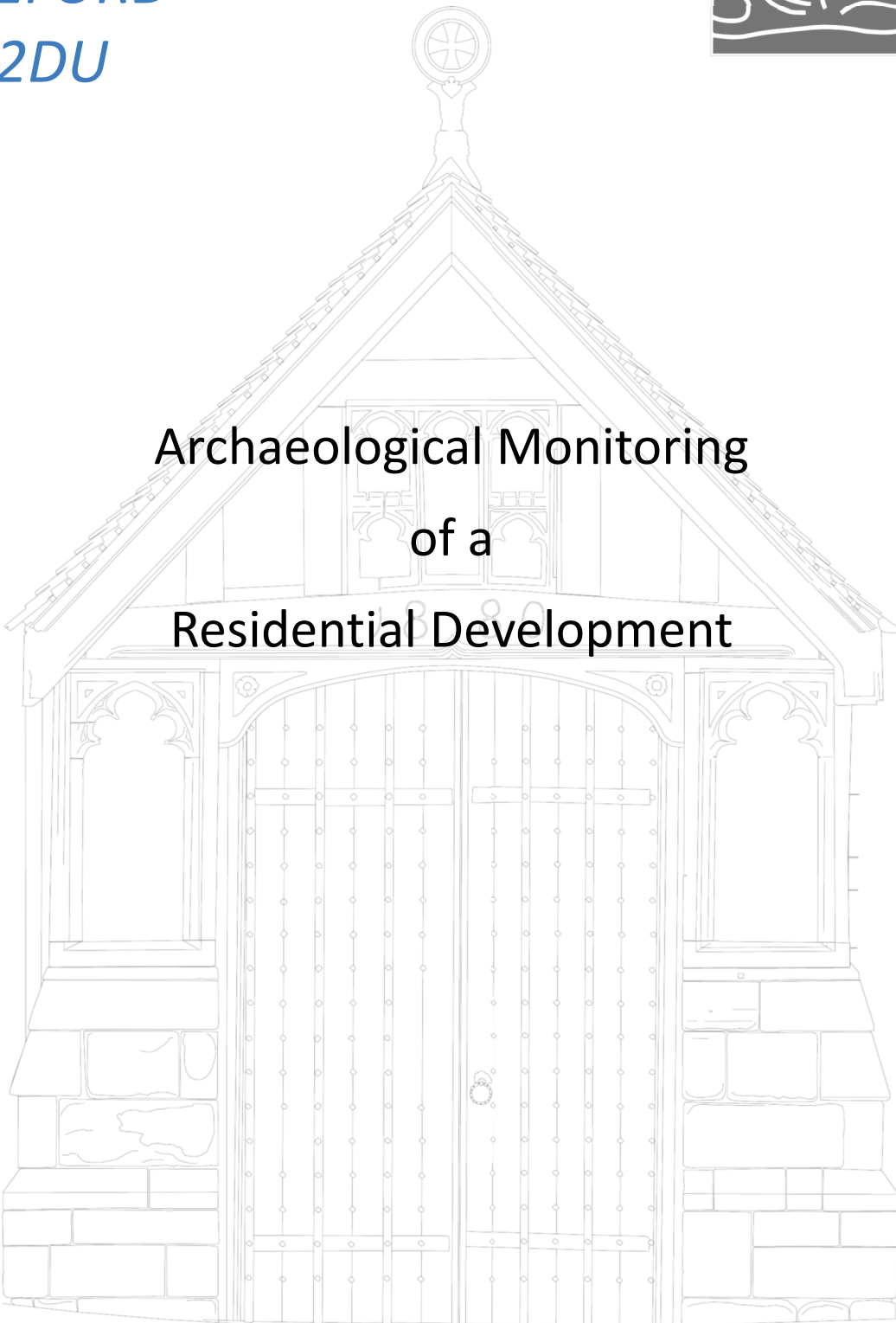


CATHERINE STREET  
HEREFORD  
HR12DU



CSHF-18

Archaeological Monitoring  
of a  
Residential Development



THE

ARCHAEOLOGY  
COMPANY LTD



CATHERINE STREET  
HEREFORD  
HEREFORDSHIRE  
HR1 2DU

Archaeological Monitoring

*Commissioned by IRIS CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS LTD*

