



# CABLE OVERLAY – CASTLE SQUARE AND DINHAM, LUDLOW

## ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF

commissioned by Western Power Distribution Ltd

November 2015



# CABLE OVERLAY – CASTLE SQUARE AND DINHAM, LUDLOW

## ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF

commissioned by Western Power Distribution Ltd

November 2015

project info

**HA JOB NO.** LCLS/02  
**HAS NO.** 1138  
**NGR** SO 50920 74607  
**PARISH** Ludlow  
**LOCAL AUTHORITY** Shropshire Council  
**OASIS REF.** headland3-227947

project team

**PROJECT MANAGER** Luke Craddock-Bennett  
**AUTHOR** Kate Bain  
**FIELDWORK** Catherine Longford, Kate Bain, Sam Thomas  
**GRAPHICS** Mano Kapazoglou  
**APPROVED BY** Luke Craddock-Bennett – Project Manager



 **HEADLAND  
ARCHAEOLOGY**  
© 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](mailto:midlandsandwest@headlandarchaeology.com)

[www.headlandarchaeology.com](http://www.headlandarchaeology.com)



## PROJECT SUMMARY

Headland Archaeology (UK) Ltd was commissioned by Western Power Ltd to undertake a watching brief during the installation of an electricity cable at Castle Square in Ludlow.

The works entailed the excavation of a service trench for the installation of an underground electricity cable. This involved the opening of an existing cable trench within disturbed ground.

The trench was excavated within paved areas and extant roadways comprising Castle Square, at its northern end and Dinham to the south, to a point approximately level with the south-east corner of the castle bailey. A small area of heavily disturbed, possible masonry was identified at the northern end of the trench, adjacent to Ludlow College. However, this had been truncated by more recent foundations and the existing service trench. No further archaeological features or deposits were encountered during the course of the watching brief.

# CONTENTS

1	INTRODUCTION	1
2	ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND	1
3	AIMS AND OBJECTIVES	1
4	METHOD	1
5	RESULTS	2
6	DISCUSSION	2
7	BIBLIOGRAPHY	3
8	APPENDICES	4
	APPENDIX 1    CONTEXT REGISTER	4

