

Archaeological Watching Brief
at the
ASDA STORE SITE
WESTERN WAY, MELKSHAM, WILTSHIRE.
for
ISG Pearce Limited



Report No. 2229/2011

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Archaeological Watching Brief
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ASDA STORE SITE
WESTERN WAY, MELKSHAM, WILTSHIRE.

Centred on
N.G.R. ST 8994 6415

Client: ISG Pearce Limited

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Abbreviations

AD	Anno Domini	Km	Kilometre
aOD	Above Ordnance Datum	m	Metre
BaRAS	Bristol & Region Archaeological Services	NGR	National Grid Reference
BC	Before Christ	NMR	National Monuments Record
c.	Circa	OS	Ordnance Survey
HER	Historic Environment Record		

NOTE

Notwithstanding that Bristol and Region Archaeological Services have taken reasonable care to produce a comprehensive summary of the known and recorded archaeological evidence, no responsibility can be accepted for any omissions of fact or opinion, however caused.

January, 2011.

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SUMMARY

An archaeological watching brief was carried out during groundwork associated with the construction of a new ASDA foodstore on a site formerly occupied by a Countrywide Farmers retail store, located on the edge of the town of Melksham in west Wiltshire.

Site monitoring commenced in late October 2010, during the demolition/ground clearance phase, when mechanical ground reduction work revealed an intermittent layer of greyish brown clayey silt (101) sealing the natural clay and gravels (102), initially recorded near the south-west corner of the site, but later elsewhere. The silty deposit contained moderate inclusions of flinty gravel and occasional fresh water snail shells, and probably represents a flood episode(s) across the floodplain from the nearby River Avon. Two very small, heavily abraded sherds of unidentified pottery were recovered from this context.

During ground reduction work ('proofing') to formation level (35.170m aOD), on the footprint of the proposed foodstore, it was observed that generally the ground at that level was still very mixed, not all undisturbed deposits. Subsequent site visits, during further ground reduction work and the excavation of foundation trenches, foundation pits, and service trenches, otherwise recorded little else of interest.

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1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 Bristol and Region Archaeological Services (BaRAS) was commissioned by ISG Pearce Limited to undertake an archaeological watching brief during groundwork associated with the construction of a new ASDA foodstore on a site (**Fig. 1; Cover**) on the western edge of the town of Melksham, in Wiltshire.
- 1.2 The watching brief was commissioned to comply with a condition of the planning consent (Planning Reference No. 07/03866/FUL) granted by the local planning authority (Wiltshire Council) and in accordance with a *Written Scheme of Investigation* prepared by John Bryant of Bristol and Region Archaeological Services (Bryant 2010).
- 1.3 The planning application was submitted to Wiltshire Council (LPA) on 17 December 2007 by James + Ward Limited, on behalf of Asda Stores Limited, to develop land off Western Way, Melksham, Wiltshire SN12 8BZ for a retail store. The development (**Figs. 2 & 3**) is to comprise a Class A1 retail store with a gross floorspace of 4,645 sq. metres (43,055 sq. feet) with associated landscaping, service area and car parking for around 250 cars. The development will include a new access road off Western Way (A350). The application received planning consent on 10 September 2009 with a number of planning conditions attached, one of which required an archaeological watching brief to be carried out during all site groundwork.
- 1.4 Wiltshire County Archaeology Service stated, on behalf of the Local Planning Authority (Planning Reference No. 07/03866/FUL), that *“a professional archaeological contractor will: (a) prepare a written scheme of investigation, which should be forwarded (and agreed) to the County Archaeology Service in advance of works commencing, (b) maintain a presence during all groundworks on the site, (c) investigate and record all archaeological features and deposits revealed during excavations and groundworks, (d) produce and publish a full analysis and report on all works carried out on the site. Two copies of the report should be submitted to the County Archaeology Service”*.
- 1.5 The fieldwork was undertaken over a number of site visits that took place between late October 2010 and mid-January 2011 under the supervision of, initially, Andy King (Project Officer, BaRAS) and then, subsequently, Tim Longman (Project Officer, BaRAS) who also compiled this report.
- 1.6 The project archive will be deposited with Wiltshire Heritage Museum in Devizes and a copy of the report will be available to the National Monuments Record (NMR), which is maintained by English Heritage in Swindon. The project has the OASIS Reference No: bristola1-79218, and has also been entered in the Historic Environment Record (HER), which is maintained by Wiltshire County Archaeology Service in Chippenham.