*n*

*22<sup>nd</sup> September 2018*

**TAC. Ref:** CSHF-18  
**NGR:** SO 5112540286  
**Event No:** EHE 80368  
**Oasis ref:** thearcha5-328690  
**Local authority:** Herefordshire Council  
**Archive Repository:** Herefordshire Museum Service

**Project Manager.** Simon Mayes  
**Author.** Simon Mayes

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## Summary

The Archaeology Company Ltd was commissioned to undertake a rapid programme of archaeological observation and recording in during ground works prior to the construction of 8 dwellings on land off Catherine street, Hereford.

The site lies in a suburb of the medieval city of Hereford, close to Blackfriars priory precinct. Archaeological monitoring did not identify any features of archaeological or historical interest within the observed area excavated for the construction of the new dwellings, that would greatly enhance the historic development of this area, however beneath the sequence of relatively modern make deposits a relatively clean deposit was observed that may represent the remnants of a buried soil horizon and indicate that the area once formed a either a cultivated parcel of land or an open plot of land

No deposits of archaeological significance were revealed during the work.



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CATHERINE STREET, HEREFORD



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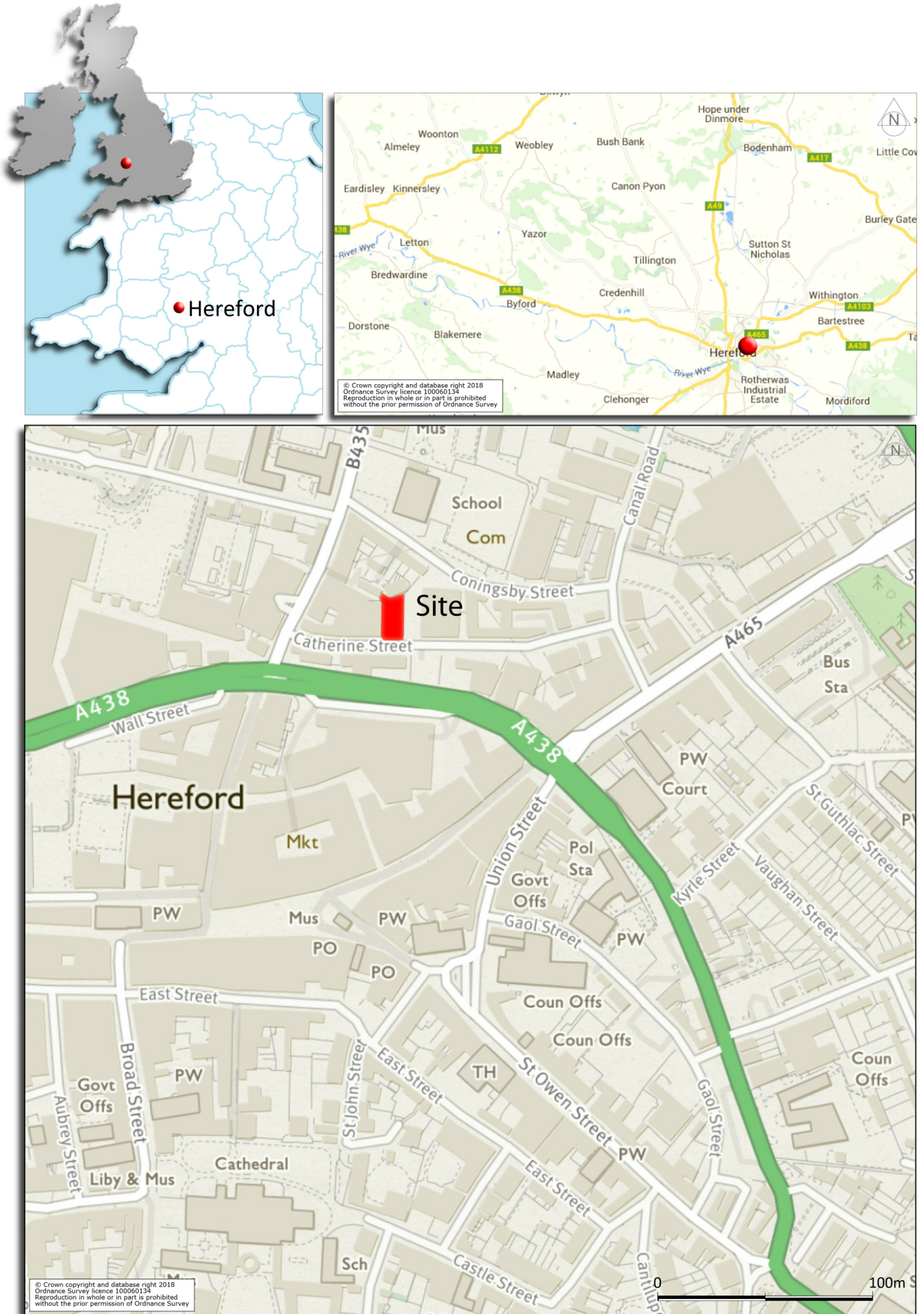
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CATHERINE STREET, HEREFORD



