

CHGH18



CASTLE HOUSE HOTEL, HEREFORD

ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF

PLANNING REF. P151867
EHE NO. EHE80379

commissioned by Mr David Watkins

December 2018

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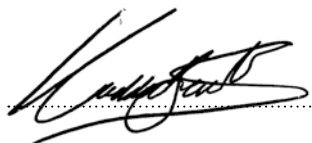
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PROJECT SUMMARY

An Archaeological Watching Brief was undertaken by Headland Archaeology (UK) Ltd during groundworks associated with the construction of a new garden room at Castle House Hotel, Hereford. Eight column baseplate pits were excavated with sequences of more recent made ground identified to 0.45m below ground level. Brick wall foundations associated with a recently demolished ancillary building were also recorded. No archaeological finds or features were identified.

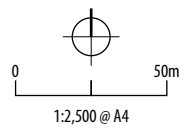
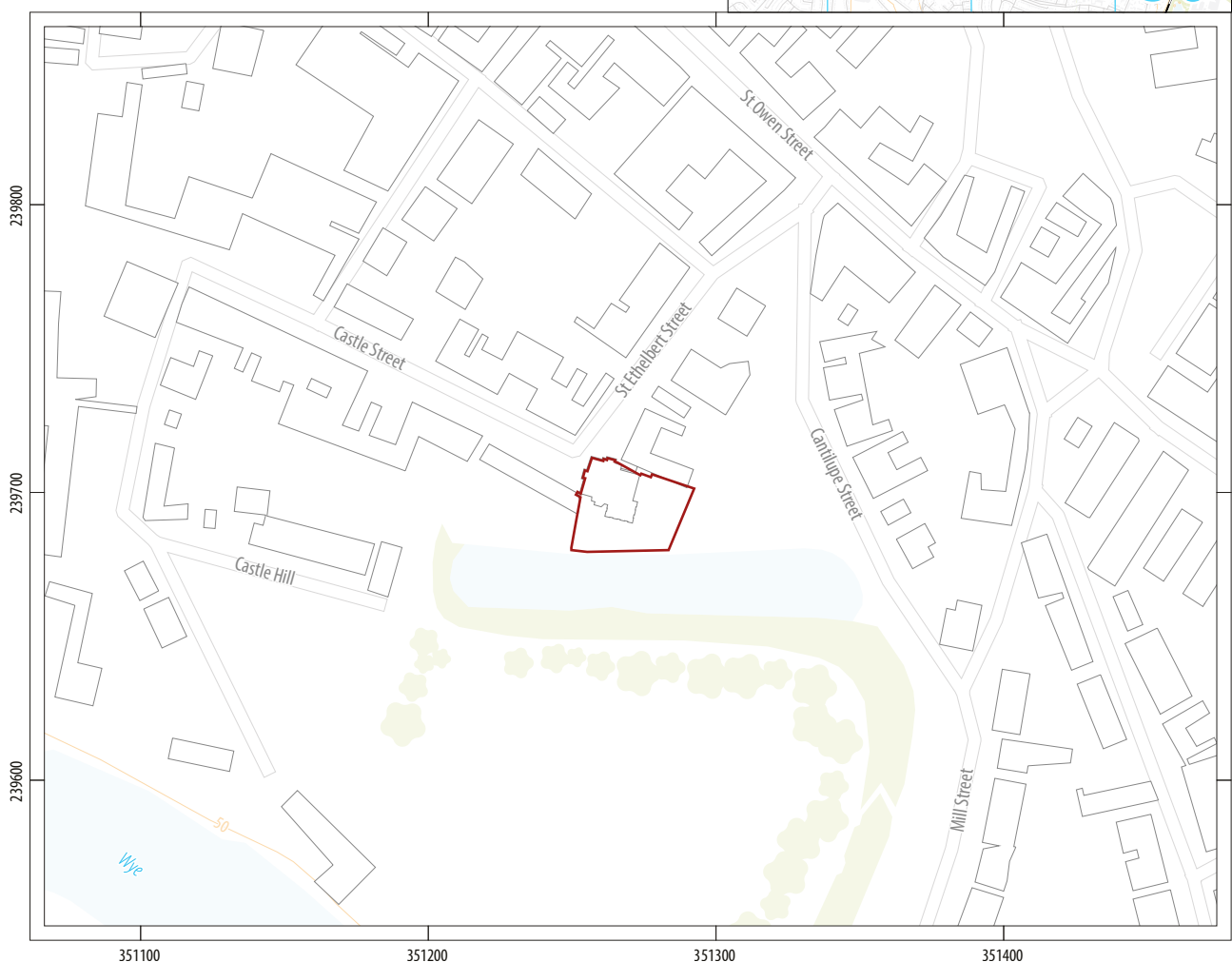
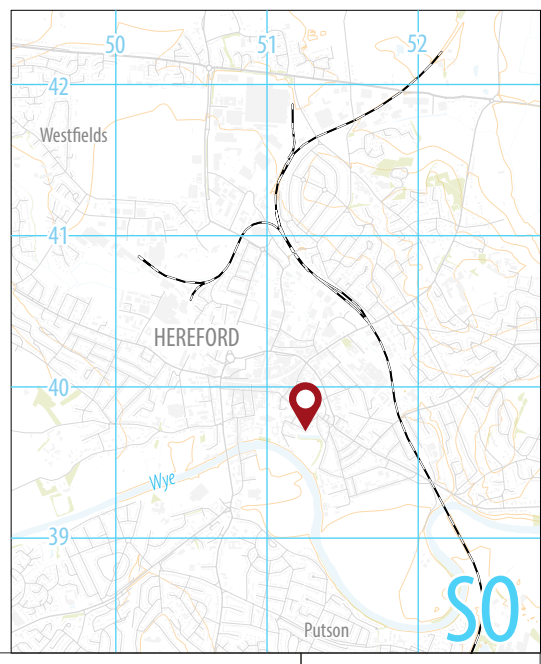
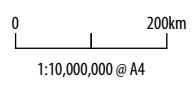
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Castle House Hotel
Castle Street
Hereford



