

**12 OATLANDS MERE, WEYBRIDGE  
SURREY**

**AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION REPORT**

(NGR) TQ 0892 6545

**Planning Application: 2005/2184**

**DECEMBER 2006**

**National Grid Reference:** TQ 0892 6545

**Site Code:** OME 06

**On behalf of:** Consero Homes Ltd,  
Consero House,  
Business Park,  
Merrow Lane, Guildford,  
Surrey, GU4 7WA.

**Report prepared by:** Dan Eddisford

**Evaluation by:** Dan Eddisford  
Stella Bickelman

**Illustrations by:** Jon Moller

**Project Manager:** Ron Humphrey

**Timing:** Evaluation Fieldwork: 14<sup>th</sup> – 16<sup>th</sup> November 2006

Post-excavation and report production: November 2006

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## 1 ABSTRACT

*An archaeological evaluation was undertaken by AOC Archaeology Group between the 14th and 16th November 2006 at 12 Oatlands Mere, Weybridge, Surrey, on behalf of Consero Homes Ltd. The aim of the evaluation was to assess the impact of the proposed development on any surviving archaeological remains.*

*The evaluation comprised the machine excavation of four trenches measuring 20m by 2m at base and one measuring 10m by 2m at base. Natural sands were identified at between 28.45mOD and 25.97mOD. A single shallow, undated, ditch was identified in Trench 2, a post-medieval pit in Trench 5 and a modern pit in Trench 4.*

## **2 SITE LOCATION**

- 2.1 The site is located at 12 Oatlands Mere, Weybridge, Surrey. The proposed development is centred on National Grid Reference (NGR): TQ 0892 6545 (Figure 1).
- 2.2 The site comprises a rectangular shaped parcel of land bounded by residential properties to the east, west and south, and Broadwater to the north (Figure 2).

## **3 GEOLOGY AND TOPOGRAPHY**

- 3.1 The site is located on an underlying geology of Bagshot Gravels overlain by Pleistocene deposits including Plateau Gravels, brickearth, boulder clay and river terrace gravels. Drift geology consisting of fine orange and brown sands and gravel was present in all the trenches.

## **4 PLANNING BACKGROUND**

- 4.1 The local planning authority is Elmbridge Borough Council. Archaeological advice to the council is provided by Surrey County Council's (S.C.C.) Archaeological Advisor.
- 4.2 The proposed development is for the demolition of the existing dwelling and the construction of four detached two storey houses with a detached garage. A planning application (Application No.: TQ 0892 6545) was submitted to develop the site.
- 4.3 As a requirement before planning consent is granted, a programme of archaeological works was required, in the form of evaluation trenching. Accordingly, Consero Homes Ltd commissioned AOC Archaeology to undertake the fieldwork. Prior to commencing work a Written Scheme of Investigation (AOC 2006) was submitted to and approved by SCC.
- 4.4 This document reports on the results of the archaeological evaluation, undertaken to identify any archaeological remains that might be threatened by the proposed development.

## **5 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND**

- 5.1 Previous archaeological work in the area has focussed on Oatlands Palace, two investigations being carried out, one from 1968-71, one from 1983-84.
- 5.2 The site lies adjacent to the Registered Oatlands Park, formerly a deer park for the Oatlands Palace estate created by Henry VIII between 1537 - 1545. Oatlands Palace is a Scheduled Ancient Monument (SAM), National Monument Number (NMR): 31394. The monument includes the main courtyards and associated

buildings of Oatlands Palace. The palace survives in the form of below ground foundations, buried remains, and restored ruins.

- 5.3 The palace was built on a grand scale around a previous manor house dating to the 15th century. The manor house was irregular in shape and contained substantial buildings, including a hall and chapel, surrounded by a 12m wide, water-filled moat.
- 5.4 The majority of the palace was demolished during parliamentary rule in the 1650's. The moat was infilled and the water diverted underground via a large brick-vaulted conduit which survives along the course of the southwest arm of the moat.
- 5.5 A restored, 16th century brick-built carriage gateway with a tall four-centred archway topped by a stepped parapet survives on the north western side of the outer court, along with some standing portions of the original enclosing wall. The course of the enclosing wall is elsewhere represented by an up to 3m high brick wall which contains some reused Tudor bricks, but which has been dated mainly to the later post-medieval period. All standing portions of the wall and the gateways are Listed Grade II.
- 5.6 Investigations between 1983-84 revealed traces of a small detached building, possibly a banqueting house, which is thought to be associated with a double stable block adjoining the outer court to the northwest.
- 5.7 The palace was maintained throughout the end of the Tudor period and into the Stuart period. During the reign of James I a vineyard was planted to the southeast of the Scheduled Ancient Monument. A silkworm house and a new bakehouse were also installed by 1620.
- 5.8 There has been limited disturbance of the archaeological remains by the construction of modern housing estates during the 1930's – 1980's.

