# Ironbridge Power Station Sports & Social Club, Abbey House, Buildwas Abbey, Shropshire

Archaeological Watching Brief



By
Ian Davies, Chris Smith & Mark Houiston

Report No 1199

Archaeology Wales Limited, Rhos Helyg, Cwm Belan, Llanidloes, Powys, SY18 6QF Tel: +44 (0) 1686 440371 Email: admin@arch-wales.co.uk

# Ironbridge Power Station Sports & Social Club, Abbey House, Buildwas Abbey, Shropshire

Watching Brief

Prepared For: URS

Edited by: Mark Houliston Signed: Mark Houliston

Position: MD
Date: 27/2/2014

Authorised by: Mark Houliston

Signed: Mark Hoult
Position: MD

Date: 27/2/2014

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Archaeology Wales Limited, Rhos Helyg, Cwm Belan, Llanidloes, Powys, SY18 6QF Tel: +44 (0) 1686 440371 Email: admin@arch-wales.co.uk

# **CONTENTS**

1	Intr	1	
	1.1	Scope of work	1
	1.2	Geology	1
	1.3	Site Location and Topography	1
	1.4	Archaeological and Historical Background	2
2	Aims and Objectives		3
1	Wa	tching Brief Results	4
	4.1	Trench Excavation	4
	4.2	Finds	5
5	Discussion & Conclusions		5
5	Bib	liography	6

# **List of Figures**

Figure 1	Site location plan
Figure 2	Trench location plan
Figure 3	Plan and section of buttress
Figure 4	EH plan of the Abbey showing the trench and modern buildings
Figure 5	1813 Architects plan showing the trench and modern buildings

# **List of Plates**

Plates 1-5	View of trench and buttress feature
Plates 6-10	View of upstanding fabric within transformer room and surrounding areas
Plates 11-12	View during earthing installation

# **List of Appendices**

Appendix I	Figures
Appendix II	Plates
Appendix III	Specification
Appendix IV	Archive Cover Sheet

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# **Non-Technical Summary**

An archaeological watching brief was carried out during the handexcavation of a trench at the Sports and Social Club, Abbey House, Buildwas Abbey, Shropshire. The trench led from a location near the southeast corner of a Transformer Building and was required as part of measures to provide an electrical earthing upgrade to the structure.

The work was undertaken by Archaeology Wales Ltd for URS on behalf of E.ON New Build & Technology Limited, in an area of Buildwas Abbey (Scheduled Ancient Monument No. 1015813) that is currently in private ownership.

The trench located a medieval supporting buttress, in a good state of preservation, which was located below a post-medieval wall that currently forms the southern side of the Abbey House Transformer Building. Originally, the buttress would have been located at the southeast corner of a possible chapel building, located close to the Abbot's Lodging and Infirmary of Buildwas Abbey. The building was located at the end of a long room that projected eastwards from the eastern range of the Abbey, and as such was probably constructed between c. 1160 and the early thirteen century, as part of the Abbey's primary phase of development.

Plan and section drawings and a photographic record of the buttress were produced prior to the backfilling of the trench. A photographic record was also made of surrounding areas of the Transformer Building wall.

# 1 Introduction

# 1.1 Scope of work

- 1.1.1 In January 2014 Archaeology Wales Ltd (AW) was commissioned by URS on behalf of E.ON New Build & Technology Limited to carry out an archaeological watching brief at Abbey House, Buildwas Abbey, Shropshire (NGR SJ 64359 04341- Figs 1&2). The site of the Abbey is a Scheduled Ancient Monument (No. 1015813).
- 1.1.2 The archaeological work undertaken followed a Written Scheme of Investigations that was prepared by URS (Copp, 2014) and approved by English Heritage. Scheduled monument consent (SMC Ref. No. 500075600) was sought from English Heritage under the terms of the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act (1979) and subsequently granted in December 2013.
- 1.1.3 The AW watching brief monitored the hand excavation of a 10m long by 0.3m wide trench, which was up to a maximum of 0.6m deep.

1.1.4 The work was undertaken immediately prior to the installation of an electrical earthing upgrade at the Sports and Social Club, Abbey House. The wall of the Transformer Room was recorded photographically at the same time.

# 1.2 Geology

1.2.1 The underlying solid geology of the assessment area is characterised by the Wenlock Rocks of limestone & mudstone origin (Geological Survey Map, 2001).

# 1.3 Site Location and Topography

1.3.1 Buildwas Abbey (St Mary & St Chad's Abbey) is a designated Scheduled Ancient Monument (English Heritage List Entry number 1015813 – Buildwas Abbey) and grade I and grade II listed building (List Entry numbers 1366862, 1175126 and 1055281). It is located approximately c.1.6 km to the west of Ironbridge Gorge World Heritage site (SJ64359 04341) on a relatively flat terrace of land at 45m AOD on the southern bank of the River Severn. Uneven ground, associated with the earthworks of water management features and fishponds, which also forms part of the scheduled area, is situated to the northwest and south of the abbey complex.

The scheduled area comprises upstanding and buried remains of a Cistercian monastic site that passed into private ownership following the dissolution of the monasteries in 1536. The area of the watching brief is located along the line of a relatively flat gravel path that lies within gardens located to the south of the Transformer Room of Abbey House (Fig 2). It is positioned close to garden buildings that were possibly laid out in the 16th or 17th century. Historical sources and archaeological discoveries made at the abbey indicate that this area also incorporated the site of the former abbey church graveyard.

### 1.4 Archaeological and Historical Background

- 1.4.1 In his article in 'A History of the County of Shropshire' Gaydon (et al, 1973) notes that the abbey was founded on 8 August 1135 as a daughter-house of Savigny by Roger de Clinton, Bishop of Chester.
- 1.4.2 Very little is known of the first twenty years of the history of the abbey, although during this period it appears to have been both poor and small. The name of the first abbot was Ingenulf and it is assumed that at this time the community lived in temporary wooden structures, as no trace of permanent buildings earlier than the 1150s have been discovered. Things changed rapidly under Abbot Ranulf, who ruled the house from 1155 until his death in 1187, during which time many of the principle buildings, including the church, cloisters and chapter-house were probably constructed. Gaydon notes that as a result 'the abbey was raised to a position of prominence among the Savigniac houses in the Cistercian Order.'
- 1.4.3 The Transformer Room of the present day Abbey House is a post-medieval structure located above the medieval remains of the eastern end of a long room that projected eastwards from the eastern range of the Abbey. The room probably connected to a Day

Room in the west, with a Dormitory above, and at its eastern end may have contained a Chapel. As an integrated part of the Abbey's eastern range, the room was probably constructed under Abbot Ranulf, or at least prior to 1220 (Robinson 2003).

- 1.4.4 Some abbey buildings were still being constructed later on in the thirteenth century, in particular the South Chapel of the Church, the Infirmary Court and the Abbot's Lodging (Robinson 2003). The postulated Chapel (located below the Transformer Room) is in the same area of both the Infirmary Court and the Abbot's Lodging, but it appears to date from an earlier phase of development.
- 1.4.5 Later abbots are lesser known figures. However, the prosperity of the abbey, which had characterised Ranulf's rule, probably continued until the end of the 13th century. Revenues were never very large, but neither did the house suffer financially.
- 1.4.6 The abbey is known to have had a remarkable library and nearly forty books survive, largely at Trinity College, Cambridge, which preserve a record of the intellectual life of the monks. The books show that the library founded at Buildwas in the time of Abbot Ranulf acquired a fine collection of glossed biblical texts and patristic works. Most of the volumes were written in the 12th or 13th centuries.
- 1.4.7 The abbey had a relatively troubled later history, partly due to its proximity to the welsh border. In 1342 the abbot was murdered by a monk, in 1350 the abbot was abducted and imprisoned by raiders from Powys, and in 1406 the abbey's lands were 'ruined' by supporters of Owen Glyndwr, although the full extent of the damage caused by the latter is not clear (Robinson 2003).
- 1.4.8 A survey of 1535 and a report of commissioners appointed in April 1536 to survey the smaller monasteries provides a good picture of the financial condition of the abbey on the eve of the Dissolution (Gaydon 1973). At this time, the gross value of its 'temporalities' was £123 6s. 10d. and its 'spiritualities' £10. Allowed expenses amounted to £18 7s. 6½d. leaving a net income of nearly £111. The total value of the abbey was calculated £142 14s. 6½d. In July 1539, following the dissolution, the site of the abbey and most of its property were granted to Edward, Lord Grey of Powys.
- 1.4.9 At a later date, the abbot's house and parts of the infirmary court were incorporated in a post-reformation building (Abbey House). This structure remains in private hands.