 development boundary



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CASTLE HOUSE HOTEL, HEREFORD

ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF

1 INTRODUCTION

Headland Archaeology was commissioned by Mr David Watkins of Castle House Hotel, Hereford, to undertake an archaeological watching brief during groundworks associated with the construction of a new garden room at Castle House Hotel. This report presents the results of that work.

Cotton. A written scheme of investigation (WSI) was prepared by Headland Archaeology (Craddock-Bennett 2018a) in May 2018 and approved by the archaeological advisor. Following an alteration to the proposed form of the foundations (from pile to pad) a revised WSI was prepared in October 2018 (Craddock-Bennett 2018b) and agreed with the archaeological advisor.

1.1 PLANNING BACKGROUND AND OBJECTIVES

Full planning permission (P151867) has been secured for the erection of a new garden room to the south of the existing Castle House Hotel buildings. Due to the archaeological sensitivity of the site an archaeological condition has been attached to the permission.

Condition 3 of the planning permission reads:

'No development shall take place until the developer has secured the implementation of a programme of archaeological work in accordance with a written scheme of investigation which has been submitted to and approved in writing by the local planning authority. This programme shall be in accordance with a brief prepared by the County Archaeology Service.'

The reason for the condition is stated as follows:

'To ensure the archaeological interest of the site is recorded and to comply with the requirements of Policy ARCH6 of the Herefordshire Unitary Development Plan and the National Planning Policy Framework.'

In response to condition 3, a brief (b151867s2) was prepared by the archaeological advisor to the planning authority, Mr Julian

