

DOCUMENT VERIFICATION

18-28 OYSTER LANE, BYFLEET,
SURREY

EVALUATION

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**An Archaeological Evaluation at 18-28 Oyster Lane, Byfleet, Surrey,
KT14**

**Site Code: SOLB 06
Central National Grid Reference: TQ 0640 6110**

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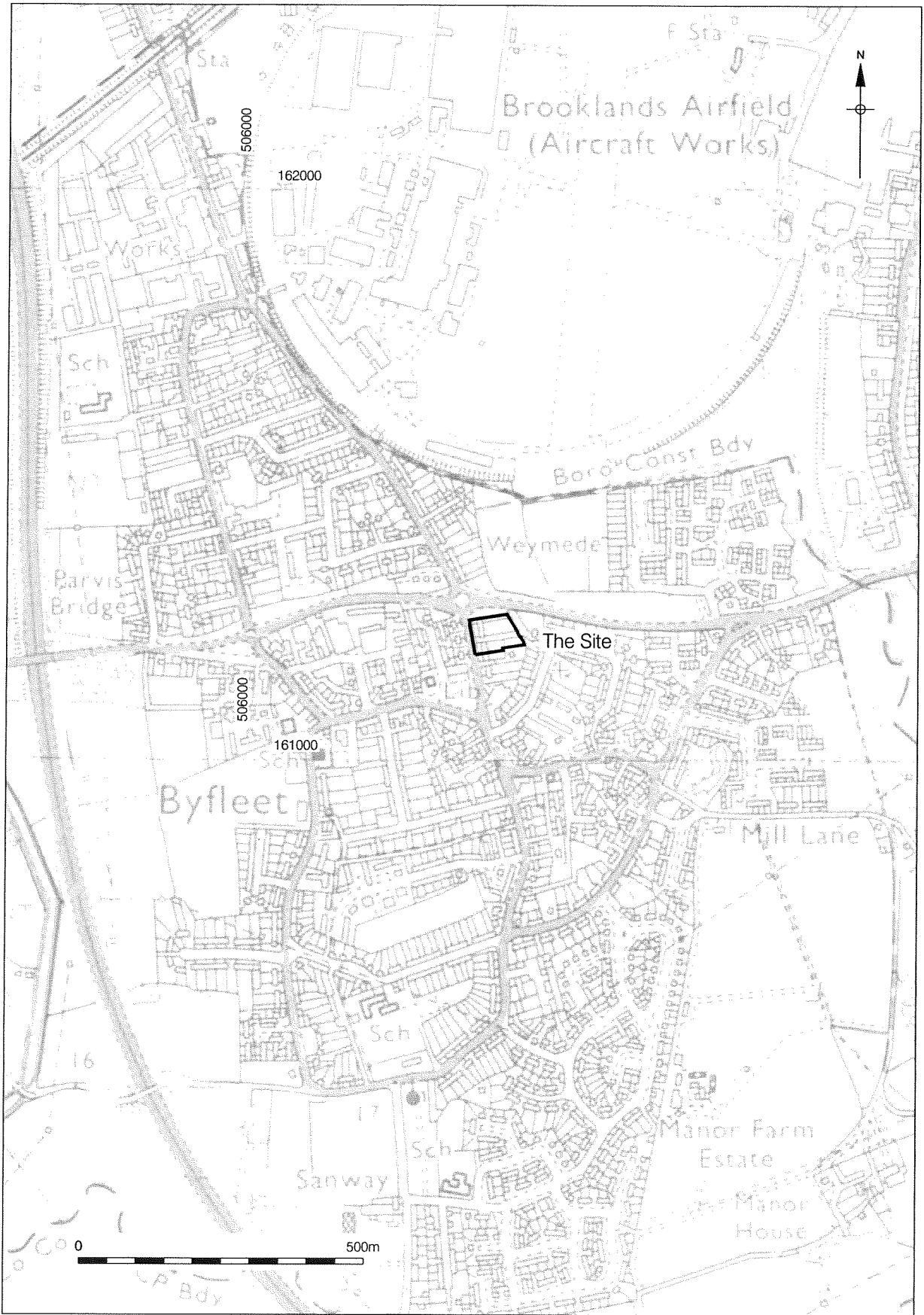
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1 ABSTRACT

- 1.1 An archaeological evaluation was undertaken by Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd. at 18-28 Oyster Lane, Byfleet, Surrey, KT14. The evaluation was conducted between 24th and 26th April 2006, in advance of the redevelopment of the site. The work was commissioned by Richard Meager of CgMs Consulting.
- 1.2 The evaluation consisted of four trial trenches, aimed at coverage of the eastern half of the site to avoid previous development, which revealed natural gravel overlain by natural sand deposits and topsoil.

