

CBWH/01



# CASTLE GATE (FORMERLY CORNER HOUSE) BROAD STREET, WEOBLEY, HEREFORDSHIRE

Archaeological Watching Brief

commissioned by Andrew R Thomas (Architect)  
on behalf of Mr Michael Ware

P141332/L

August 2015



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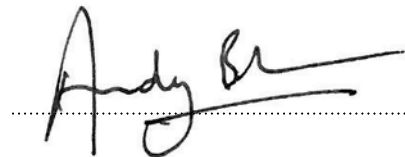
August 2015

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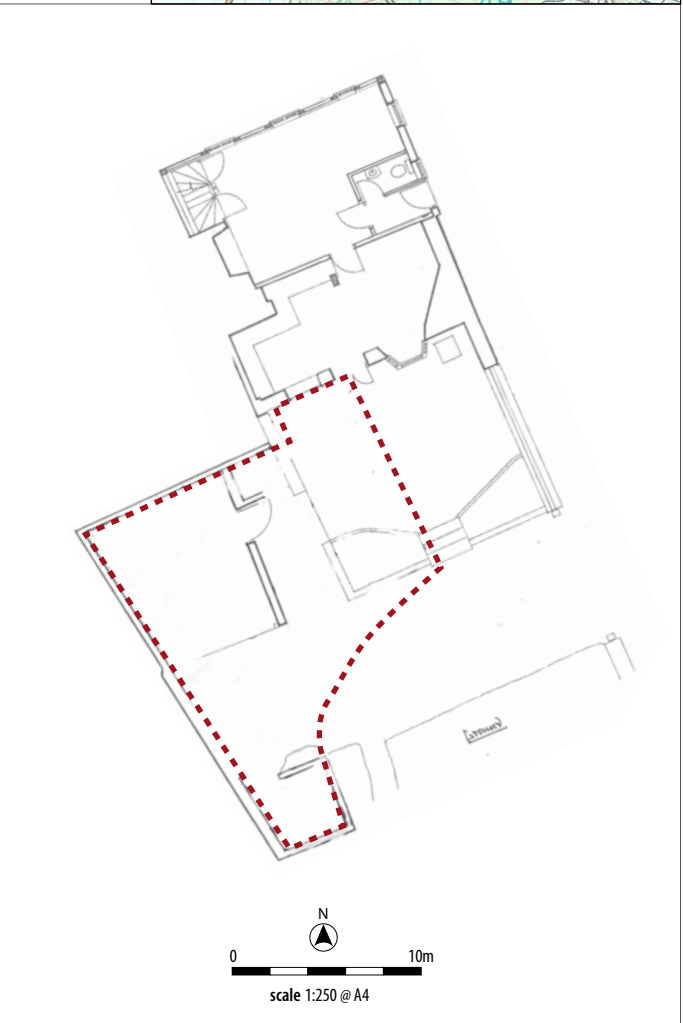
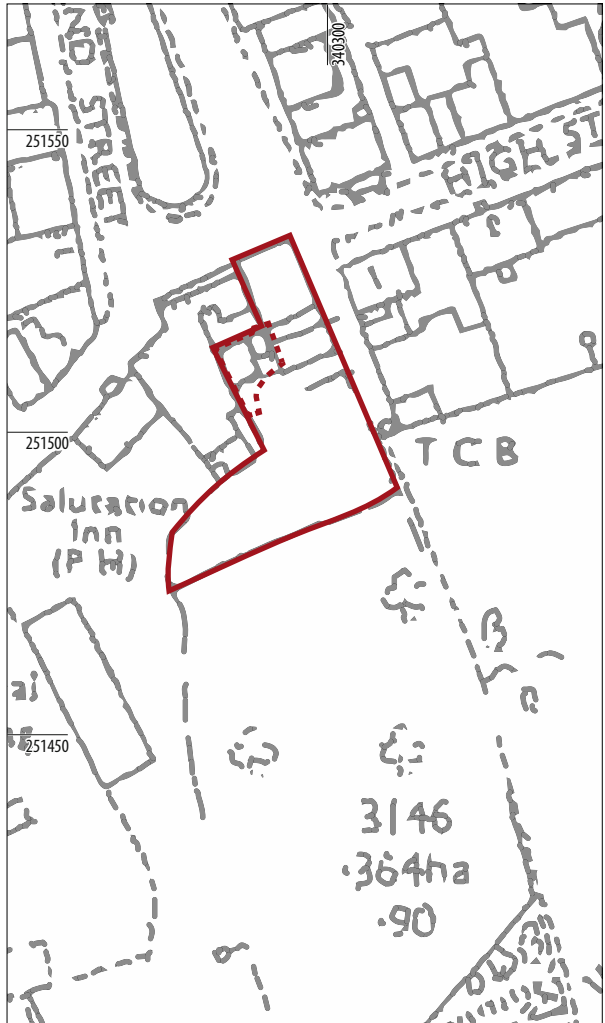
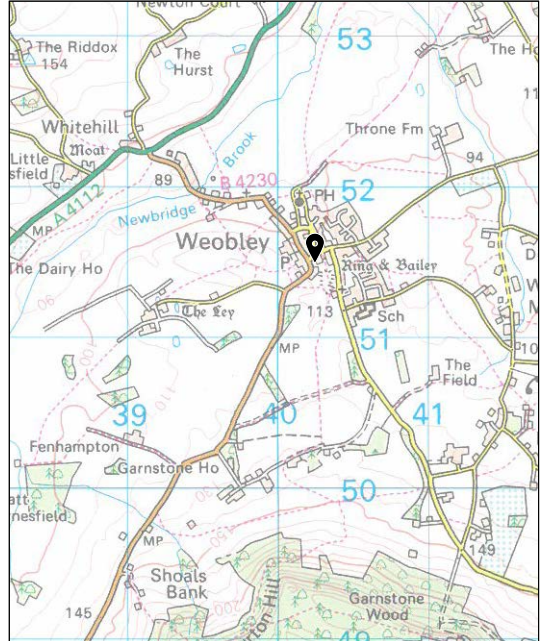
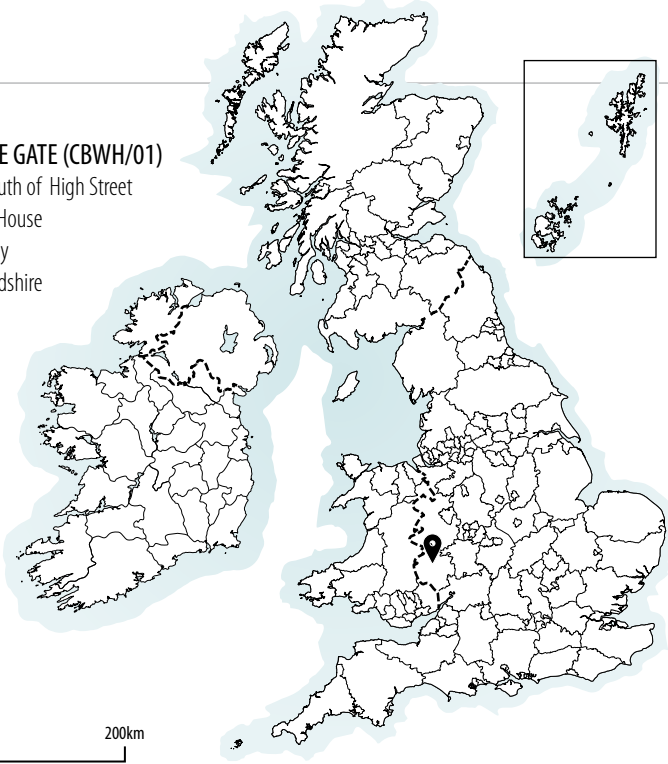
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## LIST OF ILLUSTRATIONS

