LCLS/01

# LAND ADJACENT TO LUDLOW CASTLE

## Watching Brief

commissioned by Western Power Distribution Ltd

September 2014

HEADLAND ARCHAEOLOGY

REGISTERED ORGANISATION IfA

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project info

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project team

| | |
|---|---|
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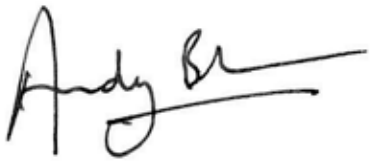



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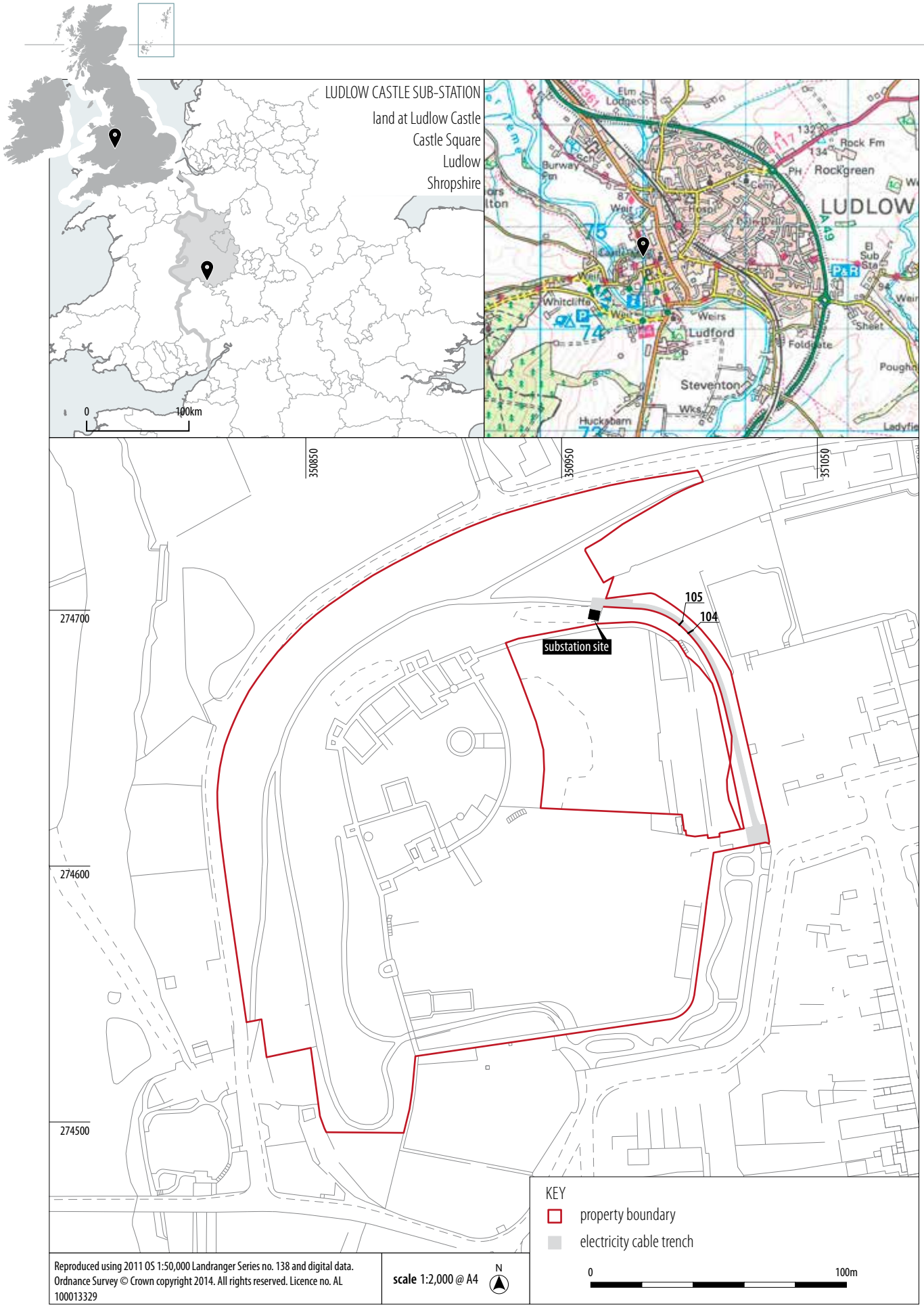
# CONTENTS