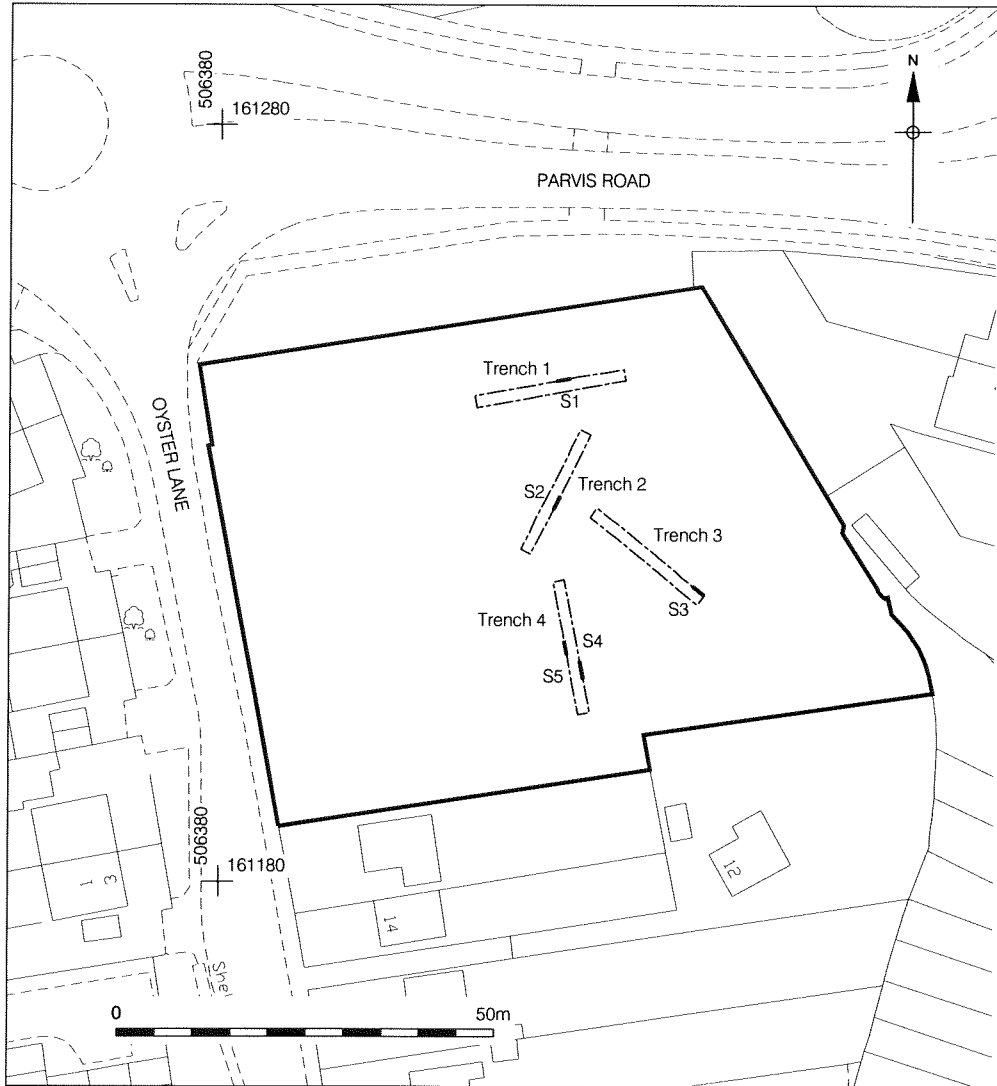
2 INTRODUCTION

- 2.1 This report details the results and working methods of an archaeological evaluation undertaken by Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd at 18-28 Oyster Lane, Byfleet, Surrey, KT14. (see location map, Fig. 1). The evaluation was commissioned by Richard Meager of CgMs Consulting in advance of the redevelopment of the site.
- 2.2 The evaluation covers an area of land centred on National Grid Reference TQ 0641 6110. The land was previously used as residential houses. The site is bounded to the east by residential houses and gardens, to the north by Parvis Road, to the west by Oyster Lane and to the south by residential buildings Oyster Lane. The archaeological evaluation involved the excavation and recording of four trial trenches, targeted to avoid previous development in the west side of the site (see trench location map, Fig. 2).
- 2.3 The evaluation was conducted between 24th and 26th April 2006 and followed a written specification prepared by Richard Meager of CgMs Consulting. The fieldwork was supervised by the author, Neil Hawkins, under the Project Management of Chris Mayo. The site was monitored by Gary Jackson of Surrey County Council.
- 2.4 The completed archive comprising written, drawn and photographic records and artefacts will be deposited at the Brooklands Museum in Weybridge.
- 2.5 The site was allocated the site code SOLB 06.



Reproduced from Ordnance Survey 1:25,000. Crown Copyright 1985.

Figure 1
Site Location
1:10 000



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Figure 2
Trench Location
1:1000

3 PLANNING BACKGROUND

3.1 ARCHAEOLOGY IN SURREY AND THE UDP

3.1.1 In November 1990 the Department of the Environment issued Planning Policy Guidance Note 16 (PPG16) "Archaeology and Planning", providing guidance for planning authorities, property owners, developers and others on the preservation and investigation of archaeological remains.

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 PPG16, by current Development Plan policy and by other material considerations.

