

**LAND AT PARK ROAD, STANWELL,  
STAINES, SURREY, TW19 7PD**

**AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL  
EVALUATION**

**LOCAL PLANNING AUTHORITY:  
SPELTHORNE BOROUGH COUNCIL**

**PLANNING APPLICATION NUMBER:  
11/00106/FUL**

**PCA REPORT NO: 11114**

**SITE CODE: SPRS11**

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**PRE-CONSTRUCT ARCHAEOLOGY**



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LAND AT PARK ROAD, STANWELL, STAINES,  
SURREY, TW19 7PD

AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION

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**Local Planning Authority:** Spelthorne Borough Council

**Planning Application No.:** 11/00106/FUL

**Site Code:** SPRS11

**Central NGR:** TQ05557431

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Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited, November 2011

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**November 2011**

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## **1 ABSTRACT**

- 1.1 Pre-Construct Archaeology was commissioned by CgMs Consulting on behalf of Dominion Homes to undertake an archaeological evaluation of Land at Park Road, Stanwell, Staines, Surrey TW19 7PD in the Borough of Spelthorne, on the site of proposed residential development.
- 1.2 The site lies within Stanwell's Area of High Archaeological Potential and within 250m of a significant multi-period site. The latter revealed evidence of the Neolithic Stanwell Cursus and occupation evidence dating from the Neolithic to medieval period (Higgs 2008).
- 1.3 The evaluation consisted of five trenches each measuring approximately 20m long by 1.8m wide, which were excavated to the surface of the natural geology. The trenches were evenly positioned in a manner designed to investigate the entirety of the study area.
- 1.4 A shallow linear ditch, considered to be a property or field boundary, and posthole were observed cut into naturally-occurring brickearth deposits. Both features were of post-medieval date. It is considered that the ditch represents the approximate north to south boundary feature that is visible over the eastern side of the study area on a previous map regression exercise (see Higgs 2008, Figures 4-8).
- 1.5 The brickearth deposits were only noted on the eastern side of the study area where truncation, presumed to be as a result of landscaping of the area for a car park, had not removed them entirely. The other trenches positioned across the car park area of the site revealed a sequence of modern concrete then tarmac to overlie natural gravel deposits.
- 1.6 The finds and site archive will be donated to Spelthorne Museum. The site archive was prepared using a site code allocated by Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd, SPRS11.

## **2 INTRODUCTION**

2.1 An archaeological evaluation was conducted at Land at Park Road, Stanwell, Staines, Surrey in the Borough of Spelthorne, on the site of proposed residential development (Figure 1). The evaluation comprised the excavation of five trenches to the surface of the natural drift geology under the direction of an archaeologist (Figure 2).

2.2 The fieldwork was conducted by Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd between 24<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup> November 2011. The central national grid reference for the site is TQ05557431, and site records were made using the unique site code SPRS11. Following completion of the project the entire archive will be deposited with Spelthorne Museum under that code.

2.3 The site was bound to the west by Gleneagles Close, to the south by Park Road, to the east by the backs of houses of Stanwell Gardens and to the north by a field.

2.4 The project manager for PCA was Chris Mayo, and the fieldwork was supervised by the author. The project was monitored for Spelthorne Borough Council by their Archaeological Advisor, Gary Jackson of Surrey County Council.

2.5 The archaeological evaluation followed the methodologies set out in:

- English Heritage, 1990, 'Management of Archaeological Projects'
- English Heritage, 2006, 'The Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment'
- Institute of Field Archaeologists, revised 2001, 'Standards and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluations'

The archaeological fieldwork also conformed to the Council's archaeological policies.

### **3 PLANNING AND RESEARCH BACKGROUND**

#### **3.1 National Policy: Planning Policy Statement (PPS 5)**

3.1.1 In March 2010 the Department for Communities and Local Government issued Planning Policy Statement 5: Planning for the Historic Environment (PPS 5), which provides guidance for planning authorities, property owners, developers and others on the investigation and preservation of heritage assets.

3.1.2 In considering any planning application for development, the local planning authority will be guided by the policy framework set by government guidance, in this instance PPS 5, by the current Unitary Development Plan policy and by other material considerations.

#### **3.2 Local Policy**

3.2.1 Spelthorne Borough Council adopted policies concerning the preservation of archaeological remains into its Local Plan of April 2001. The general aims of these plans were set out in Chapter 4: Built Environment. These are given below:

##### **ARCHAEOLOGY, ANCIENT MONUMENTS AND HISTORIC LANDSCAPES**

4.73 Spelthorne is situated entirely on various alluvial and gravel deposits associated with the Thames, whose river terraces were attractive to ancient settlements. This has resulted in an area rich in archaeological finds and with great potential for further discoveries. From the Neolithic period onwards, significant finds including small settlements have been found across a wide area of Spelthorne with many Roman remains found around the important Roman town of Staines. The Council will seek to protect this archaeological heritage. Government guidance contained in PPG16 paragraph 8 contains a presumption in favour of the preservation of nationally important remains, whether scheduled or not, and their settings, and paragraphs 15 and 16 note the need to protect other important sites identified in the development plan. On the basis of currently available information all Scheduled Ancient Monuments are worthy of preservation, their sites are shown on the Proposals Map. Close liaison will be maintained with the Environment Department of Surrey County Council which holds the archaeological Sites and Monuments Record and with the Surrey County Archaeological Unit which conducts archaeological investigation and research. Any new areas of archaeological importance identified through the national Monuments Protection Programme of English Heritage or local research will be added to the areas covered by the policies which follow. Where archaeological investigation is required in the context of a development proposal, the applicant will be asked to fund the work deemed necessary. Planning conditions or legal agreements will be used where appropriate to secure compliance with policies.

4.74 There are four Scheduled Ancient Monuments which are by definition of national importance within the Plan area (see [Appendix 5](#)) and which the Council will seek to preserve from any development adversely affecting site or setting. An application for Scheduled Monument Consent must be made to the Secretary of State for the Environment, Transport and the Regions for any proposal affecting these sites. In addition to the scheduled sites and monuments, two others of special local importance have been identified on the basis of current information from the County Sites and Monuments Record which should also be preserved (see [Appendix 5](#)). The Council will encourage as appropriate the management and interpretation of these sites and monuments to develop their educational and recreational potential. These sites are identified on the basis of currently available information, and during the currency of the plan, additional sites may be identified to be of national importance following archaeological evaluation, or reassessment of sites on the Sites and Monuments Record.

3.2.2 The detail of policy is set out in the Borough's Local Plan, although it should be noted that the government's Planning Policy Guidance concerning archaeology, PPG16, has now been replaced by Planning Policy Statement 5: Planning for the Historic Environment.

