

SMCK10

KINGSTONE CHURCHYARD, HEREFORDSHIRE

*Watching Brief
for Central Networks*

June 2011



KINGSTONE CHURCHYARD, HEREFORDSHIRE

Watching Brief for Central Networks

June 2011

HA Job no.: SMCK10

HAS no.: 885

NGR: SO42427 35703

Parish: Kingstone

Council: Herefordshire

Project Manager

Andy Boucher

Author

Kath Crooks

Fieldwork

Kath Crooks

Graphics

Julia Bastek & Anna Sztromwasser

Approved by

Andy Boucher, Project Manager



Headland Archaeology (UK) Ltd
© **Headland Archaeology (UK) Ltd 2011**

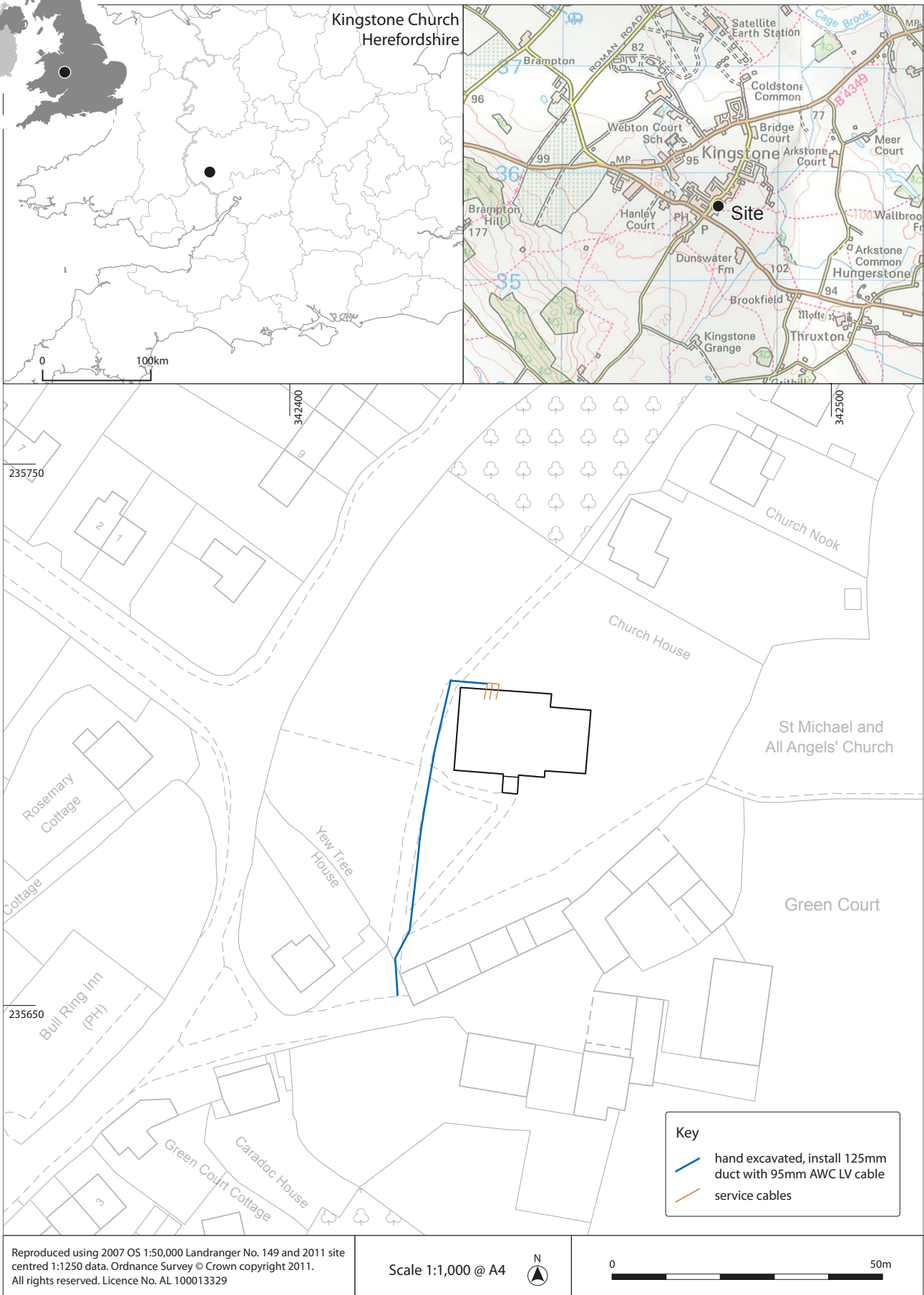
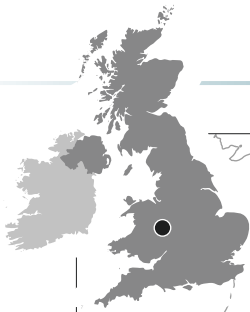
Unit 1, Premier Business Park, Faraday Road, Hereford HR4 9NZ
T 0143 236 4901 • F 0143 236 4900 • E hereford@headlandarchaeology.com
www.headlandarchaeology.com

