Archaeology South-East

ASE

Archaeological Strip Map and Sample Excavation

Waitrose, Hill Street, Saffron Walden, Essex

NGR: TL 53921 38368

Site Code: SW63
ASE Project No: 8314
ASE Report No: 2015141

By Kate Clover, Trevor Ennis and Mark Germany
Illustrations by Andrew Lewsey

July 2015

Archaeological Strip, Map and Sample Excavation

Waitrose Car Park, Hill Street, Saffron Walden, Essex, CB10 1EH

NGR: TL 53921 38368

Planning Ref: UTT/2012/10/FUL

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OASIS id: archaeol6- 213077

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Abstract

Archaeology South-East was commissioned by CgMs Consulting, on behalf of the John Lewis Partnership, to carry out a programme of archaeological strip, map and sample excavation at the rear of Waitrose supermarket, Hill Street, Saffron Walden, prior to the construction of a basement car park level.

The site lies within the known extents of the medieval town enclosure, known as the 'magnum fossatum', and both Iron Age and Roman remains were found close-by at Elm Grove.

The archaeological work was carried out on an intermittent basis between February and March 2015. This revealed that in all areas apart from the south-west (Area H) the natural ground slope had been cut into in order to level the site, and any potential archaeological deposits and features had been removed.

The site had been further disturbed by concrete footings and drains associated with the previous supermarket car park.

Although medieval and post-medieval pits were recorded during a limited investigation undertaken prior to the construction of the car park in the 1980s, the earliest remains found during the current investigation were 19th century brick walls - either garden wall or glasshouse foundations dating from when the site was used as gardens.

The absence of archaeological features, despite the previous discovery of 16th-19th century pits within the site is probably due to the substantial truncation and disturbance that has occurred over most of the site as a result of groundworks for the construction of the previous decked car park.

However, the lack of archaeological features even within Area H, where pre-car park topsoil and subsoil deposits over undisturbed natural survived, suggests that any remains formerly present within the wider site were probably of low density and/or sporadically occurring across it. The Iron Age features found at Elm Close evidently did not extend this far and it is likely this location of the medieval town enclosure interior was undeveloped.

As such, the construction of the replacement car park has not impacted upon the below-ground heritage resource of this vicinity of Saffron Walden.

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1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Site Background

1.1.1 Archaeology South-East (ASE), the contracting division of the Centre for Applied Archaeology (CAA), Institute of Archaeology (IoA), University College London (UCL) was commissioned by CgMs Consulting to undertake a programme of archaeological Strip, Map and Sample Excavation at Waitrose Supermarket, Hill Street, Saffron Walden in advance of the construction of a new decked car park with basement to replace the existing car park at the rear of the store. The work was carried out on an intermittent basis between 4th February and 2nd March 2015.

1.2 Geology and Topography

1.2.1 The replacement car park site lies immediately to the rear (south) of the Waitrose building and was previously occupied by a decked car park. It is rectangular in shape, covering an area of approximately 2170 sq m. Although the entrance to the Waitrose Store is on Hill Street, the replacement car park site itself is accessed from Elm Grove to the south (TL 53900 38300). The site is bordered to the north by the Waitrose building, to the east by a car park, to the west by office and retail development and to the south by Elm Grove (Figure 1).

1.2.2 The previous decked car park and the existing Waitrose building is constructed on and partially terraced into a north facing slope, as the ground drops down toward the River Slade (now culverted). The Hill Street entrance at the north of the site is situated at 52.54m AOD, rising to 56.64m AOD at the southern edge of the site near the boundary with Elm Grove. Where previous development has taken place, terracing into the slope has been undertaken to create a flat surface for the buildings; however, the original topography was thought to survive within the eastern and southern part of the car park area, where the existing concrete surface slopes substantially up to the south. It was this area of the site that was thought to retain some potential for archaeological remains to survive (Figure 1).

1.2.3 The solid geology of the study site is shown by the British Geological Survey (Saffron Walden: Solid and Drift: Sheet 205) as comprising Nodular Chalk of the Lewes and Seaford Chalk Formations. Within the area of the site the Chalk is overlain by drift Head deposits comprising variably clayey, silt, sand and gravel.

1.3 Planning Background

1.3.1 A planning application (UTT/2012/10/FUL) was submitted to Uttlesford District Council in 2010 for a single storey extension to the existing Waitrose store. This involved replacement of the decked car park and existing service area at the rear of the store. As the site lies within the historic core of Saffron Walden, in an area that may contain important archaeological deposits, ECC Place Services, in their capacity as archaeological advisors to the District Council, recommended that a full archaeological condition be attached to any grant of planning consent.

