

# 34 North Street, Worthing, West Sussex

## An Archaeological Watching Brief



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An Archaeological Watching Brief

For

Lidl UK

By



Brickfield Offices, Maperton, Wincanton, Somerset. BA9 8EG.

T: 01963 824696

F: 07092 259858

E: [mail@contextone.co.uk](mailto:mail@contextone.co.uk)

W: [www.contextone.co.uk](http://www.contextone.co.uk)

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**Projects Director:** Richard McConnell

**Fieldwork Manager:** Stuart Milby

**Fieldwork team:** Peter Fairclough

**Post-Excavation Co-ordinator:** Fay Pegg

**Report:** Fay Pegg

**Research:** Fay Pegg

**Graphics:** Tara Fairclough

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**Front cover image:** Extent of monitored groundworks of footings, facing south-west. © Context One Archaeological Services 2010

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## Non-Technical Summary

*Context One Archaeological Services Ltd carried out an Archaeological Watching Brief on groundworks relating to a new warehouse together with front extension at the Lidl Store on North Street, Worthing, (centred on NGR TQ 14954 02937) over three days between the 6<sup>th</sup> and the 12<sup>th</sup> of July 2010. The investigation was commissioned and funded by Lidl UK.*

*The request for the investigation was made by the Local Planning Authority (LPA) on the advice of Mr Mark Taylor (Senior Archaeologist, West Sussex County Council (WSCC)). The request for the investigation was based on the Sites proximity to a number of archaeological sites with evidence of occupation from the prehistoric period onwards.*

*No archaeological finds/features were discovered during the course of this watching brief. The foundation trench monitored during groundworks contained modern make up horizons only with no natural visible.*

## 1. Introduction

- 1.1 Context One Archaeological Services Ltd (COAS) carried out an Archaeological Watching Brief on groundworks relating to a new warehouse together with a front extension at the Lidl Store on North Street, Worthing, West Sussex (centred on NGR TQ 14954 02937) (hereafter referred to as the Site) over three days between the 6<sup>th</sup> and the 12<sup>th</sup> of July 2010. The investigation was commissioned and funded by Lidl UK.
- 1.2 The request for the investigation was made by the Local Planning Authority (LPA) on the advice of Mr Mark Taylor (Senior Archaeologist, West Sussex County Council (WSCC)). The request for the investigation was based on the Sites proximity to a number of archaeological sites with evidence of occupation from the prehistoric period onwards.
- 1.3 At the request of Mr Taylor, COAS issued a *Written Scheme of Investigation for An Archaeological Watching Brief: 34 North Street, Worthing, West Sussex* (COAS June 2010), which provided a strategy for the archaeological works. This was submitted to and approved by Mr Taylor prior to the commencement of the Watching Brief.
- 1.4 The request for the archaeological work follows advice given by Central Government as set out in *Planning Policy Guidance Note 1* (PPG1), *General Policy and Principles, 1997*, and *Planning Policy Statement 5* (PPS5), issued by the DoE in 2010. The recommendation also conforms to County Structure and Local Plans.
- 1.5 This report summarises the topographical, geological, archaeological setting of the site, and presents the results of the Watching Brief.

## 2. Site Location, Topography and Geology

- 2.1 Worthing is a town situated on the south coast of England, centrally located between Bognor Regis and Brighton in West Sussex. The Site itself (centred on NGR TQ 14954 02937) is situated within an existing car park at the Lidl Store, which is located centrally within the town and directly adjacent to the A259 road (otherwise known as North Street) (see **Figure 1**). The Site is located on flat low-lying land, approximately 8m above Ordnance Datum.
- 2.2 According to the British Geological Survey (2010), the underlying solid geology at the Site comprises White Chalk Subgroup and the drift geology comprises sand and gravel of uncertain age and origin, both of which underlie the majority of the town of Worthing. The soils in the area of the Site are characterised by freely draining slightly acid loamy soils (Multi Agency Geographic Information for the Countryside (MAGIC), 2010).
- 2.3 A geoarchaeological assessment was carried out by the University of Wales Lampeter in January 2010, as part of an Archaeological Evaluation and Watching Brief undertaken by Archaeology South-East at 12, North Street (Porteus 2010), c. 140m west-north-west of the Site. The assessment found deposits from the last interglacial period - the first in the Sussex/Hampshire Coastal Corridor, as well as a channel like feature dated to the Middle Devensian by a single flake discovered in the initial fills of the channel. The location of the flake in the channel fill sequence, above well stratified deposits probably associated with a series of temporary landsurfaces, suggests that additional archaeological material relating to a number of other contexts would most likely be present in other areas of the vicinity (Porteus 2010: 29).





