by Milica Rajic on behalf of Wessex Archaeology.



Castle mead Temporary School Accommodation, Leicester, Leicestershire

Archaeological Watching Brief

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Project background

- 1.1.1 Wessex Archaeology was commissioned by Elliot UK on behalf of Mott Macdonald (the 'client'), to undertake an archaeological watching brief during geotechnical ground investigations and services installation on land off St Augustine road, Leicester. The excavation of eight test pits and ten trenches was observed, with these centred on NGR 457950 304447 (**Fig. 1**).
- 1.1.2 The watching brief was part of the conditions for planning permission for the erection of temporary mobile classrooms and groundworks for associated foundations and services. This watching brief was part of a programme of archaeological works, which has included a desk-based assessment ('DBA', Wessex Archaeology 2018).
- 1.1.3 The watching brief was undertaken on the 20 February to the 9 August 2019.
- 1.1.4 A written scheme of investigation (WSI) was prepared detailing the scope of the watching brief and outlining the methods to be employed (Wessex Archaeology 2019). The WSI was approved by City Archaeologist at Leicester City Council prior to the commencement of fieldwork.

1.2 Scope of the report

- 1.2.1 The purpose of this report is to provide the results of the watching brief, to interpret the results within their local or regional context, and to assess their potential, thereby making available information about the archaeological resource.

1.3 Location, topography and geology

- 1.3.1 The watching brief was located on an area of approximately 1.16 ha currently used as a pay and display car park. The site lies immediately north of St Augustine Road; it is bounded to the far north-east by Richard III Road and to the east by the Old River Soar. The site is bounded by trees to the west and a brick wall forms the northern boundary of the site. At the time of the watching brief, the ground surface within the site mostly comprised concrete with patches of soil and gravel.
- 1.3.2 The site is relatively flat and lies at 53 m OD. Located at a relatively low level within the basin of the River Soar, with the topography climbing to the east and west, it may have been subject to localised flooding prior to the canalisation of the river.
- 1.3.3 The underlying geology is mapped as Edwalton Member (mudstone), overlain by alluvial deposits dating from the Quaternary Period (British Geological Survey online viewer 2019).



2 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

2.1 Introduction

2.1.1 The recorded historic environment resource within a 250 m Study Area was considered in the DBA (Wessex Archaeology 2018). This included information about designated heritage assets and locally listed buildings, non-designated heritage assets and previous archaeological investigations. The following section summarises this information.

2.2 Previous investigations related to the development

Test pits (1993)

2.2.1 The only prior archaeological excavation within the site was a test pitting exercise carried out in 1993 to locate the former Bowbridge Dyeworks, recovering only residual Roman and medieval pottery, with no recorded archaeological features.

2.3 Archaeological and historical context

Prehistoric (970,000 BC–AD 43)

2.3.1 The proximity of the site to the River Soar increases the chances of prehistoric material within deeper alluvial strata. It is likely that the site is located within an area formerly prone to flooding by the river, but that has been subject to extensive water management works from the post-medieval period onwards, controlling flooding.

2.3.2 During excavations at Austin Friars to the east of the site, a Mesolithic period peat bed was identified as having formed on the margins of an ancient shallow pond or lake with marshy edges and subject to periodic flooding. The pond was set in an open landscape characterized by grasses, low scrub and moss and a lack of trees.

2.3.3 Lithic materials of undetermined prehistoric date were also recovered from two sites on Bath Street.

Iron Age (700 BC–AD 43) and Romano-British (AD 43–410)

2.3.4 A pre-Roman settlement, most likely an 'oppidum' or fortified Iron Age settlement is thought to have been founded by the Corieltavi and is believed to have been located on the eastern bank of the River Soar. The settlement, or town, seems to have been centred close to a river crossing, probably a ford, located somewhere near the modern West Bridge, immediately south-west of the site. Settlement seems to have extended at least as far east as the Jewry Wall baths complex, where traces of Iron Age huts and quantities of imported Gallo-Belgic wares were found in the 1930s. To the south, it may have stretched to the flank of the medieval castle (around Castle View). Several gullies, as well as parallel boundary or agricultural ditches of late Iron Age date were identified during further excavations at the Blackfriars site.

2.3.5 More recent excavations have identified the northern margins of the oppidum in the area around Bath Lane/All Saints Road. Finds from these included a number of clay coin moulds, suggesting the presence of an Iron Age mint in or near the settlement.

2.3.6 The Roman Town of Ratae Corieltavorum was established during the late 1st century AD, initially as an unplanned settlement, on the eastern bank of the River Soar, located at the point where the Fosse Way crossed the river. This settlement is likely to have been a continuation of the Iron Age oppidum, with substantial remodelling subsequently undertaken around the beginning of the 2nd century. A town boundary or 'pomerium', probably consisting of a simple ditch or fence, was established enclosing a roughly



rectangular area of some 49 ha. This was later upgraded to a defensive wall, parts of which have been excavated close to the site. Within this area a formal street grid was created, and for the next 3–4 centuries, all development within the boundary conformed to this grid. By the mid-2nd century AD, public buildings, including a forum, basilica, a baths complex and temples were being built with major construction appearing to cease in c. AD 180 after the construction of the macellum (Market Hall).

- 2.3.7 Fieldwork to the south-west of the formal town walls suggests the presence of fairly extensive Roman suburban occupation along the putative courses of the Fosse Way and the road running west to Watling Street. This occupation might have been ribbon development along the two roads, but excavations suggest that the two suburbs may have merged.
- 2.3.8 The site is located to the immediate west of the Romano-British settlement, on the western bank of the River Soar. It is located immediately north of the presumed extramural suburb which was located on the western bank, placing it within an active settlement landscape during this period.
- 2.3.9 Within the site, a Denarius of Antoninus Pius was identified as a surface find during the 19th century, while to the south-east more substantial settlement activity has been recorded as part of the Austin Friary excavations, with further settlement activity to the immediate south as part of the Romano-British extra-mural suburb.

