



Northamptonshire Archaeology

An archaeological watching brief at
Hillfields Health Centre, Stoney Stanton Road,
Coventry, West Midlands



Northamptonshire Archaeology

2 Bolton House
Wootton Hall Park
Northampton NN4 8BE
t. 01604 700493 f. 01604 702822
e. sparry@northamptonshire.gov.uk
w. www.northantsarchaeology.co.uk



Northamptonshire
County Council

David J Leigh

Report 11/235

November 2011



STAFF

Project Manager Iain Soden BA, MIfA
Text David J Leigh BA Hons
Fieldwork David J Leigh
Illustrations Amir Bassir BSc Hons
Project Archive Theodora Anastasiadou-Leigh BA MA (Bham)
 MA (York)

QUALITY CONTROL

	Print name	Signed	Date
Checked by	Pat Chapman		
Verified by	Iain Soden		
Approved by	Andy Chapman		

OASIS REPORT FORM

PROJECT DETAILS		
Project name	An archaeological watching brief at Hillfields Health Centre, Stoney Stanton Road, Coventry, West Midlands	
Short description	An archaeological watching brief was undertaken between March 2010 and June 2011 by Northamptonshire Archaeology during groundworks connected with the construction of a new health centre at Hillfields Health Centre, Stoney Stanton Road, Coventry, West Midlands. Modern disturbance truncating the natural substratum was noted throughout the investigation area. No archaeological deposits or artefacts were present.	
Project type	Watching Brief	
Site status	None	
Previous work	Desk-based Assessment (Northamptonshire Archaeology)	
Current Land use	Health facility	
Future work	No	
Monument type/ period	None	
Significant finds	None	
PROJECT LOCATION		
County	West Midlands	
Site address	Hillfields Health Centre, Stoney Stanton Road, Coventry	
Study area	0.6ha	
OS Easting & Northing	SP 337 797	
Height OD	C83m aOD	
PROJECT CREATORS		
Organisation	Northamptonshire Archaeology	
Project brief originator	Coventry City Council	
Project Design originator	Northamptonshire Archaeology	
Director/Supervisor	David J Leigh	
Project Manager	Iain Soden	
Sponsor or funding body	Galliford Try on behalf of Coventry Care Partnership	
PROJECT DATE		
Start date	March 2010	
End date	June 2011	
ARCHIVES	Location (Accession no.)	Content (eg pottery, animal bone etc)
Physical		
Paper		Watching brief forms (13) Colour slides (14) black and white contact prints (14) Digital photographs (16)
Digital		Report text and figures

Contents

1	INTRODUCTION
2	BACKGROUND
2.1	Location and topography
2.2	Historical background
3	OBJECTIVES AND METHODOLOGY
4	THE RECORDED EVIDENCE
5	THE SITE ARCHIVE
6	CONCLUSIONS
	BIBLIOGRAPHY

Frontpage The development area during groundworks

Figures

Fig 1: Site Location

Fig 2: Area of archaeological observation

Fig 3: The development area during groundworks, looking south-east

Fig 4: The excavation of drainage trenches, looking east

**AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF AT
HILLFIELDS HEALTH CENTRE, STONEY STANTON ROAD,
COVENTRY, WEST MIDLANDS
MARCH 2010 – JUNE 2011**

Abstract

An archaeological watching brief was undertaken by Northamptonshire Archaeology between March 2010 and June 2011 during groundworks connected with the construction of a new health centre at Hillfields Health Centre, Stoney Stanton Road, Coventry, West Midlands. Modern disturbance truncating the natural substratum was noted throughout the investigation area. No archaeological deposits or artefacts were present.

