

Waitrose Store, Harborough Road, Oadby, Leicestershire

An Archaeological Evaluation Report

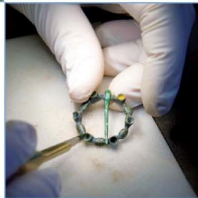
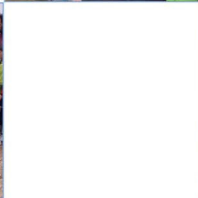
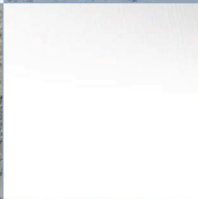
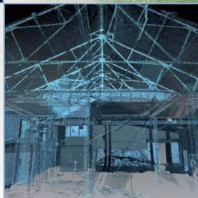
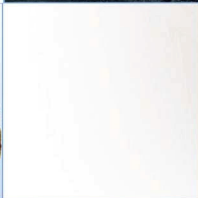
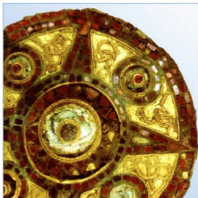
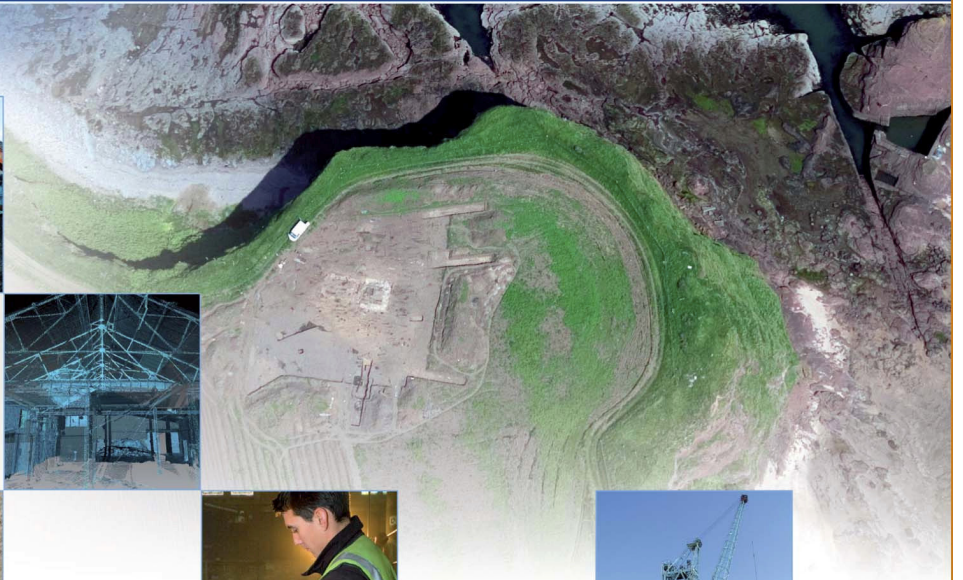
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Group

ARCHAEOLOGY

HERITAGE

CONSERVATION

Waitrose Store, Harborough Road, Oadby, Leicestershire

An Archaeological Evaluation Report

On Behalf of: **Bowmer and Kirkland Ltd**
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National Grid Reference (NGR): **SK 6243 0055**

AOC Project No: **30375**

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This document has been prepared in accordance with AOC standard operating procedures.

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Non-Technical Summary

During February and March 2010, an archaeological evaluation was undertaken by AOC Archaeology Group on behalf of Bowmer and Kirkland at the proposed Waitrose site on Harborough Road, Oadby, Leicestershire (NGR: SK 6243 0055).

The evaluation comprised the machine excavation of eight trenches located across the site. The trenches varied in size from 20.00m to 30.00m in length by 2.00m wide. Only one trench (Trench 6) contained archaeological remains in the form of a post-medieval pit and an undated ditch. The site had been terraced during the modern era which heavily truncated the site. The natural horizon of clay and silt clay with natural stone inclusions was recorded in all trenches. The natural was recorded at a height of 102.55mOD to 107.44mOD.

1. Introduction

- 1.1 This document details the findings of an archaeological evaluation undertaken at the proposed development of a Waitrose store on Harborough Road, Oadby, Leicestershire (Figure 1). The investigation took place between February and March 2010 over three visits and comprised the excavation of eight trenches. All works were undertaken by a team of professional archaeologists.
- 1.2 The site is centred on National Grid Reference (NGR) SK 6243 0055 and is within land bounded to the north by Harborough Road, to the east by land fronting on to New Street, to the south by High Street and properties of Albion Court, and to the west by neighbouring residential and commercial properties fronting on to Harborough Road and Church Street (Figure 2). The site is irregular in shape and measures a total area of approximately 0.1 hectares.
- 1.3 The proposed development scheme comprises the construction of a Waitrose retail store with an associated service yard and parking areas. The store will be located in the western section of the site and comprising a ground floor sales and service area with first floor offices and storage. A service yard will be situated in the west of the site at the rear of the store with access on to Harborough Road to the north. A two storey parking area will be located in the central, northern, southern and eastern sections of the site situated at 'basement' and 'ground level'.

2. Planning Background

- 2.1 The local planning authority is Oadby and Wigston Borough Council. Archaeological advice to the council is provided by Lucy Griffin, Planning Archaeologist to Leicestershire County Council.
- 2.2 In accordance with Planning Policy Guidance: Archaeology and Planning (PPG16) issued by the Department of the Environment in 1990 (DoE, 199), and the recommendations of Lucy Griffin, an archaeological investigation was required as a condition of planning consent. The condition states:

“No development shall take place within the application area until the applicant, or their agents or successors in title, has secured the implementation and completion of a programme of archaeological work commencing with an initial exploratory investigation. This work shall be undertaken in accordance with a written scheme of investigation which has been submitted to and approved in writing by the planning authority.”

“Reason To ensure satisfactory archaeological investigation and recording.”
- 2.3 Planning Policy Guidance PPG16 has now been superseded by Planning Policy Statement 5 (PPS 5).
- 2.4 The southwest corner of the application site falls partially within the London Road and St. Peter's Conservation Area as defined in the Oadby and Wigston Local Plan, 1999. This area includes the extant unoccupied residential building called the 'Barnhouse' on the site's south-western boundary.
- 2.4 The first stage in the archaeological investigation was the production of a Desk-Based Assessment (AOC 2008). Further to the results of the Desk-Based Assessment an archaeological evaluation was recommended to inform on a suitable mitigation strategy and this was carried out in accordance with a Written Scheme of Investigation (AOC 2010).
- 2.5 This report details the results of the archaeological evaluation.

3. Geology & Topography

- 3.1 The natural topography of this area of south Leicestershire is relatively flat with gentle undulations in the landscape. Within the local area around the development site the land rises from approximately 90m +OD in the river valley of Wash Brook (around 300m south of the site) to the highest point of approximately 120m +OD in the area of 'The Yew's' (around 290m north-east of the site) before gently declining to around 85m +OD in the area of Gartree Road in the north.
- 3.2 A topographic survey of the development site itself, conducted by Glanville Consulting Engineers (2007) in February 2007, shows that the site quite distinctly slopes from the northwest to southeast. The survey indicates the site is situated at around 108m +OD in the north west corner to around 106m OD in the northeast, and falls to approximately 106m +OD and 104m +OD on the west and east boundaries respectively, and down to between 102m -103m +OD in south of the site.
- 3.3 The British Geological Survey Map indicates that the site is underlain by a superficial geology of Thrussington Till (Diamicton sediments) overlying a bedrock of Blue Lias Formation Mudstone.

4. Archaeological & Historical Background

The following information is taken from the Desk Based Assessment for the site (AOC 2008).

