



HEREFORDSHIRE COUNTY HOSPITAL TEMPORARY EMERGENCY WARD AND SEPARATE CAR PARK

Archaeological Watching Brief

commissioned by Wye Valley NHS Trust

EHE 80135

May 2015





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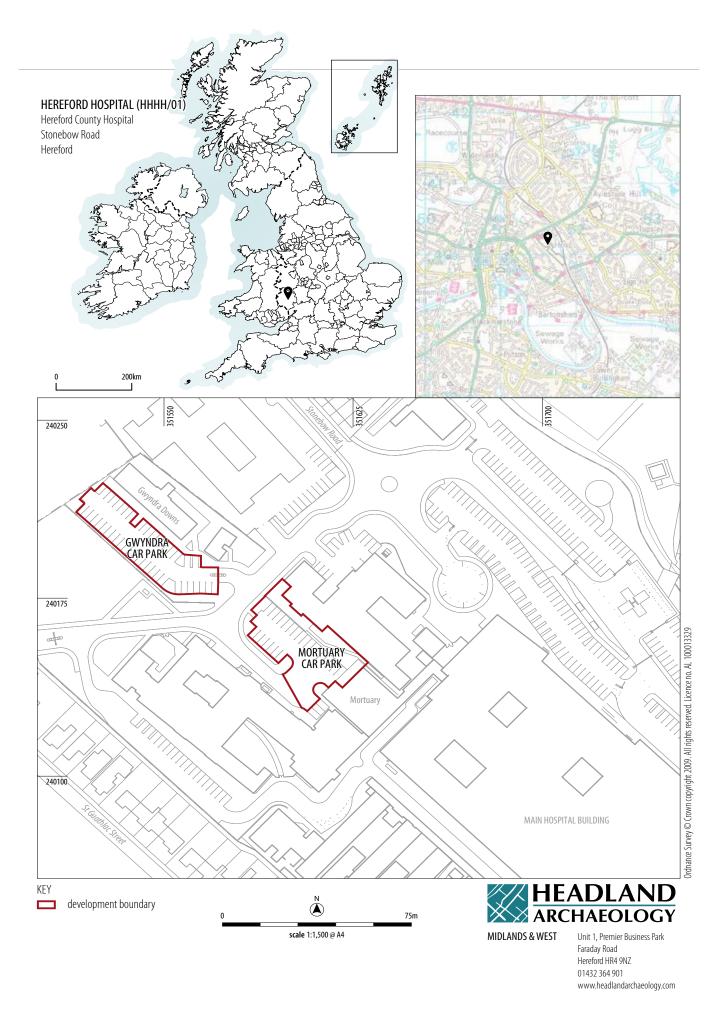


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ILLUS 1
Site location

HEREFORDSHIRE COUNTY HOSPITAL TEMPORARY EMERGENCY WARD AND SEPARATE CAR PARK

Archaeological Watching Brief

Headland Archaeology (UK) Ltd undertook the monitoring of thirteen hand dug test pits and a series of geological window samples within the Mortuary and Gwyndra car parks at the County Hospital in Hereford. The test pits were located within an area known to encompass the former St Guthlacs Priory burial ground. Deposits relating to the burial ground were identified across the Mortuary car park and into the south-eastern end of the Gwyndra car park. Structural remains believed to relate to former hospital buildings were identified across Gwyndra car park.

1 INTRODUCTION

Wye Valley NHS Trust is planning to construct sub-structures to facilitate the erection of pre-fabricated wards and a two storey car park within two extant car parks on the County Hospital site. In order to ascertain the make-up of below ground deposits within the site, nine hand dug test pits in advance of window sampling were proposed in the Gwyndra Downes and the Mortuary car parks.

Due to the sites location within the Hereford Area of Archaeological Importance (AAI), the archaeological advisor to Herefordshire Council, Mr Julian Cotton, was notified of the works and a Project Design (Craddock-Bennett 2015) submitted for his approval.

