

**ABBAY FIELDS PARK ABBEY
HILL, KENILWORTH,
WARWICKSHIRE**



**WATCHING BRIEF REPORT
CP. No10660
01/02/2016**

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DOCUMENT TITLE: Abbey Fields Park,
Kenilworth, Warwickshire

DOCUMENT TYPE: Watching Brief Report

CLIENT: Morgan Sindall

CP NUMBER: 10660/13

SITE CODE: AFK-A

PLANNING APP. NO: -

OASIS REFERENCE: Wardella2-157755

PRINT DATE: 01/02/2016

GRID REFERENCE: NGR SP 428500 272260

Quality Assurance

This report covers works as outlined in the brief for the above-named project as issued by the relevant authority, and as outlined in the agreed programme of works. Any deviation to the programme of works has been agreed by all parties. The works have been carried out according to the guidelines set out in the Institute for Archaeologists (IfA) Standards, Policy Statements and Codes of Conduct. The report has been prepared in keeping with the guidance set out by WA Archaeology Ltd on the preparation of reports.

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SUMMARY

Wardell Armstrong Archaeology were commissioned by Morgan Sindall, on behalf of Trent Severn Water, to undertake an archaeological watching brief at Abbey Fields, Kenilworth, Warwickshire (NGR SP 428500 272260). This work follows an application for Scheduled Monument Consent application for the excavation of two trial holes (Phase 1) and the installation of water pipe sluice valves (Phase 2).

English Heritage granted Scheduled Monument Consent for the development, on the condition an archaeological watching brief be undertaken during the ground works. The work is required as the site lies within the Scheduled Monument of Kenilworth Abbey (St Mary's, NM No 1021079). The Scheduled Monument of Kenilworth Abbey covers a considerable area within the town of Kenilworth and contains the structural remains of the Abbey Gate House, a barn and remnants of the church and cloister range. There was high archaeological potential for the discovery of buried structural remains associated with the Abbey, including the Abbey Mill, a possible windmill mound and possible buildings to the south of the brook.

Phase one of the archaeological watching brief was undertaken over six days between 13/08/2013 and 21/08/2013. The watching brief monitored the excavation of two trial holes located in the north-west and south-east corner of Abbey Fields park. No archaeological remains were noted.

Phase two will take place in 2014.

As this archaeological watching brief was conducted as part of a recommendation to observe groundworks in association with the installation of water pipe sluice valves, no further work is deemed necessary. However, given the high archaeological potential of the area, it is recommended that any future work be subject to a programme of archaeological investigation.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Wardell Armstrong Archaeology would like to thank Morgan Sindall for commissioning the project on behalf of their clients, and for all their assistance throughout the project. Thanks are given to Alan Cooper and Gary Everson of Morgan Sindall. Thanks are also offered to Dalcour MacLaren, in particular Helen Frampton, for all their assistance throughout the work. Wardell Armstrong Archaeology Ltd would also like to thank Ian K George, Inspector of Ancient Monuments (English Heritage) for his assistance throughout the archaeological investigations.

Wardell Armstrong Archaeology would also like to extend their thanks to all of the staff at Temple Construction, for their help during this project.

The archaeological watching brief was undertaken by Megan Stoakley. The report was written by Megan Stoakley and the figures were produced by Adrian Bailey. The project was managed by Martin Railton, Senior Project Manager for WAA. The report was edited by edited by Martin Railton and the final QA done by David Hodgkinson, Heritage Consultant.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE PROJECT

