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**AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL ASSESSMENT OF THE
RIVER WEY FLOODPLAIN REPLACEMENT SCHEME
(M25 WIDENING JUNCTIONS 10 TO 11)**

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SURREY COUNTY **SCAU**
ARCHAEOLOGICAL UNIT

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THE RIVER WEY FLOODPLAIN REPLACEMENT SCHEME
(M25 WIDENING JUNCTIONS 10 TO 11)**

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Date of Project

1/2 June 1994

Date of Report

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AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL ASSESSMENT OF THE RIVER WEY FLOODPLAIN REPLACEMENT SCHEME (M25 WIDENING JUNCTIONS 10 TO 11)

INTRODUCTION

An archaeological assessment of the River Wey Floodplain Replacement Scheme associated with the widening of the M25 to four lanes between Junctions 10 (Wisley) and 11 (Chertsey) was carried out by Surrey County Archaeological Unit on behalf of Mowlem Civil Engineering. The consulting engineer for the scheme is W S Atkins Consultants Ltd.

The fieldwork was conducted on the 1st and 2nd June 1994 under the supervision of Steve Dyer, with the assistance of Nick Marples.

SITE LOCATION

The site of the proposed Floodplain Replacement Scheme lies in the parish of Byfleet within the Woking administrative borough in Surrey. The area subject to this assessment is two parcels of land totalling almost 2 hectares on the west side of the M25 between Junctions 10 and 11. The area is shown on Fig. 1.

BACKGROUND

An archaeological desk-based study of the area affected by the Floodplain Replacement Scheme was commissioned by the Department of Transport from W S Atkins Consultants Ltd. This document (R1272/C/GEO.92049/201) formed the basis of the brief for the field evaluation of the area threatened by the removal of deposits which it was thought might contain material of archaeological interest.

A total of 37 sites or find spots of archaeological material are recorded in the desk-top study (Fig. 2) ranging in date from the Palaeolithic (Old Stone Age) to the 19th century: three of these lying in close proximity to the areas of field evaluation. It is known from previous work that settlements of Neolithic (New Stone Age), Bronze Age and Iron Age existed in the area, particularly those recorded at Wisley Sewage Works, and that a Roman-British pottery kiln was also present at the same site. Further south, on Wisley Common stand two Bronze Age barrows, both of which are Scheduled Ancient Monuments. From these known sites and the number of individual artefacts, the majority of which were probably accidental losses, discovered in the area, it might be assumed that the area of the floodplain replacement had in the past been subject to either settlement or other related activities such as agricultural use, evidence of which, would be revealed during the field assessment.

As a result of the information gained from this desk based assessment a brief for the field evaluation at the site was agreed, this is outlined later in this report.

Prior to this archaeological assessment a watching brief was carried out by the author on the nearby pollution control pond, where a shallow ditch of, probably, modern date was observed, but no other stratigraphy or artefacts of archaeological interest were observed. This element of work forms the basis of a separately circulated, and is shown, together with the two parcels of land forming the subject of this report on Fig. 3.

GEOLOGY AND TOPOGRAPHY

The site lies within the floodplain of the River Wey, on land that is relatively flat and subject to periodic flooding. The field is grassed and prior to fencing off for the proposed works, was used for the grazing of cattle.

The geology of the site comprises recent alluvial deposits overlying river deposited sands and gravels.

A raised area of land at the north of the site has been proved to be the site of the dumping of the remains of a paint factory which burnt down in the 1950's had been dumped at the site; the extent of this area was indicated as a result of an earlier trial pit survey, however during the archaeological trial trenching of the operations it was revealed that the extent of the deposition of the material arising from this operation was larger than previously recorded. The total area of this dumping is shown in tone on Fig. 4.

THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL BRIEF

As has been mentioned, a brief for the archaeological assessment was prepared by W S Atkins (R1272/GEO/92049/202) following on from the desk top assessment. This considered a number of ways in which the archaeological fieldwork might have been carried out, a number of which were subsequently ruled out as being unsuitable due to the nature of this site. The agreed programme of work was for machine trenching, aimed at excavating trial trenches across the site sampling, initially, 2% of the areas threatened, with scope to extend this sample to between 3 and 4% if circumstances on site indicated that this was likely to provide more accurate data of any buried archaeological stratigraphy. The agreed working procedure was for the trenches to be excavated through the top- and sub-soils to the top of the water table, with alternate 5 metre long sections being excavated to a depth of 1.6 metres; this representing the maximum depth to which the site would be excavated, in the Floodplain Replacement Scheme.

