

ORCS18



# RICHARD'S CASTLE MOTTE AND BAILEY

WATCHING BRIEF DURING INSTALLATION  
OF ELECTRICITY POLE

EHE NO. EHE80382

on behalf of Western Power Distribution

December 2018



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#### PROJECT INFO:

HA Project Code **ORCS18** / HAS No. **1321** / NGR **SO 48503 70280** / Parish **Richard's Castle** / Local Authority **Herefordshire** / OASIS Ref. **headland3-335414** / ArchiveRepository **Herefordshire Museum Service**

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Approved by **Luke Craddock-Bennett**





## PROJECT SUMMARY

Headland Archaeology (UK) Ltd undertook archaeological monitoring during the installation of a new electricity pole and terminal stay within the garden of Old Church Cottage, Richard's Castle, Herefordshire. Two small receiving pits were excavated, both of which were located within the scheduled area of the motte and bailey castle. No archaeological deposits, finds or features were recorded during the works.

# CONTENTS

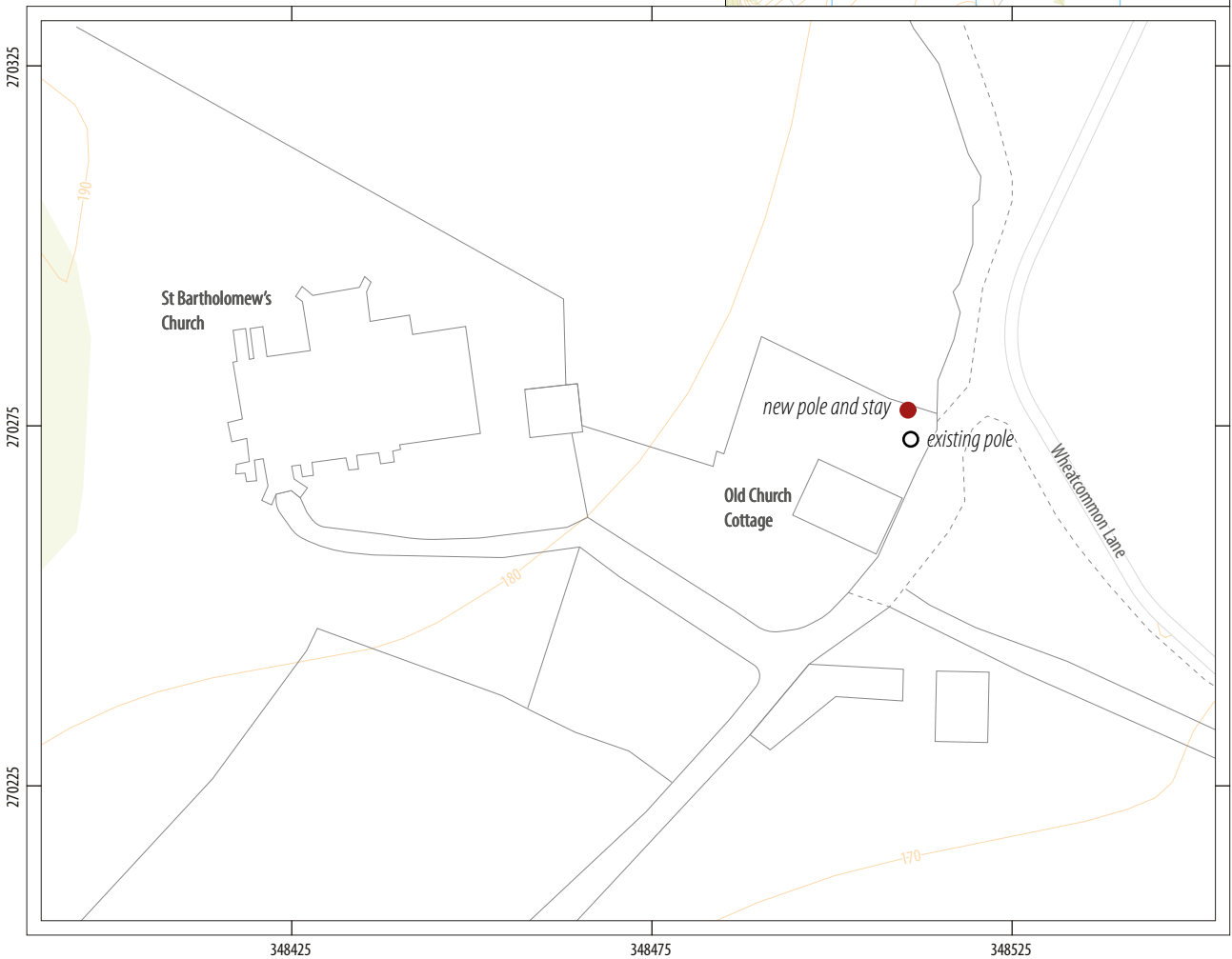
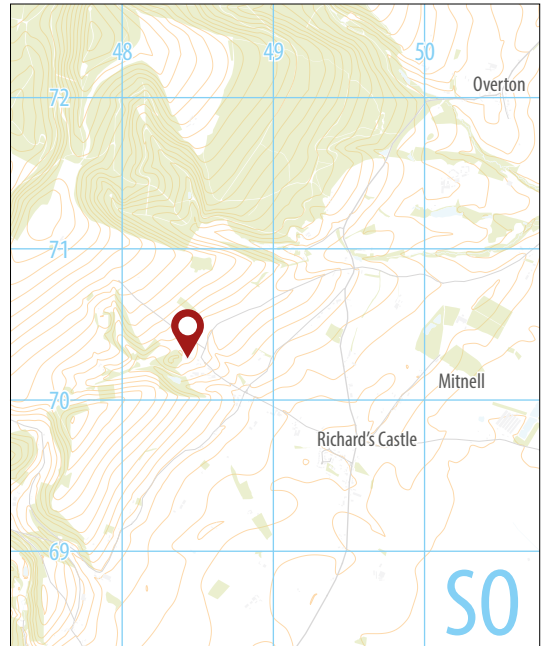
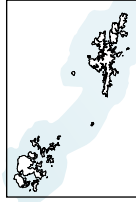
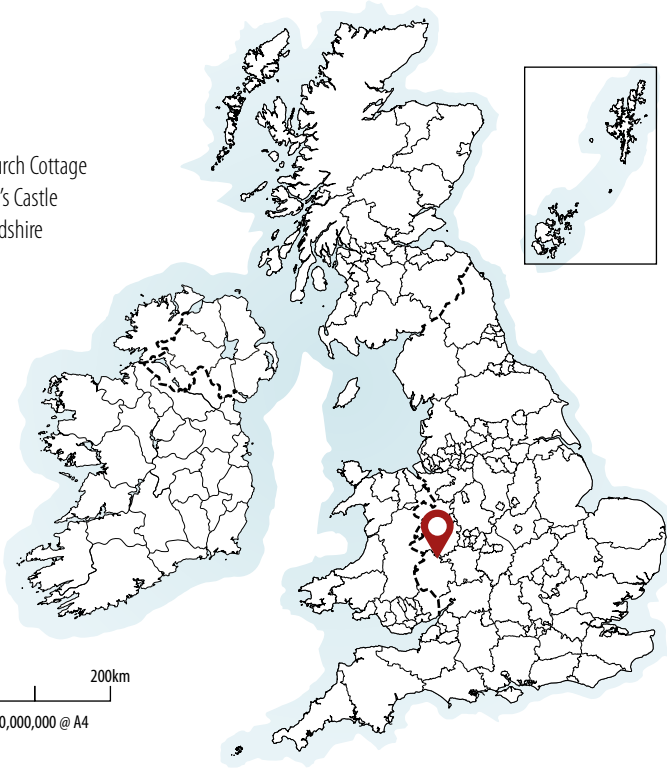
<b>1</b>	<b>INTRODUCTION</b>	<b>1</b>
	1.1 SITE DESCRIPTION	1
	1.2 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND	1
<b>2</b>	<b>METHOD</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>3</b>	<b>RESULTS</b>	<b>2</b>
	3.1 GENERAL SITE STRATIGRAPHY	2
<b>4</b>	<b>CONCLUSION</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>5</b>	<b>REFERENCES</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>6</b>	<b>APPENDICES</b>	<b>3</b>
	APPENDIX 1 TRENCH AND CONTEXT REGISTER	3

