

WCSH/01



HEREFORD CATHEDRAL JUNIOR SCHOOL 28 CASTLE STREET, HEREFORD

Wall Repairs

commissioned by Hereford Cathedral School

P140894/L

November 2014

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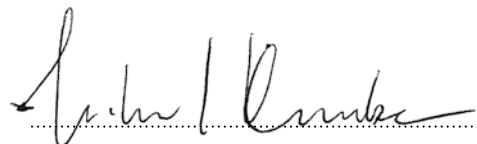
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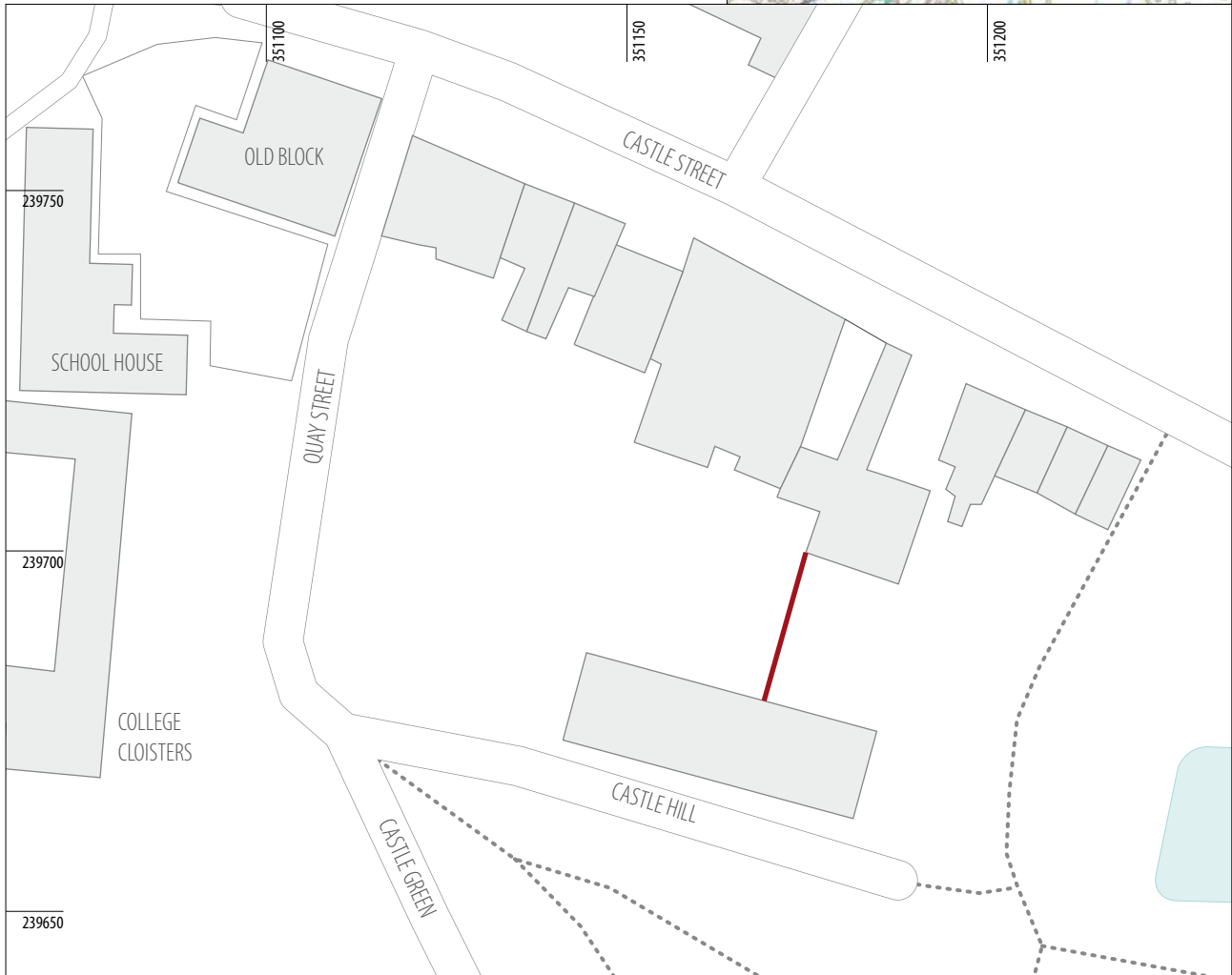
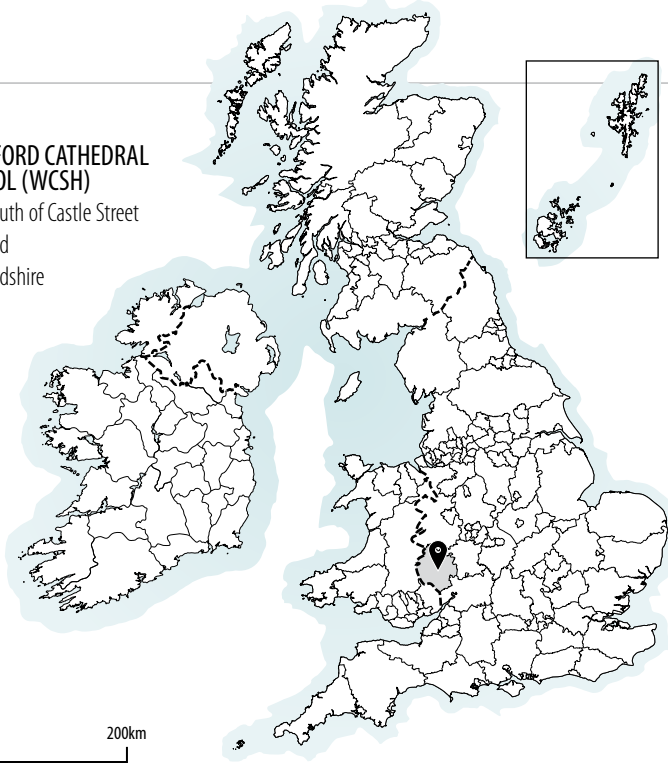
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HEREFORD CATHEDRAL SCHOOL (WCSH)

