

EWHH/01



TEMPORARY EMERGENCY WARD, COUNTY HOSPITAL, HEREFORD

ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF AND EXCAVATION

commissioned by Wye Valley NHS Trust

P151135/F

February 2016

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PROJECT SUMMARY

Headland Archaeology (UK) Ltd was commissioned by Wye Valley NHS Trust, to undertake an archaeological watching brief and excavation, during groundworks in preparation for the erection of a temporary ward, corridor link and associated works at Hereford County Hospital. Groundworks entailed the excavation of nineteen foundation pad positions within the former mortuary carpark and a service link trench.

Human remains, representing at least eleven individuals, were identified in association with five of the nineteen foundation bases, and within the service trench. Six of the skeletons were in situ and remained articulated, whereas the remainder represented charnel deposits and other post-inhumation disturbance. Given that the site was located within the footprint of the burial ground of the medieval priory of St Guthlac, skeletal material was not unexpected. The remains survived in various states of preservation and truncation, many of the bones recovered being disarticulated. Walls and other remnants of structures, potentially associated with the former Hereford Union Workhouse were also revealed during the works.

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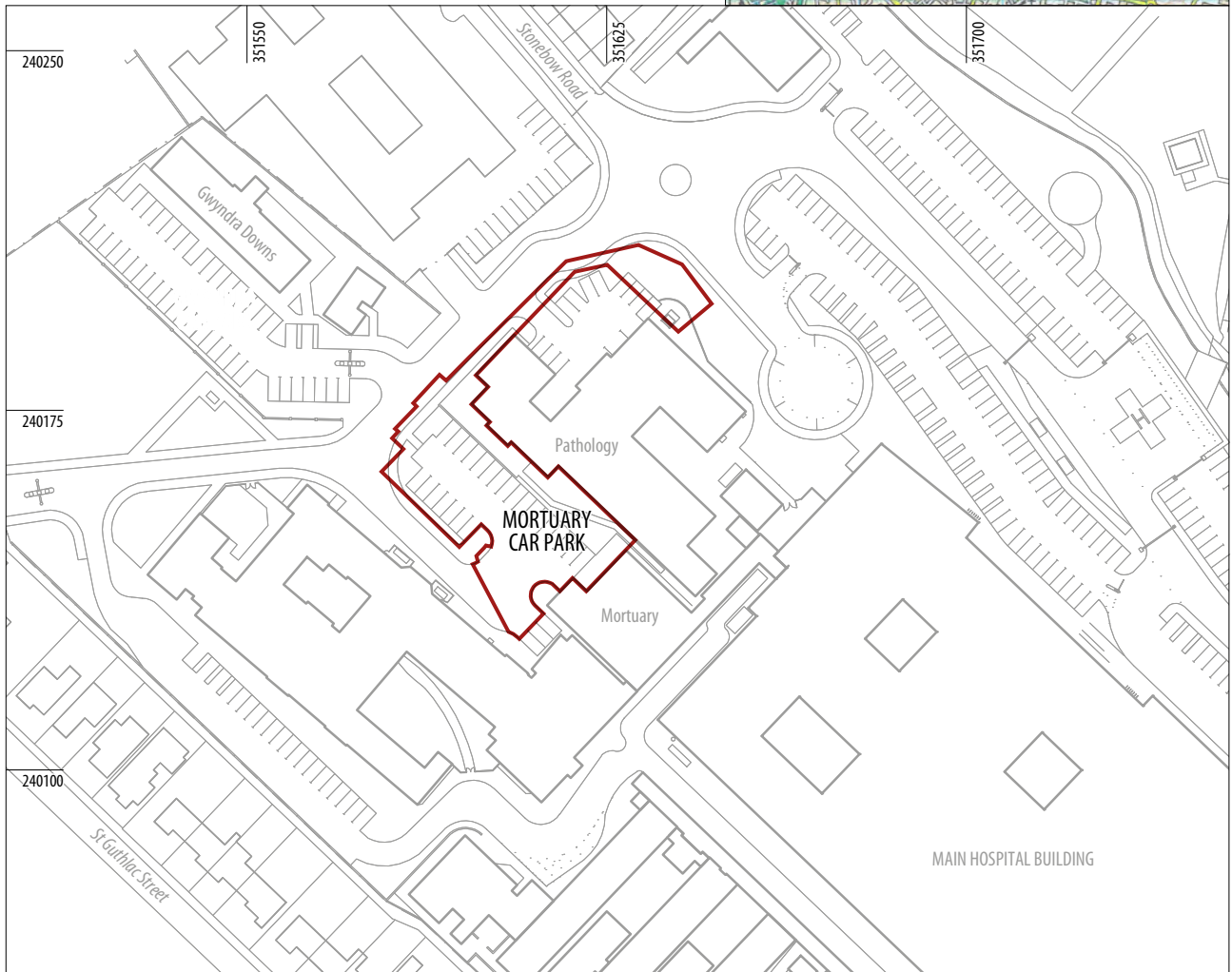
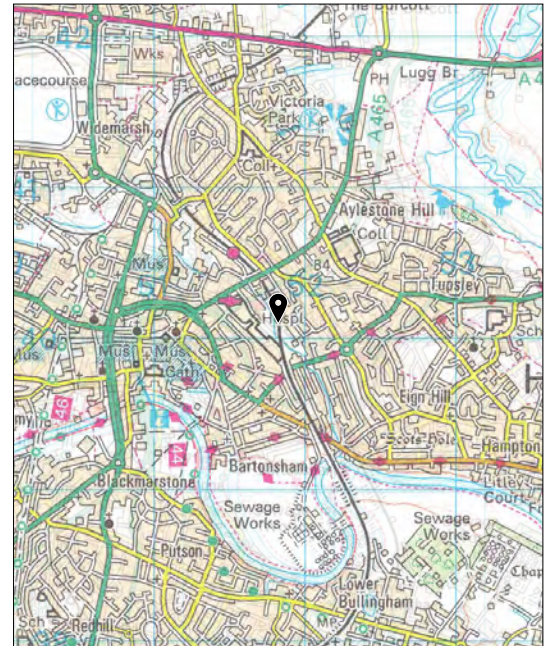
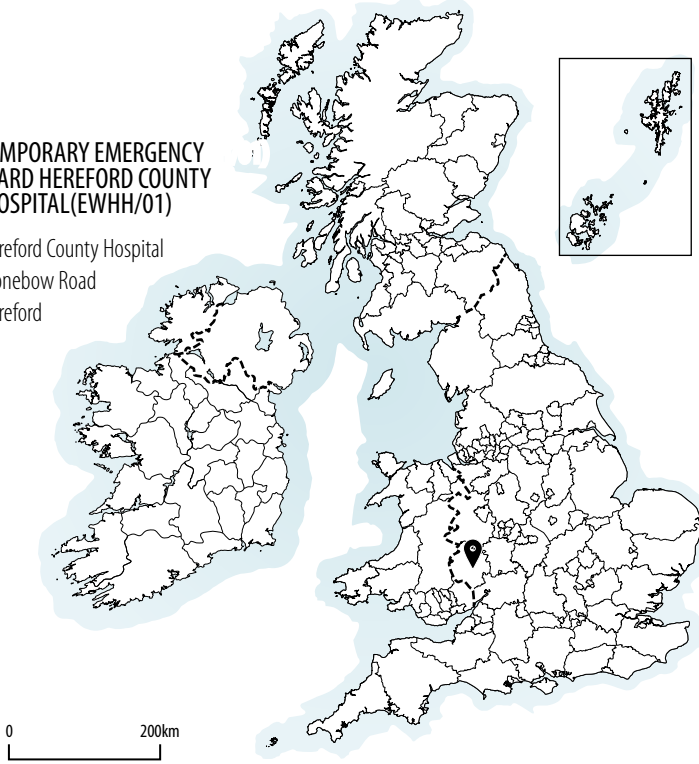
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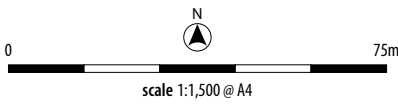
**TEMPORARY EMERGENCY
WARD HERFORD COUNTY
HOSPITAL(EWHH/01)**

Hereford County Hospital
Stonebow Road
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KEY
 development boundary



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ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF AND EXCAVATION

1 INTRODUCTION (ILLUS 1)

Headland Archaeology (UK) Ltd was commissioned to undertake an archaeological watching brief and excavation at The County Hospital, Hereford, Herefordshire. The work was commissioned by Wye Valley NHS Trust, in advance of the installation of nineteen foundation pad positions and a cable trench for a temporary single storey 16-bed acute adult facility, corridor link and associated works (Planning ref: P151135/F). The foundation trenches were located in the former mortuary carpark (centred on NGR 351602, 240153) and the cable link trench excavated just to the north-east, parallel to the extant access road. Trenches within the link corridor area were at a significantly lower level than those within the carpark and access road. Work was undertaken in accordance with a Written Scheme of Investigation (Craddock-Bennett 2015) agreed in advance of works with the archaeological advisor to Herefordshire Council. Due to the likelihood of encountering human burials, a licence authorising the disturbance of possible burials, granted by the Ministry of Justice (15-0201), was obtained.

