

NIPH12



## NEW INN CAR PARK, MARKET SQUARE, PEMBRIDGE

*Watching Brief*

*for GRW Property Ltd*

N121953/F

November 2012



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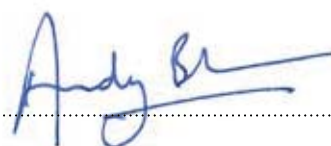
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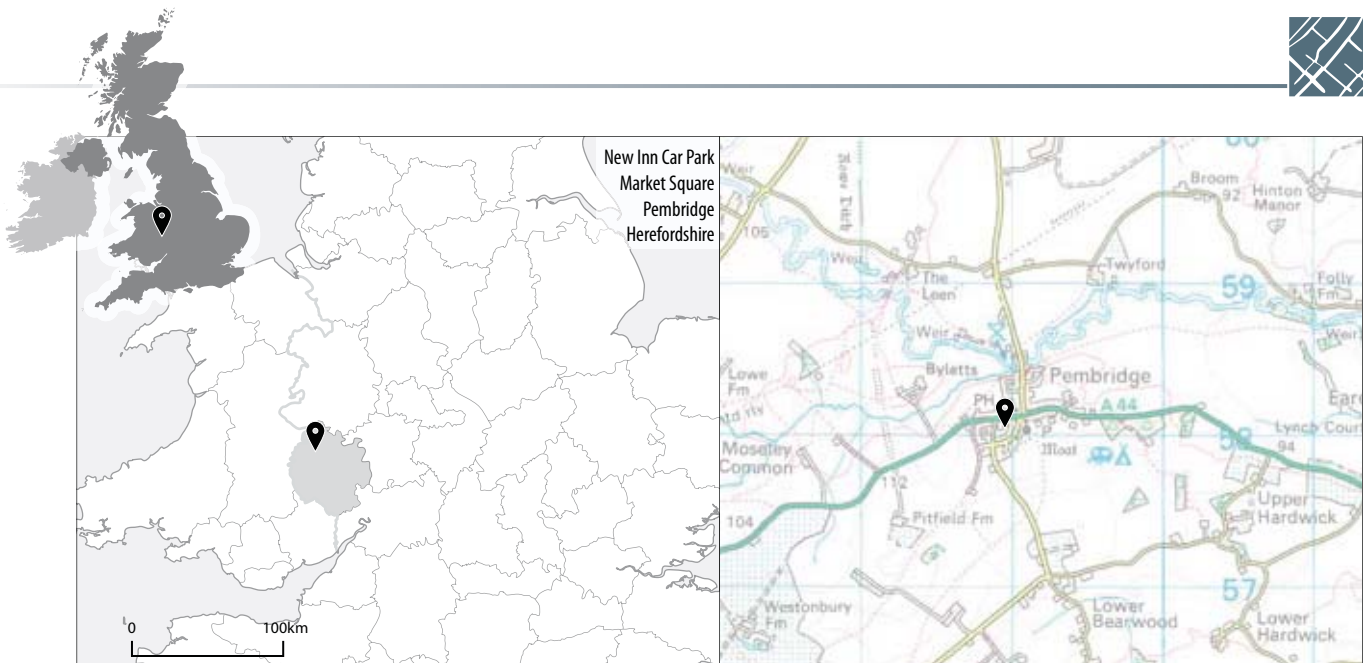
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Scale 1:300 @ A4



0 15m

### Illus 1

Site location

# NEW INN CAR PARK, MARKET SQUARE, PEMBRIDGE

## Watching Brief

Headland Archaeology (UK) Ltd was commissioned by GRW Property Ltd to carry out a watching brief during groundwork associated with the construction of a new dwelling on the site.

No deposits or finds of archaeological significance were observed during the work.

## 1. INTRODUCTION

An archaeological watching brief was carried out by Headland Archaeology (UK) Ltd at the New Inn Car park, Market Square, Pembridge, Herefordshire on the 3rd October 2012. The work arose following the granting of planning permission by Herefordshire Council; and specifically in response to an archaeological condition attached to the development stating that:

*'No development shall take place until the applicants or their agents or successors in title, has secured the implementation of a programme of archaeological work in accordance with a Written Scheme of Investigation which has been submitted by the applicant and approved in writing by the local planning authority. This programme shall be in accordance with a brief prepared by the County Archaeology Service.'*

The site is located near the medieval core of the former town of Pembridge, which is located 7.5 miles east of the market town of Leominster (NGR SO 38974 58059). The site is situated in a plot of land east of Pembridge CE Primary School and just off Bearwood Lane, in close proximity to the New Inn pub. The land has remained as an unused area of grassland for a long period of time and there seems to have been very little disturbance on site.

The site lies 500m south of the River Arrow. The underlying geology consists of Raglan Mudstone, a siltstone and mudstone formation with interbedded sedimentary bedrock formed approximately 417 to 419 million years ago in the Silurian Period, with superficial glacio-aluvial sand and gravel deposits of Devensian date (BSG 1999).

