



UNIVERSITY OF  
**LEICESTER**

Archaeological Services

**An Archaeological  
Evaluation on Land at  
39 Main Street,  
Great Bowden,  
Leicestershire  
NGR: SP 74263 88810**

Roger Kipling

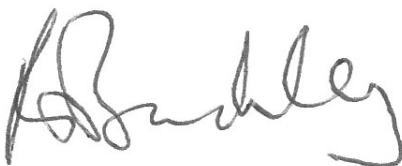



ULAS Report No 2017-148  
©2017

**An Archaeological Evaluation  
on Land at 39 Main Street,  
Great Bowden, Leicestershire  
NGR SP 74263 88810**

**Roger Kipling**

**For: Mr. Ben Cowd**

<b>Filename/Version</b>	<b>Checked by</b>	<b>Date</b>
<b>2017-148</b>		<b>3/10/2017</b>
<b>2017-148V2</b>	 <b>Vicki Score</b>	<b>16/10/2017</b>

**University of Leicester**  
Archaeological Services  
University Rd., Leicester, LE1 7RH  
Tel: (0116) 2522848 Fax: (0116) 2522614

**ULAS Report Number 2017-148**  
©2017  
**Accession Number X.A111 2017**  
**OASIS Number universi1-297156**

## CONTENTS

Summary .....	1
Introduction.....	1
Site Description, Topography and Geology.....	2
Archaeological and Historical Background.....	3
Aims and Objectives.....	3
Methods.....	4
Results.....	4
Discussion and Conclusions .....	8
Archive and Publications .....	8
Acknowledgements.....	9
Bibliography .....	9
Appendix 1: The Pottery <i>Deborah Sawday</i> .....	11
Appendix 2: OASIS Data Entry.....	12

## FIGURES

Figure 1: Location of the proposed site (Scale 1:50 000).....	2
Figure 2: Site plan showing evaluation trench locations (red), .....	5
Figure 3: Trench 1: general view north (1m scale).....	6
Figure 4: Trench 2: general view south towards Trench 3 & the area.....	6
Figure 5: Trench 3: general view south (1m scale).....	7
Figure 6: Trench 3, pit [01]; view east (1m scale).....	7
Figure 7: Pit [01], Trench 3: plan and section drawing and pit location .....	8

**An Archaeological Evaluation on Land at  
39 Main Street, Great Bowden, Leicestershire  
NGR SP 74263 88810**

Roger Kipling

**Summary**

*An archaeological evaluation was undertaken in September 2017 by University of Leicester Archaeological Services on behalf of Mr. Ben Cowd on land at 39 Main Street, Great Bowden, Leicestershire, in advance of proposed residential development.*

*The evaluation provided evidence for medieval archaeological activity in the form of a single cess or rubbish pit of medieval date located at the rear of the property. Heavily abraded pottery dating to the 12th to 15th centuries recovered from the feature suggests several episodes of deposition and re-deposition prior to the final disposal of refuse from a property occupying the Main Street frontage. No other archaeological evidence was present.*

*The site archive will be deposited with Leicestershire County Council under the accession number X.A111.2017.*

**Introduction**

An archaeological evaluation by trial trenching was undertaken on land at 39 Main Street, Great Bowden, Leicestershire, in advance of a proposed residential development comprising a single-storey dwelling, detached garage and stable block. The site is located on the western edge of the village close to the rail line to the rear of No. 39 Main Street. The Leicestershire and Rutland Historic Environment Record (HER) for the area shows that the application site lies in an area of archaeological interest, within the historic settlement core of Great Bowden. Test pitting undertaken in 2014 within the application site recovered a prehistoric flint flake, medieval and post-medieval artefacts and possible structural evidence in the form of a posthole and stone feature.

The Principal Planning Archaeologist at Leicestershire County Council (LCC) required a programme of archaeological work comprising trial trenching in order to determine the impact of the proposed scheme on any buried archaeology and if necessary, inform an appropriate mitigation strategy for the site.

