RPS Planning, Transport and Environment

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Scheme Title A259 Brookland Diversion	Details Comments on proposed archaeological work
Road Number A259	Date March 1995
Contractor John Samuels Archaeological Consultants	
County Kent	
OS Reference	
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A259 BROOKLAND DIVERSION
Comments on proposed additional archaeological work

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commission by

Highways Agency
Dorking
Surrey

March 1995

A259 BROOKLAND DIVERSION
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Summary

An archaeological evaluation has been undertaken in connection with the A259 Brookland Diversion and it has been proposed that additional work is required including the archaeological excavation of an area south-west of Brookland village and further geoarchaeological survey. The Highways Agency has requested comments on the proposed work which, following an assessment, concludes that a smaller area of excavation is necessary and no further geoarchaeological survey need be carried out.

1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Following a desk-top study an archaeological evaluation was undertaken by South Eastern Archaeological Services (SEAS) and presented in two reports entitled : *A259 Brookland Diversion, Kent. An Archaeological Evaluation* by Luke Barber BSc, PIFA and *A Geoarchaeological Evaluation of the Proposed A259, Brooklands Diversion* by Martin R. Bates.

1.2 On the basis of the evaluation results, SEAS was asked to consider if any further work was required. An archaeological excavation has been proposed of an area about 32m x 12m incorporating evaluation trench B, south-west of Brookland Village (see Appendix A). The geoarchaeological report (Bates 1995) also contained recommendations for further work :

Further work is required both in the field and subsequently in the laboratory to process, assess and archive any samples taken during the field phase.

The following additional stages of work are therefore recommended :

1. *Drilling, at two locations, to record stratigraphic sequences and recover samples for areas below the zone of direct impact of the scheme. This is necessary in order to determine the significance of the sequences lying within the zone of disturbance.*

2. *Excavation/test pitting in areas of high archaeological and paleoenvironmental potential which coincide with zones of high engineering impact, to record and investigate sequences lying within the zone of disturbance.*

3. *Laboratory based assessment of recovered samples to produce a time calibrated model for sequence development of the area impacted by the route corridor. This will necessitate radiometric dating of key horizons* (C^{14} or OSL), preliminary stratigraphic/sedimentological descriptions to provide facies data and microfossil determinations to characterise key stratigraphic units.

1.3 The Highways Agency requested Dr John Samuels BA PhD FSA MIFS of *John Samuels Archaeological Consultants* to comment upon the proposals and recommend the extent to which the Agency is responsible for further work.

1.4 John Samuels has been an independent archaeological consultant since 1989. He has a BA (Hons) in history from University College, Cardiff (1974) and a PhD in archaeology from the University of Nottingham (1983). He has been a member of the only professional body for archaeologists, the Institute of Field Archaeologists, since its foundation in 1983 and is a member of the Prehistoric Society, The Society for Medieval Archaeology, The Vernacular Architecture Group and the Society for the Preservation of Ancient Buildings. He has been an executive committee member of various

archaeological specialist and advisory bodies and is currently chairman of Newark Castle Trust, and executive committee member of : the Trust for Nottinghamshire Historic Churches, the Nottinghamshire Building Preservation Trust, Council for British Archaeology Regional Group 14 and editor of East Midlands Archaeology.

He has published over 45 academic articles in learned journals and publications and since 1962 has been involved in numerous archaeological excavations of all periods throughout Britain as well as site and historic building surveys. Appointed as the Archaeological Field Officer for the M180 Motorway in 1975, he has been successively Assistant Director of Liverpool University Rescue Archaeology Unit, lecturer in archaeology and local history for the WEA and University of Nottingham and Field Monuments Warden for English Heritage. He is an honorary Research Fellow in the Department of Archaeology at the University of Nottingham.

Since 1989 he has been an archaeological consultant for a wide range of projects from housing and office developments to golf courses and major trunk road schemes. In many cases archaeology has been a significant aspect of an Environmental Assessment and Dr. Samuels is also an advisor to the Department of Transport on the revised Manual of Environmental Assessment. Among the various road schemes in which he is involved is the upgrading of the A303 past Stonehenge, without doubt the most archaeologically sensitive area in Britain.

