

BRIEF FOR AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL RECORDING AT OLD STREET LUDLOW

1 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 Work is currently being undertaken to convert the former museum store on the east side of Old Street, Ludlow (NGR SO 513746) for use as a Training centre. The conversion involves the extending of the existing building to the front and rear.
- 1.2 The rear (eastern) boundary of the site is formed by a boundary wall along the line of the medieval Town Walls, and which also acts as a terrace wall to the east. The present terrace wall here is mainly of stone with an upper portion of brick. The stone work is likely to large comprise of original medieval fabric. This wall forms part of the circuit of the Town Walls. The town walls, including the section within the study area, are scheduled as an ancient monument as defined by the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979 (Shropshire County Monument No. 147, Town Walls, Ludlow).
- 1.3 During the current works a section of the brick portion of the rear boundary wall has become structurally unstable and will require rebuilding. At its base the core of the presumed medieval town wall has also become exposed for a length of c.10 metres, and which will require consolidation.
- 1.4 Archaeological recording has been deemed necessary in response to these proposed repair works. This brief relates to the required archaeological recording, and is intended to form the basis of a written scheme of investigation.

2 REQUIREMENTS

- 2.1 The exposed section of the (stone) medieval town wall shall be manually cleaned and photographically recorded prior to rebuilding/consolidation works.
- 2.2 Provision shall also be made for a drawn record of any exposed sections of medieval town wall where original external wall faces survive, and/or other architectural features.
- 2.3 A photographic record shall be made of any sections of brick wall intended for rebuilding, and prior to the start of such work.
- 2.4 Demolition of the lower sections of the brick wall where it abuts the medieval fabric shall be carried out under archaeological supervision to facilitate the archaeological recording of any exposed medieval fabric.
- 2.5 A written analytical account shall be produced of the recorded section of town wall and including the post-medieval structural elements.

- 2.6 A full graphic, photographic and written record of the findings even if negative will be made. Individual contexts will be recorded on separate context sheets within a context register. Plans shall be drawn to a 1:50 to 1:20 scale and section drawings to a scale of 1:20 or 1:10 as appropriate. Elevation drawings of all structural remains shall be at 1:20. Drawn records will be related to Ordnance Survey datum and published boundaries where appropriate. Photographic records will be at a minimum 35mm format and include both black and white and colour.
- 2.7 All archaeological objects, artefacts, industrial waste and faunal remains will be recovered and related to the contexts from which they derive wherever possible. They will be exposed, lifted, cleaned, conserved, bagged and boxed in accordance with the guidelines set out in the United Kingdom Institute for Conservation's Conservation Guidelines No2.
- 2.8 In the event of human remains being encountered all relevant statutory and Home Office requirements will be fully complied with.
- 2.9 Documentary research shall be undertaken where appropriate to assist with the assessment and interpretation of the on-site investigation.

3 ARCHIVE AND REPORT

- 3.1 The site archive will be prepared to at least the minimum acceptable standard defined in English Heritages Management of Archaeological Projects (Map 2). This will include all written, drawn and photographic records relating directly to the investigations undertaken. It will be quantified, ordered, indexed and internally consistent before transfer to the recipient body. It will also contain where relevant a site matrix, a site summary and brief written observations on the artefactual and environmental data (where appropriate)
- 3.2 To ensure compatibility with other archaeological archives produced in the County all archaeological strata and features excavated or exposed will be entered onto prepared pro-forma recording sheets and recorded with a context register.
- 3.3 The site archive, including finds and environmental material, will be ordered, catalogued, labelled and conserved according to the UKIC Guidelines for the preparation of excavation archives for long term storage.
- 3.4 The project archive will be presented to an appropriate museum or recipient body within 12 months of completion of the field work, subject to the agreement of the site owner with regard to any finds.
- 3.5 Prior to the commencement of the project the Contractor shall contact the Curator of Archaeology, Community and Environmental Services, Shropshire County Council, who will advise on an appropriate repository for the archive and the provision of any finds. Responsibility for obtaining the owners permission for deposition shall lie with the contractor.