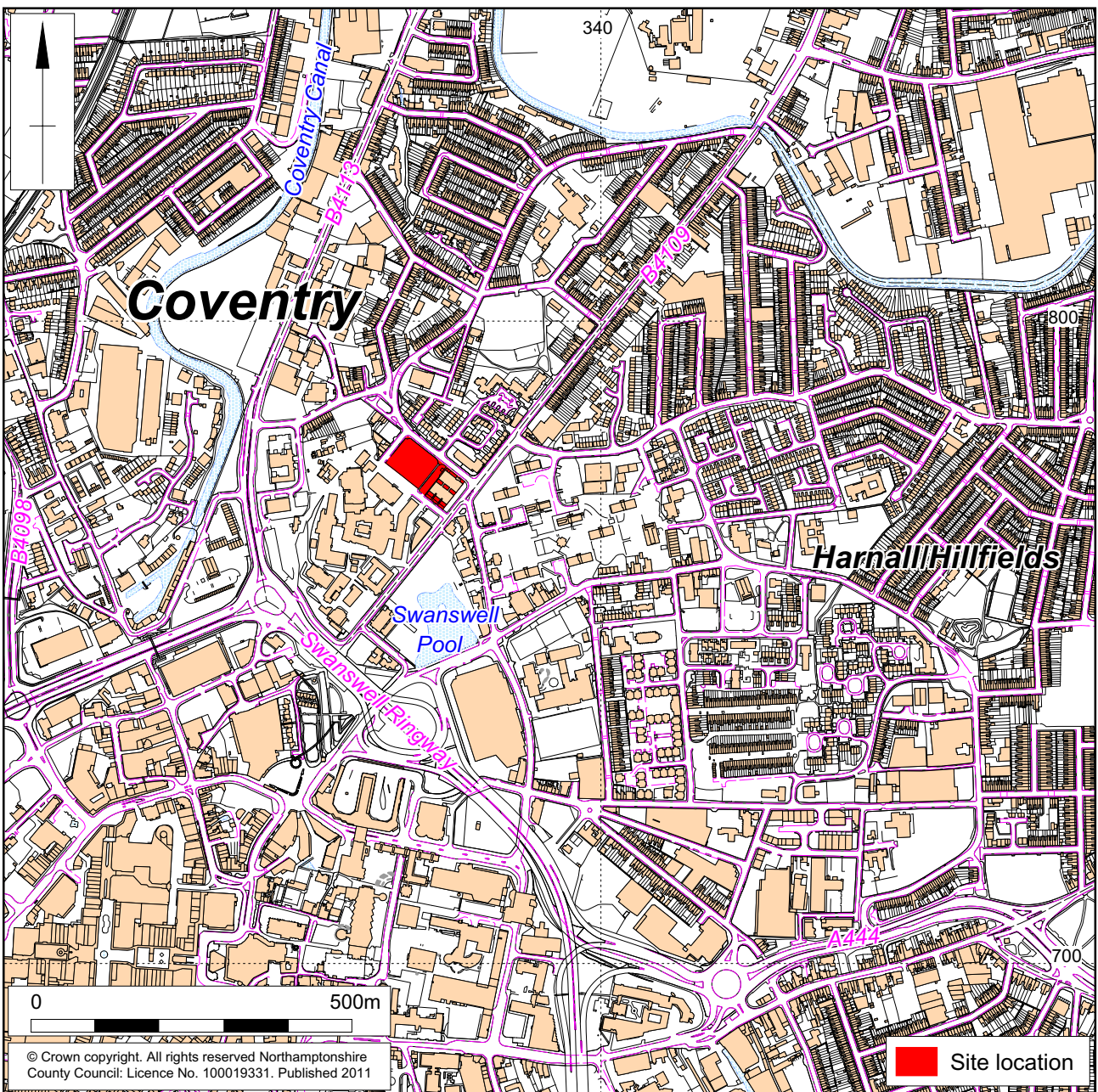
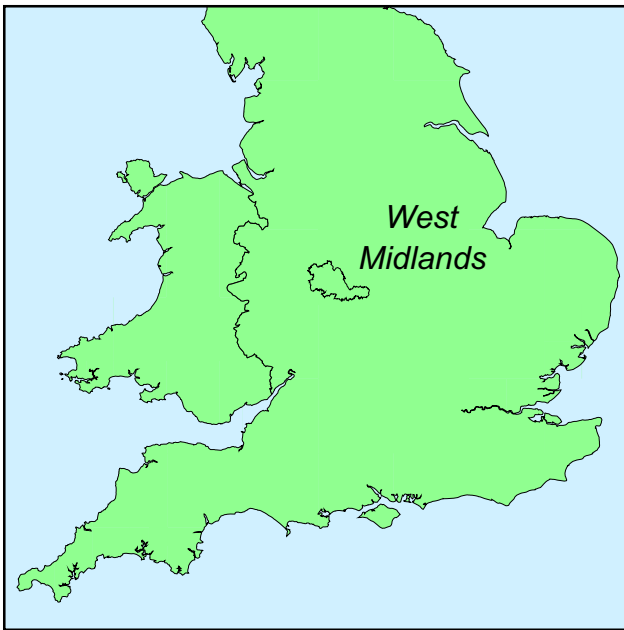
1 INTRODUCTION

An archaeological watching brief was undertaken by Northamptonshire Archaeology between March 2010 and June 2011 during groundworks for the construction of a new health centre at Hillfields Health Centre, Stoney Stanton Road, Coventry, West Midlands (NGR SP 3373 7976; Figs 1 and 2). The work was carried out on behalf of Galliford Try and followed a specification produced by Northamptonshire Archaeology (NA 2009) and approved by the Planning Archaeologist, Coventry City County Council. It adhered to the procedural document MoRPHE issued by English Heritage (EH 2006) and the appropriate national standards and guidelines, as recommended by the Institute for Archaeologists (IfA 2008).