- 1.1.1 In August 2013, Wardell Armstrong Archaeology were invited by Morgan Sindall on behalf of their clients Trent Severn Water, to maintain an archaeological watching brief at Abbey Fields park, Kenilworth, Warwickshire (NGR SP 428500 272260; Figure 1), during ground works associated with the excavation of two trial holes for proposed water pipe sluice valve replacements. The proposed works lie within the Scheduled Monument of Kenilworth Abbey (NM No 1021079). The Scheduled Monument of Kenilworth Abbey covers a considerable area within the town of Kenilworth and contains the structural remains of the Abbey Gate House, a barn and remnants of the church and cloister range. There was high archaeological potential for the discovery of buried structural remains associated with the Abbey, including the Abbey Mill, a possible windmill mound and possible buildings to the south of the brook. The buried archaeological remains were likely to be impacted by the proposed excavations.
- 1.1.2 As a result, Ian K George, Ancient Monuments Inspector at English Heritage requested that all ground reduction be subject to a programme of archaeological observation and investigation as part of a Scheduled Monument Consent application. This is in line with government advice as set out in Section 12 of the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF 2012).
- 1.1.3 All ground works associated with the excavation of the trial holes had to be excavated under full archaeological supervision and all stages of the archaeological work were undertaken following approved statutory guidelines (IfA 2008), and were consistent with the specification provided by Wardell Armstrong LLP (March 2013) and generally accepted best practice.
- 1.1.4 This report outlines the monitoring works undertaken on-site, the subsequent programme of post-fieldwork analysis, and the results of this scheme of archaeological works.

2 METHODOLOGY

2.1 PROJECT DESIGN

2.1.1 A project design was submitted by Wardell Armstrong LLP in response to a request by Morgan Sindall for an archaeological watching brief of the study area in line with an application for Scheduled Monument Consent issued by English Heritage. Following acceptance of the project design by Ian K George, Ancient Monuments Inspector at English Heritage, Wardell Armstrong Archaeology was commissioned by the client to undertake the work. The project design was adhered to in full, and the work was consistent with the relevant standards and procedures of the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA), and generally accepted best practice.

2.2 THE WATCHING BRIEF

2.2.1 The works involved a structured watching brief to observe, record and excavate any archaeological deposits from the development site. A watching brief is a formal programme of observation and investigation conducted during any operation carried out for non-archaeological reasons, on a specified area or site on land, inter-tidal zone or underwater, where there is a possibility that archaeological deposits may be disturbed or destroyed (CIfA 2013).

2.2.2 The aims and principal methodology of the watching brief can be summarised as follows:

- to establish the presence/absence, nature, extent and state of preservation of archaeological remains and to record them;
- to carry out further excavation and recording work in adequate time, if intact archaeological remains are uncovered during the project;
- to accurately tie the area watched by the archaeologist into the National Grid at an appropriate scale, with any archaeological deposits and features adequately levelled;
- to sample environmental deposits encountered as required, in line with English Heritage (2002) guidelines;
- to produce a photographic record of all contexts using a colour digital format as applicable, each photograph including a graduated metric scale;
- to recover artefactual material, especially that useful of dating purposes;
- to produce a site archive in accordance with standards by Brown (2011) and EAC (2014).

2.2.3 The ground works comprised the excavation of two trial holes; Trial Hole One was located in the south-east area of the park and measured an area of 5.6m². Trial Hole Two was located in the north-west area of the park and measured an area of c.8.82m² and 1.1m². The turf was removed by hand and the topsoil and deposits were mechanically excavated. Archaeological monitoring and supervision of ground works associated with the excavation of the trial holes commenced on

13/08/2013. Phase Two will take place in 2014. A summary of the findings of the watching brief is included within this report.

2.3 THE ARCHIVE

- 2.3.1 A full professional archive has been compiled in accordance with the specification, and according to the Archaeological Archives Forum recommendations (Brown 2011). The archive will be deposited within Warwickshire County Record Office, Warwick, with copies of the report sent to the County Historic Environment Record at Warwickshire County Council, available upon request. The archive can be accessed under the unique project identifier WAA13, AFK/A, CP 10660/13.
- 2.3.2 Wardell Armstrong Archaeology and Warwickshire County Council support the **Online Access to the Index of Archaeological Investigations (OASIS)** project. This project aims to provide an on-line index and access to the extensive and expanding body of grey literature, created as a result of developer-funded archaeological work. As a result, details of the results of this project will be made available by Wardell Armstrong Archaeology, as a part of this national project, under the unique identifier **wardella2-157755**.

