



# Land at Kidderminster Road, Droitwich, Worcestershire

## Archaeological Evaluation Report

September 2018

Client: Lidl UK GmbH

Issue No: 1

OA Reference No: 21742

NGR: SO 89451 63882

oxfordarchaeology



southsouthsouth



Client Name: Lidl UK GmbH  
Document Title: Land at Kidderminster Road, Droitwich  
Document Type: Evaluation Report  
Grid Reference: SO 89451 63882  
Planning Reference: 17/02331/FUL  
Site Code: DRKID18  
Invoice Code: DRKIDEV  
Receiving Body: Worcestershire Museums  
Accession No.: TBC  
WSM Number: 70349

OA Document File Location: X:\d\Droitwich\_Kidderminster Road\Report  
OA Graphics File Location: X:\d\Droitwich\_Kidderminster Road\010Geomatics

Issue No: 1  
Date: September 2018  
Prepared by: Diana Chard (Supervisor)  
Checked by: John Boothroyd (Senior Project Manager)  
Edited by: Chris Hayden (Senior Project Manager, post-excavation)  
Approved for Issue by: David Score (Head of Fieldwork)  
Signature:



**Disclaimer:**

*This document has been prepared for the titled project or named part thereof and should not be relied upon or used for any other project without an independent check being carried out as to its suitability and prior written authority of Oxford Archaeology being obtained. Oxford Archaeology accepts no responsibility or liability for the consequences of this document being used for a purpose other than the purposes for which it was commissioned. Any person/party using or relying on the document for such other purposes agrees and will by such use or reliance be taken to confirm their agreement to indemnify Oxford Archaeology for all loss or damage resulting therefrom. Oxford Archaeology accepts no responsibility or liability for this document to any party other than the person/party by whom it was commissioned.*

**OA South**  
Janus House  
Osney Mead  
Oxford  
OX2 0ES

t. +44 (0)1865 263 800

**OA East**  
15 Trafalgar Way  
Bar Hill  
Cambridge  
CB23 8SG

t. +44 (0)1223 850 500

**OA North**  
Mill 3  
Moor Lane Mills  
Moor Lane  
Lancaster  
LA1 1QD  
t. +44 (0)1524 880 250

e. info@oxfordarch.co.uk  
w. oxfordarchaeology.com

Oxford Archaeology is a registered Charity: No. 285627

## Land at Kidderminster Road, Droitwich, Worcestershire

### *Archaeological Evaluation Report*

*Written by Diana Chard*

*With contributions from John Cotter and illustrations by  
Matt Bradley and Charles Rousseaux*

## Contents

Summary .....	vii
Acknowledgements .....	viii
<b>1 INTRODUCTION.....</b>	<b>1</b>
1.1 Scope of work.....	1
1.2 Location, topography and geology.....	1
1.3 Archaeological and historical background.....	1
1.4 Potential.....	2
<b>2 EVALUATION AIMS AND METHODOLOGY .....</b>	<b>3</b>
2.1 Aims .....	3
2.2 Methodology.....	3
<b>3 RESULTS .....</b>	<b>4</b>
3.1 Introduction and presentation of results .....	4
3.2 General soils and ground conditions.....	4
3.3 General distribution of archaeological deposits.....	4
3.4 Trench 2.....	4
3.5 Finds summary.....	4
<b>4 DISCUSSION .....</b>	<b>5</b>
4.1 Reliability of field investigation.....	5
4.2 Evaluation objectives and results.....	5
<b>APPENDIX A TRENCH DESCRIPTIONS AND CONTEXT INVENTORY .....</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>APPENDIX B FINDS REPORTS.....</b>	<b>8</b>
B.1 CBM .....	8
<b>APPENDIX C BIBLIOGRAPHY .....</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>APPENDIX D SITE SUMMARY DETAILS.....</b>	<b>10</b>

