



The Round House Bridge Street, Evesham

Archaeological Watching Brief and Evaluation



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Summary

Wessex Archaeology was commissioned by Faithful & Gould Ltd, to undertake an archaeological watching brief and evaluation at The Round House, 2 Bridge Street, Evesham, WR11 4RS. The works area is centred on NGR 403721, 243790.

Excavations identified archaeological deposits in two test pits comprising brick structures of probable 19th century date, an undated stone structure and post-medieval backfill deposits.

The monitored coring operations exposed various modern brick and concrete layers.

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The Round House, Bridge Street, Evesham

Archaeological Watching Brief and Evaluation

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Project background

- 1.1.1 Wessex Archaeology was commissioned by Faithful & Gould Ltd, to undertake an archaeological watching brief and evaluation at The Round House, 2 Bridge Street, Evesham, WR11 4RS. The evaluation area is centred on NGR 403721, 243790 (**Figure 1**).
- 1.1.2 Listed building consent (LBC; ref: 20/01188/LB) has been conditionally approved by Wychavon District Council (WDC) for investigative surveys and repairs to the timber frame, stone slates and rainwater goods of the Grade I listed building.
- 1.1.3 All works were undertaken in accordance with a written scheme of investigation (WSI) which detailed the aims, methodologies and standards to be employed in order to undertake the watching brief and evaluation (Wessex Archaeology 2022a). Additional core sample locations were required due to insufficient data obtained from the coring operations undertaken 28 February–01 March 2022. An addendum to the WSI was written after consultation with the Archaeology and Planning Advisor (Wessex Archaeology 2022b). The WSI and WSI addendum was approved by the Archaeology and Planning Advisor, on behalf of the Local Planning Authority (LPA), prior to fieldwork commencing.
- 1.1.4 The watching brief comprising the monitoring of fifteen core samples (**Figure 2**) within the basement of the Round House, to assess the fabric of the existing walls and their ability to take imposed scaffold loads during refurbishment, was undertaken 28 February–22 March 2022.
- 1.1.5 The evaluation comprising three test pits (each measuring 1 m by 1 m, **Figure 2**) to assess the structure of the current floor and evaluate any archaeological resource sealed below was undertaken 07 March–09 March 2022.
- 1.1.6 The watching brief and the evaluation test pits were part of a staged approach in determining the archaeological potential of the site, following a Geophysical Survey (Wessex Archaeology 2021) and in advance of Historic Building Recording.

1.2 Scope of the report

- 1.2.1 The purpose of this report is to provide a detailed description of the results of the evaluation, to interpret the results within a local, regional or wider archaeological context and assess whether the aims of the evaluation have been met.
- 1.2.2 The presented results will provide further information on the archaeological resource and facilitate an informed decision with regard to the requirement for, and methods of, any further archaeological mitigation.



1.3 Location, topography and geology

- 1.3.1 The watching brief and evaluation area is located within the curtilage of The Round House (or 'Booth Hall'), to the south of Bridge Street near the corner of Vine Street in the historic core of Evesham town centre, centred on NGR 403721, 243790 (**Figure 1**).
- 1.3.2 The site is situated on a west facing slope, dropping from 39 m above Ordnance Datum (aOD) at the eastern edge to 36 m aOD in the west.
- 1.3.3 The underlying solid geology comprises Blue Lias Formation and Charmouth Mudstone Formation Mudstone, which is overlain by superficial deposits of New Inn Sand and Gravel Member (British Geological Survey 2022).

2 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

2.1 Introduction

- 2.1.1 The site has previously been subject to detailed analysis and comprehensive archive research in the form of a Heritage, Design & Access Statement (Faithful & Gould 2020). Relevant extracts from this report have been reproduced below to give appropriate context and understanding of the building and site.
- 2.1.2 In addition, a search of the Worcestershire Historic Environment Record (HER) within a 100 m study area has provided information about the known archaeology within the vicinity of the Site.

2.2 The Round House

- 2.2.1 The property comprises a detached three storey (plus basement), close studded timber framed building, which is rectangular in plan measuring approximately 16 m in length and 13.5 m wide, orientated north-south along its long axis. The building sits on a stone plinth which supports an oak plate into which the vertical timber supports and studwork are tenoned. Each floor is jettied over the one below on all four sides. The building has a double-pile roof - the gable ends being on the north and south elevations. A lead-lined valley gutter is present at the abutment between the two pitched roofs. The roof is composed of Cotswold stone slates laid in diminishing courses. The building has closely spaced timber vertical members, infilled with panels (originally likely wattle and daub, now mostly of uncertain, but demonstrably modern, construction). The timber studs are hardwood (likely oak), painted black; whilst the infill panels have been painted white. Windows are a mixture of large bays with wooden 'Georgian' style fenestration on the ground storey, whilst the first and second storeys are fitted with three-light leaded casement bays on some elevations, cast iron casements on others. Ground floor windows have pairs of opening 'hopper' windows at their head. Some windows are a combination of differing styles. Timber support posts were installed at a later date at each façade corner excepting the southeast and between window bays on the west, north, and east elevations.
- 2.2.2 The building is Grade I listed (NHLE ref: 1156077) and lies within Evesham Conservation Area 6. The listing description is as follows:
- 2.2.3 *BRIDGE STREET 1. 5249 (South Side) No 2 (Round House) (National Westminster Bank) (Formerly listed as the Booth Hall, under Market Place) SP 0343 NE 1/12 7.5.52. 1 2. Late C15. Well restored 1964/5. Timber frame with closely set vertical members; 3 storeys; overhangs at 1st and 2nd floors on all 4 sides; 4 renewed 3-light oriels on wood brackets and fitted with leaded casements, those on north side retaining C19 iron casements; double gables at north and south sides. At angles, and between each bay, are heavy timber posts*

which are carried to 2nd floor and have cross beams which support the overhangs. Ground storey has 3 modern multi-paned splayed bay windows and restored or renewed moulded wood doorway with pointed arched head and modern multi-panelled divided door; sprocket eaves; Cotswold stone roof. The building stands on a low stone base and the bays are fronted by modern wrought iron railings. Interior altered and well restored but retains much exposed timber framing throughout.

- 2.2.4 The front façade faces west onto a small, pedestrianised zone containing a statue of the swineherd Eof (or Eoves), with the main town thoroughfare of Vine Street beyond. The north facade of the building faces onto Bridge Street, with shops opposite. The west façade of the building faces a row of shophouses over a pedestrian pathway connecting Bridge Street to the Market Place (main square) of the town. The south façade faces directly on the pedestrianised Market Place.