4.1 The Prehistoric Period (c. 500,000 BP – AD 43)

- 4.1.1 Although there are no recorded prehistoric finds or features recorded within the HER or NMR, evidence indicates a number of findspots of Palaeolithic to Bronze Age date in the wider Oadby area suggesting a degree of prehistoric activity, though it is not until the Iron Age that evidence for settlement activity is noticed. Iron Age sites have been discovered approximately 1.5km to the north of the development site at University Playing Fields and approximately 500m to the south of the site at Rosemead Drive.

4.2 The Roman Period (AD 43 – 410)

- 4.2.1 Roman archaeological activity within a 500m radius is relatively scarce with only two findspots; one related to a Roman coin and another related to a carved head that may be of either Roman or medieval origin. Within the wider area, however, there is a greater degree of archaeological evidence dating to the Roman period.
- 4.2.2 Roman evidence has been discovered at a number of locations in the Oadby area, including settlement activity and Roman inhumations discovered in the area of Rosemead Drive and further settlement activity in the area of University Playing Fields (possibly suggesting a continuation of activity from the Iron Age period), and numerous findspots of Roman date in the wider Oadby area. Furthermore, Gartree Road, which lies adjacent the University Playing Field is thought to follow the line of a Roman road.

4.3 The Anglo-Saxon Period (c. 451 – 1065)

- 4.3.1 No archaeological evidence dating to the early-medieval period has been identified within the 500m study radius, however possible inhumation and settlement activity has been tentatively identified in the area of the Roman inhumations at Rosemead Drive approximately 500m to the south of the development site.
- 4.3.2 Historical and documentary evidence, however, does suggest an early-medieval presence in the Oadby area as suggested by its place-name area. During the 9th / 10th century large part of

Leicestershire fell under the Danelaw, the area of England conquered and settled by the Danish. While physical archaeological evidence for Scandinavian activity is uncommon, the presence of these settlers is reflected in place name evidence. 'Oadby' suggests such activity; the ending 'by' is a Danish element meaning village

4.4 The Medieval Period (c. AD 1066 - 1485)

- 4.4.1 The earliest known written evidence of Oadby is in the Domesday Book in AD 1086, and there are numerous historical sources that relate to Oadby dating from the 12th century onwards, comprising grants, and records of fines, taxations, wills and land ownership (Nichols, 1807). There are three entries that refer to Oadby in the Domesday Book:

Land of Hugh of Grandmesnil

Roger Holds 1½ c. (carucate) of land in Oadby from Hugh. Land for 1 plough. The Value was and is 5 s. (shillings)

Land of Countess Judith

Countess Judith holds 9c. and 2b. (bovate) of land in Oadby. There were 9 ploughs. 46 freemen with 11 small holders and 3 slaves have as many ploughs. Meadow, 30 acres. The value was 40s; now 60s.

Robert holds 2c. of land less 2 b. in Oadby and Wigston (magna) from the Countess. There was 1½ ploughs. Now 1 small holder. The value was and is 2s.

(Morris & Morgan 1979)

- 4.4.2 'Plough' refers to a plough team with its eight oxen and the plough itself. Carucate was originally the amount of land that one plough team could plough in one day, while bovate is the measure of land which could be ploughed by one eighth of a plough, e.g. one eighth of a carucate. A Carucate is equivalent to a Hide (used outside of Danelaw) which is approximately 120 acres, depending on local variations. Based on these calculations, in 1086 there were 61 assessed people living in Oadby and approximately 1530 medieval acres of assessed land. If 'have as many ploughs' in the second entry means three ploughs, then the size would be 1890 acres. At the time of enclosure in 1759 there were approximately 1800 acres of open or common land in Oadby (Nichols 1801) and by 1848 Samuel Lewis's Topographical Dictionary of England records Oadby as comprising a total of 1896 acres.
- 4.4.3 The Domesday Book does not mention woodland, water meadow or mills etc. and would suggest that Oadby was an agriculture community, possibly largely arable. There is also no mention of a church or chapel suggesting Oadby was a relatively small settlement. However, by the late 11th / 12th century the parish church of St. Peter, approximately 110m south of the site, was constructed; originally ministered by monks from nearby Launde Abbey. The church was rebuilt in stone around AD 1275.
- 4.4.4 The development site is situated along the High Street. 'High Street' is a relatively common street name, dating to the medieval period, and in a number of examples it is thought to indicate the main thoroughfare through a settlement. This may be the case in Oadby which would suggest the possibility of commercial and residential activity associated with a historic roadway, while

alternatively it may refer to the natural rising topography of the site. There is currently not enough evidence to suggest which definition is correct for Oadby.

- 4.4.5 The street pattern immediately to the south of the site (Bakehouse Lane / Church Street and Black Dog Lane / Albion Street) also appears to have a possible medieval layout and these streets are narrow lanes – a common feature of older streets and possibly indicating the antiquity of this area. The Leicestershire Historic Environments Record has identified the approximate medieval and post-medieval historic core of the settlement and the development site is situated in the northern-central part of this area.

4.5 The Post-Medieval Period (c. AD 1485 - modern)

- 4.5.1 Historical sources show that in 1564 there were 40 families living in Oadby suggesting that the settlement remained relatively small into the post-medieval period. A fine levied against John Waldron (who held the manor of Oadby) in 1607 stated that he had eight messuages (dwelling house and associated curtilage), seven cottages, 12 gardens, 12 orchards, 300 acres of land, 53 acres of meadow, 372 acres of heath and 6s.yearly rent in Oadby, Wigston and Knighton; suggesting the rural nature of the local area (Nichols, 1801).
- 4.5.2 1801 taxation records shows that Oadby contained 126 inhabited houses, two uninhabited, 129 families in which 309 were males and 325 females, in all 624; of whom 60 were chiefly employed in agriculture and 298 in trade, manufactures etc. While this record does not give a full account of all of Oadby, it does give an idea of the size and nature of the settlement.
- 4.5.3 By c. 1840 the population was around 1000 and began to climb towards the end of the 19th century. At the beginning of the 20th century the assessed population had reached 1890 which expanded to 2850 by the time Oadby became an Urban District in 1913.
- 4.5.4 The settlement continued to increase in size and status through the first half of the 20th century. There was rapid post-Second World War expansion, coupled with improvements to the local infrastructure. In 1974 Oadby and neighbouring Wigston were merged administratively to become Oadby and Wigston Borough Council with a population of 52,000 plus by the 1980s, over 20,000 of which lived in Oadby alone.
- 4.5.5 The Ordnance Survey Map of 1886 shows the northern, western and eastern parts of the site are absent of development and most likely agricultural land. A number of buildings are shown in the southern section of the site fronting on to High Street (Harborough Road) with yard areas behind which include water pumps. The 1904 and 1930 maps show little change except for the clearance of the properties on the south of the site. It is not until the Invicta Plastics factory was built in the late 1950's that the main part of the site was developed (AOC 2008).

5. Aims of the Investigation

- 5.1 The aims of the Evaluation were defined as being:
- To establish the presence/absence of archaeological remains within the site.
 - To determine the extent, condition, nature, character, quality and date of any archaeological remains encountered.
 - To record and sample excavate any archaeological remains encountered.

- To assess the ecofactual and environmental potential of any archaeological features and deposits.
- To determine the extent of previous truncations of the archaeological deposits.
- To enable the Archaeological Advisor to Leicestershire County Council to make an informed decision on the status of the archaeological deposits and any requirement for further mitigation work.
- To make available to interested parties the results of the investigation in order to inform the mitigation strategy as part of the planning process.