The programme of archaeological evaluation was undertaken in accordance with National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) (Section 12 Enhancing and Conserving the Historic Environment). The fieldwork was intended to provide a record of the archaeological remains in mitigation of the impact of the proposed development. The agreed scheme was set out in a Written Scheme of Investigation (ULAS 2017; hereinafter WSI).

Fieldwork was undertaken in September 2017 and involved the machine excavation of trial trenches followed by hand cleaning, excavation and recording of archaeological remains if found to be present.

The archaeological evaluation was undertaken in accordance with National Planning Policy Framework Section 12: Conserving and Enhancing the Historic Environment (DCLG March 2012). All archaeological work was in accordance with the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA) Code of Conduct (2014) and adhered to their *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluation* (2014).

## Site Description, Topography and Geology

The proposed development is located on the western edge of Great Bowden, a parish in the Harborough district of Leicestershire, northeast of, and a suburb of, Market Harborough.

The sites lies on the western edge of the village close to the railway line. The land is at the rear of No. 39 Main Street and comprises a grassed garden area and paddock. The land is relatively level at a height of c.82m O.D.

The British Geological Survey identifies the bedrock geology of the area as bands of mudstone, specifically of the Charmouth Mudstone Formation of the Jurassic Period with siltstone and mudstone to the immediate west of the Dryham Formation.

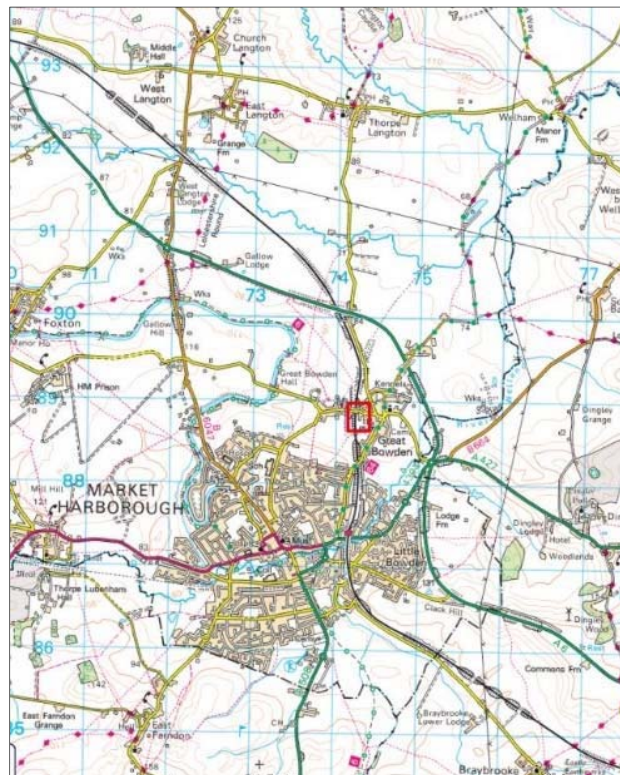


Figure 1: Location of the proposed site (Scale 1:50 000)

*Reproduced from the Landranger 1:50000 map by permission of Ordnance Survey on behalf of The Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office. © Crown Copyright 1996. All rights reserved. Licence number AL 100029495*

## Archaeological and Historical Background

The Leicestershire and Rutland Historic Environment Record (HER) shows that the application site lies in an area of archaeological interest, within the historic settlement core of Great Bowden. Test pitting undertaken in 2014 within the application site recovered a prehistoric flint flake, medieval and post-medieval artefacts and possible structural evidence in the form of a posthole and stone feature.

