

NSCH19



TEMPORARY NOTE STORAGE CABIN, COUNTY HOSPITAL, HEREFORD

ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF

EHE NO. 80404

commissioned by Wye Valley NHS Trust

June 2019

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PROJECT INFO:

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Herefordshire Council / OASIS Ref. **headland3-354375** / Archive Repository **Hereford Museums Service**

PROJECT TEAM:

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PROJECT SUMMARY

Headland Archaeology (UK) Ltd undertook a watching brief during the installation of a temporary cabin at Hereford County Hospital, Herefordshire. No archaeological deposits or features were identified, partly due to the shallow impact depth of the work.

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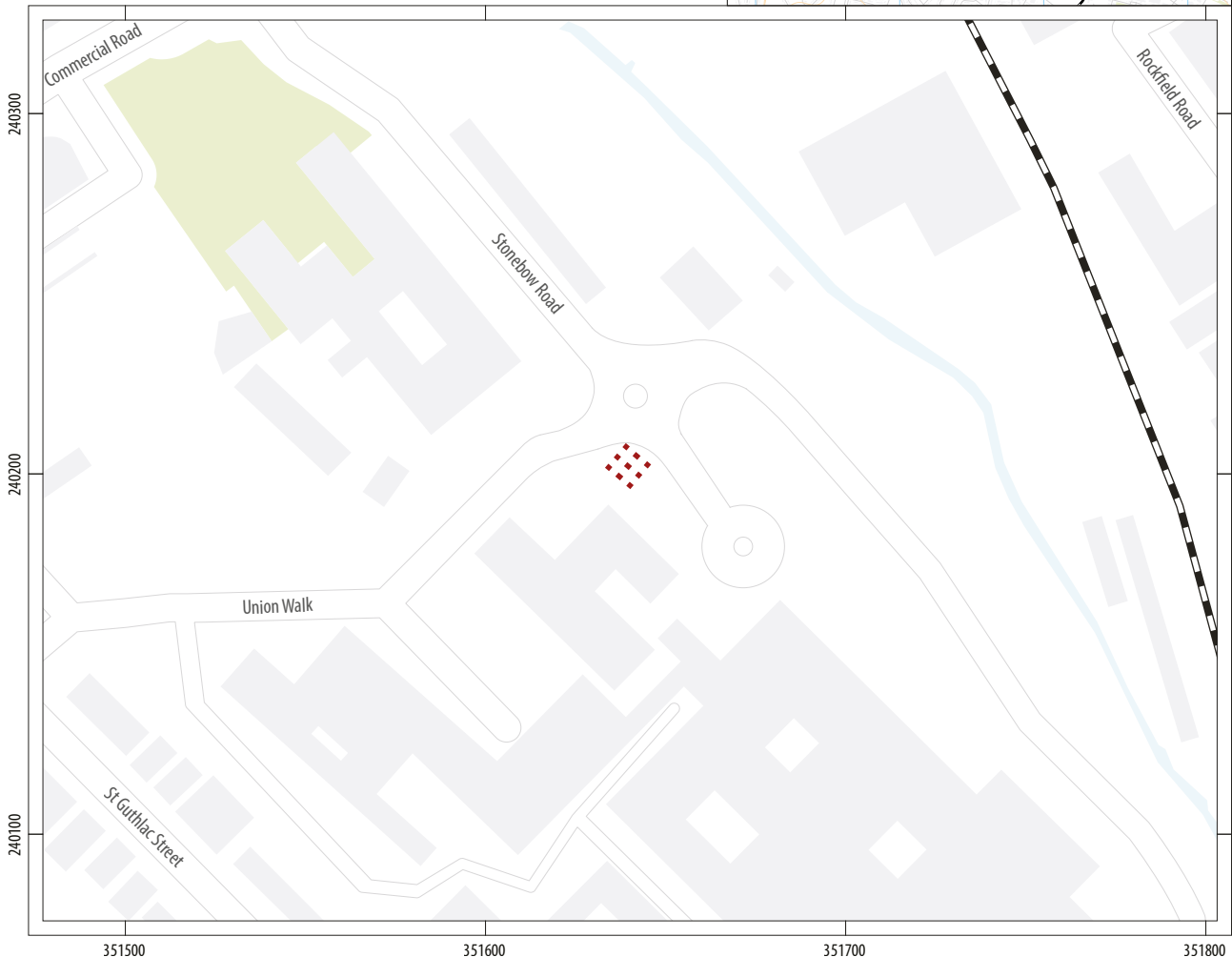
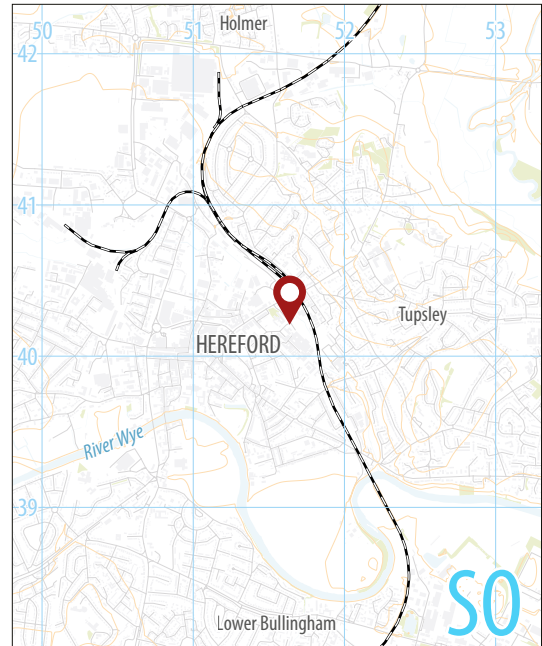
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Hereford Hospital
Hereford
Herefordshire