Illus. 1 Site Location

CATHERINE STREET, HEREFORD

# CATHERINE STREET, HEREFORD, HEREFORDSHIRE.

## Archaeological Monitoring

### 1 INTRODUCTION

The Archaeology Company Ltd was commissioned by Mr Simon Ham of Iris Construction Projects Ltd. to undertake a rapid programme of archaeological observation and recording prior to the the construction of 8 dwellings on land off Catherine street, Hereford.

The site lies outside of the statutorily designated Hereford Area of Archaeological Importance (AAI); however the site is directly adjacent to the AAI, and consequently has a high degree of sensitivity as regards buried remains from the medieval period, the planning authority advised that,

“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 to and approved in writing by the local planning authority.

To ensure the archaeological interest of the site is recorded and to comply with the requirements of Policy LD4 of the Herefordshire Local Plan - Core Strategy and the National Planning Policy Framework. The commencement in advance of such approval could result in irreparable harm to any identified heritage asset.”

*(Decision Notice, Application No: 150630 Dated 16 April 2015)*

Following a site visit by the archaeological advisor to the planning authority, Mr Julian Cotton, it was noted that no programme of archaeological monitoring had been implemented during the first phase of groundwork's. (See *Illus .2*)

As a consequence of the intervention of the archaeological advisor to the planning authority, The Archaeology Company Ltd were contracted to conduct a rapid archaeological recording programme of the excavated footings and to conduct a programme of archaeological monitoring of the remaining footings to be excavated, in connection with the development.

Site work was conducted on the 13th and 14th of September 2018.



*Plate. 1 Aerial image of site location- © Google Earth Pro*

### 2. SITE DESCRIPTION

The project site is located to the north of Catherine Street and the south of Coningsby Street, Hereford, Herefordshire, NGR: SO 5112540286. (*Illus. 1 and 2*)

The development site measures approximately 40 m by 20 m in maximum extent and originally formed an operational 34 space car park with a tarmac level surface (approximately 55.75m AOD).

The development site is broadly trapezoidal in shape with the northern boundary stepping in at the middle and out at each corner. To the north the site is bounded by a wooden fence with houses beyond it and to the east by a wire and post fence.

The south boundary is defined by a brick wall and the west boundary is constrained by the wall of an old warehouse building.

## 2.1 GEOLOGY

The British Geological Survey have mapped the underlying geology as comprising Raglan Mudstone Formation, a siltstone and mudstone sedimentary bedrock formed approximately 419 to 424 million years ago in the Silurian Period indicating a local environment previously dominated by rivers. Superficial deposits are recorded as sand and gravel.

