FORMER BUS DEPOT PEACOCK LANE LEICESTER

ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF AND FIELD EVALUATION

Albion archaeology





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ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF AND FIELD EVALUATION

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Compiled by	Checked by	Approved by
Christiane Meckseper	Drew Shotliff	Drew Shotliff

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Preface

Every effort has been made in the preparation of this document to provide as complete a summary as possible within the terms of the method statement. All statements and opinions in this document are offered in good faith. Albion Archaeology cannot accept responsibility for errors of fact or opinion resulting from data supplied by a third party, or for any loss or other consequence arising from decisions or actions made upon the basis of facts or opinions expressed in this document.

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The project was commissioned by CgMs Consulting Ltd on behalf of Applegate (Leicester) Ltd. It was monitored on behalf of the Local Planning Authority by Chris Wardle, Leicester City Council Archaeologist.

This report has been prepared by Christiane Meckseper (Project Officer), with contributions by Holly Duncan (Project Manager Artefacts) and Jackie Wells (Finds Officer). Illustrations were prepared by Joan Lightning (CAD Technician). The fieldwork was undertaken by Christiane Meckseper, and Richard Gregson and Iain Leslie (Archaeological Supervisors). The project was managed by Robert Wardill of Albion Archaeology and Myk Flitcroft of CgMs Consulting Ltd.

Albion Archaeology St Mary's Church St Mary's Street Bedford. MK42 0AS

a: 0300 300 6864 Fax: 0300 300 8209

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Key Terms

Throughout this report the following terms or abbreviations are used:

Client	Applegate (Leicester) Ltd.	
IfA	Institute for Archaeologists	
LPA	Local Planning Authority	
LCA	Leicester City Archaeologist	
LCC	Leicester City Council	
HER	Historic Environment Record	
PDA	PDA Proposed Development Area (i.e. the site)	



Non-Technical Summary

Albion Archaeology were commissioned to undertake an archaeological watching brief during demolition works at the former bus depot at Peacock Lane Leicester, and a subsequent programme of archaeological trial trenching to evaluate the site's archaeological potential.

The watching brief was able to demonstrate that no significant archaeological features or remains were exposed during the demolition and removal of the bus depot concrete floor slabs and inspection pits.

The trial trenching evaluation confirmed the presence of significant archaeological remains had survived at the site despite the impact of modern development. The investigations show that the greatest impact on the remains came from the foundations and cellars of 19th century structures. In most cases, the foundations of the later bus depot were shallow and did not impact greatly on surviving archaeological deposits.

Undisturbed Roman archaeological layers, including a potential Roman building in the eastern part of the site, were generally found in all trenches at a depth of 2.4m below present ground level at an average 60.51-61.15m OD.

Due to the depth of burial of the Roman deposits in the base of the trenches it was only possible to determine their thickness by machine-cut sondages in a few selected areas. These deposits were shown to have a combined thickness of 0.4–1.4m. The precise nature and complexity of the layers and their stratigraphic sequence remains uncertain.

Two rubbish pits directly truncating the Roman deposits in Trench 8 contained remains of ironworking and/or smithing, suggesting that the area reverted to open ground and industrial use in the post-Roman and medieval period.

The medieval and post-medieval layers and features across the site consisted of thick cultivation and soil layers and pitting activity with a further horizon of possible levelling and clearing activity, including the establishment of a building or boundary at 1.2m below present ground level or an average of 62.20 m OD.

The cultivation and soil layers and pits also suggest mainly horticulture or "backyard" activity throughout the medieval and post-medieval period, an interpretation that is supported by historical maps of the area which show buildings lining the street frontages with open space to the rear.

Post-medieval wall foundations, cellars, services and modern features truncated a large part of the archaeological sequence, often to a depth of 2.5m below present ground level. The degree of truncation was higher along the old 19th-century street frontage in the western, northern and southern parts of the site.



1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 Planning Background

Applegate (Leicester) Ltd. are gathering information to support proposals for the re-development of the former Midland Bus Depot at Peacock Lane Leicester.

A desk-based assessment was carried out by CgMs Consulting in January 2010 (CgMs 2010a). Discussions with the Leicester City Archaeologist (LCA) confirmed that information on the archaeological potential of the site, depth of burial and thickness of surviving deposits was required in order to assess the development impact and to support a future planning application. The LCA produced a brief outlining the scope of works required for an archaeological field evaluation (LCC 2010).

In August 2010 LCC granted Conservation Area Consent for the demolition of the buildings of the former bus depot "other than a Section Fronting Peacock Lane" (Application no: 20101494). Condition 2 of the Consent required submission and implementation of a programme of archaeological works to accompany the demolition works "to protect against the loss of archaeological deposits that may lie close to the surface and as such could be damaged by the works and to ensure satisfactory archaeological investigation and recording".

Written Schemes of Investigation (WSI) detailing the 'programme of archaeological works' were prepared by CgMs Consulting on behalf of the developer, Applegate (Leicester) Ltd, and their architects, Staniforth Architects, and comprised:

- Stage 1: Watching Brief on demolition.
 Written Scheme of Investigation for Archaeological Works. Former Bus Depot, 14 Peacock Lane, Leicester. Demolition of Buildings Other than a Section Fronting Peacock Lane (CgMs 2011).
- Stage 2: Trial Trench evaluation. Specification for Archaeological Trial Trenching. In respect of Former Bus Depot, Peacock Lane, Leicester. (CgMs 2010b)

Both documents were approved by the LCA. Albion Archaeology was commissioned by CgMs Consulting to implement the archaeological works.

This report forms part of the agreed 'programme of works' under Conservation Area Consent (Condition 2), and provides an evaluation of the site to support a future planning application for development.



1.2 Site Location, Topography and Geology

The proposed development area (PDA) comprises the site of the former Midland Bus Depot and lies in the south-western part of Leicester City Centre (Figure 1). It is bounded on three sides by modern roads: Peacock Lane to the north, Southgates to the west and Friar Lane to the south. Its eastern and south-eastern boundary is formed by a brick wall delineating open ground to the rear of properties along the main roads, and a public car park.

The site measures 0.73 ha in extent and is centred on NGR SK 5845 0430. It lies on relatively level ground at an average of 63m OD with a slight slope from north to south. Information from Leicester City Council indicated that the underlying geology was anticipated to be river terrace gravels (CgMs 2010b). However, the current investigations revealed that the geology comprised clean red clay.

At the time of the investigations the PDA was used as a public car park.

1.3 Archaeological Background

The archaeological background to the PDA is discussed in detail in the desk-based assessment (CgMs 2010a). Only a brief summary is given here.

The PDA lies within the walls of both the Roman and medieval/post-medieval urban settlement of Leicester. It is located in the southern part of the defined settlement, close to the southern gateway of the historic town.

Little pre-Roman activity is recorded on or in the vicinity of the PDA. The City of Leicester Historic Environment Record (HER) lists a single find of a Neolithic or Bronze Age axehead in the High Street area (MLC619) and Iron Age finds from the St Nicholas Circle and Southgate underpass areas (MLC671, MLC677). A more extensive Iron Age settlement is recorded in the Jewry Wall and St Nicholas Circle areas north-west of the PDA (MLC699, MLC679).

For the Roman period the PDA falls within one of the *insulae* to the south of the forum (Todd 1973, fig. 12). There are several reports of stone buildings listed in the HER, although most of these reports are of some antiquity themselves. A Roman building was reported immediately to the north-west of the site on the corner of Highcross Street and Peacock Lane in 1667. More tangible remains in the form of a column and small portion of a "pavement" (probably of the same building) were observed in a sewer trench on the same street corner in 1912 (MLC1209). In the 1860s remains of a Roman building were reported from Southgate within or immediately adjacent to the PDA (MLC241), and a stone building with a cellar was identified on the west side of Southgates in the early 1960s (MLC380/MLC381/MLC382).

On the PDA itself a "Roman pavement" was reportedly discovered during the construction of the bus depot in the 1930s (MLC236).



The nature of settlement within the town in the Saxon/Early Medieval period is unclear although there is sufficient evidence to suggest settlement and land utilisation during that time. There are no records dating to the Anglo-Saxon period in the HER from within the PDA but Saxon activity has been identified in the vicinity. A Late Saxon pottery kiln (MCL382) was found to the west of the PDA during investigations at the Shakespeare's Head site (CgMs 2010a). Similar to other Roman towns, like Canterbury and London, a thick layer of "dark earth" resulting from occupation and cultivation activities developed in many parts of the city (Wardle pers. comm.).

In the medieval period the site of the PDA was close to the southern gate and adjacent to the High Street, the principal route through the town. Medieval buildings stood along the street frontages but no records directly relate to the PDA itself. The medieval Greyfriars friary (MLC351) stood to the east of the PDA and while its full extent is not precisely known it is not thought to have extended into the PDA.

With the growth of Leicester in the post-medieval and modern period (17th–19th century), the PDA was increasingly covered with buildings, outhouses and backyards. These structures were cleared when the bus depot was built in the 1920s and during major re-alignment of roads in the 1960s.

The bus depot was opened on the site by the Birmingham and Midland Motor Omnibus Company Limited in 1927 and remained in operation for 82 years before it was closed in July 2009. Its upstanding remains were demolished shortly before the archaeological works began in July 2011.

1.4 Project Objectives

The project was carried out according to requirements of current national and local planning policy, including Planning Policy Statement 5: Planning for the historic Environment (DCLG 2010). The research framework for Leicester is provided by *The Archaeology of the East Midlands: An Archaeological Resource Assessment and Research Agenda* (Cooper 2006).

The project objectives for the archaeological works at PDA were stated in the WSI (CgMs 2010b) and are reproduced here:

- To determine the extent, date, character, significance and quality of surviving archaeological remains within the development site;
- To assess the artefactual and environmental potential of the archaeological deposits encountered;
- To provide sufficient additional information on the archaeological potential of the site and the depth and thickness of surviving archaeological deposits to enable the archaeological impact of future development to be assessed;
- To inform preparation of a strategy to avoid or mitigate adverse impacts of development proposals on surviving archaeological remains;



• To produce a site archive for deposition with an appropriate museum and to provide information for accession to the Leicester City HER.

1.5 Archiving

The archive of finds and records generated during the project will be archived according to the guidelines issued by Leicester City Museums (Leicester City Council 2009) and to the standards outlined in Appendix 3 of English Heritage's *Management of Archaeological Projects*. Details of the project and its findings have been submitted to the OASIS database (reference: albionar1_104232) in accordance with the guidelines issued by English Heritage and the Archaeology Data Service.

The integrated project archive (including both artefacts/ecofacts and project documentation) will be prepared upon approval of this report.



2. METHODOLOGY

2.1 Introduction

The methodological approach to the project was detailed in the WSI (CgMs 2010b) and was approved by the LCA. It was designed to conform to the requirements of *Planning Policy Statement 5: Planning for the Historic Environment* (DCLG 2010) and the accompanying Practice Guide (DCLG/EH 2010). The archaeological investigation was conducted in accordance with appropriate national and regional standards and guidelines including:

•	IfA	Code of Conduct
		Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field
		Evaluation
•	Albion Archaeology	Procedures Manual: Volume 1 Fieldwork (2nd edn,
		2001)
•	Archaeological	Archaeological Archives: A Guide to best practice in
	Archive Forum	creation, compilation, transfer and curation (2007)
•	English Heritage	Management of Research Projects in the Historic
	-	Environment (2009)

2.2 Watching Brief

The upstanding structures of the former bus depot were demolished and removed during the first weeks of June 2011, with the exception of the section fronting Peacock Lane and a 2m-high retaining wall along the eastern side of the site. It was agreed that demolition of upstanding structures did not require archaeological supervision and this was carried out without an archaeologist present.

Continuous archaeological observation was carried out during the break-up and removal of the concrete ground slab that formed the floor of the former bus depot. This work started on 29th June 2011.

As removal of the ground slab revealed modern brick rubble and make-up layers only (Section 3.2 and Figure 13), a monitoring meeting was held on 6th July 2011 with the LCA. It was agreed that continuous archaeological observation of the removal of the slab was not necessary and that an archaeological presence should be maintained during removal of the inspection pits in the east, south and south-west areas of the site (Figure 2) and any other deep proposed excavations. This work took place between 18th and 28th July 2011.

The demolition works also uncovered several interceptor tanks and a large area of fuel tank bases (Figure 2). These were left *in situ*.

After removal of the ground slab the area was covered in terram and a layer of Type 1 crushed hardcore c 0.3m thick laid down to form a car park surface.



2.3 Field Evaluation

Archaeological trial trenching was designed to be carried out in two phases:

- Phase 1: An initial phase of eight trenches to examine archaeological survival and deposit depths across the site, based on consideration of the current available archaeological and historical information;
- Phase 2: A second phase of contingency trenching as required at other locations to be agreed with the LCA, based on initial review of the first phase results and available information.

Phase 1 of the trenching was undertaken between 8th August and 1st September 2011. It was carried out in two continuous stages:

- Stage 1: Excavation of Trenches 3, 4, 5 and 8 in the southern part of the car park.
- Stage 2: Excavation of Trenches 1, 2, 6 and 7 in the northern part of the car park (Figure 24).

This was designed to allow the continued operation of the site as a public car park. A monitoring meeting with the LPA was held at the end of each stage.

Eight trenches were opened in total; they were 20m long, 4m wide and up to 2.5m deep. The exception was Trench 4, the eastern end of which revealed asbestos and a thick concrete slab at a depth of 0.5m below ground level. It was therefore aborted and backfilled. A sondage at its western end uncovered the same concrete slab (Section 3.4.4) and the full length of the trench was therefore not excavated.

After discussions with CgMs Consulting it was decided to relocate Trench 4 further to the north. However, this alternative location also revealed asbestos plates laid above the same concrete slab and was therefore the excavation was abandoned and backfilled.

All trenches were opened by a mechanical excavator fitted with a flat-edged 2m-wide ditching bucket, operated by an experienced driver, under close archaeological supervision. Modern make up layers, 19th-century demolition material and undifferentiated post-medieval layers were removed down to the top of undisturbed archaeological deposits. In most trenches this was at a depth of *c*. 2.5m below modern ground level.

At a depth of 1.2m the trenches were stepped in to allow excavation to a depth of c. 2.4m in a 2m-wide strip in the centre of each trench.

All deposits were recorded in a unique number sequence, using Albion Archaeology's *pro forma* sheets. The trenches were subsequently drawn and photographed as appropriate. The spoil heaps were scanned for artefacts by eye and metal detector.



2.4 Monitoring

Monitoring meetings with the LCA were held regularly throughout the project.

Decisions made with regards to the watching brief were as described in Section 2.2. Following Phase 1 of the trial trenching, the LCA requested the excavation of machine-dug sondages at the end of selected trenches in order to determine the thickness of archaeological deposits and the nature of the underlying geological strata. These were excavated in Trenches 1, 7 and 8.

At the final monitoring meeting on Tuesday 30th August 2011, it was agreed with the LCA that the Phase 1 evaluation trenches provided sufficient information to inform design of new development and to support the intended planning application. The LCA confirmed that further archaeological trial investigations would be required (subject to final design details) but the intended Phase 2 of the evaluation was not required at this stage.



3. RESULTS

3.1 Introduction

All archaeological features located in the trenches are shown on Figures 4–12 and detailed descriptions of individual contexts are provided in Appendix 1.

The watching brief mainly revealed layers of rubble make up for the concrete slab of the bus depot (Figure 13). Even the grubbing out of the inspection pits mainly revealed the modern rubble infill behind the retaining walls of the pits. In some areas layers behind and below the inspection pit were exposed (Figure 14). In all cases these consisted of the "dark earth" discussed below (Section 3.3) and the artefacts recovered were post-medieval in date (Section 4, contexts 6-15). This section therefore focuses on the results of the trial trenching, which were much more informative.

The deposit model for layers overlying the undisturbed medieval / Roman archaeology was fairly uniform across the site, with the exception of Trench 4. The overburden, natural geological deposits and layers of "dark earth" present in each trench are therefore discussed first in Sections 3.2 and 3.3. Thereafter the results are discussed separately for each trench. The overall findings are discussed by period in Section 5.

3.2 Overburden and Natural Geological Deposits

All trenches had a layer of modern car park surface material, either Type 1 aggregate or tarmac, above a series of compact gravelly and sandy make-up layers. The car park layers lay above a further make-up deposit of crushed rubble from the demolished 19th-century structures on the site. These layers combined were on average 0.45–0.85m thick.

Natural geological layers were only reached in Trenches 1, 7 and 8, in a sondage at the southern, northern and western ends of each trench respectively. The sondages were specifically excavated to determine the thickness of the archaeological deposits. The geological deposits consisted of clean reddish clay (contexts 1050, 7026, 8029). It was located at *c*. 59.60m OD in Trench 1, *c*. 60.50m OD in Trench 7 and *c*. 60.50m OD in Trench 8.

3.3 "Dark Earth" Deposits

Two thick deposits of fairly homogenous "dark earth" deposits lay below the modern car park and make-up layers in all trenches. Such deposits are found frequently in post-Roman contexts and represent soils derived from occupation and cultivation activities.

The upper layer consisted of dark brown-black sandy silt with moderate inclusions of small stones, brick and slate fragments and charcoal flecks (contexts 6, 8, 15, 1031, 2003, 3017, 4002, 5001, 6020, 7002 and 8003). It was 0.6–1.4m thick. The inclusions of ceramic building material, slate and coal fragments suggest that it was post-medieval to modern in date. It most likely represents a series of dump deposits that over time homogenised into a



backyard garden soil. All post-medieval and 19th-century foundations were cut through this deposit.

