

PLLH17



NEW TELECOM MAST CABLE ROUTE, JAY LANE, LEINTWARDINE

ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF ON CABLE INSTALLATION
HER REF. EHE 80314

commissioned by WSE Solutions
on behalf of Clarke Telecom Ltd

November 2017

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PROJECT SUMMARY

Headland Archaeology (UK) Ltd undertook archaeological monitoring during the installation of a connection cable from existing telecoms masts to a new telecoms tower in Leintwardine, Herefordshire. The excavated trench was to the northeast of the settlement of Leintwardine and 400m to the northeast of Jay Lane Roman Fort. The cable trench extended for 51.5m, in the northern corner of an agricultural field used for sheep grazing, and revealed no archaeological deposits or features.

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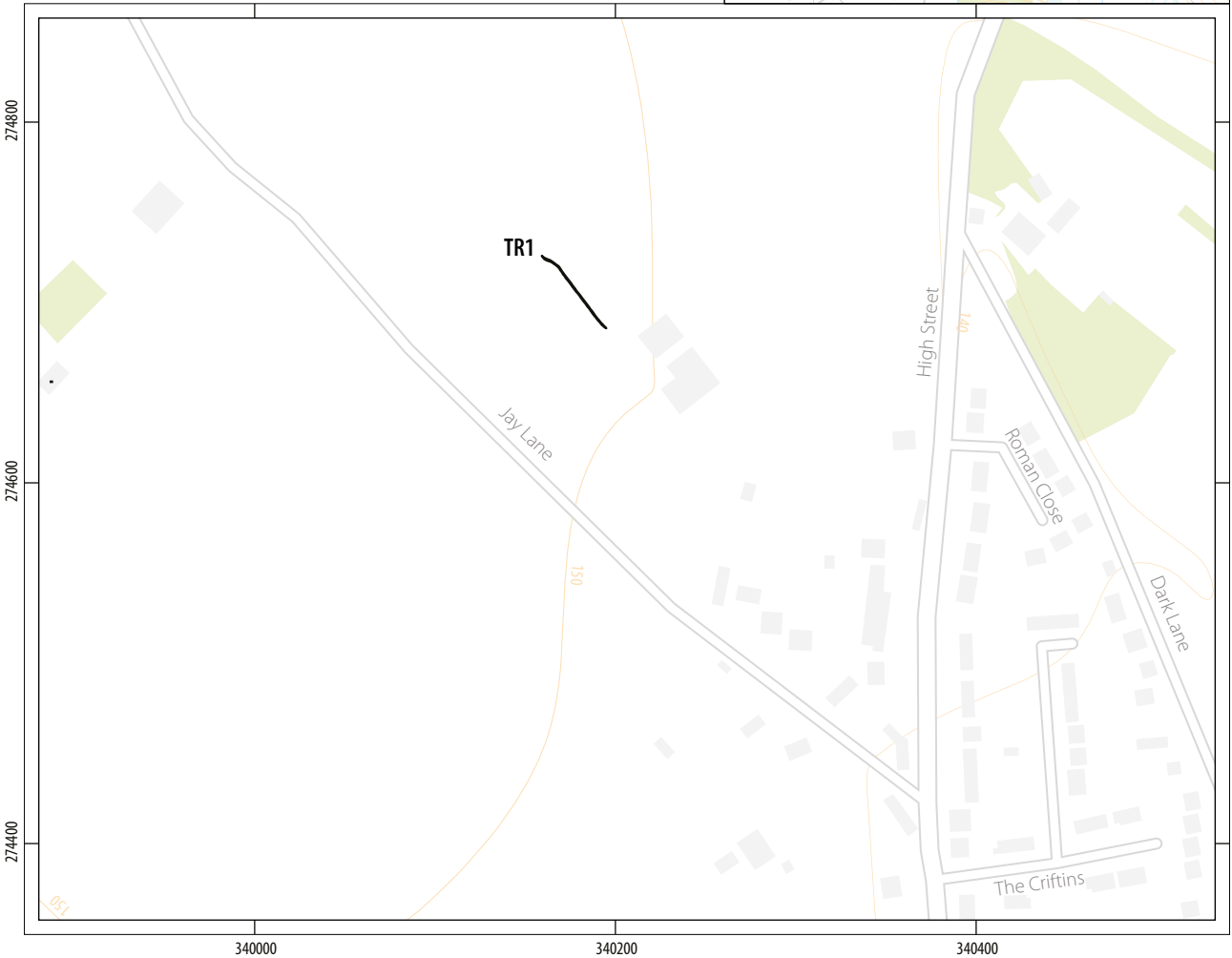
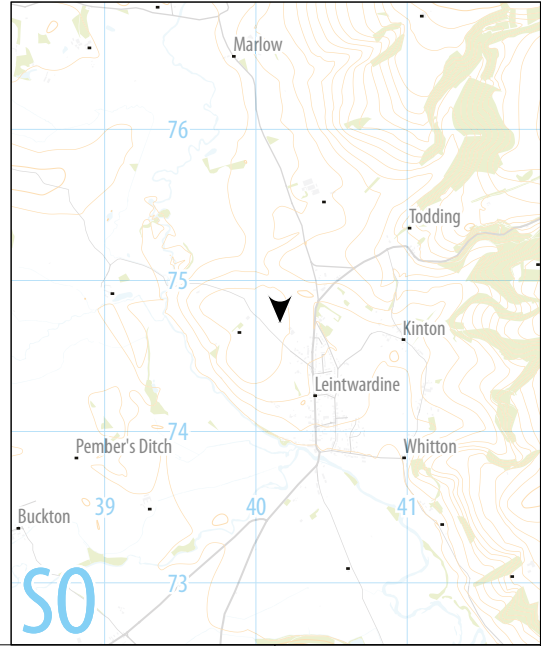
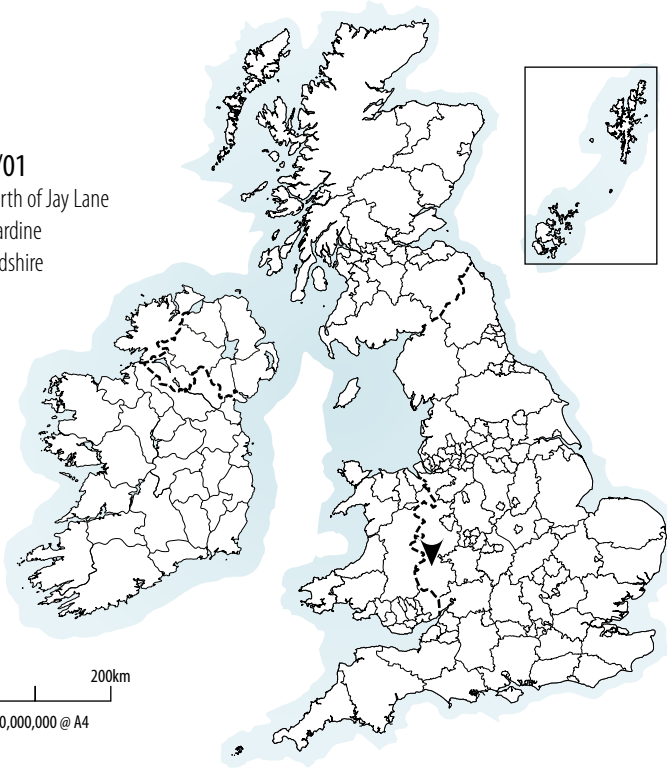
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PLLH/01
land north of Jay Lane
Leintwardine
Herefordshire