## 6 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

- 6.1 The aim of the evaluation was to determine the location, extent, date, character, condition, significance and quality of any surviving archaeological remains liable to be threatened by the proposed development. This applied to remains of all periods, and included evidence of past environments.
- 6.2 The specific objectives of the Evaluation were to:
- Establish whether any evidence of prehistoric settlement and agricultural activity survives on the site.
  - Establish whether there is evidence of Roman activity on the site.
  - Establish whether any evidence of medieval activity exists on site. Particularly is there any evidence for activity associated with the medieval manor house, later incorporated into Oatlands Palace?
  - Establish whether any evidence for post-medieval activity exists on site. Particularly, is there any evidence for activity associated with the adjacent palace?
- 6.3 The evaluation should enable Surrey County Council (SCC) to make an informed decision on the status of the condition on the planning permission, and any possible requirement for further work in order to satisfy that condition.
- 6.4 The final aim is to make available to interested parties the results of the investigation subject to any confidentiality restrictions.

## 7 METHODOLOGY

- 7.1 The evaluation consisted of four machine-excavated trenches measuring 20.00m x 2.00m at base and one trench measuring 10.00m x 2.00m at base (Figure 3). This final trench was shortened, in consultation with the archaeological advisor to SCC, as a result of a number of protected trees on the site.
- 7.2 All overburden was removed down to the top of the first recognizable archaeological horizon or the natural deposit in the event that no archaeological horizons were present, using a JCB with toothless ditching bucket.
- 7.3 All machining was carried out under direct control of an experienced archaeologist. The site and spoil heaps were scanned visually and with a metal detector for finds.
- 7.4 On completion of machine excavation, all faces of trenches that required examination or recording were cleaned using appropriate hand tools.
- 7.5 All excavation was undertaken with a view to avoiding damage to any archaeological features or deposits which appeared to be demonstrably worthy of preservation *in situ*.

- 7.6 After recording, the trenches were backfilled with excavated material.
- 7.7 A Temporary Bench Mark (TBM) was set up on site (Figure 3), transferred from a Bench Mark on the corner of 92 Oatlands Drive. This TBM had a value of 28.41mOD.
- 7.8 The evaluation work was undertaken over three days by Dan Eddisford, under the overall project management of Ron Humphrey.

## 8 RESULTS

### 8.1 Trench 1

| Height of deposit (mOD) | Context No. and Description  |
|-------------------------|--|
| 26.32-26.17             | (1/001). Loose dark brown humic silty sand. Topsoil.   |
| 26.17-25.97             | (1/002). Loose mid brown slightly silty sand, occasional charcoal and ceramic building material inclusions. Subsoil. |
| 25.97+                  | (1/003). Light-mid yellow sand and gravel. Natural.  |

- 8.1.1 No archaeological features were identified in Trench 1.

### 8.2 Trench 2 (Figure 4)

| Height of deposit (mOD) | Context No. and Description  |
|-------------------------|--|
| 27.91-27.81             | (2/001). Loose dark brown humic silty sand. Topsoil.   |
| 27.81-27.61             | (2/002). Loose mid brown slightly silty sand, occasional charcoal and ceramic building material inclusions. Subsoil. |
| 27.64-27.43             | (2/003). Loose mid yellow brown sand, occasional burnt flint and animal bone inclusions. Fill of [2/004].            |
| 27.64-27.43             | [2/004]. Shallow ditch terminus with gently sloping concave sides and rounded base.                                  |
| 27.61+                  | (2/005). Light-mid yellow sand and gravel. Natural.  |

- 8.2.1 The natural sand (2/005) was cut by a shallow ditch terminus [2/004] which measured 0.80m wide and 0.25m deep and extend beyond the trench to the east. The ditch was filled by mid yellow brown sand (2/003), which contained occasional pieces of burnt flint.



- 4.2.2 The ditch was sealed by loose mid brown slightly silty sand subsoil (2/002) and dark brown humic silty sand topsoil (2/001).

### 8.3 Trench 3

| Height of deposit (mOD) | Context No. and Description   |
|-------------------------|---|
| 28.53-28.43             | (3/001). Loose dark brown humic silty sand. Topsoil   |
| 28.43-28.23             | (3/002). Loose mid brown slightly silty sand, occasional charcoal and ceramic building material inclusions (CBM). Subsoil |
| 28.23+                  | (3/003). Light-mid yellow sand and gravel. Natural.   |

- 8.3.1 No archaeological features were identified in Trench 3.