The lower layer of "dark earth" consisted of a dark reddish brown sandy silt with moderate inclusions of small stones and charcoal flecks (1004, 2004, 3003, 5026, 6025, 7009 and 8004). It was 0.6–1.5m thick. In some trenches it was possible to identify medieval pits cutting through this layer and its homogenous appearance in section may mask further separate activities of dumping and pitting. However, similar to the layer above, it most likely represents open area activity and agricultural and garden soils that accumulated in the post-Roman and medieval periods.

3.4 Archaeological Features and Deposits by Trench

Archaeological deposits of medieval and Roman date were revealed at a depth of 2.2–2.4m below present ground level in the trenches. This was the level where layers of a markedly different colour to the "dark earth" were revealed and features such as pits and possible floors and robbed out walls were readily identifiable. The results are summarised by trench below.

3.4.1 Trench 1 (Figure 5)

Trench 1 in the north-western corner of the PDA revealed a series of 19th-century brick foundations, walls and a well, relating to the buildings shown on the 1887 OS map. There were no cellars in this trench.

Wall segment (1008), which consisted of roughly hewn granite blocks and a parallel possible foundation slot [1039], may be part of an earlier building in the northern part of the trench. Only a short stub of (1008) survived and [1039] was not excavated; therefore, its precise date and function are unclear.

It is possible that later granite wall segment (1025) represents an upper part or re-build of wall (1008). Unfortunately demolition and robbing had removed any relationship between the two and it is only their near identical alignment which makes it likely that they relate to the same structure. Plaster adhering to the southern face of (1025) and an extensive demolition layer (1030) directly associated with the wall, which consisted of frequent plaster fragments bearing wattle imprints, suggests that it was part of an earlier, non-brick built building in this area.

Modern intrusions and dark earth layers (1031) and (1004) were removed throughout the trench to a depth of c. 2.20m below ground level (an average of 61.00m OD).

The base of the trench consisted of a mid to light reddish brown coarse silty sand (1006), which was truncated by several large sub-circular pits [1016], [1019], [1021] and [1025]. The pits were an average 2–3m in diameter and extended beyond the limits of excavation. They were all filled with dark brown sandy silt deposits with frequent charcoal flecks, small stones, moderate small brick fragments and occasional slate fragments, oyster shell and animal bone. It is possible that they represent rubbish pits.



Pottery retrieved from layer (1006), and a further dump layer (1005) in the northern part of the trench, was Roman in date.

A sondage was excavated by machine in the southern part of the trench to determine the depth of the archaeological deposits. The sondage was c. 1.6m deep from the base of the trench and revealed red clay geological deposits (1050) at a depth of c. 59.60m OD. For safety reasons, the sondage was not entered and all observations and measurements were taken from the top of the trench.

The archaeological deposits were c. 1.4m thick and consisted of thick, fairly homogenous sandy gravelly layers (1006) and (1041) with a combined thickness of c. 0.7m, above a series of possible demolition deposits. The latter consisted of a layer of mortar, sandwiched between two dark brown silty deposits with frequent charcoal flecks and brick fragments: (1043), (1044) and (1045). The layers were each roughly 0.2–0.3m thick (Figure 15).

Pit [1023], previously recorded in plan, was shown to be c. 1.5m deep in the section of the sondage. A further pit [1047] was visible in the base of the sondage, filled around the edges with similar demolition material as layers (1043)–(1045) discussed above and a main fill of orange sandy silt (1049) (Figure 16). No finds were retrieved from the layers or features but it is very likely that they are Roman in date.

3.4.2 Trench 2 (Figure 6)

The western part of Trench 2 was truncated by 19th-century walls and cellars. The eastern part of the trench showed the same build up of medieval and post-medieval "dark earth" (2004) and (2003)/ (2002), that was present across the site. These soils were removed to a depth of c. 2.40m OD (an average of 60.60m OD).

A layer of firm, mid red silty clay (2006), probably re-deposited natural, was revealed in the base of the trench. This was cut by two large, intercutting pits [2010] and [2013] in the eastern end of the trench. The pits were 1.50m and 1.85m in diameter and excavated in a small hand-dug sondage to a depth of 1m. Their base was not reached.

The fills of the pits consisted of very mixed dark greyish brown sandy silts with frequent large charcoal flecks and inclusions of mortar fragments, animal bone and oyster shell and probably represent rubbish deposits. Pit [2013] contained fragments of late medieval pottery while the pottery retrieved from pit [2010] was Roman in date. However, it is likely that both pits date from the medieval period.

Pottery retrieved from layer (2006) in the base of the trench was Roman in date. (2006) lay above a series of deposits consisting of reddish and yellow sandy silts with charcoal bands, which may represent Roman demolition material or dumps. Deposit (2009) in the base of the sondage was reminiscent of the greenish sand (1041) in the base of Trench 1. The combined thickness of these potential Roman deposits is a minimum of 1m.



3.4.3 Trench **3** (Figure 7)

The position of Trench 3 in the eastern part of the PDA was slightly moved southwards from the original trench plan to avoid a modern storm drain and bus depot soakaway. Nevertheless the trench was considerably affected by modern services, 19th-century cellars to a depth of c. 2.5–3.4m and other modern structural remains.

The modern structures and post-medieval and medieval "dark earth" layers (3017) and (3003) were removed to a depth of c. 2.5m (an average of 60.40m OD). This revealed a series of reddish clay and mid greyish brown layers, with occasional to moderate inclusions of charcoal flecks, small stones, oyster shell and animal bone (3004)–(3016). They were truncated by a circular pit [3013] with a lining of soft humic soil, probably a decayed barrel, and a main reddish brown silty fill.

Pottery retrieved from some of the layers, including the dark earth (3003), was a mixed assemblage of Roman, medieval and post-medieval fabrics. It is therefore likely that they represent medieval dump deposits, including a rubbish pit.

In the centre of the trench the layers partially overlay a mid yellowish sandy deposit (3010) and a small sub-rectangular structure (3009), constructed of limestone with a yellowish sandy mortar. Pottery retrieved from (3010) was Roman in date.

At the southern end of the trench was a probable lift mechanism embedded in concrete extending to a depth of c. 3.4m. This was removed by machine revealing a pit [3023] with a dark, charcoal lining and a main reddish brown clayey fill (Figure 23). It was cut into two orange and greenish brown sandy silt layers (3020) and (3021). (3020) was reminiscent of layer (1041) in the base of the sondage in Trench 1.

The thickness of potential Roman deposits in Trench 3 is a minimum of c. 1.1m. Their full depth could not be established and natural was not revealed in this trench.

3.4.4 Trench 4 (Figure 8)

Trench 4 was located to explore the open area at the back of the 19th-century buildings along Southgate Street and Friar Lane. It was also located adjacent to a modern building that now stands on the site of the former Baptist Chapel in Friar Lane.

The eastern end of Trench 4 was abandoned after the discovery of broken-up blue asbestos tiles above a solid concrete slab at a depth of 0.5m below ground level (Figure 18). Investigation of the western end of the trench revealed the same concrete slab below brick and concrete demolition rubble. The western edge of the slab was defined by the remains of a low brick wall just visible above ground. Its lower edge lay across the corner of a probably early 20th-



century manhole which was cut through the post-medieval dark earth surviving in the far western end of the trench.

The concrete slab most likely represents the foundation for a 20th century building that stood on the site and was demolished. As it was found to be 0.6m thick the western end of the trench, too, was abandoned and backfilled.

3.4.5 Trench **5** (Figure 9)

Trench 5 was located in the southernmost part of the PDA adjacent to a modern building to the east of the site. It was situated across the boundary of former 19th-century buildings, outhouses and an area of open space to their rear. The majority of the trench was found to be truncated by 19th-century cellars and their demolition in the early-mid 20th century.

In addition, the southern part of the trench was truncated to a depth of 3m below ground level by a modern demolition cut [5042] which contained brick and steel reinforced concrete rubble.

Archaeological deposits survived in the northern 3.5m of the trench only. Modern car park layers and the post-medieval "dark earth" (5001) were removed to a depth of 1m below ground level to reveal a series of reddish clay, and mixed light to dark yellowish and greyish brown layers with moderate brick fragments and charcoal flecks (5005)-(5020). Finds retrieved from the layers represent a mixed assemblage of Roman to post-medieval fabrics.

Initially these were thought to represent undisturbed archaeological layers, but further investigation and removal by machine revealed them to be a series of dump layers with a combined thickness of a minimum of 1.1m, similar to, but more mixed than the medieval "dark earth" at this level in other parts of the site. Investigation of the baulk section revealed the existence of potential pits, for example [5022] (Figure 9, Section 1); however, their interfaces were unclear and the pit fills very similar to the surrounding dump layers.

Excavation stopped at a depth of 2.5m (an average of 61.10m OD). This left a series of deposits and possible pits/pit fills *in situ* in the base of the trench (5027)–(6036). These were very similar in nature to the deposits removed above and probably still represent medieval dump layers and intrusions. Finds retrieved from the surface fill (5033) of a small pit [5032] were early medieval in date.

In a small area in the north-western part of the trench the features overlay and partially truncated a compact light brownish yellow deposit (5031) adjacent to a reddish deposit with limestone fragments (5030). The latter contained four fragments of Roman pottery and may represent the top of the Roman deposits in this area.

A sondage was excavated in the southern part of the trench to determine the depth of the modern intrusion [5042]. This revealed an undisturbed



archaeological layer consisting of dark reddish brown sandy clay at a depth of 3m below ground level.

If layers (5030) and (5031) are indeed Roman in date, the thickness of potential Roman deposits in Trench 5 is a minimum of c. 0.5m.

3.4.6 Trench 6 (Figure 10)

Trench 6 was on an E-W alignment and lay across two areas of 19th-century buildings shown on the 1887 OS map with open space between them. The trench did reveal a brick structure with a backfilled cellar (6018/6034) in the western part of the trench and a range of brick walls (6003/6004) in the eastern part. These seem to coincide with the structures marked on the map.

A further brick wall (6007), with foundations up to 2.5m deep extended along the full length of the trench along the edge of the inner step, with a parallel brick division (6006) 1m to its north, which survived in the eastern part of the trench. This arrangement of walls is more reminiscent of the inspection pits of the bus depot than a 19th-century cellar. It is possible that they represent part of an early phase of the bus depot that was subsequently backfilled and built over. Most of this inspection pit was removed by machine in the remainder of the trench but a series of brick pads, (6009), (6011) and (6014), most likely relating to the same structure, were still present in the base of the trench at a depth of c. 2.5m.

Post medieval and medieval dark earth layers, (6020) and (6025) respectively, were removed by machine to a level of c. 2.5m below ground level (an average 61.0m OD).

At the interface between the two layers, at a height of 62.22m OD a band of charcoal (6038) was identified in section above a layer of light greenish grey fine sand and small stones (6020). These were truncated by a pit [6036] which was filled with a dark reddish brown sandy silt deposit (6037), very similar in nature to the surrounding "dark earth" (6025). The function of the layers and pit is unclear but they could indicate a phase of backyard activity in this area, possibly of medieval date.

A series of mid brownish red and light yellowish brown sandy and gravelly layers, (6024) to (6029), were exposed in the base of the trench. Two possible pits and/or disturbances [6036] and [6032] were also identified. The layers and features were left *in situ* so their precise form and function is unclear. Pottery recovered from the cleaning of layers (6027) and (6029) was Roman in date.

3.4.7 Trench 7 (Figure 11)

Trench 7 lay in an area of open ground in the eastern part of the PDA. Removal of the post-medieval built-up dark soil (7002) revealed a wall footing [7006] at a depth of 1.3m below ground level in the northern part of the trench (Figure 19). The footing was on an E-W alignment and continued beyond the limit of excavation at both ends. It was very shallow with a maximum depth of 0.25m and was 1m wide. It was filled with loose small and medium-sized limestone cobbles in a yellow sandy mortar matrix (7007). The western part of



the wall foundation contained a more mixed backfill which contained a fragment of post-medieval pottery.

At the same level a mid reddish brown crumbly clay deposit over a thin layer of charcoal was identified (7022)/ (7024). It was 0.10–0.15m thick and visible in the western baulk section only. The extent of the layer was intermittent and it was not physically associated with the wall foundation due to later truncation. However is still possible that the two features are related. The function of the deposit is unclear; it seemed too crumbly to represent a surface, but as it was recorded in section only its precise nature is difficult to ascertain.

In the southern end of the trench, the clay deposit (7024) was truncated by a large pit [7020] with a fill (7021) very similar to the surrounding dark earth (7009).

After recording the possible wall foundation, the deposits in Trench 7 were reduced to a depth of 2.4m (an average of 60.95m OD). A thick layer of medieval dark earth (7009) was present throughout the trench below the layers discussed above.

Its removal revealed a layer of mid red sandy clay with occasional animal bone and charcoal inclusions (7010) throughout the base of the trench. This was markedly different in colour to the overlying dark earth (7009). Pottery retrieved from cleaning its surface was Roman in date.

A wide and shallow ditch [7011] truncated (7010), and another layer (7013), in the northern part of the trench. It was on an E-W alignment and continued beyond the limit of excavation at both ends. It was 2m wide and a maximum of 0.15m deep. Fill (7012) of the ditch contained Roman pottery and ceramic building material and a small quantity of animal bone and oyster shell. Its position within the trench was very similar to that of later wall foundation [7006]. It may be possible that this is a boundary that survived for a considerable period of time.

A sondage was excavated by machine in the northern part of the trench to determine the full depth of archaeological deposits (Figure 20). It revealed only one deposit (7013) below ditch fill (7012), that had already been defined in plan. It consisted of a mid orange brown sandy silt with moderate small stones, charcoal flecks, oyster shell and mortar flecks. It was 0.40m thick. and directly overlay the red clay natural (7026) at 60.50m OD .

3.4.8 Trench 8 (Figure 12)

Trench 8 was situated in the south-eastern part of the PDA and lay parallel to the inspection pits in that corner of the site. During the removal of car park layers and post-medieval dark earth (8003), a large concrete footing [8011] probably relating to the bus depot was revealed in the eastern part of the trench. Wall [8031] in the western part of the trench directly relates to the alignment of buildings shown in this area on the 1887 OS map (Figure 3). A 19th-century well [8033] was also recorded cutting through the dark earth of (8003).



Removal of (8003) and underlying medieval dark earth (8004) revealed a distinctive mid orange red sandy silt deposit (8006) at a depth of c. 2.4m below ground level (an average 61.15m OD). This was partially removed by machine (finds collected as (8007)). The deposit contained a large number of Roman pottery, fragments of ceramic building material and wall plaster. It also contained a small amount of animal bone and oyster shell. It was c. 0.5m thick and most likely represents a layer of Roman demolition material.

In the centre of the trench the deposit overlay a deposit of mid orange brown sandy gravel (8038) adjacent two several slabs of yellowish, soft, broken limestone (8039) (Figure 21). These may be the remains of a surface — whether internal or external is unclear.

A stack of irregular flat Roman bricks (8030) was visible in the southern section of the trench (Figure 12, Section 5; Figure 22). It was unclear whether they represented a structure surviving *in situ* or an assemblage of displaced building material. The bricks were adjacent to a small gully [8026] on a NNW-SSE alignment. The gully was originally 0.9m wide, 0.2m deep with a near vertical western edge, suggestive of a beam slot or wall foundation trench. It was most likely extensively robbed out by [8046], a wide cut visible in section above [8026].

Fill (8027) of the gully contained fragments of Roman pottery, ceramic building material, wall plaster and a large number of *tesserae*, reinforcing the idea that it was part of a robbed out building complex.

Later, medieval pits [8013] and [8019] cutting through the demolition layer (8006) also contained *tesserae* and a mixed assemblage of mainly Roman, but also early and post-medieval, pottery. Both pits contained a moderate amount of oyster shell and pit [8013] had a large assemblage of animal bone. Most likely they represent rubbish pits. Fragments of various types of slag and hammerscale (Sections 4.4.34.6) suggest that ironworking was carried out in the vicinity.

A sondage excavated by machine in the western end of the trench revealed pit [8013] to be 2.6m deep (Figure 23). The base of the pit contained several large, roughly hewn granite and limestone building blocks — further evidence that there may have been a stone-built Roman building in this area.

The archaeological layers revealed in the section of the sondage overlying the geological red clay (8029) consisted of a firm mid orange red silty clay (8022) and a mid brown sandy clay (8047). The layers had a combined thickness of c. 0.4–0.6m.



4. ARTEFACTS

4.1 Introduction

The archaeological investigations produced a finds assemblage comprising mainly pottery, ceramic building material and animal bone. The material was scanned to ascertain its nature, condition and, where possible, date range. With the exception of Trench 4 which was abandoned due to the presence of asbestos, artefacts were collected from all trenches (Table 1).