# 2 Aims and Objectives

# 2.1 Watching Brief

2.1.1 The general aim of the archaeological watching brief was to make a record of all archaeological remains encountered during the cutting of the trench in order to enhance the understanding of their relationships with the monastic buildings, and, if possible, to better establish the dates and functions of the buildings.

- 2.1.2 The specific objectives of the watching brief were to:
  - record any evidence for the construction of ancillary buildings to the east of the abbey and to the south of Abbey House, such as post holes, buried foundations etc.;
  - record and, if appropriate, sample any floor levels within the claustral and ancillary buildings for environmental and artefactual evidence to better understand the activities that took place there;
  - record any evidence for the layout and character of the 16th and 17th century formal gardens and any later changes;
  - record any evidence for the extent of the monks' cemetery that is known to lie to the east of the church; and to
  - provide a photographic record of the wall elevation of the transformer room during the works and to record any observations with regards to any constructional /architectural details and phasing evidence etc.

# 3 Methodology

# 3.1 General Procedures

- 3.1.1 The archaeological watching brief required the monitoring of the excavation of a single narrow trench. The trench measured 10m long by 0.30m wide, was up to 0.60m deep and was excavated along the line of an existing footpath located to the south of Abbey House, within the area of the historic gardens. The general location of the trench is shown on Figure 2.
- 3.1.2 The location of the trench was agreed following consultations between the client and English Heritage. It was set out by the ground-works contractor and located along the gravel footpath located to the south of the adjacent electricity transformer building.
- 3.1.3 The archaeological watching brief was carried out in accordance with a Specification provided by URS (Appendix 3) and with regard to the Standards and Guidance issued by The Institute for Archaeologists (IfA), (Standard and guidance for an archaeological watching brief, IfA 2008, revised 2011; Standard and guidance for archaeological investigation and recording of standing buildings or structures, IfA 2008, revised 2011).
- 3.1.4 Excavation of a single narrow trench was undertaken by hand under close archaeological supervision.
- 3.1.5 The trench was 'L' shaped in plan. The east west axis was 9m in length by 0.3m wide, whilst the north south axis was 1m in length by 0.3m wide. The maximum depth of the trench was 0.6m.

- 3.1.6 The project was managed for Archaeology Wales by Mark Houliston (MIfA). Site work was undertaken by Ian Davies. All areas were photographed using high resolution digital photography in accordance with the Written Scheme of Investigations.
- 3.1.7 All site drawings were on drafting film and used recognised conventions and scales (1:10, 1:20, 1:50) as appropriate.
- 3.1.8 All works were undertaken in accordance with AW's Risk Assessment for the work and current Health and Safety legislation.

### 3.2 Finds

3.2.1 Finds were recovered by hand during the course of the excavation and bagged and labelled by context (see Section 4.2).

### 3.3 Palaeo-environmental evidence

3.3.1 No deposits suitable for sampling were encountered during the course of the evaluation.

# 4 Watching Brief Results

# 4.1 Trench Excavation (Plates 1-5, Fig 3)

- 4.1.1 Excavation of the trench began with the removal of overburden material (Context 001), which formed the surface and bedding of a gravel pathway. Beneath this, a mixed soil and clay deposit (Context 002) was located across all areas of the trench. This horizon was also found to contain a ceramic drain (Context 003), which was positioned at the base of the western end of the trench. The mixed deposit (Context 002) contained fragments of medieval floor and roof tile, a small number of pottery fragments consisting of 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> century Staffordshire/Buckley wares and one clay pipe stem.
- 4.1.2 Located at the western end of the trench, butting out from the wall of the Transformer Room of Abbey House, the lower portion of a stone buttress (Context 004) was exposed. Subsequent cleaning and recording confirmed that the feature is likely to represent *in situ* remains of part of the medieval abbey.

The buttress (Plates 3-5, Fig 3)

The buttress was composed of cut and faced sandstone blocks bonded with an off-white/beige lime mortar. The partial remains of the upper course of this feature were previously visible above ground level. However, the lower sections, which consisted of a chamfered plinth, set above two courses of neatly finished and squared blocks, set above a wider foundation pad of at least two further courses of roughly-cut blocks, was not. The base of the foundations was not revealed.

No further features were noted within the trench during its excavation. A series of photographs (Plates 6-10) was taken of the upstanding fabric in the immediate area prior to the drilling of the adjacent wall for the earthing installation. A watching brief

was maintained during the drilling in order to protect unnecessary damage to the archaeological resource (Plates 11-12).

# 4.2 Finds

4.2.1 A total of 27 pieces of tile weighing 6.3 kg, 4 pieces of pottery weighing 47g, 8 pieces of animal bone weighing 150g, 1 fragment of clay pipe, and 2 fragments of lime wall plaster were recovered, all from the mixed soil deposit that filled the bulk of the trench (002).

Context					Weight
No.	Find	Description	Date	No.	(g)
	Tile				
			med. or		
002	Stone roof tile	Flat roof tile with nail hole	post med.	1	2755
002	Ridge tile	Lead glazed ridge tile fragment	13/14th C	1	70
002	Pan tile	Modern roofing pan tile fragment	Modern	1	198
002	CBM/tile	Unglazed earthenware, medieval tile fabric	Medieval	2	3
		Unglazed medieval earthenware		_	
002	Floor tile	floor tiles, Malvern fabric	Medieval	15	1350
002	Floor tile	Glazed, patterned medieval floor tile, Malvern fabric	13/14th C	1	165
002	11001 tile	Unglazed earthenware CBM	13/14(11)		103
002	CBM/brick	fragment	17th C +	1	195
		Unglazed earthenware roof tile			
002	CBM/roof tile	fragments	Medieval	5	1600
			Total	27	6336
	Pottery				
		Tin glazed post-medieval	18th/19th		
002	Ceramic sherds	earthenwares	С	3	45
		Unglazed earthenware - Flower			
002	Ceramic sherd	pot	Modern	1	2
			Total	4	47
	Other				
002	Animal bone	Faunal remains	Unknown	8	150
		Broseley clay pipe stamped			
002	Clay pipe	MORRIS DECON	1675-1730	1	3
002	Wall plaster	Lime wall plaster	Medieval ?	2	105
			Total	11	258

Table 1: Finds Catalogue

# 4.2.2 **Tile**

The tile assemblage (see Table 1) consists of a stone roof tile and a variety of ceramic roof and floor tiles. Medieval, post-medieval and modern items are represented. Items that could have formed part of the monastic buildings include the stone roof tile, two

unglazed earthenware tiles, 15 unglazed medieval earthenware floor tiles in Malvern fabric, and 5 unglazed earthenware roof tile fragments. Items that are very likely to have formed part of the monastic buildings include a lead-glazed 13/14<sup>th</sup> century ceramic ridge tile, and a glazed and patterned medieval floor tile in a Malvern fabric.

# 4.2.3 **Other**

Other material recovered included 3 fragments of tin-glazed post-medieval pottery (Staffordshire/Buckley wares), a clay pipe fragment and two fragments of lime wall plaster. Only the latter could have come from the Abbey.

# 5 Discussion & Conclusions

- 5.1.1 The discovery of the buttress is significant as it shows that, despite considerable later ground disturbances, *in situ* medieval architectural remains not only survive close to Abbey House, but in a good state of repair.
- 5.1.2 The buttress discovered during the watching brief can be identified on the EH pan (Fig. 4) as lying close to, or at the corner of, the southeastern corner of the long room that projects eastwards from the main Eastern Range of the Abbey. This is the location of the Chapel postulated by Robinson (2003). Corner buttresses located elsewhere within the abbey complex are positioned perpendicularly to the adjacent walls, rather than at an angle to them, so there is no reason the discovered remains are not from the corner of this room. Equally, however, the buttress could have supported the south wall at a bay division of the long room located away from the corner, which would be consistent with Edmund Aikin's 1813 reconstruction (Fig. 5). Aikin's drawing has the end wall of the room set slightly further to the east, east of the south wall of the Abbot's Lodging, rather than in line with it. It should be noted, however, that this drawing lacks accuracy in a number of places, in particular in the area of the Abbot's Lodging.
- 5.1.3 No trace of permanent buildings earlier than the 1150s have been discovered, and the main period of building work at the Abbey appears to have been from 1160 until the early thirteenth century. As an integrated part of the Abbey's eastern range, the long room and its postulated chapel were probably constructed at this time. The structural configuration of the buttress is consistent with this date range and there is no reason to think that it didn't form part of the Abbey's primary phase of development.
- 5.1.4 The discovery and recording of the buttress should be used to inform future mitigation measures during work in and around the eastern, privately owned parts of Buildwas Abbey. Ecclesiastical remains clearly survive immediately under the ground surface in this area, both around and below the buildings that now occupy the site.