5.2 The specific aims of the Evaluation were:

- Determine the presence / absence of remains relating to medieval activity.
- Determine the presence / absence of remains relating to Post-Medieval activity on the site.

5.3 The final aim was to make public the results of the investigation, subject to any confidentiality restrictions.

6. Methodology

6.1 The evaluation comprised of the machine excavation of eight trenches (Figure 2). Six trenches measured 30.00m x 2.00m, one measured 20m x 2.00m and one measured 25.00m x 2.00m. The trenches were located as laid out in the WSI (AOC 2010) however Trench 5 was moved slightly further south and east to avoid intrusions and Trench 7 was moved slightly further east due to the identified location of untruncated deposits.

6.2 All machining during the evaluation was carried out using a 360 excavator with a smooth bladed ditching bucket, under the constant supervision of the Archaeological Project Supervisor.

6.4 The accession code X.A4.2010 was obtained for the project from Leicestershire Museums, and used for all fieldwork.

6.5 All evaluation trenches were accurately located to the National Grid and their levels calculated using two temporary benchmarks established by the developers on site and with a value of 109.00mOD and 103.44mOD.

6.6 All recording was in accordance with the standards and requirements of the Museum of London's *Archaeological Field Manual* (MoL 1994).

6.7 All of the work was carried out in line with:

- Archaeological Guidance Paper (AGP): 3, *Standards and Practices in Archaeological Fieldwork* (English Heritage 1998)
- Institute for Archaeologists – *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluation*. (IfA 2009).
- Institute for Archaeologists – *Code of Conduct* (IfA 2010).
- United Kingdom Institute for Conservation – *Conservation Guidelines No.2* (UKIC 1983).

- United Kingdom Institute for Conservation – *Guidance for Archaeological Conservation Practice* (UKIC 1990).

- 6.8 A continuous unique numbering system was employed. For each trench, a block of numbers in a continuous sequence was allocated.
- 6.9 Written descriptions, comprising both factual data and interpretative elements, were recorded on standardised sheets.
- 6.10 The evaluation trenching was monitored by Lucy Griffin, archaeological advisor to Oadby and Wigston Borough Council, and Andy Leonard, Fieldwork Manager (South), for AOC Archaeology.

7. Results

Trench 1 (Figure 2 & 3)

Context No	Depth	Height of Deposit (mOD)	Description/Interpretation
100	0.21m	107.66 – 107.45	Tarmac and made ground.
101	0.14m	107.45 – 107.31	Greenish blue clay. Possibly alluvium.
102	0.15m	107.31 – 107.16	Yellow orange clay.

- 7.1 Trench 1 measured 30m x 2.00m and was aligned northwest-southeast.
- 7.2 The earliest deposit in Trench 1 was (102), a yellow orange silty clay interpreted as a natural deposit. The natural was recorded at a height of 107.31mOD. Cutting into the natural deposits were two linear features [104] and [105]. The linear features ran northeast-southwest and measured 1.7m x 0.72m and 2.0m x 0.48m respectively. Linear feature [104] appeared to terminate within the trench. The fill of both features (101), a greenish blue clay, measuring 0.15m and 0.08m thick, appeared also to overlay the entire trench as a thin, possibly alluvial deposit. This suggests that the linear features may be undulations within the naturally lain deposits. An environmental sample taken from context (101) contained a small assemblage for finds consisting of one piece of undiagnostic pottery, fragments of Welsh slate and several pieces of post-medieval slag (Appendix B). Macrobotanical analysis of the sample revealed the presence of three broad beans, caryopses of bread type wheat and barley, in addition to a small assemblage of wood charcoal (Appendix B).
- 7.3 Truncating layer (101) was modern intrusion [103] recorded as a rectangular cut filled with dirty grey clay and gravel with wood inclusions which suggests a previous post and posthole (Plate 1). The feature measured 0.80m x 0.28m.
- 7.4 Overlying the trench was (100), a 0.21m thick layer of modern made ground and tarmac.



Plate 1. Posthole and wood of feature [103] in Trench 1.

Trench 2 (Figure 2 & 6)

Context No	Depth	Height of Deposit (mOD)	Description/Interpretation
200	0.30m	107.79 – 107.49	Tarmac and made ground.
201	0.05m	107.49 – 107.44	Greenish blue clay. Possibly alluvium.
202	0.20m	107.44 – 107.24	Yellow orange clay.

7.5 Trench 2 measured 30m x 2.00m and was aligned north-south.

7.6 The earliest deposit recorded in Trench 2 was (202), yellow orange silty clay located at 107.24-107.44mOD, interpreted as natural. Overlying the clay was a 0.05m thick deposit of greenish blue clay which represents an alluvial deposit. Horizontally truncating and overlying the trench was a layer of made ground and modern tarmac.

7.7 No archaeological remains were recorded in Trench 2.

Trench 3 (Figure 2 & 6)

Context No	Depth	Height of Deposit (mOD)	Description/Interpretation
300	1.00m	106.90 – 105.90	Mid yellow brown sandy clay. Disturbed topsoil-made ground.
302	NFE	105.90	Mid brown yellow sandy and clay with inclusions of natural stone.

7.8 Trench 3 measured 30m x 2.00m and was aligned roughly east-west (Plate 2).



Plate 2. Trench 3 general shot east facing.

- 7.9 The earliest deposit recorded in Trench 3 was (302), brown yellow sandy clay located at 105.9mOD, interpreted as natural. Cutting into the clay was [301] a north-south running concrete foundation beam which is likely to have been part of the former factory which previously occupied the site. The beam measured 2.0m x 0.45m x 0.30m deep and was recorded at a height of 106.08mOD.
- 7.10 Overlying the trench was (300), a 1.0m thick deposit of disturbed topsoil or made ground. The layer contained inclusions of brick.

Trench 4 (Figure 2 & 4)

Context No	Depth	Height of Deposit (mOD)	Description/Interpretation
400	0.70m	104.38 – 103.68	Loose light brown silt with inclusions of brick, slate and plastic. Demolition layer.
401	0.60m	103.68 – 103.08	Compact light brown clay silt.
404	0.20m	103.08 – 102.88	Mid brown yellow sandy clay with inclusions of natural stone

7.11 Trench 4 measured 20m x 2.00m and was aligned roughly north-south (Plate 3).



Plate 3. Trench 4 general shot.

- 7.12 The earliest deposit recorded in Trench 4 was (404), mid brown yellow sandy clay with natural stone inclusions, interpreted as natural. This was overlaid by (401), a 0.60m thick deposit of compacted light brown clay silt which may represent a later natural horizon. Cutting into (401) was [403] a circular soakaway or well, partially exposed in plan, measuring 1.80m x 0.50m x 0.75m deep. The method of construction indicated the structure potentially dated to 19th century. The soakaway/well, recorded at a height of 103.68mOD, was filled with (402), a dark brown silt with inclusions of sandstone (Plate 4). Around the exterior of the cut was a large percentage of gravel or stone, some appeared to have been burnt. The stones maybe part of the structure forming a lining course around the edge; however the stone appeared to have been loosely packed and may instead be part of the backfill.



Plate 4. Backfilled soakaway Trench 4 east facing.

- 7.13 Overlying the trench was (400), a 0.70m thick deposit of loose light brown silt with inclusions of brick, slate and plastic. This has been interpreted as a demolition deposit.

Trench 5 (Figure 2 & 6)

Context No	Depth	Height of Deposit (mOD)	Description/Interpretation
500	0.60m	104.05 – 103.45	Yellow orange sandy clay with natural stone inclusions. Redeposited natural.
501	0.70m	103.45 – 102.75	Grey blue brown clay with inclusions of bricks, tarmac and stone.
502	NFE	102.75m+	Orange brown sandy clay with inclusions of large natural stone.

