

**30 High Street, Cobham,  
Surrey**

**An Archaeological Watching Brief  
For Costa Ltd**

by Pamela Jenkins

Thames Valley Archaeological Services Ltd

Site Code  
30HSC04/130

**February 2005**

## Summary

**Site name:** 30 High Street, Cobham, Surrey, KT11 3EB

**Grid reference:** TQ 1085 5990

**Site activity:** Watching Brief

**Date and duration of project:** 4th February 2005

**Project manager:** Steve Ford

**Site supervisor:** Pamela Jenkins

**Site code:** 30HSC 04/130

**Area of site:** 160 sq m

**Summary of results:** No archaeology was observed and no finds recovered.

**Monuments identified:** None

**Location and reference of archive:** The archive is presently held at Thames Valley Archaeological Services, Reading and will be deposited at Weybridge Museum in due course.

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Report edited/checked by:	Steve Ford ✓ 14.02.05
	Steve Preston ✓ 16.02.05

# 30 Cobham High Street, Cobham, Surrey An Archaeological Watching Brief

by Pamela Jenkins

Report 04/130

## Introduction

This report documents the results of an archaeological watching brief carried out at 30 Cobham High Street, Cobham, Surrey, KT11 3EB (TQ 1085 5990) (Fig. 1). The work was commissioned by Mr. Stephen Brooker of Cliff Walsingham & Company, Bourne House, Cores End Road, Bourne End, Bucks, SL8 5AR on behalf of Costa Limited.

Planning consent (2004/1702) has been granted by Elmbridge Borough Council for the construction of an extension to the rear of the existing building, subject to a condition which requires archaeological supervision, in the form of an archaeological watching brief, of all invasive groundworks.

This is in accordance with the Department of the Environment's Planning Policy Guidance, *Archaeology and Planning* (PPG16 1990), and the Borough Council's policies on archaeology. The field investigation was carried out to a specification approved by Mr Gary Jackson, Archaeological Officer for Surrey County Council, advisers to the Borough. The fieldwork was undertaken by Pamela Jenkins on 4th February 2005 and the site code is 30 HSC 04/130.

The archive is presently held at Thames Valley Archaeological Services, Reading and will be deposited at Weybridge Museum in due course.

## Location, topography and geology

The site is located to the north of the Rive Mole, on Cobham High Street. (Fig. 2). The geology is mapped as Low Terrace River Gravels (BGS 1978) and this was observed on site. The site lies at 20m above Ordnance Datum and covers 160 sq m.

## Archaeological background

The site lies within the historic core of Cobham which has late Saxon or Medieval origins. Cobham High Street was one of the main streets of the settlement although probably a later extension to the earlier settlement (Turner 2004, fig 10.2). The manor belonged to Chertsey Abbey; on dissolution, it was included in Henry VIII's vast Hampton Court chase. The proximity of the site to the River Mole also gives rise to the generalized possibility of

prehistoric deposits, which tend to favour riparian settings, although the Mole valley itself has in fact yielded few prehistoric remains (Cotton 2004, 28). Struck flints finds dating to the Mesolithic period were recovered in an archaeological evaluation carried out in advance of the construction of the Sainsbury store in 1988 (Durden 1995).

## **Objectives and methodology**

The purpose of the watching brief was to excavate and record any archaeological deposits affected by the new construction work. This was to involve the examination of areas of overburden or topsoil stripping, landscaping, ground reduction and the digging of trenches for foundations and services.

The excavation of foundation trenches was observed. They were dug to a depth of approximately 1m and varied between 0.60 and 0.80m wide. Trenches excavated for services were shallower than those already described.

## **Results**

Excavation of the foundation trenches revealed only modern made ground and surfaces. Brief investigation in an isolated area showed the natural gravel to be approximately 0.05m below the dig level. No archaeology was disturbed or exposed by the groundworks.

## **Finds**

No finds were recovered. Modern material (brick, china) observed was not retained.

