



**Lidl Supermarket, Ffordd Parc Ynysderw  
Pontardawe, Neath Port Talbot Borough**

**Written Scheme of Investigation  
for Archaeological Watching Brief**

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# **Lidl Supermarket, Ffordd Parc Ynysderw Pontardawe, Neath Port Talbot Borough**

## **Written Scheme of Investigation for Archaeological Watching Brief**

### **Contents**

<b>1</b>	<b>INTRODUCTION.....</b>	<b>1</b>
1.1	Project background .....	1
1.2	Scope of Document.....	1
<b>2</b>	<b>SITE DESCRIPTION.....</b>	<b>1</b>
2.1	Location, topography and geology.....	1
2.2	Archaeological and historical background .....	2
<b>3</b>	<b>AIMS AND OBJECTIVES .....</b>	<b>3</b>
3.1	Project Aim.....	3
3.2	Project Objectives .....	3
<b>4</b>	<b>METHDOLOGY .....</b>	<b>3</b>
4.1	Health and Safety.....	3
4.2	Service Location.....	4
4.3	Watching brief .....	4
4.4	Human remains.....	5
4.5	Treasure.....	5
<b>5</b>	<b>FINDS AND ENVIRONMENTAL.....</b>	<b>5</b>
5.1	Finds .....	5
5.2	Environmental .....	6
<b>6</b>	<b>REPORTING.....</b>	<b>6</b>
6.1	Watching brief report.....	6
6.2	Publication .....	7
<b>7</b>	<b>THE ARCHIVE.....</b>	<b>7</b>
7.1	Museum .....	7
7.2	Preparation of Archive .....	7
7.3	Discard policy.....	8
7.4	Security copy.....	8
7.5	Copyright.....	8
<b>8</b>	<b>WA PROCESSES AND PROCEDURES .....</b>	<b>8</b>
8.1	Personnel.....	8



8.2	Quality and Code of Practice .....	9
<b>9</b>	<b>REFERENCES.....</b>	<b>9</b>

## **Figures**

Figure 1: Site location and plan of proposed store

# **Lidl Supermarket, Ffordd Parc Ynysderw Pontardawe, Neath, Port Talbot Borough**

## **Written Scheme of Investigation for Archaeological Watching Brief**

### **1 INTRODUCTION**

#### **1.1 Project background**

1.1.1 Wessex Archaeology (WA) has been commissioned by Walsingham Planning to prepare a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) for an Archaeological Watching Brief to monitor groundworks for the construction of a Lidl foodstore and associated service yard and car park at Ffordd Parc Ynysderw, Pontardawe, Neath Port Talbot Borough (hereafter 'the Site'; **Figure 1**). The Site is located at National Grid Reference (NGR) 272190, 203725.

1.1.2 A planning application (P2015/1090) has been submitted to Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council for the demolition of the existing Lidl building and construction of a larger store and associated car parking. Following advice from the Archaeological Planning Officer at the Glamorgan-Gwent Archaeological Trust (GGAT), an archaeological watching brief is required in order to mitigate the impact of the groundworks on potential archaeological remains.

#### **1.2 Scope of Document**

1.2.1 This WSI is intended to set out the methodology to be used during the archaeological watching brief and subsequent reporting. The format and content of the WSI is based on current Chartered Institute for Archaeologists guidance (CIfA 2014a), and will be submitted to the Client and to the Archaeological Planning Officer at GGAT for approval.

### **2 SITE DESCRIPTION**

#### **2.1 Location, topography and geology**

2.1.1 The Site, which is currently occupied by an existing Lidl store and associated car parking, is located within the town of Pontardawe on the valley bottom of the Tawe Valley. The Site is mostly surrounded on all sides by modern development with housing to the north-east and south-east, a small modern retail park to the north-west and an empty brownfield plot containing the remains of a former industrial building to the south-west. The River Tawe is situated approximately 130 m to the south-east. The Site is located across flat land at approximately 33 m aOD.

