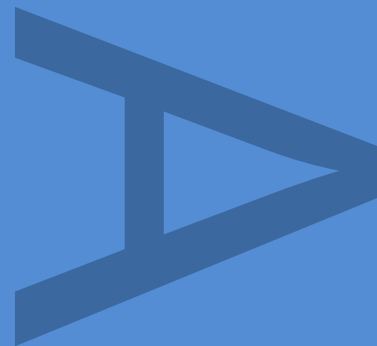


**ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING
BRIEF AT
THE ROYAL MID SURREY GOLF
CLUB
THE OLD DEER PARK
RICHMOND,
LONDON BOROUGH OF
RICHMOND UPON THAMES**

SEPTEMBER 2009



DOCUMENT VERIFICATION

Site Name

The Royal Mid Surrey Golf Club, The Old Deer Park, Richmond,
London Borough of Richmond upon Thames

Type of project

Archaeological Watching Brief

Quality Control

Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited Project Code		K1657	
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Revision No.	Date	Checked	Approved

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**An Archaeological Watching Brief during Course Improvements at the
Royal Mid Surrey Golf Club, the Old Deer Park, Richmond, London
Borough of Richmond upon Thames**

Site Code: RYS 09

Central National Grid Reference: TQ 176 759

**Written and Researched by James Young Langthorne
Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited, September 2009**

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September 2009**

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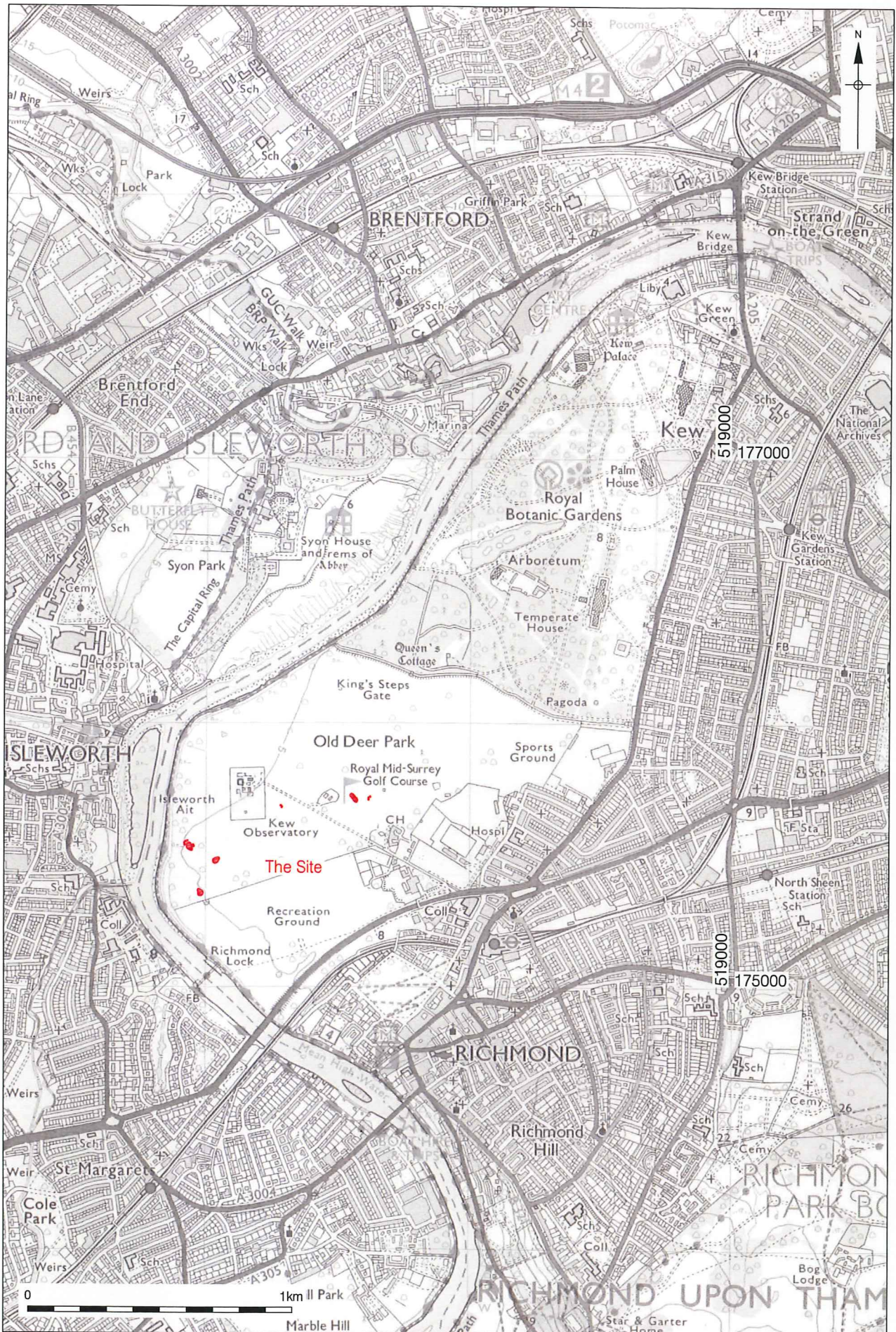
1 ABSTRACT