Saxon (AD 410–1066)

- 2.3.10 It is unclear to what extent the town of Leicester was occupied during the early Saxon period. Pagan Saxon burials have been found outside the Roman walls at Westcotes, Rowley Fields, Churchgate and Belgrave Gate, with two sunken feature buildings of early/middle Saxon date excavated on Oxford Street. Some finds have been recovered from the north-east area of the town, which may indicate a shift of settlement to this quarter.
- 2.3.11 The Middle Anglian diocese was created out of the See of Lichfield (an area of ecclesiastical jurisdiction) in 680, and was likely operated from Leicester. It is a testament to the rising presence of Christianity within the region. The bishopric (diocese) of Leicester disappeared in 870, with the Viking invasion.
- 2.3.12 Leicester fell briefly to the Danish armies during the early 10th century, before being peacefully returned to Aethelflaed, Queen of the Mercians and daughter of Alfred the Great, shortly after, with the Anglo-Saxon Chronicle recording the town name as Ligoraceastre.
- 2.3.13 The lack of Saxon archaeology from the historic core of Leicester is not altogether unsurprising, given the subsequent continual redevelopment of the walled city area across the medieval period.

Medieval (AD 1066–1500)

- 2.3.14 The Domesday entry for Leicester (Ledecestre) records the settlement as being a substantial 71 households with a taxable value of 10 geld units. A substantial medieval wall (11 m long), which extended over the Roman town wall, was excavated in 2003. Leicester Castle was constructed shortly after the Norman invasion in around 1070, forming part of the medieval defences, built over the Roman town walls. The remains lie to the south-west of the site and comprise a raised mound with some structural ruins still extant.



- 2.3.15 The town lordship was granted to Simon de Montfort in 1231, with subsequent earls of Leicester and Lancaster enhancing the prestige of the town through expansion and the construction of a town hospital within the Newarke precinct. Across the city, several friaries were founded during this period. Near the site, most prominent is the Dominican order of Blackfriars, which was located north-east of the site on the eastern bank of the River Soar.
- 2.3.16 The area immediately to the east is the known location of part of an Augustinian (Austin) friary with its nearby associated cemetery, with a further potential friary site to the immediate north. Excavations within the precinct of Austin Friars in the later 20th century revealed the eastern range was largely undisturbed, as was the church, which lay to the south of the cloister. The area within the northern range was disturbed down to foundation level, but two sections were cut inside the building. In addition to identifying the main plan of the friary the excavators found evidence for Roman activity, including three burials dating to the late 4th century, identifying nine distinct phases.
- 2.3.17 Early phases of Bow Bridge and Austin Friars/West Bridge are noted from documentary evidence with numerous find spots of medieval, bronze pins/bowls and domestic items to the east and south of the site. Several isolated skeletons have been uncovered away from known cemetery areas.

Post-medieval (AD 1500–1800)

- 2.3.18 The construction of the Grand Union Canal during the 1790s linked Leicester to London and Birmingham, opening the city up to a new level of trade with the coalfields of northwest Leicestershire and southern Derbyshire, and connecting Leicester to wider canal and river systems by providing navigation to the Trent and the Trent & Mersey Canal. The canal runs east, adjacent to the former site of a wooden lift bridge where Canal Bridge now stands.
- 2.3.19 To the north-east, on the eastern bank of the Soar, are a number of structures relating to the Friars Mill complex; a complex of industrial buildings centred around the main surviving building of Friar Mill, which dates to c.1794. The Mill, despite its location adjacent to the canal, was never powered by water, but was instead a steam powered scribbling mill, used to turn raw wool into a worsted yarn suitable for the prolific local hosiery industry. The Friars Mill Co. is first mentioned in Pigot's Directory of 1822. The adjacent Pump House was constructed significantly later, towards the end of the 19th century. A range of cottages and workshops was located to the rear of the Friars Mill site.

19th century (AD 1800–1900) and modern (AD 1900–present day)

- 2.3.20 The arrival of the railway to Leicester in 1832 further increased access to the city and industrialisation saw Leicester undergo significant expansion across the 19th century.
- 2.3.21 The area to the north and west underwent significant development across the 19th and 20th centuries. An 1828 plan showing the limits of the borough indicates that settlement was still largely contained on the eastern bank of the River Soar, with Dannets Hall visible to the south-west. Limited industrial development was present to the south on the western bank, however the site appears to be undeveloped at this point.
- 2.3.22 The site is shown by the 1828 map of Leicester as being bisected by a trackway, with buildings to the east, identified as the Kelly Factory and Bow Bridge House.
- 2.3.23 The Swannington–Leicester Railway was constructed to the immediate north in 1832. It was built initially as a single-track line mainly to bring coal from the Leicestershire coalfield



to Leicester, but also to bring lime from Charnwood into the town. It originally had a terminus at West Bridge, on the western fringe of the town centre, with numerous sidings built across the site to the water's edge. In 1839 a passenger station was opened near West Bridge. It seems that the line remained almost entirely a mineral railway with only a marginal and informal passenger service, meaning this became the only purpose built passenger station on the line. The Great Central Railway was located to the east and south of the site, including the Great Central Railway Viaduct which was partially demolished between 1971 and 1979.

- 2.3.24 The 1887 first edition Ordnance Survey specifically notes the presence of Roman coins within the southern portion of the site, with 'Bow Bridge House' still present to the south-east. Substantial residential development had occurred to the east and south of the site, on the west bank of the Soar. This encroached north during the later-19th and early-20th centuries, with the construction of Tudor Road parallel to the site and numerous more residential streets to the west. Fiveways House is located between Nugent Street and Vernon Street, fronting onto Tudor Road and dates to 1901. The City of Leicester was well known for its hosiery production around this time, being a centre of production within the UK.

3 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

3.1 Aims

- 3.1.1 The aims of the watching brief, as defined in the ClfA's Standard and guidance for an archaeological watching brief (ClfA 2014a), were:

- to allow, within the resources available, the preservation by record of archaeological deposits, the presence and nature of which could not be established (or established with sufficient accuracy) in advance of the development or other works;
- to provide an opportunity, if needed, for the watching archaeologist to signal to all interested parties, before the destruction of the material in question, that an archaeological find has been made for which the resources allocated to the watching brief itself are not sufficient to support treatment to a satisfactory and proper standard; and,
- to guide, not replace, any requirement for contingent excavation or preservation of possible deposits.