The villages of Leicestershire and the wider English Central Midlands appear to have evolved, alongside their open field systems, during the later 1st millennium AD. Buried archaeological evidence constituting one or more as yet unidentified heritage asset(s) (National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) Section 12, paragraph 128 and Appendix 2) spanning the period from the earliest evolution of the village to its more recent past were expected within the development area. Historic mapping and aerial photographs indicate that the application site has remained largely undisturbed since at least the 19th century, therefore any archaeological remains present on the site are likely to be preserved in situ. Consequently, there is a likelihood that buried archaeological remains will be affected by the development.

## Aims and Objectives

The general aims of the archaeological works were as follows:

- To identify the presence/absence of archaeological deposits.
- To establish the character, extent and date range for any archaeological deposits to be affected by the proposed ground works.
- To record any archaeological deposits revealed in the trenches
- To produce a site archive for deposition with an appropriate museum and to provide information for accession to the Leicestershire HER.

In addition, the archaeological work was identified to have the potential to contribute to the following research aims, derived from *East Midlands Heritage: An updated research agenda and strategy for the Historic Environment of the East Midlands* (Knight *et al.* 2012) and *The Archaeology of the East Midlands: An Archaeological Resource Assessment and Research Agenda* (Cooper 2006).

### *Prehistoric*

To characterise the prehistoric settlement resource and investigate intra-regional variability (4C).  
To investigate intra-regional variations in development of fields and linear boundaries (4F).

### *The Roman Period* (Taylor 2006; Knight *et al.* 2012; English Heritage 2012)

To investigate the landscape context of rural settlements (5H).

### *Medieval* (Lewis 2006; Knight *et al.* 2012)

To review the evidence for developing settlement hierarchies (6C) Investigate the morphology of rural settlements (7E).

To investigate development of the open field system and woodland management (7I).

## Methods

Prior to the commencement of works an Accession Code was obtained, an OASIS online record was initiated and the key fields completed on Details, Location and Creator forms. Following recommendations from the Principal Planning Archaeologist of Leicestershire County Council, a programme of archaeological investigation was undertaken, comprising the opening of three trial trenches targeting the locations of the proposed buildings and access road.

The excavated sample comprised three trial trenches providing a representative sample of the proposed extended area of development north of the fencing company premises (Figure 2). A mechanical excavator equipped with a toothless ditching bucket (*c.*1.6m wide) was employed under constant archaeological supervision to remove overburden, with excavation ceasing at undisturbed natural deposits or archaeological; deposits (whoever was higher). The trenches were recorded at an appropriate scale by measured drawing and photography and were located to Ordnance Survey National Grid. Summary details of the trenches are outlined in Table 1 below.

## Results

Three trenches (1-3) were excavated across the rectangular area of pasture to the north of the fencing company business premises. **Trench 1**, targeting the location of the proposed access road, was aligned broadly north-south and measured 1.7m x 10m x 0.3m-0.6m deep (Figure 3). A dark grey clay loam topsoil overlay a thin mid-brown clay silt subsoil. A natural substratum of ironstone fragments in a pale grey matrix was observed at the northern end of the trench, with a mixed dull orange and pale grey clay natural present at the southern end. No archaeology was present.

**Trenches 2 and 3** were each 1.7m x 20m and targeted the footprints of the proposed buildings. **Trench 2**, aligned north-north-west and between 0.26m and 0.5m deep, produced the same topsoil and subsoil sequence overlying a mid orange or mid grey natural clay substratum (Figure 4). The trench was archaeologically blank.

**Trench 3** was located at the rear of the property on its eastern boundary, targeting the location of the proposed bungalow, the footprint of which had previously topsoil stripped. The trench measured 0.4m-0.5m deep. A single cess or rubbish pit [01] was identified at the southern end of the trench. The likely circular feature measured *c.*2.6m x 1m+ and 1m+ deep; for reasons of health and safety, the pit was not excavated to its full depth. The single fill (02), a mid orange-grey clay silt with sparse chalk, ironstone and charcoal lump and fleck inclusions, produced seven pottery sherds ranging in date to between the 12th and 15th centuries. The heavily abraded character of the material may indicate several episodes of deposition and re-deposition prior to final disposal.