# LIST OF ILLUSTRATIONS




ILLUS 1

Site location

# LAND ADJACENT TO LUDLOW CASTLE

## Watching Brief

**Headland Archaeology (UK) Ltd was commisssioned by Western Power Ltd to undertake a watching brief during the installation of an electricity cable and substation at Ludlow Castle. The cable was installed beneath the public footpath known as 'Castle Walk'. No archaeological remains relating to the medieval castle were discovered but evidence of a late 17th century tree lined avenue following the line of the current footpath was observed.**

## 1 INTRODUCTION

Headland Archaeology (UK) Ltd was commissioned to undertake a watching brief at Ludlow Castle, Shropshire, during the installation of an electricity cable beneath the footpath forming the 'Castle Walk' around the north-eastern side of the curtain wall (illus 1). The footpath slopes downhill to the north and curves to the west as it follows the curtain wall round. The site is adjacent to the curtain wall of Ludlow Castle (SM Ref: 1004778) and in close proximity to the medieval town walls (SM Ref: 1006278). Both of these monuments are scheduled, however, the proposed cable trench does not encroach into either of the scheduled areas. The client sought advice from both English Heritage and the Historic Environment Team at Shropshire Council regarding the archaeological impact of the works. The result was a request by the archaeological advisor to Shropshire Council, Mick Kruppa, for an archaeological watching brief during any ground-breaking activity associated with the works. Work was undertaken in accordance with a written scheme of investigation (Craddock-Bennett, 2014) agreed in advance of works by the archaeological advisor.

The underlying geology of the site is a Siltstone of a Whitcliffe Formation.

## 2 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

The origins of Ludlow Castle are believed to relate to the securing of the Marches under Norman rule in the years immediately post-dating the conquest. The earliest development of the castle is linked to Walter de Lacy. It was de Lacy's sons, Roger and then Hugh who built the earliest surviving parts of the castle that are present today. The de Lacy family retained the lordship until the end of the 13th century.

Ludlow's medieval town walls were constructed between 1233 and c1304, thus post-dating the 12th century medieval planned town. The proposed excavations are located close to a point where the town walls would have intersected with the curtain wall of the castle. The castle had a dry ditch running along its eastern and southern edge, as much defensive as it was a barrier to separate the castle from the burgeoning market town, and access was via wooden bridges over the ditch (Shoesmith and Johnson, 2001).

The castle was abandoned after a siege during the Civil War and fell into disrepair. It became a well loved tourist attraction as early as the 18th century and adjustments were made to castle environs to show off the castle. A map of 1811 clearly shows the current route of the

ILLUS 2

View from substation looking E

ILLUS 3

Linear [105]

# 3 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

The objectives of the archaeological scheme of works 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.

# 4 METHOD

The main contractor mechanically excavated deposits as necessary for the installation of the electricity supply. The excavated trench measured 1.0m in width and did not exceed 0.8m in depth. An area measuring 4.0m x 3.0m was stripped to a depth of approximately 0.6m to accommodate the substation at the north end of the cable trench. These works were monitored by an archaeologist who was permitted sufficient time to record the stratigraphic sequence once deposits had been removed to the depth sufficient for the electricity cable.

Fieldwork started on 7th May 2014 and finished on 23rd May 2014.

Due to the site being publically accessible and along a well used footpath reasonable measures were taken to ensure public safety during these works.

All recording was undertaken on pro forma record cards. 35mm colour and black-and-white prints were taken with a graduated metric scale clearly visible. Digital photographs on a 7.2mp camera were taken for illustrative purposes only and will not form a part of the site archive.

# 5 RESULTS

At its southern extent the cable trench was excavated through a small car park adjacent to the castle's main entrance before continuing north along 'Castle Walk'. The car park was covered in a layer of tarmac (112) which was around 0.07m deep whilst the footpath was made up of a hard

'Castle Walk' footpath being lined with trees suggesting adaptations to the grounds were taking place as early as the late 18th century (Shoesmith and Johnson, 2001).

ILLUS 4
Section of made up ground beneath car park


standing. The bedrock (101) was encountered at a shallower depth at the northern end of the trench (**Illus 2**), along the downward slope of the hill, than in the car park where it was not observed. The substation base at the north of the trench was excavated through bedrock and is located behind a wall abutting the curtain wall and running off at right angles.