3.2 Objectives

- 3.2.1 In order to achieve the above aims, the objectives of the watching brief were:

- to determine the presence or absence of archaeological features, deposits, structures, artefacts or ecofacts within the specified works area;
- to record and establish, within the constraints of the works, the extent, character, date, condition and quality of any surviving archaeological remains (a preservation by record);
- to place any identified archaeological remains within a wider historical and archaeological context in order to assess their significance; and,



- to make available information about the archaeological resource on the site by preparing a report on the results of the watching brief.

4 METHODS

4.1 Introduction

4.1.1 All works were undertaken in general compliance with the WSI (Wessex Archaeology 2019) and with the standards outlined in ClfA guidance (ClfA 2014a–c). The methods employed are summarised below.

4.2 Fieldwork methods

Test Pits

4.2.1 The geotechnical investigation consisted of boreholes dug with a rig (not monitored), and eight test pits for dry soil investigation and soaking pits. The eight pits were monitored as part of the archaeological watching brief. In order to minimise the volume of water needed for the soaking process, the pits were dug only 0.60 m wide, significantly reducing access for archaeological recording.

4.2.2 The watching archaeologist monitored all mechanical excavations within the specified area. The excavator was fitted with a pecker to break the concrete surface and a 0.60 m wide toothless bucket. Excavation was temporarily paused to allow the recording of archaeological remains. The surface of uncovered archaeological structures was cleaned by hand to a depth of 0.50 m, with deeper deposits recorded remotely due to the access constraints of the narrow pits.

Trenches

4.2.3 Ten trenches were monitored during the archaeological watching brief. The trenches were excavated in order to install drainage pipes and the dimensions and locations of the trenches were dictated by drainage requirements.

4.2.4 The watching archaeologist monitored all drainage excavations within the specified area. A mechanical excavator was fitted with a pecker to break the concrete surface and a toothless bucket for excavation. Due to the depth and instability of the trench sides, the recording of deposits was limited and restricted.

Finds

4.2.5 All spoil from all phases of excavation, derived from both machine stripping and hand-excavated archaeological deposits was visually scanned for the purposes of finds retrieval.

4.2.6 All archaeological finds from excavated contexts were retained.

Recording

4.2.7 All exposed archaeological deposits and features were recorded using Wessex Archaeology's *pro forma* recording system.

4.2.8 A handheld GPS of accuracy +/- 4 m was used to record the position of the test pits and trenches.

4.2.9 A full photographic record was made using digital cameras equipped with an image sensor of not less than 10 megapixels. Digital images have been subject to managed



quality control and curation processes, which has embedded appropriate metadata within the image and will ensure long term accessibility of the image set.

5 ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESULTS

5.1 Introduction

5.1.1 The excavation of eight test pits (Test Pit 1–8) and ten trenches (Trenches 9–18) was monitored (**Fig. 1**).

5.1.2 The following section summarises information held in the site archive. For a full list of contexts, see **Appendix 1**.

5.1.3 The maximum depth reached was 3.5 m (Test Pit 7) although the remaining test pits were between 1.3 m and 2.4 m in depth. The trenches were typically 1.2 m deep but ranged from 0.57 m to 1.8 m in depth.

5.1.4 The presence of probable asbestos-bearing materials as well as modern services had a minor impact on the archaeological works. The unsupported depth and small area of interventions was also problematic.

5.2 Natural

5.2.1 The undisturbed natural geological substrate was identified in each Test Pit, generally below 1.35–2 m BGL. In Test Pit 8, the level of the upper horizon of the natural (804) was closer to the surface at 0.4 m BGL. The natural comprised grey brown clay (106, 203, 306, 405, 504, 604, 707, 708, 804). The shallower Trenches did not reach undisturbed natural strata.

5.2.2 A black waterlogged deposit (709; **PI. 7**) seen below 3.3 m below ground level in Test Pit 7 may have represented a peat bed or similar alluvial feature. The deposit could not be accessed for safety reasons due to the depth of the intervention. No samples were taken.

5.3 Sett surface 1805

5.3.1 A stone sett surface (1805; **PI. 10**) was identified at a depth of 0.51 m BGL in trench 18. This surface may have formed a trackway or other route running approximately north to south. Speculatively, it may have been 19th century in date. The surface was overlain by made ground deposits containing fragments of modern brick (1803 and 1804). Similar deposits were often the earliest anthropogenic layers encountered in other interventions, suggesting that surface 1805 may have been stratigraphically the earliest anthropogenic context observed during the watching brief.

5.4 Pre-construction made ground

5.4.1 Made ground deposits were identified overlying surface 1805 and at lower levels than other surviving 20th-century structures. These made ground deposits are likely all 20th-century in date, although it is possible that some may have been earlier.

5.4.2 These made ground deposits comprised building rubble, sand and/or ashes and clinker (105, 202, 304, 404, 502, 602, 603, 903, 1005–1008, 1108, 1306, 1603, 1604, 1703, 1704, 1803 and 1804; **PI. 4**) or contaminated redeposited natural (305, 503, 1009, 1705) and were seen at depths of 0.05–1.6 m BGL.



5.5 20th-century structures

- 5.5.1 Surfaces and footings representing the remains of demolished 20th-century structures were frequently encountered. These comprised concrete foundations (104, 402, 710, 1107, 1111, 1312, 1405, 1504, 1506; **PI. 1, 3, 6**) typically at depths of 0.6–0.8 m BGL and modern brick and cement walls extended to a maximum of over 1.7 m BGL (403, 1003, 1102, 1105, 1112, 1113, 1203, 1302, 1303, 1307, 1309, 1313, 1502, 1503, 1505, 1507, 1605, 1706 and 1708; **PI. 1, 9**). Modern brick and cement floor surfaces were also recorded (102, 902, 1002, 1106, 1109, 1304 and 1311) between 0.2 m and 0.8 m BGL. Some of these features (eg, 1605) appear to correlate with structures shown on the 1887 OS map (**Fig. 2**), however the materials used in their construction suggest that this was either coincidental or perhaps as a result of new structures being built on the alignment of older structures.
- 5.5.2 A firebrick surface (303; **PI. 2**) was recorded in test pit 3 at a depth of 0.4 m BGL. There was no evidence of hot processes and the firebricks had likely been used opportunistically, or perhaps were selected for their yellow colour.
- 5.5.3 Elements of drainage features were also preserved where these joined more substantial buildings (711, 1709 and 1710; **PI. 6, 8**). Further made ground layers were contemporary with these structures and comprised dark brown, sometimes orangey sand (103, 302, 1103, 1104, 1202 and 1404).
- 5.5.4 A further modern drain (706; **PI. 5**) was more substantial, and occupied a cut 0.6 m wide and over 3.5 m deep. Drain 706 may have been contemporary with the structures listed above, or may post-date them.

