



Morrison's Distribution Centre, Bristol Road, Bridgwater, Somerset

Archaeological Watching Brief Report





**MORRISON'S DISTRIBUTION CENTRE, BRISTOL ROAD,
BRIDGWATER,
SOMERSET**

Archaeological Watching Brief Report

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October 2011

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QUALITY ASSURANCE

SITE CODE	79260	ACCESSION CODE		CLIENT CODE	
PLANNING APPLICATION REF.	N/A	NGR	330913, 138930		

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I= INTERNAL DRAFT E= EXTERNAL DRAFT F= FINAL

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Acknowledgements

The project was commissioned by Wm. Morrisons Produce Limited, through their project management advisors Turner and Townsend, and Wessex Archaeology would like to thank Alex Petheram of Turner and Townsend in this regard. Wessex Archaeology would also like to thank the Senior Historic Environment Officer for Somerset County council, Steven Membery for his advice.

The watching brief was carried out by Jon Martin, who also compiled this report. The illustrations were prepared by Rob Goller. The project was managed on behalf of Wessex Archaeology by Richard Greatorex who also edited this report.

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Archaeological Watching Brief Report

Summary

Wessex Archaeology was commissioned by Wm. Morrisons Produce Limited, through their project management advisors Turner and Townsend, to undertake an archaeological watching brief during groundwork associated with the construction of a new distribution and food production centre on the site of the former British Cellophane works on Bristol Road (A38), Bridgwater, Somerset.

The Site occupies a rectangular plot of land to the east of the A38, and the River Parret. It is bounded to the east by a mainline railway, beyond which are open fields and by an industrial estate to the south.

The watching brief comprised the intermittent archaeological observation of groundwork undertaken beneath the current ground surface, such as the stripping of hardcore and soil down to the construction level.

No archaeological features or layers were observed during the watching brief.

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BRIDGWATER,
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Archaeological Watching Brief Report

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Project Background

- 1.1.1 Wessex Archaeology was commissioned by Wm. Morrisons Produce Limited (the Client), through their project management advisors Turner and Townsend, to undertake an archaeological watching brief during groundwork associated with the construction of a new distribution and food production centre on the site of the former British Cellophane works on Bristol Road (A38), Bridgwater, Somerset centred around National Grid Reference (NGR) 330913, 138930 (hereafter referred to as 'the Site', **Figure 1**).
- 1.1.2 A Written Scheme of Investigation, setting out the strategy and methodology implemented during the watching brief, was prepared by Wessex Archaeology (2011) and approved by the SHEO at Somerset County Council prior to the commencement of fieldwork.

2 SITE DESCRIPTION

2.1 Location, topography and geology

- 2.1.1 The Site occupies a rectangular plot of land to the east of the A38, which lies immediately to the east of the River Parret and approximately 1km to the south-east of the Parret Estuary. The Site is bounded to the east by a mainline railway, beyond which are open fields. To the south of the Site is an industrial estate (**Figure 1**).
- 2.1.2 The Site is relatively flat and prior to the recent development was occupied by the 20th century industrial units associated with the former British Cellophane works. The Site, lying within the estuarine plain of the River Parret, would have been relatively level prior to the development by British Cellophane and lies at approximately 6m above Ordnance datum (aOD). The drift geology of the Site comprises estuarine alluvium.

3 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

- 3.1.1 A rapid search of the Somerset Historic Environment Record identified a number of sites of archaeological interest in the vicinity of the Site. Whilst most of the records relate to Bridgwater's 19th century industrial expansion (i.e. tile factory at Chilton Trinity and a brickworks at Dunball Wharf), there are several records of earlier find spots and sites of interest which are mentioned below.
- 3.1.2 Roman coins (Constantine) have been recovered from Chilton Trinity, to the north-west of the Site. Perhaps more significantly, the remains of a deserted medieval village and manor are still evident in an area adjacent to Dunball

Wharf, to the north of the Site. The visible remains of ridge and furrow cultivation have probably been associated with this former settlement.

- 3.1.3 Perhaps the most common records for the area comprise those for Second World War pillboxes, obviously sited to protect against attack via the River Parret Estuary.

4 AIMS

4.1 Watching Brief

- 4.1.1 The aim of the watching brief was to provide further information concerning the presence/absence, date, nature and extent of any buried archaeological remains and to investigate and record these within the proposed development areas.

5 METHOD

5.1 Fieldwork

- 5.1.1 The watching brief was carried out in accordance with the relevant guidance given in the Institute for Archaeologists' *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Briefs* (IfA 2008) and with the Written Scheme of Investigation (2011).

- 5.1.2 The fieldwork consisted of the monitoring of groundwork undertaken beneath the present ground surface. An intermittent archaeological presence was maintained during groundwork undertaken within the Site.