## List of Figures

Fig. 1	Site location
Fig. 2	Trench locations
Fig. 3	Trench 2
Fig. 4	Section 200

## List of Plates

Plate 1	Trench 1, view to SE
Plate 2	Trench 3, view to SW
Plate 3	Trench 4, view to SE
Plate 4	Ditch 204, view to N



## Summary

In August 2018, Oxford Archaeology completed an archaeological evaluation comprising the excavation of five trenches at land off Kidderminster Road, Droitwich, Worcestershire. The work was completed for Lidl UK GmbH ahead of the proposed development of a new supermarket. Trenching identified evidence of significant truncation across the site associated with the previous development of the site. With the exception of a suspected medieval field boundary, no archaeological features were observed during the works.

## Acknowledgements

Oxford Archaeology would like to thank Lidl UK GmbH for commissioning this project. Thanks are also extended to Aidan Smyth, who monitored the work on behalf of Wychavon and Malvern Hills District Councils, for his advice and guidance.

The project was managed for Oxford Archaeology by John Boothroyd. The fieldwork was carried out by Emma Powell. Survey and digitizing was carried out by Matt Bradley. Thanks are also extended to the teams of OA staff that cleaned and packaged the finds under the management of Leigh Allen and prepared the archive under the management of Nicola Scott.



## **1 INTRODUCTION**

### **1.1 Scope of work**

- 1.1.1 Oxford Archaeology (OA) was commissioned by Lidl UK GmbH to undertake a trial trench evaluation at the site of a proposed new supermarket.
- 1.1.2 The work was undertaken as a condition of planning permission (planning ref. 17/02331/FUL). Although the Local Planning Authority had not set a brief for the work, discussions with Aidan Smyth, Archaeology and Planning Advisor for Wychavon and Malvern Hills District Councils established the scope of work required, and a written scheme of investigation was produced by OA detailing the Local Authority's requirements for work necessary to discharge the planning condition (OA 2018). This document outlines how OA implemented the specified requirements.

### **1.2 Location, topography and geology**

- 1.2.1 The site sits on the northern edge of the town of Droitwich Spa, centered on grid reference SO 89451 63882. It lies to the north of Kidderminster Road, to the east of George Baylis Road and is bounded by areas of mixed industrial use to the north and east of the development area (Fig. 1).
- 1.2.2 The area of proposed development consists of mixed light industrial buildings and hard standing parking areas with mature shrub and tree boundaries to the south and tarmac roads to the west.
- 1.2.3 The geology of the area is mapped as Sidmouth Mudstone Formation: a sedimentary bedrock formed in the Triassic Period (BGS 2018).

### **1.3 Archaeological and historical background**

- 1.3.1 There are no heritage assets recorded within the proposed development area. A Historic Environment Record search (WSM 70349) was carried out for the production of the written scheme of investigation.
- 1.3.2 The Bays Meadow Roman Villa lies 380m to the east of site. A trial trench evaluation was carried out to the south of the villa by Cotswold Archaeology in 2016 (CA 2016). The trenching revealed evidence of a Roman rampart and ditch, as well as contemporaneous cobbled surfaces and ditches. This activity was interpreted as the continuation of the previously identified Roman settlement at Bays Meadow. In addition, a possible late medieval/post-medieval ditch was identified. The site had been subject to modern truncation and landscaping.
- 1.3.3 The villa is to the north of the town of Droitwich Spa which was a centre for salt production in the Roman period and was known as Salinae. Evidence for multi-period salt production has been encountered across much of Droitwich.
- 1.3.4 Evaluation works undertaken in 1992 to the south of the site revealed the fragmented remains of a post-built structure and a 6m wide ditch. The ditch has been dated to the 13th-14th centuries and evidence for intensive agricultural processing was recovered from environmental samples (MA 1993).

1.3.5 Two archaeological watching briefs have been undertaken to the north of the site but no archaeological features or deposits were recorded.