3 BACKGROUND

3.1 LOCATION AND GEOLOGICAL CONTEXT

- 3.1.1 The site at Abbey Fields park is located in the north-west part of the town of Kenilworth, Warwickshire. Warwick lies c.9km to the south and Coventry lies c.8.3km to the north-east. Abbey Fields park is bounded to the north by the east-west aligned High Street, to the east by the northwest-southeast aligned Bridge Street and to the south by the northeast-southwest aligned Abbey Hill. The west-east aligned Finham Brook runs c.100m to the west of the site and a large lake is situated adjacent to the site on the western boundary. The Scheduled Monument Kenilworth Abbey (NM No 1021079) lies at the centre of Abbey Fields park.
- 3.1.2 The site at Abbey Fields park lies at a height of approximately 82.39m AOD and the Finham Brook runs west-east through the centre of the park. Trial Hole One is situated in the south-east corner of the park and lies at a height of c.89m AOD. Trial Hole Two is situated in the north-west corner of the park and lies at a height of c.89.6m AOD.
- 3.1.3 The superficial natural geology comprises a band of alluvium (clay, silt, sand and gravel) running northeast-southwest through Abbey Fields park (BGS 2013 on-line). River terrace gravels are present in the northern area of Abbey Fields park (*Ibid*). The underlying bedrock comprises Kenilworth Breccia sandstone formation (BGS 2013 on-line). A band of Kenilworth Mudstone sandstone formation runs northeast-southwest through the centre of Abbey Fields park (*Ibid*).
- 3.1.4 The soils of the site comprise slightly acidic loamy clayey soils with impeded drainage (Soilscape 8; SSEW 2013 on line).

3.2 HISTORICAL CONTEXT

- 3.2.1 **Introduction:** this historical background is compiled mostly from secondary sources, and is intended only as a brief summary of historical developments specific to the study area. References to the County Historic Environment Record (HER) are included where known.
- 3.2.2 **Prehistoric:** the earliest evidence of activity within a 1km radius of the site comprises a Palaeolithic hand-axe (MWA3238) discovered to the south-east of Abbey Fields park (MWA12724). Mesolithic flint implements have been discovered to the north-east (MWA2891) and the south-west (MWA3251) of the site. Flint implements of Neolithic date have been discovered to the south-west (MWAs 3232), north-east (MWA3248) and south-east (MWA4453) of Abbey Fields park. Bronze Age flint implements (MWAs 5390 & 1419) have been recovered c.600m to the south-west of the site. A coin of Iron Age date (MWA3234) was recovered to the west of Abbey Fields. A mound of possible prehistoric date (MWA3291) is located 600m to the west of the site.
- 3.2.3 **Roman:** archaeological remains of Roman date are limited within the vicinity of the site. To the south-west of Abbey Fields park, the site of a possible Roman tile kiln (MWA3243) was discovered near Spring Lane and a hoard of Roman coins