### 8.4 Trench 4

| Height of deposit (mOD) | Context No. and Description  |
|-------------------------|--|
| 28.43-28.23             | (4/001). Loose dark brown humic silty sand. Topsoil.   |
| 28.23-28.03             | (4/002). Loose mid brown slightly silty sand, occasional charcoal and ceramic building material inclusions. Subsoil. |
| 28.05-27.92             | (4/003). Soft mid brown slightly silty sand, late post-medieval brick inclusions. Fill of [4/004].                   |
| 28.05-27.92             | [4/004]. Shallow pit cut with poorly defined gently sloping sides and level base.                                    |
| 28.03+                  | (4/005). Light-mid yellow sand and gravel. Natural.  |

- 8.4.1 The natural sand (4/005) was sealed by mid brown slightly silty sand subsoil. The subsoil was cut by a shallow, poorly defined pit cut [4/004] which measured 1.50m wide and 0.50m deep and extend beyond the trench to the east and west. The pit was filled by mid brown silty sand (4/003), which contained 19<sup>th</sup> century brick.

- 8.4.2 The pit was sealed by dark brown humic silty sand topsoil (2/001).

### 8.5 Trench 5 (Figure 5)

| Height of deposit (mOD) | Context No. and Description                          |
|-------------------------|--|
| 28.75-28.65             | (5/001). Loose dark brown humic silty sand. Topsoil. |

|             |  |
|-------------|--|
| 28.65-28.45 | (5/002). Loose mid brown slightly silty sand, occasional charcoal and ceramic building material inclusions. Subsoil. |
| 28.46-28.24 | (5/003). Soft dark brown slightly silty sand, moderate charcoal and post-medieval CMB inclusions. Fill of [5/004].   |
| 28.05-27.92 | [5/004]. Shallow pit cut with gently sloping sides and rounded base.   |
| 28.45+      | (5/005). Light-mid yellow sand and gravel. Natural.  |

8.5.1 The natural sand (5/005) was sealed by mid brown slightly silty sand subsoil (5/002). The subsoil was cut by a shallow pit cut [5/004] which measured 1.60m wide and 0.90m deep and extend beyond the trench to the east and west. The pit was filled by dark brown silty sand (5/003), which contained post-medieval tile and pottery.

8.5.2 The pit was sealed by dark brown humic silty sand topsoil (5/001).

## 9 FINDS

9.1 Finds were retrieved from deposits (2/003) and (5/003). The pottery from (5/003) was all post-medieval redware with an internal brown glaze, and was spot-dated to the late post-medieval period (see below). No samples were taken from the trenches.

### Table of finds

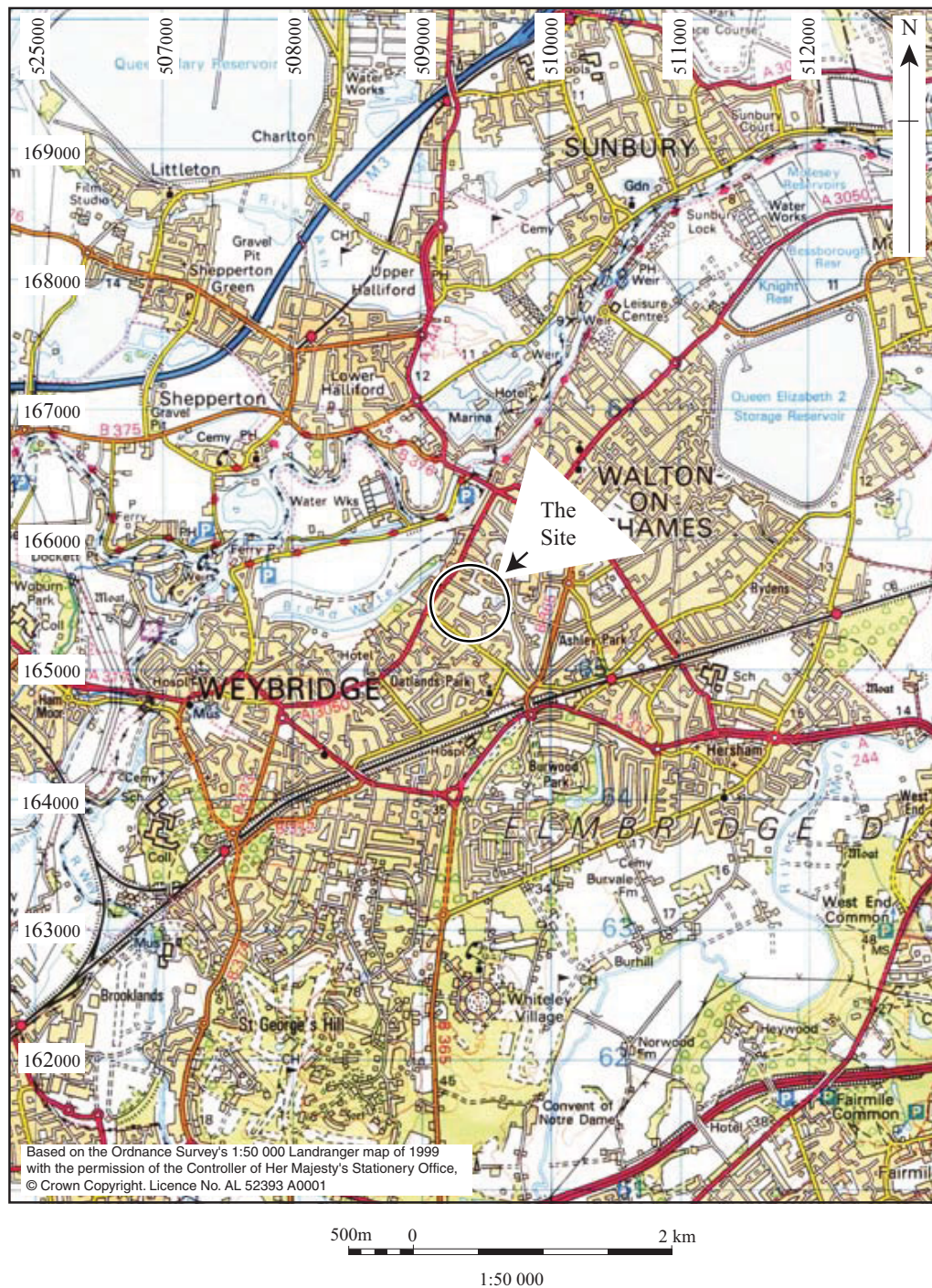
| Context No | Quantity | Material | Type        | Date              |
|------------|----------|----------|-------------|-------------------|
|            |          |          |             |                   |
| 2/003      | 1        | Flint    | Burnt Flint | -                 |
| 5/003      | 4        | Ceramic  | Pottery     | 17th-19th century |
| 5/003      | 1        | Ceramic  | Tile        | Post-medieval     |

