Archaeological Watching Brief

at

COSSHAM HOSPITAL,
LODGE ROAD, KINGSWOOD, BRISTOL.

for

NHS South Gloucestershire

Report No. 2270/2011
BHER No. 24859

By Gary Baddeley

Bristol and Region Archaeological Services

St. Nicholas Church, St. Nicholas Street, Bristol, BS1 1UE. Tel: (0117) 903 9010 Fax: (0117) 903 9011

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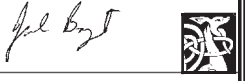
Centred on
N.G.R. ST 64238 74555

Client: NHS South Gloucestershire
Agent: Gardiner & Theobald LLP

Author:	Gary Baddeley
email:	john.bryant@bristol.gov.uk
Approved by:	John Bryant
Signature:	
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St.Nicholas Church, St.Nicholas Street, Bristol BS1 1UE. Tel: (0117) 903 9010
E-mail: info@baras.org.uk
www.baras.org.uk

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Abbreviations

AD	Anno Domini	Km	Kilometre
aOD	Above Ordnance Datum	m	Metre
BaRAS	Bristol & Region Archaeological Services	NGR	National Grid Reference
BC	Before Christ	NMR	National Monuments Record
c.	Circa	OS	Ordnance Survey
HER	Historic Environment Record		

NOTE
Notwithstanding that Bristol and Region Archaeological Services have taken reasonable care to produce a comprehensive summary of the known and recorded archaeological evidence, no responsibility can be accepted for any omissions of fact or opinion, however caused.

September, 2011.

SUMMARY

An archaeological watching brief was carried out during groundworks associated with the redevelopment work at Cossham Hospital in north-east Bristol.

The groundworks revealed that the majority of the site had been stripped or otherwise reduced in level, probably during construction and subsequent development of the hospital and its ancillary buildings and that modern services and topsoil directly overlay deposits of archaeologically sterile clay, sandstone and coal seams.

A coal shaft of unknown date was discovered in the north-west of site and quickly consolidated. Coal mining was practiced in the area since at least the late 18th century with the shafts still visible up until the late 19th century. No other features or deposits of archaeological significance were observed during the intrusive groundworks.

LIST OF ILLUSTRATIONS

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Plates

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 Bristol and Region Archaeological Services (BaRAS) were commissioned by Glen Ingleston of Gardiner & Theobald LLP on behalf of Jennifer Anthony, Estates Manager for NHS South Gloucestershire to undertake an archaeological watching brief during groundworks associated with the proposal to redevelop and extend Cossham Hospital, Lodge Road, Kingswood, in north-east Bristol.

1.2 The watching brief was commissioned to comply with the condition of planning consent (Planning application numbers 09/01825/F & 09/01826/LA) and in accordance with a *Written Scheme of Investigation* prepared by Bristol and Region Archaeological Services (Bryant 2010).

1.3 The fieldwork was undertaken over several site visits between November 2010 and July 2011 under the supervision of Tim Longman, Raymond K Ducker and Gary Baddeley who also compiled this report.

1.4 The project archive will be deposited with Bristol City Museum & Art Gallery under the Accession Number BRSMG 2010/56 and a digital copy of the report will be made available to the National Monuments Record maintained by English Heritage. The project has been entered in the Bristol Historic Environment Record as: BHER 24859 and in the OASIS Online Access to the Index of Archaeological Investigations as: bristola1-73420.

2. THE SITE

2.1 The site (centred on NGR ST 64238 74555) lies on the west side of Lodge Hill, with access from Lodge Raod and is located in the north-eastern suburb of Kingswood, Bristol, about 5.5 kms ENE of the city centre. At the commencement of works the site was occupied by the buildings of the Cossham Memorial Hospital, opened in 1907, ancillary buildings, access roads, car-parking and landscaped gardens. The site covers approximately 1.6 hectares of land at an average height of between 109 and 113m a.O.D. The principal buildings are the 1907 Main Hospital Building, Medical Records Building/Boiler House (originally a Laundry, Coach House, Stables and Mortuary), Gate Lodge, 1957 Recreation Hall, late-1960s Henshaw House, Henshaw Bungalow and *c*1973 Physiotherapy Unit. The original hospital buildings (including gate piers and boundary walling) and number of later constructions have Grade II listed status (English Heritage 901-1/56/1267; 901-1/56/1268; 901-1/56/1269).

2.2 The geology of the study area comprises Middle and Lower Coal Measures of the Carboniferous period (British Geological Survey 1967) (**Fig. 1**).

3. ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

3.1 Prior to the present works the site was the subject of an archaeological desk-based assessment (Townsend 2007). The full historical and archaeological background to the site is contained within this document. Relevant details are summarised below:

3.2 The 1610 Map of Kingwood shows the site area as forested with a building just to the north-west of the site annotated as 'The Lodge' (**Fig. 3**), from which we get the modern street names Lodge Hill *et al*. This became known as King John's or Kingswood Lodge by the middle of the 19th century. The Lodge was initially used for hunting before going through many additions and alterations, becoming an iron smelting works and later a windmill for grinding corn. During this time it was castellated and renamed Kingswood Castle. It was demolished some time around 1928.

