

**Land at Latham Road
Abbey Meads, Swindon
Wiltshire**

Archaeological Watching Brief



for
ALDI UK


CA Project: 3682
CA Report: 12006

February 2012

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CA Project: 3682
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date	24 February 2012
issue	01

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Fig. 1 Site location plan (1:25,000)

Fig. 2 The site, showing location of observed groundworks (1:500)



SUMMARY

Project Name: Land at Latham Road
Location: Abbey Meads, Swindon, Wiltshire
NGR: SP 1508 8921
Type: Watching Brief
Date: 18 January 2012
Planning Reference: S/11/0989/IH; condition no. 8
Location of Archive: To be deposited with Swindon Museum and Art Gallery
Accession Number: B2012.22
Site Code: LRA 12

An archaeological watching brief was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology during geotechnical groundworks associated with the development of land at Latham Road, Abbey Meads, Swindon, Wiltshire.

No features or deposits of archaeological interest were observed during groundworks, and no finds were recovered.



1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 In January 2012 Cotswold Archaeology (CA) carried out an archaeological watching brief for ALDI UK on Land at Latham Road, Abbey Meads, Swindon, Wiltshire (centred on NGR: SP 1508 8921; Fig. 1). The watching brief was undertaken to fulfil a condition attached to a planning consent granted by Swindon Borough Council (SBC) for retail development of the site (Planning ref: S/11/0989/IH). The objective of the watching brief was to record all archaeological remains exposed during geotechnical investigations associated with the development of the site.
- 1.2 The watching brief was carried out in accordance with a detailed *Written Scheme of Investigation* (WSI) produced by CA (2012) and approved by Melanie Pomeroy-Kellinger, County Archaeologist, Wiltshire Council (WC), archaeological advisor to SBC. The fieldwork also followed the *Standard and Guidance for an archaeological watching brief* (IfA 2008), the *Statement of Standards and Practices Appropriate for Archaeological Fieldwork in Wiltshire* (Wiltshire County Council 1995) and the *Management of Archaeological Projects 2* (English Heritage 1991), the *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MORPHE): Project Manager's Guide* (English Heritage 2006).

The site

- 1.3 The site, which encloses an area of approximately 0.85ha, lies on the north-western outskirts of Swindon. It is bordered by Latham Road and the Vygon UK premises to the west, by Thamesdown Drive to the south and by undeveloped land, currently grassland and scrub, to its north and east (Fig. 2). The site, itself currently rough grassland and scrub, may previously have been disturbed during the construction of the former Motorola factory (now Vygon UK's premises) and associated landscaping; it is likely that the site has either been previously stripped of some overburden or utilised for the dumping of materials (Pomeroy-Kellinger, pers. comm).
- 1.4 The site lies at approximately 140m AOD. The solid geology comprises mudstone and limestone of the Amptill Clay and Stanford Limestone Formations (BGS 2012).

Archaeological background

- 1.5 Archaeological interest in the site arises principally from its proximity to an unenclosed Iron Age settlement, dating to the sixth and fifth-centuries BC, excavated by Cotswold Archaeological Trust in 1996. The excavation area, approximately 75m north-west of the development site, revealed an initial phase of occupation comprised of an unenclosed settlement with five roundhouses and associated pits. The focus of activity subsequently shifted southward to a large carafe-shaped enclosure, bounded by substantial ditches, associated with two roundhouses. Further roundhouses were associated with a subsequent extension of the enclosure (Walker, Langton & Oakley 2001).
- 1.6 A geophysical survey was undertaken by Archaeological Surveys Ltd on the 12 January 2012 of those parts of the development site accessible and responsive to magnetometer survey. The survey produced responses along the southern and eastern parts of the site characteristic of magnetic debris, probably indicating made ground. Magnetic disturbance from ferrous metal was also noted within the northern part of the site. A discrete positive response towards the centre of the site might represent a pit-like feature, and several linear anomalies suggestive of modern service lines were also recorded (Sabin, pers. comm.).

