

**WAITROSE CAR PARK
DRAINAGE WORKS
CIRENCESTER**

ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF

For

COTSWOLD DISTRICT COUNCIL

CA PROJECT: 2521
CA REPORT: 08141


SEPTEMBER 2008



WAITROSE CAR PARK
CIRENCESETER
GLOUCESTERSHIRE

ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF

CA PROJECT: 2521
CA REPORT: 08141

| | |
|-------------|---|
| prepared by | Steven Sheldon, Project Supervisor |
| date | 4 September 2008 |
| checked by | Richard Young, Project Manager |
| date | 10 September 2008 |
| approved by | Mark Collard, Head of Contracts |
| signed |  |
| date | 12 September 2008 |
| issue | 01 |

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SUMMARY

Project Name: Waitrose Car Park
Location: Cirencester, Gloucestershire
NGR: SP 0200 0165
Type: Watching Brief
Date: 13-14 July 2008
SMC: 0HSD/2/8402
Location of Archive: To be deposited with Corinium Museum, Cirencester
Site Code: WCP 08

An archaeological watching brief was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology during groundworks associated with the construction of a new manhole on the line of an existing drain within the car park of the Waitrose supermarket, Cirencester.

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

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 In July 2008 Cotswold Archaeology (CA) carried out an archaeological watching brief for Cotswold District Council within the car park of the Waitrose supermarket, Cirencester during the construction of a new manhole on the line of an existing drain (centred on NGR: SP 0200 0165; Fig. 1). The objective of the watching brief was to record all archaeological remains exposed during the development.

1.2 The watching brief was carried out in accordance with a detailed Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) produced by CA (2008) and approved by Melanie Barge, Inspector of Ancient Monuments, English Heritage. The works were undertaken under Scheduled Monument Consent (ref. 0HSD9/2/8402). The fieldwork also followed the *Standard and Guidance for an Archaeological Watching Brief* issued by the Institute of Field Archaeologists (2001), the *Statement of Standards and Guidance for Archaeological Excavation in Gloucestershire* (Gloucestershire County Council 1996) and the *Management of Archaeological Projects* (English Heritage 1991).

The site

1.3 The site forms part of the car park of Waitrose supermarket, Cirencester (Fig. 2). The site lies at approximately 110m AOD and is essentially flat.

1.4 The underlying solid geology of the area is mapped as Forest Marble of the Middle Jurassic period (BGS 1946). This was not encountered during the course of the watching brief.

Archaeological background

1.5 The site forms part of a Study Area that has been the subject of an archaeological Desk-Based Assessment (CA 2006a), which synthesised all known archaeological and historical evidence in this area. This study is briefly summarised below.

1.6 The proposed groundworks are situated outside of the Roman town defences and to the south-east of the extra-mural Roman cemetery. Nearby excavations suggest that any potential Roman features in the area might be related to water-management, as it lies close to the two outer defensive ditches. Although there is

some evidence for Iron Age ground levels to the north-west of the groundworks, this layer has not been established in closer investigations. Post-Roman deposits are expected to comprise an alluvial horizon sealed by 19th-century deposits and 1970s road make-up.

- 1.7 An archaeological watching brief was conducted during the construction of a man hole and thrust bore pit for the currently existing drain in October 2006 (CA 2006b). The watching brief did not identify any features or deposits of archaeological interest and no material pre-dating the modern period was recovered.

Methodology

- 1.8 The fieldwork followed the methodology set out within the WSI (CA 2008). An archaeologist was present during intrusive groundworks associated with the construction of a new manhole on the line of an existing drain (Fig. 2).
- 1.9 Written, graphic and photographic records were compiled in accordance with CA Technical Manual 1: *Fieldwork Recording Manual* (2007).
- 1.10 The site archive is currently held by CA at their offices in Kemble and this will be deposited with the Corinium 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.

2. RESULTS (FIGS 2-3)

- 2.1 The earliest deposit encountered was the natural clay 106 identified at a depth of 1.36m below the present ground level. It was sealed by a mixed sandy silt and rubble levelling/make-up layer 103. This layer was sealed by two further make-up layers 102 and 101 which appeared to be related to the construction of the current supermarket car park. All of the above deposits were truncated by the cut for the existing drain 104. The backfill of this, 104, was sealed by the car park tarmac 100.
- 2.2 No features or deposits of archaeological interest were observed during groundworks and, despite visual scanning of spoil, no artefactual material was recovered.

