

ARCHAEOLOGICAL FIELD EVALUATION

No 10 Camp Lane
Ludlow
Shropshire
SY8 1EQ

NGR: SO 5095 7436
Job No: BA1114CLL



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REPORT SPECIFICATION

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1. Non-Technical Summary

An archaeological field evaluation carried out at No. 10 Camp Lane Ludlow revealed a series of deposits probably associated with domestic occupation of the site between the late medieval period (c. 1500) and the present day.

Removal of late post-medieval garden soils revealed a crude stony surface at a depth of 1.2m below current ground level, probably representing 17th or 18th century ground consolidation associated with a floor or yard surface in the vicinity of a dwelling.

Underlying the surface was a sandy garden soil containing late medieval or early post-medieval glazed pottery. This deposit was not fully excavated but extended to a depth in excess of 1.65m below current ground level.

The site has been identified as being located within the bounds of the Christcroft, a linear feature identified as a holloway or possibly a ditch oriented NNW-SSE. It seems likely that the considerable depth of soils encountered lie within this feature.



2. Introduction

Border Archaeology was instructed on 7th June 2010 by Mrs Judy Menges to undertake an archaeological field evaluation in respect of a development at No. 10 Camp Lane Ludlow (NGR: SO 5095 7436), as specified in the planning consent issued by South Shropshire District Council (Planning ref: SS/tba). The proposed development initially comprises an extension to be constructed to the west of the existing building at No 10, approximately 5m from the street frontage of Camp Lane.

The archaeological investigation comprised a single trench measuring 2m × 1m (**Fig. 1**), which was excavated to the first significant archaeological horizon. This was located within the footprint of the proposed development. Groundworks were carried out between the 17th and 20th June 2011.

Copies of this report will be remitted to Mrs Menges, Mr M. Krupa, Historic Environment Record Officer Shropshire Council and the Shropshire Council Historic Environment Record.



Figure 1: Plan of the site showing the location of the evaluation trench (marked in red)



3. Site Description

Soils and Geology

The site lies at approximately 92.5m OD within an unsurveyed urban area adjoining Corve Street to the west and thus the Soil Survey of England and Wales has produced no detailed description of its composition (SSEW 1983). However, the predominant local soil type comprises typical argillic brown earths of the BROMYARD series (571b) comprising well-drained fine reddish silty soils over shale and siltstone and some well-drained coarse loamy soils over sandstone.

4. Historical & Archaeological Background

The site is located at the top of an escarpment overlooking the River Teme to the south, within the hamlet of Dinham, a distinct unit of settlement subsumed within the medieval walled town of Ludlow, lying to the south of Ludlow Castle. The site lies within the line of the Christcroft, a feature aligned NNW-SSE, which has been interpreted as representing either an early lane or possibly a boundary ditch marking the eastern edge of the medieval settlement of Dinham (Faraday 1991, 4). Documentary and cartographic sources suggest that this feature had probably fallen out of use by the late 16th/early 17th century.

Dinham is believed to have formed a rural settlement established to the south of Ludlow Castle and possibly predating it. It is widely believed to represent the original focus for the town (Conzen 1968). The area comprised a number of tenement plots, a chapel and a market green, within an area bounded by the castle to the north, the Lord's Orchard and the River Teme to the south and west and the Christcroft to the east.

Most of the surviving buildings in Dinham and the vicinity date to the late 16th century, when Ludlow experienced a brief period of prosperity associated with the cloth trade and the establishment of the Council of the Marches within the town. There is also evidence of the Georgian revival in this part of the town, with many buildings either being built or refurbished during this period.

The town wall was constructed during the 13th century and was completed by about 1290. This wall was constructed along the line of the existing Camp Lane, leaving much of the town (including part of Dinham) outside the defences. A gatehouse was constructed at the northern end of Camp Lane adjacent to the river crossings (a ford and a narrow bridge constructed to the north and south of the present bridge, which was constructed in the late 18th century).

5. Methodology

Manual excavation of all deposits and features of high archaeological value was undertaken for the recovery of stratigraphic data, with the extent and character (colour, texture, boundary characteristics etc) of each archaeological context being defined by trowelling prior to excavation.



Groundworks comprised a single trench measuring 2m × 1m excavated to the first significant archaeological horizon.

Recording

Full written, graphic and photographic records were made using *pro-forma* record forms and sheets, these being in accordance with Border Archaeology's *Field Recording Manual*. A detailed stratigraphic record was compiled using a context numbering system and a Harris matrix constructed as a means of ordering the stratigraphy and understanding stratigraphic relationships.

