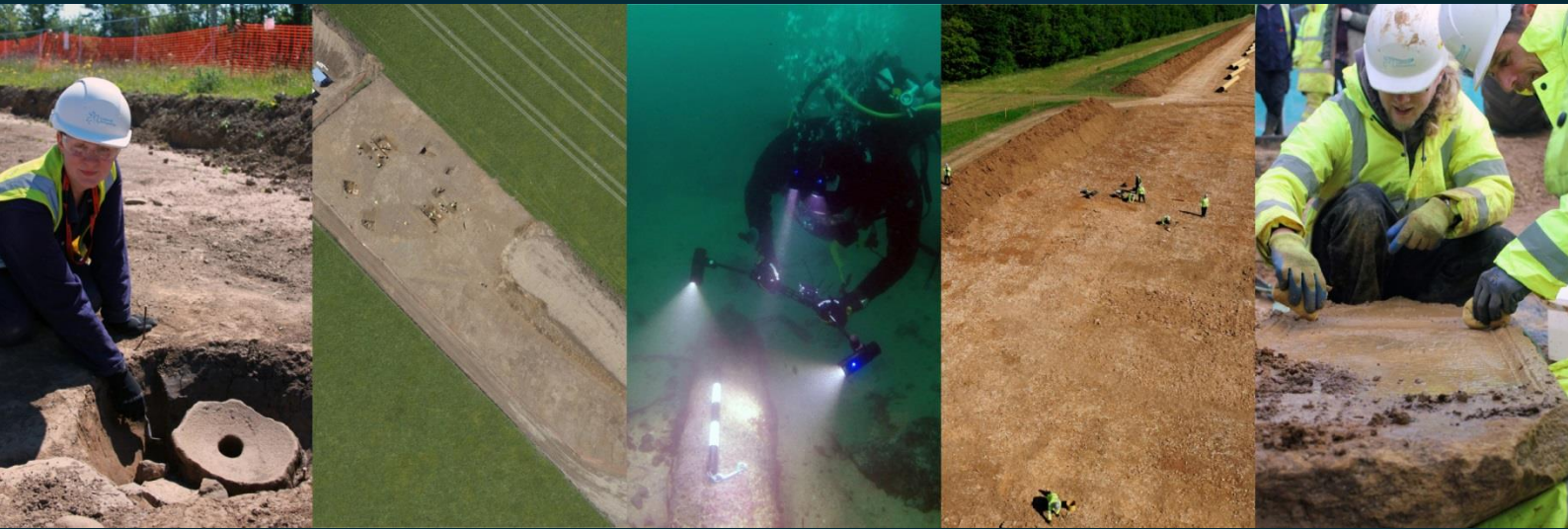


**Aldi Site, Park Farm,
Gillingham
Dorset**

Archaeological Watching Brief



for
Aldi Stores Limited

CA Project: 770432
CA Report: 16432

July 2016



Aldi Site, Park Farm Gillingham Dorset

Archaeological Watching Brief

CA Project: 770342
CA Report: 16432



Document Control Grid						
Revision	Date	Author	Checked by	Status	Reasons for revision	Approved by
A	3 August 2016	SJS	Richard Greatorex	Internal review	General Edit	Richard Greatorex

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SUMMARY

Project Name:	Park Farm
Location:	Gillingham, North Dorset
NGR:	ST 82089 25541
Type:	Watching Brief
Date:	27-28 July 2016
Location of Archive:	To be deposited with Dorchester Museum
Site Code:	APF 16

An archaeological watching brief was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology during groundwork associated with a geotechnical investigation (ground evaluation pits) prior to the submission of a planning application for the construction of a new Aldi store at Park Farm, Gillingham, North Dorset.

A total of 11 geotechnical test pits were observed during the watching brief. The Park Pale ditch, belonging to the nearby medieval hunting lodge, potentially crossed the site. However no evidence of this ditch was observed during these observations; the location of the pits may not have coincided with the alignment of the Park Pale. Towards the centre of the site was an in-filled pond which contained organic material and an extensive quantity of 20th century material. Across the entire site, the ground surface was exceptionally uneven, due to the presence of dumped modern material. Apart from two undated sandstone walls, which were recorded to the centre/east of the site, no features or deposits of archaeological interest were observed during the groundwork. No artefactual material pre-dating the modern period was recovered.