### 1.1 Archaeological and historical background

The small town of Pembridge was a well established town in

England during the medieval period and still boasts a number of important medieval buildings including one of the oldest timber bell towers in the country (Boucher & Morris 2011) found within the grounds of the Parish Church of St Mary, both having been founded in the 13th century, and stand on the south side of the village, c 120m east of the development site. Pembridge also retains a high number of early timber-framed, black and white buildings dating to the 16th century. The Market Hall stands c 80m to the east of the site and was built in the early 16th century. The New Inn pub lies c 80m northeast of the site and is a two storey black and white timber framed structure dating to the early 17th century. On land to the east of the site, was a 14th century building which was added to in the 16th century and has since been incorporated in to a modern house (Royal Commission 1934).

## 2. METHOD

The watching brief was undertaken during a single site visit in order to monitor ground works associated with the excavation of building footings. The proposals required the excavation of foundation footings comprising an area of 80 m<sup>2</sup> and up to 1.15m in depth.

Excavations were undertaken by the main contractor using a mechanical excavator with the use of a toothless bucket.

All recording followed standard archaeological guidelines as set out by the Institute for Archaeologists (IfA). All contexts were given unique numbers. All recording was undertaken on *pro forma* record cards that conform to accepted archaeological norms. Photographs of the excavated areas were taken using 35mm monochrome and colour slide film. Digital photographs on a 7.2mp digital camera were taken for illustrative purposes. Registers were kept for context records, photographs and drawings.





**Illus 2**

*North facing section at South edge of site*

### 3. RESULTS

The development site seemed largely undisturbed prior to excavation. Natural geological deposits were encountered at c 0.55m depth and comprised dark brown silt [003]. A subsoil deposit [002] was encountered at a depth of c 0.3m, and consisted of light brown clay which had no archaeological evidence within. The most recent deposit [001] was dark brown silt topsoil up to 0.30m in depth (*Illus 2*).

### 4. DISCUSSION

No archaeological features or deposits were uncovered within any of the footing trenches excavated. This may indicate the untouched nature of the site. Prior to the work on site there was no evidence for any occupation. Earlier documentation, such as the earliest ordnance survey map of 1886 ([www.bgs.ac.uk](http://www.bgs.ac.uk)), indicates there was no activity within the area monitored, in this period, and that it was formerly grassland.

### 5. CONCLUSION

There was considerable potential for remains of a medieval date to be disturbed during groundwork on site, however, the area excavated has presumably lain vacant and undisturbed for a long period of time, which can be seen in subsoil deposits, unaffected by any historical or modern activity.

### 6. BIBLIOGRAPHY

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**Illus 3**

*Excavated foundations – East end of site*



## APPENDICES

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### Appendix 1 Site registers

#### Appendix 1.1 Context register

Context	Description	Dimensions
001	Dark brown silt topsoil	D 0–0.3m
002	Light brown clay subsoil	D 0.3–0.55m
003	Bright red clay natural	0.55–0.8m

#### Appendix 1.2 Photographic register

Shot	C/S	B/W	Dig.	Direction	Description
1	1	1	01	–	ID shot
2	2	2	02	S	Stratigraphy (south dining room trench)
3	3	3	03	S	Stratigraphy (south dining room trench)
4	4	4	04	E	General site shot
5	5	5	05	E	Shot of hall sitting room trench to south
6	6	6	06	N	Shot of dining room-hall internal wall trench
7	7	7	07	N	Shot of east trench with chimney area
8	8	8	08	W	General site working shot
9	9	9	09	W	General site working shot
10	10	10	10	SW	General shot of finished site foundations



## Appendix 2 Herefordshire Contractors Report Recording Form

### Contractors Report Recording Form



<b>Report Name and Title</b>	New Inn Car Park, Market Square, Pembridge: Archaeological Watching Brief		
<b>Contractors Name and Address</b>	Headland Archaeology (UK) Ltd, Unit 1 Premier Business Park, Faraday Road, Hereford HR4 9NZ		
<b>Site Name</b>	New Inn Car Park		
<b>Grid Reference (8 fig)</b>	SO 38974 58059	<b>Planning application no.</b>	N121953/F
<b>SMR number/s of site</b>	EHE2049		
<b>Date of Field Work</b>	3 <sup>rd</sup> October 2012		
<b>Date of Report</b>	26/10/12		
	<b>NUMBER AND TYPE OF FINDS</b>		
<b>Pottery</b>	<b>Period</b>	<b>Number of sherds</b>	
<b>Other</b>	<b>Period</b>	<b>Quantity</b>	
	<b>NUMBER AND TYPE OF SAMPLES COLLECTED</b>		
<b>Sieving for charred plant remains</b>	<i>No of Features sampled</i> <i>No of buckets</i>		
<b>C14/scientific dates</b>	<i>No and Type</i> <i>Result</i>		
<b>Pollen</b>	<i>No of Columns/spot samples</i> <i>Name of pollen specialist</i>		
<b>Bone</b>	<i>Number of buckets coarse sieved for bone</i> <i>Quantity Recovered</i> <span style="float:right"><i>Period</i></span>		
<b>Insect</b>	<i>No of Columns/spot samples</i> <i>Name of insect specialist</i>		
<b>Other</b>	<i>Type and specialist</i>		
<b>Summary of the report</b>	Headland Archaeology (UK) Ltd. was commissioned by GRW Property Ltd. to carry out a watching brief during groundwork associated with the construction of a new dwelling on the site. No deposits or finds of archaeological significance were observed during the work.		