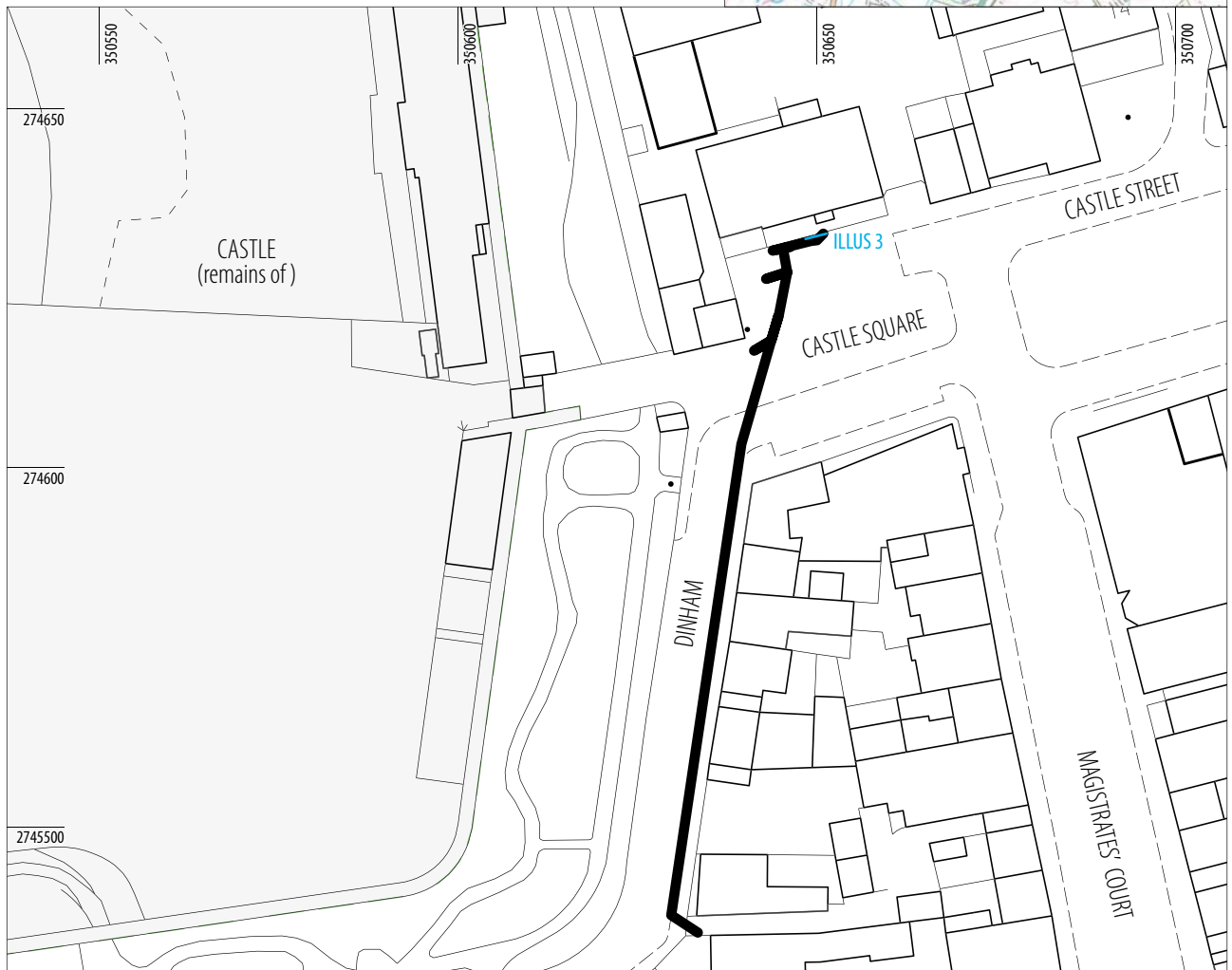
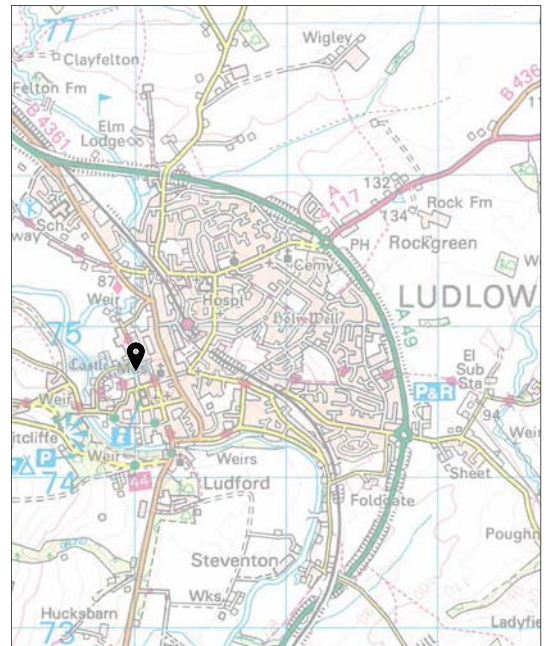
# LIST OF ILLUSTRATIONS

<b>ILLUS 1</b>	
Site location	viii
<b>ILLUS 2</b>	
West facing view of services in widened part of Castle Square trench	2
<b>ILLUS 3</b>	
South facing section showing possible masonry in Castle Square trench	2
<b>ILLUS 4</b>	
South facing image of possible masonry in Castle Square trench	3
<b>ILLUS 5</b>	
Looking north along trench from Dinham to Castle Square	3

# LUDLOW CASTLE CABLE OVERLAY (LCLS/02)

land at Castle Square and Dinham  
Ludlow  
Shropshire

0 200km



Ordnance Survey © Crown copyright 2011. Licence no. AL 100013329

## KEY

■ cable trench

0 50m  
N  
scale 1:1000 @ A4

**HEADLAND**  
**ARCHAEOLOGY**

MIDLANDS & WEST

Unit 1, Premier Business Park  
Faraday Road  
Hereford HR4 9NZ  
01432 364 901  
[www.headlandarchaeology.com](http://www.headlandarchaeology.com)