Tr.	Feature	Description	Context	Spot date*	Finds Summary
WB	6	Dump material	6	Undated	Slate x1
	8	Dump material	8	Early medieval	Pottery (19g)
	11	Make up layer	11	Post-medieval	Ceramic building material (1.0kg)
	12	Make up layer	12	Post-medieval	Ceramic building material (225g); slate x1
	13	Dump material	13	Modern	Window glass (3g); tessera x1; slate x1
	14	Wall	14	Post-medieval	Ceramic building material (1.6kg)
	15	Dump material	15	Post-medieval	Vessel glass (2g); clay tobacco pipe (11g); charcoal
					(3g)
1	1005	Dump material	1005	Roman C2+	Pottery (95g); ceramic building material (1.2kg); animal bone (22g)
	1006	Dump material	1006	Roman C2-3	Pottery (7g); ceramic building material (105g); animal bone (14g); oyster shell (17g)
	1010	Pit	1011	Roman C2+	Pottery (322g); ceramic building material (699g); tessera x2; copper alloy object (RA 12); animal bone (506g)
	1031	Dump material	1031	Undated	Lead weight (RA 11)
2	2006	Dump material	2006	Roman C2+	Pottery (39g); animal bone (97g)
	2009	Dump material	2009	Roman C2+	Pottery (380g); animal bone (2g)
	2010	Pit	2012	Roman C2+	Pottery (75g); animal bone (49g); oyster shell (25g)
	2013	Pit	2014	Late medieval	Pottery (205g); ceramic building material (148g); vessel glass (3g);
					animal bone (98g); oyster shell (3g)
3	3003	Dump material	3003	Post-medieval	Pottery (12g)
	3006	Dump material	3006	Post-medieval	Pottery (281g)
	3010	Demolition layer	3010	Roman C2+	Pottery (6g); ceramic building material (294g); animal
	2011		2011		bone (9g)
	3011	Dump material	3011	Late medieval	Pottery (104g); animal bone (60g)
5	5003	Dump material	5003	Early medieval	Pottery (30g); animal bone (7g)
	5005	Dump material	5005	Modern	Ceramic building material (40g)
	5008	Dump material	5008	Roman C2-4	Ceramic building material (242g); animal bone (27g)
	5012	Dump material	5012	Post-medieval	Pottery (22g); ceramic building material (52g)
	5026	Dump material	5026	Roman C2+	Pottery (55g)
	5030	Dump material	5030	Roman C1-2	Pottery (31g)
	5032	Pit	5033	Early medieval	Pottery (19g); tessera x1
6	6027	Dump material	6027	Roman C2+	Pottery (72g)
7	6029 7004	Dump material	6029 7004	Roman C2+	Pottery (26g)
/	7004	Dump material Dump material	7004	Early medieval Roman C2	Pottery (26g); animal bone (17g) Pottery (20g)
	7005	Wall	7003	Roman C1-2	Pottery (8g)
	7006	Wall	7007	Post-medieval	Pottery (8g) Pottery (23g); ceramic building material (47g)
	7009	Dump material	7008	D 60	7 (0.5)
	7010	Dump material	7010	Roman C2+ Roman C2+	Pottery (26g) Pottery (179g)
	7010	Ditch	7010	Roman C2+	Pottery (199g); ceramic building material (400g);
		Dicii			tessera x1; iron nails x3; copper alloy ?coin (RA 9); lead/iron weight (RA 10) animal bone (120g); oyster shell (21g)
	7016	Tree-throw	7017	Roman C2+	Pottery (25g); animal bone (7g)
8	8003	Dump material	8003		Copper alloy coin/mount (RA 5)
	8005	Dump material	8005	Roman C2+	Pottery (340g); ceramic building material (2.8kg); wall plaster (514g); tessera x1; bone hair pin (RA 7);



				animal bone (88g)
8006	Dump material	8006	Undated	Animal bone (21g)
8007	Dump material	8007	Roman C2+	Pottery (589g); ceramic building material (22.2kg);
				wall plaster (775g); iron nail x1; copper alloy coin &
				escutcheon (RAs 4, 3); animal bone (131g); oyster
				shell (163g)
8008	Pit	8009	Roman C1-2	Pottery (19g); ceramic building material (1.0kg); iron
				nail (RA 2); copper alloy brooch (RA 1); animal
				bone (106g)
8013	Pit	8014	Roman C2-3	Pottery (600g); ceramic building material (5.3kg);
				wall plaster (68g); tessera x55; vessel glass (2g);
				animal bone (472g); oyster shell (75g); coal (1g)
8013	Pit	8016	Roman C2+	Pottery (62g); ceramic building material 38g); wall
				plaster (32g); tessera x12; ferrous slag (175g); animal
				bone (139g); oyster shell (19g); coal (5g)
8013	Pit	8017	Roman C2+	Pottery (4g); ceramic building material (173g); wall
				plaster (44g); tessera x16; animal bone (42g); oyster
				shell (19g)
8013	Pit	8018	Post-medieval	Pottery (75g); ceramic building material (57g); tessera
				x14; animal bone (53g)
8019	Pit	8021	Early medieval	Pottery (265g); ceramic building material (115g);
				tessera x5; ferrous slag (76g); animal bone (145g);
				oyster shell (368g); coal (1g)
8022	Dump material	8022	Roman C2+	Pottery (251g); ceramic building material (70g);
				vessel glass (3g); animal bone (89g); oyster shell
				(687g)
8026	Robber trench	8027	Roman C2+	Pottery (49g); ceramic building material (438g); wall
				plaster (65g); tessera x86; animal bone (203g); oyster
				shell (2g)
8028	Dump material	8028	Roman C2-4	Wall plaster (10g); animal bone (6g)
8038	Dump material	8038	Roman C1-2	Pottery (6g)
8040	Dump material	8040	Roman C1-2	Pottery (12g)
8041	Dump material	8041	Roman C1-2	Pottery (8g); copper alloy fragment (RA8)
8042	Dump material	8042	Roman C2+	Pottery (90g); ceramic building material (249g); lead
				waste (RA6); animal bone (464g); oyster shell (7g)
* - spot date based	d on date of latest arte	fact in conte	xt	Bold figures denote registered artefact number

Table 1: Artefact Summary by Trench and Feature

4.2 Pottery

Two hundred and sixty-seven pottery sherds, weighing 4.6kg were recovered. These were examined by context and quantified using minimum sherd count and weight. The pottery is well fragmented with an average sherd weight of 18g, and survives in variable condition. Fabric group classifications (Table 2) are based on the Leicestershire Fabric Series for Roman and post-Roman pottery (respectively Pollard 1994; Davies and Sawday 1999).

Wares and fabric groups		Sherd No.	Context/Sherd No.
Roman			
AM	Amphora	4	(8005):2, (8007):2
BB1	Black-Burnished ware	5	(1005):1, (6029):1, (7012):2, (8007):1
С	Colour-coated ware	2	(7012):1, (8022):1
C2NV	Nene Valley colour-coated wares	10	(1011):1, (3006):1, (7008):1, (7012):1, (8005):1, (8007):2, (8014):1, (8018):1, (8022):1, (8027):2
CG	Calcite gritted ware	10	(2009):4, (8007):2, (8014):1, (8018):1, (8021):1, (8022):1
GW3, 5, 6	Grey wares: fine, medium and coarse sandy	76	(1011):10, (2006):3, (2012):4, (2014):2, (3010):1, (5030):3, (5033):1, (6027):4, (7012):3, (7017):1, (8005):4, (8007):1, (8014):5, (8016):3 (8017):1, (8018):1, (8021):4, (8022):15, (8027):1, (8040):1, (8042):8



Wares and fabr	ic groups	Sherd No.	Context/Sherd No.
MC	Miscellaneous coarse wares	2	(6027):2
MO7	Verulamium region mortaria	2	(5026):1, (8014):1
OW2, 3	Oxidised wares: fine and coarse sandy	5	(2014):1, (8005):1, (8007):1, (8022):2
Samian	Samian ware	38	(1005):1, (1006):1, (2009):1, (3011):1,
			(5030):1, (6029):2, (7005):1,
			(7007):2, (7012):7, (8005):4, (8007):3,
			(8009):1, (8014):1, (8021):1,
			(8022):3, (8038):1, (8040):2, (8041):1,
			(8042):4
SW4	Coarse sandy wares	9	(1005):1, (1011):1, (6027):3, (7009):1,
			(7012):2, (8005):1
WW2, 4, 5	White wares:	43	(1006):1; (1011):5, (2012):3, (6027):1,
	fine, medium and coarse sandy		(6029):1, (7010):6, (7012):5,
			(7017):4, (8005):2, (8007):4, (8014):2,
			(8016):2, (8021):4, (8022):1,
			(8027):1, (8042):1
Post-Roman			
SX	Saxon	2	(8007):2
SN	St Neots-type ware	1	(5033):1
ST	Stamford ware	7	(7004):3, (8021):4
CG	Calcite gritted ware	2	(5003):1, (8005):1
LY	Lyveden / Stanion ware	2	(2014):1, (3011):1
PM	Potters Marston ware	17	(08):1, (2014):2, (3006):2, (3011):2, (7004):1,
			(8018):1, (8021):6,
			(8027):2
OS	Oxidised sandy ware	8	(2014):1, (5012):1, (5033):2, (8021):4,
MS	Medieval sandy	16	(2014):1, (3003):1, (3006):7, (3011):3,
	·		(8018):1, (8021):1; (8027):2
MP	Midland Purple	3	(3006):3
FR	Frechen stoneware	1	(5012):1
TINIID	H :1 ('C 1/ 1/11		(2014) 1 (7000) 2 (9014) 1 (9021) 2
UNID	Unidentified / undatable	6	(2014):1, (7009):2, (8014):1, (8021):2

Table 2: Pottery Type Series

4.2.1 Roman

The Roman assemblage comprises 206 sherds, weighing 3.7kg, and is dominated by wheel-thrown grey wares in a range of fine to coarse sandy fabrics mainly datable from the late 1st or 2nd centuries (76 sherds: 1.0kg). These are of uncertain, but probably local sources. The vessel repertiore comprises jars with simple everted rims, bowls with flanged and reeded-rims, a straight-sided bowl or 'dog dish', and flat-rimmed bowls, some imitating Black-Burnished ware (BB1) forms. Decoration comprises rouletting, burnishing (overall and lattice), incised motifs and a single sherd with small applied clay pellets. Ten calcite-gritted sherds, common to the Midlands and south-east were recovered. These include a 1st century lid-seated vessel from deposit (8007), a triangular rim jar (pit [8013]) and two everted rim jars, (layers (2009), (8022)), one a large vessel with combed decoration and an abraded interior surface. The latter is probably of 2nd-3rd century date, and a product of the Harrold Kilns, N. Beds. (Brown, 1994). Unprovenanced Midlands oxidised wares in fine and coarse sandy fabrics total five body sherds, recovered from trenches 2 and 8. Although not closely datable, they are most likely to be of 2nd century origin.

Local wares are supplemented by traded wares of specific form and usage from more distant regional production centres. These include white ware from



Mancetter-Hartshill and the Verulamium region (VRW). Forms are jars, plain- and ring-necked flagons, and mortaria, the latter represented by two VRW stamped rim sherds. One recovered from layer (5026) reads [MORICAM] for Moricamulus, datable to c. AD80-110 (c.f. Hartley 1999, 109). The second, from pit [8013] is of similar date, and has a retrograde [FECIT] counter-stamp, a common stamp used on mortaria manufactured at Verulamium (Tyers, 2009). Five sherds of 2nd-3rd century Dorset Black-Burnished ware (BB1) derived from layers (1005), (6029), (8007), and the fill of ditch [7011]. Forms are a cooking pot, and two flat-rimmed bowls. Ten Nene Valley colour-coated sherds, datable to the 2nd-3rd centuries were recovered, mainly from features in trench 8. Diagnostic forms are a late 2nd century cornice rim beaker (deposit 8007) and a Castor Box (wall [7006]) of probable 3rd century date.

Thirty-eight samian sherds (332g), deriving from production centres in central, southern and eastern Gaul were recovered, the majority from trench 8 features. Vessel types include bowls (forms 31 and 37), and a dish/cup (form 42), with diagnostic elements ranging in date from c. AD69 to the late 2nd century. An incomplete stamp reading [VIDVC....] was recovered from layer (8005). A number of footrings are present, one of which is deliberately notched or cut. Amphorae are represented by four sherds (385g) recovered from layers (8005) and (8007). They include examples of the Baetican Dressel 20 form, known to occur widely on post-conquest sites and up to the mid 3rd century.

4.2.2 Post-Roman

Sixty-one sherds (966g) ranging in date from the Saxon period to the 17th century constitute the post-Roman assemblage. Two Saxon body sherds (54g) were recovered from the spoil heap(8007). One contains Mountsorrel granite and originates from Charnwood Forest, the second is a highly fired reduced fabric with a range of mineral inclusions, including quartz and fine mica. A date in the 6th-7th centuries may be suggested for the sherds.

A single body sherd of shell tempered St Neots type ware (3g) and five sherds of Stamford ware (27g), all datable to the Saxo-Norman period, occurred as residual finds in early medieval pits [5032], [8019] and layer (7004). A rim sherd recovered from the latter may derive from a spouted pitcher.

Early medieval pottery comprises mainly Potters Marston ware (17 sherds: 315g), recovered from features in trenches 2, 3, 7 and 8. The product of a major local industry dating from c. 1100-1300 (Sawday 1991, 34), forms are mainly sooted cooking pots with straight sides or sloping shoulders, and plain upright or curved rims. Two sherds from a jug with incised decoration were recovered from pit [2013].

Deposits (5003) and (8005) yielded two unsourced early medieval calcitegritted sherds (36g), probably of local origin. Oxidised sandy wares (8 sherds: 67g) include both hand-made and wheel thrown examples. No feature sherds are present, although some are sooted, indicating their use as cooking pots. Of uncertain origin, they may derive from local, or regional (Northants/Beds/Oxon) sources (Davies and Sawday 1999, 177).



Two sherds of Lyveden / Stanion ware (45g) datable to c. 1200-1400 were recovered from pit [2013] and deposit (3011). Sixteen wheel-thrown pottery sherds classified as generic medieval sandy were recovered mainly from dumped deposits in trenches 3 and 8. Deriving from a range of possible sources (local / Chilvers Coton / Nottingham / Derbys: Sawday 1999, 166), they fall within a date range of c. 1200-1450. Glazed jugs are the only diagnostic form.

The latest pottery comprises three sherds (63g) from a Midland Purple vessel (c. 1375-1550) and a sherd of 17th century Frechen stoneware (18g), deriving respectively from deposits (3006) and (5012).

4.3 Building Material and Fittings

4.3.1 Brick and tile

Sand tempered Roman brick and tile was recovered from all trenches, the majority deriving from trench 8 spoil heap (8007) which yielded 22.2kg. Roof tile comprises thirty-two tegulae (7.2kg) and six imbrices (429g). The latter range in thickness between 15–22mm, and the former between 17–30mm. Shallow flanges are present on four tegulae, and several have finger impressed signatures in the form of simple curved and/or semi-circular motifs. Reuse is attested by one roughly octagonal fragment, recovered from pit [1010], which appears to have been deliberately shaped.

Nine flue tile fragments (1.9kg) deriving from hypocaust systems were recovered. They are finely made, ranging in thickness between 10–17mm. The outer surfaces of six examples are keyed by combing, and two are incised with a crude lattice pattern. Five examples have sooted interiors, indicating use.

Sixteen partial bricks and one complete example (total weight 26.2kg) were identified. They range in thickness between 35–55mm. Signatures occur on six fragments and comprise geometric finger-impressed semi-circles, and one free-hand swirl. Partial examples measure a) W285mm x D40mm and b) W310mm x D50mm and may derive from pedales, which acted as capping or base bricks for hypocaust pillars. The complete brick measures L445mm x W310mm x D30–45mm, but does not readily conform to any particular brick type.

Sand tempered post-Roman building material comprises two pieces of flat roof tile (104g) and three incomplete bricks (2.7kg), all datable to the post-medieval period. Single brick fragments derived from make-up layer (11), wall (14) and layer (5012). Two have mortar on their broken edges indicating re-use. The roof tiles, which range in thickness between 13–16mm were recovered from wall [7006] and pit [8013].

4.3.2 Tesserae

The assemblage comprises 184 limestone and ten ceramic examples, the latter made from re-used brick or tile. Most can classified as large types, measuring greater than 25mm, with twenty-two medium (measuring between 15–25mm)



and ten small examples, measuring less than 15mm. None is mortared together, although most display traces of a white lime bonding material. The majority derived from robber trench [8026] and pit [8013], which yielded 86 and 80 examples respectively.

4.3.3 Wall plaster

Wall plaster fragments weighing 1.5kg were recovered from trench 8, the majority deriving from layers (8005) and (8007). Although fragmentary and abraded, the pieces survive in a stable condition. Fabrics are generally buff-white-pink in colour, with variable quartz, grog, calcareous and pebble inclusions. Most painted pieces have a whitewash skim underlying a white background, although in several cases this surface is faint and fragmentary. Colours used are red, yellow/orange, green, white, grey and black. All pieces are too fragmentary for patterns or decorative schemes to be discerned.

4.3.4 Slate

Single pieces of roofing slate were collected from post-Roman deposits (6), (13) and make-up layer (12). They range in thickness between 5-9mm. No diagnostic features survive.

4.3.5 Fittings

Portions of five iron timber nails were recovered from Roman ditch [7011], pit [8008] and layer (8007). Three pieces of modern window glass (3g) derived from dump material (13).

4.4 Registered Artefacts and Other finds

Few datable objects occurred amongst the twelve registered artefacts (RAs). Post medieval "dark earth" layer [1031] and pit [1011] respectively yielded a broken copper alloy strip identified as either part of an annular ring or a penannular brooch ring (RA 12), and a lead weight (RA 11). A second weight of possible suspension type (RA 10) made from lead and iron derived from ditch [7011]. The feature also contained a worn copper alloy ?coin (RA 9) with damaged surfaces, similar to an object (RA 5) recovered from deposit (8003). An amorphous copper alloy fragment (RA 8) and a distorted/melted lead vessel patch (RA 6) derived respectively from deposits (8041) and (8042).

Datable items are a mid-late 1st century bone hair pin (RA 7) recovered from deposit (8005), and a copper alloy Colchester BB(?) brooch (RA 1), c. AD65-80, from pit [8008]. Deposit (8007) yielded a 4th century coin (RA 4) and a ?leaded bronze escutcheon (RA 3) broadly datable to the Roman period. Selected objects are catalogued below.

4.4.1 Catalogue of selected registered artefacts

(Identifications by Holly Duncan)

RA 1 (8009): Brooch. Copper alloy. Colchester BB(?) brooch, short, pin missing. L. 40mm. 2nd half 1st century AD. active corrosion.



