

**An Archaeological Evaluation at the I Stage, Shepperton Studios,
Spelthorne, Surrey**

Site Code: SHEP 05

Central National Grid Reference: TQ 0670 6870

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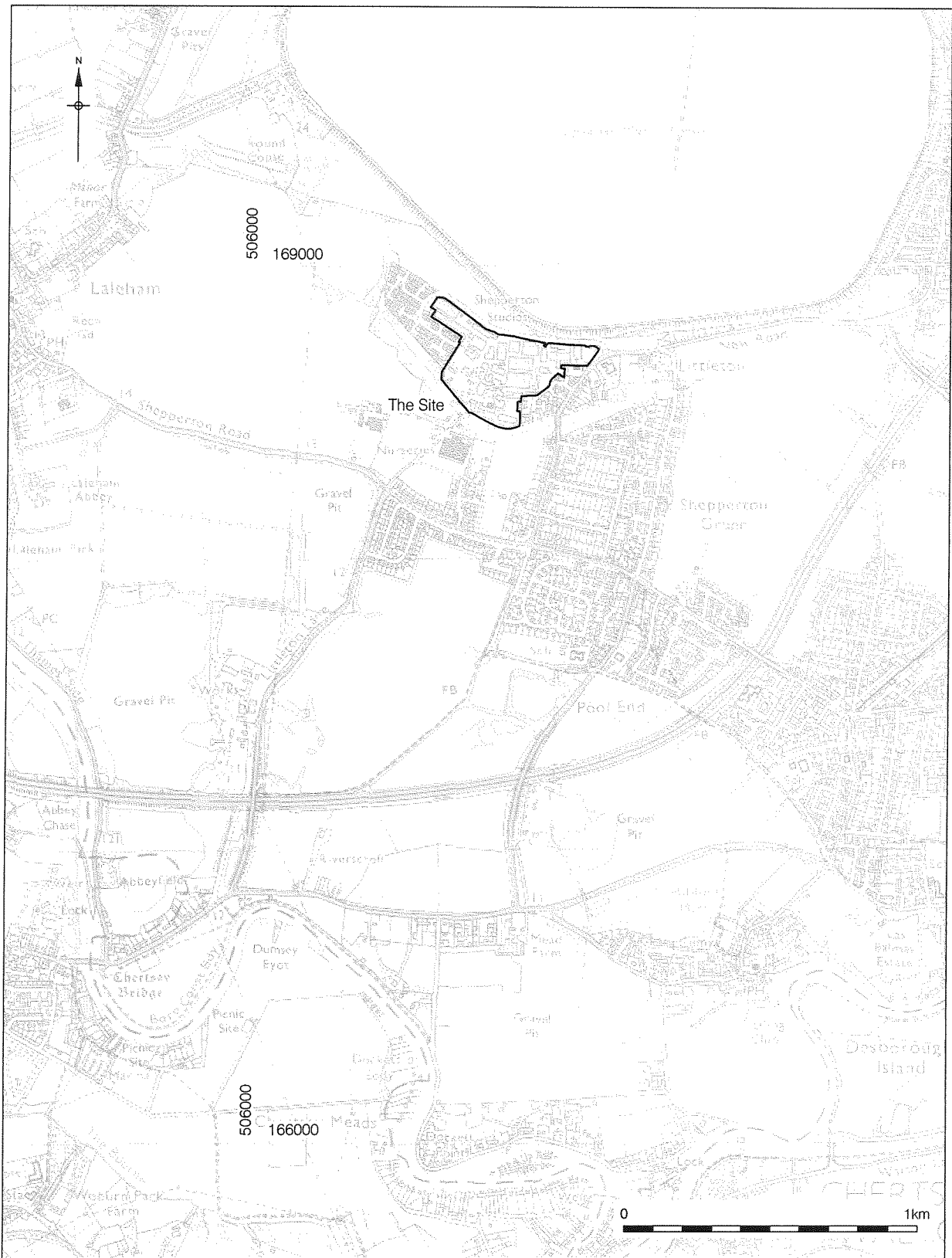
1 ABSTRACT

1.1 An archaeological evaluation was undertaken by Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd., at the 'I' Stage, Shepperton Studios, Spelthorne, Surrey, TW17. The evaluation was conducted between 23rd and 27th May 2005, in advance of the redevelopment of the site for a new film stage. The central National Grid Reference is TQ 0670 6870. The work was commissioned by Jon Bradley Ltd on behalf of Pinewood-Shepperton Limited. The site was supervised for Pre-Construct Archaeology by the author and project managed by Peter Moore.

1.2 The evaluation consisted of five trial trenches, aimed at comprehensive coverage of the site, located between the W Stage and the G Stage buildings. The trenches revealed natural terrace gravel and brickearth, overlain by 20th century deposits. No archaeological deposits or features were revealed.

