

CHHH11



## CASTLE HOUSE HOTEL, HEREFORD

*Archaeological Watching Brief*

*for Castle House Hotel*

*DCCE2008/0919/F*

*August 2011*



**HEADLAND**  
ARCHAEOLOGY (UK) Ltd



# CASTLE HOUSE HOTEL, HEREFORD

*Archaeological Watching Brief*

*for Castle House Hotel*

*DCCE2008/0919/F*

*August 2011*

HA Job no.: CHHH11

HAS no.: 887

EHE no.: 1879

NGR: SO 51268 39697

Council: Hereford

OASIS ref.: headland1-107490

Archive will be deposited with: Herefordshire Museums

Project Manager

Mike Kimber

Author

Simon Mayes

Fieldwork

Simon Mayes

Graphics

Anna Sztromwasser

Approved by

Mike Kimber, Project Manager



**Headland Archaeology (UK) Ltd**  
© **Headland Archaeology (UK) Ltd 2011**

Unit 1, Premier Business Park, Faraday Road, Hereford HR4 9NZ  
T 0143 236 4901 • F 0143 236 4900 • E [hereford@headlandarchaeology.com](mailto:hereford@headlandarchaeology.com)  
[www.headlandarchaeology.com](http://www.headlandarchaeology.com)

## CONTENTS

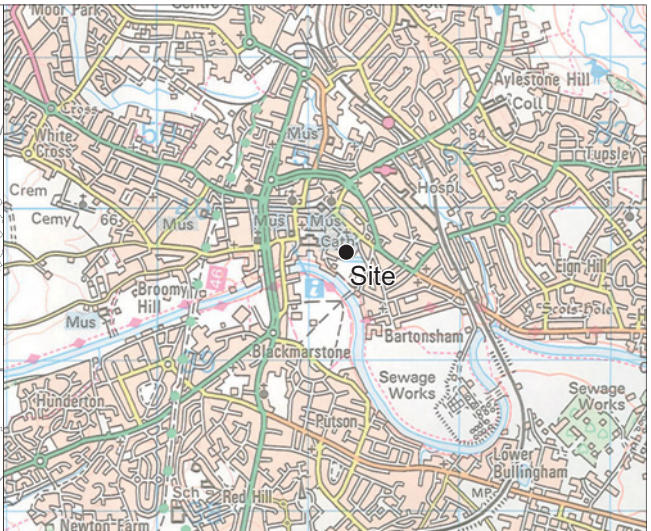
1.	INTRODUCTION	1
2.	SITE DESCRIPTION	1
3.	OBJECTIVES	1
4.	METHOD	2
	4.1 Monitoring	2
	4.2 Recording	2
5.	BACKGROUND HISTORY	2
6.	RESULTS OF THE WATCHING BRIEF	3
7.	DISCUSSION	3
8.	REFERENCES	3
9.	APPENDICES	4
	9.1 Appendix 1 – Site registers	4
	<i>Context description</i>	4
	<i>Photographic register</i>	6

## LIST OF ILLUSTRATIONS

<i>Illus 1</i>		viii
	<i>Site location</i>	
<i>Illus 2</i>		2
	<i>View of excavated footing pad 2, facing west</i>	
<i>Illus 3</i>		2
	<i>View of excavated footing pad 4, facing south</i>	
<i>Illus 4</i>		2
	<i>View of excavated footing pad 6, facing north</i>	
<i>Illus 5</i>		2
	<i>View of excavated footing pad 8, facing west</i>	



Castle House Hotel  
Castle Street  
Hereford



0 100km



Reproduced using 2007 OS 1:50,000 Landranger No. 149 and digital data supplied by Castle House Hotel. Ordnance Survey © Crown copyright 2011. All rights reserved. Licence No. AL 100013329.

Scale 1:5,000 @ A4



0 250m

**Illus 1**  
Site location

# CASTLE HOUSE HOTEL

## Watching Brief

*On the 23rd of May 2011, Headland Archaeology (UK) Ltd carried out an archaeological monitoring program, comprising of the excavation of eight square footing pads (1.2m x 1.2m to a depth of approximately 0.45m), (NGR: SO 51268 39697).*

*The work was commissioned by the Stephen Potter (acting on behalf of the Castle House Hotel) in respect of a planning application for the construction of two smoking pavilions within the within the garden of the property.*

*Castle House Hotel is located on corner of Castle Street and St Ethelbert Street, north of the bailey of Hereford Castle. The site currently comprises of landscaped gardens associated with the redevelopment works conducted in the late 1990s.*

*The area affected by the approved works is situated between the hotel itself and the castle moat. Due to the historic nature and significance of this area as revealed in previous excavations within the boundaries of the site the footing pads were restricted in depth and excavated by hand whilst monitored by an archaeologist.*

1

*The limited depth of the excavations has resulted in the preservation of the archaeological resource within this area of historic importance, without hampering the modern development of the upstanding buildings and current commercial infrastructure.*

### 1. INTRODUCTION

On the 23rd of May 2011, Headland Archaeology (UK) Ltd carried out an archaeological monitoring program of the excavation of eight square footing pads (1.2m x 1.2m) at Castle House Hotel, Castle Street Hereford (NGR: SO 51268 39697).

