

CALS/01



CRAVEN ARMS TO LUDLOW ELECTRICITY CABLE INSTALLATION

Archaeological Watching Brief

commissioned by Western Power Distribution

February 2015

CRAVEN ARMS TO LUDLOW ELECTRICITY CABLE INSTALLATION

Archaeological Watching Brief

commissioned by Western Power Distribution

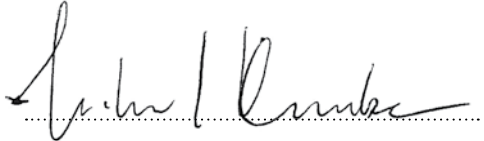
February 2015

project info

HA JOB NO. CALS/01
HAS NO. 1081
NGR SO 43571 82869 to SO 53274 74492
LOCAL AUTHORITY Shropshire County Council
OASIS REF. headland3-194853

project team

PROJECT MANAGER Mike Kimber
AUTHOR Luke Craddock-Bennett
FIELDWORK Luke Craddock-Bennett, Robert Blackburn,
Simon Mayes, Simon Sworn,
GRAPHICS Anna Sztromwasser, Caroline Norrman
APPROVED BY Mike Kimber – Project Manager



© 2015 by Headland Archaeology (UK) Ltd

MIDLANDS & WEST

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

01432 364 901
midlandsandwest@headlandarchaeology.com

www.headlandarchaeology.com





CONTENTS

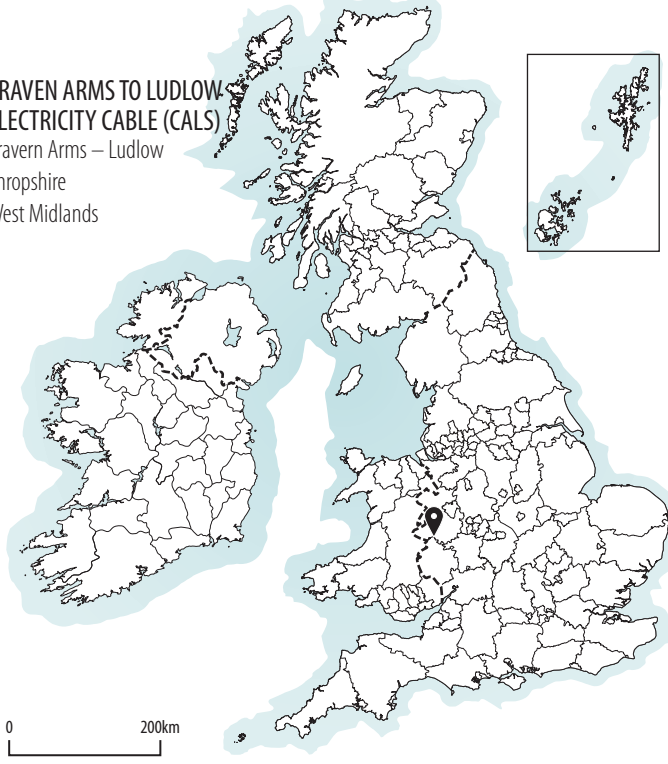
1	INTRODUCTION	1
	1.1 THE CABLE ROUTE	1
	1.2 AREAS SUBJECT TO ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING	1
2	AIMS	3
3	METHOD	3
4	RESULTS	4
	4.1 AREA 1	4
	4.2 AREA 2	4
	4.3 AREA 3	4
	4.4 AREA 4	5
	4.5 AREA 5	5
5	CONCLUSION	5
6	BIBLIOGRAPHY	6
7	APPENDICES	7
	APPENDIX 1 CONTEXT REGISTER	7

LIST OF ILLUSTRATIONS



ILLUS 1		V
	Site location	
ILLUS 2		2
	Location of drawn/photographed sections of cable trench	
ILLUS 3		3
	Sample sections from each area	
ILLUS 4		4
	General shot, facing E, Area 1	
ILLUS 5		4
	S facing view of section, Area 2	
ILLUS 6		5
	E facing view of section, Area 3	
ILLUS 7		5
	W facing view of section, Area 4	
ILLUS 8		6
	E facing view of section, Area 5	