- (MWA7314) was recovered from Priory Road to the south-east. A Roman coin (MWA3229) was discovered on School Lane to the west of the site. A possible settlement site (MWA3255) was discovered to the north-east of Abbey Fields park, in which gravel paths, foundations, square drain pipes and painted stones were uncovered.
- 3.2.4 **Medieval:** early medieval remains within the vicinity of Abbey Fields park comprise a coin (MWA5670) recovered from School Lane to the south-east of the site.
- 3.2.5 The medieval settlement of Kenilworth (MWA9581) is recorded in the Domesday Book of 1068 as being held in the Hundred of Fexhole and was originally part of the manor of Stoneleigh (Williams & Martin 2002, 651). The settlement belonged to the king (Henry I) who gave Kenilworth to Geoffrey de Clinton, his chamberlain (Salzman 1951, 140). According to the Domesday survey, Richard the forester holds three virgates ('yardland'; roughly 30 acres) of land belonging to the king (*Ibid*). In addition, there are ten villans ('a villager or peasant of high economic status'), seven bordars ('a cottager of low economic status') with three ploughs and half a league of woodland (*Ibid*).
- 3.2.6 Medieval archaeological remains within the vicinity of the site are extensive; Kenilworth Castle and its associated structures (MWAs 3200, 5379, 5381, 5383, 10291, 5382, 7332, 10357, 3203, 10293, 12475, 9229, 10275, 3205, 3221, 3208 and 9923) are located c.800m to the west of Abbey Fields park. The castle, founded by Geoffrey de Clinton, was originally built as a motte and bailey from 1122 AD onwards. Further building development at the castle was hindered for several decades by land feuds between the de Clintons and the Beaumonts, the Anarchy (1135 – 1154 AD) and the Revolt (1173 – 1174 AD). Extensive building development recommenced in the 13th century under King John.
- 3.2.7 The 12th century ruins of the Scheduled Monument St Mary's Abbey (MWA 3201; List Entry 1021079) are located in the centre of Abbey Fields park. The abbey was founded as a priory in 1122 AD but was elevated to the rank of abbey in the mid-15th century. St Mary's Abbey contains a number of associated features, including the Guesthouse (MWA6008), the Abbey church (MWA 5384), the Gatehouse (MWA6007), the monastic precinct (MWA10096), the chapter house and cloister (MWA5385), the infirmary (MWA5386), the Abbey pool (MWA3220) and the mill (MWA3207). Rescue excavations conducted in the western area of Abbey Fields uncovered medieval buildings (MWA9181) and a millpond (MWA3289) that were possibly associated with the abbey (MWA9181).
- 3.2.8 The 14th century Church of St Nicholas (MWA3219) is located in the centre of Abbey Fields park to the rear (north) of St Mary's Abbey. In November 2005, a watching brief (EWA9342) conducted to the north of the churchyard uncovered human remains (MWA12458), possibly originating from an articulated burial of medieval date.
- 3.2.9 Other medieval archaeological remains within the vicinity of the site comprise Kenilworth Mill (MWA3206), Packsaddle Bridge (MWA3293), a quarry (MWA3204), a trackway (MWA4766) and the site of a ford (MWA3292). Evidence of medieval settlement comprising pits, floor surfaces and pottery has been uncovered on sites

at Warwick Road (MWA7910), the Square (MWA10279) and Eagle Lane (MWA7589) to the south-west of the site.

3.2.10 Find-spots of medieval artefacts include a coin (MWA4765) discovered to the west, an iron axe-head (MWA1847) discovered to the north-west and two sandstone blocks (MWA13178) found on Abbey Hill to the south-west.

3.2.11 **Post-medieval:** Archaeological remains of post-medieval date are extensive within the vicinity of the site and include a number of buildings located to the west (MWAs 3268, 9660, 1886 and 3216) and south-west (MWAs 3214, 3298, 3253, 3215, 3209 and 3313) of the site. The site of an 18th century workhouse (MWA 3284) is located to the west of Abbey Fields park and a late 18th century culvert (MWA12419) was discovered near Finham Brook to the south-west.

3.2.12 Sites of 19th Century smithies, tanneries, horn works and forges are located to the south-west (MWAs 3246, 3286, 3256, 3245 and 3272) and west (MWAs 3254, 3280, 3244, 3273 and 3314) of the site. A malthouse (MWA3288), located to the south-west of the site, is recorded on an estate map dated to 1820. Brickwork sites recorded on late 19th century Ordnance Survey maps are located to the south (MWA3258), south-west (MWA3259) and north-east (MWA3275) of the site. The 1887 Ordnance Survey records the site as rural parkland with Townpool Bridge (MWA3276) located to the west of the park and Borrow Well (MWA3224) situated to the south-west (Old Maps 2013 on line).

3.2.13 **Modern:** The 1905 Ordnance Survey map records the site as unchanged from 1887 (Old Maps 2013 online). Archaeological remains of modern date comprise the sites of air raid shelters on Rosemary Hill (MWA8931), Bridge Street (MWA9233) and New Street (MWA9234) to the west and south-west (MWA9235) of the site. The site remains unchanged on the 1955 and 1973 Ordnance Survey maps (Old Maps 2013 online).