- 7.14 Trench 5 measured 30m x 2.00m and was aligned roughly north-south.
- 7.15 The earliest deposit recorded in Trench 5 was (502), an orange brown sandy clay with inclusions of large natural stone. This was overlaid by (501), a 0.70m thick deposit of grey blue brown clay with inclusions of bricks, tarmac and stone which was in turn overlaid by (500) a 0.60m thick deposit of yellow orange sandy clay with natural stone inclusions, interpreted as redeposited natural. Both deposits (501) and (500) are made ground layers associated with previous modern development
- 7.16 No archaeological remains were recorded in Trench 5.

Trench 6 (Figure 2 & 5)

Context No	Depth	Height of Deposit (mOD)	Description/Interpretation
600	0.60m	105.88 – 105.28	Light brown clay silt with frequent brick, stone and slate. Demolition layer.
601	0.20m	105.28 – 105.08	Compact mid brown clay silt with occasional stone and slate.
606	NFE	105.08m+	Moderately compacted yellow clay slit. Natural.

- 7.17 Trench 6 measured 30m x 2.00m and was aligned roughly north-south.
- 7.18 The earliest deposit recorded in Trench 6 was (606), a moderately compacted yellow clay slit, interpreted as a natural deposit. Cutting into the natural clay was linear feature [605] and sub-rectangular feature [603]. Linear feature [605] ran east-west and measured 0.80m x 2.20m x 0.20m deep. The cut was steeply sided with a concave base (Plate 5). The linear was filled with (604), a mid brown grey silty clay with occasional flint and stone. Assessment of the environmental sample taken from the fill of linear [605] identified five fragments of animal bone, all deriving from sheep/goat sized animal (Appendix B). The linear feature may be the remains of a boundary ditch which had naturally silted up rather than deliberately backfilled.



Plate 5. Linear [606] in Trench 6 west facing.

- 7.19 Sub rectangular feature [603] was recorded approximately 2.50m to the north of [605]. The possible pit measured 1.20m x 0.80m x 0.35m deep and was filled by (602), recorded as a friable green mid grey clay sandy silt with inclusions of charcoal flecks, stone, clear window glass, white glazed earthenware pottery, and animal bone (Plate 6). The ceramics indicate the deposit dates to no earlier than 1800AD. Both features were recorded at a height of 105.11mOD.
- 7.20 Overlying both features was (601), a 0.20m thick layer of compact mid brown clay silt with occasional stone and slate, interpreted as made ground. This was in turn overlaid by (600), a 0.60m thick layer of light brown clay silt with frequent brick, stone and slate interpreted as a demolition layer.



Plate 6. Feature [604] in Trench 6 north facing.

Trench 7 (Figure 2 & 6)

Context No	Depth	Height of Deposit (mOD)	Description/Interpretation
700	0.33m	105.79 – 104.58	Dark purple grey red sandy clay with inclusions of gravel and stone. Modern surface.
701	0.18m	104.58 – 104.40	Mid orange yellow brown silty clay with inclusions of small flint. Redeposited natural.
702	0.30m	104.40 – 104.10	Dark grey brown silty clay with charcoal flecks. Buried topsoil.
703	0.12m	104.10 – 103.98	Mid greyish yellow brown silty clay with frequent inclusions of natural stone.

- 7.21 Trench 7 measured 25m x 2.00m and was aligned roughly east-west (Plate 7).
- 7.22 The earliest deposit recorded in Trench 7 was (703), a 0.12m thick layer of mid greyish yellow brown silty clay with frequent inclusions of natural stone, interpreted as a natural deposit. Overlying this deposit was (702), a 0.30m thick layer of undisturbed buried topsoil recorded as dark grey brown silty clay with charcoal flecks. Above (702) was (701), a 0.18m thick deposit of redeposited orange yellow brown silty clay natural with inclusions of small flint. This appears to have been used as made ground for the surface deposit (700) recorded above. Layer (700) was interpreted as a 0.33m thick disturbed stone surface.
- 7.23 Truncating (700) was a large modern disturbance [704] The backfill was filled with grey silt with inclusions of bricks, concrete, including a reinforced concrete fence post.
- 7.24 No archaeological remains were recorded in Trench 7.



Plate 7. Trench 7 general shot.

Trench 8 (Figure 2 & 6)

Context No	Depth	Height of Deposit (mOD)	Description/Interpretation
800	0.05m	102.96 – 102.91	Tarmac surface.
801	0.06m	102.91 – 102.85	Mid pink brown silty sand with frequent gravel. Made ground.
802	0.30m	102.85 – 102.55	Compact pale yellow sandy gravel. Made ground
803	0.39m+	102.55 – 102.16	Mid yellow brown clay with inclusions of large natural stone.

7.25 Trench 8 measured 30m x 2.00m and was aligned roughly east-west. The trench sloped down towards the east (Plate 8).

7.26 The earliest deposit recorded in Trench 8 was (803), a 0.39m+ thick layer of mid yellow brown clay with inclusions of large natural stone. Overlying this deposit was (802), a 0.30m thick layer of compacted pale yellow sandy gravel, interpreted as made ground and ground preparation for later developments. Above (802) was (801), a 0.06m thick deposit of mid pink brown silty sand with frequent gravel, interpreted as made ground. This was overlaid by (800) a 0.05m thick layer of modern tarmac surface (Plate 9). Located in the eastern limits of the site was modern disturbance (804). The large modern disturbance was backfilled with grey silt with inclusions of bricks and concrete. The relationship between disturbance (804) and modern surface (800) remains unclear due to disturbance caused by the recent demolition activities.

7.27 No archaeological remains were recorded in Trench 8.



Plate 8. Trench 8 general shot.



Plate 9. Trench 8 section.

8 Finds and Environmental Samples

- 8.1 A small finds assemblage was collected during the course of the evaluation from three different contexts. Small fragments of pottery, slag and slate were retrieved from environmental sample [1] taken from context (101), in addition to small fragments of animal bone recovered from environmental sample [2] deriving from fill (604). A small assemblage of stone, glass, pottery and animal bone, identified on site as being 19th century in date, was not retained. It was assessed in the field by AOC's Archive and Finds Officer.
- 8.2 Assessment of the two environmental samples for macrobotanical remains produced limited results and no further work was recommended. Traces of wood charcoal, beans and cereals were recovered from sample [1] context (101). Only a small undiagnostic macrobotanical assemblage was identified in association with sample [2] fill (604). For further details of the environmental assessment see Appendix B.

9 Conclusions & Recommendations

- 9.1 The archaeological evaluation met its primary aim; to determine the presence or absence of archaeological remains. Archaeological remains were recorded in Trench 6 and have been identified as a post-medieval/modern pit and an undated ditch. Two linear features were also recorded in Trench 1, also dated to the post-medieval period. No further archaeological remains were identified. It was clear from the evaluation, that the site had been previously terraced causing substantial horizontal truncation. The only remaining area of undisturbed stratigraphy was identified in the southeastern limits of the site. The environmental samples that were taken from the site have been processed revealing both a limited finds and macrobotanical assemblage.

- 9.2 Due to the high level of truncation of the site it is therefore recommended that no further work be undertaken on the site. Publication will be limited to a short summary submitted to the local journal and via the OASIS project (Appendix C).

