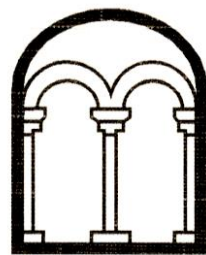


**GLEN LEIGH HOUSE
LEVENS GREEN
HERTFORDSHIRE**

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL STRIP, MAP
AND RECORD, ANALYSIS, PUBLICATION
AND ARCHIVING**

Albion
archaeology



**GLEN LEIGH HOUSE
LEVENS GREEN
HERTFORDSHIRE**

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL STRIP, MAP
AND RECORD, ANALYSIS, PUBLICATION
AND ARCHIVING**

Project: GL2792

Document: 2018/14
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HER enquiry number 40/17
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Compiled by	Approved by
Ben Barker	Drew Shotliff

23rd January 2018

Produced for:
Mr Martin McBride



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Preface

All statements and opinions in this document are offered in good faith. This document has been prepared for the titled project or named part thereof and was prepared solely for the benefit of the client. This document should not be relied upon or used for any other project without an independent check being carried out as to its suitability and the prior written authority of Albion Archaeology (a trading unit of Central Bedfordshire Council).

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The project was monitored on behalf of the Local Planning Authority by Alison Tinniswood, Historic Environment Adviser of Hertfordshire County Council.

The fieldwork and reporting were undertaken by Ben Barker (Project Officer), with finds input from Jackie Wells (Artefacts Officer) and illustrations by Joan Lighting (CAD Technician). All Albion projects are under the overall management of Drew Shotliff (Operations Manager).

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Version History

Version	Issue date	Reason for re-issue
1.0	23/01/2018	n/a

Key Terms

Throughout this document the following terms or abbreviations are used:

CIfA	Chartered Institute for Archaeologists
Client	Mr Martin McBride.
DA	Development area
HCC	Hertfordshire County Council
EHDC	East Herts District Council



Procedures Manual *Procedures Manual Volume 1 Fieldwork*, 3rd edn, 2017
Albion Archaeology
HEA Historic Environment Advisor
WSI Written Scheme of Investigation



Non-technical Summary

Planning permission (3/16/0594/FUL) was granted by East Herts Council for development at Glen Leigh House, Levens Green, comprising the demolition of the existing house and garage and the erection of a two-storey replacement dwelling with basement.

The consented site lies within Area of Archaeological Significance no. 340 (as identified in the Local Plan) and its known archaeological potential was described in the heritage assessment submitted with the application (Albion Archaeology 2016). As the development had the potential to impact on below-ground archaeological remains, Hertfordshire County Council's Historic Environment Advisor recommended that a programme Archaeological Strip, Map and Record, Analysis, Publication and Archiving should be undertaken.

The site is located in the small hamlet of Levens Green in the parish of Great Munden, within the district of East Hertfordshire. It lies on a gentle south-facing slope at an elevation of c. 120m OD and is centred on grid reference TL 3579 2229. It was formerly occupied by a detached 1960s bungalow.

The work was undertaken by Albion Archaeology between 10th August 2017 and 24th October 2017 in accordance with an approved Written Scheme of Investigation. Following consultation with the HEA, it was agreed to downgrade the monitoring of the excavation of the foundation trenches for the western part of the structure to a watching brief.

The investigation revealed that the construction of the new dwelling was largely confined to ground that had previously been disturbed by the construction of the former property and its subsequent demolition. Where undisturbed natural geology survived, there was no evidence of archaeological features or deposits earlier than 20th-century in origin.

The project archive does not merit any further analysis or reporting beyond that presented in this report. It will be deposited with Hertford Museum (project code GL2792). This report will be uploaded onto the Archaeology Data Service's OASIS website (ref. no albionar1-285776) in accordance with the guidelines issued by the Archaeology Data Service.



1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 **Planning Background**

Planning permission (3/16/0594/FUL) was granted by East Herts Council for the following development at Glen Leigh House, Levens Green:

- Demolition of the existing house and garage;
- Erection of a two-storey replacement dwelling with basement.