2.3 Archaeological and historical context

Prehistoric (1,000,000 BC-AD43)

- 2.3.1 The Site lies within an area of Palaeolithic potential identified by Worcestershire Archive and Archaeology service for the National Heritage Protection Plan Project. The area overlies regionally and nationally significant Ipswichian organic deposits with New Inn Sand and Gravel deposits dating to Marine Isotope Stage 5d to 5b with potential for Ipswichian faunal remains (HER WSM56940).
- 2.3.2 The intensification in arable farming during the Iron Age is recognised in many areas of the country, but in the Vale of Evesham, for example at Wyre, Piddle and Throckmorton, the evidence is suggestive of a more pastoral economy in this period (Watt (ed), 2011, 108).
- 2.3.3 The HER also identifies unlocated and unstratified finds from the parish of Evesham dated from the early Iron Age to the 17th century. Prehistoric finds include a flint leaf shaped arrowhead, several Iron Age silver coins.
- 2.3.4 The evidence for early occupation at Evesham is slight (Dalwood and Bryant 2005, 2). Outside the Study Area, a possible farmstead of Iron Age date was identified during the development of the former municipal offices site to the rear of Almswood House (WSM38357), although an evaluation at 71 to 73 High Street, Evesham found no evidence to suggest that the Iron Age settlement extended that far south (WSM38358). Prehistoric features and finds identified include lithic tools dated from the Early Mesolithic to the Late Iron Age at 1 Swan Lane (WSM30295) and 23-5 Mill Street, Evesham (WSM17838) as well as late Iron Age or Romano-British pottery and a pit dated between the Early Neolithic to late Iron Age at Abbey Gate (WSM71005). Collectively this evidence is indicative of Prehistoric, in particular Iron Age, activity within the area, although whether there was activity on Site during this period is unclear.

Romano-British (AD 43-410)

- 2.3.5 There is no direct evidence for Romano-British activity within the 100 m Study Area. However, significant deposits of Roman and Medieval date were discovered at 13 Vine Street including gullies or ditches dated between the 2nd and 3rd centuries as well as Roman pottery and roof tiles (**WSM30354 and WSM30578**). Romano-British to post-medieval occupation features have also been found at Abbey Gate (**WSM71005**) where the level of Roman activity appears low but significant with the possibility that this site was on the fringe of a Romano-British settlement that existed further north. However, there is no indication that this possible settlement extended as far north as the Round House.



2.3.6 Unstratified finds from the Romano-British period within the parish of Evesham add to the evidence that parts of Evesham were occupied at this time. Finds include an urn containing children's bones found at "Beoley St", Evesham (SP 0343), as well as various assemblages of pottery and a late 4th century coin (**WSM21048**).

Saxon (AD 410-1066)

2.3.7 Evesham Abbey was originally founded on land granted to Egwin, the Bishop of Worcester from 692-710AD, by King Ethelred. By 714, the Abbey's endowment included no fewer than 22 towns.

2.3.8 The Saxon settlement was established on an isolated meander peninsula on the edge of Feckenham forest, with limited access due to the lack of a bridge over the river Avon, the town grew up adjacent to Evesham Abbey.

2.3.9 In 1055, following the granting of status as a 'port' or market town by Edward the Confessor, the settlement expanded westwards and northwards with the present-day Market Place becoming the new town centre. This displaced the previous town centre which is presumed to be in the location of Merstow Green. The Merstow Green/Bewdley Street area, which lies approximately 60 m north-east of the Round House, is identified as being of extreme importance to Evesham in terms of archaeological potential as it appears to be positioned both in the area of original nucleus of the settlement (Evesham is thought to have grown up in the Saxon period outside the main gate of the Abbey) and at the southern edge of the early medieval planned town (Bewdley Street would seem to be the boundary of this) (**WSM00811**).

Medieval (1066-1500)

2.3.10 In 1086 Evesham is recorded as a market town under the authority of the abbey of St. Mary in the Domesday Book, with a population of 27 smallholders placing it within the top 40% of population records for this year. Around the end of the 11th or early 12th century Abbot Walter erected a new (Benedictine) monastery, far surpassing Abbot Egwin's original construction in scale and architectural magnificence. By 1202 one finds references to Brutsrete (Bridge Street) and the Magnus Vicus (High Street) amongst others in contemporaneous sources, showing that a clearly defined settlement was in existence in its present position, estimated to have a population of around 1000 people. On 4th August 1265 the decisive battle in the Barons' Revolt took place near the Abbey, on the site of what is now the Corporation Meadow, when the forces of the Rebel Barons under Simon de Montfort were defeated by the Royalist forces under Prince Edward (later Edward I).

2.3.11 Market Place and High Street form a funnel-shaped market place (HWCM 20768), which with Vine Street was probably laid out in the late 11th to early 12th century, when Evesham was developed as a town (Dalwood and Bryant 2005, 8).

2.3.12 By the early 1300s, the town was well known as a centre for wool and cloth production along with trading thereof including to overseas cities, with Evesham firmly cemented as one of Worcestershire's principal cloth-making towns by the 1400s, and arguably one of some national importance. The main street layout of what is now the centre of town was firmly established by this time, and elements of this can still be seen in the "in the form of burgage plots, the siting of buildings, the location and shape of the market places, the bridging point and street plans", with The Round House featuring prominently as a survivor of these times.

2.3.13 The HER identifies eleven medieval buildings including the Round House **WSM01287** within the Study Area, many of which are also listed buildings. The timber framed buildings identified include a 15th or 16th barn at the rear of King Charles Inn (1 Vine Street;



WSM48552), 11 High Street dated to the 16th century (**WSM48552**), Abbot's Lantern 9 (formerly 8) Market Place - a late 15th century shop (**WSM03549**), Walker Hall almshouse dated from the 15th century (**WSM01288**) and the 15th to 16th century Vicarage (**WSM01284**).

- 2.3.14 The archaeological summary provided in the HER search report states that 'Within the search area there could be potential for below ground archaeological features and deposits from the medieval and post medieval periods, given the proximity of recorded evidence for occupation and finds from these periods.' (Worcestershire Archive and Archaeology Service 2021, 8-9 ref. WSM77433).
- 2.3.15 Excavations behind 12-18 Bridge Street (approximately 80 m east of the Round House) revealed occupations layers from various phases within pre-14th and 15th-20th century date ranges (WSM07544). A smaller scale Bridge Street excavation (site 2), approximately 85 m south-east of the Round House, similarly found medieval and post-medieval material including pottery, a roof tile and a clay pipe (WSM07579). The only other below-ground archaeological excavation recorded in the HER within the Study Area found cattle bones at the junction of the High Street and Bridge Street (WSM15578).

