

TSLs/01



TOWER STREET, LUDLOW

ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF

commissioned by Western Power Distribution

February 2016

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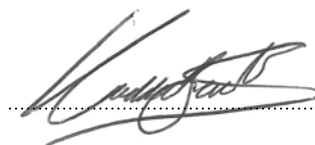
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PROJECT SUMMARY

Headland Archaeology undertook a watching brief during the excavation of a service trench within the historic core of Ludlow. Despite the location of the trench (crossing the line of the town's medieval defences), no archaeological finds, features or deposits were encountered. The trench was excavated to a relatively shallow depth of 0.5m and it is possible that archaeological deposits survive below this depth.

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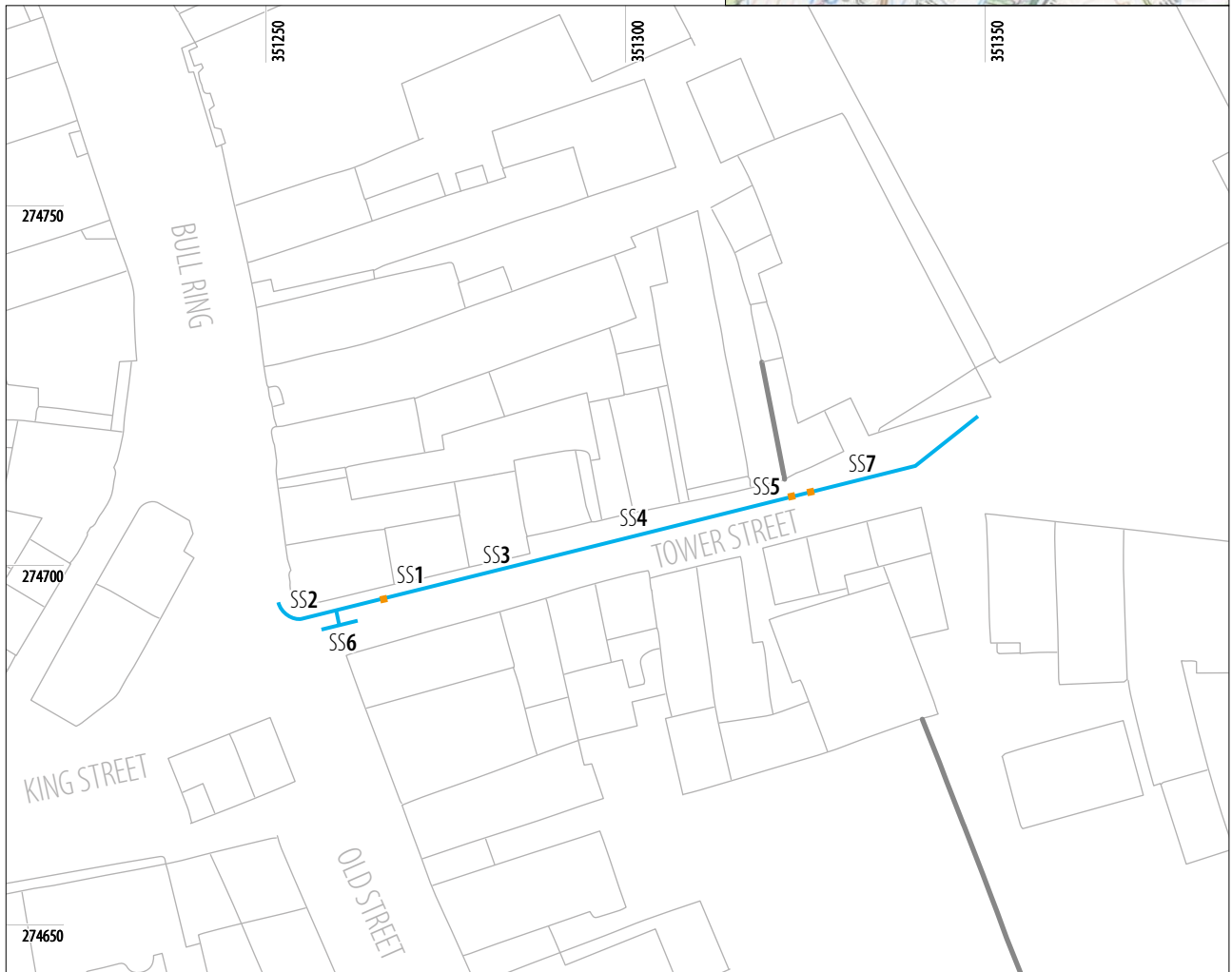
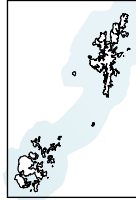
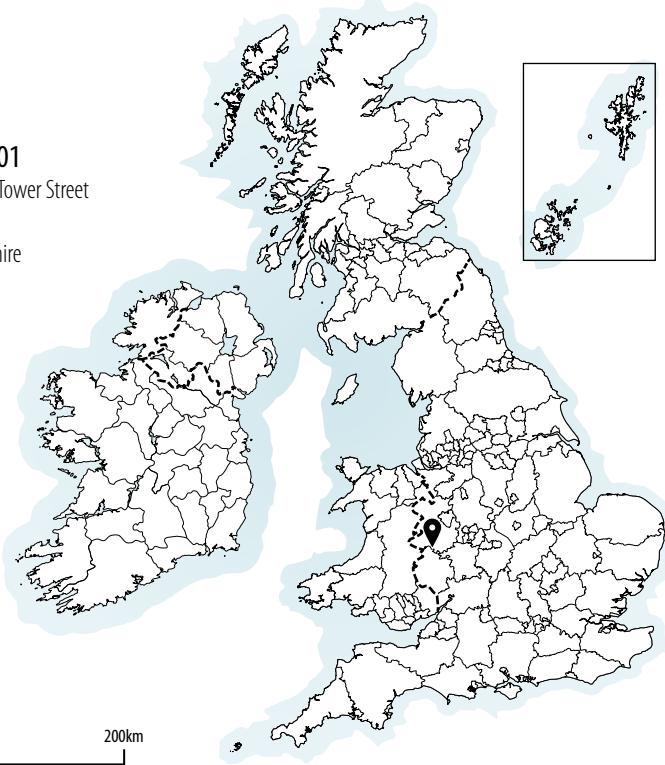
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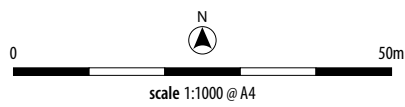
land at Tower Street
Ludlow
Shropshire