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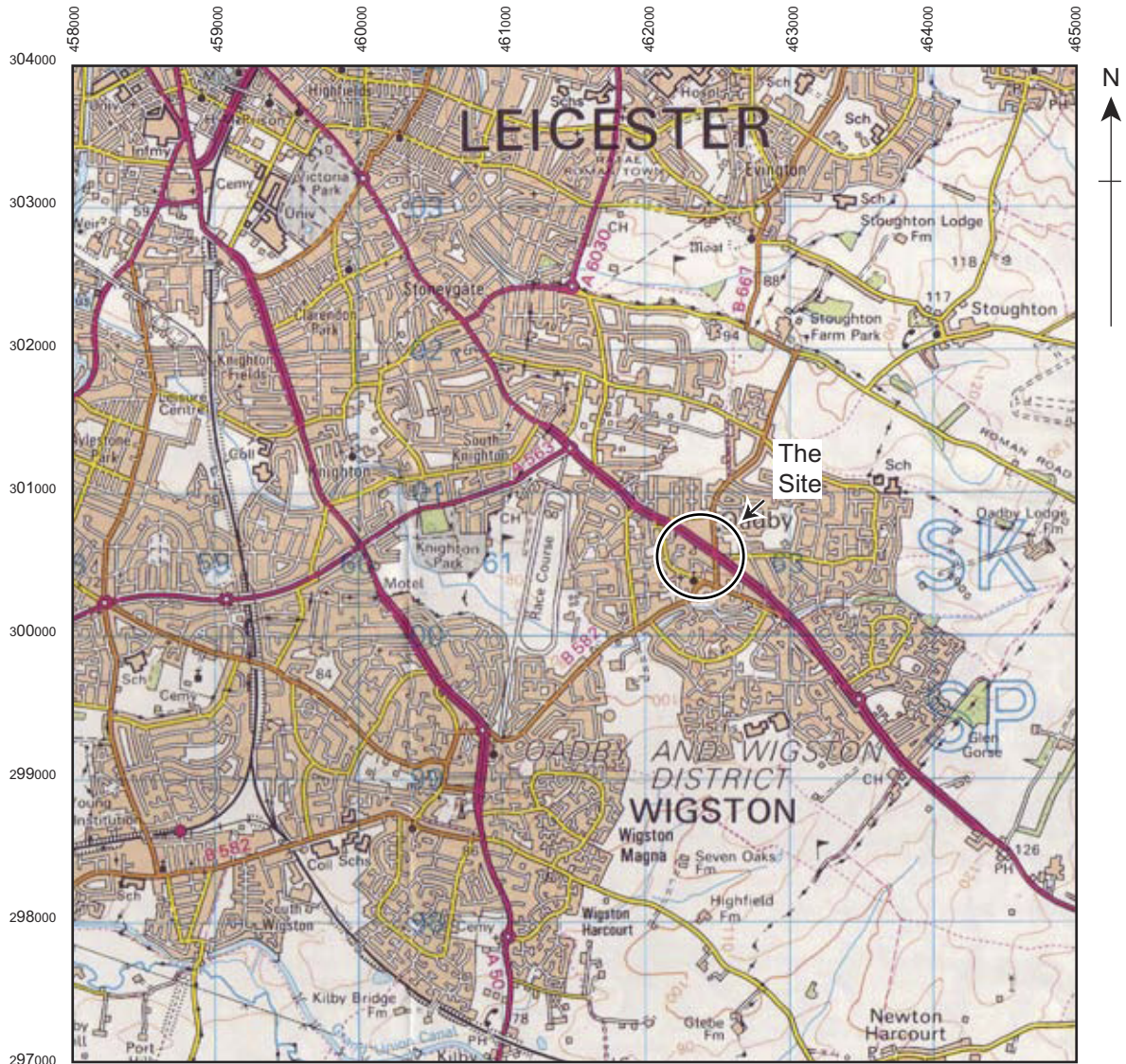


Figure 1: Site Location

WAITROSE STORE, HARBOROUGH ROAD, OADBY, LEICESTERSHIRE: AN
ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION REPORT

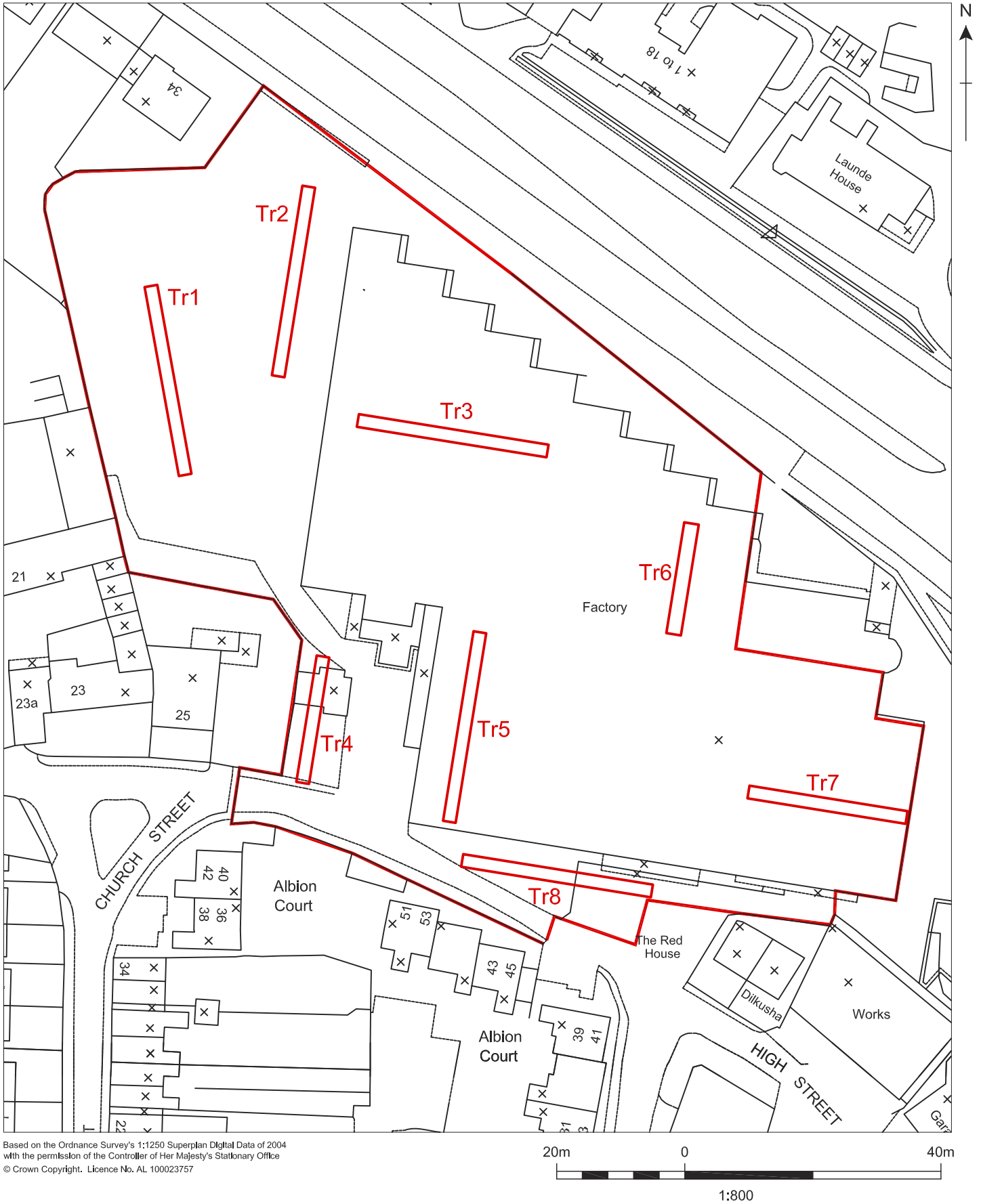


Figure 2: Detailed Site/Trench Location Plan

WAITROSE STORE, HARBOROUGH ROAD, OADBY, LEICESTERSHIRE: AN
ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION REPORT