RA 3 (8007): Escutcheon. Copper alloy (leaded bronze?). Large escutcheon, comprising a 'domed' base 'plate' with lobate expansion at the top, rounded mid-section terminating in a leaf (vine or oak?). Just above the leaf terminal is a male(?) face in relief, with rounded cheeks, relatively broad nose and lips. Hair indicated by 'incised lines', dressed with centre parting, and second parting on side. Above the head is a thick projecting lug, the right hand side of the projecting surface of the lug has a circular indentation (diameter 6.8mm) which only perforates about half of the thickness of the lug. This suggests that RA3 may be one of a pair, the corresponding escutcheon having an indentation in the left hand side of the lug; the escutcheons together holding one end each of a drop handle? Length of escutcheon c. 62mm; width 33.8mm; ; lug length c. 22mm; thickness 12.4mm

Smaller examples with fully perforated lugs known from Gorhambury (fig. 126 no. 199 - L. 30mm); Gadebridge Park (fig. 55 no. 42 and page 151-5355mm long). These are thought to have been soldered onto small pail or bucket

RA 4 (8007): Coin. Copper alloy. Poor condition, active corrosion. Possibly Valens?? Reverse soldier standing looking right holding standard, captive at feet?

RA 7 (8005): Hair pin. Bone. Gradually tapering shank of oval section, tip damaged. Head incomplete; it is flatter oval in cross-section in comparison to shank and appears to be depicting a hand? Thumb on the side and separated from long fingers by V-shaped groove. Fingers depicted by grooves. Plain neck, but two short parallel grooves occur at base of thumb on side edge. Length 104mm; width 8mm (head); thickness 6.6mm

RA 10 (7012): Weight? Lead alloy and iron. Roughly round and flat bottomed, flared sides (some with shallow ridges - perhaps tool marks?) which thicken to form a rough 'rim' and relatively flat top, of greater 'diameter' than the bottom, retaining stub of iron suspension loop in situ. There are also two grooves on opposite edges of the top which slope down into the body of the weight and may form a transverse hole - possibly secondary suspension means if the iron loop broke? In overall shape somewhat like a pedestal from a pedestalled urn. Weight 301g (libra = 327.45g); height 35.4mm, base 'diameter' between 33.4-35mm; top between 49mm and 51.2mm

RA 11 (1031): Weight. Lead/lead alloy. Rounded, slightly tapering cylinder with one flat face, opposing face slightly domed, sides taper slightly to domed face (thimble-like in side elevation). Central perforation, diameter 5.3mm. Height 23.8mm; maximum base diameter 24mm; weight 76.8g

RA 12 (1011): Uncertain. Copper alloy. Curving, flat, rectangular sectioned strip (2.8mm wide and 1.6mm thick), broken both ends. Curvature suggests a diameter of 40mm. Possibly an annular ring or part of a penannular brooch ring? Less than a quarter of the circumference survives.

4.4.2 Vessel glass

A blue-green body sherd (shoulder?) from a possible conical jug or jar, of late 1st-2nd century date occurred as a residual find in medieval pit [2013]. Pit [8013] yielded an abraded colourless body sherd from a thin-walled, fairly straight-sided beaker(?), likely to be of Roman date.

An iridescent, clear yellowish green body sherd, possibly deriving from a post-medieval wine bottle was recovered from deposit (8022), while layer (15) vielded an iridescent wine bottle fragment of 17th century or later date.

4.4.3 Slag

Ferrous smithing(?) slag weighing 175g derived from medieval pit [8013]. Early medieval pit [8019] contained 76g of vesicular, vitrified clay/fuel ash associated with ironworking.

4.4.4 Clay pipe

Two stem fragments (11g) from a post-medieval clay tobacco pipe were recovered from deposit (15).



4.5 Animal Bone and Oyster Shell

A total of 270 animal bone fragments, weighing 2.9kg, was collected. Individual pieces are small, with an average weight of 11g and survive in variable condition; some are well preserved, while others are abraded and display much surface erosion. Given the fragmentary nature of the material, no metrical data has been attempted.

Among the fragments identified to species, cattle remains are the most abundant, followed by sheep/goat and pig. Poultry and/or wild fowl are represented by a small number of bones, while wild mammals are entirely absent from the assemblage. Diagnostic bone elements are mainly representative of post-cranial meat-bearing parts (limb bones, ribs, scapulae). However, the presence of a number of phalanges and cranial elements, the latter represented by loose teeth, mandible fragments, horn cores and skull fragments, suggests the practice of butchery in the vicinity. Cut marks were noted on a number of long bone and rib fragments recovered from deposit (8042). There is, however, no evidence for splitting the long bones for marrow extraction. None of the well preserved bones appear to have been gnawed. The state of preservation of a proportion of the assemblage may, however, have resulted in the loss of gnawing and butchery data. One calcined fragment was recovered from deposit (7004), although this may have occurred accidentally.

The fill of pits [8013] and [1010] yielded the greatest bone concentrations (706g and 506g respectively). Of the other seventeen Roman and six post-Roman features containing animal bone, all yielded less than 500g.

Eighty-one fragmentary oyster shells (1.0kg) were recovered from Roman features, principally deposit (8022) which yielded 687g. Medieval pits [8013] and [8019] contained 25 pieces of oyster shell (371g). All are of crumbly and powdery appearance and survive in poor condition.

4.6 Environmental Samples

Three environmental samples were taken from two rubbish pits dating to the Post-medieval [8013] and Early Medieval [8019] periods.

All the processed samples contained rare fragments of oyster shell, charred seeds and grain, fish and small mammal bones. They all had moderate charcoal fragments and animal bone. Tesserae, mortar/plaster fragments and small fragments of brick were also present in all samples. This reflects the composition of the deposits they were taken from and supports the interpretation of the features as rubbish pits.

Significantly, all samples contained a moderate amount of hammerscale, hammerslag and slag, and possible fuel ash slag was discovered in the flot of sample no.3. Together with the larger fragments of slag (Section 4.4.3) retrieved during hand-excavation from the same pits, this is further evidence of ironworking in the area.



5. DISCUSSION

5.1 Introduction

The following section summarises the findings of the archaeological investigations by period and gives an indication of the levels at which significant archaeological features occurred.

5.2 Roman

Potential Roman deposits were revealed in all trenches at an average depth of 2.4m (60.51–61.15m OD). They mainly consisted of mixed dump deposits or external soils with moderate inclusions of animal bone, shell and pottery, dating to the Roman period. A limestone deposit in Trench 3 may suggest the existence of a small structure. The deposits had a distinctively lighter reddish or yellowish hue compared to the medieval "dark earth" above.

More extensive Roman features were revealed in Trench 8, which contained the potential remains of a demolished Roman building in the form of possible floor surfaces, a robbed out wall foundation trench and a thick demolition layer.

The fill of the foundation trench, demolition layer and adjacent later medieval pits contained a large amount of ceramic building material, wall plaster and *tesserae*, the mosaic components of Roman paving. The large size and almost uniform stone material of the *tesserae* suggests that they formed an undecorated and possibly external floor surface.

These findings substantiate reports of the discovery of a "Roman pavement" during the construction of the bus depot in the 1930s (MLC236). The precise location of this paving is unclear but it is likely that it was revealed during the construction of the inspection pits adjacent to Trench 8, as these are the only area where construction was deep enough to reach Roman levels on a larger scale.

In all trenches only the top interface of the Roman deposits was exposed and their precise nature, consistency and complexity is unclear. Sondages excavated by machine in Trenches 1, 7 and 8 suggest the thickness of the deposits to be from 0.4–0.6m (Trenches 7 and 8) to 1.6m (Trench 1) above natural.

The depth of burial of the Roman deposits is comparable to the levels recorded in neighbouring investigations. At the Shakespeare's Head (MLC 380, MLC 381, MLC 382), to the west of the PDA, the upper horizon of Roman remains was recorded at around 60m OD, while at 40 & 42 Southgate Street (MLC 241) and Highcross Street/Peacock Lane (MLC 235) they were at 59.1m OD (CgMs 2010a).

The potential demolished building in the vicinity of Trench 8 complements the findings from other sites in the Peacock Lane area which all report remains of Roman walls and pavements. The PDA is in *insula* XXXIV to the south of the



forum (Todd 1973, 58) and close to the projected southern gate into the city and one of the main thoroughfares towards the forum. It is, therefore, not surprising that Roman buildings may have been present on the site.

5.3 Medieval to Post-medieval (400 – 1750)

In the post-Roman period the area was most likely open ground. Large possible rubbish pits directly truncated the Roman layers in Trenches 1, 2 and 8. Two pits in Trench 8 contained remains of ironworking which suggests that part of the area was used for industrial purposes. This was followed by a build up of "dark earth" across the site which was up to 1.4m thick.

A series of charcoal and clay layers of uncertain function were laid down above the "dark earth", as revealed in the section of Trenches 6 and 7 in the western part of the PDA. In Trench 6 one of the clay layers may have been associated with a wall footing or boundary recorded on the same level. The clay layers and "dark earth" below were truncated by further pitting, visible in Trenches 1, 5 and 6. This activity may represent a period of "tidying" and levelling as part of the establishment of further boundaries. It was generally present at a level of 62.20m OD.

The pit fills and "dark earth" deposits contained a mixed assemblage of Roman, early, late and post-medieval artefacts. It is, therefore, not possible to assign any feature firmly to the medieval or post-medieval period. The "dark earth" is similar in nature to the distinctively post-Roman deposits analysed in Canterbury, London and elsewhere (Macphail 2003) but cannot be given a purely late Roman/Saxon date here.

Isolated residual sherds of Saxon / Saxo-Norman pottery in pits [5032], [8019] and layer (7004) indicate a background activity in this period, but this cannot be firmly assigned to any feature revealed in the PDA. This is comparable to other sites, excavated in Leicester, for example Causeway Lane, where there is a hiatus of activity in the Saxon period, but the presence of pottery sherds indicate settlement activity elsewhere (Connor and Buckley 1999, 83). The nearest known Saxon settlement activity lies to the west of the PDA. This comprises a Late Saxon pottery kiln (MCL382) found during investigations at the Shakespeare's Head site (CgMs 2010a).

Medieval buildings and artefacts are recorded from the vicinity of the site but none have been recorded in the investigations closest to the PDA. Investigations at 31-41 Friar Lane (ELC 722) to the south-west of the PDA identified a "probably medieval soil" at 0.15m below present ground level (CgMs 2010a). A "lower garden soil" and thick "upper garden soil" were also recorded as part of the sequence of deposits at Causeway Lane (Connor and Buckley 1999, 11).

It may be surprising that evidence for more tangible medieval remains like buildings, surfaces and more defined pitting remained scarce. One reason could be that these were restricted to the street frontages and were either destroyed by 19th-century development or now lie outside the PDA.



What the sequence of pits and layers does represent is a general backyard and outdoor garden and agricultural activity. For the later medieval period this is corroborated by maps of the area dating from 1610 onwards which show a large space of open ground behind the street frontages lined with cottages.

The medieval and post-medieval backyard activity discussed above was followed by a further build up of "dark earth" across the site which was up to 1.5m thick and preceded the large-scale construction of 19th-century buildings on the PDA (see below). This later "dark earth" had a decidedly modern feel to it with inclusions of modern brick and tile, coal, clay tobacco pipe and glass.

5.4 Modern (1750 onwards)

The upper "dark earth", and underlying archaeological deposits, were truncated in all trenches by the wall foundations and cellars of 19th-century buildings and services. These were all brick-built and in most cases coincide clearly with buildings indicated on the 1887 OS map (Figure 3). Only one wall recorded in the northern end of Trench 1 consisted of a limestone base with a possible timber superstructure and wattle and plaster infill. However, it is unclear whether this wall is part of the 19th-century buildings or the remnant of an earlier structure on the site.

With the exception of the inspection pits, which were grubbed out prior to the archaeological investigations, and a fuel tank base which was left *in situ* (Figure 2), the foundations of the 20th-century bus depot were in most cases shallow and did not impact greatly on the surviving archaeology. Two further, deeply founded bus depot features were excavated in Trench 3 and 7 — a hydraulic lift mechanism and an early inspection pit. These truncated archaeological layers in those trenches to a depth of 3.4m and 2.5m respectively.

The existence of a large modern building foundation in the area of Trench 4 was confirmed in the evaluation.



6. CONCLUSION

The results of the archaeological watching brief on the demolition of the former bus depot at Peacock Lane, Leicester, and the subsequent removal of foundations, demonstrated that no archaeological remains were exposed or damaged by this work.

The results of the trial trench evaluation confirmed that extensive Roman, medieval and post-medieval archaeological remains survived at the site, despite the impact of modern development. The investigations show that the greatest impact on the remains came from the foundations and cellars of 19th century structures. In most cases, the foundations of the later bus depot were shallow and did not impact greatly on surviving archaeological deposits.

Undisturbed Roman archaeological layers, including a probable Roman building in the eastern part of the site and a smaller structure in the western part, were generally found at a depth of 2.4m below present ground level at an average of 60.51–61.15m OD. This is comparable with other investigations which uncovered Roman remains in the vicinity.

The medieval and post-medieval layers and features above consisted of thick soil layers resulting from occupation and cultivation, and pitting, with a further horizon of possible levelling and clearing activity, including the establishment of a building or boundary at 1.2m below present ground level or an average of 62.20 m OD.

Post-medieval wall foundations, cellars, services and modern features truncated a large part of the archaeological sequence, often to a depth of 2.5m below present ground level. The truncation was higher along the old 19th-century street frontage in the western, northern and southern part of the site.

Due to the depth of burial of the undisturbed, mainly Roman, deposits in the base of the trenches, it was only possible to determine their thickness by machine-cut sondages in a few selected areas. These deposits were shown to have a combined thickness of 0.4–1.4m. The precise nature and complexity of the layers and their stratigraphic sequence remains uncertain.

The artefactual potential of the site was shown to be high. The investigations recovered a mixed assemblage of Roman, early medieval and medieval pottery, including a large number of *tesserae* and Roman building material and a number of registered artefacts.



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8. APPENDIX 1: TRENCH SUMMARY



Max Dimensions: Length: 20.00 m. Width: 4.00 m. Depth to Archaeology Min: 0.4 m. Max: 0.4 m.

Co-ordinates: OS Grid Ref.: SK (Easting: 58443: Northing: 4373)

OS Grid Ref.: SK (Easting: 58434: Northing: 4355)

Reason: To evaluate area near Peacock Lane/Southgate street frontage.

Context:	Type:	Description:	Excavated: Finds Preso	ent:
1000	External surface	Compact hardcore 0.10m thick. Car park surface. Laid down after demolition of concrete slab.		
1001	Make up layer	Compact red grey gravel 0.3m thick. Horizontal bands of reddish, grey and grey brown gravel and sand. Make ulayers for concrete slab.	 р	
1002	Make up layer	Friable mid grey brown gravel frequent medium CBM 0.10-0.20m thick. Demolition rubble used as make-up.		
1003	Dump material	Friable dark brown black sandy silt occasional medium CBM, moderate small stones $0.6m$ thick.		
1004	Dump material	Friable mid grey brown sandy silt occasional flecks charcoal, moderate small stones 0.6m thick. "Dark earth"?		
1005	Dump material	Friable light yellow brown sand frequent small stones, occasional mediustones 0.40m thick. "Hump" of sand in northern part of trench.	n 🗆	V
1006	Dump material	Friable mid red brown silty sand frequent small CBM, frequent small stones		V
1007	Wall	Linear NNW-SSE sides: near vertical dimensions: max breadth 1.4m, midepth 0.6m, min length 1.m Construction cut for wall (1008).	n 🗆	
1008	Wall	Roughly hewn granite blocks (avarage size 30.37m/0.20m/0.15m) with a loose yellow sandy mortar. SSE-NNW; linear; two courses visible; broken out in NNW continues beyond limit of excavation in SSE. Lower part of a wall foundation. 0.25m thick.	□ ′;	
1009	Wall	Loose mid yellow brown silty sand frequent small stones 0.25m thick. Fill of construction cut (1007). Erosion of deposit.		
1010	Pit	Sub-circular sides: vertical dimensions: min breadth 2.m, min depth 0.90 min length 2.8m Pit in N end of Trench 1. Cut by pit (1027).	п, 🗆	
1011	Fill	Friable dark red brown occasional small-medium CBM, frequent flecks charcoafrequent small stones, occasional medium stones 0.9m thick. Occasional animal bones; occasional red-clay patches. Rubbish pit?	.1,	✓
1012	Robber trench	Linear NNW-SSE sides: steep dimensions: max breadth 1.3m, max depth 0.5m Cut that follows line of wall (1008) in E section. Robber cut for part of the wall.	<u> </u>	
1013	Fill	Loose mid brown frequent small-medium stones 0.5 m thick. Mortar fragments. Backfill of rubber cut [1012].		
1014	Pit	Not fully excavated. The shape and dimensions unclear. Pit, truncated largely by pit [1016].		
1015	Fill	Friable dark red brown sandy silt occasional small-medium CBM, moderate sm stones Fill of pit [1014]. Not excavated.	all 🔲	
1016	Pit	Sub-circular dimensions: max breadth 2.3m, max length 2.4m		
1017	Fill	Friable dark grey brown sandy silt moderate small-medium CBM, frequent flect charcoal, frequent small stones Occasional oyster shells, slate and animal bones		
1018	Demolition layer	Dark red brown sandy silt frequent medium stones CBM and mortar. Layer seems to be a mixture of (1030) and (1031).		



Max Dimensions: Length: 20.00 m. Width: 4.00 m. Depth to Archaeology Min: 0.4 m. Max: 0.4 m.

Co-ordinates: OS Grid Ref.: SK (Easting: 58443: Northing: 4373)

OS Grid Ref.: SK (Easting: 58434: Northing: 4355)

Reason: To evaluate area near Peacock Lane/Southgate street frontage.

