

NWHH18



# NEW WARDS GI WORKS, HEREFORD HOSPITAL

ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF  
EHE 80325

commissioned by Kier Construction

July 2018



# NEW WARDS GI WORKS, HEREFORD HOSPITAL

## ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF EHE 80325

commissioned by Kier Construction

July 2018

© 2018 by Headland Archaeology (UK) Ltd

This report contains OS data © Crown copyright and database right 2018.

This report adheres to the quality standard of ISO 9001:2015

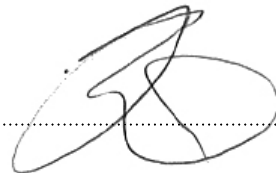
### PROJECT INFO:

HA Project Code **NWHH18** / HAS No. **1291** / NGR **SO 51626 40069** / Parish **Hereford City** / Local Authority **Herefordshire Council** / OASIS Ref. **headland3-312146** / Archive Repository **Hereford Museum Service**

### PROJECT TEAM:

Project Manager **Kate Bain** / Author **Stuart Milby** / Fieldwork **Stuart Milby** / Graphics **Caroline Norrman, Julia Bastek-Michalska**

Approved by **Kate Bain**



Headland Archaeology Midlands & West  
Unit 1 | Clearview Court | Twyford Rd | Hereford HR2 6JR  
t 01432 364 901  
e [midlandsandwest@headlandarchaeology.com](mailto:midlandsandwest@headlandarchaeology.com)  
w [www.headlandarchaeology.com](http://www.headlandarchaeology.com)





## PROJECT SUMMARY

Headland Archaeology (UK) Ltd undertook archaeological monitoring during the excavation of two intrusive percolation pits, a trial trench to investigate the location of an existing gas main and a single geological borehole on land at the County Hospital, Hereford. No archaeological features or deposits were observed during groundworks and no artefacts or ecofacts were recovered from any of the investigations.

# CONTENTS

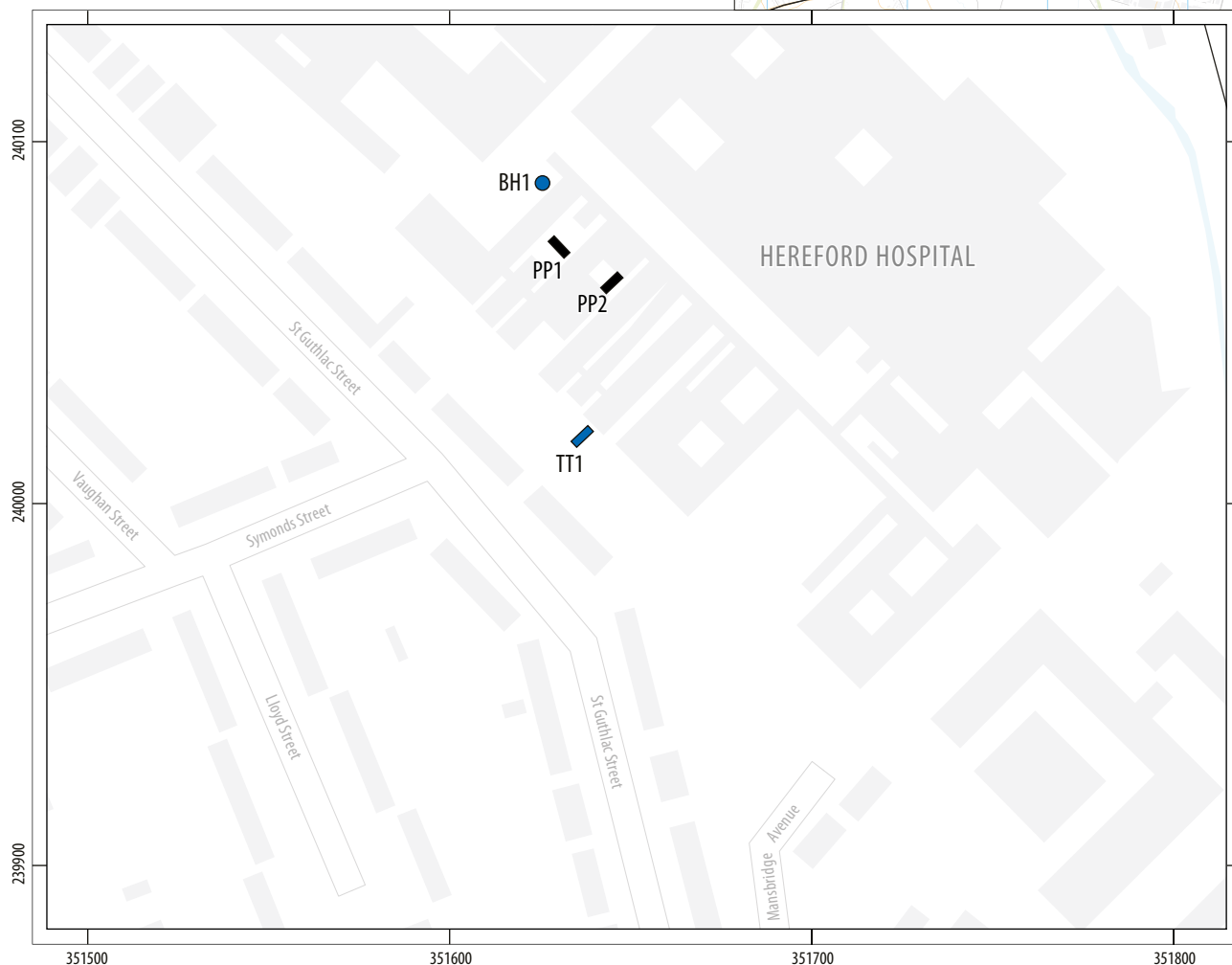
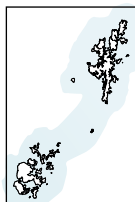
1	INTRODUCTION	1
	1.1 SITE DESCRIPTION	1
	1.2 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND	1
2	METHOD	1
3	RESULTS	2
4	CONCLUSION	2
5	REFERENCES	2
6	APPENDICES	3
	APPENDIX 1 CONTEXT SUMMARIES	3

