

**A WATCHING BRIEF AT DINHAM WEIR,  
LUDLOW, SHROPSHIRE 2013**

by  
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A report for  
**Fishtek Consulting**

## **1 INTRODUCTION**

**1.1** In September 2013 work began on the construction of a fish pass at Dinham Weir, Ludlow, Shropshire. Dinham Weir is situated on the River Teme on the west side of the market town of Ludlow in south Shropshire (NGR: SO 507 745).

**1.2** The site of the fish pass was located adjacent to the northwest end of the weir and was situated upstream of Dinham Bridge (Shropshire Historic Environment Record [HER] No. 11160), a ford across the River Teme at Castle Mill (HER PRN 06263), former alignment of Dinham Bridge (HER PRN 01790) and in sight of the ramparts of Ludlow Castle, a scheduled monument (National Ref: 1004778). Dinham Weir itself is depicted on the mid-19<sup>th</sup> century tithe map for Ludlow.

**1.3** It was therefore considered possible that the excavations for the fish pass might reveal and impact on remains of archaeological interest. Because of the potential significance of the archaeological resource, it was considered necessary that the groundworks be accompanied by an archaeological watching brief. The Archaeology Service, Shropshire Council, was commissioned by Fishtek Consulting to undertake the archaeological work.

**1.4** The aim of the watching brief was to allow for the preservation by record of any archaeological remains that might be encountered during the groundworks.

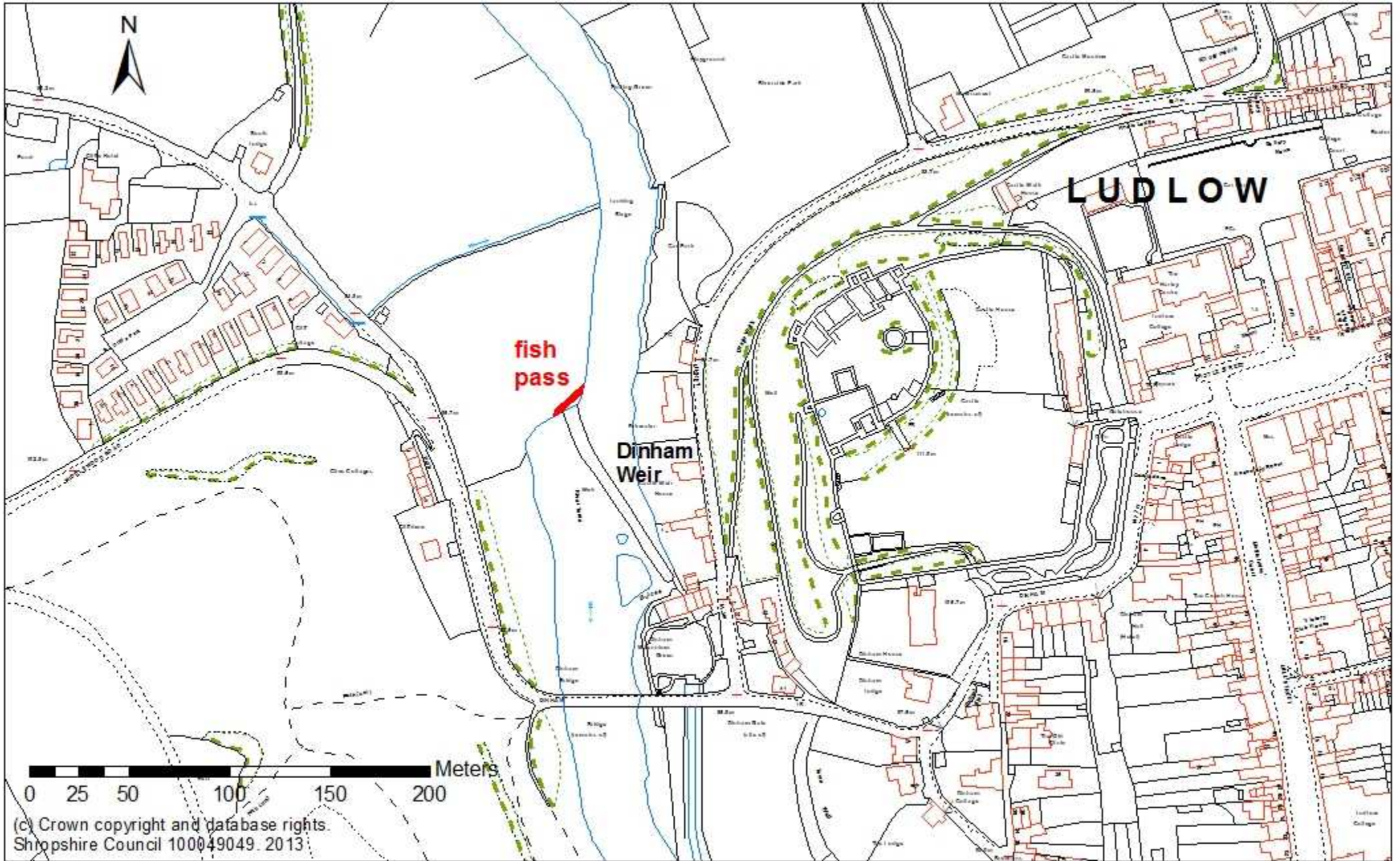
## **2 THE WATCHING BRIEF.**

**2.1** The excavations for the fish pass were carried out September 2013. The excavation was carried out with a 360° mechanical excavator under archaeological supervision.

**2.2** The lowest deposit encountered was a dark grey silty clay riverine deposit (9), seen at a depth of 2m below the ground surface. Set into this was a round timber beam (5) 4m long by 0.23m in diameter, pegged with wooden stakes (6 & 7). This beam marked the toe of a dump of rock fragments (3) up to 0.8m in diameter that sloped down from north to south and formed the continuation of the weir into the river bank. The appearance of the beam and the dumped rock deposit suggested that they were relatively recent reinforcing for the northwest bank of the weir.

**2.3** A further deposit of dark grey river silt (4) lay over the front edge of the dumped rock and the timber beam. On the shore side of the excavations a deposit of brown clay (8) 0.4m thick lay over the rock deposit and this in turn was covered by 0.4m depth of dark brown sandy loam (2) and 0.5m of topsoil (1).

**2.4** No other significant archaeological features or deposits were encountered during the excavations.



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Photo 1: The site of the fish pass, with Dinham Weir to the right and Ludlow Castle



Photo 2: The timber beam and stone bank in the base of the excavations



Photo 3: The finished excavations for the main part of the fish pass