## 10 CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

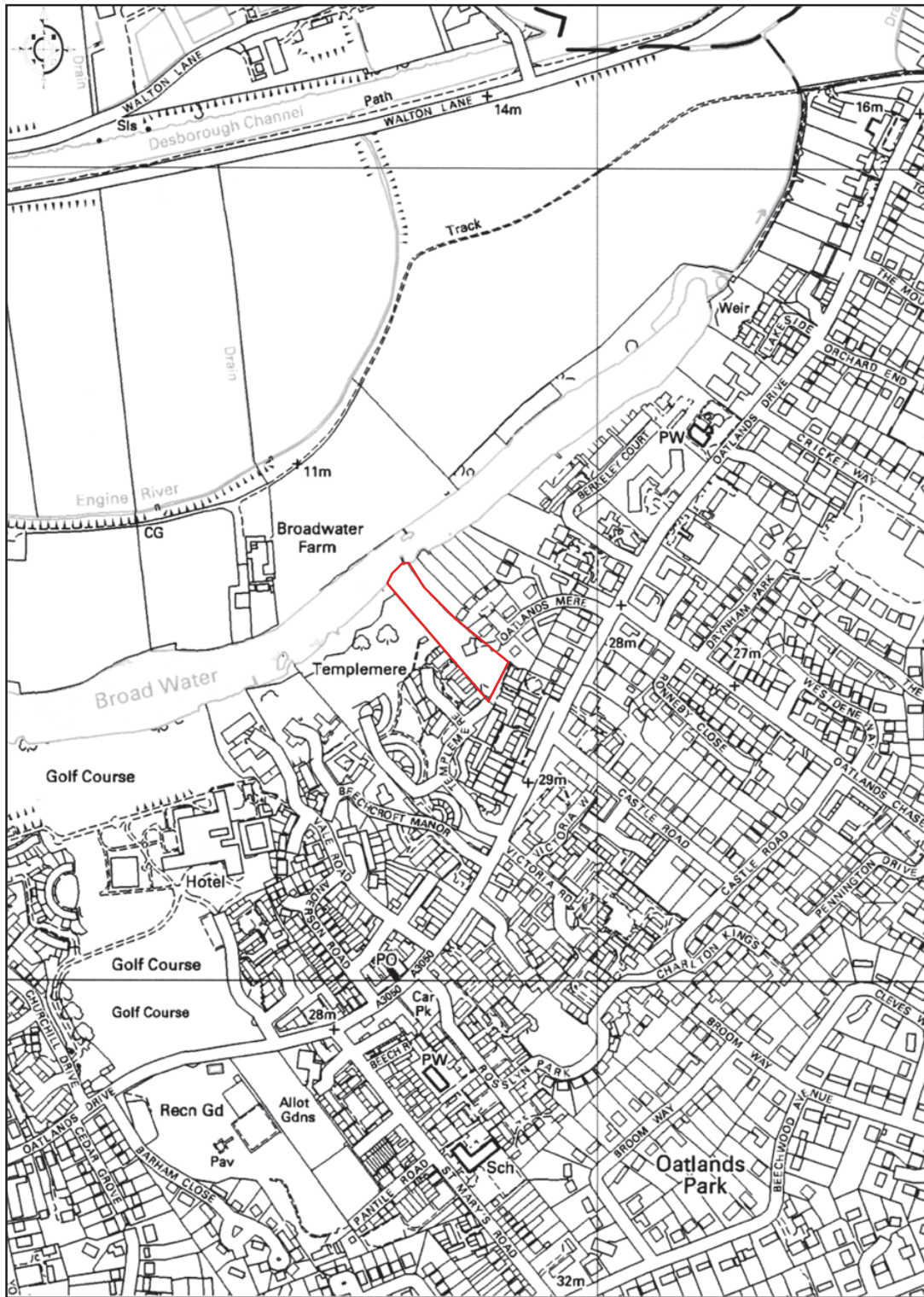
- 10.1 A pit cut was identified at the southern end of Trench 5. This contained brown glazed redware dated to the 17<sup>th</sup>-19<sup>th</sup> century, the lack of any later pottery suggests a date in the first half of this range. The function of the feature was unclear as it extended beyond the limit of excavation. A single undated shallow ditch was identified in Trench 2, the function of this feature was also not established. The density of finds within prehistoric features is often low and the possibility of this being part of a prehistoric ditch can not be discounted.
- 10.2 A modern intrusion was recorded in Trench 4, possibly associated with the construction of the existing house or the landscaping of the associated garden. There is no evidence of structural remains pre-dating the existing building and the area was probably undeveloped until the early 20<sup>th</sup> century.
- 10.3 No clear evidence of prehistoric settlement and agricultural activity was identified on the site. No evidence of Roman or medieval activity was identified on the site. No post-medieval remains associated with the adjacent palace were identified.
- 10.4 The evaluation met its primary objective: to establish the presence/absence of any archaeological remains. No significant archaeological remains were encountered and it is therefore recommended that no further archaeological fieldwork is required to satisfy the archaeological planning condition on this site, this is subject to the agreement of Surrey County Council.
- 10.5 Publication of the results will be through the ADS OASIS form (Appendix B) with a short summary submitted to a relevant journal.