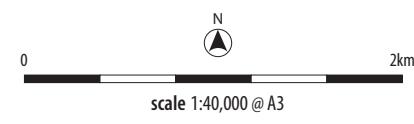


**CRAVEN ARMS TO LUDLOW
ELECTRICITY CABLE (CALs)**
Craven Arms – Ludlow
Shropshire
West Midlands



**HEADLAND
ARCHAEOLOGY**
MIDLANDS & WEST Unit 1, Premier Business Park
Faraday Road
Hereford HR4 9NZ
01432 364 901
www.headlandarchaeology.com

KEY
 monitored areas
 cable trench route



ILLUS 1
Site location

CRAVEN ARMS TO LUDLOW ELECTRICITY CABLE INSTALLATION

Archaeological Watching Brief

Headland Archaeology undertook an intermittent archaeological watching brief during the installation of a high voltage electricity cable over a 15km route between Craven Arms and Ludlow, Shropshire. Five sections of the route passed within close proximity of recorded heritage assets and these sections were subject to archaeological monitoring. No archaeological finds, deposits or features were identified during the watching brief.

1 INTRODUCTION

Headland Archaeology (UK) Ltd was commissioned by Western Power Distribution to undertake a watching brief during the installation of a 33kv underground electricity cable between Craven Arms and Ludlow (Illus 1).

Although no planning conditions were attached to this work, in line with best practice, the client sought advice from the archaeological advisor to Shropshire County Council. Western Power were advised that the route of the electricity cable passed through archaeologically sensitive areas and archaeological monitoring would be advisable. The client commissioned Headland Archaeology to undertake a rapid appraisal of the route of the electricity supply in order to identify which parts of the scheme would require archaeological monitoring.

Headland Archaeology undertook a rapid appraisal of the route using readily available sources and identified five key areas where archaeological monitoring was advisable. A written scheme of investigation (Craddock-Bennett 2014) for the archaeological monitoring was submitted to and accepted by the archaeological advisor to Shropshire County Council in May 2014.

Archaeological monitoring of the site works commenced on 11th July 2014 and was completed on 16th September 2014.

1.1 THE CABLE ROUTE

The trench excavated for the installation of the cable started from an existing sub-station located on the B4368 at the eastern extent of Craven Arms, Shropshire (NGR 343575, 282872). The cable ran

south-east across farmland for a distance of c.6km. At Langley Farm (NGR 348745, 280459), the cable route turned south to follow the line of the B4365 as far as the village of Stanton Lacy. The cable then resumed a south-eastern course across farmland before terminating at an existing sub-station on the eastern outskirts of Ludlow (NGR 353237, 274507).

The cable route measured approximately 15km in total and passed through a predominantly arable landscape. Underlying geology varied along the route and is recorded separately below for each individual monitoring area.