2.1.2 The town is situated within the Tawe valley, around the confluence of The River Tawe and Upper Clydach River. The valley is steep sided with the land rising up to a semi-upland landscape of high hills to the north-west and south-east; the southern foothills of the Beacon Beacons. Bedrock geology within the Site comprises sandstone of the Rhondda Member with a superficial Alluvial Fan deposit of sand and gravel. Local borehole records recorded at least 10 m of alluvial sand and gravel capped in most places by approximately 2 m of made ground (BGS, Accessed Feb 2016).

## **2.2 Archaeological and historical background**

- 2.2.1 The settlement at Pontardawe developed around a junction and river crossing; the meeting of the route up the Tawe Valley between Swansea and Brecon and a drover's road between Llandeilo and Neath, that crossed the river at this point. It is not known at what date the settlement originated however it is likely to have been fairly small prior to 18th and 19th century growth.
- 2.2.2 The uplands to the north-west and south-east of the town are the location of numerous prehistoric monuments including Bronze Age cairns, ring cairns, a standing stone and a stone circle. To the south-west are a number of possible Neolithic chambered tombs that may be natural features. Many of these prehistoric monuments are Scheduled Ancient Monuments. The proliferation of prehistoric monuments suggests a definite presence in the area during the Neolithic and Bronze Age however no sites of this period are known from within the town itself.
- 2.2.3 No Romano-British period remains are known from the vicinity of the town. No medieval features are known from within the town however medieval churches and some early Christian inscriptions and a chapel site are known from the surrounding countryside. Other medieval features in the uplands include settlement sites and the site of a medieval mill.
- 2.2.4 The earliest features in Pontardawe date from the post-medieval period. In 1796 the Swansea Canal was opened which facilitated the industrial development of the area and subsequent expansion of the settlement. The canal ran parallel to the River Tawe and passed the Site approximately 150 m to the north-west, however the section of the canal running past the Site is no longer extant.
- 2.2.5 The earliest industry at Pontardawe consisted of an iron works built in 1835 which was superseded by a tinplate works founded in 1843. Other 19th-century industries in the town included a chemical works, coal mining and pottery. The 19th-century tinplate works were located close to the Site. The 1877 published edition Ordnance Survey map shows the main works building located a short distance to the west of the Site adjacent to the canal. The area occupied by the Site itself is shown on the 1877 map as an agricultural field with a short section of road in the south-west corner.
- 2.2.6 Over the course of the 19th century the tinplate works expanded and by the end of the 19th century was of considerable size, producing both steel and tinplate and exporting worldwide. The Second Edition Ordnance Survey Map dating from 1898 shows the tinplate works having expanded to the north-east, with the main buildings located immediately beyond the Site to the north-west. The south-western corner of the Site is located within the grounds of the works and a tramway is shown crossing this part of the Site.
- 2.2.7 During the First World War when demand was high, the steel and tinplate works expanded to the south-east into the area of the Site. This expansion can be seen in the 1918 published edition Ordnance Survey Map which shows a large, new works building partially situated within the Site. This building occupies the south-western end of the Site with another building at the north-east end and several other small buildings. A tramway can be seen to pass through the site with sidings linking the various buildings.
- 2.2.8 During the mid-20th century the steel and tin plate industry declined with the works closing in 1962. By the 1970s most of the buildings had been removed although some of the early 20th-century buildings located within the Site can be seen as extant on available mapping up until the 1990s. According to the Geo-Environmental Investigation report (Opus International Consultants, 2015) the remaining buildings within the Site were removed in

2006. A derelict building that was the only surviving remains of the works situated to the immediate south-west of the Site was demolished in 2015.

- 2.2.9 The Geo-Environmental Investigation report (Opus International Consultants, 2015) noted that the Site was covered with a deposit of made ground between 1.9m and 3.8m deep. This was noted as comprising loose and locally compacted grey, black granular sand and gravels of burnt shale, clinker, concrete, coal granite and sandstone with occasional pockets of timber and metal. It is likely that much of this material is a deposit related to the former early 20th-century tin plate and steel works and may contain structural remains related to the buildings formerly on the Site.