## 11 BIBLIOGRAPHY

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**Figure 1:** Site Location



Based on the Ordnance Survey's 1:7500 map of 2006  
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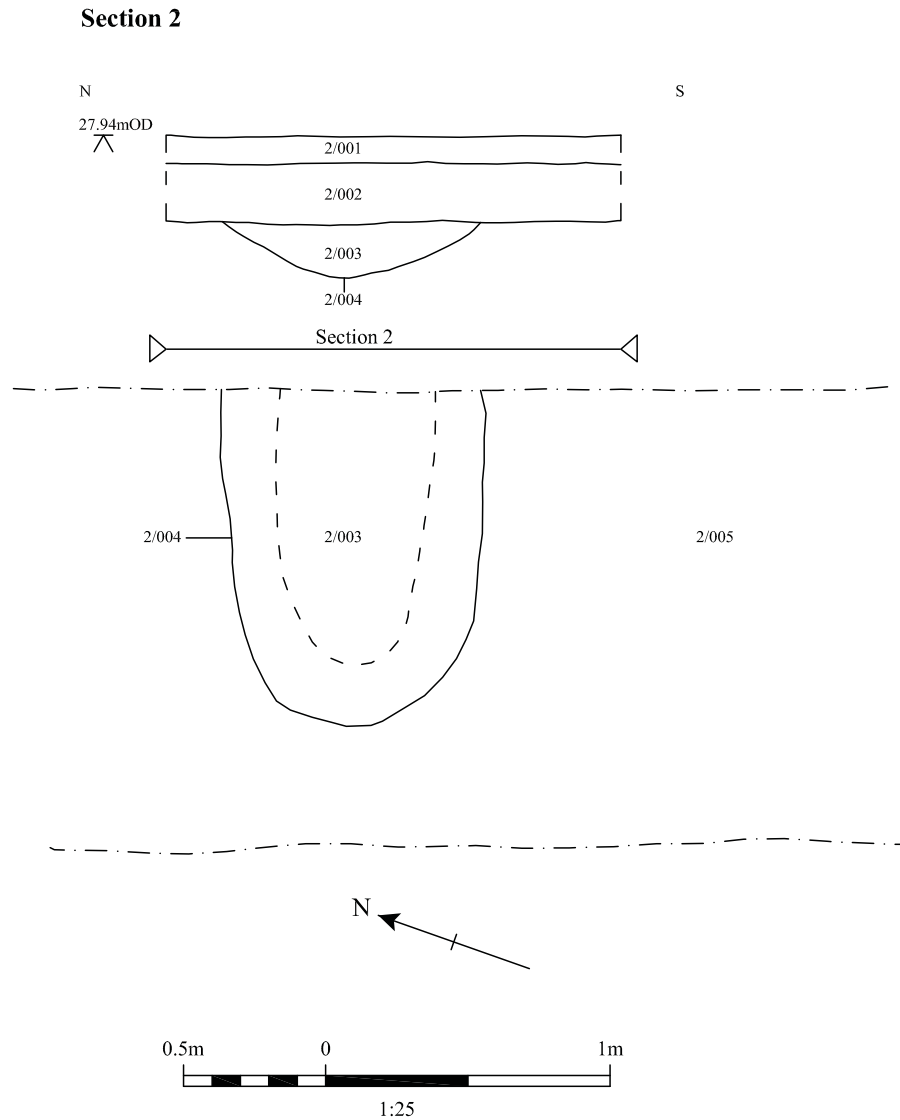
**Figure 2:** Detailed Site Location