- 3.6 Contractors are responsible for arranging the deposition of finds, including obtaining the owner(s) permission, and ascertaining the cost of storage and deposition with an approved body before the project commences and informing the Historic environment Officer, SCC of the arrangement which has been made.
- 3.7 If the finds are not to be donated to the appropriate recipient body, arrangements shall be made for a comprehensive record of all materials (including detailed drawings, photographs and descriptions of individual finds), which can instead constitute the archaeological archive.
- 3.8 A written report detailing the results of the archaeological investigations will be prepared within six months of the completion of fieldwork. The report will include:
- a. A full written description and interpretation of the results of all elements of fieldwork.
 - b. A full written description and interpretation account of any excavated or recorded stratigraphic and structural evidence.
 - c. It will be fully illustrated with drawings to an appropriate scale showing location, trench layout, recorded structures, features and deposits, section drawings and selected photographs.
 - d. Any documentary research/historical analysis shall be supported by copies of the relevant historic maps, documents and aerial photographs. All sources consulted shall be cited.
 - e. The report shall also include a succinct summary of the results suitable for printed publication.
- 3.9 In addition to copies submitted to the client, a copy of the report shall be provided to the Historic Environment Officer, Shropshire County Council, and one copy to the Shropshire Sites and Monuments Record.
- 3.10 Shropshire County Council Sites and Monuments Record is currently participating in OASIS (Online Access to the Index of Archaeological Investigations Scheme). As part of the scheme the Contractor is required to fill in an OASIS data capture form on completion of each report stage of an archaeological project, and on deposition of the final archive. Details of the process, copies of the form and guidelines for its completion can be found in the internet at <http://ads.ac.uk/projects/oasis>. Failing this, contact either the Shropshire SMR or the Archaeology Data Service directly for further advice.

4 MONITORING ARRANGEMENT

- 4.1 Curatorial responsibility for this project lies with the Historic Environment Officer, Shropshire County Council.
- 4.2 In response to this project brief contractors are expected to submit for prior written approval a written scheme of investigation to the Head of Archaeology, Shropshire County Council, detailing their intended scheme of work, proposed working methods, report format and content, time scales and staffing levels (indicating any specialist sub-

contractors). Levels of professional competence in appropriate areas must be demonstrated. No archaeological work should commence until the written scheme of investigation has been approved in writing by the Historic Environment Officer, Shropshire County Council.

- 4.3 Information provided within this brief cannot fully anticipate the conditions that will be encountered as work progresses. If requirements of the brief cannot be fully met they should be excluded or altered after attainment of the written approval of the Historic Environment Officer, Shropshire County Council.
- 4.4 The project will be monitored throughout by the Historic Environment Officer, Shropshire County Council. To facilitate this the archaeological contractor shall advise the Historic Environment Officer in writing at least one week in advance of commencement of the on-site work.
- 4.5 There will be a monitoring charge of £100 per pre-arranged monitoring visit. A programme of site visits will be agreed with the contractor in advance.

5 CONDITIONS

- 5.1 All archaeological work is to be carried out under the direct supervision of an appropriately qualified and experienced archaeologist. Preferably they shall be a Member or Associate of the Institute of Field Archaeologists.
- 5.2 The code of conduct of the Institute of Field Archaeologists will be adhered to.
- 5.3 The Archaeology Contractor is to ensure requirements relating to all relevant health and safety legislation regulations and codes of practice will be adhered to.

MD WATSON
HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT OFFICER

SUSTAINABILTY GROUP
SHROPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL
OCTOBER 2003

Marches Archaeology

Training Centre, Old Street, Ludlow, Shropshire

Report on archaeological building recording

February 2004

Marches Archaeology Series 323

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**New Training Centre,
Old Street,
Ludlow**

A report on archaeological building recording

NGR: SO 513746

**Report by
Susan Fielding**

Contents

List of illustrations	ii
<i>Summary</i>	<i>1</i>
1 Introduction	1
2 Aims and objectives	1
3 Methodology	2
4 Site description	3
5 Archaeological and historical background	3
6 The building recording	4
7 Discussion	5
8 Conclusions	5
9 Acknowledgements	6
10 References	6
11 Archive	6