1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 In July 2016 Cotswold Archaeology (CA) carried out an archaeological watching brief for Aldi Stores Limited at Park Farm, Gillingham, North Dorset, (centred on NGR: ST 82089 25541; Fig. 1). The watching brief was undertaken prior to the submission of a planning application for the construction of a new Aldi store.

1.2 The watching brief was carried out in accordance with a *Written Scheme of Investigation* (WSI) produced by CA (2016) and submitted to North Dorset District Council, the local planning authority. The fieldwork also followed *Standard and guidance: Archaeological Watching Brief* (ClfA 2014).

The site

1.3 The proposed development area is approximately 0.8ha, and comprises a development plot of currently rough grass. To the west the site is bordered by the B3081, to the north by a roundabout, to the east by businesses associated with the Kingmead Business Park and to the south by a garden centre. The site is generally flat and lies at approximately 79m aOD, with the ground level only dropping away in the south-east corner to 78m aOD.

1.4 The underlying bedrock geology of the area is mapped as the West Walton Formation, Ampthill Clay Formation And Kimmeridge Clay Formation (undifferentiated) - Mudstone, Siltstone And Sandstone. This Sedimentary Bedrock formed approximately 151 to 161 million years ago in the Jurassic Period. Local environment previously dominated by shallow seas. These rocks were formed in shallow seas with mainly siliciclastic sediments (comprising of fragments or clasts of silicate minerals) deposited as mud, silt, sand and gravel (BGS (British Geological Survey) July 2016).

2. ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

2.1 Significant archaeological potential close to the site appears to be located at a distance of between c. 500-800m to the north-east, probably medieval in date and associated with King's Court Palace (a medieval hunting lodge located within a wider park). Remains of the Park Pale survive to the south-east of the site, beyond the garden centre (Fig. 1). It is possible that the remains of Park Pale ditch run

across the site on a north/south orientation. Recent evaluation of other plots within the Kingsmead Business Park revealed only undated boundary ditches.

3. AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

3.1 The objectives of the archaeological works were:

- to monitor groundworks, and to identify, investigate and record all significant buried archaeological deposits revealed on the site during the course of the development groundworks;
- at the conclusion of the project, to produce an integrated archive for the project work and a report setting out the results of the project and the archaeological conclusions that can be drawn from the recorded data.

4. METHODOLOGY

4.1 The fieldwork followed the methodology set out within the WSI (CA 2016). An archaeologist was present during intrusive groundworks which involved the monitoring of 11 geotechnical pits. Non-archaeologically significant deposits were removed by the contractors using a mechanical excavator, equipped with a toothless bucket and under constant archaeological supervision.

4.2 A total of 11 test pits were excavated 1 -12 (Fig 2). Test pit 1 was extended, (see 5.4 below), and was recorded by the geotechnical team as Test Pit 1 on the eastern side and Test Pit 2 on the western side. For the purpose of this report, this test pit is referred to as Test Pit 1.

4.3 Where archaeological deposits were encountered written, graphic and photographic records were compiled in accordance with CA Technical Manual 1: *Fieldwork Recording Manual*.

4.4 The archive from the watching brief is currently held by CA at their offices in Andover. Subject to the agreement of the legal landowner the archive will be deposited with Dorchester Museum. 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.

5. RESULTS (FIGURES 3-5)

5.1 The natural geological substrate consisting of firm fine blueish grey clay, becoming brown at greater depths, was revealed within all of the test pits at depths varying between 0.6m–1.7m below the present ground level. This was overlain by a deposit of dark brown organic rich buried soil horizon averaging c.0.2m in thickness, which was in turn sealed by a 0.3m–1m thick layer of redeposited natural clay. Across parts of the site this redeposited clay was sealed by modern waste building material and areas of imported crushed material, formally used for hardstanding. This meant that the present ground surface of the site was very uneven, with large piles and spreads of dumped material. These deposits were covered with a thin layer of topsoil, mainly consisting of matted roots with very little soil present.