Plans, sections and elevations were produced at a scale of 1:10 on *pro-forma* gridded archivally stable polyester film. All plans, elevations and sections contained grid and level information relative to OS data. All drawings were numbered and listed in a drawing register; these drawing numbers were cross-referenced to written site records.

A colour photographic record of all stratigraphic units comprising record views of contexts, samples or artefacts was made using a high-resolution digital camera, together with a representative photographic record of the progress of the excavation.

Recovery, processing and curation of artefactual data

Any associated artefacts recovered were retained, cleaned, labelled and stored according to *Standard and Guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials* (IfA 2001) and *First Aid for Finds* (Watkinson & Neal 2001), the aim being to create a stable, ordered, well-documented, accessible material archive forming a resource for current and future research purposes (IfA 2001).

All artefacts were bagged and labelled with the site code and context number before being removed off-site. Assemblages have been examined according to typological or chronological criteria. Conservation, if required, will be undertaken by approved conservators on advice provided by a suitable specialist to be agreed by Mick Krupa and in accordance with Institute for Conservation (ICON) guidelines.

6. Results

The evaluation trench measured 2m × 1m and was oriented east-west. The overall width was increased slightly to allow for the presence of a foul drain in the southeast extent. Eight contexts were identified.

The uppermost deposit (001) comprised dark brown silty sand containing large quantities of CBM. This extended across the entire trench to a thickness of 0.22m.

Underlying (001) was (004), a mid to late post-medieval garden soil comprising dark greyish-brown clayey silt containing moderate stones and 18th and 19th pottery, clay pipe, bone and CBM. This extended trenchwide to a thickness of 0.9m. Two features were cut from (004), a ceramic drain (002) filling [003] and a rubbish pit [008] filled by (007), a dark brown clayey silt containing late 19th/early 20th century pottery (china & white transfer ware). Both features appeared to be of late 19th/20th century in date.

Underlying (004) was a flat surface, comprising a firm mid orangey-brown silty sand and medium sized flat sandstone fragments (005). Several pieces of animal bone were identified within this context, which extended trenchwide to a thickness of 0.1m.

Underlying (005) and sealed by it was (006) a loose orangey-brown silty sand (similar to 005 but less orange in colour). This contained frequent pieces of bone and CBM and pottery of late medieval or early post-medieval date. This deposit extended >1m × >0.6m × >0.38m (the limit placed on excavation depth prevented full excavation).



Plate 1: View west of the trench showing the crude floor surface (005) in the base of the trench

7. Conclusion

The evaluation at No. 10 Camp Lane Ludlow revealed three broad phases of activity.

The uppermost deposit (001) and features [003] and [008] were most likely of modern or late 19th century date and were associated with the current dwelling on the site. The garden soil deposit (004) was also associated with this phase. It may have constituted an artificial build-up of made ground, although, as the site is located at the base of a slope, it may equally have accumulated naturally. Finds from this layer were typically 19th century date.

Underlying (004) was (005), a level surface comprising firm silty sand containing flat sandstone fragments. This comprised an active occupation level, possibly a crude floor or yard surface associated with an earlier dwelling on the site (**Plate 1**). No dateable finds were found associated with this surface but a provisional 17th or 18th century date was established.

Underlying and sealed by this deposit was (006), a sandy garden soil type deposit (**Fig.2; Plate 2**). This contained large quantities of green or yellow glazed pottery and CBM and animal bone. It probably represents late medieval or early post-medieval occupation dating to the period immediately following the abandonment of the Christcroft as an extant feature, which is believed to have occurred no later than 1600 and probably earlier.

These deposits lie within the bounds of the Christcroft which is described as either an early lane or more likely an enclosed ditch denoting the eastern edge of the medieval settlement of Dinham adjoining the castle (Faraday 1991, 4). It is likely that the feature was of a tangible form, such as a ditch or a holloway, especially given the considerable thickness of the deposits. It is probable that evidence of earlier deposits and the feature itself survives to a significant depth below the level attained during the course of this evaluation.



Plate 2: View north of the trench showing the deposits in the south facing section of the trench