3.2 The Surrey Structure Plan 2004 was approved by the County Council on 19 October 2004 and adopted on 4 December when it came into operation. The plan contains the following policy relevant to archaeological issues:

POLICY SE5

PROTECTING THE HERITAGE

SURREY'S VALUABLE CULTURAL HERITAGE OF BUILDINGS, SITES AND LANDSCAPES WILL BE CONSERVED AND ENHANCED. HERITAGE RESOURCES ARE IRREPLACEABLE AND DEVELOPMENT AFFECTING THEM WILL ONLY BE PERMITTED WHERE IT HAS BEEN CLEARLY DEMONSTRATED THAT THERE IS AN OVERRIDING NEED FOR THE PROPOSAL WHICH OUTWEIGHS THE NEED TO PROTECT THE HERITAGE INTEREST, AND THAT NO ALTERNATIVE IS POSSIBLE. PRIOR ARCHAEOLOGICAL ASSESSMENT, AND IF NECESSARY EVALUATION, WILL BE REQUIRED ON ALL DEVELOPMENT SITES OVER 0.4 HECTARES OR WITHIN AREAS OF HIGH ARCHAEOLOGICAL POTENTIAL. WHERE IMPORTANT ARCHAEOLOGICAL REMAINS ARE FOUND, THERE WILL BE A PREFERENCE FOR THEIR PRESERVATION IN SITU. A RECORD WILL BE REQUIRED OF ANY FEATURES DISCOVERED, REMOVED OR ALTERED.

3.3 Woking Borough Council published its adopted Local Plan in August 1999. The local plan contains the following archaeological policy relevant to the study site:

BE16 – Areas of Archaeological Potential

DEVELOPMENT WILL NOT BE PERMITTED IN AREAS OF HIGH ARCHAEOLOGICAL POTENTIAL, AS SHOWN ON THE PROPOSALS MAP, UNLESS THE FOLLOWING CRITERIA ARE COMPLIED WITH:

- 1. A DEVELOPER WILL BE REQUIRED TO COMMISSION AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL ASSESSMENT AND WHERE NECESSARY EVALUATION OF THE SITE SO THAT SUFFICIENT INFORMATION IS**

AVAILABLE FOR THE DETERMINATION OF THE PLANNING APPLICATION;

- 2 PRIORITY WILL BE GIVEN TO THE PRESERVATION OF REMAINS IN SITU. WHERE THE COUNCIL IS SATISFIED THAT THIS IS NOT JUSTIFIED A DEVELOPER WILL BE REQUIRED TO MAKE SUITABLE ARRANGEMENTS FOR A FULL ARCHAEOLOGICAL INVESTIGATION OF THE SITE AND RECORD OF THE REMAINS PRIOR TO DEVELOPMENT.**

ON ALL DEVELOPMENT SITES OF OVER 0.4 HECTARES (1 ACRE) AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION AND INVESTIGATION IN ACCORDANCE WITH CRITERIA (i) AND (ii) WILL BE NECESSARY IF, IN THE OPINION OF THE COUNTY ARCHAEOLOGIST, AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL ASSESSMENT DEMONSTRATES THAT THE SITE HAS ARCHAEOLOGICAL POTENTIAL.