5.2 Test Pits 4, 6, 8, 9, 10 and 12 exhibited only the above sequence of deposits. Test Pits 1, 3, 5, 7 and 11 revealed a variance in these sequences, and/or potential structures/deposits.

5.3 Test Pit 9 was extended slightly to the south to avoid a metal cable pipe, exposed at 0.95m below the present ground surface. The cable was aligned east/west (Fig 2).

Test Pit 1 (Figure 2)

5.4 Located to the north of the site, this test pit was extended to 11m in length to determine if the Park Pale ditch, noted on historic mapping, was present. The trench was excavated to a depth of 3m. The natural substrate was encountered at 1.40m, (77.80m aOD) below the present ground surface. There was no indication of the former ditch.

Test Pit 3 (Figures 2 & 4)

5.5 To the northern extent of this test pit was an east/west aligned wall 302. The wall was 0.9m wide by 1.05m high and set within a 0.55m deep vertically side cut 303. The wall was constructed from roughly hewn sandstone blocks. The top of the wall was at 77.53m aOD. No artefactual material was recovered.

Test Pit 5 (Figures 2 & 5)

- 5.6 This test pit was located in the vicinity of a former pond. Below the topsoil was a 1.4m thick deposit 501 of dark peaty organic rich material. This overlain a thinner, darker, but similarly organic rich layer 502. Both these deposits are likely to have been fills of the now in-filled pond. The material recovered from these deposits clearly show that the pond was in-filled recently, these included barbed wire and car tyres.

Test Pit 7 (Figure 2)

- 5.7 A possible pit or east/west aligned ditch 705 was noted to the north of this trench. The feature was at least 1.6m wide by 1.4m deep. It contained organic deposits but also modern materials such as plastic fertilizer sacks.

Test Pit 11 (Figures 2 & 4)

- 5.8 Another sandstone wall 1102, similar to that seen in Test Pit 3, was recorded to the eastern part of this test pit. This wall was also constructed from roughly hewn sandstone blocks and was at least 0.25 wide by 0.8m high. The wall was aligned east/west and either terminated or turned south roughly 1.5m from the eastern end of the test pit. The wall extended eastwards beyond the limit of the test pit. The top of the wall was at 79.44m aOD.
- 5.9 Apart from the two undated sandstone walls, no features of archaeological interest were observed during groundworks and, despite visual scanning of spoil, no artefactual material pre-dating the modern period was recovered.



6. DISCUSSION

- 6.1 Despite the archaeological potential of the application area (see 2.1 archaeological background above), the watching brief identified no archaeological remains, bar two undated sandstone walls, within the area of observed groundworks. It should be noted that the potential to identify archaeological deposits was constrained due to the limited width of the groundworks. The presence of heavily disturbed areas attests to modern truncation of potential archaeological remains within the study area.

7. CA PROJECT TEAM

- 7.1 Fieldwork was undertaken by Simon Sworn. The report was written by Simon Sworn. The illustrations were prepared by Lesley Davidson. The archive has been compiled by Andrew Donald, and prepared for deposition by Hazel O'Neill. The project was managed for CA by Richard Greatorex.

8. REFERENCES

British Geological Survey 2015 *Geology of Britain Viewer*
<http://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home.html>

Cotswold Archaeology 2016 Aldi Site, Park Farm, Gillingham, Dorset: *Written Scheme of Investigation for an Archaeological Watching Brief*