##### **POLICY BE24**

There will be a presumption against any development which would adversely affect a

scheduled or other nationally important monument or its setting. Development adversely affecting a site or monument of County Archaeological importance will not normally be permitted.

- 4.75 In addition to the above sites and monuments, other areas exist where there is good evidence for the existence of archaeological remains based on previous finds, maps or aerial photographs. These individual sites and areas of high potential are shown on the Proposals Map and are listed in [Appendix 5](#). Any development proposal affecting such an area should include an initial assessment by a qualified archaeologist of its archaeological potential and what, if any, further field evaluation is required. An evaluation should assess the impact of the development upon the preservation of any archaeological remains. Where possible, remains should be left in situ. Proposals for development should wherever possible avoid damage to or disturbance of the archaeological remains. The Council will encourage the local display of archaeological finds, where appropriate, at the Spelthorne Museum or other suitable location. Developers are advised to refer to the British Archaeologists and Developers Code of Practice, and to Supplementary Planning Guidance produced by Surrey County Council entitled "Archaeology and Historic Landscapes" which gives a fuller explanation of Areas of High Archaeological Importance.

#### **POLICY BE25**

In considering proposals for development within areas of high archaeological potential, the Borough Council will:

- (a) require an initial assessment of the archaeological value of the site to be submitted as part of any planning application
  - (b) expect the applicant to arrange an archaeological field evaluation to be carried out prior to the determination of the planning application, where, as a result of the initial assessment, important archaeological remains are considered to exist
  - (c) have a preference for preservation in situ, and in such circumstances will impose conditions or seek a legal agreement, where appropriate, to ensure that damage to the remains is minimal or will be avoided
  - (d) require by planning condition or seek a legal agreement to secure a full archaeological investigation and recording of the site and subsequent publication of results in accordance with a scheme of work to be agreed in writing with the Council prior to the commencement of the proposed development, where important archaeological remains are known or considered likely to exist but their preservation in situ is not justified.
- 4.76 Work in recent years has resulted in sites of major archaeological importance being discovered in the course of gravel extraction, where no previous specific evidence existed for them. In view of Spelthorne's river gravel base, it is reasonable to assume that any large scale development is likely to affect features of archaeological interest and that discoveries could be made in any size of new development site. Any new development proposal for sites larger than 0.4 hectares and smaller sites where requested should include agreed arrangements for archaeological assessment or evaluation, and where appropriate investigation, and allow for future preservation of remains as deemed appropriate.

#### **POLICY BE26**

Outside the defined areas of high archaeological potential, the Borough Council will require an agreed scheme of archaeological assessment or evaluation appropriate for the site concerned to be submitted with any new development proposal for a site larger than 0.4 ha, and for smaller sites if deemed necessary. Where evidence of significant archaeological remains is found then the requirements set out in policy BE25 will apply.

- 4.77 Where other land is identified as of historic interest but is not covered by historic building, conservation area or archaeological protection policies, the Council will nonetheless seek to preserve the historic and amenity value of such land. This may include landscaped gardens and open landscapes. Where such areas are affected by development proposals it is important to record their historic details. The extent of such areas is to be further investigated by Surrey County Council for the County as a whole but in Spelthorne currently known sites are Sunbury Park and Laleham Park.
- 3.2.3 The site lies within an area of High Archaeological Potential as defined by the Borough of Spelthorne's Local Plan.



### **3.3 Planning Permission**

3.3.1 The proposed development has received full planning permission (application number: 11/00106/FUL0, which included an archaeological condition as follows:

*10. No development shall take place until the applicant has secured the implementation of a programme of archaeological work in accordance with a Written Scheme of Investigation which has been submitted by the applicant and approved by the Local Planning Authority.*

*Reason:-The site is of high archaeological potential and it is important that the archaeological information should be preserved as a record before it is destroyed by the development.*

3.3.2 Working in accordance with the policies outlined above, a Method Statement (Mayo 2011) was prepared by Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd prior to the commencement works on site. Approval of the document was received from the Archaeology Advisor to Spelthorne Borough Council, Gary Jackson of Surrey County Council.

## **4 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES**

4.1 The research objectives of the investigation as defined in the Method Statement (Mayo 2011) were as follows:-

- To establish the presence or otherwise of prehistoric or later activity/occupation and define the date and nature of that activity/occupation.
- To establish the palaeo-environmental context of any prehistoric or later occupation/activity.
- To evaluate the likely impact of past land use.
- Provide sufficient information to construct an archaeological mitigation strategy.

## **5 GEOLOGICAL AND TOPOGRAPHICAL BACKGROUND**

5.1 The following summary is taken from the Desk-Based Assessment (Higgs 2008).

5.2 Given its proximity to Heathrow Airport and its location within the M25 motorway, the topography of the site is characterised most strongly by its urban location. Although Stanwell has retained many of its village characteristics, the settlement abuts the London Borough of Hillingdon and adjoins the towns of Staines and Ashford to the south-east. Staines Reservoirs lie 300m to the south-west of the site, with the King George VI Reservoir 950m to the west-south-west. A series of gravel pits of former workings are situated 250m to the north-west of the site, whilst the Longford River flows west to eastwards 420m to the north. The site comprises a relatively flat plot of land situated at c. 21m AOD.

5.3 The site on Park Road is situated upon the Taplow terrace of the River Thames, which overlies a solid geology of uniform, stiff, blue-grey London Clay. As found during a series of excavations 200m to the north-west of the site, the Taplow terrace is made up of gravel and sand, much of which is sealed by a sheet of brickearth, considered to be essentially an alluvium. The deposit of brickearth is known to vary in thickness and whilst it effectively covered the gravel surface of a site excavated at the north-western corner of Heathrow Airport, it only appeared in areas of varying size to the north-west of the site. Given that the site lies at the south-western extent of the conurbation of Greater London, its local soil type remains unsurveyed.