- 3.4 As the study site is marginally larger than 0.4 hectares, this report seeks to fulfil the 'archaeological assessment' sections of policies SE5 and BE17.

4 GEOLOGY AND TOPOGRAPHY

- 4.1 The British Geological Survey Sheet 269 (Windsor 1999) and Sheet 285 (Guildford 2001) shows that the underlying geology of the study site consists of Kempton Park Gravels, the Second River Terrace Deposit, over Bracklesham Beds of the Bagshot formation¹.
- 4.2 The topography of the site shows a slight drop from north to south. This is illustrated by a spotheight of 16.2m AOD at the junction of Oyster Lane and Petersham Avenue to the north, and a spotheight of 15.6m AOD south of the junction of Oyster Lane and Binfield Road².

¹ Meager, 2005

² ibid

5 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

5.1 Palaeolithic

- 5.1.1 A late Palaeolithic flint point with a retouched edge, was found at 16 Church Road, Byfleet, southeast of the site³.

5.2 Mesolithic

- 5.2.1 A residual Mesolithic projectile point and an undated ditch were located during an archaeological evaluation in the Byfleet area. Wymer lists a Mesolithic flint blade from Brooklands racetrack to be held at Birmingham University, and a flint blade from the motor track 'near the footbridge' is on display at Weybridge Museum⁴.

5.3 Neolithic

- 5.3.1 A Neolithic leaf shaped arrowhead was discovered at St Mary's Church, Byfleet, southwest of the site. A Neolithic flint scraper was also found at the Brewery Lane allotments, southwest of the site⁵.

5.4 Iron Age

- 5.4.1 An Iron Age metal item, possibly a bronze coin, was located at Winern Glebe, southwest of the site. An iron sword was found at an unspecified location in Byfleet⁶.

5.5 Roman

- 5.5.1 Sixteen Roman coins (dated to the third and fourth centuries AD) and two fragments of a pottery lamp were found at Winern Glebe, southwest of the site⁷.

³ Meager & Hawkins, 2005

⁴ ibid

⁵ ibid

⁶ ibid

⁷ ibid

5.6 Saxon/Early Medieval/Medieval

- 5.6.1 Plough Bridge Farm, east of the study site, is thought to have been a moated site, attested by eighteenth century maps. The area of the site lies north of the church and away from the early village core of Byfleet. During these periods the study site is thought to have lain in agricultural land⁸.

5.7 Post-Medieval & Modern

- 5.7.1 Early cartographic sources for the site show it to lie in open land on the east side of Oyster Lane, north of the village centre. This is shown on John Senex's Survey of 1729, John Rocque's map of 1768, Lindley & Crossley's plan of 1793, the Ordnance Survey One inch map of 1811, and Charles & John Greenwood's survey dated 1823⁹.
- 5.7.2 The Byfleet Tithe map of 1841 demonstrates that the site lay at that time in open fields east of Oyster Lane. Apportionment reference 169 lists the name of the field as 'A Long Brook' and the type of cultivation as 'pasture'¹⁰.
- 5.7.3 The First Edition Ordnance Survey shows the study site to remain in open fields. This remains identical on subsequent Ordnance Surveys including the Second Edition of 1896, a Special Edition of 1912, and the Third Edition dated 1914. Oyster Lane was transformed from a quiet rural road into a major thoroughfare after the construction of the Brooklands racetrack, north of the site, from 1905 onwards¹¹.
- 5.7.4 Development in Byfleet in the 1930's caused massive expansion of the settlement. Nikolas Pevsner described much of the twentieth century's building contribution to Byfleet as 'beneath contempt'. The 1932 Revised Edition Ordnance Survey map shows the site to be occupied by detached houses fronting Oyster Lane, with rear gardens to the eastern boundary¹².
- 5.7.5 The 1972 Ordnance Survey Map shows the site with additional ancillary buildings in the rear gardens of nos. 24-28 Oyster Lane. Parvis Road has been built along the northern boundary, and a roundabout junction with Oyster Lane has been laid out immediately to the northwest¹³.

