

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF REPORT:
THE ROUNDHOUSE, MAIN STREET, GREAT BOWDEN, LEICESTERSHIRE**

Planning Reference: 09/00012/FUL and 09/00027/LBC

NGR: SP 73951 88823

AAL Site Code: GRBO 12

Museum Accession Number: X.A74.2012

OASIS Reference Number: allenarc1-133490



Report prepared for Corporate Architecture Ltd
On behalf of Mr Brett Dalby

By
Allen Archaeology Limited
Report Number 2012080

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Allenarchaeology



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Cover image: General site shot, looking northeast

Executive Summary

- Allen Archaeology Limited was commissioned by Corporate Architecture Limited on behalf of Mr Brett Dalby to carry out an archaeological watching brief as a condition of a planning permission for construction of an extension at The Roundhouse, Main Street in Great Bowden, Leicestershire.
- The site is situated in the historic core of the village, which appears in the Domesday Book of 1086.
- The site was devoid of archaeological deposits or features. The sequence comprised topsoil directly overlying the natural geology.

1.0 Introduction

- 1.1 Allen Archaeology Limited (hereafter AAL) was commissioned by Corporate Architecture Limited on behalf of Mr Brett Dalby to undertake an archaeological watching brief as a condition of a planning permission for the construction of a new extension at The Roundhouse, Main Street in Great Bowden, Leicestershire.
- 1.2 The monitoring, recording and reporting conform to current national guidelines, as set out in the Institute for Archaeologists '*Standard and guidance for archaeological watching briefs*' (IfA 1994, revised 2001 and 2008) as well as all relevant English Heritage guidelines on archaeological best practice (www.helm.org/server/show/nav.7740), and a specification prepared by this company (AAL 2012).
- 1.3 The documentary archive will be submitted to Leicestershire Museums, Arts and Records Service within six months of the completion of the fieldwork where it will be stored under the museum accession number X.A74.2012.

2.0 Site Location and Description

- 2.1 Great Bowden is located in the administrative district of Harborough District Council, approximately 2km northeast of Market Harborough and 22km southeast of central Leicester. The proposed development is situated within the historic core of the village, to the south of Main Street, and centres on NGR SP 73951 88823.
- 2.2 The local geology comprises bedrock deposits of Dyrham Formation siltstone and mudstone, with no superficial deposits recorded (<http://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home.html>).

3.0 Planning Background

- 3.1 A planning application was submitted in January 2009 for the '*Demolition and erection of a single storey rear extension and internal alterations, The Round House, Main Street, Great Bowden, Leicestershire*' (Planning Application Reference 09/00012/FUL). The application was granted in March 2009, subject to conditions, including a programme of archaeological monitoring and recording during the groundworks for the new dwelling.
- 3.2 The approach adopted is consistent with the national planning guidance set out in PPG16 (Planning Policy Guidance Note 16), which was current at the time of the planning permission, as well as the subsequent planning guidance set out in Planning Policy Statement 5 (PPS5) (Department for Communities and Local Government 2010), and the current planning guidance set out in the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF), which superseded PPS5 in March 2012 (Department for Communities and Local Government 2012).

4.0 Archaeological and Historical Background

- 4.1 There is particularly limited evidence for prehistoric and Roman activity in the surrounding area, with only a single sherd of pottery from each period having been uncovered during an archaeological watching brief at Upper Green Place, c.150m to the north of the site (Leicestershire Historic Environment Record (hereafter LHER) Reference MLE17526 and Hyman 2008).
- 4.2 The settlement is first mentioned in the Domesday Survey of 1086 AD as *Bugedone*, and had two land owners at the time, with the King being the major landowner and his niece Countess Judith being the other (Williams and Martin 2002). The village may have comprised two separate elements according to historic map evidence (LHER Reference MLE9021).
- 4.3 An archaeological evaluation that preceded the watching brief at Upper Green Place identified a number of archaeological deposits including gullies and postholes/pits of probable later medieval date (LHER Reference MLE16665 and Parker 2007).
- 4.4 The Roundhouse was probably originally a grain and feed store of 19th century origin, with a round tower-like projection on its western side (LHER MLE14953).

5.0 Methodology

- 5.1 Prior to the archaeological monitoring, a former extension on the site was demolished. The subsequent groundworks entailed ground reduction of the footprint of the new extension. The works were carried out on Tuesday 4th September 2012 and monitored at all times by the author. Excavation was carried out using a 360° tracked mini excavator fitted with a c.500mm wide toothed bucket.
- 5.2 A full written record of the archaeological deposits was made on standard AAL context recording sheets. Photography formed an integral part of the recording strategy, and all photographs incorporated scales, with an identification board and directional arrow. A selection of these images has been included in Appendix 1.
- 5.3 Each deposit or layer was allocated a unique identifier (context number), and accorded a written description, a summary of these are included in Appendix 2.