3.3 By the mid 17th century the area was probably under pasture. It appears to have remained so up until the construction of Cossham Hospital in the first decade of the twentieth century.

3.4 The Sturge map of 1781 shows a number of coal shafts in the vicinity (**Fig. 4**). A single coal shaft (probably a bell pit) is shown in the south-west portion of the site. By the time of the First Edition Ordnance Survey map of 1881 these pits are still visible and labelled 'Old Coal Workings', though the shaft in the study area itself was no longer depicted (**Fig. 5**). A footpath bisecting the site area from the north-west down to the south-east corner is also shown on this map.

3.5 Cossham Memorial Hospital was opened on 1st June 1907, having been financed from the estate of the late Handel Cossham. Cossham had been a prominent local businessman and MP and the proposal for a memorial hospital had previously been mooted in 1901 and 1903 before finally being implemented in 1905.

3.6 Alterations to the original hospital layout have taken place over the course of the last century with various extensions and additional buildings added within the grounds. As part of a scheme for future healthcare in the Kingswood area of Bristol and South Gloucestershire, the original hospital buildings are to be modernised, involving internal alterations and partial demolition of later structures in the grounds and some of the modern extensions to the main building.

4. AIMS AND METHODOLOGY

4.1 The fieldwork complied with the methodology contained within the *Written Scheme of Investigation* (Bryant 2010). The fieldwork also followed the *Standard and Guidance for an Archaeological Watching Brief* issued by the Institute for Archaeologists (1999). The aim of the watching brief was to record any archaeological features or deposits revealed during the course of intrusive groundworks.

4.2 The watching brief involved the monitoring of groundworks associated with the redevelopment and extension of the hospital which included mechanical excavation of test pits, foundations, services and attenuation tanks.

4.3 Context numbers have been assigned to individual deposits exposed within the excavations.

5. RESULTS

5.1 All groundworks were carried out using a 360º mechanical excavator using both toothed and toothless grading buckets. For locations of the separate groundworks refer to **Fig. 2**.

Test Pits

5.2 Three Test Pits, A, B & C were excavated to test the presence of coal seams.

5.3 Test Pit A reached a maximum depth below ground level of 2m where two coal seams were located within archaeologically sterile clay of geological origin (103). This was sealed by made-ground deposits (contexts 101 & 102). The uppermost layer comprised tarmac hardstanding (100) up to 0.1m thick.

5.4 Test Pit B was excavated to a maximum depth of 2m below ground level in a location that had already been partially excavated. A coal seam (205) was also identified within deposit 204 a grey, gritty clay and yellow brown clay (206). The overlying deposit comprised sandstone (203) overlain by clay (202). A sequence of inclining, interbedded natural deposits was recorded in section below a thin modern layer of scalpings and rubbish (201).

5.5 Test Pit C was excavated to a maximum depth of 2m below ground level and as in Test Pit B, a further deposit of yellow-brown clay (301) was overlain by gritty grey clay (302) which again contained a coal seam (303). Modern scalpings (300) overlay a sequence of interbedded natural clays with inclining bands visible in section.

Stairwell Footings

5.6 A number of trenches including strip foundations and box foundations were excavated for a stairwell, to a maximum depth of 1.4m below ground level. Above the natural limestone (402) the only deposits observed comprised interbedded mudstone (400) and clay (401). Remnant topsoil < 0.1m thick was topped with modern gravel. Immediately north of this area a brick manhole was discovered. This was 0.96m square and made of red brick with grey compact mortar. The bricks had dimensions 230 x 115 x 65mm. The manhole was not disturbed as it was found during a light clean by the machine. It potentially could be early 20th century in date.

Attenuation Tank Excavation

5.7 A pit for a large water-storage tank was excavated as part of the groundworks. Excavation of the pit was observed to a maximum of depth of 2m below ground level. At the northern end of the pit deposits of archaeologically sterile clay (502) were overlain by redeposited natural clay lenses up to 0.8m thick and covered by topsoil (501). The rest of the pit was excavated solely into natural clay (502).

Service Trench

5.8 A 1.5m deep, north-south aligned, service trench was excavated to connect two pre-existing manholes. As in the attenuation tank excavation, 0.6m of dark brown clayey topsoil (501) overlay stiff grey clay natural (502).

Mineshaft

5.6 A backfilled mineshaft [601] was located near the north-west corner of site. The shaft had a diameter of approximately 1.5m. It was deemed too dangerous to explore in any great detail and was consolidated by the ground crew. No finds were recovered relating to the feature.