1.3.2 This recommendation was made in accordance with guidance contained in Planning Policy Statement 5: Planning for the Historic Environment, which was in force at the time and has subsequently been replaced by the National Planning Policy Framework (DCLG 2012). The condition that was attached to the planning consent states that:

'No development or preliminary groundworks of any kind shall take place until the applicant has secured the implementation of a programme of archaeological work and recording in accordance with a written scheme of investigation which has been submitted by the applicant and approved by the planning authority.'

1.3.3 A Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) was prepared for the work (ASE 2014a) on behalf of CgMs Consulting, acting on behalf of the John Lewis Partnership. The initial stage of archaeological work comprised the monitoring and recording of geotechnical test-pits, which was carried out in May 2014 (ASE 2014b, see Section 2.2).

1.3.4 This report relates to the subsequent stage of work which was carried out after the demolition of the decked car park and prior to the construction of the basement car park.

1.4 Scope of Report

1.4.1 This report presents the results of the archaeological excavation. The report describes and interprets the results of the excavation and assesses the impact of the development upon the heritage resource.

2.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

2.1 Introduction

2.1.1 The following archaeological background utilises a desk-based assessment produced for the site in 2010 (CgMs 2010). Broader accounts of the archaeological and historical development of the town can be found elsewhere (Andrews *et al* 2002; Bassett 1982; Medlycott 1999).

2.1.2 The majority of evidence for the prehistoric period discovered within the vicinity of this site comprises find spots indicative of activities such as hunting and woodland clearance. However, more significant Bronze Age remains have been discovered to the south of the site, and considered to be part of a wider ritual landscape.

2.1.3 The presence of both Iron Age and Romano-British remains in close proximity to the site, at Elm Grove and other sites, suggested that remains of this date might have been present within the car park site. Excavations within the adjacent Elm Grove site, carried out in advance of housing development 1972-1973, recorded a probable Iron Age fenced enclosure and a Late Iron Age pit. These excavations also revealed a late Roman chalk quarry pit (HER 432; Basset 1982, 27-35).

2.1.3 In the Saxon/Early medieval period the site was most likely used for agriculture and appears to have been located away from the known settlement focus, which was some 300m to the west in the Abbey Lane area. After the Norman Conquest a shift in the focus of the town took place following the construction of the castle and the establishment of a planned town within the castle bailey. The town enclosure was subsequently enlarged again in the early to mid-13th century and it appears the car park site was located within the eastern part of this later enclosure, known as the *magnum fossatum*.

2.1.4 A map regression exercise undertaken as part of the desk-based assessment for the entire site showed that the northern part (the area of the Waitrose supermarket building) had been developed since at least 1758; becoming a cattle market in the Victorian period and later a pig market. The southern area (the area of the replacement car park) was open ground or gardens in the 18th to mid19th century. The 1842 tithe map shows the replacement car park area as within apportionment '610' which is listed as 'Mansion and garden' and seems to refer to the gardens of Fairycroft House to the south. Sometime between 1842 and 1877 glass-roofed structures (probably greenhouses) were built on the eastern side of the car park replacement area, as shown on OS maps from 1877. These appear to be part of a landscaped garden belonging to Elm Grove House to the south. These were demolished when the site became a car park in the 1970s and 80s.

2.2 Previous archaeological investigations

2.2.1 A number of excavations and watching briefs were carried out in the southern extents of the historic town in the 1980s and have been since published

(Andrews et al 2002). Of these, the Pig Market Site (SW3 – see Figure 1) and the Choppens site (SW5) are most pertinent.

2.2.2 The Pig Market (SW3) site lay to the north and east of the replacement car park, partially beneath the extant supermarket building (Andrews et al 2002, 222-4). A small excavation area and a series of machine-cut trenches across the former pig market and subsequent car park exposed pits, post-holes and probable quarries of late medieval and post-medieval date. The earliest datable pit was late 15th to 16th century. The quarries and most of the other features appeared to be post-medieval, mostly late 18th to 19th century and probably dug and filled in not long before the establishment of the Cattle Market. On the eastern side of the excavation, late wall remains were exposed which related to gardens outside the market place, within which ground reduction to modify the slope down to the Slade had occurred. This ground modification is thought to have taken place when the cattle market was laid out. Other activity contemporary with the market were several pits and post holes and a layer of rammed chalk.

2.2.3 Of particular relevance to the replacement car park is The Choppens site (SW5), a small 12m x 12m investigation area located within the south-west corner of the replacement car park site (Figure 2). Here, a dark topsoil containing 20th century finds overlay a sandy silt deposit which in turn overlay a degraded chalk, or 'Coombe' horizon, the periglacially weathered surface of which was encountered at c.0.6-0.9m below the then ground surface (Andrews *et al* 2002, 223-226). A small number of 16th-18th century features cut the sandy silt sub-soil deposit, their fills including residual prehistoric flints and medieval pottery. The residual flints found were mainly Neolithic to Late Bronze age in date.