CONTENTS

1.	INTRODUCTION	1
2.	METHOD	1
3.	RESULTS	2
4.	DISCUSSION	2
5.	ARCHIVE	3
6.	REFERENCES	3
7.	APPENDICES	4
7.1	Appendix 1 – Site registers	4
	<i>Context register</i>	4
	<i>Drawing register</i>	4
	<i>Photographic register</i>	4

LIST OF ILLUSTRATIONS

<i>Illus 1</i>	viii
<i>Site location</i>	
<i>Illus 2</i>	2
<i>Excavation of the cable trench across the churchyard</i>	
<i>Illus 3</i>	3
<i>Previous path showing in the section of the trench</i>	



Illus 1
Site location

KINGSTONE CHURCHYARD, HEREFORDSHIRE

Watching Brief

Headland Archaeology (UK) Ltd conducted a watching brief during the insertion of an electricity cable across Kingstone Churchyard, Herefordshire. The trench was hand excavated by contractors throughout. It was excavated to a depth of 0.6m and was 0.3m wide to accommodate a duct 125mm in diameter. Occasional fragments of human bone were present in the trench, these being more common where the trench ran close to the western end of the church, but no complete skeletons were found in the course of the work. No grave cuts were apparent. With the exception of a layer of rubble and a previous pathway – both fairly modern in date – no archaeological finds or features were observed during the course of the watching brief.

1. INTRODUCTION

A watching brief was carried out during the insertion of a duct for an underground electricity cable in the yard of St Michael at Kingstone in Herefordshire. A Faculty was in place before work was carried out. The aim was to record any archaeological remains threatened, record any burials encountered *in situ* and arrange for their reburial, and to report on the project.

Kingstone lies some 11km to the southwest of Hereford. Occupation in the surrounding area during the Neolithic period is confirmed by two finds of flint implements (Herefordshire Sites and Monuments Record) while the place name ‘Barrow Common Lane’ (SMR 24370), as well as being a medieval hollow way, could suggest activity in the Bronze Age. Stone Street Roman Road (SMR 11123) runs some 2km to the west of the centre of the village.

The village is mentioned in the Domesday Book as ‘Chingestone’ and was held by King Edward. There were:

‘4 hides. In lordship, 2 hides less 1 virgate. One plough there; another would be possible. 6 villagers with a reeve; 3 smallholders and a smith. Between them they have 6 ploughs’.

The nearby Treville Wood paid no customary dues except hunting rights; the villagers carried the produce of the hunt to Hereford and did no other service. The whole manor paid the King ‘50s of blanched pence and a hawk.’

The place name ‘Castle Meadow’ (SMR 38825) suggests the presence of a castle, though apparently any motte has now ‘more or less vanished’.

The Herefordshire Sites and Monuments Record shows a number of buildings of historical significance close to the church, including Arkstone Court. The present building dates to the 18th century but records go back to before the 15th century, when it was the seat of the Delahay family.

St Michael’s church dates originally to the Norman period with additions dating to the beginning of the 13th century and later. The oldest surviving part is the south door. Apparently the church was exempted from paying the Kings Aid in 1406 as a result of its being devastated during the wars with Owen Glendower. The church was drastically remodelled in the 19th century with most of the tower (originally of 13th century date) being rebuilt.

2. METHOD

The excavation was carried out by workers from Central Networks throughout with an archaeologist in attendance. Excavation was undertaken by hand, with the duct inserted and the trench backfilled immediately. The occasional fragments of human bone found during the work were reburied in the backfill of the trench.

The route of the cable followed the existing footpath from the corner of the bell tower to the southern gate adjacent to Green Court Farm.



Illus 2

Excavation of the cable trench across the churchyard

All recording followed standard archaeological guidelines as set out by the Institute for Archaeologists. All contexts were given unique numbers and recording was undertaken on pro forma record cards that conform to accepted archaeological norms. No archaeological features were present. Plans showing the line of the cable were produced at a scale of 1:100. Photographs were taken throughout using 35mm monochrome film while digital photographs were taken on a 7.2mp camera for illustrative purposes. Registers were kept for context records, photographs and drawings.