If deposits likely to contain material of interest because of their potential for palaeo-environmental survived then a specialist in such studies would be asked to attend the site and to advise on a suitable sampling procedure for these to be fully assessed.

Should archaeological stratigraphy be revealed during the evaluation the areas of interest within the trial trenches would be excavated to the depth necessary to enable a sampling strategy aimed at being able to characterise and date such deposits: this might entail the localised widening of the trenches in order to maintain safe working conditions within the relevant areas.

In addition to the above special measures were to be taken in the area known to contain the material deposited from the former paint factory as elements of this deposit had a potentially hazardous chemical composition.

METHODOLOGY

Based on a grid system, a series of trenches were marked out on the ground to allow for the percentage of the areas in question to be sampled: the positions of these trenches should have allowed for any major features of archaeological interest to be seen, particularly where these might be of a linear nature. If the area had at any time been settled or used for other non-agricultural purposes, elements of this could be expected to be revealed by the trial trenches using this strategy.

The archaeological trial trenches were excavated by a Komatsu PC120 360 degree tracked excavator using a 1.8 metre wide toothless, ditching bucket on the 1st and 2nd June 1994. It had been planned to excavate six trenches within the two areas, to gain the initial, minimum sampling, but the area containing the material deposited from the former paint factory was found to be larger than had been anticipated. This deposit was also to a greater depth than the necessary excavation for this assessment. The layout of the trenches was therefore altered to account for this and a total of seven trenches, some of which were shorter than had originally been planned, were excavated. The positions of these trenches, numbered 1 to 7, are shown on Fig. 4.

At all times during the excavation the trenches were carefully examined for the presence of archaeological features and the spoil resulting from their excavation was closely observed for the presence of artefacts.

A condition survey was carried out prior to the archaeological evaluation, the areas were found to be grassland, previously used for the grazing of cattle, and suitable for the methods of evaluation suggested. During the excavation of the trial trenches the top-soil and sub-soils were placed separately at either side of the trench. On completion of the excavation of each trench they were backfilled using the excavated materials in the correct order and the area left in a level condition. Those areas not subject to this work were unaffected, except for the movement of the machine and the surface suffered no damage.

RESULTS

None of the excavated trenches revealed any features of archaeological interest, or deposits likely to contain material of palaeo-environmental interest. In all cases the

trenches revealed a top-soil of c.25 centimetres depth overlying plough disturbed soils 15-20 cm thick formed from the amalgamation, presumably as a result of ploughing, of soil and alluvial deposits. This in turn directly overlay alluvial deposits. Where the trenches were excavated to the maximum depth these alluvial deposits were seen to lie upon sands and gravels at a depth of c.1.6 metres.

A trench within the area of dumping from the former paint factory (Trench 1) revealed that this material occurred to a depth in excess of 1.6 metres (the proposed depth for the excavation of the Floodplain Replacement Scheme). To clarify this the continued excavation of part of this trench to a depth of over two metres showed this deposit to be continuing and no archaeological stratigraphy was encountered; this trench was, therefore, not excavated to the full length originally planned.

A second trench (Trench 2) revealed a spread of the building material and other waste from this dumping episode continuing further south than anticipated, from this led a square cut linear feature filled with 'peat type' deposits; it is assumed that as this contained brick and other recent debris that it is of modern date and may have been cut as a drainage channel during the dumping of this material at this site. It is difficult to avoid this conclusion, even though it seems a little surprising that 'peat type' deposits should form so rapidly.

A few struck flakes of flint were recovered from the top-soil, sub-soil, and from within the top of the alluvial deposits, together with pieces of calcined (heat affected) flint. It is probable that all of these artefacts are of prehistoric date. One sherd of Romano-British pottery and one sherd of medieval pottery were also recovered.

None of the struck flint was of a tool form, all pieces being the resultant waste from the working of natural flint by man. The two sherds of pottery both show signs of damage subsequent to their deposition, these artefacts are not thought to have originated from the immediate vicinity.