### **3 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES**

#### **3.1 Project Aim**

- 3.1.1 With due regard to the ClfA *Standard and guidance: archaeological watching brief* (ClfA 2014b), the principle aim of an archaeological watching brief is to record the archaeological resource during development within a specified area using appropriate methods and practices, and in compliance with the *Code of conduct* and other relevant by-laws of ClfA.

#### **3.2 Project Objectives**

- 3.2.1 In furtherance of the project aim, the following objectives are defined:

- *to allow, within the resources available, the preservation by record of archaeological deposits, the presence and nature of which could not be established (or established with sufficient accuracy) in advance of development or other potentially disruptive works; including*
  - *To ensure their preservation by record to the highest possible standard;*
  - *To confirm the approximate date or date range of the remains, by means of artefactual or other evidence;*
  - *To determine or confirm the approximate extent of any remains;*
  - *To determine the condition and state of preservation of the remains; and*
  - *To determine the degree of complexity of the horizontal and/or vertical stratigraphy present.*
- *to provide an opportunity, if needed, for the watching archaeologist to signal to all interested parties, before the destruction of the material in question, that an archaeological find has been made for which the resources allocated to the watching brief itself are not sufficient to support treatment to a satisfactory and proper standard; and*
- *To prepare a report on the results of the watching brief.*

### **4 METHDOLOGY**

#### **4.1 Health and Safety**

- 4.1.1 Health and Safety considerations will be of paramount importance in conducting all fieldwork. Safe working practices will override archaeological considerations at all times.
- 4.1.2 All work will be carried out in accordance with the *Health and Safety at Work etc. Act 1974* and the *Management of Health and Safety Regulations 1992*, and all other relevant Health and Safety legislation, regulations and codes of practice in force at the time.



4.1.3 WA will supply a copy of their Health and Safety Policy and a Risk Assessment to the Client before the commencement of any fieldwork. The Risk Assessment will have been read and understood by all staff attending the Site before any groundwork commences.

4.1.4 WA staff will comply with the standard PPE requirements for working on construction sites (hard hat, steel toe capped boots, high visibility clothing) and any specific requirements of the Principal Contractor.

## **4.2 Service Location**

4.2.1 The groundwork contractor will be responsible for the identification and protection of any above- and below-ground services within the groundwork area.

## **4.3 Watching brief**

4.3.1 The following methodology is proposed in order to meet the aims and objectives of the watching brief at the Site. All works will be carried out in accordance with the ClfA's *Standard and guidance: archaeological watching brief* (ClfA 2014b), except where superseded by statements made below.

4.3.2 The fieldwork will consist of the monitoring of groundwork and ground reduction, including service runs, across the Site.

4.3.3 The watching brief will be undertaken by at least one experienced archaeologist subject to the number of site operations being undertaken at any one time. The mechanical excavation will, where possible, be undertaken using a toothless ditching bucket and under constant supervision by WA. Machine excavation will proceed to the required construction levels or the top of archaeological levels whichever is the higher. Where practicable and without causing unreasonable delay to the groundwork programme, groundwork may be temporarily halted whilst investigations are carried out by WA staff.

4.3.4 In the event that complex archaeological deposits and features, including human remains (see below) are revealed, these will be identified and made clear to the Archaeological Planning Officer, the Client and their groundwork contractor, who will allow reasonable access to WA staff, facilitating the excavation and recording of the archaeology present. Areas of archaeological interest will be marked up and suitably protected in advance of their investigation and clearance.

4.3.5 The watching brief will be maintained throughout initial excavations and will be concluded when, in consultation with the Archaeological Planning Officer, it is clear that the potential for archaeological remains to be exposed has been exhausted.

4.3.6 WA staff will investigate archaeological deposits and features by excavation and recording commensurate with the scale of work and using WA's pro forma recording system. Where practical, and towards meeting the aims of the watching brief, excavation will include sampling of features and deposits in order to recover artefacts, ecofacts and dating evidence, and in order to determine stratigraphic relationships. Recording will include written, drawn, and photographic elements as conditions allow.