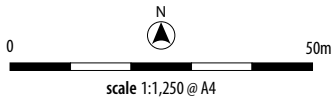
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**CASTLE GATE (CBWH/01)**

land south of High Street  
 Corner House  
 Weobley  
 Herefordshire



- KEY**
- development boundary
  - site boundary



**ILLUS 1**  
 Site location



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# CASTLE GATE (FORMERLY CORNER HOUSE) BROAD STREET, WEOBLEY, HEREFORDSHIRE

## Archaeological Watching Brief

Headland Archaeology undertook a watching brief during the construction of a new extension to the rear of Castle Gate (formerly Corner House), Weobley, Herefordshire. No Archaeological features of any significance were observed during the ground works.

### 1 INTRODUCTION

Headland Archaeology (UK) Ltd. was commissioned by Andrew R Thorne (Architect) acting as agent to Mr Michael Ware (Client) to undertake a programme of archaeological monitoring of ground works during the construction of a new extension to the rear of Castle Gate (formally Corner House), Weobley, Herefordshire (Illus 1).

The work was undertaken as a condition of planning permission (App. No. P141332/L) granted for proposed alterations and construction of a single story extension at the aforementioned property.

Conditions 4 stated:

- a) *No development shall take place until the developer has secured the implementation of a programme of archaeological work in accordance with a written scheme of investigation which has been submitted to and approved in writing by the local planning authority. This programme shall be in accordance with a brief prepared by the County Archaeological Service.*

*Reason: to ensure the archaeological interest of the site is recorded and to comply with the requirements of Policy ARCH6 of the Herefordshire Unitary Development plan and the National Planning Policy Framework.*

A written scheme of investigation (Boucher 2014) outlining the proposed methodology was submitted to and approved by the archaeological advisor for Herefordshire County Council.

Archaeological monitoring of the ground works was undertaken on the 26th and 27th January 2015.

### 2 SITE DESCRIPTION

The project site is located in the heart of the historic settlement of Weobley, just off the high street at NGR 340293 251529.

The underlying geological deposits of the site are recorded as Raglan Mudstone Formation with superficial deposits comprising a Devensian Till.

### 3 HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

Weobley lies twelve miles north-west of Hereford and is one of Herefordshire's picturesque black and white villages. The site lies within the medieval urban form of the historic town of Weobley, as defined by the Central marches Historic Towns Survey (1996).

Weobley is referred to in the Domesday Book as follows:

*Weobley. Edwy Young held it. 3½ hides which pay tax.*

*In lordship 3 ploughs.*

*10 villagers, a priest, a smith and 5 smallholders with 9½ ploughs.*

*11 slaves; woodland ½ league long and 4 furlongs wide. A park; land for 1 plough, cleared of wood, which pays 11s 9d.*

*St Peters has one of these villagers by gift of Walter of Lacy.*

*Value before 1066, 100s; later 60s; now 100s.*

The village was no doubt of significance with its castle's fortifications playing a part in the English defences against the Welsh. Remains of Weobley Castle (a Scheduled Ancient Monument) are still evident although in poor condition. The castle belonged to the family of (de) Lacy in the early middle ages, passing from them to the families of





ILLUS 2

S facing detail view showing cut for staircase into sunken garden and original ground level in section



ILLUS 3

E facing view showing sunken garden area

Verdon, Crophull and Devereux. The castle at Weobley was referred to as 'standing at least as early as the reign of Stephen, and as late as the year 1540'.

The settlement of Weobley is particularly sensitive archaeologically, described as 'A medieval town site of significant interest', it is regarded as an "Archaeologically Important Urban Area" for the purposes of the Herefordshire Unitary Development Plan.

The project site is located c.75m to the north of the Castle Motte. A report on the historic fabric of the house was produced by James (2014). The report suggests that the building formed the cross wing of a 15th century hall, which formerly stood to the south of the extant building. The framing where the hall would have adjoined the building has been subsequently lost. The report also suggests that the cross wing was carefully constructed over an existing cellar of what must have been an even earlier building, and accessed from outside of the cellar footprint; on the basis of two entrances.

## 4 OBJECTIVES

The objectives of the project were:

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

## 5 METHOD

### 5.1 GROUND MONITORING

Archaeological monitoring was undertaken after the mechanical removal of the existing buildings and sunken patio area (Illus 2).

All monitoring was undertaken by an archaeologist of ACIfA level experience. Excavation works were undertaken by the principal



contractor. The excavated areas were closely examined for any features and the spoil was re-examined in order to collect any artefacts.

## 5.2 RECORDING

All recording followed ClfA *Standard and Guidance for an archaeological watching brief* (ClfA 2014). A plan was made of the stripped area and archaeological contexts were recorded on pro forma record sheets.

Excavated areas were photographed using 35mm black and white film and 35mm colour slide film. Digital photographs were taken for reference and reporting purposes but will not form part of the site archive.