- 1.1 An archaeological watching brief was undertaken between 7th July and 7th September 2009 at the Royal Mid Surrey Golf Club, the Old Deer Park, London Borough of Richmond upon Thames by Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited. The watching brief was commissioned by CgMs Consulting.
- 1.2 Archaeological monitoring was required on extensions to the greens and associated new drainage on four holes of the course and extensions to bunkers on three of the holes.
- 1.3 No natural deposits were revealed during the improvement works to the golf course and the only discrete archaeological feature encountered on the site was the corner of a post-medieval wall foundation [3] found during the extension of the west bunker on Hole 15.
- 1.4 The only other deposits found on site were sand, sandy silt and silty clay sub-soils which were post-medieval in date and sandy silt layers which formed the current playing surface around the greens and bunkers of the archaeologically monitored holes.

2 INTRODUCTION

- 2.1 This report details the results and working methods of an archaeological watching brief undertaken by Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd. at the Royal Mid Surrey Golf Club, the Old Deer Park, London Borough of Richmond upon Thames (Fig. 1) between 7th July and 7th September 2009. The boundaries of the site were defined by the playing fields of a recreational ground and the Richmond Athletic Ground and Rugby pitch to the south, the River Thames to the west and the Royal Botanical Gardens of Kew to the north and east.
- 2.2 The requirements for the archaeological watching brief were outlined in the Written Scheme of Investigation¹. These included the monitoring of green extensions and the insertion of associated new drainage on four holes (Holes 10, 13, 15 and 16) and the cutting of new bunkers on three holes (Holes 11, 12 and 15) (Fig. 2). The watching brief was commissioned by Matthew Smith of CgMs Consulting, project managed for Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd. by Helen Hawkins and carried out by James Young Langthorne. The site was monitored by Diane Walls (English Heritage GLAAS), archaeological advisor to the London Borough of Richmond upon Thames.
- 2.3 The National Grid Reference of the site was centred at TQ 176 759.
- 2.4 The site was given the code RYS09.

¹ Smith 2009



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Figure 1
Site Location
1:20,000 at A4



Figure 2
Areas of Watching Brief
1:5,000 at A3

3 PLANNING BACKGROUND

3.1 The proposed development of the site consisted of the reconstruction of nine holes of the golf course, the extension of four of these holes, the installation of new drainage and the renovation and occasional re-cutting of bunkers. A number of these works on six of the holes had the potential to impact on any possible archaeological deposits extant within the boundaries of the site.

3.2 ARCHAEOLOGY IN RICHMOND UPON THAMES.

3.2.1 The study aims to satisfy the objectives of the London Borough of Richmond upon Thames, which fully recognises the importance of the buried heritage for which they are the custodians.