Context:	Type:	Description:	Excavated:	Finds Present:
1019	Pit	Sub-circular dimensions: max breadth 1.8m, max length 2.m Not excavated. Pit.		
1020	Fill	Friable dark grey brown sandy silt moderate small-medium CBM, frequent fleck charcoal, frequent small stones Occasional slate, oyster shell and animal bone.	cs \square	
1021	Pit	Sub-circular dimensions: max breadth 1.3m, max length 2.m Not excavated.		
1022	Fill	Friable dark grey brown sandy silt moderate small-medium CBM, frequent fleck charcoal, frequent small stones Occasional slate, oyster shell and animal bone.	xs \square	
1023	Pit	Sub-circular sides: steep base: concave dimensions: max breadth 1.2m, max diameter 1.5m, max length 2.35m		
1024	Fill	Friable dark grey brown sandy silt moderate small-medium CBM, frequent fleck charcoal, frequent small stones Occasional slate, oyster shell and animal bone. Fairly homogenous. 1.5 m thick.	cs \square	
1025	Wall	Linear, SSE-NNW; roughly hewn granite blocks and slate, bonded with a friable -compact, light grey-yellow lime mortar with flecks of CBM + charcoal. Robbed out in W. Plaster on S. side. Upper part of (1008). 0.5 m high.		
1026	Dump material	Friable mid yellow brown sandy silt occasional flecks charcoal, moderate small stones 0.6 m thick. Incresingly mixed with mortar towards base. Deposit of N of wall (1025). Fill of robber cut?	, 🔲	
1027	Pit	Sub-circular sides: near vertical dimensions: max breadth 1.6m, max depth 1.m, max length 1.7m Pit. Seems to cut other pits in this area.		
1028	Fill	Loose dark brown sandy silt Min.0.2 m thick. Yellow mortar with frequent large fragments of green limestone.		
1029	Fill	Friable red clay frequent small stones 0.8 m thick Main fill of pit.		
1030	Demolition layer	Orange sand Max. 0.6 m thick. Brick + plaster fragments with wattle/straw indentations in a orange sand matrix. Spread horizontally over (1025).	dy	
1031	Dump material	Friable dark brown sandy silt frequent small stones 0.4m (-1.4m?) thick. Moderate CBM + mortar fragments.		✓
1032	Wall	dimensions: max breadth 0.3m, max depth 0.6m, min length 5.4m Construction cut for wall (1033).		
1033	Wall	Linear, SW-NE, extends through whole width of trench. Machined out in centre. Brick wall - two bricks wide. Part of 19th century demolished structure. 0.6 m high.		
1034	Well	dimensions: max breadth 1.8m, min depth 1.7m Construction cut for well (1035).		
1035	Well	Brick, lower part "dry stone" technique; upper part yellow lime mortar. In E. baul >1.7m high. Well, 19th cent.	k. 🗆	
1036	Fill	Loose black sandy silt Inclusions of coal fragments. Min. 1.7m thick		



Max Dimensions: Length: 20.00 m. Width: 4.00 m. Depth to Archaeology Min: 0.4 m. Max: 0.4 m.

Co-ordinates: OS Grid Ref.: SK (Easting: 58443: Northing: 4373)

OS Grid Ref.: SK (Easting: 58434: Northing: 4355)

Reason: To evaluate area near Peacock Lane/Southgate street frontage.

Context:	Type:	Description:	Excavated: Finds Pre	sent:
1037	Fill	Loose dark brown silty sand frequent small-medium stones Fragments of CBM, coal and charcoal fragments. 0.6m thick.		
1038	Wall	Brick, NE-SW, in W baulk only. Wall at right angles to (1025), possibly par of the same structure. max. length: 1.2 m, max. width: 0.25 m.	rt 🗌	
1039	Pit	Linear NW-SE dimensions: max breadth 0.6m, max length 1.5m Unexcavated, not well defined. Poss. A robber cut parallel to robber cut for wall (1008)/(1025)?		
1040	Fill	Friable mid grey brown sandy silt occasional flecks charcoal Large fragments o limestone, granite cobbles.	f \square	
1041	Dump material	Loose mid green yellow sand 0.4m thick. Layer exposed in sondage in S end of trench.		
1042	Dump material	Friable mid brown orange sandy silt 0.10-0.15m thick. In sondage in S part of trench.		
1043	Dump material	Mid grey brown sandy silt frequent flecks charcoal Patches of moderate flecks of red clay and CBM. 0.25m thick.		
1044	Demolition layer	Light white brown mortar with frequent charcoal flecks. 0.2m? thick.		
1045	Dump material	Mid grey brown sandy silt frequent flecks charcoal Patches of moderate flecks of red clay and CBM. 0.25m thick.		
1046	Dump material	Light brown grey sand Red clay, alluvial material. Above natural red clay 0.2-0.3m thick.	у. П	
1047	Pit	Irregular dimensions: min breadth 2.m, max depth 1.5m, min length 2.75m Poss. pit visible in base of sondage in S end of trench.		
1048	Fill	Dark red brown White mortar. Fill observed in base of sondage from trench edge. Fill in edges of poss. Pit [1047]. Dragged down from layers (1043) - (1045) whe pit was cut.	n .	
1049	Fill	Mid orange brown sandy silt Observed in base of sondage from trench edge. Main fill of poss. pit [1047].		
1050	Natural	Firm mid red clay Natural geological deposit.		



Max Dimensions: Length: 10.00 m. Width: 4.00 m. Depth to Archaeology Min: 0.25 m. Max: 2.5 m.

Co-ordinates: OS Grid Ref.: SK (Easting: 58435: Northing: 4345)

OS Grid Ref.: SK (Easting: 58424: Northing: 4345)

Reason: To evaluate area.

Context:	Type:	Description:	Excavated: Finds	Present:
2000	Tarmac	Tarmac 0.1m thick.		
2001	Make up layer	Mid brown silty sand Mixed rubble. CBM 0.15m thick.		
2002	Dump material	Friable dark brown grey sandy silt frequent flecks charcoal, moderate medium-large stones Post med./modern build up layer. 0.5m thick.		
2003	Dump material	Friable dark grey brown sandy silt occasional small-medium CBM, occasional flecks charcoal, moderate small-medium stones Post-med. Bulid up layer. 0.9m thick.		
2004	Dump material	Friable mid brown grey sandy silt moderate flecks charcoal, moderate small stones 0.7m thick.		
2005	Dump material	Friable mid grey yellow sandy silt occasional small-medium stones $$ 0.1m thick.		
2006	Dump material	Firm mid orange silty clay occasional small-medium stones 0.25m thick.		✓
2007	Dump material	Friable mid grey brown sandy silt occasional small-medium stones $0.12n$ thick.	n \square	
2008	Dump material	Friable mid grey yellow sandy silt occasional small-medium stones $0.2m$ thick.		
2009	Dump material	Friable mid grey brown sandy silt occasional small-medium stones $0.15n$ thick.	n 🗆	V
2010	Pit	Sub-circular sides: concave dimensions: min breadth 0.95m, min depth 0.55m, min length 1.5m		
2011	Fill	Friable mid grey brown sandy silt frequent flecks charcoal, moderate small-medium stones 0.17m thick. Lower fill of pit. (poss. backfill).		
2012	Fill	Friable dark grey brown sandy silt moderate flecks charcoal, moderate small-medium stones 0.39m thick. Upper fill of pit (poss. backfill).		~
2013	Pit	Sub-circular sides: steep dimensions: min breadth 1.85m, min depth 0.85	m \square	
2014	Fill	Friable dark brown grey sandy silt $$ moderate flecks charcoal, moderate small-medium stones $$ 0.85m thick.		V
2015	Wall	Linear NE-SW sides: near vertical base: flat dimensions: max depth 2.161 Cut for 19th cent. basement +wall.	n 🗆	
2017	Fill	Loose mid grey brown sandy silt frequent small-medium stones CBM. 2.16m high. Backfill around basement walls.		
2018	Fill	Loose brown grey silty sand 2.16m thick. Brick rubble. Backfill/demolition debris within basement.		
2016	Wall	2.16m high. Modern brick, lime mortar. Basement walls of 19th cent. building.		



Max Dimensions: Length: 20.00 m. Width: 4.00 m. Depth to Archaeology Min: 0.85 m. Max: 3.4 m.

Co-ordinates: OS Grid Ref.: SK (Easting: 58426: Northing: 4293)

OS Grid Ref.: SK (Easting: 58430: Northing: 4274)

Context:	Type:	Description:	Excavated: Finds Pr	esent:
3000	Tarmac	Tarmac 0.1m thick.		
3001	Make up layer	Several layers of gravel + concrete. All horizontal interfaces. Car park, make-up + construction layers. 0.35m thick.		
3002	Demolition layer	Several layers related to post-med./modern demolition, mostly comprising friable dark brown grey sandy silt, interspersed with mortar, gravelly san and CBM. 0.25m thick.	9.	
3003	Dump material	Mostly friable dark grey or slightly reddish brown sandy silt, moderate flecks of charcoal, occasional small-large stones and CBM. Post-med. Soil build up+some importation layer. Medieval "dark earth" /post-med.?. Cut by 19th cent. Cellars. 1.4m thick.		V
3004	Dump material	Max. length 1.5 m, max. width 1 m. Loose, mid brownish red gravelly sand with patches of mid grey brown sandy silt, occas. flecks of charcoal.		
3005	Dump material	Firm, mid grey brown with reddish brown patches sandy silt, occasional small-medium stones. Max. length 2 m, max. width 2.6 m.		
3006	Dump material	Friable, dark grey brown sandy silt, moderate flecks of charcoal, occas. small-medium stones, occas. small CBM. Max. length 1.3-2 m, max. width 2 m.		V
3007	Dump material	Firm, mixed dark grey brown sandy silt with mid brownish red silty clay, moderate flecks of charcoal, occas. small stones. Max. length 1.1 m, width 0.1-0.7 m.		
3008	Dump material	Friable, mixed mid grey brown sandy silt with light yellow silty sand, moderate smalll stones, occas. flecks of charcoal. Max. length 3.1 m, max. width 1.65 m.		
3009	Wall	Irregular lumps of light yellow limestones/sandstones with some light yellow lime mortal. Max. length 1 m., max. width 0.6 m. Poss. Structure- wall.		
3010	Dump material	Mid yellow crumbly silty sand with moderate pebbles, occas. slate fragments, occ. CBM and charcoal flecks + chalk flecks. Max. length 2.5 m., max. width 2 m. Not excavated. Poss. Dump/demolition layer.		\
3011	Dump material	Friable, mid dark reddish brown, sandy silt with moderate-frequent small slate fragm., pebbles, charcoal flecks, occ. small brick fragm., charcoal lenses. Max. length 2 m., max. width 2 m. Mixed dump layer (medieval?), not excavated.		V
3012	Dump material	Yellow crumbly silty sand with moderate chalk flecks, occ. small pebbles. Length 0.1-0.7 m., max. width 2 m. Dump layer, not excavated.		
3013	Pit	Sub-circular Lining (3014) suggest a barrel or similar? Max. length 1.35 m., max. width 1.35 m.		



Max Dimensions: Length: 20.00 m. Width: 4.00 m. Depth to Archaeology Min: 0.85 m. Max: 3.4 m.

Co-ordinates: OS Grid Ref.: SK (Easting: 58426: Northing: 4293)

OS Grid Ref.: SK (Easting: 58430: Northing: 4274)

Context:	Type:	Description:	Excavated: Finds Preser	nt:
3014	Fill	Reddish brown with green striations soft humic sandy silt, occ. Small pebbles + large charcoal flecks. Along edge of cut [3013]. A lining?		
3015	Fill	Mid red brown sandy silt Moderate yellow sandstone, pebbles, slate and charcoal flecks. Max. length 1 m., max. width 1 m.		
3016	Dump material	Friable mid yellow brown sandy silt moderate flecks charcoal, moderate small stones Frequent yellow lime mortar + stone fragments, occ. oyster shell. Max. length 4.5 m., max. width 2 m. Medieval dump.		
3017	Make up layer	Compact dark brown sandy silt frequent flecks CBM, frequent flecks charcoal Frequent flecks of lime mortar. Across whole trench. 19th cent. Make up layer. 0.15-0.2m thick.		
3018	Feature	dimensions: max breadth 5.5m, max depth 3.4m, max length 4.m S part of trench. Truncates all of the archaeology to a depth of 3.4 m. Continues beyond limit of excavation. Construction cut for hydraulic lift related to bus depot, subsequent partial demolition.		
3019	Mechanism	Dark brown sandy silt Frequent concrete and brick fragments. Steel upright pip embedded in concrete, leaking oil (hydraulic lift). Max. length 4 m., max. width 5.5 m., max. depth 3.4 m. Remains, partially demolished, of earlier phase of bus depot.	е	
3020	Dump material	Light green brown silty sand Layer in base of sondage.		
3021	Dump material	Mid orange brown sandy silt moderate small stones Moderate mortar + oyster shell. Layer in base of sondage. Truncated by pit [3022].		
3022	Pit	Sub-circular dimensions: max breadth 1.2m, max length 2.m Poss. pit. Unexcavated.		
3023	Fill	Blackish (charcoaly) soil/ fill in base of sondage. Primary fill around pit edges of (3022). Burning in situ? or original charcoal fill		
3024	Fill	Dark red brown sandy silt moderate flecks charcoal, moderate small stones Mortar, shell. Main fill of poss. pit [3024] on base of the sondage.		



Max Dimensions: Length: 5.00 m. Width: 4.00 m. Depth to Archaeology Min: 0.58 m. Max: 0.58 m.

Co-ordinates: OS Grid Ref.: SK (Easting: 58441: Northing: 4264)

OS Grid Ref.: SK (Easting: 58436: Northing: 4260)

Reason: To evaluate open area at the back of 19th century buildings. Trench was not excavated to full

length or depth due to discovery of asbestos.

Context:	Type:	Description:	Excavated: Finds Present:
4000	Tarmac	0.10m thick.	
4001	Make up layer	Compact dark brown clay gravel 0.14m thick.	
4002	Dump material	Friable dark brown black sandy silt occasional small-large CBM, occasional flecks charcoal, moderate small-medium stones Occasional slate fragments. Not fully excavated. > 0.30m thick.	
4003	Demolition layer	Loose brick rubble with frequent large concrete fragments and plastic sandbags. 0.5m thick.	
4004	Concrete	Concrete slab throughout base of Trench 4 at a depth of c. 0.5m below ground level. Edge in western part of trench. 0.6m thick.	
4005	Wall	Brick wall along edge of concrete slab (4004), N-S alignment, two courses high, type of coursing not visible. Extends beyond limit of excavation at both ends. 0.25m wide, c. 0.2m high.	
4006	Feature	Single line of modern bricks, outlining a rectangular and raised area on concrete slab. $1.20 \mathrm{m} \times 1.0 \mathrm{m}$ wide.	
4007	Manhole	Circular structure made of modern brick, no mortar. Steel step and service pipe seen inside circumference of feature. 1.2m in diameter, > 0.8m deep, not fully excavated. Manhole.	ee
4008	Fill	Loose brick rubble and yellow brown sandy silt. Infill of disused manhole (4007).	
4009	Make up layer	Mixed brick rubble, dark brown black clayey gravel and tarmac fragment 0.2m thick.	s.
4010	External surface	Concrete/tarmac. Old external surface. 0.14m thick.	



Max Dimensions: Length: 20.00 m. Width: 4.00 m. Depth to Archaeology Min: 0.45 m. Max: 3. m.

Co-ordinates: OS Grid Ref.: SK (Easting: 58438: Northing: 4250)

OS Grid Ref.: SK (Easting: 58448: Northing: 4232)

Context:	Type:	Description:	Excavated: Finds	Present:
5000	Tarmac	0.1m thick.		
5001	Dump material	Dark brown sandy silt occasional small CBM, frequent flecks charcoal, moderate small stones Slate. In section only. Post med./modern build up, across whole of site. Up to 0.8 m thick.		
5002	Dump material	Dark brown sandy silt moderate flecks CBM, moderate flecks charcoal, moderate small stones In section only. Length 11 m., width 2 m.		
5003	Dump material	Mid red brown sandy silt moderate flecks charcoal, frequent small stones Slate, sandstone. Below (5004). Length 1.5 m, width 2.6 m. Part of a series of post-med dumps. In open area behind buildings.		V
5004	Dump material	Mid yellow white Lime mortar/ sandstone deposit. Fragments of small slate. Below (5005). Max. length 1.4 m., max. width 0.5 m. Post-med. Dump layer.		
5005	Dump material	Friable mid red brown sandy silt frequent flecks charcoal, occasional small-medium stones Slate, CBM. Max. length 2.1 m., max. width 0.9 m. Post-med dump layer.		V
5006	Dump material	Band of mixed mid red brown mottled sandy silt with moderate/frequent charcoal flecks, occas. CBM and pebbles. Max. length 4.8 m., max. width 0.45 m. Post-med. dump layer.		
5007	Dump material	Friable mid red silty sand frequent flecks charcoal Large lenses of dark brown charcoaly soil. Max. length 2.4 m., width 0.7-1.6 m. Post-med. Dump layer.		
5008	Dump material	Friable dark red brown sandy silt frequent flecks charcoal, moderate smal medium stones Slate, occas. CBM. Length 3-3.6 m., width 1.8 m. Post-med dump layer.	II- 🗌	V
5009	Pit	Sub-circular Length 1.25 m. width 1.5 m. Not excavated, demolition cut.		
5010	Fill	Loose dark brown sandy silt frequent flecks charcoal, frequent small-medium stones Frequent bricks, mortar. Length 1.25 m., width 1.5 m. Demolition rubble.		
5011	Wall	Modern brick. Outhouse at back of 19th cent. Buildings. Max. length 1.8 m., max. width 0.5 m., max. depth 4 m. Small 19th cent. Structure. Standing to 0.35 m. below ground level in section.		
5012	Dump material	Stonny layer on 1st step in E part of trench, truncated in W by modern disturbance. Length 1.6 m., width 0.7 m.		V
5013	Dump material	Brown layer on 1st step. Length 4 m., width 0.3-0.65 m.		



