

INDEX DATA	RPS INFORMATION
Scheme Title	Details
M25 Junction 7-8,	Archadogual
Reigate	Archadogical Monutoring at Markedge Lane, Reigate
Road Number M25	Date Management (905
Contractor Rpg	
County 7	
OS Reference 7	
Single sided	
Double sided	
аз 2	
Colour 7	

M25 JUNCTIONS 7 TO 8, WIDENING TO D4M:

Archaeological Monitoring at Markedge Lane, Reigate

RPS Clouston
The Old Barn
Deanes Close
Steventon
Abingdon
Oxon OX13 6SY

Tel: (01235) 821888 Fax: (01235) 820351

August 1995

M25 JUNCTIONS 7 TO 8, WIDENING TO D4M:

ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING AT MARKEDGE LANE, REIGATE

Introduction

- 1.1 RPS Clouston were commissioned by Parkman in March 1994 to undertake a watching brief of the construction of the retaining wall at Markedge Lane (photograph 1).
- 1.2 Reference was made to the attached engineering contract drawings 10204/OB220/01,02.
- 1.3 The site was visited on the occasions listed below and the observations recorded.
- 1.4 The Environmental Statement, Volume II, Part 7, Cultural Heritage concludes in Section 4:

"There is one area of known archaeological significance which might be affected by the construction of retaining walls."

This area lies in the valley known as Gatton Bottom around and between the Gatton Bottom and Markedge Lane motorway bridges.

Monitoring was undertaken in order to:

- i) assess the archaeological potential of sediments affected; and
- ii) record any archaeological finds or features disturbed during the works.

Record of Visits

- (A) WESTBOUND CARRIAGEWAY
- 2.1 March 30th 1994

The area to the south-west of Markedge Lane had been partially stripped of topsoil and a temporary road covering covered with terram sheeting and brick rubble had been laid (photograph 2).

The sheeting obscured observation of the stripped area, but as part of the existing topsoil and the subsoil remained in situ, observation would not have been informative. Monitoring of the spoil heaps produced no surface finds. A small drainage ditch to guide surface water away from the workface via temporary underground plastic hoses was being constructed on the southern side of the stripped easement. A section

through this showed the continued existence of a partially truncated topsoil (photograph 3).

2.2 April 4th 1994

On this visit vegetation was stripped from the existing (man-made) embankment, which was of no archaeological interest.

2.3 April 25th 1994

The purpose of this visit was to inspect the construction of footings for the retaining wall. It was observed that the material being cut back to receive these was the manmade bank (photograph 4) and that the line of the footings correspond to the area previously stripped during the initial construction phase (photographs 5, 6 and 7). This was confirmed by the inspection of the inner (southern) section of the cut where it could be seen that no top or sub-soil remained (photograph 8).

The cut for the footings and the drainage gully was inspected but no archaeological features were seen in section and no artefacts retrieved.

North-east of Markedge Lane the width of the easement was limited by established woodland. Topsoil had not been cleared on the southern side of the rubble road (photograph 9). Here again earthmoving operations were restricted to previously disturbed areas (photograph 10). At the north-eastern end of the works, beyond the woods, the area south of the rubble road had been disturbed during the earlier phase by the construction of a storm water lagoon.

(B) EASTBOUND CARRIAGEWAY

2.4 1st March 1995

The area immediately to the north of the east bound carriageway, between Markedge Lane and Gatton Bottom, within the highway boundary was being excavated by contractors in order to insert retaining walls. In the western portion of the site the retaining wall was already constructed and in place, but to the east was under construction. All exposed soil profiles and geological sections were inspected for archaeological features. Even with the retaining wall in place it was possible to examine exposed profiles (photograph 11). No archaeological finds or features were seen. A drainage ditch (photograph 12) had been excavated immediately within the highway boundary. It was apparent that the original ground surface (pre-motorway) was being destroyed, but there was no indication of any past activity.