5.6 Post-demolition made ground and modern surfaces

- 5.6.1 Following demolition of the 20th-century structures listed above, the ground was levelled. The material used for this primarily comprised dusty imported grey sand, commonly with plastic inclusions (1101, 1201, 1301, 1305, 1402, 1403, 1406 and 1501). Some brick crush was also present (1602, 1702) as well as brick rubble (1310, 1707), a grey brown deposit with tarmac and stone inclusions (1802) and crushed concrete (704 and 803).
- 5.6.2 Tarmac surfaces had been laid in some localities (703, 802, 1110, 1308 and 1801), and Trench 9 was sealed by a dump of tarmac planings (901). However, most of the interventions were pecked through the modern concrete surface of the car park (101, 102, 301, 401, 501, 601, 702, 801, 1004, 1401, 1601 and 1701). Some soil had started to form above this in two localities (701 and 1001).

6 ARTEFACTUAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL EVIDENCE

6.1 Artefactual evidence

- 6.1.1 Only two finds were recovered during the watching brief located in trench 9. A clay tobacco pipe and four sherds of modern white pottery with blue glaze pattern were found unstratified. The clay pipe was a spurred pipe dating c. 1820–40 (Atkinson and Oswald 1969, type 28). These have not been retained.

6.2 Environmental evidence

- 6.2.1 Few deposits suitable for environmental sampling were encountered; a black waterlogged natural deposit (709) could not be safely accessed. No environmental samples were taken.



7 DISCUSSION

7.1 Conclusion

7.1.1 The aims of the watching brief have been met.

7.1.2 All of the structural remains identified during this watching brief were likely remnants of the industrial past of the site during the 19th and 20th century. The majority of structures were likely 20th-century in date as demonstrated by the use of cement as the bonding agent. However, some structural elements may be older. It is probable that stone sett surface 1805 recorded in Trench 18 was of 19th-century date. Surface 1805 appeared to stratigraphically precede the other recorded structures, although the limitations of a watching brief approach do not allow for this to be said with certainty. Surface 1805 may have represented a trackway or other linear feature and ran approximately parallel to the Soar. Another candidate for a 19th-century date was firebrick surface 303, although this surface could also be 20th-century in date. The firebricks did not appear to have had a refractory function and had probably been used or re-used opportunistically; the possibility of re-use somewhat supports a 20th-century date for the structure. The firebrick surface was at a similar level to, and somewhat associated with nearby 20th-century structures.

7.1.3 Any 19th-century remains would have probably been associated with the 'Bow Bridge Works (Elastic Fabrics &c)' shown on the 1887 Ordnance Survey map as well as earlier maps dating back to at least 1828. Preservation of these remains across the site as a whole appears to be poor but not non-existent. The 20th-century structures are probably part of the depot shown on 20th-century maps.

7.1.4 Archaeological deposits primarily fall into two categories: made ground layers laid down prior to construction of 20th-century buildings, and demolition layers following demolition of those buildings. Natural deposits were commonly reached, generally from below 1.35 m BGL.

7.1.5 It is possible that a black waterlogged layer (709) recorded at a depth of 3.3 m BGL may represent a peat layer buried beneath subsequent natural alluvial layers. The desk-based assessment (Wessex Archaeology 2018) mentions that a Mesolithic peat layer had previously been recorded a short distance to the east during excavations at the Austin Priors site. Layer 709 was not sampled and could not be accessed due to the depth of the intervention.

8 ARCHIVE STORAGE AND CURATION

8.1 Museum

8.1.1 The archive resulting from the watching brief is currently held at the offices of Wessex Archaeology in Sheffield. The archive will be offered to Leicester City Museum who may accept it under the accession code to be confirmed. Should the museum refuse the archive, it will be digitised and stored on Wessex Archaeology's computer system. In either case, this report will be made available to the Leicestershire HER.

8.2 Preparation of the archive

8.2.1 The archive, which includes paper records and digital data, will be prepared following the standard conditions for the acceptance of excavated archaeological material by Leicester City Museum, and in general following nationally recommended guidelines (SMA 1995; ClfA 2014c; Brown 2011; ADS 2013).



8.3 Selection policy

- 8.3.1 Wessex Archaeology follows national guidelines on selection and retention (SMA 1993; Brown 2011, section 4). In accordance with these a process of selection and retention has been followed so that only those artefacts or ecofacts that are considered to have potential for future study will be retained. In this case, the small assemblage has been discarded.

8.4 Security copy

- 8.4.1 In line with current best practice (eg, Brown 2011), on completion of the project a security copy of the written records will be prepared, in the form of a digital PDF/A file. PDF/A is an ISO-standardised version of the Portable Document Format (PDF) designed for the digital preservation of electronic documents through omission of features ill-suited to long-term archiving.

8.5 OASIS

- 8.5.1 An OASIS online record (<http://oasis.ac.uk/pages/wiki/Main>) has been initiated under the OASIS id wessexar1-344676, with key fields and a .pdf version of the final report submitted. Subject to any contractual requirements on confidentiality, copies of the OASIS record will be integrated into the relevant local and national records and published through the Archaeology Data Service ArchSearch catalogue.

