

Land at Shaftesbury Lane
Blandford Forum
Dorset

Archaeological Monitoring and
Recording

REPORT

February 2017



**Land at Shaftesbury Lane
Blandford Forum
Dorset**


for

COAS project code: C1/AMR/16/SBD

Lidl UK

REPORT

Prepared by Clare Randall, Archaeological Officer
Date 23/02/2017

Approved by Cheryl Green, Post-excavation Manager
Signed 
Date 27/02/17

Issue 01

ARCHAEOLOGICAL DETAILS

Client project/scheme ref. N/A
Planning Application ref. 2/2016/0325/FUL
Local Planning Authority North Dorset District Council
Scheduled Monument Consent ref. N/A
Historic Environment Record ref. N/A
Collecting Museum Dorset County Museum
Museum accession code N/A
OASIS reference contexto1-277350

C1 STAFF

Director, Historic Environment Consultant	Richard McConnell BA (Hons), PCIfA
Fieldwork Manager, Osteoarchaeologist	Stuart Milby BSc (Hons), MSc, PCIfA
Post-excavation Manager, Historic Buildings Archaeologist, Stone Specialist	Cheryl Green FSA, BA Hons, PhD
Illustrator, Project co-ordination, Historic Buildings Archaeologist	Tara Fairclough BA (Hons), PCIfA
Archaeological Officer, Animal bone Specialist, Archivist	Clare Randall FSA, BA (Hons), BSc (Hons), MSc, PhD, PCIfA
Senior Field Archaeologist	Peter Fairclough BA (Hons)

DISCLAIMER

This report is produced solely for the benefit of an individual client and for the proposed uses stated in the report, and should not be relied upon for other purposes or by other parties unless specifically agreed by us in writing. The different elements of the report are designed to be integral to each other and therefore do not necessarily stand alone. Opinions and information provided in this report are on the basis of COAS using reasonable skill and care, however no investigative method can eliminate the possibility of obtaining partially imprecise, incomplete or less than fully representative information. This document is limited to the scope and limits agreed with the client under our appointment. Any investigative work undertaken as part of the commission will have been subject to limitations imposed by such factors as timescales, budgets, seasonal variations and weather conditions.

COPYRIGHT

COAS shall retain the copyright of any commissioned reports or other projected documents, under the Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988 with all rights reserved, excepting that it hereby provides an exclusive licence to the client and the county Historic Environment Team for the use of such documents by them in all matters directly relating to the project as described in the project design/specification. This licence will be extended to those conducting bona fide research.

Summary

Context One Archaeological Services Ltd (COAS) carried out a programme of archaeological monitoring and recording in mitigation of the construction of a new food store at Shaftesbury Lane, Blandford Forum, Dorset (the 'Site') between 17 November 2016 and 5 January 2017. The project was commissioned by Lidl UK.

The investigation was required by the Local Planning Authority (LPA), North Dorset District Council (NDDC) as a condition of granting planning permission. A desk based assessment by COAS in 2015, indicated that there was a single non-designated heritage asset recorded on the eastern boundary of the Site. A potential prehistoric enclosure has been identified from aerial photographs c. 100m to the north of the Site, so there was therefore some potential for the presence of archaeological remains on the Site

No archaeological features or deposits were identified. Whilst sites and findspots of prehistoric and Romano-British date occur in the wider environs, there is no indication of activity on the Site. No traces were found of the possible mound noted on mid-20th century aerial photographs on the western edge of the Site, suggesting the feature was either ploughed out in recent decades or represented a superficial agricultural feature.

Contents

Summary.....	1
1. Introduction.....	2
2. The Site.....	2
3. Archaeological aims and research objectives.....	3
4. Methodology.....	3
5. Results.....	4
6. The finds.....	4
7. Discussion and conclusions.....	4
8. Archive.....	4
9. Bibliography.....	4
Appendix 1: Context summary.....	9

Figures

Figure 1. Site setting and profile locations.....	6
---	---

Plates

Plate 1. Profile 1 (facing E; 1m scale).....	7
Plate 2. Profile 2 (facing N; 1m scale).....	7
Plate 3. Profile 3 (facing N; 1m scale).....	8
Plate 4. Profile 4 (facing W; 1m scale).....	8

1. Introduction

1.1 Context One Archaeological Services Ltd (COAS) carried out a programme of archaeological monitoring and recording in mitigation of the construction of a new food store at Shaftesbury Lane, Blandford Forum, Dorset (the 'Site') (**Figure 1**) between 17 November 2016 and 5 January 2017. The project has been commissioned by Lidl UK.