Deposits (100, 103, 110, 111) represent layers of modern made up ground directly beneath the pathway and car park. Deposit (100) was a mid red brown sandy loam with abundant small-large angular stones and modern brick and glass inclusions whilst (103) comprised a light pink-brown silt sand with small-large angular stones and no inclusions. Both deposits measured 0.14m deep in depth and were beneath the footpath. Deposit (110) was a layer of mid blueish grey construction gravel and (111) is a light grey tarmac and concrete layer. Both extend across the car park near the main entrance (roughly 10m squared) and have a depth between 0.13–0.20m.

Deposits (102 and 108) represent a re-landscaping event which occurred along the footpath after the 18th century. Deposit (102) is a yellow-grey sand with abundant small-large angular stones. Deposit (107) is an imported dark white-grey silt sand with many small-large angular stones. A small amount of 18th-19th century pot sherds were found along with many mortar deposits which were attached to the stones. This event is likely to have occured in the post-medieval- modern period during the construction of the footpath. Deposits (109 and 113) are the same levelling event which the car park now sits upon (**Illus 4**). The layer was 0.50m deep and made of post-medieval building rubble and sand containing bricks, chalk, charcoal, pottery, clay pipe, glass and oyster shell. This depsit was not bottomed and it is possible that older archaeological remains survive underneath it.

Two linear features were observed running beneath the footpath. Linear [105] (**Illus 3**) had steep sides and a sharp break of slope, and was filled by (106), a dark brown/grey silty loam with a moderate distribution of small-medium angular stones and rare inclusions of 18th-19th century ceramics. The linear is 0.90m wide and 0.40m deep, although the base was not reached at this time. Linear [104] had gently sloping sides and a smooth break of slope. The base was not observed during this investigation. Linear [104] is filled by (107), a light brown pink clay with rare pottery inclusions (18th–19th century in date). The function of the feature could not be established.

# 6 DISCUSSION

No archaeological remains pre-dating the post-medieval period were observed during the groundworks. Major re-landscaping of the eastern and northern areas in the 19th century to allow for the footpath and then in the 20th century to allow for the car park to be constructed have either removed or concealed any surviving remains. Evidence for activity relating to the post-medieval and modern period has been found, with the possible discovery of part of an avenue of trees and a wall added to the curtain wall of the castle. This wall first appears on the 1811 map and is assumed to be a part of the tree lined avenue, constructed in 1771–2 (Shoesmith and Johnson, 2001), which follows the present day footpath around the castle. It may have been added to give the impression that the curtain wall joined the town buildings at this point, no evidence for the wall completely intersecting the footpath was found and was probably added to enhance the romanticism of the place for the tourists, or to bolster the curtain wall of the abandoned castle.

Out of the two linears only [105] contained abundant tree roots and is likely to represent the remains of the tree lined avenue represented on the 1811 plan of the castle. This tree line was removed in 1919 as some had fallen down and they were deemed unsafe for the general

public (Shoesmith and Johnson, 2001). The linear [104] did not display similar characteristics but may also be a part of this avenue.

Immediately to the east of the substation site there is evidence for the increasing of the ground level through the addition of building rubble to level the site out. This was done as part of the landscaping work to fill in the dry ditch which ran around the east and south of the castle. It is possible that archaeological deposits could be buried beneath this layer but it is not known to what depth this overburden extends to.

# 7 BIBLIOGRAPHY

Craddock-Bennett, L 2014 ***Land adjacent to Ludlow Castle Electricity Cable Installation: Written scheme of investigation for archaeological watching brief.*** Headland Archaeology (UK) Ltd. Project LCLS.

Shoesmith, R & Johnson, A (eds) 2000 ***Ludlow Castle: Its history and buildings.*** Little Logaston :Logaston Press.

