

FAS
HERITAGE

LEICESTER ABBEY PARK

LEICESTER

ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION

REPORT
JULY 2019



ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION
LEICESTER ABBEY PARK
LEICESTERSHIRE

SITE CODE: LBP'19
REPORT CODE: FAS2019 781 LBP759
NGR: SD 5837 0602

REPORT

July 2019

Version 3.0

FAS HERITAGE

Unit 8 Fulford Business Centre
35 Hospital Fields Road
York
YO10 4DZ

Tel (01904) 652000
Fax (01904) 749014
mail@fas-heritage.co.uk
www.fas-heritage.co.uk

CLIENT

LEICESTER CITY COUNCIL

PROJECT TEAM

Justin Garner-Lahire BA
Nicola Toop BA MA PhD MCIfA
Richard Jackson BA

REPORT PREPARED BY

Nicola Toop BA MA PhD MCIfA

REPORT REVIEWED BY

Cecily Spall BSc MA MCIfA

REPORT AUTHORISED BY

Justin Garner-Lahire BA

Document Control Grid	
Title	Archaeological Evaluation, Leicester Abbey Park, Leicestershire
Author(s)	Nicola Toop
Derivation	Leicester Abbey Precinct Walls - Written Scheme of Investigation
Origination Date	12/06/2019
Revised by	Nicola Toop
Date of last revision	30/07/2019
Version	3.0
Status	Final
Summary of changes	Plates size increased
Circulation	The Morton Partnership, Leicester City Council, Historic England
Required action	-
Approved by	Justin Garner-Lahire

LIST OF CONTENTS

Summary.....	v
Acknowledgements.....	v
1.0 INTRODUCTION	1
1.1 LOCATION AND LAND USE	1
1.1.1 Statutory designations.....	3
1.2 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES	3
2.0 HISTORICAL AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND	3
2.1 BEFORE THE ABBEY	5
2.1.1 Prehistoric	5
2.1.2 Roman.....	5
2.2 MEDIEVAL PERIOD	5
2.2.1 St Mary's Abbey	5
2.3 POST-MEDIEVAL PERIOD	6
2.4 THE 19TH CENTURY TO THE MODERN PERIOD.....	8
2.5 RECENT ARCHAEOLOGICAL INTERVENTION	9
2.6 ASSESSMENT OF THE EAST WALL	10
2.6.1 General summary of the east wall.....	10
2.6.2 East Wall – interval tower to river walk access steps.....	10
3.0 EVALUATION METHODOLOGY.....	13
3.1 EXCAVATION PROCEDURE	13
3.2 RECORDING PROCEDURE	14
3.3 ENVIRONMENTAL STRATEGY	14
3.4 FINDS RECOVERY AND TREATMENT.....	14
3.5 ARCHIVE PREPARATION	14
4.0 FIELDWORK RESULTS.....	14
4.1 INTERVENTION 1 – TEST PITS	14
4.1.1 Test pit 1.....	15
4.1.2 Test pit 2.....	16
4.2 INTERVENTION 2	18
5.0 DISCUSSION AND ASSESSMENT.....	24
5.1 MEDIEVAL ABBEY	24
5.2 19TH CENTURY AND LATER ACTIVITY.....	25
5.3 ASSESSMENT AGAINST OBJECTIVES	27
6.0 SUMMARY	27

7.0	ARCHIVE	28
8.0	REFERENCES	29

Appendices

APPENDIX A	Scheduled Monument Consent	30
APPENDIX B	Scheduled Monument Description.....	33
APPENDIX C	Listed Building Description	36
APPENDIX D	Written Scheme of Investigation.....	38
APPENDIX E	Index to Field File	46
APPENDIX F	Summary of context records.....	47
APPENDIX G	Summary of feature records	48
APPENDIX H	Ceramic and ceramic building material assessment	49

Plates

Plate 1	Aerial view of Abbey Park © Google Earth	1
Plate 2	External view of the east precinct wall, looking southwest	1
Plate 3	East precinct wall, interior, looking north	3
Plate 4	Plan of medieval Leicester showing the city walls, castle and abbey (Story, Bourne and Buckley (eds.) 2006, figure 1)	5
Plate 5	Detail from William Senior's map of Leicester Abbey with excavated remains overlaid © Devonshire Estates, Chatsworth. Reproduced by permission of Chatsworth Settlement Trustees	7
Plate 6	Illustration of 1686 by Fish (Buckley 2006a).....	8
Plate 7	Historic image showing the ruinous eastern wall (Leicester Archives)	9
Plate 8	Photograph of the east wall of the precinct, 27th March 1909 (ROLLR Henton 1252).....	11
Plate 9	General view of Test pit 1, looking west	15
Plate 10	Test pit 1, buttress F2, looking north	15
Plate 11	Test pit 1, north facing section.....	16
Plate 12	General view of Test pit 2, looking west	16
Plate 13	Test pit 2, buttress F4, looking north	18
Plate 14	Intervention 2, looking east.....	22
Plate 15	West elevation of the precinct wall (F3 C1010)	22
Plate 16	Fragments of architectural stone from C1008	23
Plate 17	Late-19th to early 20th-century rubber bottle top, C1008 (scale 5cm).....	24
Plate 18	LiDAR DTM image of the location of the trench, showing the embankment against the east wall	25
Plate 19	LiDAR DTM image of the location of the trench, with 1887-8 Ordnance Survey map overlaid.....	26

Figures

Figure 1 Location map and statutory designations	2
Figure 2 Location of trenches and previous interventions	4
Figure 3 Northern part of the east wall.....	12
Figure 4 Test pit 1, plan and north-facing section	17
Figure 5 Test pit 2, plan and north-facing section	19
Figure 6 Intervention 2, plan	20
Figure 7 Intervention 2, south-facing section	21

Summary

This report presents the results of an archaeological evaluation carried out to investigate the structural condition of the east wall of the Abbey Precinct, Leicester Abbey. The report has been prepared by FAS Heritage on behalf of The Morton Partnership for Leicester City Council; fieldwork was undertaken during May 2019.

The archaeological evaluation, comprising one evaluation trench within the monastic precinct, and two test pits against the buttresses supported in the external wall, have provided evidence for medieval and later activity within the monastic precinct.

The evaluation trench (Intervention 2) was excavated perpendicular to the internal face of the east wall. The excavation was undertaken to 2.0m below ground level (BGL) and revealed original medieval wall fabric to depth. The results show that intact medieval deposits were encountered at c.1.86m BGL and indicate that the wall was free-standing originally, with the lower portion of the wall cut into a natural slope towards the river.

A series of deposits overlay the medieval horizon; these produced residual material relating to medieval monastic buildings (lead comes, glazed roof and floor tiles, stone architectural fragments), and also included a late 19th- to 20th-century bottle stop. Along with cartographic and photographic evidence, these deposits are interpreted as relating to levelling of the site and working of the soil during use of the site as a nursery.

Evidence for the east wall having been refaced in the late 19th to early 20th century was observed in the test pits set against the exterior of the precinct wall. Test pit 1 provided evidence for the construction of a buttress against the wall (known to predate 1909), before the wall was refaced and possibly underpinned. To the north, Test pit 2 indicated that the wall had been refaced before the construction of a buttress (known to date between 1909 and 1949).

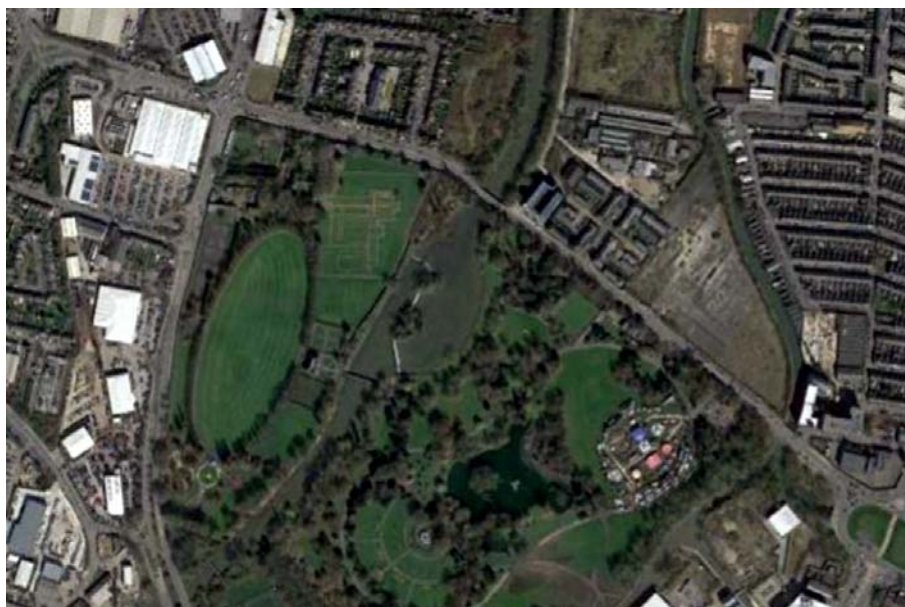
Acknowledgements

FAS Heritage would like to thank Brian Stafford, Grahame Appleby, Jenny Jackson, Paula Burbicka and Anne Provan, Leicester City Council, Ed Morton and Lucy Newport, The Morton Partnership, Amanda White, Historic England for guidance, support and assistance during the preparation of this report.

1.0 INTRODUCTION

This report presents the results of an archaeological evaluation undertaken to investigate the structural condition of the east wall of Leicester Abbey Precinct. The evaluation was carried out by FAS Heritage on behalf of The Morton Partnership for Leicester City Council; fieldwork took place between 13th and 17th May 2019.

Scheduled Monument Consent (S00168381) was granted for the work (Appendix A).



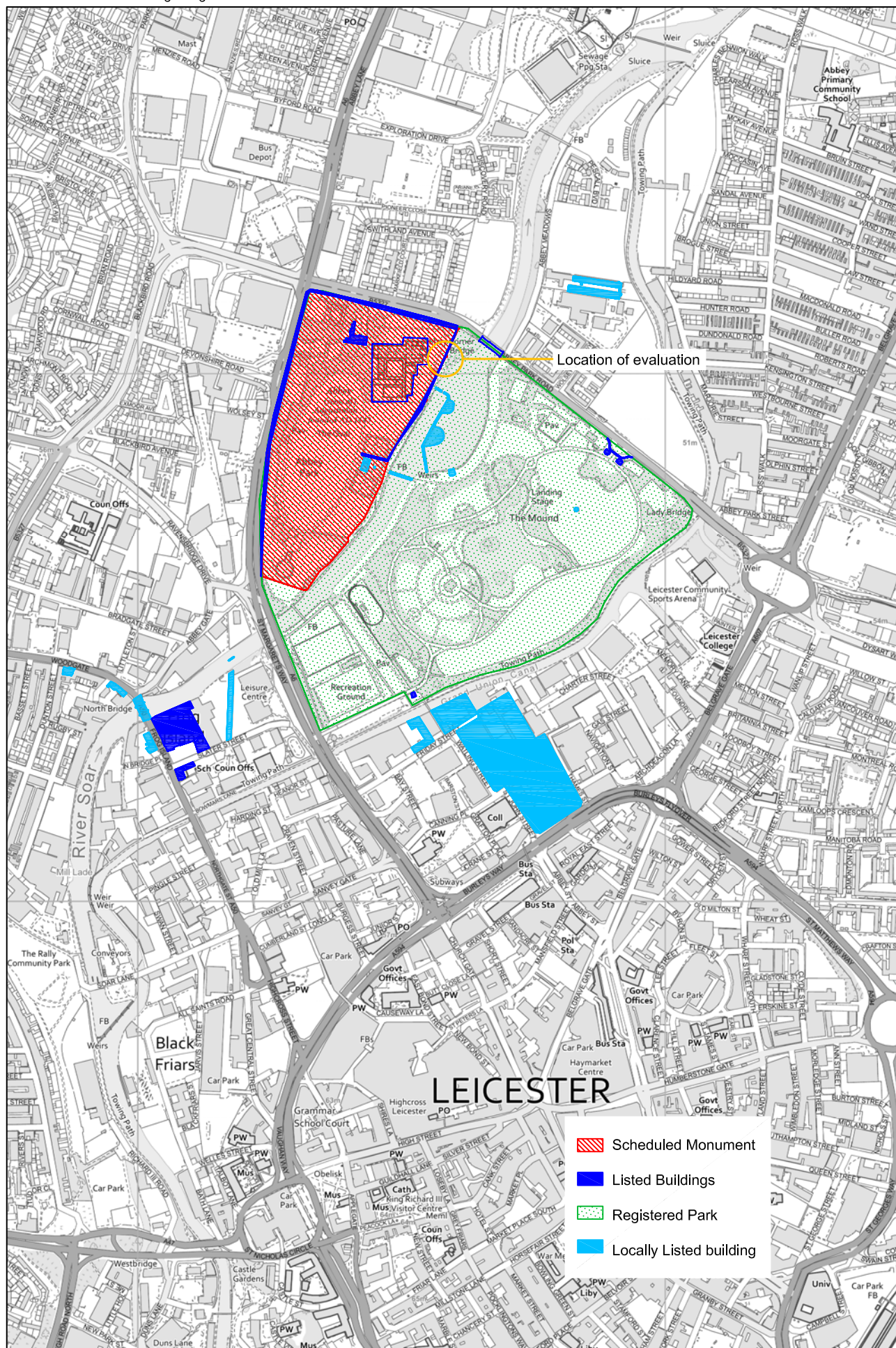
1.1 LOCATION AND LAND USE

The former precinct of Leicester Abbey, known as Abbey Ground, lies on the left (west) bank of the River Soar, bounded by Abbey Park Road to the north, and St Margaret's Way to the west (Figure 1; Plate 1). The site forms part of a public park referred to as Abbey Park, which also includes a large tract of land east of the river.

The evaluation was carried out to the northeast of the abbey precinct, immediately adjacent to the interior and exterior elevations of the east boundary wall. In this part of the abbey, the boundary wall acts as a retaining wall; to the east, the wall stands c.4.1m above ground level, flanking the path along the river bank, supported by a series of buttresses. At the time of the elevation, the wall was supported with scaffolding (Plate 2). Within the abbey site, ground level is much higher, with an embankment reaching to the top of the boundary wall which is in places topped with more modern stone walling (Plate 3).



Plate 2 External view of the east precinct wall, looking southwest



Location map and statutory designations

Scale 1:10000



Figure 1

1.1.1 Statutory designations

Scheduled Monument

The whole of the abbey precinct is designated as a Scheduled Monument (NHLE 1012141; Description included in Appendix B)(Figure 2).

Registered Park

The whole of Abbey Park is designated as a Registered Park (Grade II; NHLE 1000956), including the 19th-century public part to the east of the Soar, and Abbey Grounds to the west.



Plate 3 East precinct wall, interior, looking north

Listed Buildings

- The whole of outer wall of the abbey precinct is included in the Grade I designation of 'Abbot Penny's Wall', comprising both stone-built elements to the north and brick elements to the south (Appendix C).
- The Abbey Ruins, which lie to the west of the evaluation, are designated as a Grade I Listed Building, as well as being included in the Scheduling (NHLE 1074051). The Listing description is brief, and refers only to the foundation walls laid out within the park.