2 INTRODUCTION

- 2.1 This report details the results and working methods of an archaeological evaluation undertaken by Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd at the I Stage, Shepperton Studios, Spelthorne, Surrey, TW17 (see site location map, Fig. 1). The evaluation was commissioned by Jon Bradley Ltd on behalf of Pinewood-Shepperton Limited, in advance of the redevelopment of the site for a new film stage.
- 2.2 The evaluation covers an area of land centred on National Grid Reference TQ 0670 6870. The land is currently occupied by warehouses and portakabins between the current W Stage and G Stage. The site is situated at the western end of Shepperton Studios and is bounded to the east by G Stage and E Stage and an access road, to the north by another access road and various portakabins, to the west by W Stage and residential buildings outside of Shepperton Studios and to the south by an access road. The archaeological evaluation involved the excavation and recording of five targeted trial trenches, one of which was subsequently abandoned, aimed at comprehensive coverage of the area of land between the W Stage and G Stage, which will be developed as the new 'I' Stage (see trench location map, Fig. 2).
- 2.3 The evaluation was conducted between 23rd and 27th of May 2005 and followed a written scheme of investigation prepared by Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd. The fieldwork was supervised by the author, Neil Hawkins, under the Project Management of Peter Moore. 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 appropriate local museum.
- 2.5 The site was allocated the site code SHEP 05.



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Figure 1
Site Location
1:20,000

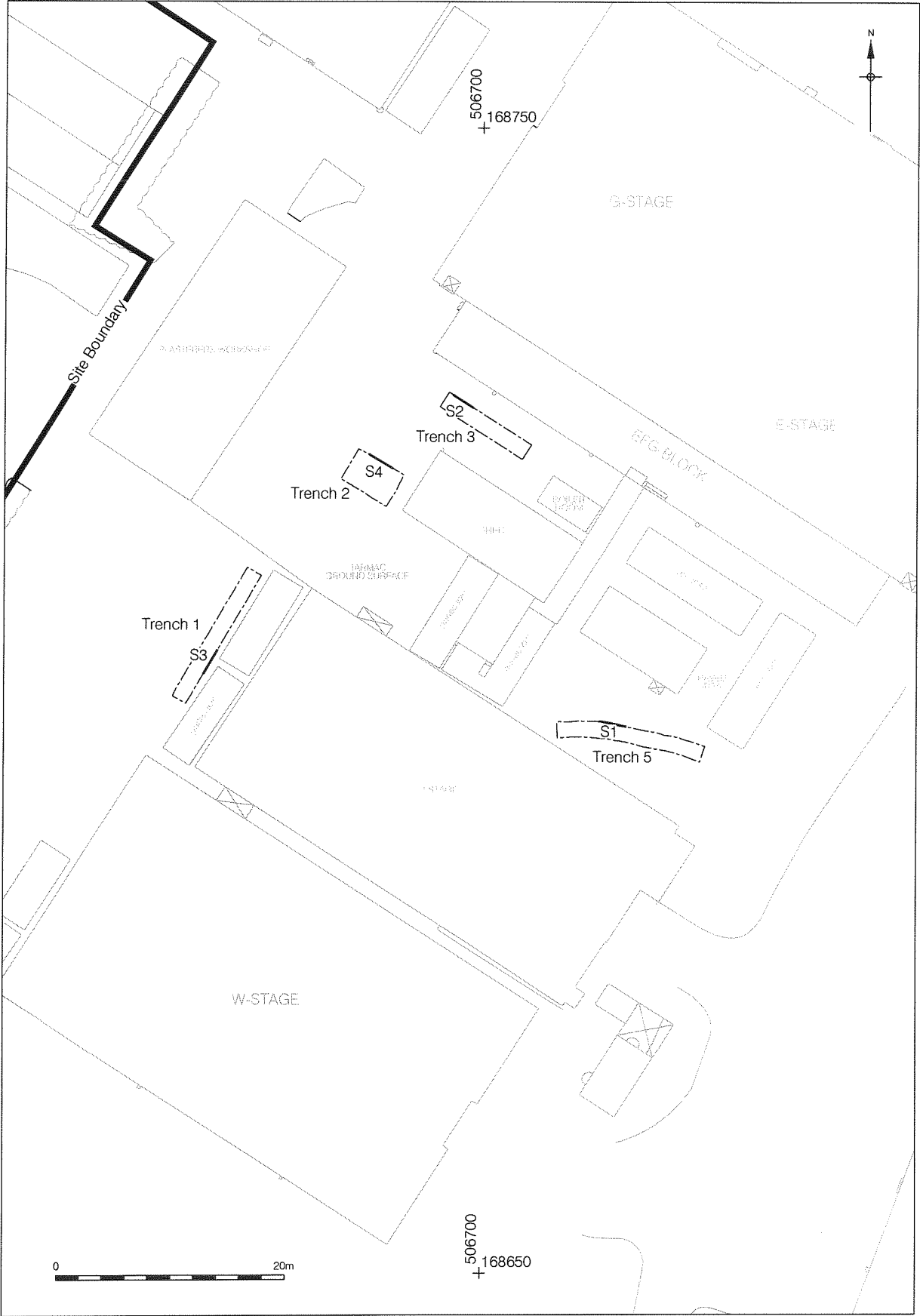


Figure 2
Trench Location
1:500

3 PLANNING BACKGROUND

3.1 Archaeology in the Borough of Spelthorne, Surrey

3.1.1 The study aims to satisfy the objectives of the Surrey County Council and Spelthorne Borough Council, which fully recognises the importance of the buried heritage for which they are the custodians. Surrey County Council's Structure Plan, 1994, and Spelthorne Borough Council's Local Plan - Replacement Plan 1995, contain policy statements in respect of protecting the buried archaeological resource.