*(<http://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home.html>  
Accessed September 2018)*

## 3. OBJECTIVES

The objectives of the archaeological investigation were to determine whether any remains of archaeological significance were present within the excavated footing of new development, and assess their date, condition and significance. This was to allow an informed decision to be taken by the planning authority regarding the potential impact any buried archaeological remains through the acquisition of a full archaeological record and an interpretation of that record.

The archaeological investigations were carried out to;

assess extent, layout, structure and date of features and deposits of archaeological interest.

place, where possible, the identified features within their local and regional context.

to produce and deposit a satisfactory archive and disseminate the results of the work via grey-literature reporting and publication as appropriate.

The resulting archive (records) will be organised and deposited with the local Museum to facilitate access for future research and interpretation for public benefit.

## 4. METHOD

Archaeological recording was undertaken after the partial mechanical excavation of the footings for the new development with a further phase of excavation works being monitored during the excavation process. (*See Illus. 2*)

All monitoring was undertaken by an archaeologist of ACIfA level experience. Excavation works were undertaken by the principal contractor.

The excavated areas were closely examined for any features and the spoil was re-examined to collect any artefacts.

Natural geology was not encountered during the excavation of the footings.

An overall site plan was recorded digitally using a Leica TS16 Total Station and site plan was accurately linked to the National Grid using information supplied by the client.

All contexts and drawings were given unique identifying numbers starting at 100. Recording was undertaken on the Archaeology Company pro forma record sheets and a diary record was kept of the excavation works.

A photographic record using a digital camera was created. The photographs record archaeological features encountered and the progress of the foundation works.

Working practices followed the ClfA Code of Conduct (2014a) and all recording was in line with ClfA Standards and Guidance for conducting archaeological excavations (2014b).

## 5. Archaeological and Background History

Catherine Street lies outside the line of the city walls and within a medieval suburb of Hereford and may be the 'Cattelone' mentioned in Hereford Cathedral Muniments in 1333 (Tonkin 1967).

The site lies to the west of the important medieval suburb of Bishop Street or Bye Street, centred upon present-day Commercial Road, while Widemarsh Street, located to the west, was in existence by 1221.

It formed part of the precinct of Blackfriars Priory, the buildings of which were located to the north of the development area. The Dominican Order originated in 1215 and the Dominicans arrived in Hereford in the middle of the 13th century. In Hereford, they faced substantial opposition from the bishop and both cathedral and secular clergy to their first building, which was located within the Portfields, outside St Owen's gate (Butler 1960).

The Dominican Order attempts to build a church were thwarted by the local Canons, who were apparently responsible for the demolition of the building. In 1270, the Dominican Order received protection from the king; they continued to occupy their Portfields site until about 1319, when they were granted land by King Edward II. Following a further grant of land from Sir John Daniel, building on the Widemarsh Street site was begun around 1322.

The friary flourished during Richard II's reign, with three successive priors holding the post of royal confessor. The preaching cross dates to the 14th century and is the only surviving example in England of a Friars' preaching cross (Pevsner 1963). A measure of the priory's prosperity is the fact that John de Hastings, Earl of Pembroke,

chose to be buried in its choir. Following the Dissolution, the priory was unoccupied, and the buildings fell into disrepair. The West range was converted into a town house by Sir Thomas Coningsby, who demolished the remainder of the friary and rebuilt the hospital in 1617.

The probable limits of the precinct to the north may relate to the run of the Tan Brook with the eastern edge marked by the extent of the present Canal Road while it is possible that Coningsby Street or Catherine Street may represent the southern limit of the precinct (Butler 1960).