The proposed excavations were located within a potentially archaeologically sensitive area. The burial ground of St Guthlac's Priory is located within the vicinity of the test pit locations and the possibility of encountering human burials was considered to be high. A licence authorising the disturbance of possible burials was granted by the Ministry of Justice (15–0064), however all reasonable efforts were made to avoid the disturbance of burials. To this end, excavation was halted within four of the test pits due to the presence of human remains. An additional four test pits were then excavated at alternative locations to allow window sampling to take place.

1.1 SITE DESCRIPTION

The sites are located within two car parks in the north-west of The County Hospital complex (**Illus 1**).

- Mortuary Car Park NGR 351602,240153
- Gwyndra Car Park NGR 351539,240201

The car parks are currently used for staff parking at the hospital and as access to the mortuary.

1.2 HISTORICAL AND 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 1143AD. and prospered until dissolution in 1539AD. The burial ground for the priory is believed to extend over the full footprint of the Mortuary Car Park and the south-eastern part of the Gwyndra Car Park.

Post-dissolution the priors dwelling was used as a private house and then later the site saw the construction of the Hereford Union Workhouse and Goal in 1837. The Workhouse became the County Hospital and new hospital buildings were constructed in the late 1930s and early 1940s (Crooks 2005).





ILLUS 2
Excavation of test pit in Gwyndra car park prior to window sampling

Considerable alterations have since been made to the hospital. The presence of numerous burials, some in stone cists, was noted and recorded during the 1930s building works and later in the 1970s and 1980s (Crooks 2005).

More recent works, including targeted trial trenching and watching briefs along the line of service trenches, were undertaken during rebuilding and refurbishing of the hospital from 1998–2003. These revealed what is believed to be the extent of the priory burial ground (Crooks 2005).

All archaeological works have been in response to development and as such have focused primarily on the burial ground of the priory with little evidence of the position of the priory buildings themselves.

2 OBJECTIVES

The objectives of the monitoring were as follows:

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

3 METHOD

3.1 EXCAVATION

All ground disturbing works were monitored by an archaeologist of ACIfA equivalent experience or higher.

All test pits (excluding Test Pit 11) measured 0.3m by 0.3m in plan. Tarmac was removed using a pneumatic chisel, at which point excavation continued by hand to a depth of 1.2m below ground

level. If human remains were encountered, test pit excavation was abandoned and an alternative location was identified.

At a depth of 1.2m hand excavation ceased and a window sampling percussion rig was positioned over the test pit (**Illus 2**). A 0.1m borehole was excavated into the base of the test pit to a maximum depth of 3m.

Test Pit 11 was excavated to identify the location of services adjacent to the entrance to the mortuary building. Measuring 5.1m by 0.5m in plan, TP11 was hand excavated to a maximum depth of 1.1m. Following hand excavation, a borehole was excavated in the base of the test pit.

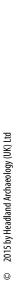
Where in situ archaeological remains were encountered, further excavation of the deposits was undertaken by archaeological staff until any remains had been appropriately excavated and recorded. All articulated human remains were cleaned and recorded in situ. Excavation ceased at the level of human remains.