Figures and plates

February 2004

Marches Archaeology Series 323

List of illustrations

Figure 1: Location map of the site

Figure 2a: Map of Ludlow, 1832

Figure 2b: Map of Ludlow, 1855

Figure 3: Measured sketch of west elevation of rear boundary wall

List of plates

Plate 1: West face of boundary wall at south end

Plate 2: East face of rear boundary wall, central section

Plate 3: Exposed rubble core of Post-medieval wall

Plate 4: Stone face of Post-medieval wall

New Training Centre, Old Street, Ludlow

NGR: SO 513746

A report on archaeological building recording

Summary

Shropshire County Council is currently converting the former Museum Store, Old Street, Ludlow (SO 513746) for use as a training centre. This involves carrying out repair works to the rear boundary wall of the property, which lies on the line of the medieval town wall. The lower part of the extant wall is largely of stone with an upper portion of brick, and part of the brick portion had become unstable and required rebuilding. The upper courses of stonework had also become unstable and needed consolidation.

The wall was inspected and recorded prior to the demolition of the unstable portion of brick wall.

1 Introduction

Shropshire County Council is currently converting the former Museum Store, Old Street, Ludlow (SO 513746) for use as a training centre. This conversion involves the extension of the building to the front and rear, and repair works to a section of the rear boundary wall constructed of stone with an upper brick portion. Part of this brick portion of wall had become unstable and required rebuilding. At its base the core of the stone wall required consolidation.

The rear boundary wall lies on the line of the medieval town wall. The town walls, including the section within the study area are scheduled as an ancient monument (Shropshire County Monument No. 147). Scheduled monument consent (Ref: HSD 9/2/5011) was given for the demolition and consolidation to take place, with the provision that archaeological recording of the wall was carried out prior to demolition, and that demolition took place under archaeological supervision. A brief was written by the Local Authority's Archaeological Advisor, upon which Marches Archaeology's written scheme of investigation was based. Marches Archaeology was commissioned to undertake this archaeological recording by Malcolm McBride, architect, Shropshire County Council.. The site work was carried out on 30th January and 18th February 2004.

2 Aims and objectives

The brief stated that the objectives of the archaeological recording were:

1. The cleaning and photographing the exposed section of the stone medieval town wall

2. The drawing of any exposed sections of face work on the internal face of the wall
3. The production of a photographic record of the brick walling to be demolished
4. The archaeological supervision of the demolition of the lower parts of brick walling
5. The carrying out of documentary research, where appropriate, to assist with the assessment and interpretation of the on-site investigation
6. A written analytical description and report

The Institute of Field Archaeology (IFA) defines Building Investigation and Recording as “a programme of work intended to establish the character, history, dating, form and archaeological development of a specified building, or structure, or complex and its setting, including its buried components on land, inter-tidal zone or underwater”.

The purpose of Building Investigation and Recording is defined by the IFA as “to examine a specified building, structure or complex and its setting, in order to inform [either] the formulation of a strategy for the conservation, alteration, demolition, repair or management of a building, or structure, or complex and its setting [or] to seek a better understanding, compile a lasting record, analyse the findings/record, and then disseminate the results”.

3 Methodology

Documentary research

It was not deemed necessary to carry out a full documentary search for this project due to the nature of the wall recorded during the on site work. The relevant SMR entries were consulted on the Shropshire Records and Resources Online, as well as available published sources on the archaeology and history of Ludlow.

Building recording

The guidelines set out in ‘Recording Historic Buildings’ (3rd Edition, 1996, RCHM(E)), were be implemented. The record consisted of written, drawn and photographic elements. A elevation of the wall was drawn as a measured sketch.. The photographic record consisted of 35mm colour slides and black and white negatives. Additional sketches, photographs and notes were made as appropriate, of significant elements revealed during the course of the works.

Office work

On completion of the fieldwork a site archive was prepared with the written, drawn and photographic data being catalogued and cross-referenced. All artefactual and ecofactual data was processed, catalogued and cross-referenced as appropriate.

