

Jewry Wall Museum

Development Update February 2023



Project Summary

- Major building restoration and refurbishment
- New Pedestrian Bridge from St Nicholas Circle (Install March 23)
- Multi-media interpretation and Roman Leicester Exhibitions
- New reception, shop, café, meeting and learning facilities



- Three Phases of Development
 - Phase 1 - External Building Works & Internal Strip Out
 - Phase 2 - Internal Fit Out
 - Phase 3 - Exhibition and Museum Fit Out



Phase 1 Progress

- Internal strip out completed
- Preparation for new internal lift, stairs and external walkway
- Delayed due to Phase 1 contractor going into administration
- Works restarted with new Phase 1 Contractor appointed - Oliveti



Phase 2 (Internal Fit Out) Progress

- Phase 2 Procurement Process re-undertaken
- Phase 2 Contractors Appointed - Jeakins Weir
- Timetable finalised now that Phase 1 & Phase 2 Contractors have been appointed.

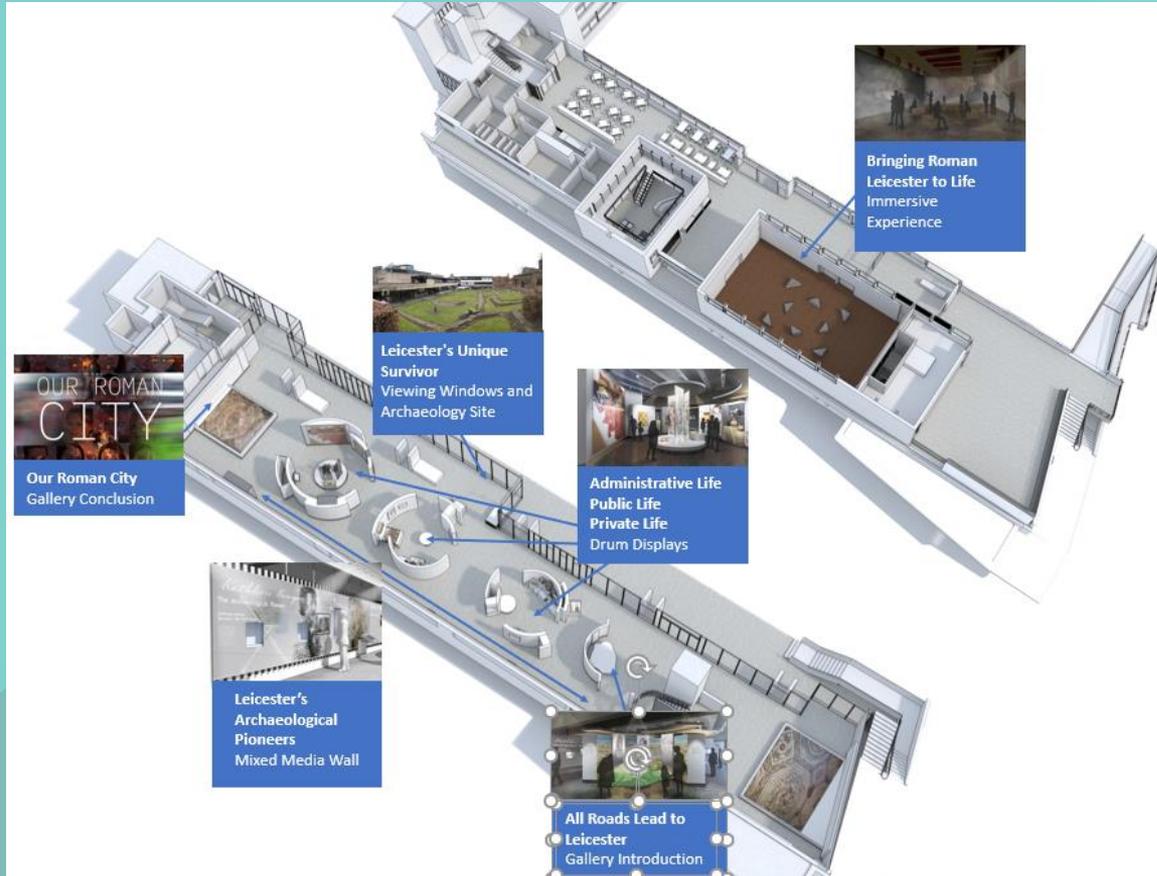


Phase 3 Progress

- All Exhibition Fit Out Contractors Appointed
- Haley Sharpe Design – Exhibition Design
- Elmwood Projects – Exhibition Fitout
- Heritage Interactive – Exhibition Audio/Visual