2. THE SITE

- 2.1 The site (centred at NGR ST 8994 6415) (**Figs. 1–3**) is located some 600m north-west of Melksham High Street on the western outskirts of the town, which itself is situated approximately 11km (7 miles) south of Chippenham, 13km (8 miles) west of Devizes, 19km (12 miles) south-east of Bath, 21km (14 miles) north of Warminster. The population of Melksham in the 2001 Census was approximately 20,000. The site is bounded by Western Way (A350) to the east (beyond which is the Challeymead Business Park) and an electricity sub-station to the south-west. To the west is a Wessex Water sewage works, while north are retail/office premises, and, nearby, a small 18th/19th century burial ground (Baptist). None of the site lies within a conservation area.
- 2.2 According to the British Geological Survey, the site lies on Pleistocene First River Terrace (clays, sands and gravels) drift deposits.
- 2.3 Generally flat, most of the site was occupied, prior to the commencement of demolition groundwork, by several large commercial/retail buildings formerly occupied by Countrywide Farmers Limited. The site is roughly triangular in shape and the new foodstore is to occupy only part of the southern half, while the remainder will be utilised for car parking, a service yard and an access road off Western Way (A350).

3. ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

Introduction

- 3.1 Melksham is located on the banks of the River Avon. Historically, the parish (Melksham Within) lay in the hundred of Melksham in the county of Wiltshire. The standard work on the county in the historical period is the *History of the County of Wiltshire* (V.C.H vol. VII; published 1953).

Prehistoric

- 3.2 The Historic Environment Record (HER) maintained by Wiltshire County Archaeological Service records three entries of prehistoric date within a 1km search radius of the site, so there was thought to be a possibility of prehistoric deposits or finds within the site area.
- 3.3 Evidence of prehistoric activity in the vicinity of the site is focussed on the Western Way By-Pass Bridge (A350), built in the early 1970s. Finds recovered from gravels disturbed during bridge construction included a single Palaeolithic worked flint (SMR ST96SW001) and from the Neolithic period sherds of Peterborough Ware pottery (SMR ST96SW100 & SMR ST96SW102). Dating from the late Bronze Age/early Iron Age, an assemblage of metalwork comprising three bronze *phalerae*, two of which showed evidence of ritual damage, three bronze socketed spearheads and a dirk (ST96SW150) and two iron spearheads (SMR ST96SW551) were recovered (McMahon 2004).

Roman

- 3.4 There were only two recorded Roman find spots within the HER search radius. These comprised, firstly, two sherds of Romano-British pottery recovered from a site near Church Street (SMR ST96SW304) and Romano-British pottery, comprising a handle and neck of a ring-necked jug (SMR ST96SW301), found close to the site of the By-Pass Bridge in the early 1970's (McMahon 2004).

Medieval

- 3.5 There are eight entries in the Wiltshire HER dating from the medieval period within 1km of the study area. The town has medieval origins (SMR ST96SW450) and was known as '*Melchessa*' in 1086. The origin of the name is unclear, although it has long been asserted that it is derived from the Old English word 'meoloc' (milk), thereby possibly meaning 'homestead, settlement or enclosure of milk'. The Anglican parish church of St Michael & All Angels (Grade II*; SMR ST96SW471) has elements dating from the 12th century, although the greater part of it is of 14th and 15th century date, with extensive remodelling in 1845. Near the church is the site of the Capital Manor of Melksham (SMR ST96SW473). The existence of this estate as an administrative unit can be traced from the Anglo-Saxon period (McMahon 2004). The presence of a manor house on the site however is only certain from c.1550 when Henry Brouncker had Place House built. It is thought though that this house replaced an earlier one on the same site (V.C.H. 1953).
- 3.6 To the south-west of the parish church is the site of Rectory Manor or Canonhold (SMR ST96SW474). This is also Anglo-Saxon in origin, originating as the Domesday Book (1086) holding of Rumbold the Priest. Following the granting of the church and its holdings to Salisbury Cathedral in 1200 the land unit passed to the canons of the cathedral and remained dean and chapter property into the 19th century. Although nothing is known to survive on the site belonging to any manor house, a 15th-century tithe barn is present.
- 3.7 The nearby site occupied by the vicarage of St Michael's Church was detached from the Rectory Manor estate in 1220. Although there is no evidence of a medieval building on the

site, it is known that the present building, erected in 1877, replaced a much older structure (McMahon 2004).

- 3.8 Melksham's Market Place (SMR ST96SW475) probably dates from the 13th century, when in 1219 a grant was obtained for a market and fair, which continued in one form or another until 1939. The area of the modern market place is irregular in plan and probably does not reflect the site as it was originally laid out (McMahon 2004).
- 3.9 Of the two bridges in the town known to have medieval origins, only the 'Great Bridge' or 'Town Bridge' (SMR ST96SW477), the main span over the River Avon on Bath Road, is located within 1km of the study area. It is first referred to in 1415, and is recorded as being in a poor state of repair by the mid-17th century. That structure was swept away by floods in 1809, and it is unknown if any elements of that structure survive beneath the abutments of the present bridge (McMahon 2004).

Sixteenth Century

- 3.10 Following the Dissolution of the Monasteries by King Henry VIII (1509-47) in 1539 the prioress and nuns of Amesbury Priory surrendered their Melksham estates to the crown. The property, which comprised the Lordship of the Manor and Hundred, was granted in 1541 to Sir Thomas Seymour (c.1508-49). He later sold the estate to Henry Brouncker (d. 1569), who about 1550 built himself a new residence (Place House, otherwise known as the Court House) (see para. 3.5) next to the Market Place. Three generations of his family lived there, but after the death of his grandson Henry (d. c.1598) most of the Brouncker estate (not including Place House) was broken up and sold.