The work was commissioned by Stephen Potter Architects (acting on behalf of the Castle House Hotel) in respect of a planning condition attached to the construction of two smoking pavilions within the rear garden of the hotel.

Herefordshire Council granted planning permission (DCCE2008/0919/F) for the development on condition that the applicant secured the implementation of a program of archaeological monitoring of the associated ground works, in accordance with the Written Scheme of Investigation approved in writing by the local planning authority (Kimber 2010).

The site is within the Hereford Area of Archaeological Importance. Appropriate documentation for the works

under the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act was submitted to the Archaeological Advisor.

### 2. SITE DESCRIPTION

Castle House Hotel is located on corner of Castle Street and St Ethelbert Street, north of the bailey of Hereford Castle. The site currently comprises the landscaped gardens of Castle House Hotel. The area affected by the approved works is situated between the hotel itself and the castle moat.

The underlying geology comprises mudstones of the Old Red Sandstone overlain by fluvio-glacial gravels and a sequence of post-glacial silts.

### 3. OBJECTIVES

The aim of the project was to ensure that any features of archaeological or historic significance affected by the ground works were adequately recorded and reported.



**Illus 2**

View of excavated footing pad 2, facing west



**Illus 3**

View of excavated footing pad 4, facing south

2



**Illus 4**

View of excavated footing pad 6, facing north



**Illus 5**

View of excavated footing pad 8, facing west

Specifically this was monitoring the excavation of the footing pads with a view to ultimately producing a report on the findings and depositing the archive with the local repository.

## 4. METHOD

### 4.1 Monitoring

The watching brief comprised of the excavation of eight footing pads, each approximately 1.2 x 1.2m to a maximum depth of 0.45m

Excavation of the footing pads was undertaken using hand tools. The excavated footing pads were closely examined for any features and the spoil was re-examined in order to collect any dating evidence.

### 4.2 Recording

All recording followed IfA Standards and Guidance. All recording was undertaken on pro forma record cards.

35mm colour transparencies and black-and-white prints were taken; a graduated metric scale was clearly visible in all photographs.

Digital photographs were taken for illustrative purposes only and will not form a part of the site archive.

Plans of the areas disturbed during the watching brief were produced on pro-forma record sheets at 1:20, with individual features planned at 1:20, sections drawn at 1:10. Records from the watching brief will be integrated with the main report for archival purposes.

## 5. BACKGROUND HISTORY

Hereford's Saxon origins are well known – the city appears to have been laid out around a crossroads with the north-south axis leading to a ford over the river Wye, and the original east-west axis now preserved in the lines of King Street and Castle Street (Boucher & Thomas 2002, p.8). Subsequent growth of the Burh appears to have been by way of planned parallel roads leading north (and to a lesser extent south) from the principal east-west axis.

Expansion continued to the north in the Norman period, with the principal east-west axis shifting northwards to the line of High Street/St Owen Street. To the south of Castle Street/King Street were located the Saxon Cathedral and St Guthlac's Priory.

The years immediately preceding the Norman Conquest saw the burning of the wooden Saxon cathedral and its replacement in stone, and also (more relevantly for this site) the construction of a Norman-style motte-and-bailey castle on the former location of St Guthlac's, to the south of Castle Street.

The castle had become ruinous by the early 16th century, and all of the stonework had disappeared by 1757 (Crooks 2002, p.2). The motte itself was later quarried away, but the northern and eastern defences and the northern moat survive in altered form. The north edge of the moat now forms the southern boundary of the gardens at Castle House Hotel.

Excavations were undertaken in the grounds of Castle House in the late 1990s in connection with landscaping and a restaurant extension (Crooks 2002). These excavations uncovered evidence of Saxon buildings and associated domestic and industrial activities, and also metal surfaces likely to have been the later roadway leading to the north gate of the castle. Most of the remains encountered in these excavations were at approx 0.45m depth; towards the castle moat in the south of the site, there was evidence that post-medieval landscaping had removed archaeological deposits to at least a depth of 0.5m.

## 6. RESULTS OF THE WATCHING BRIEF

Detailed records for the excavation of the footing pads are given in Appendix 1. Generally speaking, the excavations revealed only archaeological deposits relating to the modern landscaping of the garden terrace.

