Cotswold Archaeology

ASDA PFS
Belmont Road
Hereford
Herefordshire

Archaeological Watching Brief

for
C & A Design Ltd.

on behalf of
Asda Stores Ltd.

CA Project: 5951
CA Report: 16499

October 2016

Andover Cirencester Exeter Milton Keynes

ASDA PFS
Belmont Road
Hereford
Herefordshire

Archaeological Watching Brief

CA Project: 5951
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A	24 October 2016	Peter Searle	Steven Sheldon	Draft		Cliff Bateman

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LIST OF ILLUSTRATIONS

SUMMARY

Project Name:	ASDA PFS
Location:	Belmont Road, Hereford, Herefordshire
NGR:	SO 50726 39268
Type:	Watching Brief
Date:	10 August-8 September 2016
Planning Reference:	P151072/F
Location of Archive:	To be deposited with Hereford Museum Resource & Learning Centre
Accession Number:	2016-32
Site Code:	BEL 16

An archaeological watching brief was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology during groundworks associated with the construction of a petrol filling station at Belmont Road, Hereford, Herefordshire.

No features or deposits of archaeological interest were observed during the groundworks, and no artefactual material was recovered.

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 In August and September 2016 Cotswold Archaeology (CA) carried out an archaeological watching brief for C&A Design Ltd, on behalf of Asda Stores Ltd, at ASDA Petrol Filling Station (PFS), Belmont Road, Hereford, Herefordshire (centred on NGR: SO 50726 39268; Fig. 1). The watching brief was undertaken to fulfil a condition attached to planning consent for the construction of a petrol filling station and associated infrastructure (Herefordshire Council (HC) Planning ref: P151072/F, condition 5).

1.2 The watching brief was carried out in accordance with a *Brief* (HC 2016) prepared by Julian Cotton, Archaeological Advisor, Herefordshire Council and with a subsequent detailed *Written Scheme of Investigation* (WSI) produced by CA (2016) that was approved by Mr Cotton. The fieldwork also followed S*tandard and guidance: Archaeological watching brief* (CIfA 2014).

The site

1.3 The development area is approximately 0.2ha in extent, and comprises an area of unused open space adjacent to an existing superstore. The site is bounded to the west by the existing superstore and its associated car parks, to the north by allotments, to the east by the A49 and to the south by the A465. The site lies at approximately 51m AOD and is broadly level.

1.4 The underlying bedrock geology of the area is mapped as Raglan Mudstone Formation – Siltstone and Mudstone (Interbedded) of the Silurian Period with overlying superficial deposits of alluvial clay, silt, sand and gravel of the Quaternary Period (BGS 16). The natural substrate, comprising compact silt clay with patches of sand and gravel, was identified throughout the observed groundworks.

2. ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

2.1 The development area is situated in close proximity to the Hereford Area of Archaeological Importance (AAI), and is within a broader area defined as having potential for the survival of medieval and post-medieval archaeology (HC 2016). The site is also located approximately 300m to the south of the 13th-century Wye Bridge

(SMR Number: 387) and lies within the southern suburb of medieval Hereford. A number of previous archaeological investigations have been conducted in the vicinity of the site, and a brief summary of results from these investigations is presented below:

2.2 An archaeological evaluation, undertaken within the existing superstore site, identified a single pit of Neolithic date (Archaeological Investigations Ltd. 2001a). A scatter of flint artefacts of Mesolithic/Early Neolithic date was identified during a programme of archaeological works, *c*. 250m to the west of the current development site, in the area of the new St Martins Bowling Green (Archaeological Investigation Ltd. 2011). A small pit and a hearth of Iron Age date were also identified during these works.

2.3 A scatter of 10th to early 12th-century pottery was identified during the archaeological works in the area of the new St Martins Bowling Green (*ibid*.). A number of later medieval features, all seemingly associated with industrial activity or pottery production, were also identified fronting on to the A49/A465. Further medieval structures, layers and deposits were recorded during an archaeological evaluation and excavation undertaken *c*. 100m to the east of the current development area (Archaeological Investigations Ltd. 2000; 2001b; 2001c).