Dr. Samuels has also been appointed by the Redundant Churches Fund and English Heritage to advise upon the restoration of historic monuments. He is also the Chairman of Newark Castle Trust which is undertaking a long-term project to excavate and better display this important castle to the public.

1.5 Copies of the following documents were provided :

a) SEAS Project Specification (Appendix A in this report)

b) *A Geoarchaeological Evaluation of the Proposed A259, Brooklands Diversion* by Martin R. Bates.

c) *A259 Brookland Diversion, Kent : An Archaeological Evaluation* by Luke Barber BSc, PIFA.

1.6 In addition Dr Samuels has discussed the project informally with Roger Kent (HA) and Chris Place (SEAS).

2.0 METHODOLOGY

2.1 The assessment of the archaeological work undertaken and the requirement for additional excavation and geoarchaeological survey is based upon the approach to archaeology outlined in the *Design Manual for Roads and Bridges* (DMRB) Volume 11 (DOT 1993).

2.2 The stages described in DMRB can be summarised :

Stage 1 is a preliminary assessment comprising a desktop study for initial route options. It is designed to gather recorded archaeological information on the study area, starting with the County Sites & Monuments Record (SMR) and including all other available existing sources.

Stage 2 refines the assessment for route selection by consultation with the County Archaeologist and with English Heritage, and by carrying out a preliminary walkover survey on site.

Stage 3 on the preferred route is undertaken only where indicated by Stages 1 and 2, and is referred to in this report as evaluation to distinguish it from the earlier stages of assessment. It embraces a series of field techniques which are selected as appropriate. They include non-destructive techniques such as fieldwalking survey, metal detector survey, geophysical survey, and earthwork survey; and also auger sampling and the archaeological excavation of test pits, trial trenches, or larger areas.

2.3 Criteria have been formulated to categorise the archaeological importance of a site based upon the present state of knowledge and an estimate of the status of the known or suspected archaeological remains. The categories are defined as :

* National Importance: Scheduled Ancient Monuments, or archaeological sites being scheduled and protected under the Ancient Monuments & Archaeological Areas Act (1979), or suitable for scheduling.

* Regional Importance: Sites listed in the County Sites and Monuments Record (SMR) or other sources, whose extent, nature and date are reasonably defined, and which represent significant examples in the regional context.

* Local Importance: Sites listed in the SMR or known from other sources which are either of low potential or less than regional significance.

* Negligible Importance: Areas in which investigative techniques have produced negative or minimal evidence of antiquity, or where large-scale

destruction of deposits has taken place (e.g. by mineral extraction).

2.4 An estimate has been made also of the predicted impact of the published scheme on the identified sites or areas of archaeological interest under the following terms :

* Major Impact:Total or substantial destruction (50-100%) of archaeological remains or their setting.

* Moderate Impact:Significant destruction (5-49%) of archaeological remains or their setting.

* Slight Impact:Lesser destruction (1-4%) of archaeological remains or their setting.

* Negligible Impact:Little or no effect upon archaeological remains or their setting.

2.5 The archaeological objectives are primarily either to avoid or minimise direct impact upon areas of important archaeological remains. Where there will be unavoidable direct impact, suitable mitigation can be offered including :

a) Preservation by engineering design such as beneath embankments with minimal damage to archaeological remains.

b) Archaeological excavation, often referred to a 'preservation by record' whereby full-scale excavation recovers and records all information that would otherwise be destroyed.

c) Archaeological watching brief to record anything of archaeological interest that may be found during construction. This can be subdivided into intensive and less intensive, depending upon the information already available and the ability to identify areas of particular potential.

2.6 Each identified archaeological site or area of interest has been analysed with an estimate of its importance, the predicted impact upon it of the proposed scheme, and a suitable mitigation strategy proposed.

3.0 ASSESSMENT

3.1 An archaeological assessment has been undertaken and, following its conclusions, a strategy of evaluation by machine trenching was carried out. This appears to be based upon a sampling process to ensure that a reasonable proportion of the route was examined but not based upon any recorded or observed evidence.