## 6 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

- 6.1 The following discussion is taken from the Desk-Based Assessment (Higgs 2008):
- 6.2 Evidence exists for occupation and activity by hunter-gatherer type communities in the landscape surrounding the study site in the Palaeolithic period. However, nothing is known within the immediate vicinity of the site.
- 6.3 Palaeo-environmental evidence suggests the wider landscaped was sporadically cleared during the Mesolithic period. Again, little evidence from this period has been observed from within the immediate vicinity of the site.
- 6.4 The Neolithic period saw population levels rise dramatically in the Thames Valley. A number of crop marks visible in the Stanwell area are testament to this occupation. Other evidence from nearby in the landscape includes a Neolithic causewayed camp near Staines and a prehistoric village and temple at Heathrow. However, most importantly is the Stanwell Cursus, considered to be the second largest monument of this type in the country. It runs from Bigley Ditch near Colne for 4km on a NNW to SSE alignment and is thought to disappear under the built-up area of Stanwell.
- 6.5 Excavation from 1979-1985 at a site 250m northwest of the study site supported aerial photographic evidence and revealed that two parallel ditches that form the cursus had an eroded U-shaped profile. The conjectured course of the ditches is thought to cross Park Road c. 80m to the west of the site's frontage. Therefore, the site is within the extent of the 'ritual landscape' associated with the funerary cursus monument.
- 6.6 The transition from Neolithic to Bronze Age was marked in the wider landscape by woodland clearance and the development of field systems. Excavation evidence from the multi-period site immediately northwest of the study area suggests the decline in associated settlement evidence from this period through to the Iron Age. However, evidence for increasing population of the landscape has been observed in the wider landscape during this time.
- 6.7 Iron Age settlement is poorly represented in this area. A suggested reason for this is the flooding of low-lying land around Stanwell forced occupation to move to higher ground. However, field systems to the northwest of the study site were maintained and sporadic occupation evidence from this period has been seen across a diverse range of topographies.
- 6.8 During the Roman period, the site was positioned between the settlement of *Londinium* to the east and Staines to the west. Although Stanwell lay close to the road connecting the two, the only evidence for occupation during this period in the proximity of the study area is likely to relate to small-scale agricultural activity.
- 6.9 Stanwell owes its name to the site of a *weille* or stony-stream or spring that is likely to date to the Anglo-Saxon period. There is little settlement evidence from around the study site to suggest occupation in the immediate vicinity.
- 6.10 The first documented reference to the settlement is in the Domesday Book of 1086 which records the manor as being held by a William fitz Other. His descendents retained the manor, taking on the name of Windsor on the basis of their offices as Constables of Windsor

Castle. St Mary's Church was first built about 1200 although very little of the earliest fabric is still visible. Although evidence from cut features attests to medieval occupation in the surrounding landscape, there is nothing to suggest the study site was anything more than arable fields during this time.

- 6.11 Stanwell is renowned for its early enclosure which began in 1488 with the enclosure and conversion to pasture of a farm of 140 acres. Two local rivers were both diverted and constructed during this time in order to improve water supplies. The freehold of Stanwell Manor passed to Thomas Knyvett in 1603. Landscaping and the establishment of modern field boundaries in the post-medieval period have been observed through excavation evidence immediately surrounding the site. Amongst these were the excavations at No. 15 High Street, to the east of the site, where plough soil containing pottery and daub suggested the nearby remains of a building.
- 6.12 Stanwell inherited a reputation for market gardening in the post-medieval period owing to its fertile brickearth soils where fruit was grown to feed the population of London. As a result, roads and transport links were improved.
- 6.13 Stanwell continued to expand until the modern period. However, the two Staines Reservoirs built in 1901 and Heathrow Airport in 1968 prevented further expansion.
- 6.14 Map regression (not shown) suggests a small outhouse or shed as being visible on a map dated to 1866. There is also a north to south aligned property division across the eastern side of the site from as early as 1748. However, the impression predominantly transferred from this exercise is that the site remained largely undeveloped up until the creation of the car park over the western side of the site in 1975.

## **7 METHODOLOGY**

- 7.1 The evaluation was conducted in accordance with the methodology outlined in the Method Statement (Mayo 2011).
- 7.2 Five linear trenches were excavated across the site, each measuring approximately 20m x 1.8m (Figure 2). Trenches 1 and 2 were combined to form a T shape and Trench 4 had to be shortened due to on-site constraints. Several deeper test sondages were excavated at the ends of the trenches in order to further understand the formation of naturally occurring horizons.
- 7.3 A mechanical excavator used a breaker to remove the tarmac and concrete surfaces of the car park over the trench areas. It was then fitted with a flat-bladed ditching bucket operating under constant archaeological supervision to remove undifferentiated soils in steady passes of up to 150mm. Spoil was mounded at least 3m from the edges of the trench, and was regularly inspected by the attendant archaeologist for artefacts.
- 7.4 Upon each pass the exposed surface was investigated by the archaeologist for features and finds. Mechanical excavation ceased once intact archaeological and/or natural deposits were identified.
- 7.5 Following machine excavation, all faces of the trench that required examination or recording were cleaned using appropriate hand tools. The investigation of archaeological levels was by hand, with cleaning, examination and recording both in plan and in section.
- 7.6 Archaeological excavation of low grade deposits required work by 'pick and shovel', whilst more significant deposits or structures required refined cleaning and excavation with a trowel and smaller tools.
- 7.7 All archaeological features (stratigraphical layers, cuts, fills, structures) were recorded using standard 'single context' recording methods, including the use of pro-forma recording sheets and recording in plan at 1:20 and in section at 1:10. Photographs were taken as appropriate.
- 7.8 Finds were recovered from excavated deposits so as to aid the identification and date of later archaeological horizons and areas of modern truncation.

## **8 ARCHAEOLOGICAL SEQUENCE**

### **8.1 Trench 1** (Figures 2 and 5; Plate 1)

- 8.1.1 Trench 1 was positioned in the northern end of the site on an approximate north to south alignment, extending parallel to the western limit of excavation. It measured approximately 20.00m north to south and 2.00m east to west.
- 8.1.2 A deeper sondage measuring approximately 2m<sup>2</sup> was excavated at the northern end of the trench to further investigate the sequence of naturally deposited gravels that were first observed following the breaking out of the trench. At the base of this and at a height of between 20.35m OD and 20.38m OD was layer [7]. This was composed of loose mid yellow-brown shingle. This was a clean deposit and representative of naturally-occurring gravels. The full depth of this horizon is unknown. No archaeological finds, features or deposits were seen made through or within this layer.
- 8.1.3 Seen to seal layer [7] in the sondage as well as throughout the base of the rest of the trench was gravel layer [6]. It was seen at heights ranging from 20.74m OD to 20.85m OD and measured approximately 0.44m thick. This was made from compacted mid yellow-brown silt and gravel. As with underlying layer [7] it was archaeologically sterile and devoid of any culturally-modified finds or features.
- 8.1.4 Approximately 0.15m of discoloured but otherwise comparatively identical gravel to [6] was seen above layer [6]. This is not thought to represent a different deposit from [6] but rather the effects of where landscaping of the horizon by 20<sup>th</sup> century tracked machinery had left a 'trample' layer. However, it cannot be described as being as clean as layer [6] as it contained residual modern rubble. It is thought to represent the height at which the area of the car park was landscaped down to in the 1970s prior to the laying of concrete and tarmac that would form the surface. These works also will have removed any overlying archaeological deposits.
- 8.1.5 The layer of trampled gravel was overlain by approximately 0.17m of unreinforced concrete which in turn was sealed by 0.12m of tarmac at a height of 21.19m OD.