Post-medieval and modern (1500-present)

- 2.3.16 In the mid-1500s, John Leland notes Evesham as a market town in Worcestershire (then spelled Eovesham), and further references the 'Vale of Eovesham'. He describes Evesham thus: 'The towne of Eovesham is metely large and well buildyd with tymbar. The Market-Stede is faire and large. There be divers praty streats in the towne. The market kept at Eovesham is very celebrate. In the towne is no hospitale nor othar famose foundation but the late abbey'.
- 2.3.17 A Royal Charter was granted to Evesham on 2nd March 1604, during the early years of the reign of James I, with the town henceforth becoming a 'corporate borough'. In 1605, the towns of Evesham and Bengeworth, so long operating as one for practical purposes, were officially incorporated. The town was an important Royalist stronghold during the English Civil War.
- 2.3.18 From the 1700s until the 1900s, Evesham became an important centre for market gardening due to its position within the aforementioned Vale of Evesham. The area supplied many parts of England, as far afield as Birmingham and Yorkshire, with produce. In the mid-1700s Evesham was described by Bowen as 'a very neat town esteemed the second in rank in the County', adding that it was 'well inhabited and its Market well frequented' whilst it carried on 'a considerable trade especially in Stockings'. In 1776 local parish records for the two nearby churches of All Saints and St. Lawrence indicate that 450 families called the area home.
- 2.3.19 In the 1800s the town continued to prosper as a centre for market gardening and became popular with tourists in the Late Victorian and Early Edwardian period, hence the publication of tomes by Hebert New (A Day at Evesham), and William Smith (Evesham and the Neighbourhood, Illustrated). The public library on the Market Place was erected in 1824 (now the Public Hall over the Riverside Shopping Centre); the Workman Bridge replacing the medieval bridge to Bengeworth in 1856, Evesham Rowing Club was founded in 1863, and in 1887 the bell tower was added to the Town Hall to mark Queen Victoria's Golden Jubilee. The population of the borough had risen to just under 4,000 by 1831, and 5,112 by 1881.



- 2.3.20 In the early 1900s the town's growth continued, and approximately 80 years ago it was extended to incorporate the previously separate villages of Greater and Little Hampton to the South, on the other side of the River Avon. As a consequence, the new (or Abbey) bridge was built linking the two areas, which has the distinction of being 'the first completely structural concrete bridge to be built in the UK'.
- 2.3.21 Over 35% of the HER records within the Study Area relate to the post-medieval period, most of which relate to surviving buildings located on Vine Street, the High Street and Bridge Street. The majority date to the 18th century, although there is a 17th century timber framed building with later alterations at 12 High Street (**WSM17023**). Other timber framed buildings in the area include the Royal Oak inn (5 Vine Street **WSM01025**) and 2-4 High Street, both of which are dated to the 18th century.
- 2.3.22 Later 19th century and modern features included within the HER Study Area include 19th century houses, a shop, a Methodist Chapel, a brewery, a public library dated 1908-9, an inter-war era public house and several Second World War sites. These represent the piecemeal redevelopment of this part of the town during later periods.

2.4 Previous archaeological works

- 2.4.1 Wessex Archaeology undertook a geophysical survey around the exterior of the Round House on 12 November 2021. This did not identify any anomalies that could be interpreted as archaeology. Two areas thought to be associated with the foundations of the building were identified. There was no evidence for below ground structures, such as cellars, extending beyond the footprint of the building (Wessex Archaeology, 2021).

3 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

3.1 General aims

- 3.1.1 The general aims of the evaluation, as stated in the WSI (Wessex Archaeology 2022a) and in compliance with the ClfA *Standard and guidance for archaeological field evaluation* (ClfA 2014a) and *Standard and guidance for an archaeological watching brief* (ClfA 2014a), were to:
- provide information about the archaeological potential of the site;
 - allow, within the resources available, the preservation by record of archaeological deposits, the presence and nature of which could not be established (or established with sufficient accuracy) in advance of the development or other works;
 - provide an opportunity, if needed, for the watching archaeologist to signal to all interested parties, before the destruction of the material in question, that an archaeological find has been made for which the resources allocated to the watching brief itself are not sufficient to support treatment to a satisfactory and proper standard; and
 - inform either the scope and nature of any further archaeological work that may be required; or the formation of a mitigation strategy (to offset the impact of the development on the archaeological resource); or a management strategy.

3.2 General objectives

- 3.2.1 In order to achieve the above aims, the general objectives of the evaluation and watching brief were to:



- determine the presence or absence of archaeological features, deposits, structures, artefacts or ecofacts within the specified area;
- establish, within the constraints of the evaluation, the extent, character, date, condition and quality of any surviving archaeological remains;
- place any identified archaeological remains within a wider historical and archaeological context in order to assess their significance; and
- make available information about the archaeological resource within the site by reporting on the results of the evaluation.

3.3 Site-specific objectives

3.3.1 Following consideration of the archaeological potential of the site and the regional research framework (Watt (ed) 2011), site-specific objectives defined in the WSI (Wessex Archaeology 2022a) were to:

- combine the study of standing buildings with archaeological investigations for more comprehensive results
- provide a better understanding of the building (where possible within the confines of the works), compile a lasting record, analyse the findings/record and then disseminate the results.
- Where possible:
 - Record any physical evidence found related to the former use of the building as an inn, dwelling house(s) and earlier trade/industry to better understand industry, trade and housing within Evesham and the West Midlands, particularly in the medieval and post-medieval periods
 - Develop the understanding of medieval vernacular architecture through studies of standing buildings and archaeological evidence
 - Clarify the phasing of the building, differentiate between original/historic material and previous alterations/repairs exposed/impacted during the current repair work
 - Develop a better understanding the building's place and role within the market place and the development of the town and medieval town planning

4 METHODS

4.1 Introduction

4.1.1 All works were undertaken in accordance with the detailed methods set out within the WSI (Wessex Archaeology 2022a) and in general compliance with the standards outlined in ClfA guidance (ClfA 2014a). The methods employed are summarised below.

4.1.2 The watching brief comprised the monitoring core sampling works in fifteen locations shown on **Figure 2**.



- 4.1.3 The evaluation comprised the excavation, investigation and recording of three test pits (each measuring 1 m by 1 m) in the locations shown on **Figure 2**.

4.2 Fieldwork methods

General

- 4.2.1 Following consultation between the client and the Archaeology and Planning Advisor, the position and number of the coring operations and evaluation test pits were modified due to onsite constraints.
- 4.2.2 The watching brief monitored fifteen coring operations and the evaluation comprised the hand excavation and recording of three test pits (each measuring 1 m in length and 1 m in width), located within the basement of the Round House (**Figure 2**).
- 4.2.3 The watching archaeologist monitored all mechanical excavations within the specified area. Where necessary, the surface of uncovered archaeological deposits were cleaned by hand. A sample of archaeological features and deposits identified were hand-excavated, sufficient to address the aims set out above.
- 4.2.4 Spoil from hand-excavated archaeological deposits was visually scanned for the purposes of finds retrieval. Artefacts were collected and bagged by context. All artefacts from excavated contexts were retained.
- 4.2.5 Test pits completed to the satisfaction of the client and the Archaeology and Planning Advisor were backfilled using excavated materials in the order in which they were excavated, and left level on completion. No other reinstatement or surface treatment was undertaken.