 Site



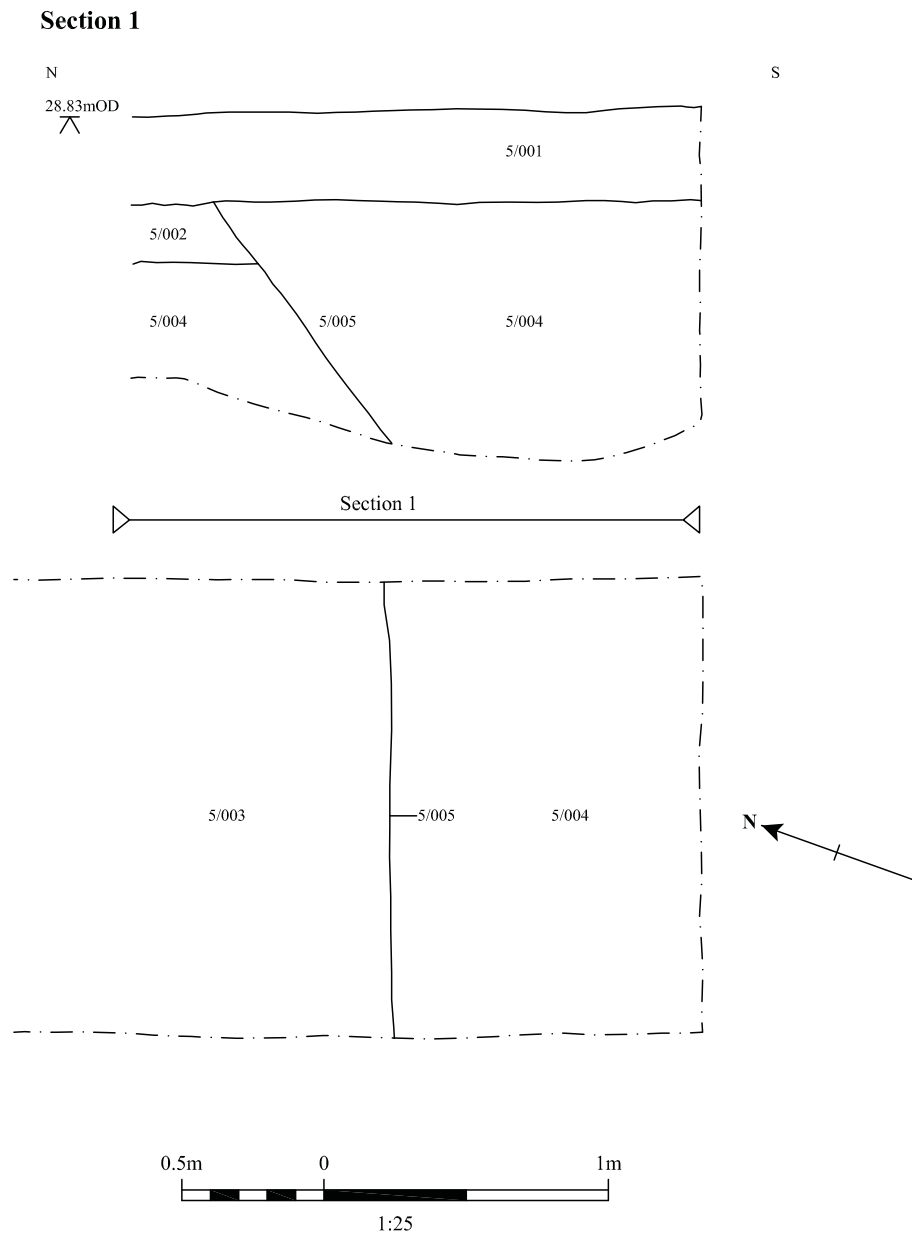
Based on the Plan produced by CD Surveys Ltd

