

ESSH19/01



INSTALLATION AND CONNECTION OF SERVICES AT EAST STREET, HEREFORD

ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF

EHE NO. 80414

commissioned by CJ Bayliss

December 2019

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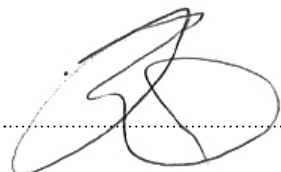
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PROJECT SUMMARY

Headland Archaeology undertook archaeological monitoring during the excavation of four intrusive trenches on land near the Booth Hall, East Street, Hereford. The trenches were excavated to enable the installation of services. The majority of the excavations revealed nothing more than modern disturbance, however, a deep deposit of mixed sands and gravels identified on the northern side of East Street, adjacent to the Booth Hall, was considered to potentially represent material associated with the former rampart, although given the limited nature of the investigations, this must be regarded as speculative. Brick and stone walls revealed on the southern side of east street, coincident with the frontage of the carpark plot off the junction with St John Street, almost certainly represented post-medieval structures which formerly occupied the carpark area.

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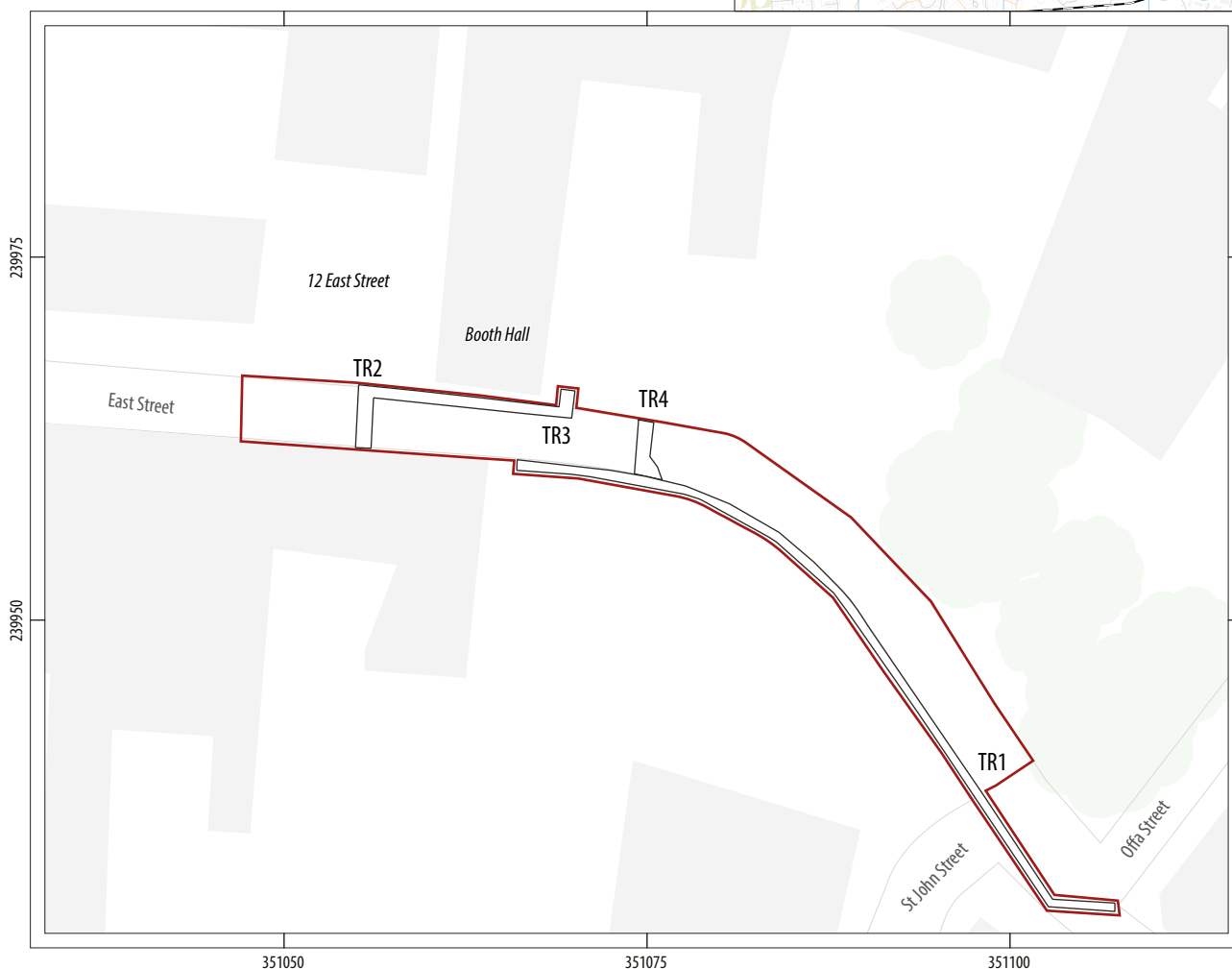
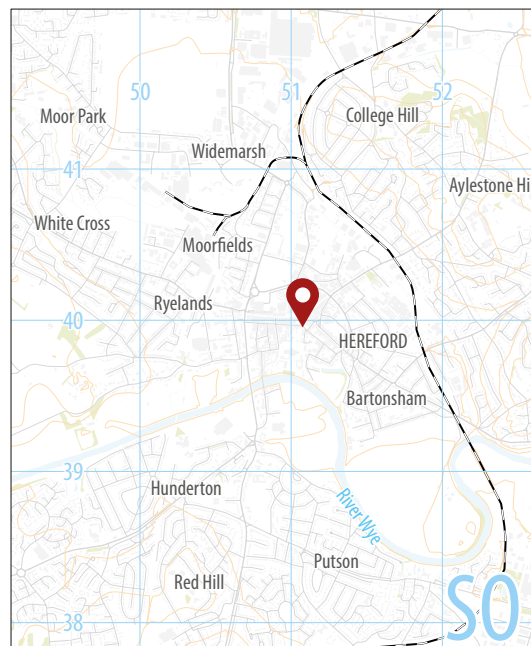
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East Street
Hereford
Herefordshire