2.5 23rd March 1995

Import of material for widening of embankments was taking place (photograph 13). Retaining wall excavations in this area were completed, and the remaining exposed soil/geological profiles inspected for archaeological features. No archaeological features or archaeologically significant finds were observed.

ph\archmon.m25

Conclusions

(A) WESTBOUND CARRIAGEWAY

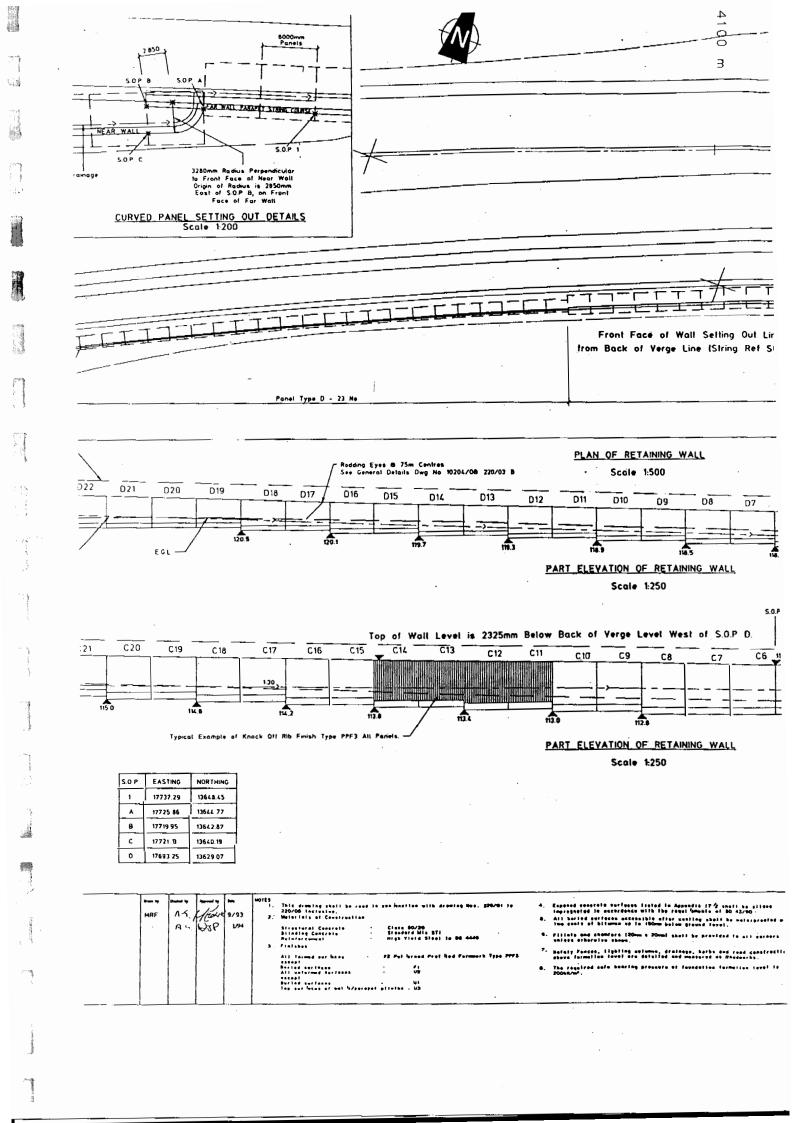
- 3.1 It is concluded that work on the retaining wall to the south of the M25 is not a threat to possible archaeological deposits and that previously undisturbed areas are safeguarded by protective sheeting and the existence of partial topsoil. Minimal disturbance has been caused by the drainage gully and inspection of this did not reveal any archaeological material or features.
- 3.2 Further archaeological monitoring is still required for works associated with the eastbound carriageway at Gatton Bottom as and when they occur.