**Figure 3:** Trench Location / Current Site Plan



**Figure 4:** Trench 2: Plan & Section





**Figure 5:** Trench 5: Plan & Section

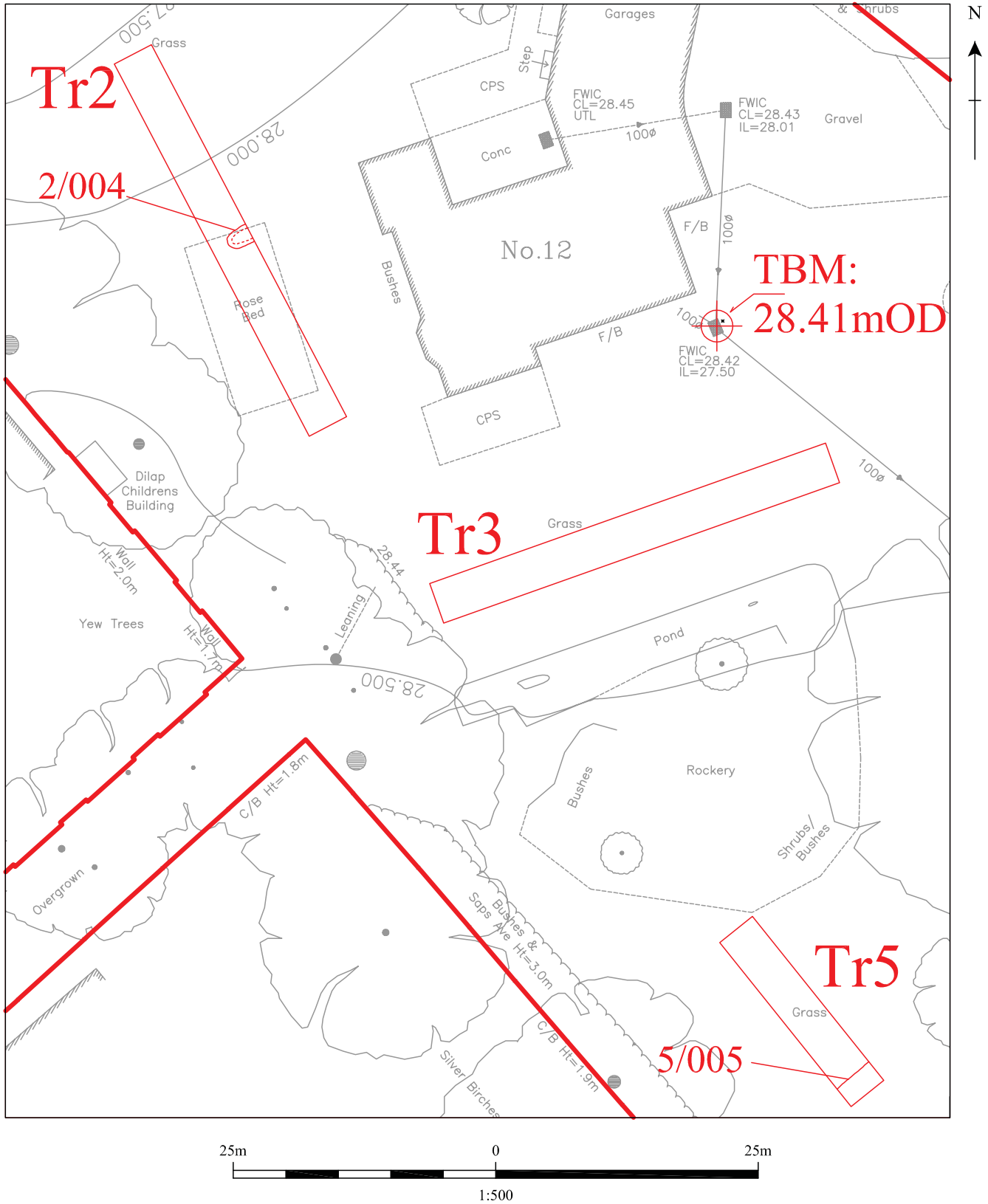


Figure 6: Relationship of Features in Trenches 2 and 5

## APPENDIX A: CONTEXT REGISTER

| Context No. | Context Description   | Length | Width  | Depth |
|-------------|---|--------|--------|-------|
| 1/001       | Loose dark brown humic silty sand. Topsoil.   | Trench | Trench | 0.15m |
| 1/002       | Loose mid brown slightly silty sand, occasional charcoal and ceramic building material inclusions. Subsoil. | Trench | Trench | 0.20m |
| 1/003       | Light-mid yellow sand and gravel. Natural.  | Trench | Trench | NFE   |
| 2/001       | Loose dark brown humic silty sand. Topsoil.   | Trench | Trench | 0.10m |
| 2/002       | Loose mid brown slightly silty sand, occasional charcoal and ceramic building material inclusions. Subsoil. | Trench | Trench | 0.20m |
| 2/003       | Loose mid yellow brown sand, occasional burnt flint and animal bone inclusions. Fill of [2/004].            | 1.10m  | 0.80m  | 0.25m |
| 2/004       | Shallow ditch terminus with gently sloping concave sides and rounded base.                                  | 1.10m  | 0.80m  | 0.25m |
| 2/005       | Light-mid yellow sand and gravel. Natural.  | Trench | Trench | NFE   |
| 3/001       | Loose dark brown humic silty sand. Topsoil.   | Trench | Trench | 0.10m |
| 3/002       | Loose mid brown slightly silty sand, occasional charcoal and ceramic building material inclusions. Subsoil. | Trench | Trench | 0.20m |
| 3/003       | Light-mid yellow sand and gravel. Natural.  | Trench | Trench | NFE   |
| 4/001       | Loose dark brown humic silty sand. Topsoil.   | Trench | Trench | 0.10m |
| 4/002       | Loose mid brown slightly silty sand, occasional charcoal and ceramic building material inclusions. Subsoil. | Trench | Trench | 0.20m |
| 4/003       | Soft mid brown slightly silty sand, late post-medieval brick inclusions. Fill of [4/004].                   | 1.50m  | Trench | 0.50m |
| 4/004       | Shallow pit cut with poorly defined gently sloping sides and level base.                                    | 1.50m  | Trench | 0.50m |
| 4/005       | Light-mid yellow sand and gravel. Natural.  | Trench | Trench | NFE   |
| 5/001       | Loose dark brown humic silty sand. Topsoil.   | Trench | Trench | 0.10m |
| 5/002       | Loose mid brown slightly silty sand, occasional charcoal and ceramic building material inclusions. Subsoil. | Trench | Trench | 0.20m |
| 5/003       | Soft dark brown slightly silty sand, moderate charcoal and post-medieval CMB inclusions. Fill of [5/004].   | 0.90m  | 1.60m  | 1.60m |
| 5/004       | Shallow pit cut with gently sloping sides and rounded base.   | 0.90m  | 1.60m  | 1.60m |
| 5/005       | Light-mid yellow sand and gravel. Natural.  | Trench | Trench | NFE   |

NFE = No Further Excavation

## APPENDIX B: OASIS FORM

### Project details

Project name Oatlands Mere