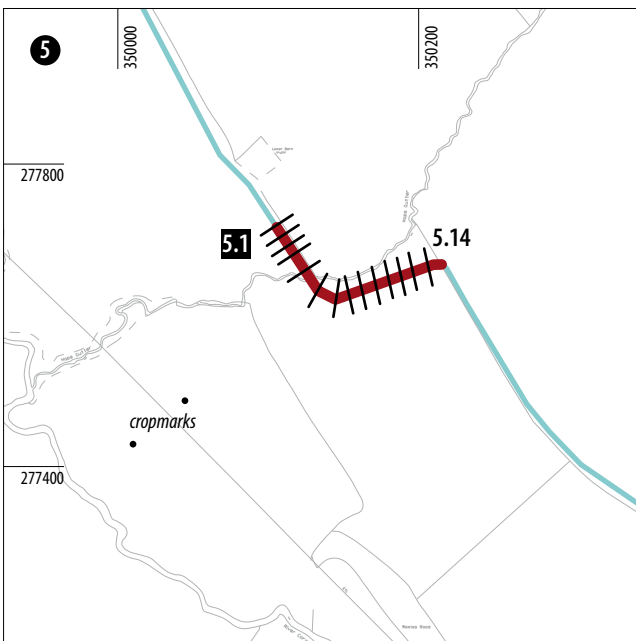
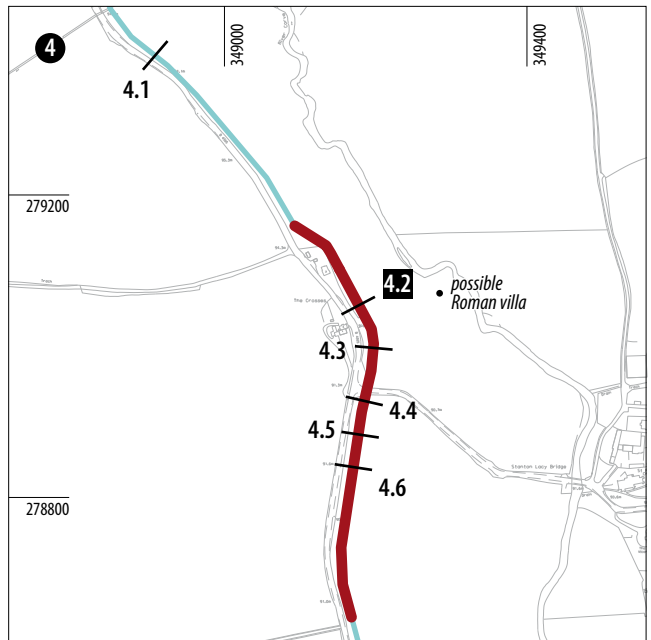
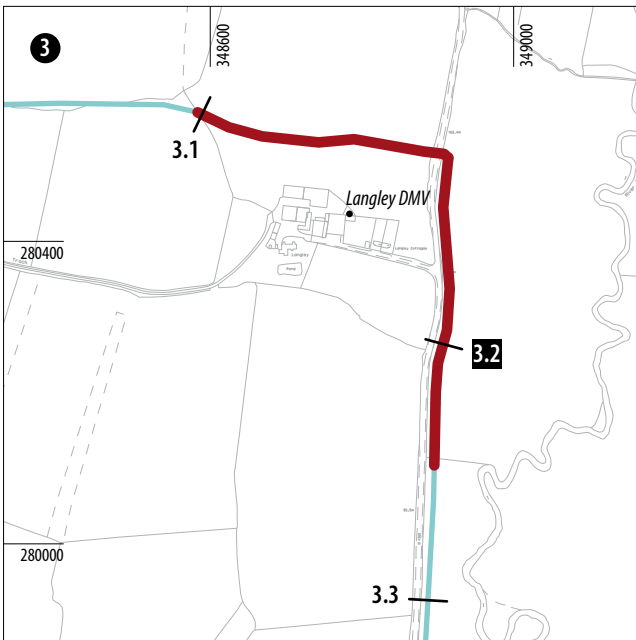
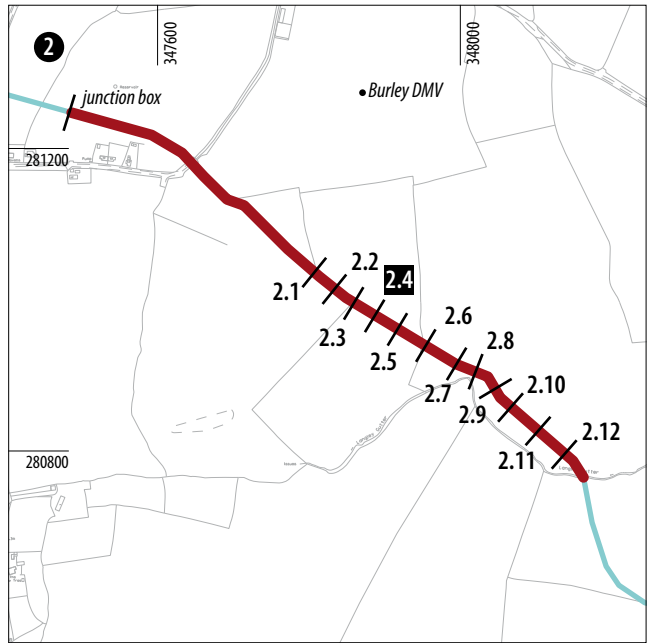
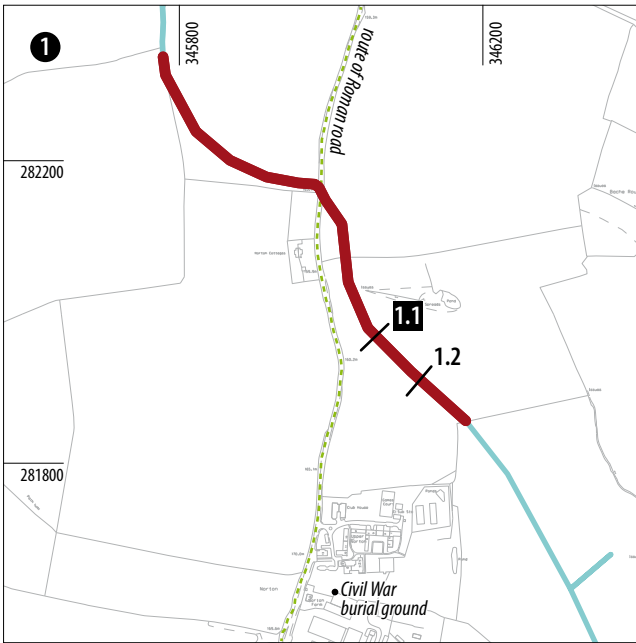
1.2 AREAS SUBJECT TO ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING