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KEY

-  trench location
-  town wall
-  connection chamber
- SS# sample section



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ILLUS 1 Site location

TOWER STREET, LUDLOW

ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF

1 INTRODUCTION

Western Power Distribution is carrying out a programme of repair and replacement of below ground high voltage electricity cables within the centre of Ludlow, Shropshire.

Despite the operations being classed as permitted development, Western Power consulted the archaeological advisor to Shropshire County Council on the potential archaeological impact of the work.

The archaeological advisor, Charlotte Orchard, requested that an archaeological watching brief be undertaken during excavations on Tower Street due to the potential archaeological sensitivity of the site.

The planned works involved the excavation of a new cable trench parallel to an existing cable route and then laying replacement cabling prior the termination of the existing supply.

A watching brief was carried out by Headland Archaeology (UK) Ltd during the works at Tower Street. Intermittent monitoring was undertaken between the 4th and 22nd of January 2016.

The works were undertaken in accordance with a written scheme of investigation (Craddock-Bennett 2015) agreed in advance with the archaeological advisor.

1.1 SITE DESCRIPTION

Tower site is currently a brick-paved pedestrian walkway running east-west between King Street (The Bull Ring), and Upper Galdeford in Ludlow, Shropshire (SO 51284 74707) (ILLUS 1).

The underlying bedrock geology is recorded as Temeside Mudstone Formation. No drift deposits are recorded (BGS 2016).

1.2 HISTORICAL AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

Ludlow is seen as the textbook example of a planted medieval town laid out alongside its Norman castle (Morris & Hoverd 1993). Virtually

nothing is known of the earlier history of the site, for although Ludeford, is mentioned in the Domesday Book of 1086, Ludlow itself is not. The site of Ludlow was in a detached part of the important Saxon manor of Stanton, centred around Stanton Lacy village a few miles to the north. Following a Saxon uprising Stanton was given to Walter De Lacy, and he began building a castle on the best defensive site in his new manor, the top of cliffs overlooking the Teme at Ludlow.

The De Laceys established a small settlement to the south of the castle, in the area now called Dinham, opposite to the original castle gateway which faced south. The first mention of Ludlow occurs in 1138, when it was caught up in the civil war between Stephen and Matilda. The grid of the new town was probably started by the middle of the twelfth century. The street pattern was very simple, however recent work indicates that it wasn't all laid out at the same time and may have taken over a century to complete.

The town wall is believed to have been started in 1233, but could have taken many years to complete (Shoesmith & Johnson 2000, 9). The circuit enclosed the main part of the town and included six main gates. Tower Street originally formed one of the entry points into the medieval walled town. The Galdeford Gate was located halfway along Tower Street, although no above ground trace survives.

Ludlow probably suffered decline in the late fourteenth century because of the effects of the Black Death and the decline of the raw wool trade, but by the fifteenth century it was again prosperous. The rebuilding of St Laurences Church took place at this time. The fortunes of Ludlow were transformed in 1534 when Bishop Rowland Lee became President of the Council of the Welsh Marches. The work of the Council attracted judges, lawyers and Clerks and many of the timber framed buildings still standing in the town date from this prosperous period., the castle also remained in use. Unfortunately many fine buildings outside of the town walls were destroyed by the defenders during the English Civil War to improve lines of fire, and others were burnt by the attackers.

After the abolition of the Council of the Marches in 1689, Ludlow's history as a regional capital ended.