The consented site lies within Area of Archaeological Significance no. 340 (as identified in the Local Plan) and its known archaeological potential was described in the heritage assessment submitted with the application (Albion Archaeology 2016). The development had the potential to affect below-ground archaeological remains and, therefore, a condition (no. 3) was attached to the planning consent:

No development shall take place within the proposed development site until the applicant, or their agents, or their successors in title, has secured implementation of a programme of archaeological work in accordance with a written scheme of investigation, which has been submitted to the planning authority and approved in writing. This condition will only be considered discharged when the planning authority has received and approved an archaeological report of all the required archaeological works, and if appropriate, a commitment to publication has been made.

Reason: to secure the protection of and proper provision for any archaeological remains in accordance with policies BH2 and BH3 of the East Herts Local Plan Second Review April 2007.

The Hertfordshire County Council Historic Environment Advisor (HEA) advised that the work required to address the condition should comprise:

- a programme of archaeological strip, map and record within the footprint of the replacement dwelling, and of any other ground reduction;
- a contingency for the preservation or further investigation of any archaeological remains encountered;
- post-excavation analysis, publication and archiving.

Albion Archaeology was commissioned by the client to undertake the archaeological mitigation works in accordance with a written scheme of investigation approved by the HEA (Albion Archaeology 2017a).

1.2 **Site Location and Description**

Levens Green is a small hamlet in the parish of Great Munden in East Hertfordshire District. It lies *c.* 2km west of the A10 and *c.* 7km north of Ware. The present-day hamlet comprises two concentrations of buildings, an eastern and a western one. The proposed development area (PDA) lies on the southern side of the 'Levens Green' road in the eastern part of Levens Green, at its junction with a road leading south towards Beggarman's Lane.



The PDA is centred on grid reference TL 3579 2229 and lies on a gentle south-facing slope at an elevation of c. 120m OD.

The underlying drift geology is the sands and gravels of the Lowestoft Formation - Diamicton. This overlies the Clay, Silt and Sand Sedimentary Bedrock of the Lambeth Group. There are also isolated superficial deposits of Glaciofluvial Sand and Gravel near the PDA (British Geological Survey 2016)¹.

1.3 Archaeological and Historical Background

The PDA's archaeological and historical background, specifically the area within a 1 km-radius study area around the PDA, was discussed in the heritage assessment that accompanied the planning application (Albion Archaeology 2016). In preparation of the WSI the HER was checked for new data, although there was none (ref.: 40/17). The most relevant background information is summarised below.

The whole of the Levens Green hamlet represents an Area of Archaeological Significance (AAS), denoting the extent of the medieval and post-medieval settlement. This includes the PDA itself.

The heritage assessment presented cartographic evidence, showing that the PDA was open land from the mid-18th century until Glen Leigh House was built. It was probably pasture or agricultural land associated with the settlement of Levens Green. However, given its location at the south-east edge of one of the settlement's medieval green, it retained potential for the preservation of medieval or early post-medieval archaeological heritage assets. Were the latter to exist, it was noted that their significance might have been reduced by the construction of the existing house.

1.4 Project Objectives

The primary function of the archaeological investigation was to determine and understand the nature, function and character of any archaeological remains in their cultural and environmental setting. Together with the production of an assessment report/publication that fully describes the archaeological works and findings, this will define the value of the archaeological remains.

To achieve the above, the data collected during the fieldwork aimed to determine the following:

1. the date, nature and extent of any activity or occupation within the development site;
2. the relationship of any remains found to the surrounding contemporary landscapes;
3. the local environmental conditions (through the recovery of palaeo-environmental remains).

¹ Contains British Geological Survey materials © NERC 2017



1.5 Methodology

The development comprised the demolition of the existing house and erection of a new, detached, two-storey dwelling with basement. Initially an overburden strip of the footprint of the basement was undertaken in line with the strip, map and record methodology set out in the WSI. Following consultation with the HEA, it was agreed to downgrade the monitoring of the excavation of the foundation trenches for the western part of the new dwelling to a watching brief.