3.2.2 The Council granted planning permission for the improvement works on the golf course² with the following condition:

U25650 ARCHAEOLOGY

NO DEVELOPMENT SHALL TAKE PLACE ON THE APPLICATION SITE UNTIL THE APPLICANT OR THEIR AGENT OR SUCCESSORS IN TITLE 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 IN WRITING BY THE LOCAL PLANNING AUTHORITY.

REASON: TO SAFEGUARD ANY ARCHAEOLOGICAL INTEREST OF THE SITE.

3.2.3 The western part of the site surrounds the Kew/King's Old Observatory; a Grade I listed building. To the south and west of the observatory an area of the site lies within an Archaeological Priority Area as defined in the London Borough of Richmond upon Thames Unitary Development Plan. This Archaeological Priority Area delineates the site of a former Charterhouse monastery.

² Planning ref. DC/GEH/09/0120/FUL/FUL

4 GEOLOGY AND TOPOGRAPHY

4.1 Geology

- 4.1.1 British Geological Survey Sheet 270 shows the site's geological sequence as consisting of a basal geology of Kempton Park Gravels.

4.2 Topography

- 4.2.1 The site is located on flat ground, which lies at an approximate height of between 4 to 8m OD, and is immediately east of the River Thames.

5 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

5.1 The archaeological and historical background to the site was outlined in the Written Scheme of Investigation³. A summary of that report is given below.

5.2 PREHISTORIC

5.2.1 A 500m radius search of the Greater London Sites and Monuments Record (GLSMR) revealed finds dating to the prehistoric periods along the foreshore of the Thames, specifically deposits of reddish brown shingle⁴ and two Iron Age coins recovered from the vicinity of Syon Reach⁵.

5.2.2 The archaeological potential for prehistoric activity was therefore **low-moderate**.

5.3 ROMAN

5.3.1 There were no entries listed within a 500m radius of the study site on the GLSMR.

5.3.2 The potential for Roman material was therefore **low**.

5.4 MEDIEVAL

5.4.1 An archaeological investigation undertaken in 1920 by the Richmond Archaeological Society encountered the remains of wall foundations to the south of the Kew Old Observatory⁶. These foundations were interpreted as belonging to a building or buildings associated with a Carthusian monastery. The monastery was founded in 1414 by Henry V and suppressed during the Dissolution of the Monasteries, 1539-40, although some of the buildings were retained for use of the court and referred to as Sheen House.

5.4.2 The 1920 investigation, though incomplete, resulted in part of the golf course being designated an Archaeological Priority Area in the Borough's UDP.

5.4.3 The potential for medieval activity was therefore considered to be **moderate**.

5.5 POST-MEDIEVAL

5.5.1 The site lies within the Royal Deer Park created by James I in 1604 from a combination of the previously monastic land as well as land belonging to the Crown that lay to the north. A hunting lodge was founded in what would be the northern area of the golf course in 1605 by Robert Stickles. This hunting lodge was improved, expanded and changed ownership until it became a Royal property in 1717 owned by the Prince of Wales, later George II, and his wife.

5.5.2 The site was cleared in anticipation of the establishment of a new palace during the reign of George III however this building project never took place and instead the Observatory, built in 1768-69 by William Chambers, was founded.

5.5.3 Subsequently during the 1770s the hunting lodge was demolished and the park divided into two separate entities; the northern area becoming Kew Gardens while the southern area was employed for recreational pursuits. The Royal Mid Surrey Golf Club was formed in 1892⁷.

5.5.4 A previous archaeological excavation at the study site included a 10m long trench which reached a depth of 1m. Within the trench a post-medieval dump of silty sand was encountered which contained a small amount of clay tobacco pipe fragments sealing a natural subsoil horizon⁸.