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 burial ground for the priory is believed to have extended over the full footprint of the mortuary car park.

Post-dissolution, the Priors dwelling was used as a private residence until the site was sold in 1797 as the site of a new County Gaol, followed by construction of the Hereford Union Workhouse in 1837. The Workhouse would eventually become the County Hospital and new hospital buildings were constructed in the late 1930s and early 1940s (Crooks 2005). 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.

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 (Archaeological Investigations, 2003). These revealed what is believed to be the extent of the priory burial ground.

In May 2015, a number of window sample test pits were excavated across the mortuary car park in order to inform the engineering design for the temporary ward (Thomas 2015). Grave deposits were identified at a depth of between 1.3m and 1.5m below the car park surface. Geological gravels were identified beneath the grave deposits at depths of between 1.85m and 2.6m below ground level. Grave deposits were also identified in all window samples across the car park, apart from TP02 in the east of the site. In keeping with the results of previous studies, the absence of grave deposits in this area suggested that the south-eastern extent of the burial ground is located adjacent to the western edge of the extant mortuary building.

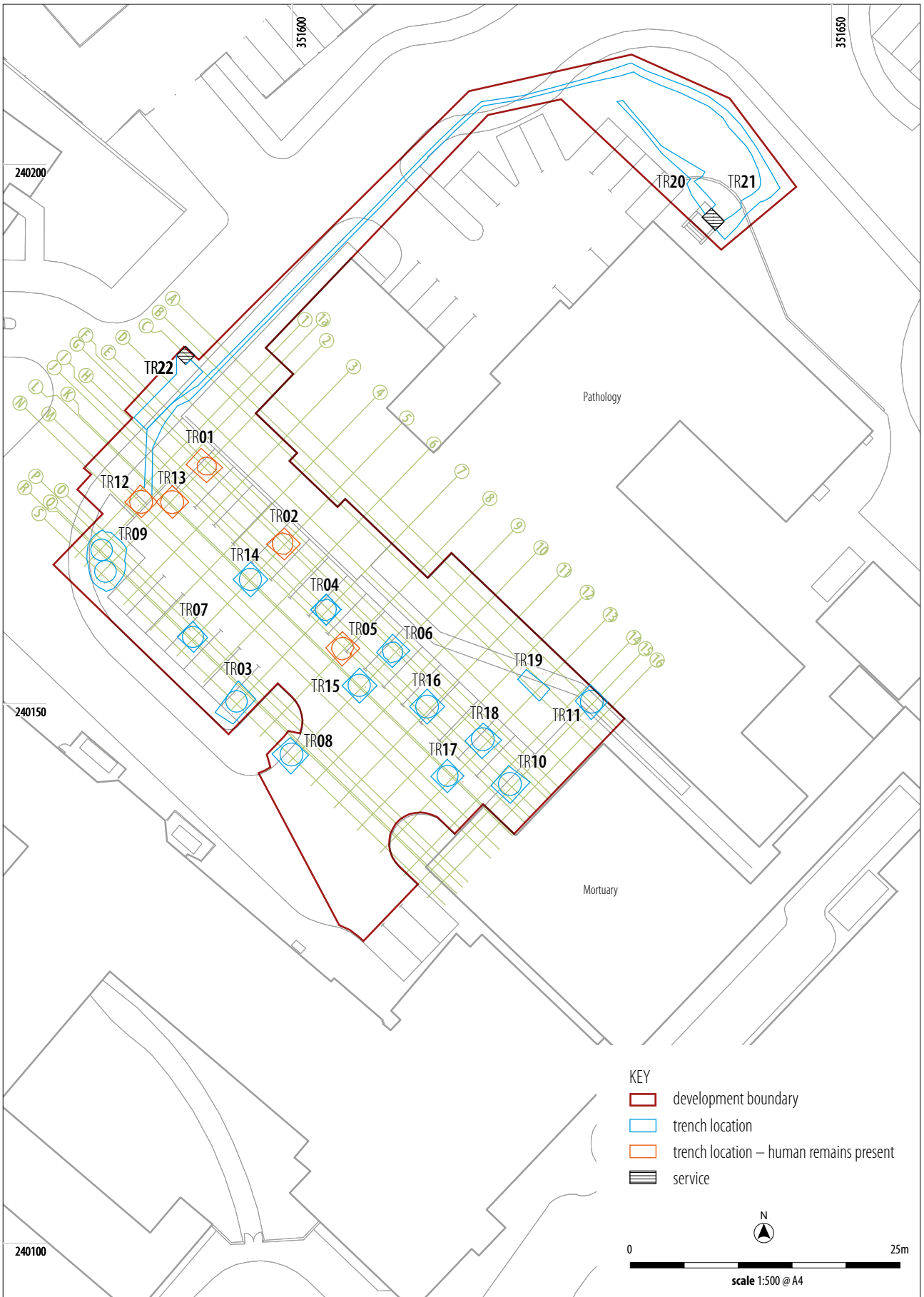
3 METHOD

Both the foundation positions and service trenches were excavated using a mechanical excavator fitted with a toothless bucket, under constant archaeological supervision. Where necessary, in advance of excavation, solid surfaces were cut out using a floor saw and a pecker attachment to the excavator was used to break through construction deposits of modern origin. Excavation ceased at the top of the first archaeological horizon, where encountered, or the natural geology.

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.

Given that the burial zone had been identified, through previous excavations and observations, at a depth of approximately 1.3m – 1.5m below current ground level, a specific methodology for safely accessing the archaeological deposits was put in place.

Where significant archaeological deposits were encountered, concrete manhole rings measuring 1.8m (internal diameter) were



ILLUS 2 Site plan



ILLUS 3 Trench 1, skeleton (1012), looking northwest **ILLUS 4A** Trench 1, cist [1018] with collapsed lid, looking northwest **ILLUS 4B** Skeleton (SK1021) within cist, looking northeast

inserted into the excavated trench. Further rings were added until the manhole reached the car park surface level. Material was then backfilled around the exterior of the manhole rings to create a secure shaft to the level of archaeology.

Hand excavation, by a suitably qualified archaeologist, was then undertaken within a 1.2m diameter area, located centrally within the 1.8m diameter concrete ring.

Archaeological features and deposits within the 1.2m diameter excavation area were cleaned, recorded and lifted. Hand excavation then continued until natural gravels were encountered.

All articulated human remains were cleaned and recorded and all human remains disturbed by the development were removed from the site in accordance with Licence for the Removal of Human Remains 15-0201 (Appendix 1)

Due to Health and Safety considerations, Headland Archaeology (UK) Ltd staff did not enter unsupported excavations which were considered to be unsafe. Therefore, where no archaeological deposits were encountered, excavations were recorded from outside the trenches.

All recording was undertaken on pre-printed pro forma record cards. 35mm black-and-white prints were taken with a graduated metric scale clearly visible, supplemented by digital photography.