## LIST OF ILLUSTRATIONS

<b>ILLUS 1</b> SITE LOCATION	VIII
<b>ILLUS 2</b> EAST FACING SECTION OF TRENCH 1 (POLE TRENCH)	2
<b>ILLUS 3</b> GENERAL VIEW OF TRENCH 2 (STAY HOLE)	2

Old Church Cottage  
Richard's Castle  
Herefordshire

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



0 20m  
1:1,000 @ A4

● monitoring area

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# RICHARD'S CASTLE MOTTE AND BAILEY

## WATCHING BRIEF DURING INSTALLATION OF ELECTRICITY POLE

### 1 INTRODUCTION

Headland Archaeology (UK) Ltd was commissioned by Western Power Distribution to undertake a watching brief during the installation of a new electricity pole within the garden of Old Church Cottage, Richard's Castle, Herefordshire (NGR SO 48503 70280). A terminal support for the pole was anchored in a neighbouring field immediately to the north of the pole.

The site is located within the scheduled area of Richard's Castle motte and bailey (SM 19178, HA 1011020). Scheduled Monument Consent (SMC Ref: S00203672) to undertake the required works was granted by Historic England on 10th October 2018.

Archaeological monitoring took place on 9th November 2018 in accordance with a Written Scheme of Investigation prepared by Headland Archaeology (Craddock-Bennett 2018) and agreed with Historic England.

#### 1.1 SITE DESCRIPTION

The garden of Old Church Cottage is located within the former bailey of Richard's Castle, which is located c1.25km to the north-west of the settlement core. An electricity pole located within the interior of the garden was re-sited to the northern perimeter of the garden.

The underlying geology is recorded as Siltstone of the Whitcliffe Formation. No superficial geology is recorded (NERC 2018).

#### 1.2 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

The scheduled area includes Richard's Castle, a large motte and bailey castle situated in a prominent position on the south western

tip of a roughly east to west orientated spur of high ground. The castle includes a substantial motte with a bailey on its east side and an outer enclosure around the settlement to the east of the castle. The castle is believed to have been founded about 1050 by Richard le Scrob and was the site referred to as Auretone in the Domesday Survey of 1086, when it was held by Osbern Fitz Richard. Subsequently the castle passed into the families of Mortimer, Talbot and Pope. The castle includes an extensive series of substantial earthworks with fragmentary sections of ruined walling.

### 2 METHOD

The main contractor (Western Power Distribution) mechanically excavated deposits as necessary for the installation of the electricity pole and cable stay. Machine excavation was carried out by a tracked 5t 360° excavator. All excavation was constantly and directly monitored by a suitably experienced archaeologist.

The receiving pits and spoil were visually scanned for archaeological material. 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. Work took place on 9th November 2018.



**ILLUS 2** East facing section of Trench 1 (Pole trench) **ILLUS 3** General view of Trench 2 (Stay hole)

### 3 RESULTS

A full description of the sequence of deposits is provided in Appendix 1. The locations of the excavated trenches are recorded in Illus 1.

#### 3.1 GENERAL SITE STRATIGRAPHY

The soil profile was consistent in both trenches on the site. The natural geological deposit encountered was a mid-yellowish brown deposit of medium to large limestone pieces within a slightly silty clay matrix. This was encountered at depths from 0.42m to 0.45m below ground level.

Overlying this deposit was a mid-brownish grey silty clay subsoil, which contained frequent small to medium limestone fragments. It was observed to be between 0.08m and 0.10m in thickness. Occasional pieces of modern brick and pottery were present within this deposit.

Overlying the subsoil was a dark brownish black silty clay topsoil, which contained rare small limestone fragments. It was seen to be between 0.34m and 0.35m in thickness. It contained abundant amounts of modern material, such as bricks, pottery, glass bottles.

### 4 CONCLUSION

No archaeological deposits were identified in either of the excavated trenches. Due to the limited scale of observations made during the works, it is not possible to entirely rule out the prospect of 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 receiving pits. This record will aid the development of future strategies for the assessment of archaeological potential during nearby development.

### 5 REFERENCES

Craddock-Bennett L 2018 *Richards Castle Motte and Bailey Installation of Electricity Pole and Terminal Stay – Written Scheme of Investigation for an Archaeological Watching Brief* [unpublished client document] Headland Archaeology

Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA) 2014a *Code of Conduct* (Reading) <http://http.www.archaeologists.net/sites/default/files/CodesofConduct.pdf> accessed 4 December 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 4 December 2018

Natural Environment Research Council (NERC) 2017 *British Geological Survey* <http://www.bgs.ac.uk/> accessed 4 December 2018

## 6 APPENDICES

### APPENDIX 1 TRENCH AND CONTEXT REGISTER

DBGL = Depth below ground level

TR 1	DIMENSIONS (M)		
	L	W	D
	1.0	0.3	1.5
CONTEXT	DESCRIPTION	DBGL (M)	
0101	Topsoil: Dark brownish black silty clay.	0-0.35	
0102	Subsoil: Mid brownish grey silty clay with frequent fragmented limestone pieces.	0.35-0.45	
0103	Natural geology: Limestone within a slightly silty matrix.	0.45+	

#### Summary

No archaeological deposits identified. Occasional pieces of modern white ceramic in subsoil (not retained).

TR 2	DIMENSIONS (M)		
	L	W	D
	1.0	0.30	1.2
CONTEXT	DESCRIPTION	DBGL (M)	
0201	Topsoil: Same as 0101	0-0.34	
0202	Subsoil: Same as 0102	0.34-0.42	
0203	Natural geology: Same as 0103	0.42+	

#### Summary

No archaeological deposits identified. Lots of modern material (brick, glass, pottery, bottles etc) in topsoil and subsoil. Likely collecting at base of slope in field.







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