

LFOS/01



LUDLOW FOOD CENTRE, BROMFIELD, SHROPSHIRE

ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF

commissioned by The Environmental Dimension Partnership (EDP)
on behalf of Trustees of the Plymouth Settled Estates

16/01522/FUL

June 2017

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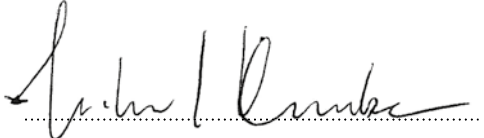
June 2017

project info

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LOCAL AUTHORITY Shropshire Council
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project team

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PROJECT SUMMARY

Headland Archaeology was commissioned to undertake an archaeological watching brief during the creation of a staff and overspill car park for the Ludlow Food Centre, Bromfield. The works did not reach a depth sufficient to expose the natural substrate, identifying only made ground and subsoil. No finds, features or deposits of archaeological significance were identified during the course of the watching brief.

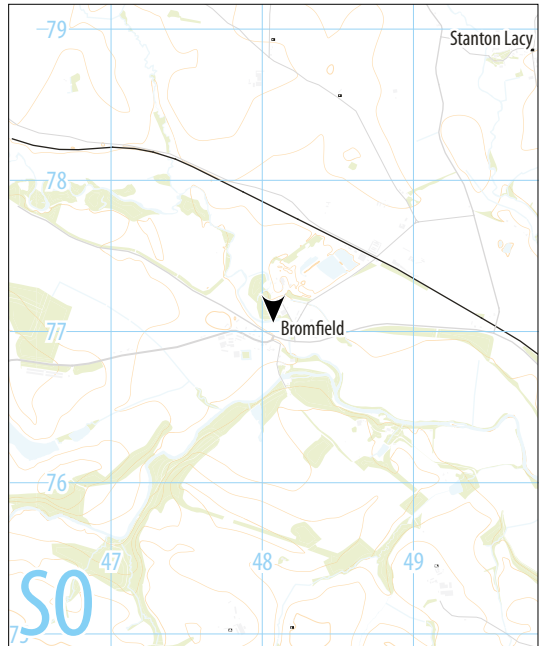
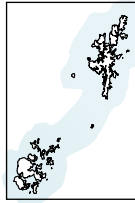
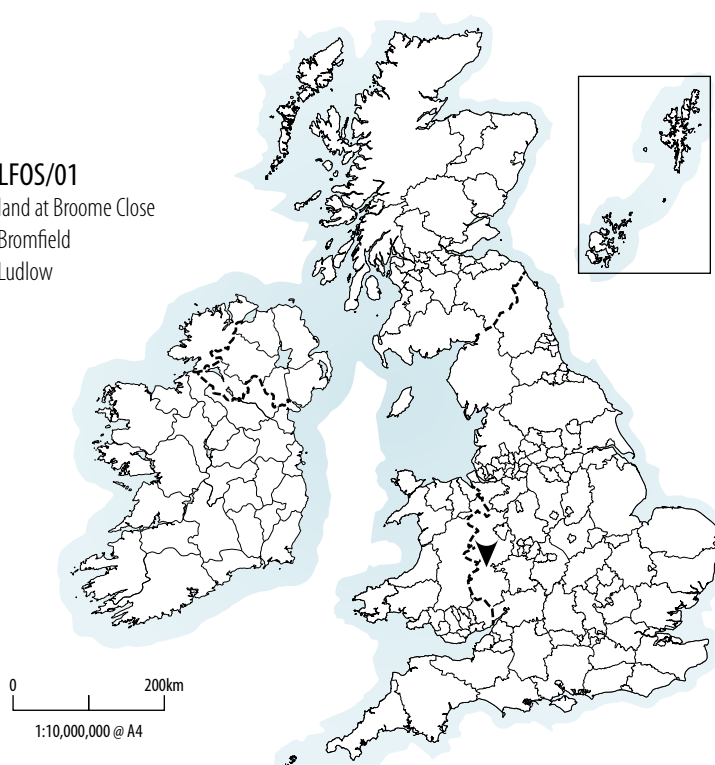
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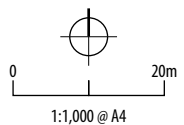
LIST OF ILLUSTRATIONS

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LFOS/01
land at Broome Close
Bromfield
Ludlow



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— development boundary
- - - monitored works



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ILLUS 1 Site location

LUDLOW FOOD CENTRE, BROMFIELD, SHROPSHIRE

ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF

1 INTRODUCTION

Headland Archaeology was commissioned by The Trustees of the Plymouth Settled Estates through their agents The Environmental Dimension Partnership (EDP) to undertake an archaeological watching brief at Ludlow Food Centre, Bromfield, Shropshire (henceforth referred to as the Development Area (DA)).

Planning Permission has been granted by Shropshire Council (16/01522/FUL) for the construction of a new staff and overspill car park associated with the Ludlow Food Centre.

Condition 3 states:

'No development shall take place until a programme of archaeological work has been implemented in accordance with a written scheme of investigation which has been submitted to and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority.'