5.7 **New Road Excavation**

Ground reduction along the line of a new road took place in the north-west corner of site. It was dug to a maximum depth of 1.1m with the same stratigraphic sequence as the service trench described above. Deposit (104) had a maximum depth of 0.9m, (105) was over 0.20m deep.

6. CONCLUSION

6.1 Coal mining was prevalent in this area from at least the late 18th century and the presence of a mineshaft, the location of which was not depicted cartographically, should come as no great surprise. Handel Cossham himself owned many coal mines in this part of Bristol.

6.2 The watching brief identified no archaeological remains associated with Kingswood Lodge within the area of the intrusive groundworks. The lack of archaeological deposits may indicate that any structural remains related to this Lodge did not extend into the application area or that they may have been truncated by previous development of the area.

6.3 The majority of the works monitored during the project revealed that across most of the site, modern surfaces had been laid directly over deposits of archaeologically sterile clay, sandstone or coal seams. Most of the site would appear to have been levelled or stripped during the construction of the hospital and ancillary buildings or during later modifications.

6.4 No other features or deposits of archaeological significance were observed and no artefacts predating the modern period were recovered during intrusive groundworks at the site.

7. PROJECT TEAM

7.1 The fieldwork was undertaken by Raymond K Ducker, Tim Longman and Gary Baddeley who also produced this report. The illustrations were prepared and the report compiled by Ann Linge. The archive was compiled and prepared for deposition by the author and overall Project Management was provided by John Bryant.

8. BIBLIOGRAPHY AND SOURCES CONSULTED

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Maps

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9. ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

BaRAS would like to thank Alexandra Chapman, Mark Smith and Mark Langsford of ISG Pearce for their assistance and co-operation and Bob Jones (BCC Archaeological Officer) for their advice.

APPENDIX 1: Policy Statement

This report is the result of work carried out in the light of national and local authority policies.

NATIONAL POLICIES
Statutory protection for archaeology is enshrined in the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act (1979), amended by the National Heritage Act, 1983. Nationally important sites are listed in the Schedule of Ancient Monuments (SAM). Scheduled Monument consent is required for any work that would affect a SAM.

GOVERNMENT POLICY GUIDANCE
Planning Policy Guidance Note 15: Planning and the Historic Environment (1994) and Planning Policy Guidance Note 16: Archaeology and Planning (1990) have been replaced (23 March 2010) by Planning Policy Statement 5: Planning for the Historic Environment (2010) which sets out the Government's national policies on conservation of the historic environment. Those parts of the historic environment that have significance because of their historic, archaeological, architectural or artistic interest are called heritage assets.
Of particular relevance within the Planning Policy Statement are:

Policy HE6: Information Requirements for Applications for Consent Affecting Heritage Assets
HE6.1 Local planning authorities should require an applicant to provide a description of the significance of the heritage assets affected and the contribution of their setting to that significance. The level of detail should be proportionate to the importance of the heritage asset and no more than is sufficient to understand the potential impact of the proposal on the significance of the heritage asset. As a minimum the relevant historic environment record should have been consulted and the heritage assets themselves should have been assessed using appropriate expertise where necessary given the application's impact. Where an application site includes, or is considered to have the potential to include, heritage assets with archaeological interest, local planning authorities should require developers to submit an appropriate desk-based assessment and, where desk-based research is insufficient to properly assess the interest, a field evaluation.

Policy HE9: Additional Policy Principles Guiding the Consideration of Applications for Consent Relating to Designated Heritage Assets
HE9.1 There should be a presumption in favour of the conservation of designated heritage assets and the more significant the designated heritage asset, the greater the presumption in favour of its conservation should be. Once lost, heritage assets cannot be replaced and their loss has a cultural, environmental, economic and social impact. Significance can be harmed or lost through alteration or destruction of the heritage asset or development within its setting. Loss affecting any designated heritage asset should require clear and convincing justification. Substantial harm to or loss of a grade II listed building, park or garden should be exceptional. Substantial harm to or loss of designated heritage assets of the highest significance, including scheduled monuments, protected wreck sites, battlefields, grade I or II* listed buildings and grade I and II* registered parks and gardens, World Heritage Sites, should be wholly exceptional.

Policy HE12: Policy Principles Guiding the Recording of Information Related to Heritage Assets
HE12.3 Where the loss of the whole or a material part of a heritage asset's significance is justified, local planning authorities should require the developer to record and advance understanding of the significance of the heritage asset before it is lost, using planning conditions or obligations as appropriate. The extent of the requirement should be proportionate to the nature and level of the asset's significance. Developers should publish this evidence and deposit copies of the reports with the relevant historic environment record. Local planning authorities should require any archive generated to be deposited with a local museum or other public depository willing to receive it. Local planning authorities should impose planning conditions or obligations to ensure such work is carried out in a timely manner and that the completion of the exercise is properly secured.

