

NCHH17



# LAND OFF NEWPORT STREET, CUSOP, HAY-ON-WYE

ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF  
PLANNING REF. DCSW/2008/0118  
CONDITION 12

commissioned by The Environmental Dimension Partnership Ltd  
on behalf of WK Plasterers Ltd

July 2018



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PROJECT INFO:

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/ **Archive Repository Hereford Museum**

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## PROJECT SUMMARY

An archaeological watching brief was carried out on groundworks associated with a residential development on Newport Street, Cusop by Headland Archaeology (UK) Ltd. The work was carried out intermittently between 17 October 2017 and 5 June 2018. The only archaeological feature identified was a remnant of a drystone wall forming a modern field boundary.

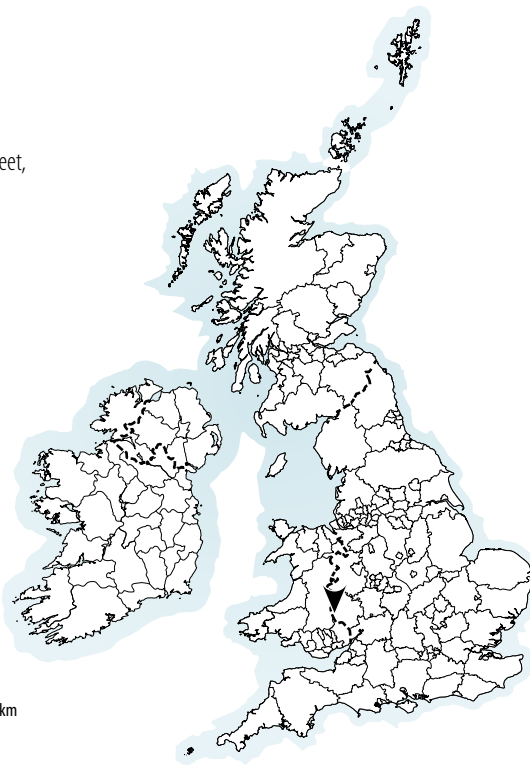
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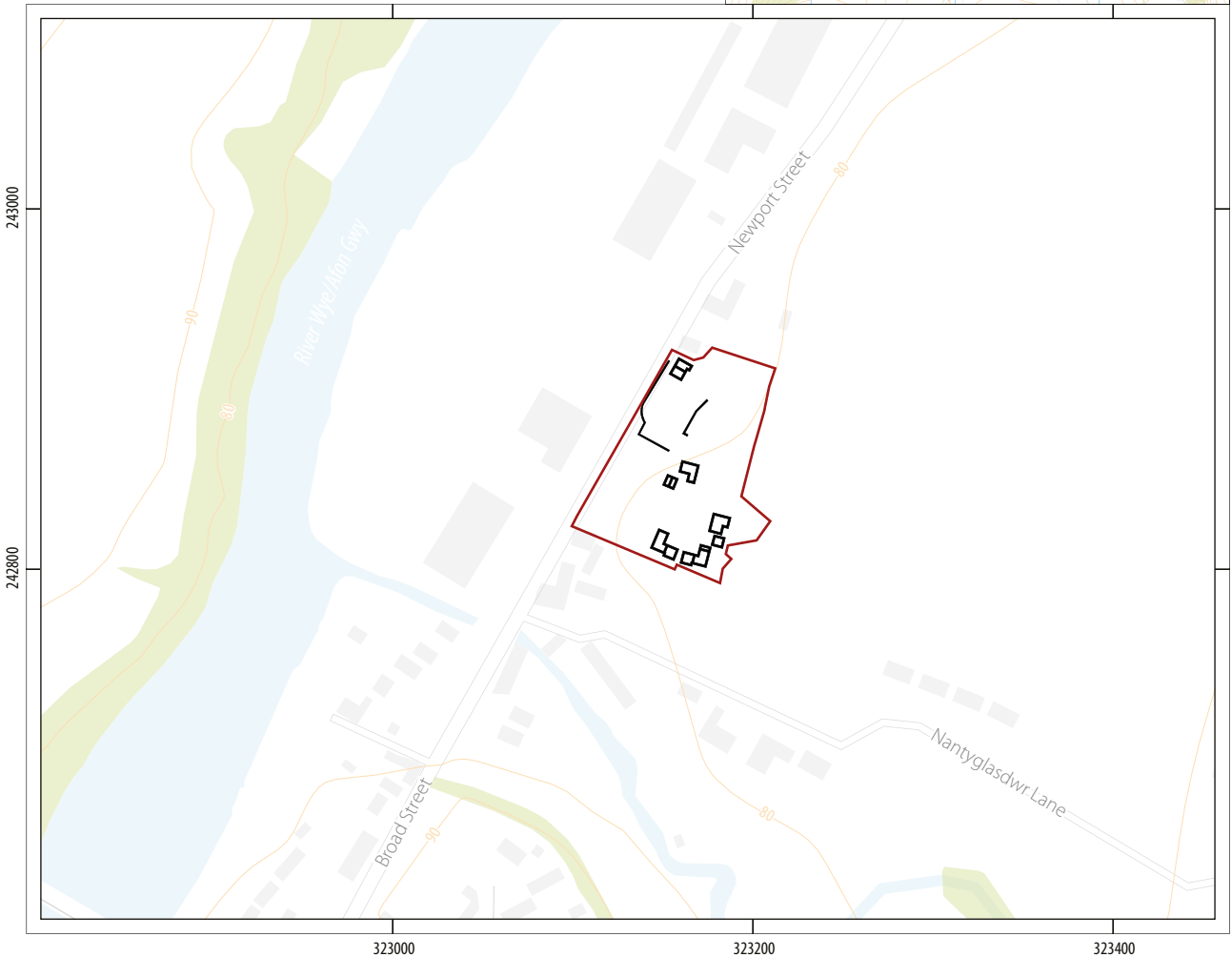
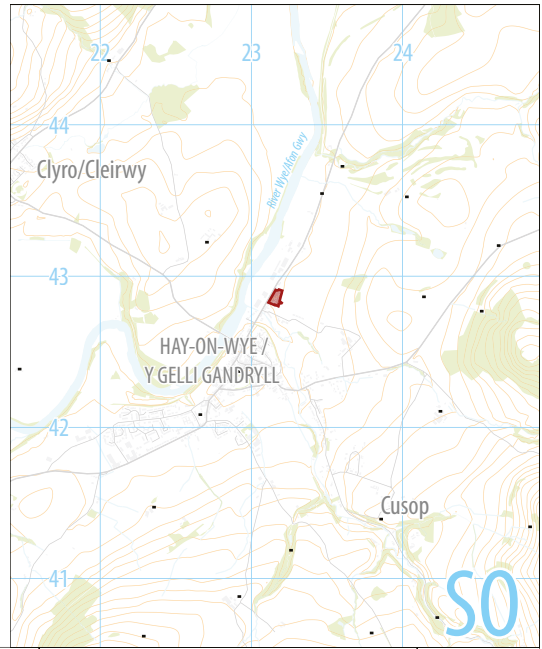
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Land off Newport Street,  
Cusop  
Herefordshire