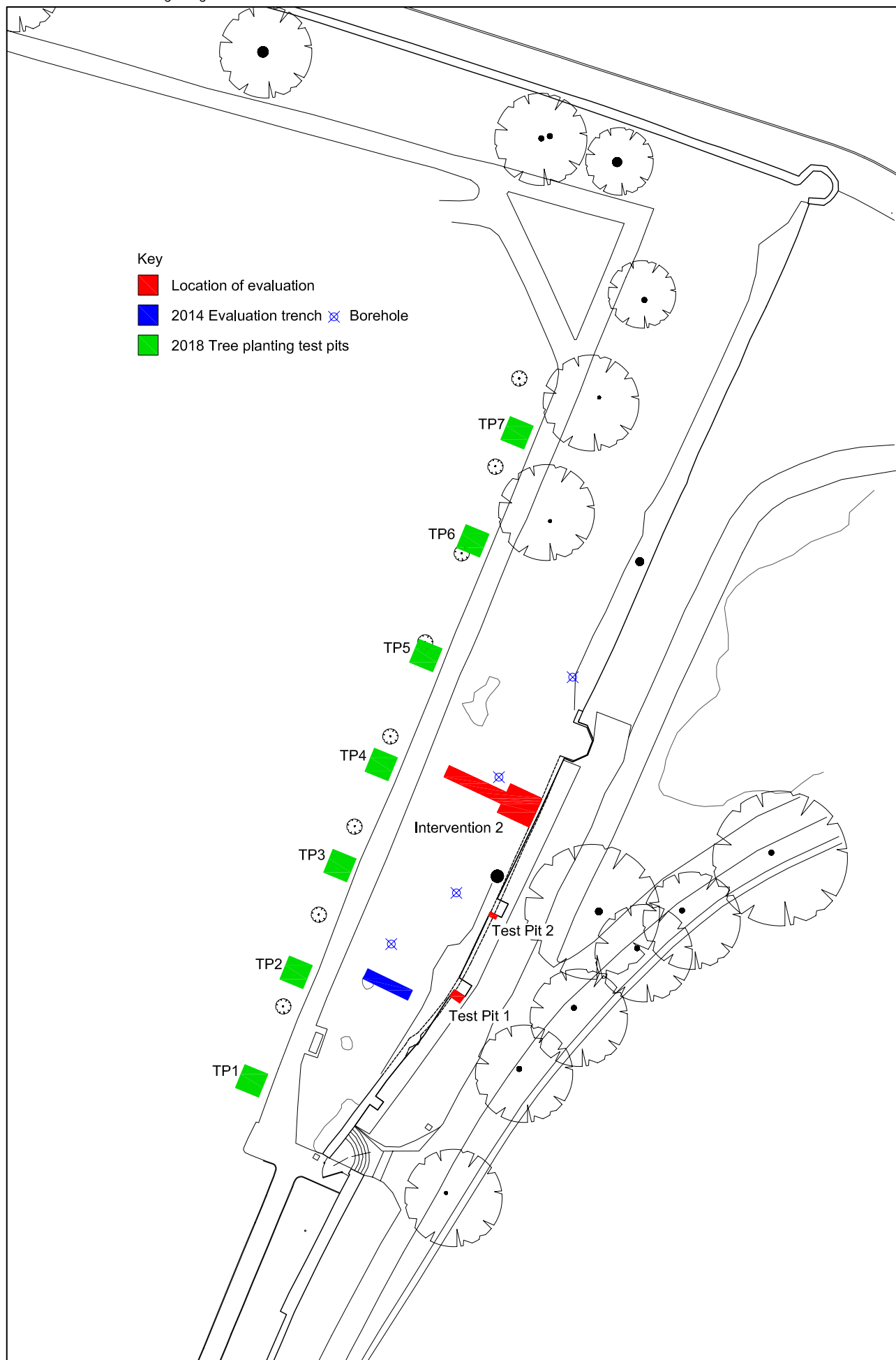
1.2 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

The overall aim of the evaluation was to facilitate an assessment of the structural stability of the wall, in order to inform the formulation of restoration proposals. Specifically, the evaluation has been designed in order to:

- provide information on the character, makeup and sequence of the ground lying against and within the east precinct wall in this location to see whether ground reduction is possible and desirable;
- gauge the thickness of the precinct wall as close to its basal level as possible;
- assess the foundations of two external buttresses.

2.0 HISTORICAL AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

An archaeological desk-based assessment and historic buildings assessment has been undertaken for Leicester Abbey Precinct wall (FAS 2019), drawing on earlier studies of the abbey (Buckley, Bourne and Story 2006) and an inspection of the fabric of the wall (ULAS 1997). The following presents a brief summary of the known development of the Abbey site, sufficient to inform set out current understanding of the east wall and its immediate context.



Location of trenches and previous interventions

Scale 1:500



Figure 2

2.1 BEFORE THE ABBEY

2.1.1 Prehistoric

There have been reported finds of prehistoric artefacts recovered from river gravels of the River Soar/Abbey Meadows, including lithics of Palaeolithic, Mesolithic, Neolithic, Bronze Age or more generally prehistoric date. Two antlers, considered to be of Neolithic date, are also recorded in the Historic Environment Record (HER).

No finds of Iron Age date have been recorded in the immediate area; the area lies outside the main known area of occupation of this date, during which this area formed part of the territory of the Corieltavi.

2.1.2 Roman

Situated on a significant crossing of the Fosse Way, Leicester occupied an important location during the Roman period. A fort, *Ratae*, was established in the 1st century. Timber and subsequently stone defences were constructed in the 2nd and 3rd centuries; this lay to the south of what is now Abbey Park. A Roman suburb is recorded in the HER, extending north from the town defences, west of what is now the Abbey precinct, along a conjectured Roman Road leading to Derby, Rocester and Chesterton.

Roman finds have been recovered from the vicinity of the abbey, indicating the potential for extramural activity in this area. Finds, some of which are located only generally, include ceramic and coins. A Roman cremation is reported as having been found in the area of the Leicester Abbey although further detailed is lacking.

Investigations undertaken at the abbey during 19th- and 20th-centuries encountered Roman material, including possible fragments of box flue tiles. Cumulatively evidence points to the presence of Roman activity in the area (Buckley 2006a, 8).

2.2 MEDIEVAL PERIOD

2.2.1 St Mary's Abbey

The Augustinian Abbey of St Mary in the Meadow was founded in 1143 (or possibly 1139) on a site to the north of the walls of the medieval city (Plate 4). The abbey was founded by Robert le Bessu, second Earl of Leicester, as a college of

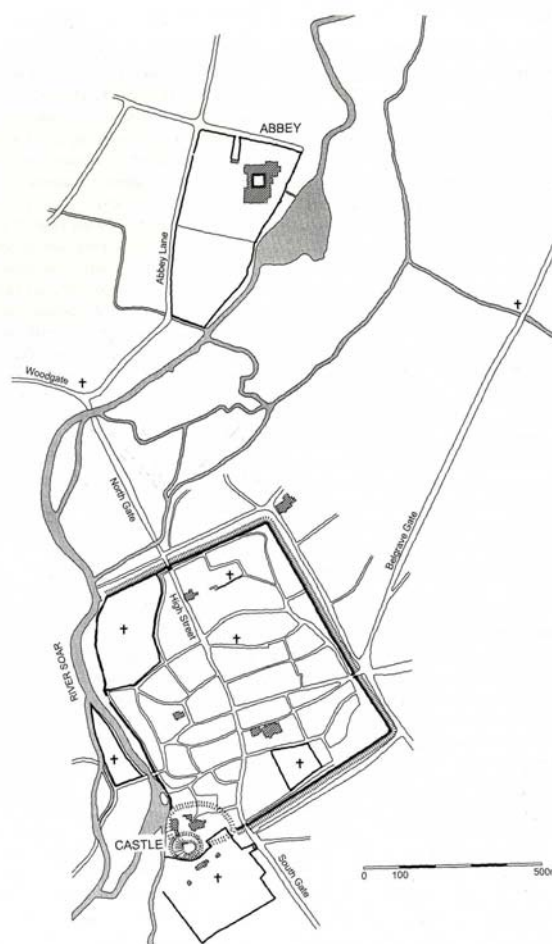


Plate 4 Plan of medieval Leicester showing the city walls, castle and abbey (Story, Bourne and Buckley (eds.) 2006, figure 1)

Augustinian canons, and was richly endowed from the outset.

The church and cloister (which lay to the south of the church) were constructed shortly after the foundation, and the abbey continued to acquire property through much of the medieval period. The precinct is thought to have been extended in the late 15th or early 16th century. By the time of the Dissolution, the abbey comprised a substantial church, and a range of buildings including chapter house, refectory, dormitory (around the main cloister), together with infirmary, a library, gatehouse with lodgings, farm buildings and a mill, and a lavatorium in the cloister walk.

A stone precinct wall encompassed the abbey precinct, interpreted as representing a northern enclosure with a later, southern extension. The investigation focussed on the eastern, stone-built wall of the northern enclosure.

Archaeological investigations in the 1920s and 1930s informed the laying out of the ground plan of the church and claustral ranges. Further investigation of the abbey remains was undertaken by ULAS in the 2000s.

2.3 POST-MEDIEVAL PERIOD

The Abbey was surrendered in 1538 by the last abbot John Bouchier, and the possessions granted to the Crown. A proposal to convert the church into a cathedral for the city did not come to fruition, and it is considered that the abbey buildings were demolished shortly thereafter. The building was so comprehensively demolished that the plan was lost until modern archaeological investigations.

After 1539, the abbey was leased, and passed through several families until it fell into the hands of the Hastings family, Earls of Huntingdon. The Hastings family built a house in the Abbey in 1562. Cavendish House incorporated part of the medieval masonry of the abbey gatehouse, including masonry and mullioned windows.

A plan of the abbey by William Senior (1613) for William Cavendish, new owner of the site shows the layout of the precinct at this time (Plate 5). The northern enclosure at this time included a dovecote garden (NW corner), a gatehouse (presumably the Hastings mansion, later Cavendish House), a 'hog yard' and stables (on the site of present farm buildings), 'apricock's garden' and 'ruynes' on the site of the church and claustral buildings. An orchard and 'horse pond' are also shown. Senior's map shows the location of the abbey mill, adjacent to the northeast corner; this was demolished in the late 18th century (Buckley 2006a, 17). The course of the river is shown and appears to flow immediately adjacent to the precinct wall for most of its length. A later map by Fish, dated to 1686, shows the extant precinct wall around Cavendish House (Plate 6).

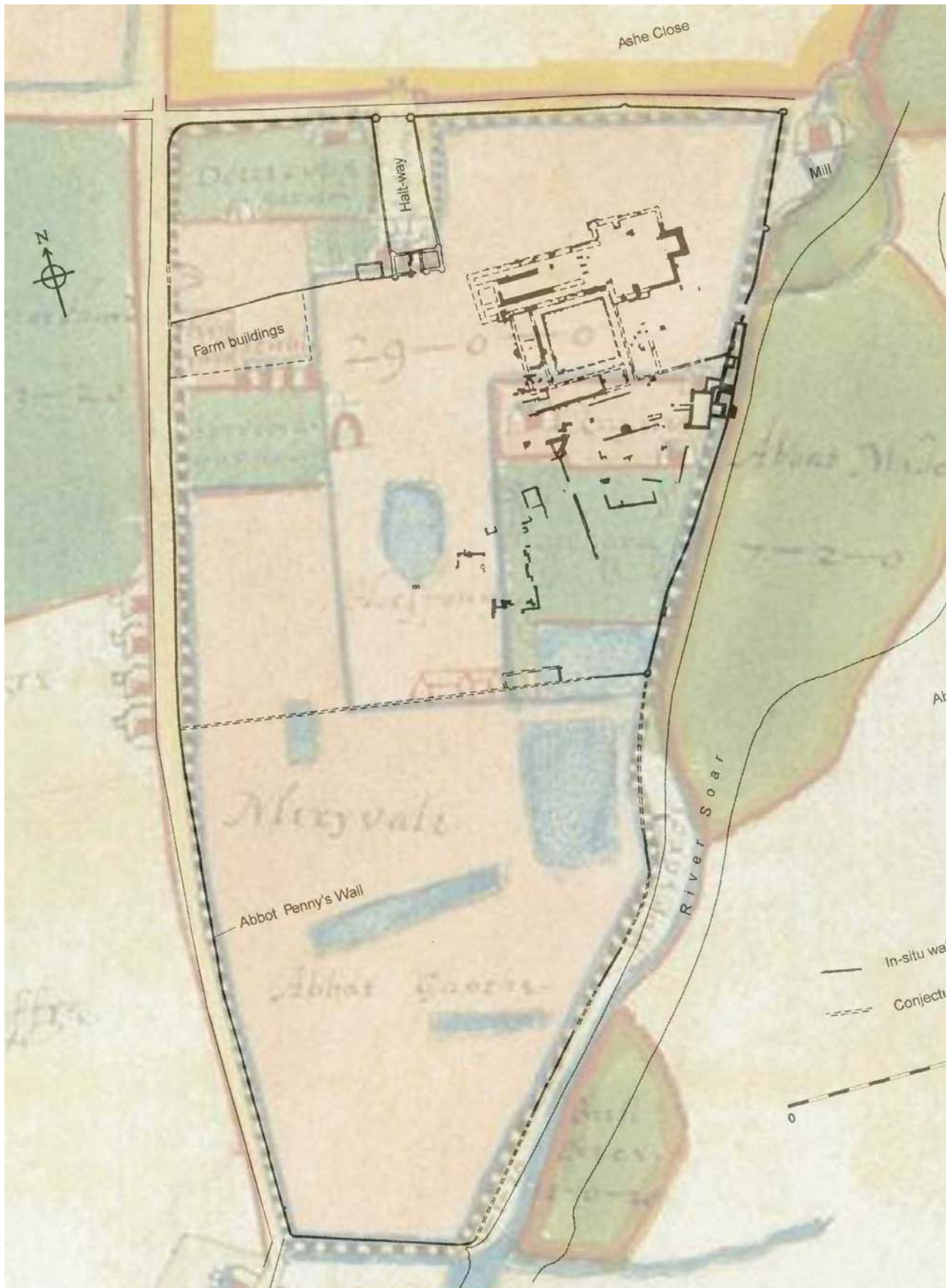


Plate 5 Detail from William Senior's map of Leicester Abbey with excavated remains overlaid © Devonshire Estates, Chatsworth. Reproduced by permission of Chatsworth Settlement Trustees

It is often stated that Cavendish House was destroyed during the Civil War in 1645, having been used in one of two sieges in Leicester in that year. An itinerary of the king states that it was burnt by Royalists at the time of the first siege (Buckley 2006b, 101), while the house is reputed to have been used by Charles I the headquarters of the Royalist forces for the battle of Naseby. In September 1645, Ralph Josselin observed of the building that 'nothing standing but ye stone works' (Hockliffe cited in Buckley 2006b, 101). However, subsequent rentals into the 1670s indicate that at least part of the house must still have been suitable for habitation.

The Cavendish family remained owners of the Abbey until 1733 when it was sold to Sir John Manners, brother of the Duke of Rutland. It is not clear to what degree the site was occupied at this time.



Plate 6 Illustration of 1686 by Fish (Buckley 2006a)

2.4 THE 19TH CENTURY TO THE MODERN PERIOD

By the 19th century, Leicester Abbey was owned by the Earls of Dysart, who sold Abbey Meadows to Leicester Town Council in 1876 so that they could proceed with a flood relief scheme which involved widening the river, deepening the bed and raising land on either side. Land east of the river subsequently developed as public space. Maps and historic photographs confirm that prior to the execution of this scheme, the Soar flowed much closer to the abbey walls. The present course is a result of the flood alleviation works; extensive weirs and riverside embankments are shown on the Ordnance Survey map of 1887-8, which also shows use of the abbey site as a nursery.

The former Abbey precinct the west of the Soar, formed part of Warner's nursery into the early 20th century. Between 1904 and 1915, historic maps show little change to the layout of the precinct. Between 1915, and the edition of 1929-1936, a length of the southern part of the east wall had been lost, and much of the interior subdivision of the precinct removed.

Historic images of the east wall survive, which show that by the 19th/early 20th century there had been significant collapse along this stretch (Plate 7). The early 20th-century rebuilding of several areas is evident in the fabric of the wall (FAS 2019).



Plate 7 Historic image showing the ruinous eastern wall (Leicester Archives)

By 1925, the nursery appears to have become semi-derelict. In that year, the Earl of Dysart presented 32 acres (including the abbey precinct) to the council to be used as an extension to the popular Abbey Park; this was known as Abbey Ground. The extended park opened in 1932.

Reports of plans include restoration of the precinct walls, and a new entrance to be created in the north wall on the site of the original entrance (only one turret remaining, turret being restored)(Buckley 2006a, 9). Bedingfield undertook investigations as part of this work, revealing the layout of the church and claustral ranges from 1927 onwards.