AREA 1

Location Land north of Norton Farm
NGR 345789,282303 to 346175,281856
Distance c.630m

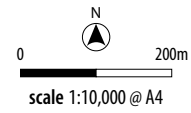
Archaeological background The route of the cable passes across the route of a possible Roman Road (Margary Route 613) formerly connecting Church Stretton to Ariconium (Weston-under-Peryard, Herefordshire). The cable route, having crossed the road from the west, runs parallel to the road for a distance of c.175m.

Underlying geology Bedrock – Siltstone of the Upper Ludlow Shales Group.
Drift – None recorded.



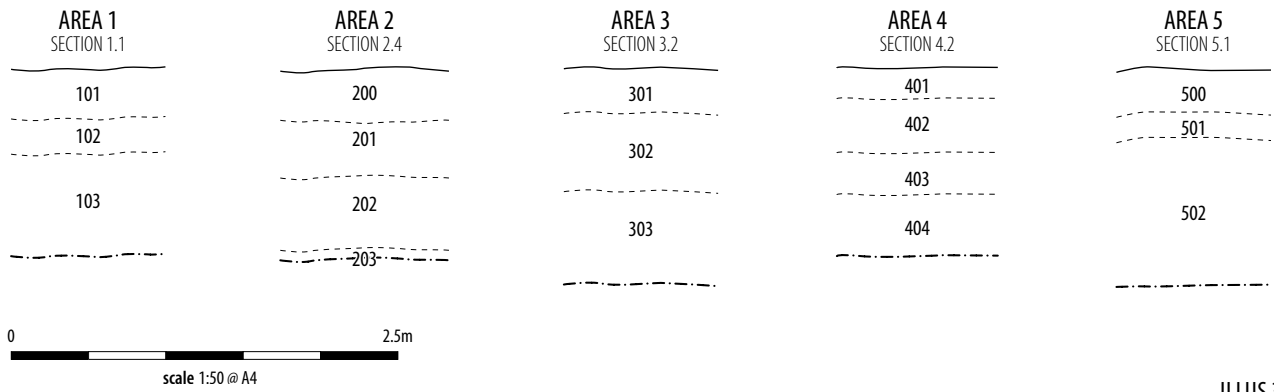
KEY

- monitored area
- cable trench route
- section



ILLUS 2

Location of drawn/photographed sections of cable trench



ILLUS 3

Sample sections from each area

AREA 2

Location Land south of Burley Farm
NGR 347596,281212 to 348169,280772
Distance c.890m

Archaeological background The cable passes immediately to the south of the Deserted Medieval Village of Burley. House platforms and associated earthworks are visible, but not on the route of the proposed cable trench.

Underlying geology Bedrock – Siltstone, Sandstone and Mudstone of the Raglan Mudstone Formation.
Drift – None recorded.

AREA 3

Location Land to north and east of Langley Farm
NGR 348596,280567 to 348916,280115
Distance c.570m

Archaeological background The cable passes to the north and east of the Deserted Medieval Village of Langley, consisting of ridge and furrow and hollow ways.