Short description of the project An archaeological evaluation was undertaken by AOC Archaeology Group between the 14th and 16th November 2006 at 12 Oatlands Mere, Weybridge, Surrey, on behalf of Consero Homes Ltd. The aim of the evaluation was to assess the impact of the proposed development on any surviving archaeological remains. The evaluation comprised the machine excavation of four trenches measuring 20m by 2m at base and one measuring 10m by 2m at base. Natural sands were identified at between 28.45mOD and 25.97mOD. A single shallow, undated, ditch was identified in Trench 2, a late post-medieval pit in Trench 5 and a modern pit in Trench 4.

Project dates Start: 14-11-2006 End: 16-11-2006

Previous/future work No / No

Any associated project reference codes OME06 – Sitecode

Type of project Field evaluation

Methods & techniques 'Sample Trenches'

Development type Small-scale (e.g. single house, etc.)

Prompt Direction from Local Planning Authority - PPG16

Position in the planning process After full determination (eg. As a condition)

### Project location

Country England

|                  |   |
|------------------|---|
| Site location    | SURREY ELMBRIDGE WEYBRIDGE 12 Oatlands Mere                             |
| Postcode         | KT13 9XX  |
| Study area       | 8000.00 Square metres   |
| Site coordinates | TQ 0892 6545 51.3771365704 -0.434846330595 51 22 37 N 000 26 05 W Point |
| Height OD        | Min: 25.97m Max: 28.45m   |

### Project creators

|                              |   |
|------------------------------|---|
| Name of Organisation         | AOC Archaeology   |
| Project brief originator     | Local Authority Archaeologist and/or Planning Authority/advisory body |
| Project design originator    | AOC Archaeology   |
| Project director/manager     | Ron Humphrey  |
| Project supervisor           | Dan Eddisford   |
| Type of sponsor/funding body | Developer   |

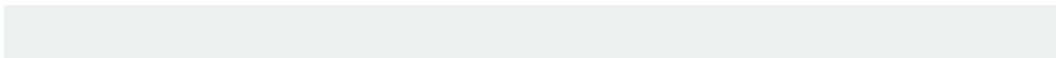
### Project archives

|                            |                  |
|----------------------------|------------------|
| Physical Archive recipient | Elmbridge museum |
|----------------------------|------------------|

|                           |  |
|---------------------------|--|
| Physical Contents         | 'Ceramics'   |
| Digital Archive Exists?   | No   |
| Digital Archive recipient | Elmbridge Museum                                       |
| Digital Contents          | 'none'   |
| Paper Archive recipient   | Elmbridge museum                                       |
| Paper Contents            | 'none'   |
| Paper Media available     | 'Microfilm', 'Photograph', 'Plan', 'Report', 'Section' |

### **Project bibliography 1**

|                               |  |
|-------------------------------|--|
| Publication type              | Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)                        |
| Title                         | 12 OATLANDS MERE, WEYBRIDGE, SURREY: AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION REPORT |
| Author(s)/Editor(s)           | 'Eddisford, D'   |
| Date                          | 2006   |
| Issuer or publisher           | AOC Archaeology  |
| Place of issue or publication | AOC Archaeology  |
| Description                   | A4 unbound report with illustrations                                     |



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