⁸ ibid
⁹ ibid
¹⁰ ibid
¹¹ ibid
¹² ibid
¹³ ibid

6 METHODOLOGY

- 6.1 The excavation of four trenches was outlined in the specification¹⁴. The fieldwork was designed to assess the presence or absence of significant archaeological remains, which may require further investigation.
- 6.2 All trenches were machine excavated with a JCB mechanical excavator fitted with a flat-bladed ditching bucket, under the supervision of an archaeologist. The maximum dimensions of the trenches are shown in Table 1. Once archaeologically sensitive deposits or features were encountered, machining was stopped to allow archaeologists to clean with hand tools as necessary and record the remains.

Trench Number	Max Dimensions (m)	Max height (m OD)
1	20.00m x 1.70m	15.57
2	18.00m x 1.70m	15.45
3	18.00m x 1.70m	15.34
4	18.00m x 1.70m	15.65

Table 1: Trench Dimensions

- 6.3 Recording was undertaken using the single context planning method. All features and deposits observed were planned and recorded onto *pro forma* context record sheets. Contexts were numbered sequentially and are shown in this report within square brackets. Plans and sections were drawn at a scale of 1:10 or 1:20 as appropriate. A general photographic survey of the site and working conditions was taken.
- 6.4 A temporary benchmark, 15.69m OD, was traversed onto the site from the Ordnance Survey Benchmark of 16.11m OD, located on the eastern corner of 104 Brewery Lane.

¹⁴ Meager, 2005

7 ARCHAEOLOGICAL SEQUENCE

7.1 Phase 1 – Natural Gravels

7.1.1 The earliest deposit encountered throughout Trenches 1-4 was the Kempton Park Gravels, [1]. In Trench 1 it was encountered at 14.11m OD, Trench 2 at 14.17m OD and Trench at 3 14.16m OD. In Trench 4 the gravel was encountered at a highest level of 15.15m OD at its southern end and then sloped down to 14.49m OD at the northern end. This suggests that an area of higher ground exists to the south of the site, and that the gravel then slopes down to the north.

7.2 Phase 2 – Natural Sand Deposits

7.2.1 Sealing the natural gravels in Trenches 1-4 were a sequence of natural sand deposits. In Trench 1 natural sand layers [2], [3] and [4] sealed the gravel and were encountered at a highest level of 14.92m OD; this sequence had an overall thickness of 0.82m. In Trench 2 natural sand layers [6], [7], [8], [9] and [10] sealed the gravel and were encountered at a highest level of 15.05m OD; this sequence had an overall thickness of 0.95m. In Trench 3 natural sand layers [15], [16], [17], [18] and [19] sealed the gravel and were encountered at a highest level of 14.99m OD; this sequence had an overall thickness 0.83m. In Trench 4 natural sand layers [11], [12] and [13] sealed the gravel and were encountered at a highest level of 15.23m OD; this sequence had an overall thickness of 0.62m.

7.3 Phase 3 – Modern

7.3.1 Sealing the natural sand deposits in Trenches 1-4 was a layer of modern topsoil. In Trench 1 this was encountered at 15.57m OD and was 0.40m thick. In Trench 2 it was encountered at 15.45m OD and was 0.35m thick. In Trench 3 it was encountered at 15.34m OD and was 0.40m thick. In Trench 4 it was encountered at 15.65m OD and was 0.40m thick.