### **8.2 Trench 2** (Figures 2 and 5; Plate 2)

- 8.2.1 Trench 2 was initially positioned at right angles to Trench 1. Owing to spatial constraints it had to be made to join with the eastern side of Trench 1, forming a T-shaped arrangement. It was aligned east to west and measured approximately 18.00m long by 2.00m wide (Fig. 2).
- 8.2.2 Natural gravels were recorded as a continuation of those first seen in Trench 1 and therefore shared the same context number [6]. These were recorded at heights of between 20.74m OD and 20.80m OD across the base of the trench. As with before, they were observed to be archaeologically sterile with no finds, features or deposits seen within or made through the layer.
- 8.2.3 Layer [5] was seen to overlie gravels [6] at the eastern end of the trench. It was composed of brickearth with rare flint inclusions. Where seen it measured 3.50m east to west, was the

width of the trench wide and approximately 80mm thick. Heights for the layer are recorded as being between 21.05m OD and 21.15m OD, sloping gently down from east to west. This layer represents the point beyond the eastern limit of landscaping for the modern car park where the brickearth horizon that sealed natural gravels has not been removed. No cut features or finds were observed made through or within this deposit.

8.2.4 Approximately 0.28m of loose, grey-brown silty-gravel subsoil, [4], was seen to seal brickearth layer [5]. It was recorded at heights ranging from 21.42m OD to 21.23m OD. Again, this deposit was only seen in the eastern end of the trench where landscaping for the car park had not removed it entirely. No dating material was found in this layer.

8.2.5 Towards the eastern end of the trench a rectangular cut measuring approximately 2.00m long by 0.50m wide was observed as being made through subsoil layer [4] and the underlying brickearth layer [5]. This was half-sectioned to reveal modern finds (such as plastic debris) within its fill. The base of this cut was at 20.65m OD.

8.2.6 A layer of topsoil measuring a maximum of 0.20m thick was seen at a height of 21.51m OD at the eastern end of the trench. The tarmac surface of the car park around the rest of the trench was at a height of 21.20m OD.

### **8.3 Trench 3** (Figures 2, 3 and 5; Plate 3)

8.3.1 Trench 3 was aligned east to west and was positioned across the centre of the site over both the tarmac surface of the car park as well as the raised grass bank on the east of the site. It measured 19.74m east to west by 2.00m wide (Fig. 2).

8.3.2 A test sondage, measuring 1.50m east to west by 1.80m north to south was excavated at the western end of the trench. This was reduced to a height of 19.69m OD where naturally occurring shingle [1] was observed. This was a mid-yellow brown colour and composed of small sized stones. No archaeological finds features or deposits were observed at this height.

8.3.3 Shingle [1] was sealed by a layer of mid-orange brown sandy-gravel, [2]. This was seen throughout much of the base of the trench and measured 16.50m east to west by 2.00m north to south. Its depth, as observed in the sondage was 1.02m. It was recorded at heights ranging from 20.66m OD to 20.75m OD. This layer represents a similar deposit to [6] as seen in Trenches 1 and 2. It was archaeologically sterile with no finds, features or deposits observed.

8.3.4 Several shallow patches of a brickearth type material were seen across gravel layer [2]. Investigation of these patches suggested that rather than represent discrete archaeological features, they more likely represented areas where landscaping of the car park failed to completely remove the overlying brickearth horizon. This may have been as the brickearth part filled deeper hollows or recesses on the top of the gravel.

8.3.5 Brickearth layer [3] was seen at the eastern end of the trench where landscaping for the car park had not removed it. It measured 3.50m east to west by the width of the trench and was approximately 0.18m thick. Its' height ranged from 20.74m OD to 20.96m OD.

8.3.6 Apart from truncation by a modern service trench, no other cut features were observed

through this layer. The stratigraphic sequence was completed in the trench by layer of subsoil and topsoil. The top of the topsoil was seen at a height of 21.58m OD whilst the height of the car park was at 21.16m OD.

#### **8.4 Trench 4** (Figures 2, 4 and 5; Plates 4 and 5)

8.4.1 Trench 4 was positioned on a north to south alignment across grass that formed the eastern side of the study area (Fig. 2). It measured 17.90m north to south and was 2.00m wide.

8.4.2 Excavation of a test sondage at the northern end of the trench revealed a similar depositional sequence as suggested from Trenches 1, 2 and 3. In this instance, shingle type gravel ([1] in Trench 3 and [7] in Trench 1) was not observed. Rather, excavation ceased upon reaching gravel layer [8]. This was seen at the base of the sondage and measured approximately 0.70m north to south by the trench width wide. It was seen at a height of 20.92 m OD. This was a little higher than the comparative layers [2] and [6] suggesting that either the landscaping for the car park had removed brickearth as well as the top of the gravel or that the site slopes downwards from east to west. As with layers [2] and [6], no archaeological features were seen in the layer and it is considered to be representative of naturally occurring stratigraphy.

8.4.3 Gravel layer [8] was overlain by a 0.40m thick layer of brickearth, [9]. This was a mid-orange grey-brown colour with occasional darker patches from root activity. Where seen it measured 14.40m north to south by the width of the trench, at a height of between 20.83m OD and 21.08m OD.

8.4.4 Two features were observed as cutting the brickearth horizon [9]. Posthole [10] was seen towards the centre of the trench. It was circular and measured between 0.35m and 0.40m in diameter. The posthole appeared cut from a height of 20.96m OD and was 0.13m deep. Fill [11] was composed of soft light to mid grey sand and contained rare inclusions of ceramic building material flecks and small stones. The ceramic building material is dated as post-medieval (Jon Cotton and Kevin Hayward, *pers. comm.*).

8.4.5 Also cut through brickearth deposit [9] and extending on a straight northeast to southwest alignment was a shallow ditch cut [12]. This had gently rounded curving sides and a rounded base. Where seen this measured 8.00m north to south by between 0.60m to 0.70m wide. Removal of approximately half of the trenches single fill, [13], in an attempt to retrieve dating evidence, revealed the feature only extended to a maximum depth of approximately 100mm. Fill [13] contained post-medieval ceramic building material, bone, burnt flint, daub and miniscule sherds of abraded pottery within a firm, light to mid grey sandy matrix. The pottery has been provisionally dated to the medieval period although it could be earlier (Marit Gaimster, Jon Cotton and Kevin Hayward, *pers. comm.*). It is considered that this feature represents the field or property boundary which is shown on historic maps dating from the 18<sup>th</sup> to 20<sup>th</sup> centuries (see Higgs 2008, Figures 4-8).