This illustrated client report was produced detailing the aims, methods and results of the project. A non-technical summary and details of the location and size of the archive is included. Two copies of this report have been supplied to the client, and further copies have been sent to the Local Planning Authority’s Archaeology Advisor and the Local Planning

Authority. One copy has also been deposited with Shropshire County Sites and Monuments Record and another with the National Archaeological Record.

4 Site description

The site of the new training centre lies approximately half way along the east side of Old Street, Ludlow. The site covers an area of approximately 1.2 hectares, and is almost entirely occupied by a brick building which until recently has been utilised as the Ludlow Museum Store (Figure 1). The rear boundary of the property is formed by wall along the line of the medieval town wall, and the present wall is formed largely of stone with an upper portion of brick. The town walls, including the section within this site, are scheduled as an ancient monument (Shropshire County Record No. 147)

The town of Ludlow lies between a height of 80m and 105m OD, occupying a level plateau to the north, with Old Street positioned on the scarp the south which slopes down to the river Teme. The site itself is level, with the rear boundary wall also acting as a terracing wall, with the land to the east being considerably lower.

The underlying solid geology of the area consists of Silurian Downtonian Raglan Mudstone to the north of the River Teme and Ludfordian Flaggy and massive siltstone south of the river (British Geological Survey). The overlying drift geology to the north of the river is generally of argillic brown earths of the Bromyard association, while to the south brown earths of the Munslow association are predominant.

5 Archaeological and historical background

There is little evidence of settlement on the site of Ludlow prior to the 11th century AD, although a Roman routeway, with possible prehistoric origins, ran north-south along the line of the present Corve Street and Old Street (Lloyd, 1999).

The origins of the town appear to be with the construction of the castle between 1086 and 1095 by the de Lacy family, whose estate of Ludford included the site. This castle was constructed as part of the defensive frontier with Wales, and as a base for the military campaigns carried out against the Welsh in the 12th and 13th century. It was also involved in the civil war between Stephen and Matilda in the 1130s, when the town was taken by supporters of Matilda in 1138, then besieged by the King in the following year.

A small settlement lay to the south of the castle at an early date, but the foundation of the town is uncertain. It is described by Beresford as a new town, originating between 1086 and 1095, but the first recorded burgage plots date to the late 12th century. The first charter appears to have been granted in the 13th century, with an annual fair by 1241, and a market place referenced in 1255 (Dalwood, 1996) indicating growth and expansion. By the end of the 13th an extensive area was populated with a number of major and minor streets being in place.

A licence for the construction of town defences was granted in 1233, but evidence of their construction is not evident until 1260 when a tax was levied to 'repair the walls of Ludlow' (Lloyd, 1999). This came at a time when the border was under attack by the Welsh, but it is unclear how much of the defence construction had been undertaken at this stage. The

majority of the walls and towers appear to have been in place by 1270, but work continued into the 1290s. The end result was a circuit of stone walls with towers, crenellated in parts, and approximately 1 mile in length together with eight gates, four of which were flanked by twin drum towers (Lloyd, 1999). This circuit followed the natural topography of the ridge on which Ludlow is located, and as a result a substantial portion of the town was excluded from the defended area, creating suburbs.

The town was sacked after the Battle of Ludford Bridge in 1459, during the War of the Roses. Ludlow was again a centre of fighting during the English Civil War, when, held as a royalist stronghold, it came under threat from roundhead forces occupying Hereford in 1643. It is recorded that inhabitants of the suburbs were ordered to build defensive ramparts and the town walls underwent repair. In 1646 the town finally came under siege from parliamentarian troops, and after 33 days the town and castle were surrendered without coming under heavy attack. This did not mean that large areas of the town were not destroyed however, as large scale clearance of properties in the suburbs and within the town was carried out by the royalists in order to facilitate better lines of fire, and through burning by the victorious roundheads. Schemes were implemented to encourage the quick rebuilding of the demolished and burnt properties within the town, but the recovery of the town appears to have been slow, with clear signs of renewed prosperity coming only after the 1760s when the town became a centre of fashionable entertainment. This growth slowed in the mid 19th century when its reputation as a social centre was replaced by a more traditional role of a country market town, a role which it has maintained up to the present day.