0 200km  
1:12,500,000 @ A3



0 100m  
1:4,000 @ A4

development boundary  
trench location



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ILLUS 1 Site location



# LAND OFF NEWPORT STREET, CUSOP, HAY-ON-WYE

## ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF

### 1 INTRODUCTION

Headland Archaeology was commissioned by The Environmental Dimension Partnership (EDP) Ltd on behalf of WK Plasterers Ltd to undertake a programme of archaeological works in connection with groundworks associated with a residential development on land off Newport Street, Cusop, Hay-on-Wye, Herefordshire.

Planning permission for the development was granted by Herefordshire County Council (Application Number: DCSW2008/0118/O) subject to a number of conditions, including one relating to archaeological works (Condition 12).

*'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 and approved in writing by the local planning authority. This programme shall be in accordance with a brief prepared by the County Archaeology Service.'*

In order to fulfil this condition a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) was prepared by The Environmental Dimension Partnership (EDP 2016) on behalf of RST Cardiff Ltd; setting out the proposed strategy for archaeological mitigation.

This included an archaeological watching brief. The WSI was submitted to and agreed with Julian Cotton, the archaeological advisor to Herefordshire County Council. This report details the results of the work.

### 2 SITE LOCATION AND DESCRIPTION

The site is centred on NGR SO 23157 42867 (Illus 1). Prior to residential development the land was an agricultural field. The site is located

immediately to the east of Newport Street opposite commercial premises. It is bounded by agricultural fields to the north and east.

It lies at approximately 80m AOD and the bedrock geology comprised siltstone and mudstone of the Raglan Mudstone Formation with superficial deposits being formed by Diamicton Devensian till (NERC 2018).

The site adjoined one of the medieval routes into the town, although it lies well away from the medieval town itself (Cotton pers com, cited in EDP 2016, 5).

The expectation was that if below ground archaeological remains were present they could have been related to settlement activity, but it was more likely they would be related to agricultural / horticultural activity, or chance finds.