## **1.4 Potential**

1.4.1 Given the limited archaeological works undertaken in the vicinity of the site, the potential is unknown. Despite the wealth of Roman activity to the east of the site, it is not known if this continues within the proposed development area. Similarly, while significant medieval activity is suggested to the south of the site, the focus and extent of this activity is unknown.

## 2 EVALUATION AIMS AND METHODOLOGY

### 2.1 Aims

- 2.1.1 The primary objective of the investigation was to assess the impacts of the proposed development on any surviving buried archaeological remains.
- 2.1.2 Specific aims and objectives of the evaluation were:
- i. To determine the presence or absence of any archaeological remains which may survive
  - ii. To determine or confirm the approximate extent of any surviving remains
  - iii. To determine the date range of any surviving remains by artefactual or other means
  - iv. To determine the condition and state of preservation of any remains
  - v. To determine the degree of complexity of any surviving horizontal or vertical stratigraphy
  - vi. To assess the associations and implications of any remains encountered with reference to the historic landscape
  - vii. To determine the potential of the site to provide palaeoenvironmental and/or economic evidence, and the forms in which such evidence may survive
  - viii. To determine the implications of any remains with reference to economy, status, function and social activity.
  - ix. To determine or confirm the likely range, quality and quantity of the artefactual evidence present

### 2.2 Methodology

- 2.2.1 It was proposed to excavate five trenches measuring 30m by 1.8m. Due to on-site constraints, however, several significant variations were made during the field work. Trench 1 was dug in 2 separate lengths of 10 and 8.6m in order to avoid a water service; Trench 2 was shortened to 13.5m in order to avoid electrical services; Trench 4 had its orientation altered due to an area of thick concrete; and Trench 5 was dug as two sondages at each end of the proposed trench due to the depth of the concrete which made excavation of the full trench impractical (Fig. 2).
- 2.2.2 Trenches were excavated using a 3CX excavator fitted with a 1.8m toothless bucket. Excavation occurred under the direct supervision of the Project Supervisor. Spoil was stored at a safe distance from the edge of the trenches.
- 2.2.3 Machining continued down to the top of the undisturbed natural geology, at which point archaeological features would be identified if present.
- 2.2.4 All deposits encountered were issued with a unique context number.
- 2.2.5 Archaeological features were planned at a scale of 1:20. Sections were also drawn at a scale of 1:20.
- 2.2.6 Digital photographs were taken of the trenches, archaeological features, and the works in general.
- 2.2.7 Upon approval of the Archaeological Planning Advisor, trenches were backfilled.

## **3 RESULTS**

### **3.1 Introduction and presentation of results**

- 3.1.1 The results of the evaluation are presented below, and include a stratigraphic description of the trenches that contained archaeological remains. The full details of all trenches with dimensions and depths of all deposits can be found in Appendix A. Finds data and spot dates are tabulated in Appendix B.
- 3.1.2 Context numbers reflect the trench numbers unless otherwise stated (e.g. pit 102 is a feature within Trench 1, while ditch 304 is a feature within Trench 3).

### **3.2 General soils and ground conditions**

- 3.2.1 The soil sequence in all of the trenches was fairly uniform. The natural geology of orangey red clay with silty grey patches was overlain by 0.4-0.8m of made ground, consisting mainly of concrete and crushed brick (Plates 1-3).
- 3.2.2 Ground conditions throughout the evaluation were generally good, and the trenches remained dry throughout. Archaeological features, where present, were easy to identify against the underlying natural geology.

### **3.3 General distribution of archaeological deposits**

- 3.3.1 The trenches were devoid of archaeological remains with the exception of Trench 2.