### 5.1 Modern Development

As part of the planning application process a history of the development area has been previously surmised from historical mapping illustrating the modern development of the site, the result of which have been reproduced below; *(images not included)*

*"The site history has been traced back to 1888. At this time the site has buildings and gardens / yards assumed to be Victorian era terraced residential housing possibly with basements. The current boundaries are in place with Catherine Street providing the southern boundary, surrounding residential / commercial buildings and their gardens / yards make up the boundaries to the west, east and north.*

*The aerated water works is marked 100 m to the east. Schools to the west and south-east are mapped as well as the remains of a monastery and hospital 100 m to the north. Small scale mapping dated 1904 confirms the above with the addition of allotment gardens on land previously part of the Black Friars Monastery estate.*

*1929 mapping shows a new high school has been built on the garden allotments 100 m to the north. The next available mapping in 1937 shows no changes on the site itself or much noticeable development on the map in general.*

*By 1966 a warehouse has been built on the western boundary with the site. A dairy has been built on the eastern boundary. Four garages have been built to the east, south-east and south of the site all within 100 m. An agricultural engineers' business has opened 15 m to the south.*

*A car park is now in place 60 m to the south-east. Tennis courts are marked in part of the old Black Friars Priory estate 100m to the north. Garrick Theatre 100 m to*

the west has become a County Library and council offices. In 1967, a fireplace works has opened 55 m to the east and a scrap yard is now present 100 m to the north-east. In 1970, a hotel has opened 60 m to the south-west and the dairy has closed. In 1974, an additional carpark has opened 80 m to the south-west. The scrap yard has closed.

On the 1983 – 1990 mapping the site has had its buildings demolished and may have changed land use during this period to become a car park. A Snooker Centre has opened adjacent to the site on the eastern boundary. Blue School Street to the south has been expanded and hence the car parks have been scaled down in size.

The council offices and library to the west have been replaced with a multi storey car park.

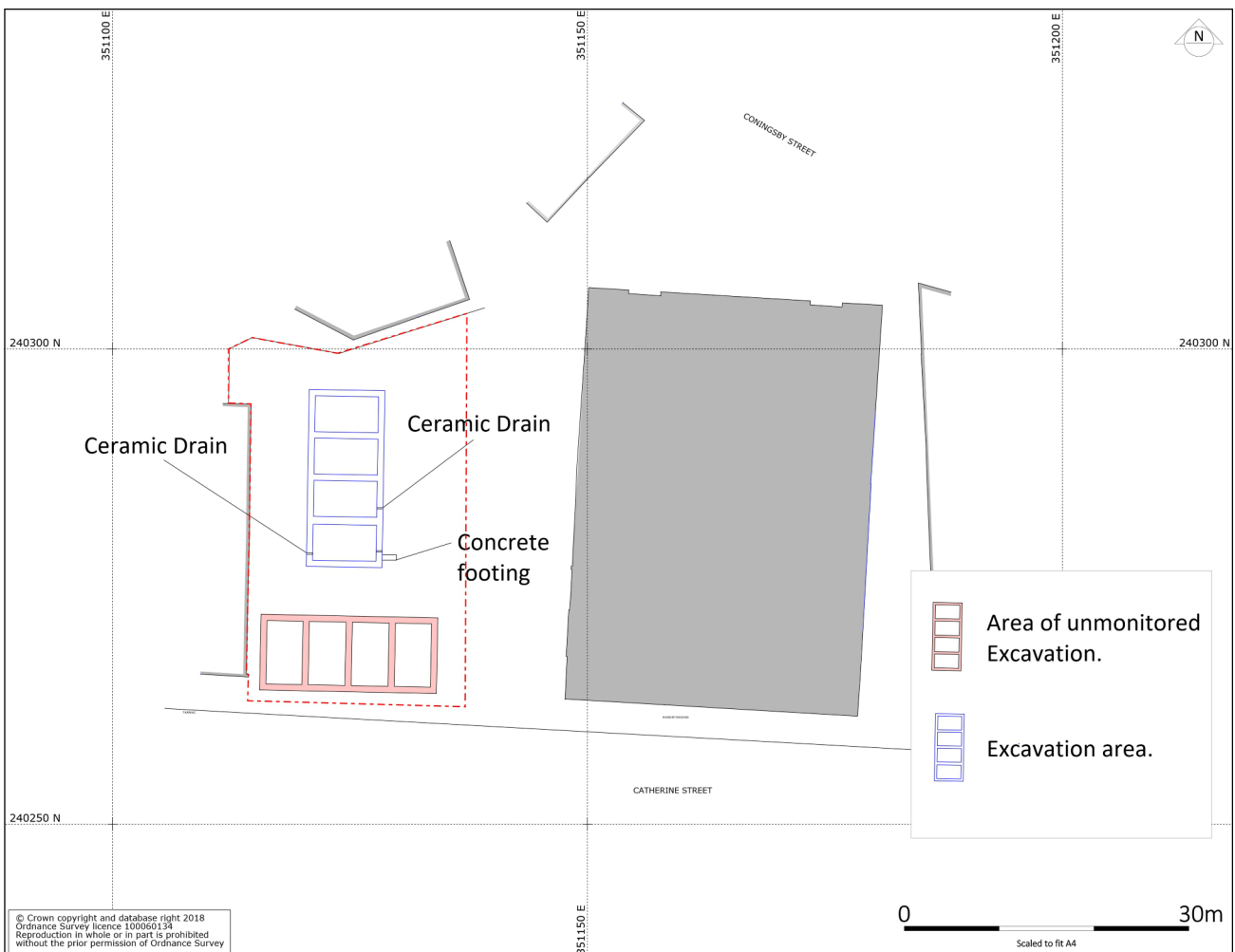
The latest image available is dated 1993 with an additional aerial photograph from 1999. At this time the site is clearly shown to have cars parked on site as an operational car park. “

