

UWHH/01



HEREFORD COUNTY HOSPITAL

Archaeological Watching Brief for Electric Cable Installation

commissioned by Western Power Distribution

November 2013

HEREFORD COUNTY HOSPITAL

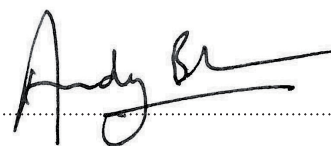
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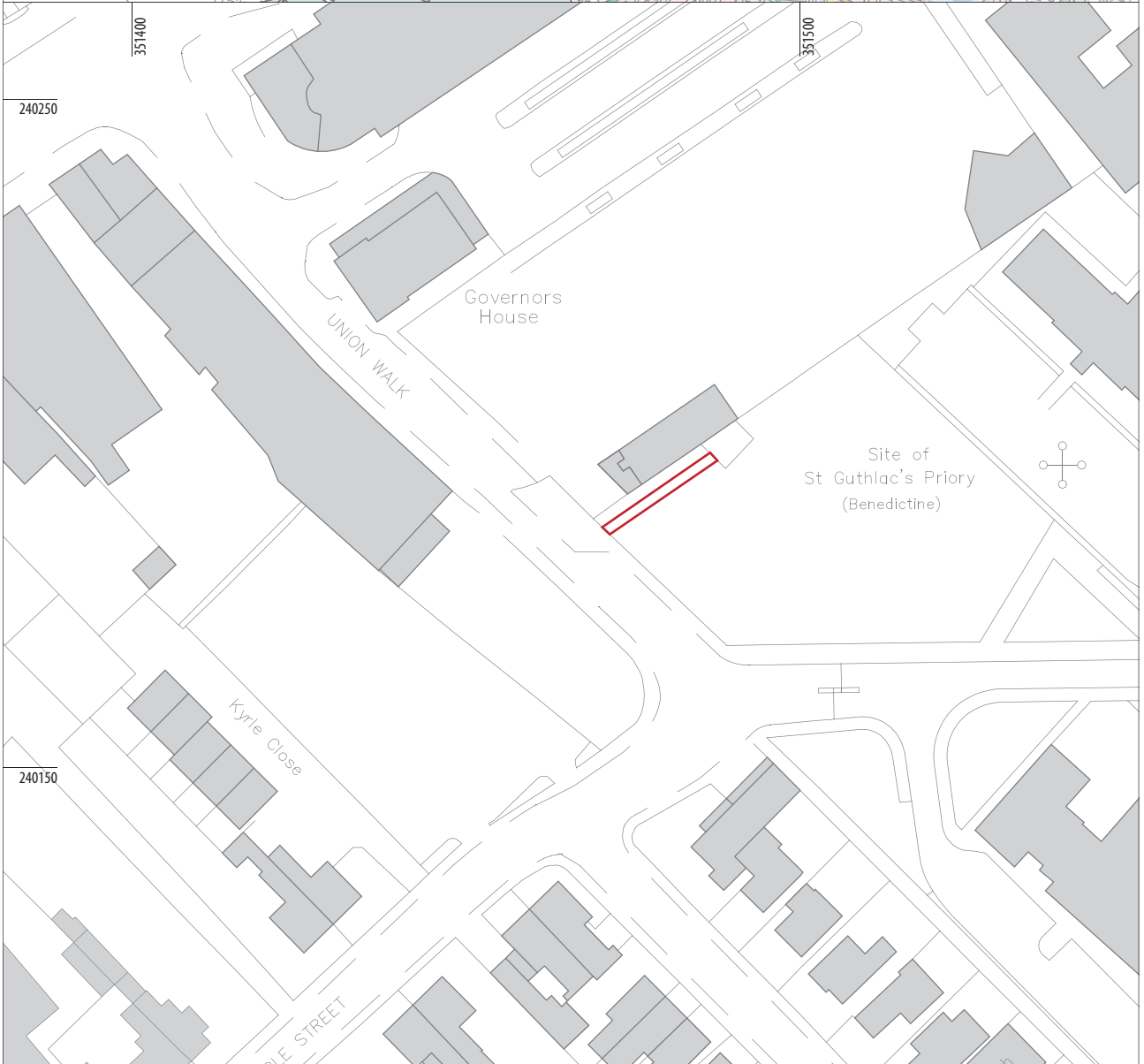
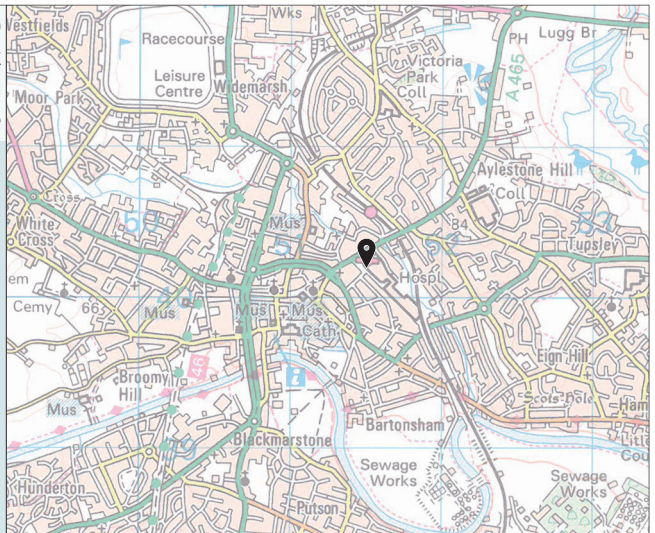