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 the excavation of foundation trenches (Trenches 3, 4 and 6-10), fuel storage tanks (Trenches 2 and 5) and a cable trench (Trench 1) (see Fig. 2 for locations and extent). Non-archaeologically significant deposits were removed by the contractors under archaeological supervision. Where mechanical excavators are used, they were equipped with a toothless bucket.

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

4.3 The archive from the watching brief is currently held by CA at their offices in Kemble prior to deposition with Hereford Museum Resource and Learning Centre under accession number 2016-37. 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 (FIG. 2)

Trench 1

5.1 Trench 1 comprised the excavation of a cable diversion trench located along the northern boundary of the site. The natural substrate, 104, was revealed at a typical depth of 0.75m below the present ground level (bpgl). It was overlain by subsoil, 103, typically measuring 0.13m in thickness, which was in turn overlain by modern make-up/levelling deposit, 102, typically measuring 0.2m in thickness. This was in turn sealed by modern sub-base, 101, for overlying tarmac road 100.

Trenches 2 and 5

5.2 Trenches 2 and 5 comprised excavations for fuel tanks. The natural substrate was typically revealed at 1.15m bpgl in Trench 2 and at 1.25m bpgl in Trench 5. In both trenches the surface of the natural substrate showed signs of being heavily disturbed by modern activity. The natural substrate was directly sealed by modern make-up/levelling deposits, containing concrete, tarmac and red brick fragments and

measuring up to 1m in thickness. These deposits were, in turn, sealed by topsoil or modern tarmac road surface.

Trenches 3, 4 and 6-10

5.3 Trench 3 comprised the excavation of foundations for the PFS kiosk and shop. Trenches 4 and 6-10 comprised the excavation of foundation pads for the forecourt canopy. In Trench 3, the natural substrate was revealed at a typical depth of 0.85m bpgl. In Trenches 4 and 6-10 the natural substrate was typically revealed at a depth of 1.05m BPGL. In all of the excavated foundation trenches, the surface of the natural substrate showed signs of being heavily disturbed by modern activity. The natural substrate was directly sealed by modern make-up/levelling deposits containing concrete, tarmac and red brick fragments and measuring up to 0.9m in thickness. These deposits were, in turn, sealed by topsoil or tarmac road surface.

5.4 No features or deposits of archaeological interest were observed during groundworks and, despite visual scanning of spoil, no artefactual material was recovered.

6. DISCUSSION

6.1 Despite the archaeological potential of the application area (see *archaeological background* above), the watching brief identified no archaeological remains within the area of observed groundworks.

6.2 The lack of *in situ* soils, along with the presence of demonstrably modern dumped deposits and the disturbed nature of the upper surface of the natural substrate in Trenches 2-10, suggests that the central and southern parts of the site have been substantially truncated. The exact cause of this truncation remains unclear, but it may be associated with the construction of the existing superstore to the west or with the construction/maintenance of the A49 to the east and/or A465 to the south. Whatever the cause of the truncation, any archaeological features are likely to have been removed by this, had they existed. The depth of modern truncation encountered along the northern boundary of the site was much reduced, as attested to by the presence of *in-situ* subsoil within Trench 1.

7. CA PROJECT TEAM

Fieldwork was undertaken by Peter Searle. The report was written by Peter Searle. The illustrations were prepared by Tilia Cammegh. The archive has been compiled by Peter Searle, and prepared for deposition by Hazel O'Neill. The project was managed for CA by Steven Sheldon.

8. REFERENCES

Archaeological Investigations Ltd. 2000 *The Former BP Site, St Martins Street, Hereford: a report on an archaeological evaluation.* AI Report No. **469**

Archaeological Investigations Ltd. 2001a *Causeway Farm, Hereford: a report on an archaeological evaluation.* AI Report No. **500**

Archaeological Investigations Ltd. 2001b *Former BP Site, St Martins Street, Hereford: archaeological excavation in advance of development.* AI Report No. **513**

Archaeological Investigations Ltd. 2001c 'St Martin's Street', *Medieval Archaeology: Journal of the Society for Medieval Archaeology* **45**, 287

Archaeological Investigations Ltd. 2011 *The Asda Site, Hereford, Herefordshire: Archaeological Evaluation, Excavation and Watching Brief.* AI Report No. **919**