Throughout the project the standards and requirements set out in the following documents were adhered to:

Albion Archaeology	<i>Procedures Manual: Volume 1 Fieldwork</i> (3rd edn, 2017b)
ALGAO (East)	<i>Standards for Field Archaeology in the East of England</i> . EAA Occasional Paper No. 14 (Gurney 2003)
CIfA	<i>Charter and by-law; Code of conduct</i> (2014)
	<i>Standard and guidance for archaeological excavation</i> (2014)
	<i>Standard and guidance for an archaeological watching brief</i> (2014)
	<i>Standard and guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials</i> (2014)
Historic England	<i>Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment PPN3: Archaeological Excavation</i> (2015)
	Archaeology Guidelines and Standards ² ;
	<i>The MoRPHE Project Managers Guide</i> (2015)

² Historic England guidelines on a number of specialist fields and materials, including environmental archaeology, are available at: <https://historicengland.org.uk/images-books/advice-and-guidance/>



2. RESULTS AND CONCLUSIONS

2.1 Introduction

The archaeological works associated with the construction of the new dwelling were undertaken between 10th August 2017 and 24th October 2017. Initially, the overburden strip of the house basement area was undertaken, followed by monitoring of the excavation of the foundation trenches for the western part of the house (Figure 2).

2.2 Basement Area

The footprint of the eastern (basemented) part of the building was stripped to the archaeological horizon under archaeological supervision. The stripped area was extended by *c.* 0.6m beyond the footprint of the basement to allow for the installation of shuttering. The area was heavily disturbed by the previous building and its associated services. On average, approximately 0.5m of overburden was removed — a maximum of 0.6m at the western end of the building, 0.4m deep towards the centre, and 0.5m towards the eastern end (Figure 3, Plate 1).

The stripped surface showed that the former building, and its removal, had had a significant impact on the archaeological horizon. Approximately 50% of the stripped surface had been disturbed. Traces of the former building were evident in the form of grubbed-out foundation trenches and service trenches. The eastern end of the strip, formerly under part of the driveway, had been truncated and backfilled with modern refuse including metal pipes, car parts and mattress springs. No archaeological features or deposits of archaeological significance were revealed within the undisturbed areas.

2.3 Trench Foundations

The mechanical excavation of the trench foundations for the western part of the building were monitored once the construction of the basement was complete. The foundations comprised four ‘radial’ trenches and three ‘arc’ trenches (Figure 2). The foundation trenches for the external walls were dug to a depth of *c.* 1m, whilst the internal trenches were only 0.75m deep. The upper soil horizon consisted of greyish brown topsoil that was heavily disturbed by rooting and the recent demolition works. Natural silty/sandy clay geology was reached at a depth of *c.* 500mm below existing ground level (Figure 3, Plate 2).

There was no evidence that the archaeological horizon had been truncated and it was largely undisturbed. The only features identified within the trenches comprised two modern drainage runs, a modern brick-built septic(?) tank, and a poorly defined area of disturbance that contained a small fragment of post-medieval/modern roof tile and traces of charcoal. It is likely that all of these features were associated with the previous house. No other archaeological features or deposits of archaeological significance were revealed.



2.4 Unmonitored Groundworks

On the basis of the findings of the investigation, it was deemed probable that the services and landscaping associated with the new building would be confined to areas already disturbed by the previous development. Accordingly, these works were not subject to any further archaeological monitoring.

2.5 Summary and Conclusions

The investigation revealed that the construction of the new dwelling at Glen Leigh House was largely confined to areas that had been previously disturbed by the construction of the former property in the 1960s and its subsequent demolition. Where undisturbed natural geology survived, there was no evidence of archaeological features or deposits that were earlier than 20th-century in origin.

The project archive does not merit any further analysis or reporting beyond that presented in this report. It will be deposited with Hertford Museum Council Museum (project code GL2792). This report will be uploaded onto the Archaeology Data Service's OASIS website (ref. no albionar1-285776) in accordance with the guidelines issued by the Archaeology Data Service.



