

SUHH/01



STONEBOW UNIT S136 EXTENSION: INTRUSIVE TRIAL PITS

ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF
EHE NO. 80312

commissioned by 2Gether NHS Foundation Trust

September 2017

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PROJECT INFO:

HA Job No. **SUHH/01** / HAS No. **1255** / NGR **SO 51554 40237** / Parish **Hereford City** / Local Authority **Herefordshire Council** / OASIS Ref. **headland3-294798** / Archive Repository **Hereford Museum Service**

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PROJECT SUMMARY

Headland Archaeology undertook archaeological monitoring during the excavation of two intrusive trial pits on land to the southwestern side of the Stonebow Unit at the County Hospital, Hereford. The trial pits were excavated to identify the depth and location of the offset foundation of the Stonebow Unit and the depth of the underlying deposit sequence of made ground. No archaeological finds, features or deposits were identified during the work.

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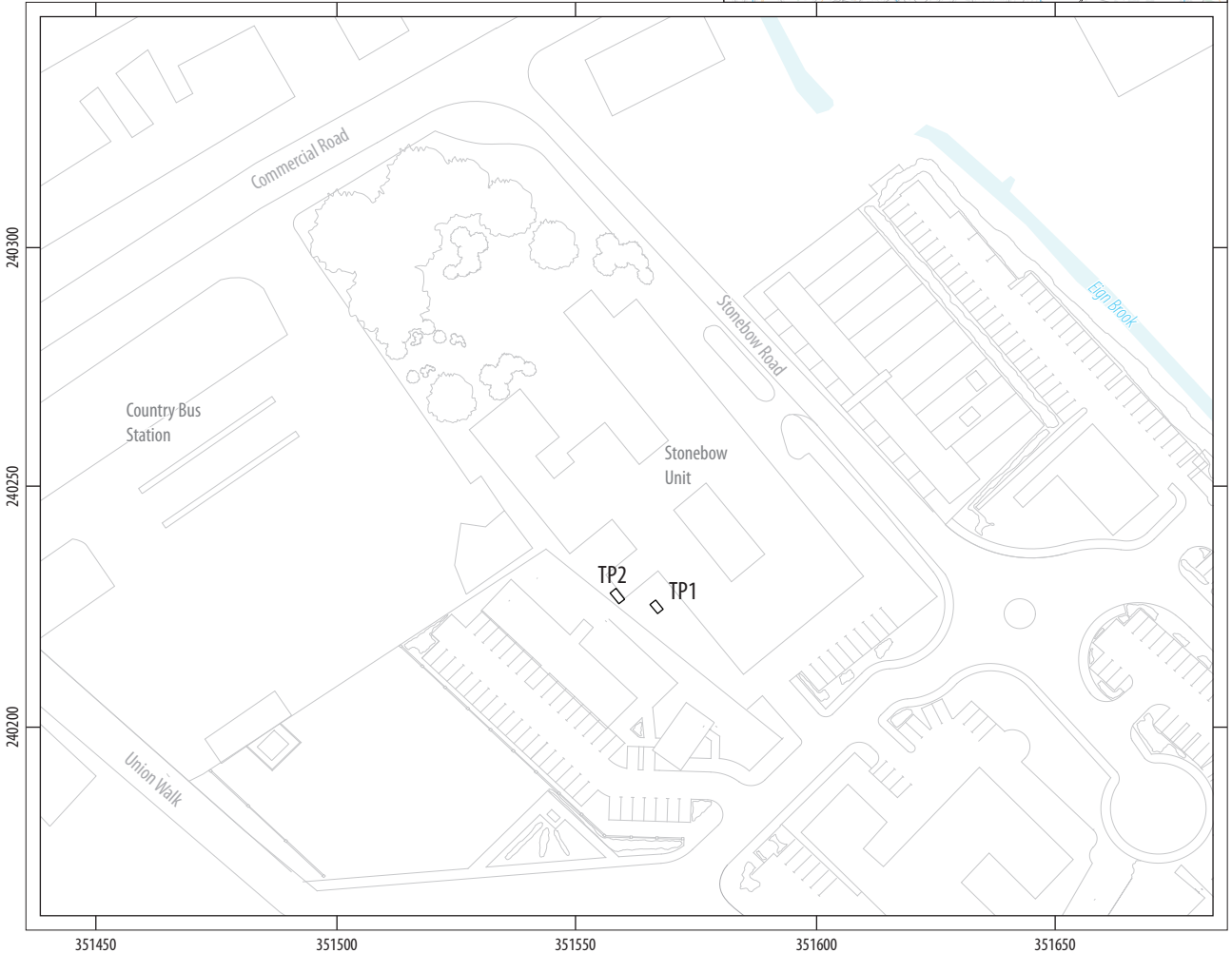
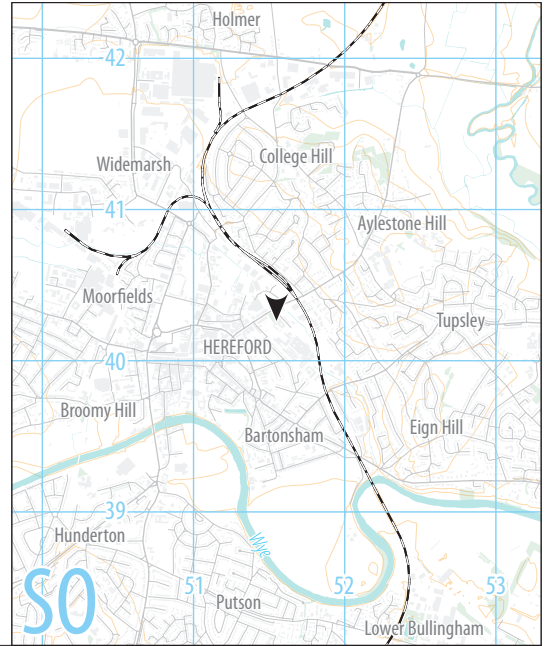
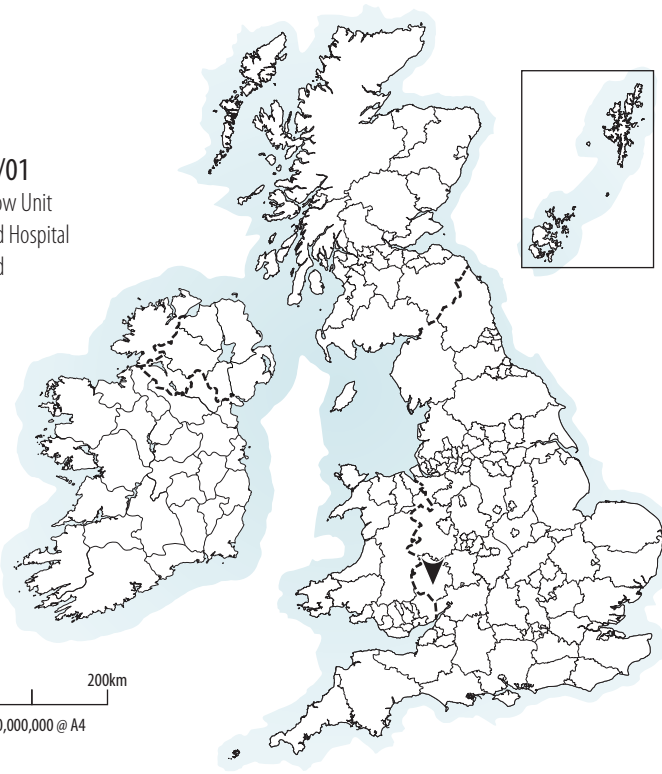
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SUHH/01
 Stonebow Unit
 Hereford Hospital
 Hereford