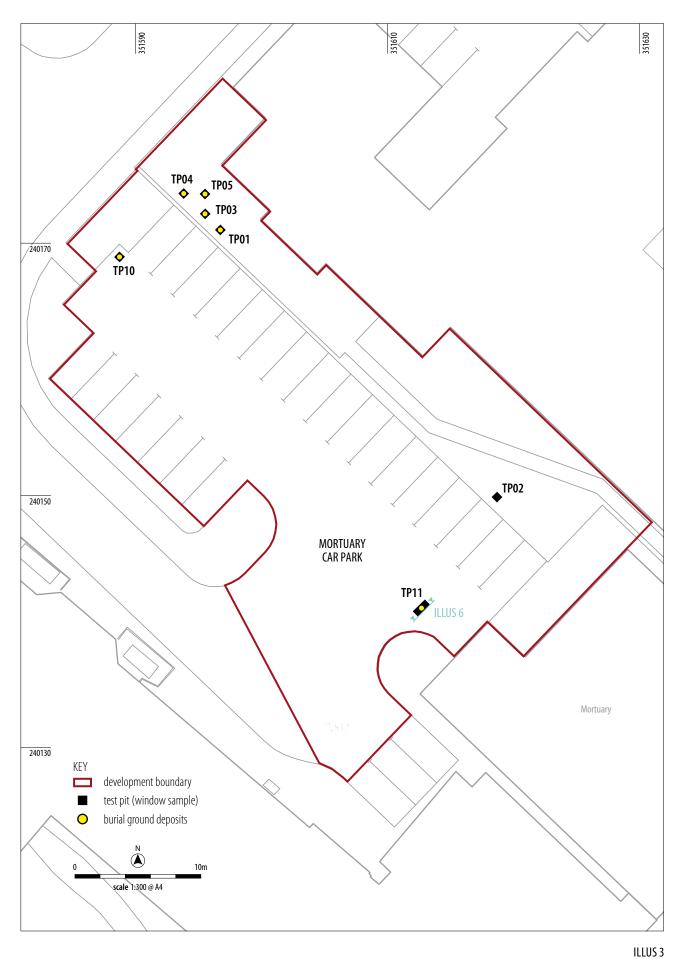
3.2 RECORDING

All recording followed CIfA Standards and Guidance. All contexts were given unique numbers and recording was undertaken on pro forma record cards. In the event that stratified deposits were encountered, a 'Harris' matrix was compiled.

All plans and sections of trenches were drawn on pro-forma recording sheets at a scale of 1:20. Where 35mm black-and-white photographs were taken; a graduated metric scale was clearly visible. Digital photographs on a 7.2mp camera were taken for illustrative purposes only and will not form a part of the site archive.

Drawings were related to the National Grid and Ordnance Datum.





Mortuary car park — site plan / test pit (window sample) locations







4 RESULTS

4.1 MORTUARY CAR PARK (ILLUS 3)

Test pits containing human remains (TP01, 03, 04, 05, 10, 11)

Test Pits 01–05 were located to the north-east of a c1.5m high retaining wall and at a lower elevation to the remainder of the test pits within the Mortuary car park.

Four attempts were made to excavate test pits to the required depth at the northern end of the car park (TP01, 03, 04, 05). In all cases human remains were encountered at a depth of between 0.8m and 1.07m and excavation was abandoned (**Illus 4**). Due to the limited dimensions of the test pits it was not possible to ascertain

ILLUS 4

Human skull fragments found in hand dug TP04

HUS 5

Possible sandstone cist fragment found above skull fragments in TP04

if the human remains represented in situ burials. Overlying the burials was a light brown sandy clay (eg [0105, 0303]) which appeared to represent a grave fill. Grave deposits were encountered at a depth of between 0.24m and 0.4m below ground level (52.26mOSL – 52.1mOSL).

Within Test Pit 04 a sandstone slab (**Illus 5**), possibly representing part of a cist was located over human remains at a depth of 1.07m (51.43mOSL) below ground level.

Test Pits 10 and 11 were located on higher ground to the south-west of the retaining wall. Within Test Pit 10 deposits of made-ground were encountered to a depth of 1.25m below ground level [1003]. Window sample cores recovered from below this depth identified a disturbed graveyard soil overlying a deposit [1005] similar in nature to the grave fills [0105, 0303] identified to the north-west. The top of deposit [1005] was identified at 52.5mOSL and continued to a level of 51.4mOSL, at which point natural gravels [1006] were encountered.

The upper surface of a disturbed grave soil [1108] was identified within Test Pit 11 at a depth of 1m below ground level (52.7mOSL) (**Illus 6**). A homogenous, undisturbed grave deposit [1109]

was identified at a depth of 1.3m (52.4mOSL) and continued to the level of geological deposits at 51.85mOSL.

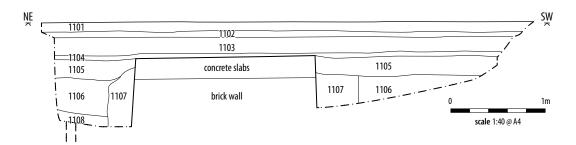
Test pits not containing human remains (TP02)

Geological gravels were encountered at a depth of 0.7m (51.6mOSL) within Test Pit 02. No evidence for human remains was identified in the overlying deposits.