3.3 PREVIOUS WORK

3.3.1 Numerous excavations and investigations have occurred in the immediate area surrounding Abbey Fields park. A series of archaeological investigations were conducted in Abbey Fields, including a resistivity survey (EWA7109), a watching brief (EWA9167) and an excavation (EWA7110) which revealed evidence of medieval buildings (MWA9181).

3.3.2 An archaeological evaluation (EWA3208) conducted at 62-64 Warwick Road to the south-west of the site revealed evidence of medieval buildings (MWA7910) with artefacts (FWA4011). An archaeological evaluation (EWA7672) conducted at Kenilworth Castle revealed construction layers for the medieval dam (MWA10275) while an archaeological evaluation conducted to the west (EWA9185) revealed evidence of medieval and post-medieval settlement (MWA12514).

3.3.3 An archaeological evaluation (EWA7684) carried out to the rear of the Kings Arms and Castle Hotel to the south-west revealed Medieval features. A watching brief (EWA6858) conducted at Nos. 18-24 High Street revealed a pit contained 17th – 18th

century ceramic building material while an archaeological evaluation carried out at York House to the south-west revealed a post-medieval drain and 18th century pottery (Palmer 2011, 7).

4 ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF

4.1 INTRODUCTION

4.1.1 The watching brief monitoring was undertaken in two key phases. The first phase was undertaken between 13/08/2013 to 21/08/2013 and the second phase will be undertaken in 2014. The former related to the excavation of two trial holes whilst the latter related to the re-excavation of the trial holes for the installation of new water pipe sluice valves (Figure 2).

4.2 PHASE 1: EXCAVATION OF THE TRIAL HOLES

4.2.1 The Phase 1 Watching Brief covered the controlled excavation of two trial holes located in the south-east and north-west corners of Abbey Fields park (Figure 2).

4.2.2 The turf and topsoil on both of the trial holes were removed by hand. The trial holes were then excavated by a rubber-tracked 13 ton JCB using a toothless bucket.

4.2.3 **Trial Hole One.** Trial Hole One, located in the south-east corner of Abbey Fields park, comprised a rectangular area of 5.6m² (Plate 1). Trial Hole One measured 4m in length by 1.4m in width. Part of the trial hole was extended to reveal more of the water pipe. The topsoil (**100**) comprised a mid-red brown, sandy loam with frequent sand inclusions (90 – 95%). The topsoil (**100**) was excavated to a depth of 0.44m (0.00m – 0.44m) (Plate 2).

4.2.4 Below the topsoil (**100**) was a layer of sandy clay (**101**), which appeared to be deliberately backfilled or reinstated superficial natural geology. The deposit comprised mid-red sandy clay of soft compaction with poorly sorted angular and rounded stone inclusions (2mm – 10mm). Modern glass was recovered from (**101**) and was not retained. Deposit (**101**) measured a depth of 0.66m. The water pipe in Trial Hole One was reached at a depth of 1.1m (0.44m – 1.1m) (Plate 2).



Plate 1: Overall shot of Trial Hole One (facing north)



Plate 2: East-facing section of Trial Hole One

4.2.5 Trial Hole Two. The excavation of Trial Hole Two was undertaken in two stages. A small rectangular trench was primarily excavated, measuring 2.70m in length by

0.74m in width. The trench failed to locate the water pipe. The approximate area of the slip trench measured 1.1m² (Plate 3). The trench was excavated to a depth of 1.2m and four contexts were recorded. Deposit **(102)** comprised topsoil and consisted of a very loose, mid-brown sandy loam with frequent angular and sub-angular stone, flint and rubble inclusions (c.15mm – 50mm Ø). The depth of deposit **(102)** measured 0.32m (0.00m – 0.32m) (Plate 4).