2 BACKGROUND

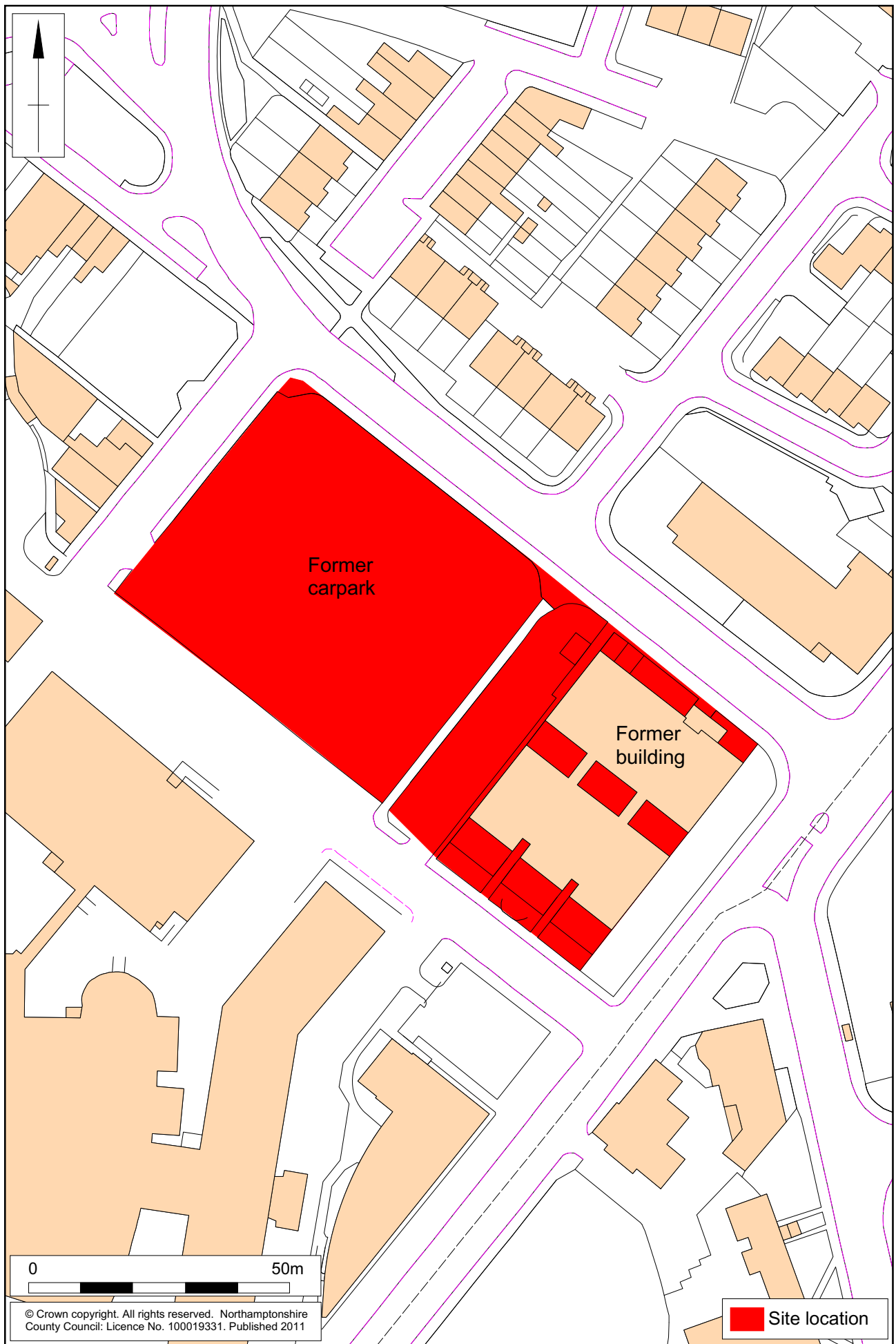
2.1 Location and topography

The development area is located immediately north of the present city centre just on the outside of the inner ring road. The site is situated on relatively level ground at an approximate height of c83m aOD. The underlying geology has been mapped by The British Geological Survey of Great Britain as comprising Warwickshire group siltstone and sandstone with subordinate mudstone.