### **3.4 Trench 2**

- 3.4.1 Trench 2 was shortened by 13m at the eastern end due to the presence of services.
- 3.4.2 Natural geology, 203, was recorded at a depth of 0.8m below ground level. A single north-south aligned linear feature, 204, was recorded crossing the centre of the trench. Measuring 1.5m wide and 0.25m deep, the feature had irregular sides and base (Plate 4; Figs. 3 and 4). Several fragments of ceramic building material (CBM) were recovered from the sole fill, 205.
- 3.4.3 A deposit of made ground, 200, overlay the feature and the natural geology.

### **3.5 Finds summary**

- 3.5.1 A total of five fragments of CBM were recovered from the fill of linear feature 204. The tile fragments have been dated to the 12th – 15th century.

## **4 DISCUSSION**

### **4.1 Reliability of field investigation**

4.1.1 Despite reduction in the scope of trenching due to on site constraints, the consistency of the results can be considered to be a reliable indicator of the archaeological potential of the site. Natural geology was observed in all trenches and where present archaeological features were easily identifiable.

### **4.2 Evaluation objectives and results**

4.2.1 The evaluation aimed to assess the potential impact of future development on any archaeological remains that survive within the site. The results of the evaluation suggest that previous development within the site has resulted in significant truncation across the site, therefore limiting the impact of the proposed development.

4.2.2 It is suspected that the sole feature recorded (in Trench 2) is the base of a medieval field boundary and is of little archaeological significance. The presence of this boundary suggests the site formed part of the agricultural hinterland of Droitwich during the medieval period.

4.2.3 Based on absence of any other archaeological features, deposits or material culture within the trenches it can be concluded that the site has little to no archaeological potential.

## APPENDIX A TRENCH DESCRIPTIONS AND CONTEXT INVENTORY

Trench 1						
<b>General description</b>					<b>Orientation</b>	NE-SW
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of tarmac and crushed brick onto natural geology of light orangey red clay with grey silty patches.					<b>Length (m)</b>	18.6m
					<b>Width (m)</b>	1.8
					<b>Avg. depth (m)</b>	0.40
<b>Context No.</b>	<b>Type</b>	<b>Width (m)</b>	<b>Depth (m)</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Finds</b>	<b>Date</b>
101	Layer	-	0.4	Made ground	-	-
102	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-

Trench 2						
<b>General description</b>					<b>Orientation</b>	NW-SE
Trench consists of concrete on to a modern layer, overlying natural geology of light orangey red clay with grey silty patches. One ditch was discovered, running north-south across the trench, probably representing a post-medieval hedge line.					<b>Length (m)</b>	13.5
					<b>Width (m)</b>	1.6
					<b>Avg. depth (m)</b>	0.80
<b>Context No.</b>	<b>Type</b>	<b>Width (m)</b>	<b>Depth (m)</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Finds</b>	<b>Date</b>
200	Layer	-	0.63	Made ground	-	-
201	Void	-	-	-	-	-
202	Layer	-	0.17	Modern layer: dark greyish brown clay with occasional modern CBM inclusions. Same as 200	-	-
203	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-
204	Cut	1.5	0.24	Ditch N-S	-	-
205	Fill	1.5	0.24	Fill of 204: firm mid grey clay with occasional coal fragments	CBM	Post-medieval

Trench 3						
<b>General description</b>					<b>Orientation</b>	NW-SE
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of concrete, brick and tarmac overlying natural geology of light brownish red clay with grey silty patches.					<b>Length (m)</b>	30
					<b>Width (m)</b>	1.6
					<b>Avg. depth (m)</b>	0.44
<b>Context No.</b>	<b>Type</b>	<b>Width (m)</b>	<b>Depth (m)</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Finds</b>	<b>Date</b>
301	Layer	-	0.44	Made ground	-	-
302	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-

Trench 4						
<b>General description</b>					<b>Orientation</b>	NW-SE
No archaeology present. Trench consists of concrete overlying natural geology of light brownish red clay with grey silty patches.					<b>Length (m)</b>	30
					<b>Width (m)</b>	1.6
					<b>Avg. depth (m)</b>	0.66
<b>Context No.</b>	<b>Type</b>	<b>Width (m)</b>	<b>Depth (m)</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Finds</b>	<b>Date</b>