Recording

- 4.2.6 All exposed archaeological deposits and features were recorded using Wessex Archaeology's pro forma recording system. A complete record of excavated features and deposits was made, including plans and sections drawn to appropriate scales (generally 1:20 for plans and 1:10 for sections).
- 4.2.7 A full photographic record was made using digital cameras equipped with an image sensor of not less than 16 megapixels. Digital images have been subject to managed quality control and curation processes, which has embedded appropriate metadata within the image and will ensure long term accessibility of the image set.

4.3 Finds and environmental strategies

- 4.3.1 Strategies for the recovery, processing and assessment of finds and environmental samples were in line with those detailed in the WSI (Wessex Archaeology 2022a). The treatment of artefacts and environmental remains was in general accordance with: *Guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials* (ClfA 2014b), *Environmental Archaeology: A Guide to the Theory and Practice of Methods, from Sampling and Recovery to Post-excavation* (English Heritage 2011), and ClfA's *Toolkit for Specialist Reporting* (Type 2: Appraisal).

4.4 Monitoring

- 4.4.1 The Archaeology and Planning Advisor monitored the evaluation on behalf of the LPA. Any variations to the WSI, if required to better address the project aims, were agreed in advance with the client and the Archaeology and Planning Advisor.



5 STRATIGRAPHIC EVIDENCE

5.1 Introduction

- 5.1.1 The monitored coring operations exposed various modern brick and concrete layers. Two of the evaluation test pits (Test pits 1 and 3) contained archaeological features and deposits, indicating archaeological remains are present beneath the current floor level within the basement of the Round House.
- 5.1.2 The uncovered archaeology comprised brick structures of probable 19th century date, an undated stone structure and post-medieval backfill deposits.
- 5.1.3 The following section presents the results of the evaluation with archaeological features and deposits discussed by test pit. In addition a summary of the core sample findings is set out below.
- 5.1.4 Detailed descriptions of individual contexts are provided in the wall core and test pit summary tables (**Appendix 1**).

5.2 Soil sequence and natural deposits

- 5.2.1 A similar sequence of deposits was encountered across the site. The natural substrate (1009, 2002 and 3005) was revealed at a depth of between 0.54 m and 0.57 m below the existing floor level. Comprising mid brownish yellow to brownish red sand and fine gravels.
- 5.2.2 The natural was overlain by modern made ground (1001, 2001 and 3001) and covered by concrete (1000, 2000 and 3000) of variable thickness.

5.3 Test pit 1 (Figures 3–5)

- 5.3.1 Two brick structures were revealed in test pit 1.
- 5.3.2 Brick structure 1004 was aligned east/west and measured 1.18 m in length, 0.30 m wide and 0.19 m in depth. It comprised a stone slab base with two parallel single courses of handmade unbonded red bricks, set out in a rowlock stretcher configuration, forming an open channel / drain. The bricks were of standard imperial dimensions (9 x 4.30 x 3 inches) and are 19th century in date. The drain was partially filled with a dark grey silty clay loam (1003) that contained charcoal flecks.
- 5.3.3 Brick structure 1007 was partially revealed at the west corner of test pit 1 and formed a subcircular chamber probably a well, cesspit or soakaway. The structure, which was 0.76 m wide and over 0.53 m deep, was constructed of red bricks bonded with pale grey lime mortar. The bricks were of standard imperial dimensions (9 x 4.30 x 3 inches) and are 19th century in date. It contained a single heavily mixed dark brown grey silty clay loam fill (1006) with charcoal, brick and lime fragments. The relationship between structures 1007 and 1004 remains inconclusive yet they appear to be integrated components of the same structure.
- 5.3.4 Structures 1004 and 1007 were both overlain by a mixed mid grey brown sandy silt loam (1002) that contained late 18th-/early 19th-century pottery, animal bone, ceramic building material, window glass, clay tobacco pipe fragments, including a pipe bowl of c. 1730-80, and charcoal flecks.

5.4 Test pit 2 (Figure 6)

- 5.4.1 Test pit 2 contained no archaeological features or deposits.



5.5 Test pit 3 (Figures 7–8)

5.5.1 An undated stone structure 3003 and a modern concrete layer were revealed in test pit 3. Stone structure 3003, which extended beyond the north boundary of the test pit, was 0.70 m by 0.48 m wide and over 0.36 m deep. It was constructed of at least three courses of sub-angular lias stone slabs bonded with red sand containing lime inclusions. The structure had a mixed loose silty clay loam backfill (3002) that contained frequent brick fragments, late 18th-/early 19th-century pottery, animal bone, window glass, and ceramic building material. The extent, date, form and function of the structure remains unclear.

5.6 Core sampling

5.6.1 A similar sequence of construction layers was encountered in all wall core sampling locations. Silty sand or lias stone geology, an outer red brick layer, mixed concrete, an inner frogged brick layer red or yellow in colour and the visible internal wall surface.

5.6.2 Pale grey silty sand natural (804 and 1106) was reached between 0.90–0.97 m from the current wall surface.

5.6.3 Lias blockwork (803, 1105, 1205, 1503 and 1602) was recorded between 0.25–0.97 m from the current wall surface and may form the foundation upon which the late 15th century timber framed structure was constructed.

5.6.4 An outer brick layer (103, 304, 504, 604, 903, 1104 and 1204) was constructed from red unfrogged bricks that were occasionally vitrified. It was encountered between 0.27–0.33 m from the current wall surface and likely represents an earlier phase of basement construction. This was covered by concrete (103, 203, 303, 403, 503, 603, 702, 802, 1103, 1203 and 1502).

5.6.5 The coring characterised the innermost wall as red or yellow frogged bricks (102, 202, 302, 402, 502, 602, 801, 902, 1102, 1202, 1301, 1302, 1401, 1501 and 1601) that were typically 0.11 m wide and overlain by paint, plaster, or tiles (101, 201, 301, 401, 501, 601, 701, 901, 1101 and 1201).

6 FINDS EVIDENCE

6.1 Introduction

6.1.1 A small quantity of post-medieval/modern finds were hand collected from three contexts during the evaluation at the Round House. The finds have been quantified by material type and context; the results are presented in **Table 1**.

Table 1 Finds quantified by number and weight in grams

Context	Pottery (no/wgt)	Ceramic building material (no/wgt)	Glass (no/wgt)	Animal bone (no/wgt)	Clay tobacco pipe (no/wgt)
1002	3/19	1/49	1/5	3/99	1/49
1007		1/3842			
3002	11/136		1/4	2/71	
Total	14/155	2/3891	3/10	5/170	1/49

6.2 Pottery

6.2.1 The pottery assemblage comprises nine conjoining sherds of creamware from context 3002; three sherds of pearlware from context 1002; and single sherds of 17th/18th-century tin-



glazed ware and post-medieval glazed redware from context 3002. The creamware sherds form part of a small saucer with rim moulding dating from c. 1760–1830. The pearlware dates from c. 1780–1840.