Underlying geology Bedrock – Siltstone and Mudstone of the Raglan Mudstone Formation.
Drift – Bromfield Sand and Gravel in the north and River Terrace (1) deposits to the south.

AREA 4

Location Land to the west of Stanton Lacy village
NGR 349117,279173 to 349186,278808
Distance c.360m

Archaeological background Traces of Roman masonry, fragments of flue tiles, pottery, stones and mortar and concrete of a floor were found by workmen cutting a drain immediately to the east of the cable route. These potentially represent the remains of a Roman villa.

Underlying geology Bedrock – Siltstone and Mudstone of the Raglan Mudstone Formation.
Drift – River Terrace (1) deposits.

AREA 5

Location Land to the north of Felton Farm
NGR 350202,277704 to 350403,277659
Distance c.300m

Archaeological background Two adjacent rectangular enclosures and a ring ditch feature have been identified from aerial photographs in the field to the south-west of the cable route. The enclosures are of uncertain date and function. The ring ditch is potentially a round barrow.

Underlying geology Bedrock – Siltstone and Mudstone of the Raglan Mudstone Formation.
Drift – Alluvium (Clay, silt, sand and gravel).

2 AIMS

The objectives of the watching brief were as follows:

- 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.

3 METHOD

Archaeological monitoring was undertaken by an archaeologist of ACIfA equivalent experience or higher. The main contractor excavated a 0.5m wide trench along the cable route using a mechanical excavator equipped with a toothless bucket.

Deposits were mechanically excavated as necessary for the installation of the electricity supply – the depth of the trench varied between 1.20m and 1.60m.

In areas where no advance callout was made by the main contractors, Headland Archaeology recorded exposed sections where possible.

All recording followed ClfA Standards and Guidance. Recording was undertaken on pro forma record sheets. Photographic images were taken



ILLUS 4

General shot, facing E, Area 1



ILLUS 5

S facing view of section, Area 2

on 35mm colour slide and black-and-white film; 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.

The route of the trench was planned using a handheld GPS system. Stratigraphy in areas where no archaeological deposits were identified was recorded on trench recording sheets – the depth of topsoil/subsoil/geological deposits was recorded at intervals of 20m or where significant changes occurred.

Section drawings were made at each observation point at a scale of 1:20.

4 RESULTS

The location of monitored areas and sample sections through deposits are provided in **Illus 2** and **3**. Full context descriptions are provided in Appendix 1.

4.1 AREA 1

Archaeological monitoring was undertaken to the east of the postulated Roman Road (**Illus 4**). A dark brown silty clay topsoil (101) overlay a light brown silty clay subsoil (102). A light brown silty clay deposit (103) believed to be geological in origin was identified at a depth of between 0.50 and 0.65m below ground level. The deposit continued to a depth of 1.20m below ground level at which point excavation terminated. No archaeological finds or features were identified.

4.2 AREA 2

Continuous archaeological monitoring was undertaken in the area to the south of Burley Deserted Medieval Village (DMV). Deposits were generally consistent throughout the cable trench. A dark brown silty clay (200) measuring between 0.35m and 0.40m in depth overlay an orange/brown silty clay subsoil (201) continuing to a depth of between 0.65m and 0.70m below ground level. Geological deposits comprising an orange/brown clay (202) were present at a depth of between 0.65m and the completed excavation depth of 1.20m (**Illus 5**). An exception to the stratigraphic sequence was identified at observation points 2.3, 2.4 and 2.5 where a grey clay deposit (203) was present at a depth of 1.20m. The deposit was similar in composition to the overlying (202) and the grey colour of the deposit is likely to be due to its presence in a reduced, waterlogged atmosphere caused by an adjacent watercourse; the Langley Gutter. No archaeological finds or features were observed within the cable trench although a ridge and furrow field system was observed within the topography of the field at the western end of the monitored area.

4.3 AREA 3

Excavations within Area 3 were undertaken without archaeological monitoring. Recording was undertaken on junction boxes which remained open following the backfilling of the main cable trench.

