

**LAND AT TYRRELLS WOOD GOLF COURSE,
LEATHERHEAD,
SURREY.**

NGR: 518945.155230

ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION

April 2015
Report No. 1050

Quality Assurance

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SUMMARY

In March 2015 Foundations Archaeology undertook a programme of archaeological evaluation on land at Tyrrells Wood Golf Course, Leatherhead, Surrey (NGR: 518945.155230). The evaluation was commissioned by BSA Heritage on behalf of Tyrrells Wood Golf Course.

The project comprised the excavation and recording of six trenches in the area of a proposed irrigation reservoir/water storage pond.

The evaluation revealed undulating natural chalk deposits sealed beneath variable depths of subsoil and topsoil. No archaeological finds or features were present within the trenches and, therefore, the archaeological potential for the area of the proposed pond is considered low.

GLOSSARY OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL TERMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

Archaeology

For the purpose of this project, archaeology is taken to mean the study of past human societies through their material remains from prehistoric times to the modern era. No rigid upper date limit has been set, but AD 1900 is used as a general cut-off point.

CBM

Ceramic Building Material.

Medieval

The period between AD 1066 and AD 1500.

Natural

In archaeological terms this refers to the undisturbed natural geology of a site.

NGR

National Grid Reference from the Ordnance Survey Grid.

OD

Ordnance datum; used to express a given height above sea-level. (AOD Above Ordnance Datum).

OS

Ordnance Survey.

Post-medieval

The period between AD 1500 and AD 1900.

Prehistoric

The period prior to the Roman invasion of AD 43, traditionally sub divided into; *Palaeolithic* – c. 500,000 BC to c. 12,000 BC; *Mesolithic* – c. 12,000 BC to c. 4,500 BC; *Neolithic* – c. 4,500 BC to c. 2,000 BC; *Bronze Age* – c. 2,000 BC to c. 800 BC; *Iron Age* – c. 800 BC to AD 43.

Roman

The period traditionally dated AD 43 until AD 410.

Saxon

The period between AD 410 and AD 1066.

1 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 In March 2015 Foundations Archaeology undertook a programme of archaeological evaluation on land at Tyrrells Wood Golf Course, Leatherhead, Surrey (NGR: 518945.155230). The project was commissioned by BSA Heritage on behalf of Tyrrells Wood Golf Course.
- 1.2 The project was conducted in accordance with the approved *Written Scheme of Investigation* (2015), the *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluations* issued by the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (2011) and discussions between Ben Stephenson of BSA Heritage and Gary Jackson of Surrey County Council.
- 1.3 The *Code of Conduct* of the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists was adhered to throughout.

2 PROJECT BACKGROUND

- 2.1 It is proposed to construct a new irrigation reservoir/water storage pond at the golf course. Mole Valley District Council have confirmed planning permission for the reservoir subject to planning conditions (**Ref. MO/2014/0927/PLA**). The permitted reservoir will extend over a total of 3,500 square metres, with material extracted from the excavation of the reservoir forming an embankment to the west.
- 2.2 The geology of the site comprises the *Lewes, Sleaford and Newhaven* chalk formation. No superficial deposits are recorded (British Geological Survey - on-line viewer). The site is located within a generally undulating topography, at approximately 127m OD. At the time of the works the site formed part of a copse of secondary woodland, which was surrounded by golf course fairways.
- 2.3 The site was considered to have some archaeological potential, with a number of tumuli recorded between 590m-750m southwest of the site; several of these are scheduled as part of the Leatherhead Down Barrow Cemetery (Refs: 1007886 and 1007887). The major Roman road of Stane Street is located 230m to the northwest of the site.
- 2.4 The site therefore contained the potential for archaeological features and deposits, predominately associated with the Prehistoric and Roman periods. This did not prejudice the evaluation against finds and features relating to other periods.
- 2.5 This report presents the findings of the evaluation works.

3 AIMS

- 3.1 The aims of the archaeological evaluation were to gather high quality data from the direct observation of archaeological deposits in order to provide sufficient information to establish the nature, extent, preservation and potential of any surviving archaeological remains; as well as to make recommendations for management of the resource, including further archaeological works if necessary.
- 3.2 These aims were achieved through pursuit of the following specific objectives:
- i/ To determine, as far as reasonably practicable, the location, extent, date, character, condition, significance and quality of any surviving archaeological remains;
 - ii/ To assess vulnerability/sensitivity of any exposed remains;
 - iii/ To establish the ecofactual and environmental potential of archaeological deposits and features encountered;
 - iv/ To assess the impact of previous land use on the site;
 - v/ To establish the potential for significant environmental deposits;
 - vi/ To provide sufficient information on the archaeological potential of the site to enable the archaeological implications of the proposed development to be assessed;
 - vii/ To inform formulation of a strategy to avoid or mitigate impacts of the proposed development on surviving archaeological remains;
 - viii/ To produce a site archive for deposition with an appropriate museum and to provide information for accession to the Surrey County Council HER.

4 METHODOLOGY

- 4.1 Six trenches were excavated within the site, as shown in Figure 2. Due to on-site constraints, some of the trenches were re-located. All amendments to the approved trench layout were agreed with BSA Heritage.
- 4.2 Non-significant overburden was removed, under constant archaeological supervision, to the top of the archaeological deposits or the underlying natural substrate, whichever was encountered first. This was achieved through the use of a mechanical excavator, equipped with a toothless grading bucket. Spoil tips were visually scanned for finds.
- 4.3 All excavation and recording work was undertaken in accordance with the WSI and the Foundations Archaeology Technical Manual 3: Excavation Manual.