5.5.5 The potential for post-medieval activity was therefore considered to be **high**.

³ Smith 2009

⁴ MLO69754

⁵ MLO68792

⁶ MLO19137

⁷ Smith 2009

⁸ ELO160

6 ARCHAEOLOGICAL METHODOLOGY

6.1 In accordance with the Written Statement of Investigation⁹ the following aspects of the golf course refurbishment were to be archaeologically monitored:

- The removal of significant amounts of 'native soils' during the extension of four greens (Holes 10, 13, 15 and 16).
- The removal of further 'native soils' within the four green extension areas during the replacement of drainage systems (Holes 10, 13, 15 and 16).
- The cutting of four new bunkers or extensions to previous existing bunkers on three holes (Holes 11, 12 and 15).

6.2 All of the excavations listed above were carried out by a machine using a flat bladed bucket under archaeological monitoring. After excavation was completed each green and bunker was recorded on plan at a scale of 1:250 from a baseline which was later surveyed using a TST. Any discrete archaeological features encountered were planned at a scale of 1:20. The single context system was used for all recording on the site.

6.3 The table below summarises the dimensions of the four archaeologically monitored greens:

Green	North-South (m)	East-West (m)	Max. Depth (m)
10	37.00	16.25	0.60
13	20.50	29.00	0.60
15	32.50	23.00	0.56
16	29.00	21.50	0.36

6.4 The table below summarises the dimensions of the four new or extended bunkers:

Hole	North-South (m)	East-West (m)	Max. Depth (m)
11	16.75	17.25	0.60
12	11.50	9.75	0.40
15 (west bunker)	23.50	9.75	0.50
15 (east bunker)	12.25	7.00	0.50

6.5 Natural deposits were not encountered at the base of any of the excavations.

⁹ Smith 2009

7 ARCHAEOLOGICAL DESCRIPTION

7.1 Hole 10 – Green Extension & Associated Drainage (Figs. 2 & 3)

- 7.1.1 No discrete archaeological deposits were found during the extension of Hole 10's green.
- 7.1.2 The only deposit encountered was a friable, mid grey brown sandy silt [10] with occasional CBM and brick fragments and moderate root activity and small angular, subangular and subrounded pebbles. This layer formed the playing surface beyond the limits of the original green and was encountered at a level of 0.91m OD to 6.89m OD.

7.2 Hole 11 – Bunker Extension (Figs. 2 & 3)

- 7.2.1 No discrete archaeological deposits were found during the cutting of the bunker on Hole 11.
- 7.2.2 The only deposit encountered was a firm but friable mid grey brown sandy silt with yellow mottling [11]; within the deposit were moderate inclusions of small angular, subangular and subrounded pebbles and very occasional root activity. This layer formed the playing surface beyond the limits of the original bunker and was encountered at a maximum height of 7.14m OD.

7.3 Hole 12 – Bunker Extension (Figs. 2 & 3)

- 7.3.1 No discrete archaeological deposits were found during the cutting of the bunker on Hole 12.
- 7.3.2 The only deposit encountered was a firm but friable, mid grey brown sandy silt [12]; within the deposit were moderate inclusions of small subangular and subrounded pebbles. This layer formed the playing surface beyond the limits of the original bunker and was encountered at a maximum height of 4.92m OD.

7.4 Hole 13 – Green Extension & Associated Drainage (Figs. 2 & 3)

- 7.4.1 No discrete archaeological deposits were found during the extension of the green on Hole 13.
- 7.4.2 The earliest archaeological deposit encountered during the green extension of Hole 13 was loose, light yellow grey sand with frequent subangular, subrounded and rounded pebble inclusions and occasional to moderate root activity [8]. This layer was not bottomed, being over 0.30m thick, and was encountered at a level of 5.70m OD. This layer would appear to be a subsoil laid down prior to the construction of the playing surface.
- 7.4.3 Overlying subsoil [8] was a 0.30m thick layer of friable, mid grey brown sandy silt [12] within which were moderate inclusions of small angular and rounded pebbles, occasional pea grit and occasional CBM, brick and clay tobacco pipe flecks and fragments. This layer formed the playing surface beyond the limits of the original green and was encountered between 5.97m OD and 5.72m OD.