Seventeenth Century

- 3.11 Henry Brouncker's widow died in 1612 and Place House passed, by marriage in 1634, to Sir John Danvers (d. 1655). It was subsequently sold in 1671 to Walter Long of Whaddon. The house was again sold in 1687 to Isaac Selfe, although the lordship was retained by the Long family until the early 20th century.

Eighteenth Century

- 3.12 Several industrial sites have been identified within a 1km radius of the site, reflecting the rapid expansion of the town following the Industrial Revolution. Melksham enjoyed success in the cloth industry, although little of the industrial fabric associated with that activity survives. One example that does however is the former drying oven (SMR ST96SW527) – commonly known as the Roundhouse – in Church Street. Another is the former Matravers Cloth Mill, which stands on the Cooper Tyre & Rubber Co. site. Built c.1801, possibly to replace a post-medieval fulling mill, it finally closed in 1888 when the site was acquired by Avon Rubber. To the south of Matravers Mill stood, until 1900, a large dye-house (SMR ST96SW533) located on the west bank of the River Avon. Opposite the latter site, on the east bank of the river, was located the Ark cloth factory (SMR ST96SW530), which stood from c.1751 to c.1865 when it was demolished (McMahon 2004).
- 3.13 In the middle of the River Avon, immediately north-west of 'Great Bridge' (Bath Road) was located an island, which was the location from at least 1793 of a large corn mill (Melksham Mill; SMR ST96SW531). Expansion of the neighbouring Avon Rubber works in the 20th century eventually led to the culverting of the mill leat and the demolition of the mill (McMahon 2004).

Nineteenth Century

- 3.14 Major impetus was given to Melksham's commercial development by the construction of the Wilts & Berks Canal (SMR ST96SW538), which opened to traffic in 1819. It passed south-east of the town, with a wharf near the Devizes Road (A365). During the first half of the 19th

century it carried considerable traffic, but after the arrival of the railway in 1848 trade gradually dwindled. The canal finally closed in 1914 and was subsequently in-filled.

- 3.15 Other known industrial sites in the vicinity of the study area include the former Sawtell feather processing factory (SMR ST96SW534; now occupied by housing) on Old Broughton Road, a former brass foundry (SMR ST96SW535; now a Unigate dairy) on New Broughton Road, a former iron foundry (SMR ST96SW536) on Bath Road, and the site of the former Gas Works (SMR ST96SW540), also on Bath Road.
- 3.16 In 1864 Place House (the manor house) was bought by a group of Melksham businessmen, the house demolished and the land divided into small plots that were sold by public auction. A private road (Place Road) was laid out through the centre of the site and villas built either side.

Twentieth Century/Recent

- 3.17 Avon Rubber Plc had owned the site occupied by their large tyre plant (SMR ST96SW532), located close to the town centre on the west bank of the River Avon, since 1888. However, in 2000 Avon Rubber moved to a new purpose-built plant, employing some 300 people, on a site south of the town. The old works is now operated by Cooper Tyre & Rubber Co.
- 3.18 In 2007 proposals were put forward by Countrywide Farmers Limited to sell the proposal site for redevelopment and to acquire a neighbouring site for new premises. A planning application was submitted on behalf of ASDA Stores, the new site owners, in December 2007 and after a process of consultation and negotiation with the local authorities, local interest groups and general public, planning permission was finally granted in September 2009. Demolition of the buildings on the former Countrywide Farmers site eventually followed in late 2010 (**Fig. 9**) and the site was levelled, immediately prior to its redevelopment with the building of the new ASDA store.

4. CARTOGRAPHIC EVIDENCE

- 4.1 The earliest cartographic evidence of the study area is on a 1773 map of Wiltshire, by Andrews and Dury (**Fig. 6**), which shows little detail other than the general layout of Melksham and its' locality (including the study area) at that time.
- 4.2 The tithe map of 1838 (**Fig. 7**) for the parish of Melksham shows the study area occupying parts of three plots of land (areal units 756, 757 & 758). All of the study area, as originally shown on the map, was then farmland. Immediately to the south-west is shown areal unit 765 'House & Garden'. A nearby Baptist 'Burial Ground', probably originating in the 18th century, can be seen to the north-east of the study area, though it is only mentioned under the categories 'Sundry Proprietors' and 'Sundry Occupiers'.

