

**A building survey of a mud walled
barn in advance of redevelopment at
32 East End, Long Clawson,
Leicestershire
(SK 728 274)**

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Planning Application 2002/0317/6

For Mr David Grundy

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Figs1 a,b. Location of Site

Fig 2 Plan of barn, and location of report photographs Scale 1:100

Plate 1 Barn frontage, north end

Plate 2 Barn frontage south end

Plate 3 Rear and south

Plate 4 North east corner

Plate 5 Frontage and EW wall

Plate 6 Interior, south bay

Plate 7 Interior, south bay

Plate 8 Interior, south bay

Plate 9 Interior, north bay

Plate 10 Interior, north bay

Summary

A photographic record of a partially mud walled barn at 32 East End, Long Clawson, Leicestershire (SK 728 274), was undertaken by ULAS for Mr David Grundy, in advance of demolition. The archive will be deposited with Leicestershire County Council Museums Service under X.A127. 2002.

Introduction.

Residential redevelopment at 32 East End, Long Clawson, Leicestershire involved the demolition of a partially mud-walled barn. The barn was subject to a photographic and measured survey in advance of demolition, to English Heritage Level 2 standard (RCHME 1999). The building survey was undertaken alongside archaeological excavation of the immediate area, which will be reported under separate cover.

Methods

The photographic survey was undertaken using two Pentax 35mm SLR cameras, using 400 ASA monochrome print and colour transparencies. A measured ground survey was also undertaken of the structure. The exterior of the building was surveyed by EDM as part of the previous archaeological evaluation (ULAS report 2002/112), whilst the interior was surveyed using hand tapes. The two were integrated into CAD on-site. The survey was carried out in 2003.

Results

Overall description

The mud walled barn was to the west of the main house. In the form it existed before its final demise, the building consisted of a two bay range running north - south, of c.16m by 5.5m. It was terraced back into the higher ground to the west and north. Most of the external work at the south and rear was brick; the north wall mud, and a combination of materials along the east front. The roof and trusses were modern. In common with most mud construction, where mud walls were used they were set on dwarf walls. Where visible the make-up of the mud walls consisted of clayish mud with chopped straw and grass added into the mix. Some small pebbles and stones were present, either added in or perhaps an integral component of the original mud. Most of the brickwork was of 19th - 20th century appearance, with the occasional thinner (eighteenth century?) brick present. The dwarf walls are up to 1m high, unusually high in comparison to many, where the dwarf walls are little more than a low plinth designed to keep the ground damp out of the mud.

The stone is mostly ironstone with some limestone, mostly quite rough and irregular, but with high quality dressed ironstone blocks up to 45cm by 30cms also present. The

internal wall between the bays consisted of regular courses of ashlar ironstone to the base and limestone over, mud wall to eaves height, and brick up into the roof. There is a stretch of rear plinth wall of slightly anomalous build opposite the present main entrance, which may represent blocking of an original opening, although that would imply that the ground behind the barn has built up since the construction. The floor in the larger south bay was of brick, the floor in the north bay was cobbles in the few places it was visible.

In plan, the building is somewhat asymmetric, implying it had been built to fit into a particular space. The angle of the north gable respects that of the present property boundary adjacent. It appeared that there had once been an east-west range of similar dimensions attached to the north east corner, the rear (i.e. north) wall represented by a surviving stretch of stone plinth with some decayed mud superstructure extant at the junction with the present barn.

Discussion

In general the building had obviously undergone several phases of build, repair, and partial demolition. The quality of build and material was very variable. No clear chronology of construction can be ascertained; the present south, west and north dwarf walls are broadly comparable and could be of contemporaneous construction. The internal wall is of far higher quality; presumably the builder had been able to get hold of a batch of quality stone from a demolished structure in the vicinity. Why the best quality stonework was used in the interior is a moot point: this wall might be a later phase of build or re-build than the exterior walls. Certainly it was not properly bonded into the east front wall. Another possibility is that this internal wall is a surviving stretch of the front wall of the demolished east-west range, and so would have been originally external.

There is no generally accepted method of dating non-domestic mud buildings. The barn is shown on the 1892 First Edition OS map, with the east-west range still standing. Documentary references to the use of mud building occur from the 16th century onwards, and although the increasingly common use of brick in the early 1700's onwards may have reduced the use of mud in domestic buildings, ancillary structures were being built in mud into the nineteenth century, and even into the early twentieth in Long Clawson (Webster 1954).