TRENCH	ORIENTATION	LENGTH (m)	TOPSOIL THICKNESS (m)	SUBSOIL THICKNESS (m)	DESCRIPTION
1	N-S	10	0.08-0.14	0.28-0.38	no archaeology present
2	NNW-SSE	20	0.08-0.10	0.15-0.34	no archaeology present
3	NE-SW	20	0.08-0.10	0.16-0.45	one medieval pit

Table 1: Trench Descriptions

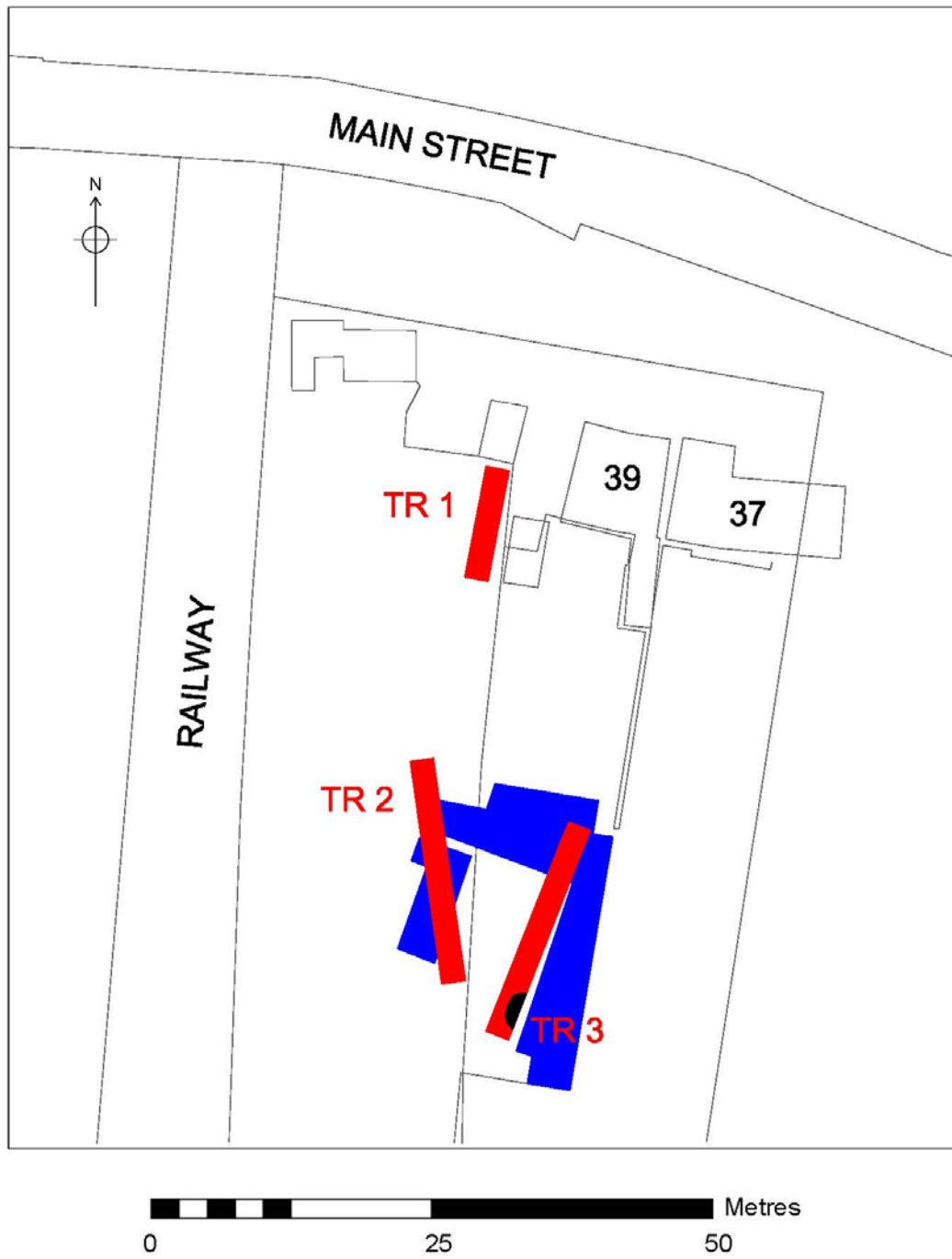


Figure 2: Site plan showing evaluation trench locations (red), footprints of proposed buildings (blue) and archaeology (black)





Figure 3: Trench 1: general view north (1m scale)



Figure 4: Trench 2: general view south towards Trench 3 & the area previously stripped of topsoil (1m scale)



Figure 5: Trench 3: general view south (1m scale)



Figure 6: Trench 3, pit [01]; view east (1m scale)