Phase 3 Overview



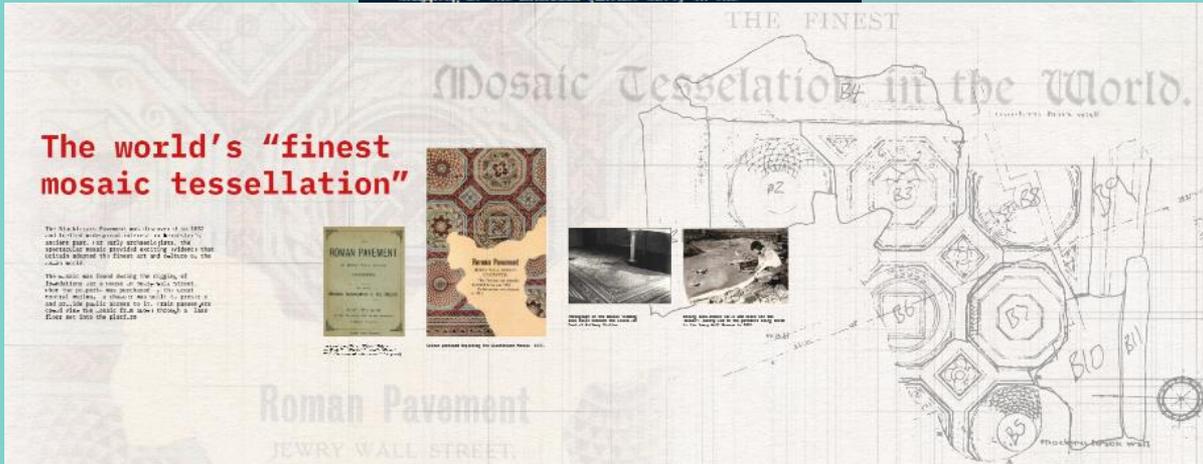
Phase 3 (Exhibition Fit Out) Progress

- Exhibition construction in progress



Phase 3 (Exhibition Fit Out) Progress

- Exhibition designs in final draft



“Leicester is now one of the most archaeologically investigated historic cities in Europe, telling us huge amounts about the Roman town and its people.”

Dr Richard Buckley OBE, 2022
Co-founder of University of
Leicester Archaeological Services

Phase 3 Graphics



Vaughan College and Jewry Wall Museum

In the late 1950s it was decided to build a new home for Vaughan College at the Jewry Wall site. Architect Trevor Dannatt was tasked with designing the new building. He drew inspiration from the foundations of the Roman baths, continuing the lines of the walls within the design. The ceiling also follows Roman architectural techniques with its barrel vaults.

The upper floors housed the adult education section. The lower floor opened its doors to the public as Jewry Wall Museum in 1966, displaying the city's archaeological collection of Iron Age, Roman and Medieval finds.

Our Roman City

- Community engagement projects
- Leicester residents discovering more about the Roman city and its legacy for present day Leicester
- Materials created during projects feeds into final exhibition



The Jewry Wall

The Jewry Wall is the only part of the baths still standing above Roman floor level. At nine metres high, it is one of the largest surviving Roman buildings in Britain.

The arches were originally the entrance to the bath house from the large exercise hall (Gynaeceum), which now lies under the grounds of St Nicholas Church. Medieval builders demolished the baths and reused some of the Roman bricks in the church walls. The Jewry Wall probably survived because it became part of a later building in the area of the present churchyard.

Originally the wall was plastered on both sides and perhaps painted. The core of the wall is all that we can see today. It shows clearly how the bath house was built.

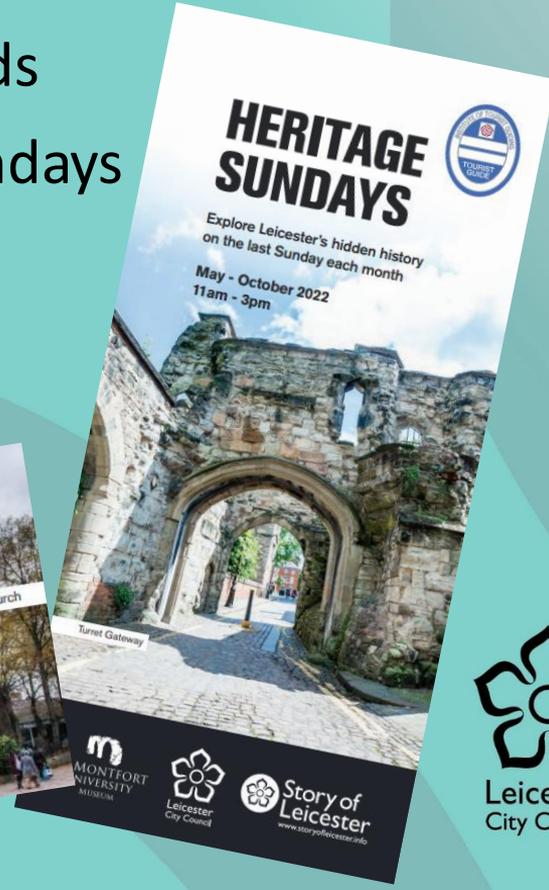
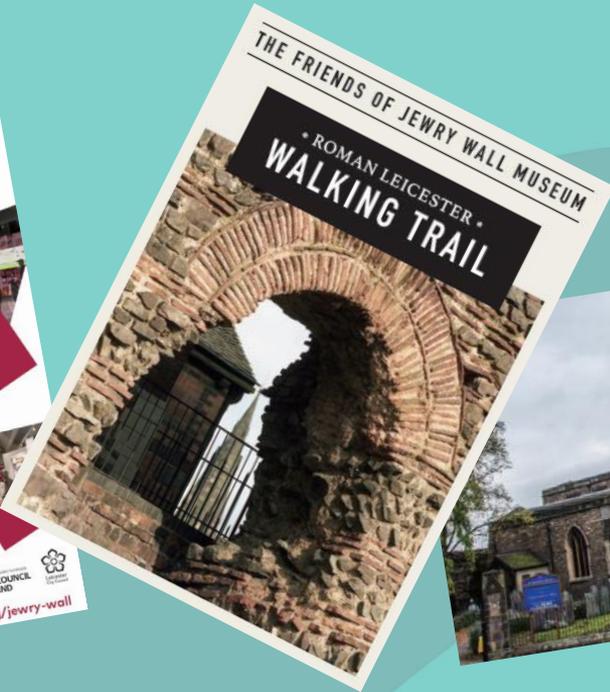
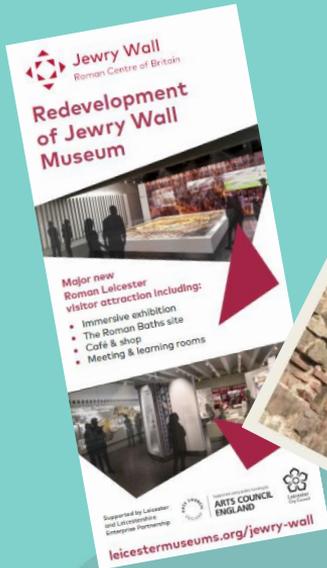