# LIST OF ILLUSTRATIONS

<b>ILLUS 1</b> SITE LOCATION	VIII
<b>ILLUS 2</b> PERCOLATION PIT 1 VIEW FROM NORTH-EAST	2
<b>ILLUS 3</b> PERCOLATION PIT 2 VIEW FROM NORTH-WEST	2

Stonebow Unit  
Hereford Hospital  
Hereford  
Herefordshire

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



0 40m  
1:2,000 @ A4

- development boundary
- borehole
- trial trench
- percolation pit

**HEADLAND**  
**ARCHAEOLOGY**

Headland Archaeology Midlands & West  
Unit 1 | Clearview Court | Twyford Rd | Hereford HR2 6JR  
t 01432 364 901  
e [midlandsandwest@headlandarchaeology.com](mailto:midlandsandwest@headlandarchaeology.com)  
w [www.headlandarchaeology.com](http://www.headlandarchaeology.com)

ILLUS 1 Site location



# NEW WARDS GI WORKS, HEREFORD HOSPITAL

## ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF

### 1 INTRODUCTION

This document reports on the findings of an archaeological watching brief during the excavation of two intrusive percolation pits, the investigation of a gas main and the drilling on a geological borehole on land to the southwest of the Macmillan Renton Unit at the County Hospital, Hereford (Illus 1). The watching brief was carried out by Headland Archaeology (UK) Ltd, over three days between the 06th and 15th March 2018.

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

#### 1.1 SITE DESCRIPTION

The site lies to the north-west of the Macmillan Renton Unit (NGR SO 51626 40069) which forms part of County Hospital complex within the centre of Hereford. Wholly situated within the hospital grounds, the site is located on flat ground at an average height of 56m above Ordnance Datum (AOD). The recorded solid geology for the site is Raglan Mudstone Formation – Interbedded Siltstone and Mudstone. 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

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

A number of archaeological investigations have been carried out near to and on the site of the hospital, including excavations in 1998, at the site of what is now Morrison's supermarket to the north. 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 (Crooks 2005).

Excavations carried out to the north-west of the Macmillan Renton Unit in 2016 revealed human burials from the burial ground of St Guthlac's priory at depths greater than 2.0m below the current ground level. These excavations also revealed walls and other remnants of structures, potentially associated with the former Hereford Union Workhouse (Bain 2016).

### 2 METHOD

The percolation pit locations were determined by the on-site environmental contractor (Environmental Management Services). A total of 4 investigations were conducted during the course of the ground investigation works comprising two percolation pits (PP1 and PP2); a trial trench to locate an existing gas main (TT1) and a geological borehole (BH1). The size of each percolation pit was limited to 1m x 0.3m. Each pit was manually excavated and the depth was determined by the point at which gravels were encountered; c 0.8m in each case.

The trial trench was manually excavated to working dimensions of 1.9m x 0.3m; the gas main was encountered at a depth of 0.9m.

Two attempts were made to sink the borehole; the first method utilised cable percussion drilling. When this failed a rotary auger was



**ILLUS 2** Percolation pit 1 view from north-east    **ILLUS 3** Percolation pit 2 view from north-west

used instead. This was more successful and was observed to a depth of c 5m.

All deposits observed were visually scanned by the attending archaeologist and a record maintained of their sequence.

All recording followed ClfA Standards and guidance (ClfA 2014). All deposits identified within the trial pits were given unique numbers and recorded on pro forma trench record sheets, recording the level 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 is provided in Appendix 1. The location of each investigation is recorded on Illus 1.