8.4.6 Layer [14] represented a subsoil horizon that was seen across the trench to seal brickearth [9] as well as fills [13] and [11]. It was made from grey sandy-silt and contained small stones, flecks of building material and numerous roots. It measured 0.34m thick at a height



of between 21.44m OD and 21.64m OD. This in turn was sealed by a 0.16m thick layer of topsoil at 21.84m OD.

#### **8.5 Trench 5** (Figures 2, 4 and 5; Plate 6)

8.5.1 This trench was positioned across the tarmac in the south east of the study area and measured 20.00m north to south by 2.00m wide.

8.5.2 Natural gravel layer [17] was observed throughout the southern end of the trench. This measured approximately 13.00m north to south by the width of the trench. It was composed of compacted yellow-brown silty-gravel and was seen at heights ranging from 20.82m OD to 21.01m OD. No archaeological finds features or deposits were seen made through or within this layer.

8.5.3 Several patches of brickearth were seen overlying gravel layer [17] in this trench. These were recorded as layer [16] and represent the remnants of the overlying brickearth deposit that has almost entirely been removed as part of the landscaping works except for where it had filled deeper undulations in gravel [17]. A typical height for this brickearth is 20.87m OD. The patches were briefly investigated by hand and revealed nothing more than shallow undulations. No finds were recovered from this horizon.

8.5.4 A modern east to west concrete encased service was seen extending across the northern end of the trench. This was surrounded on either side by redeposited brickearth, [15], at a height of between 20.79m OD and 20.84m OD. A test sondage measuring approximately 1.00m north to south by 0.60m east to west was dug up against the northern side of the service down to natural gravels [17] at a height of 20.50m OD. This also revealed that the brickearth [15] sealed the concrete. A piece of modern tarmac was found within its matrix. It is suggested that after the service was instated, brickearth removed as part of the landscaping works was used to raise the ground up in an area overly reduced.

8.5.5 A sequence of 0.30m of concrete and 0.12m of tarmac completed the ground make up in the trench, the top being at a height of 21.19m OD.

## **9 CONCLUSIONS**

- 9.1 Excavation of the five test trenches across the site revealed a sequence of naturally occurring gravel horizons to be overlain by brickearth. The lowest of these horizons was seen as loose shingle-type gravel exposed in test sondages at heights of between 19.69m OD and 20.38m OD. No archaeological finds, features or deposits were seen within this horizon.
- 9.2 The shingle was overlain by gravel varying in thickness between 0.44m and 1.02m at a height of between 20.66m OD and 21.01m OD. Landscaping conducted in the 1970s for the car park that dominated the majority of the centre and west of the site had removed the overlying brickearth and perhaps the top of the gravel as seen in the evaluation trenches excavated over this area.
- 9.3 The eastern side of the site had not been landscaped for the car park and as a result naturally occurring brickearth was observed in the trench and ends of trenches that extended into this area.
- 9.4 A posthole and shallow linear ditch were recorded as cut through this brickearth horizon in Trench 4. Dating evidence from both suggested them to be from the post-medieval period. It is considered that this represents the approximate north to south boundary feature that is visible over the eastern side of the study area on the map regression exercise (see Higgs 2008, Figures 4-8).
- 9.5 The impact from landscaping of the site for the car park has therefore been highly destructive with only shallow patches of residual brickearth remaining.
- 9.6 Following completion of the project the entire archive will be deposited with Spelthorne Museum under site code SPRS11.

## **10 BIBLIOGRAPHY**

### **10.1 Printed Sources**

Higgs, K. 2008. 'Park Road, Stanwell, Staines, Surrey: An Archaeological Desk-Based Assessment', Archaeological Solutions Ltd, unpublished report.

Institute of Field Archaeologists, revised 2001, 'Standards and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluations'

Mayo, C. 2011. 'Land at Park Road, Stanwell Staines, Surrey TW19 7PD: Method Statement For An Archaeological Evaluation', Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd, unpublished report

### **10.2 Other Sources**

Spelthorne Borough Council Website,

[http://www.spelthorne.gov.uk/environment\\_planning/planning/env\\_planning\\_planningpol/env\\_planning\\_localplan/env\\_planning\\_localplan\\_chapter4.htm](http://www.spelthorne.gov.uk/environment_planning/planning/env_planning_planningpol/env_planning_localplan/env_planning_localplan_chapter4.htm)

## **11 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

11.1 Pre-Construct Archaeology would like to thank CgMs Consulting who commissioned the work on behalf of Dominion Homes, and Gary Jackson of Surrey County Council for monitoring it.

11.2 Thanks also to Jennifer Simonson for the illustrations, and Chris Mayo who managed the project for PCA and edited this report. Marit Gaimster, Kevin Hayward and John Cotton provided information on the building materials and pottery. Site photography was undertaken by the author, and survey was provided by Nathalie Barrett. Lastly, thanks to Daniel Joyce for his work on site.