1.2 SITE LOCATION, DESCRIPTION AND SETTING

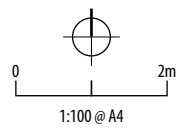
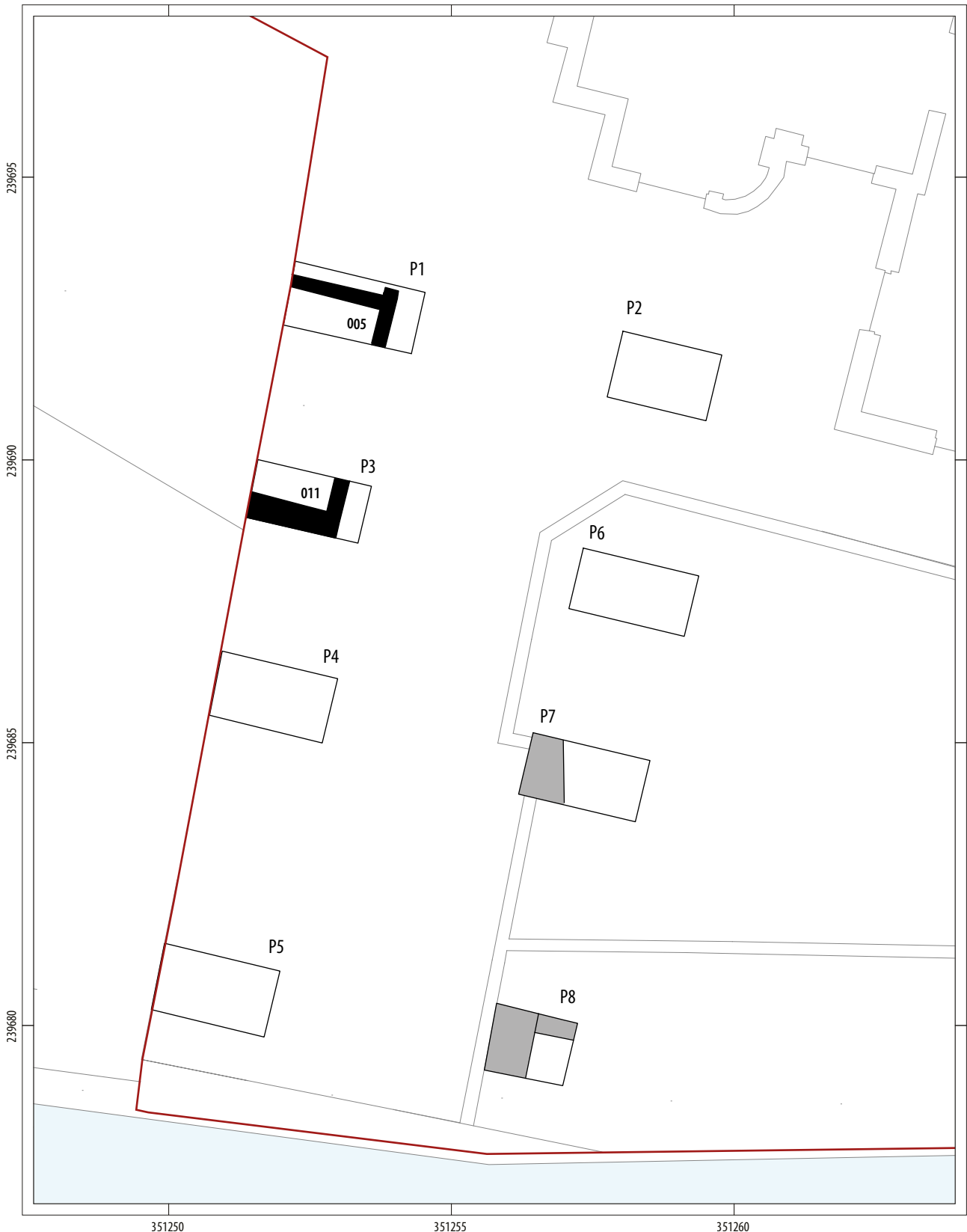
The project site covers an area of c.15m x 9m and is located within the southern garden area of Castle House Hotel in central Hereford (Illus 1), immediately north of the 'castle pool', centered around NGR 351258 239686 and at approximately 58m above Ordnance Datum.

At the time of a site visit on 4th May 2018, the development area was occupied by a permanent brick-built bar structure and a covered patio area.

The underlying bedrock comprises interbedded siltstone and mudstone of the Raglan Mudstone Formation. Superficial deposits comprise glaciofluvial sheet deposits of Devensian sand and gravel (NERC 2018).

1.3 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

The proposed development area (PDA) is located in an exceptionally sensitive location in the heart of the designated Hereford Area of Archaeological Importance (AAI). The site lies to the north of the outer bailey of Hereford Castle and is also situated on the line of the road which would have led to the main castle entrance.