A Written Scheme of Investigation was produced by the client's archaeological consultants, EDP (Skinner 2017) and submitted to address the planning condition. The client then commissioned Headland Archaeology (UK) Ltd to undertake the archaeological works. Headland Archaeology produced an Archaeological Method Statement (Kimber 2017).

1.1 SITE LOCATION (ILLUS1)

The development area is centred on SO 48297 77134 to the east side of an un-named road between Bromfield and Old Field, to the north of Bromfield, Shropshire. It comprises a single agricultural field. The commercial premises of the Ludlow Food Centre lie to the south-east, where they are accessed via a road along the site's southern boundary. To the north-west is a gravel pit.

The ground within the site is broadly flat, being located within the valley of the Rover Onny, at approximately 90m above Ordnance Datum (AOD). The development area itself was a field of rough pasture and scrub.

The underlying geology is formed of siltstone and mudstone of the Raglan Mudstone Formation, with superficial deposits of alluvium, deposited by the shifting course of the River Onny (NERC 2017).

1.2 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

The WSI identified no known heritage assets within the site boundary. However, approximately 130m to the north-east of the site is a Scheduled Monument; Roman Camp North of Bromfield Farm (1006273). The camp consists of the buried archaeological remains of a temporary Roman camp, excavated in 1956 and 1968.

Remains related to the camp, and various other remains, were recorded through phases of excavation in advance of extraction at Bromfield Gravel Quarry, located c. 50–170m to the north-east of the site.

Excavations at the quarry recorded buried remains consisting of Neolithic and Bronze Age pits, a Bronze Age barrow, a Bronze Age cremation cemetery, Iron Age and Roman period settlement, early-medieval burials and ditches and pits.

The remains recorded at the quarry clearly attest to a local area that was a focus for activity throughout the prehistoric and Roman period. Burial appears to have been common to the area, which is likely to have had some local significance with regard to a funerary tradition that continued into the early-medieval period.



ILLUS 2 Stripped area facing SW

The village of Bromfield directly to the south contains various post-medieval and 19th century buildings, many of which are listed, and is the focus of a Conservation Area.

Maps from the mid-19th century to the present depict the site as part of an agricultural field containing trees. It is described, on the 1947 Tithe Map of Bromfield Parish, as a 'meadow'. The presence of trees suggests the site may have been in use as an orchard by the late 19th century.

2 OBJECTIVES

In general, the watching brief aim was to:

- › Establish the presence or absence, location, extent, nature and heritage significance of any archaeological deposits or materials within the site;
- › Make an appropriate record of such deposits and material prior to their destruction;
- › Appropriately disseminate the results of the archaeological works, proportionate to the findings of the Kate Bain; and
- › Deposit a well ordered archive in an appropriate repository following completion.

The resulting archive will be organised and deposited with Shropshire Museums to facilitate access for future research and interpretation for public benefit.

3 METHOD

Excavation works were undertaken by a mechanical excavator equipped with a flat-bladed bucket. The main contractor mechanically excavated deposits as necessary for the works, which were monitored and recorded by an appropriately qualified archaeologist.

With agreement from the archaeological advisor, Charlotte Orchard, a small area at the south-western corner of the site, temporality occupied by the topsoil stockpile, was not monitored.

All recording was undertaken on pre-printed pro forma record cards. The photographic archive comprised monochrome prints, taken with a graduated metric scale clearly visible, supplemented by high resolution digital photography.

All recording followed ClfA Standards and Guidance (ClfA 2014) for conducting archaeological evaluations along with the Headland manual.



ILLUS 3 Stripped area facing SW

4 RESULTS (ILLUS 2 AND 3)

The ground level was reduced by a maximum of 0.25m across the site, at this depth the natural substrate was not reached. The excavations did however partially expose patches of a subsoil (1003) which was composed of an orange sand with mixed gravel. Overlying this, predominantly in the north-east and central portions of the site, was a deposit of rubble and modern dumping (1002). The uppermost horizon was a mid-light brown sandy clay loam topsoil (1001) that measured up to 0.25m deep.

5 DISCUSSION

The shallow depth of the excavated area did not expose any features or deposits of archaeological significance during the course of the works. The presence of a substantial amount of modern dumping, predominantly in the north-eastern part of the site, indicated that this area had been significantly disturbed; however, it remains possible, albeit unlikely, that archaeological remains may be present at a depth not achieved during the works.

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7 APPENDICES

APPENDIX 1 CONTEXT REGISTER

SAMPLE SECTION	LOCATION	L (M)	W (M)	AV. D (M)
1	–	–	1.00	0.25

CONTEXT CONTEXT	DESCRIPTION	MBGL
1001	Topsoil – Mid/light brown loamy clay sand	0 – 0.25
1002	Deposit of rubble and other detritus including fence posts, old gates.	0.25+
1003	Subsoil – Orange sand with mixed gravels	0.25+

Summary

North eastern part of site covered by a layer of rubble and other debris. Towards south this is less dominant and subsoil can be seen. Top soil seals all deposits.

MBGL = meters below ground level



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