



J Sainsbury PLC, Otford Road, Sevenoaks, Kent

Archaeological Watching Brief Summary





**J SAINSBURY PLC,
OTFORD ROAD,
SEVENOAKS, KENT**

Archaeological Watching Brief Report

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QUALITY ASSURANCE

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

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**J SAINSBURY PLC, OTFORD ROAD
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Archaeological Watching Brief Report

Summary

Wessex Archaeology was commissioned by WYG Planning & Design (the Client) to undertake an archaeological watching brief at Sainsbury's, Otford Road, Sevenoaks, Kent, during groundworks in advance of development centred on National Grid Reference (NGR) 552969 157535.

The watching brief was undertaken as a condition of the planning consent granted to Sainsbury's Supermarkets Ltd by Sevenoaks District Council (Planning Reference SE/10/01552/FUL), the local authority, for the extension of the existing store to provide additional retail sales floor space, a new warehouse and provision of a car park deck.

The watching brief was maintained during groundwork and comprised the excavation and removal of the tarmacadam car park using a 360 excavator. Tarmac was removed to a depth of 300mm, below which made ground deposits were encountered. No excavation into the made ground deposits was necessary and natural geology was not revealed.

Given the shallow depths of excavation, no archaeological features or finds were encountered during the works.

**J SAINSBURY PLC, OTFORD ROAD
SEVENOAKS, KENT**

Archaeological Watching Brief Report

Acknowledgements

This project was commissioned by White Young Green and Wessex Archaeology would like to thank Lucy Mohen in this regard.

The fieldwork was undertaken by Jo Condliffe who also compiled this report. Illustrations were prepared by Kenneth Lymer. The project was managed for Wessex Archaeology by Sue Farr.

**J SAINSBURY PLC, OTFORD ROAD
SEVENOAKS, KENT****Archaeological Watching Brief Report****1 INTRODUCTION****1.1 Project Background**

1.1.1 Wessex Archaeology was commissioned by White Young Green to undertake an archaeological watching brief at Sainsbury's, Otford Road, Sevenoaks, Kent (hereafter 'the Site'), during groundworks in advance of development centred on National Grid Reference (NGR) 552989, 157535 (**Figure 1**).

1.1.2 The watching brief was required as a condition of the planning permission granted by Sevenoaks District Council (Planning Ref. SC/10/01552/FUL), the local authority, for the extension of the existing store to provide additional retail sales floor space, a new warehouse and provision of a car park deck.

1.1.3 The archaeological watching brief was undertaken in June 2011.

1.2 Site location, topography and geology

1.2.1 The Site is located to the north of the town of Sevenoaks, on the main north-south arterial route out of the town centre towards Otford (**Figure 1**). The Sainsbury's store lies to the east of Otford Road (A225) which links the south of Sevenoaks with Dartford to the north.

1.2.2 The existing Sainsbury's supermarket occupies the Site and has operated in its current location within the town since first opening in May 1992. The supermarket comprises the store, associated customer car park, a petrol filling station and service yard. Immediately to the north of the Site, an established retail park is sited. The customer car park lies to the north and west of the Sainsbury's store and is divided into 3 parts by a watercourse (the Watercress Stream).

1.2.3 The Site lies within the Metropolitan Green Belt, on the northern dip slope of a gentle Cretaceous greensand ridge at the foot of the south facing scarp of the chalk North Downs. Otford village, just to the north of the Site, straddles the River Darent at the entrance to a narrow valley cut by the river through the downs.

1.2.4 The flood plain of the Darent is marked by frequent flooded sand and gravel pits alongside the river.

2 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

2.1.1 Although no known archaeological resource is recorded within the Site itself, a Neolithic flint working site (TQ55NW14) is recorded c. 130m to the west of the Site and two Bronze Age palstaves (TQ55NW51) have been recorded to the north-west.

- 2.1.2 In addition, to the south-east of the Site, a bowl barrow (TQ55NW13; SM no. 23015) survives at Millpond Wood. The barrow comprises an oval mound 33m x 28m, surviving to a height of 1.8m and surrounded by a ditch (no longer visible). The mound was partially excavated in the 1890s when traces of a cremation burial were recorded. Considering the partial excavation of the site, the bowl barrow survives comparatively well (English Heritage Record of Scheduled Monuments). During the excavations, hundreds of pieces of worked flint and tools dating from the Mesolithic period (8500-4000BC) were recovered, suggestive of an earlier occupation of the site.
- 2.1.3 To the north-east of the Site, two burnt mounds (TQ55NW) were identified (Compass Archaeology, 2007) during a watching brief. The mounds were defined by spreads of fire-cracked flint and charcoal. The larger, westernmost mound was excavated and found to contain at least two phases of activity, including an apparently circular ring-shaped feature associated with an earlier phase. A Middle Bronze Age pin, an Iron Age coin, bone and tooth fragments, struck flints and Middle Iron Age pottery were all recovered during the excavations.
- 2.1.4 Approximately 800m to the east of the Site, a magnetometer survey (ASE, 2006) identified an area of linear anomalies (possibly forming an enclosure boundary) and small discrete anomalies indicative of pits.
- 2.1.5 Just under 1km to the north of the Site, a quantity of Romano-British pottery and tiles (TQ55NW37) was uncovered in 1972 during excavations for a new gas pipe on the west bank of the river Darent.
- 2.1.6 No Scheduled Monuments or Listed Buildings exist within the Site, which falls outside the Conservation Area.