6.3 Animal Bone

6.3.1 The animal bone assemblage comprises a sheep/goat humerus, tibia and long bone shaft from context 1002; and a sheep jaw and large mammal (cattle?) rib from context 3002.

6.4 Other finds

6.4.1 The other finds comprise a handmade 18th-/19th-century brick from structure 1007; single shards of post-medieval/modern window glass from contexts 1002 and 3002; a fragment of roof tile and a c. 1730–80 clay tobacco pipe bowl from context 1002.

6.5 Finds discussion and conclusions

6.5.1 The finds comprise a small quantity of common domestic artefacts of the 18th and 19th centuries. They provide some dating for the deposits from which they were recovered but are otherwise of little intrinsic interest.

7 CONCLUSIONS

7.1 Summary

7.1.1 The watching brief and evaluation identified a limited number of archaeological features within the site. The watching brief core sampling identified two phases of brick wall and modern concrete layers. The evaluation test pits revealed brick structures of likely 19th century date and an undated stone structure.

7.1.2 No features or deposits contemporary with or pre-dating the late 15th century timber framed building were exposed.

7.1.3 The impact of the forthcoming refurbishment works will have no impact on the exposed archaeology.

7.2 Discussion

7.2.1 The brick and stone structures revealed in the evaluation test pits appear to be related to drainage and/or water management. Yet this remains unproven due to the fragmentary nature of the evidence.

7.2.2 The natural sand geology in the base of each evaluation test pit limits the potential for further underlying archaeology.

8 ARCHIVE STORAGE AND CURATION

8.1 Museum

8.1.1 The archive resulting from the evaluation is currently held at the offices of Wessex Archaeology in Bristol. Museums Worcestershire on behalf of Worcestershire County Museum has agreed in principle to accept the archive on completion of the project, under the accession code WSM77931. Deposition of any finds with the museum will only be carried out with the full written agreement of the landowner to transfer title of all finds to the museum.



8.2 Preparation of the archive

Physical archive

- 8.2.1 The archive, which includes paper records, graphics and artefacts will be prepared following the standard conditions for the acceptance of excavated archaeological material by Museums Worcestershire on behalf of Worcestershire County Museum, and in general following nationally recommended guidelines (SMA 1995; ClfA 2014c; Brown 2011).
- 8.2.2 All archive elements are marked with the accession code WSM77931, and a full index will be prepared. The physical archive currently comprises the following:
- 01 cardboard boxes or airtight plastic boxes of artefacts, ordered by material type
 - 01 files/document cases of paper records

Digital archive

- 8.2.3 The digital archive generated by the project, which comprises born-digital data (eg site records, survey data, photographs and reports), will be deposited with a Trusted Digital Repository, in this instance the Archaeology Data Service (ADS), to ensure its long-term curation. Digital data will be prepared following ADS guidelines (ADS 2013 and online guidance) and accompanied by metadata.

8.3 Selection strategy

- 8.3.1 It is widely accepted that not all the records and materials (artefacts and ecofacts) collected or created during the course of an archaeological project require preservation in perpetuity. These records and materials will be subject to selection in order to establish what will be retained for long-term curation, with the aim of ensuring that all elements selected to be retained are appropriate to establish the significance of the project and support future research, outreach, engagement, display and learning activities, ie the retained archive should fulfil the requirements of both future researchers and the receiving Museum.
- 8.3.2 The selection strategy, which details the project-specific selection process, is underpinned by national guidelines on selection and retention (Brown 2011, section 4) and generic selection policies (SMA 1993; Wessex Archaeology's internal selection policy) and follows ClfA's *Toolkit for Selecting Archaeological Archives*. It should be agreed by all stakeholders (Wessex Archaeology's internal specialists, external specialists, local authority, museum) and fully documented in the project archive.
- 8.3.3 In this instance, given the relatively low level of finds recovery, the selection process has been deferred until after the fieldwork stage was completed. Project-specific proposals for selection are presented below. These proposals are based on recommendations by Wessex Archaeology's internal specialists and will be updated in line with any further comment by other stakeholders (museum, local authority). The selection strategy will be fully documented in the project archive.
- 8.3.4 Any material not selected for retention may be used for teaching or reference collections by Wessex Archaeology.
- ### *Finds*
- 8.3.5 The assemblage is small and entirely of post-medieval/modern date, comprising commonly occurring and well documented types, entirely as expected for the area and the period. On this basis, retention for long-term curation is not recommended for any of the finds.



Documentary records

- 8.3.6 Paper records comprise site registers (other pro-forma site records are digital), drawings and reports (Written Scheme of Investigation, client report). All will be retained and deposited with the project archive.

Digital data

- 8.3.7 The digital data comprise site records (tablet-recorded on site) in spreadsheet format; finds records in spreadsheet format; survey data; photographs; reports. All will be deposited, although site photographs will be subject to selection to eliminate poor quality and duplicated images, and any others not considered directly relevant to the archaeology of the site.

8.4 Security copy

- 8.4.1 In line with current best practice (eg, Brown 2011), on completion of the project a security copy of the written records will be prepared, in the form of a digital PDF/A file. PDF/A is an ISO-standardised version of the Portable Document Format (PDF) designed for the digital preservation of electronic documents through omission of features ill-suited to long-term archiving.

8.5 OASIS

- 8.5.1 An OASIS (online access to the index of archaeological investigations) record (<http://oasis.ac.uk>) has been initiated, with key fields completed (Appendix 2). A .pdf version of the final report will be submitted following approval by the the Archaeology and Planning Advisor on behalf of the LPA. Subject to any contractual requirements on confidentiality, copies of the OASIS record will be integrated into the relevant local and national records and published through the Archaeology Data Service (ADS) ArchSearch catalogue.

9 COPYRIGHT

9.1 Archive and report copyright

- 9.1.1 The full copyright of the written/illustrative/digital archive relating to the project will be retained by Wessex Archaeology under the *Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988* with all rights reserved. The client will be licenced to use each report for the purposes that it was produced in relation to the project as described in the specification. The museum, however, will be granted an exclusive licence for the use of the archive for educational purposes, including academic research, providing that such use conforms to the *Copyright and Related Rights Regulations 2003*.
- 9.1.2 Information relating to the project will be deposited with the Historic Environment Record (HER) where it can be freely copied without reference to Wessex Archaeology for the purposes of archaeological research or development control within the planning process.