7.5 Hole 15 – Green Extension & Associated Drainage (Figs. 2 & 3 and Image 1)

- 7.5.1 No discrete archaeological deposits were encountered during the extension of Hole 15's green.
- 7.5.2 The earliest archaeological deposit encountered during the green extension of Hole 15 was a firm but slightly friable, dark blue-grey brown silty clay with occasional CBM flecks, pea grit and subangular and subrounded gravel [6]. This layer was not bottomed, being over 0.26m thick, and was encountered at a level of 5.06m OD. This layer was interpreted as post-medieval parkland subsoil.

7.5.3 Overlying subsoil [6] was a 0.30m thick layer of friable, mid grey brown sandy silt with dark grey mottling [4] within which were moderate inclusions of small angular and rounded pebbles, frequent root activity, very occasional clay tobacco pipe fragments (dating to 1680-1710) and occasional to moderate CBM and brick fragments. This layer formed the playing surface beyond the limits of the original green and was encountered between 5.35m OD and 5.11m OD. Also found in this layer was a 0.80m long broken fragment of stone moulding, while being redeposited this fragment could have originally belonged to either the medieval monastery or the post-medieval hunting lodge (Plate 1).

7.6 Hole 15 – West Bunker Extension (Figs. 2, 3 & 4 and Image 2)

7.6.1 The earliest deposit encountered during the extension to the west bunker on Hole 15 was a loose, light yellow brown layer of silty sand with frequent subangular, subrounded and rounded pebbles and occasional to moderate root activity [5]. This layer was interpreted as a sandy subsoil and was encountered at 5.05m OD.

7.6.2 Overlying subsoil [5] was a large piece of masonry [3]. The masonry was constructed of red brick and soft, light brown sandy mortar in an unclear bond and was interpreted as a corner of a wall foundation, potentially being a structure associated with the later post-medieval hunting lodge. The foundation ran 1.96m east-west before turning 1.60m north-south, was 1.00m wide and 0.20m high and was encountered at a height of 5.26m OD. Wall foundation [3] was left *in situ* after recording.

7.6.3 Sealing masonry [3] was layer [4], described above, which formed the playing surface of the area beyond the original west bunker on Hole [15].

7.7 Hole 15 – East Bunker Cutting (Figs. 2 & 3)

7.7.1 Cutting a new east bunker on Hole 15 revealed no discrete archaeological deposits.

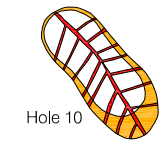
7.7.2 The only deposit encountered while cutting the new bunker on Hole 15 was the layer which made up the playing surface around the green of Hole 15, [4], which is described above.

7.8 Hole 16 – Green Extension & Associated Drainage (Figs. 2 & 3)

7.8.1 No discrete archaeological deposits were recorded during groundworks on Hole 16.

7.8.2 The earliest archaeological deposit encountered during the green extension of Hole 16 was loose, light yellow grey sand with frequent subangular, subrounded and rounded pebble inclusions and occasional to moderate root activity [2]. The bottom of this layer was not reached as the excavation only penetrated 0.02m into the layer. The layer was encountered at a level of 4.50m OD. This layer would appear to be subsoil laid down prior to the construction of the playing surface.

7.8.3 Overlying subsoil [2] was a 0.34m thick layer of friable, light to mid grey sandy silt [1] with frequent root activity, moderate pea grit and small angular and rounded pebbles, very occasional clay pipe stem fragments and occasional CBM and brick flecks and fragments. This layer formed the playing surface beyond the limits of the original green and was encountered between 4.76m OD and 4.33m OD.