DISTRICT POLICY
Bristol City Council Supplementary Planning Document (2006) states (policy SPD No.7, p4):
(i) There will be a presumption in favour of preserving any archaeological features or sites of national importance, whether scheduled or not.
(ii) Development which could adversely affect sites, structures, landscapes or buildings of archaeological interest and their settings will require an assessment of the archaeological resource through a desktop study, and where appropriate a field evaluation. Where there is evidence of archaeological remains, development will not be permitted except where it can be demonstrated that the archaeological features of the site will be satisfactorily preserved in situ, or a suitable strategy has been put forward to mitigate the impact of development proposals upon important archaeological remains and their settings; or, if this is not possible and the sites are not scheduled or of national importance, provision for adequately recording the site prior to destruction is made, preferably by negotiating a planning agreement to ensure that access, time and financial resources are available to allow essential recording and publication to take place.

APPENDIX 2: Context Descriptions

Context No.	Description
100	Tarmac and bedding gravel deposit < 0.1m thick over Test Pit A. Overlies (101).
101	Made-ground deposit of firm, black sandy silt approximately 0.3m thick. Possibly a sub-base for deposit (100) Test Pit A. Overlies (102).
102	Deposit of redeposited grey and yellow clay with inclusions of mortar, small sandstone fragments and charcoal flecks, up to 0.6m thick. Test Pit A. Overlies (103).
103	Stiff, yellow/brown plastic clay with thin coal seams, excavated to 1.0m deep. Test Pit A. Underlies (102) in base of trench.
201	Modern deposit of scalpings, average 0.1m or less thick over Test Pit B. Overlies (202).
202	One of a series of inclining deposits in the section of the test pit. Mottled grey and brown clay. Test Pit B, excavated to a maximum of approximately 1.9m depth. Overlies (203).
203	Sandstone bedrock seam. Test Pit B, excavated to a maximum of approximately 1.9m depth. Overlies (204).
204	Grey, gritty clay with coal seam (205) within it. Test Pit B, excavated to a maximum of approximately 1.9m depth. Overlies (206).
205	Thin coal seam. Test Pit B, excavated to a maximum of approximately 1.9m depth. Stratigraphically equal to (204).
206	Stiff, yellow-brown clay. Test Pit B, excavated to a maximum of approximately 1.9m depth. Underlies (204) in the base of the trench.
300	Modern scalpings deposit. Test Pit C, average 0.1m thick or less. Overlies (303).
301	One of a series of inclining deposits in the section of the test pit. Stiff, yellow-brown clay. Test Pit C, excavated to a maximum of approximately 1.9m depth. Underlies (302) in the base of the trench.
302	Gritty, grey clay with coal seam (304). Test Pit C, excavated to a maximum of approximately 1.9m depth. Overlies (301).
303	Stiff, yellow-brown clay. Test Pit C. Overlies (302).
304	Thin Coal seam. Test Pit C, excavated to a maximum of approximately 1.9m depth. Found within and stratigraphically equal to layer (302).
400	Mudstone deposit in stairwell boxes and trenches, excavated to a maximum of approximately 1.9m depth One of a series of inclining deposits in the section. Overlies (401).
401	Stiff clay deposit in stairwell boxes and trenches, excavated to a maximum of approximately 1.9m depth. Overlies (402).
402	Limestone deposit in stairwell boxes and trenches, excavated to a maximum of approximately 1.9m depth. Underlies (401) in base of trench.
501	Topsoil deposit with lenses of redeposited clay. Dark, greyish-brown sandy silt with lenses of redeposited clay. Up to 800mm thick in the north facing section of the attenuation tank and service trench. Overlies (502).
502	Natural clay excavated to a maximum depth of 1.2m in the attenuation tank. Yellow clay with strong brown and pale grey streaks. Underlies (501) in base of attenuation tank and service trench.
601	Cut for coalmine shaft in north-west part of site. Seen in plan only. Sub-circular shape *c*1.50m diameter. Depth unknown. Cuts natural clay e.g. equivalent of (502).
602	Backfill of [106]. Black fairly compact coal dust, rubble etc. Seen in plan only, 0.75m diameter. Depth unknown.