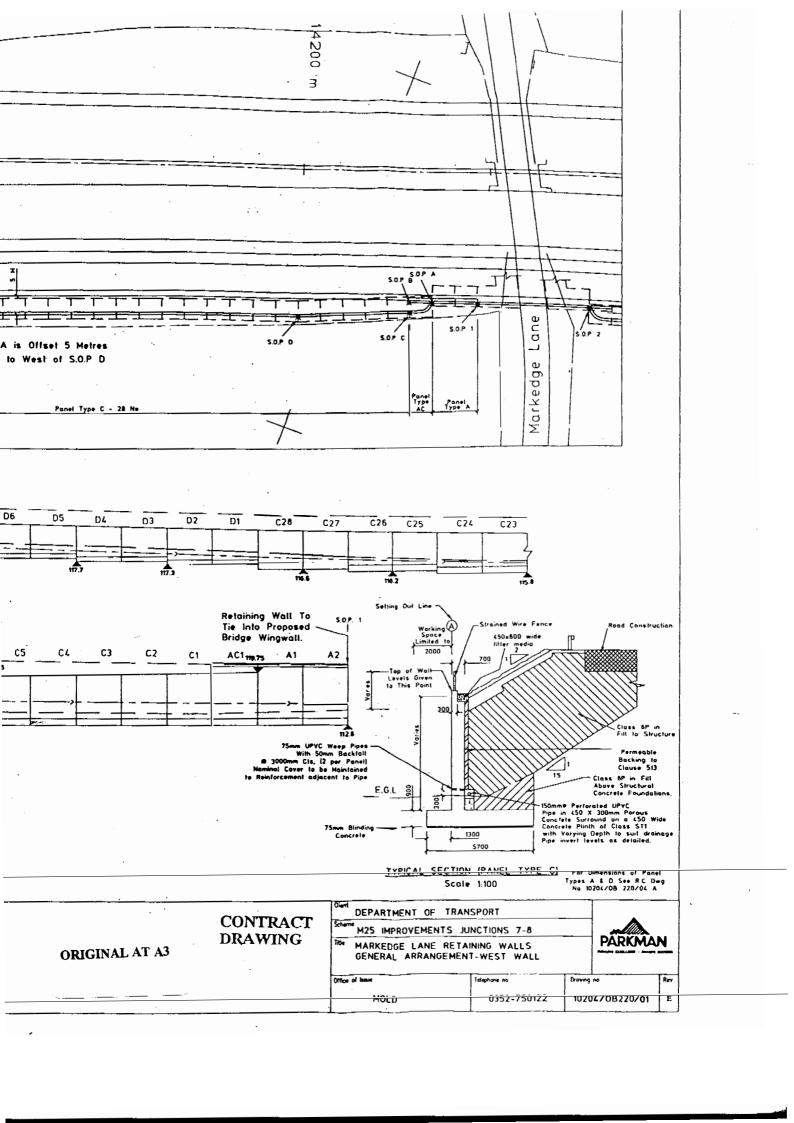
(B) EASTBOUND CARRIAGEWAY

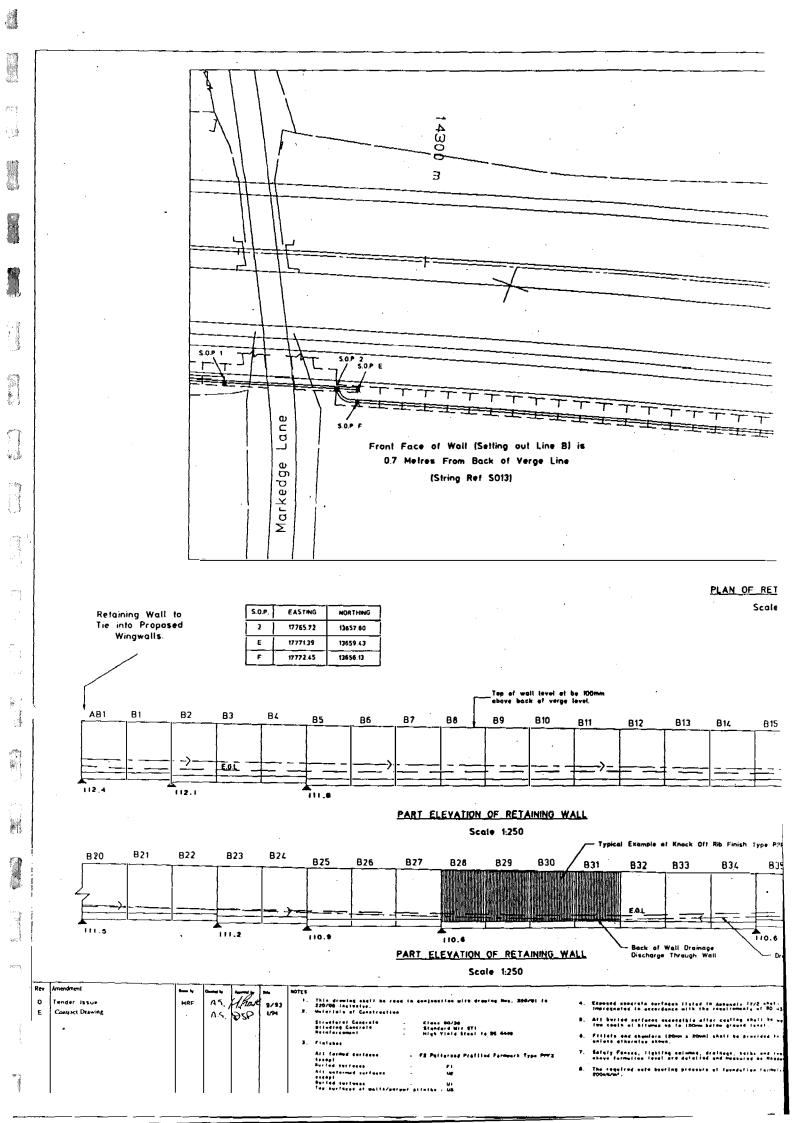
3.3 Although it is concluded that previously undisturbed deposits were being destroyed there was no indication that these deposits contained nothing of archaeological interest or significance. If there had been significant past activity in this area, then archaeological features or finds would have been in evidence.