3.1.2 The proposed development of the site is subject to the Council's Archaeology Policy:

3.1.3 Surrey Structure Plan

Policy PE13 Heritage records and archaeological investigation

An adequate record will be required to be made where development affecting buildings, parks and gardens, sites or areas referred to in Policy PE12 is permitted.

Local plans will identify Sites and Areas of high Archaeological Potential within which prior archaeological evaluation will be required to provide information on the effects of development proposals on any archaeological or historical features of the site, enabling their preservation to be secured if justified.

Archaeological assessment or evaluation will also be required prior to development on sites of 0.4 hectares or more. Where archaeological remains are identified which cannot be preserved *in situ*, proper archaeological investigation will be required prior to development.

Para. 3.44 Archaeological and historic sites and buildings are non-renewable sources of information about Surrey's past. Every effort should therefore be made to preserve this resource. When physical preservation is not possible, preservation as a record is essential as information once destroyed is lost forever.

Para. 3.46 Large scale development proposals should be assessed initially against the Sites and Monuments Record, the record of known sites and finds in the County, maintained by the County Council. Where appropriate, such proposals should also be evaluated by fieldwork as they are likely to contain currently unknown archaeological or historic potential because of their size. This evaluation will provide the necessary information to determine the planning application and, where appropriate, the need to preserve the archaeological resource. Where archaeological remains are identified but cannot be preserved, a proper scheme of archaeological investigation will be required.

Spelthorne Borough Local Plan

- Policy BE27** There will be a presumption against any development which would adversely affect a scheduled ancient monument or its setting. Development adversely affecting a site or monument of County archaeological importance will not normally be permitted.

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 7. 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.

- Policy BE28** 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) where remains are to be left *in situ*, 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 if necessary, a full archaeological investigation and recording of the site 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.

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 investigation and allow for future preservation of remains as deemed appropriate.

- 3.1.4 The above policy statements mirror advice contained in the Department of Environment document 'Planning Policy Guidance: Archaeology and Planning (PPG

16)'. This document identifies the need for early consultation in the planning process to determine the impact of the construction schemes upon buried archaeological strata. Once the results of the Desktop Assessment and, where necessary or otherwise for follow-up trial work is known, an informed decision on the necessity or otherwise for further archaeological strategies may be taken. These strategies may be preservation *in situ*, excavation, or watching brief.

- 3.1.5 There were no Scheduled Ancient Monuments within the development site, but an area in the eastern part of the site fell within Surrey County Council's Areas of High Archaeological Potential due to previously recorded archaeological finds¹.
- 3.1.6 The size of the proposed development (larger than 0.4 hectares) also determines that archaeology will be a material consideration in determining any planning application for development on the site.

¹ Deeves, S., 2003

4 GEOLOGY AND TOPOGRAPHY

4.1 Geology

4.1.1 Geological maps indicate that the underlying geology consists of Quaternary Flood Plain Gravels which are overlaid in places by brickearth. Along the course of the River Ash, alluvium makes up the underlying geology, which may be encountered at the very southern limit of the site.

4.2 Topography

4.2.1 Across the area of the site, the land was generally flat with a gentle slope from the north-west to the south-east. The average height was 12.80m OD.

4.2.2 The site was occupied by a number of buildings and units associated with the film studios.

5 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

5.1 Palaeolithic

- 5.1.1 No Palaeolithic material has been recovered in the immediate vicinity of the study site.

5.2 Mesolithic

- 5.2.1 Mesolithic material is poorly represented in the vicinity of the site. A scatter of worked flints, including a Mesolithic tranchet axe, was recorded during excavations at the Saxon County School to the south of the study site.

5.3 Neolithic

- 5.3.1 The Neolithic period in north Surrey is characterised by small riverside sites, with the Thames as their focal point. This predominantly river-based economy is thought to have continued throughout the Neolithic period². The River Ash on the south side of the study site, plus other known ancient watercourses, would presumably have been able to support such a subsistence economy during this period.
- 5.3.2 In close proximity to the study site, Neolithic occupation is represented by sites at Staines Road Farm, Shepperton³, to the east and at Home Farm, Laleham⁴, to the west. At Staines Road Farm, in addition to settlement features, a ring-ditch was recorded with two associated burials, plus an 'avenue' marked by two rows of parallel pits. The Neolithic features excavated at Home Farm were thought to be settlement related, though there were some pits that may have been cremations. Further evidence of settlement and cremation activity revealed at Home Farm is thought to date from the Bronze Age although some of the features may be late Neolithic in date. An ancient watercourse is thought to have run to the north of the Home Farm site⁵.
- 5.3.3 A second ancient watercourse is thought to have run to the south-west of the study site, where a possible buried pool and a buried water course are recorded. Timber of

² Field and Cotton, 1987

³ Bird *et al*, 1990

⁴ Jackson *et al*, 1997; Jackson *et al*, 1999; Howe *et al*, 2000

Neolithic date was recovered from the latter. Also noted in the area were a stray find of a Neolithic axe, found in a back garden at Sheep Walk, Shepperton and a Neolithic deer antler hammer, recovered from a gravel pit on Littleton Lane.