2.2.4 Geo-technical works, including window sample and cable percussive boreholes and test-pits undertaken to inform the foundation design for the replacement car park, were archaeologically monitored in 2014 (ASE 2014b). Ten test-pits located along three edges of the car park were monitored (Figure 2). No archaeological remains were encountered, but it was demonstrated that the level of ground truncation in the southern and western part of the site was not extensive and that there was some potential for the survival of archaeological remains within the development area. The sandy silt subsoil found at the Choppens site and, in some places, the remnants of the overlying former topsoil were demonstrated to survive below the concrete slab and its make-up – particularly across the southern part of the replacement car park site.

2.3 Project Aims and Objectives

2.3.1 The principle aims of the archaeological work were to:

- excavate, record, analyse and report on any archaeological remains identified within the strip, map and sample area, thereby achieving the preservation by record of any remains that would otherwise be damaged or destroyed by the proposed development;

- assess and interpreted any archaeological remains uncovered against the wider background of previous fieldwork in the area;

- By using appropriate palaeo-environmental techniques attempt to model the landscape and its transformation, as brought about by natural events and human action.

2.3.2 Specific research objectives for the project were to:

- investigate any medieval and post-medieval remains surviving within the site in order to more fully understand their form, date, function and significance, with regard to previous archaeological works in the area, particularly The Choppens site (SW5), which suggests that this part of the historic town was at least partially developed/ occupied between the 16th and 18th centuries before reverting to agricultural use (Andrews et al 2002, 223-226).

2.3.3 The regional research framework for the Medieval and Post-Medieval periods highlights the development of towns, changes in their internal layouts and housing densities, and their role as centres of supply and demand, as needing further study (Medlycott 2011). Consequently, the results of the work were anticipated to have the potential to contribute to a number of research objectives and provide an improved understanding of the internal layout and development of this part of the town and evidence for periods of growth/ expansion and contraction over time. However, as no significant remains were identified the results of the work will not contribute to any research framework objectives.

3.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL METHODOLOGY

3.1 Fieldwork Methodology

3.1.1 The archaeological excavation was carried out on an intermittent basis between the 4th February and 2nd March 2015 and was conducted in accordance with a Written Scheme of Investigation (ASE 2014a) and Method Statement (ASE 2015).

3.1.2 The archaeological work comprised a strip, map and sample excavation exercise undertaken in advance of the bulk excavation/ reduction of existing ground levels for the new basement car park level (see Figure 1).

3.1.3 Eight separate areas, the size and location of which were often restricted by on-going ground clearance and construction work, were stripped under archaeological supervision. Other obstacles included temporary stock piles, the site's south-eastern entranceway, which had be kept open for plant, an area of asbestos contamination near the site's south-eastern corner, and a live electricity cable along the site's eastern edge. The north-west corner of the site was not investigated since it contained two very large, below-ground concrete blocks, both of which were subsequently removed by machine. Most, but not all of the stripped areas were immediately backfilled by the construction work force following archaeological recording. The total area stripped was 770 sq m, roughly one third of the development area.

3.1.4 All excavation areas were machine stripped using a tracked mechanical 360° excavator. All mechanical excavation was undertaken under the direct supervision of experienced archaeologists. Toothless buckets were used to remove overburden, although Excavation Area A initially required use of a toothed bucket in order to remove modern building rubble. Machine excavation was then carried out to the surface of the underlying natural geology whereupon any features and structures present would be exposed.

3.1.5 Site planning involved a combination of hand drawing and GPS planning. The extents of the individual strip areas, and all archaeological and modern features exposed within them, were recorded.

3.1.6 All excavation work was carried out in accordance with *Standards for Field Archaeology in the East of England* (Gurney 2003) and with the agreed WSI (ASE 2014a).

3.1.7 Modern features, most of which composed drains and concrete building foundations, were planned in order to record the degree of disturbance, although none were recorded in detail. Where buried soils were encountered, a suitable section face of the stripped area was cleaned by hand and drawn at 1:10.

3.1.8 Standard ASE methodologies were employed. All stratigraphy was recorded using the ASE context recording system.

3.1.9 Datum levels were taken where appropriate. Sufficient levels were taken to ensure that the relative height of the archaeological/subsoil horizon can be

extrapolated across the whole of the development area.

3.1.10 A full photographic record was made comprising colour digital images.

3.1.11 No finds were retrieved and no environmental samples were taken, since no pre-modern remains were present.

3.2 Archive

3.2.1 The site archive is currently held at the offices of ASE and will be deposited at Saffron Walden Museum in due course, subject to agreement with the legal landowner. Saffron Walden Museum does not give out archive accession numbers prior to work commencing.

3.2.2 All necessary arrangements will be made and procedures for the acceptance of finds and archive will be followed prior to their deposition. The contents of the archive are tabulated below (Table 1).