6.0 Results (Figure 2)

- 6.1 The area for the new extension was devoid of archaeological deposits or features. A c.0.24m thick topsoil of moderately firm mid to dark greyish brown clayey sand 01, with frequent modern building debris sealed a natural geology 02 of very firm mid brownish yellow and light grey slight silty clay and degraded mudstone.

7.0 Conclusions

- 7.1 Historic Ordnance Survey Maps indicate that the demolished extension was in existence from at least 1886, and the surrounding area functioned as a yard or garden area. It is possible that the area was levelled prior to the construction of the former extension, thus truncating any earlier deposits.

8.0 Effectiveness of Methodology

- 8.1 The archaeological watching brief methodology was appropriate to the nature and extent of the proposed development. It has demonstrated that there were no archaeological deposits or features surviving within the area of the new extension.

9.0 Acknowledgements

- 9.1 Allen Archaeology Limited would like to thank Corporate Architecture Limited for this commission, and thanks also go to the groundworkers from Moseley Brown Developments for their cooperation during the watching brief.

10.0 References

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Williams A. and Martin G.H., 2002, *Domesday Book: A complete translation*, Alecto Historical Editions, London

Appendix 1: Colour Plates



Plate 1: General site shot, looking east



Plate 2: West facing representative section, looking east. Scales are 2m and 1m

Appendix 2: Context Summary List

Context	Type	Description	Interpretation
01	Layer	Moderately firm mid to dark greyish brown clayey sand with frequent building debris and round pebbles. Seals 02	Topsoil
02	Layer	Very firm mid brownish yellow and light grey slight silty clay with degraded mudstone, sealed by 01	Natural geology

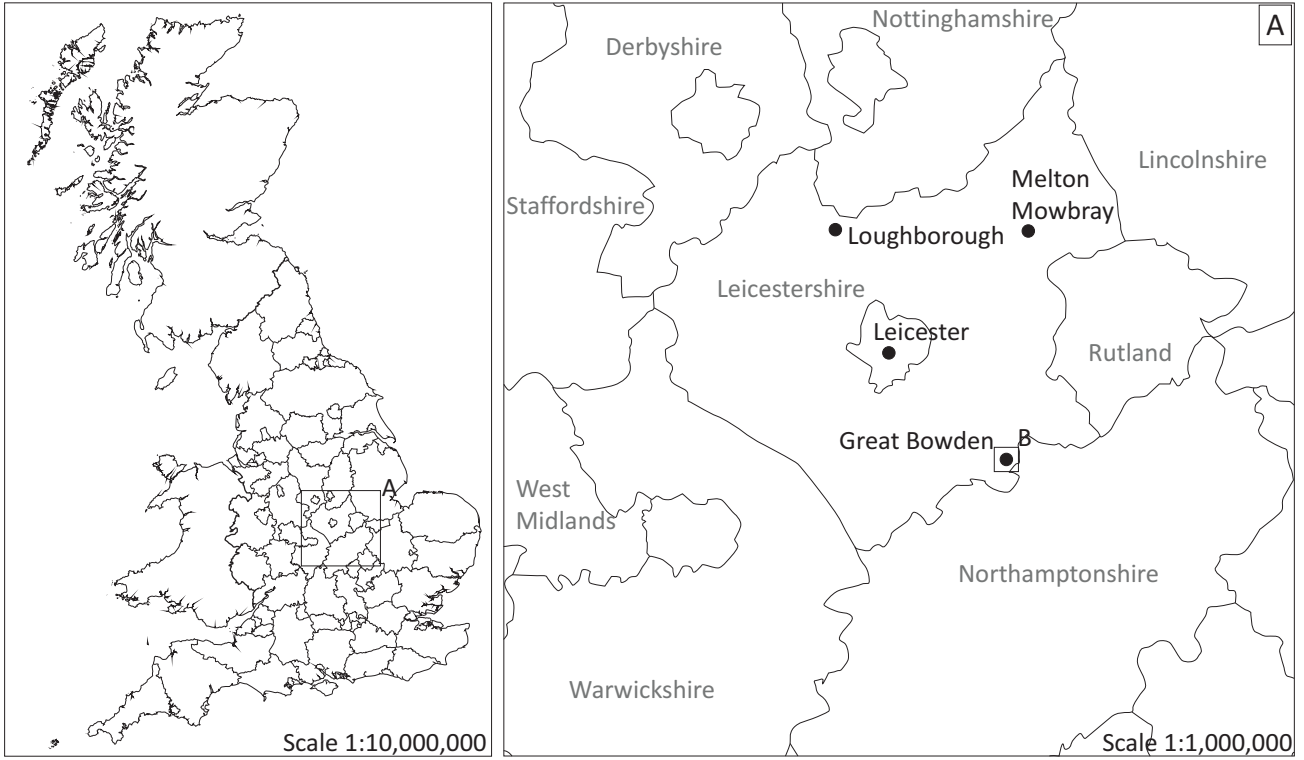


Figure 1: Site location with development area in red
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Site Code	GRBO 12
Scales	1:10,000,000 1:1,000,000 1:25,000 @ A4
Drawn by	M. Piirainen
Date	13/9/12

