



Waitrose, Fairfield Road Warminster, Wiltshire

Archaeological Watching Brief Report





Waitrose, Fairfield Road, Warminster, Wiltshire

**Archaeological Watching Brief
Fieldwork Report**

Prepared for:

Mr Andrew Hutchings
Jehu Project Services Ltd
Number One
Waterton Park
Bridgend
CF31 3PH

Prepared by:

Wessex Archaeology
Portway House
Old Sarum Park
Salisbury
Wiltshire
SP4 6EB


www.wessexarch.co.uk

9th January 2012

Report no. 79080.03

Quality Assurance

Site Code	79080	Accession Code	Tbc	Client Code	n/a
Planning Application Ref.	W/10/03028/FUL	NGR	387745 145168		

Version	Status*	Prepared by	Approved By	Approver's Signature	Date
v01	F	G Chaffey	N D Truckle		09/01/2012

* I = Internal Draft; E = External Draft; F = Final

DISCLAIMER

THE MATERIAL CONTAINED IN THIS REPORT WAS DESIGNED AS AN INTEGRAL PART OF A REPORT TO AN INDIVIDUAL CLIENT AND WAS PREPARED SOLELY FOR THE BENEFIT OF THAT CLIENT. THE MATERIAL CONTAINED IN THIS REPORT DOES NOT NECESSARILY STAND ON ITS OWN AND IS NOT INTENDED TO NOR SHOULD IT BE RELIED UPON BY ANY THIRD PARTY. TO THE FULLEST EXTENT PERMITTED BY LAW WESSEX ARCHAEOLOGY WILL NOT BE LIABLE BY REASON OF BREACH OF CONTRACT NEGLIGENCE OR OTHERWISE FOR ANY LOSS OR DAMAGE (WHETHER DIRECT INDIRECT OR CONSEQUENTIAL) OCCASIONED TO ANY PERSON ACTING OR OMITTING TO ACT OR REFRAINING FROM ACTING IN RELIANCE UPON THE MATERIAL CONTAINED IN THIS REPORT ARISING FROM OR CONNECTED WITH ANY ERROR OR OMISSION IN THE MATERIAL CONTAINED IN THE REPORT. LOSS OR DAMAGE AS REFERRED TO ABOVE SHALL BE DEEMED TO INCLUDE, BUT IS NOT LIMITED TO, ANY LOSS OF PROFITS OR ANTICIPATED PROFITS DAMAGE TO REPUTATION OR GOODWILL LOSS OF BUSINESS OR ANTICIPATED BUSINESS DAMAGES COSTS EXPENSES INCURRED OR PAYABLE TO ANY THIRD PARTY (IN ALL CASES WHETHER DIRECT INDIRECT OR CONSEQUENTIAL) OR ANY OTHER DIRECT INDIRECT OR CONSEQUENTIAL LOSS OR DAMAGE.

Waitrose, Fairfield Road, Warminster, Wiltshire

Archaeological Watching Brief Fieldwork Report

Contents

Summary.....	ii
Acknowledgements.....	iii
1 INTRODUCTION.....	1
1.1 Project Background.....	1
1.2 Site location, topography and geology.....	1
2 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND.....	2
3 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES.....	2
4 METHODOLOGY.....	2
5 RESULTS.....	3
6 ARTEFACTS.....	4
6.2 Environmental.....	4
7 CONCLUSIONS.....	4
8 ARCHIVE.....	4
8.1 Preparation and Deposition.....	4
8.2 The Archive.....	4
8.3 Copyright.....	4
8.4 Security Copy.....	4
9 REFERENCES.....	5
10 OASIS FORM.....	6

Figure 1: Site location plan

Figure 2: Plan of groundworks with section location

Figure 3: Section 1

Summary

Wessex Archaeology was commissioned by Andrew Hutchings of Jehu Project Services to undertake an archaeological watching brief during the development at the new Waitrose supermarket site on Fairhead Road, Warminster, Wiltshire (NGR 387745 145168). The main phase of ten watching brief observations was undertaken intermittently between 6th and 27th September, with a subsequent final follow-up inspection conducted on 1st November 2011.

The Site was formerly occupied by Dents Glove Factory, which was demolished as part of the Waitrose re-development. The archaeological works consisted of monitoring the excavation of approximately 80 pad foundations and other invasive groundworks, prior to construction on the site.

No archaeological features or deposits were encountered during the course of the works. Evidence was recorded across the Site for significant levels of made ground associated with the previous factory buildings. Undisturbed stratigraphic sequences were recorded below a depth of approximately 0.60m. Four abraded 12th or 13th century medieval pottery sherds were recovered from an undisturbed subsoil layer.