CONTENTS

1	INTRODUCTION	1
2	ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND	1
3	AIMS AND OBJECTIVES	1
4	METHOD	1
5	RESULTS	2
6	CONCLUSION	2
7	BIBLIOGRAPHY	2
8	APPENDICES	3
	Appendix 1 Site registers	3
	<i>Appendix 1.1 Context register</i>	3
	<i>Appendix 1.2 Drawing register</i>	3
	<i>Appendix 1.3 Photographic register</i>	3

LIST OF ILLUSTRATIONS

Illus 1		viii
	<i>Site location</i>	
Illus 2		2
	<i>Working shot</i>	
Illus 3		2
	<i>N facing sample section</i>	



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Illus 1

Site location

HEREFORD COUNTY HOSPITAL

Archaeological Watching Brief for Electric Cable Installation

Headland Archaeology (UK) Ltd undertook an archaeological watching brief during the installation of a high voltage electricity cable within the grounds of Hereford County Hospital. Although the trench was in close proximity to the burial ground of St Guthlac's Priory, no archaeological features or finds were observed.

1 INTRODUCTION

Headland Archaeology (UK) Ltd was commissioned by Western Power Distribution to undertake an archaeological watching brief at Hereford County Hospital on a grassed area known as 'The Orchard', adjacent to Union Walk (NGR SO 51471 40186) (Illus 1). The client was undertaking work to excavate a service trench for the installation of a high voltage electricity cable to supply a new radiotherapy unit.

Although no planning conditions were attached to this work, the client submitted appropriate documentation for the works under the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979, as the site lies within the Hereford Area of Archaeological Importance, close to the burial ground of St Guthlac's Priory. A burial licence was applied for as human remains were anticipated but no such evidence was uncovered.

The underlying geology of the site consists of sedimentary Raglan mudstones overlain by Devonian sands and gravels.

Work was undertaken on 20th August 2013.

2 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

Previous excavations in the vicinity of the site have located the burial ground of St Guthlac's Priory which was founded on the site in 1143^{AD} and prospered until dissolution in 1539^{AD}. The boundary of the burial ground is thought to lie approximately 50m to the east of the service trench. The precise location of the monastic church and precinct buildings has not, as yet, been established and little is known of the occupation of this part of the monastic precinct during the medieval period.

The 1967 Ordnance Survey map shows hospital buildings occupying the site of 'The Orchards'.

3 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

The objectives of this investigation were to excavate and record any archaeological remains that would be disturbed by the excavation of the service trench, to produce and deposit a satisfactory archive, and disseminate the results of the work via grey-literature reporting and publication.

4 METHOD

The watching brief was concluded in a single day (20th August 2013) with one trench orientated north east–south west being excavated by a JCB excavator. The trench was 20m long, 0.4m wide and 0.65m deep. It ran parallel to a modern upstanding red-brick wall (Illus 2).