Figure 1  
 Site Location  
 1:20,000 at A4

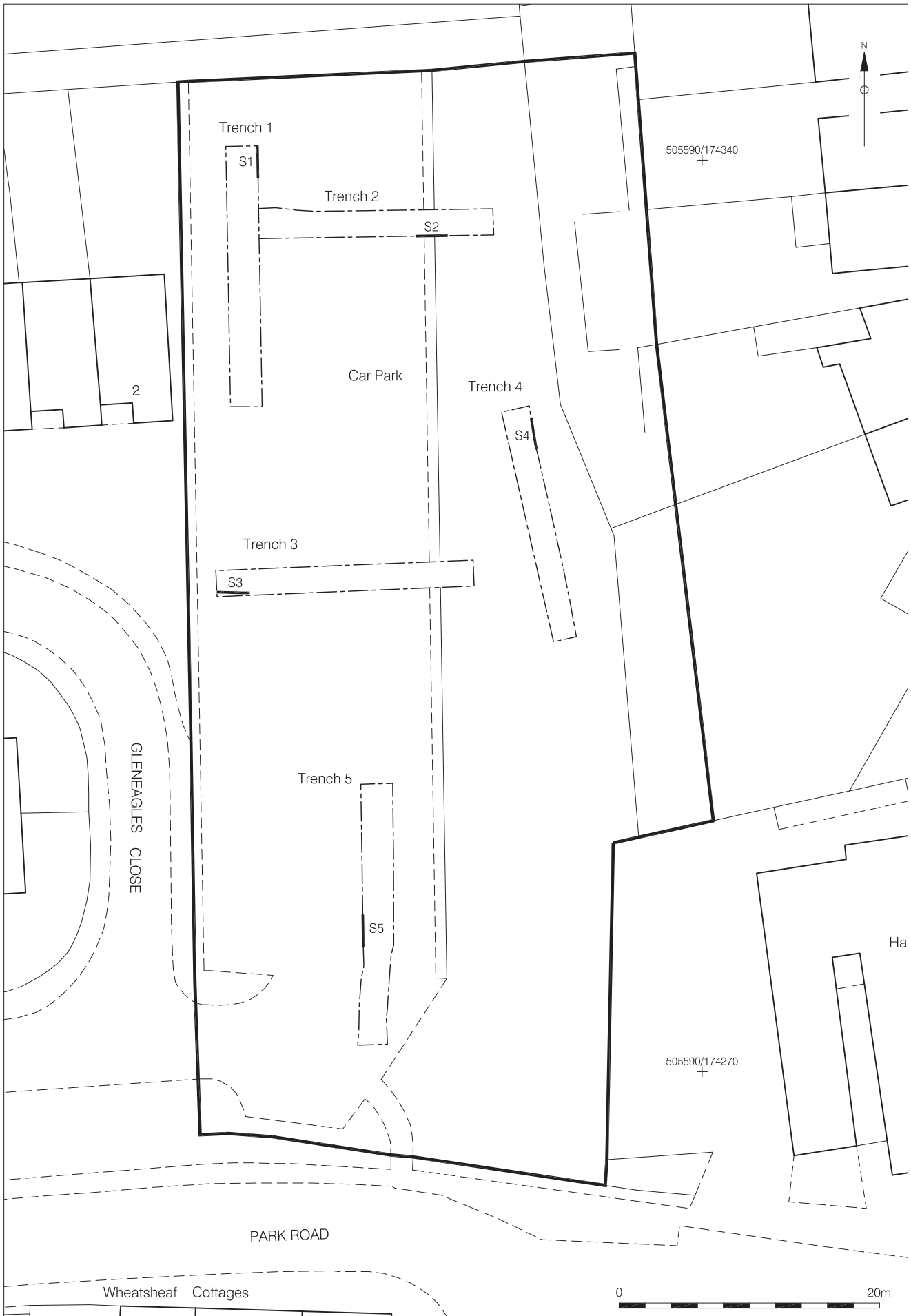
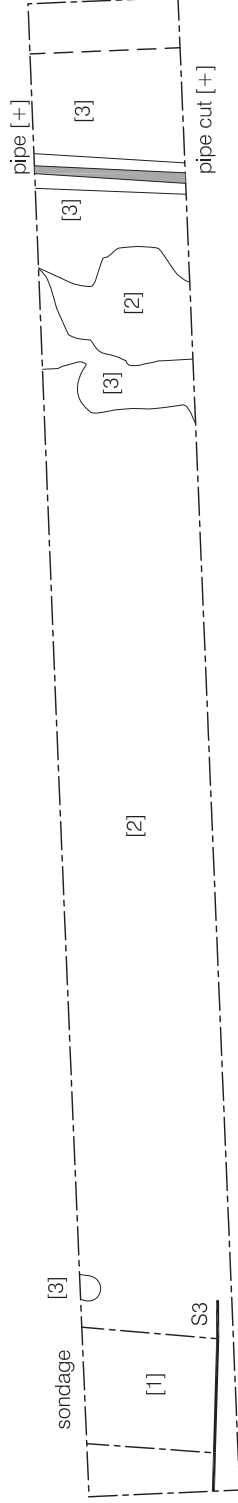


Figure 2  
 Trench Location  
 1:400 at A4



505553/174304

505572/174304



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Figure 3  
Trench 3  
1:100 at A4