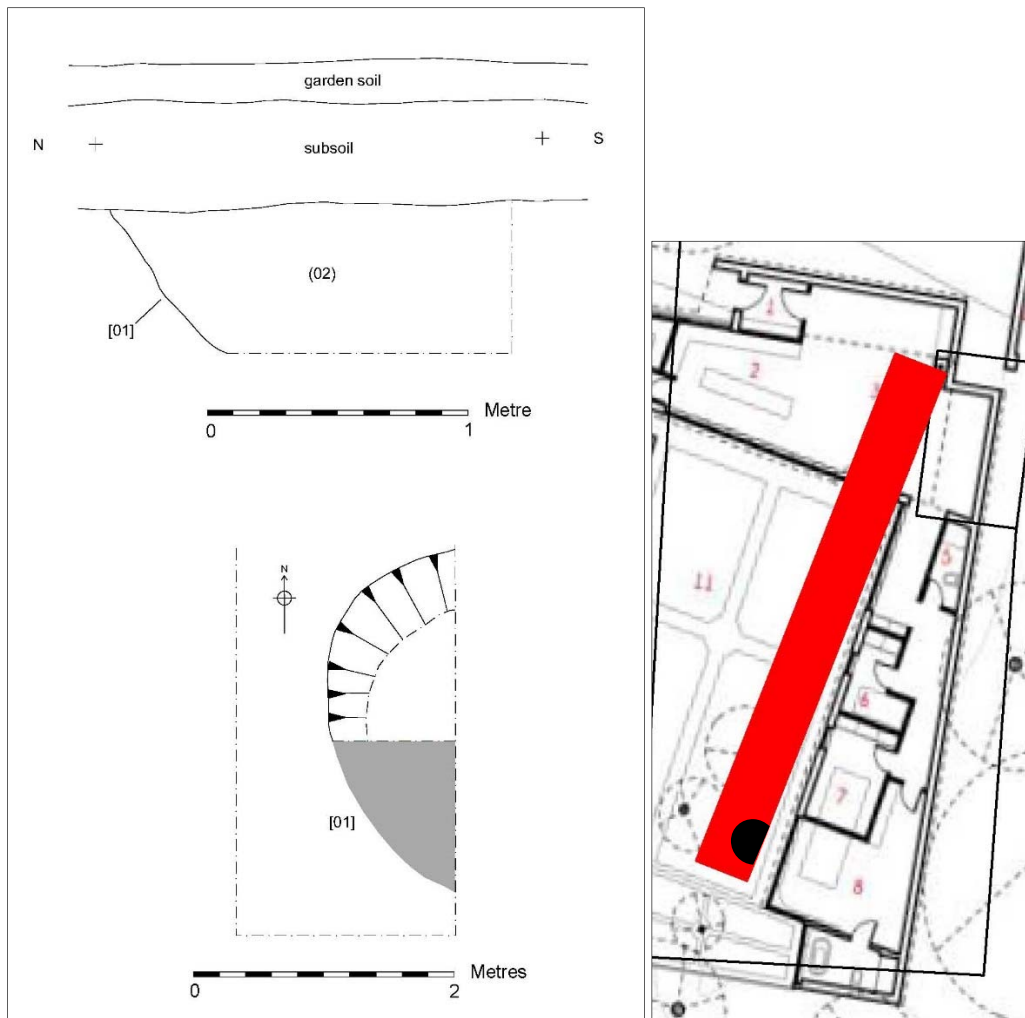


Figure 7: Pit [01], Trench 3: plan and section drawing and pit location

## Discussion and Conclusions

The archaeological evaluation undertaken in September 2017 by University of Leicester Archaeological Services on behalf of Mr. Ben Cowd at 39 Main Street, Great Bowden provided evidence for medieval archaeological activity in the form of a single cess or rubbish pit of medieval date located at the rear of the property. Heavily abraded pottery dating to the 12th to 15th centuries recovered from the feature suggests several episodes of deposition and re-deposition prior to the final disposal of refuse from a property occupying the Main Street frontage. No other archaeological evidence was present.

## Archive and Publications

The site archive (X.A111 2017), consisting of paper, drawing and photographic records in addition to pottery sherds, will be housed with Leicestershire County Council.

The archive consists of:

- 3 x trench record sheets
- Photographic record indices

10 x digital photographs  
Risk assessment form

A version of the excavation summary (see above) will appear in due course in the *Transactions of the Leicestershire Archaeological and Historical Society*.

### **Acknowledgements**

Roger Kipling of ULAS undertook the archaeological evaluation on behalf of Mr. Ben Cowd. The project was managed by Vicki Score.

### **Bibliography**

Brown, D. 2008. *Standard and guidance for the preparation of Archaeological Archives* (Institute for Archaeologists).

Chartered Institute for Archaeologists 2014. *Codes of Conduct*

Chartered Institute for Archaeologists 2014. *Standards and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluation*.

Cooper, N.J. 2006. *The Archaeology of the East Midlands*. Leicester Archaeology Monograph **13**.