3.2.3 Guidelines contained in UKIC's Guidelines for the Presentation of excavation Archives for Long Term Storage and the MGC's Standards in the Museum Care of Archaeological Collections were followed for the preparation of the archive for museum deposition.

Number of Contexts	11
No. of paper record sheets	13
Plan and sections sheets	4
Bulk Samples	n/a
Photographs	45
Bulk finds	n/a
Registered finds	n/a
Environmental flots/residue	n/a

Table 1: Quantification of site archive

4.0 RESULTS

4.1 Summary

4.1.1 Archaeological strip and map works were undertaken across a total of eight areas (Areas A to H) within the demolished car park footprint (Figure 1).

4.1.2 Natural geology was reached in all areas. A series of modern features were exposed in all areas except Area G, where only geological deposits were observed. Modern features consisted of pits, two brick walls, concrete pads for footings and service trenches, interspersed with general areas of ground disturbance. These were sealed by made-ground deposits. The modern features encountered derive from both the previous decked car park which was built in the 1980s and from Victorian glasshouses that were erected between 1842 and 1877 and were demolished sometime before 1970.

4.1.3 No features or deposits of archaeological interest were revealed or artefacts retrieved. Figure 2 shows the modern features and disturbance encountered.

Area	Context	Type	Description	Thickness
A & B	[001]	Layer	Tarmac	0.13m
A & B	[002]	Layer	Modern made-ground – brownish orange silty sand and grit frequent gravel	0.3m
A	[003]	Cuts	Numerous modern features cut into layers [004] and [005]	
A	[004]	Layer	Natural orange brown and brownish orange silty sand and grit. Occasional gravel	
A	[005]	Layer	Natural greyish brown silty clay natural, occasional gravel	
B	[006]	Layer	Two patches of flint nodules within yellowish grey silty sandy clay. Probable natural deposit	Up to 0.2m
C	[007]	Layer	Natural brownish orange/grey sandy silt clay with infrequent gravel	
C	[008]	Layer	Modern made-ground overlying geo-textile - brownish orange loose sand and gravel	0.35m
H	[009]	Layer	Possible buried topsoil remnant. Dark greyish brown clayey silt with root disturbance	0.15m
H	[010]	Layer	Subsoil – reddish brown clay silt	0.25m
H	[011]	Layer	Natural Chalk	

Table 2: List of recorded contexts

4.2 Area A

4.2.1 Area A was an approximately rectangular 200sqm block located in the north-east of the replacement car park site.

4.2.2 0.13m-thick tarmac layer [001] sealed modern made-ground [002] consisting of a brownish orange silty sand and grit with frequent gravel. Once these layers were removed, the natural deposit was reached at 0.43m below ground level, apart from in the south-eastern corner where the top of natural ground was at greater depth, being overlain by a 0.4m thick layer of modern brick rubble. Two types of geological deposit were exposed; in the centre of

the strip it was a greyish brown silty clay [005], with occasional gravel and flint. At the eastern and western edges it consisted of orange brown and brownish orange silty sand with frequent grit and occasional gravel [004].

4.2.3 The natural deposit was cut by various modern features, [003], comprising two brick walls, gravel-filled service trenches, concrete pads and large regular and irregular pits containing modern ceramic building material (Figure 3). The brick walls were constructed of frogged bricks, implying that they were 19th century or later. In the southern part of Area A, bordering Area B, were patches of loose modern gravel and some brown vague-pit-like features, some with rooting, which are interpreted as being the result of tree root disturbance.

4.2.4 The brick walls, being at the eastern end of the strip, correspond with the location of Victorian glasshouses and garden walls that were erected between 1842 and 1877 and were demolished sometime before 1970. The concrete features were presumably the foundation remains of the demolished decked car park.

4.3 Area B

4.3.1 Area B was a narrow strip to the south of Area A, totalling 57 sq m in extent and dug as an extension to Area A.

4.3.2 Tarmac [001], 0.13m thick, sealed modern made-ground layer [002], which consisted of a brownish orange silty sand and grit with frequent gravel. The underlying natural deposit was reached at 0.43m below ground level. The natural geology was chalky in the eastern part of the strip, becoming silty in the middle of the strip, and mixed clay and silt at the western end.

4.3.3 Two patches of flint nodules [006] were found in southern part of the strip at the base of the north-facing section, within a yellowish grey silty sandy clay. This was a probable natural deposit and was similar to a flint spread found in Area H, also at the base of the natural subsoil.

4.3.4 Cut into the natural ground were patches of loose modern gravel and further pit-like features, some with rooting, which are again probably the result of tree root disturbance. These extended into Area A.

4.4 Area C

4.4.1 Area C was a 100sqm square block to the west of Area A. Tarmac had already been removed prior to archaeological observation. Modern made-ground consisting of brownish orange loose sand and gravel, approximately 0.35m thick, sealed natural brownish orange/grey friable sandy silt clay with infrequent gravel.