The main contractor mechanically excavated deposits as necessary for the installation of the electricity supply. All ground disturbing works were monitored by an archaeologist of AlFA equivalent experience.

All recording followed IFA Standards and Guidance. All contexts were given unique numbers and recording was undertaken on pro forma record cards. Digital photographs on a 7.2mp camera were taken for illustrative purposes only. A plan of the area disturbed during the watching brief was drawn on pro-forma record sheets at a scale of 1:50, and a section of the trench was recorded at a scale of 1:10.

A burial licence was applied for due to the high expectation of revealing human remains but no such remains were encountered during the project.



Illus 2

Working shot

Illus 3

N facing sample section

5 RESULTS

The grassed topsoil layer [001] measured 0.18m in depth and overlay the remains of a modern building consisting of a concrete surface with red-brick walls underneath. Metal pipes were visible beneath the concrete surface and are likely to relate to the building's central heating system. The building was present throughout the whole length of the trench and extended beyond the 0.65m depth required for the cable.

Only at the south western end of the excavated trench another deposit, Context [003], was present and consisted of very dark brown loamy sand with occasional small stone inclusions. The building remains [002] truncated this deposit suggesting it may represent an older ground surface either contemporary or pre-dating the use of building [002] (Illus 3).

No archaeological deposits were present in the excavated trench.

6 CONCLUSION

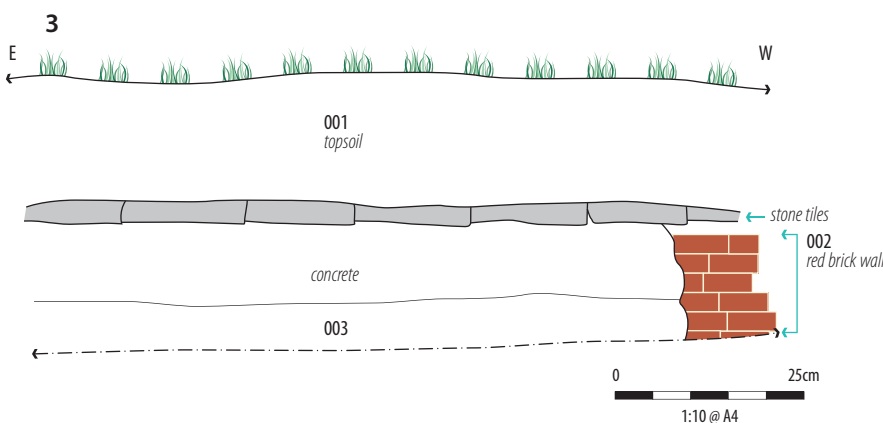
The excavation of the electricity cable trench revealed the sub-surface remains of a 20th century building. The building revealed is likely to relate to the hospital buildings identified on the 1967 Ordnance Survey map of the site. The presence of a 20th century building is likely to have truncated or entirely removed archaeological deposits at this location, although there is the potential for archaeological remains to survive at greater depths than those encountered during the watching brief.

7 BIBLIOGRAPHY

Archaeological Archives Forum *Archaeological Archives: a guide to best practice in creation, compilation, transfer and curation* (published by the IfA 2007).

Brickley, M & McKinley, J 2004 *Guidelines to the standards for recording human remains* (IfA Paper No 7).

Watkinson, D & Neal, V *First aid for finds* (3rd edn 1998).



8 APPENDICES

Appendix 1 Site registers

Appendix 1.1 Context register

Context	Description	Depth of Deposit
001	Topsoli layer with turf	0.0–0.18
002	Remains of old Hospital building. Tiled concrete floor with steel net and red brick walls supporting the floor from underneath, (deeper than 0.38 – they go deeper than the 0.65 trench depth) The floor structure extends along all of the qwall across the excavated trench, except for 0.75m East of the street wall)	–
003	Very dark brown loamy sand, (almost topsoli like morphology). No finds recorded. Sealed & cut by structure (002)	–

Appendix 1.2 Drawing register

Drawing	Scale	Plan or Section	Description
1	1:10	Section	Section across cable trench (003)

Appendix 1.3 Photographic register

Photo	C/S	B&W	Digital	Description
1	815	816	1	Section 1 (003)
2	–	–	2	Section 1 (003)



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