Acknowledgements

The survey was carried out by Jon Coward, with project management by Richard Buckley of ULAS. ULAS would like to thank David Grundy for his assistance during the course of the project.

Archive

The archive will be deposited with Leicestershire County Council Heritage Services under accession code X.A127 2002 in due course. The barn survey archive is incorporated with that of the excavation; items specific to the barn survey consist of:

- 1 sheet monochrome negatives with contact sheets
- 20 colour slides
- 1 handwritten plan/notes, taken during the survey.

Bibliography

Webster, V.R., 1954 'Cruck Framed Buildings of Leicestershire' *Transactions of the Leicestershire Archaeological Society* **30**, 31.

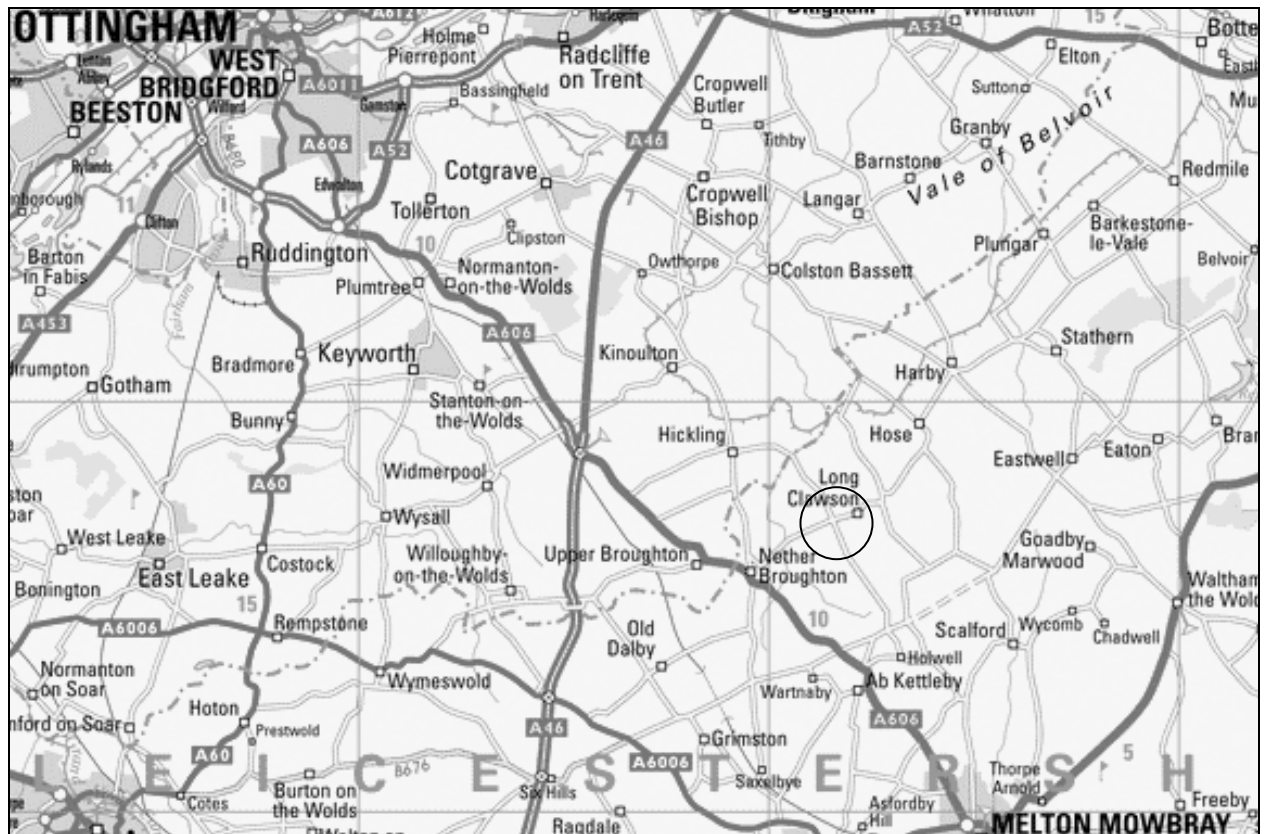


Fig 1a, 1b Location of site © Crown Copyright. All rights reserved. Licence number AL 100021186

