

**NEW LIDL STORE,  
1184 LINCOLN ROAD,  
PETERBOROUGH,  
CAMBRIDGESHIRE**

**NGR REF: TF 16763 02523**



***ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF***  
**(OASIS ID: independ1-293498)**

**JULY 2017**

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## **CONTENTS**

- Summary**
- 1 Introduction**
- 2 Project Background**
- 3 Archaeological Background**
- 4 Aims**
- 5 Methodology**
- 6 Recording**
- 7 Results**
- 8 Discussion**
- 9 Archive**
- 10 Bibliography**

### **Appendices:**

**Sections**

**Context Descriptions**

**OASIS Form**

## **Summary**

*An archaeological watching brief was conducted by Independent Archaeology Consultants at 1184 Lincoln Road, Peterborough, Cambridgeshire. The site was generally much disturbed due to earlier construction within the area, and no finds or features of archaeological interest were being uncovered. A poorly preserved British helmet from the Second World War was collected from modern deposits.*

## **1 INTRODUCTION**

- 1.1 The site was located at 1184 Lincoln Road, Peterborough, Cambridgeshire (NGR: TF 16763 02523) (Figure 1-3). The project was carried out in accordance with the *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Brief* issued by the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists 2014, as well as discussions with Rebecca Casa Hatton, Archaeological Officer at Peterborough City Council. The project complies with the principles of the NPPF (National Planning Policy Framework 2012).
- 1.2 Independent Archaeology Consultants is an archaeological consultancy company based in Peterborough, Cambridgeshire. The company subscribes to the *Code of Conduct, the Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Brief* (CifA 2014), *Standards for Field Archaeology in the East of England* (EAA Occasional Paper 14) and *Research and Archaeology Revisited: a revised framework for the East of England* (EAA Occ. Paper No 24, 2011). All relevant CifA Codes of Practice were adhered to throughout the course of the project.

## **2 PROJECT BACKGROUND**

- 2.1 Planning Permission has been granted (16/00776/FUL) for a new Lidl store at 1184 Lincoln Road, Peterborough. The development comprised the demolition of the existing warehouse and the erection of a new Lidl food store with associated car park, landscaping and new access. No archaeological features were known from within the development area prior to the development, but archaeological remains have been found in the surrounding landscape.
- 2.2 The plot enclosed an area of some 9500 m<sup>2</sup> at an average height of 10m AOD. The geology of the site comprised River Terrace Deposits of sand, silt and gravel over Oxford Clay Formations (British Geological Survey).
- 2.3 The site was situated within an area of archaeological potential, as defined by the Peterborough City Council HER. Therefore, an archaeological watching brief was required during any construction within the site. This condition was mentioned in the Planning Permission granted by Peterborough City Council, and was in line with standards described in the NPPF.



Figure 1. The location of Peterborough in England.



Figure 2. Site Location in Peterborough.