# 6 Bibliography

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Institute for Archaeologists, 2008. Standard and Guidance for an Archaeological Watching Brief

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**APPENDIX I:** Figures

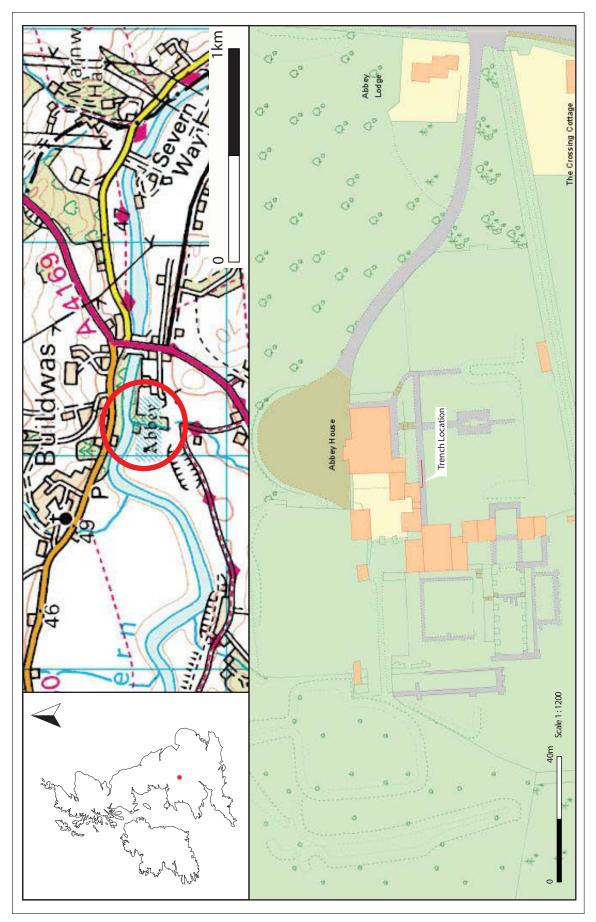


Fig 1: Figure showing location of assessment area

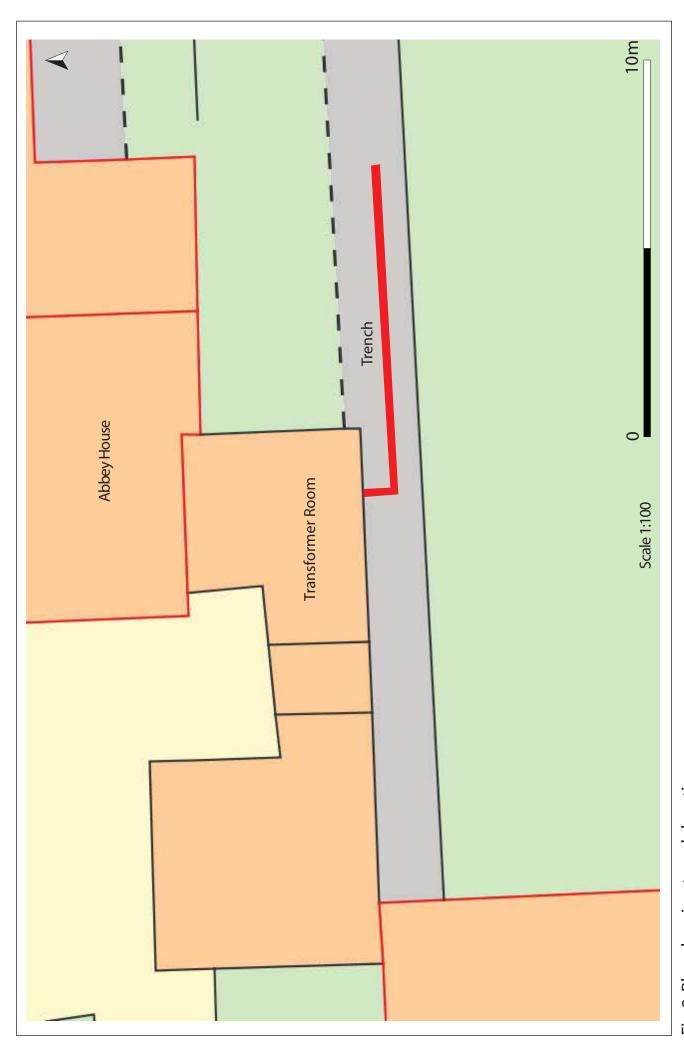
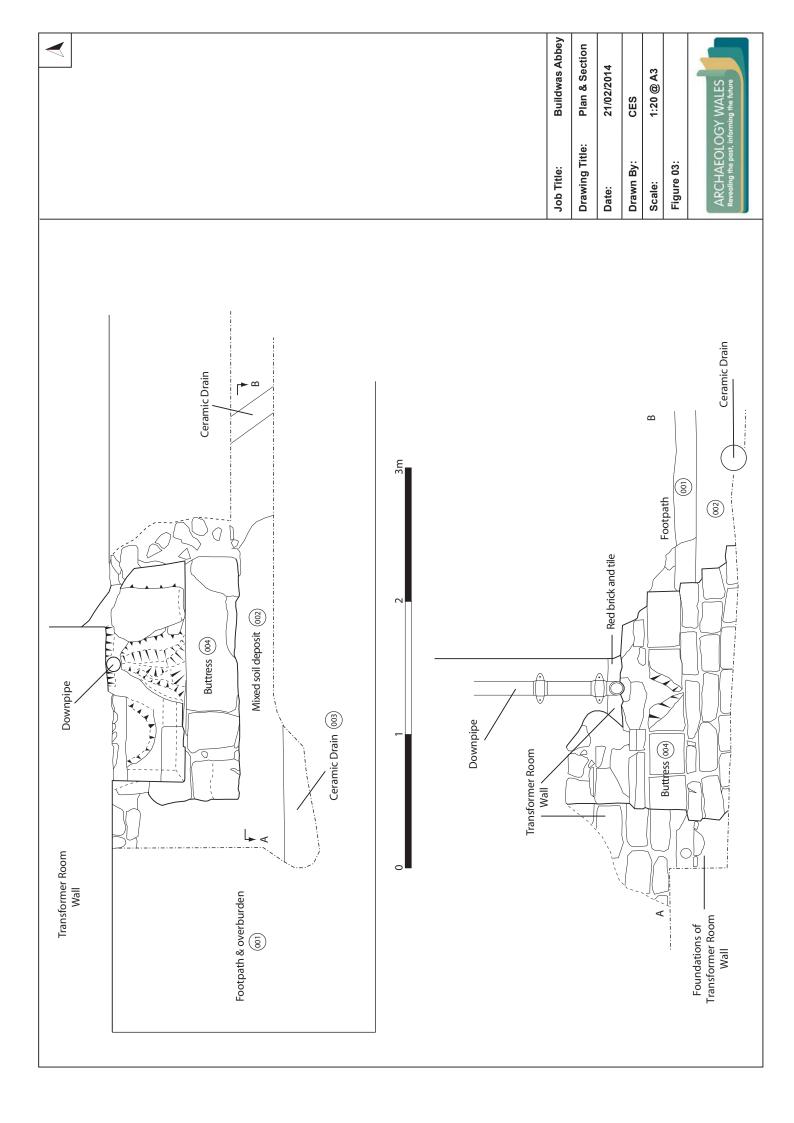