Landowner	Occupier	No.	Name	State of Cultivation	Quantities		
					<i>a</i>	<i>r</i>	<i>p</i>
John Phillips	John Bendy	753	Helps Orchard	Pasture	2	1	1
-	Melksham Baptist Church	754	-	Burial Ground	-	-	-
Glebe	Revd. Jeremiah Cottle James	755	Great Ground	Pasture	5	1	36
Charles Ambrose	Charles Ambrose	756	Five Acres	Pasture	5	1	30
Georgina Heald	Robert Gurnick	757	Gravel Ground	Pasture	7	3	0
-----Do-----	----Do----	758	Four Acres	Arable	4	2	4
Sir Harry Burrard	James Newman	764	Four Acres	Pasture	3	2	10
James Watson	James Watson	765	House & Garden	-	0	1	3
	James Parsons	766	Bridge Ground	Arable	1	-	20

Table 3: Extract from 1838 Melksham Tithe Apportionment (ref. WRO A/T Melksham) (see **Fig. 7** for map)

- 4.3 The First Edition Ordnance Survey plan (1:2500 scale) (**Fig. 7**), surveyed in 1885, shows only two particular changes to the study area from 1838, firstly the construction of the Great Western Railway (Wilts, Somerset & Weymouth Branch) line immediately north-west, which took place in 1848. The second alteration resulted from the construction of the railway line with the truncation of historic field boundaries. That led to the amalgamation of the southern part of 'Gravel Ground' (areal unit 757) with the neighbouring field 'Four Acres' (areal unit 758). Immediately south-west of the study area is 'Southfield Farm'.
- 4.4 The study area is shown, on the Second (1901) and Third Edition (1924) (**Fig. 8**) Ordnance Survey plans (1:2500), as being largely unaltered. A 'Sewage Works', then belonging to Melksham Urban District Council, is shown immediately west of the study area, next to the neighbouring 'Southfield Farm' (shown on the 1924 Edition and later maps as 'Southbrook Farm').
- 4.5 The O.S. plan of 1942 (**Fig. 9**) shows no further alterations.
- 4.6 The major changes to the area (including the development of the study area) occurred after the construction of the by-pass (A350) in the early 1970s.

5. AIMS & METHODOLOGY

- 5.1 The purpose of the watching brief was to record any archaeological deposits or features revealed during the course of intrusive construction groundwork.
- 5.2 The recent programme of fieldwork complied with the methodology contained within the *Written Scheme of Investigation* (Bryant 2010). The fieldwork also followed the *Standards and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Briefs* issued by the Institute of Field Archaeologists (1999, revised 2008), and *Management of Archaeological Projects* (MAP II) issued by English Heritage (EH 1991).
- 5.3 The watching brief involved monitoring ground reduction work across the footprint of the new foodstore, along with the excavation of foundation trenches and foundation pits, as well as trenches for 150mm, 350mm and 450mm diameter drain pipes and a large rectangular pit for an attenuation tank (1500m³) beneath the customer car park.

6. RESULTS

Introduction

- 6.1 The watching brief started week commencing Monday 25 October 2010, initially under the supervision of Andy King (Project Officer, BaRAS). The area of proposed ground reduction/excavation (the footprint of the proposed food store; **Fig. 3**) was located west of Western Way and north-north-east of a sewage works and electricity sub station (beyond which is the nearby new Countrywide Farmers retail store) on an area of land that formerly was occupied by several retail/depot buildings and areas of hard standing. After that first week on site all subsequent monitoring was undertaken by Tim Longman (Project Officer, BaRAS), except for a single visit by Emily Glass.

The Watching Brief

- 6.2 Concrete demolition rubble and concrete slabs, associated with the commercial premises that formerly occupied the study area, were removed utilising 65-ton and 35-ton 360° slew mechanical excavators. Initially, mechanical excavation/ground reduction work ‘proofed’ ground (**Plates 1 & 2**) to a depth of approximately 1m at the south end of the site, but only to a depth of 300mm generally into the underlying soils. Along the north side of the proposed store footprint several 2m deep concrete-lined pits, along with several concrete pier bases, had to be removed (**Plate 3**), thereby exposing sections through the underlying natural clay and gravel deposits. Sealing the natural clay and gravel (102), first recorded near the south-west corner of the site, was observed an intermittent layer of dark greyish brown silty clay (101).
- 6.3 Once any concrete floor slabs had been removed the layer of stone scalplings beneath, plus up to 300mm of soil (to the formation level of 35.170m aOD), was then excavated. It was particularly during this phase of work that deposit 101 was observed and recorded. The friable clayey silt contained moderate inclusions of flinty gravel, along with sparse very small fragments of bone, small freshwater snails and charcoal flecks. It may well represent a flood episode(s) across the surrounding flood-plain, particularly given the site’s proximity to the nearby River Avon, which had a habit of flooding – see wording on OS plans (**Figs 8 & 9**).
- 6.4 Subsequent site visits, during ground reduction work on the footprint of the proposed store, and an adjoining service yard area (**Plate 4**), apart from further observations of surviving areas of deposit 101, otherwise recorded little else of interest. The depth of the mixed fill and the latter soil horizon (101) sealing the natural clay and gravel within the area of the footprint of the new store was generally some 0.5m.
- 6.5 During the excavation of several 1m deep geotechnical pits, on the site of the proposed store, an intermittent layer of sandy gravel, yellowish orange in colour (up to 0.25m thick) about 0.15m below formation level was observed sandwiched between layers of stiff, blue-grey clay. No cultural finds or archaeologically significant deposits were present.
- 6.6 The alluvial clayey silt deposit (context 101) was also recorded (**Plate 5**) during the excavation of several foundation pits across the footprint of the foodstore, sealed beneath the piling mat of redeposited stone scalplings.
- 6.7 Similarly, during the excavation of 1.5-2m deep trenches for 450mm, 375mm and 300mm diameter surface water sewer pipes (**Fig. 5; Plates 6 & 7**) no archaeologically significant deposits were recorded. Likewise, no cultural material was recovered from the natural clays and gravels encountered.
- 6.8 The last major phase of excavation that required monitoring was that of a large pit (some 712m³) for an attenuation tank (**Plates 8 & 9**), located to the north of the foodstore, beneath the site of the proposed car park. The depth of excavation was some 3m into the natural clays and gravels (102). No archaeological deposits were present and no finds were recovered.