8. Copyright

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10. Appendices

Context	Description
(001)	Firm dark brown silty sand & CBM; extends >2.08m × >1m by 0.22m. Overlies (002) and (007)
<i>Interpretation</i>	<i>Modern rubble topsoil</i>
(002)	Cohesive dark brown clayey silt; contains occasional CBM and small stones; extends >1.7m × 0.25m by 0.3m. Underlies (001). Fills [003]
<i>Interpretation</i>	<i>Fill of cut for foul drain[003] (incorporates ceramic drain)</i>
[003]	Linear cut oriented ESE-WNW, measuring >1.7m × 0.25m by 0.3m. Break of slope (top) diffuse. Sides diffuse. Break of slope (base) imperceptible from base. Base concave. Filled by (002). Cuts (004)
<i>Interpretation</i>	<i>Cut for foul drain</i>
(004)	Cohesive dark greyish-brown clayey silt containing moderate stones, pottery, bone, clay pipe and CBM, extends >2.07m × >1m × 0.9m. Cut by [003] and [008]. Overlies (005)
<i>Interpretation</i>	<i>C 18th – C 19th garden soil deposit</i>
(005)	Firm mid orangey brown silt sand and flat sandstones and animal bone. Extends >2.07m × >1m by 0.1m. Underlies (004). Overlies (006)
<i>Interpretation</i>	<i>C 17th – C 18th occupation surface, possibly a floor or yard area</i>
(006)	Loosely compacted orangey brown silty sand, contains pottery, bone, CBM and slag, extends >1m × >0.6m by >0.38m. Underlies (005)
<i>Interpretation</i>	<i>Late medieval or early post-medieval garden soils probably post-dating the abandonment of the Christcroft</i>
(007)	Loose dark brown clayey-silt CBM and sandstone containing pottery, extends >1.37m × >0.07m by 0.5m. Underlies (001). Fills [008]
<i>Interpretation</i>	<i>Fill of late post medieval pit [008]</i>
[008]	Cut - sub circular (?) in form; oriented N-S (?) Measuring >1.37m × >0.07m × 0.5m. Break of slope (top) sharp. Sides steeply sloping. Break of slope (base) sharp. Base flat. Filled by (007). Cuts (004)
<i>Interpretation</i>	<i>Cut of late post-medieval pit</i>

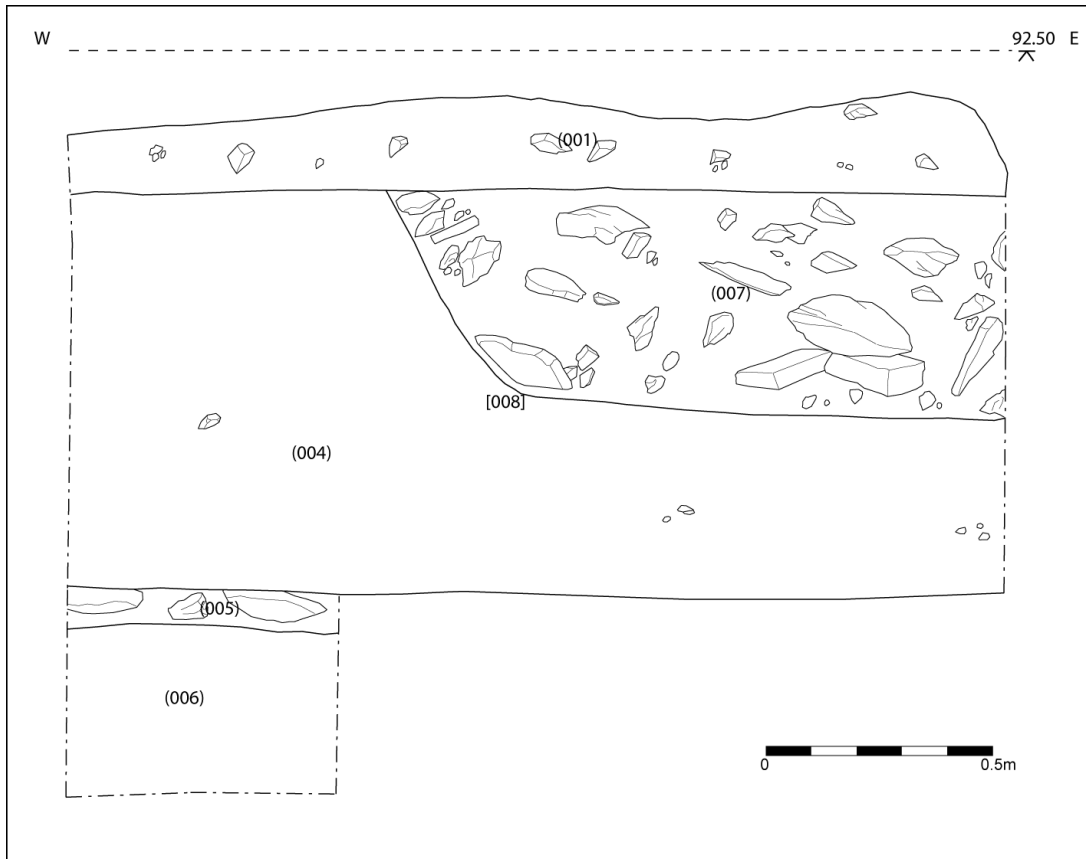


Figure 2: South-facing section of evaluation trench



Document Control

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