5.4 Bronze Age

5.4.1 The fertile soils in the Thames Valley and its tributaries were a major focus of agricultural settlement during the Bronze Age. The environment in this region, particularly in the Late Bronze Age, consisted of predominantly open land with a lot of grassland, offering rich pastures⁶. Due to the richness of archaeological information from this period, it can be suggested there was an increase in population and denser settlement in the area.

5.4.2 Bronze Age activity has been identified close to the study site at Staines Road Farm and at Home Farm, both of which show continuity of occupation from the Neolithic. At Staines Road Farm, hollows containing Late Bronze Age potsherds were recorded to the west of the Neolithic ring ditch. More extensive evidence of Bronze Age settlement was recorded at Home Farm⁷. A variety of settlement-related features were dated to the Middle or Late Bronze Age, including cremation pits, postholes forming the ground plan of at least one roundhouse, a possible trackway, and a large settlement enclosure ditch. To the south of this settlement a number of ditches were recorded, plus a few isolated pits and a single cremation burial. These are thought to relate to field systems, away from the main focus of settlement⁸.

5.4.3 Recorded to the west of the study site, and found buried in the west bank of the Thames, were two crude urns containing bronze fragments, the points of a sword and dagger, and several parts of a scabbard. This find spot is located very close to the small camp at Laleham Burway⁹. In addition, and of particular note, Late Bronze Age cremations are recorded as being found at Shepperton Studios itself. These finds are centred on a location at the eastern end of the complex, although the current whereabouts of the material is unknown.

⁵ Jackson *et al.*, 1997

⁶ Needham, 1987

⁷ Jackson *et al.*, 1997; Jackson *et al.*, 1999; Howe *et al.*, 2000

⁸ Howe *et al.*, 2001

- 5.5.1 The settlement and land-use patterns established in the Late Bronze Age appear to continue into the early part of the Iron Age, although the evidence for Iron Age activity is more scant. At Shepperton Green, to the south of the study site, postholes representing an Early Iron Age roundhouse were recorded¹⁰. Possible Iron Age activity was also recorded to the north, at Matthew Arnold School, Staines. A geophysical survey in this area recorded a possible banjo enclosure, kiln site, and a large ditch¹¹.
- 5.5.2 Other Iron Age activity is represented by an iron knife, found to the east of Littleton Lane, and a pot and skeleton found east of Littleton Avenue. Two records of tin coin hoards are also attributed to the Iron Age, although they are likely to be the same hoard, with one of the records being erroneous. The first record locates the hoard at Jessiman Terrace, and describes it as a hoard of 317 tin coins plus 57 coin fragments, found in the fragments of at least three Iron Age pots. The second record locates the hoard on nearby Acacia Avenue, describing it as a total of 317 coins of 100-50BC date, alongside 56 fragments of pottery that originally constituted at least three pots.

5.6 Roman

- 5.6.1 The study site lies about 4-5km to the south-east of the nearest Roman town at *Pontes* (Staines), and so was probably in an area of small-scale agricultural settlements much like the Late Iron Age. Roman activity is recorded to the west of the study site at Home Farm, Laleham, in the form of at least one ditch¹², located in an area of earlier Neolithic and Bronze Age settlement. To the south of the study site, on the north side of the main road from Shepperton to Chertsey Bridge, a number of pits were recorded during gravel-pit works containing pottery of 2nd century date¹³. Further Roman activity in this area is suggested by geophysical survey carried out at Saxon County Junior School, which identified faint traces of stone walls, and a possible roundhouse and field system¹⁴.
- 5.6.2 Stray Roman finds in the area include a 1st century AD quern and animal bone, remains of Roman tessellated pavements, and Roman pottery. The tessellated pavement remains suggest there may have been a Roman villa somewhere near by,

¹⁰ Canham, 1979

¹¹ Howe *et al.*, 2001

¹² Jackson *et al.*, 1999

¹³ Frere, 1945

¹⁴ Howe *et al.*, 2001

particularly as it is located close to both the Thames and the Parish Boundary¹⁵.

'Roman material' is also recorded at Shepperton Studios itself, located close to the aforementioned Bronze Age cremations, although no further information is available and the current whereabouts of this material is unknown.