0 200km
 1:10,000,000 @ A4



0 25m
 1:1,500 @ A4

□ trial pit location

HEADLAND
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ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF

1 INTRODUCTION

This document reports on the findings of an archaeological Watching Brief during the excavation of two intrusive test pits on land to the southwestern side of the Stonebow Unit at the County Hospital, Hereford (Illus 1), conducted by Headland Archaeology on the 15th August 2017.

Archaeological monitoring was undertaken in accordance with a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) prepared by Headland Archaeology (Bain 2017) and agreed with the archaeological advisor to Herefordshire Council, Mr Julian Cotton.

1.1 SITE DESCRIPTION

The site lies immediately to the south-west of the Stonebow Unit (NGR SO 51554 40237) which forms part of the County Hospital complex within the centre of Hereford. Wholly situated within the Hospital, the site is located on level ground at an average height of 55m above Ordnance Datum (AOD). The recorded solid geology for the site is Raglan Mudstone Formation – Interbedded Siltstone and Mudstone (NERC 2017). The recorded drift geology for the site is Glaciofluvial Sheet Deposits, Devensian - Sand and Gravel (NERC 2017). The soils are characterised as freely draining slightly acid loamy soils (Cranfield University 2016).

1.2 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

St Guthlac's Priory, which was founded in AD 1143 and prospered until its dissolution in AD 1539, is located immediately to the south-west of the site. The north-easterly limit of the cemetery associated with the former priory is thought to extend to the area, just to the south of the site.

Various archaeological investigations have been carried out near to and on the site of the Stonebow Unit. Most notably these have included excavations to the north in 1998, at the site of what is now Morrison's supermarket, where a large medieval road was recorded; and two excavations at Hereford County Hospital in 1998 and 2003, which helped to locate the extents of the priory burial ground and the possible remains of the monastic church.