## ILLUS 1

Site location



# CABLE OVERLAY – CASTLE SQUARE AND DINHAM, LUDLOW

## ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF

### 1 INTRODUCTION

Headland Archaeology (UK) Ltd was commissioned to undertake a watching brief in Ludlow, Shropshire, during the replacement of electricity cables beneath Castle Square and Dinham, adjacent to the properties facing the eastern curtain wall of Ludlow Castle (**ILLUS 1**). The trench was located in a paved area within Castle Square, and crossed into the extant highway at its juncture with Dinham. Whilst the castle itself is a Scheduled Ancient Monument, the proposed cable trench did not encroach into the scheduled area. The client sought advice from 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, Charlotte Orchard, 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 (Kimber 2015) agreed in advance of works by the archaeological advisor.

The underlying geology of the site is a Siltstone of the 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 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. Following its abandonment, after a siege during the Civil War, the castle fell into disrepair, later to become a tourist attraction in the 18th century (Shoesmith and Johnson, 2001). The proposed excavations are located within the market square immediately to the east of the castle.

### 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 to locate (and subsequently replace) the existing electricity supply cables.

Sections along the trench were recorded at intervals of 10m, whereby an archaeologist recorded the stratigraphic sequence once deposits had been removed to the depth sufficient to reveal the electricity cable.

In instances where the archaeologist was not present during excavations, a 1m section of trench was left open for every 10m length of trench that was excavated. This facilitated the completion of the required level of recording.

Fieldwork started on 27th July 2015 and finished on 19th August 2015.

Due to the site being publically accessible, within the public highway, reasonable measures were taken to ensure public safety during these works.

All recording was undertaken on pre-printed pro forma record cards. 35mm black-and-white prints were taken with a graduated metric scale clearly visible, supplemented by digital photography.

Sections and plans were recorded at 1:20 and 1:50, as appropriate.



ILLUS 2

West facing view of services in widened part of Castle Square trench

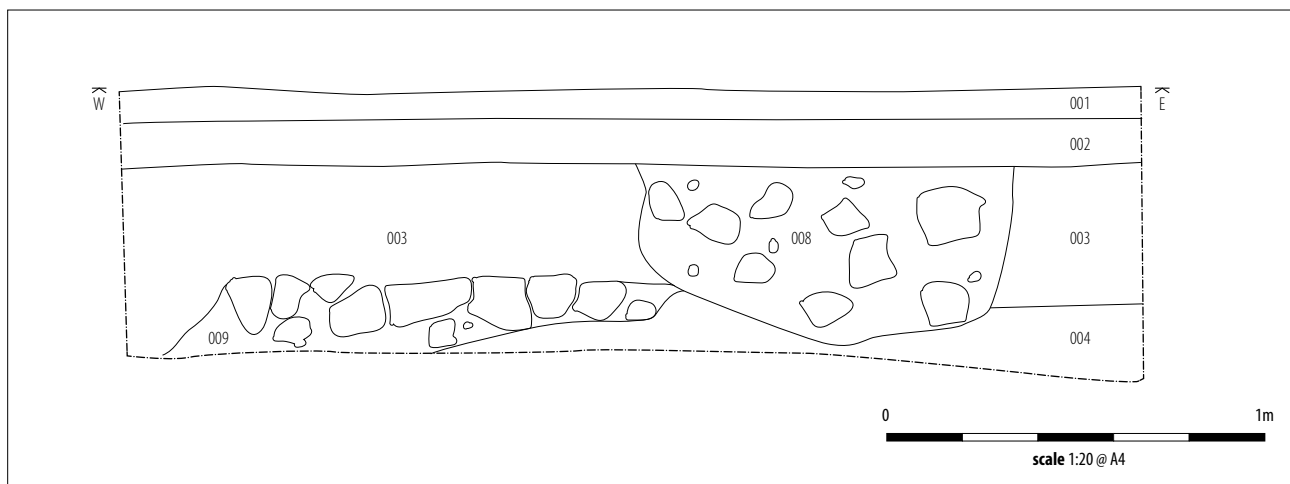
## 5 RESULTS

The excavated trench measured, on average, between 0.5 and 0.75m wide. The exception was at Castle Square, on the east-west segment of the trench, where the trench was widened to 1.7m (ILLUS 2), in order to fully expose the services. The trench did not exceed 0.65m deep.

