

PGLS/01



ELECTRICITY CABLE INSTALLATION, PRIORY GARDENS, LUDLOW

Archaeological Watching Brief

commissioned by Western Power Distribution Ltd

September 2014

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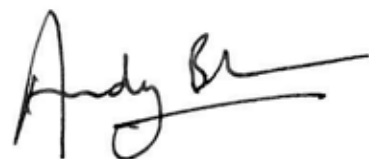
September 2014

project info

HA JOB NO. PGLS/01
HAS NO. 1051
NGR SO 51642 74587
LOCAL AUTHORITY Shropshire County Council
OASIS REF. headland3-182617

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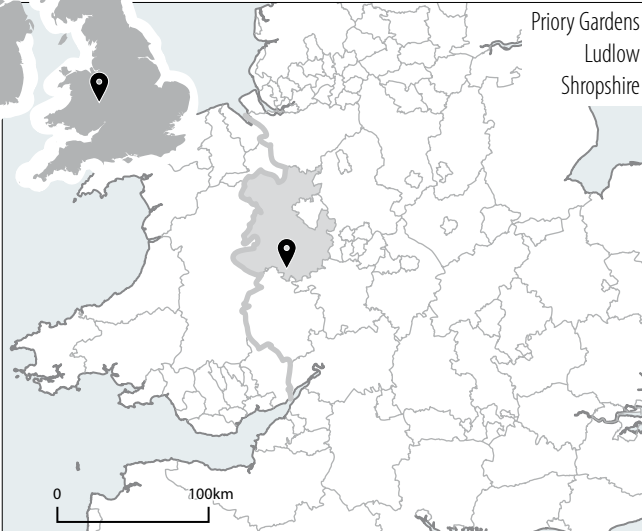
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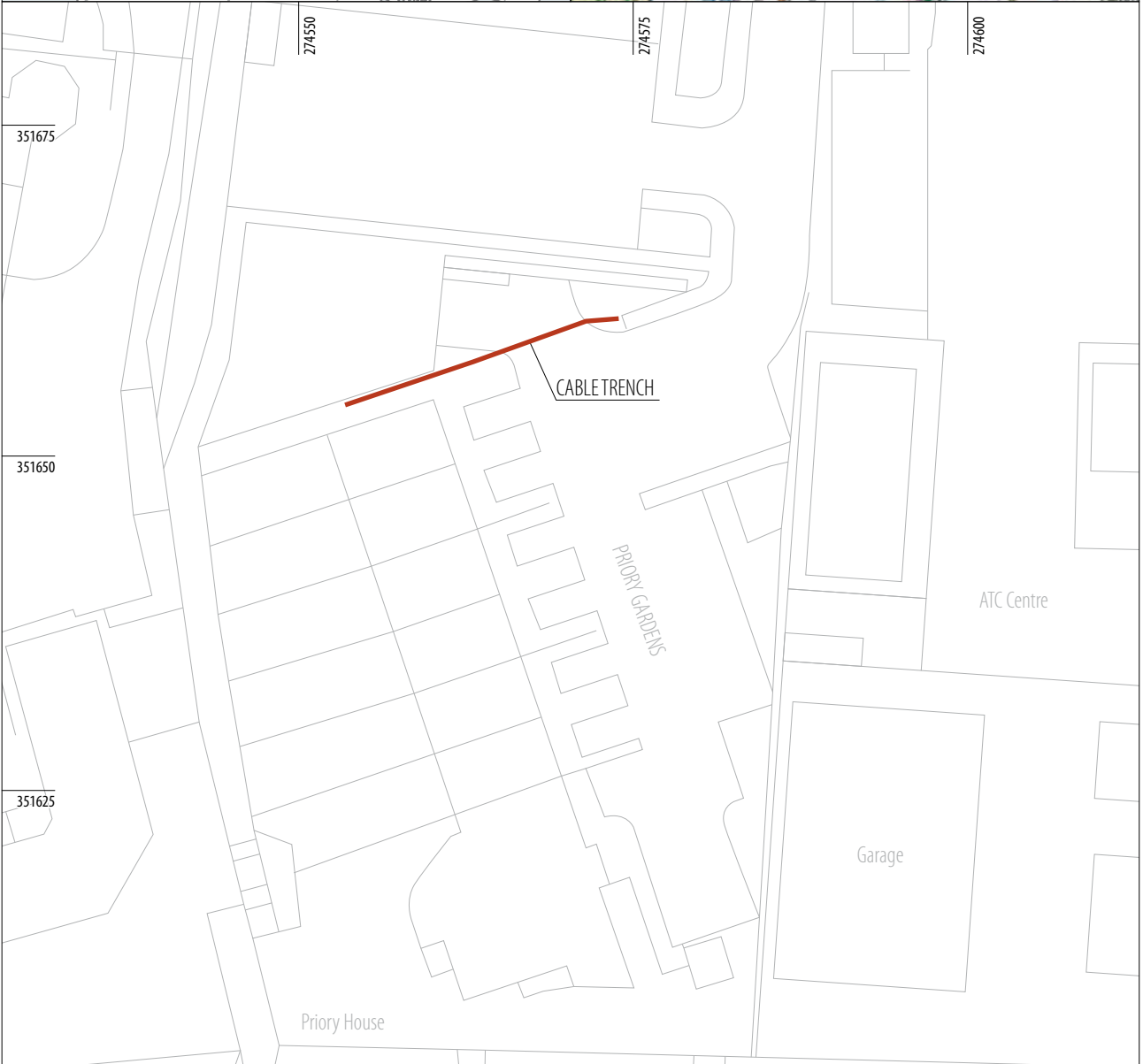
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Priory Gardens
Ludlow
Shropshire