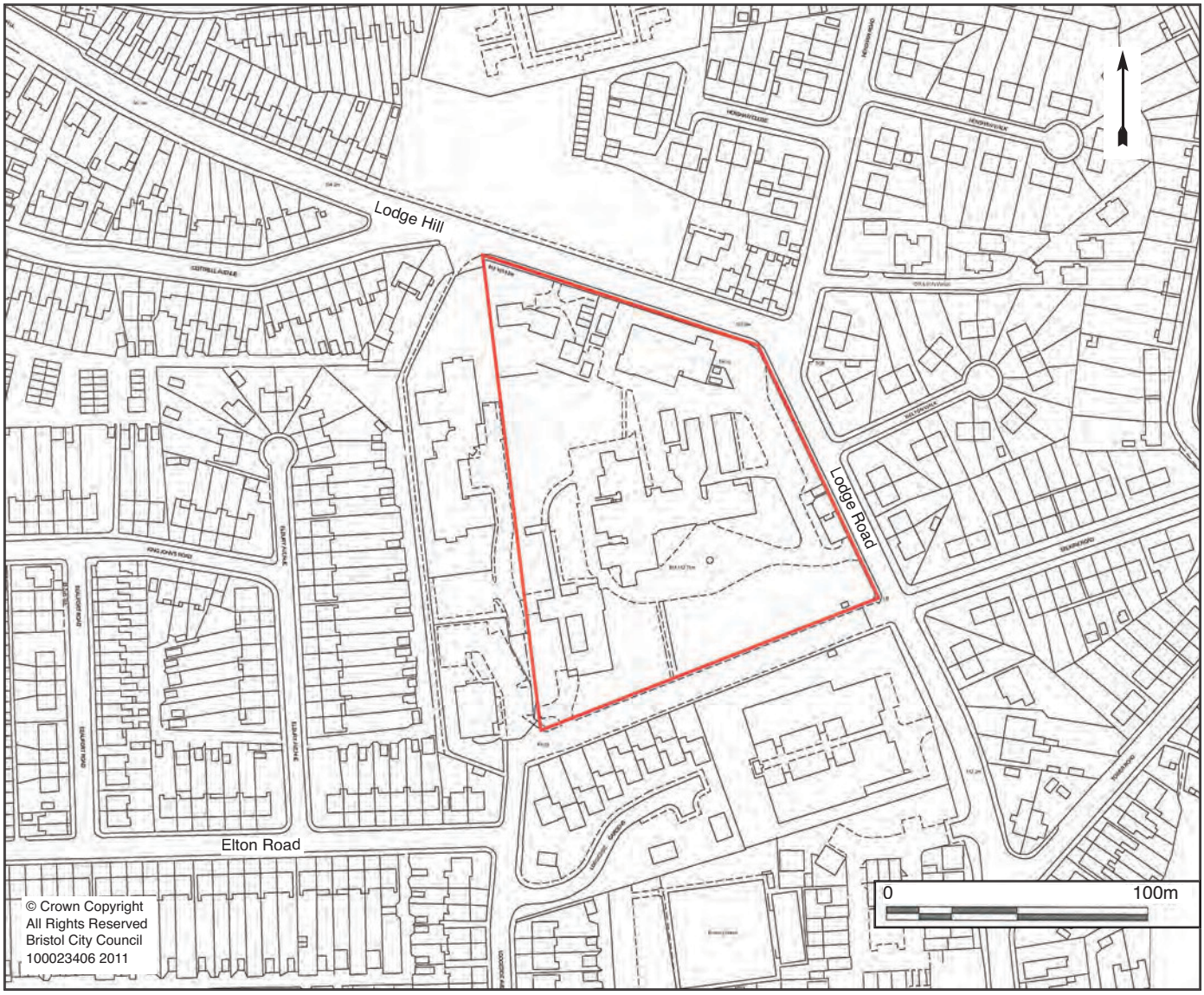

Fig.1 Site location plan, scale 1:2500

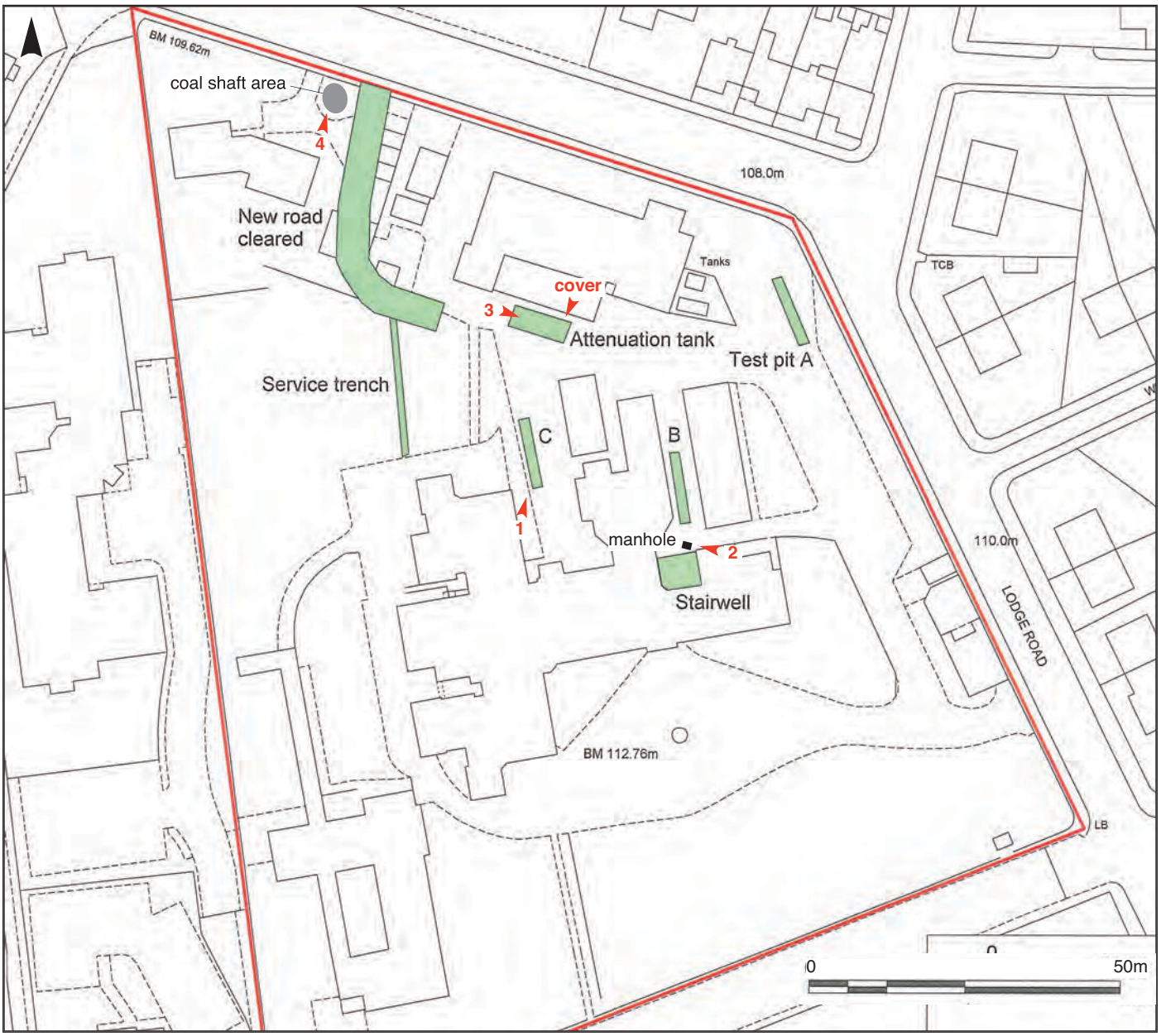

Fig.2 Plan showing study area in detail, including the locations of the monitored groundworks, scale 1:1000. Plate directions in red