1.2 The investigation was required by the Local Planning Authority (LPA), North Dorset District Council (NDDC) on the advice of the Historic Environment Team (HET), as a condition of granting planning permission for the construction of the store with associated car parking, landscaping, and access arrangements. Condition 15 states:

"No development shall take place until the applicant or their successors in title have made arrangements for archaeological observation and recording to take place during any period of excavation on the site prior to and during construction of the development. Details of those arrangements shall be submitted to and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority, at least one month before any work commences on the development site. The observations and recording shall be carried out as approved."

Reason: To safeguard and/or record the archaeological interest on and around the site."

1.3 COAS carried out an archaeological desk-based assessment for the Site in 2015, summarising the findings as follows:

"The Site is not covered by any statutory designations and does not fall within the conservation area. There is a single non-designated heritage asset recorded which lies along the eastern boundary of the Site. This asset is poorly understood, having appeared on aerial photographs in 1947 and 1972 as a mound, and subsequently as a crop mark. This feature does not appear on maps, which since 1808 have shown the Site as part of a field with no other structures. There are a few other non-designated heritage assets within the 500m research area, although these are largely of recent origin. However, a potential prehistoric enclosure has been identified from aerial photographs c. 100m to the north of the Site. There is therefore some potential for the presence of archaeological remains on the Site."

1.4 The programme of archaeological works comprised four elements: the production of a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) which set out the project strategy (approved by Mr Steve Wallis, Senior Archaeologist, Dorset County Council on 9 November 2016); archaeological monitoring and recording; post-excavation and report production (this report); and archive preparation and deposition.

1.5 The requirement follows advice by Central Government as set out in the *National Planning Policy Framework* (NPPF) (DCLG 2012).

2. The Site

2.1 The Site (Centred on ST 88966 08091) covers c. 1.53ha and is located on the northern edge of Blandford Forum, c. 1.1km from the town centre (**Figure 1**). The area was open land, formerly pasture, but currently disused. The western and northern boundary, fronting the ring road, was hedged whilst the south-eastern boundary was open, with a recently constructed bank and ditch demarcating the Site from the access road. The access road for the eastern sector of the Blandford Heights Industrial Estate runs along the southern side. The Site is broadly level, situated at the top of a gentle south facing slope, and is located at c. 89m above Ordnance Datum (aOD). The underlying geology is Seaford Chalk Formation and Newhaven Chalk Formation with superficial deposits of clay with flints formation (BGS 2017). The soils are characterised by freely draining lightly acid loamy soils (<http://www.landis.org.uk/soilscapes>).

2.2 The Site is situated in an area with a limited range of heritage assets (Randall 2015). However, the Site contained part of a non-designated asset (HER¹ Ref. MDO23169) recognised on an aerial photograph as a possible mound, but which was poorly understood. A possible prehistoric enclosure is located c. 100m to the

¹ Historic Environment Record

north (HER Ref. MDO23170). More distantly there are areas of high archaeological potential to the north and west of the Site, including a number of prehistoric and Romano-British sites and find spots (*ibid.*).

3. Archaeological aims and research objectives

3.1 The principal aims of the archaeological monitoring were to:

- identify, investigate and record any significant buried archaeological deposits revealed on the site during groundworks;
- determine the character of the archaeological remains, where present;
- recover environmental information, which may provide further information relating to the local historic environment of the area;
- where appropriate to recover environmental information, to provide further information relating to the local historic environment of the area;
- provide sufficient information to enable further mitigation strategies to be determined, if appropriate

3.2 The research objectives were to:

- ascertain if there is any extant evidence relating to the single heritage asset so that it might be characterized
- ascertain the presence of any prehistoric remains

4. Methodology

4.1 The development methodology involved a topsoil strip across the Site, with removal of deeper subsoil deposits in areas intended for use as attenuation ponds, and deeper localised excavations for stantion bases for the steel building frame.

4.2 All archaeological work was carried out in accordance with the *Standard and guidance for an archaeological watching brief* issued by the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA) (December 2014). COAS adhered to the *Code of Conduct* of the CIfA (1985, rev. 2000, 2014), and *Regulations for Professional Conduct* (CIfA, 2014, rev. 2015) at all times. The fieldwork methodology is summarised below.

4.3 COAS gave notification of the commencement of the works to the HET, but a site visit was not deemed necessary. The HET will continue to receive updates on the status of the archaeological works until the final element of the project is complete (see section 8.).

4.4 Prior to the commencement of Site works, the excavation methodology was agreed between those responsible for carrying out the groundworks and COAS to ensure that all parties were aware of the monitoring requirements.

4.5 An archaeologist was on Site to monitor all specified groundworks with the aim of identifying and recording any archaeological features/deposits present. All groundworks were carried out with a machine fitted with a toothless grading bucket.

4.6 By default, core details of the deposit sequence across the Site were recorded using COAS *pro-forma* profile forms in digital format using iPad mini tablets. The frequency with which profiles were recorded was based on variation of the deposit sequence. Spoil was examined for the retrieval of artefacts.