0 200km
1:10,000,000 @ A4



0 20m
1:4,000 @ A4

□ trench location



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ILLUS 1 Site location

NEW TELECOM MAST CABLE ROUTE, JAY LANE, LEINTWARDINE

ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF ON CABLE INSTALLATION

1 INTRODUCTION

Headland Archaeology (UK) Ltd was commissioned by WSE Solutions, on behalf of Clarke Telecom Ltd, to undertake a watching brief during the installation of an electricity supply for a new telecom mast. The trench was located within a pasture field at Plough Farm, to the northwest of Leintwardine, Herefordshire (NGR SO 40191 74691) (Illus 1). The archaeological monitoring took place on the 3rd October 2017.

All archaeological monitoring was undertaken in accordance with a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) prepared by Headland Archaeology (Bennett 2017) and agreed with the archaeological advisor for Herefordshire, Julian Cotton.

1.1 SITE DESCRIPTION

The cable trench was located on agricultural land to the northwest of Leintwardine, currently used for the grazing of sheep. The land around the trench lies at approximately 147m above Ordnance Datum (AOD).

The parish of Leintwardine is the northernmost in Herefordshire, bordering with the county of Shropshire. The A4113 transects the village itself, on the alignment of a Roman road, and connects the settlement to the larger settlement of Ludlow to the east.