9.2 Third party data copyright

- 9.2.1 This document and the project archive may contain material that is non-Wessex Archaeology copyright (eg, Ordnance Survey, British Geological Survey, Crown Copyright), or the intellectual property of third parties, which Wessex Archaeology are able to provide for limited reproduction under the terms of our own copyright licences, but for which copyright itself is non-transferable by Wessex Archaeology. Users remain bound by the conditions of the *Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988* with regard to multiple copying and electronic dissemination of such material.



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Wessex Archaeology Forthcoming *The Round House, Evesham, Worcestershire:*
Archaeological Building Recording. Typescript report



APPENDICES

Appendix 1 Core sampling and test pit summaries

W1–W7 wall core sampling locations

W2L–W6L additional exterior wall core sampling locations

IW1-IW3 additional interior wall core sampling locations

Depth fcws = from current wall surface / bgl = below ground level

W1		Length Unknown	Width 0.04 m	Depth 0.56 m
Easting		Northing		m OD
Context Number	Fill Of/Filled With	Interpretative Category	Description	Depth fcws
101		Structure	Tile brick	0.00 – 0.10
102		Structure	Mixed concrete	0.10 – 0.17
103		Structure	Concrete	0.17 – 0.56

W2		Length Unknown	Width 0.04 m	Depth 0.26 m
Easting		Northing		m OD
Context Number	Fill Of/Filled With	Interpretative Category	Description	Depth fcws
201		Structure	Tile brick	0.00 – 0.10
202		Structure	Blue brick	0.10 – 0.21
203		Structure	Mixed concrete	0.21 – 0.26

W3		Length Unknown	Width 0.04 m	Depth 0.27 m
Easting		Northing		m OD
Context Number	Fill Of/Filled With	Interpretative Category	Description	Depth fcws
301		Structure	Plaster	0.00 – 0.01
302		Structure	Blue brick	0.01 – 0.11
303		Structure	Concrete	0.11 – 0.24
304		Structure	Mixed concrete	0.24 – 0.27

W4		Length Unknown	Width 0.04 m	Depth 0.26 m
Easting		Northing		m OD
Context Number	Fill Of/Filled With	Interpretative Category	Description	Depth fcws
401		Structure	Plaster	0.00 – 0.01
402		Structure	Blue brick	0.01 – 0.11
403		Structure	Mixed concrete	0.11 – 0.26

W5		Length Unknown	Width 0.04 m	Depth 0.27 m
Easting		Northing		m OD
Context Number	Fill Of/Filled With	Interpretative Category	Description	Depth fcws
501		Structure	Plaster	0.00 – 0.01
502		Structure	Brick	0.01 – 0.11
503		Structure	Mixed concrete	0.11 – 0.16
504		Structure	Brick	0.16 – 0.27



W6		Length Unknown	Width 0.04 m	Depth 0.28 m
Easting		Northing		m OD
Context Number	Fill Of/Filled With	Interpretative Category	Description	Depth fcws
601		Structure	Plaster	0.00 – 0.01
602		Structure	Brick	0.01 – 0.11
603		Structure	Mixed concrete	0.11 – 0.17
604		Structure	Brick	0.17 – 0.28

W7		Length Unknown	Width 0.04 m	Depth 0.48 m
Easting		Northing		m OD
Context Number	Fill Of/Filled With	Interpretative Category	Description	Depth fcws
701		Structure	Tile	0.00 – 0.01
702		Structure	Concrete	0.01 – 0.48

W2L		Length Unknown	Width 0.04 m	Depth 1.13 m
Easting		Northing		m OD
Context Number	Fill Of/Filled With	Interpretative Category	Description	Depth fcws
801		Structure	Brick. Yellow / buff. Sandy, Frogged? 1 mm thick plaster with "ceramic" surface at internal face of wall.	0 – 0.23
802		Structure	Mixed concrete. Red brick and concrete (with common, small, sub-angular flint inclusions). Some mortar on some brick surfaces. Due to nature of fragmentation of brick, the actual structural integrity of 802 could not be established, although it's very likely that the bricks and concrete were constructed parts of a wall.	0.23 – 0.50
803		Structure	Block-work. Foundation stones? Lias. Very fine, mid to dark grey, conchoidally fractures.	0.50 – 0.97
804		Natural	Geology. pale grey with reddish hue silty sand. Sand is medium-grained quartz. Sparse sub-angular flints (yellowish brown colour; ≤12 mm).	0.97+

IW3		Length Unknown	Width 0.04 m	Depth 0.58 m
Easting		Northing		m OD
Context Number	Fill Of/Filled With	Interpretative Category	Description	Depth fcws
901		Structure	Brick. Yellow brick type. Dimensions suggest the core penetrated brick side.	0 – 0.11



902		Structure	Concrete. Slightly reddish brown concrete with common small sub-angular flint inclusions. "Has appearance of a Frogged concrete brick."	0.11 – 0.22
903		Structure	Brick. Red brick. Dimensions suggest the core penetrated brick side.	0.22 – 0.33

W5L		Length Unknown	Width 0.07 m	Depth 0.90 m
Easting		Northing		m OD
Context Number	Fill Of/Filled With	Interpretative Category	Description	Depth fcws
1101		Structure	Tile and plaster. White surface.	0 – 0.01
1102		Structure	Brick. Dark slightly brownish red, coarse. Frogged?	0.01 – 0.13
1103		Structure	Concrete / mortar	0.13 – 0.15
1104		Structure	Brick. Bright red. Possible vitrified brick surface 0.15 - 0.17.	0.15 – 0.29
1105		Structure	Lias stone. Mid to dark grey conchoidally fractures. Mostly no inclusions, although a coarse pinkish brown mortar portion looked to be present (0.65 - 0.75). Suggestion of a worked surface to Lias block-work associated with the mortar.	0.35 – 0.90
1106		Natural	Probable geology. Too soft to retrieve a sample.	0.90+

W6L		Length Unknown	Width 0.07 m	Depth 0.81 m
Easting		Northing		m OD
Context Number	Fill Of/Filled With	Interpretative Category	Description	Depth fcws
1201		Structure	Tile/mortar. 1 mm white ceramic surface, ≤8 mm pinkish / buff fine plaster / render; ≤8 mm pale pink / buff sandier bonding render. Joints to outer surface of bricks in 1202	0 – 0.01
1202		Structure	Brick. Frogged. Mid to bright red.	0.01 – 0.12
1203		Structure	Mortar (30mm)	0.12 – 0.15
1204		Structure	Brick. Dark red. Possible vitrified brick surface (15 mm thickness) bonded to 1203.	0.15 – 0.26
1205		Structure	Stonework. Lias blockwork. Cemented / mortared	0.26 – 0.81

IW2		Length Unknown	Width 0.04 m	Depth 0.36 m
Easting		Northing		m OD
Context Number	Fill Of/Filled With	Interpretative Category	Description	Depth fcws