4.4.2 Cut into the natural ground were several modern features; two gravel-filled drains leading to a concrete manhole, two concrete footings and other areas of modern gravel (Figure 3).

4.5 Area D

4.5.1 Area D was a 130sqm area in the centre of the site. Tarmac had already been removed prior to archaeological observation, exposing a 0.5m thick layer of modern gravel. Under this was a geo-textile membrane which had been laid over natural brickearth.

4.5.2 One modern pit, a gravel-filled service trench and two concrete blocks cut the natural brickearth.

4.6 Area E

4.6.1 This was a narrow strip at the western end of the site, 100sqm in extent. Tarmac had already been stripped to expose a 0.18m-thick layer of redeposited topsoil overlying geo-textile. The geo-textile overlaid 0.2m of modern gravel. This in turn overlay natural brickearth.

4.6.2 Two areas of disturbance were noted; a darker silty patch containing modern brick and a large area of darker organic soil, probably a tree-hole (Figure 3).

4.7 Area F

4.7.1 Area F was a 124sqm narrow strip in the south of the site. Tarmac had already been removed to expose 0.12m of topsoil overlying geo-textile. Under this was a 0.5m thick layer of modern gravel which sealed natural brickearth.

4.7.2 Various concrete foundation blocks cut the natural brickearth and patches of modern disturbance containing a silt soil were also recorded within it (Figure 3).

4.8 Area G

4.8.1 This was a 22sqm narrow strip in the centre of the site. Tarmac had already been stripped to reveal 0.3m of modern gravel which had been laid on top of a geo-textile membrane overlying natural geology.

4.8.2 Area G contained no archaeological remains or more recent disturbances.

4.9 Area H

4.9.1 This narrow strip in the southern part of the site was 40sqm in area and partially overlapped Area F. Natural geology was encountered at greater depth in this area, at 0.6m below ground level. This consisted of patchy chalk [011] and brown silt. The natural deposit was overlaid by reddish brown clay silt subsoil, 0.25m thick [010]. This in turn was overlaid by a 0.15m thick layer of dark greyish brown clayey silt with root disturbance [009], which appears to be a remnant of buried topsoil (Figure 3, section 1).

4.9.2 This buried topsoil remnant [009] was cut by a large, 0.75m deep, modern pit filled with chalk, flint and silt and containing plastic. The modern pit and layers [009] and [010] were sealed by 0.12-0.30m of modern gravel (Figure 3, section 1).

4.9.3 The rest of the strip encountered concrete blocks and modern silty patches of ground disturbance also seen in Area F.

5.0 DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSIONS

5.1 Overview of stratigraphic sequence

5.1.1 In each area apart from Area H the natural deposit was sealed by modern layers indicating that topsoil and subsoil and possibly some of the natural geology had been previously stripped. As predicted on the basis of the test-pit results, the southern part of the site (Area H) was the only place where subsoil [010] and topsoil [009] remained intact and had not been truncated away. The widespread truncation of the site probably occurred in the 1980s, when the previous decked car park was constructed:

www.waitrosememorystore.org.uk/page_id__909.aspx?path=0p3p48p351p.

5.1.2 The modern pits and other patches of disturbance also relate to this site preparation / construction phase of activity. The various modern gravel-filled drains and concrete pier remains were clearly part of the decked car park structure. Areas of root disturbance, encountered in Areas A and B, presumably indicate the previous vegetated state of parts of the site prior to the supermarket development.

5.1.3 No features or finds of archaeological significance were encountered within the monitored parts of the car park site. The brick walls found in Area A were constructed of frogged bricks and therefore likely to be late 19th century, or later, in date. Late 19th century maps show an apparent correlation with either gardens to the south of the market place (also found in SW3), or with greenhouses.

5.2 Deposit survival and existing impacts

5.2.1 The absence of archaeological features, despite the previous discovery of 16th-19th century pits within the site (section 2.2.3), is probably due to the substantial truncation and disturbance that has occurred over most of the site as a result of groundworks for the construction of the previous decked car park.

5.2.2 However, the lack of archaeological features even within Area H, where pre-car park topsoil and subsoil deposits over undisturbed natural survived, suggests that any remains formerly present within the wider site were probably of low density and/or sporadically occurring across it. The Iron Age features found at Elm Close evidently did not extend this far and it is likely this location of the medieval town enclosure interior was undeveloped.

5.3 Potential impact on archaeological remains

5.4.1 The current development has had no impact on archaeological remains.

5.4 Consideration of research aims

5.5.1 An absence of any significant remains has prevented the excavation from positively addressing any of the project's research aims as set out in the WSI.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

ASE would like to thank CgMs Consulting (Matthew Smith) for commissioning the work on behalf of the client, the John Lewis Partnership. The main construction contractor, Carters, is also thanked for its assistance and provision of mechanical excavator. Richard Havis of ECC Place Services monitored the archaeological works on behalf of the LPA.