4.2 GWYNDRA CAR PARK (ILLUS 7)

Test pits containing human remains (TP12)

A disturbed grave soil [1204] was identified at a depth of 0.6m (53.65mOSL) within Test Pit 12. Grave deposits continued to a depth of 1.4m below ground level at which point geological deposits [1206] were encountered.



ILLUS 6

NW facing section of TP11 showing exposed graveyard soil (1108) and (1109)

Test pits containing potential structural remains (TP06, 07, 08, 09, 13)

A deposit of dense and compact demolition rubble [0604] extended to a depth of 3m below ground level within TP06. A concrete obstruction [0605] beneath this deposit is likely to represent the base of a cellar. Further concrete obstructions within Test Pits 07, 08 and 13 suggest the presence of former buildings within this part of the site.

Within Test Pit 09, a disturbed graveyard soil [0904] containing fragmentary human bone was identified. The deposit extended from a depth of 1.2m below ground level (53.35mOSL) to a depth of 2.4m, at which point an unknown obstruction was encountered. No evidence for in situ burials was encountered within this deposit and it may represent a redeposition of burial ground deposits.

5 DISCUSSION

Of the thirteen test pits excavated, seven confirmed the presence of human burials, with another five identifying the presence of possible structural remains. Only one, TP12, did not identify archaeological deposits.

Those test pits that did hit probable structural remains were located in the Gwyndra carpark and most likely revealed the foundations of former hospital buildings and the Union Workhouse, in particular Johnson's Hospital which overlies the site of St Guthlac's Priory. The overlying modern made-ground in the carpark supports this possibility as it was comprised of dense orangey brown sandy gravel with fragmented brick and greyish concrete demolition rubble material. In addition, Test Pit 06 identified what is most likely to be a cellar backfilled with demolition rubble to a depth of 3m.

The lack of human remains over the majority of Gwyndra car park may support the results of previous archaeological work (Crooks 2005) which suggests that the extent of the burial ground lies somewhere in the middle of this car park. Alternatively, the buildings that were formerly located on the site may have caused significant truncation to burial deposits, but some burials may still be present between and beneath the foundations.

The identification of human remains in all but one of the test pits in the Mortuary car park confirms that the burial ground extends over the majority of this area. The lack of human remains within Test Pit 2 may simply indicate that the test pit was located between graves. It is clear from the historical background that the cemetery and burials were well known and documented. The fact that the burial ground deposits within the Mortuary car park were identified at a depth of 1–1.5m below ground level, suggests that the ground surface has been purposely built up to avoid disturbance of the burials. To the north-east of the retaining wall, burial ground deposits were identified at a depth of 0.24m and are therefore afforded less protection.

6 CONCLUSION

The watching brief succeeded in establishing the broad extent of the St Guthlac's burial ground within the area proposed for development. The depth of deposits overlying the former burial ground was also recorded. Within the Mortuary car park grave soils were identified at 52.7mOSL (1m BGL) in the south-east of the site and between 52.26mOSL and 52.5mOSL in the north-west. Due to the terracing of the site this amounted to a burial depth of 1.5m beneath the car park surface and a depth 0.24m beneath ground level in the area to the north-east of the revetment wall. Within Gwyndra car park, grave soils were identified in Test Pit 12 at 53.65mOSL (0.6m BGL).