2.5 RECENT ARCHAEOLOGICAL INTERVENTION

The results of two recent archaeological interventions are pertinent to the current evaluation (Figure 2). In January 2014 a single evaluation trench and a series of five boreholes were undertaken to inform wall repair proposals (ULAS 2014)(see Figure 2). The trench and boreholes were located within the area of raised ground against the east wall and encountered a sequence of natural marl at between 3.5 to 4.1m deep overlain by a thick pack of sandstone rubble measuring up to 2.0m thick as observed in the boreholes. This may represent 16th-century demolition deposits from the clearance of the abbey ranges following the Dissolution, since the layer is recorded as Danes Hill sandstone. Over this rubble layer, strata were recorded directly within the evaluation trench and consisted of an interface layer between the sandstone rubble (0.15m deep) beneath a possible buried soil horizon (0.20m deep) overlain by a pack of dumped material measuring in excess of 1.0m deep thought to relate to the dumping of spoil from abbey excavations in the 1920s and 30s. This pack was overlain by c.0.30m of topsoil.

In 2018 an archaeological watching brief was maintained during the excavation of a series of seven tree-planting test pits (ULAS 2018). All test pits measured 1.0 x 1.0m and were excavated

to a depth of 1.0m and were positioned at intervals parallel to the east precinct wall adjacent to the path. Six test pits recorded modern overburden and some possible cut features; test pit 6 contained a human burial at 1.0m below ground level.

2.6 ASSESSMENT OF THE EAST WALL

The development of the east wall was considered in the recent historic buildings assessment, and the results of the relevant section are summarised here for ease of reference (FAS 2019).

2.6.1 General summary of the east wall

It was noted that in general, the east wall is less heavily restored than the north and west walls, with the exception of areas known to have been rebuilt in the 20th century. Several historic illustrations and photographs survive of the external elevation, which allow areas of modern reconstruction, and historic repair, to be identified with greater confidence than other parts of the abbey.

Historic photographs show that by the late 19th century there had been considerable collapse of the northern part of the east wall, which was subsequently rebuilt in the mid- to late 20th century. Lengths of *in situ* moulded stringcourse, plinths and sections of interval and corner towers indicate that the current wall follows its original alignment.

In the northern part of the precinct, in the area of the evaluation, the ground level inside the abbey precinct is c.2.0-2.5m higher than outside; in parts the wall is vertical or battered but in others the wall leans outwards which has led to the need for external buttressing. As noted, the wall would originally have closely flanked the course of the River Soar, but flood alleviation works of the 1880s and 1890s, led to a diversion of the watercourse away from the base of the wall. The bank of material abutting the internal face of the wall decreases to the south, and beyond the breach in the wall, through which the river walk is accessed (c.100m south of the northeast tower) the wall is freestanding. From this point, a length of the wall is misaligned; it is suggested that this was rebuilt to accommodate the current entrance from the river prior to Nichols' description (1815) of the site (ULAS 1997, 9). Extending south from the access to the river, the wall contains a possible garderobe, a further interval tower, culminating in a corner tower.

2.6.2 East Wall – interval tower to river walk access steps

External elevation

The area of the wall which was subject to investigation lies between the northern interval tower on the east wall, and the river walk access steps (Figure 3). In this area, extending for c.23m from the north interval tower, the lower courses of the wall primarily consists of coursed sandstone rubble, in place is separated by narrow courses of small, irregular dark stones creating a 'banded' effect (ULAS 1997, 10).

The next section of wall includes four buttresses (three large and one smaller), essential due to the pressure from the raised ground internally. Historic sources allow these to be broadly dated. The



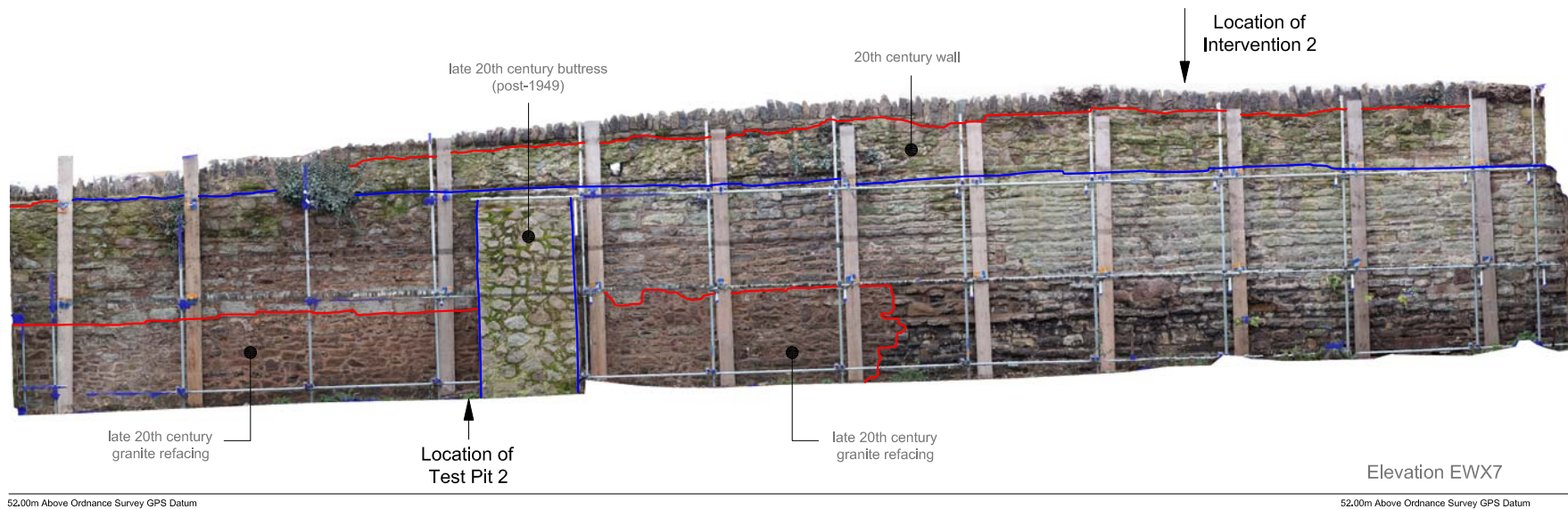
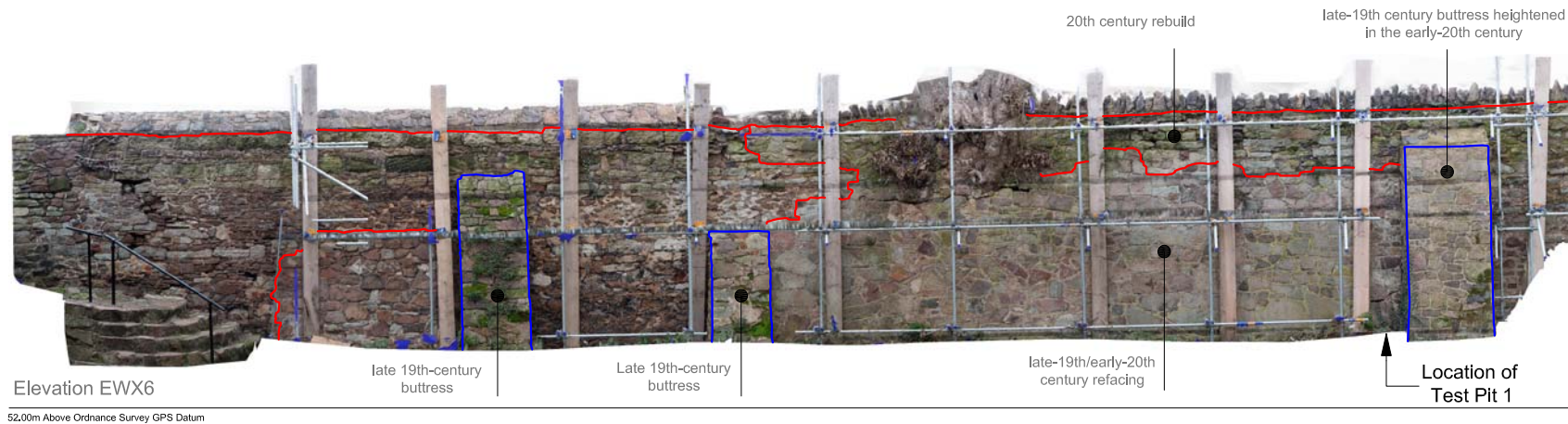
Plate 8 Photograph of the east wall of the precinct, 27th March 1909 (ROLLR Henton 1252)

northernmost is mid- to late 20th-century in date; it does not appear on an aerial view of 1949 (Britain from Above, EAW024250). The buttress appears to post-date an area of granite refacing; although difficult to discern, this refacing appears to have been undertaken before a glass-plate negative GP2568 was taken, and so is likely to be late 19th or early 20th-century in date.

Three further buttresses are earlier, and are shown on a photograph of 1909 (Plate 8). These may have been constructed as part of the securing of the wall proposed in the 1875 flood alleviation plans. The second buttress from the north appears in 1909 to be smaller in height than currently survives; this had been raised to its current height by 1949.

The next buttress along is much smaller than those to either side. This, and the most southerly of the four, appear to have been constructed to their current form by 1909, presumably as part of the flood works, to secure the wall. Between the central two buttresses, an area of irregular rubble facing appears to represent repairs to the wall. A glass plate negative held by the Leicester Archives shows this arrangement; the plate is undated but appears to post-date the laying out of the abbey 'ruins' and pre-date the rebuilding of the east wall so is of likely early 20th-century date (ROLLR GP2658).

From the second buttress, the wall is slightly misaligned and a breach in the wall provides access to a stepped entrance into Abbey Walk. There is some suggestion that there was formerly a gate or tower in this location. Nichols described as 'a square dome, standing, like the other, not two



Northern part of the east wall

Scale 1:100

Figure 3

yards from the river forward from the wall with two loopholes south east and one on each side' (in Buckley 2006a, 18). Buckley (2006a) cites photographic evidence for a further interval tower in this location (Henton Collection 1252; see Plate 8); however, reconsideration of the 1909 photograph suggests that what is visible is the recently refaced work; this may reflect a former location of a tower but there is little evidence for an earlier structure. In the Henton photograph, a tree grows in what is now a breach, possibly a contributory factor to formation of the later opening. The wall to the immediate north of the breach is heavily disturbed, removing any evidence for earlier structures. South of the access, a straight joint with possible quoins can be observed for part of the height of the wall, which may add weight to identification of a structure in this location.

Historic maps up to the edition of 1929-1936 appear to show a kink, rather than a breach, in the wall; an aerial view of 1937, however, shows the current opening which allows access to the river (Britain from Above: EPW055013). The gateway has curved steps leading to the river, which may be a replacement of an earlier feature (ULAS 1997, 10).

Interior elevation

Little of the internal elevation is exposed along this section of the wall due to the raised ground levels along the interior of the wall.

3.0 EVALUATION METHODOLOGY

The archaeological evaluation was undertaken in accordance with a Written Scheme of Investigation prepared by FAS Heritage and approved by Grahame Appleby, Leicester City Archaeologist and Amanda White, Historic England (Appendix D). The evaluation consisted of the hand-excavation of two test pits situated against the external elevation of the wall (allocated Intervention 1), and a single T-shaped evaluation trench measuring 10m x max.3m excavated against the western side of the wall (Intervention 2)(see Figure 2).

Two test pits were excavated to the immediate south of two buttresses which abut the east precinct wall on the east side (see Figure 2). The test pits were constrained by the scaffold shoring, Test Pit 1 measured 1.15m x 0.8m and Test Pit 2 measured 0.75m x 0.40m. Both test pits were hand-excavated to a maximum of 1.0m below ground level or sufficient to establish the depth and make-up of buttress foundation and the underlying stratum.

The single evaluation trench was situated against and perpendicular to the east precinct wall (see Figure 2). The trench measured 10.0m x 1.0m; at its easternmost end it measured 3.0m x 3.0m in plan in order to allow excavation to be stepped in within a 1.0m x 1.0m area down to 2.0m (maximum depth).

3.1 EXCAVATION PROCEDURE

The evaluation trench was excavated by machine, operated by a qualified archaeologist under archaeological guidance by a second archaeologist. The resulting upcast was inspected for archaeological finds and architectural masonry.

The existing site grid based established for measured survey was used for all location recording.

3.2 RECORDING PROCEDURE

A full written, drawn and photographic record was made of all deposits and features encountered. An index to field file is included at Appendix E.

Archaeological deposits, features and structures were recorded using a standard system of context and other record forms; summaries of feature and context records are included in Appendix F and G. A series of indexes, capable of interrogation, was maintained for all site records.

The planning of features was undertaken at scales of 1:10 or 1:20; section drawings of one section of each test pit and the evaluation trench were prepared. The photographic record consists of 35mm monochrome photography and high-resolution colour digital photography; monochrome photography was undertaken using silver-based film to ensure archival stability.

3.3 ENVIRONMENTAL STRATEGY

A systematic environmental sampling method was employed. In accordance with the WSI, the excavated deposits were not considered to have any environmental potential and were not sampled.

3.4 FINDS RECOVERY AND TREATMENT

All finds identified during monitoring were hand-collected and processed. Finds treatment was undertaken in accordance with guidelines set down in *First Aid for Finds* (Watkinson and Neal 1998). Archive preparation has been undertaken in accordance with *Guidelines for the preparation of excavation archives for long-term storage* (Walker 1990).

3.5 ARCHIVE PREPARATION

All records and materials have been indexed, ordered, quantified and checked for consistency. The archival record includes all material relating to the site including correspondence, written, drawn and computerised records. An accession code of A14.2019 has been obtained from Leicester Museum and will be archived under site LBP '19.

4.0 FIELDWORK RESULTS

4.1 INTERVENTION 1 – TEST PITS

The two tests pits were excavated to examine the foundation of the buttresses against the external elevation of the east wall, and to reveal the character and make up of buried elements of the east wall in this location.

4.1.1 Test pit 1

Test pit 1 was located to the immediate south of the second buttress from the north. The test pit measured 1.15m x 0.8m and was excavated to a maximum depth of 0.65m BGL, revealing the foundations of the east precinct wall and buttress, and a sequence of made ground abutting these elevations (Figure 4; Plate 9).

The earliest deposit encountered within the test pit was C1003, a greyish-brown clay layer containing occasional rounded pebbles. This layer pre-dated the visible foundations of the wall (F1) and buttress (F2). C1003 was encountered at 0.60m BGL and continued beyond the base of the excavation; no dating material was recovered.

The foundations of the east precinct wall (F1) and buttress (F2) were recorded overlying C1003 (Plate 10). Both the precinct wall facing and the buttress foundations were constructed in heavily mortared rubble, encountered at c.0.33m BGL.

The buttress foundation (allocated F2 C1005) was faced with angular fragments with some limited coursing, and had a battered, rather than stepped profile. The bonding material visible on the buttress was a sandy, pale brown mortar.



Plate 9 General view of Test pit 1, looking west



Plate 10 Test pit 1, buttress F2, looking north

The mortared rubble foundation course at the base of the east precinct wall (F1 C1004), stepped out by 0.25m (C1004), over which uncoursed, rubble foundations stepped out from the elevation by 0.12m. The stepped foundations were bonded with a hard, yellowish-cream mortar.

No original, medieval fabric was observed; both the buttress and wall were faced in irregular granite which characterises later repair and refacing of the abbey wall. The buttress had leaned slightly away from the wall, resulting in a gap between the two perpendicular areas of refacing; that on the wall appears to abut that on the buttress.

No construction cut was observed for either structure, and a sequence of three deposits was recorded abutting the wall and buttress foundations, overlying C1003 (Plate 11). C1002 was allocated to loosely-compacted, very dark greyish-brown clayey sand with heavy root disturbance and numerous stone inclusions. A fragment of slate roof tile and a single sherd of Rhenish – possibly 16th-century Siegburg – stoneware were recovered from this deposit (Appendix H).