Both percolation pits and the trial trench were located to the south-west of the main hospital at the Macmillan Renton Unit. The deposit sequence in each percolation pit was similar and comprised a firm greenish brown fluvial gravel (1002), (2002), overlain by a soft mid-reddish brown silty, sandy clay subsoil (1001), (2001). This was sealed by a soft brown clayey silt topsoil (1000), (2000). All deposits observed within the trial trench related to modern backfilling of a gas main. Deposit (3002) was a reddish yellow builder's sand, which contained hazard tape indicating the presence of the existing gas main. This was sealed beneath highly mixed greyish brown modern made ground (3001), which itself was below a soft brown topsoil (3000).

A similar deposit sequence was observed during borehole monitoring with a firm greenish brown fluvial gravel (4002) overlain by soft mid-reddish brown silty, sandy clay subsoil (4001). This was sealed by Tarmac and modern sub-base (4000).

### 4 CONCLUSION

No archaeological features or deposits were observed during groundworks and no artefacts or ecofacts were recovered from any of the investigations. This may be due in part to the limited scale of the works undertaken.

### 5 REFERENCES

- Bain K 2016 *Temporary Emergency Ward, County Hospital, Hereford, Archaeological Watching Brief and Excavation* [unpublished client document] Headland Archaeology (UK) Ltd
- Bain K 2018 *New Wards, County Hospital, Hereford GI Works Written Scheme of Investigation for Archaeological Watching Brief* [unpublished client document] Headland Archaeology (UK) Ltd
- Crooks K H 2005 *Excavations at Hereford County Hospital 1998-2003* [unpublished client document] Archaeological Investigations Ltd
- Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (ClfA) 2014a *Code of Conduct* (Reading) <http://http.www.archaeologists.net/sites/default/files/CodesofConduct.pdf> 19 March 2018
- Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (ClfA) 2014b *Standard and guidance for an archaeological watching brief* (Reading) [http://www.archaeologists.net/sites/default/files/CfAS&GWatchingbrief\\_2.pdf](http://www.archaeologists.net/sites/default/files/CfAS&GWatchingbrief_2.pdf) accessed 19 March 2018
- Cranfield University 2016 *Cranfield Soil and Agrifood Institute Soilscales* <http://www.landis.org.uk/soilscales/> accessed 19 March 2018
- Natural Environment Research Council (NERC) 2017 *British Geological Survey* <http://www.bgs.ac.uk/> accessed 19 March 2018

## 6 APPENDICES

### APPENDIX 1 CONTEXT SUMMARIES

DBGL = Depth below ground level

PP1			
L (m)	W (m)	Min. D (m)	Max. D (m)
1.00	0.30	0.80	0.80
Context	Description	DBGL (m)	
(1000)	Soft brown clayey, silty topsoil	0.00–0.50	
(1001)	Soft mid-reddish brown subsoil with occasional (<10%) pebble sized flint nodules	0.50–0.75	
(1002)	Firm greenish brown fluvial gravel	>0.75	

PP2			
L (m)	W (m)	Min. D (m)	Max. D (m)
1.00	0.30	0.80	0.80
Context	Description	DBGL (m)	
(2000)	Soft brown clayey, silty topsoil	0.00–0.50	
(2001)	Soft mid-reddish brown subsoil with occasional (<10%) pebble sized flint nodules	0.50–0.75	

(2002) Firm greenish brown fluvial gravel >0.75

TT1			
L (m)	W (m)	Min. D (m)	Max. D (m)
1.00	0.30	0.80	0.80
Context	Description	DBGL (m)	
(3000)	Soft brown clayey, silty topsoil	0.00–0.10	
(3001)	Highly mixed modern made ground	0.10–0.90	
(3002)	Reddish yellow builders sand	0.90–1.00	

BH1			
L (m)	W (m)	Min. D (m)	Max. D (m)
1.00	0.30	0.80	0.80
Context	Description	DBGL (m)	
(4000)	Tarmac and modern sub-base	0.00–0.35	
(4001)	Soft mid-reddish brown silty, sandy clay subsoil	0.35–0.80	
(3002)	Firm greenish red mixed clay/gravel	>0.80	







© 2018 by Headland Archaeology (UK) Ltd

**Headland Archaeology South & East**  
Building 68C | Wrest Park | Silsoe | Bedfordshire MK45 4HS  
t 01525 861 578  
e southandeast@headlandarchaeology.com

**Headland Archaeology Midlands & West**  
Unit 1 | Clearview Court | Twyford Rd | Hereford HR2 6JR  
t 01432 364 901  
e midlandsandwest@headlandarchaeology.com

**Headland Archaeology North**  
Unit 16 | Hillside | Beeston Rd | Leeds LS11 8ND  
t 0113 387 6430  
e north@headlandarchaeology.com

**Headland Archaeology Scotland**  
13 Jane Street | Edinburgh EH6 5HE  
t 0131 467 7705  
e scotland@headlandarchaeology.com

[www.headlandarchaeology.com](http://www.headlandarchaeology.com)