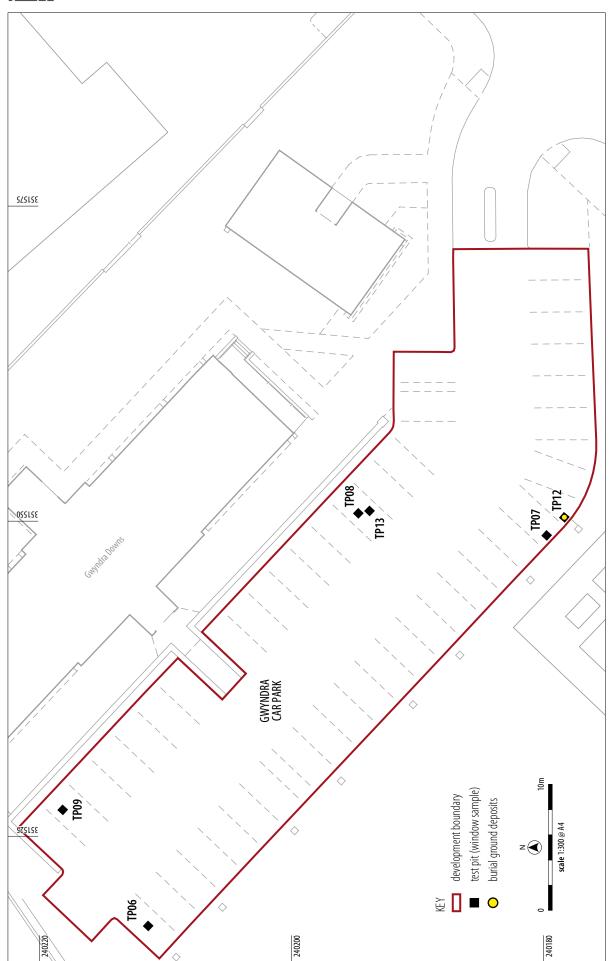
Structural remains identified within Gwyndra car park are likely to relate to former hospital buildings. If the burial ground formerly extended into this area, any human remains still present are likely to be severely truncated.

7 BIBLIOGRAPHY

Craddock-Bennett, L 2015 Temporary emergency ward and separate car park, intrusive site investigations: Written Scheme of Investigation for archaeological watching brief, Headland Archaeology (UK) Ltd.

Crooks, KH 2005 *Excavations at Hereford County Hospital 1998–2003*, Archaeological Investigations Ltd.





Gwyndra car park – site plan / test pit (window sample) locations

ILLUS 7

APPENDICES 8

APPENDIX 1 TEST PIT REGISTER

TP01	Orientation	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)
	N/A	0.3	0.3	0.8
Context	Context description			Depth of deposit (mBGL)
0101	Paving slabs			0.0-0.07
0102	Concrete			0.07-0.14
0103	Made up ground — dark	grey, hardcore		0.14-0.37
0104	Concrete slab			0.37-0.4
0105	Grave fill			0.4-0.8+

Summary: Possible grave fill (0105) with human bone at 0.8m limit of excavation. Not clear if bones are articulated and in situ.

TP02	Orientation	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)
	N/A	0.3	0.3	2.45
Context	Context description		Depth of deposit (mBGL)	
0201	Paving slabs			0.0-0.07
0202	Made up ground — mid yellowy brown gravel of sub rounded sandstone, loose			0.07-0.2
0203	Made up ground — mid brown, slightly sandy/gravelly clay, occasional charcoal, firm			0.2-0.7
0204	Geological subsoil — Glacial sheet deposit — mixed pinky/ orangey/yellowy brown sandy gravel (light tones), occasional degraded sandstone, siltstone and quartzite inclusions, loose			0.7-2.45+

Summary: Deposit (0203) is similar to disturbed graveyard soil identified in other bore holes.

TP03	Orientation	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)
	_	-	-	0.8
Context	Context description			Depth of deposit (mBGL)
0301	Paving slabs			0.0-0.07
0302	Made up ground — dark grey hardcore			0.07-0.27
0303	Grave fill — light brown, slightly sandy clay, occasional small sub angular stone. Freshly broken human bone			0.27-0.8
_	D :11 (U.0202)	91.1	00 11. 11.	. 11:01

Summary: Possible grave fill (0303) with human bone at 0.8m. Not possible to tell if bones are articulated or in situ.

TP04	Orientation	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)
	-	_	_	1.07
Context	Context description			Depth of deposit (mBGL)
0401	Paving slab			0.0-0.07
0402	Concrete			0.07-0.14
0403	Made up ground — dark	grey hardcore		0.14-0.37
0404	Grave fill — light brown, sub angular stone. Freshl sandstone (roughly 0.5xd	y broken human boi		0.37-1.07+
Summary: Possible grave fill (0404) with human skull fragments at 1.07m beneath a large sandstone block — possible cist or coffin material.				

TP05	Orientation	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)
	_	-	-	0.89
Context	Context description			Depth of deposit (mBGL)
0501	Paving slab			0.0-0.07
0502	Concrete			0.07-0.14
0503	Made up ground — dark g	grey hardcore		0.14-0.24
0504	Grave fill — light brown, s angular stone.	slightly sandy clay, o	ccasional small sub	0.24-0.89
Summary:	: Possible grave fill (0504) v	vith human bones a	t 0.8m. Not possible	to tell if they were

articulated or in situ.