5.7 Saxon

- 5.7.1 Saxon cemeteries, with their origins in the 5th century, are known in the Shepperton area¹⁶. Two sites are recorded in the vicinity of the study site, both to the south. The first, a large cemetery, was recorded at Upper West Field, although evidence is limited due to the nature of the 19th century records. The earliest records of this site note many human bones and skulls, together with the hilt of a sword, an axehead and a dagger, as well as cremation urns. Subsequent work at this site records a group of eight inhumations, all supine and facing east, a flexed burial with pottery, and a warrior burial with an iron sword, iron shield boss and a spearhead. Overall, these records indicate a sizable mixed inhumation and cremation cemetery, with a latest date of c. 550 AD. Additional Saxon activity is represented by a lozenge-shaped iron spearhead, found close to the cemetery. The location of this site is again close to the Parish boundary between Shepperton and Littleton, which may hold significance¹⁷. Indeed, the presence of Romano-British activity in the close vicinity suggests that the Saxon settlers may have inherited land that had been drained and farmed for several centuries, with the parish boundaries preserving the boundaries of estates established in the pagan Saxon period or earlier¹⁸.
- 5.7.2 About a kilometre to the north of Upper West Field is the cemetery site at Shepperton Green, where at least twenty burials were recorded. All had their heads to the west and contained no grave goods. Although clearly Christian, the burials were considered to date to no later than c. 1000 AD. Associated with this cemetery was evidence of settlement, in the form of an 8th or 9th century *grubenhous* with associated ditch system, as well as an early Saxon midden and other pits and gullies¹⁹.
- 5.7.3 These cemeteries are thought to be representative of two separate settlements and, due to their dating, a shift of settlement from one to the other is quite possible²⁰. The

¹⁵ Longley and Poulton, 1982

¹⁶ Poulton, 1987

¹⁷ Longley and Poulton, 1982

¹⁸ Canham, 1979

¹⁹ *ibid.*

²⁰ Longley and Poulton, 1982

study site itself would presumably have lain in open agricultural land at this time, immediately across the estate boundary from Shepperton Green.

5.8 Medieval

- 5.8.1 Littleton is first mentioned by name about 1166, when it was held in the barony of William Blunt, Baron of Ixworth. Prior to this, it probably formed part of the parish of Laleham. It still formed part of the barony in the latter half of the 13th century, but appears to have been in the hands of the Abbey and Convent of Westminster by 1316²¹. The study site itself is located within these parish boundaries. Littleton village, directly to the east of the study site, has grown around the church of St. Mary Magdalene, first mentioned in 1209, although the earliest part of it probably dates to the 12th century²².
- 5.8.2 Shepperton Green, across the boundary in the parish of Shepperton, is first mentioned as Upper Shepperton in 1293. It existed throughout this period as a village along the narrow green, through which ran the road now known as Watersplash Road²³. Continuity of settlement from the Saxon period is apparent, due to evidence for rectangular timber buildings of 11th to 12th century date at the Shepperton Green site. However, since there is no reference to the place in the Domesday book, it must have been only a minor holding in the parish²⁴.
- 5.8.3 The only further archaeological evidence is of pottery and residual finds to the east of the study site. The study site itself was probably open agricultural land during this period.

5.9 Post-medieval

- 5.9.1 A 16th century well shaft was recorded at Glen Close, Shepperton. This was thought to have supplied fresh water to the former Manor Farm Estate, which may have lain in the parish of Littleton.

²¹ Mellor, 1911

²² *ibid.*

²³ Kiddle, 1962

²⁴ Canham, 1979

- 5.9.2 From the middle of the 17th century, frequent references are made to open fields under the name they bore at the enclosure of 1842. At that time the area west of Shepperton Green was known as the Littleton Field²⁵.
- 5.9.3 Both Rocque's map of 1754 and the old series OS map of 1811 show the study site to be in woodland, just to the south of open-field arable land. The 1754 plan shows that the dividing field boundary, which still form the current northern boundary of the site, seemingly respected some sort of (non-illustrated) circular anomaly. By 1811 an ice house was depicted at this spot and later more detailed maps of 1870 and 1920 showed the ice house to be surrounded by a circular bank. If the older field boundaries do respect a circular feature older than the icehouse then it may represent an archaeological site, perhaps prehistoric in origin. A similar icehouse was recorded at Laleham Park to the west, consisting of a concrete vault constructed under an earth mound, although it was probably reused as an air raid shelter²⁶.
- 5.9.4 The OS map of 1920 shows the study site to lie within the grounds of Littleton Park. This was originally the grounds of Littleton House, which was the family seat of the Woods who owned much of the land in the parish. The house itself was a large brick mansion, surrounded by 600 acres of grounds, said to have been built in the late 17th century. It burnt down in 1874, although a portion of it was later rebuilt²⁷. Writing in 1883, Edward Walford remarked that it had been, "a magnificent mansion...rather of the Dutch type, reminding one of Kensington Palace"²⁸.
- 5.9.5 In 1925, The Queen Mary reservoir was opened, constructed across a large area of mixed woodland and open fields to the north of Littleton. Three years later, Littleton Park Estate was bought by Norman Laudon's company, Sound City Films, and established into what became known as Shepperton Studios. The O.S map of 1938 shows the Queen Mary reservoir fully developed directly to the north of the site, as well as the film studios on the site itself.
- 5.9.6 By 1947, the O.S. map shows further development at Shepperton Studios, on which more buildings are evident. During this expansion, the icehouse appears to have been redeveloped, although not within the footprint of any buildings. It was

²⁴ Canham, 1979

²⁵ Kiddle, 1962

²⁶ Bird *et al.*, 1983

²⁷ Mellor, 1911

²⁸ Walford, 1985

presumably during this period of expansion that the Bronze Age and Roman finds on the site were uncovered.

- 5.9.7 The present site layout shows additional development, with more buildings and/or other units added to the site since 1947. On no plans are there non-building features, such as tanks or lakes, present which could be taken to have truncated any potential archaeology.