7. PROJECT TEAM

- 7.1 The fieldwork was undertaken, initially by Andy King MifA (Project Officer, BaRAS), but subsequently by Emily Glass AfA (a single visit) and Tim Longman MifA (Project Officer, BaRAS), the latter of whom also produced this report. The illustrations were prepared and the report compiled by Ann Linge (Design & Production Officer, BaRAS). The project was managed by John Bryant MifA (Assistant Manager, BaRAS).

8. BIBLIOGRAPHY AND SOURCES CONSULTED

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Maps & Plans

Andrew's & Dury's map of 1773

Tithe-commutation map & apportionment of 1838 for Parish of Melksham (ref. WRO T/A Melksham)

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Ordnance Survey Revision (1:2500 scale) of 1942; Wiltshire sheet XXXIII.5; surveyed 1884; partly relevelled 1926 & 1943; revised 1942; published 1947

ASDA Melksham site plans (original plans supplied by James + Ward Limited)

9. ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Bristol and Region Archaeological Services would like to thank Steve Lewis (Site Project Manager), Mike Green (Construction Manager) and other site staff from ISG Pearce Ltd, site staff from Dancourt Ltd and from RM Penny (Plant Hire & Demolition) Ltd, and Simon Nugent from W. A. Fairhurst & Partners (Fairhurst Environmental & Geotechnical Services Division) for their assistance and co-operation during the programme of ground works. Thanks also to David Vaughan (Assistant County Archaeologist, Wiltshire County Archaeology Service) for his advice, and to the staff of Wiltshire & Swindon History Centre in Chippenham and to the staff of Melksham Library for their assistance.

APPENDIX 1: Policy Statement

This report is the result of work carried out in the light of national and local authority policies.

NATIONAL POLICIES

Statutory protection for archaeology is enshrined in the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act (1979), amended by the National Heritage Act, 1983. Nationally important sites are listed in the Schedule of Ancient Monuments (SAM). Scheduled Monument consent is required for any work that would affect a SAM.

GOVERNMENT POLICY GUIDANCE

Planning Policy Guidance Note 15: Planning and the Historic Environment (1994) and Planning Policy Guidance Note 16: Archaeology & Planning (1990) have been replaced (23 March 2010) by Planning Policy Statement 5: Planning for the Historic Environment (2010) which sets out the Government's national policies on conservation of the historic environment. Those parts of the historic environment that have significance because of their historic, archaeological architectural or artistic interest are called heritage assets.

Of particular relevance within the Planning Policy Statement are:

Policy HE6: Information Requirements for Application for Consent Affecting Heritage Assets

HE6.1 Local planning authorities should require an applicant to provide a description of the significance of the heritage assets affected and the contribution of their setting to that significance. The level of detail should be proportionate to the importance of the heritage asset and no more than is sufficient to understand the potential impact of the proposal on the significance of the heritage asset. As a minimum the relevant historic environment record should have been consulted and the heritage assets themselves should have been assessed using appropriate expertise where necessary given the application's impact. Where an application site includes, or is considered to have the potential to include, heritage assets with archaeological interest, local planning authorities should require developers to submit an appropriate desk-based assessment and, where desk-based research is insufficient to properly assess the interest, a field evaluation.

Policy HE9: Additional Policy Principles Guiding the Consideration of Applications for Consent Relating to Designated Heritage Assets

HE9.1 There should be a presumption in favour of the conservation of designated heritage assets and the more significant the designated heritage asset, the greater the presumption in favour of its conservation should be. Once lost, heritage assets cannot be replaced and their loss has a cultural, environmental, economic and social impact. Significance can be harmed or lost through alteration or destruction of the heritage asset or development within its setting. Loss affecting any designated heritage asset should require clear and convincing justification. Substantial harm to or loss of a grade II listed building, park or garden should be exceptional. Substantial harm to or loss of designated heritage assets of the highest significance, including scheduled monuments, protected wreck sites, battlefields, grade I or II* listed buildings and grade I or II* registered parks and gardens, World Heritage Sites, should be wholly exceptional.