4.2.6 Beneath context **(102)** lay three modern construction layers **(103)** **(104)** **(105)**. Deposit **(103)** comprised very loose, light brown sandy clay with very common angular and rounded stone and flint inclusions (c.20mm – 40mm Ø). The depth of **(103)** measured 0.22m (0.32m – 0.54m). Deposit **(104)** comprised a modern construction backfill layer consisting of very loose, mid-brown sand with frequent angular, sub-angular and rounded stone and flint inclusions (10mm – 50mm Ø). Deposit **(104)** measured a depth of 0.39m (0.54m – 0.93m) (Plate 4).

4.2.7 Beneath deposit **(104)** lay deposit **(105)**, comprising a modern construction backfill layer consisting of very loose, mid-red clayey sand with frequent rounded stone inclusions (c.5mm – 15mm Ø). Deposit **(105)** was excavated to a depth of 0.27m (0.93m – 1.2m) (Plate 4).

4.2.8 All of the modern construction deposits **(103)** **(104)** **(105)** contained rubble, ceramic building material, concrete, iron, plastic and wire. Modern pottery was observed in all three deposits and was not retained.



Plate 3: Overall shot of small trench at Trial Hole Two (facing east)



Plate 4: Representative section of small trench at Trial Hole Two (facing south)

4.2.9 A large sub-rectangular/square trial hole was then excavated adjacent (north) to the small trench, measuring 3.6m in length by 2.70m in width (Plate 5). The area of the trial hole totalled 8.82m². The trial hole was excavated to a depth of 2.2m, at which depth the water pipe was located (Plate 5).

4.2.10 Topsoil (**102**) was recorded in the south-facing section (Plate 5) at depth of 0.00m – 0.10m (Plate 5). Deposit (**103**) was recorded at a depth of 0.10m – 0.70m. Deposit (**104**) was recorded at a depth of between 0.70m – 2.2m (Plate 5).



Plate 5: Representative section of Trial Hole Two (south-facing)

4.3 PHASE 2: REPLACEMENT OF WATER PIPE SLUICE VALVES

4.3.1 Phase 2 of the watching brief will comprise the monitoring of all ground works relating to the installation of new water pipe sluice valves (Figure 2).

4.3.2 Phase 2 will take place in 2014.

4.4 ARCHAEOLOGICAL FINDS AND ENVIRONMENTAL SAMPLING

4.4.1 No archaeological finds of note were recovered, and no environmental samples were retained during the ground works.

5 CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

5.1 CONCLUSIONS

- 5.1.1 **Phase 1:** two trial holes in Abbey Fields park were excavated and monitored under archaeological supervision. After the removal of turf by hand, the trial holes were excavated by machine, revealing six deposits, including topsoil (**100**) (**102**), reinstated superficial natural geology (**101**) and three deliberately backfilled man-made deposits (**103**) (**104**) (**105**). No archaeological remains were recorded.
- 5.1.2 Phase 2 will take place in 2014.

5.2 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 5.2.1 As this watching brief was conducted as a condition of ground works relating to the excavation of trial holes (Phase 1) and the installation of new water pipe sluice valves (Phase 2), no further archaeological work is deemed necessary. However, given that the site is located within the Scheduled Ancient Monument of Kenilworth Abbey (NM No 1021079), it is recommended that any work conducted in the future be subject to a similar programme of archaeological investigation.