Coward, J. 1999. *An Archaeological Desk-Based Assessment for Land at Junction 11, M42, Appleby Magna, Leicestershire (SK 308 102)*. University of Leicester Archaeological Services Report No. **1999-023**

Historic England, 1997. *Draft Research Agenda*.

Historic England, 2010. *English Heritage Thematic Research Strategies. Research Strategy for Prehistory*. Consultation Draft June 2010.

Historic England, 2015 *Archaeometallurgy: Guidelines for Best Practice*

Knight, D., Blaise, V. and Allen C. 2012. *East Midlands Heritage. An Updated Research Agenda and Strategy for the Historic Environment of the East Midlands*.

Liddle, P. 2002. *An Archaeological Resource Assessment: Roman Leicestershire and Rutland*.

Lewis, C. 2006. The Medieval Period. In N.J. Cooper (Ed) 2006: 185 -21.

LMARS 2014. *The Transfer of Archaeological Archives to Leicestershire Museums, Arts and Records Service*.

Roger Kipling  
ULAS  
University of Leicester  
University Road  
Leicester LE1 7RH  
Tel:0116 252 2836  
Fax: 0116 252 2614

Email: [rwk1@le.ac.uk](mailto:rwk1@le.ac.uk)

03.10.2017

**Appendix 1: The Pottery** *Deborah Sawday*

The material was examined under a x20 binocular microscope and catalogued with reference to the ULAS fabric series (Sawday 2009). The results are shown below (Table 1).

The finds, all from a pit, context 2 [1] in Trench 3, provide evidence of medieval activity in the vicinity and appear to relate to a building to the rear, fronting on to the Main Street. The relatively low average sherd weight of 7.71 grams and a degree of abrasion may indicate several episodes of deposition and re-deposition prior to the final disposal of this material in a pit to the rear of the property. This is confirmed by the date- range for the pottery which lies between the 12th and the 15th centuries.