# 8 APPENDICES

## APPENDIX 1 SITE REGISTERS

### Context register

| Context | Description |
|---|---|
| 100 | Modern made up ground underneath the road. Mid red brown sandy loam with abundant small-large angular stones. Brick, modern glass, and bottle fragments. Depth: 0.14. |
| 101 | Natural bedrock. |
| 102 | Made up ground used to consolidate the slope at the north end of the castle to accomodate the public footpath. Mid yellow-grey sand with abundant small-large angular stones. No finds were recovered from this layer. |
| 103 | Made up ground underneath the path. Light pink-brown silt sand with small-large angular stones. No inclusions within the deposit. |
| 104 | Linear in plan with gently sloping sides, and a smooth break of slope. The base was not observed. Post-medieval-modern feature, function unknown. |
| 105 | Cut of linear. Filled by (106). Linear in plan with steep sides and a sharp break of slope. Base not excavated. Contains tree roots and represents a post-medieval or modern hedgerow. Width:0.90, Depth:0.40 (base not reached). |
| 106 | Fill of [105]. Dark brown grey silty loam with small-medium angular stones (slightly stony). Rare inclusions of 18th-18th century ceramic, abundant tree roots. Width:0.90, Depth:0.40 (base not reached). |
| 107 | Light brown pink clay with rare pottery inclusions (18th-19th century in date). Possibly associated with re-landscaping works outside the outer bailey wall to the east. |
| 108 | Formed during the relandscaping work to the east around the outer bailey. Imported material. Dark white-grey silt sand with many small-large angular stones. Rare pot sherds and many mortar fragments were attched to the stones. Depth:0.65 |
| 109 | Made up ground. Building rubble and sand. Contains bricks, chalk and charcoal. Same as (113). Modern levelling event. Lenght:+1.50, Width:+0.50, Depth:+0.40. |
| 110 | Made up ground underneath road. Mid blueish grey construction gravel. Lenght:+1.50, Width:+0.50, Depth:0.20. |
| 111 | Made up ground underneath road surface. Extends across car park, roughly 10m squared. Light grey tarmac and concrete. Length: +1.50, Width:+0.50, Depth:0.13. |
| 112 | Modern tarmac road surface with gravel on top. Depth:0.07m |
| 113 | Same as (109). Extends over the car park area. Comprises building rubble, pottery, clay pipe, glass and oyster shell. Depth:0.50m |

### Photographic register

| Photo | B+W | Colour | Digital | Direction facing | Description |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | - | ID Shot |
| 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 | E | Start of the trench at north side-bedrock observed |
| 3 | 3 | 3 | 3 | S | North facing section at north end of trench |
| 4 | 4 | 4 | 4 | E | Trench shot – north section |
| 5 | 5 | 5 | 5 | E | Shot along trench |
| 6 | - | - | 6 | S | North facing section with (100, 101) |
| 7 | - | - | 7 | S | North facing section with (100, 101, 102) |
| 8 | - | - | 8 | SW | North-east facing section with (100, 103, 104) |
| 9 | - | - | 9 | NE | Trench shot |
| 10 | - | - | 10 | SW | North-east facing section with (104, 103) |
| 11 | 6 | 6 | 11 | E | [105] Linear |
| 12 | 7 | 7 | 12 | W | East facing section with (108) |
| 13 | 8 | 8 | 13 | W | East facing section with (108) |
| 14 | 9 | 9 | 14 | W | East facing section with (108) |
| 15 | - | - | 15 | S | Area of substation at North side of bailey wall |
| 16 | - | - | 16 | S | Area of substation at North side of bailey wall |
| 17 | - | - | 17 | S | Area of substation at North side of bailey wall |
| 18 | 10 | 10 | 18 | W | East facing section with (109,110,111,112) |
| 19 | 11 | 11 | 19 | E | West facing section |
| 20 | - | - | 20 | E | Live and unused electricity cables |
| 21 | - | - | 21 | S | Trench end south |
| 22 | 12 | 12 | 22 | SE | North-west facing section |
| 23 | - | - | 23 | | |
| 24 | 13 | 13 | 24 | | Section and detail of pit/trench near main entrance |
| 25 | - | - | 25 | | Section and detail of pit/trench near main entrance |

### Drawing register

| Drawing | Scale | Plan or Section | Description |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | 1:50 | P | Plan of first 1.20m of cable trench |
| 2 | NTS | P | Skecth plan of trench |
| 3 | 1:50 | S | North facing section |
| 4 | 1:50 | S | East facing section |
| 5 | 1:10 | S | East facing section |

| Drawing | Scale | Plan or Section | Description |
|---|---|---|---|
| 6 | 1:50 | P | Sketch plan of trench 122-129m |
| 7 | 1:10 | S | West facing section (112,111,110,113) |
| 8 | 1:10 | S | West facing section (112,111,110,113) |
| 9 | 1:10 | S | South-east facing section (112,111,110,113) |

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