0 200km
1:12,500,000 @ A4



0 10m
1:500 @ A4

development boundary
trench location

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ILLUS 1 Site location

INSTALLATION AND CONNECTION OF SERVICES AT EAST STREET, HEREFORD

ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF

1 INTRODUCTION

Headland Archaeology (UK) Ltd was commissioned by CJ Bayliss to undertake an archaeological watching brief on groundworks associated with the installation of new service connections to the site of 12 East Street and the Booth Hall, Hereford. The works entailed the excavation of four service trenches along both the pavement and the road itself.

1.1 SITE DESCRIPTION (ILLUS 1)

The site (centred on NGR SO 51050 39975) was located within the heart of the historic City of Hereford, from the site of 12 East Street to the west and just beyond the junction with Offa Street and St John Street to the east. The recorded solid geology for the site is Raglan Mudstone Formation – Interbedded Siltstone and Mudstone (NERC 2019). The recorded drift geology for the site is Glaciofluvial Sheet Deposits, Devensian – Sand and Gravel (NERC 2019). The soils are characterised as freely draining slightly acid loamy soils (Cranfield University 2016).

Archaeological monitoring was undertaken as a requirement of the archaeological advisor to Herefordshire County Council, in accordance with legislation associated with the Hereford Area of Archaeological Importance or 'AAI' (Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act, 1979).

A Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) was prepared by Headland Archaeology (Bain 2019) and agreed with the archaeological advisor.

1.2 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

The area in focus is within an Area of Archaeological importance (AAI) and in close proximity of early city defences (Bain, 2019). Previous investigations on the line of East Street have identified the remains of the Saxon ditch and rampart and later, medieval and post-medieval activity along the East Street frontage (Thomson, 2018).

2 OBJECTIVES AND STRATEGY

The objectives of the excavation were as follows:

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

3 METHOD

The fieldwork was carried out between the 26th and 31st of October 2019.

The trench locations were determined by the contractor and their size varied depending on the type of services being installed. A total of four trenches was excavated as part of the works using a tracked mechanical excavator, to depths varying from 0.60m–1.80m and were in general no wider than 0.60m. All deposits encountered within the trenches were visually scanned by the attending archaeologist and a record maintained of their sequence.