Fig 2: Plan showing trench location



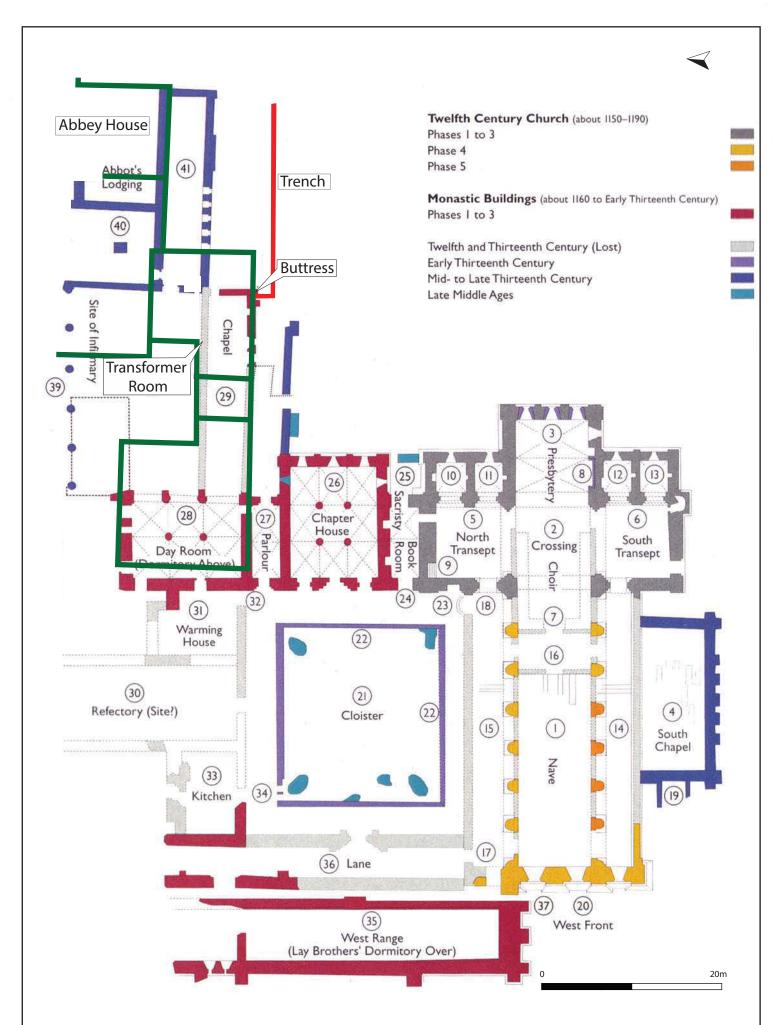


Figure 4: English Heritage plan of Buildwas Abbey showing the approximate location of the WB trench (bright red), Abbey House and the Transformer Room building (green)

copyright English Heritage 2003, from the guidebook by David Robinson

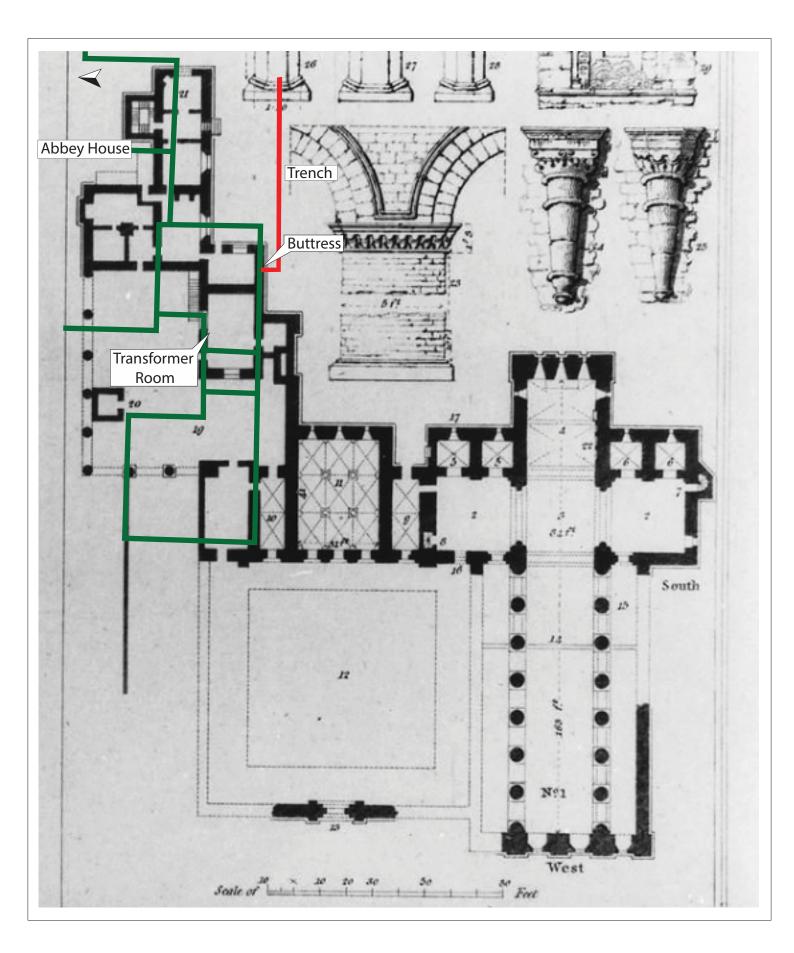


Fig 5: 1813 Architectural plan by Edmund Aikin showing medieval layout of Buildwas Abbey with the approximate location of the WB trench (bright red), Abbey House and the Transformer Room building (green)

**APPENDIX II:** Plates



Plate 1:View west along completed trench. Scale 1x1m



Plate 2: View of buttress location in relation to transformer room Looking north, Scale 2m



Plate 3: Post excavation view of medieval buttress, looking north



Plate 4: Post excavation view of buttress, Looking north east. Scales 1x1m & 1x2m



Plate 5: Post excavation view of buttress, looking north west Scales 1x1m & 1x2m



Plate 6: View of fabric within wall drilled for earthing installation, to immediate west of medieval buttress feature. Looking north, Scale 1x1m



Plate 7: Internal view of wall adjacent to buttress feature, within transformer room Looking south. Scale 1x1m



Plate 8: External view of east wall of transformer room, Note former roof line. Looking north west, Scale 1x2m



Plate 9: View of later structures to east of transformer room Looking north west, Scale 1x2m



Plate 10:View of wall to immediate east of transformer room, Looking north Scale 1x2m



Plate 11:View of wall during drilling adjacent to buttress Looking north



Plate 12: View of earthing cable after installation

# **APPENDIX III:** Written Scheme of Investigation

# **URS**

# Ironbridge Power Station S&SC

Specification for Archaeological Watching Brief

January 2014

Prepared for: E. ON New Build & Technology Limited

UNITED KINGDOM & IRELAND





REVISION SCHEDULE							
Rev Date I		Details	Prepared by	Reviewed by	Approved by		
1	12 December 2013	Draft	Andrew Copp Senior Heritage Consultant	Leonora O'Brien Principal Heritage Consultant	Annette Roe Technical Director		
2	13 December 2013	Draft for issue	Andrew Copp Senior Heritage Consultant	Neil Macnab Associate Heritage Consultant	Annette Roe Technical Director		
3	9 January 2014	Final (following client review and comments)	Andrew Copp Senior Heritage Consultant	Neil Macnab Associate Heritage Consultant	Annette Roe Technical Director		

URS West One Wellington Street Leeds LS1 1BA

SPECIFICATION FOR ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF January 2014



# TABLE OF CONTENTS

1	INTRODUCTION	3
1.1	Site location and description	3
1.2	Topography and geology	3
1.3	Legislation, planning and protection	4
2 3 4	ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUS AIMS AND OBJECTIVES METHODOLOGY	5
4.1	General procedures	5
4.2	Recording	7
4.3	Environmental sampling	7
4.4	Treatment of human remains	7
4.5	Artefact recovery and finds processing	8
4.6	Treasure	8
5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15	COMPLETION OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL FIELDWORK MONITORING, PROGRESS REPORTS & MEETINGS. REPORTING	9 11 11 12 12 13 13
16.1	Internet resources	14



### 1 INTRODUCTION

URS have been commissioned by E.ON New Build & Technology Limited to prepare a Specification for an archaeological watching brief at Buildwas Abbey, Shropshire in advance of groundworks comprising the hand excavation of a single narrow trench for an electrical earthing upgrade at the Sports and Social Club, Abbey House; and the photographic recording of a wall of the transformer room that will be drilled through for the installation of pipework.

The works as set-out in this Specification will be undertaken by an approved archaeological contractor.

This Specification describes the methodology to be used for the archaeological watching brief and has been approved by English Heritage.