(E10371. Proposed Residential Development, Catherine Street, Hereford HR1 2DG. July 2018)

## 6. RESULTS

A rectangular footing aligned North South measuring approximately 18.60m by 8.00m with a width of approximately 0.80m was excavate by machine to an approximate depth of 1.30m at the Southern end and a depth of approximately 1.10m at the northern extent with a width of approximately 0.80m, a series of internal wall footing were also excavated by machine. (See Illus. 2)

A register of excavated deposits encountered is included in Appendix II and the Photographic record is recorded in Appendix I.



Illus .2 Site plan showing areas of excavation and areas monitored.



## 6.1 GENERAL SITE STRATIGRAPHY

The stratigraphic matrix of the area, when excavated, was represented by three distinct deposits. The earliest deposit encountered, at a depth of 0.50m-0.60m from the ground surface, was a buff brown, slightly silty clay deposit (103).

This was excavated to a depth of approximately 1.00m at the northern end of the footing and approximately 1.37m at the southern extent, to form a level surface for the construction of the new building.

Several fragments of relatively modern white china were observed within its matrix as well as Oyster shell fragments at the lowest level, the nature of (103) may indicate or suggest that it relates to a buried soil horizon.

Immediately overlying this was a layer, 0.30m-0.40m deep, of mid-dark black silty clay (102) which appeared to represent a former mixed levelling deposit, suggesting construction or demolition activity within the site area. Several fragments of modern white china and frequent inclusions of stone and red brick fragments were observed within its matrix.

The uppermost horizon comprised a hard-packed layer of hardcore consisting of crushed brick, stone and scalping's (101), forming an area of hard standing or levelling deposit, approximately 0.20m deep associated with (100).

Removed prior to the excavation a tarmac layer (100), approximately 0.10m deep, directly overlay (101) and formed the existing surface of the original car park .

No archaeological features of historic significance were observed during the ground works; however, a series of modern ceramic 6" drainage pipes and evidence of a brick and concrete footing line were observed towards the southern extent of the footing excavation.



Plate. 2 Overview of site work in progress



Plate. 3 Sample section detail, showing modern services.