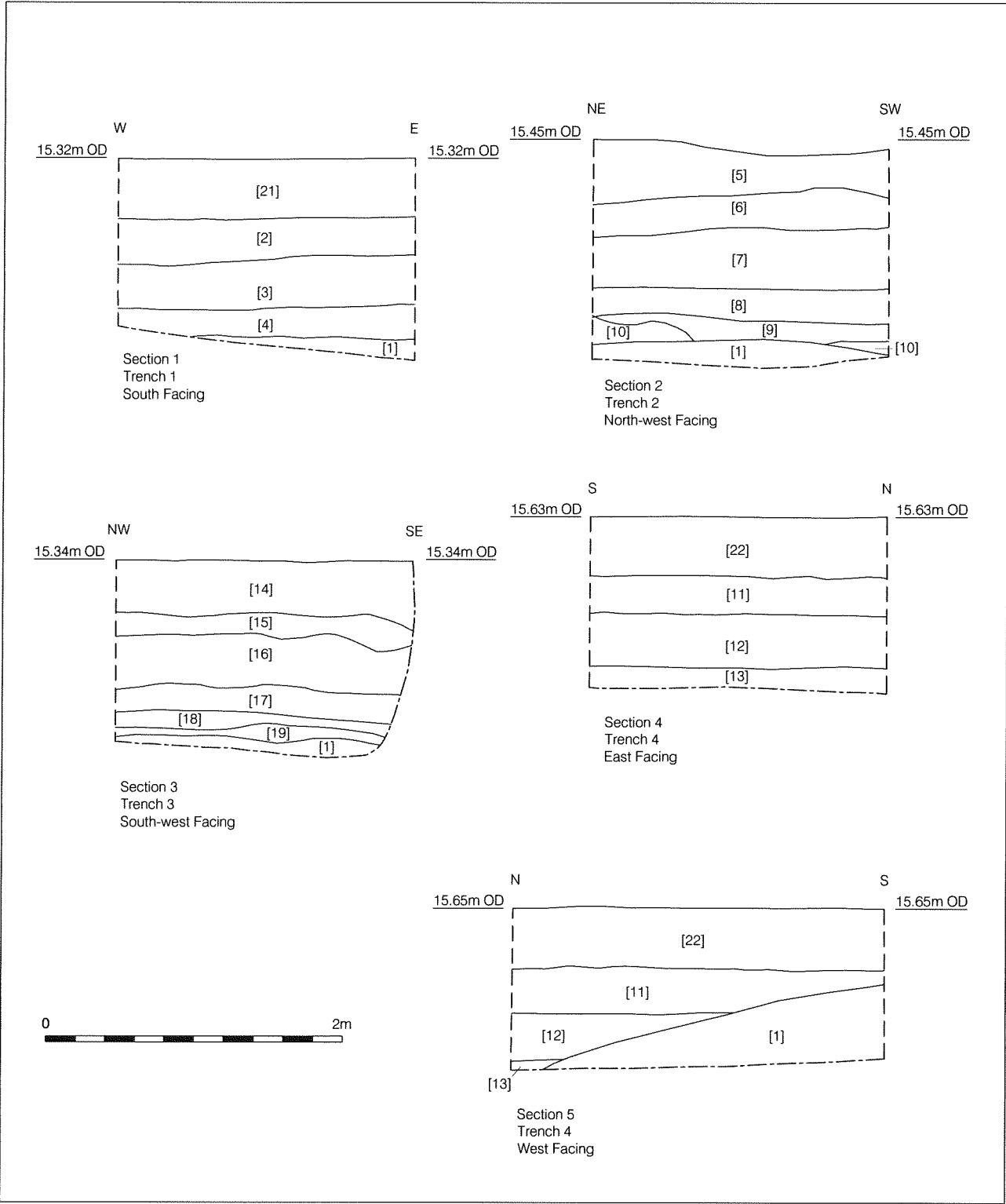


Figure 3
Sections 1-5
1:40

8 TRENCH SUMMARY

8.1 TRENCH 1

8.1.1 Trench 1 revealed natural gravel overlain by natural sand deposits, sealed by modern topsoil.

8.2 TRENCH 2

8.2.1 Trench 2 revealed natural gravel overlain by natural sand deposits, sealed by modern topsoil.

8.3 TRENCH 3

8.3.1 Trench 3 revealed natural gravel overlain by natural sand deposits, sealed by modern topsoil.

8.4 TRENCH 4

8.4.1 Trench 4 revealed natural gravel overlain by natural sand deposits, sealed by modern topsoil.

9 CONCLUSIONS

- 9.1.1 The evaluation revealed natural deposits in all trenches consistent with the underlying Kempton Park gravels. No evidence for human activity was encountered within any of the evaluation trenches.
- 9.1.2 The distinct lack of evidence of human activity or any archaeological features encountered during the evaluation complies with the overall archaeological potential of the site. The archaeological potential within a 1km radius of site was low to moderate, highlighted by a few prehistoric findspots from the SMR. Two other archaeological investigations within the area also encountered nothing of archaeological interest. This all attests to the lack of activity within the localised area until the early 20th century.
- 9.1.3 The profile of the natural topography revealed a discrepancy with the current ground level, with the natural gravels sloping from south to north.

10 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

- 10.1 Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited would like to thank Richard Meager of CgMs Consulting for commissioning the work.
- 10.2 Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited would also like to thank Gary Jackson of Surrey County Council for monitoring the work.
- 10.3 The author would also like to thank the field staff Tom O’Gorman, Adrian Nash for the illustrations, Fiona Keith-Lucas for the surveying, Lisa Lonsdale for the logistics and Chris Mayo for his project management and editing.