3 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

The aims of the watching brief were to:

- To determine the presence or absence of archaeological remains, and should remains be found to be present to ensure their preservation by record to the highest possible standard.
- To determine or confirm the approximate date or date range of the remains, by means of artefactual or other evidence.
- To determine or confirm the approximate extent of the remains.
- To determine the condition and state of preservation of the remains.
- To determine the degree of complexity of the horizontal and/or vertical stratigraphy present.
- To prepare a report on the results of the watching brief.

4 METHODOLOGY

4.1 Introduction

- 4.1.1 The watching brief was carried out in accordance with the methodology as detailed in the Written Scheme of Investigation (WA 2011).
- 4.1.2 All works were also carried out in accordance with current best practice and to the guidance outlined in Management of Research Projects in the Historic

Environment (MoRPHE, English Heritage 2006) and the Institute for Archaeologists' Standards and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Briefs (IfA 2008).

4.2 Fieldwork

4.2.1 All archaeological deposits were recorded using Wessex Archaeology's *pro forma* recording sheets with a unique numbering system for individual contexts. Features were located in relation to the Ordnance Survey national grid. All principle strata and features were related to the Ordnance Survey datum.

4.2.2 A general photographic record was made of the fieldwork. The photographic record illustrated the general context of the archaeology and the Site as a whole.

5 INSURANCE AND HEALTH AND SAFETY

5.1 Policy and Risk Assessment

5.1.1 Health and safety considerations were of paramount importance in conducting all fieldwork. 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.

5.1.2 Prior to the commencement of the fieldwork a site-specific Risk Assessment was produced (Wessex Archaeology 2011). All site staff involved in the works signed and complied with this document.

6 FIELDWORK RESULTS

6.1 Introduction

6.1.1 The archaeological watching brief comprised the archaeological monitoring of the removal of tarmac within the existing car park (**Figure 1**).

6.2 Natural deposits and Soil Sequence

6.2.1 The work consisted of the removal of sections of the tarmacadam car park prior to further development. The works were excavated using a tracked 360° excavator deploying a toothed bucket under constant archaeological supervision. Tarmac was removed to a depth of 300mm, below which made ground deposits were encountered. No excavation into the made ground deposits was undertaken and natural geology was not revealed.

7 FINDS

7.1.1 Modern material was noted during the excavation, but was not retained.

8 ENVIRONMENTAL

- 8.1.1 No material suitable for environmental sampling was identified during the course of the watching brief.

9 CONCLUSION

- 9.1.1 No archaeological features were recorded during the watching brief.
- 9.1.2 Given the shallow nature of the excavations, the impact of the previous groundworks on the underlying deposits could not be determined and there remains the potential for archaeology to be preserved beneath the made ground deposits.

10 ARCHIVE

10.1 Preparation and Deposition

- 10.1.1 The project archive will be prepared in accordance with the guidelines outlined in Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MoRPHE, English Heritage 2006) and in accordance with the Guidelines for the preparation of excavation archives for long term storage (UKIC 1990).
- 10.1.2 The archive is currently held at Wessex Archaeology's office building in Kent under the WA project code 85350. The completed archive, which will include all paperwork, will on completion of all fieldwork and post-excavation reporting, ultimately be deposited for permanent storage at the local museum, where it will be deposited under the Site Code 85350
- 10.1.3 Digital images will be curated under arrangements agreed for the Wessex Archaeology Digital Image Archive Trial and will be deposited with the Archaeology Data Service (University of York) as part of the submission of an OASIS record for the project.

10.2 Copyright

- 10.2.1 This report may contain material that is non-Wessex Archaeology copyright (e.g. Ordnance Survey, British Geological Survey), 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.

10.3 Security Copy

- 10.3.1 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 second diazo copy will be deposited with the paper records at the Salisbury and South Wiltshire Museum, and a third diazo copy will be retained by Wessex Archaeology.