1301		Structure	Brick. Brick Yellow brick forming internal wall of Book Room Frogged. Two bricks thick (side by side) with mortar bonding.	0 – 0.25
1302		Structure	Brick. Frogged. Dark red brick (Side on) with greyish brown mortar bond. 15 mm outer surface of plaster / render with white ceramic type coat.	0.25 – 0.36

IW1		Length Unknown	Width 0.04 m	Depth 0.37 m
Easting		Northing		m OD
Context Number	Fill Of/Filled With	Interpretative Category	Description	Depth fcws
1401		Structure	Brick. Double thickness of mortared dark red brick. Frogged. Plaster on side facing towards book room. White paint on opposing side.	0 – 0.37

W4L		Length Unknown	Width 0.07 m	Depth 0.74 m
Easting		Northing		m OD
Context Number	Fill Of/Filled With	Interpretative Category	Description	Depth fcws
1501		Structure	Brick. Red brick. Frogged. 10 mm outer plaster with white paint surface.	0 – 0.11
1502		Structure	Concrete. Common sub-angular flint gravel inclusions (≤ 15 mm).	0.11 – 0.25
1503		Structure	Stonework. Lias blockwork with coarse mortar bonding.	0.25 – 0.74

W3L		Length Unknown	Width 0.07 m	Depth 0.58 m
Easting		Northing		m OD
Context Number	Fill Of/Filled With	Interpretative Category	Description	Depth fcws
1601		Structure	Brick. Red brick. Frogged. Possibly two bricks lying side by side.	0 – 0.26
1602		Structure	Stonework. Lias blocks with rough mortar. Large quartzite pebble encountered at c. 0.50m. Far edge not encountered due to drilling difficulties.	0.26 – 0.58+

Test Pit 1		Length 1.15 m	Width 1.15 m	Depth 0.84 m
Easting		Northing		m OD
Context Number	Fill Of/Filled With	Interpretative Category	Description	Depth BGL
1000		Layer	Concrete	0.00 – 0.40
1001		Layer	Made ground	0.40 – 0.45
1002		Deliberate backfill	Mid grey brown sandy silt loam with common sub-angular mudstone	0.45 – 0.57
1003	1004	Fill	Dark grey brown silty clay loam	0.52 – 0.57



1004		Structure	Linear structure aligned E-W with straight sides and a flat base. Constructed from brick - red / buff and bonded with none. Maximum height: 0.19 m.	0.45 – 0.61
1005	1004	Construction cut	Linear construction cut aligned East-West with vertical, straight sides. Length: >1.16 m. Width: 0.35 m.	0.61 +
1006	1007	Fill	Dark brown grey silty clay loam with stone	0.45 +
1007		Structure	Sub-circular structure with unknown sides and an unknown base. Constructed from red brick and bonded with lime mortar. Maximum height: 0.53 m.	0.60 +
1008	1007	Construction cut	Sub-circular construction cut. Length: >0.31 m. Width: >0.76 m. Depth: >0.53 m.	0.60 +
1009		Layer	Natural. Mid brownish yellow or brownish red sand with patches of brownish yellow sandy gravel.	0.57 +
1010	1005	Fill	Red sand fill of construction cut 1005	0.61 +

Test Pit 2		Length 1.10 m	Width 1.10 m	Depth 0.46 m
Easting		Northing		m OD
Context Number	Fill Of/Filled With	Interpretative Category	Description	Depth BGL
2000		Layer	Concrete	0.00–0.56
2001		Layer	Made ground	0.20–0.56
2002		Layer	Natural. Mid brown red sand mixed with brown grey sandy gravel.	0.56+

Test Pit 3		Length 1.10 m	Width 1.10 m	Depth 0.66 m
Easting		Northing		m OD
Context Number	Fill Of/Filled With	Interpretative Category	Description	Depth BGL
3000		Layer	Concrete	0.00–0.57
3001		Layer	Made ground	0.46–0.54
3002	3003	Deliberate backfill	Dark gray brown silty clay loam with sparse sub-angular lias stone cobbles	0.46–0.66+
3003		Structure	Rectangular structure with straight sides and an unknown base. Constructed from lias stone and bonded with red sand with infrequent lime inclusions. Maximum height: 0.36 m.	0.46–0.66+



3004	3003	Construction cut	Rectangular construction cut with vertical, straight sides. Length: >0.70 m. Width: >0.48 m. Depth: >0.20 m.	0.46–0.66+
3005		Layer	Natural. Mid Brownish yellow with occasional brownish red sand with rare gravel inclusions.	0.54+