The excavation of a junction box (3.1) at the western end of the area provided the clearest view of the ground make-up, and comprised a deposit of firm brown clay (301), measuring approximately 0.60m in

depth, below which was a geological deposit of reddish brown clay (302), measuring a further 0.50m in depth.

Junction box 3.2 measured approximately 3.00m x 2.00m in plan and was excavated to a depth of 1.40m below ground level. A dark brown clayey silt topsoil (301) measuring 0.20m in depth overlay a reddish brown silty clay (302). Coarse river gravel deposits (303) were identified at a depth of 0.80m and continued to the completed excavation depth of 1.20m below ground level (Illus 6).

A third junction box (3.3) located just beyond the specified monitoring area to the south measured 1.60m in depth. The stratigraphic sequence comprised a topsoil (301), overlying an alluvial deposit measuring 1.20m in depth, with a natural clay deposit (303) visible at the base of the trench. The junction box was located on flood plain approximately 70m to the west of the River Corve. No archaeological finds or features were identified within any of the recorded sections.

4.4 AREA 4

Area 4 was located on the River Corve floodplain to the west of Stanton Lacy. Continuous monitoring was undertaken over a 100m section of cable trench to the south of the road connecting the village to the B4365. Deposits within two junction boxes (4.2 and 4.3) were recorded to the north of the road, and the section of a further junction box (4.1) located outside the agreed watching brief area was recorded to the north. A further 185m section of cable trench (outside the agreed monitoring area) was monitored to the south of observation point 4.6.

Deposits were generally consistent across the observation points, with only the underlying geological deposits varying. Topsoil comprised a dark brown clayey silt (401) and overlay a reddish brown alluvium (402) extending to a depth of between 0.50m and 1.20m below ground level. Deposits of geological sands and gravels (403/404) were identified beneath the alluvial deposits (Illus 7). No archaeological finds or features were identified within the excavated area.

4.5 AREA 5

Continuous archaeological monitoring was undertaken across the full extent of Area 5. Deposits were consistent throughout (Illus 8) and comprised a topsoil (500), overlying a mid-brown orange, firm, silty clay (501), below which was a geological deposit of reddish brown clay marl (502) extending beyond the finished excavation depth (1.40m below ground level). No archaeological finds or features were identified over the course of the cable trench though this area.

5 CONCLUSION

No archaeological finds, deposits or features were identified during the course of the watching brief. In the case of Area 1, the area of archaeological interest is potentially located beneath the current road surface which was not subject to open cut excavation. Langley and Burley DMVs (Areas 2 and 3) do not appear to extend into the



ILLUS 6

E facing view of section, Area 3

ILLUS 7

W facing view of section, Area 4



ILLUS 8

E facing view of section, Area 5

monitored area. The heritage assets associated with Areas 4 and 5 are located at some distance from the cable run. Although the route of the cable trench passed within the vicinity of previously recorded heritage assets, the cable trench does not appear to have impacted upon these assets. No new heritage assets have been identified during the course of the works.

6 BIBLIOGRAPHY

Craddock-Bennett, L 2014 *Craven Arms – Ludlow Electricity Cable Installation: Written Scheme of Investigation for an Archaeological Watching Brief*, Headland Archaeology (UK) Ltd. Project CALS14-001

7 APPENDICES

APPENDIX 1 CONTEXT REGISTER

Sect1.1	Orientation	L (m)	W (m)	Avg. D (m)
	NW/SE	–	0.60	1.20

Context	Description	Depth of deposit (mBGL)
101	Topsoil. Dark brown silty clay	0–0.30
102	Subsoil–buff brown, loose, silty clay subsoil.	0.30–0.50
103	Buff brown, silty clay, geological deposit	0.50–1.20+

Sect1.2	Orientation	L (m)	W (m)	Avg. D (m)
	NW/SE	–	0.60	1.20

Context	Description	Depth of deposit (mBGL)
101	Topsoil.	0–0.30
102	Sub–soil, buff brown, loose, silty clay, subsoil	0.30–0.65
103	Buff brown, silty clay	0.65–1.20+

Sect2.1	Orientation	L (m)	W (m)	Avg. D (m)
	NW/SE	–	0.60	1.20

Context	Description	Depth of deposit (mBGL)
200	Topsoil.	0–0.40
201	Mixed clay subsoil	0.40–0.70
202	Natural clay	0.70–1.20+