### 1.1 Site location and description

The proposed archaeological investigations shall be undertaken at Buildwas Abbey (St Mary & St Chad's Abbey) which is a designated scheduled ancient monument (English Heritage List Entry number 1015813 – Buildwas Abbey) and grade I and grade II listed building (List Entry numbers 1366862 'Abbey House with attached five bay arcade, incorporating dovecote', 1175126 '— Buildwas Abbey comprising guardianship monument and part of claustral ranges in the grounds of Abbey House'— and 1055281 'Remains of wall approximately 175 metres south-west of west end of Buildwas Abbey.

The abbey is located in Shropshire, *c*.1.6 km to the west of the western edge of the Ironbridge Gorge World Heritage site, at National Grid Reference SJ64359 04341 and on the southern bank of the River Severn (Figure 1). The abbey consists of the extensive upstanding and buried remains of a Cistercian monastic site which passed into private ownership and continued to be occupied and developed following the dissolution of the monasteries in 1536. The area of the archaeological watching brief is located to the south of Abbey House and close to other ancillary buildings, situated within an area of the historic gardens that were possibly laid out in the 16th or 17th century. Historical sources and archaeological discoveries made at the abbey indicate that this area also incorporates the site of the former abbey church graveyard.

# 1.2 Topography and geology

The solid geology is characterized by the Wenlock Rocks which consist of shales which are generally of limestone /mudstone origin which outcrop along the Welsh border area and which belong to the Silurian period (417 to 443 mya). At the site the bedrock is overlain by alluvium (clay, silt and sand) representing overbank deposits of the River Severn. Further to the east the valley floor narrows as it enters Ironbridge Gorge, which is thought to have originated some 10,000 years ago and is deeply incised into the rocks of Upper Carboniferous and Silurian age, which are prone to landslips, and has suffered a number of failures through its history.

Buildwas Abbey is situated on the southern bank of the River Severn on a relatively flat terrace at 45m AOD. Uneven ground, associated with the earthworks of water management features and fishponds are situated to the northwest and south of the abbey complex (also forming part of the scheduled area). The trench will be hand excavated within a relatively flat gravel path within the gardens directly south of the Abbey House.



# 1.3 Legislation, planning and protection

The monument is scheduled under the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979 as amended and the building is listed under the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990 as amended.

Before any works can be carried out which might affect a monument either above or below ground level, Scheduled Monument Consent is required. Scheduled Monument Consent (SMC) applications are decided by the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport with the administration, processing and handling of applications undertaken by English Heritage.

### 2 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

The following description is a summary of the information contained within the English Heritage List Entry.

The Cistercian Abbey of St Mary and St Chad, a designated scheduled monument, was founded in 1135 by Roger de Clinton, Bishop of Litchfield (1129–1148). It consists of the well preserved ruins and buried remains of the abbey and the earthwork and the buried remains of an extensive water management system, including water features (water meadows, leats, fishponds, mills and a fish weir) and the remains of several charcoal burning hearths.

The church, chapter house, and cloisters were probably built during the abbacy of Abbot Ranulf, between 1155 and 1187. Although it remained a modest house during its life it was not unaffected by the periodic instability that affected the Welsh border region. In 1406 the lands of the abbey were reportedly laid waste by the followers of Owain Glendwr (1355-1416) and it was also affected by the Wars of the Roses (1455-1487). Although the abbey survived these incursions it eventually was closed by order of Henry VIII during the Dissolution of the Monasteries in 1536 and the estate was granted to Lord Grey of Powys. Subsequently the infirmary and the abbot's lodging were converted into a dwelling (Abbey House) in the 16th to 17th centuries. There were considerable additions and alterations in the second half of the 19th century, when it became a farmhouse and small country house, with gardens to the south and southwest. During the 19th century a railway was cut through the monastic precinct (now disused) which ran to the south of the church and through a cutting which lies to the south of the gardens of Abbey House.

The River Severn formed the basis of the complex water management system that survives as earthworks in the vicinity of the abbey. Charcoal burning hearths were located to the south of the church and cloister, in an area now divorced from the main abbey complex by the disused railway.

The main complex of claustral buildings, including the cloister is unconventionally arranged to the north of the church and is at a lower level. The lay brothers' range was on the west, and the frater occupied the north range, with the dorter or dormitory above a warming house at its east end, and the kitchen to the west. The east range included a crypt under the north transept of the church, the sacristy, chapter house and parlour, with the undercroft at its north end and reredorter, or latrine, north of this. The infirmary and abbot's lodgings were to the northeast, with the monks' cemetery east of the church.

The discovery of several burials near the roadside along the eastern side of the site shows that the monks' cemetery extended for a considerable distance eastwards of the abbey complex.



To the south and south east of Abbey House the area has been landscaped to create formal gardens, probably in the 16th or 17th century. These gardens take the form of a series of separate terraces into the slope to the south of the abbot's house. Each terrace is surrounded by a raised walkway. Fragments of standing walls and buried foundations around the gardens probably represent the original boundary of the post-medieval garden belonging to the Grey family house.

#### 3 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

The general aim of the archaeological watching brief is to make a record of the archaeological remains that are encountered during the course of the groundworks in order to enhance the understanding of the relationships of the monastic buildings and their various dates and functions.

The specific objectives of the watching brief shall be to:

- Record any evidence for the construction of ancillary buildings to the east of the abbey and south of Abbey House, such as post holes, buried foundations etc.;
- Record and, if appropriate, sample any floor levels within the claustral and ancillary buildings for environmental and artefactual evidence to better understand the activities that took place there;
- Record any evidence for the layout and character of the 16th and 17th century formal gardens and any later changes;
- Record any evidence for the extent of the monks' cemetery that is known to lie to the east of the church; and
- To provide a photographic record of the wall elevation of the transformer room during the works and to record any observations with regards to any constructional /architectural details and phasing evidence etc.

### 4 METHODOLOGY

# 4.1 General procedures

The archaeological watching brief requires the monitoring of the excavation of a single narrow trench. The trench measures 10m long by 0.30m wide by 0.60m deep and will be hand excavated along an existing footpath to the south of Abbey House, within the area of the historic gardens. The indicative location of the hand excavated trench is shown on Figure 2. The location has been agreed in consultation between the client and English Heritage. The client has indicated that the setting out of the trench shall be the responsibility of the groundworks contractor which shall be within the gravel footpath south of the adjacent electricity transformer station building.

For archaeological purposes the trench shall be labeled in an appropriate manner (for example, 'Intervention 1') and any subsequent trenches that may be required to avoid significant remains shall be labelled sequentially.

The archaeological watching brief shall be carried out in accordance with this Specification (and any further instructions issued by URS) and with regard to the standard and guidance issued by The Institute for Archaeologists (IfA), (Standard and guidance for an archaeological watching brief, IfA 2008, Standard and guidance for archaeological investigation and recording



of standing buildings or structures, IfA 2008 and the Code of Conduct, IfA, 2013) along with other relevant guidance (refer to Appendix 1).

Before any of the investigations described in this Specification are undertaken the client shall obtain Scheduled Monument Consent (SMC) for the works. SMC will include the drilling of a small hole through the transformer room wall, the trenching operation, the storage of the arisings that derive from the excavation and the provision of protective fencing around the investigations. All parties involved in the works shall be made aware of the sensitivity of the site and the conditions of the SMC. The lead engineer for the works will take responsibility for briefing all contractors on site.

The archaeological contractor will undertake any necessary health and safety training or inductions, including those given by the groundworks contractor, the client or their representative on site prior to the start of the archaeological watching brief.

If extensive or significant archaeological remains are discovered during the course of the investigation (including articulated human remains) the archaeological contractor shall inform the lead engineer on site and notify URS immediately. Where articulated human remains are encountered during the archaeological watching brief both URS and the client shall be informed immediately and it may be necessary to alter, extend or re-locate the trench in order to avoid significant archaeological remains and enable their preservation in situ. If the trench needs to be re-located then the excavation of the existing trench shall be suspended. At this stage it may be necessary to complete the recording of the trench before it is backfilled. Backfilling will only be undertaken with the agreement of URS and the approval of the client and English Heritage.

If significant archaeological remains are uncovered the trench alignment will be altered, extended or relocated to avoid the archaeological remains and ensure their preservation in situ. The alterations, extensions or the relocation of the trench shall be agreed between the the client, URS and then approved by English Heritage prior to works being undertaken. A drawing that shows the exact layout of any changes or the position of the relocated trench will be submitted to English Heritage for approval.

The archaeological contractor shall be present on site from the beginning of the ground works and shall keep a record of times of attendance (day and times on site) during the course of the archaeological watching brief (the attendance record may be requested by URS). Once the ground works in the trench has reached the level of the natural geology, or the maximum depth limit of the earthing trench, the archaeological watching brief shall be complete.