0 200km
1:12,500,000 @ A4



0 40m
1:2,000 @ A4

■ pad position



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ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF

1 INTRODUCTION

Wye Valley NHS Trust is planning to install a temporary cabin within the existing pathology building car park at Hereford County Hospital.

A number of pad positions were excavated in order to form foundations for the temporary structure. The excavations were located within the Hereford Area of Archaeological Importance. Appropriate documentation for the works under the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act was submitted to the Archaeological Advisor to Herefordshire Council, Mr Julian Cotton.

A Project Design outlining the methodology for archaeological monitoring of the site was prepared by Headland Archaeology (UK)Ltd (Craddock-Bennett 2019) and agreed with the archaeological advisor.

2 SITE BACKGROUND

The site was located on a small grass verge to the north of the car park of the Hereford County Hospital pathology building (NGR SO 51636 40186) (Illus 1).

The recorded solid geology for the site is Raglan Mudstone Formation – Interbedded Siltstone and Mudstone, drift geology is identified as Glaciofluvial Sheet Deposits, Devensian - Sand and Gravel (NERC 2019). The overlying soils are characterised as freely draining slightly acid loamy soils (Cranfield University 2019).

3 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

Previous investigations 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. Excavations undertaken in 2016 during the construction of a new temporary ward, located some 60m to the southwest of the current site, identified six medieval inhumation burials at a depth of c 2.0m below the existing ground level (Bain 2016). The north-eastern edge of the burial ground for the priory is believed to be located approximately 10m to the southwest of the proposed development.

4 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

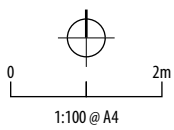
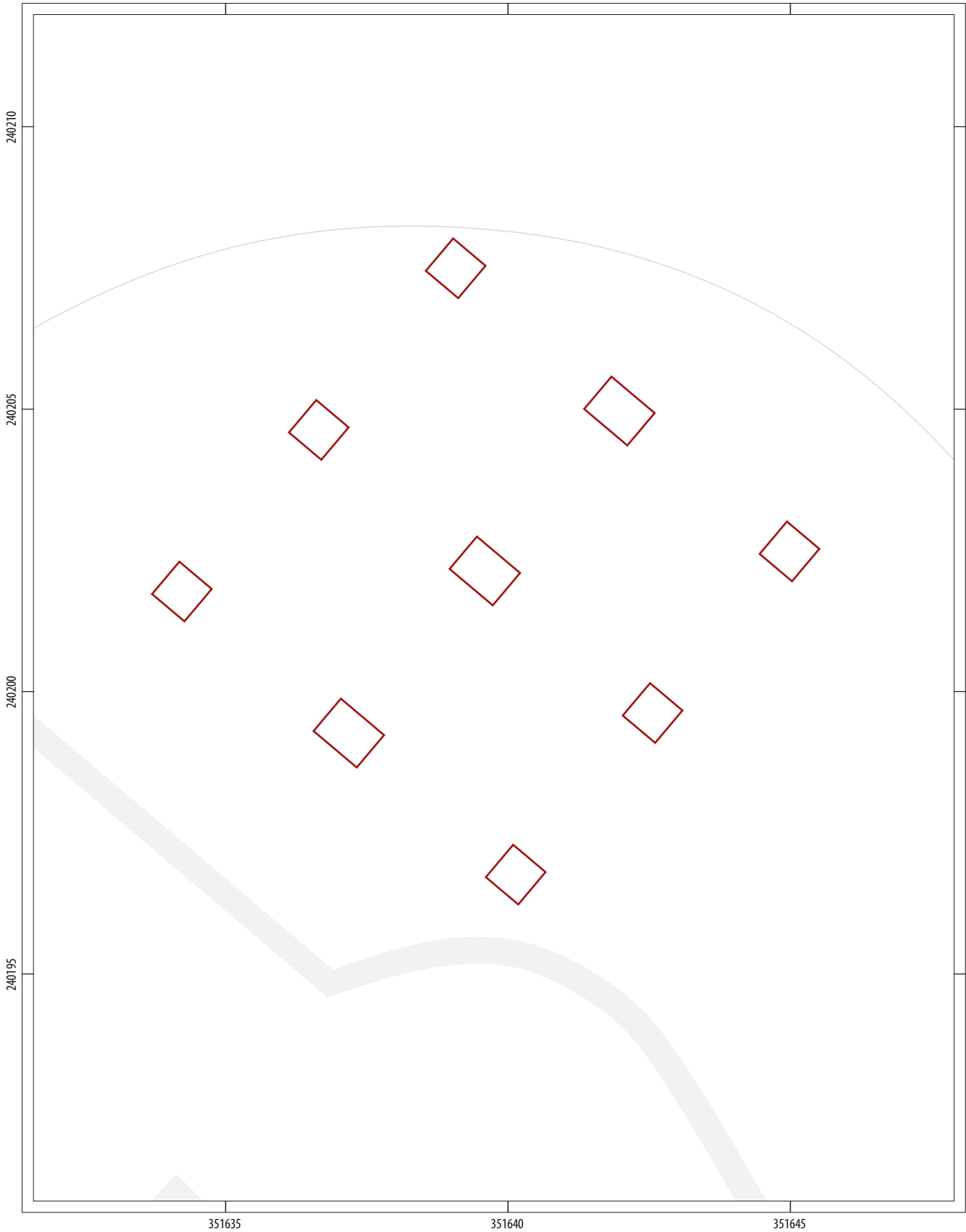
The objectives of the watching brief were as follows:

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

5 METHODOLOGY

Fieldwork was conducted in accordance with the above mentioned Project Design and in accordance with the following documents:

- › Code of Conduct (Chartered Institute for Archaeologists, 2014a)



pad position

ILLUS 2 Site plan



ILLUS 3 General view of site

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

The watching brief took place on 3 June 2019. The nature of the work involved the excavation of nine pad positions for the foundations of the new structure, in a three by three grid pattern (Illus 2, 3). These varied in depth between 0.08m and 0.16m in depth. An example of the completed excavation of a pad position can be seen in Illustration 4. All excavation was carried out by hand by the main contractor, under constant archaeological monitoring. All spoil heaps were visually scanned by the monitoring archaeologist for archaeological remains.

All deposits encountered were assigned a unique number and were recorded on pro forma recording sheets. 35mm black and white film prints were taken for record purposes and were supplemented by digital photographs. A graduated metric scale was visible in all photographs.

6 RESULTS

The only deposit encountered during the monitoring was the topsoil (0101). This was a mid-greyish brown silty clay with frequent small sub-rounded stones. Modern material, such as glass, plastic and pieces of CBM, was common throughout. Given the nature of the inclusions within this deposit and the position of the site on the verge of the hospital carpark, it seems likely that this area has been subject to landscaping previously. The topsoil extended below the maximum depth required for the groundworks (up to 0.16m).

No archaeological features or deposits were identified.

7 CONCLUSION

No archaeological features or deposits were encountered during the watching brief, likely due to the shallow formation depth required for the pad positions, and the likelihood of landscaping within the area.



ILLUS 4 General view of excavated pad position

8 REFERENCES

Bain K 2016 *Temporary Emergency Ward, County Hospital, Hereford: Archaeological Watching Brief and Excavation* [unpublished client document] Headland Archaeology, Ref. EWHH

Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA) 2014a *Code of Conduct (Reading)* <http://www.archaeologists.net/sites/default/files/CodesofConduct.pdf> accessed 6 June 2019

Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA) 2014b *Standard and guidance for an archaeological watching brief (Reading)* http://www.archaeologists.net/sites/default/files/CIfAS&GWatchingbrief_2.pdf accessed 6 June 2019

Craddock-Bennett L 2019 *Temporary Note Storage Cabin, County Hospital, Hereford: Project Design for Archaeological Watching Brief* [unpublished client document] Headland Archaeology, Ref. NSCH

Cranfield University 2019 *Cranfield Soil and Agrifood Institute Soilscales* <http://www.landis.org.uk/soilscales/> accessed 6 June 2019

Natural Environment Research Council (NERC) 2019 *British Geological Survey* <http://www.bgs.ac.uk/> accessed 6 June 2019



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