C1002 was sealed by C1001, a 0.23m deep layer of dark yellowish-brown plastic silty clay with rounded pebbles, over which the current topsoil C1000, measuring 0.15m in depth, was recorded.

4.1.2 Test pit 2

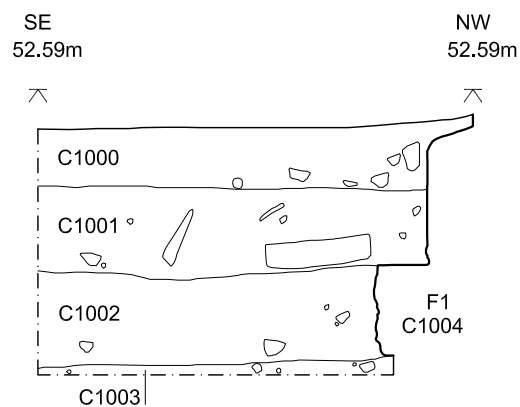
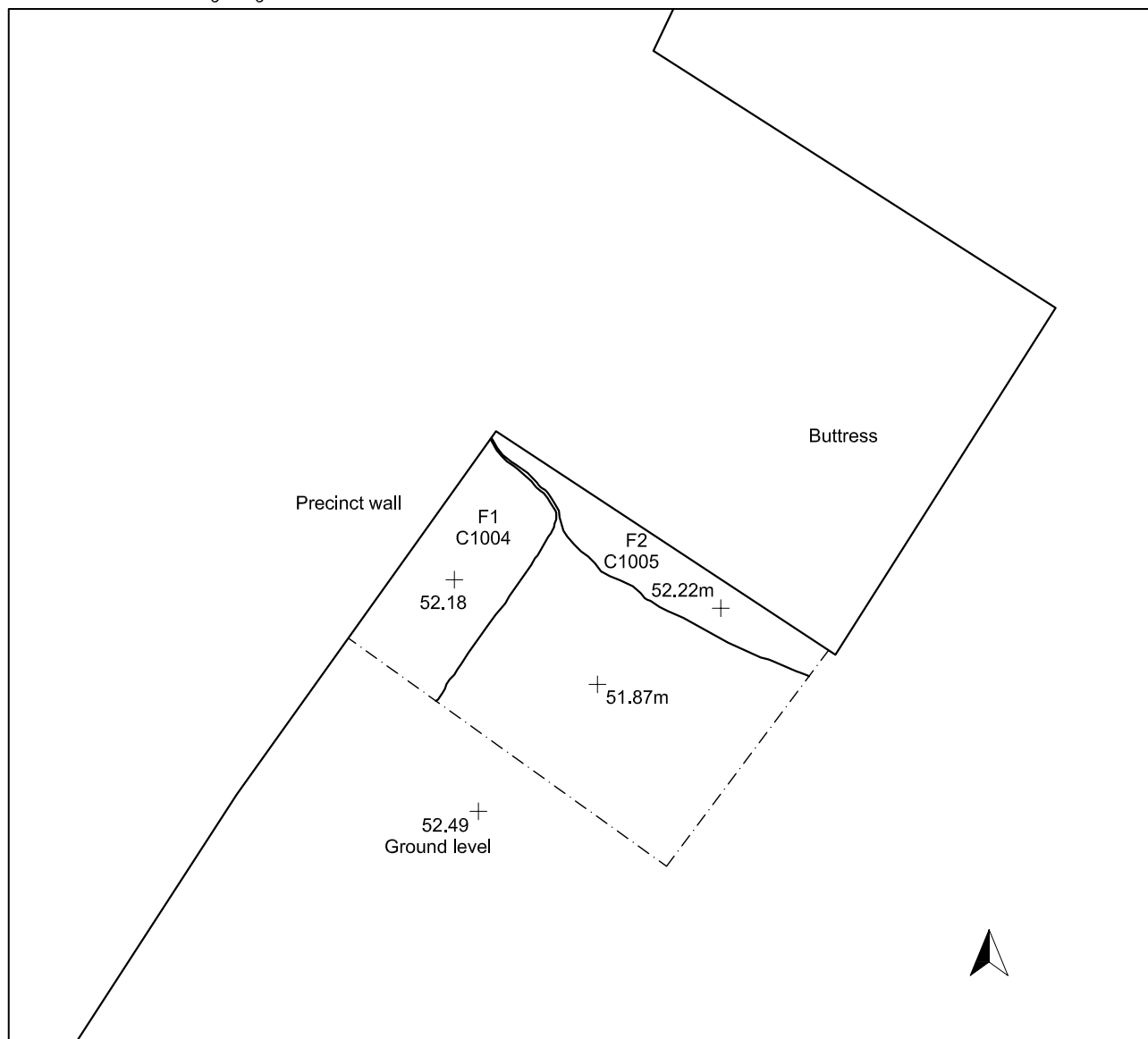
Test pit 2 was excavated in the southern re-entrant angle between the northern buttress and the precinct wall (Figure 5; Plate 12). Due to constraints of scaffolding, the test pit measured 0.75m x 0.40m in plan, and was excavated to a maximum depth of 0.55m BGL.



Plate 11 Test pit 1, north facing section



Plate 12 General view of Test pit 2, looking west



Reproduced from Ordnance Survey with the permission of The Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office. © Crown copyright.

Field Archaeology Specialists Ltd. Unit 8, Fulford Business Centre, 35 Hospital Fields Road, York, YO10 4DZ. Licence No AL100003700.

Test pit 1, plan and north-facing section

Scale 1:20

Figure 4

The test pit exposed the eastern elevation of the precinct wall (F4) which extended to a depth of 0.72m BGL before stepping out by 0.14m for a single course. The elevation above the stepped foundation was consistent with the elevation above ground, consisting of random or roughly coursed granite facing, with some areas of medieval coursed sandstone. The foundation of buttress F5 reached 0.42m BGL.

A clear relationship between the buttress (F5) and wall (F4) was observed; the buttress abutted the elevation of the precinct wall (albeit with a more recent gap between the two), but did not extend to its full depth, indicating that the foundation of the wall had been partially buried before the buttress was constructed (Plate 13). A fragment of modern stoneware was recovered from gravel deposits immediately beneath the buttress foundation (visible in Plate 13).



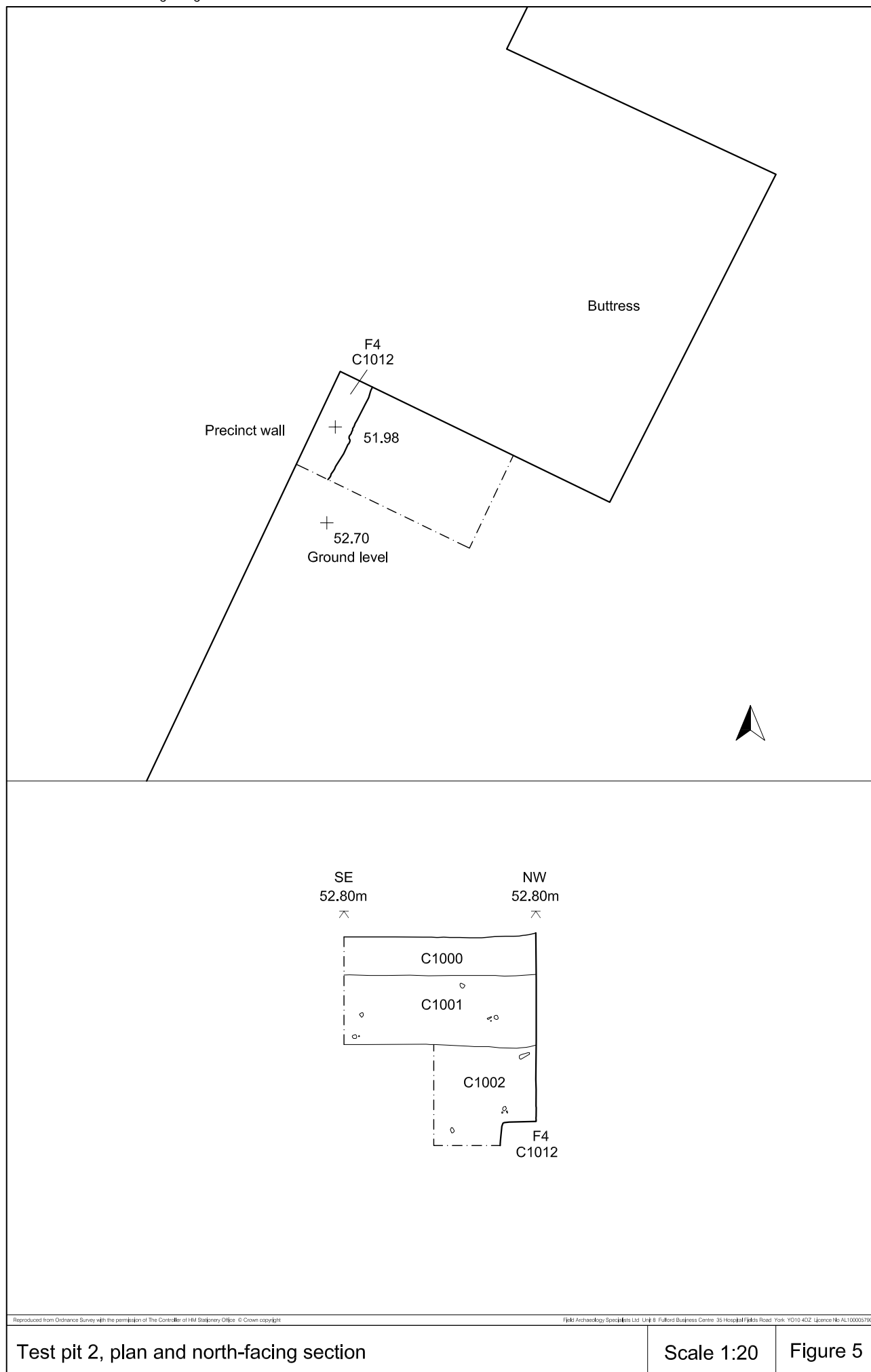
Plate 13 Test pit 2, buttress F4, looking north

4.2 INTERVENTION 2

Intervention 2 was situated against the internal, west face of the precinct wall (Plate 14 and Figure 7). In this area the ground rises from the level area of the abbey ruins, to form an embankment against the precinct wall. A modern stone wall tops the precinct wall (Plate 15).

The evaluation trench measured 10m east-west by 1m north-south. At the eastern end, the trench was widened to allow the 1m wide trench to be safely excavated to the required depth.

The western elevation of the precinct wall exposed for the full depth of the trench and continued beyond the depth of excavation. Here the wall was constructed with regularly coursed, roughly squared sandstone blocks, the make-up of which contrasted markedly with the less ordered, modern wall constructed over it (see Plate 15).



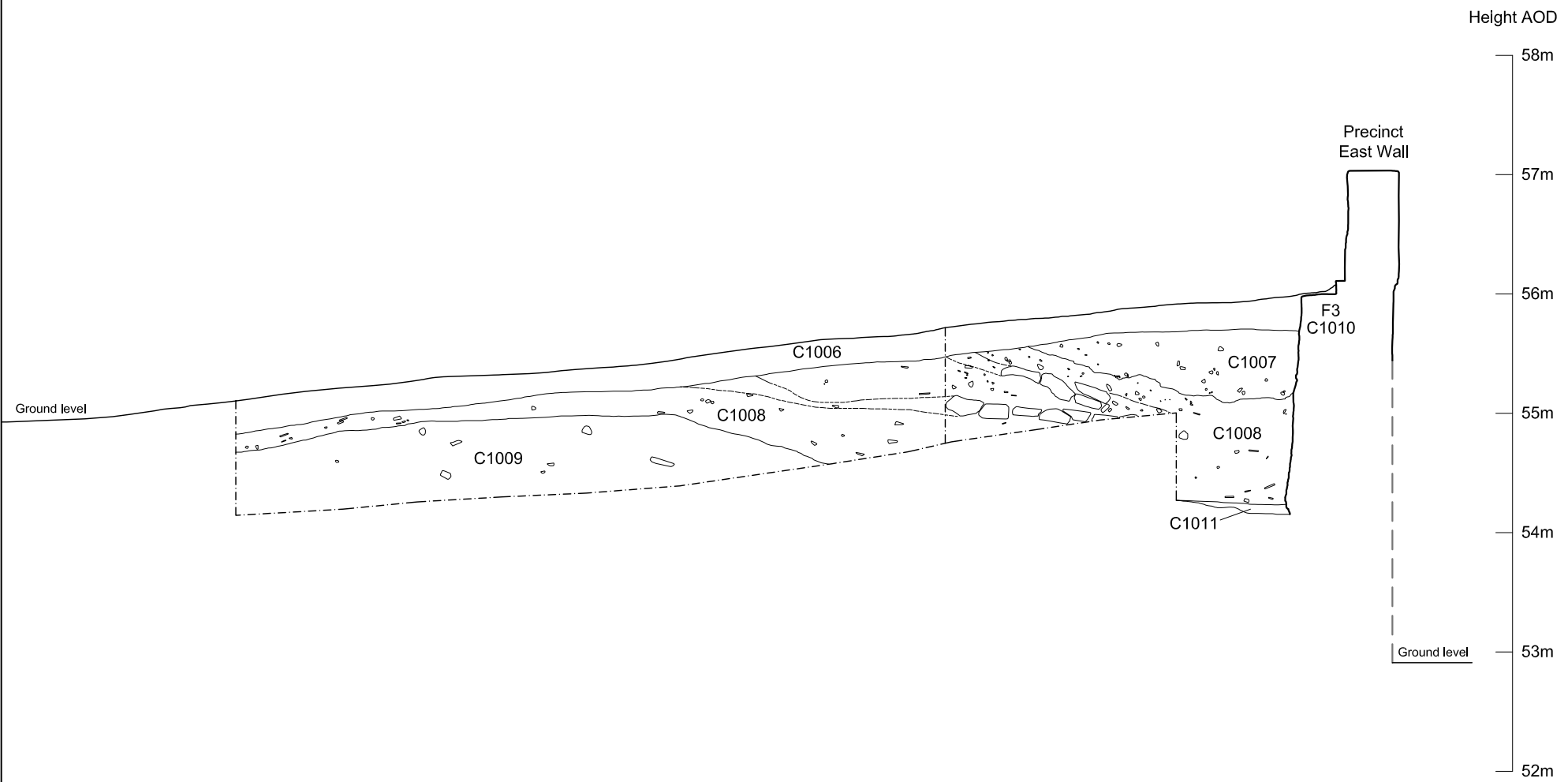
Test pit 2, plan and north-facing section

Scale 1:20

Figure 5



Figure 6



Intervention 2, south-facing section

Scale 1:50

Figure 7



Plate 14 Intervention 2, looking east



Plate 15 West elevation of the precinct wall (F3 C1010)

The sandstone blocks varied in dimensions from 6 x 3cm to 50 x 14cm and were bonded with a reddish-cream lime mortar with some gravel aggregate. Below c.1m BGL, the wall was found to have vestiges of wall render adhering to the elevation; the render had a more pinkish hue, and was smoother in texture, than the mortar bonding, and scored trowel marks were noted on the surface.

Abutting the wall at the base of the excavated trench, a laminated sequence of thin layers of black, yellowish-brown and yellowish-red silt was encountered and allocated C1011 (see Figure 7). This horizon was not excavated further, but initial cleaning produced a small assemblage of ceramic, including sherds of Chilvers Coton A ware of 13th- to 14th-century date, and sherds of Midland

Purple Ware of 14th to 15th-century date. This deposit has tentatively been identified as the upper horizon of medieval occupation deposits.

At the western end of the trench, the earliest deposit encountered was allocated C1009, and consisted of a deposit of brown clay with gravel and pebble inclusions. The layer produced a fragment of lead window came, ceramic sherds, plaster fragments and four fragments of medieval glazed floor tile. The ceramic assemblage included three sherds of Midland Purple Ware, dating to c.1375-1550 (Appendix H). This deposit measured up to 0.90m in depth at the western edge of the trench; the upper interface of the layer sloped down from west to east and continued beyond the depth of excavation. No direct relationship with C1011 was observed but it is assumed that the latter is earlier; C1009 does not represent *in situ* occupation or refuse layers, and the medieval finds are assumed to be residual material within later soils.