The trench will be hand dug by the groundworks contractor and if archaeological remains are identified the groundworks will cease in the affected area and the archaeological contractor will be given sufficient time to clean and record the remains. The archaeological contractor should ensure that wherever possible they do not cause any undue delay or interruption to the groundworks contractor's schedule. Once the trench has been excavated to the required depth, the archaeological contractor will be allowed to complete the necessary archaeological recording of the trench. Upon completion of the recording of the trench the archaeological contractor shall notify the client and URS that the trench can be in-filled.

Arisings that result from the excavation of the archaeological remains shall be stored with the upcast from the groundworks. All arisings shall be stored on a suitable membrane /plastic sheet to ensure that there is no damage to the original ground surface. The groundworks contractor or the client's representative shall be responsible for the backfilling and reinstatement of the arisings from the trench(es). The groundworks contractor shall be responsible for the backfilling of any trenches that are opened during the course of the works.



# 4.2 Recording

Intervention 1 (or any additional trenches that may be required) shall be located by the archaeological contractor on a suitable digital basemap using survey-grade GPS (English Heritage 2003) or equivalent metric-survey equipment and tied into the Ordnance Survey (OS) grid. All co-ordinates that are expressed on the written record shall be expressed with regard to the OS grid and all heights shall be expressed in metres Above Ordnance Datum.

The archaeological contractor shall ensure that any physical markers that are survey stations conform to the requirements of the SMC.

All archaeological remains will be completely excavated by hand in an archaeologically controlled and stratigraphic manner in order to meet the aims and objectives of the watching brief.

A full written, drawn and photographic record will be made of the trench(es), even where no archaeological features are identified. Hand drawn plans and sections, profiles /elevations shall be produced at an appropriate scale (normally 1:20 /1:10). One long section of the excavated trench will be drawn at a scale of 1:20. All plans, sections, profiles /elevations shall include spot heights relative to Ordnance Datum in meters, correct to two decimal places.

Photographic recording of the trench will use high-resolution digital photography using a camera with a minimum field of 10 /12 megapixels resolution and shall be carried out in accordance with any requirements that English Heritage may request. If digital photography is used both JPEG/TIFF image files, together with hard copies of the images on archival standard paper, should be deposited with the archaeological watching brief's archive. In addition to photographs of archaeological remains, working shots will also be taken to illustrate site conditions and the progress of the works.

The photographic recording of the transformer room wall elevation shall be equivalent to an English Heritage Level 2 record (English Heritage 2006) and shall comprise high-resolution digital photography (minimum 10 /12 megapixels resolution) and a brief written description (identify fabric and plan form of the structure, features of architectural /structural relevance and note evidence of function and structural development). The photographic coverage will encompass general interior and exterior elevations, prior to and during the drilling operations and after the installation of the required pipework; and if appropriate any constructional /architectural details and phasing evidence.

# 4.3 Environmental sampling

The English Heritage Regional Advisor for Archaeological Science will be notified of the commencement of the project and will be consulted regarding the sampling strategy to be employed at the site. Provision will also be made for the recovery of material suitable for scientific dating.

Any samples that are taken must come from appropriately cleaned surfaces and shall be collected with clean tools and placed in clean containers. They will be adequately recorded and labeled, and a register of all samples will be kept. Once the samples have been obtained they should be stored appropriately in a secure location prior to being sent to the appropriate specialist(s).

# 4.4 Treatment of human remains

Should human remains be discovered during the course of the watching brief (articulated or disarticulated) the remains will be covered, protected, and left in situ in the first instance. The removal of human remains will only take place in accordance with a Ministry of Justice licence



and under the appropriate Environmental Health regulations and Section 25 of the Burial Act 1857 – The regulation of the exhumation of human remains. In such an event the archaeological contractor shall notify URS immediately who will inform the H.M. Coroner for the district.

The archaeological contractor shall prior to the start of the archaeological watching brief apply for a Ministry of Justice licence that shall deal with the eventual destination /curation of the remains. The excavation of any human remains shall follow the standards as specified in Annex S3 (Minimum standards for archaeological excavation, English Heritage 2005).

# 4.5 Artefact recovery and finds processing

All artefacts will be collected, stored and processed in accordance with standard methodologies and national guidelines (refer to Appendix 1). Except for modern artefacts, all finds (including architectural fragments) will be collected and retained. Each 'significant find' will be recorded three dimensionally. Similarly if artefact scatters are encountered these should be also recorded three dimensionally. Bulk finds will be collected and recorded by context.

If necessary, a conservator will visit the site to undertake 'first aid' conservation treatment.

Artefacts will be stored in appropriate materials and conditions, and monitored to minimise further deterioration.

The initial processing of finds (and if appropriate other samples) will be carried out concurrently with the fieldwork. The processing of finds will be finished shortly after the completion of the investigation. The finds will be retained in accordance with the collection policy, washed, labelled, bagged and logged on a MS Access or GIS database (or equivalent), together with their locations according to the National Grid (eastings, northings) and Ordnance Datum (height), accurate to 2 decimal places. Finds labeling shall conform to appropriate English Heritage guidance documents and local authority guidelines. At all times the archaeological contractor shall ensure that the processing of the assemblage is in accordance with the requirements of the recipient repository.

If appropriate each category of find or each material type will be examined by a suitably qualified archaeologist or specialist and the results incorporated into the report.

# 4.6 Treasure

Any artefacts which are recovered that fall within the scope of the Treasure Act 1996 and Treasure (Designation) Order 2002 will be immediately reported to URS. URS will contact H. M. Coroner, and will ensure that the Treasure regulations are enforced and that all the relevant parties are kept informed. A list of finds that have been collected that fall under the Treasure Act and related legislation will be included in the fieldwork report.

Artefacts that are classified as 'treasure' will be removed to a safe place but where removal cannot be effected on the same working day as the discovery, suitable security measures must be taken to protect the finds from damage or unauthorised removal.

# 5 COMPLETION OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL FIELDWORK

The archaeological contractor shall prepare and submit a Completion Statement to URS within one working day of the completion of the fieldwork.



The site will be left in a tidy condition and the archaeological contractor will ensure that all equipment and materials brought onto site by the archaeological contractor are removed.

As a minimum an OASIS entry shall be completed at the end of the fieldwork, irrespective of whether a formal report is required (http://ads.ahds.ac.uk/project/oasis/). If appropriate the entry should include caveats about conclusions drawn in advance of analysis. The OASIS entry may be updated and re-submitted not later than three months after the completion of a report. When completing the form the archaeological contractor must make reference to the Regional Research Framework.

### **6 MONITORING, PROGRESS REPORTS & MEETINGS**

The archaeological works may be subject to regular monitoring visits by URS depending upon the duration of the archaeological works. If required there will be one visit per week. The work will be inspected to ensure that it is being carried out to the required standard and that it will achieve the stated aims and objectives of the Specification and any observed deficiencies identified during the site visit are to be made good to the satisfaction of URS within an agreed timescale.

The archaeological contractor shall inform URS on the progress of the fieldwork verbally upon request.

#### 7 REPORTING

An Interim Statement of the results of the archaeological watching brief will be prepared and submitted to URS within one week of the completion of the fieldwork. It will include:

- a brief summary of the results;
- a plan of the trench location(s) at an appropriate scale, showing the mapped features;
- a quantification of the primary site archive including contexts/ features/ structures, finds and samples.

Once the finds and samples have been processed each category of find or environmental/industrial material will be examined by a suitably qualified archaeologist or specialist and the results incorporated into a fieldwork report.