9 COPYRIGHT

9.1 Archive and report copyright

- 9.1.1 The full copyright of the written/illustrative/digital archive relating to the project will be retained by Wessex Archaeology under the *Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988* with all rights reserved. The client will be licenced to use each report for the purposes that it was produced in relation to the project as described in the specification. The museum, however, will be granted an exclusive licence for the use of the archive for educational purposes, including academic research, providing that such use conforms to the *Copyright and Related Rights Regulations 2003*. In some instances, certain regional museums may require absolute transfer of copyright, rather than a licence; this should be dealt with on a case-by-case basis.
- 9.1.2 Information relating to the project will be deposited with the Historic Environment Record (HER) where it can be freely copied without reference to Wessex Archaeology for the purposes of archaeological research or development control within the planning process.

9.2 Third party data copyright

- 9.2.1 This document and the project archive may contain material that is non-Wessex Archaeology copyright (eg, Ordnance Survey, British Geological Survey, Crown Copyright), or the intellectual property of third parties, which Wessex Archaeology are able to provide for limited reproduction under the terms of our own copyright licences, but for which copyright itself is non-transferable by Wessex Archaeology. Users remain bound by the conditions of the *Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988* with regard to multiple copying and electronic dissemination of such material.



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APPENDICES

Appendix 1: Context Table

Test Pit 1			
Length: 2.00 m		Width: 0.60 m	Depth: 1.90 m
Context	Type	Description	Depth bgl. (m)
101	Layer	Car park surface, concrete	0.00–0.20
102	Structure	Floor surface, modern machine-made brick, 2 courses	0.20–0.44
103	Layer	Made ground, brown/black sand-debris-mix	0.44–0.60
104	Structure	Concrete foundation in S-W half	at 0.60
105	Layer	Made ground, brown/black sand abundant brick debris in N-E half	0.60–1.50
106	Layer	Natural, greyish brown clay	1.50+

Test Pit 2			
Length: 1.90 m		Width: 0.60 m	Depth: 2.40 m
Context	Type	Description	Depth bgl. (m)
201	Layer	Car park surface, concrete	0.00–0.20
202	Layer	Made ground, brick rubble, sand, ashes, clinker	0.20–1.60
203	Layer	Natural, greyish brown clay	1.60+

Test Pit 3			
Length: 2.00 m		Width: 0.60 m	Depth: 2.24 m
Context	Type	Description	Depth bgl. (m)
301	Layer	Car park surface, concrete	0.00–0.20
302	Layer	Made ground, mixed sand, brick debris	0.20–0.40
303	Structure	Floor surface, fire brick, 2 courses	0.40–0.65
304	Layer	Made ground, level layer, sand	0.65–0.75
305	Layer	Made ground, black sandy clay (contaminated natural?)	0.75–1.40
306	Layer	Natural, greyish brown clay	1.40+

Test Pit 4			
Length: 1.50 m		Width: 0.60 m	Depth: 2.00 m
Context	Type	Description	Depth bgl. (m)
401	Layer	Car park surface, sand and gravel	0.00–0.60
402	Structure	Concrete foundation, western portion of pit	at 0.60
403	Structure	Brick foundation, modern, machine-made brick, 8 courses visible	0.60–1.10
404	Layer	Made ground, sand-ashes mix	1.10–1.35
405	Layer	Natural greyish brown clay	1.35+

Test Pit 5			
Length: 1.60 m		Width: 0.60 m	Depth: 2.10 m
Context	Type	Description	Depth bgl. (m)
501	Layer	Car park surface, concrete	0.00–0.05
502	Layer	Made ground, modern brick rubble, containing modern service	0.05–0.80
503	Layer	Made ground, black sandy clay (contaminated natural?)	0.80–1.35
504	Layer	Natural greyish brown clay	1.35+

Test Pit 6			
Length: 1.70 m		Width: 0.60 m	Depth: 2.30 m
Context	Type	Description	Depth bgl. (m)
601	Layer	Car park surface, concrete	0.00–0.05
602	Layer	Made ground, demolition layer, abundant brick rubble in western portion of pit, sandy mix in east portion	0.05–1.35
603	Layer	Made ground, demolition layer, sandy mix in east portion	0.05–1.35
604	Layer	Natural greyish brown clay	1.35+



Test Pit 7			
Length: 3.00 m		Width: 1.80 m	Depth: 3.50 m
Context	Type	Description	Depth bgl. (m)
701	Layer	Topsoil: mid grey brown sand silt	0.00–0.02
702	Layer	Mid-whitish grey concrete	0.02–0.22
703	Layer	Dark black tarmac	0.22–0.32
704	Layer	Light whitish grey crushed concrete	0.32–0.40
705	Fill	Fill of 105. Hardcore. Mid-brownish orange mix with mid-greyish brown sand and silt sadn with >50% stones and gravel	0.40–3.50
706	Cut	Filled with 104. Cut for modern pipe. Vertical sides around 0.6 m wide	0.40–3.50
707	Layer	Natural: mid-greyish brown silt clay	2.00+
708	Layer	Natural: mid-brown grey gravel rich	2.00–3.30
709	Layer	Natural: black waterlogged deposit	3.30+
710	Structure	Concrete foundation	0.00–0.60
711	Structure	Brick-lined drain associated with 710	0.00–0.60

Test Pit 8			
Length: 3.00 m		Width: 1.80 m	Depth: 1.30 m
Context	Type	Description	Depth bgl. (m)
801	Layer	Mid-whitish grey concrete	0.00–0.20
802	Layer	Dark black tarmac	0.20–0.30
803	Layer	Light whitish grey crushed concrete	0.30–0.40
804	Layer	Natural: mid-greyish brown silt clay	0.40–1.30+

Trench 9			
Length: 17.00 m		Width: 15.00 m	Depth: 1.20 m
Context	Type	Description	Depth bgl. (m)
901	Layer	Tarmac road planings	0.00–0.10
902	Structure	Brick floor	0.10–0.30
903	Layer	Mixed made ground	0.30–1.20