6 METHODOLOGY

- 6.1 The excavation of five trenches was outlined in the Method Statement prepared by Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd²⁹. The fieldwork was designed to assess the presence or absence of significant archaeological remains, which may require further investigation.
- 6.2 Trench 4 was abandoned due to the abundance of services within its pre-determined location. Trench 2 was also altered from its original location due to on-site constraints and subsequently a smaller square trench was excavated slightly to the north-west of the original location. Trench 1 was subsequently extended to the north-west to compensate for the abandonment of Trench 4 and the smaller size of Trench 2.
- 6.3 All trenches were machine excavated with a 360 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	13.00 x 1.40	12.90
2	4.65 x 3.20	12.81
3	8.55 x 1.40	12.57
4	Abandoned	
5	13.00 x 1.40	12.84

Table 1: Trench Dimensions

- 6.4 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.
- 6.5 Two temporary benchmarks, 12.85m OD and 12.36m OD, were utilised from spot heights on drain covers located on survey plans provided.

²⁹Moore, P., (2005)

7 ARCHAEOLOGICAL SEQUENCE

7.1 Phase 1 – Natural Terrace Gravels

7.1.1 The earliest deposit encountered throughout all the evaluation trenches were the natural terrace gravels [3]. This context comprised a compact deposit of sandy gravel matrix, with sandy lenses, mid orange brown in colour. In Trench 1 it was encountered at a highest level of 11.58m OD, in Trench 2, 11.98m OD, in Trench 3, 12.00m OD, and in Trench 5, 11.78m OD.

7.2 Phase 2 – Natural Brickearth

7.2.1 Sealing the natural gravel, [3], in Trench 1 was a layer of natural brickearth, [7]. This context existed as a soft deposit of sandy-silty clay matrix, light orange brown in colour. This layer was encountered at a height of 12.23m OD and had a maximum thickness of 0.65m.

7.2.2 Sealing the natural gravel, [3], in Trench 2 was a layer of natural brickearth, [9]. This context existed as a soft deposit of sandy-silty clay matrix, light orange brown in colour. This layer was encountered at a level of 12.17m OD and had a maximum thickness of 0.29m.

7.2.3 Sealing the natural gravel, [3], in Trench 3 was a layer of natural brickearth, [5]. This context existed as a soft deposit of sandy-silty clay matrix, light orange brown in colour. This layer was encountered at a level of 12.20m OD and had a maximum thickness of 0.25m.

7.2.4 Sealing the natural gravel, [3], in Trench 5 was a layer of natural brickearth, [1]. This context existed as a soft deposit of sandy-silty clay matrix, light orange brown in colour. This layer was encountered at a level of 12.50m OD and had a maximum thickness of 0.80m.

7.3 Phase 3 – 19th/20th Century Ploughsoil/Subsoil

7.3.1 Sealing the natural brickearth, [9], in Trench 2 was a layer of 19th/20th century ploughsoil, [8]. This context existed as a friable deposit of sandy silt matrix, mid greenish grey in colour. This deposit contained within it 19th and 20th century pottery, CBM and glass fragments. This layer represents a pastoral/open field horizon. This

layer was encountered at a level of 12.36m OD and had a maximum thickness of 0.22m.

- 7.3.2 Sealing the natural brickearth [5], in Trench 3 was a layer of 19th/20th century subsoil, [4]. This context existed as a friable deposit of sandy silt matrix, dark orangish brown in colour. This deposit contained within it 19th and 20th century pottery, CBM and glass fragments. This layer was encountered at a level of 12.40m OD and had a maximum thickness of 0.27m.

7.4 Phase 4 – Modern

- 7.4.1 Sealing the layer of natural brickearth, [7], in Trench 1 were a series of layers of modern made ground, including [6], sealed by the topsoil. The highest level of these was 12.90m OD and the maximum thickness of the combined layers was 0.63m.
- 7.4.2 Sealing the layer of ploughsoil, [8], in Trench 2 were a series of layers of modern made ground and crushed concrete sealed by tarmac. The highest level of these was 12.81m OD and the maximum thickness of the combined layers was 0.53m.
- 7.4.3 Sealing the layer of subsoil, [4], in Trench 3 was a layer of modern made ground sealed by tarmac. The highest level of this was 12.57m OD and the maximum thickness of the combined layers was 0.27m.
- 7.4.4 Sealing the layer of natural brickearth, [1], in Trench 5 was a layer of modern topsoil. The highest level of this was 12.84m OD and the maximum thickness was 0.25m.