Overlying C1011 and C1009, layer C1008 was recorded as a pack of friable stony brown silty sand, within which numerous tip lines were recorded, sloping downwards west-east towards the abbey wall (see Plate 14). This layer produced a small ceramic assemblage (three sherds), glazed floor tile fragments, a small lead scrap sheet and two pieces from a single fragment of architectural stone, interpreted tentatively as a fragment of arcading (Plate 16), all of which are likely to derive from monastic period buildings. The ceramic assemblage included sherds of Chilvers Coton C ware, of 14th to 15th-century date, and Midland Purple Ware of 14th to 15th-century date; the ceramic building material included a fragment of ridge tile and an abraded floor tile (Appendix H). However, the presence of a late-19th to early 20th-century vulcanite bottle-stop indicates the ceramic is residual and suggests a possible date for the deposition of the layer (Plate 17).

At the eastern end of the trench, C1007 was allocated to a deposit of reddish-yellow silty sand which levelled ground to the west of the precinct wall. Two fragments of ceramic were recovered, identified as Midland Yellow ware, dating to the 16th- to early 18th centuries.



Plate 16 Fragments of architectural stone from C1008



Plate 17 Late-19th to early 20th-century rubber bottle top, C1008 (scale 5cm)

C1007 had subsequently been sealed by topsoil C1006, which represented a consistent deposit of dark brown sandy silt up to 0.10m in depth across the intervention.

5.0 DISCUSSION AND ASSESSMENT

The archaeological evaluation provided information relating to the medieval abbey (internal fabric of the precinct wall, occupation levels and residual finds), 19th-to 20th-century wall repairs, abbey clearance and nursery activity, and can be used to directly address the aims and objectives of the evaluation.

5.1 MEDIEVAL ABBEY

Evidence for medieval activity was encountered within the bounds of the precinct, in Intervention 2, but was not found within the areas to the east within the excavated depths.

The evaluation revealed the west-facing elevation of the east wall to consist of well-preserved intact medieval wall facing, represented by well-ordered, coursed sandstone. Wall facing of this character is visible only in smaller patches on the heavily-altered external (east-facing) elevations. It would seem that this part of the wall has been buried since at least the late 19th century, which had protected it from collapse and alteration.

The internal elevation retained evidence for a smooth render; this could represent an exterior finish or rendering of walling within a building constructed against the wall. The internal render and horizon of *in situ* archaeological deposits at nearly 2m BGL, confirms that eastern precinct wall was originally free-standing, rather than serving as a retaining wall, as today. It seems likely that the wall was cut into a natural slope towards the Soar.

The horizon of *in situ* archaeological deposits encountered at depth (C1011) was not fully investigated, but produced medieval ceramic, and may represent a horizon of medieval activity within the precinct. Although deeply buried against the wall, the level at which this was encountered would lie less than 1m below the current layout of the claustral ranges and provides an indication of earlier ground levels.

In the test pitting undertaken in 2018, an *in situ* burial was encountered in Test Pit 6 (see Figure 2), to the north of the evaluation trench, at a depth of 1m below ground level (*ie* the level of the path). The capping stones of the grave were contacted at this depth; ground level is likely to have been higher, and may indicate that the ground level sloped upwards towards the interior of the precinct. The 2014 evaluation encountered two deposits (Context 3 and Context 4) at 1.3m BGL which were interpreted tentatively as a former ground level, which compares to the 1.6m BGL horizon at which C1011 was encountered in the current evaluation trench. Beneath this, up to 2.8m of rubble-rich deposits were identified in 2014 boreholes and suggested as abbey phase dressing or post-medieval clearance.

5.2 19TH CENTURY AND LATER ACTIVITY

The possible medieval horizon was sealed by a pack of material that effectively infilled and subsequently embanked the area immediately inside the precinct wall (Plate 18).

C1009 was the earliest in this sequence of deposits; the layer provided no material post-dating the medieval period, but the character of the layer suggested 17th-century abbey demolition deposits were being reworked later. The overlying layer, C1008, produced the late-19th to early 20th-century bottle stop, providing a *terminus post quem* for deposition. This deposit seems likely to have been laid down either during the use of the precinct as the Warner nursery, or following excavation and clearance of the monastic ranges in the 1920s and 1930s.



Plate 18 LiDAR DTM image of the location of the trench, showing the embankment against the east wall

Photographic evidence and the large stumps of trees would suggest that the former is most likely. Until recently, the embanked area was host to an alignment of mature trees now visible as large stumps; trees are shown in this location on maps of 1887 (Ordnance Survey) and in photographs as early as 1909 (ROLLR Henton Collection 1252; see Plate 8) suggesting the material against the east wall was in place by the end of the 19th century. Further, in discussing interpretation of a similar pack of material encountered in the evaluation trench in 2014, ULAS observed that where encountered elsewhere across the site, reworked deposits of the 1920-30s contain a larger proportion of modern rubbish (ULAS 2014).

The profile of the stratigraphy, tipping down west-east, supports the suggestion that these deposits levelled a slope and subsequently created the embankment. During test pitting in 2018, similar tipping layers were recorded in a test pit (2018 Test Pit 2), and homogenous levelling layers were observed in several of the test pits. A levelling deposit was encountered in the 2014 trench (Context 2) and extended to 1.3m BGL; this contained sandstone, roof tile and 14th-century floor tile and post-medieval ceramic.

Historic maps indicate that the precinct was subdivided into rectilinear areas at this time (Plate 19); one of the boundary walls lay south of the evaluation trench; it is perhaps significant that the embanked area only occurs within this compartment, suggesting that it related to activity within a defined area of the nursery.

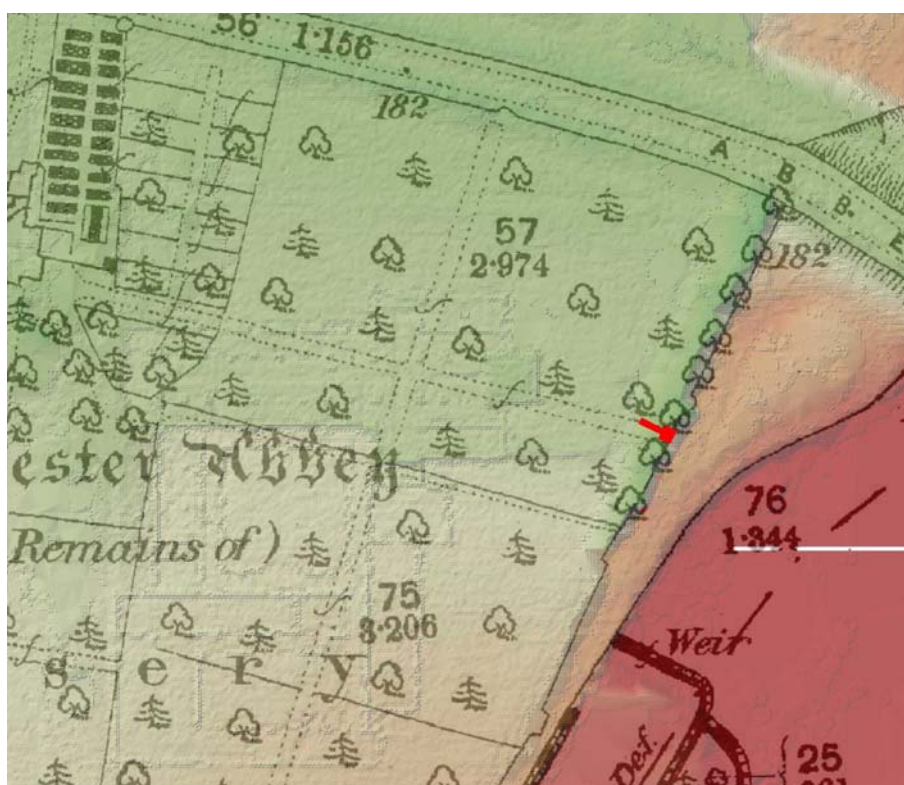


Plate 19 LiDAR DTM image of the location of the trench, with 1887-8 Ordnance Survey map overlaid

The visible external elevation of the precinct wall, as observed in Test pits 1 and 2, appeared almost entirely later in date, and is likely to relate to 19th- and 20th-century flood alleviation and later repair works. It is known from documentary evidence that the river formerly flowed along the foot of the precinct wall, and that when flood alleviation plans were put into action after 1875, the

course of the river shifted eastwards. It is possible that flow along the foot of the wall had scoured or undercut the medieval fabric, thus requiring consolidation during the flood works. The results in Test pit 1 show that the buttress built against the precinct wall, before the precinct wall was subsequently refaced and possibly underpinned. The buttress is known to have been in place by 1909, but was heightened in the mid-20th century; several phases of consolidation are therefore expected in this area.

The sequence observed in Test pit 2 was simpler, again consistent with previous research, which suggested that the wall had been refaced before the buttress was constructed, sometime between 1909 and 1949.

5.3 ASSESSMENT AGAINST OBJECTIVES

Assessment of the results of the evaluation programme shows that the aims and objectives have been met successfully. The evaluation has demonstrated that internally, intact deposits of possible medieval date occur at c.1.7m BGL, overlain by a pack of redeposited material relating to later landscaping of the area.

Figure 7 shows the section of the wall as known; at the base of the evaluation trench, the wall thickness is in the region of 0.90m.

The external buttress foundations are described above; neither was deeply founded. The foundations of the southern and northern buttresses extended to 0.33m BGL and 0.42m BGL respectively.

6.0 SUMMARY

The archaeological evaluation, comprising one evaluation trench within the monastic precinct, and two test pits against the buttresses supported in the external wall, have provided evidence for medieval and later activity within the monastic precinct, and has addressed the objectives set out in the WSI.

Intervention 2 was excavated perpendicular to the internal face of the east wall. The excavation was undertaken to 2.0m BGL and revealed original medieval wall fabric to depth. The elevation had been rendered. Intact medieval deposits were encountered at c.1.86m BGL but not fully excavated. The evidence indicated that the wall had originally been freestanding, at least in part, and may have been cut into the base of a natural slope towards the river.

A series of deposits subsequently levelled the interior of the precinct; these produced a small assemblage of residual material relating to medieval monastic buildings (lead window came, glazed roof and floor tiles and architectural fragments) but also included a 19th- to 20th-century bottle-stop. These deposits are interpreted as relating to levelling of the site and working of the soil during use of the site as a nursery.

Evidence for late 19th- to early-20th century wall refacing was observed in the test pits outside the precinct wall. Test pit 1 provided evidence for the construction of a buttress against the wall (known to predate 1909), before the wall was refaced and possibly underpinned. To the north, Test pit 2 indicated that the wall in this area had been refaced with pink granite before the construction of a buttress (known to date between 1909 and 1949).

7.0 ARCHIVE

The material archive comprises: fourteen sherds of ceramic and five fragments of ceramic building material; a roof slate fragment; two lead items; samples of render and mortar and a rubber bottle-stop. All material will be deposited with Leicester City Museum Service under Accession No A14.2019 and site code LBP '19.

A paper and electronic copy of this report will be circulated to the client, Historic England, Leicester Historic Environment Record and included in the site archive; it will also be made available online via OASIS (fieldarc1-356058).

8.0 REFERENCES

- Buckley, R. 2006a 'The archaeology of Leicester Abbey'; in Story, Bourne and Buckley (eds.) 2006 *Leicester Abbey*: 1-66
- Buckley, R. 2006b 'Leicester Abbey after the Dissolution'; in Story, Bourne and Buckley (eds.) 2006 *Leicester Abbey*: 95-118
- FAS Heritage. 2019. Historic Buildings Assessment, Leicester Abbey Park (unpublished technical report)
- Story, J., Bourne, J. and Buckley, R. (eds) 2006. *Leicester Abbey: medieval history, archaeology and manuscript studies*: Leicester
- ULAS. 1997. Leicester Abbey Precinct Walls Survey (unpublished technical report 97/12)
- ULAS 2014 An archaeological watching brief during restoration works at Abbey Grounds Park, Abbey Park, Leicester (unpublished technical report)
- ULAS 2018 An archaeological evaluation by test pitting at Abbey Park, Leicester (unpublished technical report)

APPENDIX A

SCHEDULED MONUMENT CONSENT



Historic England

EAST MIDLANDS OFFICE

Mr Grahame Appleby
Leicester City Council
City Hall
115 Charles Street
Leicester
LE1 1FZ

Direct Dial: 01604 735460

Our ref: S00168381

4 August 2017

Dear Mr Appleby

**Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979 (as amended); Section 2
control of works
Application for Scheduled Monument Consent**

**LEICESTER ABBEY AND 17TH CENTURY MANSION AND ORNAMENTAL
GARDENS, LEICESTER**

Scheduled Monument No: SM 17131, HA 1012149**Our ref: S00168381****Application on behalf of Leicester City Council**

1. I am directed by the Secretary of State for Culture, Media & Sport to advise you of the decision regarding your application for Scheduled Monument Consent received 2 June 2017 in respect of proposed works at the above scheduled monument concerning the erection of scaffolding to precinct wall, removal of mature trees, overburden, restoration of precinct wall, installation of earth ties and planing of replacement trees. The works were detailed in the following documentation submitted by you:

Scheduled Monument Consent Application Form
City Mayor Briefing Document and attachments (in confidence)

2. In accordance with paragraph 3(2) of Schedule 1 to the 1979 Act, the Secretary of State is obliged to afford you, and any other person to whom it appears to the Secretary of State expedient to afford it, an opportunity of appearing before and being heard by a person appointed for that purpose. This opportunity was offered to you by Historic England and you have declined it.

3. The Secretary of State is also required by the Act to consult with the Historic Buildings and Monuments Commission for England (Historic England) before deciding whether or not to grant Scheduled Monument Consent. Historic England considers the effect of the proposed works upon the monument to be beneficial for the preservation



2nd Floor, WINDSOR HOUSE, CLIFTONVILLE, NORTHAMPTON, NN1 5BE

Telephone 01604 735460
HistoricEngland.org.uk

Historic England is subject to the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA) and Environmental Information Regulations 2004 (EIR). All information held by the organisation will be accessible in response to an information request, unless one of the exemptions in the FOIA or EIR applies.

Historic England will use the information provided by you to evaluate your application for Scheduled Monument Consent. Information contained in this application and any information obtained from other sources will be retained in all cases in hard copy form and/or on computer for administration purposes and future consideration where applicable.



EAST MIDLANDS OFFICE

of the monument, where arrangements for necessary archaeological recording and supervision can be provided for by conditions.

I can confirm that the Secretary of State is agreeable for the works to proceed providing the conditions set out below are adhered to, and that accordingly Scheduled Monument Consent is hereby granted under section 2 of the 1979 Act for the works described in paragraph 1 above, subject to the following conditions:

- (i) The works to which this consent relates shall be carried out to the satisfaction of the Secretary of State, who will be advised by Historic England. At least 2 weeks' notice (or such shorter period as may be mutually agreed) in writing of the commencement of work shall be given to tim.allen@historicengland.org.uk in order that an Historic England representative can inspect and advise on the works and their effect in compliance with this consent.
- (ii) All those involved in the implementation of the works granted by this consent must be informed by the owner that the land is designated as a scheduled monument under the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979 (as amended); the extent of the scheduled monument as set out in both the scheduled monument description and map; and that the implications of this designation include the requirement to obtain Scheduled Monument Consent for any works to a scheduled monument from the Secretary of State prior to them being undertaken.
- (iii) Equipment and machinery shall not be used or operated in the scheduled area in conditions or in a manner likely to result in damage to the monument/ ground disturbance other than that which is expressly authorised in this consent.
- (iv) No element of the consented works involving disturbance to the ground or to historic built fabric shall proceed until details and specifications of that element including a corresponding archaeological written scheme of investigation have been submitted to and approved by Historic England on behalf of the Secretary of State.
- (v) A report on the archaeological recording shall be sent to the City Historic Environment Record and to Tim Allen at Historic England within 3 months of the completion of the works (or such other period as may be mutually agreed).
- (vi) The archaeological contractor shall complete and submit an entry on OASIS (On-line Access to the Index of Archaeological Investigations - <http://oasis.ac.uk/england/>) prior to project completion, and shall deposit any



2nd Floor, WINDSOR HOUSE, CLIFTONVILLE, NORTHAMPTON, NN1 5BE
Telephone 01604 735460
HistoricEngland.org.uk



Historic England is subject to the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA) and Environmental Information Regulations 2004 (EIR). All information held by the organisation will be accessible in response to an information request, unless one of the exemptions in the FOIA or EIR applies.