Trench 10			
Length: 4.00 m		Width: 2.00 m	Depth: 1.20 m
Context	Type	Description	Depth bgl. (m)
1001	Layer	Made ground: loose dark grey sand with frequent sub-angular stone and brick fragments >0.25 m	0.00–0.05
1002	Structure	Brick surface in N end of intervention	0.05–0.10
1003	Structure	Brick wall running east to west. Abuts 1002 which lies on N side of this	0.05–1.20+
1004	Structure	Concrete	0.05–0.10
1005	Layer	Dark grey/black ash	0.10–0.25
1006	Layer	Dark yellowish brown with brick inclusions	0.25–0.60
1007	Layer	Thin charcoal layer	0.60–0.80
1008	Layer	Dark yellowish brown with brick inclusions	0.80–1.00
1009	Layer	Clay with charcoal inclusions	1.00–1.20+

Trench 11			
Length:		Width: 0.50 m	Depth: 1.00 m
Context	Type	Description	Depth bgl. (m)
1101	Layer	Loose, light grey sand	0.00–0.10
1102	Structure	Brick wall at N end of trench	0.03–0.80
1103	Layer	Yellow brown sand with brick and plastic	0.20–0.35
1104	Layer	Dark grey sand on south side of wall 1102	0.30–0.80
1105	Structure	Brick wall abutting surface 1106. About 1.5 m S of 1102	0.03–0.80
1106	Structure	Brick surface abutting 1102 and 1105	0.80+
1107	Structure	Concrete foundation for 1102	0.80–1.00
1108	Layer	Dark grey clay	1.00+



1109	Structure	Brick surface S of 1105	0.80+
1110	Layer	Black tarmac with white stones in SE end of Tr	0.15–0.20
1111	Structure	Concrete foundation	
1112	Structure	Brick wall running NE-SW	
1113	Structure	Brick wall beneath tarmac 1110	0.20+

Trench 12			
Length: 4.50 m		Width: 0.50 m	Depth: 1.00 m
Context	Type	Description	Depth bgl. (m)
1201	Layer	Loose dusty light grey sand with sub-angular stone and brick	0.00–0.10
1202	Layer	Dark orange brown sand with modern debris	0.10–1.00
1203	Structure	Brick wall running N-S	0.10+

Trench 13			
Length: 19.00 m		Width: 0.50 m	Depth: 0.80 m
Context	Type	Description	Depth bgl. (m)
1301	Layer	Dark grey ash sand with stone and brick. Same as 1101 and 1201	0.00–0.20
1302	Structure	Brick wall running E-W along N edge of Tr	0.00–0.80
1303	Structure	Brick wall running N-S at E end of Tr	0.00–0.80
1304	Structure	Brick surface running parallel to wall 1302	0.50–0.80
1305	Layer	Light grey mixed with yellow brown sand and brick inclusions and pieces of metal rebar	0.20–0.50
1306	Layer	Dark brown loose sand with grit and brick inclusions	0.50–0.80
1307	Structure	Brick partition wall 0.3 m wide	0.20–0.60
1308	Layer	Black tarmac with white stone inclusions	0.15–0.25
1309	Structure	Brick partition wall 0.3 m wide	0.20–0.60
1310	Layer	Black sand clay with brick rubble	0.20–0.60
1311	Structure	Brick surface or wall with concrete foundations running NE-SW	0.40–0.60
1312	Structure	Concrete under tarmac 3010	0.50–0.60
1313	Structure	Brick wall running N-S 1 m wide	0.20–0.60

Trench 14			
Length: 6.00 m		Width: 0.50 m	Depth: 0.60 m
Context	Type	Description	Depth bgl. (m)
1401	Layer	Concrete surface	0.00–0.13
1402	Layer	Grey dusty sand with stones, brick fragments and plastic	0.00–0.80
1403	Layer	Dark brown grey sand. Possibly same as 1402	0.13–0.30
1404	Layer	Orange brown sand	0.30–0.40
1405	Structure	Concrete with rebar	0.30–0.60
1406	Layer	Grey dusty sand with stones, brick fragments and plastic	0.40–0.60+

Trench 15			
Length:		Width: 0.50 m	Depth: 1 m
Context	Type	Description	Depth bgl. (m)
1501	Layer	Grey dusty sand with stones, brick fragments and plastic	0.00–1.00
1502	Structure	Corner of brick wall 1313	0.20+
1503	Structure	Brick wall, most likely a continuation of 1502	0.20+
1504	Layer	Concrete pad	0.30–0.50
1505	Structure	Red brick wall with cement	0.20–1.00+
1506	Layer	Concrete surface	0.20+
1507	Structure	Red brick wall with cement	0.20–1.00+

Trench 16			
Length: 8.50		Width: 0.50 m	Depth: 0.75 m
Context	Type	Description	Depth bgl. (m)
1601	Layer	Concrete surface of car park	0.00–0.15
1602	Layer	Brick crush	0.15–0.20



1603	Layer	Black ash	0.20–0.35
1604	Layer	Rubble	0.35+
1605	Structure	Brick wall running NW-SE	

Trench 17			
Length:		Width: 0.50 m	Depth: 1.80 m
Context	Type	Description	Depth bgl. (m)
1701	Layer	Concrete car park surface	0.00–0.13
1702	Layer	Dark brown red silt sand: crushed bricks	0.13–0.30
1703	Layer	Grey yellow sand silt with sub-rounded stones and black bands	0.30–0.80
1704	Layer	Dark grey brown silt clay with charcoal and fragments of modern bricks	0.80–1.30
1705	Layer	Light grey/yellow silt clay with black patches	1.30+
1706	Structure	Modern brick and cement wall continuation of 1507	0.13–1.70+
1707	Layer	Modern red brick demolition	0.13+
1708	Structure	Modern red brick and cement wall similar to 1706	0.13–1.70+
1709	Structure	Modern yellow/red brick and cement structure with two ceramic drains protruding. Continuation previously removed	0.13–1.30
1710	Structure	Modern red brick and cement structure with ceramic drain forming 'V' shape	0.13–1.80

Trench 18			
Length:		Width: 0.60 m	Depth: 0.57 m
Context	Type	Description	Depth bgl. (m)
1801	Layer	Black tarmac	0.00–0.11
1802	Layer	Light yellow/grey brown with tarmac and stone	0.11–0.34
1803	Layer	Grey gravel with modern brick fragments	0.34–0.51
1804	Layer	Yellow sand silt with modern brick fragments	0.51+
1805	Layer	Stone sett surface	0.51–0.57