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scale 1:500 @ A4



0



25m

ILLUS 1
Site location

ELECTRICITY CABLE INSTALLATION, PRIORY GARDENS, LUDLOW

Archaeological Watching Brief

Headland Archaeology (UK) Ltd was commissioned to undertake a watching brief at Priory Gardens, Ludlow during the installation of an underground high voltage electricity cable. The site is located within the grounds of a well preserved medieval friary and is a scheduled monument (SAM1021354). On this occasion no archaeological remains were observed. Geological deposits were identified at a depth of 0.4m below ground level beneath a deposit of made ground. Truncation of the former ground surface appears to have taken place during the modern period.

1 INTRODUCTION

Headland Archaeology (UK) Ltd was commissioned to undertake a watching brief during the installation of a high voltage electricity cable at Priory Gardens, Ludlow (illus 1). The site is a scheduled ancient monument (SAM 1021354) and is currently a hard surfaced area adjacent to a residential building. Appropriate documents were submitted for the excavations, consent was given to undertake the works, and a method was devised sympathetic to the sites designated status (Mayes 2014). Fieldwork took place on 12th May 2014.

The local geology is a mudstone of the Temeside Mudstone Formation.

part of the site. Medieval deposits and structural remains were discovered at a minimum depth of 1.10m from the present ground surface and the 1861 plan was tested and found to be accurate. In 2004 limited excavation south of the cloister revealed the well-preserved remains of two stone walls about 1.30m below the present day ground surface confirming that extensive sub-surface remains survive within the scheduled area.

The earliest large scale OS map of the area, published in 1875, shows the remains of two rectangular fishponds approximately 100m south of the claustral buildings. They were fed by a stream flowing from the north, running immediately to the east of the claustral buildings.

2 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

The monument includes the buried remains of an Augustinian friary, established in the mid-13th century and dissolved during the 16th century. The buildings were robbed of stone sometime after 1572 and the final standing structures were pulled down in 1817. An architect surveyed the site in 1861 before the remains were reburied ahead of the construction of a cattle market over the site. Excavations undertaken in 1993 found the remains of the friary buildings indicating that the associated deposits survive well, despite the later building works which also included a school on

3 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

The objectives of the archaeological watching brief were:

- to ensure the excavation and recording of any archaeological remains that would be disturbed by the excavation of the service trench;
- to produce and deposit a satisfactory archive and disseminate the results of the work via grey-literature reporting and publication as appropriate.



ILLUS 2

SE facing view of section showing extent of modern disturbance

4 METHOD

The main contractor mechanically excavated deposits as necessary for the installation of the electricity supply whilst being monitored by an archaeologist. No work was undertaken within the scheduled area which would have resulted in damage to the monument outside of the work authorised in the consent.

Archaeological monitoring of the work was undertaken on 10th June 2014.

The archaeologist recorded the stratigraphic sequence once deposits had been removed to the depth sufficient for the works. Sufficient time was allowed prior to continuing excavation works for the archaeologist to make adequate records.

All recording was undertaken on pro forma record cards. Digital photographs on a 7.2mp camera were taken.

5 RESULTS

A service trench measuring 21m in length and 1.30m in width was excavated to a depth of 1.20m. The deposits excavated to enable the electricity cable to be installed comprised modern made ground and geological deposits. A disturbed layer (c.0.40m in depth) consisted of the current slabbed surface (101), mixed stone hardcore

beneath it (102) and a number of modern service pipes (Illus 2). The geological horizon was observed at a depth of 0.40m below ground level and comprised a creamy white solid bedrock.

6 DISCUSSION

No archaeology was observed during this scheme of work despite the excavation reaching the geological horizon. The shallow depth of (modern) overburden suggests that truncation has taken place in this part of the site. It is possible that this truncation relates to groundworks associated with the construction of the housing estate adjacent to the gardens.

7 BIBLIOGRAPHY

SAM 1021354 *The National Heritage List for England*, English Heritage, <<http://list.english-heritage.org.uk/resultsingle.aspx?uid=1021354>>, accessed June 2014.

Mayes, S 2014 *Priory Gardens, Ludlow, Electricity Cable Installation: Written Scheme of Investigation for Archaeological Watching Brief*, Headland Archaeology (UK) Ltd. Project PGSL.

8 APPENDICES

APPENDIX 1 SITE REGISTERS

Context register

Context	Description	Depth (below ground level)
101	Modern paving slabs. Covers whole of area.	0.00–0.04m
102	Made ground. Gravel and stone compacted hardcore with a clear interface. Several services cut through this deposit.	0.04–0.40m
103	Natural. Creamy white solid bedrock.	0.40–1.20m



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