- 5.1.3 The machining was carried out by a tracked excavator using a toothless bucket and a bulldozer (**Plates 1 and 2**); the use of the bulldozer limited the possibility for archaeological observation.

- 5.1.4 All archaeological deposits were recorded using Wessex Archaeology's *pro forma* recording sheets. This included written, drawn, and photographic record, as deemed necessary. The photographic record was maintained using a digital camera equipped with an image sensor of not less than 10 megapixels. Digital images were subject to managed quality control and curation processes which will embed appropriate metadata within the image and ensure long term accessibility of the image set.

5.2 Health and Safety

- 5.2.1 Health and safety considerations were of paramount importance in conducting all fieldwork. Safe working practises took precedence over archaeological considerations at all times.

- 5.2.2 All work was carried out in accordance with the Health and Safety at Work etc. Act 1974 and the Management of Health and Safety Regulations 1992, and all other relevant Health and Safety legislation, regulations and codes of practice in force at the time.

- 5.2.3 Wessex Archaeology supplied a copy of their Health and Safety Policy and a Risk Assessment to the Client before the commencement of any fieldwork. The Risk Assessment was read and understood by all staff attending the Site before any groundwork commences.

6 RESULTS

- 6.1.1 The groundwork comprised the removal of the existing concrete slab and the underlying layer of hardcore and subsequent stripping of 0.20-0.40m of soil, before spreading and rolling of fresh hardcore directly on to the natural layers (**Plates 3 and 4**). The works also comprised the cutting of a culvert alongside the Site's boundary (**Plate 5**).
- 6.1.2 The natural layers, exposed underneath the former hardcore, comprised mid brown silt/clay alluvium with areas of grey silt/clay alluvium. It was not possible to assess whether the natural deposits had been horizontally truncated during the construction of the former development.
- 6.1.3 No archaeological features or deposits were observed during the watching brief. No finds were recovered apart from building material (brick, tile, ceramic pipe, etc.) of 20th century date (not retained).

7 ARCHIVE

7.1 Preparation and Deposition

- 7.1.1 The project archive is currently held at the offices of Wessex Archaeology in Salisbury under the project reference 79260.
- 7.1.2 The complete project archive was 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). Information will be obtained from the relevant museum concerning conditions and arrangements for the deposition of the Archive on completion of the project.
- 7.1.3 A museum accession number and Historic Environment Record Primary Record Number (PRN) were obtained from SCC prior to the commencement of the project.

8 CONCLUSIONS

- 8.1.1 No archaeological features, finds or deposits were identified in the course of the watching brief.

9 REFERENCES

Institute for Archaeologists 2008: Standards and Guidance for an Archaeological Watching Brief

Wessex Archaeology 2011: *Morrison's Distribution Centre, Bristol Road, Bridgwater, Somerset, Written Scheme of Investigation for an Archaeological Watching Brief*, report ref. T15196.01

10 OASIS REPORT

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Project details

Project name Morrison's Distribution Centre, Bridgwater, Somerset

Short description of the project Wessex Archaeology was commissioned by Wm. Morrisons Produce Limited, through their project management advisors Turner and Townsend, to undertake an archaeological watching brief during groundwork associated with the construction of a new distribution and food production centre on the site of the former British Cellophane works on Bristol Road (A38), Bridgwater, Somerset. The Site occupies a rectangular plot of land to the east of the A38, and the River Parret. It is bounded to the east by a mainline railway, beyond which are open fields and by an industrial estate to the south. The watching brief comprised the intermittent archaeological observation of groundwork undertaken beneath the current ground surface, such as the stripping of hardcore and soil down to the construction level. No archaeological features or layers were observed during the watching brief.

Project dates Start: 12-09-2011 End: 16-09-2011

Previous/future work No / No

Any associated project reference codes T15196 - Contracting Unit No.

Type of project Field evaluation

Site status None

Current Land use Industry and Commerce 1 - Industrial

Monument type NONE None

Significant Finds NONE None

Methods & techniques 'Visual Inspection'

Development type Urban commercial (e.g. offices, shops, banks, etc.)