Sections and plans were recorded at 1:20 and 1:50, as appropriate. Excavations were located and planned using a Trimble dGPS.

4 RESULTS (ILLUS 2)

A total of 19 foundation bases were excavated within the development area along with an adjoining service trench which extended to the northeast of the carpark, parallel to the extant access road.

Foundation trenches were laid out on a pre-designated grid pattern with an alpha-numeric code assigned to each position. Where necessary, trenches were further micro-sited in order to avoid obstacles. Trenches were numerically identified and referenced to their grid code as they were excavated. For trench registers see Appendix 2.

Trench 1 – G2 (ILLUS 3 and ILLUS 4)

Trench 1 was located in the northern corner of the car park and measured 2.70m x 2.10m at its surface. Multiple layers of modern carpark and building deposits were encountered within the trench; including concrete filled, brick built manholes and multi-level sewer pipes. The modern structural material and rubble debris was observed to a depth of approximately 2.0m below ground level (BGL), whereupon a dark brown, compacted silty clay (1010) was encountered. The visible extent of this deposit was limited to

the centre of the trench as the remainder was obscured by post-medieval foundations and services. Concrete rings were inserted into the trench at this juncture in order to excavate the potential archaeology within it.

The earliest deposit encountered was the natural pink brown gravel (1024), identified at a depth of approximately 3.0m from the current ground surface. Overlying the surface of the gravel was a shallow disturbed layer (1023) which was, in turn, sealed by a dark brown friable silty clay (1022). This layer was described as 'grave soil' and was roughly equivalent to other contexts (1020, 1019 and 1010), the different numbers relative to their spatial location within the trench, rather than a tangible difference in context.

Within this material, the top of the southern side of a stone cist [1017] was revealed (approximately 2.20m BGL). The northern side of the cist was partially buried by a large sewer pipe and the leaked concrete infill of a brick manhole (visible in the section of the trench). The cist was aligned roughly northeast-southwest and its sides were made up of a double course of thin, upright limestone slabs, standing on edge. No stone base was apparent. The visible skeletal remains within the cist were represented by the pelvis and lower limbs of an adult male, aged between 50–60 years (SK1021), lying prone within the grave. The remainder of the grave lay beyond the limit of excavation. A compact, dark brown silt clay identical to (1022) was intermingled with the skeleton to a depth of approximately 0.20m. Lying directly on top of this were the remains of a lid, or covering, of fragmentary limestone slabs. These were identified 0.20m below the upper edge of the cist sides and, as such, it was unclear as to whether these were in situ, having been placed directly atop the inhumation, or whether they had collapsed downward; subsequently being sealed by further graveyard soil (1019).

At approximately the same level as the top of the cist, 0.05m to the south of its eastern end, a second, partial set of remains was uncovered, immediately below the level of wall foundation [1014]. These remains (SK1016) comprised a partial, fragmentary skull, and parts of the right arm of a possible female, 25–35 years old. The cranial vault was substantially collapsed and was uncovered toward the eastern edge of the 1.2m diameter excavation area. The remainder of the skeleton, if it survived, was beyond the limit of excavation.

Separated from these remains, by a thin lens of grave soil (1010) and at the approximate centre of the 1.2m diameter wide excavation area, a third partial set of human skeletal remains (SK1012), were uncovered. The remains represented the upper body and partial pelvis of an adult male, aged 40–45 years, the lower portion of which had been removed by the insertion of wall footing [1014]. The skeleton was in a prone position and appeared to have its hands folded across the chest. The frontal bones of the skull were fragmentary as were the upper surfaces of the ribs. Laboratory analysis revealed that (SK1012) had extensive osteoarthritis of the spine (both in the neck and lumbar regions), as well as in the shoulders, left elbow and hands.

No obvious cut was identified in association with the burial and no accompanying items or structures were recorded. The burial was aligned roughly northeast-southwest. The grave soil (1010) was indistinguishable from below and above the burial. Above the point at which this was encountered (2.0m BGS) were the remains of multiple modern intrusions.

Trench 2 – G5

Trench 2 was located approximately 8.0m to the southeast Trench 1 and measured 2.30 m × 2.10m at its surface. Multiple layers of modern carpark and building deposits were encountered within the trench. The modern structural material and rubble debris was observed to a depth of approximately 2.3m, whereupon a dark brown, compacted silty clay (1010) was encountered. The visible extent of this deposit was limited as the central area was truncated by post-medieval foundations. Concrete rings were inserted into the trench at this juncture in order to excavate the potential archaeology within it.

At just over 2.30m below the car park surface, the pinkish natural gravel (2018) was encountered. Truncating into this horizon, at the eastern limit of the 1.2m diameter excavation area, the northern edge of a grave cut [2015] was encountered. Only 0.30m of the cut was visible, the remaining portion being beyond the limit of excavation. It was infilled with friable dark brown silty-clay (2015), within which, in the upstanding trench section, fragments of human remains were observed (SK2017). The bones appeared to be quite fragmentary and their distribution suggested they were not in situ and had been disturbed. Above the grave soil and skeletal material, a thin lens of dark brown silt clay (2011) could be seen to extend across the north-eastern portion of the trench, overlying the natural gravel. A patch of dark grey charred material (2010/2007) was encountered, in the eastern part of the trench, atop which, intermingled with soft brown silt (2006), heavily degraded human skeletal material (SK2008/SK2009) was identified. The fragmentary bone was collected in two groups, based on its spatial deposition and was clearly disarticulated. The remains were truncated by a post-medieval brick and mortar built wall footing [2014].

Immediately overlying these deposits were multiple units of modern rubble, debris and recent surfacing horizons.

Trench 3 – S7

Trench 3 was located on the south-eastern side of the site, near to the south-eastern corner of the car park. It measured 2.8m × 2.1m at its surface.

The natural gravel (3008) was encountered at a depth of approximately 1.90m, immediately overlying which was a 0.30m deep dark brown silt sand deposit (3006), into which a foundation trench containing a coarse masonry and brick built wall was cut [3007]. The wall was aligned roughly northeast-southwest and was best preserved toward its southern extent. It measured 0.40m wide and 0.90m high in the north-eastern facing section. The construction of the wall appeared to consist of coarsely hewn, uneven sized limestone blocks at its base, to a height of approximately 0.50m, replaced by bricks for the remaining 0.40m. Layers of demolition rubble and levelling surfaces were observed in the remainder of the southern portion of the trench, up to the modern ground surface. The northern part of the trench, including the continuation of the wall had been entirely truncated away by modern intrusion and was infilled with layers of hardcore. No further archaeological features or deposits were encountered within this trench.



ILLUS 5 Trench 4, masonry and mortar wall [4008], looking southwest

Trench 4 – H7 (ILLUS 5)

This trench was situated to the south-east of Trench 2, slightly inset to the south. It measured approximately 2.1 × 2m at the surface and was excavated to a maximum depth of 2.70m.

The natural gravels (4102) were encountered at a depth of 2.1m from the current ground surface. Overlying this was a 0.30m deep, compact layer composed of pebbles or cobbles in a grey-brown silty matrix (4010). This was truncated by the remains of a northwest-southeast aligned wall [4008], encountered 1.5m below the modern carpark surface. The wall comprised of roughly hewn, vacuous limestone blocks [4008] partially and coarsely bonded with cement-like mortar on their uppermost surface (4011). The wall survived to a height of 0.40m and was sealed by a 0.50m deep layer of mid-brown silty sand, sealed, in turn by layers of post-medieval construction debris and modern surface levels. No further archaeological features or deposits were encountered within this trench.

Trench 5 – I8 (ILLUS 6)

Located 1.4m to the south-east of Trench 4, this trench revealed a similar sequence of deposition. The natural gravels (5018) were encountered at approximately 2.0m BGL and sealed by, what was presumed to be the same pebble surface (5009); isolated to the north-western portion of the trench. Overlying the pebble surface, toward the eastern limit of excavation, the remains of the head and shoulders (SK5008) of an individual, with an age at death estimated as c15 years, were identified. The cranial vault was entirely collapsed

and only a few vertebrae and upper limb fragments were present within the limit of excavation. Osteological analysis revealed that the teenager had impacted third molars, which had led to severe crowding of other teeth and rotation of the upper premolars. At the opposite side of the trench, on its north-western edge, the lower legs and feet of an adult (SK5016) were also recovered. The skeletal remains were discovered within a mid-brown silty clay matrix, the top of which was encountered at a depth of 1.8m (BGS).