As Plots 1 to 6 and 17 to 25 directly adjoined the road these were the most likely to yield results.

Historic maps from the early 19th to the early 20th century indicate that the site was in use as an orchard. From the mid-20th century onwards it is depicted as being an agricultural field.

### 3 AIMS & OBJECTIVES

In line with the WSI the main objectives of archaeological works were to:

- › establish the presence or absence, location, extent, nature and significance of any archaeological deposits or materials within the site;



ILLUS 2 Site plan showing excavations monitored

- › 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 fieldwork; and
- › deposit a well-ordered archive in an appropriate repository following completion.

## 4 METHODOLOGY

### 4.1 SITE WORKS

The Written Scheme of Investigation stipulated that:

- › 'Groundworks within the site will be completed under archaeological supervision to identify, investigate and record any buried features or remains of interest' (EDP 2016, 9).
- › 'Archaeological monitoring and supervision will be undertaken on level reductions and the excavation of new foundations and services within the approved development footprint' (EDP 2016, 9).

This did happen in part, but the majority of the excavations took place without any archaeological supervision owing to the fact these works were not communicated to Headland Archaeology.

Excavation of foundation trenches of the house and garage on Plot 12 and a garage on Plot 16 were carried out under archaeological supervision, as was the excavation of a services trench (Trench 1).

The excavation of building foundations on Plots 5, 6, 13, 14, 16 were carried out without an archaeologist present but they were inspected after excavation had taken place.

Groundworks on Plots 1, 2, 3, 4, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 15, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24 and 25 and associated service trenches were undertaken without any archaeological monitoring.

These unmonitored plots equated to a large percentage of the site on which the presence or absence of archaeological remains had not been determined.

To discharge Condition 12 of the planning application (DCSW2008/0118/O), it was agreed between the archaeological advisor to the LPA and the Environmental Dimension Partnership (consultant) that the excavation of two 20m evaluation trenches would determine whether archaeological remains had been affected by the unmonitored groundworks.

The decision of where exactly to locate these trenches was left to the discretion of Headland Archaeology.

On inspection of the site at this stage, all of the building foundations were in place and the associated services had been installed. The access between buildings had already been surfaced.

This rendered the excavation of trenches in the southern part of the site and most of the northern part impracticable.

In the northern part of site, the central space between Plots 1 to 7 and Plots 8 to 10 (see Illus 2) had hitherto remained unexcavated making this the most suitable location.

The decision was taken to excavate an L-shaped evaluation trench (Trench 2) within this space. Constrained by machine manoeuvrability in such a tight space the excavated trench measured a total of 36m.

### 4.2 RECORDING

All aspects of the work were undertaken in accordance with the current ClfA Code of Conduct and Standard and Guidance documents for archaeological watching brief and the creation, compilation, transfer and deposition of archaeological archives (2014a, 2014b and 2014c).

Where possible the work was carried out in accordance with the WSI (EDP 2016) and where this was not possible agreement was reached between the advisor to the LPA and the consultant (EDP)

### 4.3 REPORTING

The results of the works are presented below and a summary has been prepared for the OASIS database (headland3-319126).

The complete project archive will be deposited with Hereford Museum within six months of the completion of the project. The records (paper and digital) will be archived according to best practice guidelines set out by the Archaeological Archiving Forum.

## 5 RESULTS

### 5.1 DISCUSSION

Further details about the deposits discussed below can be found in the context register (Appendix 1).

The specific groundworks carried out under archaeological supervision were as follows:

Trench 1 was a service trench cut parallel to the road in the north-west of the site. It was L-shaped in plan and its main body was orientated NE-SW. It was c 70m long by 0.8m wide and was excavated to a depth of 1m below formation level (see Illus 2).

Trench 2 was an archaeological evaluation trench. It was L-shaped in plan and its main body was orientated NE-SW. It measured 36m long by 0.8m wide and was excavated to the depth of the geological horizon (0.7m below formation level) (see Illus 6).

Plot 12, foundation trenches for a house and garage were dug according to the architect's design to a depth of 0.9 to 2.3m below formation level (see Illus 2).



**ILLUS 3** Plots 19–25 reduced to natural substrat **ILLUS 4** Plot 16 foundation trench looking north **ILLUS 5** Trench 1 showing wall remnant looking east

Plot 16, foundation trench for a double garage was dug according to the architect's design to a depth of 0.8m below formation level (see Illus 4).

Within the footprint of Plots 19-25, the area was reduced to a level of 1-1.4m below pre-development ground level (BGL) (see Illus 3).

The general stratigraphy was uniform across the site and was recorded in Trenches 1, 2 and Plots 12 and 25.