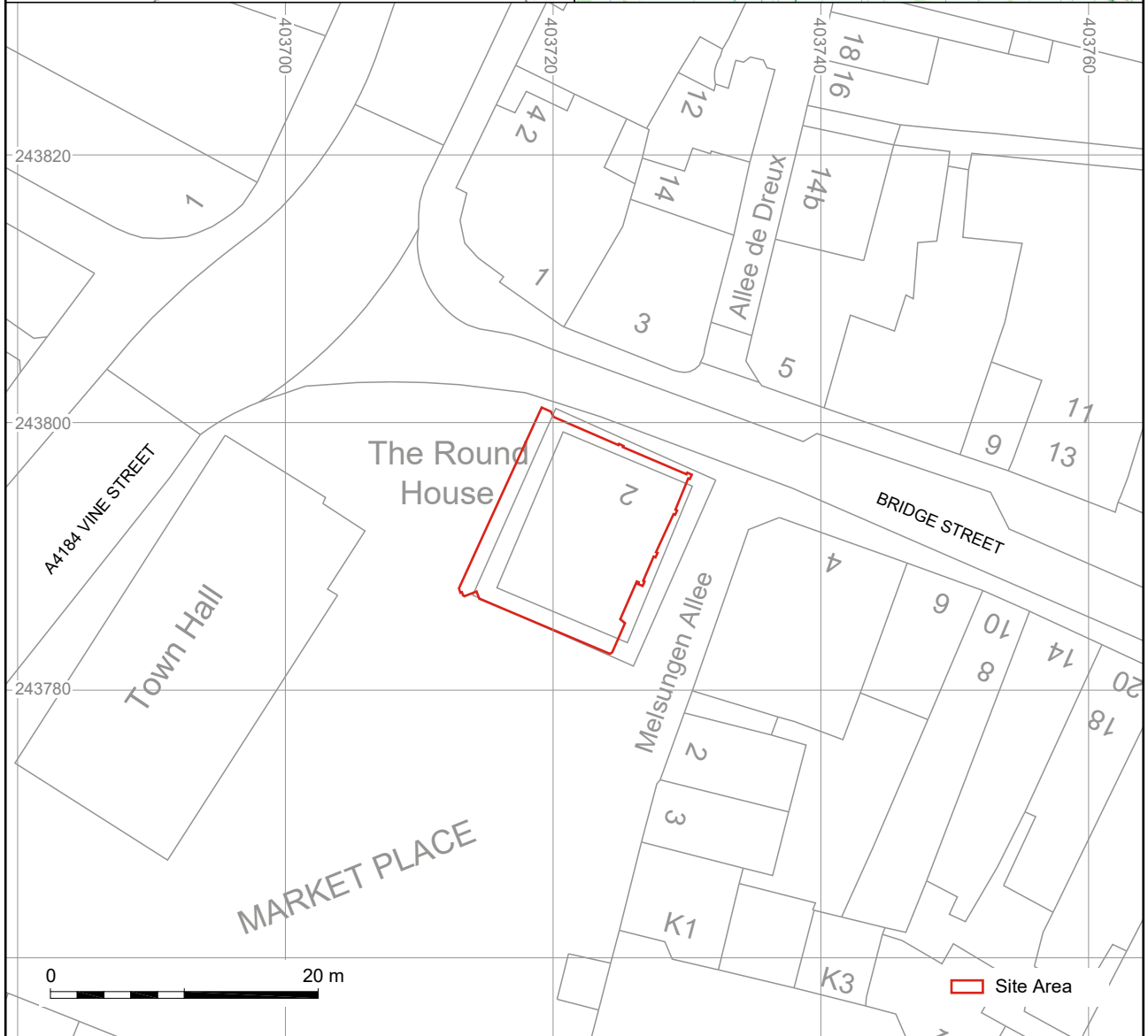
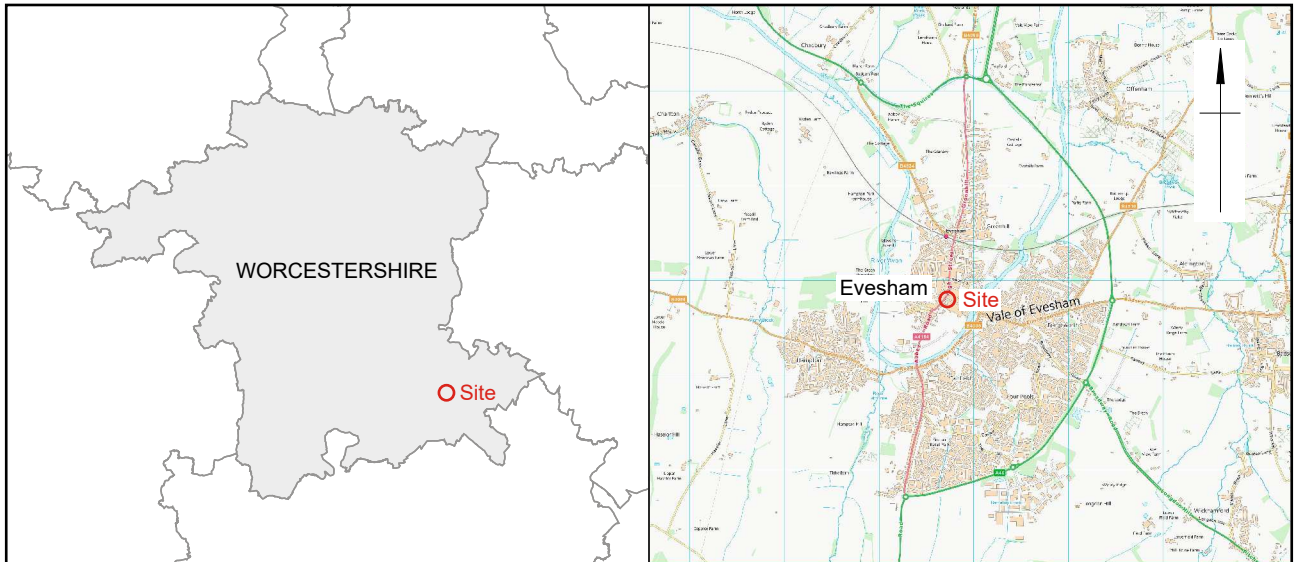



Appendix 2 OASIS record

Summary for wessexar1-505815

OASIS ID (UID)	wessexar1-505815
Project Name	Watching Brief and Evaluation at The Round House, Evesham
Sitename	
Activity type	Watching Brief, Evaluation
Project Identifier(s)	The Round House, Evesham - Watching Brief and Evaluation
Planning Id	20/01188/LB
Reason For Investigation	Planning: Listed Building Consent
Organisation Responsible for work	Wessex Archaeology
Project Dates	28-Feb-2022 - 22-Mar-2022
Location	The Round House, Evesham NGR : SP 03724 43792 LL : 52.0924642642004, -1.94706337271346 12 Fig : 403724,243792
Administrative Areas	Country : England County : Worcestershire District : Wychavon Parish : Evesham
Project Methodology	<p>Wessex Archaeology was commissioned by Faithful & Gould Ltd, to undertake an archaeological watching brief and evaluation at The Round House, 2 Bridge Street, Evesham, WR11 4RS. The evaluation area is centred on NGR 403721, 243790.</p> <p>The watching brief comprising the monitoring of fifteen core samples within the basement of the Round House, to assess the fabric of the existing walls and their ability to take imposed scaffold loads during refurbishment, was undertaken 28 February–22 March 2022.</p> <p>The evaluation comprising three test pits (each measuring 1 m by 1 m) to assess the structure of the current floor and evaluate any archaeological resource sealed below was undertaken 07 March–09 March 2022.</p>
Project Results	<p>Excavations identified archaeological deposits in two test pits comprising brick structures of probable 19th century date, an undated stone structure and post-medieval backfill deposits.</p> <p>The monitored coring operations exposed various modern brick and concrete layers.</p>
Keywords	<p>Water Supply And Drainage - UNCERTAIN - FISH Thesaurus of Monument Types</p> <p>Layer - POST MEDIEVAL - FISH Thesaurus of Monument Types</p> <p>Soakaway - UNCERTAIN - FISH Thesaurus of Monument Types</p>
Funder	
HER	Worcestershire HER - unRev - STANDARD
Person Responsible for work	Luke, Jarvis
HER Identifiers	

Archives	Physical Archive, Documentary Archive - to be deposited with Worcestershire County Museum Digital Archive - to be deposited with Archaeology Data Service Archive
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Site location

Figure 1



Figure 3: Test pit 1, looking Northwest. 1 m scale



Figure 4: Test pit 1, brick structure 1004 and 1007, looking Southeast. 1 m scale


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Figure 5: Test pit 1, brick structure 1004 and 1007, looking Southwest. 0.40 m scale



Figure 6: Test pit 2, looking Southwest. 1 m scale



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Figure 7: Test pit 3, looking Northeast. 1 m scale



Figure 8: Test pit 3, stone structure 3003, looking Southwest. 0.40 m scale

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