Both burials were truncated by a post-medieval stone and cement wall [5011 and 5013] and possible culvert [5006]. The northeast-southwest part of wall [5011], located toward the north-eastern limit of excavation, was deemed almost certainly to be the continuation of wall [4008], in Trench 4. A second wall, a northwest-southeast spur of [5011], was observed at 90 degrees, running toward the centre of the trench. This was truncated, at its south-eastern end by modern intrusion. The upper horizons, sealing the walls and the skeletal remains comprised mixed brick rubble and layers of modern surface levelling deposits.

Trench 6 – G9 (ILLUS 7)

Trench 6 was situated on the same alignment as Trenches 1 and 2, on the north-western edge of the site, approximately 1.7m from Trench 5.

The trench was excavated to the top of the natural gravels (6011), encountered at a depth of 1.9m from the current ground surface. Again, the layer of pebbles (6010), seen in Trenches 4 and 5 appeared to seal this natural horizon. Overlying this deposit was a 0.18m



ILLUS 6A Trench 5, location of skeleton (SK5008), looking northeast



ILLUS 6B Close-up of skeleton (SK5008), looking northeast



ILLUS 7 Trench 6, masonry and mortar wall [6006], looking north

thick sterile layer of dark grey-brown clay silt (6009), into which the foundation for a wall [6006] was cut. The wall itself was constructed of coarsely hewn limestone slabs of various sizes and was oriented roughly northeast-southwest. Six courses survived, to a height of 0.40m and it was located against the north-west limit of excavation. The overlying deposit, (6005) infilled the area to the south-east of the wall and was encountered at a depth of 1.2m from the modern car park surface. It comprised dark brown silt sand containing pottery, glass and animal bone of probable late 19th century date. This was sealed by approximately 1.2m of brick rubble and other modern make up layers.

Trench 7 – Q5

Located to the north-west of Trench 3, this trench measured approximately 2.0 x 2.0m at its surface. The natural was encountered at a depth of 1.8m from the surface of the trench and all of the deposits encountered above it were of modern origin.

Trench 8 – R9

Trench 8 was the most easterly of the southern foundation alignment, located in the south-eastern corner of the car park. The natural was identified at approximately 1.55m BGL and was sealed by a 0.30m deep layer of dark grey-brown silty sand (8006). Overlying this was a layer brick rubble (8005) within a similar matrix. The remainder of the upper deposits were of very recent origin and contained service ducts and modern surface levelling layers.

Trench 9 – Q1a and S2

This trench occupied the southeastern corner of the carpark and was excavated over the footprint of two foundation bases. It measured roughly 5.0m x 3.0m at its greatest extent and was an irregular ovoid shape in plan. Natural gravels (9008) were encountered at a depth of 1.9m from the modern car park surface. The gravel was partially sealed by a 0.10m thick, dark brown, silty deposit (9009) although this only survived in the north-eastern corner of the trench. The remainder of the trench was occupied by a series of brick walls and the southern side of a large, concrete built service duct. The voids between the walls had been infilled with bricks and other demolition rubble; a small fragment of human skull was recovered from this material, presumably redeposited from elsewhere on the site. No further features or deposits of an archaeological nature were identified within this trench.

Trench 10 – I15

Trench 10 was located at the south-east end of the car park, abutting the wall of the extant mortuary building. It measured approximately 2.70m by 2.20m and the natural gravels were encountered at a minimum depth of 2.0m from the modern ground surface. Sealing the gravels, in the north-western portion of the trench, was a thick layer of mid-dark brown silty clay (10010), truncated by a concrete piling and brick built wall, aligned roughly northeast-southwest. The upper horizons of the trench consisted of construction debris and brick rubble, service pipes and modern levelling surfaces.



ILLUS 8 Trench 12, skeleton (SK1208), looking southwest

Trench 11 – B15

Situated to the north-east of the mortuary building, Trench 11 was located outside the carpark within the proposed link corridor area. It was excavated to a depth of 2.10m and measured approximately 2.10m by 2.50m. Overlying the natural gravels was a 1.5m thick layer of dark brown; relatively sterile silty clay (1104), truncated by concrete and brick foundations (1103). The upper horizons consisted of modern make-up and leveling layers.

Trench 12 – M1 (ILLUS 8)

Trench M1 was the most north-westerly of the foundation bases, located on the approximate centre-line of the site. It measured 2.70m by 2.70m in plan and the natural gravels (1210) were encountered at a depth of 2.70m from the modern carpark surface. Truncating the gravels, at the southern side of the trench, was the cut of a grave (1209). The cut was lined with the fragmentary remains of, what appeared to be a possible stone built cist [1205], constructed from narrow stone slabs. Only a small portion of the cist survived, the north-western part being almost entirely absent except for a large single, displaced stone. This stone carried distinct tool marks and was deliberately carved into a lintel-like form; as such, its inclusion within a burial context almost certainly represented its re-use. The grave itself was aligned roughly northwest-southeast, the same alignment as the other burials identified within the site. Within the cist, supported within a dark brown, soft silty matrix (1207), were the skeletal remains (SK1208) of a 20–24 year old, male. The westerly portion of the grave lay outside the limit of the trench and thus,

only the forearms to the feet of the individual were exposed and recovered. The burial was in the supine position, the hands having apparently been crossed at the abdomen. Overlying the skeleton, within the cist, was a further deposit (1206), which had accumulated, infilling the remainder of the grave. Overlying the remainder of the natural and the upper fill of the cist was a 1.8m deep mid-brown silty deposit (1204), similar to that seen across the remainder of the northern and eastern part of the site. The upper horizons were represented by layers of demolition rubble and modern leveling surfaces.

Trench 13 – K2 (ILLUS 9)

Trench 13 was located just over 1.0m to the east of Trench 12 and measured 2.30m by 2.30m at its surface. The natural (1312) was identified at a depth of approximately 3.0m from the ground surface. Cut into the natural gravels, in the south-western part of the trench, the edge of an irregular, shallow pit (1309) was identified. Within the pit, within a dark grey-brown silt matrix (1308), the remains of a minimum of five individuals (1306), including parts of a pair of feet from a single individual were revealed. The remains appeared to contain elements of at least four males and one (possibly two) female(s). All of the bones were adult and tooth-wear patterns suggested ages of between 25–45 years, while pelvic age-indicators also suggested a female of over 50 years was represented. Several of the male skeletal elements (probably deriving from a single individual) were of notably large size and robust build. A number of bones throughout the charnel deposit also displayed pathology, including osteoarthritis on several vertebrae and at a shoulder joint,



ILLUS 9A Trench 13, location of wall and charnel deposit, looking northwest



ILLUS 9B Close-up of part excavated skulls (SK 1306) in charnel deposit, looking northwest

along with a well-healed fracture of a rib. Owing to the number of individuals represented and the co-mingling of the remains, this was interpreted as a charnel pit. Sealing the charnel deposit was the same, dark brown silt clay (1305) seen across the north eastern part of the site. This was truncated by a northeast-southwest aligned wall [1307] which also partially truncated the charnel deposit. The wall was constructed of roughly hewn stone blocks of irregular size. It was bonded with a thick, hard cement-like mortar, similar to that seen in walls identified in Trenches 4, 5 and 6. It spanned the width of the excavated area survived to a height of approximately 1.0m. The wall was sealed by a deposit of building rubble (1304), which was in turn overlain by further modern levelling layers.