Prompt Direction from Local Planning Authority - PPG16

Position in the planning process Not known / Not recorded

Project location

Country England

Site location SOMERSET SEDGEMOOR BRIDGWATER Morrison's Distribution Centre, Bristol Road, Bridgwater

Postcode TA6 4AR

Study area 5.00 Hectares

Site coordinates ST 330913 138930 50.9200612365 -2.951993892530 50 55 12 N 002 57 07 W Point

Height OD / Depth Min: 6.00m Max: 6.00m

Project creators

Name of Organisation Wessex Archaeology

Project brief originator Wessex Archaeology

Project design originator Wessex Archaeology

Project director/manager R Greatorex

Project supervisor J Martin

Type of sponsor/funding body Developer

Name of sponsor/funding body Wm Morrison's Produce Limited

Project archives

Physical Archive Exists? No

Digital Archive recipient Taunton Museum

Digital Archive ID 79260

Digital Contents 'none'

Digital Media available	'Images raster / digital photography'
Paper Archive recipient	Taunton Museum
Paper Archive ID	79260
Paper Contents	'none'
Paper Media available	'Context sheet','Diary','Drawing','Report'

Project bibliography 1

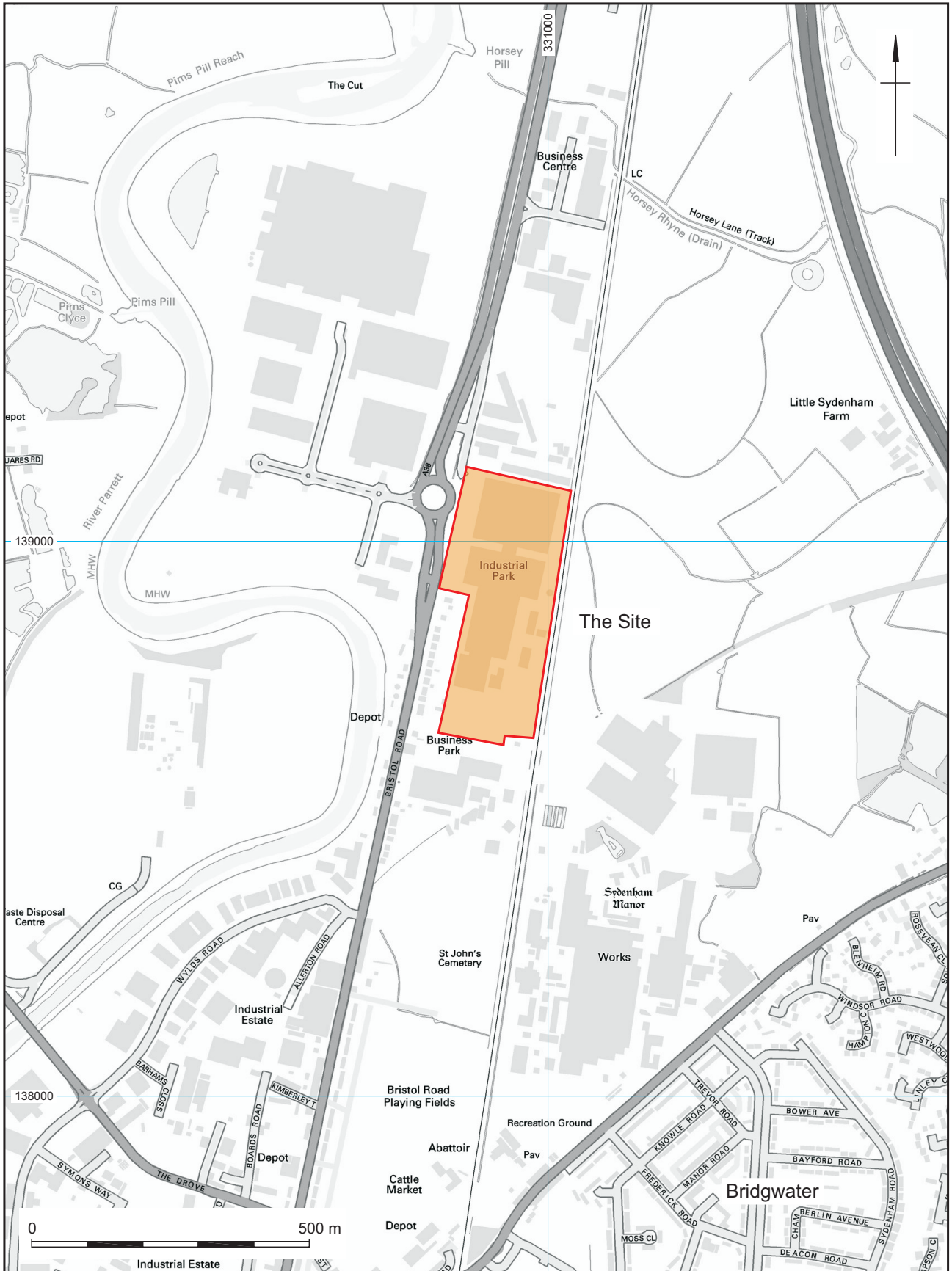
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Site location plan

Figure 1



Plate 1: Site stripping



Plate 2: Site stripping


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Plate 3: General site shot



Plate 4: General site shot



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Plate 5: Cutting the culvert

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