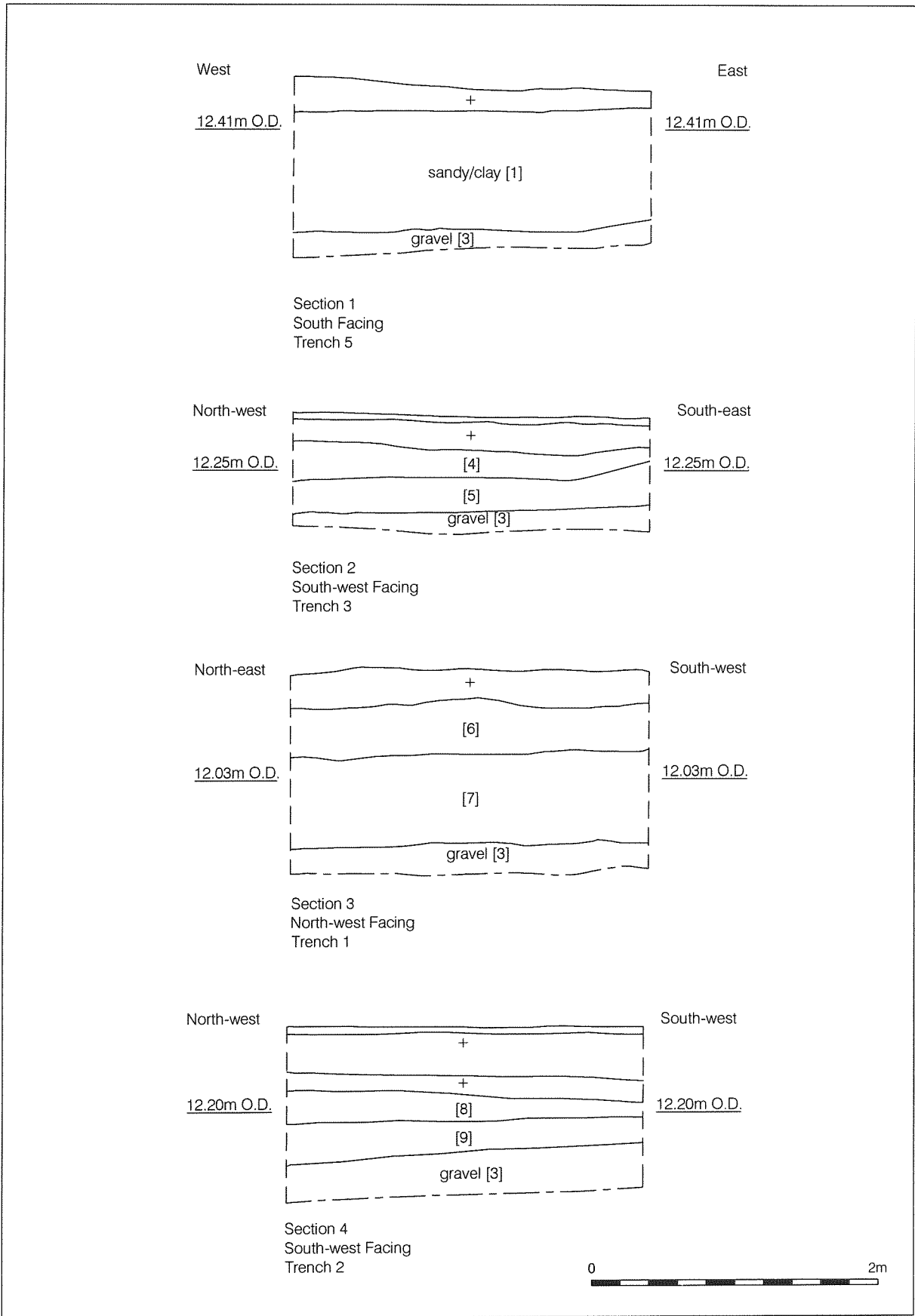


Figure 3
Sections
1:40

8 TRENCH SUMMARY

8.1 TRENCH 1

8.1.1 Trench 1 revealed natural terrace gravel sealed by natural brickearth, overlain by modern made ground and topsoil.

8.2 TRENCH 2

8.2.1 Trench 2 revealed natural terrace gravel sealed by natural brickearth, overlain by 19th/20th century ploughsoil sealed by modern made ground and tarmac. Trench 2 also encountered modern services in its north-west corner.

8.3 TRENCH 3

8.3.1 Trench 3 revealed natural terrace gravel sealed by natural brickearth, overlain by 19th/20th century subsoil sealed by modern made ground and tarmac. Trench 3 also encountered modern services running east-west through it.

8.4 TRENCH 4

8.4.1 Trench 4 was abandoned due to the abundance of services.

8.5 TRENCH 5

8.5.1 Trench 5 revealed natural terrace gravel sealed by natural brickearth clay, overlain by modern topsoil. Trench 5 also encountered multiple services running through it.

9 DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSIONS

9.1 DISCUSSION

- 9.1.1 The evaluation revealed natural deposits in all trenches consistent with the underlying terrace gravels and brickearth. No archaeological features or deposits of any kind were found within the evaluation trenches implying a lack of activity within the localised area.
- 9.1.2 With the exception of the many services encountered throughout nearly all the trenches the evaluation trenches revealed mostly undisturbed ground. The complete lack of any archaeological deposits or features encountered is therefore surprising. The paucity of archaeology encountered in the evaluation, and the location of the local authority designated Area of High Archaeological Potential to the extreme east of Shepperton Studios, centred just to the west of the town of Littleton, and the archaeology encountered on a previous evaluation close by to this area³⁰ indicates that the western area of the site remained undeveloped prior to the twentieth century.