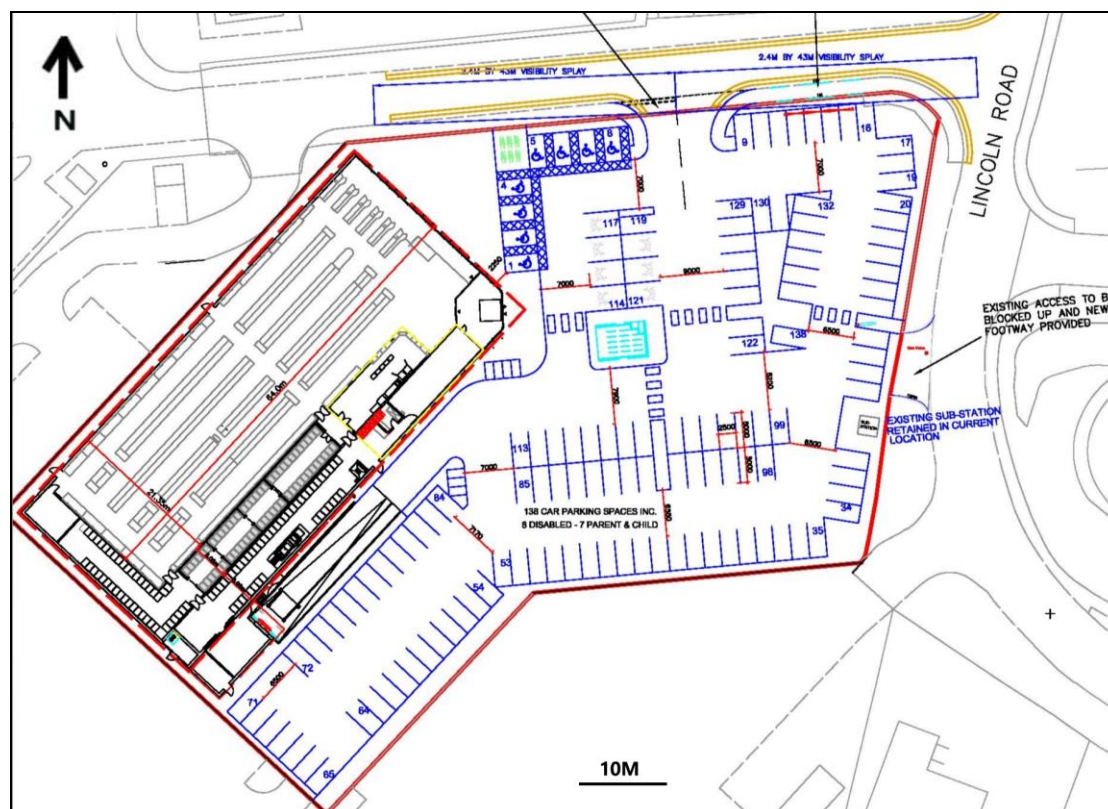


Figure 3. Site Outline and Excavated Areas.

### 3 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

- 3.1 The proposed development site was located along Lincoln Road, some 2 miles north of central Peterborough. Its location along the old Lincoln Road made the site interesting from an historical and archaeological point of view, and previous investigations in the area have indicated that features and sites of great historical and archaeological interest are present within the surrounding landscape.
- 3.2 A Romano British occupation site consisting of ditches, pits and possible huts containing pottery and one 4<sup>th</sup> century coin was located some 600m west of the proposed development site (Monument Nr. 350313).
- 3.3 A Roman Farmstead dating from the 2<sup>nd</sup> to 4<sup>th</sup> century was excavated prior to a development at Marholm Road some 200m west of the proposed development site, and an agricultural building was found along with a ditch system. Finds of tesserae and hypocaust tiles indicated the site of a substantial building in the area, along with a potential threshing floor. A coin and an early Saxon brooch were also found. A Grubenhaus was also discovered, indicating a possible Saxon settlement (Monument Nr. 350314).
- 3.4 The remains of a Medieval ridge and furrow system has been found some 250m north of the site (Monument Nr. 2509). An enclosure and Medieval