4.7 A photographic record of the monitoring programme was prepared, and involved the sole use of digital images. The photographic record also included working shots to illustrate more generally the nature of the archaeological operation mounted.

5. Results

- 5.1 Four profiles were recorded across the Site (**Figure 1; Plates 1-4**) The profiles (**Appendix 1**) consisted of a topsoil of dark brown silty clay with moderate angular flints (7-100, 7-200). This overlay a subsoil of brown or reddish brown clay with variable flint (7-101, 7-201, 7-300, 7-400). The subsoil was situated over the natural chalk (7-102, 7-202, 7-301, 7-401).
- 5.2 No archaeological features or deposits were recorded.

6. The finds

- 6.1 No archaeological finds were noted or retained during the archaeological monitoring and recording of the Site.

7. Discussion and conclusions

- 7.1 No archaeological features or deposits were identified, and no finds observed or recovered. Whilst sites and findspots of prehistoric and Romano-British date occur in the wider environs, there is no indication of activity from these periods on the Site. No traces were found of the possible mound noted on mid-20th century aerial photographs on the western edge of the Site, suggesting the feature was either ploughed out in recent decades or represented a shallow agricultural feature as opposed to a heritage asset.

8. Archive

- 8.1 The NPPF requires that an archaeological archive arising from development works is made publicly accessible (para. 141). The archive comprises two parts: the paper/digital archive including site records and images; and the artefact/ecofact assemblage. In this case, no artefacts were noted or retained.
- 8.2 As no archaeological evidence has been encountered, all relevant data has been incorporated into this report and the paper/digital archive will be stored on the COAS cloud storage server or discarded.
- 8.3 A copy of this report will be provided to the client/agent and to the HET so that it can be included as part of the county Historic Environment Record. A digital copy of the report will also be deposited with the Archaeology Data Service (ADS), via OASIS (On-line Access to the Index of Archaeological Investigations – <http://oasis.ac.uk/england/>).

9. Bibliography

- | | |
|--|---|
| Chartered Institute of Field Archaeologists (CIfA), December 2014 | <i>Code of Conduct</i> . Reading: CIfA |
| Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA), December 2014 (rev. 2015) | <i>Regulations for professional conduct</i> . Reading: CIfA |
| Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA), December 2014 | <i>Standard and Guidance for an Archaeological Watching Brief</i> . Reading: CIfA |
| Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG) 2012 | <i>National Planning Policy Framework</i> , London: Her Majesty's Stationery Office |
| Geology of Britain viewer - British Geological Survey (BGS), 2017 | Available at:
http://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home.html? , accessed on 23 February 2017 |
| Milby, S., 2016 | <i>Written Scheme of Investigation for a Programme of Archaeological Monitoring and Recording: Land at Shaftesbury</i> |



Lane, Blandford Forum, Dorset Context One Archaeological Services Ltd, unpublished

Randall, C.E., 2016

Land at Shaftesbury Lane, Blandford Forum, Dorset. An Archaeological Desk-Based Assessment Context One Archaeological Services Ltd, unpublished