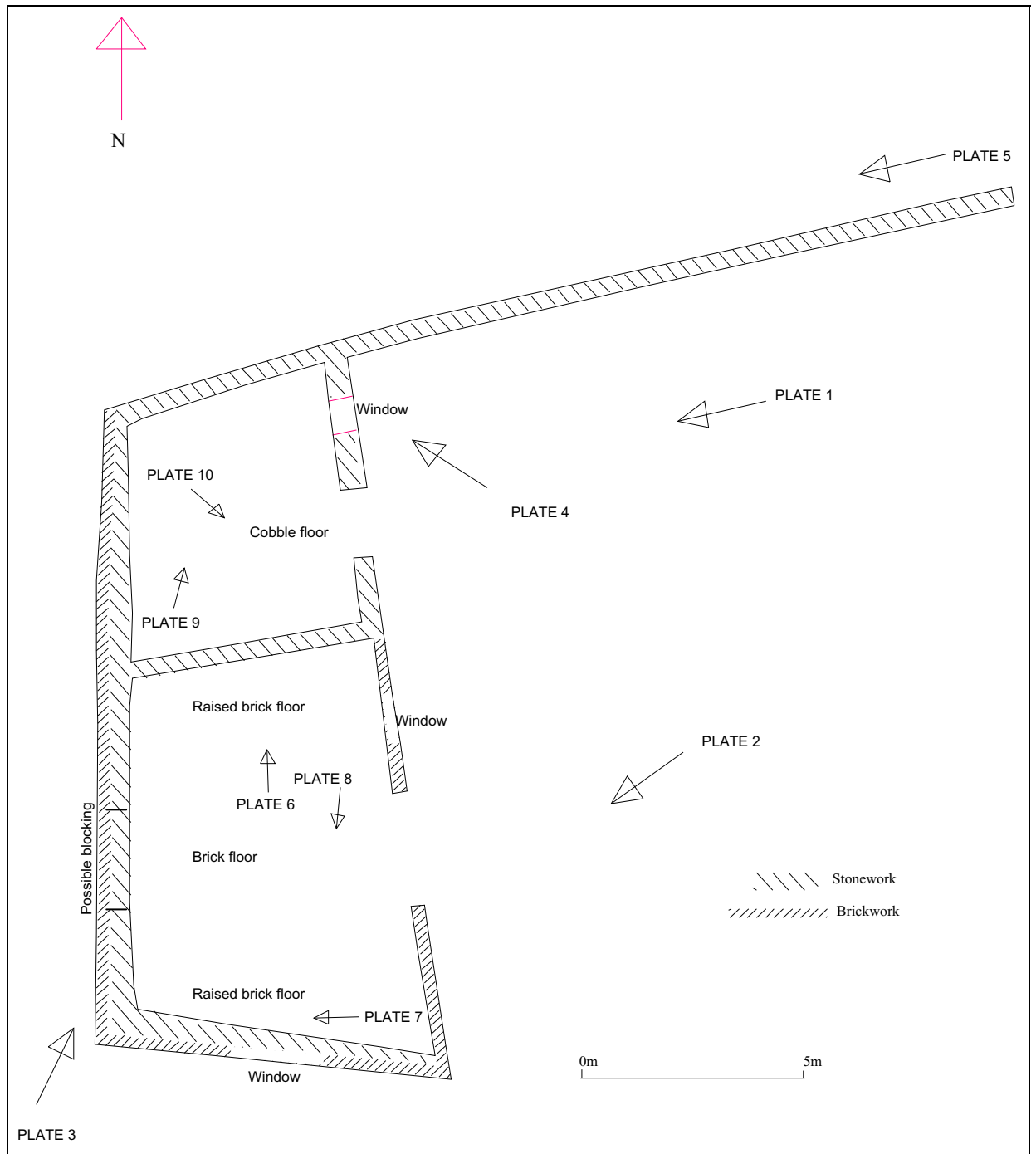


Fig 2 Plan of barn Scale 1:100 Also showing position of photographs



Plate 1 Barn frontage, north end



Plate 2 Barn frontage, south end



Plate 3 Rear and south



Plate 4 North east corner, junction with remnant of E-W range



Plate 5 Frontage and extent of E-W wall



Plate 6 Interior, south bay



Plate 7 Interior south bay



Plate 8 Interior south bay



Plate 9 Interior north bay



Plate 10 Interior north bay