The archaeological works were supervised by Trevor Ennis and Mark Germany. Site survey was undertaken by Lucasz Miciak and Andrew Lewsey, and Andrew Lewsey also produced the figures for this report. Adrian Scruby project managed the fieldwork and Mark Atkinson the post-excavation process.

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EHER Summary Form

Site name/Address: Waitrose, Hill Street, Saffron Walden	
Parish: Saffron Walden	***District:*** Uttlesford
NGR: TL 53900 38300	***Site Code:*** SW63
Type of Work: Strip, Map and Sample excavation	***Site Director/Group:*** M. Germany & T. Ennis; Archaeology South-East
Date of Work: 4th February to 2nd March 2015	***Site Area:*** 2170 sq m
Location of Finds/Curating Museum: Saffron Walden Museum	***Funding source:*** John Lewis Partnership
Further Seasons Anticipated?: No	***Related HER Nos:***
Final Report: EAH roundup	***OASIS No:*** 213077
Periods Represented: Modern	

SUMMARY OF FIELDWORK RESULTS:

A programme of archaeological strip, map and sample excavation was undertaken at the rear of Waitrose supermarket, Hill Street, Saffron Walden, prior to the construction of a basement car park level. This revealed that in all areas of the 0.21ha site, apart from the south-west (Area H), the ground slope had been cut into and any potential archaeological deposits and features had been removed by the previous car park on the site. Further disturbances, in the form of concrete footings, pitting and drains relating to the earlier car park were also observed.

Although medieval and post-medieval pits were recorded during a limited investigation undertaken prior to the construction of the car park in the 1980s, the earliest remains found during the current investigation were 19th century brick walls - either garden wall or glasshouse foundations dating from when the site was used as gardens.

The absence of archaeological features, despite the previous discovery of 16th-19th century pits within the site is probably due to the substantial truncation and disturbance that has occurred over most of the site as a result of groundworks for the construction of the previous decked car park.

However, the lack of archaeological features even within Area H, where pre-car park topsoil and subsoil deposits over undisturbed natural survived, suggests that any remains formerly present within the wider site were probably of low density and/or sporadically occurring across it. The Iron Age features found at Elm Close evidently did not extend this far and it is likely this location of the medieval town enclosure interior was undeveloped.

Previous Summaries/Reports:

ASE 2014 *Archaeological Monitoring and Recording at Waitrose Car Park, Hill Street, Saffron Walden, Essex*, ASE rep. 2014259

Andrews, D.D., Mundy, C. and Walker, H. 2002, 'Saffron Walden: the topography of the southern half of the town and marketplace', *Essex Archaeol. Hist.* 3rd ser., 33, 221-273