3. BIBLIOGRAPHY

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4. HER SUMMARY

Site name and address: Glen Leigh House, Levens Green, Hertfordshire		
County: Hertfordshire	District: East Hertfordshire	
Village/Town: Levens Green	Parish: Great Munden	
Planning application reference: 3/16/0594/FUL		
HER Enquiry reference: 40/17		
Client name, address, and tel. no.: Mr Martin McBride, Glen Leigh, Levens Green Old Hall Green, Ware, Hertfordshire		
Nature of application: construction of a detached dwelling with basement		
Present land use: former house plot		
Size of application area: c. 2,086.3m ²	Size of area investigated: c. 95m ²	
NGR (to 8 figures): TL 3579 2229		
Site code (if applicable): GL2792		
Site director/Organization: Ben Barker / Albion Archaeology		
Type of work: Archaeological Strip, Map and Record, Analysis, Publication and Archiving		
Date of work:	Start: 10/08/2017	Finish: 24/10/2017
Location of finds & site archive/Curating museum: Hertford Museum		
Related HER Nos: N/A	Periods represented: N/A	
Relevant previous summaries/reports: Albion Archaeology, 2016, <i>Glen Leigh House, Levens Green, Hertfordshire: Heritage Assessment</i> . Report no. 2016/006		
Summary of fieldwork results: The investigation revealed that the construction of the new dwelling was largely confined to ground that had previously been disturbed by the construction of the former property and its subsequent demolition. Where undisturbed natural geology survived, there was no evidence of archaeological features or deposits earlier than 20th-century in origin.		
Author of summary: Ben Barker	Date of summary: 22/01/2018	



5. OASIS SUMMARY

OASIS ID: albionar1-285776

Project details

Project name	Glen Leigh House, Levens Green, Hertfordshire: Archaeological Strip, Map and Record, Analysis, Publication and Archiving
Short description of the project	Planning permission (3/16/0594/FUL) was granted by East Herts Council for development at Glen Leigh House, Levens Green comprising the demolition of the existing house and garage and the erection of a two-storey replacement dwelling with basement. The consented site lies within Area of Archaeological Significance no. 340 (as identified in the Local Plan) and its known archaeological potential was described in the heritage assessment submitted with the application (Albion Archaeology 2016). As the development had the potential to impact on below-ground archaeological remains, Hertfordshire County Council's Historic Environment Advisor recommended that a programme Archaeological Strip, Map and Record, Analysis, Publication and Archiving should be undertaken. The work was undertaken by Albion Archaeology between 10th August and 24th October 2017 in accordance with an approved Written Scheme of Investigation. The site is located in the small hamlet of Levens Green in the parish of Great Munden, within the district of East Hertfordshire. It lies on a gentle south-facing slope at an elevation of c. 120m OD and is centred on grid reference TL 3579 2229. It was formerly occupied by a detached 1960s bungalow. The investigation revealed that the construction of the new dwelling was largely confined to ground that had previously been disturbed by the construction of the former property and its subsequent demolition. Where undisturbed natural geology survived, there was no evidence of archaeological features or deposits earlier than 20th-century in origin.
Project dates	Start: 10-08-2017 End: 24-10-2017
Previous/future work	No/ No
Any associated project reference codes	RB1606 - Contracting Unit No. 3/16/0594/FUL - Planning Application No.
Type of project	Recording project
Monument type	None
Significant Finds	None
Investigation type	"Open-area excavation", "Watching Brief"
Prompt	Planning condition

Project location

Country	England
Site location	HERTFORDSHIRE EAST HERTFORDSHIRE GREAT MUNDEN Glen Leigh, Levens Green
Study area	95 square metres
Site coordinates	TL 3579 2229 51.882157002418 -0.026903904863 51 52 55 N 000 01 36 W Point



Project creators

Name of Organisation	Albion Archaeology
Project brief originator	No Brief
Project design originator	Albion Archaeology
Project director/manager	Ben Barker
Project supervisor	Ben Barker

Project archives

Paper Archive recipient	Hertford Museum
Paper Media available	"Notebook - Excavation',' Research',' General Notes',"Photograph","Report"