Sect2.2	Orientation	L (m)	W (m)	Avg. D (m)
	NW/SE	–	0.60	1.20

Context	Description	Depth of deposit (mBGL)
200	Topsoil.	0–0.40
201	Mixed clay subsoil	0.40–0.70
202	Natural clay deposit	0.70–1.20+

Sect2.3	Orientation	L (m)	W (m)	Avg. D (m)
	NW/SE	–	0.60	1.20

Context	Description	Depth of deposit (mBGL)
200	Topsoil.	0–0.35
201	Silty clay orange brown, with flint streaks	0.35
202	Orange brown clay	0.65
203	Grey clay	1.20+

Sect2.4	Orientation	L (m)	W (m)	Avg. D (m)
	NW/SE	–	0.60	1.20

Context	Description	Depth of deposit (mBGL)
200	Topsoil.	0–0.35
201	Silty clay orange brown, with flint streaks	0.35–0.65
202	Orange brown clay	0.65–1.20
203	Grey clay	1.20+

Sect2.5	Orientation	L (m)	W (m)	Avg. D (m)
	NW/SE	–	0.60	1.20

Context	Description	Depth of deposit (mBGL)
200	Topsoil.	0–0.35
201	Silty clay orange brown, with flint streaks	0.35–0.65
202	Orange brown clay	0.65–1.20
203	Grey clay	1.20+

Sect2.6	Orientation	L (m)	W (m)	Avg. D (m)
	NW/SE	–	0.60	1.20

Context	Description	Depth of deposit (mBGL)
200	Topsoil.	0–0.35
201	Silty clay orange brown, with flint streaks	0.35–0.55
202	Orange brown clay	0.55–1.20+



Sect2.7	Orientation	L (m)	W (m)	Avg. D (m)
	NW/SE	–	0.60	1.20

Context	Description	Depth of deposit (mBGL)
200	Topsoil.	0–0.35
201	Silty clay orange brown, with flint streaks	0.35–0.55
202	Orange brown clay	0.55–1.20+

Sect2.8	Orientation	L (m)	W (m)	Avg. D (m)
	NW/SE	–	0.60	1.20

Context	Description	Depth of deposit (mBGL)
200	Topsoil.	0–0.35
201	Silty clay orange brown, with flint streaks	0.35–0.55
202	Orange brown clay	0.55–1.20+

Sect2.9	Orientation	L (m)	W (m)	Avg. D (m)
	NW/SE	–	0.60	1.20

Context	Description	Depth of deposit (mBGL)
200	Topsoil.	0–0.35
201	Silty clay orange brown, with flint streaks	0.35–0.55
202	Orange brown clay	0.55–1.20+

Sect2.10	Orientation	L (m)	W (m)	Avg. D (m)
	NW/SE	–	0.60	1.20

Context	Description	Depth of deposit (mBGL)
200	Topsoil.	0–0.35
201	Silty clay orange brown, with flint streaks	0.35–0.55
202	Orange brown clay	0.55–1.20+

Sect2.11	Orientation	L (m)	W (m)	Avg. D (m)
	NW/SE	–	0.60	1.20

Context	Description	Depth of deposit (mBGL)
200	Topsoil.	0–0.35
201	Silty clay orange brown, with flint streaks	0.35–0.55
202	Orange brown clay	0.55–1.20+

Sect2.12	Orientation	L (m)	W (m)	Avg. D (m)
	NW/SE	–	0.60	1.20

Context	Description	Depth of deposit (mBGL)
200	Topsoil.	0–0.35
201	Silty clay orange brown, with flint streaks	0.35–0.55
202	Orange brown clay	0.55–1.20+

Sect 3.1	Orientation	L (m)	W (m)	Avg. D (m)
	E-W	3.00	0.60	1.40

Context	Description	Depth of deposit (mBGL)
302	Brown clay, firm	0–0.60
303	Reddish brown, veined clay	0.60–1.10+