More recently in 2006, an archaeological watching brief undertaken by Archaeological Investigations Ltd revealed a medieval buried soil horizon c 20m to the north of the site. A large amount of modern Post-medieval disturbed ground was also recorded during this watching brief.

2 METHOD

The trial pit locations were determined by the on-site contractor (Chris Hall Carpentry Ltd) and their size limited to one paving slab in width (1.2m x 0.6m). A total of 2 trial pits were excavated during the course of the ground investigation works; Trial pit 1 (TP1) c 3.6m south-east of the entrance to the Stonebow Unit; and Trial pit 2 (TP2) immediately adjacent to the south-western corner of the Stonebow Unit.

Both trial pits were excavated by the on-site contractor using hand tools, to a depth of 1m (Illus 2). All deposits encountered within the trial pits were visually scanned by the attending archaeologist and a record maintained of their sequence.

All recording followed *Cifa Standards and guidance* (Cifa 2014). All deposits identified within the trial pits were given unique numbers and recorded on pro forma trench record sheets, recording the level



ILLUS 2 General site works

at which deposits were encountered below ground level (BGL). A series of digital and 35mm black and white print photographs were taken of the trial pit sections together with general shots of the groundwork operation.

3 RESULTS

A full description of the sequence of deposits observed within each trial pit is provided in Appendix 1. The location of the trial pits is recorded on illustration 1.

3.1 TRIAL PIT 1 (ILLUS 3A/3B)

TP1 was located to the south of the south-western entrance of the Stonebow Unit and measured c 1.2m x 0.6m. It was excavated to a depth of 1m and contained four distinct deposits. The first deposit encountered was a modern concrete slab (1000) that overlay modern scalplings (1001) c 0.15m thick. In turn this overlay modern made ground (1002) 0.3m thick, which overlay dark brownish red, sandy loam garden soil (1003) a minimum of 0.5m thick. Natural sediments were not encountered within the trial pit.

3.2 TRIAL PIT 2 (ILLUS 4A/4B)

TP2 was located immediately adjacent to the south-western corner of the Stonebow Unit and measured c 1.2m x 0.6m. It was excavated to a depth of 1m and contained four distinct deposits. A modern concrete slab (2000) that overlay modern scalplings (2001) c 0.15m

thick. In turn this overlay modern made ground (2002) 0.3m thick, which overlay mid brown sandy loam garden soil (2003) a minimum of 0.5m thick. Natural sediments were not encountered within the Trial pit.

4 CONCLUSION

No artefactual finds were recovered from either of the trial pits and no archaeological features or deposits were observed however, this may be due in part to the limited scale of the works undertaken. A garden soil (1003)/(2003) was recorded within both trial pits but this could not be dated as no finds were recovered. As natural geological sediments were not observed within either trial pit, it should be assumed that there is potential to encounter archaeological deposits at lower levels.

5 REFERENCES

- Bain K 2017 *Stonebow Unit S136 Extension: Intrusive Trial Pit Written Scheme of Investigation for Archaeological Watching Brief* Headland Archaeology (UK) Ltd
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- Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA) 2014b *Standard and guidance for an archaeological watching brief* [online document] available from http://www.archaeologists.net/sites/default/files/CifAS&GWatchingbrief_2.pdf
- Cranfield University 2016 *Cranfield Soil and Agrifood Institute Soilscales* [online] Accessed 04 September 2017 from www.landis.org.uk/soilscales/
- Natural Environment Research Council (NERC) 2017 *British Geological Survey* [online] from www.bgs.ac.uk/



ILLUS 3A Trial pit 1, view from NE **ILLUS 3B** Trial pit 1, view from S **ILLUS 4A** Trial pit 2, view from SE **ILLUS 4B** Trial pit 2, view from SE

6 APPENDICES

APPENDIX 1 TRIAL PIT REGISTER

DBGL = Depth below ground level

TR1	L (M)	W (M)	MIN. D (M)	MAX. D (M)
	1.20	0.60	0.60	1.00

CONTEXT	DESCRIPTION	DBGL (M)
(1000)	Modern concrete slab	0.00-0.05
(1001)	Modern scalplings/sub-base for slab	0.05-0.20
(1002)	Modern made ground with rubble inclusions	0.20-0.50
(1003)	Dark brownish red sandy loam with oyster shell, pebble and infrequent rubble inclusions	0.50-1.00

Summary: Modern made ground		
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TR2	L (M)	W (M)	MIN. D (M)	MAX. D (M)
	1.20	0.60	1.00	1.00

CONTEXT	DESCRIPTION	DBGL (M)
(2000)	Modern concrete slab	0.00-0.05
(2001)	Modern scalplings/sub-base for slab	0.05-0.20
(2002)	Modern made ground with frequent (>30%) brick/rubble inclusions	0.20-0.50
(2003)	Mid brown sandy loam with frequent (>30%) gravel inclusions	0.50-1.00

Summary: Modern made ground		
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