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Figure 2: Site location plan outlined in red with area monitored shaded grey (base plan provided by Corporate Architecture)

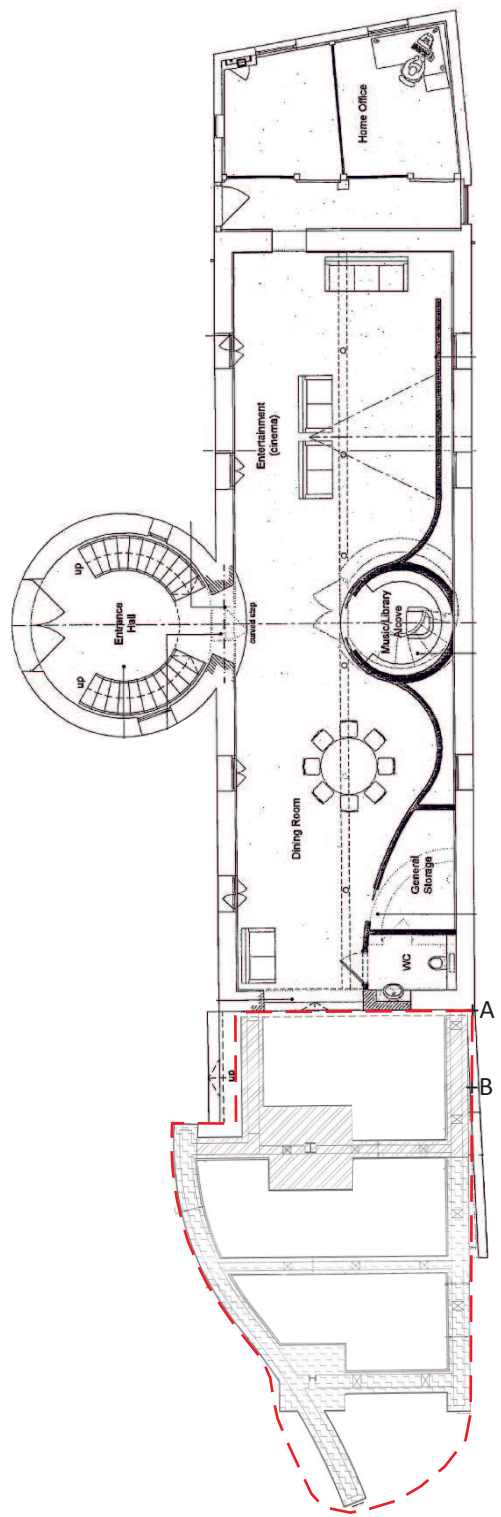
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Scale	1:1000 @ A4
Drawn By	M. Piirainen
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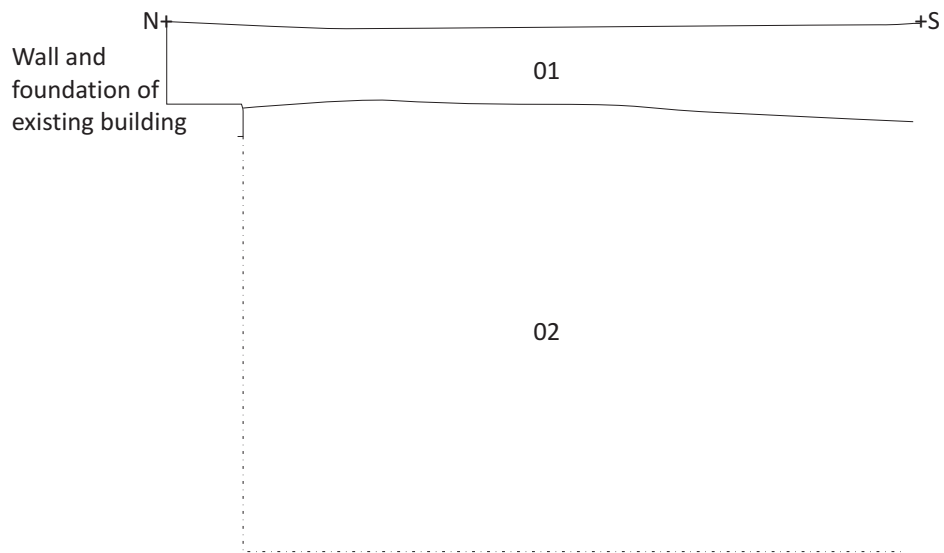


Site Code	GRBO 12
Scale	1:200 @ A4
Drawn by	M.Piirainen
Date	13/09/2012

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Figure 3: Plan of new extension, with approximate extent of site strip outlined in red. Section A-B shown on Figure 4 (Base plan provided by Corporate Architecture)

West Facing Section



Site Code	GRBO 12
Scale	1:20 @ A4
Drawn by	M.Piirainen
Date	13/09/2012

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Figure 4: West facing representative section, located on Figure 3



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