- ridge and furrow systems is also located some 250m east of the proposed development site (Id Nr. 2505).
- 3.5 An excavation was also carried out some 250m east of the proposed development site in the summer of 2005, and a Medieval ditch and a pond was being uncovered (Phoenix Consulting Archaeology Ltd 2005) (Id Nr.3621).
- 3.6 In June 2013 an archaeological trial trench evaluation was carried out some 200m east of the proposed development site and pottery, animal bones, fragments of clay pipes, pits and the remains of a building were being found (Ladocha, J. 2013) (Id Nr. 5203).
- 3.7 In 2003 an excavation was carried out at 11043 Lincoln Road, some 200m southeast of the proposed development site. Remains of a ridge and furrow system with drainage systems, a well, a wall, a pond and finds of pottery and slag were being recorded. The remains could be dated to the Roman, Medieval and Post Medieval periods (McKenna, R. F. 2003) (Id Nr. 3433).
- 3.8 In 2013 an archaeological trial trenching was carried out on land off Mallard Road some 100m southwest of the proposed development site, but the remains uncovered were of uncertain age (Oakley, E. 2013) (Id Nr. 4956).
- 3.9 The St John Baptist's Church are located some 400m north east of the proposed development site. The east wall of the nave and chancel and south doorway are dating from the early 12<sup>th</sup> century, while the south arcade and aisle are from the early 13<sup>th</sup> century. The chancel was rebuilt and the south porch added in first half of the 14<sup>th</sup> century. The church also has a modern vestry, and an east window of ca 1330 and a 13<sup>th</sup> century font. The church was restored in 1680, 1884 and 1901-2, when the chancel was rebuilt using old materials.
- 3.10 A moated site of possible Medieval origin was located some 200m northeast of the proposed development site (Monument Nr. 350303) and a BA rapier fragment from Walton was located some 250m south of the proposed development site (Monument Nr. 868229).
- 3.11 A tower mill built in 1836 for the milling of cereals was located some 600m north of the proposed development site. The mill was operated by the wind until 1908 and by engines until 1953. Since its closure the mill has been converted into a radio communications centre building with a dummy fibreglass ogee cap (Monument Nr. 498016).
- 3.12 A house, dated to ca 1765, with two storeys and attics exists some 600m northwest of the proposed development site. It is constructed from stone rubble with a stone slate roof (Monument Nr. 544906).

## 4 AIMS

4.1 The aims of the archaeological watching brief were achieved through pursuit of the following specific objectives:

- Provide a record of archaeological remains whose preservation *in situ* is threatened by the proposed work. If applicable, remains that can be preserved *in situ* will be recorded and prepared for re-burial. Therefore, steps will be taken to ensure construction and future maintenance do not threaten preserved remains
- Provide detailed information regarding the date, character, extent and degree of preservation of all excavated archaeological remains
- Define the sequence and character of activity at the site, as reflected by the excavated remains
- Interpret the archaeology of the site within its local, regional, and national, archaeological context

4.2 The watching brief also considered the general investigative themes outlined by: Medlycott, M. 2011 (ed.) *Research and Archaeology Revisited: a Revised Framework for the East of England*, East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Paper 24; *Research and Archaeology: A Framework for the Eastern Counties* (Glazebrook 1997; Brown & Glazebrook 2000), *English Heritage Archaeology Division Research Agenda* (1997); *Discovering the Past, Shaping the Future: Research Strategy 2005 - 2010* (English Heritage 2005).

4.3 Specifically, the following investigative aims were accommodated in the programme of archaeological work:

- \*characterisation of the site in the broader landscape;
- \*characterisation of the activities identified on the site;
- \*characterisation of changes affecting land-use through time

## 5 METHODOLOGY

### 5.1 Monitoring of Groundworks

All significant groundwork excavations, including demolition, were carried out in a way that allowed the early identification of archaeological features.

All significant construction excavations were supervised by an archaeologist who was granted the opportunity to clean and record any remains that were being revealed.

The program of fieldworks took into consideration potential above- and below-ground constraints and/or hazards, such as trees, utility trenches, overhead cables and areas of modern disturbance.

The development areas were excavated to the upper interface of secure archaeological deposits or, where these were not present, to the upper interface of natural deposits. The watching brief was not carried out at the expenses of the heritage assets within the site and was minimally intrusive to potential archaeological remains.

## **5.2 Metal Detecting**

Metal detector sweeps of exposed features and spoil heaps were carried out in advance of, and during, the excavation process.

## **5.3 Hand Excavation**

All man-made features were investigated. Apparently natural features (such as tree throws) were sampled sufficiently to establish their origin and to characterise any related human activity. Hand excavation and feature sampling was sufficient to establish the date and character, and to allow appropriate levels of recording.