Project bibliography 1

Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title	Glen Leigh House, Levens Green, Hertfordshire: Archaeological Strip, Map and Record, Analysis, Publication and Archiving
Author(s)/Editor(s)	Albion Archaeology
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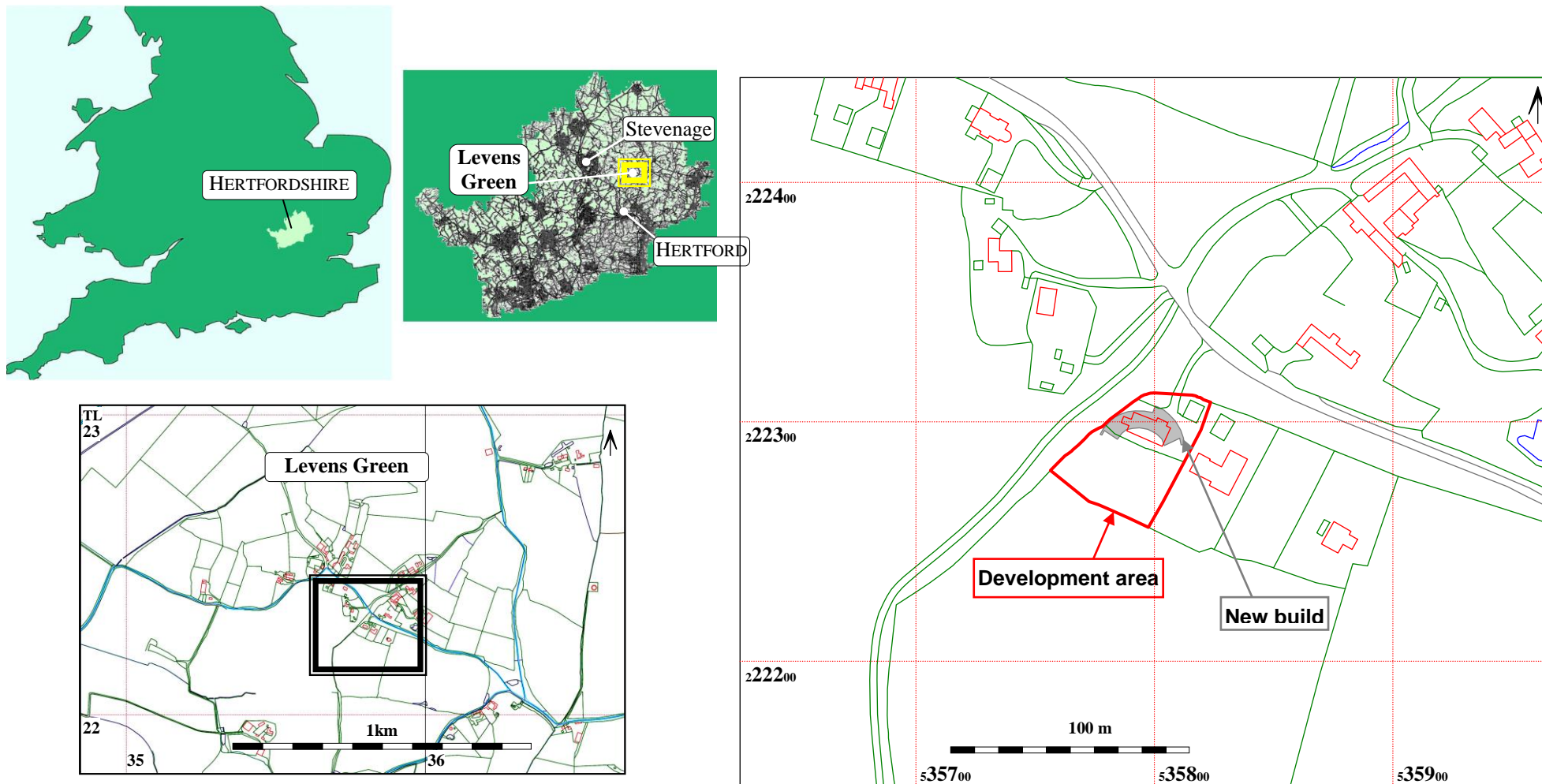