BGS (British Geological Survey) 2016 *Geology of Britain Viewer http://maps.bgs.ac.uk/geology viewer_google/googleviewer.html* Accessed 22 September 2016

CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2016 *ASDA PFS, Belmont Road, Hereford, Herefordshire: Written Scheme of Investigation for an Archaeological Watching Brief*

HC (Herefordshire Council) 2016 *Brief for an Archaeological Recording Project (Watching Brief with Contigencies): Site of New Petrol Filling Station off Belmont Road, Hereford*

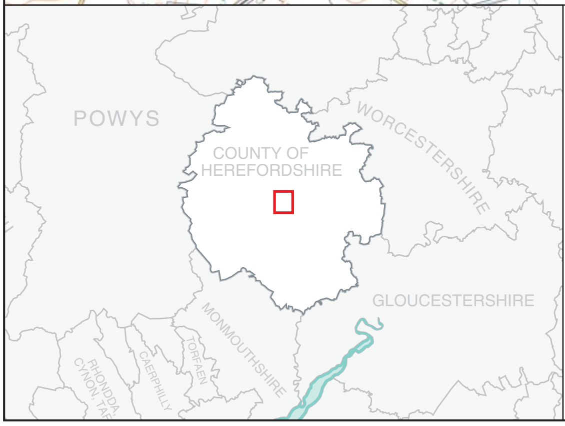
APPENDIX A: CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS

Trench No.	Context No.	Type	Context interpretation	Description	L (m)	W (m)	Depth/thickness (m)
1	100	Layer	Tarmac	Tarmac access road	>68	>0.6	0.12
1	101	Layer	Sub-base	Sub-base for tarmac road 100	>68	>0.6	0.3
1	102	Layer	Modern Make-up/levelling	Mixed modern make-up deposit containing plastic, red brick and tarmac fragments	>68	>0.6	0.2
1	103	Layer	Subsoil	Mid red brown clay silt with occasional rounded pebble inclusions	>68	>0.6	0.13
1	104	Layer	Natural substrate	Compact red-brown silt clay with patches of sand and gravel	>68	>0.6	
2	200	Layer	Topsoil	Mid-dark grey clay silt with frequent angular pebble and charcoal/tarmac fleck inclusions	>16.5	>7.2	0.15
2	201	Layer	Modern Make-up/levelling	Mixed modern make-up deposit containing plastic, red brick and tarmac fragments	>16.5	>7.2	1
2	202	Layer	Natural substrate	Compact red-brown silt clay with patches of sand and gravel	>16.5	>7.2	>0.2
3	300	Layer	Topsoil	Mid-dark grey clay silt with frequent angular pebble and charcoal/tarmac fleck inclusions	>15.2	>9	0.15
3	301	Layer	Modern Make-up/levelling	Mixed modern make-up deposit containing plastic, red brick and tarmac fragments	>15.2	>9	0.7
3	302	Layer	Natural substrate	Compact red-brown silt clay with patches of sand and gravel	>15.2	>9	>0.1
4	400	Layer	Topsoil	Mid-dark grey clay silt with frequent angular pebble and charcoal/tarmac fleck inclusions	>2.2	>2.2	0.13
4	401	Layer	Modern Make-up/levelling	Mixed modern make-up deposit containing plastic, red brick and tarmac fragments	>2.2	>2.2	0.93
4	402	Layer	Natural substrate	Compact red-brown silt clay with patches of sand and gravel	>2.2	>2.2	>0.2
5	500	Layer	Tarmac	Tarmac road surface	>5	>2.4	0.15
5	501	Layer	Modern make-up/levelling	Mixed modern make-up deposit containing plastic, red brick and tarmac fragments	>5	>2.4	0.9
5	502	Layer	Natural substrate	Compact red-brown silt clay with patches of sand and gravel	>5	>2.4	>0.1
6	600	Layer	Topsoil	Mid-dark grey clay silt with frequent angular pebble and charcoal/tarmac fleck inclusions	>2.2	>2.2	0.17
6	601	Layer	Modern Make-up/levelling	Mixed modern make-up deposit containing plastic, red brick and tarmac fragments	>2.2	>2.2	0.88
6	602	Layer	Natural substrate	Compact red-brown silt clay with patches of sand and gravel	>2.2	>2.2	>0.1
7	700	Layer	Topsoil	Mid-dark grey clay silt with frequent angular pebble and charcoal/tarmac fleck inclusions	>2.2	>2.2	0.16
7	701	Layer	Modern Make-up/levelling	Mixed modern make-up deposit containing plastic, red brick and tarmac fragments	>2.2	>2.2	0.89
7	702	Layer	Natural substrate	Compact red-brown silt clay with patches of sand and gravel	>2.2	>2.2	>0.4
8	800	Layer	Topsoil	Mid-dark grey clay silt with frequent angular pebble and charcoal/tarmac fleck inclusions	>2.2	>2.2	0.15
8	801	Layer	Modern Make-	Mixed modern make-up deposit	>2.2	>2.2	0.91