Plate. 4 Sample section detail, facing south

## 7. DISCUSSION

Archaeological monitoring did not identify any features of archaeological or historical interest within the observed area excavated for the construction of the new dwellings, that would greatly enhance the historic development of this area, however beneath the sequence of relatively modern make deposits of (101),(102) and (103) the relatively clean deposit (104) may represent the remnants of a buried soil horizon and indicate that the area once formed a either a cultivated parcel of land or an open plot of land to the south the of Blackfriars Priory, however the white ceramic material observed within the matrix of (104) would suggest that the deposit is relatively modern, possibly relating to late 19th or early 20th century activity.

## 8. CONCLUSION

The project has achieved its aims and objectives in monitoring and recording the ground works for the construction of the new buildings.

The comparatively shallow depth of the footings ,1.30m to 1.00m are possibly the reason why no archaeological deposit of significance was observed during the monitored ground works and may indicated that the area of unmonitored ground works was also unlikely to have encountered any archaeological deposits of historical significance pre-dating the late 19th and 20th century.

A copy of this report will be supplied to the Herefordshire HER and the site archive will be prepared and deposited with Hereford Museum Service.

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National Library of Scotland (<http://maps.nls.uk>)

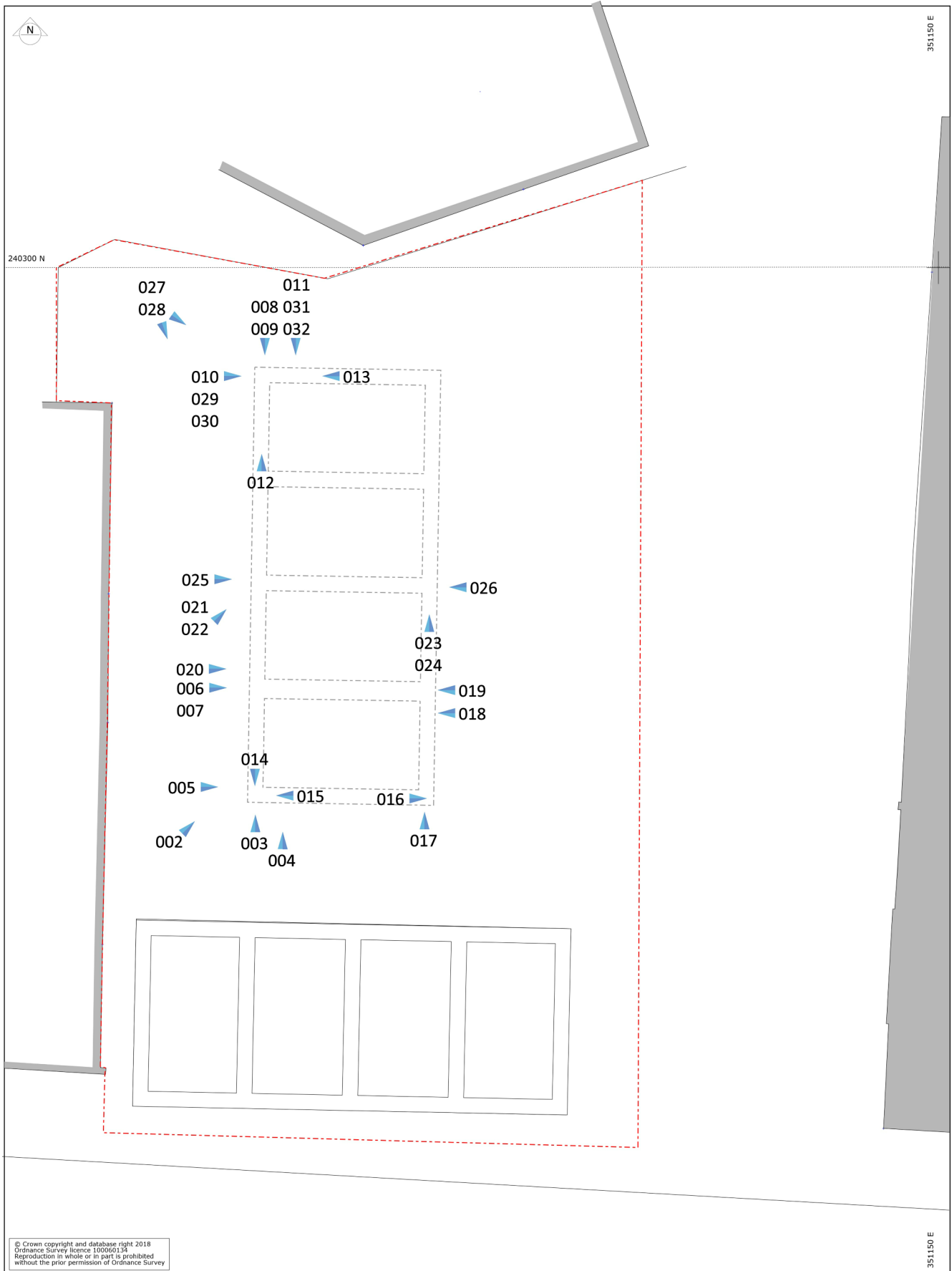
## Appendices

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CATHERINE STREET, HEREFORD

# APPENDIX I

## Photographic Location.



Illus. 3 Photographic Location Plan

CATHERINE STREET, HEREFORD



## APPENDIX I

**Photographic register**

PHOTO NUMBER	DIGITAL NUMBER	DIRECTION FACING	DESCRIPTION
1	TAC-2639	-	Site Identification.
2	TAC-2640	NE	Overview of site work in progress.
3	TAC-2641	N	Detail showing excavated footing line.
4	TAC-2642	N	Detail showing excavated footing line.
5	TAC-2643	E	Detail showing excavated footing line.
6	TAC-2644	E	Detail showing excavated footing line.