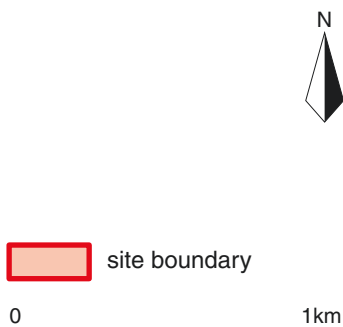
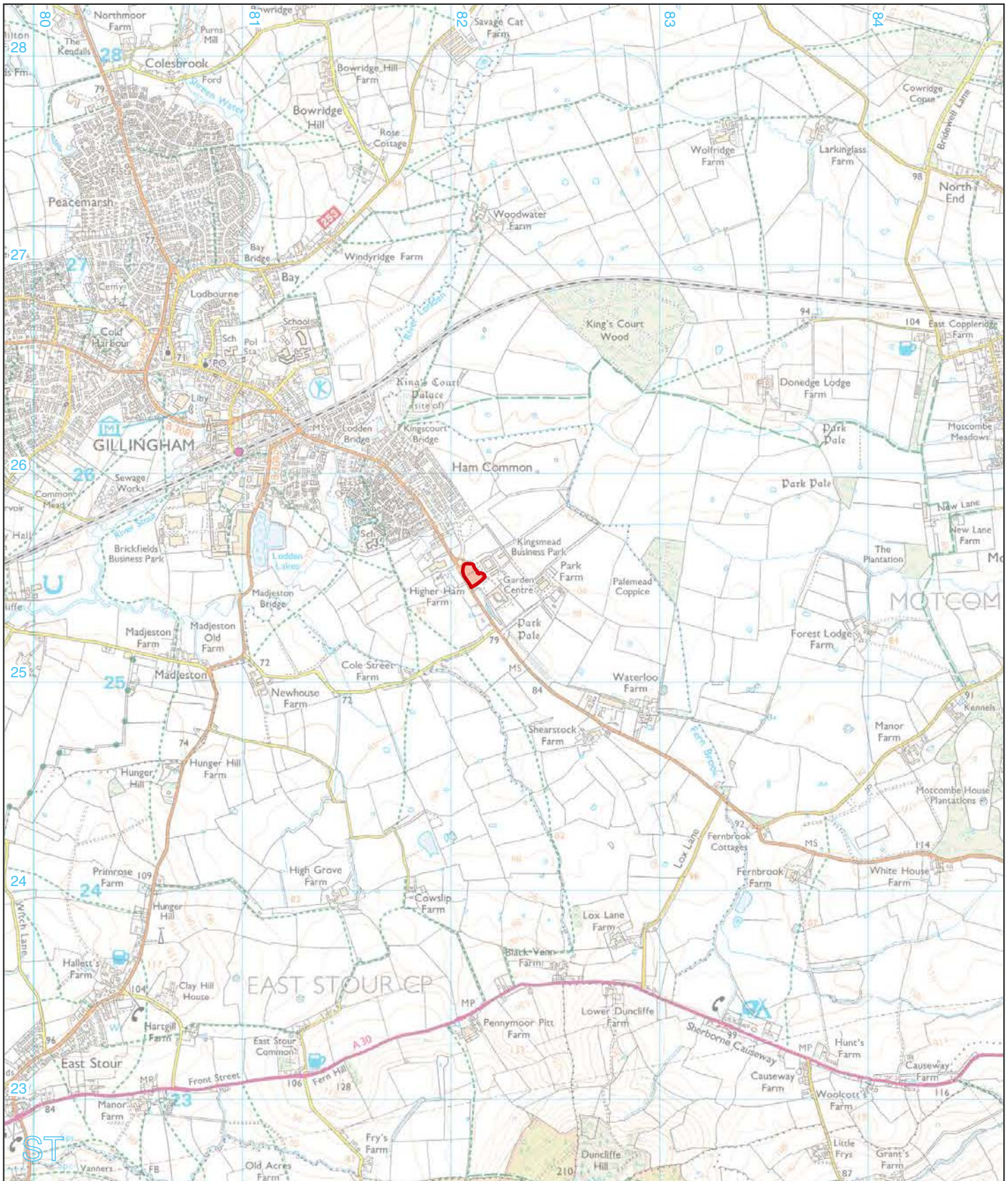
APPENDIX A: CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS

Test Pit No.	Context No.	Type	Fill of	Context interpretation	Description	L (m)	W (m)	Depth /thickness (m)
1	100	Layer		Topsoil	Matted roots with mixed light brown loose silty clay	>11	>0.6	0.17
1	101	Layer		Made ground	Firm mid grey silty clay, brick, metal, glass frags	>11	>0.6	0.98
1	102	Layer		Buried soil horizon	Dark brown friable organic rich peaty clay	>11	>0.6	0.15
1	103	Natural		Substrate	Blueish grey firm clay	>11	>0.6	0.15
1	104	Natural		Substrate	Firm brown silty clay, occasional small sub-rounded pebbles	>11	>0.6	>1.45
3	300	Layer		Topsoil	Matted roots with mixed light brown loose silty clay	>4	>0.6	0.05
3	301	Layer		Made ground	Very loose grey sand, concrete, tile, brick	>4	>0.6	0.65
3	302	Wall	303	Structure	East/west wall, roughly hewn sandstone blocks 400x200x100mm	>0.6	>0.9	1
3	303	Cut		Foundation cut	East/west linear cut, vertical sides, flat base	>0.6	>0.9	0.55
3	304	Layer		Buried soil horizon	Dark brown friable organic rich peaty clay	>4	>0.6	0.45
3	305	Natural		Substrate	Firm brown silty clay, occasional small sub-rounded pebbles	>4	>0.6	>2.25
4	400	Layer		Topsoil	Matted roots with mixed light brown loose silty clay	>3.3	>0.6	0.1
4	401	Layer		Made ground	Type 1 crush on geo-textile	>3.3	>0.6	0.3
4	402	Layer		Made ground	Re-deposited natural brown silty clay. Firm, occasional sub-rounded pebbles	>3.3	>0.6	0.55
4	403	Layer		Buried soil horizon	Dark brown friable organic rich peaty clay	>3.3	>0.6	0.2
4	404	Natural		Substrate	Firm brown silty clay, occasional small sub-rounded pebbles	>3.3	>0.6	>1.95
5	500	Layer		Topsoil	Matted roots with mixed light brown loose silty clay	>3.7	>0.6	0.02
5	501	Layer		Pond	Soft dark brown silty organic clay. Car tyres, concrete posts etc.	>3.7	>0.6	1.38
5	502	Layer		Pond	Dark brown organic layer, waterlogged.	>3.7	>0.6	0.15
5	503	Natural		Substrate	Firm brown silty clay, occasional small sub-rounded pebbles	>3.7	>0.6	>2.15
6	600	Layer		Topsoil	Matted roots with mixed light brown loose silty clay	>3.3	>0.6	0.06
6	601	Layer		Made ground	Re-deposited natural brown silty clay. Firm, occasional sub-rounded pebbles Modern inclusions	>3.3	>0.6	0.54
6	602	Layer		Made ground	Type 1 crush with geo-textile above and below	>3.3	>0.6	0.25
6	603	Natural		Substrate	Firm brown silty clay, occasional small sub-rounded pebbles	>3.3	>0.6	>1.31
7	700	Layer		Topsoil	Matted roots with mixed light brown loose silty clay	>4.6	>0.6	0.1
7	701	Layer		Made ground	Re-deposited natural brown silty clay. Firm, occasional sub-rounded pebbles Modern inclusions	>1.9	>0.6	0.7
7	702	Layer		Buried soil horizon	Friable mid brown silty clay. Occasional small sub-rounded pebbles	>4.6	>0.6	0.42
7	703	Layer		Buried soil horizon	Friable dark brown organic silty clay. Occasional small sub-rounded pebbles	>4.6	>0.6	0.48
7	704	Fill	705	Pit/Ditch	Loose very dark brown waterlogged peaty fill. Frequent modern material such as barbed wire	>1.6	>0.6	1.2
7	705	Cut		Pit/Ditch	Steep sided pit or east/west ditch	>1.6	>0.6	1.2
8	706	Natural		Substrate	Firm brown silty clay, occasional small sub-rounded pebbles	>4.6	>0.6	>2