3.2 One area of archaeological interest has been identified which was found in evaluation trench B (see Fig.1), situated about 420m south-west of Brookland Church.

3.3 Around the trench, especially to the south, a scatter of medieval pottery was found and 32 sherds, 15th early 16th century were collected.

3.4 South of the trench a semi-circular, slightly raised area, about 12m in diameter was identified which it was thought might be a house-platform. This could indicate the location of a medieval or post-medieval building which has decayed or been demolished, leaving an elevated area.

3.5 Excavation of the trench located the top of a possible ditch (4), about 10.20m wide. It contained a fill (3) in which was found 62 sherds of mainly 15th century pottery and 46 fragments of medieval or post-medieval roof tile. Either above or within this layer were several fragments of dressed stone. Full excavation and interpretation of the features in the trench was made difficult by flooding, but it was concluded that a rubbish deposit had been found probably from an adjacent dwelling. It was considered that the site was important because; i) the pottery was from a poorly understood period which is the transition from medieval to post-medieval ceramics and ii) the mussel and cockle shells would yield information about the exploitation of marine molluses and dietary habits.

3.6 Having considered the evidence provided an assessment of this site is :

Importance : Local

Impact : Moderate

Mitigation : Excavation of a trench adjacent to southern edge of Trench B, maximum 20m x 5m (see Fig. 1) to record the plan of any archaeological features revealed. Limited sampling should be undertaken to establish their stratigraphic relationships and profiles.

3.7 Guidance in DMRB Vol.11 is related to archaeological remains and neither geoarchaeology nor paleoenvironmental studies is considered unless they are directly related to archaeological remains. The geoarchaeological evaluation undertaken appears to be a thorough desk study of the information available and provides framework for assessing the impact and significance of paleoenvironmental material. However, this framework incorporates some of the criteria in Annex 4 of PPG 16 which is designed to assist in the designation of Scheduled Ancient Monuments; geoarchaeological or paleoenvironmental deposits are not capable of becoming Scheduled Ancient

Monuments. It would be intriguing to know the views of English Heritage on this framework and it may be noteworthy that it is not used to assess any of the identified areas of potential interest.

3.8 Since none of the further work recommended by SEAS (see Section 1.2 of this report) is directly related to archaeological remains it does not fall into the remit of archaeological assessment in DMRB Vol.11.

4.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

4.1 On the basis of the information supplied and its subsequent analysis and assessment, it is recommended that the potential archaeological site around evaluation Trench B is examined. An area should be excavated adjacent to the southern edge of Trench B, maximum 20m x 5m (see Fig.1) to record the plan of any archaeological features revealed. Limited sampling should be undertaken to establish their stratigraphic relationships and profiles. A post-examination analysis should be provided.
Guideline estimate : £2,500.

4.2 It is not clear what arrangements have been made for the final report on the project. This should bring together the results of all stages including the additional excavation and watching brief. Unless these arrangements have been agreed already it is recommended that financial provision should be made.
Guideline estimate : £3,500.