Historic England will use the information provided by you to evaluate your application for Scheduled Monument Consent. Information contained in this application and any information obtained from other sources will be retained in all cases in hard copy form and/or on computer for administration purposes and future consideration where applicable.



Historic England

EAST MIDLANDS OFFICE

digital project report with the Archaeology Data Service, via the OASIS form, upon completion.

4. By virtue of section 4 of the 1979 Act, if no works to which this consent relates are executed or started within the period of five years beginning with the date on which this consent was granted (being the date of this letter), this consent shall cease to have effect at the end of that period (unless a shorter time period is set by a specific condition above).

5. This letter does not convey any approval or consent required under any enactment, bye law, order or regulation other than section 2 of the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979.

6. Your attention is drawn to the provisions of section 55 of the 1979 Act under which any person who is aggrieved by the decision given in this letter may challenge its validity by an application made to the High Court within six weeks from the date when the decision is given. The grounds upon which an application may be made to the Court are (1) that the decision is not within the powers of the Act (that is, the Secretary of State has exceeded the relevant powers) or (2) that any of the relevant requirements have not been complied with and the applicant's interests have been substantially prejudiced by the failure to comply. The "relevant requirements" are defined in section 55 of the 1979 Act: they are the requirements of that Act and the Tribunals and Inquiries Act 1971 and the requirements of any regulations or rules made under those Acts.

Yours sincerely

Tim Allen

Inspector of Ancient Monuments

E-mail: tim.allen@HistoricEngland.org.uk

For and on behalf of the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport



2nd Floor, WINDSOR HOUSE, CLIFTONVILLE, NORTHAMPTON, NN1 5BE

Telephone 01604 735460
HistoricEngland.org.uk



Historic England is subject to the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA) and Environmental Information Regulations 2004 (EIR). All information held by the organisation will be accessible in response to an information request, unless one of the exemptions in the FOIA or EIR applies.

Historic England will use the information provided by you to evaluate your application for Scheduled Monument Consent. Information contained in this application and any information obtained from other sources will be retained in all cases in hard copy form and/or on computer for administration purposes and future consideration where applicable.

APPENDIX B SCHEDULED MONUMENT DESCRIPTION

EXTRACT FROM ENGLISH HERITAGE'S RECORD OF SCHEDULED MONUMENTS MONUMENT:
Leicester abbey and 17th century mansion and ornamental gardens

PARISH: LEICESTER

DISTRICT: LEICESTER

COUNTY: LEICESTER NATIONAL

MONUMENT NO: 17131

NATIONAL GRID REFERENCE(S): SK58380588

DESCRIPTION OF THE MONUMENT

The monument is situated on the west bank of the River Soar, approximately 1km north of the medieval town of Leicester, and includes the standing and buried remains of an Augustinian abbey and its associated home farm and those of a 17th century mansion and ornamental gardens. The abbey ruins are Listed Grade I. The abbey was founded in 1143 by Robert le Bossu, Earl of Leicester, and was endowed with large areas of land and many parish churches both in Leicestershire and further afield. Documentary evidence indicates that it became one of the richest and most important Augustinian houses in England. Leicester abbey was surrendered to the Crown in 1538, at which time a survey of the monastery was drawn up. After the Dissolution a mansion was built at the site, occupied first by the Hastings family and then by the Cavendish family. By 1928 the 17th century house was in ruins and the land was given to the City of Leicester by Lord Dysart. A precinct wall of stone and brick defines the abbey site and encloses an area of approximately 13ha. The entrance to the abbey was near the centre of the northern wall and remains of masonry structures survive against the wall in this vicinity. The construction of the precinct wall is attributed to two of the monastery's abbots, Abbot Clowne (1345-78) and Abbot Penny (1496-1505), and it is now known as Abbot Penny's Wall. The wall, which is Listed Grade I, is approximately 5m high and is included in the scheduling. It is visible along much of its length except for several gaps along the eastern side and one in the south eastern side, which has been partly rebuilt using modern brick. This latter section of the wall is excluded from the scheduling although the ground below is included. In the north eastern part of the site, approximately 25m of the wall has been rebuilt on a different alignment in order to accommodate a modern gate and this section is also excluded from the scheduling; the foundations of the medieval boundary wall will survive, however, as buried features and are included. The precinct wall is built mostly of stone but red brick has been used for the south western and southern sections. Here, patterns, including Abbot Penny's initials (JP), elaborate crosses, a chalice, the sacred monogram (IHC) and more abstract designs have been picked out in darker brick. The remains of a statue niche, set into the wall, can be seen at the south western corner of the site. The eastern precinct wall retains a number of monastic and post-monastic features within its fabric, including an arch for a drain, loop windows and two garderobes which are set within a tower. The abbey church and claustral buildings were situated in the north eastern part of the precinct. Since the 18th century there have been a number of excavations at the site and the foundations of the main monastic buildings are visible on the ground surface, providing evidence for their layout. The abbey church, which is over 100m long, has a cruciform plan with a tower at its western end. Cardinal Wolsey, who died at Leicester abbey in 1530, was interred within the church. The traditional site of his tomb is within the Lady Chapel to the north of the chancel, marked by a modern cenotaph which is not included in the scheduling, although the ground below it is included. The cloister, which measures approximately 30m internally, is situated to the south of the monastic church. It has buildings along its western, southern and eastern sides, namely the frater to the south, and the chapter house and library with the dormer above to the east. To the south of the southern claustral range is a further courtyard bounded by chambers, kitchens and offices. No foundations are exposed beyond these buildings; however, an excavation has uncovered evidence for buildings extending at

least a further 100m to the west, one of which has been identified as the infirmary. The abbey home farm was situated in the north western part of the precinct and continued as a farm into the post-medieval period. Modern buildings now occupy this area but archaeological deposits associated with the monastic farm are thought to survive as buried features and will provide valuable evidence for the agricultural activities of the monastery. The southern part of the precinct is known to have been occupied by fishponds and an orchard. This area has been landscaped but the buried remains of the ponds will survive beneath the ground surface. The northern part of the monastic precinct is partly occupied by the ruins of a post-Dissolution house, known as Cavendish House, which is Listed Grade I, it incorporates medieval masonry within its fabric. These ruins are located approximately 60m to the south of the north precinct wall and are approached along a driveway which is bounded on either side by a wall. The ruins include the north wall of the house which is built of stone and retains a number of architectural features within its fabric including, mullioned window openings and a square-headed doorway, above which is an arched opening. The north western part of Cavendish House is overlain by a 19th century house known as Abbey House. Abbey House is not included in the scheduling although the ground beneath is included. South and south west of Abbey House are three ruined walls, all containing 17th century windows and door embrasures. These walls are partly free-standing and partly built into modern outbuildings. They form part of the standing remains of Cavendish House and are included in the scheduling. During the Civil War Cavendish House was used by Charles I as the Royalist headquarters prior to the Battle of Naseby, but following his defeat the retreating army looted and fired the house. Formal gardens associated with the house were laid out during the 17th century and are known from early maps. A stone wall which formed part of these gardens is visible running westwards for 50m from the central part of the eastern precinct wall. At its western end, the wall turns north for approximately 6m. The wall provides important evidence for the layout of these formal gardens and is included in the scheduling. The dwelling known as Abbey House and the park maintenance buildings in the northern part of the site, the modern cenotaph commemorating Cardinal Wolsey, the toilet buildings, the pavilion; and Wolsey's statue and the refreshment building in the eastern part of the site are all excluded from the scheduling, although the ground beneath them is included. All garden furniture, the concrete-lined pool, the animal pens, sand pits, and the surfaces of all paths, tennis courts and driveways are also excluded, however the ground beneath these features is included.

ASSESSMENT OF IMPORTANCE

From the time of St Augustine's mission to re-establish Christianity in AD 597 to the reign of Henry VIII, monasticism formed an important facet of both religious and secular life in the British Isles. Settlements of religious communities, including monasteries, were built to house communities of monks, canons (priests), and sometimes lay-brothers, living a common life of religious observance under some form of systematic discipline. It is estimated from documentary evidence that over 700 monasteries were founded in England. These ranged in size from major communities with several hundred members to tiny establishments with a handful of brethren. They belonged to a wide variety of different religious orders, each with its own philosophy. As a result, they vary considerably in the detail of their appearance and layout, although all possess the basic elements of church, domestic accommodation for the community, and work buildings. Monasteries were inextricably woven into the fabric of medieval society, acting not only as centres of worship, learning, and charity, but also, because of the vast landholdings of some orders, as centres of immense wealth and political influence. They were established in all parts of England, some in towns and others in the remotest of areas. Many monasteries acted as the foci of wide networks including parish churches, almshouses, hospitals, farming estates and tenant villages. Some 225 of these religious houses belonged to the order of St Augustine. The Augustinians were not monks in the strict sense, but rather communities of canons - or priests - living under the rule of St Augustine. In England they came to be known as 'black canons' because of their dark coloured robes and to distinguish them from the Cistercians who wore light clothing. From the 12th century onwards, they undertook much valuable work in the parishes, running almshouses, schools and hospitals as well as maintaining and preaching in parish churches. It was from the

churches that they derived much of their revenue. The Augustinians made a major contribution to many facets of medieval life and all of their monasteries which exhibit significant surviving archaeological remains are worthy of protection. Leicester abbey retains extensive standing and buried remains of one of the richest and most important Augustinian monasteries in the country. The site has detailed documentary evidence for both the monastic and post-Dissolution periods and these provide a valuable insight into the economy of the monastery and of the mansion which superseded it. The precinct wall is an important feature which rarely survives intact at monastic sites. Partial excavation has indicated that the remains of buildings and archaeological deposits associated with the occupation of the abbey survive undisturbed beneath the ground surface. The post-Dissolution house and the walls of its associated gardens also survive well and provide a valuable example of the conversion of a major monastic site for secular use following its Dissolution.

MONUMENT INCLUDED IN THE SCHEDULE ON 18th July 1995

APPENDIX C LISTED BUILDING DESCRIPTION

ABBOT PENNY'S WALL

Heritage Category: Listed Building
 Grade: I
 List Entry Number: 1361406
 Date first listed: 14-Mar-1975
 Date of most recent amendment: 16-Jan-1991
 Statutory Address: ABBOT PENNY'S WALL

Location

Statutory Address: ABBOT PENNY'S WALL
 District: City of Leicester (Unitary Authority)
 National Grid Reference: SK 58513 06115

Details

In the entry for:- ABBEY PARK 1. 5304 Abbot Penny's Wall, forming West and North Boundary to Abbey Lane and Abbey Park Road and East Boundary along River Soar SK 5805 4/207 SK 50 NE 14/207 II The entry shall be amended to read:-

LEICESTER SK 50 NE ABBEY PARK 4-14/207 Abbot Penny's Wall GV I Monastic boundary wall, now park wall and gates. Medieval, c1500, mid C19 and 1931. Red and blue brick and Charnwood granite. From south east corner a 60 metre section of mid C19 brick wall, then a 45 metre section of repaired brick wall c1500. At the south west corner, a chamfered section with partial quoins and an ashlar niche with ornate canopy. The west wall c 1500, with blue brick patterned diaper work stretched 385 metres, with blue brick coping. 25 metres north a pair of square gate piers, c1980, then 100 metres north a further gateway, c1931, with a pair of square piers, short curved iron railings and a pair of square gatepiers with iron gates. 75 metres north an original four-centred archway now blocked. 185 metres north the wall becomes Charnwood granite rubble with rounded coping, slightly higher and largely medieval. 220 metres north a C20 gateway. 20 metres further north another gateway, c1931, with round outer piers, iron railings and octagonal ashlar gatepiers with iron gates. 75 metres north the wall curves round onto Abbey Park Road, and stretches 125 metres east to the main gateway. Entrance gate has outer octagonal turrets with ashlar battlements, and outer four-centred arches with a central larger four-centred arch topped by a coat-of-arms and a coped gable, all with iron gates. The wall continues 125 metres east to a chamfered turret, then a further 90 metres to a rounded corner turret. Fragmentary wall continues south along the River Soar for 323 metres, the wall has medieval windows and a restored turret with machicolations. At the south east corner a further turret also with medieval openings. The wall then stretches west for 57 metres with a central opening, and a small section turns north for 9 metres.

ABBEY PARK 1. 5304 Abbot Penny's Wall, forming West and North Boundary to Abbey Lane and Abbey Park Road and East Boundary along River Soar SK 5805 4/207 SK 50 NE 14/207 II 2. Circa 1500. Stone rubble walls. The west wall along Abbey Lane heightened C17/C18? in red brick, with ramp coping of engineering bricks above.

Listing NGR: SK5851306115

Legacy

The contents of this record have been generated from a legacy data system.

Legacy System number: 188561

Legacy System: LBS

Sources

Other

Register of Parks and Gardens of Special Historic Interest in England, Part 26 Leicestershire,

Legal

This building is listed under the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990 as amended for its special architectural or historic interest.

APPENDIX D WRITTEN SCHEME OF INVESTIGATION

1.0 INTRODUCTION

This document represents a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) for a proposed archaeological evaluation at Leicester Abbey, Leicester. The WSI has been prepared by FAS Heritage on behalf of The Morton Partnership for Leicester City Council.

1.1 LOCATION AND LAND USE

The former precinct of Leicester Abbey, known as Abbey Grounds, lies on the left (west) bank of the River Soar, bounded by Abbey Park Road to the north, and St Margaret's Way to the west (Plate 1). The site forms part of a public park.

The site of the proposed evaluation lies close to the northeastern corner of the Abbey precinct, immediately adjacent to the interior and exterior elevations of the east precinct wall. The ground level is significantly higher within the precinct in this area, reaching to the top of the stone boundary wall and in places topped with more recent walling/fencing (Plate 2).

1.1.1 Statutory designations

The whole of the abbey precinct is designated as a Scheduled Monument (NHLE 1012141).

The whole of Abbey Park is designated as a Registered Park (Grade II; NHLE 1000956), including the 19th-century public part to the east of the Soar, and Abbey Grounds to the west.

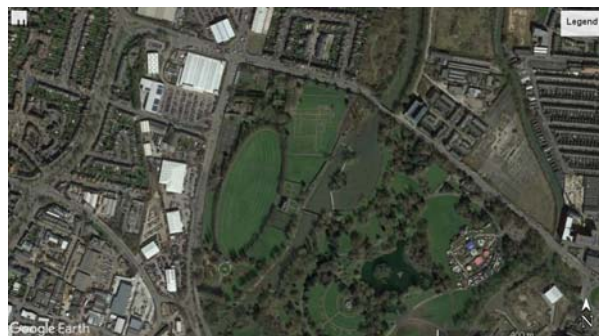


Plate 1 Aerial view of Abbey Park



Plate 2 East precinct wall, interior, looking north

The precinct wall - Abbot Penny's Wall - is also Grade I Listed (NHLE 1361406); the designation includes the whole outer wall of the precinct, comprising both stone built elements to the north and brick elements to the south.

Scheduled Monument Consent for the proposed evaluation has been issued by Historic England (Reference S00168381)(Appendix A).

2.0 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

The overall aim of the proposed evaluation is to inform an assessment of the structural stability of the wall towards the formulation of restoration proposals. Specifically, the evaluation has been designed in order to:

- provide information on the character, makeup and sequence of the ground lying against and within the east precinct wall in this location to see whether ground reduction is desirable;
- gauge the thickness of the precinct wall as close to its basal level as possible;

- assess the foundations of two external buttresses.