TP06	Orientation	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)
	_	_	_	3m
Context	Context description			Depth of deposit (mBGL)
0601	Tarmac (2 layers)			0.0-0.2
0602	Sub base — compact gre	y gravel (road stone)		0.2-0.45
0603	Tarmac			0.45-0.6
0604	Made up ground — dens mid browny orange, san glass fibre etc.			0.6–3.0
0505	Concrete obstruction			3.0+
Summary	: Possible backfill of cellar.			
TP07	Orientation	Lenath (m)	Width (m)	Denth (m)

IFU/	Ullelitation	Lengui (III)	width (III)	Deptii (iii)
				0.7
Context	Context description			Depth of deposit (mBGL)
0701	Tarmac (2 layers)			0.0-0.15



0702 Made up ground — dense and compact demolition nubble — mid browny cange, sandy gravel with brick fragments 0.15–0.3 1002 Made up ground — mid grey, hose road store fragments 0703 Tarmac 0.3–0.4 1003 Made up ground — Mid orangey hown (pink gravel with brick fragments.) 0704 Made up ground — dense and compact demolition nubble — mid browny orange, sandy gravel with brick fragments, glass, foam insulation, noted metal etc. 0.6–0.7+ 1005 Grave fill – light brown, slightly sandy day, angular stone and day, moderate small sub angular stone. Human bone identified. 0705 Concrete obstruction Length (m) Width (m) Depth (m) 1005 Goave fill – light brown, slightly sandy day, on angular stone. Human bone identified. 0706 Treat Context Context description 1.0 Horton — mixed light grey day with pinky of aday on angular stone. Human bone identified. 1.0 Horton — mixed light grey day with pinky of aday on angular stone. Human bone identified. 1.0 Horton — mixed light grey day with pinky of aday on angular stone. Human bone identified. 1.0 1.0 Horton — mixed light grey day with pinky of a	n, sandy/gravelly degraded occasional small orangey/yellowy mixed pinky/ tones), occasiona inclusions, loose	1.25—1.5 1.25—1.5 1.5—2.6 2.6—3.4 3.4+ all e 0.05) which contains either
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Summary: Possible building foundation. TP09	Tarmac (2layers)	
TPO9 Orientation Length (m) Width (m) Depth (m) 2.4 Context Context description Tarmac O901 Tarmac O902 Made up ground — mid grey gravel (road stone) relatively loose and uncompacted O903 Sub base — compact grey gravel (roadstone) TPO9 Orientation Length (m) Width (m) Depth (m) Depth (m) 1105 Made up ground — light orangey brown sand fragments, compact/dense rubble 1106 Made up ground — mid orangey brown sand fragments, firm rubble 1107 Backfill of cut for hospital service duct — light sandy gravel, loose 0.05—0.7 1108 Disturbed graveyard soil — mid greysh brown day, moderate small sub angular stone and day, moderate small sub angular stone and day, moderate flecks of charcoal	2 Sub base — dark grey compact road stone	
TPO9 Orientation Length (m) Width (m) Depth (m) 1105 Made up ground – light orangey brown sand fragments, compact/dense rubble Context Context description	ad stone)	0.15-0.35
Context Context description Depth of deposit (mBGL) Tarmac 0.0–0.05 Made up ground – mid orangey brown sand fragments, firm rubble 0901 Tarmac 0.0–0.05 Made up ground – mid orangey brown sand fragments, firm rubble 0902 Made up ground – mid grey gravel (road stone) relatively loose and uncompacted 0903 Sub base – compact grey gravel (roadstone) 0.7–1.2 This indicate gry ground – light orange yield fragments, firm rubble 1106 Made up ground – mid orangey brown sand fragments, firm rubble 1107 Backfill of cut for hospital service duct – light sandy gravel, loose 1108 Disturbed graveyard soil – mid greyish brown clay, moderate small sub angular stone and dispute the compact grey gravel (roadstone) 0.7–1.2 Sub base – compact grey gravel (roadstone)		0.35-0.4
Context Context description Depth of deposit (mBGL) Tarmac 0.0–0.05 Made up ground – mid orangey brown sand fragments, firm rubble Backfill of cut for hospital service duct – light sandy gravel, loose Nade up ground – mid grey gravel (road stone) relatively loose and uncompacted Nade up ground – mid grey gravel (road stone) relatively loose and uncompacted 1108 Disturbed graveyard soil – mid greyish brown clay, moderate small sub angular stone and day, moderate small sub angular stone and day moderate flecks of charcoal	dy gravel with b	orick 0.4—0.6
deposit (mBGL) Tarmac 0.0-0.05 Made up ground – mid grey gravel (road stone) relatively loose and uncompacted 0903 Sub base – compact grey gravel (roadstone) Overland Ov		
sandy gravel, loose Made up ground — mid grey gravel (road stone) relatively loose and uncompacted No.5—0.7 and uncompacted Disturbed graveyard soil - mid greyish brown clay, moderate small sub angular stone and do sandstone, moderate flecks of charcoal	dy gravel and bri	rick 0.6—1
Made up ground — mid grey gravel (road stone) relatively loose and uncompacted 0903 Sub base — compact grey gravel (roadstone) 0.05—0.7 1108 Disturbed graveyard soil – mid greyish brown clay, moderate small sub angular stone and do sandstone, moderate flecks of charcoal	t orangey browr	n 0.6–1.1+
Sub base – compact grey gravel (roadstone) 0.7–1.2 sandstone, moderate flecks of charcoal		y 1.0–1.3
	aegraded	
Disturbed graveyard soil — mid greyish brown (pinkish 1.2—2.4 1109 Graveyard soil — mid-light brown, slightly san hue), sandy/gravelly clay, moderate small sub angular stone and degraded sandstone, moderate flecks of charcoal, very occasional small bone fragment (not recently broken).	nents (not freshly	
1110 Geological subsoil — Glacial sheet deposit — r 0905 Unknown obstruction 2.4+ orangey/yellowy brown sandy gravel (light tr		al
degraded sandstone, siltstone and quartzite i		
Summary: (0905) appears to be similar to the disturbed graveyard soil across most of the site and may have been moved from elsewhere to make up ground. 1.85–3		
TP10 Orientation Length (m) Width (m) Depth (m) Summary: Window sample located at bottom of TP11 who depth of 1.1m. Test pit revealed the disturbed graveyard so soil (1109) had been cut by the hospital service duct. The bone fragments.		th overlies the graveyard
	soil (1108) which	
Context Context description Depth of deposit (mBGL)	soil (1108) which	
	soil (1108) which	