Given the positions from which these finds were recovered and the lack of stratigraphic evidence it is assumed that these were imported to the site both as a result of later agricultural activities and during periods of flooding of the land, possibly from a settlement in the vicinity. Finds of this type and quality are the normal background 'noise' on this type of site, and do not indicate the presence of earlier occupation or other activity on the site.

CONCLUSIONS

No material of significant archaeological importance was revealed during the evaluation of this site, and given the proximity of the individual trenches it is not believed that deposits of archaeological interest are present within those areas not sampled.

RECOMMENDATIONS

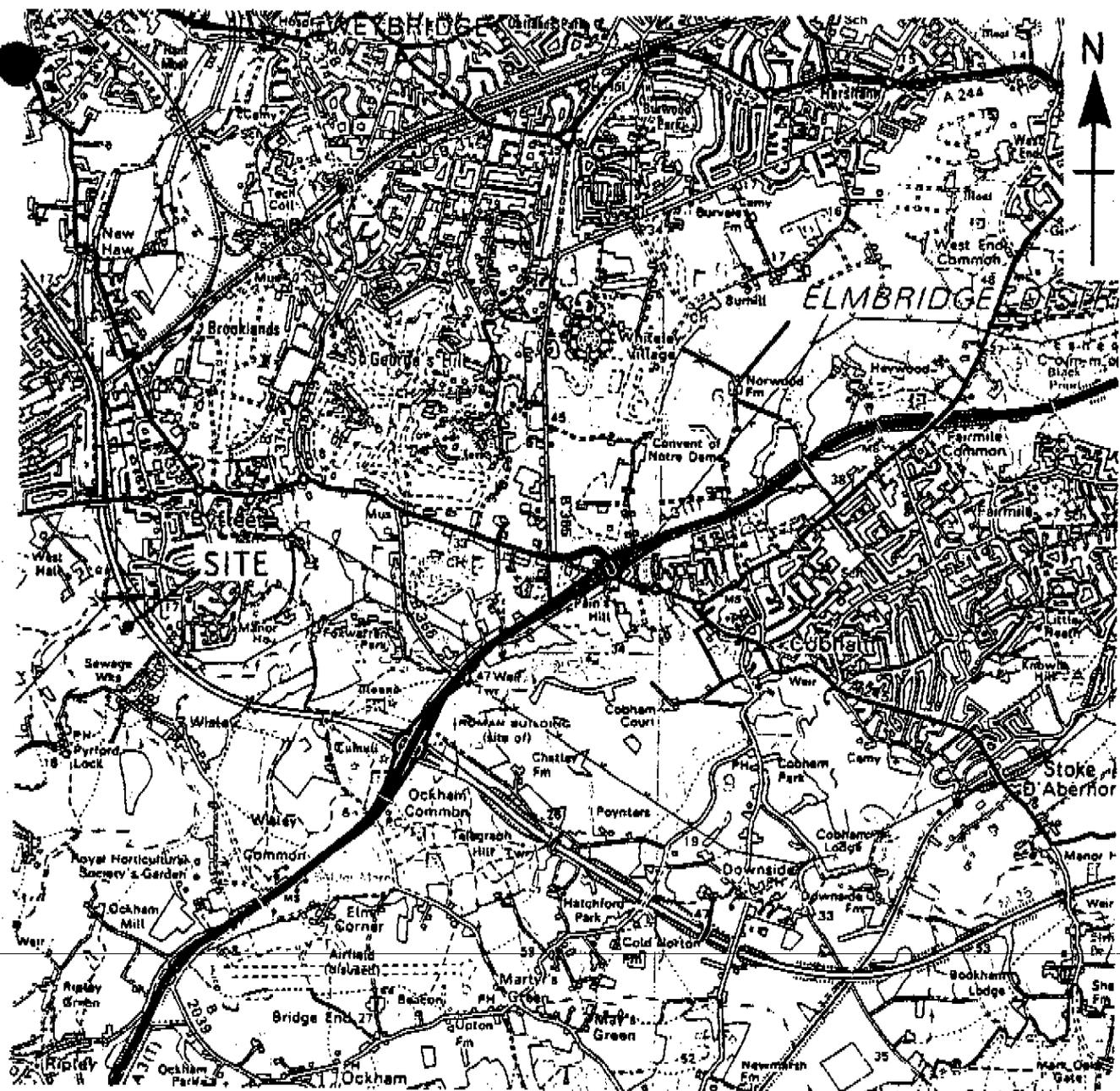
No further archaeological work, either excavation or monitoring of the earth moving associated with the proposed Floodplain Replacement Scheme is necessary as it is not thought that the destruction of archaeological evidence will result from this work.