6 The building recording

The rear boundary wall of the site is approximately 28 metres long, and is exposed to a height of between 1.80 and 1.90 metres on its western side, and approximately 3.5-4 metres on the east side. The majority of the wall is constructed of sandstone, with an upper portion of red brick (Plates 1 & 2). This upper brick portion varies between 1.80m high in the centre of the wall and 0.80m at either end where the stone wall survives to a greater height (Figure 3).

The brick walling consists of a number of different sections of different bond construction (including English Garden and Flemish Garden) and quality (Figure 3). All sections were pointed with cement, and were 19th century or later in date.

The exposed stonework on the west face of the wall consisted of areas of facing stone and areas of exposed corework (Figure 3), while the east face was entirely of facing stone. The wall was constructed entirely of a darkish greenish-grey sandstone, with the facing being of roughly coursed rubble sandstone (Plate 4), quite angular in shape and variable in size, with thick joints largely re-pointed with cement. The exposed corework was of loosely packed sandstone rubble, held in a loose matrix of loam and with a considerable amount of root disturbance (Plate 3).

The east face of the stone wall, as stated above, is entirely of facing stone (Plate 2), but two phases of construction are apparent within the exposed length (being the southern 20m of that visible from the west). The majority of the wall is constructed of rubble sandstone, slightly lighter in colour than that seen on the west side being a greenish grey. Although the rubble still shows a range of sizes, the average size of the rubble blocks is larger than that recorded on the west face, and while small areas have been re-pointed with cement, the original mortar is of a mid-light brown sandy type.

The upper six to seven courses of this face, however, are similar to those seen on the west face, being of roughly coursed rubble with wide, cement pointed joints. The colour of the stone is identical and displays the same angularity and size range. Approximately 2m south of the north end of the exposed length, there is a roughly vertical joint, to the north of which the entire height of the elevation is of this construction. The thickness of the wall where it can be measured is a maximum of 0.35m.

7 Discussion

The town walls in Ludlow are thought to survive to approximately two thirds of their original length, although large areas within this have been repaired and rebuilt. Map and documentary evidence has shown that the rear boundary wall of the site lies on the line of the town wall, but it is unclear whether anything of the medieval structure remains above ground.

The height and thickness of the Ludlow's town walls seems never to have been comparable to those of other fortified towns such as Shrewsbury, and they appear to have acted as more as a control point for people entering the town in terms of tax collection etc... than they provided a defensive role. The construction of known medieval stretches of wall is generally of rubble sandstone rather than of ashlar faces as is generally seen elsewhere, again as at Shrewsbury.

However, even within this context, the upper portion of sandstone wall as exposed within the site is extremely narrow, and the visible corework is of very poor quality being loosely laid with no sign of mortar having been used. This portion of the wall has almost certainly been rebuilt at some point within the later post-medieval period, with extensive re-pointing of the facework carried out in the later part of the 20th century, probably in an attempt to consolidate the stone.

The lower portion of the stone wall, as seen only from the east elevation is of a slightly different construction. None of the corework is exposed, and the thickness of this section of the wall cannot be determined, though it may reasonably be assumed to be at least double the thickness of the brick and stone wall above. This may be a surviving section of the medieval wall, or it may be an earlier post-medieval rebuilding along the line of the medieval wall, for instance part of the extensive rebuilding that took place after the devastation of the Civil War in the mid 17th century. At present however there are no conclusive factors determining its date.

The uppermost portion of the wall is constructed of brickwork of a number of different phases dating from the 19th and 20th centuries.

8 Conclusions

The rear boundary wall of the site, as it is exposed and affected by the development, appears to be entirely post-medieval in date with an upper portion of 19th/20th brickwork and a lower portion of 18th/19th century rubble stonework. The lower portion of the sandstone wall as exposed within the property to the east of the site is of an earlier date, but whether this relates to the medieval or earlier post-medieval period is undetermined.

9 Acknowledgements

Marches Archaeology was commissioned to carry out the work by Shropshire County Council, and Mike Watson, Historic Environment Officer for Shropshire, is acknowledged for his help.

Carters were the site contractors, and all their staff on site are thanked for their co-operation, in particular Dean Lambert, site foreman.