Deposits and layers (including buried horizons of top- and subsoils) were sampled sufficiently to enable a confident interpretation of their character, date and relationships with other features. All exposed features were subject to a minimum of 50% excavation.

Structural remains were excavated fully and in plan/phase, as appropriate to the requirements of the project. The watching brief provided a representative sample of the site's archaeology at no significant cost to the value or integrity of the uncovered remains.

## **5.4 Recording**

A numbered single context-based recording system, written on suitable forms and indexed appropriately, was used for all elements of the archaeological recording programme.

Measured plans were produced showing all exposed features (including natural features and modern features etc.) and excavated areas. Individual measured plans and sections were also produced for all excavated features and deposits. These were accurately tied into trench plans/trench location plans, that in turn were accurately related to the Ordnance Survey grid and to suitably mapped local features (boundaries, buildings, roads etc.). All sections and plans were related accurately to Ordnance Datum.

A photographic record comprising monochrome and digital photos formed part of the excavation record. A selection of digital photographs was also used in this report (a maximum of two photographs per A4 sheet).



## **6 RECORDING**

- 6.1 A numbered single context-based recording system, written on suitable forms and indexed appropriately, was used for all elements of the archaeological recording programme.
- 6.2 Measured plans were produced that show all exposed features (including natural features, modern features etc.) and excavated areas. Individual measured plans and sections in the scales 1:20 and 1:50 were produced for all excavated features and deposits. These were accurately tied into trench plans/trench location plans that in turn were accurately related to the Ordnance Survey grid and to suitably local features (boundaries, buildings, roads etc.). All sections and plans were related accurately to Ordnance Datum.
- 6.3 A photographic record comprising monochrome and digital photos formed part of the excavation record. A selection of digital photos was also included in this report.

## **7 RESULTS**

- 7.1 The whole development area showed clear signs of having been much disturbed in recent years. Thick layers of crushed brick, mortar and concrete with modern rusty iron items were covering large areas of the site. Only occasionally could a horizon of the former topsoil be spotted within the area, but not anywhere could a potentially archaeological level be spotted between the former topsoil and the Natural deposits.
- 7.2 The lowest deposit encountered in the development area was the Natural deposits, which consisted of light, grey, plastic silty clay with occasional small stones. Not anywhere could any potentially archaeological features be seen cut into the Natural deposits.
- 7.3 Covering the Natural was occasionally up to 0.15m deep pockets of the former topsoil (103) preserved, which consisted of light brown, soft silty clay with occasional roots and small stones.
- 7.4 Overlaying the pockets of topsoil was an up to 0.35m thick demolition layer or fill of crushed machine made bricks and mortar with occasional modern rusty iron items (102). This layer was possibly created during the construction works with the former warehouse.
- 7.5 The uppermost deposit within the development area was a modern layer of mixed concrete, gravel, stones and bricks (101). This layer was clearly a modern fill created to support the demolished warehouse. A British military helmet from the Second World War was also collected from this layer. The helmet was a steel helmet of the model Mark II, a model that came into production in 1938.



*Figure 4. Overview of the area facing north. The ground was showing clear signs of having been previously disturbed down to a depth of about 0.7m below the present ground level.*



*Figure 5. A close-up photo of the northern section of the site. Modern bricks, concrete and other rubble can be seen on top of the natural clay.*



*Figure 6. The southern section of the site gave a similar impression as the north end of the site, with modern disturbance reaching deep down in the ground.*



*Figure 7. In the hole for an old tank could be seen modern deposits sitting on top of a thin layer of preserved topsoil. No archaeological horizons could be identified in between the modern deposits and the topsoil.*



*Figure 8. Massive pieces of concrete from the demolished warehouse were sometimes reaching far into the natural deposits of the site.*



*Figure 9. A poorly preserved British helmet from the Second World War was found in the context (101). It was a steel helmet of the model Mark II, which come into production from 1938 onwards.*