- 1 Tiles for arches were made locally using clay.
- 2 Poles were inserted into the putlog holes you can see. This secured timber scaffolding that helped workers get to different levels of the wall when it was being built.
- 3 Layers of red clay bricks were used to make the wall strong enough to hold up the curved vaulted ceiling.
- 4 The core of the wall is made up of locally sourced granite, sandstone, siltstone, mudstone, slate and limestone. Filling the gaps between the rocks is a thick paste called mortar.
- 5 On the other side of the wall are small arched alcoves which could have contained statues, lights or altars for religious rituals.
- 6 This was the floor level of the bath house.
- 7 A layer of large sandstone blocks from south Derbyshire, 20 miles away, acts as a heavy base to support the wall.

Phase 3 Activities

- Collections preparation & conservation for Exhibition
- Learning/Meeting Room hire spaces fit out
- Learning session development – in Testing Phase
- Premium website development starts – April 23
- Premium brand development completed – March 23
- Business Plan Review (Cost of Living/Post Pandemic)
- Retail & Café Fit Out
- Offices & IT Fit Out

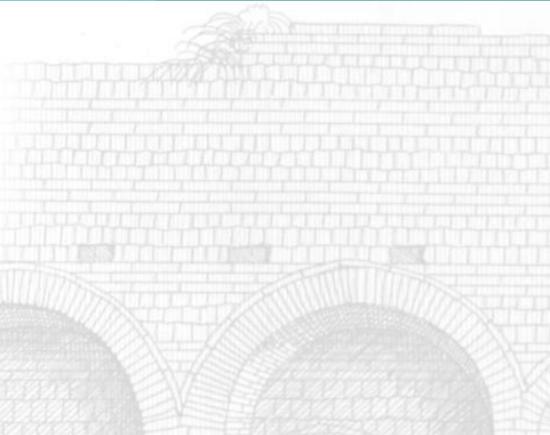
- Ongoing communications with the Friends
- Awareness raising – Trails & Heritage Sundays



- Roof works completed – Autumn 22
- Phase 1 shell completion – April 23
- Phase 2 internal building fit out completion – Feb 24
- Phase 3 museum fit out completion – Summer 24

Janus, Jews or jurats

Both the Jewry Wall site and its name have been a mystery for centuries. Some believe Jewry is a 17th century misspelling of *Janus*, a Roman god, or *Janua*, Latin for gateway. Others thought the area was once a Jewish Quarter or that medieval councillors, *jurats*, may have met here.



Glenfield cauldrons

This project has shed new light on the feasting rituals of a pre-Roman Iron Age settlement dating to the mid-3rd to early 2nd century BC. University of Leicester Archaeological Services carried out excavations near Glenfield village in Leicestershire prior to the construction of a new housing development. Roundhouse buildings were uncovered along with 11 complete cauldrons and broken pieces from many more.

Due to their large size, it is thought that the cauldrons were used for important social gatherings such as feasts, potentially on a site of ritual or ceremonial importance. These rare vessels are the first found in the East Midlands and represent the second largest collection of such objects from the whole of Europe.

Scanning has provided exciting glimpses of manufacturing methods and decoration, while conservation of the fragile objects has been undertaken by Museum of London Archaeology.