Max Dimensions: Length: 20.00 m. Width: 4.00 m. Depth to Archaeology Min: 0.45 m. Max: 3. m.

Co-ordinates: OS Grid Ref.: SK (Easting: 58438: Northing: 4250)

OS Grid Ref.: SK (Easting: 58448: Northing: 4232)

Context:	Type:	Description:	Excavated: Finds P	resent:
5014	Dump material	Mixed brown layer with CBM + mortar fragments, on st step. Length 2.2 m., width 0.5 m.		
5015	Dump material	Red clayey layer on 1st step. Length 0.9 m., width 0.9 m.		
5016	Dump material	Reddish brown layer on 1st step. Length 2.6 m., width 0.9 m.		
5017	Pit	Sub-circular On 1st step, truncated in W by modern disturbance or linea N/S wall. Length 0.8 m., width 0.5 m. Poss. Pit -post-med/modern?	r 🗆	
5018	Fill	Dark green grey		
5019	Dump material	Mixed brown deposit. Length 1 m., width 1 m.		
5020	Dump material	Brown layer with frequent CBM. Length 1.5 m., width 2.1 m.		
5021	Wall	2 slate slabs forming basis for a brick structure. Length 1.7 m., width 0.6 m. 19th cent. Structure.		
5022	Pit	sides: near vertical Shape in plan unclear. Not fully excavated. Interface not clear. Length 2.5 m., depth min. 0.7 m.		
5023	Fill	Dark red brown sandy silt occasional flecks charcoal, moderate small-medium stones In section only. Length 1.38 m., depth 0.26 m.		
5024	Fill	Loose mid red brown silty sand frequent small stones Frequent lime mortar inclusions. Length 1.05-0.4 m., depth min. 0.44 m. Only in section.		
5025	Fill	Friable mid red brown sandy silt moderate flecks charcoal, occasional small stones Moderate flecks of red clay, occas. lime mortar, horizontal slate fragments. Length 2.48 m., depth 0.36-0.42 m.		
5027	Fill	Friable dark brown sandy silt frequent flecks charcoal, moderate small stones Length 1.30 m., width 0.45 m.		
5028	Fill	Friable mid red sandy clay moderate small stones Length 2.24 m., width 0.7 m.		
5026	Dump material	Friable mid red brown sandy silt occasional flecks CBM, moderate flecks charcoal, frequent small stones Yellow lime mortar flecks, reddish mixed clay. Width 1.7 m., depth 0.7- 0.9 m.		V
5029	Dump material	Compact mid brown sandy silt occasional flecks charcoal, moderate smal stones Length 2.99 m., width 0.44-0.9 m.	ı 🗆	
5030	Dump material	Friable mid red brown sandy silt moderate flecks charcoal, moderate small stones, occasional medium-large stones Moderate fragments of limestone. Length 0.47 m., width 0.98 m.		✓



Max Dimensions: Length: 20.00 m. Width: 4.00 m. Depth to Archaeology Min: 0.45 m. Max: 3. m.

Co-ordinates: OS Grid Ref.: SK (Easting: 58438: Northing: 4250)

OS Grid Ref.: SK (Easting: 58448: Northing: 4232)

Context:	Type:	Description:	Excavated: Finds Presen	ıt:
5031	Dump material	Compact mid yellow brown silty sand moderate flecks charcoal, moderat small stones Lime mortar/stone fragments. Length 0.82 m., width 0.70 m.	e	
5032	Pit	Sub-circular Cuts (5030). Length 0.74 m., width 0.74 m. Not excavated poss. pit.		
5033	Fill	Friable dark brown sandy silt occasional small CBM, moderate flecks charcoal, occasional small stones Length 0.74 m., width 0.74 m. Rubbish fill?		✓
5034	Dump material	Red Compact reddish clay + brown sandy silt with occas, small stones at charcoal flecks. Burning remains. Length 1 m., width 0.8 m.	nd 🗌 [
5035	Pit	Linear Along E side of trench. Length 3.9 m., width 0.4-0.5 m. Modern/ post-med. disturbance.		
5036	Fill	Loose dark brown sandy silt moderate small-large stones		
5037	Wall	Linear E-W sides: vertical dimensions: min breadth 4.m, min depth 2.4m "Bulges out" near base (disturbed or widened). In section only. Foundation cut for 19th cent. Cellar.		
5038	Fill	Loose dark brown sandy silt frequent small-medium CBM, occasional small-medium stones		
5039	Wall	Brick (modern 19th cent) + yellowish white lime mortar, rectangular, not completely excavated. Length 1 m., width 1 m. Brick foundation / base for 19th cent. Building component. Foundation for [5011].		
5040	Dump material	Mid red brown sandy silt moderate flecks charcoal, moderate small stone 0.1- 0.36m thick; length 4 m.	s [
5041	Wall	Brick 19th cent. With yellowish white lime mortar, linear, NNW-SSE. Min. Length 1 m., width 0.25 m.,min. depth 1.6 m. Wall -part of 19th cent. Buildings.		
5042	Pit	Irregular sides: steep E edge within trench but continues beyond W limit of excavation. Cut for demolition rubble.	t 🗌 [
5043	Fill	Loose, concrete rubble with steel rods, brick, wood and stone. Modern demolition rubble.		
5044	Fill	Horizontal bands of sand and compact gravel. Car park make up/ construction layer. 0.35 m thick.		
5045	Modern disturbance	Rectangular N-S sides: vertical dimensions: min breadth 3.4m, min dept 1.2m, min length 12.4m Cut for possible cellar but no wall present.	h	
5046	Backfill	Loose dark grey brown sandy silt frequent medium-large CBM Demolition rubble.		



Max Dimensions: Length: 20.00 m. Width: 4.00 m. Depth to Archaeology Min: 0.45 m. Max: 2.5 m.

Co-ordinates: OS Grid Ref.: SK (Easting: 58455: Northing: 4345)

OS Grid Ref.: SK (Easting: 58475: Northing: 4348)

Reason: to evaluate area in west of site.

Context:	Type:	Description:	Excavated: Finds Pres	ent:
6000	External surface	Crushed building rubble . Type 1 hardcore. Car park surface.		
6001	Make up layer	Mixed horizontal layer of gravel, sand and brick rubble. Make up layer.		
6002	Wall	Construction cut for bus depot walls.		
6003	Wall	Modern brick, linear, E-W, S-face whitewashed. In N baulk not fully exposed, header-strecher bond but irregular. Bus depot wall in between steel supports.		
6004	Wall	Modern brick, linear, N-S, in E baulk, not fully exposed, W half broken by machine. Bus depot wall.		
6005	Wall	Cut for ispection pit of bus depot or 19th cent. Wall.		
6006	Wall	Modern brick, linear, E-W, one brick wide (0.11 m.). Pararell to wall (6007), 0.8 m. N of structure (6007). One side of bus inspection pit.	35	
6007	Wall	Modern brick, linear, E-W, two bricks wide (0.25 m.), pinkish yellow fine morta English bond. S side of bus inspection pit.	r. 🗆	
6030	Wall	Loose dark brown silty sand Gritty with frequent bricks, broken drainage pipe fragments and moderate glass, pottery and slate. 1.2 - 1.75m thick.		
6008	Stone setting	Rectangular in plan. Not excavated. Length 0.95 m., width 0.65 m. Cut for brick pad.		
6009	Stone setting	Modern brick, rectangular. Compact pinkish yellow fine mortar. Brick pad in base of inspection pit. Length 0.93 m., width 0.63 m.		
6010	Fill	Width 0.08 m. Backfill of brick pad construction pad.		
6011	Stone setting	Irregular, rectangular. Not excavated. Length 1.30 m., width 0.99 m. Construction cut for brick pad (6012).		
6012	Stone setting	Modern brick, rectangular. Compact pinkish yellow fine mortar. Length 0.73 m., width 0.63 m. Brick pad in base of inspection pit.		
6013	Fill	Gravel in yellowish sand. Length 0.50 m., width 0.23 m. Backfill of [6011].		
6014	Stone setting	Rectangular, not excavated. Length 0.75 m., width 0.75 m. Construction cut for brick pad.		
6015	Stone setting	Modern brick, rectangular. Length 0.75 m., width 0.70 m. Brick pad in base of inspection pit of bus depot.		
6016	Fill	Backfill of construction cut [6014].		



Max Dimensions: Length: 20.00 m. Width: 4.00 m. Depth to Archaeology Min: 0.45 m. Max: 2.5 m.

Co-ordinates: OS Grid Ref.: SK (Easting: 58455: Northing: 4345)

OS Grid Ref.: SK (Easting: 58475: Northing: 4348)

Reason: to evaluate area in west of site.

Context:	Type:	Description:	Excavated: Finds Preser	nt:
6017	Stone setting	dimensions: max breadth 0.35m, max depth 2.4m, min length 4.m Construction cut for W wall, part of bus depot.		
6018	Stone setting	Brick, linear NS, two bricks wide, built against deposit (6025) in E. Cellar face i W. Length min. 4 m., width 0.25 m., depth 2.4 m. Brick wall.	n	
6019	Fill	Rubble + soil from surrounding contexts. Backfill of construction cut.		
6034	Wall	Brick, N-S, 3 m. W of wall (3018), two bricks wide (0.25 m.). Part of 19th cent. cellar or early phase of bus stop?		
6035	Fill	Loose dark brown silty sand Frequent brick fragments, moderate slate, stone, charcoal and wood fragments. Demolition rubble in between walls (6018) and (6034).		
6020	Pit	Friable dark brown sandy silt occasional small CBM, moderate flecks charcoal, moderate small stones Length 20 m., width 4 m., depth 0.8-1 m. Includes slate fragments. In section only. Build up of soil.		
6021	Dump material	Friable light green grey sand Small limestones. In N baulk only. Band of charcoal at upper interface. Width 2.5 m., depth 0.1 -0.16 m.		
6022	Pit	Sub-rectangular sides: vertical In N section only in base of trench. Poss. construction cut.		
6023	Fill	Loose light brown silty sand moderate small CBM Includes slate fragments. Building or demolition rubble.		
6024	Dump material	Friable dark red brown sandy silt occasional small CBM, moderate flecks charcoal, moderate small stones E end of trench.	s	
6025	Dump material	Friable mid red brown sandy silt occasional small CBM, occasional fleck charcoal, moderate small stones Includes slate fragments. 0.90m thick.	s	
6026	Dump material	Loose mid brown red sandy clay moderate small stones Soil dump of redeposited + mixture natural clay. Function unclear.		
6027	Dump material	Friable dark yellow brown silty sand occasional small CBM, occasional flecks charcoal, moderate small stones Moderate oyster shell, occasional animal bone.		V
6028	Dump material	Friable mid yellow brown silty sand occasional small CBM, moderate small stones		
6029	Dump material	Friable mid yellow brown silty sand occasional small CBM, occasional flecks charcoal, moderate small stones Moderate oyster shell, occasional animal bone. In W part of trech. Probably same as (6027).		V
6031	Dump material	Friable mid yellow brown sandy silt Includes gravel. Deposit in E part o trench.	f [
6032	Pit	Sub-circular In W part of trench.		
6033	Fill	Friable dark yellow brown sandy silt moderate small stones Derived from surrounding deposit.		



Max Dimensions: Length: 20.00 m. Width: 4.00 m. Depth to Archaeology Min: 0.45 m. Max: 2.5 m.

Co-ordinates: OS Grid Ref.: SK (Easting: 58455: Northing: 4345)

OS Grid Ref.: SK (Easting: 58475: Northing: 4348)

Reason: to evaluate area in west of site.

Context:	Type:	Description:	Excavated: Finds Present:	
6036	Pit	sides: near vertical dimensions: max breadth 1.3m, min depth 1.1m Only recorded in section, not bottomed.	,	
6037	Fill	Friable mid red brown sandy silt occasional small CBM, occasional flecks charcoal, moderate small stones 1.1m thick. Includes slate fragments.		
6038	Dump material	Friable dark brown sandy silt frequent flecks charcoal, moderate small stones Includes moderate grit. Length 6.5 m., depth 0.05 m.		
6039	Dump material	Friable mid red brown sandy silt occasional small CBM, occasional flectorarcoal, moderate small stones Includes slate fragments.	ks	
6040	Dump material	Mixed bands of orange gravel, reddish sand and orange brown sandy silt. Min. 0.2 -0.6m thick. Associated with construction of walls (6006) and (6007).		
6041	Dump material	Friable mid red brown sandy silt occasional small CBM, occasional flectorarcoal, moderate small stones Includes slate fragments. 0.15-0.2m thick. Build up of external garden soil.	ks	



Max Dimensions: Length: 20.00 m. Width: 4.00 m. Depth to Archaeology Min: 0.5 m. Max: 0.5 m.

Co-ordinates: OS Grid Ref.: SK (Easting: 58460: Northing: 4337)

OS Grid Ref.: SK (Easting: 58464: Northing: 4317)

Reason: To evalate open area with no potential 19th century intrusions.

Context:	Type:	Description:	Excavated: 1	Finds Present:
7000	External surface	Type 1 gravel + fine gravel on top, "terram" at base. In section only. 0.3m thick. Car park surface.		
7001	Make up layer	Compact sandy gravel frequent small-medium CBM 0.4m thick. Make up layer for concrete slab.		
7002	Dump material	Friable dark brown sandy silt moderate small CBM, moderate flecks charcoal, moderate small stones 0.7m thick.		
7003	Dump material	Friable dark red brown sandy silt occasional small CBM, moderate flecks charcoal, moderate small stones Includes slate fragments.	s	
7004	Dump material	Friable dark red brown sandy silt occasional small CBM, moderate flecks charcoal, moderate small stones Includes occasional shell. Cut by [7006]. Very similar to (7003). S of wall [7006]. 0.25 m thick.		V
7005	Dump material	Friable dark red brown sandy silt occasional small CBM, moderate flecks charcoal, moderate small stones Includes occasional shell. N of wall [7006]. Probably same as (7004).		V
7006	Wall	Linear E-W sides: steep base: flat dimensions: max breadth 1.m, max dept 0.25m, max length 4.m Continues beyond limit of excavation in E and W.	th	
7007	Wall	Loose mid yellow silty sand occasional small CBM Includes small + medium sized limestone cobbles. Mainly in E part of cut. 0.2 - 0.25m thick. Stone foundation.		\(\)
7008	Backfill	Mid red brown sandy silt moderate small CBM, moderate flecks charcoal, frequent small stones Includes occasional medium sized limestone cobbles. Mainly in W part of cut. Above (7007). 0.2 - 0.25m thick. Backfill of disturbed wall foundation.		V
7009	Dump material	Friable mid red brown sandy silt occasional small CBM, moderate flecks charcoal, moderate small stones Includes occasional shell. 0.6 - 0.7m thick.		V
7010	Dump material	Loose mid red sandy clay occasional flecks charcoal, moderate small stones Includes occasional animal bone.		V
7011	Ditch	Linear E-W dimensions: max breadth 2.5m, max length 2.m Continues beyond limit of excavation in E and W. Same boundary as wall [7006].		
7012	Fill	Friable mid red brown sandy silt occasional small CBM, moderate flecks charcoal, occasional small mortar, frequent small stones Includes moderate animal bone and pottery.		V
7013	Dump material	Friable mid orange brown sandy silt moderate flecks charcoal, occasional small mortar, moderate small stones Includes occasional shell. Deposit to N of [7011]. Cut by [7011].		
7014	Treethrow	Sub-circular sides: steep base: concave dimensions: max breadth 0.2m, max depth 0.12m, max length 0.25m Poss. disturbance/ treethrow?		
7015	Fill	Friable mid red brown sandy silt occasional small CBM, moderate flecks charcoal, moderate small stones Includes occasional shell. Fill of poss. disturbance.		



Max Dimensions: Length: 20.00 m. Width: 4.00 m. Depth to Archaeology Min: 0.5 m. Max: 0.5 m.

Co-ordinates: OS Grid Ref.: SK (Easting: 58460: Northing: 4337)

OS Grid Ref.: SK (Easting: 58464: Northing: 4317)

Reason: To evalate open area with no potential 19th century intrusions.

Context: 7016	Type:	•	Excavated: Finds Present:	
7017	Fill	Friable mid red brown sandy silt occasional small CBM, moderate flecks charcoal, moderate small stones Fill of poss. disturbance.		
7018	Pit	dimensions: max breadth 1.m, max length 1.3m Situated in S end of trencl Continues beyond limit of excavation in S, W and E.	n.	
7019	Fill	Dark red brown sandy silt occasional small CBM, frequent flecks charcoal, moderate small stones Includes moderate animal bone.		
7020	Pit	sides: vertical Situated in S end of trench. Continues beyond limit of excavation in W and S.		
7021	Fill	Friable mid red brown sandy silt frequent flecks charcoal, moderate small stone Includes moderate animal bone.	s \square	
7022	Dump material	Friable mid brown red clay At base of layer there is a thin layer of charcoal with lenses of yellowish sandy mortar. Only visible in E facing section. 0.1- 0.15m thick. Demolition layer?		
7023	Dump material	Friable mid grey brown sandy silt moderate flecks charcoal, moderate small stones Includes moderate grit and reddish clay. 0.1-0.15m thick.		
7024	Dump material	Friable mid brown red clay With lenses of yellowish sandy mortar and charcoal. 0.1m thick. Has a distinctive bowl-shaped depression in it -posthole?		
7025	Dump material	Friable mid grey brown sandy silt occasional flecks charcoal, frequent small stones Includes frequent grit. 0.3m thick.		
7026	Natural	Red clay With a band of light grey yellow sand with moderate black stair of manganese. Natural.		



Max Dimensions: Length: 20.00 m. Width: 4.00 m. Depth to Archaeology Min: 0.3 m. Max: 0.3 m.