Methodology

- 1.7 The fieldwork followed the methodology set out within the WSI (CA 2012). An archaeologist was present during intrusive geotechnical groundworks comprising the excavation of trial pits and California Bearing Ratio (CBR) pits, and the stripping of a site compound (Fig. 2).
- 1.8 Written, graphic and photographic records were compiled in accordance with CA Technical Manual 1: *Fieldwork Recording Manual* (2007).
- 1.9 The archive from the evaluation are currently held by CA at their offices in Kemble and will be deposited with Swindon Museum and Art Gallery under accession number B2012.22. A summary of information from this project, set out within Appendix B, will be entered onto the OASIS online database of archaeological projects in Britain.

2. RESULTS (FIG. 2)

- 2.1 The natural geological substrate consisting of limestone brash and occasional gravelly clays, was revealed within all areas of observed groundworks at an average depth of between 0.2m and 0.45m below present ground level. This was directly overlain by a mixed modern dumped deposit comprising re-deposited clays mixed with modern building rubble which, in some cases, had been laid on terram.
- 2.2 No features or deposits of archaeological interest were observed during groundworks and, despite visual scanning of spoil, no finds were recovered.

3. DISCUSSION

- 3.1 Despite the archaeological potential of the application area, the watching brief identified no archaeological remains within the area of observed groundworks. The lack of a buried topsoil or subsoil beneath the modern dumped deposits would suggest that the site had been truncated during landscaping associated with the adjacent development of the Motorola factory (now Vygon UK) and that any archaeological features previously present on the site have been removed. Conversely the absence of archaeological deposits may indicate that structural remains associated with the unenclosed Iron Age settlement to the north-west either do not extend as far as or were not exposed by the development.

4. CA PROJECT TEAM

Fieldwork was undertaken by Alistair Barber. The report was written by Tim Havard. The illustrations were prepared by Pete Moore. The archive has been compiled by Tim Havard, and prepared for deposition by James Johnson. The project was managed for CA by Richard Young.

5. REFERENCES

- BGS (British Geological Survey) 2012 *Geology of Britain Viewer* http://maps.bgs.ac.uk/geology_viewer_google/googleviewer.html Accessed 12 January 2012

CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2012 *Land at Latham Road, Abbey Meads, Swindon, Wiltshire:
Written Scheme of Investigation for an Archaeological Watching Brief*

Archaeological Surveys 2012 *Land off Latham Road, Swindon: Magnetometer Survey
Report*

Walker, G, Langton, B and Oakey, N, 2001 *An Iron Age Site at Groundwell West, Wiltshire.
Excavations in 1996*. Cotswold Archaeological Trust Ltd, Cirencester



APPENDIX A: CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS

Test Pit 1 (1.4m length, 1.2m width, 0.5m depth)

No.	Type	Description	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Spot-date
100	Layer	Natural substrate: limestone brash			>0.5	

Test Pit 2 (1.4m length, 1.2m width, 0.8m depth)

No.	Type	Description	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Spot-date
200	Layer	Modern dumped deposit			0.3	
201	Layer	Natural substrate: limestone brash and gravely clay			>0.5	

Test Pit 3 (1.5m length, 1.2m width, 0.8m depth)

No.	Type	Description	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Spot-date
300	Layer	Modern dumped deposit			0.2	
301	Layer	Natural substrate: limestone brash			>0.6	

Test Pit 4 (1.35m length, 1.2m width, 0.5m depth)

No.	Type	Description	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Spot-date
400	Layer	Modern dumped deposit			0.45	
401	Layer	Natural substrate: limestone brash			>0.05	

Test Pit 5 (1.5m length, 1.2m width, 1m depth)

No.	Type	Description	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Spot-date
500	Layer	Modern dumped deposit			0.2	
501	Layer	Natural substrate: limestone brash			>0.8	

Test Pit 6 (1.5m width, 1.2m width, 0.9m depth)

No.	Type	Description	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Spot-date
600	Layer	Modern dumped deposit			0.3	
601	Layer	Natural substrate: limestone brash			>0.6	

CBR Test pit 1(1.4m length, 1.2m width, 0.6m depth)

No.	Type	Description	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Spot-date
1000	Layer	Modern dumped deposit			0.2	
1001	Layer	Natural substrate: limestone brash			>0.4	

CBR Test pit 2 (1.5m length, 1.2m width, 0.3m depth)

No.	Type	Description	Length	Width	Depth	Spot-
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			(m)	(m)	(m)	date
2000	Layer	Natural substrate: limestone brash			>0.3	