3. DISCUSSION

- 3.1 The watching brief identified no archaeological remains within the area of observed groundworks. This would appear entirely due to the truncation of any earlier deposits by the pre-existing drain and during the construction of the current car park.

4. CA PROJECT TEAM

Fieldwork was undertaken by Steven Sheldon. The report was written by Steven Sheldon. The illustrations were prepared by Jemma Elliot. The archive has been compiled by Steven Sheldon, and prepared for deposition by Kathryn Price. The project was managed for CA by Richard Young.

5. REFERENCES

BGS (British Geological Survey) 1946 *Solid and drift geology, Sheet 235: Cirencester*

CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2008 *Waitrose Car Park Drainage Works, Cirencester, Gloucestershire: Written Scheme of Investigation for an Archaeological Watching Brief*

CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2006a *New Cotswold Leisure Centre, Service Works, Cirencester, Gloucestershire*. CA Report No. **06053**

CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2006b *New Cotswold Leisure Centre, Service Works, Archaeological Watching Brief, Cirencester, Gloucestershire*. CA Report No. **06116**

APPENDIX A: CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS

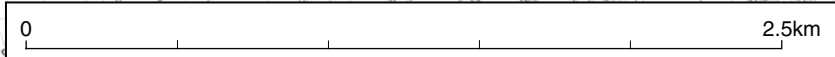
Current ground level 110.30M AOD

| No. | Type | Description | Length (m) | Width (m) | Depth (m) |
|-----|-------|--|------------|-----------|-----------|
| 100 | Layer | Tarmac | >2m | >2m | 0.09m |
| 101 | Layer | Sand, bedding for 100 | >2m | 0.70m | 0.12m |
| 102 | Layer | Sand and gravel, levelling for 101 | >2m | 0.72m | 0.46m |
| 103 | Layer | Dark brown sandy silt, modern levelling/ make-up layer | >2m | 0.72m | 0.68m |
| 104 | Fill | Friable sand and gravel, fill of cut 105 | >2m | 1.28m | 1.52m |
| 105 | Cut | Construction cut for modern ceramic drain | >2m | 1.28m | 1.52m |
| 106 | Layer | Mottled brown and olive green natural clay | >2m | >2m | >0.50m |

APPENDIX B: OASIS REPORT FORM

| PROJECT DETAILS | | |
|---|---|--|
| Project Name | Waitrose Car Park, Cirencester, Gloucestershire | |
| Short description (250 words maximum) | An archaeological watching brief was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology during groundworks associated with the construction of a new manhole on the line of an existing drain within the Waitrose car park, Cirencester. No features or deposits of archaeological interest were observed during groundworks, and no artefactual material was recovered. | |
| Project dates | 13 and 14 July 2008 | |
| Project type (e.g. desk-based, field evaluation etc) | Watching Brief | |
| Previous work (reference to organisation or SMR numbers etc) | CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2006a <i>New Cotswold Leisure Centre, Service Works, Cirencester, Gloucestershire</i> . CA Report No. 06053 CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2006b <i>New Cotswold Leisure Centre, Service Works, Archaeological Watching Brief Cirencester, Gloucestershire</i> . CA Report No. 06116 | |
| Future work | Unknown | |
| PROJECT LOCATION | | |
| Site Location | Waitrose car park, Cirencester, Gloucestershire | |
| Study area (M ² /ha) | c.100m ² | |
| Site co-ordinates (8 Fig Grid Reference) | SP 0200 0165 | |
| PROJECT CREATORS | | |
| Name of organisation | Cotswold Archaeology | |
| Project Design (WSI) originator | Cotswold Archaeology | |
| Project brief | English Heritage | |
| Project Manager | Richard Young | |
| Project Supervisor | Steven Sheldon | |
| PROJECT ARCHIVES | | |
| | Intended final location of archive | Content |
| Physical | N/A | N/A |
| Paper | Corinium Museum, Cirencester | Trench sheet, section drawing, location plan, colour slides, black and white negatives |
| Digital | Corinium Museum, Cirencester | Digital photos |
| BIBLIOGRAPHY | | |
| CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2008 <i>Waitrose Car Park Drainage Works, Cirencester, Gloucestershire</i> . CA Report No. 08141 | | |