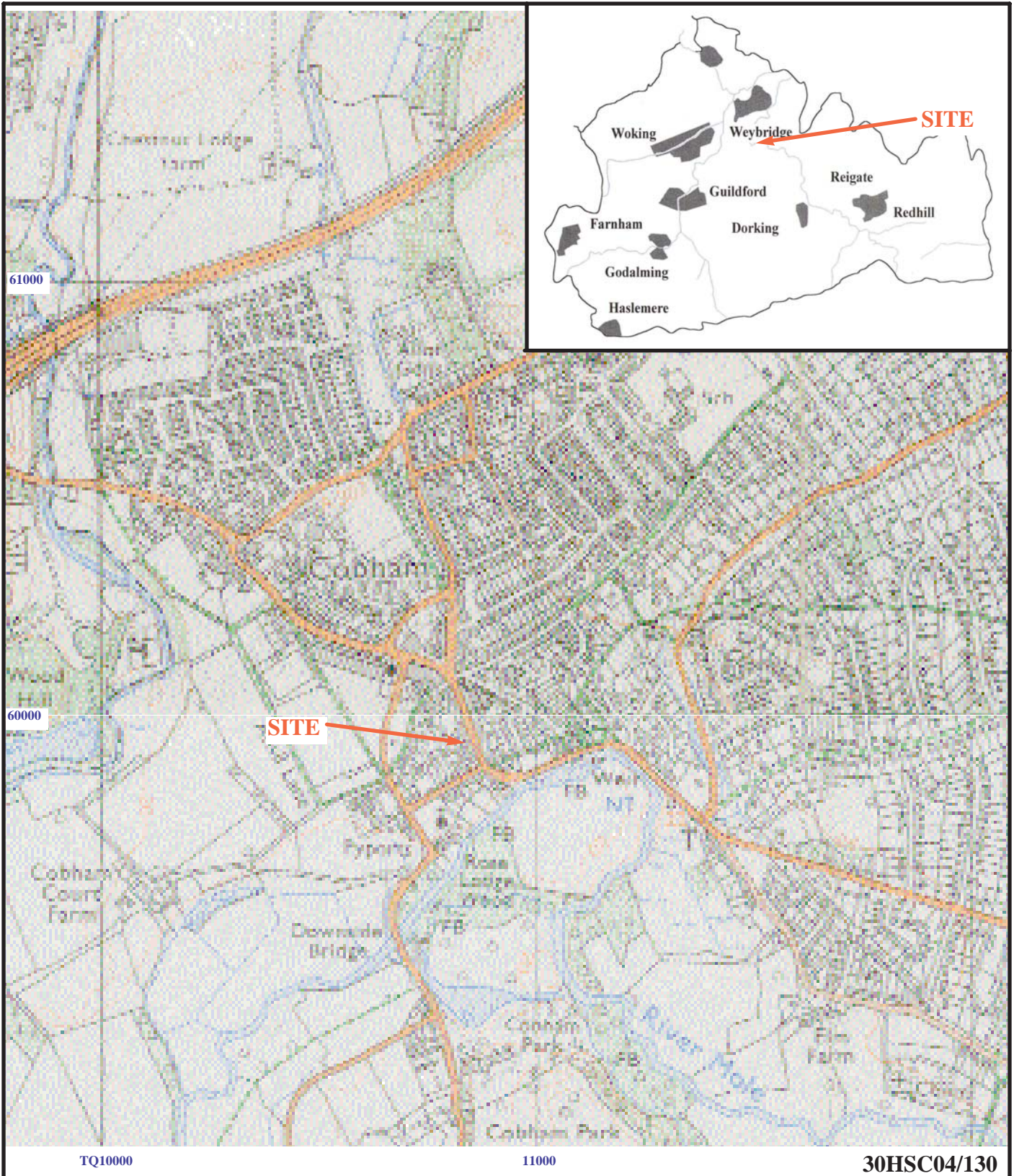
## **Conclusion**

The foundation trenches were not deep enough to reveal any more than modern layers. The archaeological nature of the site was therefore not established.

## **References**

- BGS, 1978, *British Geological Survey*, 1:50 000, Sheet 286, Drift Edition, Keyworth
- Cotton, J, 2004, 'Surrey's early past a survey of recent work', in (eds) J Cotton, G Crocker and A Graham, *Aspects of archaeology and history in Surrey; towards a research framework for the county*, Surrey Archaeol Soc, Guildford, 19–38
- Durden, T, 1995, Land adjacent to Sainsbury's Store, Cobham, Surrey; An archaeological desktop study, Thames Valley Archaeological Services report 95/14, Reading
- PPG 16, 1990, *Archaeology and Planning*, Dept of the Environment Planning Policy Guidance 16, HMSO

Turner, D, 2004, 'Manors and other settlements', in (eds) J Cotton, G Crocker and A Graham, *Aspects of archaeology and history in Surrey; towards a research framework for the county*, Surrey Archaeol Soc, Guildford, 133–46



**30 High Street, Cobham, Surrey, 2005  
An Archaeological Watching Brief**

Figure 1. Location of site within Cobham and Surrey.