Trench 14 – R5

Located toward the north-western end of the more central line of foundation pads, Trench 14 was excavated to a depth of 2.60m, at which point the natural gravel horizon was encountered. The natural was sealed by a dark brown silt deposit (1405), similar to that seen in other trenches, into which was cut the foundation for a northeast-southwest aligned wall [1406]; of similar construction to other brick and stone walls identified across the site. A second, brick built wall, on a northeast-southwest alignment abutted [1406] at the approximate mid-point of the trench. The upper deposits of the trench were composed of brick rubble and modern levelling deposits.

Trench 15 – K9

Situated on the mid-line of foundation pads, just to the south-east of the centre of the carpark, Trench 15 was excavated to a depth of 2.0m, at which point the natural gravels (1508) were encountered. The natural was sealed by a dark brown silt clay deposit (1504) which was truncated by the remains of a northeast-southwest aligned wall [1505]. The remains of the wall were represented by a 0.30m deep layer of compacted brick rubble, on top of which four courses of moderate sized, roughly hewn stone blocks were encountered. This was overlain by approximately 0.90m of demolition rubble and modern surfaces.

Trench 16 – H11

Trench 16 was inset from the northern line of foundations, to the south-east of Trench 15. Natural gravels were encountered at a depth of 2.30m and were overlain by a 1.10m thick deposit of brown silty material (1604). This was partially truncated by a modern concrete foundation and overlain by a layer of brick rubble (1603), sealed by modern surface levelling. No features or deposits of archaeological significance were encountered within this trench.

Trench 17 – L13

Trench 17 was situated toward the south-eastern limit of the carpark, between Trenches 10 and 16. The natural geology was identified at a depth of 2.05m from the current ground surface and was sealed, where visible, by a compact, mid brown silty deposit (1707). Deposit (1707) was truncated by the rubble footing of a red brick wall [1703]. Later deposits of demolition rubble and modern surface levelling materials infilled the majority of the remainder of the trench including a floor surface of alternating red and black quarry tiles

(1702) immediately below the modern tarmac.

Trench 18 – G13

Located in the south-eastern corner of the car park, Trench 18 was excavated to a maximum depth of 2.6m; the natural horizon (1806) was encountered at a depth of 2.20m from the existing ground level. The natural was overlain by dark brown silty clay (1805), truncated by a concrete pad in the south-east corner of the trench. A layer of rubble (1804) sealed both deposits and in turn was overlain by a brick surface (1803). The upper horizons were made up of modern surface levelling deposits.

Trench 19 – B13

Trench 19 was located to the north-west of Trench 11 in the footprint of the proposed link corridor. The natural gravels were encountered at a depth of approximately 1.50m from the existing ground surface and were overlain by a stony, clayey layer (1908). This, in turn, was overlain by a dark brown sandy clay deposit (1907). The deposit was truncated by the concrete footing of a red-brick wall (1904) and a possible associated flagstone surface (1905), subsequently sealed by approximately 0.30m of modern surface levelling.

Trench 20 – Service connection trench

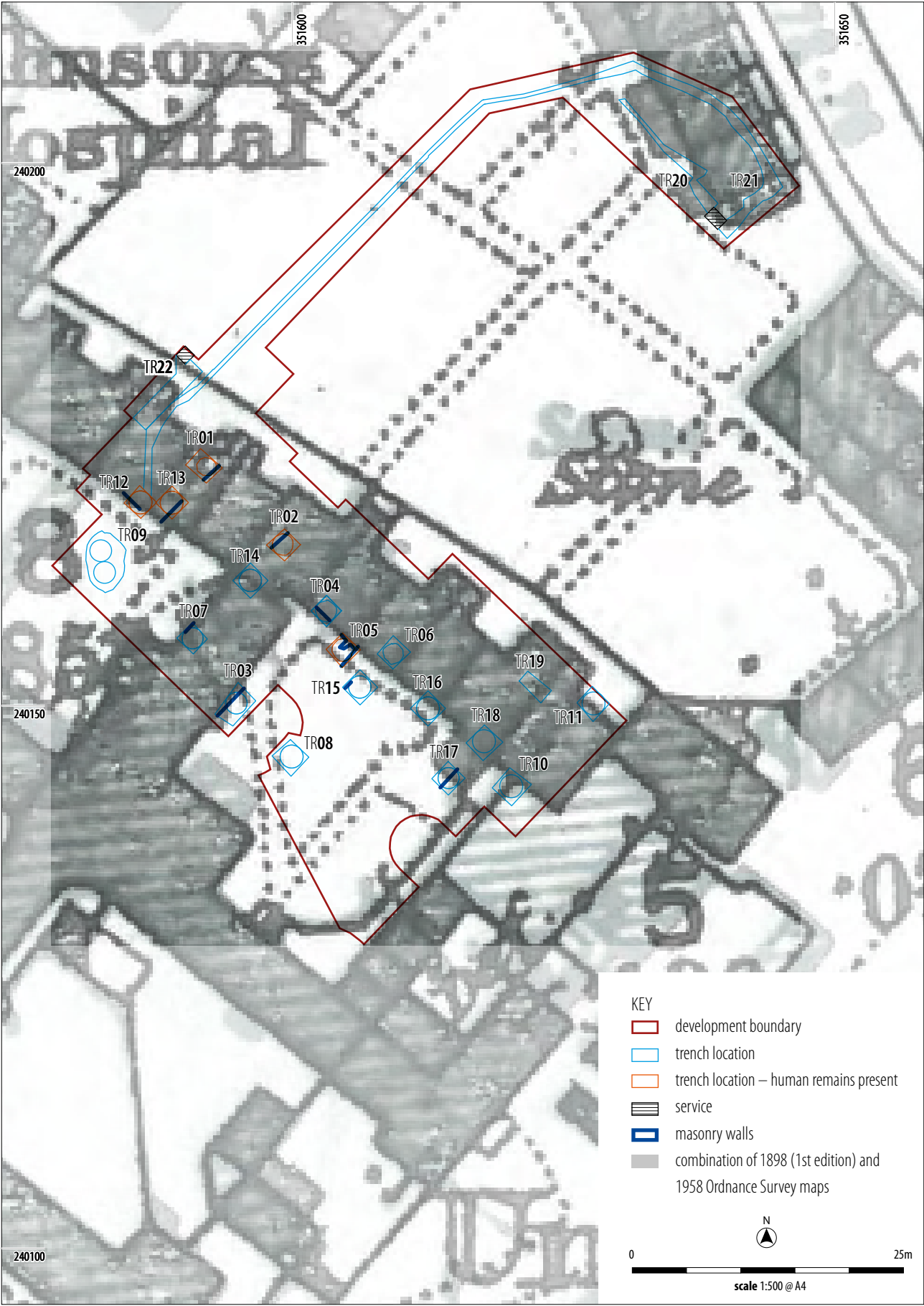
Trench 20 was located toward the northern corner of the current pathology building to the north-east corner of the carpark in which Trenches 1–19 were located. It was aligned approximately northwest-southeast. The trench was abandoned due to the presence of other extant services and relocated – see Trench 21.

Trench 21 – Service connection trench

A service connection trench, aligned northeast-southwest, along the route of the existing access road, was also monitored. The trench measured approximately 80.0m long and 0.30m wide and was 0.80m deep. The earliest horizon encountered was a dark brown silty clay, described as 'garden soil' (21008), containing a relatively high concentration of modern detritus, including brick and coal fragments. A series of relatively modern red-brick walls with concrete foundations (21004) were revealed toward the northern extent of the trench and a number of small, modern, pit features [2006] were also identified.

Trench 22 – Service connection trench expansion

Trench 22 was located at the southern end of the service connection trench, at the point of its intersection with the new ward location. It measured 7.5m wide and 1.6m long and was excavated to a maximum depth of 1.8m. The earliest deposit encountered within the trench was pink natural gravel, sealed by a firm, dark brown silt clay (2206), similar to that observed in nearby Trenches 1 and 12. The silty deposit was disturbed by various modern intrusions such as manholes and service trenches. Amongst this disturbed material, fragmented, disarticulated human remains (SK 2210) were identified. Deposits of modern gravel levelling (2202/2205) above this deposit also contained a human femur (SK2207). Further levels of modern levelling completed the stratigraphic sequence of this trench.