Sect3.2	Orientation	L (m)	W (m)	Avg. D (m)
	N/S	3.00	2.00	1.40

Context	Description	Depth of deposit (mBGL)
301	Topsoil–dark brown, clayey silt	0–0.20
302	Reddish brown, soft, silty clay, common small stones	0.20–0.80
303	Coarse gravel	0.80–1.40+

Sect3.3	Orientation	L (m)	W (m)	Avg. D (m)
	N/S	3.00	2.00	1.60

Context	Description	Depth of deposit (mBGL)
301	Topsoil–dark brown, clayey silt	0–0.20
302	Reddish brown, soft, silty clay, common small stones	0.20–1.50
303	Natural clay	1.50–1.60+

Sect4.1	Orientation	L (m)	W (m)	Avg. D (m)
	NW/SE	3.00	2.00	1.40

Context	Description	Depth of deposit (mBGL)
401	Topsoil–dark brown, clayey silt	0–0.40
402	Reddish brown, soft, silty clay, alluvium with common small stones	0.40–1.20+

Sect4.2	Orientation	L (m)	W (m)	Avg. D (m)
	N/S	3.00	2.00	1.40

Context	Description	Depth of deposit (mBGL)
401	Topsoil-dark brown, clayey silt	0-0.40
402	Reddish brown, soft, silty clay, alluvium with common small stones	0.20-0.55
403	Coarse gravel	0.55-0.80
404	Fine gravel	0.80-1.20+

Sect4.3	Orientation	L (m)	W (m)	Avg. D (m)
	N/S	3.00	2.00	0.80

Context	Description	Depth of deposit (mBGL)
401	Topsoil-dark brown, clayey silt	0-0.20
402	Soft fine alluvial, clayey silt	0.20-0.80
403	sand	0.80-1.00+

Sect4.4	Orientation	L (m)	W (m)	Avg. D (m)
	N/S	3.00	2.00	1.40

Context	Description	Depth of deposit (mBGL)
401	Topsoil-dark brown, clayey silt	0-0.20
402	Brown, alluvial, clayey silt	0.20-0.50
403	Brown natural clay	0.50-1.40+

Sect4.5	Orientation	L (m)	W (m)	Avg. D (m)
	N/S	3.00	2.00	1.40

Context	Description	Depth of deposit (mBGL)
401	Topsoil-dark brown, clayey silt	0-0.20
402	Brown, alluvial, clayey silt	0.20-0.50
403	Brown natural clay	0.50-0.80
404	Natural gravel	0.80-1.40+

Sect4.6	Orientation	L (m)	W (m)	Avg. D (m)
	N/S	3.00	2.00	1.40

Context	Description	Depth of deposit (mBGL)
401	Topsoil-dark brown, clayey silt	0-0.20
402	Brown, alluvial, clayey silt	0.20-0.60
403	Brown natural clay	0.60-0.80
404	Natural gravel	0.80-1.40+

Sect5.1	Orientation	L (m)	W (m)	Avg. D (m)
	N/S	-	0.60	1.40

Context	Description	Depth of deposit (mBGL)
500	Topsoil. Reddish brown, loose silty clay, occasional small stones.	0-0.30
501	Mid brown, orangey silty clay, occasional small stones	0.20-0.60
502	Reddish brown natural clay marls. Patches of blue/veins	0.60-1.40+

Sect 5.2 to 5.14	Orientation	L (m)	W (m)	Avg. D (m)
	N/S	-	0.60	1.40

Context	Description	Depth of deposit (mBGL)
500	Topsoil-reddish brown, loose silty clay, occasional small stones.	0-0.30
501	Mid brown, orangey silty clay, occasional small stones	0.20-0.60
502	Reddish brown natural clay marls. Patches of blue/veins	0.60-1.40



© 2015 by Headland Archaeology (UK) Ltd

NORTH

Headland Archaeology
13 Jane Street
Edinburgh EH6 5HE

T 0131 467 7705
E north@headlandarchaeology.com

SOUTH & EAST

Headland Archaeology
Building 68C, Wrest Park, Silsoe
Bedfordshire MK45 4HS

T 01525 861 578
E southandeast@headlandarchaeology.com

MIDLANDS & WEST

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

T 01432 364 901
E midlandsandwest@headlandarchaeology.com

www.headlandarchaeology.com