Hole 10



Hole 11



Hole 12

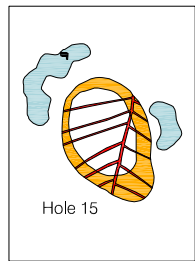
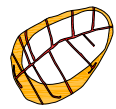
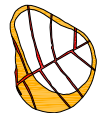


Figure 4

Hole 15







Hole 13



Hole 16

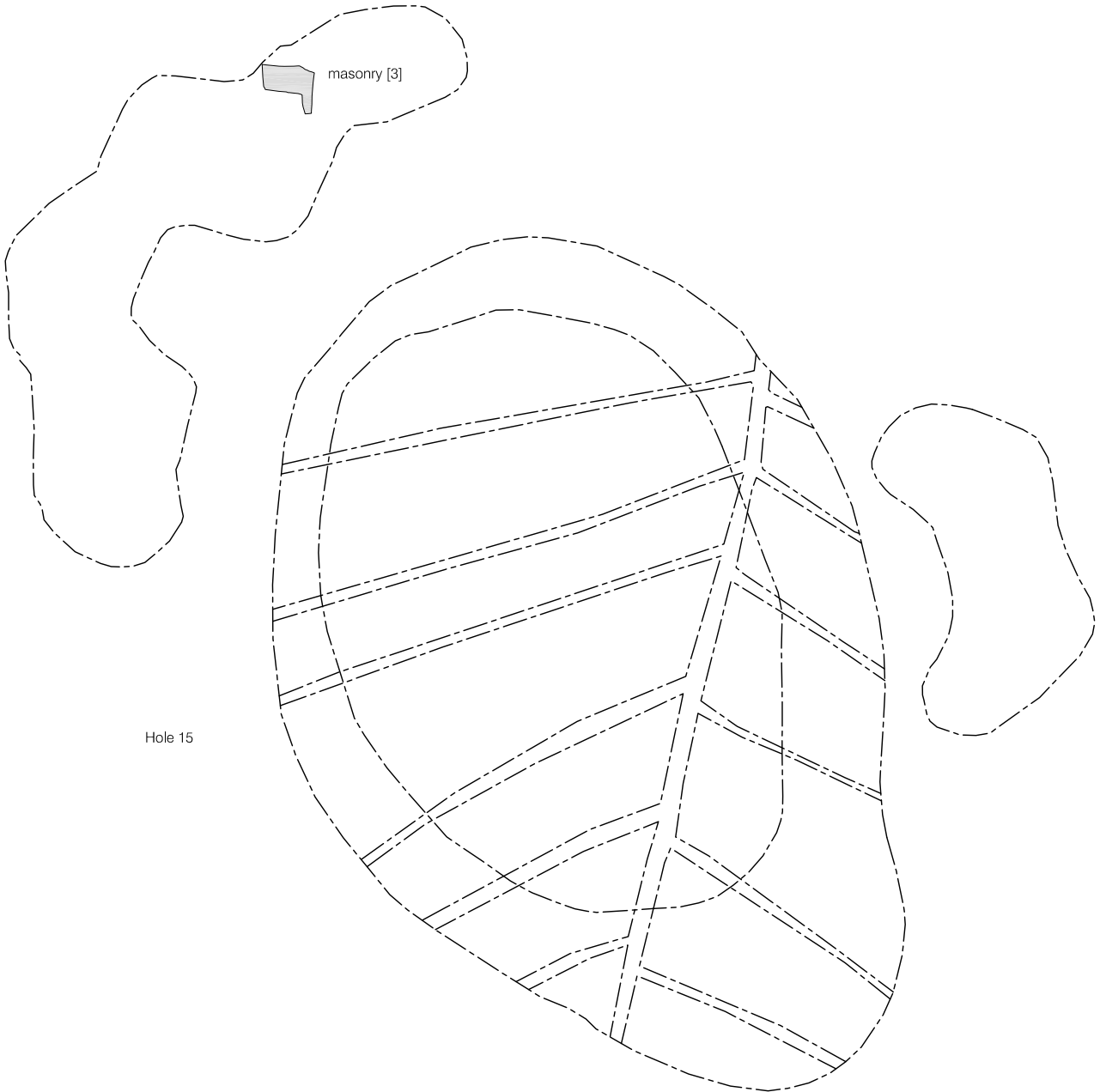
Key

-  Area of new bunker
-  Area of extension
-  Drain runs

0  100m

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Figure 3
Plan of Holes
1:2,000 at A3