Author of Summary: Kate Clover	***Date of Summary:*** July 2015

OASIS Form

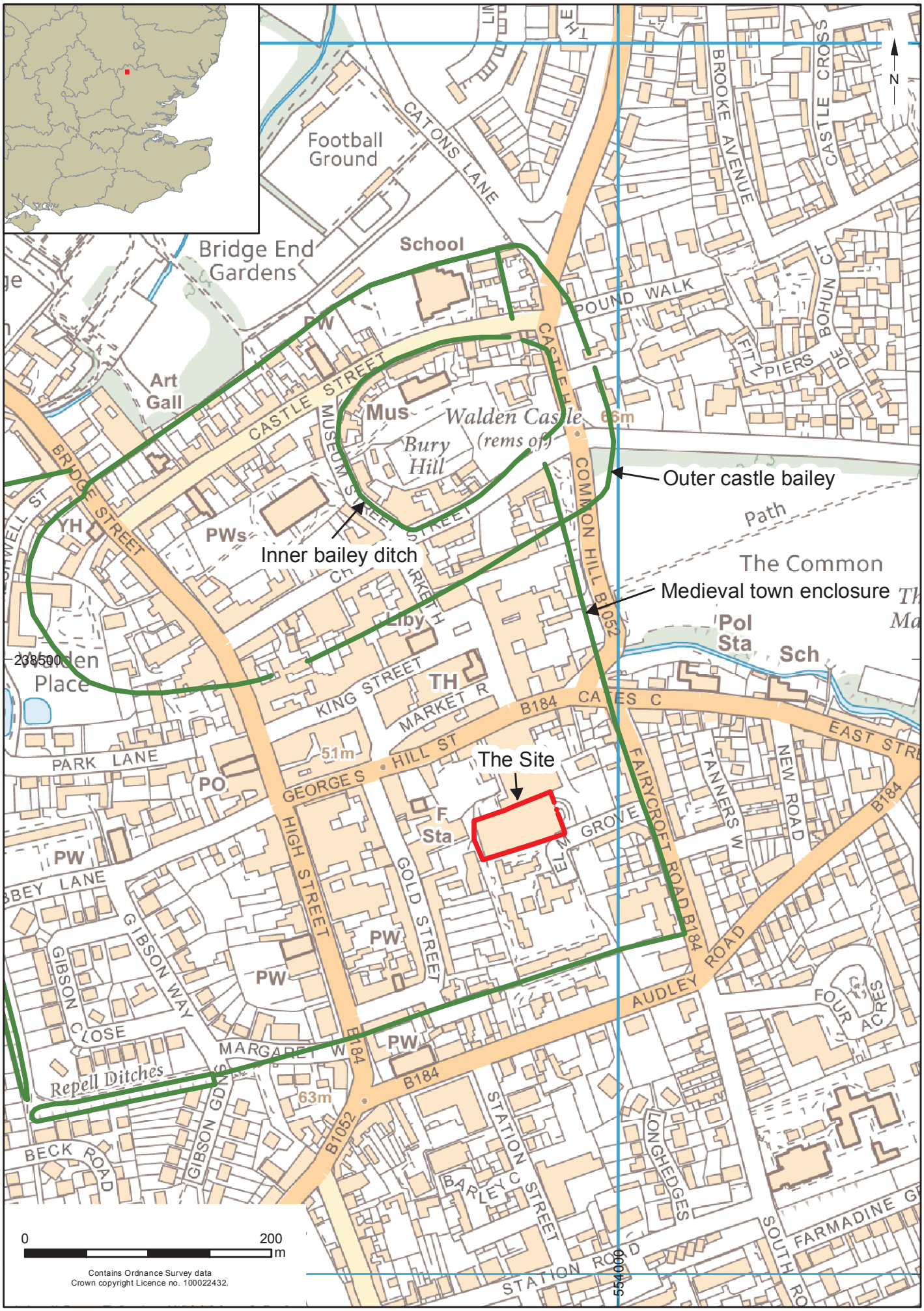
OASIS ID: archaeol6-213077

Project details	
Project name	Waitrose, Hill Street, Saffron Walden
Short description of the project	Archaeological Strip, Map and Sample Excavation was undertaken at the rear of Waitrose supermarket, Hill Street, Saffron Walden, prior to the construction of a basement car park level. This revealed that in all areas of the site, apart from the south-west (Area H), the ground slope had been cut into and any potential archaeological deposits and features had been removed
Project dates	Start: 04-02-2015 End: 02-03-2015
Previous/future work	Yes / Not known
Any associated project reference codes	SW63 - Sitecode
Any associated project reference codes	8314 - Contracting Unit No.
Type of project	Recording project
Site status	None
Current Land use	Industry and Commerce 3 - Retailing
Monument type	NONE
Significant Finds	NONE
Investigation type	"Part Excavation"
Prompt	Planning condition