It is highly likely that any surviving archaeological remains, if present, had been removed by the factory construction and later disturbance.

Acknowledgements

Wessex Archaeology would like to thank Jehu Project Services Ltd for commissioning this work and in particular Andrew Hutchings in this regard. Wessex Archaeology would also like to thank Wayne Williams for his assistance on site during the course of the works, and Melanie Pomeroy-Kellinger (County Archaeologist) and David Vaughan (Assistant County Archaeologist) for their collaborative role on behalf of Wiltshire Council Archaeology Service.

The fieldwork was undertaken by John Powell and Ray Kennedy. The report was compiled by Gareth Chaffey. The report illustrations were prepared by Ken Lymer and the project was managed on behalf of Wessex Archaeology by Abigail Rolland and Andy Crockett.

Waitrose, Fairfield Road, Warminster, Wiltshire

Archaeological Watching Brief Fieldwork Report

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Project Background

1.1.1 Wessex Archaeology was commissioned by Andrew Hutchings of Jehu Project Services Ltd to undertake an archaeological watching brief during the development of a new Waitrose supermarket on Fairfield Road, Warminster, Wiltshire centred on National Grid Reference (NGR) 387745 145168 (**Figure 1**), hereafter referred to as 'the Site'.

1.1.2 The Wiltshire Council *Notification of Planning Decision* (W/10/03028/FUL) granted planning permission for the proposed development, but with various conditions attached, which included (with due regard to Planning Policy Statement 5: Planning for the Historic Environment, and to enable the recording of any matters of archaeological interest) the following Condition 15:

- *No development shall commence within the development site until:*
 - a) *A written programme of archaeological investigation, which should include on-site work and off-site work such as the analysis, publishing and archiving of the results, has been submitted to and approved by the Local Planning Authority; and*
 - b) *The approved programme of archaeological work has been carried out in accordance with the approved details.*
- *The works shall be conducted by a professional recognised archaeological contractor in accordance with a brief issued by the Assistant County Archaeologist.*

1.1.3 The works requiring archaeological watching brief comprised the excavation of pad foundations for the new construction during the Groundworks Substructure Excavations phase. The new building was to be constructed on approximately 80 such pad foundations ranging in width (from 1m wide to 3m), with an average excavation depth of 1.8m below the present ground level. The pads will be connected with ground beams.

1.1.4 A Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) (Wessex Archaeology 2011) covering the scope and methodology of the watching brief was submitted to, and approved by, Wiltshire Council Archaeology Service.

1.1.5 The main phase of fieldwork (comprising ten separate site visits) was undertaken intermittently between 6th and 27th of September 2011, with one subsequent final inspection undertaken on 1st November 2011.

1.2 Site location, topography and geology

1.2.1 Warminster is situated at the western edge of Salisbury Plain. The River Were, a tributary of the Wylde, runs through the town from north to south.

- 1.2.2 The Site comprises an irregularly shaped area of land approximately five hectares in size, located at the eastern end of Warminster town centre. The northern and eastern edges of the Site are bounded by Fairfield Road and Buttons Yard respectively. To the south and west the edge of the Site is defined by the back of properties fronting onto Station Road and East Street (**Figure 1**). The Site was formerly occupied by Dents Glove Factory, now demolished prior to construction works.
- 1.2.3 The underlying solid geology is made up of Cretaceous Chert Beds, overlying Upper Greensand (BGS 1965). The surface topography of the Site is generally level at 119m above Ordnance Datum (aOD; Newlyn).

2 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

- 2.1.1 A full archaeological and historic background is provided in Dent's Factory Site, Fairfield Road, Warminster: Archaeological Desk-based Assessment (Wessex Archaeology 2007) and shall not be repeated here.
- 2.1.2 In summary, the Site lies on the fringes of the Warminster Town Centre *Conservation Area* and an *Area of Archaeological Interest* identified in the local development plan. A draft informal planning brief prepared by West Wiltshire District Council (West Wiltshire 2007) identifies both the Conservation Area and the Area of Archaeological Interest as being relevant considerations in any redevelopment proposals.
- 2.1.3 The area is first thought to have been developed as the result of unplanned expansion of the town in the late medieval period. Historic maps suggest that the Site itself remained undeveloped until the late 19th century and although it is not clear whether the land was occupied or in agricultural use in the medieval period, the latter is considered more likely.
- 2.1.4 An archaeological watching brief was undertaken on the Site of the proposed development during October 2010. Six hand-dug test pits and a single machine dug soak-away pit were observed and recorded. No archaeological evidence was revealed during the observations (Wessex Archaeology 2010).
- 2.1.5 A study of the previous development of the Site suggested some localised truncation of archaeological deposits may have taken place (Wessex Archaeology 2007; 2010), but that it was thought *in situ* deposits may potentially have survived within some areas of the Site.