TP12	Orientation	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)
	_	_	_	1.45
Context	Context description			Depth of deposit (mBGL)
1201	Tarmac (2layers)			0.0-0.15
1202	Sub base — compact gre	y road stone		0.15-0.4
1203	Made up ground — very mixed orangey brown, sandy/gravelly clay with brick fragments, degraded sandstone and charcoal			0.4-0.6
1204	Disturbed graveyard soil clay, moderate small sub sandstone, moderate flee	angular stone and c	. , , ,	0.6–0.65
1205	Grave fill – mid-light brown, slightly sandy day, occasional small sub angular stone, freshly broken human bone fragments			0.65-1.4
1206	Horizon — mixed light gr sandy gravel natural	ey clay with pinky/o	rangey/yellowy	1.4—1.6
1207	Geological subsoil — deg	raded browny pink s	sandstone	1.6-1.8
1208	Geological subsoil — Gladorangey/yellowy brown degraded sandstone, silts	sandy gravel (light t	ones), occasional	1.8-2.45

Summary: Disturbed graveyard soil (1204) overlies grave fill (1205) containing freshly broken human bone fragments (possibly pelvis or ribs).

TP13	Orientation	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)		
	_	-	-	0.85		
Context	Context description	Depth of deposit (mBGL)				
1301	Tarmac (2 layers)	0.0-0.15				
1302	Made up ground — mid of fragments, fairly loose rul	0.15-0.85				
1303	Concrete obstruction			0.85+		
Summary: Possible building foundation						



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