8	800	Layer		Topsoil	Matted roots with mixed light brown loose silty clay	>2.9	>0.6	0.1
8	801	Layer		Made ground	Firm light brown silty clay, containing mixed Type 1 crush and geotextile	>2.9	>0.6	0.3
8	802	Layer		Made ground	Dark greyish black friable organic silty clay. Contains brick, wood, glass and modern pottery	>2.9	>0.6	1
9	803	Natural		Substrate	Firm brown silty clay, occasional small sub-rounded pebbles	>2.9	>0.6	>1.5
9	900	Layer		Topsoil	Matted roots with mixed light brown loose silty clay	>5.2	>0.6	0.1
9	901	Layer		Modern rubble	Loose sand with concrete, tile, brick and plastic pipe	>5.2	>0.6	0.65
9	902	Layer		Made ground	Re-deposited natural brown silty clay. Firm, occasional sub-rounded pebbles Modern inclusions	>5.2	>0.6	0.3
10	903	Natural		Substrate	Firm brown silty clay, occasional small sub-rounded pebbles	>5.2	>0.6	>1.35
10	1000	Layer		Topsoil	Matted roots with mixed light brown loose silty clay	>5.2	>0.6	0.1
10	1001	Layer		Made ground	Firm mid grey silty clay, brick, metal, glass frags	>5.2	>0.6	1.4
10	1002	Layer		Buried soil horizon	Soft organic rich dark brown silty clay. Contains plastic pipe and corrugated iron sheets	>5.2	>0.6	0.2
10	1003	Natural		Substrate	Firm brown silty clay, occasional small sub-rounded pebbles	>5.2	>0.6	>1.15
11	1100	Layer		Topsoil	Matted roots with mixed light brown loose silty clay	>3.6	>0.6	0.1
11	1101						>0.6	0.6
11	1102	Wall	1104	Structure	East/west wall, roughly hewn sandstone blocks 500x200x100mm	>1.5	>0.6	0.8
11	1103	Fill	1104	Foundation fill	Loose dark grey silty clay, frequent sandstone fragments	>1.3	>0.6	0.8
11	1104	Cut		Foundation cut	East/west linear cut, vertical sides, flat base	>1.5	>0.6	0.8
11	1105	Natural		Substrate	Firm brown silty clay, occasional small sub-rounded pebbles	>3.6	>0.6	>2.15
12	1200	Layer		Topsoil	Matted roots with mixed light brown loose silty clay	>2.9	>0.6	0.2
12	1201	Layer		Made ground	Firm mid grey silty clay, brick, metal, glass frags	>2.9	>0.6	0.5
12	1202	Layer		Buried soil horizon	Soft organic rich dark brown silty clay.	>2.9	>0.6	0.2
12	1203	Natural		Substrate	Firm brown silty clay, occasional small sub-rounded pebbles	>2.9	>0.6	>2

APPENDIX B: OASIS REPORT FORM

PROJECT DETAILS		
Project Name	Aldi Site, Park Farm,	
Short description	A total of 11 geotechnical test pits were observed during the watching brief. The Park Pale ditch, belonging to the nearby medieval hunting lodge, potentially crossed the site. However no evidence of this ditch was observed. Towards the centre of the site was an in-filled pond which contained organic material and an extensive quantity of 20th century material. Across the entire site, the ground surface was exceptionally uneven, due to the presence of dumped modern material. Apart from two undated sandstone walls, which were recorded to the centre/east of the site, no features or deposits of archaeological interest were observed during the groundworks. No artefactual material pre-dating the modern period was recovered.	
Project dates	27-28 July 2016	
Project type	Watching brief	
Previous work	None	
Future work	Unknown	
PROJECT LOCATION		
Site Location	Aldi Site, Park Farm, Gillingham, Dorset	
Study area (M ² /ha)	0.75ha	
Site co-ordinates	ST 82089 25541	
PROJECT CREATORS		
Name of organisation	Cotswold Archaeology	
Project Brief originator	None	
Project Design (WSI) originator	Cotswold Archaeology	
Project Manager	Richard Greatorex	
Project Supervisor	Simon Sworn	
MONUMENT TYPE		
None		
SIGNIFICANT FINDS		
None		
PROJECT ARCHIVES		
	Intended final location of archive (museum/Accession no.) Dorchester Museum	Content (e.g. pottery, animal bone etc)
Physical		None
Paper		Trench record sheet, Photograph record sheets
Digital		Database, digital photos etc
BIBLIOGRAPHY		
CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2016 <i>Aldi Site, Park Farm, Gillingham, Dorset: Archaeological Evaluation</i> . CA typescript report 16432		