The range of wares present is typical of the period and of the region.

Table1: The pottery.

Context	Major fabric/ware	No	Gr	Vessel No	Comments – terminal date
POTTERY					
2 [1]	CS - Coarse Shelly ware	2	5	1	Misc. body, c.1100-1400.
2 [1]	LY. - Lyveden/Stanion A ware	4	48	3	2 sherds sooted, one heavily, c.1100-1400
2 [1]	LY1 - Lyveden/Stanion B ware	1	1	1	Decorated with white slip and glaze – probably a jug fragment, c.1200-1500

### Bibliography

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.

## Appendix 2: OASIS Data Entry

<b>PROJECT DETAILS</b>	<b>OASIS ID</b>	universil-297156		
	<b>Project Name</b>	39 Main Street, Great Bowden, Leicestershire		
	<b>Start/end dates of field work</b>	26-09-2017		
	<b>Previous/Future Work</b>	Yes		
	<b>Project Type</b>	Evaluation		
	<b>Site Status</b>	None		
	<b>Current Land Use</b>	Garden & paddock		
	<b>Monument Type/Period</b>	Medieval pit		
	<b>Significant Finds/Period</b>	Medieval pottery		
	<b>Development Type</b>	Residential development		
	<b>Reason for Investigation</b>	NPPF		
	<b>Position in the Planning Process</b>	Post-determination		
	<b>Planning Ref.</b>	16/00631/FUL		
<b>PROJECT LOCATION</b>	<b>Site Address/Postcode</b>	39 Main Street, Great Bowden, Leicestershire, LE16 7HB		
	<b>Study Area</b>	0.55ha		
	<b>Site Coordinates</b>	SP 74263 88810		
	<b>Height OD</b>	82m OD		
<b>PROJECT CREATORS</b>	<b>Organisation</b>	ULAS		
	<b>Project Brief Originator</b>	Local Planning Authority (Harborough District Council)		
	<b>Project Design Originator</b>	ULAS		
	<b>Project Manager</b>	Vicki Score		
	<b>Project Director/Supervisor</b>	Roger Kipling		
	<b>Sponsor/Funding Body</b>	Mr. Ben Cowd		
<b>PROJECT ARCHIVE</b>		<b>Physical</b>	<b>Digital</b>	<b>Paper</b>
	<b>Recipient</b>	ULAS	ULAS	ULAS
	<b>ID (Acc. No.)</b>	X.A111 2017	X.A111 2017	X.A111 2017
	<b>Contents</b>	pottery	Photos	Site records Field notes
<b>PROJECT BIBLIOGRAPHY</b>	<b>Type</b>	Grey Literature (unpublished)		
	<b>Title</b>	<i>An Archaeological Evaluation at 39 Main Street, Great Bowden, Leicestershire</i>		
	<b>Author</b>	Kipling, R.		
	<b>Other bibliographic details</b>	ULAS Report No 2017-148		
	<b>Date</b>	2017		
	<b>Publisher/Place</b>	University of Leicester Archaeological Services / University of Leicester		
	<b>Description</b>	Developer Report A4 pdf		



UNIVERSITY OF  
**LEICESTER**

Archaeological Services

### Contact Details

Richard Buckley or Patrick Clay  
University of Leicester Archaeological  
Services (ULAS)  
University of Leicester,  
University Road,  
Leicester LE1 7RH

**T:** +44 (0)116 252 2848

**F:** +44 (0)116 252 2614

**E:** [ulas@le.ac.uk](mailto:ulas@le.ac.uk)

**w:** [www.le.ac.uk/ulas](http://www.le.ac.uk/ulas)



INVESTOR IN PEOPLE



THE QUEEN'S  
ANNIVERSARY PRIZES  
FOR HIGHER AND FURTHER EDUCATION  
2013