4.3.7 Archaeological features and deposits will be surveyed using a Total Station/GPS and related to Ordnance Survey. If required, arrangements will be put in place with the Client in order for the Planning Archaeologist to monitor progress of the watching brief in site visits.

4.3.8 Should extensive and well-preserved remains be found requiring a contingent excavation it will be necessary to agree with the Client and the Archaeological Planning Officer a



programme for this, potentially extending the scope of archaeological works, whilst ensuring no unreasonable delay is caused to the groundwork programme.

#### **4.4 Human remains**

- 4.4.1 In the event of discovery of any human remains (articulated or disarticulated, cremated or unburnt), a Ministry of Justice Licence will be obtained by Wessex Archaeology prior to any further disturbance (including where remains are to be left *in situ*).
- 4.4.2 Excavation and post-excavation processing of human remains will be in accordance with WA protocols, and undertaken in-line with current guidance documents (e.g. McKinley 2013) and the standards set out in ClfA Technical Paper 13 Excavation and post-excavation treatment of cremated and inhumed remains. Appropriate specialist guidance/site visits will be undertaken if required.
- 4.4.3 The final deposition of human remains subsequent to the appropriate level of osteological analysis and other specialist sampling/examinations will follow the requirements set out in the Ministry of Justice Licence.

#### **4.5 Treasure**

- 4.5.1 In the event of discovery of artefacts covered or potentially covered by *Treasure Act* 1996, their excavation and removal will be undertaken following notification of the Client, Coroner and the Archaeological Planning Officer.

### **5 FINDS AND ENVIRONMENTAL**

#### **5.1 Finds**

- 5.1.1 Finds will be treated in accordance with the relevant guidance given in the ClfA *Standard and guidance: archaeological excavation* (2014a), the UK Institute of Conservators Guidelines *Conservation Guideline No 2* and the Museums and Galleries Commissions *Standards in the Museum Care of Archaeological Collections* (1991), excepting where they are superseded by statements made below.
- 5.1.2 All artefacts from excavated contexts will be retained. No finds will be discarded without the prior approval of the Archaeological Planning Officer and the designated museum repository. In such circumstances, sufficient artefacts will be retained in order to elucidate the date and/or function of the feature or deposit.
- 5.1.3 Specialist advice and conservation needs should unexpected, unusual or extremely fragile and delicate objects be recovered, will be sought. Costs will be agreed with the Client on discovery. Advice on dealing with conservation aspects of the archive will be sought from WA's in-house conservator based at Portway House, Salisbury, as appropriate.
- 5.1.4 All retained artefacts will, as a minimum, be washed, weighed, counted and identified. Any artefacts requiring conservation or specific storage conditions will be dealt with immediately in line with *First Aid for Finds* (Watkinson & Neal 1998) and in consultation with the designated conservator. Ironwork from stratified contexts will be X-rayed and stored in a stable environment along with other fragile and delicate material. The X-raying of objects and other conservation needs will be undertaken by WA's in-house staff or other appropriate approved conservation centre.
- 5.1.5 Information will be obtained from the designated museum repository concerning conditions and arrangements for the deposition of finds.