The underlying geology covered by the service trench consists of Much Wenlock Limestone Formation, a sedimentary Bedrock formed approximately 427 to 431 million years ago in an area dominated by shallow lime-mud seas. No superficial deposits have been recorded across the site (NERC 2017).

1.2 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

The area surrounding Leintwardine has a long history, with the town itself thought to be the Roman settlement known as Bravinium.

There are multiple Roman Forts within the parish as well as a church with medieval origins, and recorded post-medieval activity.

The service trench excavation took place approximately 400m to the northeast of Jay Lane Roman Fort (SMR 578). The fort dates from AD 47–61, and is comprised of double ditches and timber internal towers. The fort is thought to have been dismantled in AD 70–80 to be replaced by the nearby Buckton Fort.

Jay Lane Roman Fort survives as an entirely buried structure with deposits visible as crop marks on aerial photographs. Covering an area of approximately 2ha the fort is playing card shaped with a rectangular annexe at the southern end of the south-western side (Stanford 1968).

The site of a possible post-medieval vineyard (SMR 42592) is situated in the adjacent field to the northwest outlining the post-medieval potential of the area.

2 METHOD

The main contractor (Western Power Distribution) mechanically excavated deposits as necessary for the installation of the electricity supply. Machine excavation was carried out by a wheeled JCB-type excavator and all mechanical excavation was constantly and directly monitored by a suitably experienced archaeologist.

The trench and spoil were visually scanned for archaeological material; hand-collected finds, other than those that were evidently modern, were retained for examination. All recording followed ClfA Standards and Guidance. All deposits identified during the excavation were given a unique number, and recorded on pro forma record sheets, recording the level at which deposits were



encountered below ground level (BGL). Where appropriate, digital and monochrome film photographs were taken of the trench and the general site location.

All site work was undertaken with respect to Health and Safety provision. Hard hats, safety gloves, high-visibility vests and safety boots were worn by all staff at all times. Site conditions were good and the work took place in mild weather on 3rd October 2017.

3 RESULTS

A full description of the sequence of deposits is provided in Appendix 1. The location of the service trench is recorded in Illus 1.

3.1 THE SERVICE TRENCH

A 51.5m length of trench was excavated on a southeast-northwest alignment at the northwest corner of a field off Jay Lane, Leintwardine. The trench measured 0.35m wide and was excavated to an average depth of 0.80m (Illus 2). No deposits of archaeological significance were identified.

2



ILLUS 2 Service trench after excavation, looking north-west **ILLUS 3** Sample section, showing south-west facing section

The soil profile was relatively regular throughout the trench, and stratigraphy consisted of a deep brown loam topsoil (1001) (c 0.20m thick), above a mid-orange brown sandy silt, with occasional sub-angular rocks (1002) (c 0.60m thick). These layers overlay a geological deposit (1003) consisting of a mid-grey brown silty-clay, with rare charcoal flecks and chalk flecks noticeable at the diffuse border with subsoil (1002), likely caused by rooting from a nearby hedgerow and trees. Layer (1003) also contained occasional large sub-angular rocks (Illus 3). This clay was only exposed in a few small areas of the trench as the machining undulated to c 0.90m. A small, unstratified piece of struck flint was recovered from the subsoil spoil during works, but no features of archaeological significance were identified.

4 CONCLUSION

During the monitoring of the service trench to the west of Leintwardine, archaeological monitoring revealed a relatively consistent soil profile of topsoil and subsoil overlying a silty clay strata which appeared in some areas of the trench with a slightly greater depth. No conclusively archaeological deposits were identified but a small unstratified piece of struck flint was recovered from the subsoil. Due to the limited scale of observations made during the works, it is not possible to entirely rule out the prospect of further archaeological material in the general vicinity.

The archaeological monitoring has succeeded in providing a record of the sequence of deposits disturbed by the excavation of the service trench. This record will aid the development of future strategies for the assessment of archaeological potential during nearby development.

5 REFERENCES

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6 APPENDICES

APPENDIX 1 CONTEXT REGISTER

DBGL = Depth below ground level

Trench 1	Dimensions L x W x D (m)	
	51.5	c.0.90
Context	Description	DBGL (m)
1001	Topsoil: Dark brown loam topsoil	0-0.20
1002	Subsoil: mid Brown sandy silt with occasional sub-angular rocks (c. 8-15cm)	0.20-0.80
1003	Dark brown geological silty-clay, with rare chalk and charcoal flecks at diffuse border with subsoil, and occasional sub-angular rocks (c.10-20cm)	0.80-0.90
Summary		

No archaeological deposits identified.



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