These recommendations have been discussed with the Principal Archaeologist at Surrey County Council, Dr D G Bird, who is in agreement that no further archaeological action is required.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Thanks should be made to Bob Marlow and David Shilston, both of W S Atkins Consultants Limited, and to Steve Lowder and Alan Lewis of Mowlem Civil Engineering, for their assistance before and during the field evaluation. David Shilston has also made comments on the draft version of this report.

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Archaeological Survey Officer
Surrey County Council.



WS/Atkins

Project M25 WIDENING J10 TO J11, RIVER WEY
 FLOODPLAIN REPLACEMENT SCHEME,
 ARCHAEOLOGICAL DESK-BASED STUDY

Scale
 1:50,000

Drawn TRM
 Date 18/1/94

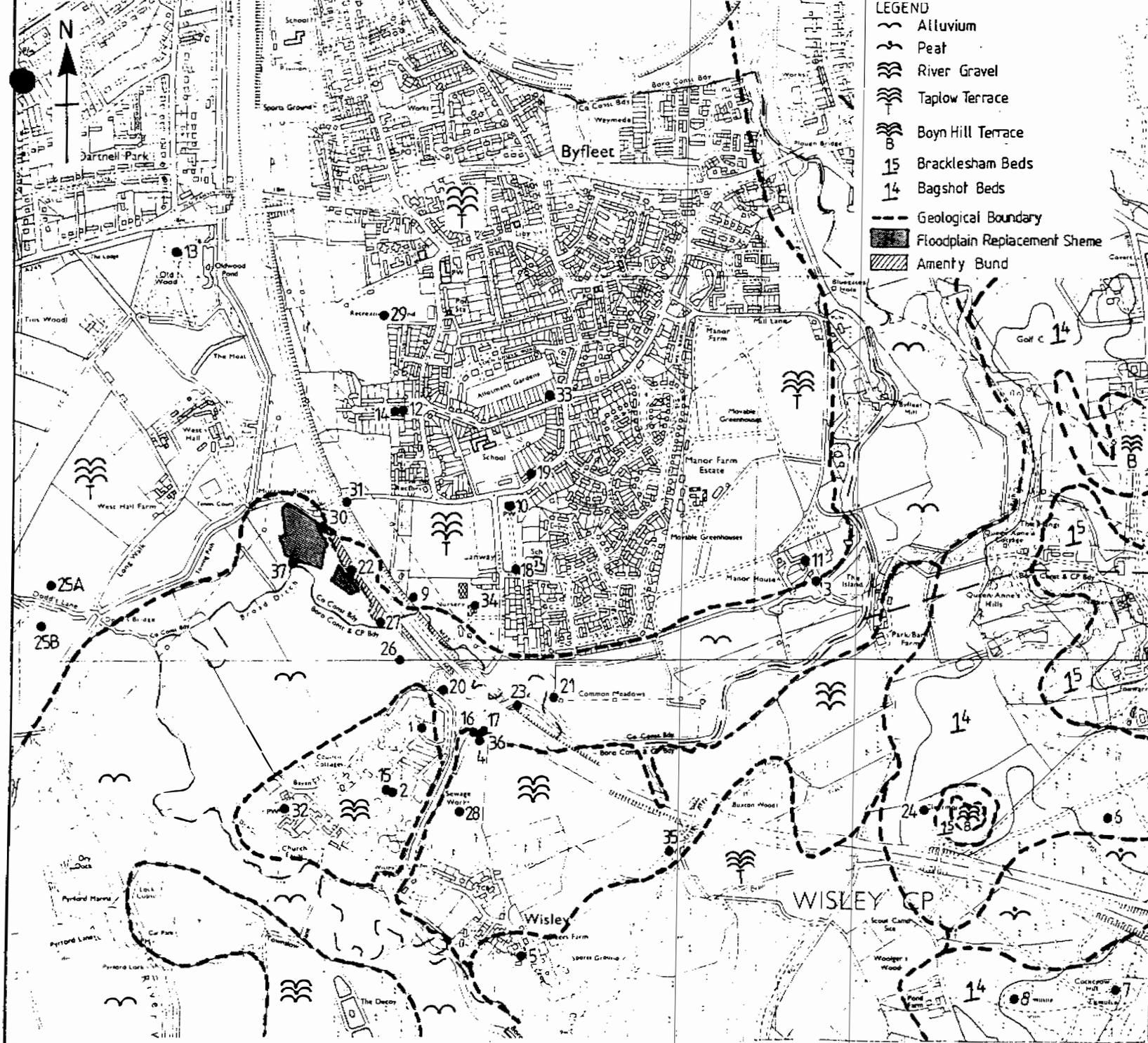
Checked *GLF*
 Date 24/1/94

Authorised
 Date

Title
 SITE LOCATION MAP

Job No.
 C6846/GEO.92049

Figure 1



LEGEND

- Alluvium
- Peat
- River Gravel
- Taplow Terrace
- Boyn Hill Terrace
- Bracklesham Beds
- Bagshot Beds
- Geological Boundary
- Floodplain Replacement Scheme
- Amenty Bund

- WSA Site No**
1. Site of pottery kiln (Romano-British)