The natural substrate (Contexts 003, 006, 012 and 102) was recorded at a depth of 0.6 to 0.78m BGL and consisted of a mid-red brown sandy clay with mudstone outcrops.

This was sealed by subsoil varying in thickness from 0.25 to 0.43m (005, 011 and 101) consisting of a loosely compact mid reddish brown silty sand with gravel inclusions.

This was sealed in turn by topsoil varying in depth between 0.2 and 0.4m (001, 004 and 010) consisting of a loosely compact mid brown grey clayey silt with gravel inclusions.

The watching brief identified a remnant of a drystone wall foundation (009) in the west facing section of Trench 1 at a depth of c 0.4m BGL (see Illus 5).

The wall was aligned NE-SW extending NE beyond the limit of excavation. It was >30m long by 0.4m high by 0.6m wide.



ILLUS 6 Trench 2 overview looking north-east

## 5.2 CONCLUSION

No evidence for in situ archaeological features was identified during the programme of works. Given the extent of archaeological monitoring it is difficult to conclude with certainty that the entire site was completely devoid of any archaeological activity. The excavation of Trench 1, however, gave sufficient opportunity to assess the archaeological potential of the roadside frontage and no archaeological finds or features were identified. The drystone wall identified in Trench 1 corresponds with a former field boundary, as shown on the 1832 Ordnance Survey Map. Due to its relatively recent date it is considered to be of low archaeological significance. Notwithstanding the lack of settlement archaeology in Trench 1 an assessment of the exposed soil profile in the region of house plots 19-25 failed to identify any evidence for archaeological activity. Furthermore, the lack of residual finds of any period, suggests that the site is unlikely to have been a focus for roadside settlement.

## 6 REFERENCES

Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA) 2014a *Code of Conduct* (Reading) <http://http.www.archaeologists.net/sites/default/files/CodesofConduct.pdf> accessed 7 June 2018

Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA) 2014b *Standard and guidance for an archaeological watching brief* (Reading) [http://www.archaeologists.net/sites/default/files/CifAS&GWatchingbrief\\_2.pdf](http://www.archaeologists.net/sites/default/files/CifAS&GWatchingbrief_2.pdf) accessed 7 June 2018

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EDP 2016 *Land off Newport Street, Cusop, Hay-on-Wye, Written Scheme of Investigation for Archaeological Mitigation* [unpublished client document]

Natural Environment Research Council (NERC) 2018 *British Geological Survey* <http://www.bgs.ac.uk/> accessed 7 June 2018

Ordnance Survey (OS) 1832 Sheet 42' *First Series* [map] (Publication Year: 1832, Scale: 1:63,360) <http://visionofbritain.org.uk/maps/> accessed 7 June 2018

## 7 APPENDICES

### APPENDIX 1 SITE REGISTERS

#### Appendix 1.1 Context register

BGL = Below Ground Level

Context	Plot	Description	D BGL (m)
001	16	Subsoil-red brown sandy silt	0.2-0.6
002	16	Possible dumped deposit- red brown sand and gravel	0.6-0.78
003	16	Geological deposit- mid red brown mudstones	0.78+
004	13	Topsoil- Mid brown grey sandy silt	0-0.2
005	13	Subsoil-red brown sandy silt	0.2-0.63
006	13	Geological deposit- mid red brown clayey sand	0.63+
007	25	Rubble and stone land drain	0.4-0.65
008	25	Cut of land drain (007)	0.4-0.65
009	1-6	Dry stone wall	0.4-0.8
010	21-25	Topsoil- Dark brown grey clayey silt	0-0.2
011	21-25	Subsoil- red brown silty sand	0.2-0.5

Context	Plot	Description	D BGL (m)
012	21-25	Geological deposit- mid red brown sandy clay	0.7+
013	21-25	Redeposited topsoil bank	0-0.5
014	21-25	Subsoil- red brown silty sand	0.5-0.7
100	1-4	Construction levelling layer- grey brown soil with rubble inclusions	0.4-0.6
101	1-4	Disturbed subsoil - grey brown sandy silt with stone and rubble inclusions	0.6- 0.8
102	1-4	Natural substrate - light brown purple clay with mudstone inclusions	0.8+
12001	12	Topsoil- Dark red brown sandy silt	0.4
12002	12	Natural substrate- reddish brown sandy mudstone deposit	0.4+

#### Appendix 1.2 Drawing register

Drawing	Plan	Section	Description
001	N	Y	North facing section Plot 16
002	N	Y	West facing section Plot 13
003	N	Y	Dry stone wall 009





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