ILLUS 2 Facing west; plan shot by sample section 1 showing evidence of old pipes



ILLUS 3 Facing north; sample section 2, detail of deposits



ILLUS 4 Facing east; plan shot of cable trench by sample section 5 showing new pipes

2 OBJECTIVES

The objectives of the watching brief were to:

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

3 METHOD

All groundworks were undertaken by subcontractors employed by the client. Paving bricks were removed by hand, and then a linear trench measuring 0.6m in width and c80m in length was excavated with a small mechanical excavator. Excavation ceased at a depth of between 0.5m and 0.6m below ground level. The contractors excavated the trench in sections approximately 5–10m in length before backfilling.

Given the high levels of ground disturbance of the area, the following archaeological monitoring methodology was followed.

An initial site visit was undertaken to ensure the contractors were following a programme of excavation within previously undisturbed ground.

Subsequent monitoring visits depending on the backfilling rate, to record exposed trench sections (minimum of one section record every 10 metres).

3.1 RECORDING

All recording was done in accordance with the ClfA Standard and Guidance for an Archaeological Watching Brief (ClfA 2014).

Sample sections were photographed using a 35mm black and white film camera, with digital images taken for reporting purposes. The stratigraphic sequence of each excavated section was recorded on a pro forma trench record sheet.

4 RESULTS (ILLUS 2–ILLUS 7)

The deposits encountered comprised a layer of paving bricks (eg101), measuring 0.08m in depth underlain by a bedding deposit of course sand (eg102), which was approximately 0.10m in depth. The brick and sand deposits overlay a 0.1m thick layer of modern tarmac (eg103) which appeared to represent a former road surface (ILLUS 5). Below this was a firm, brown, silty clay deposit (104) which extended to a depth of 0.5m. Excavation ceased at this level.



ILLUS 5 Facing north; sample section 5

ILLUS 6 Facing east; trench widening in roadway beyond paved area to east

ILLUS 7 Facing south; connection box close to line of town wall

Existing service pipes and cables had led to a large degree of truncation to deposit (104).

The depositional sequence was the same along the whole length of Tower Street, and continued into Upper Galdeford to the east.

Following the excavation of the main trench, two property connection chambers were excavated close to the line of the town wall. These measured approximately 1.2m long × 1m wide (**ILLUS 7**), but they did not extend below the depth of the main cable trench.

5 DISCUSSION

The watching brief confirmed that along the full length of Tower Street, deposits below current surface level up to a depth of approximately 0.5m, are composed of made ground. The presence of modern and older service pipes, would suggest that the whole area of the paved walkway has been heavily disturbed, and it is unlikely that any remains from the medieval period have survived, certainly at this level, although there may be survival at a greater depth.

6 REFERENCES

- Craddock-Bennett, L 2015 *Written Scheme of Investigation for an Archaeological Watching Brief: Tower Street, Ludlow, Shropshire* Headland Archaeology (UK) Ltd.
- Morris, R & Hoverd, K 1993 *The Buildings of Ludlow* Ch1, p1-13 Alan Sutton, The Bath Press, Bath, Avon.
- Shoemith, R & Johnson, A 2000 *Ludlow Castle; Its History and Buildings* Logaston Press, Herefordshire.
- CIfA 2014 *Standard and Guidance for an Archaeological Watching Brief.*

7 APPENDICES

APPENDIX 1 SITE REGISTER

Appendix 1.1 Context register

Context	Description	DBGL(m)
101, 201, 301, 401, 501, 601 & 701	Modern paving bricks	0–0.08
102, 202, 302, 402, 502, 602 & 702	Sand levelling base for paving bricks	0.08–0.18
103, 203, 303, 403, 503, 603 & 703	Buried tarmac surface	0.18–0.28
104, 204, 304, 404, 504, 604 & 704	Brown, clay, stony deposit	0.28–0.55+

Appendix 1.2 Photographic register

Photo	B/W	Digi	Facing	Description
1	37	1	S	North facing section of Sample Section 1
2	36	2	W	Area open for sample section 1 - plan shot
3	35	3	N	South facing section of Sample Section 2
4	34	4	NW	Plan shot showing cable route through/over existing service trench
5	33	5	N	South facing section of Sample Section 3
6	32	6	N	South facing section of Sample Section 4
7	31	7	—	VOID
8	30	8	SW	Plan shot after connection cable installed near Sample Section 1
9	29	9	S	Plan shot after connection cable installed near Sample Section 1
10	28	10	N	South facing section of Sample Section 5
11	27	11	E	Plan shot down cable trench at eastern end of trench
12	26	12	N	South facing section of Sample Section 7
13	25	13	E	Plan shot down cable trench where trench meets the road
14	24	14	SE	Cable trench in road with modern service running through
15	23	15	N	Connection chamber off main cable trench by Sample Section 7
16	22	16	SW	Flooded connection chamber
17	21	17	S	Connection chamber by town wall.
18	20	18	S	Connection chamber by town wall.



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