Scale 1:10,000

Site location Fig 1



Scale 1:1,000

Area of archaeological observation Fig 2

2.2 Historical background

A desk-based assessment undertaken as part of the present application (Walker 2010) quantified the archaeological potential of the development area utilising the information contained within the Coventry Historic Environment Record (HER) and other relevant published and archived sources including cartographic evidence and map regression and internet sources including the National Archives.

It identified that the development area lies outside of the medieval core of the city and beyond the city walls in an area known as Harnall or Potters Harnall. The name potters suggesting a centre for the production of pottery in the 12th and 13th centuries.

Cartographic evidence from the post-medieval period suggests that the site has been in agricultural usage up to the mid to late 19th century when it was taken in by the expanding suburbs of the city.

To the south of the site large pottery or brick kilns were identified in Harnall Lane in 1872. Their form is suggestive of medieval examples uncovered in the Stoke area (Coventry Standard 1928). Prior to the desk-based assessment no previous archaeological investigations are recorded as having been carried out within the site itself.

Up to the present development the site has been occupied by the former Hillfields Health Centre, comprising a car-park in the north-west half of the site with the health building, demolished prior to the start of the watching brief, occupying the remainder of the area.



The development area during groundworks, looking south-east Fig 3

3 OBJECTIVES AND METHODOLOGY

The aims of the watching brief were to:

- ◆ Observe the groundworks connected with the construction of the new health centre and to record all archaeological deposits uncovered
- ◆ Determine the date, character, state of preservation and depth of any archaeological deposits observed and to retrieve all datable artefacts
- ◆ Create a permanent archive and record of the archaeological information collected during the course of the fieldwork and analysis.

The fieldwork comprised visits to the site during the construction of the new health centre. The groundworks comprised the excavation of the former health facility and the breaking up of hard-standing followed by the excavation of foundation trenches and service trenches.

A photographic record in both black and white negative and colour slide was kept, with supplementary photographs in digital format. The written record used Northamptonshire Archaeology pro-forma sheets. The watching brief was carried out in

accordance with the standards and guidelines for an archaeological watching brief (IfA 2008).



The excavation of drainage trenches, looking east Fig 4

4 THE RECORDED EVIDENCE

Throughout the investigation area a truncated natural substratum was recorded. This comprised of clean red sand with pockets of modern disturbance cut into this. This was overlain by up to 0.50m of modern building material comprising reinforced concrete slabs, tarmac surfacing and numerous fragments of modern ceramic building material within a matrix of grey-black silt loam.

No archaeological deposits or artefacts were present.

5 THE SITE ARCHIVE

The project has generated a small archive comprising:

RECORD	NUMBER
Watching brief forms	13
Colour slides	14
Black and white contacts and negatives	14
Digital photographs	16

6 CONCLUSIONS

Modern truncation of the natural substratum was recorded throughout the investigation area. No archaeological deposits or artefacts were present, the lack of artefactual evidence, coupled with the results of the desk-based assessment suggest that no significant archaeological deposits are present within the vicinity of the site.

The watching brief was undertaken in favourable circumstances and the results are considered to be reliable.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

- BGS 2009 <http://www.bgs.ac.uk/geoindex/home.html> British Geological Survey website
- EH 2006 *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment* English Heritage Procedural Document
- IfA 2008 *Standard and Guidance for an archaeological watching brief*, Institute for Archaeologists
- NA 2006, *Archaeological watching brief at City College, Swanswell Street, Coventry, West Midlands*, Northamptonshire Archaeology report **06/145**
- NA 2009, *Specification for an archaeological watching brief at City health Facility, Stoney Stanton Road, Coventry* Northamptonshire Archaeology
- Patrick, C, 2009 *Brief for an archaeological watching brief at City health Facility, Stoney Stanton Road, Coventry*, Coventry City Council
- Walker, C, 2010 *Archaeological desk-based assessment at Hillfields Health Centre, Stoney Stanton Road, Coventry, West Midlands*, Northamptonshire Archaeology **10/10**



Northamptonshire County Council

Northamptonshire Archaeology

Northamptonshire Archaeology

2 Bolton House

Wootton Hall Park

Northampton NN4 8BE

t. 01604 700493 f. 01604 702822

e. sparry@northamptonshire.gov.uk

w. www.northantsarchaeology.co.uk



Northamptonshire
County Council