## 8 DISCUSSION

- 8.1 The archaeological watching brief for the new Lidl store at 1184 Lincoln Road, Peterborough, Cambridgeshire indicated that the whole development site had been much disturbed in recent years. Thick deposits of modern demolition materials were covering the entire site, and only occasionally could pockets of the older topsoil be identified.
- 8.2 No artefacts of archaeological interest were for this reason uncovered during the investigation. A steel helmet from the Second World War was collected from the uppermost layer of the site, but might have ended up there with deposits that were brought into the site during the construction of the former warehouse.
- 8.3 Even though a large number of archaeological sites are known from the surrounding landscape the watching brief which is described in this report found no evidence for such settlements. It is possible, however, that any such remains were destroyed during the construction of the former warehouse, as no archaeological investigations seem to have taken place in the area during that period.
- 8.4 The fields north of central Peterborough are otherwise known for having being inhabited during both Prehistoric times and later periods in British history. Future archaeological investigations in the area may therefore reveal further evidence for such settlements.

## 9 ARCHIVE

The archive consists of the following:

### Paper Record

The project brief	The project report
Written Scheme of Investigation	The primary site records
The photographic and drawn records	Finds

The archive is currently maintained by Independent Archaeology Consultants.  
The archive will be transferred to:

The Archaeological Collections at Peterborough Museum.

## 10 BIBLIOGRAPHY

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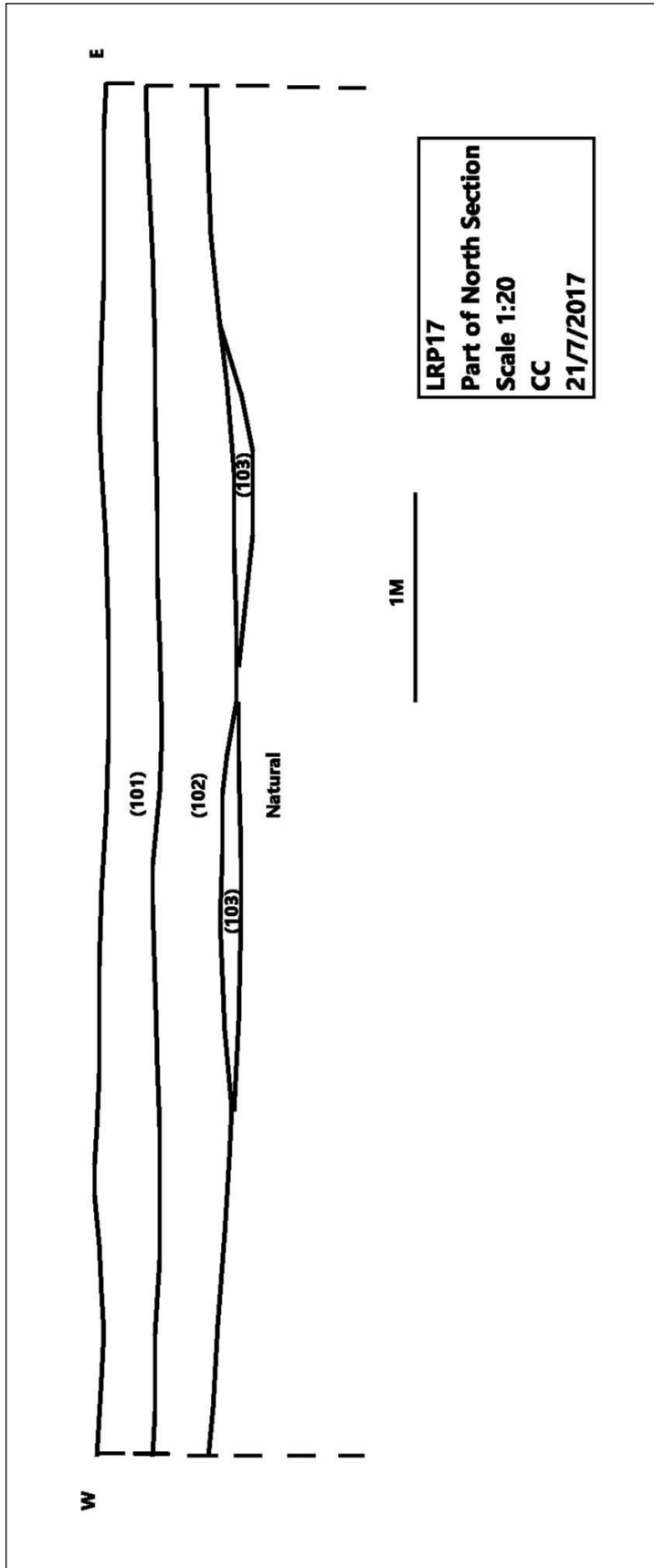
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## APPENDICES

### CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS

<b>Context nr</b>	<b>Depth (m)</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Younger than</b>	<b>Older than</b>
(101)	0.25	Mixed concrete, gravel, stones and bricks. Clearly a modern fill to support the demolished buildings.	(102)	-
(102)	0.35	Older demolition layer or fill of machine made bricks and mortar. Occasional modern rusty iron items.	(103)	(101)
(103)	0.15	Old horizon of Topsoil. Partly preserved over the area. Light brown, soft silty clay with occasional roots and small stones.	Natural	(102)
Natural	-	Light grey, plastic silty clay. Occasional small stones.	-	(103)



## New Lidl Store, 1184 Lincoln Road, Peterborough: Archaeological Watching Brief

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***OASIS ID: independ1-293498***

### Project details

Project name	New Lidl Store. 1184 Lincoln Road, Peterborough
Short description of the project	An archaeological Watching Brief during the construction of the new store.
Project dates	Start: 21-06-2017 End: 21-07-2017
Previous/future work	No / No
Any associated project reference codes	16/00776/FUL - Planning Application No.
Any associated project reference codes	LRP17 - Sitecode
Type of project	Recording project
Site status	Local Authority Designated Archaeological Area
Current Land use	Industry and Commerce 1 - Industrial
Monument type	SN CL Modern
Monument type	SN CL Modern
Significant Finds	SN CL Modern
Significant Finds	SN CL Modern
Investigation type	"Watching Brief"
Prompt	Planning condition

### Project location

Country	England
Site location	CAMBRIDGESHIRE PETERBOROUGH PETERBOROUGH New Lidl Store, 1184 Lincoln Road, Peterborough
Postcode	PE4 6LA
Study area	9500 Square metres
Site coordinates	TF 16763 02523 52.607556866304 -0.275493528225 52 36 27 N 000 16 31 W Point

## New Lidl Store, 1184 Lincoln Road, Peterborough: Archaeological Watching Brief

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Height OD / Depth	Min: 9m Max: 11m
<b>Project creators</b>	
Name of Organisation	Independent Archaeology Consultants
Project brief originator	Local Authority Archaeologist and/or Planning Authority/advisory body
Project design originator	Independent Archaeology Consultants
Project director/manager	Christer Carlsson
Project supervisor	Christer Carlsson
Type of sponsor/funding body	Developer

### Project archives

Physical Archive recipient	Peterborough Museum
Physical Contents	"Metal"
Digital Archive recipient	Peterborough Museum
Digital Contents	"Metal"
Digital Media available	"Images raster / digital photography","Images vector"
Paper Archive recipient	Peterborough Museum
Paper Contents	"Metal"
Paper Media available	"Context sheet","Photograph","Plan","Report","Section"

### Project bibliography 1

Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title	New Lidl Store, 1184 Lincoln Road, Peterborough, Cambridgeshire
Author(s)/Editor(s)	Carlsson, C
Date	2017

**New Lidl Store, 1184 Lincoln Road, Peterborough: Archaeological Watching Brief**

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