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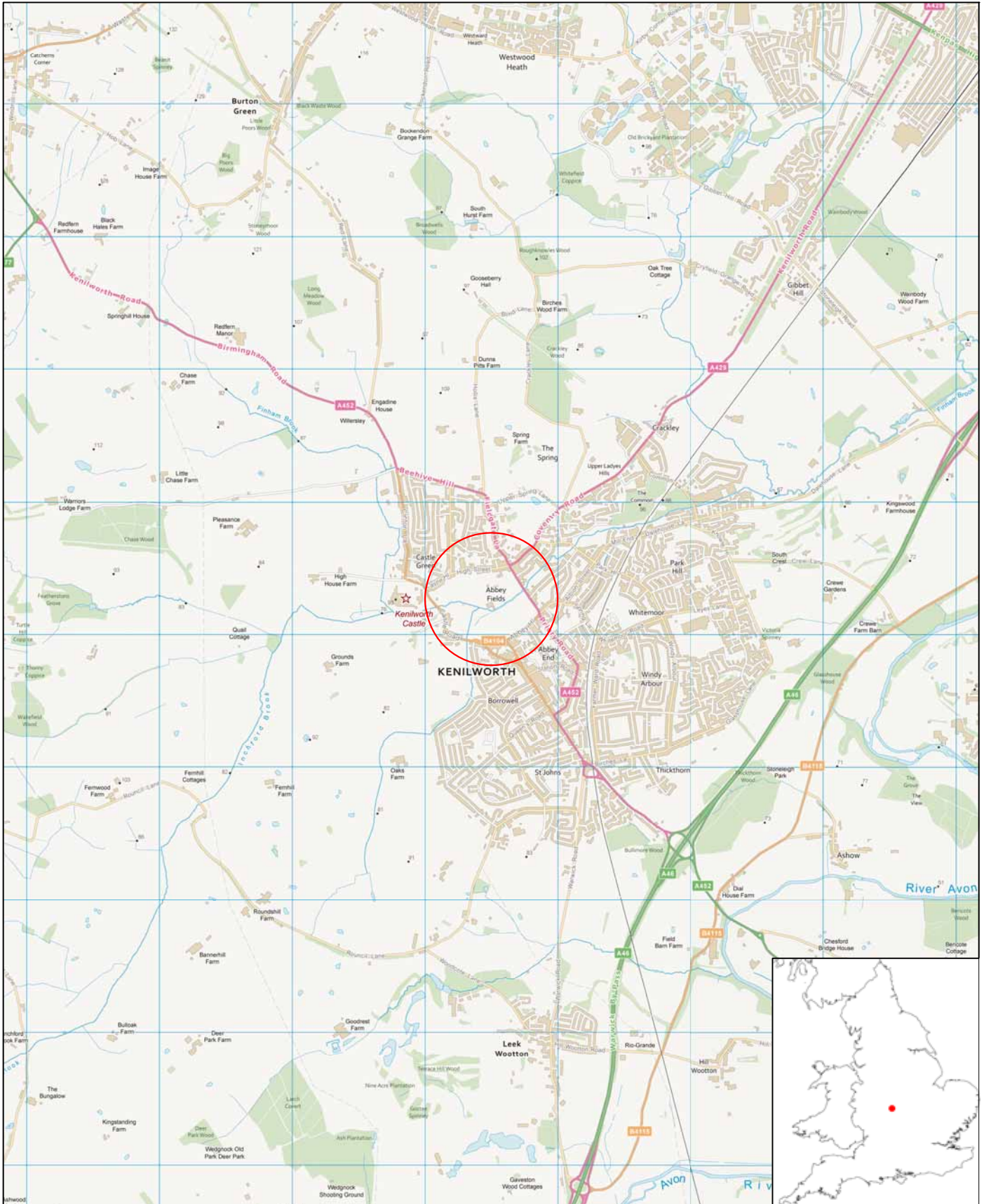
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APPENDIX 1: CONTEXT TABLE

Context Number	Context Type	Description
100	Deposit	Topsoil (Trial Hole 1; SE corner)
101	Deposit	Reinstated superficial natural geology
102	Deposit	Topsoil (Trial Hole 2; NW corner)
103	Deposit	Construction layer (deliberate backfill)
104	Deposit	Construction layer (deliberate backfill)
105	Deposit	Construction layer (deliberate backfill)

Table 1: List of Contexts issued during Watching Brief

APPENDIX 2: FIGURES






 <p>Wardell Armstrong Archaeology 2013</p>	<p>PROJECT: Abbey Fields Park, Kenilworth, Warwickshire</p> <p>SCALE: 1:40,000 at A4</p> <p>REPORT No: CP10660</p> <p>CLIENT: Morgan Sindall</p> <p>DRAWN BY: AB</p> <p>DATE: September 2013</p> <p>FIGURE: 1</p>	<p>KEY:</p>  Site location	 <p>Reproduced by permission of Ordnance Survey on behalf of The Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office. © Crown copyright. All rights reserved. Licence number 100019512</p>
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Figure 1: Site location.