### 3. Archaeological Background

- 3.1 This Site lies in close proximity to a number of archaeological sites with evidence of occupation from the prehistoric period onwards; the records for which are held by West Sussex County Council as part of the County Sites and Monuments Record (SMR). A summary of the relevant information within a 500m radius of this Site is displayed below in Table 1.
- 3.2 Of particular relevance to the archaeological monitoring and recording of this Site, is a watching brief that was undertaken by South Eastern Archaeological Services in 1996 when the existing supermarket was built (SMR 5945 - MWS4987, 5944 - MWS4986 and 5941 - MWS5833) (Bashford 1996); this revealed a number of pits, postholes and ditches of late Bronze Age/early Iron Age, Saxon and Medieval date. It was concluded that ‘...any excavations on sites to the south or west may pick up further traces of possible settlement...’ This suggestion was confirmed when an archaeological evaluation undertaken by Archaeology South-East in 1998; this revealed evidence of prehistoric activity on land immediately to the south of the Site (SMR 6675 - MWS6525). Recent archaeological work undertaken at 12 North Street by Archaeology South-East in January 2010 (Porteus 2010), also revealed further evidence of prehistoric, Romano-British and medieval occupation in the area.
- 3.3 Analysis of 19<sup>th</sup> century maps also revealed that the Site was formerly situated in the rear gardens of houses fronting North Street (see Appendix 1 for list of the maps examined).

Evidence	SMR number/OASIS id	NGR
<b>Prehistoric 500,000BC-AD43</b>		
Neolithic hand axe findspot	3326	TQ 15200 03300
Bronze Age ditches discovered during a Watching Brief	5809 and 5941	TQ 14990 02950
Pit containing prehistoric flint discovered during an Evaluation	6675	TQ 14970 02900
Late Bronze Age and Late Iron Age/Roman ditches were discovered during Evaluation and Watching Brief	Archaeol6-62759	TQ 14800 03000
Evidence of late Iron Age/early Roman iron working and pottery industry discovered during Evaluation and Watching Brief	Archaeol6-62759	TQ 14800 03000
?Bronze Age feature discovered during an Evaluation	7329	TQ 14825 02846
<b>Roman AD43-AD410</b>		
Various pottery findspots	3232, 3304, 3344, 5812, 5942	TQ 14790 02610, TQ 14600 02600, TQ 15170 02680, TQ 14990 02950
Ditches containing pottery and grain, representative of occupation	3247	TQ 14900 02610
Ditches and artefacts identified, suggestive of Roman buildings	4321	TQ 14759 02902
<b>Early Medieval AD450-AD1066</b>		
Occupational evidence from pottery and some features identified during a Watching Brief	5811	TQ 14990 02950
<b>Medieval AD1066-AD1547</b>		
Pottery findspot	3303	TQ 14600 0260
Pottery, brick and tile findspots found during Evaluation and Watching Brief	Archaeol6-62759	TQ 14800 03000
Documentary evidence for occupation within ‘Warwick Gardens’ between the 13 <sup>th</sup> -15 <sup>th</sup> centuries	3345	TQ 15170 02680

<b>Medieval AD1066-AD1547 cont.</b>		
Excavation revealed strong evidence of occupation from grain driers, pits and ditches	6412	TQ 1500 0310
Evaluation revealed series of rubbish pits and boundary ditches, covering several occupational phases from the 11 <sup>th</sup> century.	7330	TQ 14941 03026
<b>Post-medieval AD1547-AD1800 and Modern AD 1800-present</b>		
Various sites revealing post-medieval and 19 <sup>th</sup> century wall footings	5944, 7277, 7328	TQ 14990 02950, TQ 15086 03080, TQ 15062 03072
Evaluation uncovered wall footings of post-medieval inn and stables	7285	TQ 14762 02470
Evaluation uncovered extensive post-medieval walls, pits, ditches, pottery and metal finds	5581	TQ 14699 02872
Mid-19 <sup>th</sup> century clay pipe factory	3357	TQ 15300 03000

Table 1: Summary of archaeological events within a 500m radius of the Site.

## 4. Methodology

### Construction Methodology

- 4.1 Prior to machine excavation, the hard-standing overlying the proposed development area was broken up using a tracked 360 degree machine fitted with a hydraulic breaker. The resulting rubble was removed by the same machine fitted with a 1.0m wide toothed bucket in preparation for further groundworks.
- 4.2 An 'L' shaped foundation trench (c. 2.0m wide, 10m long and up to 1.80m deep) was excavated by a 360 degree wheeled machine using a combination of toothed and toothless buckets (c. 1.0m and c. 1.6m wide respectively) (**Figure 2**). The foundation trench was excavated through the existing made ground surface, which was deposited as part of the levelling make-up during construction of the existing Lidl store. Natural sediments were not reached during excavation of the foundation trench.

### Archaeological Methodology

- 4.3 The programme of archaeological work was carried out in accordance with the *Standards and Guidance for an Archaeological Watching Brief* published by the Institute of Field Archaeologists (IfA) in 1995 (revised 1999). COAS adhered to the *Code of Conduct* issued by the IfA in 1985 (revised 2000), and *Code of Approved Practice for the Regulation of Contractual Arrangements in Field Archaeology* (1990, revised September 2000), at all times during the course of the investigation. Current Health and Safety legislation and guidelines were followed on site.
- 4.4 A qualified archaeologist was present on site to monitor all major groundworks relating to the development for the purpose of identifying and recording any archaeological features/deposits present.
- 4.5 The Senior Archaeologist at West Sussex County Council was kept fully informed of the fieldwork schedule.
- 4.6 All exposed layers/deposits were recorded using standard COAS pro-forma recording sheets and soil colours were recorded using a Munsell soil colour chart. A photographic record of the work was prepared and involved the use of digital images.