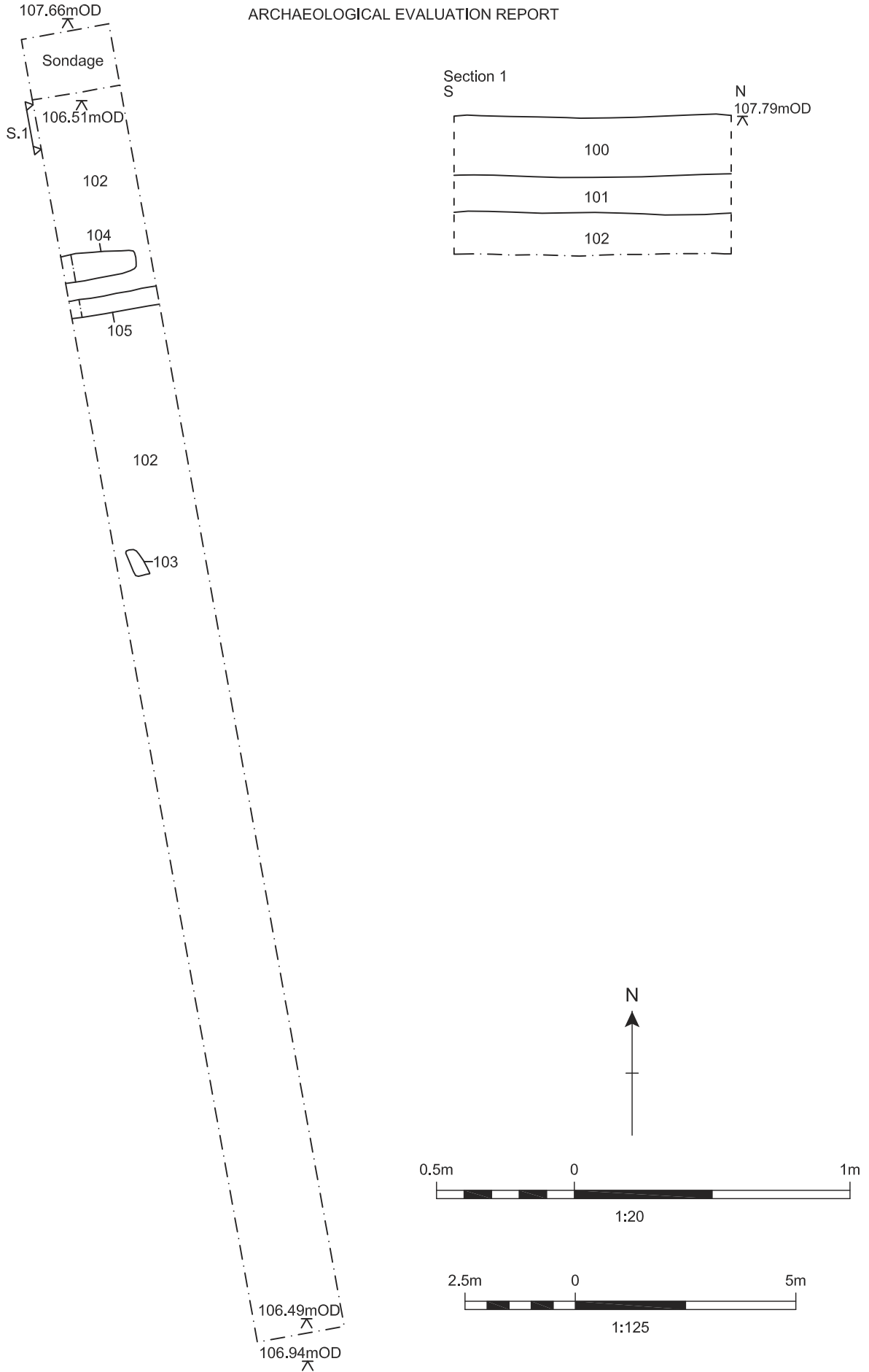


Figure 3: Trench 1: Plan (1:125) & Sample Section (1:20)

WAITROSE STORE, HARBOROUGH ROAD, OADBY, LEICESTERSHIRE: AN
ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION REPORT

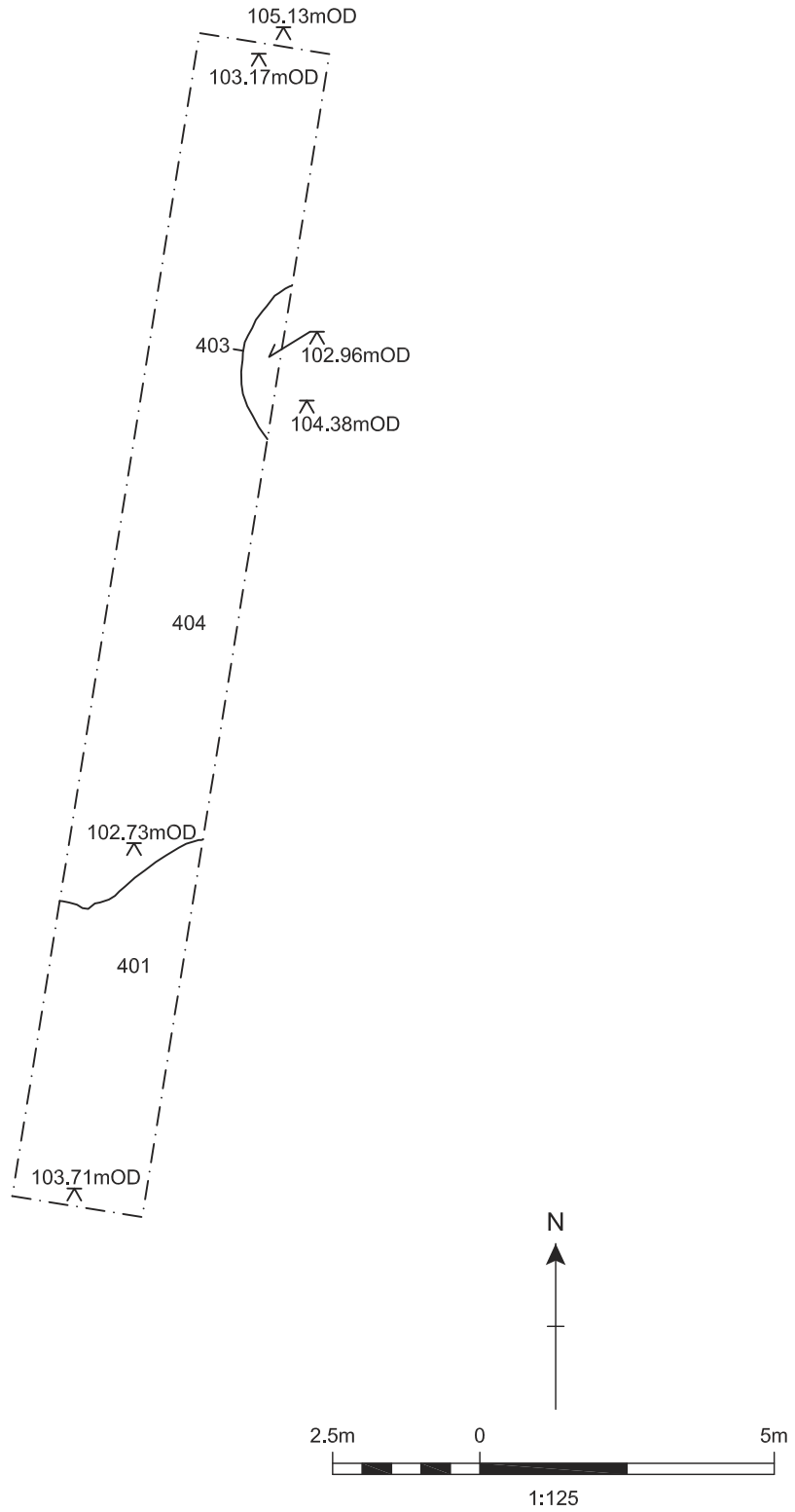


Figure 4: Trench 4: Plan

WAITROSE STORE, HARBOROUGH ROAD, OADBY, LEICESTERSHIRE: AN
ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION REPORT