Figure 1: Site location plan

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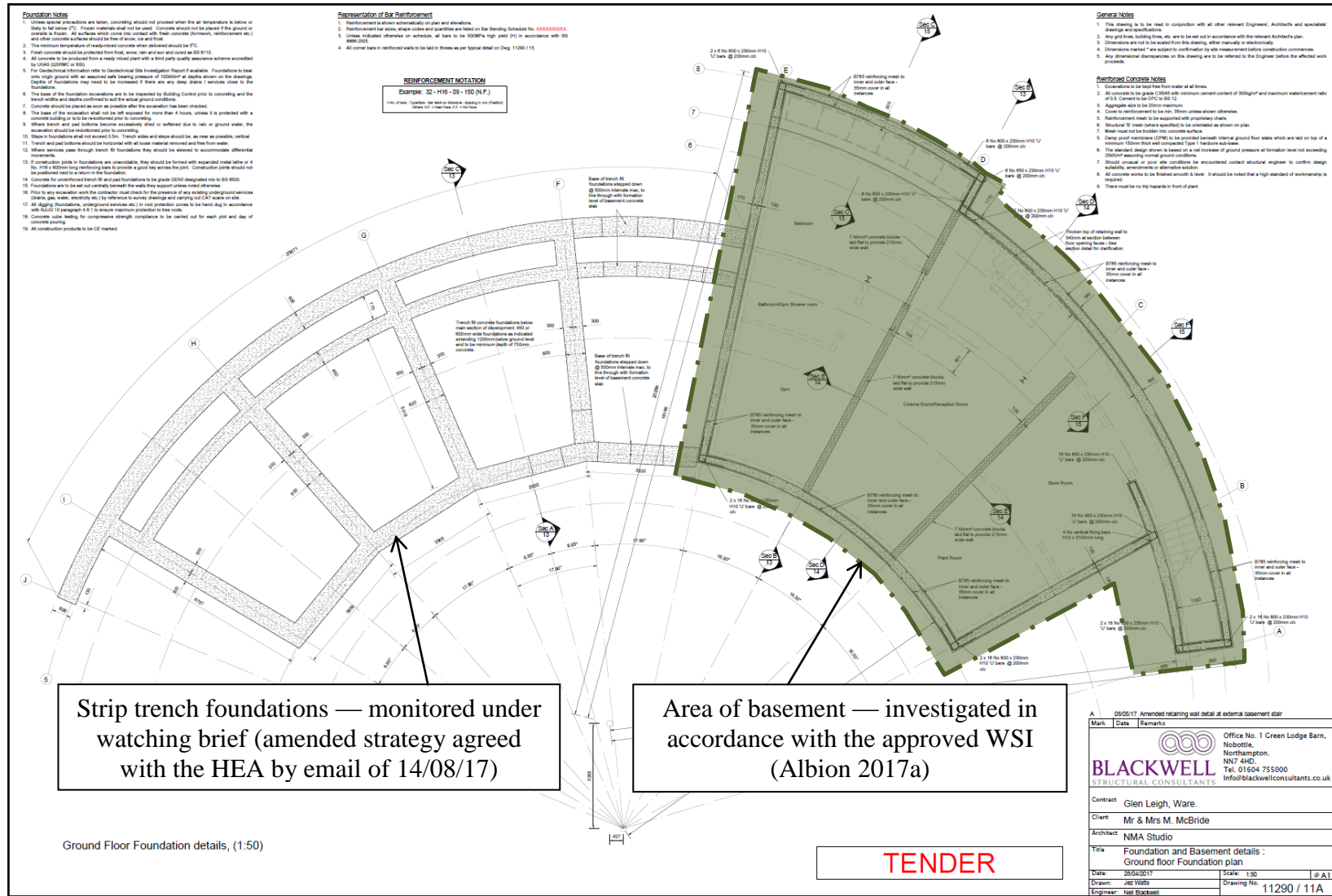


Figure 2: Plan showing the extent of the archaeological investigations



Plate 1: Panorama of basement area strip, looking south (created using AutoStitch)



Plate 2: Panorama of non-basement area strip, looking north-west (created using AutoStitch)

Figure 3: Selected photographs of groundworks

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