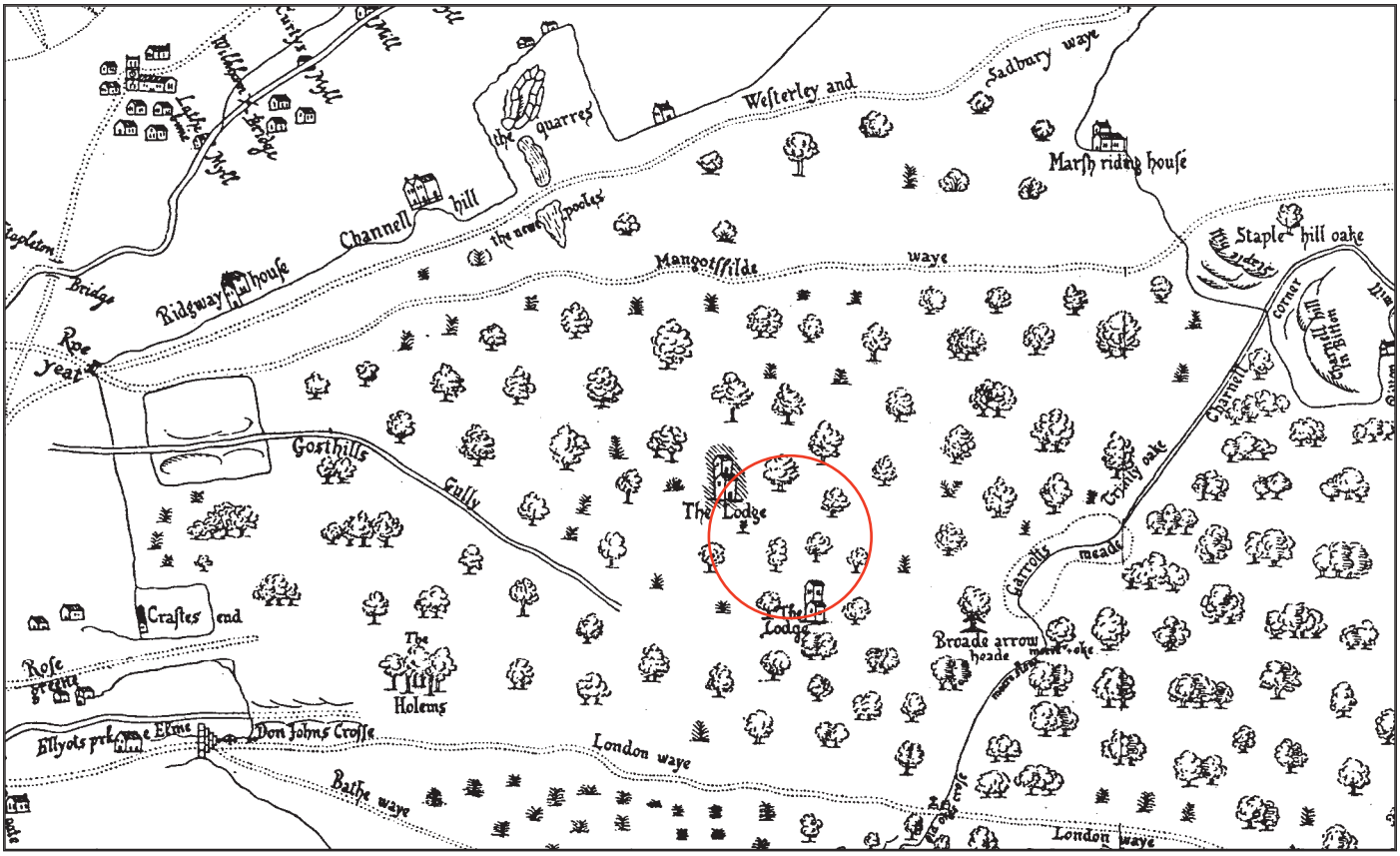

Fig.3 Extract from Map of Kingswood, 1610

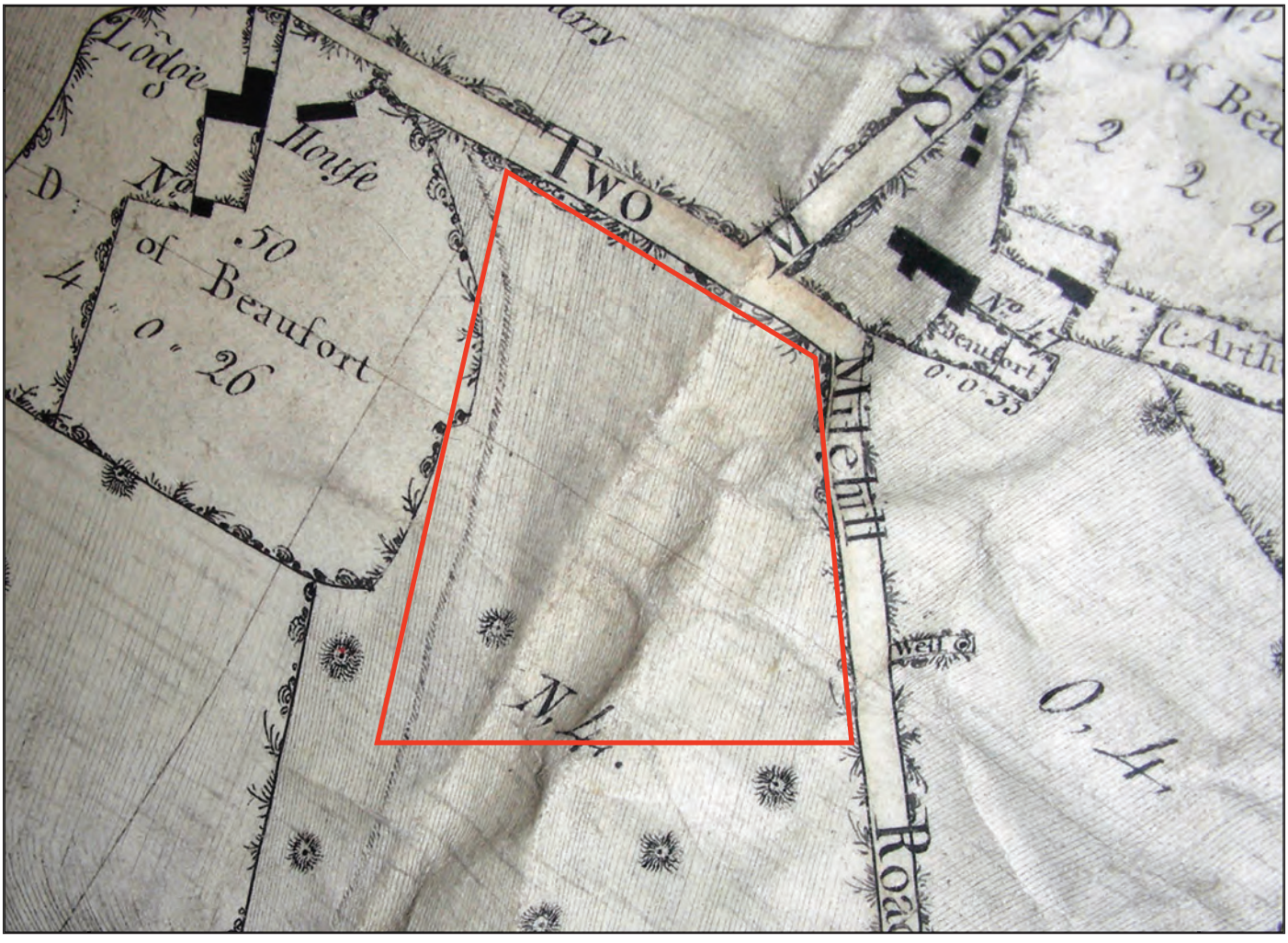

Fig.4 Extract from Jacob Sturge's Survey map, 1781

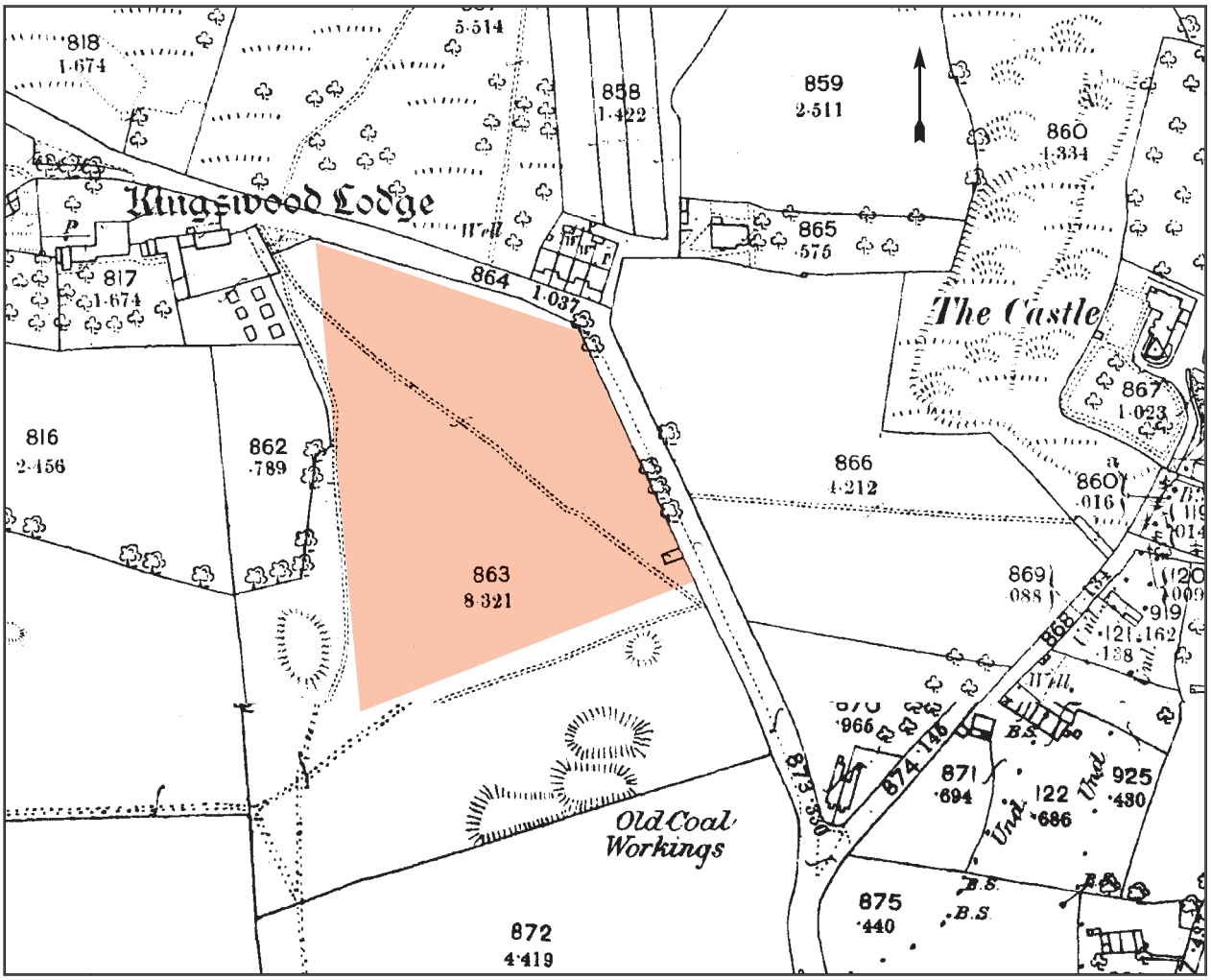

Fig.5 Extract from First Edition (1:2500) OS plan, 1881

Plate 1 Sample section of test pit C showing the interbedded layers of clay and coal seams, looking north-east

Plate 2 Brick manhole next to the stairwell area of the site, looking west

Plate 3 Attenuation tank area, excavated down to natural yellow clay, looking south-east

Plate 4 Top of the coal shaft before consolidation, looking north