3 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

- 3.1.1 The aim of the archaeological watching brief was to establish within the constraints of the sampling strategy the presence or absence, location, extent, date, character, condition, significance and quality of any surviving archaeological remains within the Site.

4 METHODOLOGY

- 4.1.1 All works were carried out in accordance with the methodology set out within the WSI. All fieldwork was conducted in accordance with the guidance and standards outlined in the Institute for Archaeologists *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluation* (as amended 2008).
- 4.1.2 Works comprised archaeological monitoring by a suitably qualified and experienced archaeologist of made ground/topsoil during groundworks. The watching brief was maintained throughout initial stripping until it was clear that the potential for archaeological

remains to be exposed had been exhausted. Where practicable and without causing unreasonable delay to the works programme, excavations were halted whilst investigations were carried out by Wessex Archaeology staff.

- 4.1.3 The fieldwork comprised the monitoring of the excavation of approximately 80 square pad foundations associated with the construction of the new building. All were located using Jehu Project Services Ltd survey plans by their own staff (**Figure 2**).
- 4.1.4 The pad foundations were largely excavated by a 13 tonne 360° tracked excavator employing a 0.50m toothed ditching bucket. During the excavation of the larger of the pads, a 1.8m toothless ditching bucket was used.
- 4.1.5 The pad widths ranged in size from 1m to 3m in width with an average excavation depth of 1.8m below the present ground level.
- 4.1.6 Recording was undertaken using Wessex Archaeology's *pro forma* record sheets. Representative soil profile sections of the pad foundation trenches were drawn at a scale of 1:10. A total of 151 digital images were taken of groundwork operations during the watching brief.

5 RESULTS

- 5.1.1 No archaeological features or deposits were observed during the course of the watching brief.
- 5.1.2 The pad foundations were all located within areas of made ground, disturbed by the location of the previous buildings on the Site associated with Dents Glove Factory. Natural geology was encountered at the base of each of the pads.
- 5.1.3 Representative sections were recorded, drawn and photographed (**Figure 3**).
- 5.1.4 The stratigraphic sequence encountered across the Site was relatively uniform, and can be characterised as follows:
- *The overlying made ground/levelling deposit 100 was generally 0.30-0.35m thick and consisted of a mid-greyish red sandy loam;*
 - *This overlay deposit 101 (at 0.35-0.60m depth), a dark grey brown sandy clay loam which represents a compact made ground layer which is likely to also contain elements of pre-modern topsoil into which it has been mixed;*
 - *This in turn overlay deposit 102 (at 0.60-0.95m depth), a mid grey sandy clay subsoil probably relating to the original soil sequence pre-dating the Dents Glove Factory construction; this deposit was relatively undisturbed, may be late medieval to post-medieval in date, and produced four sherds of 12th/ 13th medieval pottery (see **Section 6**);*
 - *Deposit 103 (0.95-1.25m) represented an undisturbed natural subsoil, a mid-yellowish brown silty clay; and overlying*
 - *Natural greensand 104 (1.25 m +), observed mainly in plan.*

6 ARTEFACTS

6.1.1 Four sherds of medieval pottery (24g) were recovered from layer 102. They represent examples of West Wiltshire wares and date to the 12th or 13th centuries. One sherd is a jar rim. All sherds are heavily abraded and are likely to be residual.

6.2 Environmental

6.2.1 No archaeological features or deposits suitable for environmental sampling were identified during the course of the work.

7 CONCLUSIONS

7.1.1 The watching brief did not identify any archaeological features or deposits. The pad foundations showed that the area under observation was largely comprised of modern made ground, likely associated with the construction of the Dents Glove Factory.

8 ARCHIVE

8.1 Preparation and Deposition

8.1.1 The complete project archive has been prepared in accordance with Wessex Archaeology's *Guidelines for Archive Preparation* and in accordance with *Guidelines for the preparation of excavation archives for long-term storage* (UKIC 1990). Details of the watching brief have also been entered into the online Oasis¹ database maintained by the Archaeological Data Service (ADS). A copy of the OASIS entry is included below (see **Section 10**).