0 10m

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Figure 4
Detail of Hole 15
1:250 at A4

Plate 1 – Moulding recovered from playing surface layer [4] of Hole 15



Plate 2 North facing view of wall foundation [3] in Hole 15 West Bunker



8 INTERPRETATION AND CONCLUSIONS

8.1 Interpretation

- 8.1.1 No natural deposits were revealed during the improvement works to the golf course.
- 8.1.2 The only discrete archaeological feature encountered on the site was the corner of a wall foundation [3] found during the extension of the west bunker on Hole 15.
- 8.1.3 The only other deposits found on site were sand, sandy silt and silty clay sub-soils which were interpreted as being post-medieval in date and sandy silt layers which formed the current playing surface around the greens and bunkers of the archaeologically monitored holes.

8.2 Conclusions

- 8.2.1 It has been clearly shown by the watching brief that there are traces of post-medieval masonry in the south-western part of the site in the vicinity of Hole 15 despite the heavy remodelling that took place on the site during the construction of the golf course.
- 8.2.2 Furthermore since natural deposits were not observed during any of the excavations on site there is still potential for archaeological deposits of earlier dates to be extant beneath the sub-soil.

9 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

- 9.1 Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited would like to thank Matthew Smith of CgMs Consulting for commissioning the work. Thanks also to Diane Walls of the Greater London Archaeology Advisory Service (GLAAS) for monitoring the site on behalf of the London Borough of Richmond upon Thames.
- 9.2 The author would like to thank Simon Peters and the rest of the team from M J Abbott for their assistance on site; Hayley Baxter for the illustrations; Chris Jarrett for spot dating the Clay Tobacco Pipe recovered from the site and Helen Hawkins for her project management and editing.

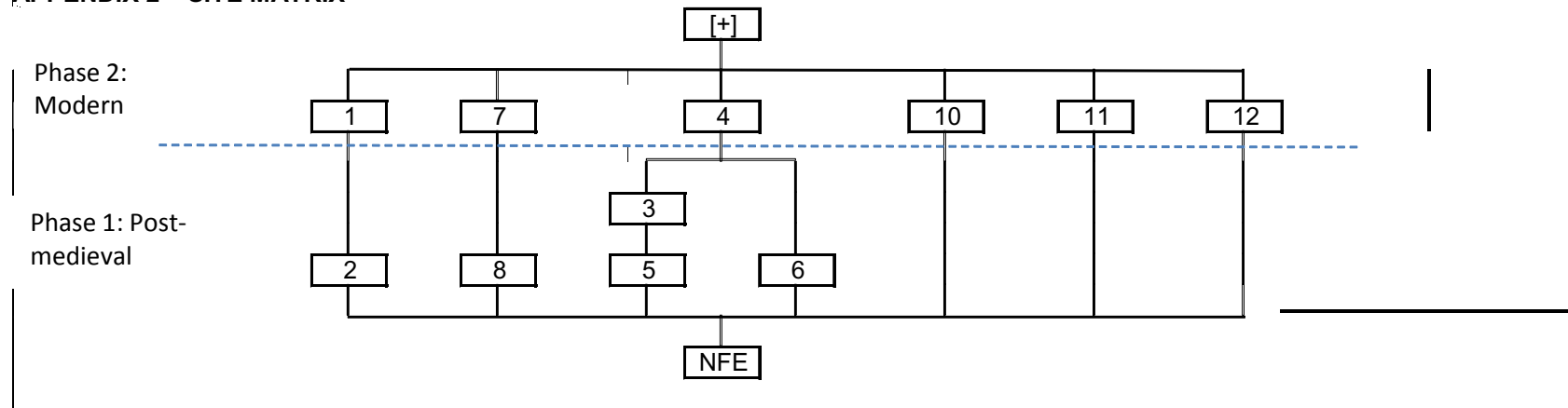
10 BIBLIOGRAPHY

Smith, M. 2009. *Written Scheme of Investigation for an Archaeological Watching Brief: Course Improvements at The Royal Mid Surrey Golf Club*. CgMs Consulting unpublished report.