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ILLUS 10 Site plan showing relationship between the location of the former Hereford Union Workhouse and hospital buildings.

5 DISCUSSION

A total of six, articulated, partial skeletons were recovered along with co-mingled remains from a charnel pit and various disarticulated bones, scattered by more recent disturbance. The remains represented a mix of both male and female, from 15–50 years of age. Various pathological changes were observed on some of the individuals, including osteoarthritis, spina bifida, healed fractures and various dental abnormalities. The enamel of the teeth of a number of individuals showed hypoplastic lines; an indicator of physical stress during childhood (Appendix 3). This combined data appears to indicate that, at least in this part of the cemetery, the burials were probably of relatively humble origin. The cist burials may perhaps intimate that the individuals interred within them possessed a slightly elevated position, but the cists were of fairly simple construction and non-elaborate which may still imply only a moderate social status. No personal adornment or other effects were found in association with the burials.

The identification of skeletal material within the north-western edge of the site, decreasing in frequency to the south and east was not unexpected and appeared to support the conclusion that the eastern limit of the former cemetery was located roughly in line with the current mortuary buildings.

The skeletal material was identified at depths of greater than 2.0m from the modern ground surface, despite the site being heavily disturbed by later activity.

Pebble or gravel surfaces, similar to those observed in Trenches 4, 5 and 6, had also been identified in previous interventions within the hospital precinct. At least one of the previous examples directly sealed features dating to the 13th Century, whilst another had a post-16th century date (Boucher 1998). Given that both skeletons (SK5008) and (SK5016) both appeared to overlie parts of the surface it seems reasonable to presume it pre-dates the cemetery in this location.

No evidence of structures associated with St Guthlac's Priory were identified during the works.

Several trenches contained the remains of stone and brick foundations thought to be associated with the former Hereford Union Workhouse, constructed on the site in 1837. Indeed, foundation walls identified within Trenches 3, 4, 5 and 6 appear to tie in with plans showing the former workhouse buildings (ILLUS 10), whilst others appear to represent later, now demolished, hospital buildings. It is also possible that the partial quarry tile surface related to these buildings. The brick walls identified toward the northern end of the service connection trench were reflective of structures, fronting onto Stonebow Road, marked on the 1st Edition Ordnance Survey map of the vicinity.

6 REFERENCES

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7 APPENDICES

APPENDIX 1 BURIAL LICENCE



Ministry
of Justice

Luke Craddock-Bennett
Healand Archaeology (UK) Ltd
Unit 1 Premier Business Park
Faraday Road
Hereford
HR4 9NZ

Our ref: OPR/072/131

Coroners, Burials, Cremation
and Inquiries Policy Team
Access to Justice
Justice Policy Group
Ministry of Justice
102 Petty France
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E coroners@justice.gov.uk
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24 July 2015

Dear Ms Craddock-Bennett,

THE COUNTY HOSPITAL, HEREFORD – NGR 351606, 240155

LICENCE 15-0201

Further to your application of 20 July 2015, please find enclosed the Secretary of State's licence authorising the exhumation of remains from land at the above named site.

Paragraph 2 of the licence must be brought to the attention of every person connected with the removal of remains, and failure to observe the precautions prescribed in the licence constitutes an offence under Section 25 of the Burial Act 1857.

The attached licence is an important document, so you may find it helpful to keep it and the original licence with the archive records relating to the excavation, as evidence that authority has been granted for the remains to have been exhumed.

If you need to amend or vary the validity or conditions of the licence, please contact this office straight away.

Yours sincerely,

Folashade Shodeinde



LICENCE FOR THE REMOVAL OF HUMAN REMAINS

The Secretary of State, in exercise of the power vested in him by section 25 of the Burial Act 1857 (20 & 21 Vic., cap.81), grants a licence for the removal of the remains of **persons unknown** from or within the place in which they are now interred at **THE COUNTY HOSPITAL, HEREFORD – NGR 351606, 240155**

2. It is a condition of this licence that the following precautions shall be observed:
 - (a) Any removal or disturbance of the remains shall be effected with due care and attention to decency;
 - (b) The ground in which the remains are interred shall be screened from the public gaze while the work is in progress;
 - (c) The remains shall be no later than **31 July 2017**, be **reburied at Belmont Abbey, Hereford**. In the meantime they shall be kept safely, privately and decently by Headland Archaeology (UK) Ltd.
3. This licence merely exempts those from the penalties, which would be incurred if the removal took place without a licence. It does not in any way alter civil rights. It does not confer the right to bury the remains in any place where such right does not already exist.
4. This licence expires on **31 July 2017**.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Folashade'.

Folashade Shodeinde
on behalf of the Secretary of State for Justice

Ministry of Justice

Licence Number: **15-0201**
File Number: **OPR/072/131**
Date: **24-07-2015**



APPENDIX 2 TRENCH REGISTER

TR 1 – G2		Max TR D (m)
		3.0
Context	Context description	Thickness (m)
1001	Tarmac Carpark Surface	0.08
1002	Black tar bedding for 1001	0.08
1003	Grey, small diameter hardcore + sand	0.18
1004	Concrete bedding for Kerb (1 side only)	0.07
1005	Loose gravel and sand	0.16
1006	Thin skim of concrete	0.05
1007	3 course thick red brick, 1.2m wide walls incorporating concrete-infilled manholes on E, W & S sides	0.30
1008	3 course thick red brick	0.70
1009	Brick rubble	0.70
1010	Mid brown, compact silty clay 'graveyard soil'	0.35
1011	Concrete footings of (1008)	0.70
SK1012	Skeleton at approximate centre of trench, truncated across legs by [1014] @ 1.98m BGL	–
1013	Sewer pipe and trench	0.30
1014	Cut of possible wall foundation	0.20
1015	Mixed rubble fill of 0.30m wide possible wall foundations [1014]	0.20
SK1016	Skeleton- below SK 1012, partial skull and torso at eastern extent of trench @ 2.30m BGL	–
1017	Stone slabs forming cist-part infilled with 1010 where lid has collapsed @ 2.20m BGL	0.40
1018	Cut for cist 1017	0.40
1019	Fill of 1018	0.20
1020	Mid brown silty clay = 1010	0.35
SK1021	Skeleton within stone cist-legs and pelvis	–
1022	Dark brown silty-friable	0.40
1023	Mixed horizon above natural	0.18
1024	Light pink-brown gravel = Natural geology	–

TR 2 – G25		Max TR D (m)
		2.3
Context	Context description	Thickness
2001	Tarmac	0.10
2002	Tar and Hardcore	0.05
2003	Grey hardcore and sand	0.25
2004	Cement and brick walls	0.30
2005	Rubble and debris	0.45
2006	Dark brown, soft friable silt clay	0.74
2007	Lens of burnt/charcoal rich material (W.	0.05
SK	Skeletal remains (disarticulated) W of wall footing @ 2.00m BGL	–
SK	Skeletal remains (disarticulated) @	–
2010	Burnt/charcoally material E of wall	0.05
2011	Dark brown, soft, friable silt below (20	0.20
2012	Natural pink gravels	–
2013	Cut for wall	0.16
2014	Wall associated with (2013)	0.16
2015	Possible grave cut	0.22
2016	Fill of 2015- friable dark brown silt clay	0.22
2017	Skeletal remains (disarticulated) @ 2.20m BGL	–
2018	Natural gravels	–

TR 3 – S7		Max TR D (m)
		1.9
Context	Context description	Thickness
3001	Tarmac	0.06
3002	Garden/border soil	0.15
3003	Hardcore/make-up layers	0.52
3004	Brick rubble	0.30
3005	Mixed rubbly silty sand	0.20
3006	Mid-dark brown silt sand with gravel	0.30
3007	Partial	0.90
3008	Natural Gravels	–