All recording followed ClfA Standards and guidance (ClfA 2014). All deposits identified within the trenches were given unique numbers and recorded on pro forma trench record sheets, recording the level at which deposits were encountered below ground level (BGL). A series of digital and 35mm black and white print photographs were taken of the trench sections together with general shots of the works.



ILLUS 2 Trench 1, looking north-west



ILLUS 3 Trench 1, looking north-west showing brick walls (0102)

4 RESULTS

A full description of the sequence of deposits observed within each trench is provided in Appendix 1.

4.1 TRENCH 1 (ILLUS 2&3)

Trench 1 was primarily located along the southern edge of East Street within the pavement area, only crossing to the north beyond its junction with Offa Street. It measured 40m long and 0.60m wide and was excavated to a maximum depth of 0.60m (BGL).

The only potential archaeological features identified within the trench consisted of the heavily truncated remains of a possible stone wall (0103) along the front of the adjacent carpark plot. This consisted of irregular sized sandstone with a maximum block size of 0.30m x 0.20m. This appeared to in a roughly linear arrangement with up to two potential courses visible in patches. The entire feature only survived for a length of 2m and was only present in the north facing section of the trench. It was truncated by concrete post settings for the modern car park barrier. Just to the east of this feature were the remains of a brick walls (0102) which also followed the contour of the modern carpark plot adjacent to the pavement. The remainder of the trench was infilled with modern made ground (0101) which predominantly represented the mixed backfill of existing service trenches. The tarmac pavement and road surface (0100) formed the latest deposit in the sequence.

4.2 TRENCH 2 (ILLUS 4)

Trench 2 was adjacent to 12 East Street and was orientated north-south across the road; it measured 3.0m long and 0.60m wide. The northern end of the trench was excavated to a depth of 1.2m BGL, shallowing toward the south. The earliest deposit encountered was of mid-brown silty sand and gravel (0202), limited to the northern end of the trench, sealed beneath 0.55m of made ground (0201) which increased in depth to the north. This deposit was repeatedly truncated by modern services and was sealed by the tarmac road surface.

4.3 TRENCH 3 (ILLUS 5)

Trench 3 was located on the northern side of East Street, immediately adjacent to the Booth Hall. The trench measured c 12.0m long and 0.60m wide and was excavated to a maximum depth of 1.8m BGL at its eastern end, shallowing to 1.2m BGL to the west. The trench contained four distinct deposits. The earliest layer encountered was revealed at a depth of approximately 1.8m BGL and was represented by a mid-brown silty deposit (0303), sealed by a 0.40m thick layer of clean, pinkish coarse sand and gravel (0302). This, in turn was sealed by a 1.4 m deep thick deposit of mid-brown silty sand and gravel, the upper surface of which were repeatedly truncated by modern existing service trenches and deposits associated with the construction of the cellar for the Booth Hall; the exterior wall of which was partially exposed by the excavations. The modern ground surface comprised the tarmac road surface of East Street.



ILLUS 4 Trench 2, looking south ILLUS 5 Trench 3, looking east

4.4 TRENCH 4

Trench 4 crossed East Street from the eastern of the Booth Hall carpark and measured c 3.10m wide at its southern limit, narrowing to 1.20m at its most northerly. The maximum depth of the trench was 0.60m BGL. The remains of a possible post-medieval brick culvert or drain were identified at the very northern limit of the trench. The remainder of the trench contained made ground (0401) associated with the backfilling of pre-existing service trenches. This was sealed by the modern tarmac road surface (0400) and its associated bedding layers.

5 DISCUSSION

The majority of the groundworks were restricted to the connection of new utilities into existing services. However, brick walls and a possible stone wall surviving in the section of Trench 1 appeared to represent the remains of property frontages which formerly occupied the modern carpark plot just the south of the trench. The deep deposit of mixed silty gravels, encountered in Trench 3 potentially represented redeposited natural associated with the former location of the Saxon rampart; however, due to the limited nature of the excavations, it was not possible to investigate this in any further detail. No artefacts were recovered.