## 7. DISCUSSION

The monitoring and designed limited depth to the footing pads meant that no archaeological remains relating to the historic development of this significant area were disturbed.

The reduced depth of the excavations has resulted in the preservation of the limited archaeological resource within this area of historic importance, without preventing contemporary development of the upstanding buildings and current commercial infrastructure.

## 8. REFERENCES

Archaeological Archives Forum Archaeological Archives: a guide to best practice in creation, compilation, transfer and curation (published by the IfA 2007).

Brickley, M & McKinley, J, 2004, *Guidelines to the standards for recording human remains*, IfA Paper No. 7.

Boucher, A & Thomas, A (eds), 2002, *Hereford City Excavations Volume 4*, Logaston Press, Logaston.

Crooks, K H, 2002, 'Castle House, Hereford: Archaeological Watching Brief and Excavations', *Hereford Archaeology Series*, 516.

Kimber, M, 2011, *Castle House Hotel, Hereford: Written Scheme of Investigation for Archaeological Watching Brief*.





## 9. APPENDICES

### 9.1 Appendix 1 – Site registers

#### Context description

<b>Footing pad no.</b>	<b>Context no.</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Dimensions</b>	<b>Deposit depth</b>
1	1001	Blue grey, modern pea grit surface, same as [2001]	1.2 x 1.2m (max)	0.02m
	1002	Yellow angular stone bedding plane, same as [2002]		0.1m
	1003	Angular grey scalping layer forming levelling layer of modern lower terrace, same as [2003]	0.15m	
	1004	Mixed topsoil and previous turf line, possibly redeposited, contained brick and rubble fragments	0.3m	
	1005	Modern garden wall, brick and stone clad, built in late 1990s (running east west)	–	

Summary of excavation: the footing pad was hand excavated to the required depth for the new footing, no archaeology was encountered, nor were any finds or feature observed that did not relate to the modern landscaping of the garden terrace.

<b>Footing pad no.</b>	<b>Context no.</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Dimensions</b>	<b>Deposit depth</b>
2	2001	Blue grey, modern pea grit surface	1.2 x 1.2m (max)	0.02m
	2002	Yellow angular stone bedding plane		0.1m
	2003	Angular grey scalping layer forming levelling layer of modern lower terrace	0.15m	
	2004	Mixed topsoil and previous turf line, possibly redeposited, containing brick and rubble fragments	0.3m	
	2005	Modern garden wall, brick and stone clad, built in late 1990s (running north south)	–	

Summary of excavation: the sequence in this footing pad was the same as in FP1, reflecting their location on the lower terrace of the hotel garden.

<b>Footing pad no.</b>	<b>Context no.</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Dimensions</b>	<b>Deposit depth</b>
3	3001	Turf line (present day surface)	1.2 x 1.2m (max)	0.1m
	3002	Reddish brown, sandy clay, subsoil, containing brick fragments and mixed modern debris – probably imported garden soil		0.35m

Summary of excavation: only deposits related to modern landscaping were encountered.

<b>Footing pad no.</b>	<b>Context no.</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Dimensions</b>	<b>Deposit depth</b>
4	4001	Reddish brown sandy clay subsoil, containing brick fragments and mixed modern debris (redeposited garden soil)	1.2 x 1.2m (max)	0.25m
	4002	Modern garden wall, brick and stone clad, built in late 1990s (running north south)		–
	4003	Modern tarmac layer, sloping towards moat; cut by modern electric cable [4005] and wall construction [4002]	0.08m	
	4004	Previous turf and subsoil horizon; sealed by tarmac; no finds present	0.2m	
	4005	Modern armoured electric cable associated with the lighting on the present garden	–	

Summary of excavation: this area appears to have been built-up very recently, sealing an earlier modern surface.

<b>Footing pad no.</b>	<b>Context no.</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Dimensions</b>	<b>Deposit depth</b>
5	5001	Blue grey, modern pea grit surface	1.2 x 1.2m (max)	0.03m
	5002	Yellow angular stone bedding plane		0.1m
	5003	Angular grey scalping layer forming levelling layer of modern lower terrace		0.1m
	5004	Mixed topsoil and previous turf line, possibly redeposited, contained brick and rubble fragments		0.3m
	5005	Modern garden wall, concrete footing, wall removed in 1990s phase of landscaping (running east west)		-

Summary of excavation: only evidence of modern landscaping was encountered in this footing pad.