9.2 CONCLUSIONS

- 9.2.1 The evaluation has shown that the evaluated area of the site has had little or no modern truncation to the natural deposits, with the exception of the various services which were mostly encountered just below the surface.
- 9.2.2 Despite the complete lack of truncation within the evaluation trenches no archaeological remains were encountered. The area may possibly have remained as open/pasture land to the west of local settlement up until its development in the early 20th century.

³⁰ Clough, H. 2004

10 **ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

- 10.1 Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited would like to thank David Zimber of Jon Bradley Ltd for commissioning, and kindly funding the work, on behalf of Pinewood-Shepperton Limited.
- 10.2 Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited would also like to thank Gary Jackson of Surrey County Council for monitoring the work.
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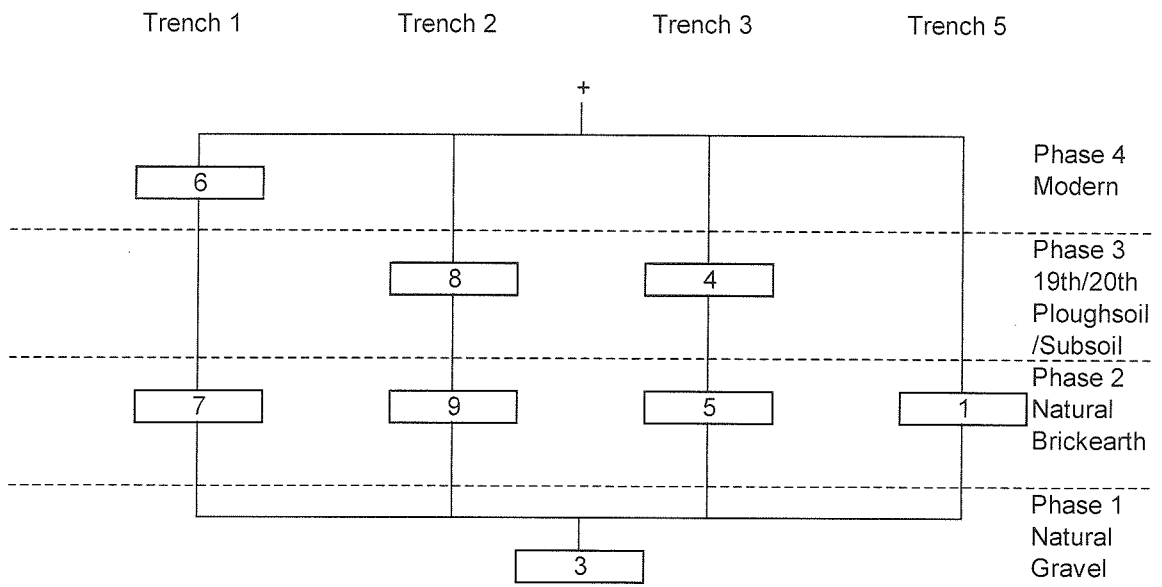
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APPENDIX 1: Context Descriptions

Context No.	Type	Trench	Phase	Description
1	Layer	5	2	Natural Brickearth
2	Void			
3	Layer	All	1	Natural terrace gravels
4	Layer	3	3	Subsoil
5	Layer	3	2	Natural Brickearth
6	Layer	1	4	Made Ground
7	Layer	1	2	Natural Brickearth
8	Layer	2	3	Ploughsoil
9	Layer	2	2	Natural Brickearth

APPENDIX 2: SITE MATRIX



APPENDIX 3: OASIS FORM

OASIS ID: preconst1-8424

Project details

Project name	Shepperton Studios, I Stage, Spelthorne, Surrey
Short description of the project	Archaeological Evaluation at Shepperton Studios, I Stage, Spelthorne, Surrey. Five trenches revealed natural terrace gravels sealed by natural brickearth overlain by modern deposits
Project dates	Start: 23-05-2005 End: 27-05-2005
Previous/future work	Yes / Yes
Any associated project reference codes	SHEP 05 - Sitecode
Type of project	Field evaluation
Site status	Local Authority Designated Archaeological Area
Current Land use	Industry and Commerce 4 - Storage and warehousing
Methods & techniques	'Sample Trenches', 'Targeted Trenches', 'Visual Inspection'
Development type	Building refurbishment/repairs/restoration
Prompt	Direction from Local Planning Authority - PPG16

Position in the
planning process Not known / Not recorded

Project location

Country England

Site location SURREY SPELTHORNE SUNBURY I Stage, Shepperton Studios

Postcode TW17

Study area 2400.00 Square metres

National grid
reference TQ 0516 6870 Point

Height OD Min: 11.58m Max: 12.00m

Project creators

Name of
Organisation Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd

Project brief
originator Pre-Construct Archaeology

Project design
originator Peter Moore

Project
director/manager Peter Moore

Project supervisor Neil Hawkins

Sponsor or funding body	Pinewood-Shepperton Limited
Project archives	
Physical Archive recipient	Local museum
Physical Archive Exists?	Yes
Digital Archive recipient	Local museum
Digital Contents	'none'
Digital Media available	'Text'
Digital Archive Exists?	No
Paper Contents	'none'
Paper Media available	'Context sheet', 'Diary', 'Drawing', 'Matrices', 'Photograph', 'Plan', 'Report', 'Section'
Paper Archive Exists?	Yes
Project bibliography 1	

Publication type Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)

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