## 5. Results and Conclusion

### Soil Sequence and Geology

- 5.1 A single representative section recorded within the excavated footings of the new extension revealed a simple horizontal sequence of a modern brick pavement laid in grey (10YR 6/1) silty sandy clay with gravel scalplings (100) c. 0.10m thick. Directly underneath lay another made ground deposit of light yellow brown (10YR 6/4) silty sandy clay (101) c. 0.50m thick, which in turn overlay a further level of modern made ground (102) with a service pipe, similar to the deposit above but with a heavier clay content and more yellow in colour (10YR 5/4) (see **Plate 1**). Context (102) was observed to the full depth of development groundworks at c. 1.1m and the natural horizon was not reached.
- 5.2 No visible archaeological remains or significant deposits were exposed during monitoring of the development groundworks.



Plate 1: Soil sequence of Profile 1

## 6. Archive

- 6.1 The site archive is currently held at the offices of Context One Archaeological Services Ltd and consists of 49 digital images in .jpg format, the written paper record - including context sheets, COAS pro-forma profile log sheets and photographic register. The archive will be prepared to comply with guidelines set out in *Environmental Standards for the Permanent Storage of Excavated Material from Archaeological Sites* (UKIC 1984, Conservation Guidelines 3)/ *Guidelines for the Preparation of Excavation Archives for Long-term Storage* (UKIC 1990)/ *Standards in the Museums Care of Archaeological Collections* (Museum and Galleries Commission 1992)/ *Management of Archaeological Projects 2* (English Heritage 1991). Arrangements will be made to deposit the archive with West Sussex County Council Record Office within 12 months following the submission of this report.

6.2 Copies of the Watching Brief report will be deposited with:

**Mr D. Thomas**  
Lidl Property Office  
1st Floor  
33 London Road  
Cowplain  
Hampshire  
PO8 8DF

**Mr M. Taylor - Senior Archaeologist**  
The Grange  
Tower Street  
Chichester  
West Sussex  
PO19 1RH

## 7. COAS Acknowledgements

7.1 Context One Archaeological Services Ltd would like to thank Mr Dave Thomas (Lidl UK) and Mr Matthias Pfender, for their kind assistance throughout the course of the investigation, and Mr Mark Taylor (Senior Archaeologist, West Sussex County Council (WSCC)), for curatorial advice.

## 8. Bibliography

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|---|--|
| British Geological Survey, 2010                                       | <a href="http://www.bgs.ac.uk">www.bgs.ac.uk</a>   |
| Context One Archaeological Services Ltd, 2010                         | <i>An Archaeological Watching Brief - 34 North Street, Worthing, West Sussex. Unpublished.</i>                     |
| Department of the Environment, 2010                                   | <i>Planning Policy Statement 5: Her Majesty's Stationery Office</i>  |
| Department of the Environment, 1997                                   | <i>Planning Policy Guidance Note 1: General Policy and Principles, London: Her Majesty's Stationery Office</i>     |
| Institute of Field Archaeologists (IfA), 1985 (rev. 2000)             | <i>Code of Conduct, Reading: IfA</i>   |
| Institute of Field Archaeologists (IfA), 1990 (rev. 2000)             | <i>Code of Approved Practice for the Regulation of Contractual Arrangements in Field Archaeology, Reading: IfA</i> |
| Institute of Field Archaeologists (IfA), 1994 rev. 1999               | <i>Standard and Guidance for an Archaeological Excavation</i>  |
| Multi Agency Geographic Information for the Countryside (MAGIC), 2010 | <a href="http://www.magic.gov.uk">http://www.magic.gov.uk</a>  |

## Appendix 1. Historic maps consulted prior to commencement of archaeological works

Map date	Type	Reference
c. 1810	Plan of the Manor of Worthing	West Sussex Record Office (WSRO) ref: Add MS.461
1838	Map of the Parish of Broadwater Surveyed by Charles Hide	WSRO ref: PAR.29/13/1a
1848	Broadwater Tithe Map (TD W21)	WSRO ref: CES/AV139/2915
1852	Ordnance Survey Town Plan of Worthing 5"	Sheet 2
1875	Ordnance Survey: 1 <sup>st</sup> edition, 25"	Sheets 64.14 and 64.15
1898	Ordnance Survey: 2 <sup>nd</sup> edition, 25"	Sheets 64.14 and 64.15
1912	Ordnance Survey: 3 <sup>rd</sup> edition, 25".	Sheets 64.14 and 64.15
1932	Ordnance Survey: 3 <sup>rd</sup> edition, 25".	Sheets 64.14 and 64.15
1943	Ordnance Survey: 3 <sup>rd</sup> edition, 25".	Sheets 64.14 and 64.15
1954	Ordnance Survey: 1:2500	Plan TQ 1402
1971	Ordnance Survey: 1:1000	Plan TQ 1402