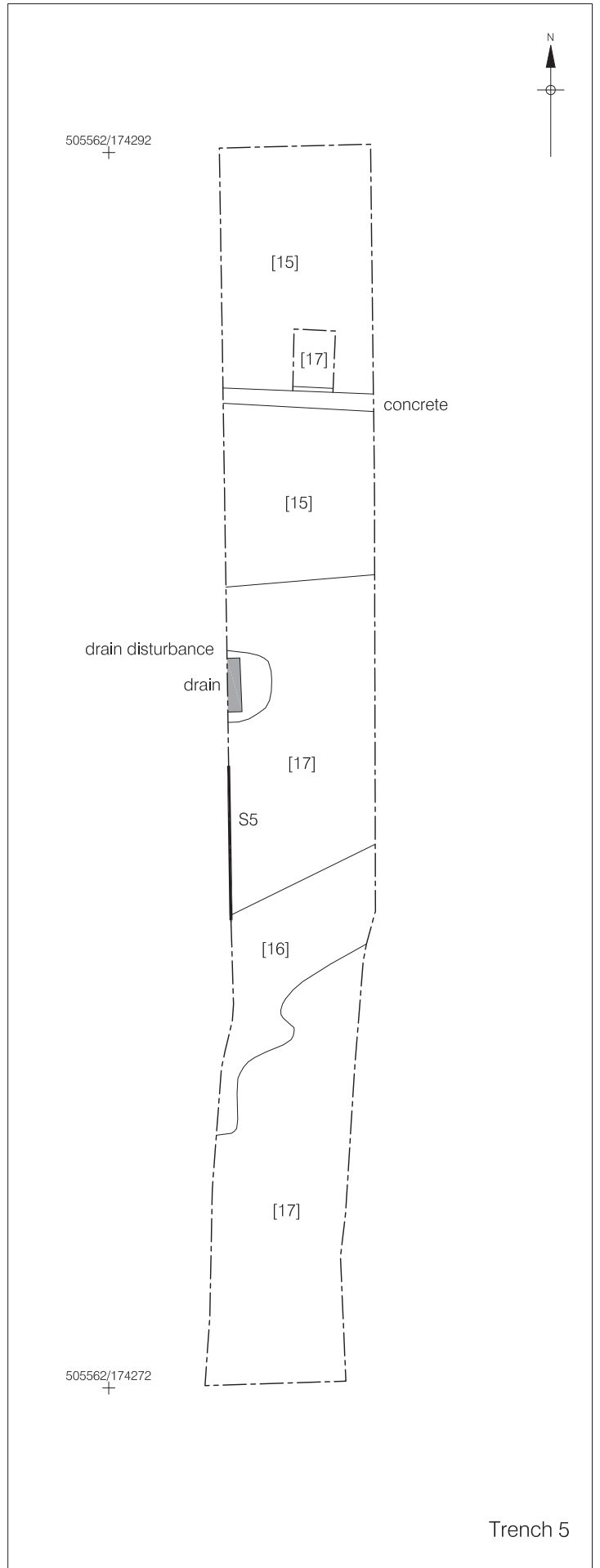
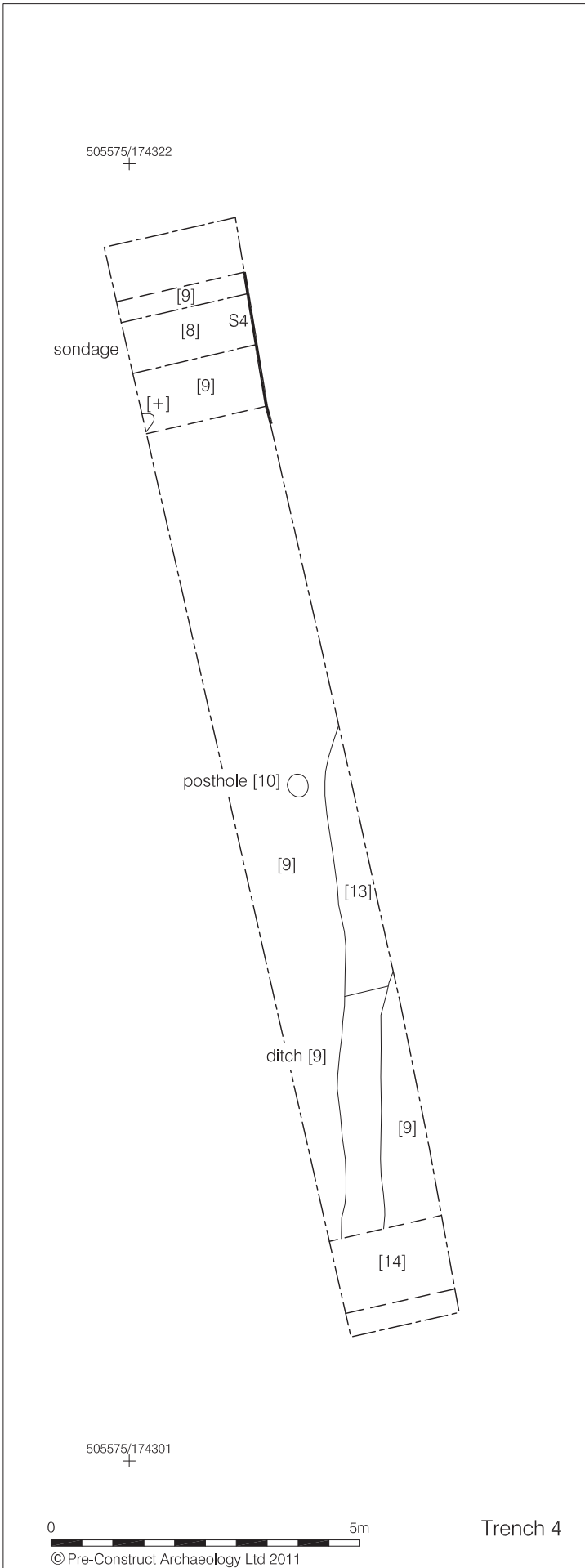
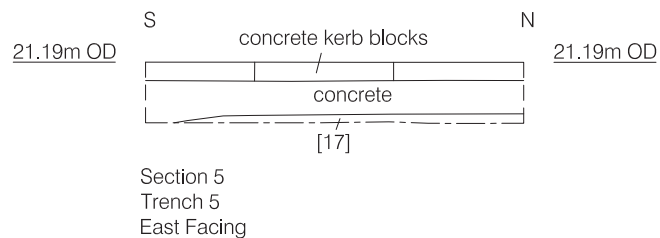
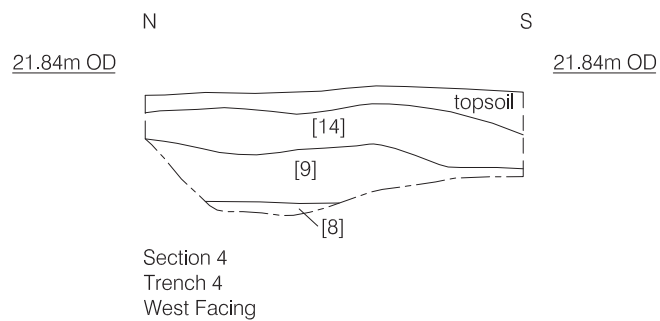
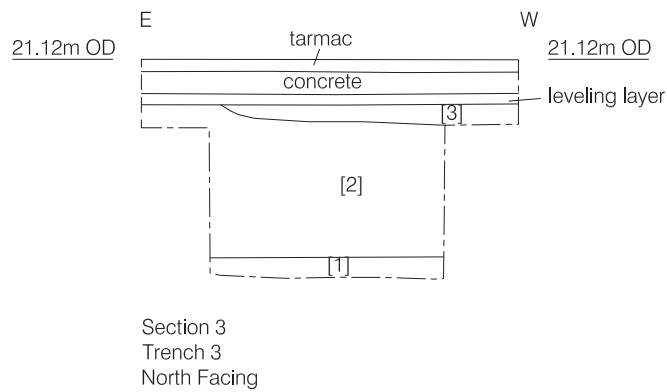
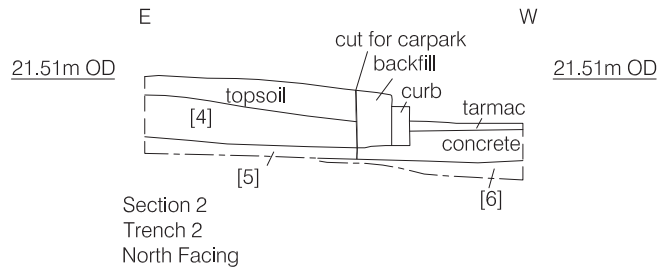
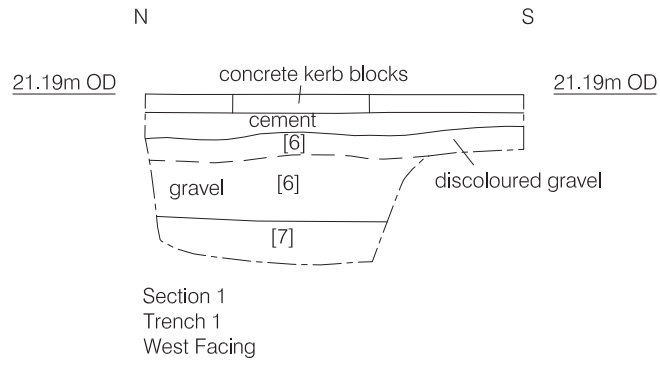