 site boundary



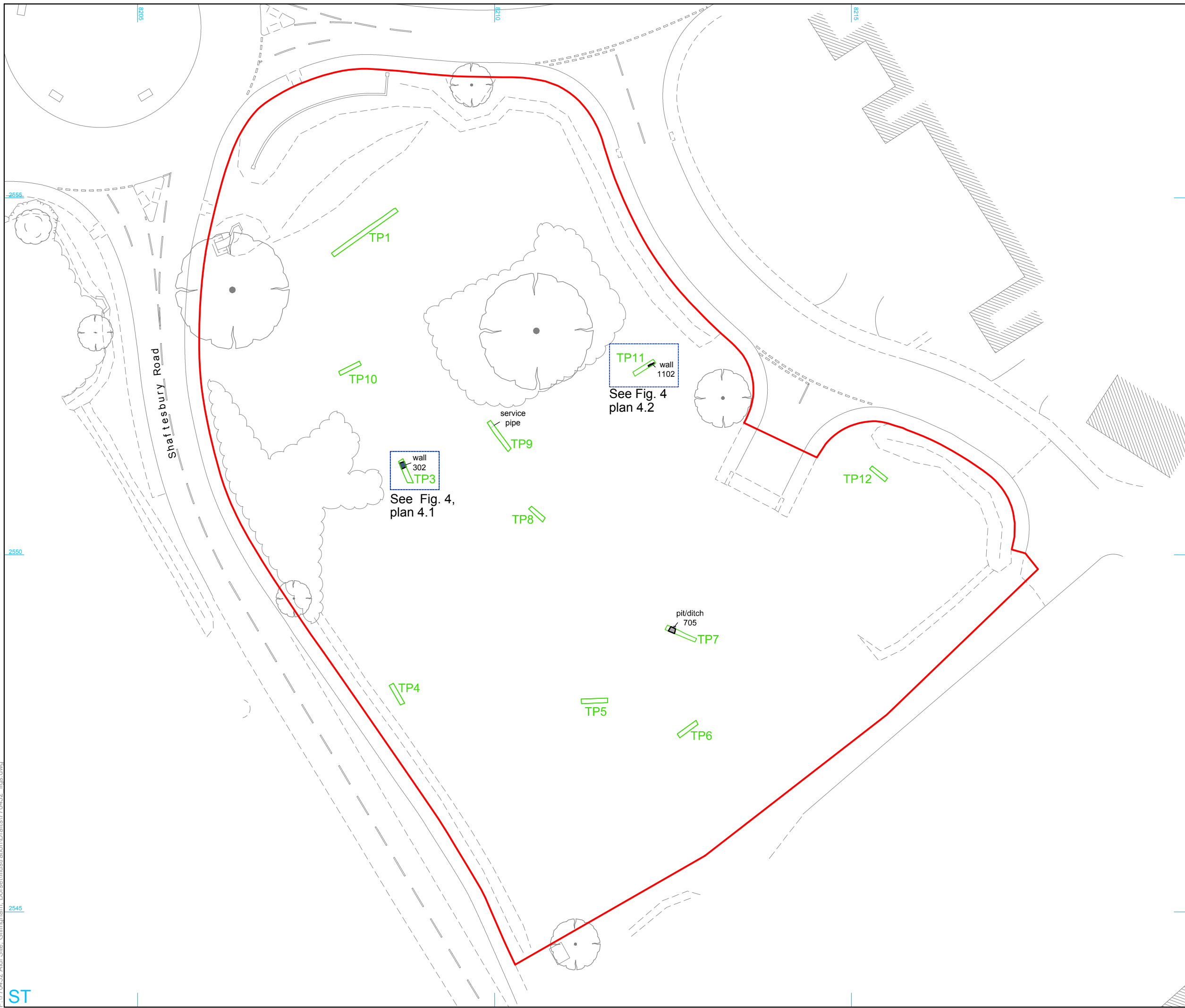
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 Milton Keynes 01908 564660
www.cotswoldarchaeology.co.uk
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PROJECT TITLE
Aldi Site, Park Farm, Gillingham, Dorset