land south of Castle Street
Hereford
Herefordshire

0 200km



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KEY

 location of replacement wall

0 50m
scale 1:1,000 @ A4



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ILLUS 1

Site location

HEREFORD CATHEDRAL JUNIOR SCHOOL 28 CASTLE STREET, HEREFORD

Wall Repairs

An archaeological watching brief was undertaken by Headland Archaeology Ltd during the excavation of wall footings within the grounds of Hereford Cathedral Junior School, 28 Castle Street, Hereford. The results indicate the presence of a post-medieval build-up of garden soil and modern deposits up to 0.85m deep which may potentially seal older archaeological deposits beneath. No archaeological features or deposits were encountered during the watching brief.

1 INTRODUCTION

An archaeological watching brief was undertaken by Headland Archaeology Ltd during the excavation of wall footings within the grounds of Hereford Cathedral Junior School, 28 Castle Street, Hereford (**Illus 1**). The project site comprises a stretch of extant garden wall, to the south of the building, aligned in a SSW – NNE orientation, and is approximately 25m in length. The existing garden wall was collapsing and needed to be rebuilt. A new wall is to be constructed on the same line as the former garden wall.

On consideration of a listed building consent application (P140894/L) for the replacement of the boundary wall, Herefordshire Archaeology advised that the location of the proposed development was likely to contain at risk heritage assets with archaeological interest, in this case buried archaeological remains. The wall footings fall within the Hereford Area of Archaeological Importance therefore an archaeological condition was advised, requiring archaeological recording of the works as mitigation.

1.1 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

The site is located within the statutorily designated Hereford Area of Archaeological Importance (Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Area Act 1979).

Immediately to the south of the proposed works is the site of Hereford Castle. The motte, which is recorded as present on Taylors Map of 1757 (**Illus 2**) was subsequently flattened and the former site of the castle landscaped. The moat which surrounded the motte was present immediately to the south of the site and is now occupied by a modern classroom built for the Hereford Cathedral Junior School.

Cathedral School buildings are located to the north and are of post-medieval origin. These buildings are indicated on Taylors Map (1757), including the wall which is being replaced during these works.