## 6 RESULTS

The majority of the area excavated for the construction of the new extension had been previously excavated to construct a sunken patio area at the rear of the property. This resulted in the ground level being reduced to natural deposits within the vicinity of the sunken patio area. A small portion of the previously unexcavated site was excavated at the time of the programme of archaeological works, which allowed the stratigraphic matrix of the site to be observed and recorded.

### 6.1 GENERAL SITE STRATIGRAPHY

The stratigraphic matrix of the area to the south of the existing sunken patio, when excavated, was represented by three distinct deposits. The earliest deposit encountered, at a depth of 0.45m from the ground surface, was the natural basement of red, slightly sandy clay (1003). This was excavated to a depth of 0.90m in order to form a level surface for the construction of the new extension. Immediately overlying this was a layer, 0.28m deep, of mid-dark red/grey friable silt (1002) which appeared to represent former garden soil. A number of fragments of modern white china were observed within its matrix. The uppermost horizon comprised a hard packed layer of hardcore and scalping's (1001), forming an area of hardstanding, approximately 0.10m deep (**Illus 3**).

No archaeological features were observed during the ground works that would indicate the presence of a cross wing extending from the existing building suggested in the building survey report (James 2014)

## 7 DISCUSSION

Archaeological monitoring did not identify any features within the area excavated for the new extension to Castle Gate that indicated the presence of a former timber framed wing of the original building. This lack of evidence maybe as a direct result of the construction of the 18th century, stone built, extension to the timber framed building, as well as the formation of the sunken patio area.

## 8 CONCLUSION

The project has achieved its aims and objectives in monitoring the ground works for the construction of the new extension to Castle Gate.

A copy of this report will be supplied to the Herefordshire HER and the site archive will be prepared and deposited with Hereford Museum Service.

## 9 REFERENCES

- BGS 2014 British Geological Survey Map Viewer [online] Available: <<http://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home.html>> Accessed: 13th March 2015.
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## 10 APPENDICES

### APPENDIX 1 CONTEXT REGISTER

Context	Description	Deposit depth (BGL)
1001	Compressed scalplings and hardcore carpark surface	0.10m
1002	Mixed red-brown clay-loam containing modern ceramics = former garden deposit/topsoil	0.28m
1003	Reddish clay loam- Probable natural basement	0.45m +
1004	Flagstones and concrete forming Patio area	0.20m

### APPENDIX 2 PHOTOGRAPHIC REGISTER

Photo	C/S	B/W	Digital	Direction	Description
01	36	36	DSCF-9225	/	ID shot
02	35	35	DSCF-9226	E	General view of Patio area after removal
03	34	34	DSCF-9227	SE	General view of section through removed patio and garden area
04	—	—	DSCF-9228	SE	General view of section through removed patio and garden area
05	33	33	DSCF-9229	N	General view of area after removal of garage buildings
06	32	33	DSCF-9230	N	General view of area after removal of garage buildings showing depth of original sunken garden
07	—	—	DSCF-9231	N	General view of area after removal of garage buildings showing depth of original sunken garden

Photo	C/S	B/W	Digital	Direction	Description
08	—	—	DSCF-9232	N	General view of area after removal of garage buildings showing depth of original sunken garden
09	31	31	DSC-0456	W	General view of property boundary wall after removal of garage buildings
10	—	—	DSC-0457	W	General view of property boundary wall after removal of garage buildings
11	—	—	DSC-0458	W	General view of property boundary wall after removal of garage buildings
12	—	—	DSC-0459	SW	General view of property boundary wall after removal of garage buildings
13	30	30	DSC-0460	W	Boundary wall after removal of garages
14	—	—	DSC-0461	W	Boundary wall after removal of garages
15	29	29	DSC-0462	S	Detail showing cut for staircase into sunken garden and original ground level in section
16	—	—	DSC-0463	S	Detail showing cut for staircase into sunken garden and original ground level in section
17	—	—	DSC-0464	S	Detail showing cut for staircase into sunken garden and original ground level in section
18	28	28	DSC-0465	N	Removal of patio in sunken garden showing drain pipe against house wall
19	—	—	DSC-0466	E	General view showing sunken garden area
20	26	26	DSC-0467	E	General view showing sunken garden area
21	25	25	DSC-0468	E	General view showing sunken garden area
22	24	24	DSC-0469	NE	Gabel wall detail of house showing later extension in timber framing





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