<b>Footing pad no.</b>	<b>Context no.</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Dimensions</b>	<b>Deposit depth</b>
6	6001	Blue grey, modern pea grit surface	1.2 x 1.2m (max)	0.03m
	6002	Yellow angular stone bedding plane		0.1m
	6003	Angular grey scalping layer forming levelling layer of modern lower terrace		0.1m
	6004	Mixed topsoil and previous turf line, possibly redeposited, contained brick and rubble fragments		0.3m
	6005	Modern garden wall, brick and stone clad, built in late 1990s (running east west)		-

Summary of excavation: only modern landscaping deposits were encountered.

<b>Footing pad no.</b>	<b>Context no.</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Dimensions</b>	<b>Deposit depth</b>
7	7001	Turf line (present day surface)	1.2 x 1.2m (max)	0.1m
	7002	Reddish brown sandy clay subsoil, containing brick fragments and mixed modern debris (redeposited garden soil)		0.35m

Summary of excavation: only modern landscaping deposits were encountered.

<b>Footing pad no.</b>	<b>Context no.</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Dimensions</b>	<b>Deposit depth</b>
8	8001	Turf line (present day surface)	1.2 x 1.2m (max)	0.1m
	8002	Reddish brown sandy clay subsoil, containing brick fragments and mixed modern debris (redeposited garden soil)		0.35m

Summary of excavation: only modern landscaping deposits encountered.



## Photographic register

<b>Photo no.</b>	<b>Colour slide</b>	<b>Black &amp; White</b>	<b>Digital</b>	<b>Direction facing</b>	<b>Description</b>
01	529/09	537/21	DSCF2043	S	Footing pad 3
02	-	537/20	DSCF2044	E	Footing pad 3
03	-	-	DSCF2045	SW	General view of work in progress
04	-	-	DSCF2046	SW	General view of work in progress
05	529/10	537/19	DSCF2047	E	Footing pad 4
06	-	537/18	DSCF2048	E	Footing pad 4
07	-	-	DSCF2049	S	Footing pad 4, showing tarmac and electric cable
08	529/11	-	DSCF2050	E	Footing pad 1
09	-	537/17	DSCF2051	N	Footing pad 1, showing concrete footing and wall
10	-	537/16	DSCF2052	W	Footing pad 1, showing modern make up of terrace
11	-	-	DSCF2053	W	General view of site during excavation
12	-	-	DSCF2054	E	General view of site during excavation
13	-	-	DSCF2055	W	Footing pad 8
14	-	537/15	DSCF2056	W	Footing pad 8
15	529/12	537/14	DSCF2057	S	Footing pad 8
16	-	-	DSCF2058	W	General view of site during excavation
17	-	537/13	DSCF2059	S	Footing pad 7
18	-	-	DSCF2060	S	Footing pad 7
6 19	-	-	DSCF2061	W	General view of site during excavation
20	-	-	DSCF2062	SW	General view of site during excavation
21	-	537/12	DSCF2063	W	Footing pad 7
22	-	-	DSCF2064	W	Footing pad 7
23	-	-	DSCF2065	W	Footing pad 7
24	529/13	537/11	DSCF2066	S	Footing pad 2
25	-	537/10	DSCF2067	S	Footing pad 2 after cleaning
26	-	-	DSCF2068	W	Footing pad 1 after cleaning
27	529/14	537/9	DSCF2069	W	Footing pad 1 after cleaning
28	-	-	DSCF2070	E	General view of site
29	-	-	DSCF2071	E	General view of site
30	-	537/8	DSCF2072	W	Footing pad 2
31	-	537/7	DSCF2073	N	Footing pad 2
32	529/15	-	DSCF2074	N	Footing pad 2
33	-	-	DSCF2075	N	General view of site
34	-	-	DSCF2076	N	General view of site
35	-	-	DSCF2077	N	General view of site
36	529/16	537/6	DSCF2078	E	Footing pad 5



**Headland Archaeology (UK) Ltd**  
© **Headland Archaeology (UK) Ltd 2011**

**North East (HQ)**

13 Jane Street, Edinburgh EH6 5HE

**T** 0131 467 7705 • **F** 0131 467 7706 • **E** office@headlandarchaeology.com

**North West**

10 Payne Street, Glasgow G4 0LF

**T** 0141 354 8100 • **F** 0141 332 9388 • **E** glasgowoffice@headlandarchaeology.com

**Midlands & West**

Unit 1, Premier Business Park, Faraday Road, Hereford HR4 9NZ

**T** 0143 236 4901 • **F** 0143 236 4900 • **E** hereford@headlandarchaeology.com

**South & East**

Technology Centre, Stanbridge Road, Leighton Buzzard, Bedfordshire LU7 4QH

**T** 01525 850 878 • **E** leighton.buzzard@headlandarchaeology.com

[www.headlandarchaeology.com](http://www.headlandarchaeology.com)