11 REFERENCES

British Geological Society, 1976, Geological Survey of Great Britain
(England and Wales) Sheet 298, Salisbury

WA 2011, Written Scheme of Investigation for an Archaeological Watching
Brief at Sainsbury's, Otford Road, Sevenoaks, Kent

APPENDIX 1 – OASIS RECORD FORM
Sainsbury's, Otford Road, Sevenoaks, Kent - Wessex Archaeology
OASIS ID - wessexar1-138418
Versions

View	Version	Completed by	Email	Date
<u>View 1</u>	1	S Farr	s.farr@wessexarch.co.uk	30 November 2012

Completed sections in current version

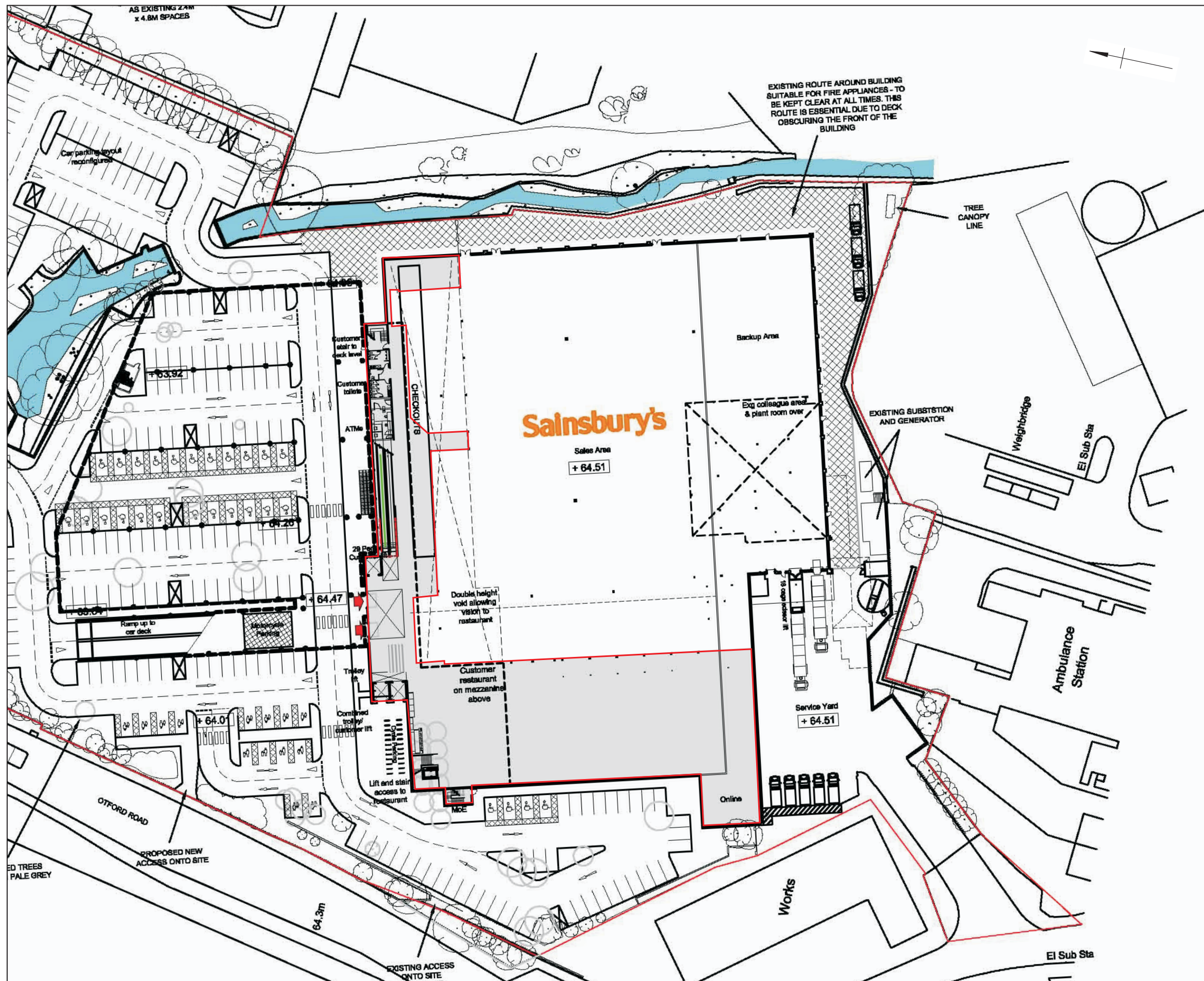
Details	Location	Creators	Archive	Publications
Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	1/1

Validated sections in current version

Details	Location	Creators	Archive	Publications
No	No	No	No	0/1

File submission and form progress

Grey literature report submitted?	No	Grey literature report filename/s
Images submitted?	No	Image filename/s
Boundary file submitted?	No	Boundary filename
HER signed off?		NMR signed off?



Watching Brief Area

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Revision Number:	0
Illustrator:	LJC/KJF
Date:	09/01/12
Scale:	1:25 000 & 1:800 approx.
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\\Report figs\WB\12_01_09\76530_wb.dwg	

Site location plan

Figure 1



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