- development boundary
- excavated pad location
- wall
- concrete

ILLUS 2 Location plan of excavated pad positions



ILLUS 3 General View Pad 2, looking south **ILLUS 4** General view of Pad 5, looking west

Excavations were undertaken within the current PDA in 1999 by Archaeological Investigations Ltd (Crooks & Boucher 1999). A trench (Tr.5) located at the northern end of the PDA revealed two road surfaces, probably associated with the road to the castle. In addition, it identified a well-stratified sequence of deposits from before the conquest, spanning into the medieval period. These included evidence for buildings, rubbish pits and other features containing pottery of medieval date. The most significant find from the site was that of a burnt Saxon building. Within the blackened deposits, which form the evidence for this event, a line of loom weights was uncovered. These were very well preserved in a number of cases and had obviously fallen straight off the loom.

The first significant archaeological horizon (within Tr. 5) was identified at a depth of 0.60m below ground level (bgl). Geological deposits were identified at a depth of 1.45m bgl.

Two further trenches positioned within the footprint of the PDA were excavated to a depth of between 0.40m and 1m bgl. No archaeologically significant deposits were identified.

In 2011 Headland Archaeology monitored the excavation of footing trenches for the construction of a smoking pavilion within the PDA (Mayes 2011). Four trenches were excavated to a depth of c0.45m bgl. No archaeologically significant deposits were identified.

2 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

In general, the purpose of the investigation was to record and advance understanding of the significance of the heritage assets before they were lost. In accordance with the WSI, this would be achieved by determining and understanding the nature, function and character of any remains on the site, disseminating the results of that work and archiving the material and paper records.

The regional research context is provided by the West Midlands Archaeological Research Framework (Watt 2011). Any evidence retrieved during the works is analysed in light of the objectives contained in this framework.

The archaeological investigations were carried out in order to:

- › assess extent, layout, structure and date of features and deposits of archaeological interest.
- › place, where possible, the identified features within their local and regional context.

Research objectives will be reviewed in the light of the results of the excavation prior to analysis and the project design updated.

The resulting archive (finds and records) have been organised and will be deposited with Herefordshire Museum Service, to facilitate access for future research and interpretation for public benefit.

3 METHOD

The fieldwork was conducted in accordance with the above mentioned WSI (Craddock-Bennett 2018b) and method statement and in accordance with the following documents:

- › Code of Conduct (Chartered Institute for Archaeologists, 2014a)
- › Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluations (Chartered Institute for Archaeologists, 2014b)

The archaeological works were carried out on the 28th and 29th November 2018. All groundwork excavations were undertaken using a tracked 360° minidigger mechanical excavator fitted with a 0.30m wide bladed bucket to required formation level depths of a maximum of 0.45m below ground level (bgl). Excavations were archaeologically monitored and halted, when appropriate, to allow investigation of potential archaeological remains before continuing to the required formation depths.

Initially two construction pad pits were scheduled to be monitored. Agreement was obtained from the archaeological advisor to excavate a further six pits under the terms of the existing WSI.

Exposed archaeological remains were recorded on Headland Archaeology pro forma record sheets with identified features and deposits (contexts) assigned a unique number. An overall plan of



ILLUS 5 View of south facing section, Pad 3, showing wall foundation [011] **ILLUS 6** View of scar of former structure associated with foundations [005] and [011]

the site and identified remains was produced giving locations of recorded remains. A black and white film photographic record was compiled with a graduated metric scale visible, supplemented by colour digital photographs.

All recording followed standard archaeological guidelines as set out by the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA).

4 RESULTS

A total of 8 construction pad pits were excavated across the site (Illus 2) to a maximum depth of 0.45m (bgl). The pits were located on a former patio surface (Pits 1 – 5) and the landscaped garden area (Pits 6 – 8). Pit 8 was located across a split-level area, bisected by a stone retaining wall and only the eastern half was excavated.

Across the patio area (Illus 3), the present ground surface generally comprised stone slabs and sand cement setting deposit (001) which overlay a blue-grey layer of gravels (002) up to 0.15m thick. This in turn sealed a further layer of clayey sand and gravels (007) in which brick fragments were observed. This overlay a dark greyish brown clayey silt (004) containing construction and/or demolition debris. Variable made ground layers were noted in Pit 6, with a deposit containing a greater density of building debris (010) identified at the limit of excavation.