 2. Occupation site (Bronze Age/Iron Age)
 3. Dug-out canoe (date unknown)
 4. Flint/stone implements (Neolithic)
 5. Cremation burial (Romano-British)
 6. Barrow (date unknown)
 7. Barrow with cremation (date unknown)
 8. Round barrow (date unknown)
 9. Occupation site (Romano-British)
 10. St Mary's Church (Medieval)
 11. Byfleet Manor House (17th Century)
 12. Coins/pottery (Romano-British)
 13. Icehouse (Post-Medieval)
 14. Bronze artefact (Iron Age)
 15. Pottery (Neolithic)
 16. Pottery (Prehistoric)
 17. Occupation site (Medieval)
 18. Flint arrowhead (Neolithic)
 19. Flint (Late Paleolithic)
 20. Coin (Romano-British)
 21. Coin (Romano-British)
 22. Flint axe (Mesolithic)
 23. Worked wood (date unknown)
 24. Flint cores (Mesolithic)
 25. Cropmarks (date unknown)
 26. Cropmarks (date unknown)
 27. Cropmarks (date unknown)
 28. Cropmarks (date unknown)
 29. Cropmark of building (date unknown)
 30. Building (Post-Medieval, 19th Century)
 31. Building (Post-Medieval)
 32. Church (Norman)
 33. Flint scraper (Neolithic)
 34. Pottery/loomweight (Bronze Age)
 35. Pottery (Medieval)
 36. Pottery/iron slag (Romano-British)
 37. Waterlogged wood (Saxon)