APPENDIX 1 – CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS

Site Code	Context No.	Plan	Section / Elevation	Type	Description	Date	Phase
RYS09	1	Hole 16	N/A	Layer	Playing Surface/Made Ground	Modern	2
RYS09	2	Hole 16	N/A	Layer	Subsoil	Post-Medieval	1
RYS09	3	3	N/A	Masonry	Wall Foundation	Post-Medieval	1
RYS09	4	Hole 15	N/A	Layer	Playing Surface/Made Ground	Modern	2
RYS09	5	Hole 15	N/A	Layer	Subsoil	Post-Medieval	1
RYS09	6	Hole 15	N/A	Layer	Clay layer	Post-Medieval	1
RYS09	7	Hole 13	N/A	Layer	Playing Surface/Made Ground	Modern	2
RYS09	8	Hole 13	N/A	Layer	Subsoil	Post-Medieval	1
RYS09	9	N/A	N/A	VOID	VOID	VOID	N/A
RYS09	10	Hole 10	N/A	Layer	Playing Surface/Made Ground	Modern	2
RYS09	11	Hole 11	N/A	Layer	Garden soil/Made Ground	Modern	2
RYS09	12	Hole 12	N/A	Layer	Garden soil/Made Ground	Modern	2

APPENDIX 2 – SITE MATRIX



APPENDIX 3 – OASIS FORM

OASIS ID: preconst1-64204

Project details

Project name An Archaeological Watching Brief during Course Improvements at the Royal Mid Surrey Golf Club, Richmond

Short description of the project An archaeological watching brief was undertaken by Pre-Construct Archaeology on extensions to greens with associated new drainage and alterations to certain bunkers on 6 holes during improvement works to the Royal Mid Surrey Golf Club, Richmond. No natural deposits were observed during the works and the only discrete archaeological feature was the corner of a post-medieval wall foundation found during the of the west bunker on Hole 15. The only other deposits encountered on site were sand, sandy silt and silty clay sub-soils and sandy silt layers which formed the current playing surface around the greens and bunkers of the monitored holes.

Project dates Start: 07-07-2009 End: 07-09-2009

Previous/future work Not known / Not known

Any associated project reference codes RYS09 - Sitecode

Type of project Recording project

Site status Local Authority Designated Archaeological Area

Current Land use Other 14 - Recreational usage

Monument type WALL FOUNDATION Post Medieval

Significant Finds CLAY TOBACCO PIPE Post Medieval

Investigation type 'Watching Brief'

Prompt Planning condition

Project location

Country	England
Site location	GREATER LONDON RICHMOND UPON THAMES RICHMOND AND KEW Royal Mid Surrey Golf Club, The Old Deer Park
Study area	1518000.00 Square metres
Site coordinates	TQ 176 759 51.4693338788 -0.306704280516 51 28 09 N 000 18 24 W Point

Project creators

Name of Organisation	Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd
Project brief originator	CgMs Consulting
Project design originator	Matthew Smith
Project director/manager	Helen Hawkins
Project supervisor	James Young Langthorne

Project archives

Physical Archive Exists?	No
Digital Archive recipient	LAARC
Digital Archive ID	RYS09
Digital Contents	'none'
Digital Media available	'Images raster / digital photography','Survey'
Paper Archive recipient	LAARC
Paper Archive ID	RYS09

Paper Contents 'none'

Paper Media available 'Context sheet','Photograph','Plan','Unpublished Text'

Project bibliography 1

Publication type Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)

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