Policy HE12: Policy Principles Guiding the Recording of Information Related to Heritage Assets

HE12.3 Where the loss of the whole or a material part of a heritage asset's significance is justified, local planning authorities should require the developer to record and advance understanding of the significance of the heritage asset before it is lost, using planning conditions or obligations as appropriate. The extent of the requirement should be proportionate to the nature and level of the asset's significance. Developers should publish this evidence and deposit copies of the reports with the relevant

historic environment record. Local planning authorities should require any archive generated to be deposited with a local museum or other public depository willing to receive it. Local planning authorities should impose planning conditions or obligations to ensure such work is carried out in a timely manner and that the completion of the exercise is properly secured.

LOCAL POLICY

The Wiltshire and Swindon Structure Plan 2016 (adopted April 2006), covering Wiltshire County Council and Swindon Borough Council local authority areas, was due to be replaced by the new South West Regional Spatial Strategy (RSS) in April 2009. In addition, a parallel planning document, the Wiltshire Core Strategy, is due for adoption in late 2011.

While much of the Structure Plan was in place only until April 2009, certain core policies have been retained until the new RSS and/or a new Wiltshire Core Strategy is in place.

The Structure Plan includes the following policies:

Policy HE2 FEATURES OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL OR HISTORIC INTEREST AND THEIR SETTINGS SHOULD BE PROTECTED FROM INAPPROPRIATE DEVELOPMENT. WHERE NATIONALLY IMPORTANT ARCHAEOLOGICAL OR HISTORIC REMAINS, WHETHER SCHEDULED SITES OR NOT, ARE AFFECTED BY PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT THERE SHOULD BE A PRESUMPTION IN FAVOUR OF THEIR PHYSICAL PRESERVATION "IN SITU".

Policy HE7 THE ARCHITECTURAL AND HISTORIC HERITAGE OF THE PLAN AREA WILL BE SAFEGUARDED FROM INAPPROPRIATE DEVELOPMENT.

APPENDIX 2: Context Descriptions

Context No.	Description
100	Modern demolition rubble/fill
101	Dark greyish brown clayey silt with inclusions of flinty gravel, animal bone, fresh water snails, charcoal flecks, very small ceramic fragments
102	Blue-grey clay with lenses of yellowish orange sandy gravel