The results of the evaluation have the potential to enhance the current understanding of the wider abbey site. Should the results of the project fulfill this potential, they will be fed into the East Midlands Research Framework as appropriate. The project has the potential to contribute to the following research question:

7.5 Religion

How can we refine our understanding of local and regional architectural styles, including sculptured stonework, decorations and monuments?

3.0 HISTORICAL AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

An archaeological desk-based assessment and historic buildings assessment has been undertaken for Leicester Abbey Precinct wall (FAS 2019), drawing on earlier studies of the abbey (Buckley, Bourne and Story 2006) and an inspection of the fabric of the wall (ULAS 1997). The following presents a brief summary of the known development of the Abbey site.

3.1 BEFORE THE ABBEY

3.1.1 Prehistoric

There have been reported finds of prehistoric artefacts recovered from river gravels of the River Soar/Abbey Meadows, including lithics of Palaeolithic, Mesolithic, Neolithic, Bronze Age or more generally prehistoric date. Two antlers, considered to be of Neolithic date, are also recorded in the HER.

No finds of Iron Age date were recorded in the DBA study area; the area lies outside the main known area of occupation of this date, during which this area formed part of the territory of the Corieltauvi.

3.1.2 Roman

Situated on a significant crossing of the Fosse Way, Leicester occupied an important location during the Roman period. A fort, *Ratae*, was established in the 1st century; timber and subsequently stone defences were constructed in the 2nd and 3rd centuries; this lay to the south of what is now Abbey Park. A Roman suburb is recorded in the HER, extending north from the town defences, west of what is now the Abbey precinct, along a conjectured Roman Road leading to Derby, Rocester and Chesterton.

Roman finds have been recovered from the vicinity of the abbey, indicating the potential for extramural activity in the vicinity. Finds, some of which are located only generally, include ceramic, and coins. A Roman cremation is reported as having been found in the area of the Leicester Abbey although further detailed is lacking.

Discoveries made during 19th- and 20th-century investigations at the abbey encountered Roman material, including possible fragments of box flue tiles; cumulatively evidence points to the presence of a Roman site beneath the Abbey (Buckley 2006, 8).

3.2 MEDIEVAL PERIOD

3.2.1 St Mary's Abbey

The Augustinian Abbey of St Mary in the Meadow was founded in 1143 (or possibly 1139) on a site to the north of the walls of the medieval city (Plate 3). The abbey was founded by Robert le Bessu, second Earl of Leicester, as a college of Augustinian canons, and was richly endowed from the outset.

The church and cloister (which lay to the south of the church) were constructed shortly after the foundation, and the abbey continued to acquire property through much of the medieval period, and the precinct is said to have been extended in the late 15th or early 16th century. By the time of the Dissolution, the abbey comprised a substantial church, and a range of buildings including chapter house, refectory, dormitory (around the main cloister) together with infirmary, a library, gatehouse with lodgings, farm buildings and a mill, and a lavatorium in the cloister walk.

A stone precinct wall encompassed the abbey precinct, interpreted as representing a northern enclosure with a later, southern extension. The proposed investigation will focus on the eastern, stone-built wall of the northern enclosure.

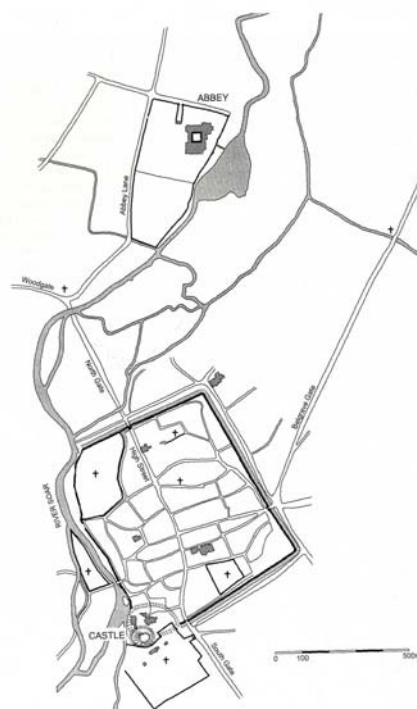


Plate 3 Plan of medieval Leicester showing the city walls, castle and abbey (Story, Bourne and Buckley (eds.) 2006, figure 1)

Archaeological investigations in the 1920s and 1930s informed the laying out of the ground plan of the church and claustral ranges. Further investigation of the abbey remains was undertaken by ULAS in the 2000s.

3.3 POST-MEDIEVAL PERIOD

The Abbey was surrendered in 1538 by the last abbot John Bouchier, and the possessions granted to the Crown. A proposal to convert the church into a cathedral for the city did not come to fruition, and it is considered that the abbey buildings were demolished shortly thereafter. The building was so comprehensively demolished that the plan was lost until modern archaeological investigations.

After 1539, the abbey was leased, and passed through several families until it fell into the hands of the Hastings family, Earls of Huntingdon. The Hastings family built a house in the Abbey in 1562. Cavendish House incorporated part of the medieval masonry of the abbey gatehouse, including masonry and mullioned windows.

A plan of the abbey by William Senior (1613) for William Cavendish, new owner of the site shows the layout of the precinct at this time (Plate 4). The northern enclosure at this time included a dovecote garden (NW corner), a gatehouse (presumably the Hastings mansion, later Cavendish House), a 'hog yard' and stables (on the site of present farm buildings), 'apricock's garen' and 'ruynes' on the site of the church and claustral buildings. An orchard and 'horse pond' are also shown. Senior's map shows the location of the abbey mill, adjacent to the northeast corner; this was demolished in the late 18th century (Buckley 2006, 17). The course of the river is shown and appears to flow immediately adjacent to the precinct wall for most of its

length. A later map by Fish, dated to 1686, shows the extant precinct wall around Cavendish House (Plate 5).

It is often stated that Cavendish House was destroyed during the Civil War in 1645, having been used in one of two sieges in Leicester in that year. An itinerary of the king states that it was burnt by Royalists at the time of the first siege (Buckley 2006b, 101), while the house is reputed to have been used by Charles I the headquarters of the Royalist forces for the battle of Naseby. In September 1645, Ralph Josselin observed of the building that 'nothing standing but ye stone works' (Hockliffe cited in Buckley 2006b, 101). However, subsequent rentals into the 1670s indicate that at least part of the house must still have been suitable for habitation.

The Cavendish family remained owners of the Abbey until 1733 when it was sold to Sir John Manners, brother of the Duke of Rutland. It is not clear to what degree the site was occupied at this time.

3.4 19TH CENTURY TO MODERN

By the 19th century, Leicester Abbey was owned by the Earls of Dysart, who sold Abbey Meadows to Leicester Town Council in 1876 so that they could proceed with the flood relief scheme which involved widening the river, deepening the bed and raising land on either side. Land east of the river subsequently developed as public space. Maps and historic photographs show that prior to this, the Soar flowed much closer to the abbey. The present course is a result of the flood alleviation works; extensive weirs and riverside embankments are shown on the Ordnance Survey map of 1887-8, which also shows use of the abbey site as a nursery.

The land to the west of the Soar, being the former Abbey precinct, former part of Warner's nursery into the early 20th century. Between 1904 and 1915, historic maps show little change to the layout of the precinct. Between 1915, and the edition of 1929-1936, a length of the southern part of the east wall had been lost, and much of the interior subdivision of the precinct removed.

Historic images of the east wall survive, which show that by the 19th/early 20th century there had been significant collapse along this stretch. The early 20th-century rebuilding of several areas is evident in the fabric of the wall (**Error! Reference source not found.**).

By 1925, the nursery appears to have become semi-derelict. In that year, the Earl of Dysart presented 32 acres (including the abbey precinct) to the council to be used as an extension to the popular Abbey Park; this was known as Abbey Ground. The extended park opened in 1932.



Plate 4 Detail from William Senior's map of Leicester Abbey with excavated remains overlaid © Devonshire Estates, Chatsworth. Reproduced by permission of Chatsworth Settlement Trustees

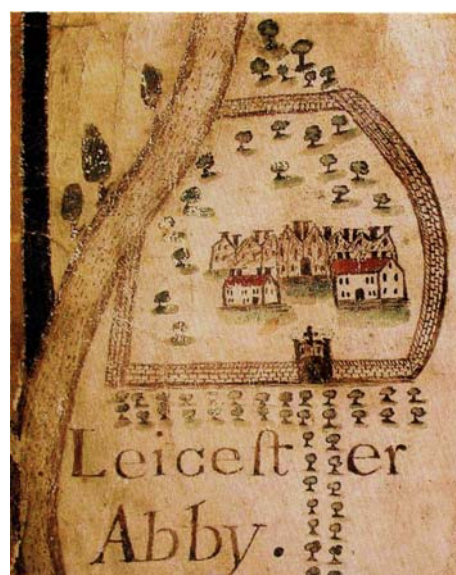


Plate 5 Illustration of 1686 by Fish (Buckley 2006)

Reports of plans include restoration of the precinct walls, and a new entrance to be created in the north wall on the site of the original entrance (only one turret remaining, turret being restored)(Buckley 2006, 9). Bedingfield undertook investigations as part of this work, revealing the layout of the church and claustral ranges from 1927 onwards.

3.5 RECENT ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION

Two recent archaeological interventions are pertinent to the proposed evaluation. In January 2014 a scheme of investigation designed to inform wall repair proposals was undertaken consisting of a single evaluation trench and a series of five boreholes (ULAS 2018)(see Figure 2). The trench and boreholes were located within the area of raised ground against the east wall and encountered a sequence of natural marl at between 3.5 to 4.1m deep overlain by a thick pack of sandstone rubble measuring up to 2.0m thick as



Plate 6 Historic image showing the ruinous eastern wall (Leicester Archives)

observed in the boreholes. This may represent 16th-century demolition deposits from the clearance of the abbey ranges following the Dissolution, since the layer is recorded as Danes Hill sandstone. Over this rubble layer, strata were recorded directly within the evaluation trench and consisted of an interface layer between the sandstone rubble (0.15m deep) beneath a possible buried soil horizon (0.20m deep) overlain by a pack of dumped material measuring in excess of 1.0m deep thought to relate to the dumping of spoil from abbey excavations in the 1920s and 30s. This pack was overlain by c.0.30m of topsoil.

In 2018 an archaeological watching brief was maintained during the excavation of a series of seven tree-planting test pits (ULAS 2014). All test pits measured 1.0 x 1.0m and were excavated to a depth of 1.0m and were positioned at intervals parallel to the east precinct wall adjacent to the path. Six test pits recorded modern overburden and some possible cut features; test pit 6 contained a human burial at 1.0m below ground level.

4.0 METHODOLOGY

The proposed evaluation consists of the excavation of a single evaluation trench against and perpendicular to the east precinct wall (see Figure 2). The trench will measure c.10.0m x 1.0m oriented west-east. At its westernmost end the trench will intersect with the west elevation of the east precinct wall and will measure 3.0m x 3.0m in plan in order to allow excavation to be stepped in within a 1.0m x 1.0m area down to 2.0m (maximum depth).

In addition, two test pits will be excavated to the immediate south of two buttresses which abut the east precinct wall on the east side (see Figure 2). The test pits will measure 1.0m x 1.0m and will be hand-excavated to a maximum of 1.0m below ground level or sufficient to establish the depth and make-up of buttress foundation and the underlying stratum.

The evaluation trench will be excavated by machine operated by a suitably qualified archaeologist under archaeological guidance by a second archaeologist. Any resulting upcast will be inspected for archaeological finds and architectural masonry. Where machine excavation is not practicable excavation will be undertaken by hand by archaeologists. The test pits will be hand-excavated.

The existing site grid based established for measured survey will be used for all location recording.

Should any significant archaeological remains be found to survive *in situ*, groundworks will be halted pending further discussion with Historic England by telephone and/or on site.

Any archaeological deposits, features or structures encountered will be the subject of a written, photographic and drawn record.

4.1 RECORDING PROCEDURE

A full written, drawn and photographic record will be made of all deposits and features encountered. Archaeological deposits, features and structures will be recorded using a standard system of context and other record forms. A series of indexes, capable of interrogation, will be maintained for all site records. The planning of features will be undertaken at scales of 1:10 or 1:20; measured sketches of one pit section each will be undertaken. The photographic record will consist of 35mm monochrome photography and high-resolution colour digital photography; monochrome photography will be undertaken using silver-based film to ensure archival stability.

4.2 ENVIRONMENTAL STRATEGY

A systematic environmental sampling method will be employed. Deposits which are clearly of a mixed/secondary origin such as make-up layers or deposits, which display a high degree of residual/intrusive artefactual material will not be the subject of environmental sampling unless a specific question relating to function or social status can be addressed. Where deposits are thought to be of primary origin and have potential to contain biological remains, an appropriate sampling regime will be implemented, in accordance with *Environmental Archaeology: A Guide to the Theory and Practice of Methods, from Sampling and Recovery to Post-excavation* (Second Edition)(2011).

4.3 FINDS RECOVERY AND TREATMENT

All finds identified during monitoring will be hand-collected and processed. Finds treatment will be undertaken in accordance with guidelines set down in *First Aid for Finds* (Watkinson and Neal 1998). Archive preparation will be undertaken in accordance with *Guidelines for the preparation of excavation archives for long-term storage* (Walker 1990).

All wet-preserved artefacts will be treated in accordance with *First Aid for Finds* (Watkinson and Neal 1998), *Guidelines for the care of waterlogged organic artefacts* (2012) or *Waterlogged wood, guidelines on the recording, sampling, conservation and curation of structural wood* (2010).

The terms of the Treasure Act 1996 will be followed with regard to any finds which might fall within its purview. Any such finds will be removed to a safe place and reported to the local coroner as required by the procedures as laid down in the "Code of Practice". Where removal cannot be effected on the same working day as the discovery, suitable security measures will be taken to protect the finds from theft.

In the event that human burials are encountered, the remains will be recorded and where possible left *in situ*. The provisions of Section 25 of the Burial Act (1857) will be complied with.

4.4 ARCHIVE PREPARATION

On completion of fieldwork all records and material will be indexed, ordered, quantified and checked for consistency. The archival record will include all material relating to the site including correspondence, written, drawn and computerised records.

Preliminary conservation and stabilisation of objects will be undertaken prior to an assessment of long-term conservation and storage needs.

4.5 POST-EXCAVATION AND REPORTING PROCEDURES

Upon completion of the fieldwork, a report will be prepared within three months of the completion of fieldwork and will include the archaeological background, fieldwork procedure, the results of the evaluation, interpretation and phasing, illustrations (photographs, plans and sections as appropriate) and assessment, conclusions and recommendations.

5.0 PERSONNEL

5.1 KEY PERSONNEL

Project Manager: Justin Garner-Lahire

Justin has directed FAS Heritage since its incorporation in 1993. Justin holds a BA in Archaeology from the University of York and has in-depth knowledge of field archaeology techniques having been involved in archaeological fieldwork for over 30 years. He has been a major contributor to archaeological field research projects across Britain and in Italy and Algeria.

Project Officer: Richard Jackson

Richard joined FAS Heritage in 1999. Richard holds a BA (Hons) in British Archaeology from the University of York and has been involved in archaeological projects for nearly 20 years. Richard is an experienced field archaeologist, surveyor and CAD technician, and has worked on a diverse portfolio of projects, including at Lincoln Castle and Ulverscroft Priory, Leicestershire.

6.0 PUBLICATION AND DISSEMINATION

Digital copies of the report will be sent to The Morton Partnership, Historic England and relevant officers of Leicester City Council. An Online Access to Index of Archaeological Investigations (OASIS) form will be submitted for the project.

A note on the results of the works undertaken for the project would be submitted to Medieval Archaeology and Post-Medieval Archaeology as appropriate. The results of the project will also be considered for its contribution to the East Midlands Research Framework and will form part of an interactive update via the wiki portal

7.0 MONITORING

The work will be monitored by Amanda White and Dr Andy Hammon, Historic England and Grahame Appleby, Principal Archaeologist, Leicester City Council who will be notified of the commencement of works, and will be kept updated as to the progress of the evaluation.