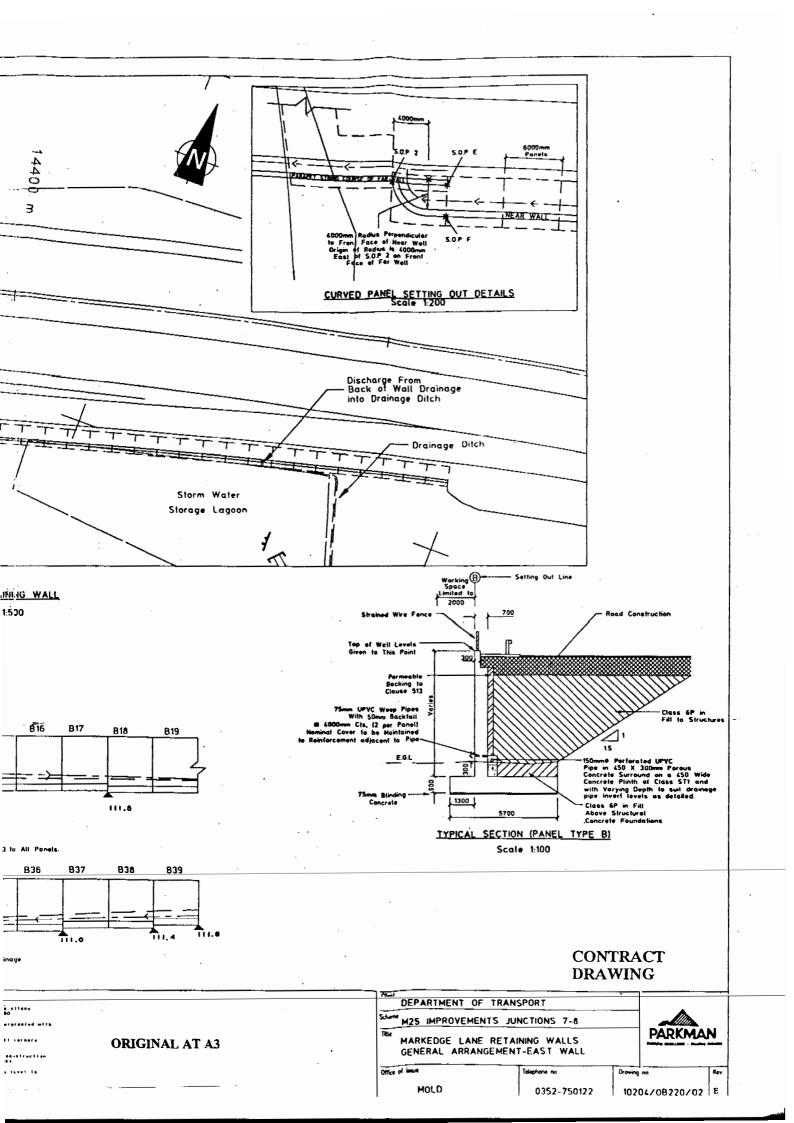
PLANS

ph\archmon.m25









PHOTOGRAPHS





ORIGINAL IN COLOUR





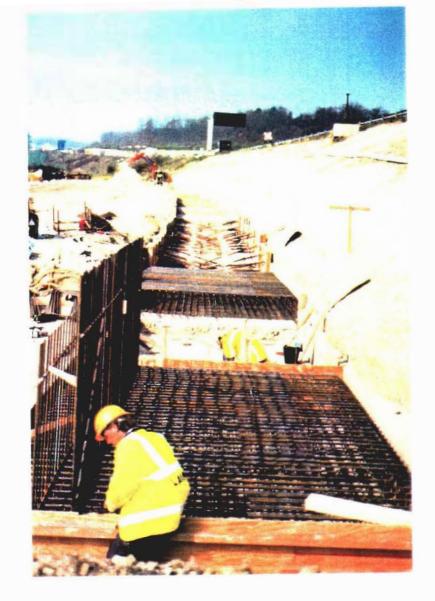


ORIGINAL IN COLOUR

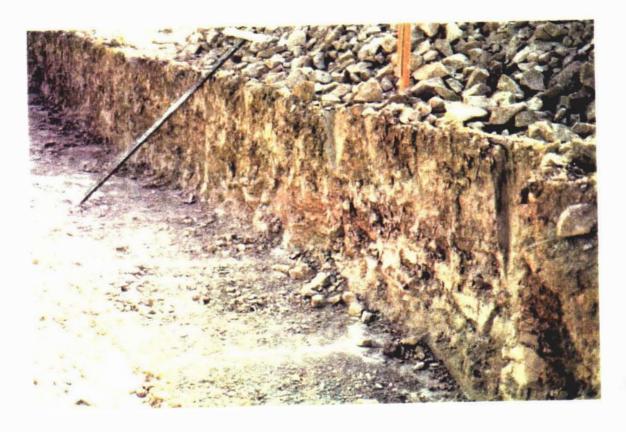