Within Pits 4 and 5 (Illus 4), a thin layer of decorative pea gravel (007) overlay a deep layer of grey gravel (008) extending beyond formation level. Made ground (012) containing brick and tarmac fragments was recorded below the pea gravels in Pit 8. The bulk of the excavated area in Pit 8 contained a large concrete slab which was not removed, with a similar concrete slab also identified in Pit 7. The concrete is likely to have related to a former 'smoking room' associated with the hotel (S Morgan pers com).

Remains of red brick wall foundations (005) and (011) (Illus 5) were observed in Pits 1 and 3. The foundations appeared associated and related to a former, rectangular brick structure measuring 4.30 x 1.80m, the scar of which was visible in the extant boundary wall of the site (Illus 6).

5 DISCUSSION

Made ground deposits were the only layers encountered during monitoring of the construction pads and the nature of the deposits appeared associated with the landscaping and use of the site. Across the patio area, levelling had occurred to construct the slabbed surface with greater depth of imported gravels evidenced in Pits 4 and 5 creating a terraced effect above the 'castle pond' to the south of the site.

Pits 6 and 7, located on the grassed garden area, evidenced garden soil, with this observed to overlie made ground in Pit 6, likely relating to landscaping of the gardens which took place in 1999. Similarly, in Pit 8, made ground was identified in a walkway or path area overlooking the castle pond, again likely to be related to the overall landscaping of the garden area.

Former, hotel associated, structural remains of recent provenance were identified in the form of concrete slabs from a former structure and the remains of a recently demolished small rectangular brick structure.

The limited impact depth of the construction pads would suggest that archaeological features or deposits remain buried at greater depth as was suggested by results of previous excavation (Crooks and Boucher 1999) with the first, significant archaeological horizon at around 0.60m bgl, some 0.15m lower than the impact of the present construction.

No archaeological features were encountered with only more recent material (such as brick, white glazed ceramic) observed but not retained.

6 CONCLUSION

Archaeological investigation during groundworks associated with the construction of a new garden room at Castle House Hotel revealed only sequences of made ground and former, modern structural remains associated with the Hotel. The limited depth of intrusive groundworks (at a maximum of 0.45m bgl) would suggest that archaeological features or deposits remain buried at greater depth.

7 REFERENCES

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8 APPENDICES

APPENDIX 1 CONTEXT SUMMARY

Context No.	Pit No.	Description	Interpretation
001	1,2,3	Yellow brown stone slabs and sandy cement setting deposit. 0.07m thick	Present patio surface
002	1,2,3	Mid-blueish grey gravel, 0.15m thick max.	Setting/levelling deposit for patio
003	1,2	Mid pinkish brown clayey sand and pea gravel containing rare cbm fragments, 0.07m thick	Levelling deposit
004	1,3	Dark greyish brown slightly sandy, clayey silt containing CBM, rounded stones, gravel, charcoal and modern glazed ceramics, >0.35m thick	Made ground/ disturbed subsoils
005	1	Red brick wall foundation, 0.25m wide, 1.86m E – W >0.50m N – S, E – W turning S, 4 to 6 courses, cement mortar with lime fragments	Brick wall foundation
006	2	Mid greyish brown sandy clay containing frequent gravel, CBM and charcoal fragments, >0.15m thick	Made ground

Context No.	Pit No.	Description	Interpretation
007	3,4,5,8	Yellow brown pea grave, 0.03/0.04 thick	Decorative gravel ground surface
008	4,5	Mid grey gravels >0.36m thick	Levelling/made ground
009	6,7	Mid-greyish brown slightly sandy, clayey silt containing frequent angular and sub-angular gravels, occasional cbm fragments and modern glazed pottery	Garden soil
010	6	Mid-brown sandy clay containing frequent stones, occasional CBM, charcoal, clinker and patches of yellow sand, >0.05m thick	Made ground
011	3	Red brick wall foundation, E – W turning N, 1.48m E – W x >0.50m N – S, 0.25m wide, 6 courses	Brick wall foundation
012	8	Mid-brown slightly silty, sandy clay containing frequent tarmac fragments, gravel and brick, >0.30m thick	Made ground



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