Appendix 2: OASIS form

OASIS ID: wessexar1-344676

Project details

Project name	Castle Mead Temporary School Accommodation, Leicester, Leicestershire
Short description of the project	<p>The majority of structures were 20th-century in date as demonstrated by the use of cement as the bonding agent. However, some structural elements may be older. It is probable that stone sett surface 1805 recorded in Trench 18 was of 19th-century date. Surface 1805 appeared to stratigraphically precede the other recorded structures. Surface 1805 may have represented a trackway or other linear feature and ran approximately parallel to the Soar. Another candidate for a 19th-century date was firebrick surface 303, although this surface could be 20th century in date. The firebricks did not appear to have had a refractory function and had probably been used or re-used opportunistically. Any 19th-century remains would have probably been associated with the 'Bow Bridge Works (Elastic Fabrics and c)' shown on the 1887 Ordnance Survey map as well as earlier maps dating back to at least 1828. Preservation of these remains across the site as a whole appears to be poor but not non-existent. The 20th-century structures are probably part of the depot shown on 20th-century maps. It is possible that a black waterlogged layer (709) recorded at a depth of 3.3 m BGL may represent a peat layer buried beneath subsequent natural alluvial layers. The desk-based assessment for this site (Wessex Archaeology 2018) mentions that a Mesolithic peat layer has previously been recorded a short distance to the east during excavations at the Austin Priors site. Layer 709 was not sampled and could not be accessed due to the depth of the intervention.</p>
Project dates	Start: 20-02-2019 End: 09-08-2019
Previous/future work	Yes / Not known
Any associated project reference codes	207660 - Contracting Unit No.
Any associated project reference codes	207661 - Contracting Unit No.
Any associated project reference codes	207663 - Contracting Unit No.
Type of project	Recording project
Site status	None
Current Land use	Transport and Utilities 2 - Other transport infrastructure
Monument type	HOSIERY FACTORY Post Medieval
Significant Finds	NONE None
Investigation type	""Watching Brief""
Prompt	Planning condition

Project location

Country	England
Site location	LEICESTERSHIRE LEICESTER LEICESTER Castle Mead Temporary School Accommodation



Postcode	LE3 5PT
Study area	11590 Kilometres
Site coordinates	SK 57950 04447 52.634323984184 -1.143623287845 52 38 03 N 001 08 37 W Point
Lat/Long Datum	Unknown
Height OD / Depth	Min: 53m Max: 53m

Project creators

Name of Organisation	Wessex Archaeology
Project brief originator	Elliot Group Ltd
Project design originator	Wessex archaeology
Project director/manager	Milica Rajic
Project supervisor	Amy Derrick
Project supervisor	Martina Tenzer
Project supervisor	Jon Whitmore
Project supervisor	Simon Brown
Project supervisor	Gwen Naylor
Type of sponsor/funding body	Construction Consultants
Name of sponsor/funding body	Mott MacDonald

Project archives

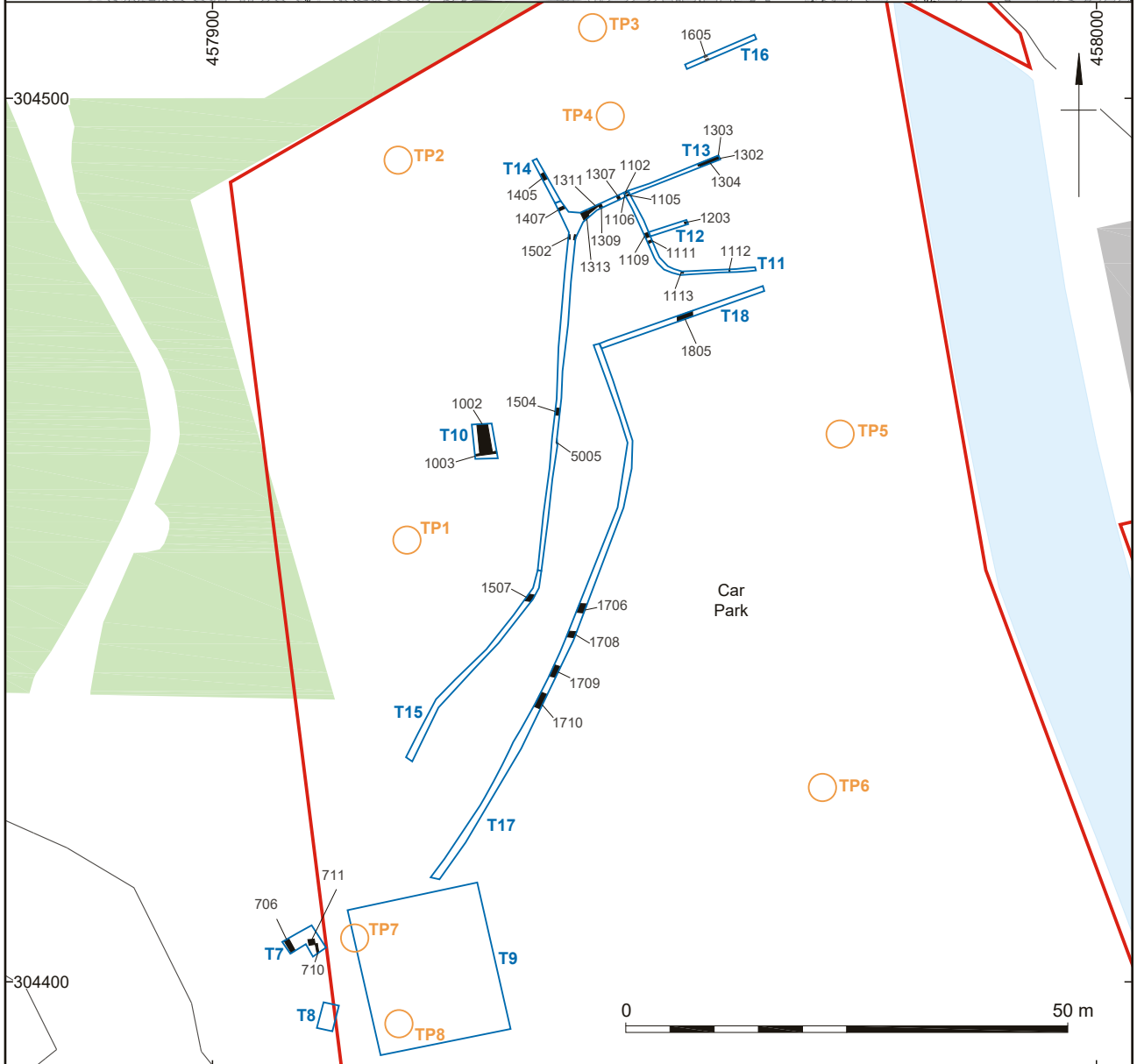
Physical Archive Exists?	No
Digital Archive recipient	not yet deposited
Digital Contents	"none"
Digital Media available	"Images raster / digital photography"
Paper Archive recipient	not yet deposited
Paper Contents	"none"
Paper Media available	"Context sheet", "Diary", "Plan", "Report"