Fig.1 Site location plan

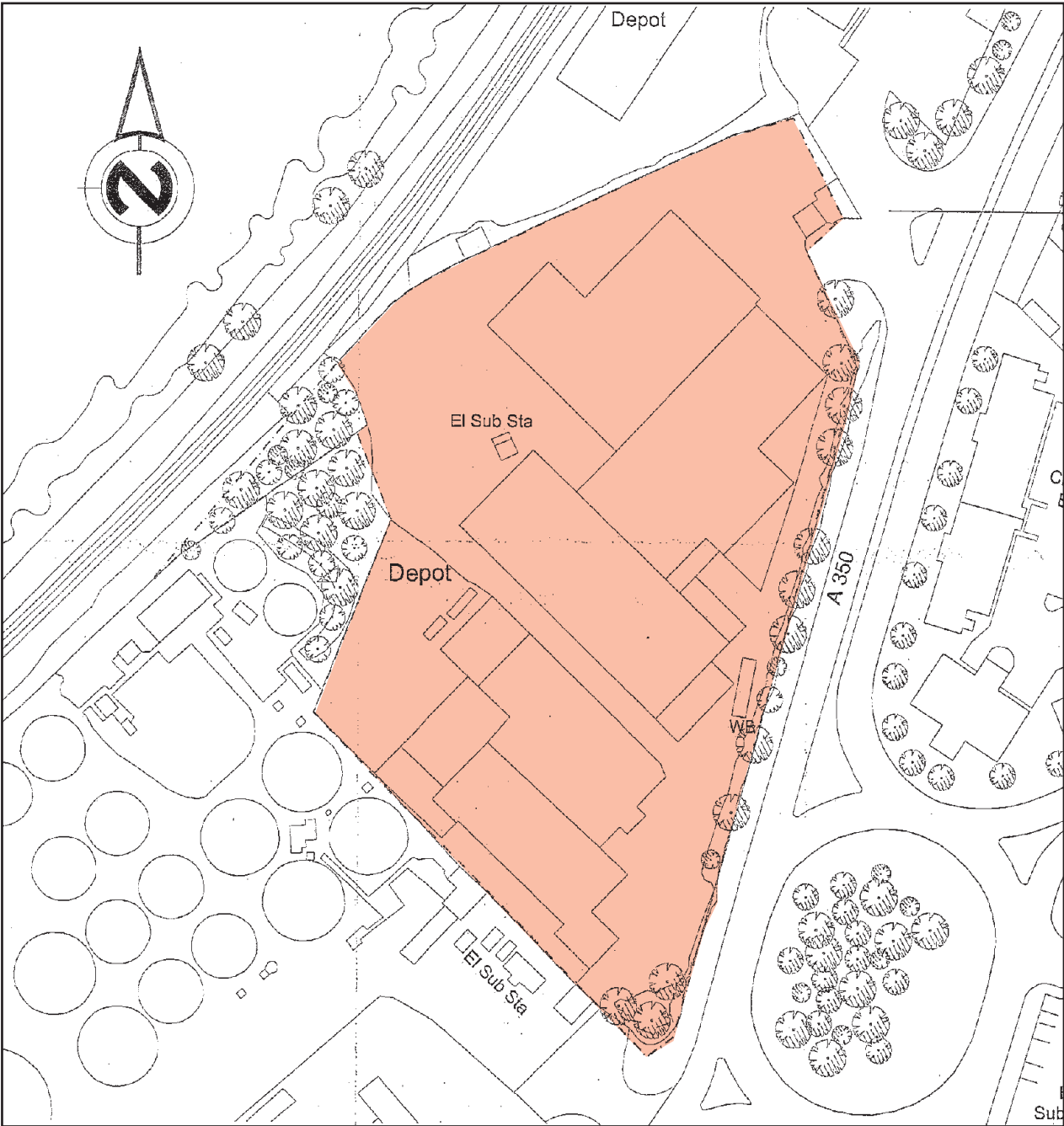


Fig.2 Existing site plan

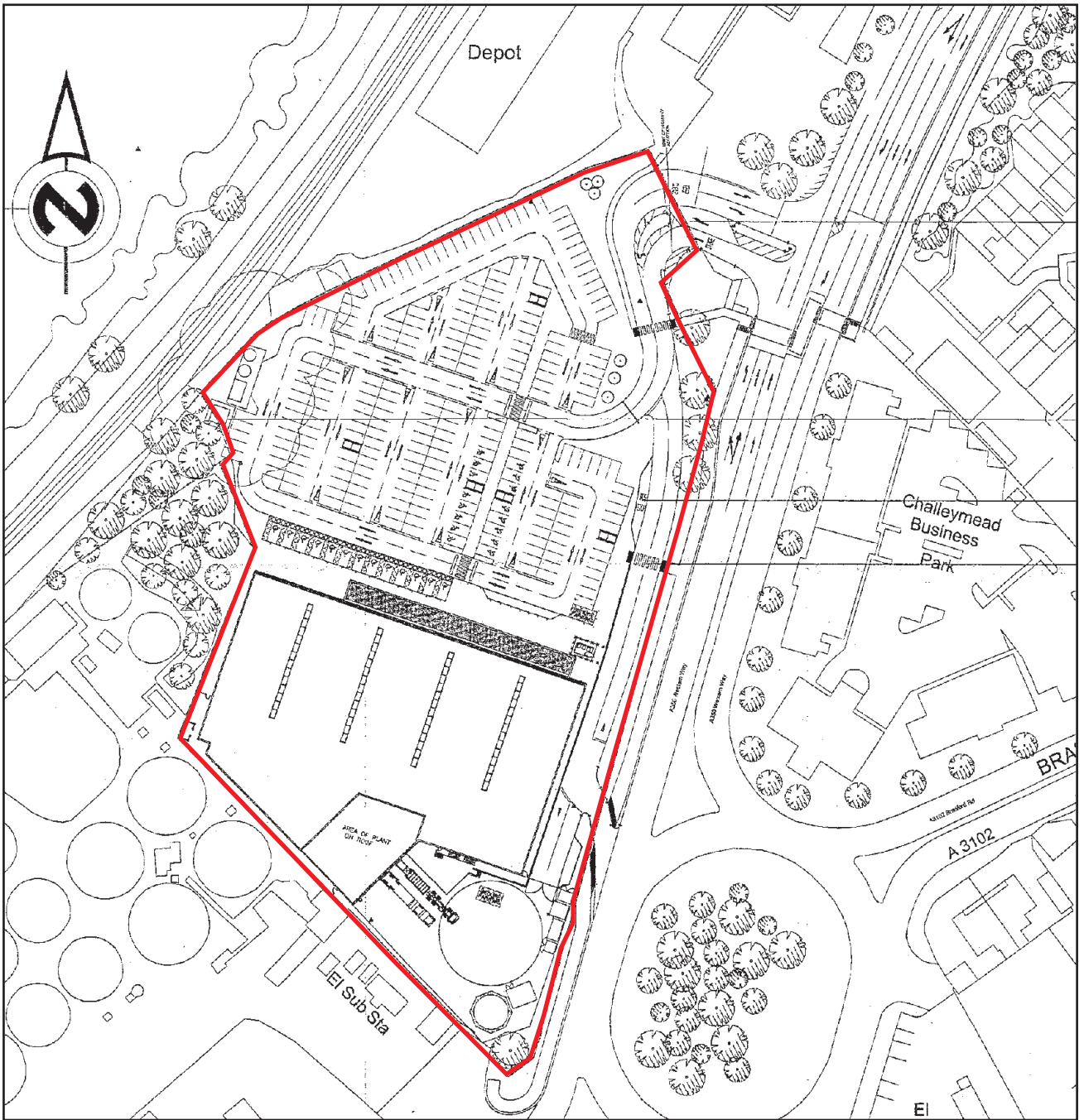


Fig.3 Proposed site plan



Fig.4 Computer generated image of the site and its locality (post-development) from the north