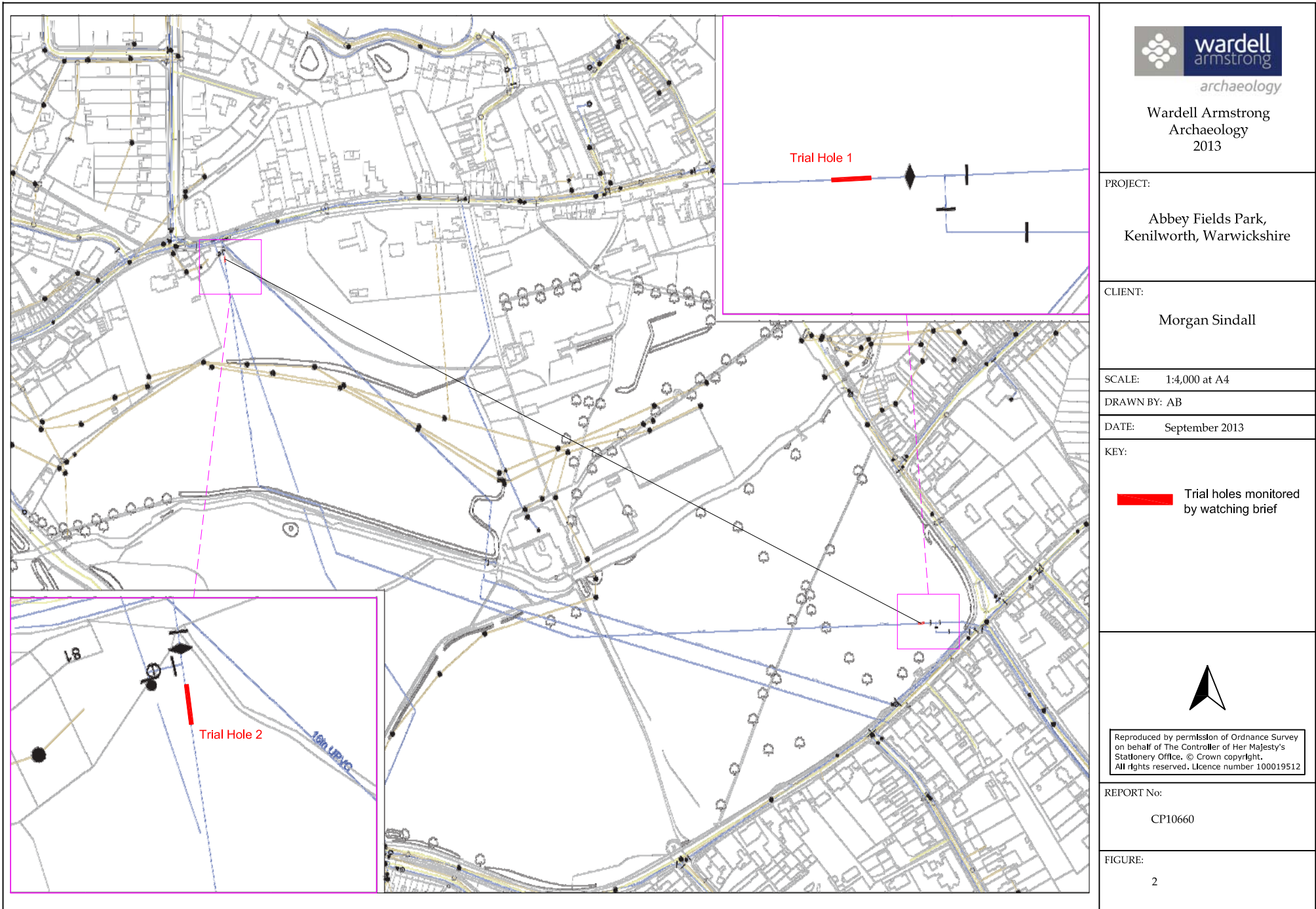


Figure 2: Location of watching brief.