3. RESULTS

A layer of gravel [101] comprised the existing surface, extending over the full area of the excavation. The layer of dirty red clay beneath it [102] was a maximum of 0.2m deep. The interface of [102] with [104], a similar deposit of dirty red clay, was not visible. From a position in front of the church door a layer of large cobbles, stone rubble and a cream coloured mortar [103] lay beneath [102]. This rubble layer became patchier as it continued to the south. About 15m south of the church building, a previous

pathway of cinder and broken brick [105] was present. It ran to within about 2m of the southern gate, close to Green Court Farm, where the ground was disturbed by roots from the yew trees at a very shallow depth. The deposit in this area was numbered [106], as it was much stonier than deposits to the north. It lay above disturbed subsoil [104]. At the gate itself a layer of concrete some 0.2m thick lay above [104].

4. DISCUSSION

The route of the duct followed the line of the western side of the footpath. It is possible that the reason for the lack of skeletal material was that the area had been a path for a considerable period. It is also possible that the path area may have been raised at some point as natural deposits were seen at no point in the course of the work. Rubble [103] and cinder surface [106] suggested long term use as a pathway. The intermittent nature of deposit [103] suggests that rubble may have been dumped to fill hollows or puddles in the pathway.

There was no evidence for either of these deposits ([103]

and [105]) to the north of the church door.

A further alternative is that the surface has been raised at some point. No grave cuts were visible in deposits [102] or [104]. If the surface has indeed been raised it is possible that burials may be present beneath these deposits.

5. ARCHIVE

The project archive will be deposited at Hereford Museum.

6. REFERENCES

Herefordshire Sites and Monuments Record

Pevsner, N, 1963, *The Buildings of England, Herefordshire*, Penguin.

Thorn, F & Thorn, C (eds), 1983, *Domesday Herefordshire*, Phillimore.



Illus 3

Previous path showing in the section of the trench



7. APPENDICES

7.1 Appendix 1 – Site registers

Context register

Context no.	Trench no.	Description	Dimensions (m)
101	1	Existing surface of gravel and clay.	0.2m (max)
102	1	Red brown clay – obviously disturbed. Occasional stone and very occasional fragments of charnel. Becomes shallower to south.	0.2m (max)
103	1	Layer of rubble including cobbles and patches of yellow mortar. Occasional fragments of brick.	0.08m
104	1	Red brown clay beneath rubble layer [103], similar in nature to [102]. Contains stone and rubble to full depth of trench. Very occasional human bone – less as trench heads south.	0.3+m
105	1	Black layer beneath surface [101]. Previous surface of path.	0.05+m
106	1	Equivalent to [103]? Red brown clay with very frequent large cobbles and broken Old Red Sandstone. Also occasional fragments of brick. No human bone in this area. Above [104].	0.6+m

Drawing register

Drawing no.	Scale	Plan/Section	Description
1	1:100	Plan	Route of cable at W end of church
2	1:100	Section	Route of cable close to southern gate

4

Photographic register

Photo no.	B&W	Colour slide	Digital	Direction facing	Description
1	Y	–	Y	N	General view at w end of church
2	Y	–	Y	SE	General view, line of cable at w end of church
3	Y	–	Y	S	General shot, duct in place
4	Y	–	Y	E	Section of trench
5	Y	–	Y	E	Section of trench, further to south.
6	Y	–	Y	E	Section of trench
7	Y	–	Y	–	Roots of tree in trench
8	Y	–	Y	E	Black cinder layer [105] in E section
9	Y	–	Y	E	Layer [105] continues to south
10	Y	–	Y	E	Layer [105] in section
11	Y	–	Y	NE	Roots of yew trees near S gate of churchyard
12	Y	–	Y	NE	Trench close to S gate of churchyard
13	Y	–	Y	N	St Michael's church, trench in foreground
14	Y	–	Y	N	Concrete at gate shows in section



Headland Archaeology (UK) Ltd
© **Headland Archaeology (UK) Ltd 2011**

North East (HQ)

13 Jane Street, Edinburgh EH6 5HE

T 0131 467 7705 • **F** 0131 467 7706 • **E** office@headlandarchaeology.com

North West

10 Payne Street, Glasgow G4 0LF

T 0141 354 8100 • **F** 0141 332 9388 • **E** glasgowoffice@headlandarchaeology.com

Midlands & West

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

T 0143 236 4901 • **F** 0143 236 4900 • **E** hereford@headlandarchaeology.com

South & East

Technology Centre, Stanbridge Road, Leighton Buzzard, Bedfordshire LU7 4QH

T 01525 850 878 • **E** leighton.buzzard@headlandarchaeology.com

www.headlandarchaeology.com