## **5.2 Environmental**

- 5.2.1 Sampling will follow the WA *Guidelines for Environmental Sampling*. The sampling strategy has been developed with the WA environmental manager and will be undertaken under the guidance of the geoarchaeologist.
- 5.2.2 Bulk environmental soil sample sizes will be as undertaken in accordance with current industry best practice (English Heritage 2011), with the option to review this following on site discussion / preliminary processing of samples. Samples will be taken from well-sealed and dated or datable archaeological features for plant macro-fossils (charred and/or waterlogged and wood charcoal), small animal bones and small artefacts.
- 5.2.3 Where appropriate monolith and/or contiguous column samples will be taken. Monoliths will be taken from key and representative sequences on the site. These will be examined in laboratory conditions by a geoarchaeologist to further elucidate the depositional history of the Site and enable sub-sampling for microfossils and radiocarbon samples as appropriate. Particular attention will be paid to stabilisation horizons and buried land surfaces, with soil micromorphology considered.
- 5.2.4 Bulk environmental soil samples will be processed by flotation and scanned to assess the environmental potential of deposits, but will not be fully analysed. The residues and sieved fractions will be recorded and retained with the project archive. The monoliths will be subject to detailed description by the geoarchaeologist and sub-samples taken as appropriate for microfossils and radiocarbon dating, should suitable material exist. Samples may include those for pollen, diatoms, foraminifera, ostracods as deemed appropriate by the geoarchaeologist. These will be assessed, but not fully analysed at WA and the pollen/diatoms by our external specialist.
- 5.2.5 Suitable samples for radiocarbon dating will be subsampled from the processed and identified plant remains in the bulk samples or well stratified remains from the monoliths as deemed appropriate.
- 5.2.6 Assessment analysis of charcoal from possible industrial contexts may provide useful data on both availability of species and their management and exploitation for fuel. This will be undertaken in tandem with assessment of slag and any other industrial by products that may be found.

## **6 REPORTING**

### **6.1 Watching brief report**

- 6.1.1 Within four weeks of completion of all fieldwork, a draft report setting out the results will be produced and sent to the Client and the Archaeological Planning Officer for comment and approval. The finalised report will be submitted to the Client for distribution to relevant parties, including the Historic Environment Record (HER).
- 6.1.2 Emphasis in the report will be given to placing the results into the context of the known archaeology of the area.
- 6.1.3 The report will include:
- *A non-technical summary;*
  - *The aims and methods used in the watching brief;*

- *Plans and section drawings at appropriate scales to locate the Site and excavated and projected archaeological deposits;*
- *The tabulation of all artefacts recovered from the archaeological works, listed by context and by material type;*
- *A consideration of the archaeological and environmental potential of deposits;*
- *A consideration of the sites archaeological significance in its broader historic and landscape setting; and*
- *Where appropriate, a reconsideration of the methodology employed.*

6.1.4 A copy of the archive report and surveyed spatial digital data (.dxf or shapefile format) relating to the archaeological findings will be deposited with the HER.

## **6.2 Publication**

6.2.1 The results of the fieldwork will be published as one body of work, at least to summary level, within one year of completion of all phases of fieldwork. Publication will be in an appropriate local, regional or national journal.

6.2.2 Other forms of publication (e.g. 'popular publication', electronic media/Internet) may be employed where appropriate. The final nature and most appropriate form of publication media and all publication matters will be discussed and agreed in advance with the Client and the Archaeological Planning Officer.

## **7 THE ARCHIVE**

### **7.1 Museum**

7.1.1 The designated receiving museum will be Neath Museum. The Curator of Archaeology will be contacted in advance of the fieldwork for an accession number/Site code and to obtain information regarding the appropriate archive preparation standards. A copy of the archive index as a minimum will be sent to the Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Wales (RCAHMW).

### **7.2 Preparation of Archive**

7.2.1 The complete Site archive, which will include paper records, photographic records, graphics, artefacts, ecofacts and digital data, will be prepared following the standard conditions for the acceptance of excavated archaeological material by the appropriate Museum, and in general following nationally recommended guidelines (SMA 1995; Brown 2011; ADS 2013; ClfA 2014c).

7.2.2 All archive elements will be marked with the unique Wessex Archaeology Site code and museum accession code and a full index will be prepared.

7.2.3 The site archive will be prepared for long-term storage in accordance with current guidelines (e.g. Walker 1990; MGC 1994 etc.). It is proposed in principle that, subject to the wishes of the landowner, the entire archive (including the finds) will be donated to and deposited with Neath Museum. Provision has been made for the cost of long term storage in the post-fieldwork costs.

7.2.4 Until final deposition with the museum the archive will be stored at the offices of WA Southern Region in Salisbury.

### 7.3 Discard policy

- 7.3.1 WA follows the guidelines set out in *Selection, Retention and Dispersal of Archaeological Collections* (SMA 1993), which allows for the discard of selected artefact and ecofact categories which are not considered to warrant any future analysis. Any discard of artefacts will be fully documented in the project archive.
- 7.3.2 The discard of environmental remains and samples follows nationally recommended guidelines and current best practice (SMA 1993 and 1995; EH 2011).