8.0 HEALTH AND SAFETY

FAS Heritage will operate with due regard for Health and Safety regulations, and will ensure that all relevant requirements are met with regard both to site personnel and to members of the public. A Risk Assessment will be prepared, in accordance with the Health and Safety at Work Regulations prior to the start of the site investigation.

9.0 INSURANCE

FAS Heritage carries appropriate levels of Public Liability, Employers Liability and Professional Indemnity insurances.

10.0 REFERENCES

- Buckley, R. 2006 'The archaeology of Leicester Abbey'; in Story, Bourne and Buckley (eds.) 2006 *Leicester Abbey*: 1-66
- Story, J., Bourne, J. and Buckley, R. (eds) 2006. *Leicester Abbey: medieval history, archaeology and manuscript studies*: Leicester
- ULAS 2014 An archaeological watching brief during restoration works at Abbey Grounds Park, Abbey Park, Leicester (unpublished technical report)
- ULAS 2018 An archaeological evaluation by test pitting at Abbey Park, Leicester (unpublished technical report)

Justin Garner-Lahire 03/04/19

APPENDIX E INDEX TO FIELD FILE

CODE		DESCRIPTION	RECORD	FORMAT
		Indices		
YO1		Index of notebooks	-	-
YO2		Index of contexts	1	A4
YO3		Index of features	1	A4
YO4		Index of structures	-	-
YO5		Index of drawings	-	-
YO6	.0	Index of photographs	1	A4
	.1	Index of film processing	1	A4
YO7	.0	Index of finds	1	A4
	.1	Index of finds by context	-	-
	.2	Index of finds by grid square	-	-
	.3	Sample Register	-	-
	.4	Artefact Register	-	-
	.5	Finds Storage Register	-	-
YO8		Index of geophysical data files	-	-
YO9	.0	Index of survey stations	-	-
	.1	Index of co-ordinate files	-	-
	.2	Index of topographic files	-	-
YO10		Index of interventions	1	A4
Y1		Notebooks		
		Contexts		
Y2	.0	Context Record	14	A4
	.1	Skeleton Record	-	-
	.2	Coffin Record	-	-
	.3	Masonry Record	-	-
	.4	Timber Record	-	-
		Features		
Y3	.0	Feature Record	5	A4
	.1	Auger Record	-	-
		Structures		
Y4		Structure Record	-	-
		Site drawing		
Y5	.0	Legend	-	-
	.1	Plans	-	-
	.2	Maps	-	-
	.3	Sections	-	-
		Photographs		
Y6	.0	Black and white negatives	-	35mm
	.1	Colour negatives	-	-
	.2	Colour slides	-	-
	.3	Colour enprints	-	-
	.4	Black and white prints	1	contact
		Finds		
Y7	.0	Finds Location Record	-	-
	.1	Artefact Record	-	-
		Survey		
Y8	.0	Record of geophysical data files	-	-
	.1	Record of .RAW data file	-	-
	.2	Record of .FLD data file	-	-
	.3	Surface Reconnaissance Record	-	-

APPENDIX F SUMMARY OF CONTEXT RECORDS

Context no	Feature No	Intervention/TP	Identification	Description	Munsell
1000	-	Int 1 TP 1 & 2	Topsoil	Very dark brown, sticky sandy clay with rare inclusions of rounded gravel	10YR2/2
1001	-	Int 1 TP 1 & 2	Layer	Dark yellowish brown, plastic silty clay with occasional rounded pebbles and rarer inclusions of larger stone fragments	10YR 4/4
1002	-	Int 1 TP 1 & 2	Layer	Very dark greyish brown clay sand, loose in compaction with root disturbance and stone in inclusions	10YR 3/2
1003	-	Int 1 TP 1	Layer	Dark greyish brown clay with occasional rounded pebbles	2.5Y4/2
1004	1	Int 1TP 1	Make-up of precinct wall foundation	Precinct wall make-up, consisting of angular blocks of ?refacing with hard, yellowish cream lime mortar	-
1005	2	Int 1 TP 1	Make-up of buttress foundation	Make-up of buttress foundation, comprising roughly coursed angular blocks of granite, bonded with a sandy, pale brown lime mortar	-
1006	-	Int 2	Topsoil	Very dark brown sandy silt topsoil over Intervention 2	10YR 2/2
1007	-	Int 2	Rubble layer	Deposit of friable, reddish brown silty sand with frequent gravel and pebble inclusions, and fragments of yellow-glazed stoneware	7.5YR6/6
1008	-	Int 2	Layer	Deposit of friable, brown silty sand with frequent inclusions of gravel, pebble sand cobbles, also ceramic, CBM, lead, architectural fragments and a rubber bottle stop	7.5YR4/4
1009	-	Int 2	Layer	Deposit of brown clay sand with inclusions of gravel and pebbles, and finds of ceramic, lead came, and CBM	7.5YR4/2
1010	3	Int 2	Make-up of precinct wall (W elevation)	Coursed sandstone make-up of the precinct wall, with evidence of render below 1m BGL	-
1011	-	Int 2	Layer burnt material	Laminating layers of black, yellowish brown and yellowish red sandy silt and silts; three ceramic sherds	5YR4/6
1012	4	TP 2	Make-up of precinct wall foundation	Stone make-up of precinct wall as seen in test pit 2	-
1013	5	TP 2	Make-up of buttress foundation	Stone make-up of buttress foundation as seen in test pit 2	-

APPENDIX G SUMMARY OF FEATURE RECORDS

Feature nos	Context Nos	Intervention/TP	Identification	Description	Profile
1	1004	TP 1	Precinct wall foundation	Precinct wall as observed in the east-facing section of TP 1	-
2	1005	TP 1	Buttress foundation	Buttress foundation as observed in the south-facing section of TP 1	
3	1010	Int 2	Precinct wall	Precinct wall as observed in the west-facing section of TP 1	
4	1012	TP 2	Precinct wall foundation	Precinct wall as observed in the east-facing section of TP 2	
5	1013	TP 2	Buttress foundation	Buttress foundation as observed in the south-facing section of TP 2	

APPENDIX H CERAMIC AND CERAMIC BUILDING MATERIAL ASSESSMENT

Deborah Sawday

1.0 INTRODUCTION

The pottery assemblage was made up of fifteen sherds, weighing 887grams, representing a maximum count of thirteen vessels. Two fragments of ridge tile, weighing 179 grams and five pieces of floor tile were also recorded.

1.1 METHODOLOGY

The pottery and ceramic building material was examined under an x20 binocular microscope and catalogued with reference to current guidelines (MPRG 1998, MPRG 2016) and the ULAS fabric series (Sawday 2009). The results are shown below (tables 1 -3). Table 1 lists the pottery by fabric and tables 2 and 3 catalogue the pottery and ceramic building material by context. Single pottery sherds have been counted as one vessel.

1.2 RESULTS

1.2.1 INTERVENTION 1

Test Pit 1

A single sherd of what is thought to be a Rhenish Stoneware – possibly 16th-century Siegburg - was found in C1003, a deposit abutting the wall and buttress foundations.

Test Pit 2

Three joining sherds of modern stoneware occurred in F5, C1013, the stone make-up of the foundation of a buttress constructed in the first half of the 20th century.

Table 1 The fabrics of the medieval and later pottery and of the ceramic building material.

Fabric	Common Name/Kiln & Fabric Equivalent where known	Approx. Date Range
PM	Potters Marston ware - Potters Marston, Leicestershire (1)	c.1100-1300/50+
CC1	Chilvers Coton A/Ai (2), Warwick CTS WW01 (3)	c.1250-1325/1400
CC2	Chilvers Coton fabric C (2), Warwick CTS SQ30 (3)	Later 13th-1475
CC5	Chilvers Coton fabric B/Bi (2) – Warwicks CTS STR20 ,(3)	c.1250-1300
MP2	Midland Purple ware 2 -? Ticknall, Derbyshire (4)	c.1375-1550
MP3	Midland Purple ware 3 –vitrified MS3, -? Ticknall, Derbyshire (4)	c.1375-1550
MY	Midland Yellow ware - ?Ticknall, Derbyshire (5)	c.1500-1725
RH	Rhenish Stoneware - ?Siegburg	?16th C.
SW	Stoneware -Unclassified	Modern
(1) Haynes 1952, Sawday 2009		(4) Coppack 1980, Leigh & Cumberpatch 2011
(2) Mayes & Scott 1984		(5) Spavold and Brown 2005, Woodfield 1984
(3) Soden & Ratkai 1998, Ratkai 2005.		(6) Hurst <i>et al</i> 1986.

1.2.2 INTERVENTION 2

The excavation against the internal west face of the precinct wall, uncovered a series of layers abutting the wall at the base of the trench, C1011, which have been interpreted as occupation layers. The three sherds, 63 grams from this context comprised a single abraded fragment of Chilvers Coton A ware, fabric CC1, dating from the later 13th or 14th centuries, and two sherds of late medieval Midland Purple ware. Three more sherds of Midland Purple, weighing 171 grams, were found in a layer, C1009 above, together with part of a glazed ridge tile in Potters Marston, dating from the mid or later 13th or 14th centuries, and four fragments of floor tile, of which at least three are monochrome, probably of a similar date. C1008 above C1009 produced a sherd, weighing 87 grams of Chilvers Coton C ware, fabric CC2, and two more sherds, weighing 170 grams in Midland Purple. These and a fragment of CC2 ridge tile and an abraded monochrome floor tile in the same context, are thought to be residual in a deposit which also produced modern material. Two sherds, 112 grams of post-medieval Midland Yellow ware in C1007 which lay above, are also presumed to be residual.

Table 2: The pottery by context/location, fabric, sherd number, weight (grams), and vessel number.

Context	location	Fabric	No	Gr	Vessel No	Comments
1002	Int 1 TP1	RH	1	16	1	Light grey/white Rhenish stoneware body –perhaps part of a jug with a relatively thick wall, c.4-5mm, with internal dimensions of c.70mm – tapering to c.50mm. Interior unglazed, exterior salt glazed. Possibly Siegburg – the salt glaze which was used on the coarser products suggesting a date in the 16th century (Hurst <i>et al</i> , 1986, 176)
1007	Int 2	MY	1	14	1	Lead glazed hollow ware body with inscribed line and sooting on exterior, possibly a small pipkin, (Woodfield 1984, form D).
1007	Int 2	MY	1	98	1	Internally lead glazed thick walled body, part of a jar (<i>ibid</i> . 1984 form L) with traces of light external sooting.
1008	Int 2	CC2	1	87	1	Flat trimmed base of a hollow ware vessel, green glazed on the interior traces of orange/brown glaze on exterior surfaces. Post depositional copper oxide staining across broken edges of sherd.
1008	Int 2	MP2	1	30	1	Hard fired body sherd from a hollow ware vessel. Limescale residue on interior.
1008	Int 2	MP2	1	140	1	Flanged rim of wide mouthed bowl with a bifid flange. Similar at the Austin Friars, Leicester, (Woodland 1981, fig.36.155). Spots of purple glaze on interior, and of sooting on the exterior. Estimated rim diameter 260mm.
1009	Int 2	MP2	1	17	1	Under-fired, partially oxidised body.
1009	Int 2	MP2	2	154	2	Body sherds, one with traces of brownish/purple glaze on interior surfaces.
1011	Int 2	CC1	1	19	1	Abraded body, traces of external sooting.
1011	Int 2	MP2	1	12	1	Body.
1011	Int 2	MP3	1	32	1	Pulled jug strap handle
1013	Int 1 TP2 F5	SW	3	268	1	Joining sherds – base of a glazed and wheel thrown jar.

Table 3 The ceramic building material by context/location, number and weight (grams) for the ridge tile..

Context	location	No	Gr	Comments
Ridge Tile				
1008	Int 2	1	95	Tile, sanded under side and edge, evidence of moulding manufacture. Traces of brown lead glaze, and smoothing on upper surface. A Chilvers Coton product in fabric C (Mayes and Scott 1984).
1009	Int 2	1	84	Potters Marston glazed tile, abraded, but evidence of flashing, mortar residue on the underside of the tile.
Floor Tile				
1008	Int 2	1	-	Abraded floor tile, c.24-25mm thick with bevelled cut edges and stacking evidence from firing in the kiln on one edge for firing in the kiln. Fine red bodied sandy fabric with streaks of white clay and sparse Fe inclusions. The upper surface appears to be monochrome with a lead glaze which has fired yellow over the surviving traces of white slip. Possibly a Chilvers Coton product in fabric C (Mayes and Scott 1984).
1009	Int 2	1	-	Floor tile, c.160mm wide and c.26mm thick. Virtually no bevel. Red bodied, monochrome, lead glaze firing yellow over a thin white slip. The horizontal and vertical brush strokes used to apply the glaze clearly visible on the upper surface.
1009	Int 2	1	-	Corner of floor tile, c.26mm thick, monochrome, traces of copper green glaze on upper surface.
1009	Int 2	1	-	Corner of floor tile, c.28mm thick, upper surface abraded, traces of greenish yellow glaze only survive towards the edge of the tile.
1009	Int 2	1	-	Floor tile, red bodied, monochrome greenish brown glaze on upper surface. Traces of brush strokes used to apply the glaze clearly visible on the upper surface.

Bibliography

- Coppack, G. 1980 *The Medieval Pottery of Lincoln, Nottingham & Derby*. Unpub. PhD thesis, University of Nottingham.
- Haynes, J. 1952 'A thirteenth century kiln site at Potters Marston' *Trans. Leicestershire Archaeol. Soc.*, 28, 55-62.
- Hurst, J.G., Neal, D.S., and Van Beuningen, H.J.E. 1986 'Pottery Produced and Traded in North-West Europe 1350-1650', *Rotterdam Papers* 6, Museum Boymans- Van Beuningen. Rotterdam
- Leigh, D, and Cumberpatch, D. 2011 A post-medieval pottery waster pit at Southwood House farm on the Calke Abbey Estate, near Ticknall, South Derbyshire' *Derbyshire Archaeol. Journal* 131, 2011, 174-194.,
- Mayes, P., and Scott, K. 1984 *Pottery kilns at Chilvers Coton, Nuneaton*. Soc. Medieval Archaeol. Mon. Ser. 10.
- MPRG, 1998 *A Guide to the Classification of Medieval Ceramic Forms*. Medieval Pottery Research Group Occasional Paper 1, London.
- MPRG *et al*, 2016 *A Standard for Pottery Studies in Archaeology* Medieval Pottery Research Group Occasional Paper, London.
- Ratkai, S. 2005 'The Medieval and Later Pottery and its implications for building sequences' in Woodfield, C., 2005 *The Church of Our Lady of Mount Carmel and some Conventual Buildings at the Whitefriars, Coventry*, BAR British Series 389, 315-331.
- Sawday, D. 2009, 'The medieval and post medieval pottery and tile' in J. Coward and G. Speed, *Urban Life in Leicester: An Archaeological Excavation at Freeschool Lane*. Vol 2 *Specialist Reports* ULAS Report No.2009-140, 36-182.
- Soden, I. and Ratkai, S. 1998. *Warwickshire Medieval and Post-Medieval Ceramic Type Series*. Unpublished manuscript held by Warwickshire Museum Archaeological Field Services.

- Spavold, J., and Brown, S. 2005 *Ticknall Pots and Potters from the Late Fifteenth Century to 1888*. , Ashbourne, Landmark Publishing.
- Woodfield, P. 1984 'Midland Yellow Wares' *Newsletter West Midlands Pottery Research Group* **2**
- Woodland, R.R., 1981 'the pottery' in Mellor, J.E., and Pearce, T., *The Austin Friars, Leicester*. London: Counc. Brit. Archaeol. Res. Rep. **35**, 81-129.



Unit 8 Fulford Business Centre
35 Hospital Fields Road
York YO10 4DZ

TELEPHONE (01904) 652000
FASCIMILE (01904) 749014
mail@fas-heritage.co.uk