10 References

Maps

British Geological Survey 1:250,000. Sheet 52°n – 0.4°W

Published references

Dalwood, H. 1996. *Archaeological Assessment of Ludlow, Shropshire*. The Central Marches Historic Towns Survey

Lloyd, D. 1999. *The Concise history of Ludlow*.

11 Archive

The site code is OSL 04A The archive consists of:

- 4 photo record sheets
- 2 films of black and white photographic negatives
- 2 films of colour photographic transparencies

The archive is currently held by Marches Archaeology awaiting transfer to Shropshire County Museum.



Figure 2a: Map of Ludlow 1832

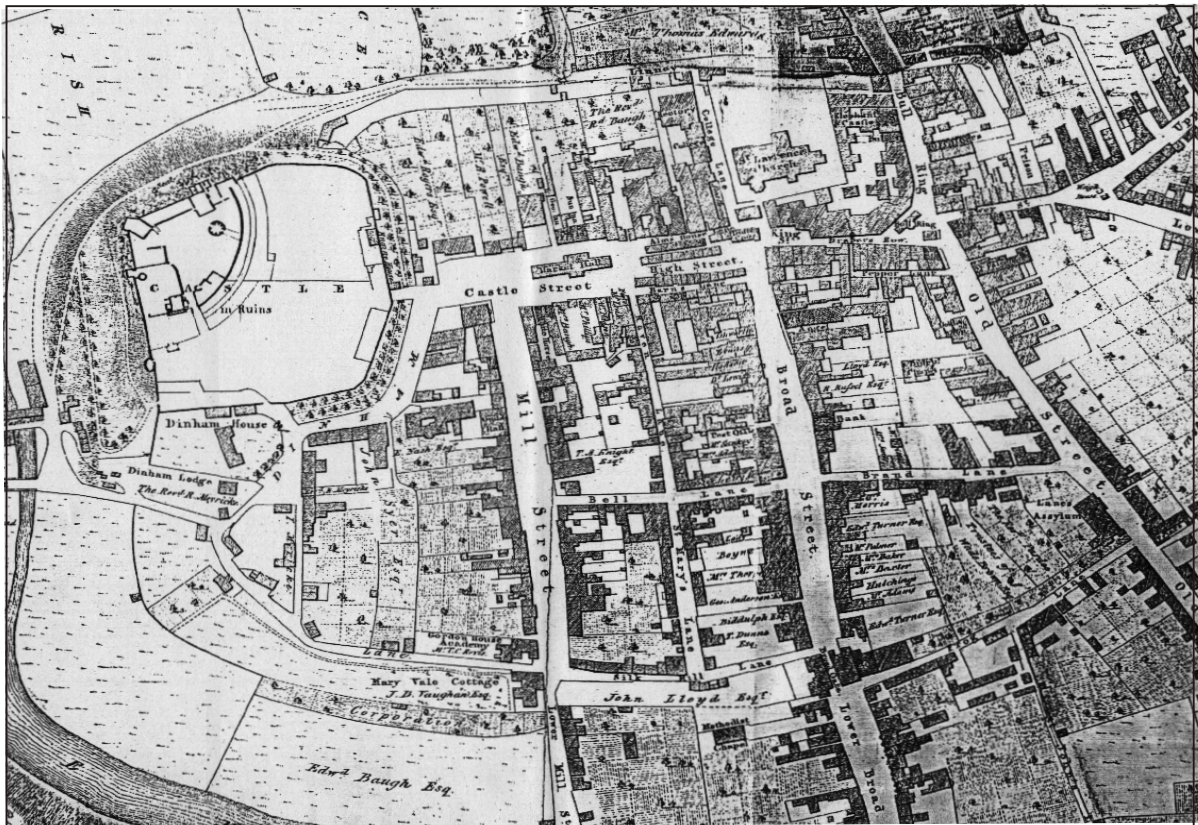


Figure 2b: Map of Ludlow 1855



Plate 1: West face of boundary wall at south end



Plate 2: East face of rear boundary wall, central section



Plate 3: Exposed rubble core of Post-medieval wall



Plate 4: Stone face of Post-medieval wall