### 7.4 Security copy

- 7.4.1 In line with current best practice (e.g. Brown 2011), on completion of the project a security copy of the written records will be prepared, in the form of a digital PDF/A file. PDF/A is an ISO-standardised version of the Portable Document Format (PDF) designed for the digital preservation of electronic documents through omission of features ill-suited to long-term archiving.

### 7.5 Copyright

- 7.5.1 The full copyright of the written/illustrative archive relating to the site will be retained by WA Ltd under the *Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988* with all rights reserved. The Museum, however, will be granted an exclusive licence for the use of the archive for educational purposes, including academic research, providing that such use shall be non-profitmaking, and conforms to the *Copyright and Related Rights Regulations 2003*.

## 8 WA PROCESSES AND PROCEDURES

### 8.1 Personnel

- 8.1.1 The fieldwork will be directed and supervised by an experienced archaeologist from WA's core staff, who will be on Site at all times for the length of archaeological watching brief. The overall responsibility for the conduct and management of the project will be held by one of WA's Project Managers, who will visit the fieldwork as appropriate to monitor progress and to ensure that the scope of works is adhered to. The appointed Project Manager and experienced archaeologist will be involved in all phases of the evaluation through to its completion.
- 8.1.2 The analysis of the finds and environmental data will be undertaken by WA core staff or external specialists, using WA's standard pro forma recording system. The work will be carried out under the supervision of the following departmental managers under the overall direction of the Project Manager. The following staff are proposed:

- |   |                              |                                       |
|---|------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| • | <i>Project Manager</i>       | <i>tbc</i>                            |
| • | <i>Project Officer</i>       | <i>tbc</i>                            |
| • | <i>Land snails</i>           | <i>Ines Lopez Doriga MA PhD</i>       |
| • | <i>Charcoal</i>              | <i>Ines Lopez Doriga MA PhD</i>       |
| • | <i>Charred Plant Remains</i> | <i>Ines Lopez Doriga MA PhD</i>       |
| • | <i>Soils and sediments</i>   | <i>Dave Norcott BA, MSc, MIFA</i>     |
| • | <i>Animal Bone</i>           | <i>Lorrain Higbee, BSc, MSc, MIFA</i> |
| • | <i>Human Bone</i>            | <i>Jackie McKinley, BTech., MIFA</i>  |
| • | <i>Flint/Worked Stone</i>    | <i>Matt Leivers, BA, PhD</i>          |

- *Prehistoric Pottery* Matt Leivers, BA, PhD  
Rachel Seager Smith BA, MIFA
- *Roman Pottery* Rachel Seager Smith BA, MIFA
- *Medieval Pottery* Lorraine Mephram, BA, MIFA
- *Post-medieval pottery* Lorraine Mephram, BA, MIFA
- *Industrial Archaeology* Phil Andrews, BSc, MCIfA
- *Finds Manager* Alistair Barclay, PhD, MIFA
- *Environmental Manager* Dave Norcott BA, MSc, MIFA
- *Reports Manager* Pippa Barclay, BA, MPhil, MIFA

8.1.3 WA reserves the right, due to unforeseen circumstances (e.g. annual leave, sick leave, maternity, retirement etc.) to replace nominated personnel with alternative members of staff of comparable expertise and experience.

## 8.2 Quality and Code of Practice

8.2.1 WA is *Registered Organisation* with the ClfA. WA endorses the *Code of Practice* and the *Code of Approved Practice for the Regulation of Contractual Arrangements in Field Archaeology* of the ClfA.

8.2.2 All core staff would be of a standard approved by WA, be employed in line with the ClfA *Codes of Practice*, and be members of the ClfA or a similar appropriate institute.

8.2.3 WA operates a Project Management System. All projects are undertaken under the direction of the Project Manager who is responsible to a Section Head, who ensures the maintenance of quality standards within the organisation. The Chief Executive has ultimate responsibility for all of WA's work.