8.2 The Archive

8.2.1 The watching brief project archive consists of:

- *One A4 file containing the paper records and drawings*
- *Digital data (site photographs, Word and pdf files)*

8.2.2 The archive is currently held at the offices of Wessex Archaeology in Salisbury under the WA project code 79080. On completion of the project, the archive will be deposited with Devizes Museum, 41 Long Street, Devizes, Wiltshire, SN10 1NS.

8.3 Copyright

8.3.1 This report may contain material that is non-Wessex Archaeology copyright (e.g. Ordnance Survey, British Geological Survey, Crown Copyright), or the intellectual property of third parties, which we are able to provide for limited reproduction under the terms of our own copyright licences, but for which copyright itself is non-transferrable by Wessex Archaeology. You are reminded that you remain bound by the conditions of the Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988 with regard to multiple copying and electronic dissemination of the report.

8.4 Security Copy

8.4.1 In line with current best practice, on completion of the project a security copy of the paper records will be prepared, in the form of microfilm. The master jackets and one diazo copy of the microfilm will be submitted to the National Monuments Record Centre (Swindon); a

¹ <http://oasis.ac.uk/>

second diazo copy will be deposited with the paper records at Devizes Museum, and a third diazo copy will be retained by Wessex Archaeology.

9 REFERENCES

British Geological Survey [BGS], 1965, *Frome: Sheet 281, 1:12000 series*

Wessex Archaeology, 2007, *Dent's Factory Site, Fairfield Road, Warminster: Archaeological Desk-based Assessment*, unpublished client report no. 66670.01

Wessex Archaeology, 2010, *Waitrose Site, Warminster: Archaeological Watching Brief Report*, unpublished client report no. 76000.01

Wessex Archaeology, 2011, *Waitrose, Fairfield Road, Warminster, Wiltshire: Written Scheme of Investigation for an Archaeological Watching Brief*, unpublished client report no. 79080.02

West Wiltshire District Council, 2007, *Warminster Town Centre Conservation Area Character Assessment: Informative Document (Consultation Draft, January 2007)*

OASIS DATA COLLECTION FORM: England

[List of Projects](#) | [Manage Projects](#) | [Search Projects](#) | [New project](#) | [Change your details](#) | [HER coverage](#) | [Change country](#) | [Log out](#)

[Printable version](#)

OASIS ID: wessexar1-113036

Project details

Project name	Waitrose Warminster
Short description of the project	Archaeological watching brief during construction of a new Waitrose supermarket in Warminster, on the site of the former Dents Glove Factory
Project dates	Start: 06-09-2011 End: 01-11-2011
Previous/future work	Yes / No
Any associated project reference codes	66670 - Contracting Unit No.
Type of project	Desk based assessment
Site status	None
Current Land use	Industry and Commerce 1 - Industrial
Monument type	NONE None
Significant Finds	POTTERY Medieval
Methods & techniques	'Conservation Area Appraisal','Documentary Search','Visual Inspection'
Development type	Urban commercial (e.g. offices, shops, banks, etc.)
Prompt	Planning condition

Project location

Country	England
Site location	WILTSHIRE WEST WILTSHIRE WARMINSTER Waitrose Warminster
Postcode	BA12 9DL
Study area	5.00 Hectares
Site coordinates	ST 87745 45168 51.2050730771 -2.175439600550 51 12 18 N 002 10 31 W Point
Lat/Long Datum	Unknown
Height OD / Depth	Min: 119.00m Max: 119.00m

Project creators

Name of Organisation	Wessex Archaeology
----------------------	--------------------

Project brief originator Wessex Archaeology
Project design originator Wessex Archaeology
Project director/manager Abigail Rolland
Project supervisor R Kennedy
Type of sponsor/funding body Developer
Name of sponsor/funding body Jehu Project Services

Project archives

Physical Archive recipient Devizes Museum
Physical Contents 'Ceramics'
Digital Archive recipient Devizes Museum
Digital Contents 'Ceramics'
Digital Media available 'Database','Images raster / digital photography','Text'
Paper Archive recipient Devizes Museum
Paper Contents 'Stratigraphic'
Paper Media available 'Report','Section','Context sheet','Diary','Photograph','Plan'

Project bibliography 1

Publication type Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title Waitrose, Fairfield Road, Warminster, Wiltshire
Author(s)/Editor(s) Chaffey, G. S.
Other bibliographic details Report no. 79080.03
Date 2012
Issuer or publisher Wessex Archaeology
Place of issue or publication Salisbury
Description Grey literature unpublished client report on the results of an archaeological watching brief