5.0 CONCLUSIONS

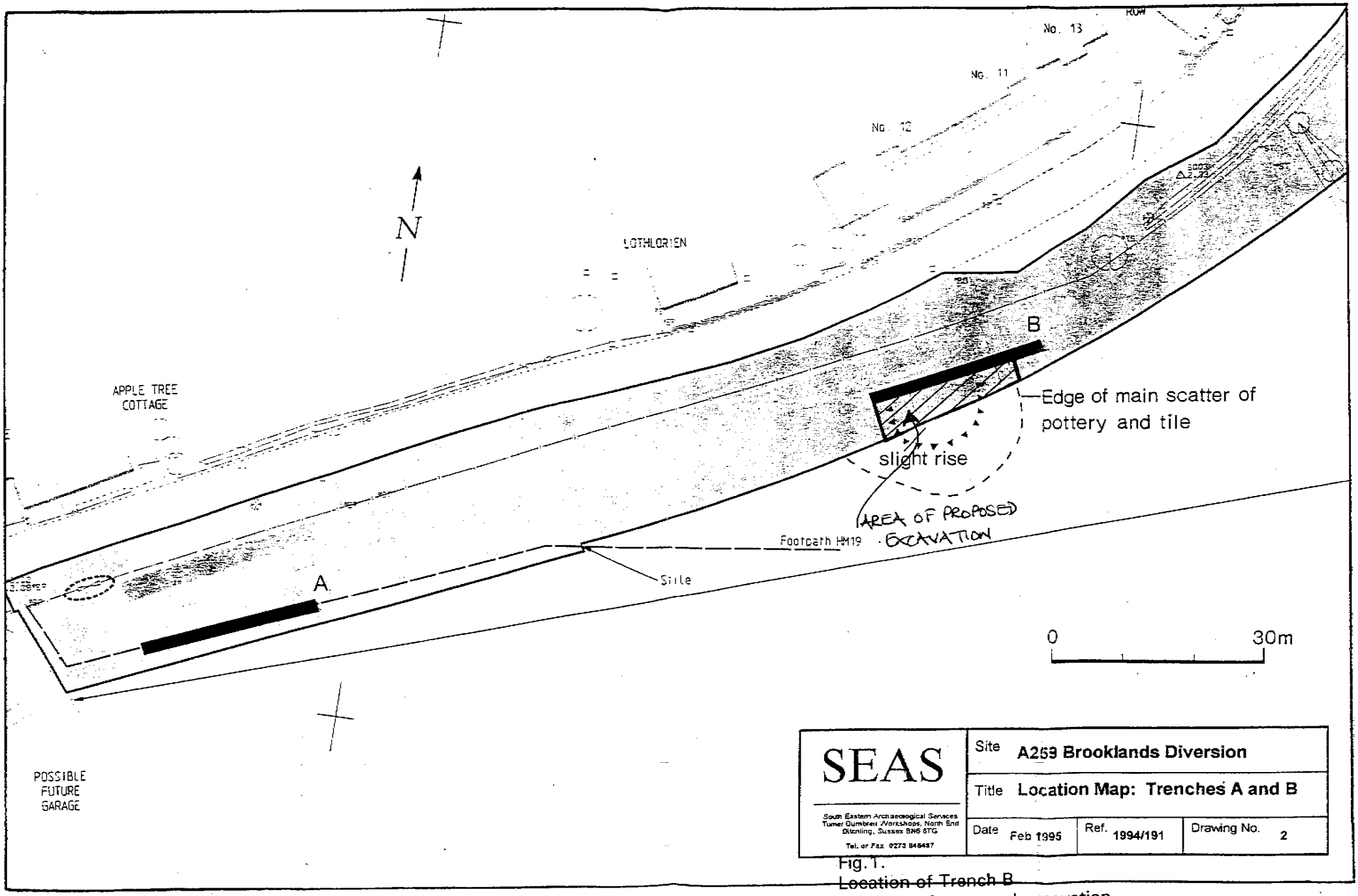
5.1 An analysis and assessment have been undertaken to provide comments upon the proposed additional archaeological work.

5.2 A limited amount of excavation of the features of potential archaeological interest identified in and adjacent to Trench B is recommended.

5.3 Arrangements should be made to ensure that all of the archaeological work undertaken on this project is brought together in a final report.

5.4 It is not considered that any additional geoarchaeological or paleoenvironmetal is justified beyond the requirements of the recommended excavation or the watching brief which has commenced.

5.5 Guideline estimates of costs have been provided for the additional work which is considered to be reasonable.



SEAS	Site A259 Brooklands Diversion		
South Eastern Archaeological Services Turner Dumbrell Workshops, North End Ditchling, Sussex BN6 8TG Tel. or Fax 0273 846497	Title Location Map: Trenches A and B		
	Date Feb 1995	Ref. 1994/191	Drawing No. 2

Fig. 1.
Location of Trench B
and area of proposed excavation

ORIGINAL AT A3