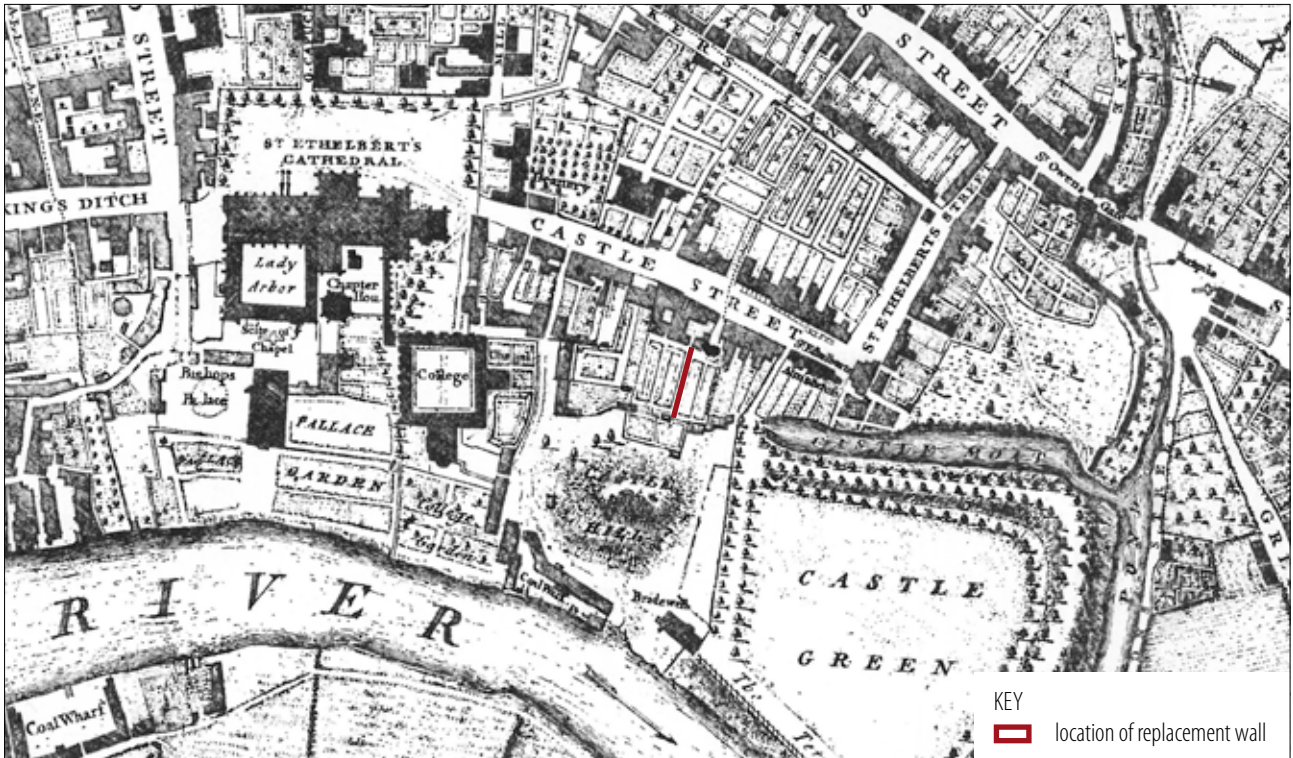
The location of the proposed works is at a noticeably higher level than the site of the former motte to the south. It would appear that the site is situated on a man-made terrace formed in the 18th century as part of landscaping associated with houses to the north.

2 METHOD

The watching brief was undertaken during three site visits carried out during the excavation of footings for the replacement wall. The proposal involved the removal of the collapsing garden wall, and the construction of a new wall along the same line. To accommodate the replacement wall the existing foundation trench was widened from 0.36m to 0.60m. The depth of the trench measured approximately 0.85m from the surface of the tarmac playground to the east of the wall.

Excavations were undertaken by the main contractor using a mini digger to excavate the southern part of the wall. The northern segment of the wall which was in close proximity to the present upstanding buildings was taken down by hand.

All recording followed IfA Standards and Guidance. All contexts were given unique numbers. Recording was undertaken on pro forma record cards that conform to the accepted archaeological norms. 35mm colour transparencies and black-and-white prints were taken; a graduated metric scale was clearly visible. Digital photographs on



ILLUS 2
Taylors map (1757) showing location of wall

a 7.2mp camera were taken for illustrative purposes only and will not form a part of the site archive. A site plan of the area excavated was drawn on pro-forma record sheets at 1:100, with sections drawn at 1:20.



ILLUS 3
Wall footings looking S

3 RESULTS

The wall separated two areas within the grounds of the Cathedral School Junior School. The area to the east of the wall was a tarmac surface currently in use as a playground. A garden set to lawn and flower beds was present to the west of the wall and was approximately 0.50m lower than the playground (Illus 3).