FIGURE TITLE
Site location plan

DRAWN BY	LD	PROJECT NO.	770432	FIGURE NO.
CHECKED BY	LM	DATE	04-08-2016	
APPROVED BY	RG	SCALE@A4	1:25,000	1

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- site boundary
- evaluation trench
- archaeological feature
- structural feature
- modern



Base mapping provided by client

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PROJECT TITLE
Aldi Site, Park Farm, Gillingham, Dorset

FIGURE TITLE
Test pit plan

DRAWN BY	LD	PROJECT NO.	770432	FIGURE NO.
CHECKED BY	LM	DATE	04/08/2016	2
APPROVED BY	RG	SCALE@A3	1:500	

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ST



i



ii

- i Aldi Site, Park Farm, Gillingham, Dorset
- ii Trench 4, clearly showing the dark buried soil horizon that extended across the site. With modern made ground above. Facing east. (1m scale)



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PROJECT TITLE

Aldi Site, Park Farm, Gillingham, Dorset

FIGURE TITLE

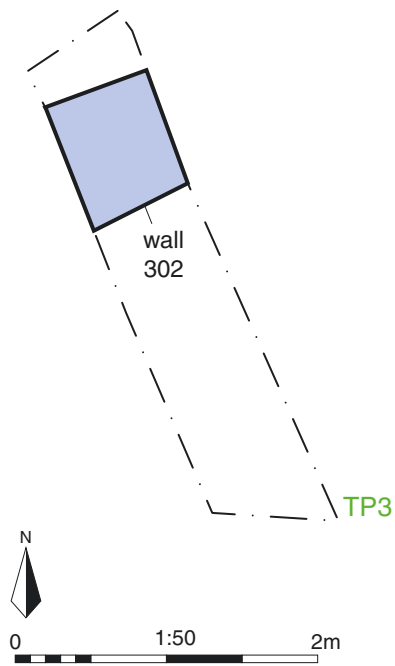
Photographs

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 APPROVED BY RG SCALE@A4 N/A

FIGURE NO.

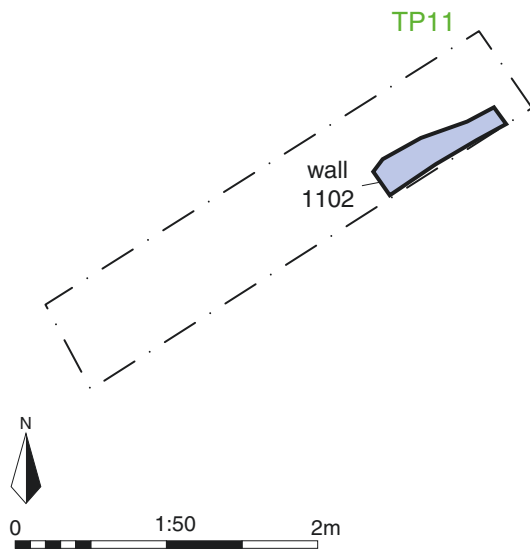
3

Plan 4.1



Trench 3: Wall 302 to left of trench. Facing east. (1m scale)

Plan 4.2



Trench 11: Partially exposed sandstone wall 1102 in southeast corner of trench. Facing east. (1m scale)



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PROJECT TITLE

Aldi Site, Park Farm, Gillingham, Dorset

FIGURE TITLE

Close up plan of walls 302 (TP3) and 1102 (TP11) with photos

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FIGURE NO.

4



Trench 5: Modern material 501 from the in-filling of the pond



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PROJECT TITLE

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FIGURE TITLE

Photo of modern material from pond

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FIGURE NO.

5

Andover Office

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