In Castle Square, the trench contained multiple extant services, including gas, water and electricity. In the southern facing section of the trench, at a depth of 0.5m, the remains of a possible former surface; comprising irregular stone blocks (009) was observed (ILLUS 3 and ILLUS 4). This feature survived to a length of approximately 1.2m and appeared to be truncated, to the east, by a deposit of mixed brick rubble and cement (008). Both (008) and (009) were truncated by the existing trench and thus, only visible in section. The remainder of the trench revealed layers of backfill and modern surface layers including paving and tarmac (ILLUS 5). Excavation ceased within the backfill layers when the surface of the existing cable was reached. The stratigraphic sequence was recorded at 10m intervals along the complete length of the trench.

## 6 DISCUSSION

With the exception of the remains of the possible, truncated, stone surface at the end of the Castle Square trench, no archaeological features or deposits were identified during the watching brief. As all excavations were carried out within the footprint of existing service trenches, this was not unexpected.



ILLUS 3

South facing section showing possible masonry in Castle Square trench



ILLUS 4

South facing view of possible masonry in Castle Square trench



ILLUS 5

Looking north along trench from Dinham to Castle Square

## 7 BIBLIOGRAPHY

Kimber M 2015 *Land adjacent to Ludlow Castle, Cable Overlay; Castle Square and Dinham, Ludlow: Written Scheme of Investigation for an Archaeological Watching Brief* Headland Archaeology (UK) Ltd Project LCLS.

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

## 8 APPENDICES

### APPENDIX 1 CONTEXT REGISTER

Context	Description
001	Paving slabs at surface of trench. Depth 0.06m
002	Grey builders sand / cement levelling slabs. Depth 0.24m
003	Mixed mid-brown sandy clay with stones and brick fragments. Backfill of existing service trench. Depth 0.26m
004	Grey builders sand infilling service trench / covering cables. Depth 0.08m
005	Brick setts forming paved surface. Depth 0.06m
006	Red builders sand. Bed for 005. Depth 0.05m
007	Tarmac. Original ground surface. Depth 0.20m
008	Large protrusion of cement/brick rubble under steps of college building. Depth 0.50m
009	Possible former surface or wall constructed of small, uneven, irregular stone blocks. Appears to be truncated by service trenches and mortar brick protrusion (008). Blocks 0.15m × 0.15m max – 1.10m long. Depth 0.15 – 0.20m
010	Modern tarmac road surface. Depth 0.20m
011	Mix of soft black tar and hardcore making level base for road surface (010). Depth 0.18m
012	Loose / friable yellow silty clay mixed with rubble fragments. Depth 0.32m
013	Relatively clean brown / yellow clay. Possibly natural geology. Depth 0.20 – 0.60m
014	Trench backfill. Light grey / yellow compacted gravel mixed with black clay. Patches of brown / pink clay within





© 2015 by Headland Archaeology (UK) Ltd

#### **SOUTH & EAST**

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

01525 861 578

[southandeast@headlandarchaeology.com](mailto:southandeast@headlandarchaeology.com)

#### **MIDLANDS & WEST**

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

01432 364 901

[midlandsandwest@headlandarchaeology.com](mailto:midlandsandwest@headlandarchaeology.com)

#### **NORTH**

Headland Archaeology  
Unit 16, Hillside, Beeston Road  
Leeds LS11 8ND

0113 387 6430

[north@headlandarchaeology.com](mailto:north@headlandarchaeology.com)

#### **SCOTLAND**

Headland Archaeology  
13 Jane Street  
Edinburgh EH6 5HE

0131 467 7705

[scotland@headlandarchaeology.com](mailto:scotland@headlandarchaeology.com)

[www.headlandarchaeology.com](http://www.headlandarchaeology.com)