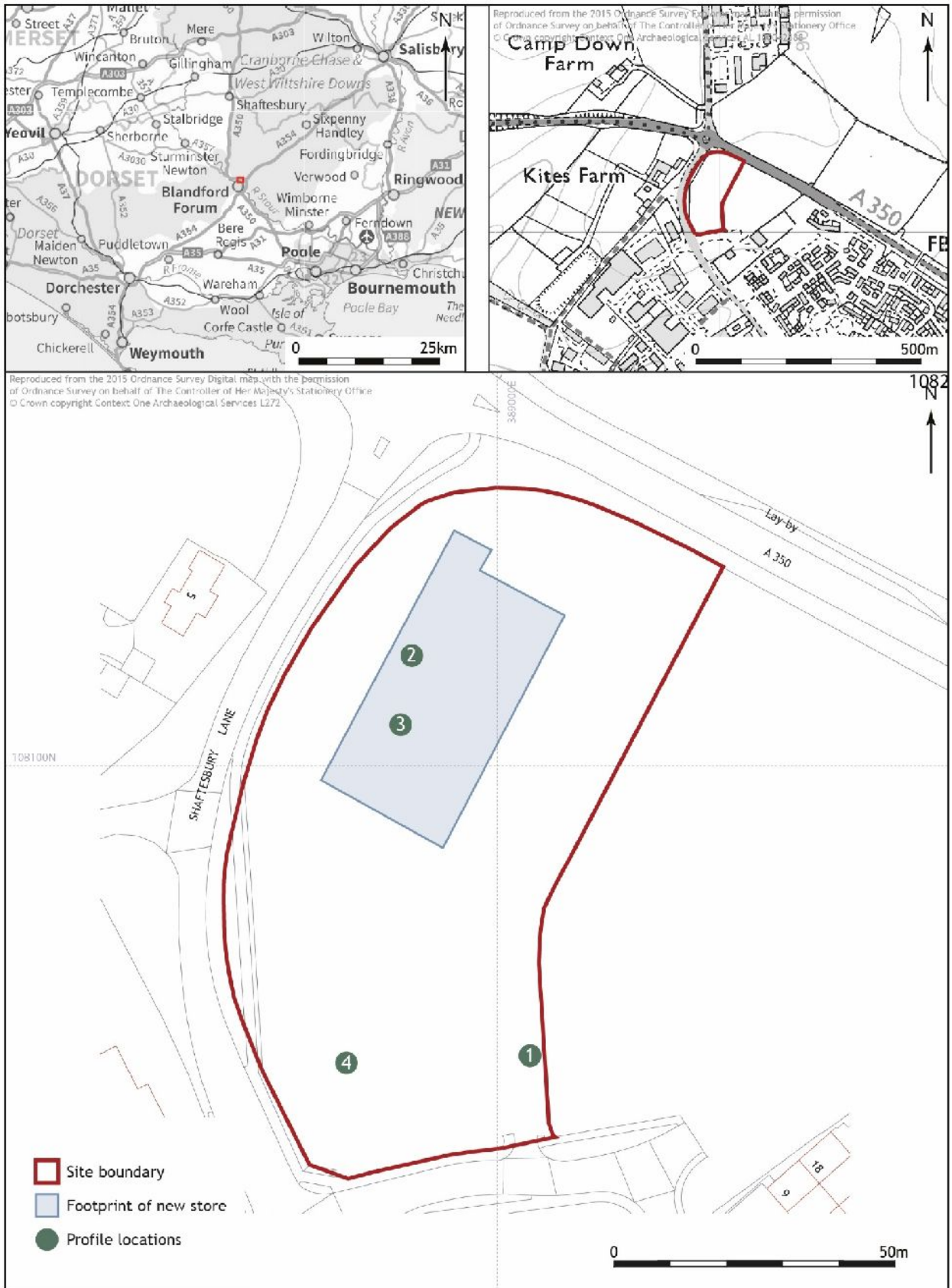


Figure 1. Site setting and profile locations



Plate 1. Profile 1 (facing E; 1m scale)



Plate 2. Profile 2 (facing N; 1m scale)



Plate 3. Profile 3 (facing N; 1m scale)



Plate 4. Profile 4 (facing W; 1m scale)

Appendix 1: Context summary

CONTEXT NO.	PERIOD	TYPE	DESCRIPTION	EARLIER THAN	CONTEMP. WITH	LATER THAN	LENGTH	WIDTH/DIAMETER	THICKNESS/DEPTH (m)
Profile 1									
7-100	Modern	Layer	Topsoil. Soft very dark brown (10 YR 3/1) silty clay with moderate angular flints	NA	-	7-101	1.00m	1.00m	0.20m
7-101	Natural	Layer	Subsoil. Compacted strong brown (7.5 YR 5/6) clay. No inclusions	7-100	-	7-102	1.00m	1.00m	0.40m
7-102	Natural	Layer	Natural. Cemented white (10 YR 8/1) chalk with moderate angular flint.	7-101	-	NA	1.00m	1.00m	>0.20m
Profile 2									
7-200	Modern	Layer	Topsoil. Soft very dark brown (10 YR 3/1) silty clay with moderate angular flints	NA	-	7-201	1.00m	1.00m	0.20m
7-201	Natural	Layer	Subsoil. Compacted strong brown (7.5 YR 5/6) clay with frequent coarse angular flints	7-200	-	7-202	1.00m	1.00m	0.20m
7-202	Natural	Layer	Natural. Cemented white (10 YR 8/1) chalk with moderate angular flint.	7-201	-	NA	1.00m	1.00m	>0.20m
Profile 3									
7-300	Modern	Layer	Subsoil. Compacted strong brown (7.5 YR 5/6) clay with occasional coarse angular flints	NA	-	7-301	3.00m	2.00m	0.20m
7-301	Natural	Layer	Natural. Cemented white (10 YR 8/1) chalk.	7-300	-	NA	3.00m	2.00m	>1.00m
Profile 4									
7-400	Modern	Layer	Subsoil. Compacted dark reddish brown (5 YR 3/4) clay with moderate angular flints	NA	-	7-401	20.0m	30.0m	0.20m
7-401	Natural	Layer	Natural. Cemented white (5YR 8/1) chalk with occasional flint nodules.	7-400	-	NA	20.0m	30.0m	>1.80m

Brickfield Offices : Maperton : Wincanton : Somerset : BA9 8EG
1 Emperor Way : Exeter Business Park : Exeter : Devon : EX1 3QS

T: 01963 824696 : E: mail@contextone.co.uk

Registered in England Number 6005800 : VAT Registered Number 834 1916 29