7	TAC-2645	E	Detail showing excavated footing line.
8	TAC-2646	S	Detail showing excavated footing line.
9	TAC-2647	S	Detail showing excavated footing line.
10	TAC-2648	E	Detail showing excavated footing line.
11	TAC-2649	S	North facing section, north footing line.
12	TAC-2650	W	Overview of internal footing excavation line.
13	TAC-2651	W	East facing section, internal footing line.
14	TAC-2652	S	North facing section, internal footing line.
15	TAC-2653	W	East facing section, internal footing line.
16	TAC-2654	E	West facing section, internal footing line.
17	TAC-2655	N	Detail showing excavated footing line.
18	TAC-2656	W	East facing section, internal footing line.
19	TAC-2657	W	Overview of internal footing excavation line.
20	TAC-2658	E	Overview of internal footing excavation line.
21	TAC-2659	NE	Overview of site work in progress.
22	TAC-2660	N	Overview of East footing line excavation.
23	TAC-2661	N	Overview of East footing line excavation.
24	TAC-2662	E	Overview of internal footing excavation line.
25	TAC-2663	W	Overview of internal footing excavation line.
26	TAC-2664	SE	Overview of site work in progress.
27	TAC-2665	SE	Overview of site work in progress.
28	TAC-2666	E	Overview of site work in progress.
29	TAC-2667	E	Overview of site work in progress.
30	TAC-2668	E	Overview of site work in progress.
31	TAC-2669	S	North facing section, North internal footing line.
32	TAC-2670	S	North facing section, North internal footing line.

CATHERINE STREET, HEREFORD

## APPENDIX II

## Context register

<b>Site Location</b>					
<b>Datum height</b>		55.75m			
Context No	Description (Layer, Cut, Fill)	Dimensions (as appropriate)			
		Area	Length	Width	Depth
(100)	Tarmac surface	+	+	+	0.08- 0.10m
(101)	Modern levelling deposit or hardcore associated with existing tarmac surface				0.10m
(102)	Mid-Dark Black ,silty clay, contains modern debris, brick, ceramic pipe.	+	+	+	0.30m – 0.40m
(103)	Buff brown, slightly silty clay, possible soil horizon.	+	+	+	0.40m – 0.50m +  Excavation stopped at this level.
<b>Interpretation</b>					
No features of archaeological significances were observed during the excavation.					



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