Figure 4  
Trenches 4 & 5  
1:100 at A4





**Plate 1: View of Trench 1, looking south with 2m scale**



**Plate 2: View of Trench 2, looking east with 2m scale**



**Plate 3: View of Trench 3, looking east with 2m scale**



**Plate 4: View of ditch [12], Trench 4, looking north with 2m scale**



**Plate 5: View of Posthole [10], Trench 4, looking east with 1m scale**



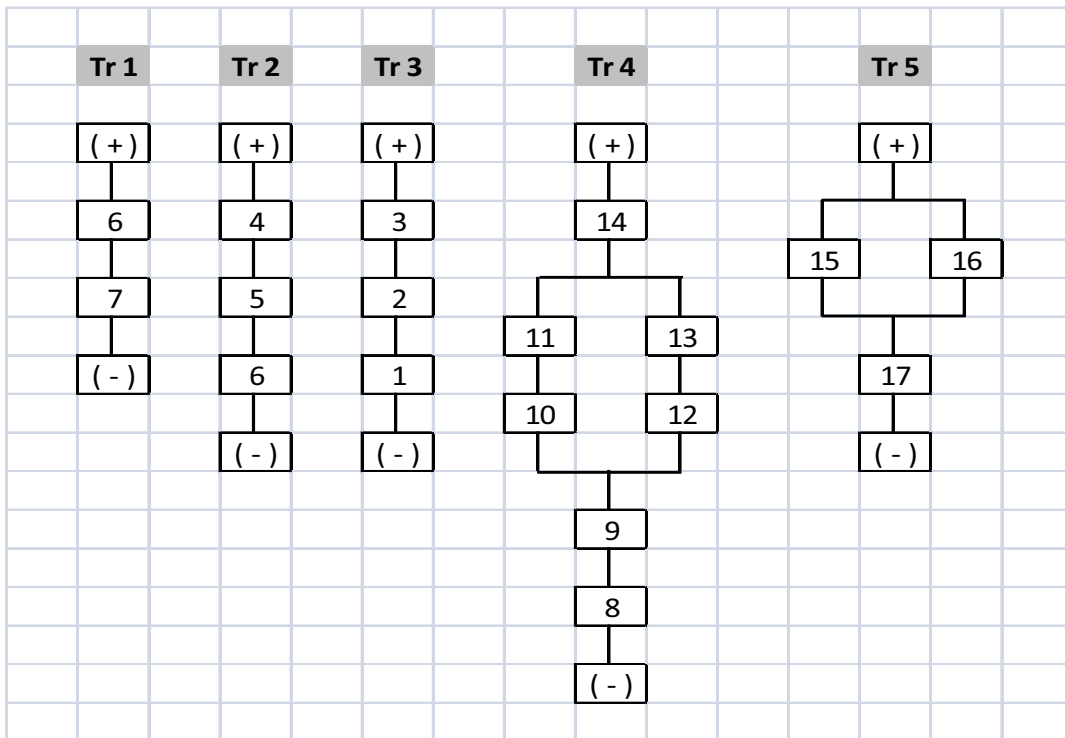
**Plate 6: View of Trench 5, looking north with 2m scale**



## APPENDIX 1: CONTEXT INDEX

Number	Type	Trench	Description
1	Layer	3	Natural shingle
2	Layer	3	Natural gravel
3	Layer	3	Brickearth
4	Layer	1 & 2	Subsoil
5	Layer	1 & 2	Brickearth
6	Layer	1 & 2	Natural gravel
7	Layer	1 & 2	Natural shingle
8	Layer	4	Natural gravel
9	Layer	4	Brickearth
10	Cut	4	Circular posthole FB [11]
11	Fill	4	Fill of [10]
12	Cut	4	Linear NW-SE ditch
13	Fill	4	Fill of [12]
14	Layer	4	Subsoil
15	Layer	5	Redeposited brickearth
16	Layer	5	Brickearth
17	Layer	5	Natural gravel

## APPENDIX 2: SITE MATRIX



## APPENDIX 3: OASIS REPORT FORM

OASIS ID: preconst1-113321

### Project details

Project name	LAND AT PARK ROAD, STANWELL, STAINES, SURREY, TW19 7PD: AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION
Short description of the project	The evaluation consisted of five trenches each measuring approximately 20m long by 1.8m wide, which were excavated to the surface of the natural geology. The trenches were evenly positioned in a manner designed to investigate the entirety of the study area. A shallow linear ditch, possibly a property or field boundary, and posthole were observed cut into naturally-occurring brickearth deposits. These deposits were only noted on the eastern side of the study area where truncation, presumed to be as a result of landscaping of the area for a car park, had not removed them entirely. The other trenches positioned across the car park area of the site revealed a sequence of modern concrete then tarmac to overlie natural gravel deposits.
Project dates	Start: 24-10-2011 End: 28-10-2011
Previous/future work	No / Not known
Any associated project reference codes	SPRS11 - Sitecode
Type of project	Field evaluation
Site status	Local Authority Designated Archaeological Area
Current Land use	Other 13 - Waste ground
Current Land use	Transport and Utilities 2 - Other transport infrastructure
Monument type	DITCH Uncertain
Monument type	POSTHOLE Post Medieval
Significant Finds	POTTERY Uncertain
Significant Finds	CBM Post Medieval
Methods & techniques	'Sample Trenches'
Development type	Urban residential (e.g. flats, houses, etc.)
Development type	Car park (flat)
Prompt	Direction from Local Planning Authority - PPS
Position in the planning process	After full determination (eg. As a condition)

### Project location

Country	England
Site location	SURREY SPELTHORNE STAINES Land at Park Road, Stanwell
Postcode	TW19 7PD
Study area	2800.00 Square metres
Site coordinates	TQ 0555 7431 51.4574208052 -0.480615030529 51 27 26 N 000 28 50 W Point
Lat/Long Datum	Unknown
Height OD / Depth	Min: 19.69m Max: 21.08m

### Project creators

Name of Organisation	Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd
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Project brief originator	CgMs Consulting
Project design originator	Chris Mayo
Project director/manager	Chris Mayo
Project supervisor	Richard Humphrey
Type of sponsor/funding body	Developer
Name of sponsor/funding body	Dominion Homes

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#### **Project archives**

Physical Archive recipient	Spelthorne Museum
Physical Contents	'Animal Bones','Ceramics'
Digital Archive recipient	Spelthorne Museum
Digital Contents	'Stratigraphic'
Digital Media available	'Images raster / digital photography','Images vector','Spreadsheets','Text'
Paper Archive recipient	Spelthorne Museum
Paper Contents	'Stratigraphic'
Paper Media available	'Context sheet','Notebook - Excavation',' Research',' General Notes','Plan','Section'

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#### **Project bibliography 1**

Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title	LAND AT PARK ROAD, STANWELL, STAINES, SURREY, TW19 7PD: AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION
Author(s)/Editor(s)	Humphrey, R.
Date	2011
Issuer or publisher	Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd.
Place of issue or publication	London
Description	A4 client document

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Entered by	Chris Mayo (cmayo@pre-construct.com)
Entered on	9 November 2011

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