Co-ordinates: OS Grid Ref.: SK (Easting: 58479: Northing: 4302)

OS Grid Ref.: SK (Easting: 58459: Northing: 4297)

Reason: To evaluate area in west of site close to bus depot inspection pit.

Context:	Type:	Description:	Excavated:	Finds Present:
8000	External surface	ernal surface Type 1 hardcore car park layer. 0.32m thick.		
8001	Make up layer	Geo Textile "Terram".		
8002	External surface	Mixed deposit including various demolition/ make up layers (mostly brick rubble). The E end of trench. 0.4m thick.	.,	
8003	Dump material	Friable dark brown grey sandy silt occasional small-large CBM, occasional flecks charcoal, occasional small-large stones 1.06m thick.		V
8004	Dump material	Friable dark grey brown sandy silt occasional small-medium CBM, occasional small stones 0.9m thick.		
8005	Dump material	Compact mid yellow orange silty sand occasional flecks charcoal, occasional small stones Includes occasional, horizontally laid light yellow sandstone/limestone. 0.22m thick.	v	✓
8006	Dump material	Firm mid orange red sandy silt occasional flecks charcoal, occasional small stones 0.5m thick.		✓
8007	Dump material	Same as (8005) and (8006). Finds from spoilheap.		V
8008	Pit	Sub-oval sides: near vertical base: uneven dimensions: min breadth 0.85n max depth 0.58m, max length 0.95m	ı, 🗆	
8009	Fill	Friable dark brown grey sandy silt occasional flecks charcoal, occasional small-medium stones 0.58m thick.		~
8010	Stone setting	Rectangular sides: near vertical base: flat dimensions: max depth 1.68m Modern cut for bus depot construction.		
8011	Stone setting	Large block of concrete and brick rubble. Large pad stone for bus depot.		
8012	Backfill	Loose dark brown grey sandy silt occasional small CBM, occasional flecks charcoal, moderate small-large stones Includes lumps of concrete. Depth 1.68 m.		
8013	Pit	Sub-circular sides: near vertical dimensions: min breadth 1.1m, max dep 3.8m, min length 1.4m Not bottomed.	th	
8014	Fill	Friable dark grey brown sandy silt occasional flecks charcoal, occasional small stones 3.04m thick.		\checkmark
8015	Fill	Friable light yellow brown sandy silt occasional flecks charcoal, moderate small stones $0.13\mathrm{m}$ thick.	l	
8016	Fill	Friable dark grey brown sandy silt occasional flecks charcoal, occasional small stones $0.3\mathrm{m}$ thick.		~
8017	Fill	Friable light yellow brown sandy silt occasional flecks charcoal, moderate small stones $0.07 \mathrm{m}$ thick.	l \Box	~
8018	Fill	Friable dark grey brown sandy silt occasional flecks charcoal, occasional small stones $0.48 \mathrm{m}$ thick.		\checkmark



Max Dimensions: Length: 20.00 m. Width: 4.00 m. Depth to Archaeology Min: 0.3 m. Max: 0.3 m.

Co-ordinates: OS Grid Ref.: SK (Easting: 58479: Northing: 4302)

OS Grid Ref.: SK (Easting: 58459: Northing: 4297)

Reason: To evaluate area in west of site close to bus depot inspection pit.

Context:	Type:	Description:	Excavated: Finds Pres	sent:
8044	Fill	Mid orange brown silty sand 1.9m thick. Frequent large roughly hewn limestone and granite cobbles at base. Excavated by machine in sondage. Bottom main fill of pit [8013]. Cobbles are possibly robbed out + discared Rombuilding materials.		
8019	Pit	Sub-rectangular sides: concave base: concave dimensions: max breadth 1.75m, max depth 0.29m, max length 2.15m		
8020	Fill	Loose light brown yellow silty sand occasional small stones 0.05m thick. Weathering?.		
8021	Fill	Friable dark grey brown sandy silt occasional flecks charcoal, occasional small stones 0.29m thick.		✓
8022	Fill	Firm mid orange red silty clay occasional flecks charcoal, occasional sma stones 0.16m thick.	11 🗆	✓
8023	Fill	Compact light brown yellow silty sand occasional flecks charcoal, moderate small stones 0.1m thick.		
8024	Fill	Friable mid brown grey sandy silt occasional flecks charcoal, occasional small stones 0.06m thick.		
8025	Fill	Firm dark brown grey clay silt moderate flecks charcoal, occasional smal stones $$ Min. 0.02m thick.	ı 🗆	
8026	Robber trench	Linear NW-SE sides: near vertical base: uneven dimensions: max breadth 2.9m, max depth 0.41m, min length 4.15m Robber cut for hypothesized Roman wall.		
8027	Fill	Friable dark grey brown sandy silt occasional flecks charcoal, occasional small stones. With lenses of loose, mid brown orange silty sand. 0.41 m thick.		✓
8028	Fill	Compact mid brown orange silty sand occasional flecks charcoal, modera small stones	te	V
8029	Natural	Firm mid pinkish red clay Natural		
8030	Wall	Mixed layer comprising mid brown orange silty sand + numerous Roman tiles, some of which may form a structure. Remains of possible brick structure. 0.5m thick.		
8031	Wall	Linear NW-SE sides: near vertical dimensions: max breadth 0.65m, min depth 1.3m, max length 5.m Cut for post med./ Victorian wall footing.		
8032	Wall	Uncoursed, randomly arranged lumps of partially faced building stone (granite?), Roman tiles in mixture of natural red clay and soil (in lower part) + mid brown yellow sandy mortar in upper part. Wall footing. Min. 1.3m high.	+	
8033	Well	Circular sides: vertical dimensions: max breadth 0.9m, min depth 0.8m Brick lined. Infilled with modern rubbish.		
8034	Fill	Bricks- a mixture of various sizes, unfrogged, handmade, no mortar. Min. 0.8m thick. 18th/19th cent. bricks.		
8035	Pit	sides: 45 degrees base: uneven dimensions: max breadth 0.78m, max depth 0.26m In section only.		



Max Dimensions: Length: 20.00 m. Width: 4.00 m. Depth to Archaeology Min: 0.3 m. Max: 0.3 m.

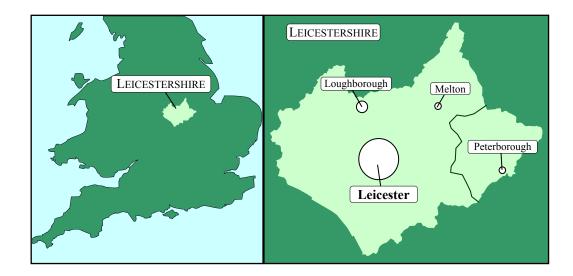
Co-ordinates: OS Grid Ref.: SK (Easting: 58479: Northing: 4302)

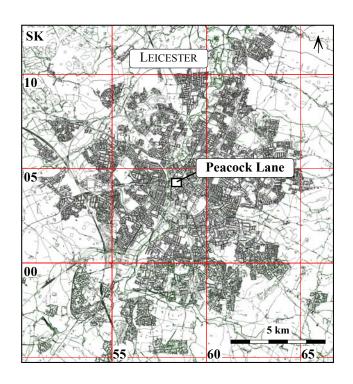
OS Grid Ref.: SK (Easting: 58459: Northing: 4297)

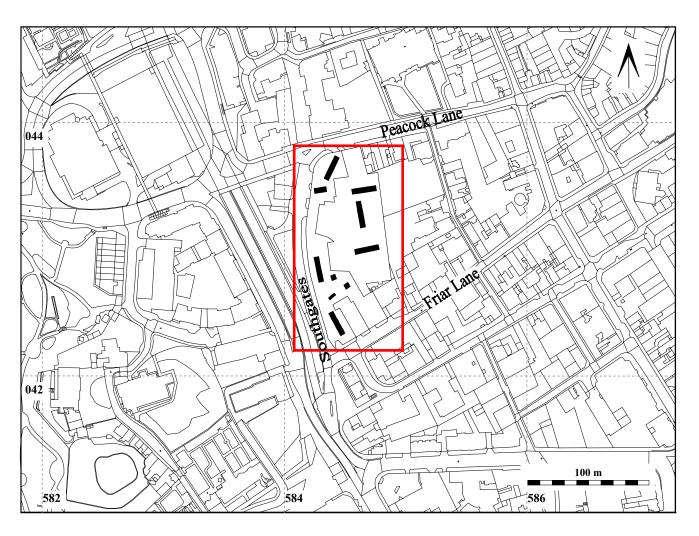
Reason: To evaluate area in west of site close to bus depot inspection pit.

Context:	Type:	Description:	Excavated: Finds F	Present:
8036	Fill	Friable dark brown grey sandy silt occasional flecks charcoal, occasional small stones 0.26m thick.		
8037	Fill	Compact, light whitish yellow mortar with frequent small round stones + occasional CBM. 0.14m thick.		
8038	External surface	Loose mid brown orange sandy gravel 0.05m thick.		~
8039	External surface	Light yellow white limestone Broken, irregular slabs-similar to deposit within (8006). 0.05m thick.	:	
8040	Dump material	Firm mid pinkish red clay occasional flecks CBM, occasional flecks charcoal, occasional small-medium stones 0.23m thick. Redeposited natural infill.		V
8041	Dump material	Compact mid brown orange silty sand occasional small-medium stones 0.23m thick. Contains several slabs of sandstone/limestone, mostly placed horizontal, although some were vertical.		✓
8042	Dump material	Firm mid red brown sandy silt occasional flecks CBM, occasional flecks charcoal, occasional small-medium stones 0.25m thick.		V
8043	Dump material	Firm mid orange brown sandy silt occasional flecks charcoal, occasional small stones $0.02m$ thick.		
8045	Robber trench	Linear sides: vertical base: flat dimensions: max breadth 2.5m, max depth 0.6m Only recorded in section.		
8046	Backfill	Friable dark red brown sandy silt moderate flecks charcoal, moderate small ston	es \square	
8047	Dump material	Friable mid red brown sandy clay moderate small stones Visible in sondage only.		









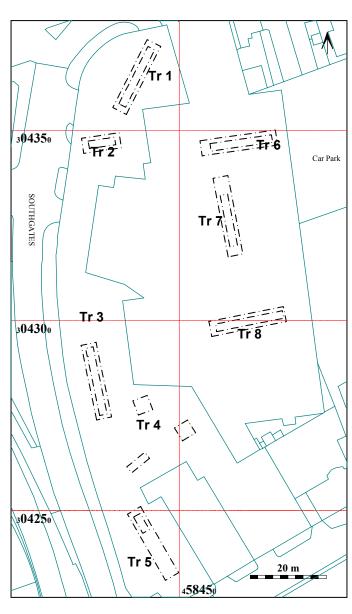
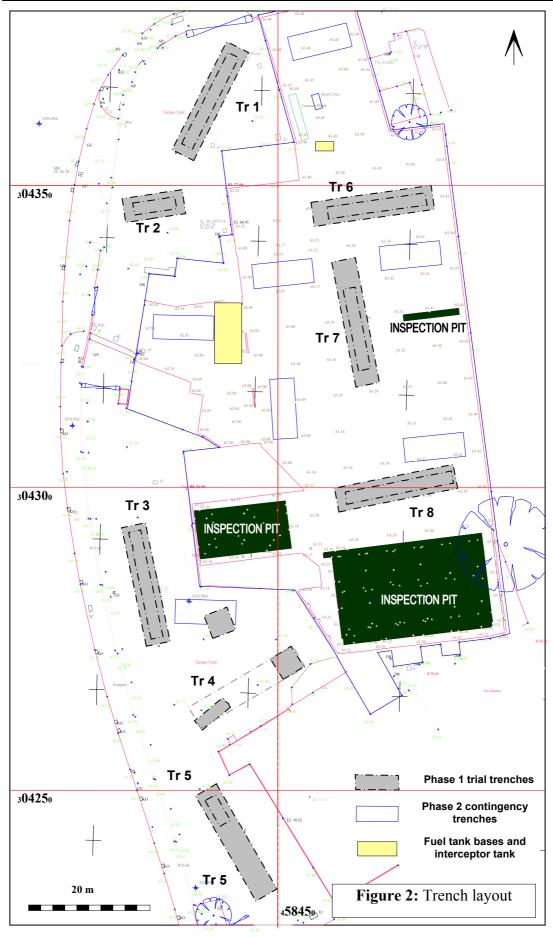


Figure 1: Site location plan This map is based upon Ordnance Survey material with the permission of Ordnance Survey on behalf of the Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office © Crown Copyright.

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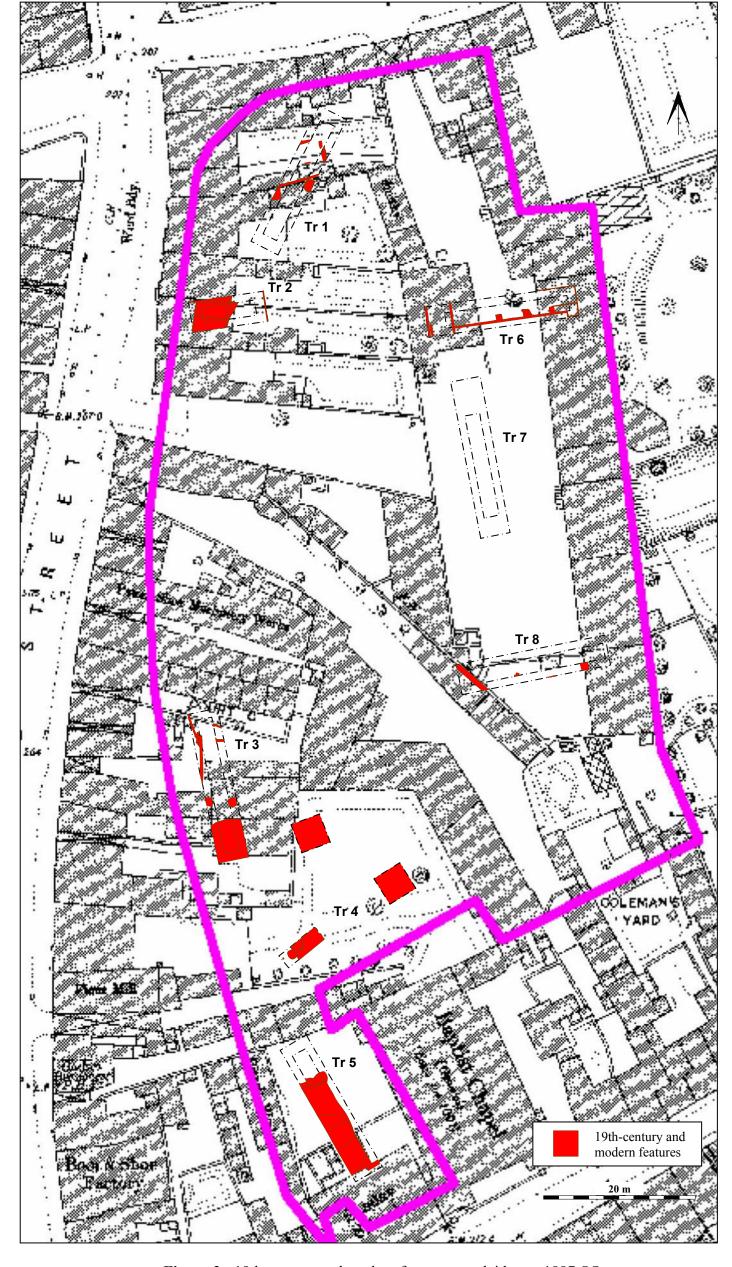


Figure 3: 19th-century and modern features overlaid onto 1887 OS map





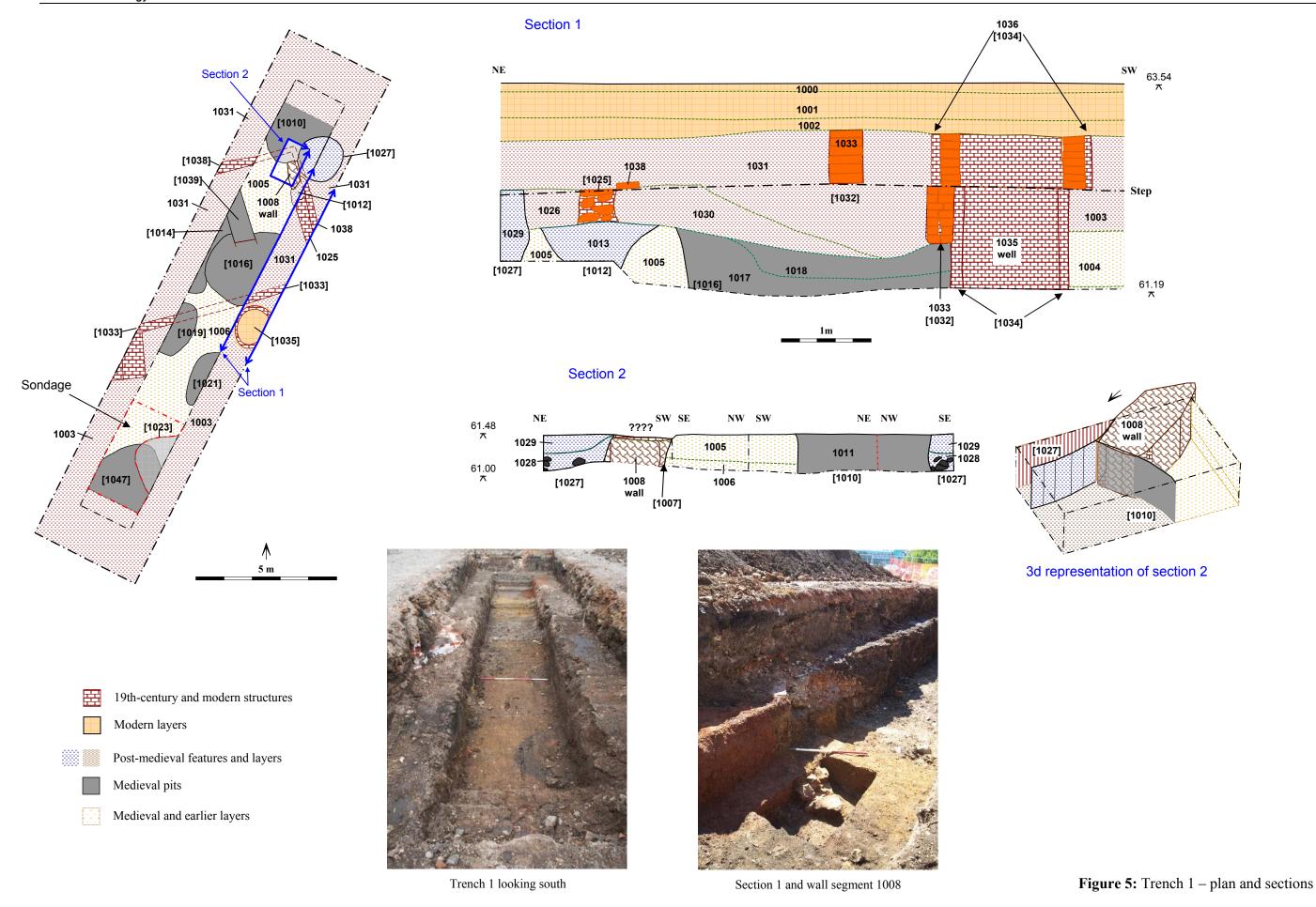
Figure 4:

All features plan

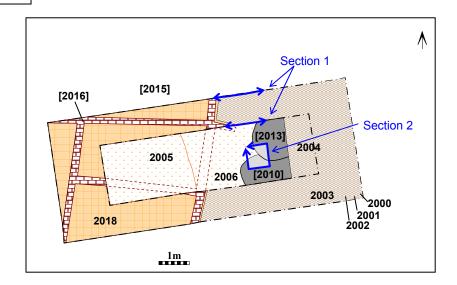
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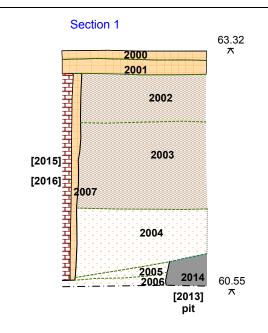
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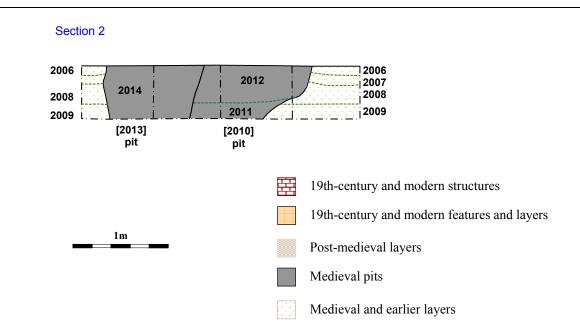














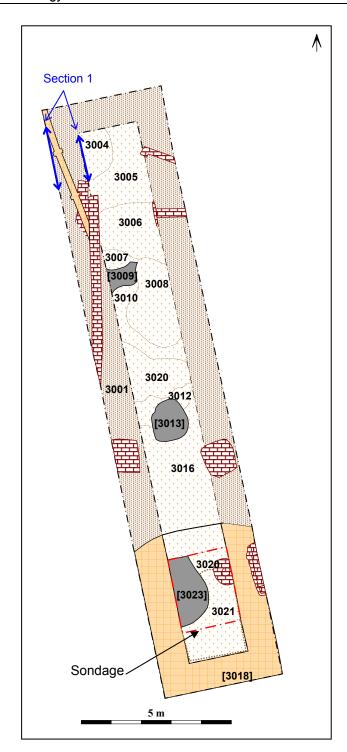
Trench 2 looking west (unexcavated pits [2010] and [2013] in foreground, cellar in background) (2m scale)

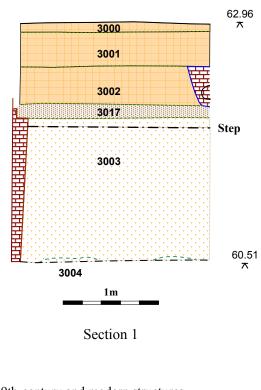


Trench 2 looking east (1m scale)

Figure 6: Trench 2 – plan and section

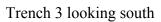






19th-century and modern structures
19th-century and modern features and layers
Post-medieval layers
Medieval and Roman features
Medieval and Roman Layers



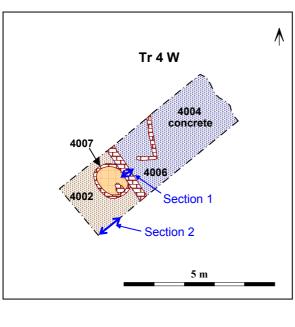


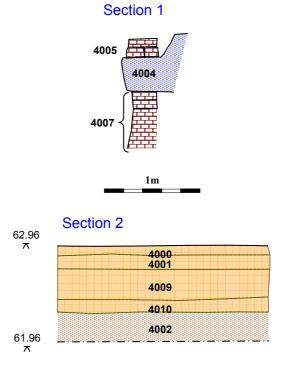


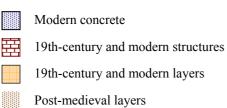
Trench 3 looking north (unexcavated pit [3013] in foreground).

Figure 7: Trench 3 – plan and sections







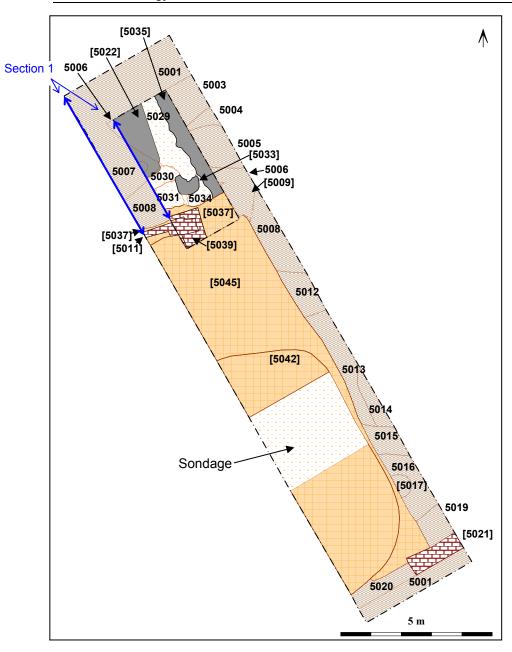


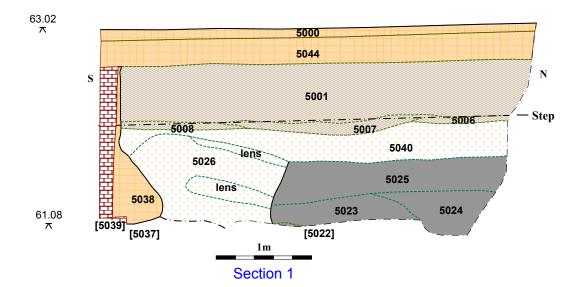


Trench 4, looking east

Figure 8: Trench 4 – plan and sections







19th-century and modern structures

19th-century and modern features and layers

Post-medieval layers

Medieval pits

: Medieval and Roman layers



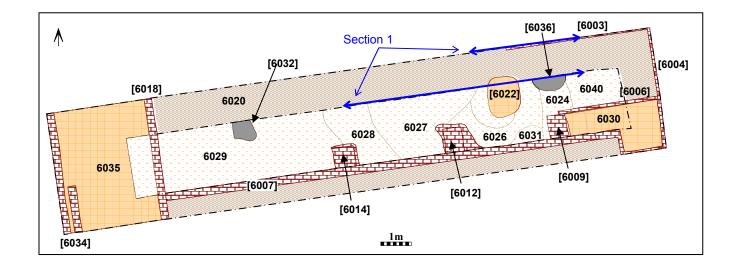
Trench 5, northern end and Section 1 (looking NW). Roman and medieval layers in base of trench.

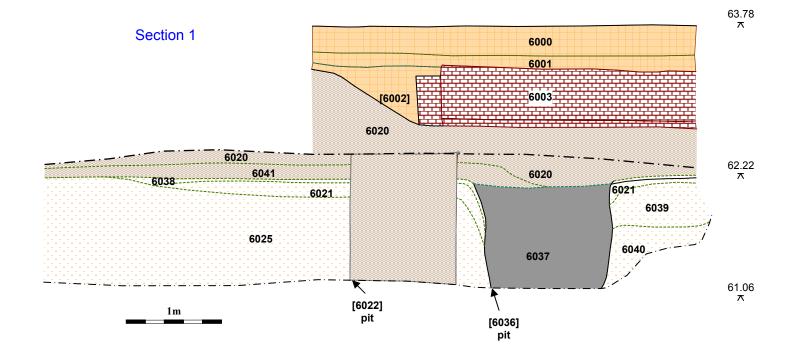


Trench 5, looking south, modern demolition cut in far end of trench, postmedieval layers in near end (2m scales)

Figure 9: Trench 5 – plan and sections







- 19th-century and modern structures

 19th-century and modern features and layers

 Post-medieval features and layers

 Medieval pits
- Medieval and Roman layers

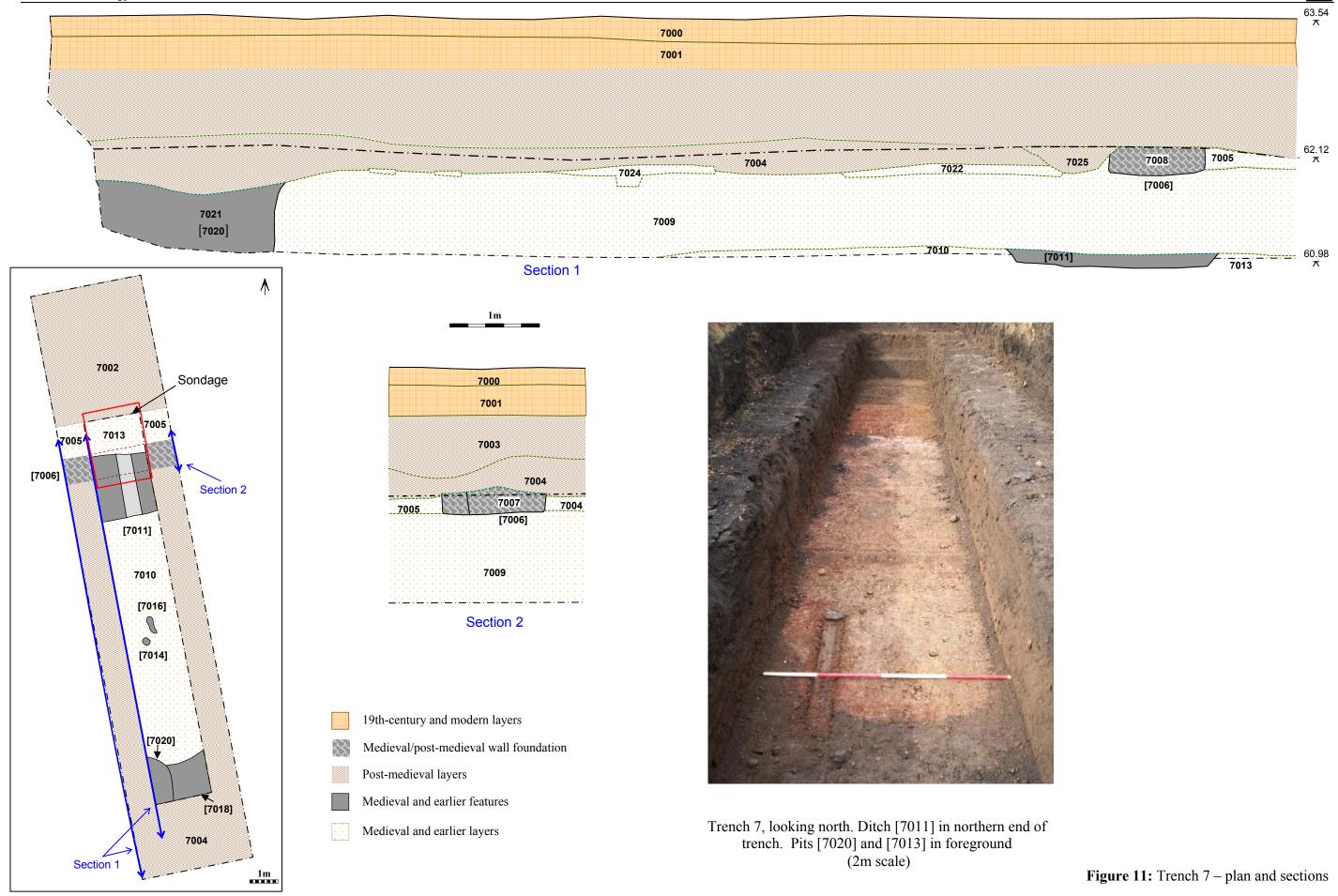


Trench 6, looking east

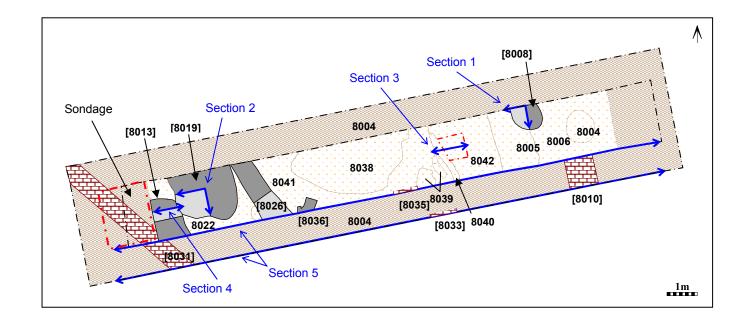


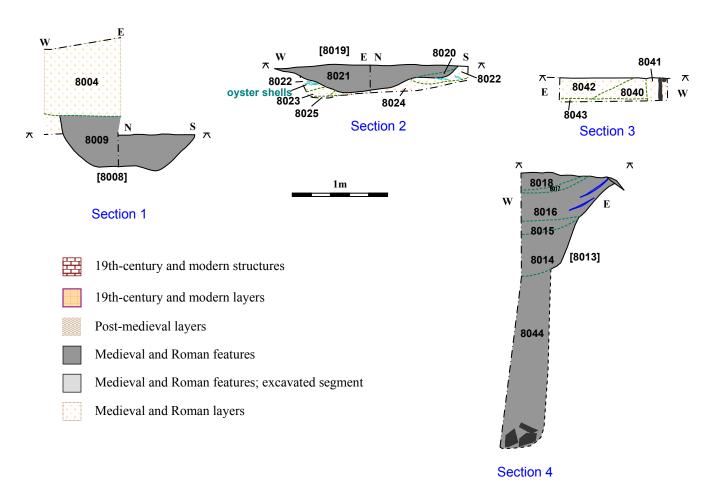
Trench 6, south-facing section (eastern part of Section 1), showing clay layer 6021 and pit [6036]. (1m scale)

Figure 10: Trench 6 – plan and section









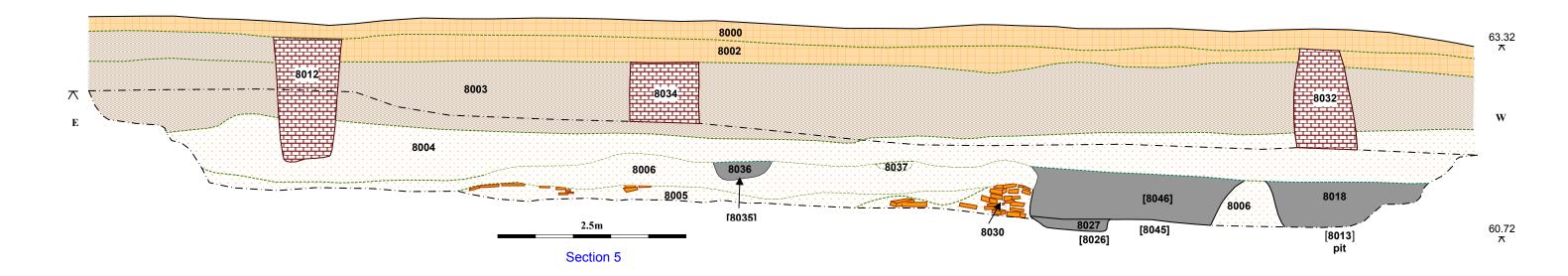


Figure 12: Trench 8 – plan and sections





Figure 13: Rubble layers exposed after removal of concrete slab



Figure 14: Post-medieval "dark earth" exposed in side of inspection pit





Figure 15: Trench 1, sondage in southern end of trench, potential Roman pit [1047], looking SE



Figure 16: Trench 1, sondage in southern end of trench, looking north at depth of layers (1m scale)





Figure 17: Trench 3, southern end of trench, showing potential Roman pit [3023], looking north



Figure 18: Trench 4, asbestos plates above concrete slab





Figure 19: Trench 7, wall foundation [7006], looking west (1m scale)



Figure 20: Trench 7, sondage in northern end of trench, looking south (1m scale)





Figure 21: Trench 8, possible Roman floor surface (8039)



Figure 22: Trench 8, stack of ceramic building material (8030) in section





Figure 23: Trench 8, sondage in western end of trench, showing full depth of pit [8013] with ?Roman building rubble in base



Figure 24: Evaluation trenches in northern part of site



Albion archaeology



Albion Archaeology St Mary's Church St Mary's Street Bedford MK42 0AS

Telephone 01234 294000 **Email** office@albion-arch.com www.albion-arch.com