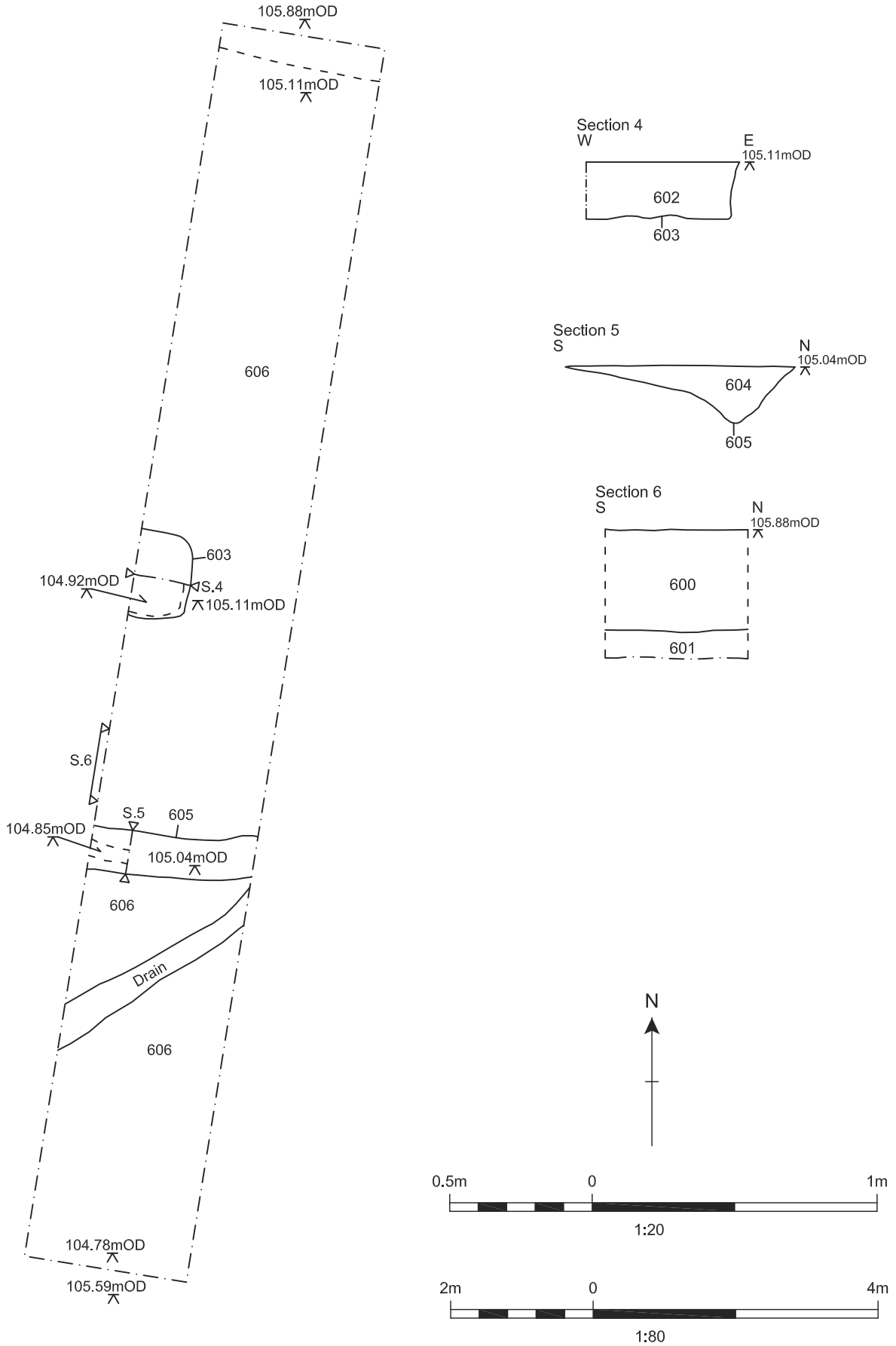


Figure 5: Trench 6: Plan (1:80) & Sections (1:20)

WAITROSE STORE, HARBOROUGH ROAD, OADBY, LEICESTERSHIRE: AN
ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION REPORT