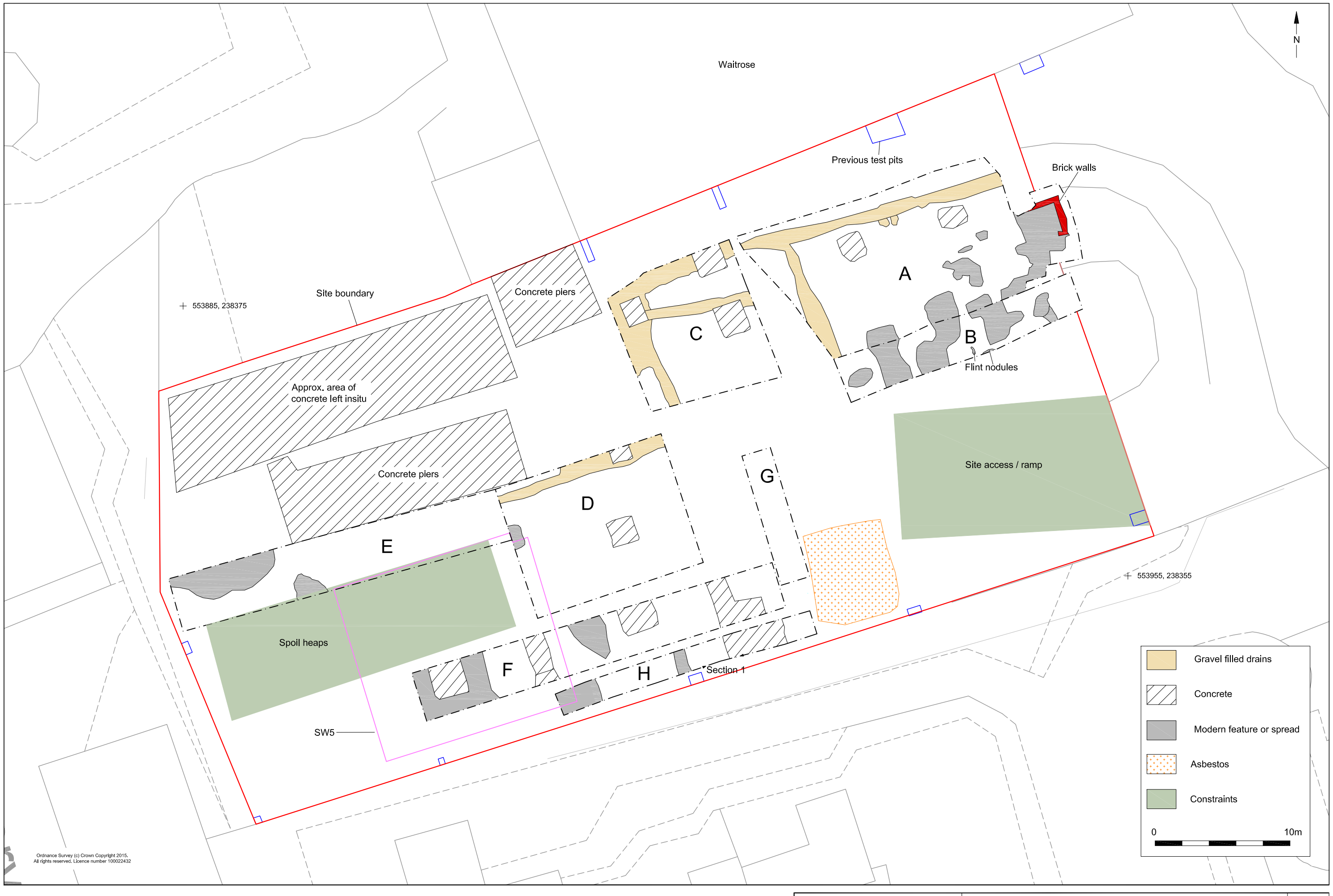
Project location	
Country	England
Site location	ESSEX UTTLESFORD SAFFRON WALDEN Waitrose, Hill Street
Postcode	CB10 1EH
Study area	770.00 Square metres
Site coordinates	TL 5392 3836 52.0218224356 0.243527437751 52 01 18 N 000 14 36 E Point
Height OD / Depth	Max: 59.90m

Project creators	
Name of Organisation	Archaeology South-East
Project brief originator	CgMs Consulting
Project design originator	ASE
Project director/manager	Adrian Scruby
Project supervisor	Mark Germany
Project supervisor	Trevor Ennis
Type of sponsor/funding	client

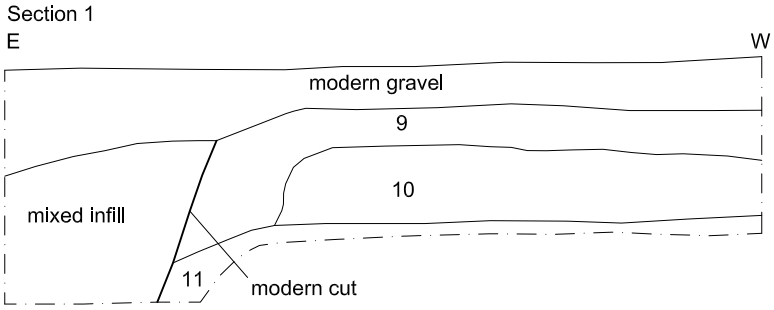
body	
Name of sponsor/funding body	John Lewis Partnership
Project archives	
Physical Archive Exists?	No
Digital Archive recipient	Saffron Walden Museum
Digital Archive ID	SW63
Digital Contents	"other"
Digital Media available	"Images raster / digital photography","Images vector","Survey","Text"
Paper Archive recipient	Saffron Walden Museum
Paper Archive ID	SW63
Paper Contents	"other"
Paper Media available	"Context sheet","Correspondence","Drawing","Map","Photograph","Plan","Report","Section"
Entered by	Kate Clover (k.clover@ucl.ac.uk)
Entered on	5 June 2015



© **Archaeology South-East**		Waitrose, Hill Street, Saffron Walden	Fig. 1
Project Ref: 8314	July 2015	Site location	
Report No: 2015141	Drawn by: APL		



© Archaeology South-East		Waitrose, Hill Street, Saffron Walden	Fig. 2
Project Ref: 8314	Mar 2015	Results of archaeological monitoring and excavation	
Report No: 2015141	Drawn by: APL		



Section 1 looking south, 1m scale

Area A: brick footings, view west

Area E: view east

Area F: north-facing bulk, 1m scale, view south

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Project Ref: 8314	Mar 2015	Section 1 and selected photographs	
Report No: 2015141	Drawn by: APL		

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