Project bibliography 1

Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)



Publication type	
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Entered on	16 September 2019



Site
 Area monitored during watching brief
 Test pit
 Archaeology

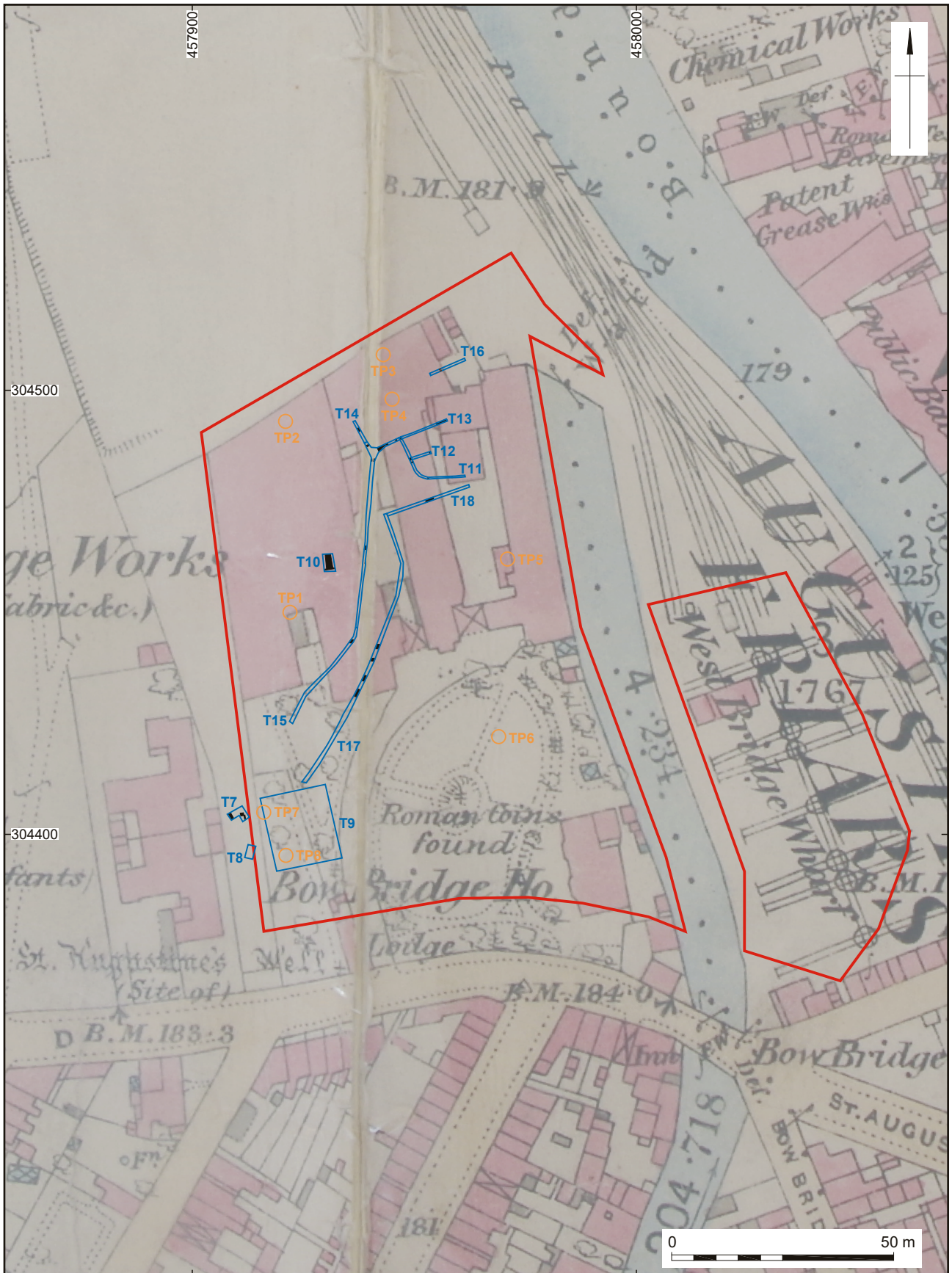
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Site, test pit and trench location

Figure 1



	 Site Area monitored during watching brief ○ Test pit Archaeology		
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Site, test pit and trench location overlaying the 1887 First Edition Ordnance Survey 25 inch map

Figure 2



Plate 1: Test pit 1, concrete foundation and modern brick floor



Plate 2: Test pit 3, fire brick floor surface


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Plate 3: Test pit 4, brick and concrete foundation



Plate 4: Test pit 6, demolition layer


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Plate 5: Test pit 7, oblique shot of south east facing section, water pipe and cut 706



Plate 6: Test pit 7, concrete base 710 and drain 711


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Plate 7: Test pit 7, possible peat layer 709



Plate 8: Trench 17, drainage structure 1710



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Plate 9: Trench 17, wall 1706 and associated contexts



Plate 10: Trench 18, stone sett surface 1805

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