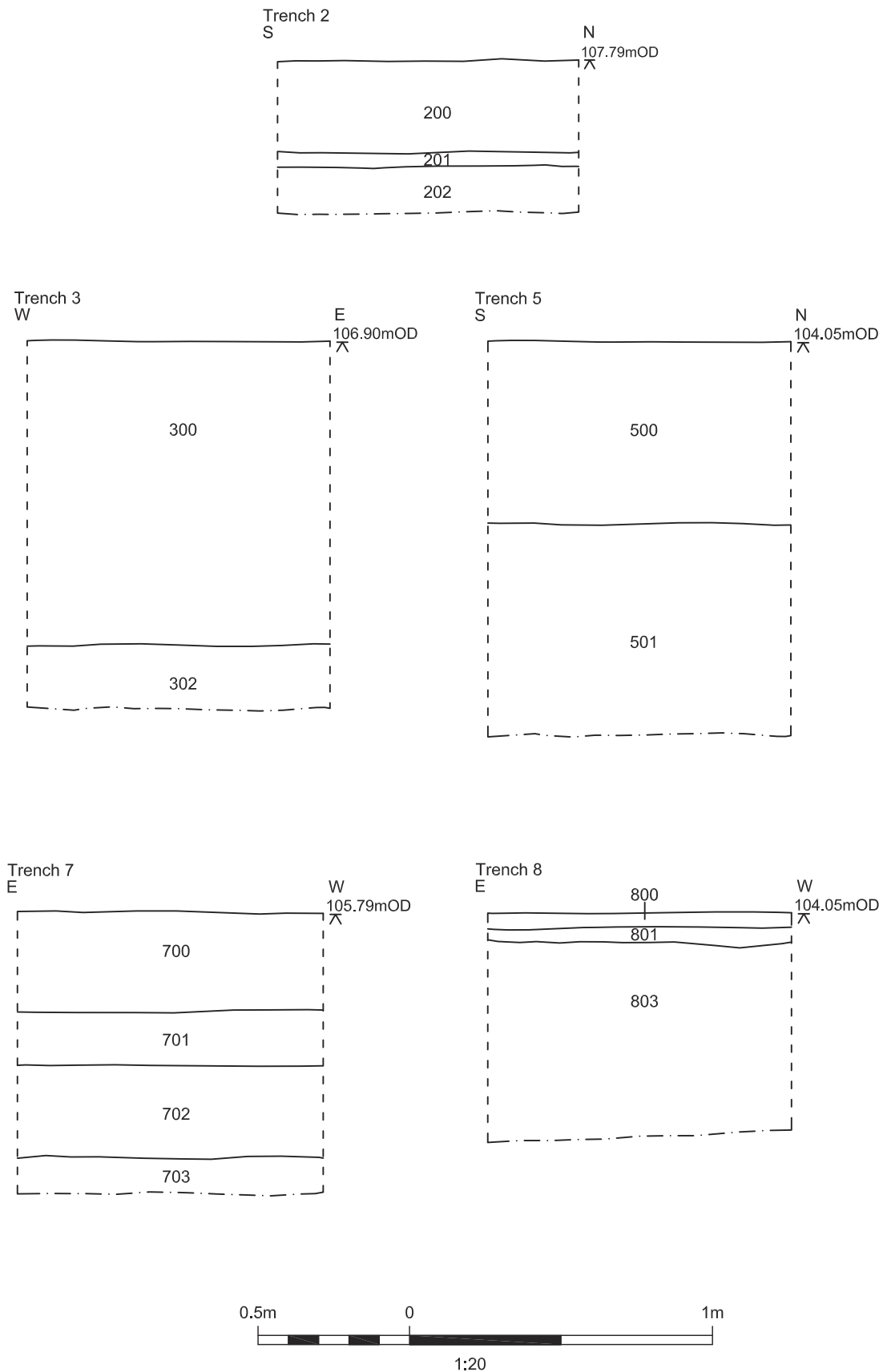


Figure 6: Sample Sections

Appendices

Appendix A – Context Index

Context	Length	Width	Depth	Description
100	30.00m	2.00m	0.21m	Tarmac Surface
101	30.00m	2.00m	0.14m	Alluvium
102	30.00m	2.00m	0.15m	Natural Clay
103	0.80m	0.28m	NFE	Modern intrusion
104	1.70m	0.72m	0.15m	Natural undulation
105	2.00m	0.48m	0.08m	Natural undulations
200	30.00m	2.00m	0.30m	Made ground
201	30.00m	2.00m	0.05m	Alluvium
202	30.00m	2.00m	0.20m	Natural clay
300	30.00m	2.00m	1.00m	Disturbed Topsoil
301	2.00m	0.45m	0.30m	Concrete footing
302	30.00	2.00m	NFE	Natural silt with stone
400	20.00m	2.00m	0.70m	Demolition deposit
401	20.00m	2.00m	0.60m	Redeposited natural
402	1.80m	0.50m	0.75m	Fill of soakaway/well
403	1.80m	0.50m	0.75m	Cut of Soakaway/well
404	20.00m	2.00m	0.20m+	Natural clay
500	30.00m	2.00m	0.60m	Redeposited natural
501	30.00m	2.00m	0.70m	Made ground
502	30.00m	2.00m	NFE	Natural clay and stone
600	30.00m	2.00m	0.60m	Demolition deposit
601	30.00m	2.00m	0.20m	Made ground
602	1.20m	0.80m	0.35m	Fill of pit
603	1.20m	0.80m	0.35m	Cut of pit
604	2.20m	0.80m	0.20m	Fill of ditch
605	2.20m	0.80m	0.20m	Cut of ditch
606	30.00m	2.00m	NFE	Natural clay and stone
700	30.00m	2.00m	0.33m	Modern surface
701	30.00m	2.00m	0.18m	Redeposited natural
702	30.00m	2.00m	0.30m	Buried topsoil
703	30.00m	2.00m	0.12m	Natural clay and stone
800	30.00m	2.00m	0.05m	Tarmac surface
801	30.00m	2.00m	0.06m	Made ground
802	30.00m	2.00m	0.30m	Made ground
803	30.00m	2.00m	0.39m	Natural clay and stone

Appendix B – Specialist Report

The Finds and Environmental Evidence

by Lucy Allott, Gemma Ayton and Elke Raemen, ASE

The Assemblage

A small assemblage of finds was recovered from the environmental residues. Pieces are all small and therefore not very diagnostic.

Context [101] contained a few pieces of slag of post-medieval date, possibly including blast furnace slag. Three fragments of Welsh slate were recovered from the same context, as well as a very small piece of pottery, which due to its size is undiagnostic. None of the recovered flint (context [101]) is worked. The sample from this context produced a small flot measuring 5ml and although dominated by uncharred vegetation including some seeds, a small assemblage of charred macrobotanical remains (<10 in total) and small wood charcoal fragments was also evident. Three broad beans (*Vicia faba*) and caryopses of bread type wheat (*Triticum cf. aestivum*) and barley (*Hordeum* sp.) were recorded. No taxonomic identifications have been provided for the charcoal fragments as the assemblage is too limited to provide meaningful information.

Sample <2>, context [604], produced five fragments of animal bone. The small assemblage contains three fragments of sheep-sized long bone, one fragment of sheep-sized rib and one fragment of sheep/goat (*Ovis/Capra*) molar. The surface of the bone shows some signs of weathering. No evidence of burning, butchery, gnawing or pathology has been noted. The flot from this sample measured <2ml and contained very small flecks of charcoal and a few indeterminate cereal grains only.

Potential

Bulk samples taken during archaeological work at Waitrose Store, Harborough Road, Oadby confirmed the presence of a small assemblage of finds and environmental remains. Further work on this assemblage is unlikely to produce any new or meaningful data to contribute to the interpretation of these features and therefore no further analysis is recommended.

Appendix C – OASIS Form

OASIS ID: aocarcha1-70270

Project details

Project name	Proposed Waitrose store, Oadby
Short description of the project	Archaeological evaluation was conducted on the proposed site. the evaluation involved the excavation of 8 trenches. Only one trench uncovered archaeological remains dating to the post medieval period.
Project dates	Start: 18-01-2010 End: 29-03-2010
Previous/future work	No / Not known
Any associated project reference codes	30375 - Contracting Unit No.
Any associated project reference codes	X.A4.2010 - Related HER No.
Type of project	Field evaluation
Site status	Conservation Area
Current Land use	Industry and Commerce 1 - Industrial
Monument type	DITCH Post Medieval
Monument type	DOMESTIC PIT Post Medieval
Methods & techniques	'Sample Trenches'
Development type	Urban commercial (e.g. offices, shops, banks, etc.)
Prompt	Direction from Local Planning Authority - PPG16
Position in the planning process	After full determination (eg. As a condition)

Project location

Country	England
Site location	LEICESTERSHIRE OADBY AND WIGSTON OADBY Prosed Waitrose, Harborough Road, Oadby
Study area	0.10 Hectares
Site coordinates	SK 6243 0055 52.5987942044 -1.0781636784 52 35 55 N 001 04 41 W Point
Height OD / Depth	Min: 102.55m Max: 107.39m

Project creators

Name of Organisation	AOC Archaeology
Project brief originator	local archaeological advisors

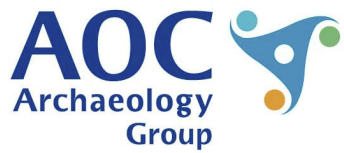
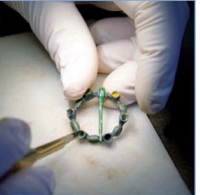
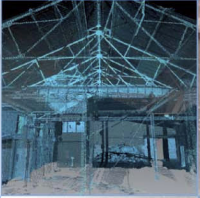
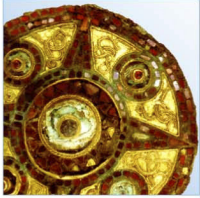
Project design originator	AOC Archaeology Group
Project director/manager	Andy Leonard
Project supervisor	Paul Harris
Project supervisor	Andy Leonard
Project supervisor	Catherine Edwards
Type of sponsor/funding body	Developer
Name of sponsor/funding body	Bowmer and Kirkland Ltd

Project archives

Physical Archive recipient	Leicestershire Museum
Digital Archive recipient	Leicestershire Museum
Digital Media available	'Images raster / digital photography','Text'
Paper Archive recipient	Leicestershire Museum
Paper Media available	'Context sheet','Map','Matrices','Microfilm','Photograph','Plan','Report','Section','Unpublished Text'

Project bibliography 1

Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title	WAITROSE STORE, HARBOROUGH ROAD, OADBY, LEICESTERSHIRE: AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION REPORT
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