CBR Test pit 3 (1.6m length, 1.2m width, 1m depth)

No.	Type	Description	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Spot-date
3000	Layer	Modern dumped deposit			0.2	
3001	Layer	Natural substrate: limestone brash			>0.8	

CBR Test pit 4 (1.35m length, 1.2m width, 0.9m depth)

No.	Type	Description	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Spot-date
4000	Layer	Modern dumped deposits			0.05	
4001	Layer	Natural substrate: limestone brash			>0.85	

CBR Test pit 5 (1.4m length, 1.2m width, 0.3m depth)

No.	Type	Description	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Spot-date
5000	Layer	Modern dumped deposit			0.15	
5001	Layer	Natural substrate: limestone brash			>0.15	

CBR Test pit 6 (1.5m length, 1.2m width, 0.5m depth)

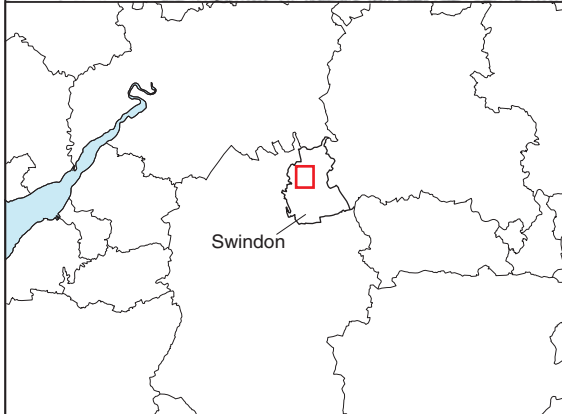
No.	Type	Description	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Spot-date
6000	Layer	Modern dumped deposit			0.1	
6001	Layer	Natural substrate: limestone brash			>0.4	

Area of ground reduction for site compound (20m length, 20m width, 0.3m depth)

No.	Type	Description	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Spot-date
7000	Layer	Modern dumped deposit			0.15	
7001	Layer	Natural substrate: limestone brash			>0.15	

APPENDIX B: OASIS REPORT FORM

PROJECT DETAILS		
Project Name	Land at Latham Road, Abbey Meads, Swindon: Archaeological Watching Brief	
Short description (250 words maximum)	An archaeological watching brief was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology during groundworks associated with the development of land at Latham Road, Abbey Meads, Swindon, Wiltshire. No features or deposits of archaeological interest were observed during groundworks, and no finds were recovered.	
Project dates	18 January 2012	
Project type	Archaeological Watching Brief	
Previous work	<i>Land of Latham Road, Swindon: Magnetometer Survey Report: Archaeological Surveys Ltd 2012</i>	
Future work	Unknown	
PROJECT LOCATION		
Site Location	Land at Latham Road, Abbey Meads, Swindon, Wiltshire	
Study area (M ² /ha)	0.85ha	
Site co-ordinates (8 Fig Grid Reference)	SP 1508 8921	
PROJECT CREATORS		
Name of organisation	Cotswold Archaeology	
Project Brief originator	Wiltshire Council	
Project Design (WSI) originator	Cotswold Archaeology	
Project Manager	Richard Young	
Project Supervisor	Alistair Barber	
MONUMENT TYPE		
None		
SIGNIFICANT FINDS		
None		
PROJECT ARCHIVES		
	Intended final location of archive	Content
Physical	n/a	n/a
Paper	Swindon Museum and Art Gallery; B2012.22	Trench recording sheets
Digital	Swindon Museum and Art Gallery; B2012.22	Digital photos, pdf of report
BIBLIOGRAPHY		
CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2012 <i>Land at Latham Road, Abbey Meads, Swindon, Wiltshire: Archaeological Watching Brief</i> . CA typescript report 12006		