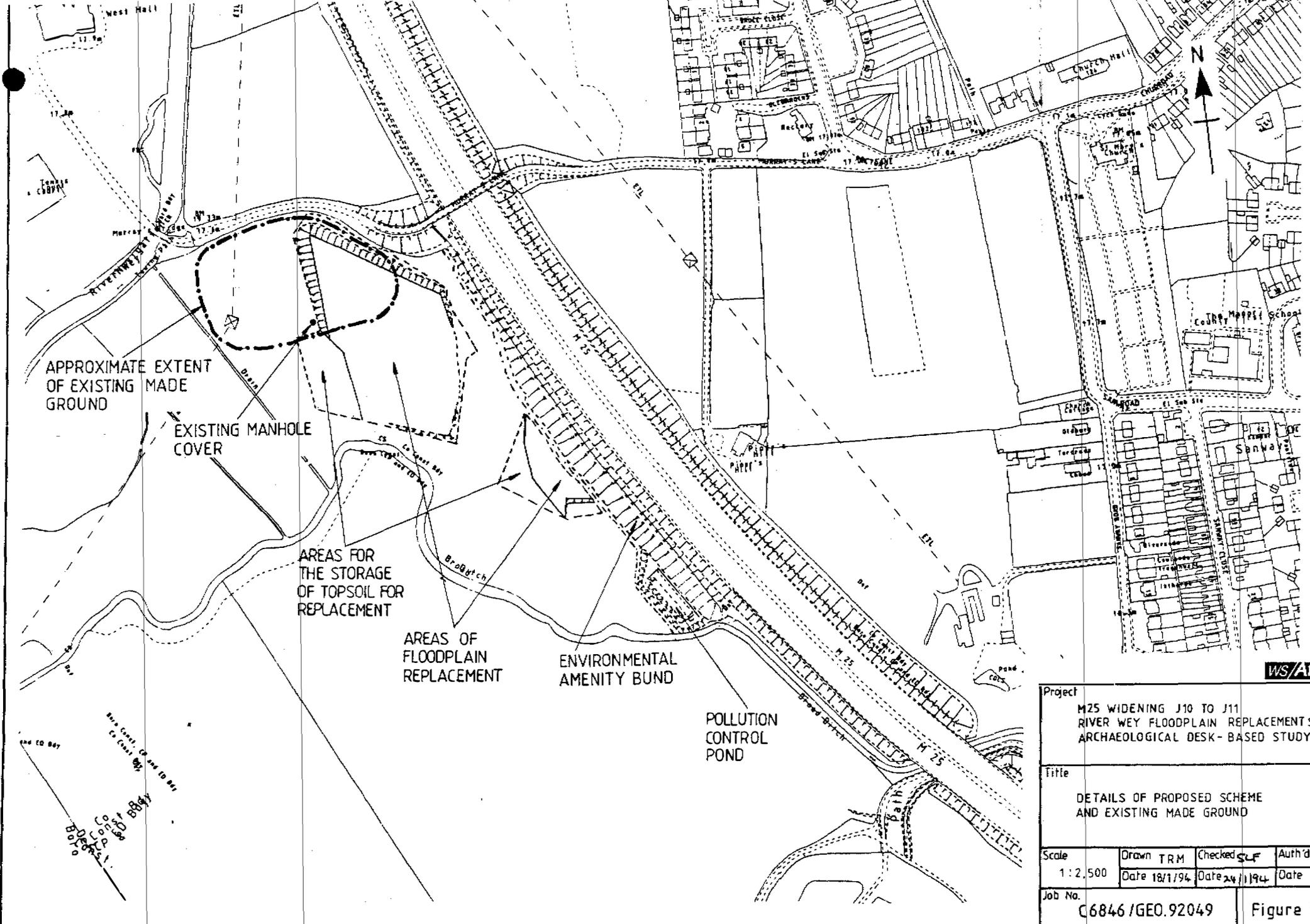
WS Atkins

Project
 M25 WIDENING J10 TO J11
 RIVER WEY FLOODPLAIN REPLACEMENT SCHEME
 ARCHAEOLOGICAL DESK-BASED STUDY

Title
 DISTRIBUTION OF KNOWN ARCHAEOLOGICAL
 SITES AND GEOLOGY

Scale 1:10,000	Drawn TRM Date 18/1/96	Checked SCF Date 24/1/96	Auth'd Date
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Job No.
 C6846/GEO.92049 Figure 2