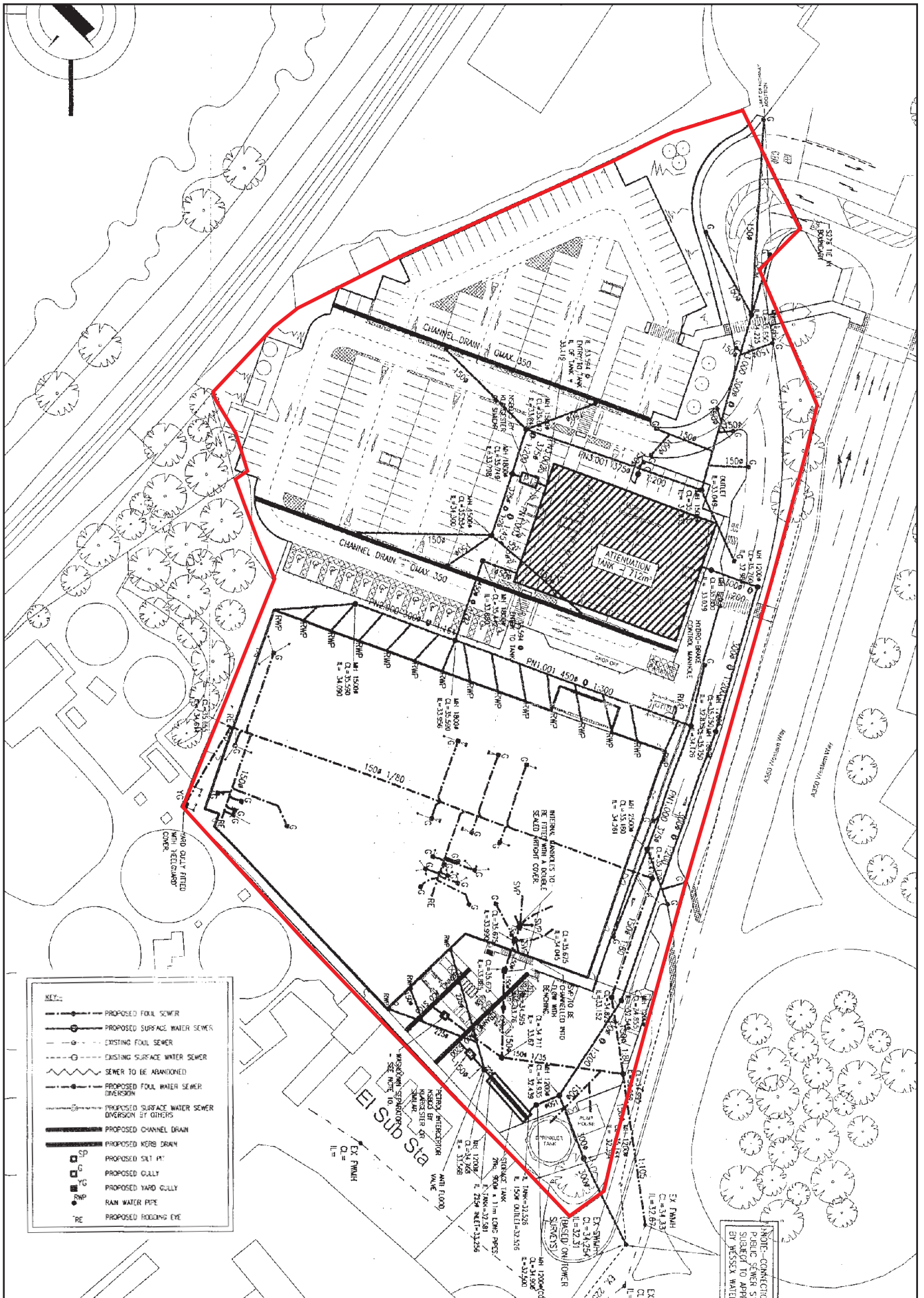


Fig.5 Site plan showing site drainage



Fig.6 Extract from Andrews' and Durys' plan of 1773



Fig.7 Extract from 1838 Tithe map of Melksham parish



Fig.8 Extract from 1885 OS 1:2500 plan



Fig.9 Extract from 1942 OS 1:2500 plan



Plate 1
Ground reduction
(‘proofing’) in progress –
looking north-east across
site



Plate 2
Ground reduction
(‘proofing’) in progress –
looking north-east across
site



Plate 3
Excavation of concrete
pier bases belonging to
former Countrywide
Farmers depot



Plate 4
Reduced dig across site
of proposed service
yard, looking south-west
towards electricity
sub-station



Plate 5
South-facing section in
foundation pit showing
context 101 sealing the
underlying natural, stiff,
blue grey clay (102)



Plate 6
Looking south-east along
line of 450mm diameter
surface water sewer pipe
trench



Plate 7
View north-east along
route of 300mm diameter
surface water sewer pipe
trench



Plate 8
Excavation of pit for
attenuation tank, looking
north & north-west



Plate 9
Excavation of pit for
attenuation tank, looking
north & north-west