The fieldwork report will be submitted in draft within six weeks of the completion of the archaeological watching brief. The preparation of the site archive will follow relevant archaeological standards, national guidelines and advice notes (for example, English Heritage 2013). The fieldwork report will include the following:

- a QA sheet detailing as a minimum title, author, version, date, checked by, approved by;
- a non-technical summary;
- a site location drawing;
- the archaeological and historical background;
- the methodology employed for the archaeological watching brief;
- the aims and objectives of the investigations;



- the results of the archaeological watching brief (to include full description, assessment of condition, quality and significance of the buried remains and a description of the wall of the transformer room, including any observed detailing);
- where human remains are encountered the report will include a statement that addresses the future retention of the material, including if appropriate, options for reburial;
- an appendix containing specialist artefact reports; palaeo-environmental /geoarchaeological reports or their equivalent;
- an appendix illustrating specific finds and general working shots or portraits of specific features or structures as appropriate;
- an appendix of photographs that record the wall of the transformer room;
- a list of all finds that fall within the scope of the Treasure Act and associated legislation;
- a stratigraphic matrix, if appropriate;
- assessment /conclusion and a statement of potential;
- a statement of the significance of the results in their local, regional and national context cross-referenced to the Regional Research Framework;
- publication proposals if warranted;
- the current and proposed arrangements for long term conservation and archive storage (including details of the accredited repository details);
- general and detailed plans showing the location of archaeological remains accurately positioned on an Ordnance Survey base map (at an appropriate and recognised scale);
- detailed plans and sections illustrating archaeological features and / relationships between features (at an appropriate and recognised scale);
- colour photographic plates illustrating the site setting, work in progress and archaeological discoveries;
- a cross-referenced index of the project archive.

The fieldwork report will specifically comment on the level of preservation and will comment on the character of the overlying deposits and on the potential for extrapolating the results into adjacent areas.

Three bound hard copies and a digital pdf copy (complete with illustrations and plates) of the completed report will be submitted to URS as a draft for comment. A copy of the draft report will be submitted to the local authority archaeological officer for comment and to English Heritage. In finalising the report the comments of URS and the statutory authorities will be taken into account.

Six bound copies, one unbound master-copy and a digital version (Word and PDF) of the finalised report will be submitted to URS within two weeks of the receipt of comments on the draft report.

A project CD shall be submitted containing image files in JPEG or TIFF format, digital text files shall be submitted to URS in Microsoft Word format, illustrations in AutoCAD format or ArcView shapefile format. A fully collated version of the report shall be included in PDF format.

URS (on behalf of the client) shall submit copies of the final report to Shropshire Historic Environment Record (minimum two copies, including a digital version in word or PDF format), and English Heritage.



#### 8 RESOURCES AND TIMETABLE

It is anticipated that the archaeological watching brief shall be monitored by a single archaeological operative, but all personnel involved in the project shall be suitably qualified and experienced professionals. In the event that other archaeological personnel are required then the archaeological contractor shall make a request in writing to URS for the additional resources. This will ensure that additional personnel are only deployed with the approval and written agreement of URS and the client.

The ground works are expected to begin in January 2014 and it is anticipated that works shall be completed within one week.

URS will provide the archaeological contractor with suitable notice prior to the commencement of the ground works to enable the archaeological contractor to mobilise their resources.

#### 9 ARCHIVE PREPARATION & DEPOSITION

The site archive should be quantified, ordered, indexed and made internally consistent, and be prepared in line with current good practice (Brown 2011, English Heritage 2011). All finds and samples will have been processed and stored under appropriate conditions. The archive will also contain a site matrix, a summary of key findings and descriptions of artefactual and environmental assemblages. Arrangements should be made for the proper cataloguing and storage of the archive during the project.

The archaeological contractor will, prior to the start of fieldwork, liaise with an appropriate accredited repository to obtain agreement in principle to accept the documentary, digital and photographic archive for long-term storage. The archaeological contractor will be responsible for identifying any specific requirements or policies of the recipient repository in respect of the archive, and for adhering to those requirements. As a minimum the archaeological contractor will keep the repository informed of the likely quantification and content of the archive throughout the progress of the fieldwork. Any charges levied by the repository for the long term storage of the archive will be met by the archaeological contractor.

The archive of finds and records generated during the fieldwork will be removed from site at the end of each day and kept secure until it is deposited in the agreed repository. The archive will be produced to current national standards (refer to Appendix 1).

The deposition of the archive forms the final stage of this project. The archaeological contractor shall provide URS with copies of communication with the accredited repository and written confirmation of the deposition of the archive. URS will deal with the transfer of ownership and copyright issues.

#### 10 CONFIDENTIALITY & PUBLICITY

Information regarding the ground works is not in the public domain and the investigations may attract interest. If the archaeological contractor attracts any unwanted or negative attention, in the first instance the archaeological contractor will ensure that they can retreat to a place of safety if threatened. The archaeological contractor will not discuss the project with any members of the public and shall refer all enquiries back to URS.



All communication regarding the archaeological works is to be directed through URS and the archaeological contractor is to give no unauthorised comments or statements.

The archaeological contractor will not disseminate information or images associated with the project for publicity or information purposes without the prior written consent of the client.

#### 11 COPYRIGHT

The archaeological contactor shall assign copyright in all reports and documentation/ images produced as part of this project to URS. The archaeological contractor retains the right to be identified as the author/ originator of the material. This applies to all aspects of the project. It is the responsibility of the archaeological contractor to obtain such rights from sub-contracted specialists.

#### 12 ACCESS ARRANGEMENTS & SITE INFORMATION

Buildwas Abbey is a scheduled ancient monument (closed from 1 October to 31 March) and the indicative trench location is accessible via land owned by the client at Abbey House.

Access to the area that is under archaeological watching brief will be restricted to authorised personnel only.

URS will liaise with the groundworks contractor and the client or their representative to obtain details regarding access. The archaeological contractor will ensure that all personnel conform to the access arrangements set by the groundworks contractor.

The groundworks contractor shall provide all necessary welfare and tool storage facilities; and all necessary plant and suitable secure fencing around the area of the archaeological watching brief.

#### 13 INSURANCES, HEALTH & SAFETY

The archaeological contractor will provide URS with details of their public and professional indemnity insurance.

The contractors working on site will be under E.ON Health & Safety rules, however, the archaeological contractor will have their own Health & Safety policies compiled using national guidelines and which conform to all relevant Health & Safety legislation.

The archaeological contractor will undertake a risk assessment detailing project specific Health & Safety requirements. A copy of the archaeological contractors Health & Safety policies and the risk assessment shall be submitted to URS and the client. The risk assessment and Health & Safety policies shall be approved by the client and the lead engineer on site prior to the commencement of the archaeological watching brief. The archaeological contractor shall be aware that Health & Safety will take priority over archaeological issues.

The monitoring archaeologist shall undertake the specified archaeological watching brief with due regard to their safety and that of the groundworks contractor's team. The monitoring archaeologist shall ensure that the groundworks contractor's team can clearly see them, and that they monitor the works at an appropriate safe distance. Should the monitoring



archaeologist wish to inspect the trench, they should notify the groundworks contractor's team of their intention and ensure that any operative has stopped hand excavation before recording commences. The monitoring archaeologist shall not enter a trench greater than 1.2m in depth, and shall ensure that the sides are stable before entering any trench.

The E.ON representative on site managing the trenching works shall provide all site personnel with a Health & Safety and site induction prior to the commencement of the archaeological watching brief. The archaeological contractor shall at all times conform to E.On's Health & Safety Plan. The archaeological contractor shall have a copy of their approved risk assessment with them on site.

All site personnel will familiarise themselves with the following:

- site emergency and evacuation procedures;
- the groundworks contractor's Health & Safety Coordinator;
- · the First Aider; and
- the location of the nearest hospital and doctor's surgery.

All site personnel will wear full personal protective equipment (PPE) consisting of hard hat, steel toe-capped boots and high-visibility vest or jacket at all times. Additional PPE will be issued by the archaeological contractor as required, i.e. goggles, ear defenders, masks, gloves etc.

#### 14 ADHERENCE TO SPECIFICATION

The archaeological contractor will undertake the works according to this Specification and any subsequent written variations. No variation from or changes to the Specification will occur except by prior agreement with URS. Unauthorised variations implemented during the course of the project shall constitute a breach of contract.

#### 15 GENERAL PROVISIONS

Any technical queries arising from this Specification will be addressed to URS without delay.

All communications on archaeological matters will be directed through URS.

This Specification is valid for a period of 12 months from its date of issue. After that time it may need to be revised to take account of new discoveries, changes in policy or the introduction of new working practices or techniques.