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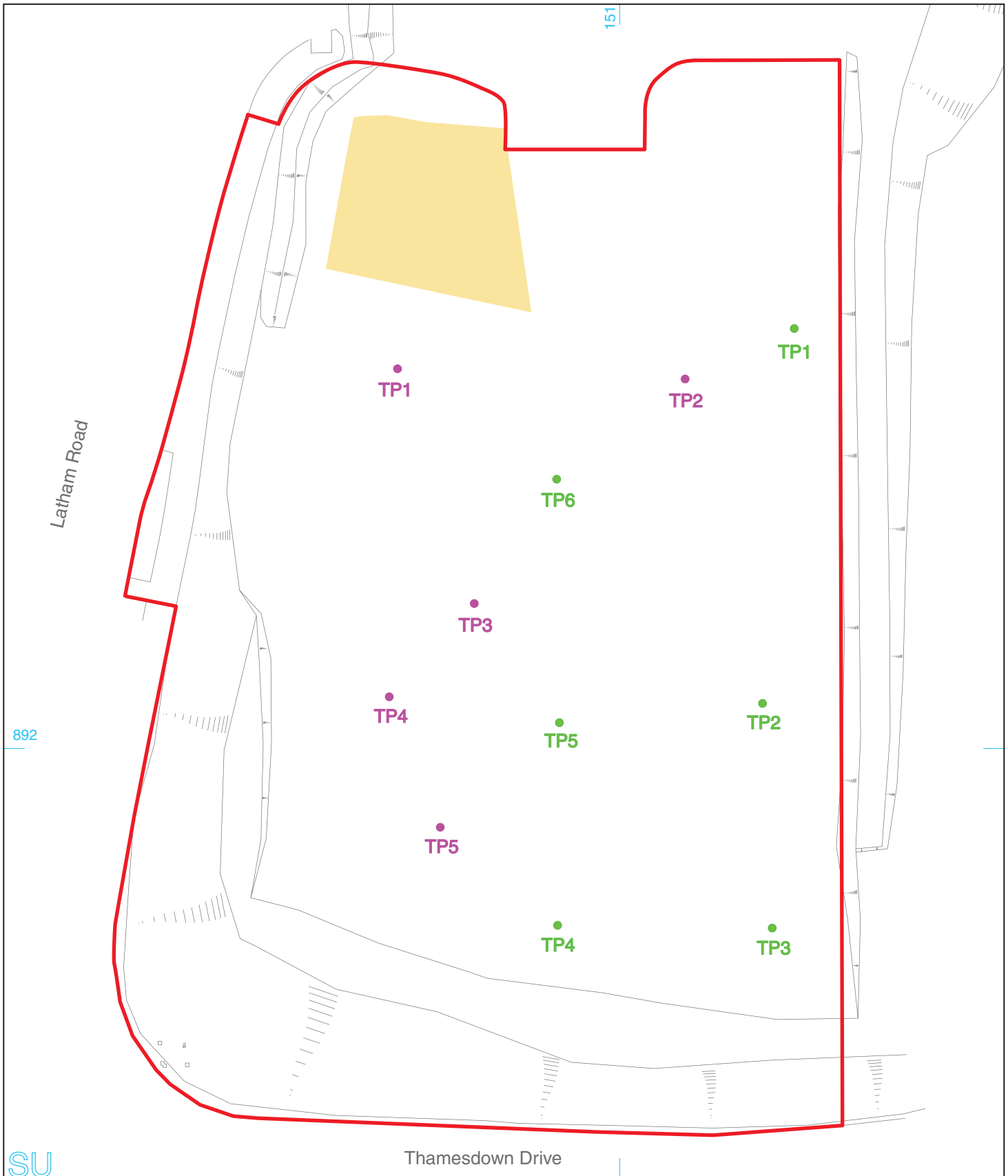
PROJECT TITLE
 Latham Road, Abbey Meads
 Swindon

FIGURE TITLE
 Site location plan

Reproduced from the 2008 Ordnance Survey Explorer map with the permission of Ordnance Survey on behalf of The Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office © Crown copyright
 Cotswold Archaeological Trust 100002109

PROJECT NO. 3682 **DATE** 30-1-2012
DRAWN BY PJM **REVISION** 00
APPROVED BY PJM **SCALE@A4** 1:25,000

FIGURE NO.
1



- site
- area of ground reduction
- trial pit
- CBR trial pit



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PROJECT TITLE
Latham Road, Abbey Meads Swindon

FIGURE TITLE
The site, showing location of observed groundworks

<i>PROJECT NO.</i> 3681	<i>DATE</i> 14-2-2012	<i>FIGURE NO.</i>
<i>DRAWN BY</i> PJM	<i>REVISION</i> 00	2
<i>APPROVED BY</i> PJM	<i>SCALE@A4</i> 1:500	