ORIGINAL IN COLOUR



ORIGINAL IN COLOUR



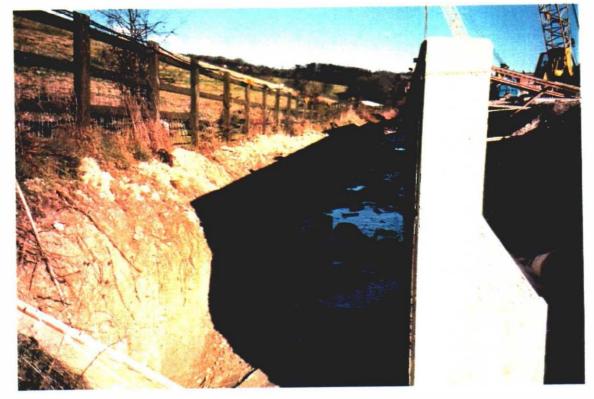


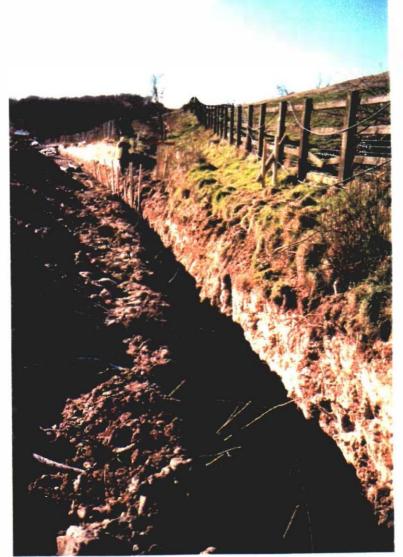




.

ORIGINAL IN COLOUR





ORIGINAL IN COLOUR



ORIGINAL IN COLOUR

C