#### 16 REFERENCES

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English Heritage, 2005, guidance for best practice for treatment of human remains excavated from Christian burial grounds in England. English Heritage, Swindon

English Heritage, 2006, Understanding Historic Buildings. A guide to good recording practice (Swindon)

English Heritage, 2013, Landscape Advice Note: Garden Archaeological Reports. English Heritage (Swindon) <a href="http://www.english-heritage.org.uk/publications/lan-garden-archaeological-reports/">http://www.english-heritage.org.uk/publications/lan-garden-archaeological-reports/</a>

IfA, 2008, Standard and guidance for an archaeological watching brief, Institute for Archaeologists (Reading)

If A 2008 Standard and guidance for archaeological investigation and recording of standing buildings or structures. Revised edition, October 2008. Institute for Archaeologists, Reading

IfA 2013, Code of Conduct, Institute for Archaeologists (Reading)

#### 16.1 Internet resources

#### Geology

(http://www.bgs.ac.uk/landslides/IronbridgeGorge.html)

http://www.bgs.ac.uk/data/mapViewers/

Heritage List for England

http://list.english-heritage.org.uk/advancedsearch.aspx

Legislation

Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979 (http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/1979/46)

Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990 (http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/1990/9/contents)

The Treasure (Designation Order 2002) <a href="http://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2002/2666/introduction/made">http://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2002/2666/introduction/made</a>

Treasure Act 1996 (http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/1996/24/contents)

Burial Act 1957 (http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/Vict/20-21/81/section/25)



# **Appendix 1**

Archaeological standards and guidance



#### Archaeological Standards and Guidance

AAI&S 1988 The Illustration of Lithic Artefacts: a guide to drawing stone tools for specialist reports. Association of Archaeological Illustrators and Surveyors Technical Paper 9

AAI&S 1994 The Illustration of Wooden Artefacts: an introduction to the depiction of wooden objects from archaeological excavations. Association of Archaeological Illustrators and Surveyors Technical Paper 11

AAI&S 1995 The Survey and Recording of Historic Buildings. Association of Archaeological Illustrators and Surveyors Technical Paper 12

AAI&S 1997 Aspects of Illustration: prehistoric pottery. Association of Archaeological Illustrators and Surveyors Technical Paper 13

AAI&S n.d. Introduction to Drawing Archaeological Pottery. Association of Archaeological Illustrators and Surveyors, Graphic Archaeology Occasional Papers 1

ACBMG 2004 Draft Minimum Standards for the Recovery, Analysis and Publication of Ceramic Building Material. 3rd edition. Archaeological Ceramic Building Materials Group http://www.tegula.freeserve.co.uk/acbmg/CBMGDE3.htm

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ADCA 2010 Archaeology and Burial Vaults. A guidance note for churches. Association of Diocesan and Cathedral Archaeologists Guidance Note 2/Advisory Panel on the Archaeology of Burials in England (APABE)

http://www.archaeologyuk.org/adca/documents/ADCAGuidanceNote2.pdf

ADCA 2010 Dealing with architectural fragments. Association of Diocesan and Cathedral Archaeologists Guidance Note 3

http://www.archaeologyuk.org/adca/documents/ADCAGuidanceNote3.pdf

ADCA in prep. Fabric recording (draft guidance note). Association of Diocesan and Cathedral Archaeologists

http://www.archaeologyuk.org/adca/documents/FabricRecordConsultationDraftJuly12.documents/FabricRecordConsultationPraftFabricRecordConsultationDraftFabricRecordConsultationPraftFabricRecordConsultationPra

ADS 2011 Archaeology Data Service / Digital Antiquity Guides to Good Practice. Archaeology Data Service, University of York http://guides.archaeologydataservice.ac.uk/g2gp/Main

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AML 1994 A Strategy for the Care and Investigation of Finds. Ancient Monuments Laboratory, English Heritage

APABE 2013 Science and the Dead: A guideline for the destructive sampling of human remains for scientific analysis. Advisory Panel on the Archaeology of Burials in England/English Heritage http://www.archaeologyuk.org/apabe/Science\_and\_the\_Dead.pdf

Bayley, J (ed) 1998 Science in Archaeology. An agenda for the future. English Heritage, London



Blake, H. and P. Davey (eds) 1983 Guidelines for the processing and publication of medieval pottery from excavations. Report by a working party of the Medieval Pottery Research Group and the Department of the Environment. Directorate of Ancient Monuments and Historic Buildings Occasional Paper 5, 23-34, DoE, London

Brickley, M and McKinley, JI 2004 Guidelines to the Standards for Recording Human Remains. IFA Professional Practice Paper No. 7, British Association for Biological Anthropology and Osteoarchaeology and Institute of Field Archaeologists, Reading http://www.babao.org.uk/HumanremainsFINAL.pdf

Brickstock, RJ 2004 The Production, Analysis and Standardisation of Romano-British Coin Reports. English Heritage, Swindon http://www.english-heritage.org.uk/publications/production-analysis-and-standardisation-of-romano-british-

neritage.org.uk/publications/production-analysis-and-standardisation-of-romano-british-coin/romancoinsweb.pdf

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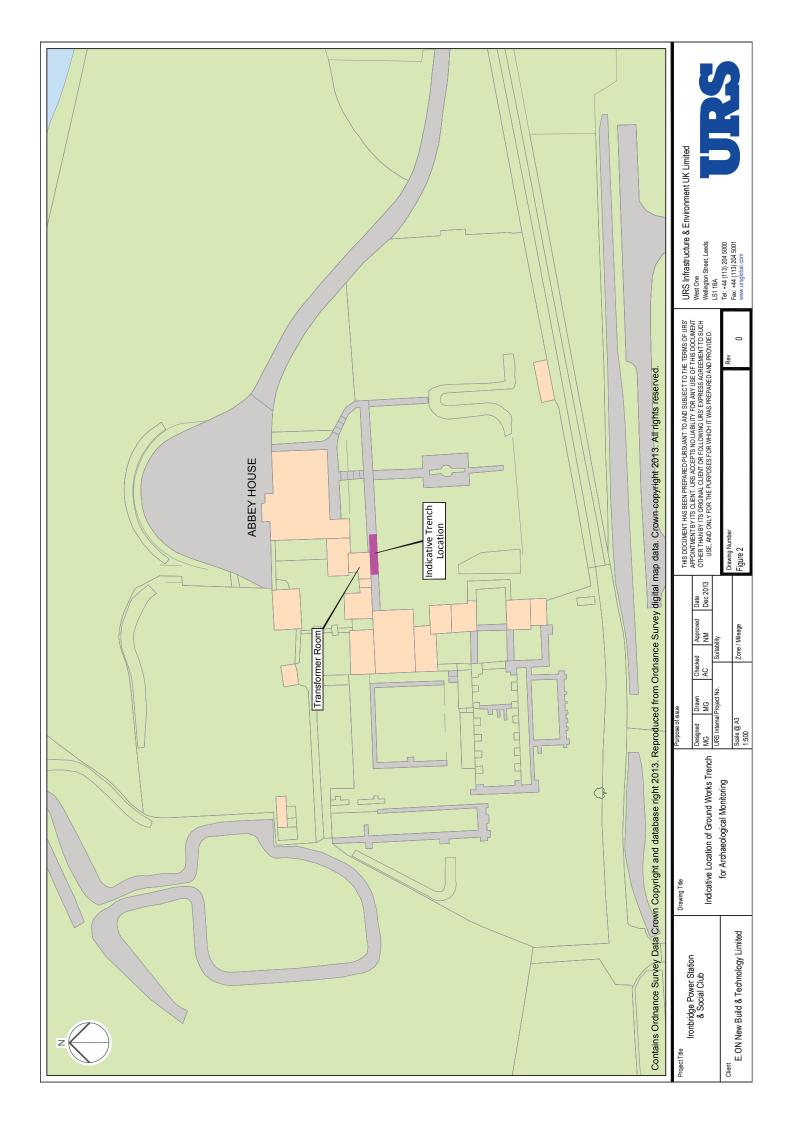
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# Archaeology Wales

# **APPENDIX IV:**

**Archive Cover Sheet** 

### ARCHIVE COVER SHEET

## Abbey House, Buildwas Abbey, Shropshire

Site Name:	Buildwas
Site Code:	BAS/14/WB
PRN:	00311
LB No:	1175126
SAM:	1015813
Other Ref No:	-
NGR:	NGR SJ 6431 0423
Site Type:	Abbey
Project Type:	WB
Project Manager:	Mark Houliston
Project Dates:	January – February 2014
Categories Present:	Medieval to Modern
Location of Original Archive:	AW
Location of duplicate Archives:	-
Number of Finds Boxes:	1
Location of Finds:	-
Museum Reference:	-
Copyright:	AW
Restrictions to access:	None

# Archaeology Wales



Archaeology Wales Limited Rhos Helyg, Cwm Belan, Llanidloes, Powys SY18 6QF Tel: +44 (0) 1686 440371

Email: admin@arch-wales.co.uk

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