			up/levelling	containing plastic, red brick and tarmac fragments			
8	802	Layer	Natural substrate	Compact red-brown silt clay with patches of sand and gravel	>2.2	>2.2	>0.3
9	900	Layer	Topsoil	Mid-dark grey clay silt with frequent angular pebble and charcoal/tarmac fleck inclusions	>2.2	>2.2	0.15
9	901	Layer	Modern Make-up/levelling	Mixed modern make-up deposit containing plastic, red brick and tarmac fragments	>2.2	>2.2	0.9
9	902	Layer	Natural substrate	Compact red-brown silt clay with patches of sand and gravel	>2.2	>2.2	>0.1
10	1000	Layer	Topsoil	Mid-dark grey clay silt with frequent angular pebble and charcoal/tarmac fleck inclusions	>2.2	>2.2	0.15
10	1001	Layer	Modern Make-up/levelling	Mixed modern make-up deposit containing plastic, red brick and tarmac fragments	>2.2	>2.2	0.9
10	1002	Layer	Natural substrate	Compact red-brown silt clay with patches of sand and gravel	>2.2	>2.2	>0.1

APPENDIX B: OASIS REPORT FORM

PROJECT DETAILS		
Project Name	ASDA PFS, Belmont Road, Hereford, Herefordshire.	
Short description	An archaeological watching brief was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology during groundworks associated with the construction of a petrol filling station at Belmont Road, Hereford, Herefordshire. No features or deposits of archaeological interest were observed during the groundworks, and no artefactual material was recovered.	
Project dates	10 August-8 September 2016	
Project type	Watching Brief	
Previous work	None	
Future work	Unknown	
PROJECT LOCATION		
Site Location	Belmont Road, Hereford, Herefordshire.	
Study area (M^2/ha)	0.2ha	
Site co-ordinates	SO 50726 39268	
PROJECT CREATORS		
Name of organisation	Cotswold Archaeology	
Project Brief originator	Herefordshire County Council	
Project Design (WSI) originator	Cotswold Archaeology	
Project Manager	Steven Sheldon	
Project Supervisor	Peter Searle	
MONUMENT TYPE	None	
SIGNIFICANT FINDS	None	
PROJECT ARCHIVES	Intended final location of archive	Content
Physical	N/A	N/A
Paper	Hereford Museum Resource and Learning Centre/2016-37	Trench recording forms, site sketch plan
Digital	Hereford Museum Resource and Learning Centre/2016-37	Digital photographs
BIBLIOGRAPHY		
CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2016 *ASDA PFS, Belmont Road, Hereford, Herefordshire: Archaeological Watching Brief.* CA typescript report **16499**		



N

Site boundary

0 1km

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PROJECT TITLE
ASDA PFS, Belmont Road, Hereford, Herefordshire

FIGURE TITLE
Site location plan

DRAWN BY	TC	*PROJECT NO.*	5951	*FIGURE NO.*
CHECKED BY	LM	*DATE*	21/09/2016	1
APPROVED BY	PS	*SCALE@A4*	1:25,000	

N

Site boundary

Area of observed groundworks

0 10m

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PROJECT TITLE

ASDA PFS, Belmont Road, Hereford, Herefordshire

FIGURE TITLE

The site, showing location of groundworks

DRAWN BY	**TC**	*PROJECT NO.*	**5951**	*FIGURE NO.*
CHECKED BY	**LM**	*DATE*	**21/09/16**	**2**
APPROVED BY	**PS**	*SCALE@A3*	**1:200**	

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