TR 4 – H7		Max TR D (m)
		2.7
Context	Context description	Thickness
4001	Tarmac	0.08
4002	Tar and Hardcore	0.40
4003	Cement /concrete floor level/foundation	0.30
4004	Plastic DPC	–
4005	Concrete footing	0.30
4006	Mixed rubble over silt sand layer	0.60
4007	Mid brown silt sand	0.30-0.50
4008	NW-SE aligned coarsely built masonry wall, 1.4m l x 0.40m h	0.40
4009	Cut of wall [4008]	0.40
4010	Pebble/cobble surface	0.30-0.50
4011	Mortar in [4008]	0.25
4012	Natural pink gravels	–

TR 5 – I8		Max TR D (m)
		2.10
Context	Context description	Thickness
5001	Tarmac	0.10
5002	Hardcore and sand	0.40
5003	Brick and cement layer	0.40
5004	Cement footing/infill of manhole	0.70
5005	Mixed brick rubble and silt sand	0.50
5006	Brick and sandstone culvert	0.20/0.30
5007	Mid brown silt sand below culvert	0.15
SK	SK5008– Head and shoulders @2.08m BGL	
5009	Silt clay and pebble surface below SK 5008	0.12
5010	Cut of wall	0.12
5011	Wall with stone and brick	0.20
5012	Light brown silt clay to NW of wall	0.10
5013	Poss	0.40
5014	Cut of Post-med feature	0.12
5015	Fill of 5015	0.12
SK	SK 5016- remains in NW of trench (feet) @2.05m BGL	–
5107	Greenish yellow clay overlying natural	0.11
5018	Natural gravels	–

TR 6 – G9		Max TR D (m)
		1.9
Context	Context description	Thickness
6001	Tarmac	0.10
6002	Concrete bedding	0.20
6003	Hardcore and sand	0.55
6004	Brick rubble / sand	0.55
6005	Dark brown silt sand	0.28
6006	Irregular stone built wall	0.69
6007	Reddish brown silt-sand	0.40
6008	Wall foundation	0.40
6009	Dark greyish brown silt clay	0.18
6010	Dark brown clay silt and pebble surface	0.16
6011	Natural gravels	–

TR 7 – Q5		Max TR D (m)
		1.95
Context	Context description	Thickness
7001	Tarmac	0.08
7002	Hardcore	0.70
7003	Concrete pad on N edge of duct	0.23
7004	Brick wall and concrete footing supporting [7003]	0.96
7005	Rubble/soil infill of [7003/7004]	1.27
7006	Cut of wall [7004]	0.96
7007	Backfill against [7004], fills 7006	0.96
7008	Mid red brown silts clay with pebbles- becomes 'cleaner' toward base	1.10
7009	Natural gravels	–
7010	Large fragments of sandstone-may indicate collapsed wall nearby?	–

TR 8 – R9	MaxTR D (m)
	1.85

Context	Context description	Thickness
8001	Tarmac	0.09
8002	Hardcore	0.20
8003	Mixed brick rubble and silt sand	0.30
8004	Loose grey hardcore filling service trench on E side	0.40
8005	Mid brown silt sand and brick rubble	0.45
8006	Dark grey brown silt sand	0.30
8007	Natural Gravels	–
8008	Concrete floor	0.35
8009	Electrical cable duct	0.25

TR 9 – Q1a/S2	MaxTR D (m)
	2.4

Context	Context description	Thickness
9001	Tarmac	0.10
9002	Hardcore	0.50
9003	Brick wall- N-S; older than other walls	1.0
9004	Brick wall on S	1.0
9005	Brick wall on N	1.0
9006	Concrete capped service duct	0.30
9007	Concrete cement footing of service duct	0.40
9008	Natural gravel	–
9009	Silt sand to N side below footings	0.10
9010	Rubble infill between 9004-9005 and duct	0.10

TR 10 – I15	MaxTR D (m)
	2.78

Context	Context description	Thickness
10001	Tarmac	0.10
10002	Hardcore	0.30
10003	Silty hardcore and rubble	0.30
10004	Thin skim of grey hardcore and sand	0.14
10005	Wall of extant building	1.2m
10006	Remains of N-S brick wall and concrete floor/pad/piling	1.6
10007	Piling/wall	+
10008	Hardcore	0.40
10009	Rubbly silt clay	0.40
10010	Mid/dark brown silt clay	1.2

TR 11 – B15	MaxTR D (m)
	2.10

Context	Context description	Thickness
1101	Slabs/hardcore	0.06
1102	Hardcore	0.24
1103	Concrete foundation	0.30
1104	Soft gritty mid brown silt clay	1.50

TR 12 – M1	MaxTR D (m)
	3.0

Context	Context description	Thickness (m)
1201	Tarmac	0.10
1202	Hardcore	0.45
1203	Brick rubble	0.35
1204	Mid brown silts	1.8 (max)
1205	Cist @ 2.14 BGL	0.30
1206	Upper fill within cist	0.06
1207	Grave/Cist fill	0.20
SK	SK 1208- skeleton; forearms to lower limbs	–
1209	Cut for Cist	0.30
1210	Natural gravels	–

TR 13 – K2		Max TR D (m)
		3.0
Context	Context description	Thickness
1301	Tarmac	0.10
1302	Black deposit under carpark/road	0.10
1303	Grey gravel, modern levelling	0.30
1304	Brick rubble	0.30
1305	Brown silty clay with stones	1.70
SK	SK 1306- co-mingled human remains in [1309] @2.00m	–
1307	NE-SW wall in SE of trench	0.4-1.2
1308	Silty fill of chanel pit	0.30
1309	Cut of chanel pit	0.30
1310	Mortar in wall [1307]	–
1311	Stones to NW edge of chanel pit	0.20
1312	Natural gravels	–

TR 14 – K5		Max TR D (m)
		2.2
Context	Context description	Thickness
1401	Tarmac	0.08
1402	Hardcore	0.46
1403	Brick	0.50
1404	Mixed rubble	0.25
1405	Mid brown silts	1.8
1406	Wall	2.14
1407	Natural gravels	–

TR 15 – K9		Max TR D (m)
		2.0
Context	Context description	Thickness
1501	Tarmac	0.08
1502	Hardcore	0.46
1503	Engineering bricks/ red bricks	0.34
1504	Mid brown silts	1.22
1505	Stone wall	0.60
1506	Brick rubble	0.30
1507	Concrete	1.0
1508	Natural gravels	–

TR 16 – H11		Max TR D (m)
		2.5
Context	Context description	Thickness
1601	Tarmac	0.10
1602	Grey levelling deposit	0.30
1603	Brick rubble	0.70
1604	Mid brown silty clay	1.20
1605	Natural gravels	–

TR 17 – L13		Max TR D (m)
		2.5
Context	Context description	Thickness
1701	Tarmac	0.10
1702	Red and black alternating quarry tile floor	0.35
1703	Red brick wall/foundation	0.45
1704	Rubble and mid brown silt sand	0.25
1705	Concrete foundation	1.10
1706	Made ground	0.70
1707	Compact mid brown silt clay	1.10
1708	Natural gravels	–

TR 18 – G13**Max TR D (m)**

2.6

Context	Context description	Thickness
1801	Tarmac	0.10
1802	Grey modern levelling deposit	0.30
1803	Brick surface	0.30
1804	Rubble	0.90
1805	Brown clayey silt	0.60
1806	Natural gravels	–

TR 19 – B13**Max TR D (m)**

1.7

Context	Context description	Thickness
1901	Paving slabs	0.07
1902	Gravel levelling	0.10
1903	Tarmac and hardcore	0.20
1904	Redbrick wall	0.30
1905	Possible flagstone surface	0.15
1906	Concrete foundation	0.90
1907	Dark red brown sandy clay	0.70
1908	Pale grey brown stony clay	0.30
1909	Natural	–

TR 20 – Cable**Max TR D (m)**

–

Context	Context description	Thickness
N/A	Trench abandoned due to extant services	–

TR 21 – Cable**Max TR D (m)**

0.80

Context	Context description	Thickness
21001	Topsoil	0.50
21002	Tarmac- earlier road surface	0.25
21003	Dark brown silt clay, rubble and debris	0.10 +
21004	3 Red, vent-brick built walls with concrete foundations	0.50
21005	Modern pathway	0.60
21006	Cut of 2 modern burnt pits	0.05
21007	Fills of [21006]	0.05
21008	Greyish brown silty garden soil with charcoal and modern debris	0.20
21009	Mixed silty gravels/limit of excavation	–
21010	Brownish sandy silt with gravel and debris- possible buried subsoil below path	0.10 +
21011	Red brick walls	0.23

TR22 – Cable**Max TR D (m)**

–

Context	Context description	Thickness
2201	Tarmac	0.20
2202	Gravel	0.80
2203	Concrete Service- Manhole	0.30
2204	Stone surface in SW of trench	–
2205	Red sandy gravel with modern debris	0.60
2206	Dark brown firm silt clay with gravel	0.20 +
2207	SK 2207- disarticulated femur identified near manhole/modern disturbance	–

APPENDIX 3 ASSESSMENT OF THE HUMAN REMAINS

DAVID HENDERSON

Introduction

During trial trenching, human remains were recorded in five of 19 trenches, with bone excavated for study in four of these. In total, six articulated partial skeletons were recovered, as well as co-mingled unarticulated human bone from a negative feature in Trench 13, interpreted as a charnel pit for the redeposition of disturbed remains.