6 REFERENCES

- Bain K (2019) *Installation and connection of services at East Street, Hereford* Headland Archaeology (UK) Ltd [unpublished client document]
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- Thomson S (2018) *16–18 High town and 12 East Street, Hereford* Headland Archaeology (UK) Ltd [unpublished client document]

7 APPENDICES

APPENDIX 1 TRENCH REGISTER

DBGL = Depth below ground level

TR1	L (M)	W (M)	MIN. D (M)	MAX. D (M)
	40	0.60	0.60	
CONTEXT	DESCRIPTION			DBGL (M)
(0100)	Tarmac pavement			0.00–0.05
(0101)	Levelling/made ground			0.05–0.30/0.55
(0102)	Brick walls– 0.30m down 0.40m deep/high			
(0103)	Poss. Stone walls 16m from Eastern end of trench, when it intersects with St. John Street possible 2 courses? Narrow, irregular sized stone (sandstone?) which appeared weathered, max block size 0.30m L x 0.20m W x 0.20m thick. V. disturbed. Seen in NE falling section for distance of 1.5m– 1 possible further short segment to NW beyond carpark barrier post. Truncated by concrete barrier post settings.			0.30
(0104)	Backfill of service trenches – mid brown clay with building debris			0.60

Summary: Main trench cut into pavement on south side of East Street crossing junction with St John St initially shallow with Tarmac + levelling. Services encountered at 0.40m, 0.60m depth multiple surfaces. NE facing trench section contained brick walls co-incident with paved edge of car park. Short length of coarsely dressed(?) stone 0.3m BGL. Forms possible wall in same location – only extant for 1.5m, poss. Cont. to 2m. No further archaeological further deposits or features

TR2	L (M)	W (M)	MIN. D (M)	MAX. D (M)
	3.00	0.60	0.65	1.20
CONTEXT	DESCRIPTION			DBGL (M)
(0200)	Tarmac + levelling			0.00–0.10
(0201)	Made ground with rubble + services			0.10–0.65
(0202)	Mid brown mixed silt sand with gravel 0.55m depth – restricted at North edge of trench – poss rampart/re-dep natural			0.55–1.2

Summary: Trench excavated to connect water/gas access East St. Made ground at 0.65m with brick rubble. Joint bay at 12 East St 1.2m.

Modern cellar wall (brick in north edge of west facing section, not present beyond west face. East facing has gravelly deposit possibly represents disturbed possible rampart deposit. Natural not encountered. Multiple services N/S + E/W.

TR3	L (M)	W (M)	MIN. D (M)	MAX. D (M)
	12.00	0.60	1.20	1.80
CONTEXT	DESCRIPTION			DBGL (M)
(0300)	Tarmac			0.00–0.10
(0301)	Made ground – upper part (1m) is disturbed, lower is mid brown silty sand and gravel – possible rampart material			0.10m–1.40
(0302)	Redeposited natural – Pink sand + gravel			1.40–1.80
(0303)	Mid dark silty sand below sand + gravel deposit at 1.8m BGL			1.80 +

Summary: Trench + manhole alongside Booth Hall. Manhole 1.2m from corner of Booth 2m long 0.6m wide/ ½ in road. Trench = 0.6m wide from manhole to 12 East St.

Thick deposit of mixed sand and gravel, upper 1m has multiple services crossing – Possible redeposited natural/disturbed rampart material – Booth Hall cellar exterior wall exposed by collapsing section on northern side.

Pinkish sand + gravel (pink) encountered at 1.4m BGL, 0.40m thick overlies dark silty deposit @1.80m – unable to investigate further

TR4	L (M)	W (M)	MIN. D (M)	MAX. D (M)
	3.10	1.2	0.60	0.60
CONTEXT	DESCRIPTION			DBGL (M)
(0400)	Tarmac + levelling			0.00–0.10
(0401)	Made ground			0.10–0.60

Summary: Crossing East St approx. 30m from St John street to East corner of Booth Hall plot.

Trench all in made ground under on south side of East Street appears to join with fragmentary remains of possible narrow brick culvert at Booth Hall side. Natural not encountered.



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