The stratigraphy was generally consistent across the site. In the west facing section a tarmac surface [100] was observed, 0.06m in thickness, and was present across the entire eastern extent of the site. Below this was a dark grey/brown loamy silt [101], 0.43m in thickness, which contained fragments of tarmac and modern pottery suggesting a deposit of made up ground associated with the formation of [100]. The earliest deposit encountered within the western facing section was a mid grey/brown loamy silt [102], measuring 0.43m in depth, containing frequent mortar inclusions. The deposit [102] may be post-medieval soil build up associated with the terraced gardens that were constructed in the 18th century.

In the east facing section an upper light grey brown silt topsoil deposit containing occasional modern brick inclusions [103] measured 0.16m in depth. This overlay [104] a deposit similar to [102], which again may represent the continuation of material associated with the formation of the terraced gardens in the 18th century.

At the southern extent of the footing trench the ground was soft due to root activity from nearby plants. Excavation proceeded to a depth of 1.2m until solid ground was reached. Deposit [105], a mid

brown silt with no apparent inclusions was observed in both east and west facing sections, at a depth of 1.0–1.2m. No dating evidence was obtained from [105].

4 DISCUSSION

No archaeological features or deposits were uncovered within the footing trench excavated during the watching brief. Deposits [102, 104 and 105] most likely represent a post medieval topsoil deposit associated with the creation of a terraced garden on this site in the 18th century. Deposits [100, 101 & 103] relate to modern activity and the creation of made up ground for the playground and flower beds. The deposits observed in section on the east and west sides of the trench are therefore likely related to the post-medieval/modern activity within the area of 28 Castle Street.

5 CONCLUSION

Deposits observed during the replacement of the boundary wall at Hereford Cathedral Junior School related to post-medieval landscaping of the site. No significant archaeological deposits were identified, however such deposits may exist at a greater depth than that reached by the current excavations.

6 BIBLIOGRAPHY

Kimber, M 2014 *Wall Replacement Works at Hereford Cathedral Junior School: Written Scheme of Investigation for Archaeological Watching Brief*. Hereford, Headland Archaeology Ltd.



7 APPENDICES

APPENDIX 1 SITE REGISTERS

Trench register

Trench	Orientation	Length (m)	Width (m)	Av. depth (m)
1	N-S	c.21	0.6	0.85

Context	Context description	Depth of deposit (mBGL)
100	Tarmac surface (Observed in W facing section)	0.00–0.06
101	Dark grey brown loamy silt with occasional small tarmac fragment inclusions and modern flower pot sherds. Made up ground associated with the installation of a tarmac surface [100]. (observed in W facing section).	0.06–0.49
102	Mid grey brown loamy silt with frequent mortar inclusions. Possible post-medieval soil build up. (Observed in W facing section).	0.49+
103	Topsoil of flower bed. Light grey brown silt with occasional modern small brick inclusions (observed in E facing section).	0.00–0.16
104	Same as [102]. (observed in E facing section).	0.16+
105	Mid brown silt-no apparent inclusions. Unable to investigate in detail due to trench depth. (observed in E facing section)	1.00–1.20+

The width of the previous post-medieval footing trench was widened from 0.36m to 0.60m for the construction of a new wall. At the east side of the wall is a tarmac playground, while at the west side is a garden with flower beds. The garden area is 0.50m below the level of the tarmac playground on the east side of the wall. This indicated a significant level of build up.

Photographic register

Photo	C/S	B&W	Digital	Direction facing	Description
1	36	1	01	–	ID shot
2	–	–	02	S	General shot of demolished wall to south
3	–	–	03	NW	General shot of demolished wall to north
4	–	–	04	S	Area of wall replacement excavations
5	35	2	05	E	W facing section of wall footing-tarmac/playground side
6	34	3	06	S	Working shot
7	–	–	07	SE	Working shot with leaking pipe in W facing section
8	33	4	08	W	E facing section-garden side of wall footing
9	32	5	09	E	W facing section-garden side of wall footing
10	–	–	10	E	W facing section with pipe and buttress foundation
11	31	6	11	S	Trench shot c.11m excavated
12	30	7	12	SE	Working shot-trench dug on 2/8/14
13	29	8	13	SE	Exposed section to north of steps
14	28	9	14	NE	Northern extent of foundation trench

Photo	C/S	B&W	Digital	Direction facing	Description
15	27	10	15	N	Northern extent of foundation trench
16	–	–	16	E	Cleaned section immediately to north of steps.
17	–	–	17	NE	Cleaned section immediately to north of steps.

Drawing register

Drawing	Scale	Plan/Section	Description
1	1:100	Plan	Plan of wall foundation footing
2	1:20	Section	W facing section of footing
3	1:20	Section	E facing section of footing



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