The assemblage

Three partial, fragmented skeletons were recovered from Trench 1; SK1012, SK1016 and SK1021. One skeleton was excavated from Trench 12 (SK1208) and two from Trench 5 (SK 5008 and SK 5016), both of which had been truncated by the foundations of a post-medieval wall. Charnel pit context (1306) in Trench 13 contained bones from a minimum of five individuals, including parts of a pair of feet from a single individual, suggesting that at least one disturbed inhumation had been redeposited in the pit, rather than the reinterment of scattered bones disturbed over a period of time. The generally good, or fair, preservation of the charnel pit bones would bear out this hypothesis, as they do not appear to have been subject to extensive weathering.

Preservation

Most of the bone was fragmented, although limb bones from SK1012, SK1021 and SK1208 were largely completely recovered, and may be reconstructed in some cases to enable measurements of total length. The charnel bones were generally less fragmentary.

Preservation (structural integrity and preservation of surface detail) was decent, on the whole, with good or moderate preservation of the skulls and limb bones of the charnel assemblage and all skeletons except SK1021, where the bone surfaces showed some erosion.

The charnel pit contained at least some bones from every area of the skeletons, from crania to feet. The recovered parts of the articulated skeletons are noted in the table in Demographics, below.

Demographics

The assemblage contains individuals of both sexes and aged from approximately 15 years to over 50 years old, as set out below.

Skeleton	SK1012	SK1016	SK1021	SK1208	SK5008	SK5016
Sex	Male	Poss female	Male	Male	Unknown	Probable male
Age	40–44 years	Poss 25–35	50–60	20–24	15 years	Adult
Parts Present	Skull to Pelvis	Fragments of skull and R Shoulder	Pelvis to feet	Forearms to feet	Skull to shoulders	Lower legs and feet

In addition, the material from Pit (1306) contained elements from at least a further four males and one (possibly two) female(s). All these bones were adult; tooth-wear patterns suggest a Younger Adult (25–35 years), two Middle Adults (35–45 years) and an Older Adult (>45), while pelvic age-indicators show a female of over 50 years. This assumes that none of the articulated individuals are represented in the charnel deposit.

Several of the male skeletal elements from the pit (probably deriving from a single, middle adult, individual) are of a notably large size and robust build.

Pathology

A few pathological and traumatic lesions and developmental anomalies were noted: Middle Adult male, SK1012 had extensive osteoarthritis of the spine (both in the neck and lumbar regions), as well as in the shoulders, left elbow and hands.

Sub-adult male, SK1208, showed a failure of fusion of the laminae of the sacrum (S2 to S5, spina bifida occulta), though this may well have been symptomless in life. He had also fractured a bone in his left hand.

SK5008, the teenager, had impacted third molars, which had led to severe crowding of other teeth and rotation of the upper premolars.

Several bones in the charnel deposit (1306) displayed pathology including osteoarthritis on several vertebrae, osteoarthritis at the shoulder joint and a well-healed fracture of a left rib body.

The dentitions of many individuals in the assemblage showed hypoplastic lines in the enamel of the teeth, indicating childhood episodes of bodily stress (e.g. starvation or severe illness).

Future analysis

A full analysis of the assemblage is not considered to be necessary, in view of the small number of (partially excavated) individuals. No further demographic data is likely to be forthcoming and the fragmentary nature of much of the material precludes measurement of almost any of the bones. A catalogue of all the skeletal elements assessed is available in the site archive.

APPENDIX 4 OASIS DATA COLLECTION FORM: ENGLAND

OASIS ID: headland3-236952

Project details

Project name	Temporary Emergency Ward, County Hospital, Hereford
Short description of the project	Headland Archaeology (UK) Ltd was commissioned by Wye Valley NHS Trust, to undertake an archaeological watching brief and excavation, during groundworks in preparation for the erection of a temporary ward, corridor link and associated works at Hereford County Hospital. Groundworks entailed the excavation of nineteen foundation pad positions within the former mortuary carpark and a service link trench. Human remains, representing at least eleven individuals, were identified in association with five of the nineteen foundation bases, and within the service trench. Six of the skeletons were in situ and remained articulated, whereas the remainder represented charnel deposits and other post-inhumation disturbance. Given that the site was located within the footprint of the burial ground of the medieval priory of St. Guthlac, skeletal material was not unexpected. The remains survived in various states of preservation and truncation, many of the bones recovered being disarticulated. Walls and other remnants of structures, potentially associated with the former Hereford Union Workhouse were also revealed during the works.
Project dates	Start: 04-08-2015 End: 02-09-2015
Previous/future work	Yes / Not known
Any associated project reference codes	EWHH - Sitecode
Any associated project reference codes	P151135/F - Planning Application No.
Type of project	Field evaluation
Site status	None
Current Land use	Other 15 - Other
Monument type	CEMETARY Medieval
Monument type	WORKHOUSE Post Medieval
Significant Finds	HUMAN SKELETON Medieval
Methods & techniques	"Sample Trenches","Survey/Recording Of Fabric/Structure","Targeted Trenches","Visual Inspection"
Development type	Public building (e.g. school, church, hospital, medical centre, law courts etc.)
Prompt	Planning condition
Position in the planning process	After full determination (eg. As a condition)

Project location

Country	England
Site location	HEREFORDSHIRE HEREFORDSHIRE HEREFORD Temporary Emergency Ward, County Hospital, Hereford
Postcode	HR1 2BN
Study area	4000 Square metres
Site coordinates	SO 351602 240153 51.910456155961 -2.94271188809 51 54 37 N 002 56 33 W Point
Height OD / Depth	Min: 51m Max: 54m

Project creators

Name of Organisation	Headland Archaeology (UK) Ltd
Project brief originator	Hereford County Archaeology Service
Project design originator	Headland Archaeology (UK) Ltd.
Project director/manager	Luke Craddock-Bennett
Project supervisor	Kate Bain
Project supervisor	Robert Blackburn
Type of sponsor/funding body	NHS Trust
Name of sponsor/funding body	Wye Valley NHS Trust

Project archives

Physical Archive recipient	Hereford museum
Physical Contents	"Ceramics","Glass","Human Bones","Worked stone/lithics"
Digital Archive recipient	Hereford museum
Digital Contents	"Human Bones","Survey"
Digital Media available	"Images raster / digital photography","Spreadsheets","Survey","Text"
Paper Archive recipient	Hereford Museum
Paper Contents	"Human Bones","Survey","other"
Paper Media available	"Context sheet","Diary","Drawing","Map","Notebook - Excavation","Research","General Notes","Photograph","Plan","Report","Section","Survey","Unpublished Text"

Project bibliography 1

Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title	Temporary Emergency Ward, County Hospital, Hereford, Archaeological Watching Brief and Excavation
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Other bibliographic details	HA 1157
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Entered by	Kate Bain (kate.bain@headlandarchaeology.com)
Entered on	7 January 2016



SOUTH & EAST

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