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 **COTSWOLD ARCHAEOLOGY**

PROJECT TITLE
**Waitrose Car Park, Cirencester
 Gloucestershire**

FIGURE TITLE
Site location plan

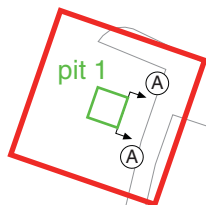
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|----------|-------------|-------------|------------|
| DRAWN BY | SCALE | PROJECT NO. | FIGURE NO. |
| JE | 1:25,000@A4 | 2521 | 1 |



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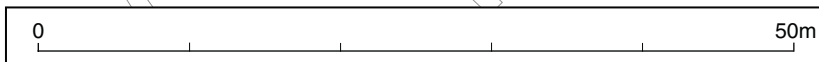
020


A429 Hammond Way



Waitrose Car Park

SP



-  site
-  observed groundworks



COTSWOLD ARCHAEOLOGY

PROJECT TITLE

Waitrose Car Park, Cirencester
Gloucestershire

FIGURE TITLE

**The site, showing location of
observed groundworks**

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SCALE

1:500@A4

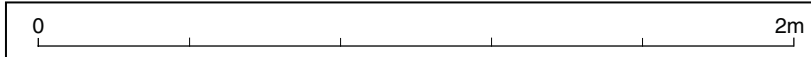
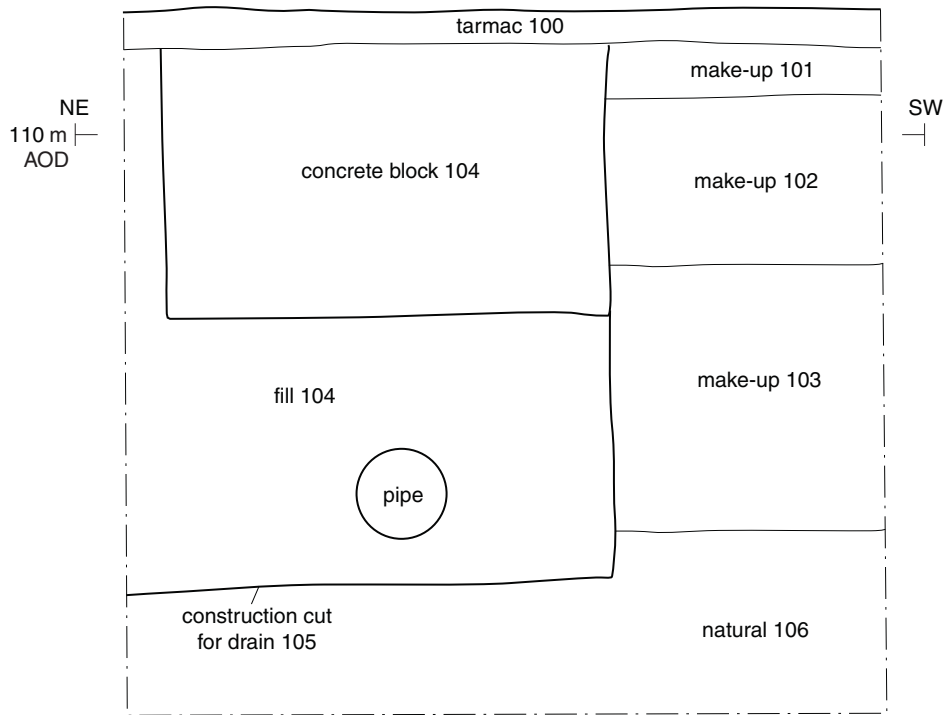
PROJECT NO.

2521

FIGURE NO.

2

Section AA: North-west facing section of Pit 1



COTSWOLD ARCHAEOLOGY

PROJECT TITLE

**Waitrose Car Park, Cirencester
Gloucestershire**

FIGURE TITLE

Pit 1: section

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SCALE

1:20@A4

PROJECT NO.

2521

FIGURE NO.

3