401	Layer	-	0.66	Made ground	-	-
402	Layer	-	0.17	Modern layer: dark greyish brown clay with occasional modern CBM inclusions.	-	-
<b>Trench 5</b>						
<b>General description</b>					<b>Orientation</b>	N-S
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of two made ground layers (concrete on top of brick) overlying natural geology of light orangey red silty clay.					<b>Length (m)</b>	6.4
					<b>Width (m)</b>	2.5
					<b>Avg. depth (m)</b>	0.8
<b>Context No.</b>	<b>Type</b>	<b>Width (m)</b>	<b>Depth (m)</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Finds</b>	<b>Date</b>
501	Layer	-	0.5	Made ground	-	-
502	Layer	-	0.3	Made ground	-	-
503	Layer	-	-	Natural		

## APPENDIX B FINDS REPORTS

### B.1 CBM

*Identified by John Cotter*

Context	Description	Date
205	3 very abraded pieces of CBM, 1 fragment of flat roof/peg tile in a very gritty orange fabric, ?Malvernian. 2 scraps from a different tile in a similar fabric. 6g total	12 <sup>th</sup> – 15 <sup>th</sup> century

B.1.1 No further work is recommended.



## APPENDIX C      BIBLIOGRAPHY

British Geological Survey (BGS), 2018, Geology of Britain viewer, <http://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home.html> (accessed on 03/04/2018).

CA, 2016, Land north of Vines Lane, Droitwich, Worcestershire. Archaeological evaluation, Cotswold Archaeology

MA, 1993, Medieval archaeology, *Journal of the Society for Medieval Archaeology*, vol **26**, p266.

OA 2018, Land off Kidderminster Road, Droitwich, Written Scheme of Investigation, Oxford Archaeology

## APPENDIX D

## SITE SUMMARY DETAILS

<b>Site name:</b>	Land of Kidderminster Road, Droitwich, Worcestershire
<b>Site code:</b>	DRKID18
<b>Grid Reference</b>	SO 89451 63882
<b>Type:</b>	Evaluation
<b>Date and duration:</b>	Three days, 29th to 31st August
<b>Area of Site</b>	0.85ha
<b>Location of archive:</b>	The archive is currently held at OA, Janus House, Osney Mead, Oxford, OX2 0ES, and will be deposited with Worcestershire Museums.
<b>Summary of Results:</b>	The excavation of five trenches across the area of a proposed development identified evidence of significant truncation associated with previous development. With the exception of a suspected medieval field boundary, no archaeological features were observed during the works.



**Head Office/Registered Office/  
OA South**

Janus House  
Osney Mead  
Oxford OX20ES

t: +44 (0) 1865 263 800  
f: +44 (0) 1865 793 496  
e: [info@oxfordarchaeology.com](mailto:info@oxfordarchaeology.com)  
w: <http://oxfordarchaeology.com>

**OA North**

Mill 3  
Moor Lane  
Lancaster LA1 1QD

t: +44 (0) 1524 541 000  
f: +44 (0) 1524 848 606  
e: [oanorth@oxfordarchaeology.com](mailto: oanorth@oxfordarchaeology.com)  
w: <http://oxfordarchaeology.com>

**OA East**

15 Trafalgar Way  
Bar Hill  
Cambridgeshire  
CB23 8SQ

t: +44 (0) 1223 850500  
e: [oaeast@oxfordarchaeology.com](mailto: oaeast@oxfordarchaeology.com)  
w: <http://oxfordarchaeology.com>



**Director:** Gill Hey, BA PhD FSA MCIfA  
*Oxford Archaeology Ltd is a  
Private Limited Company, N<sup>o</sup>: 1618597  
and a Registered Charity, N<sup>o</sup>: 285627*