## 9 REFERENCES

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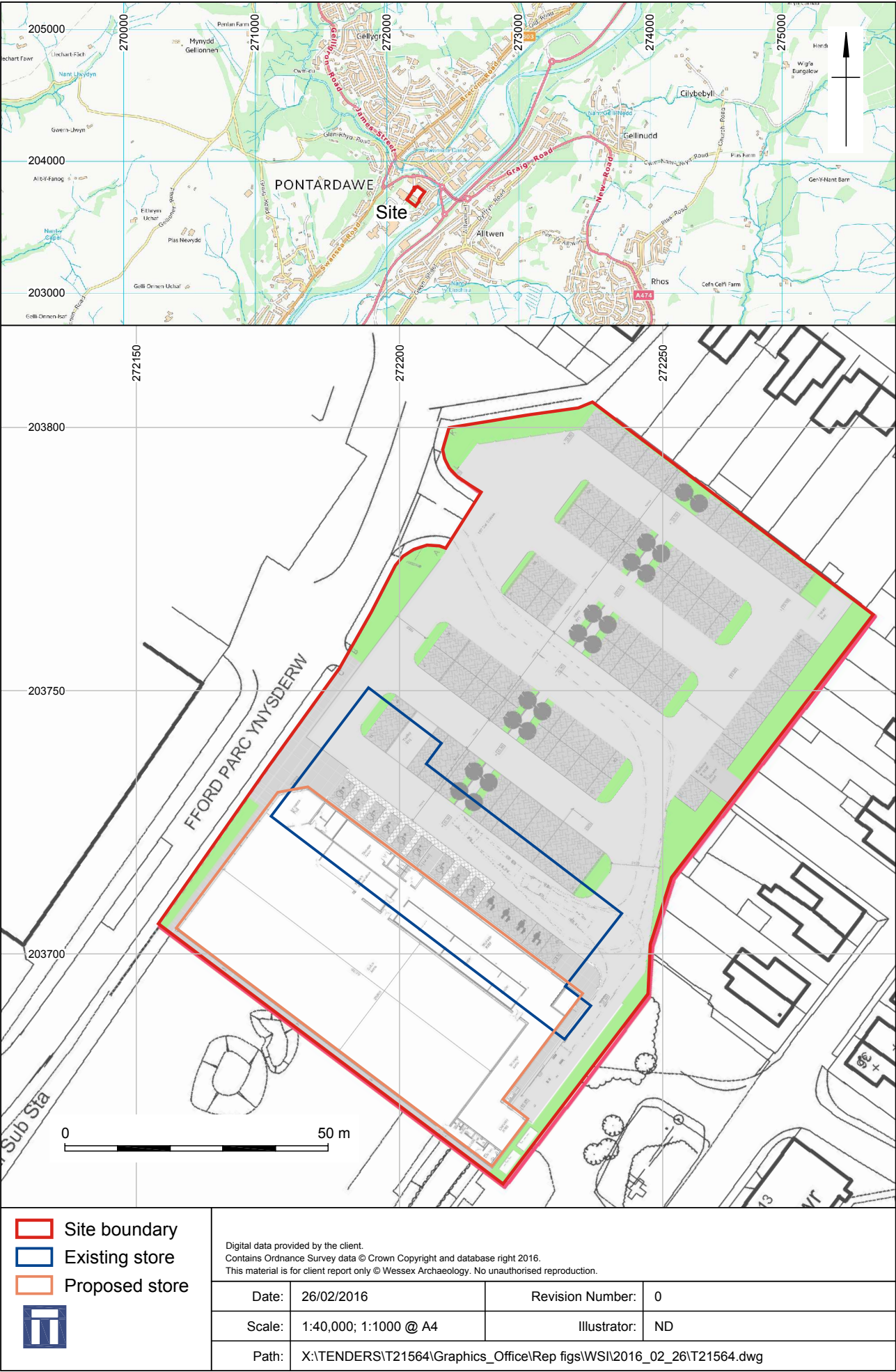
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Site location and proposed plan

Figure 1