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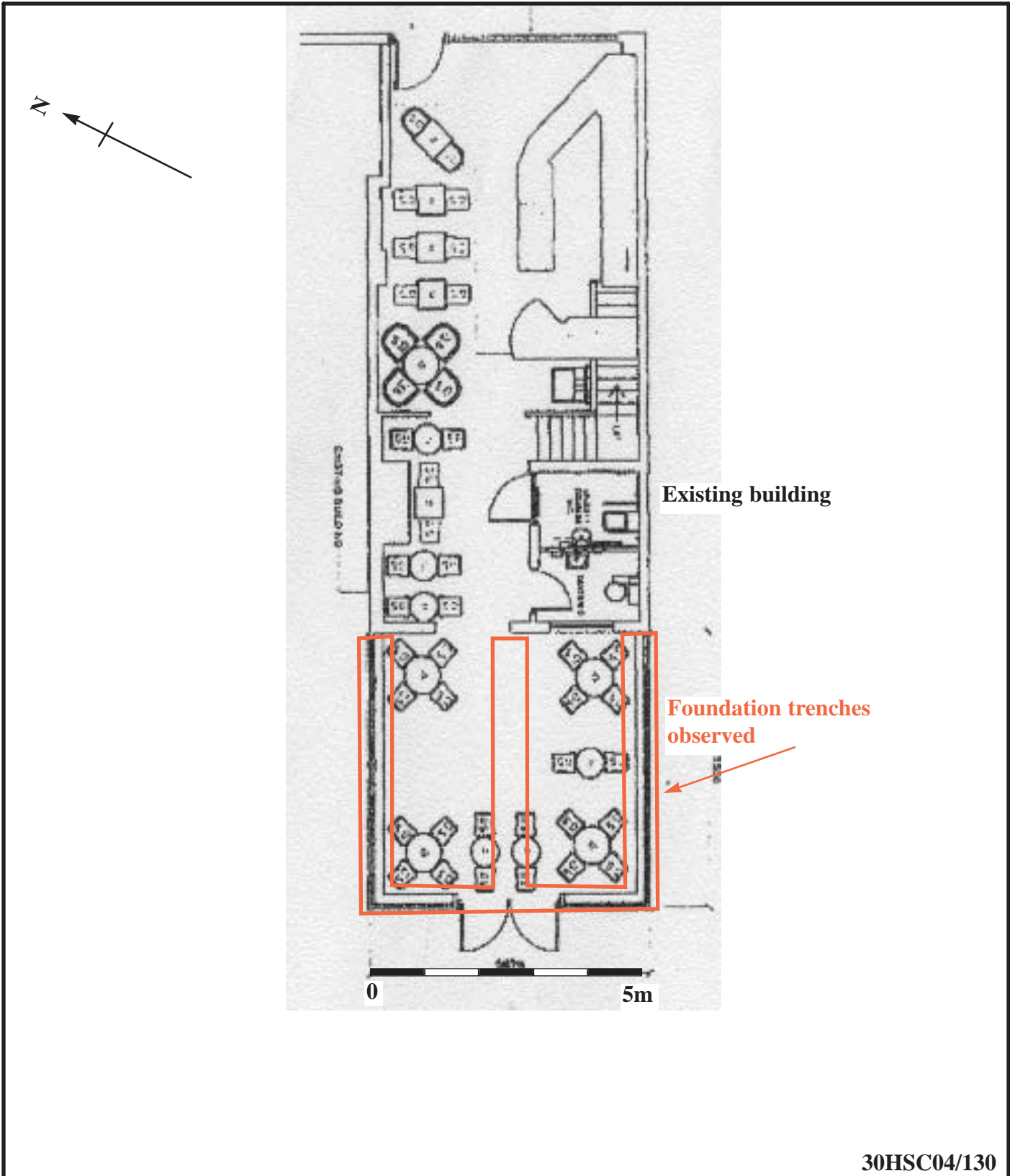
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An Archaeological Watching Brief**

Figure 2. Location of site on Cobham High Street.

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An Archaeological Watching Brief**

Figure 3. Location of foundation trenches observed.

Scale: 1:1000

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# 30 High Street, Cobham, Surrey, 2005

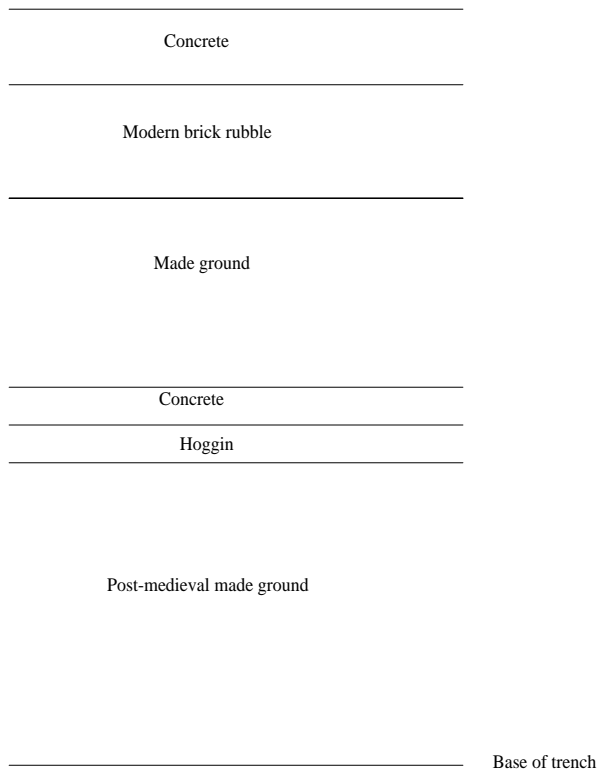


Figure 4. Representative section