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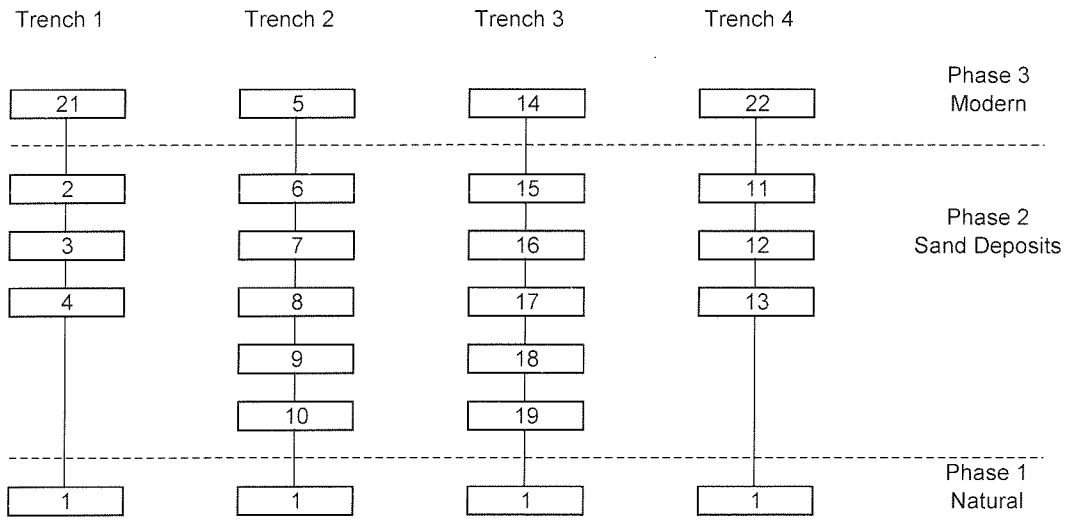
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APPENDIX 1: CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS

Context No.	Type	Trench	Phase	Description
1	Layer	All	1	Natural gravel
2	Layer	1	2	Natural sand
3	Layer	1	2	Natural sand
4	Layer	1	2	Natural sand
5	Layer	2	3	Topsoil
6	Layer	2	2	Natural sand
7	Layer	2	2	Natural sand
8	Layer	2	2	Natural sand
9	Layer	2	2	Natural sand
10	Layer	2	2	Natural sand
11	Layer	4	2	Natural sand
12	Layer	4	2	Natural sand
13	Layer	4	2	Natural sand
14	Layer	3	3	Topsoil
15	Layer	3	2	Natural Sand
16	Layer	3	2	Natural Sand
17	Layer	3	2	Natural Sand
18	Layer	3	2	Natural Sand
19	Layer	3	2	Natural Sand
20	VOID			
21	Layer	1	3	Topsoil
22	Layer	4	3	Topsoil

APPENDIX 2: SITE MATRIX



APPENDIX 3: OASIS FORM

OASIS ID: preconst1-14736

Project details

Project name Oyster Lane, Byfleet

Short description of the project An Archaeological Evaluation at 18-28 Oyster Lane, Byfleet, Surrey.
Four evaluation trenches encountered natural gravel overlain by natural sand deposits, sealed by modern topsoil.

Project dates Start: 24-04-2006 End: 26-04-2006

Previous/future work No / No

Any associated project reference codes SOLB06 - Sitecode

Type of project Field evaluation

Site status Local Authority Designated Archaeological Area

Current Land use Residential 1 - General Residential

Methods & techniques 'Targeted Trenches'

Development type Urban residential (e.g. flats, houses, etc.)

Prompt Direction from Local Planning Authority - PPG16

Position in the
planning process Not known / Not recorded

Project location

Country England

Site location SURREY WOKING BYFLEET Oyster Lane, Byfleet

Postcode KT14

Study area 3000.00 Square metres

National grid
reference TQ 0640 6110 Point

Height OD Min: 14.11m Max: 14.49m

Project creators

Name of
Organisation CgMs Consults Ltd

Project brief
originator CgMs Consulting

Project design
originator Richard Meager

Project Chris Mayo

director/manager

Project supervisor Neil Hawkins

Project archives

Physical Archive Local museum
recipient

Digital Archive Local museum
recipient

Digital Media 'Survey','Text'
available

Paper Archive Local Museum
recipient

Paper Media 'Context
available sheet','Drawing','Matrices','Photograph','Plan','Report','Section','Survey
'Unpublished Text'

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Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)

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