Entered by Andy Crockett (a.crockett@wessexarch.co.uk)
Entered on 9 January 2012

OASIS:

Please e-mail [English Heritage](#) for OASIS help and advice
© ADS 1996-2006 Created by [Jo Gilham and Jen Mitcham](#), email Last modified Friday 3 February 2006
Cite only: /dl/export/home/web/oasis/form/print.cfm for this page



<p>Survey data supplied by the Client. This material is for client report only © Wessex Archaeology. No unauthorised reproduction.</p>	<p>FOUNDATION PLAN</p> <p>EQL EXISTING GROUND LINE PCL PROPOSED GROUND LINE PFL PROPOSED FINISHING LINE</p>	<p>Site</p> <p>Area of watching brief</p>	Date: 05/01/12	Revision Number: 0
			Scale: 1:400	Illustrator: KL
			Path: Y:\PROJECTS\79080\Drawing Office\Report Figs\wb\12_01\79080_wb.dwg	

Plan of groundworks with section location

Figure 2

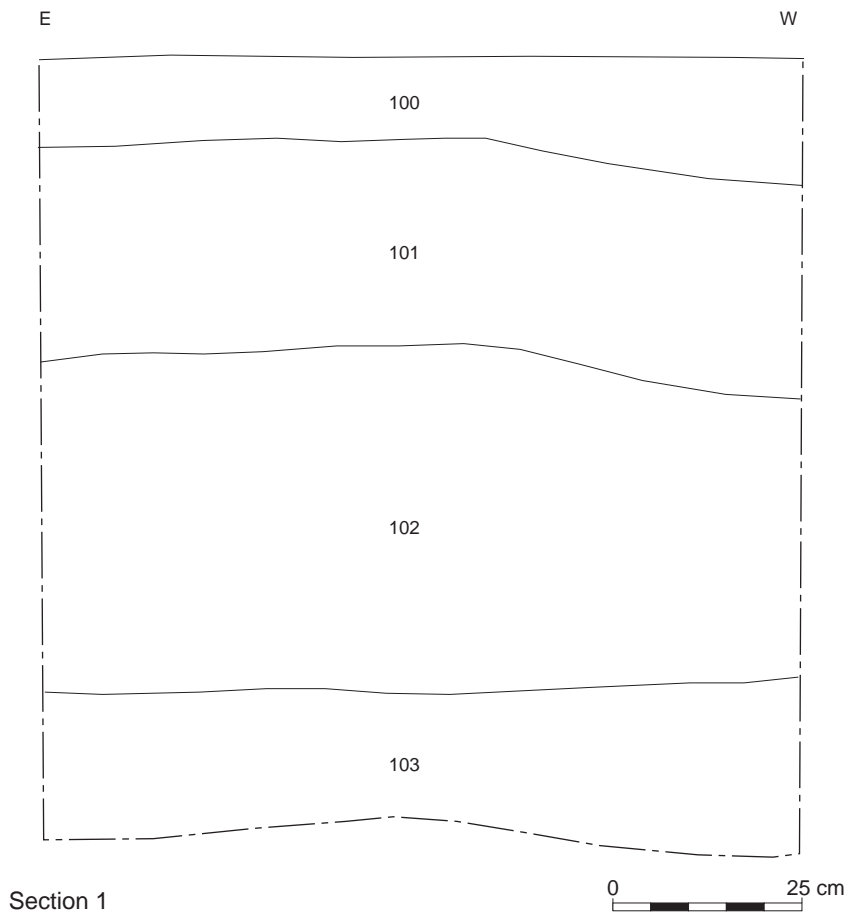


Plate 1: Section 1 stratigraphic sequence

This material is for client report only © Wessex Archaeology. No unauthorised reproduction.

Date: 05/01/12

Revision Number: 0

Scale: Section 1:10

Illustrator: KL

Path: Y:\PROJECTS\79080\Drawing Office\Report Figs\wb\12_01\79080_wb_Fig03.cdr





WESSEX ARCHAEOLOGY LIMITED.

Registered Head Office: Portway House, Old Sarum Park, Salisbury, Wiltshire SP4 6EB.

Tel: 01722 326867 Fax: 01722 337562 info@wessexarch.co.uk

Regional offices in **Edinburgh**, **Rochester** and **Sheffield**

For more information visit www.wessexarch.co.uk



Wessex Archaeology Ltd is a company with limited liability registered in England, No. 1712772 and VAT No. 631943833.

It is also a Registered Charity in England and Wales, No. 287786; and in Scotland, Scottish Charity No. SC042630.