APPROXIMATE EXTENT OF EXISTING MADE GROUND

EXISTING MANHOLE COVER

AREAS FOR THE STORAGE OF TOPSOIL FOR REPLACEMENT

AREAS OF FLOODPLAIN REPLACEMENT

ENVIRONMENTAL AMENITY BUND

POLLUTION CONTROL POND

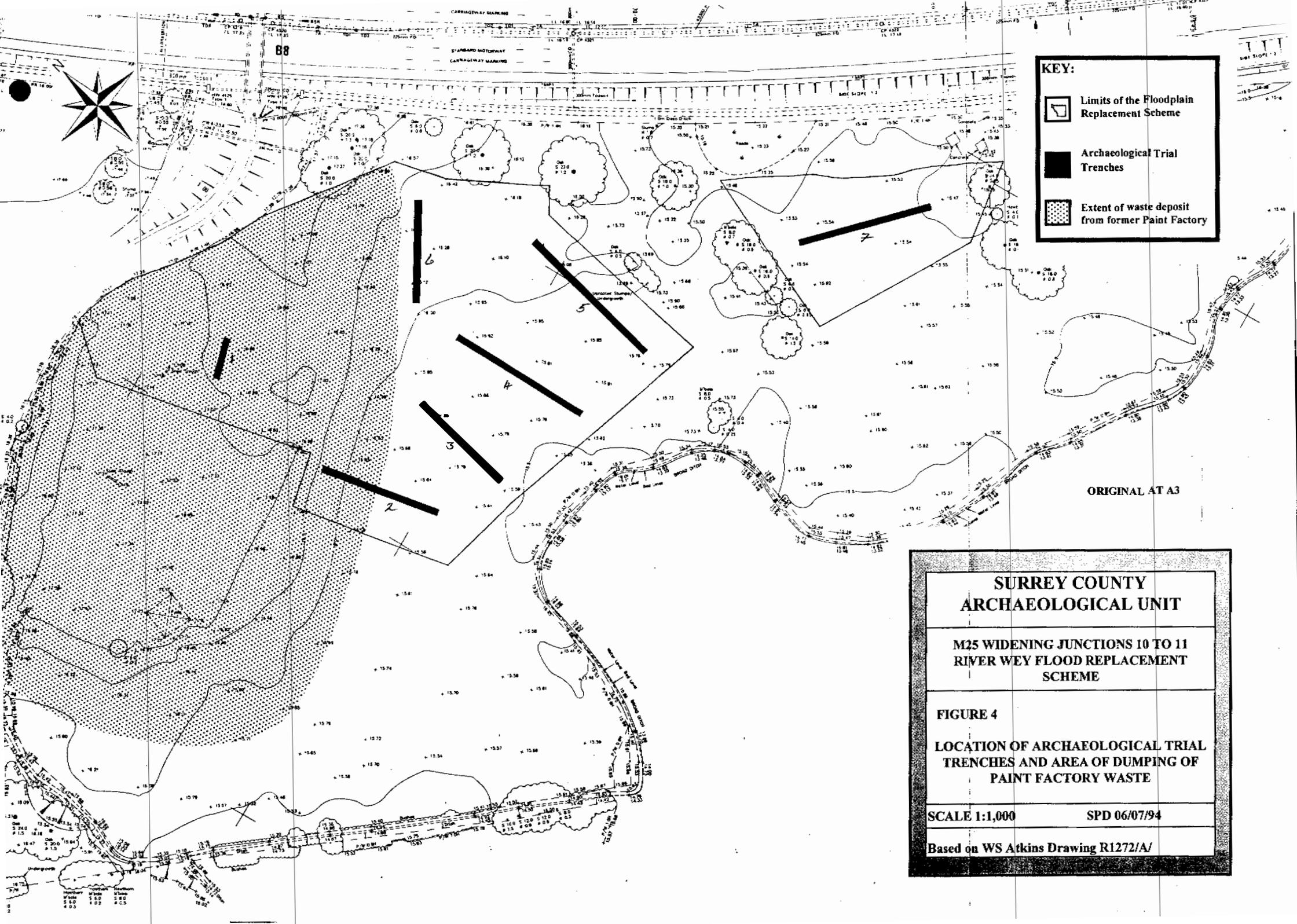
WS/Atkins

Project
 M25 WIDENING J10 TO J11
 RIVER WEY FLOODPLAIN REPLACEMENT SCHEME
 ARCHAEOLOGICAL DESK-BASED STUDY

Title
 DETAILS OF PROPOSED SCHEME
 AND EXISTING MADE GROUND

Scale	Drawn TRM	Checked GLF	Auth'd
1:2,500	Date 18/1/94	Date 24/1/94	Date

Job No.	Figure 3
C6846/GEO.92049	



KEY:

-  Limits of the Floodplain Replacement Scheme
-  Archaeological Trial Trenches
-  Extent of waste deposit from former Paint Factory

**SURREY COUNTY
ARCHAEOLOGICAL UNIT**

**M25 WIDENING JUNCTIONS 10 TO 11
RIVER WEY FLOOD REPLACEMENT
SCHEME**

**FIGURE 4
LOCATION OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL TRIAL
TRENCHES AND AREA OF DUMPING OF
PAINT FACTORY WASTE**

SCALE 1:1,000 SPD 06/07/94

Based on WS Atkins Drawing R1272/A/

ORIGINAL AT A3