5 RESULTS

- 5.1 A full description of all contexts identified during the course of the project is presented in Appendix 1. A summary of the results of the fieldwork is given below.
- 5.2 The natural chalk substrates were present between 123.90m and 126.90m OD. These were sealed beneath a clay silt subsoil, which varied in thickness between 0.13m and 1.91m. The subsoil was overlaid by a topsoil, which was between 0.14m and 0.38m thick. It was uncertain if the variable height of the natural and variable thickness of the subsoil was the result of former landscaping activities or represented natural landscape undulations, which were sealed by a variable thickness of colluvium. There was no evidence for substantial re-deposited natural chalk, which suggested that the latter interpretation was more likely.
- 5.3 There were no archaeological features or finds present in any of the trenches.

6 CONCLUSION

- 6.1 The evaluation has indicated that there is a low potential for archaeological remains to be present within the proposed development area.
- 6.2 The archive is currently held at the offices of Foundations Archaeology, but will be deposited within 12 months with an appropriate museum. A short note will be submitted for publication in the relevant local archaeological journal and an OASIS form will also be submitted to ADS.

7 BIBLIOGRAPHY

Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA). 2011. *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Evaluation*. Reading.

Foundations Archaeology. 2015. *Tyrrells Wood Golf Course, Leatherhead, Surrey: Written Scheme of Investigation for an Archaeological Evaluation*. Unpublished.

8 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Foundations Archaeology would like to thank Gary Jackson of Surrey County Council and Ben Stephenson of BSA Heritage for their help during the course of the project.

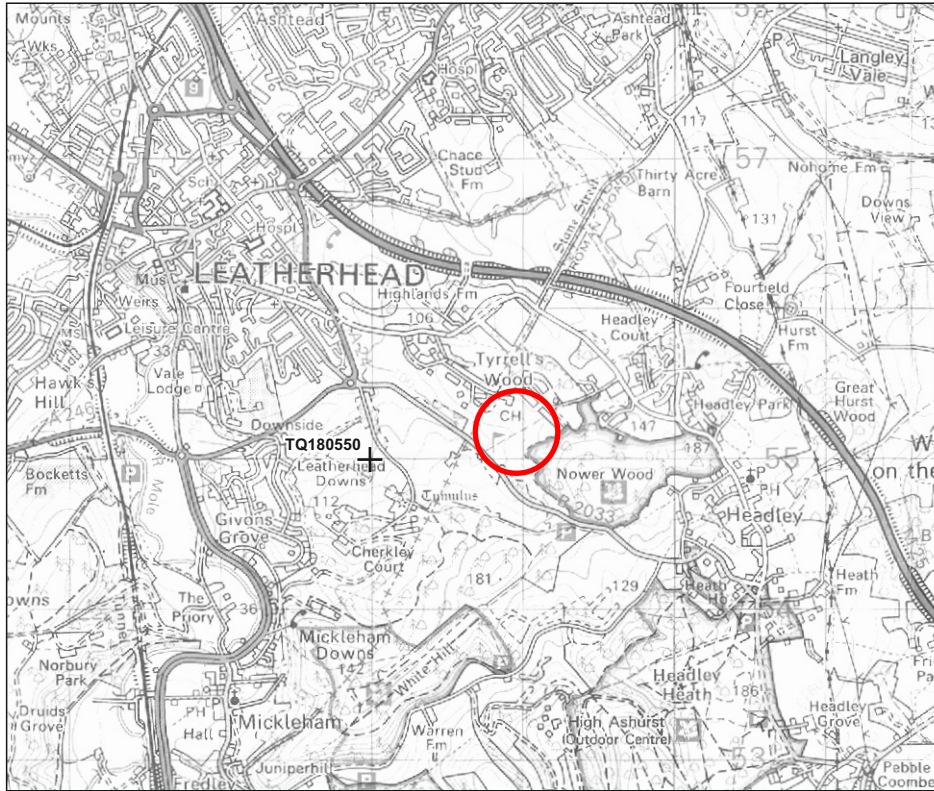
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APPENDIX 1: Stratigraphic Data

CXT	L(m)	W(m)	D(m)	DESCRIPTION	CUTS/LATER THAN	CUT BY/EARLIER THAN
				TRENCH 1; 10m by 1.6m. Natural = chalk at average 125.54m OD.		
101	na	na	nw = 0.31 se = 0.34	Topsoil; mid brown grey clay silt, which contained frequent tree roots.	102	na
102	na	na	nw = 1.91 se = 1.21	Subsoil; light brown beige clay silt.	natural	101
				No archaeological finds or features were present within the trench.		
				TRENCH 2; 15m by 1.6m. Natural = chalk at average 124.45m OD.		
201	na	na	n = 0.38 s = 0.25	Topsoil; mid brown grey clay silt, which contained frequent tree roots.	202	na
202	na	na	n = 1.7 s = 1.85	Subsoil; light brown beige clay silt.	natural	201
				No archaeological finds or features were present within the trench.		
				TRENCH 3; 10m by 1.6m. Natural = chalk at average 126.90m OD.		
301	na	na	nw = 0.33 se = 0.21	Topsoil; mid brown grey clay silt, which contained frequent tree roots.	302	na
302	na	na	nw = 0.24 se = 0.25	Subsoil; light brown beige clay silt.	natural	301
				No archaeological finds or features were present within the trench.		

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CXT	L(m)	W(m)	D(m)	DESCRIPTION	CUTS/LATER THAN	CUT BY/EARLIER THAN
				TRENCH 4; 10m by 1.6m. Natural = chalk at average 126.41m OD.		
401	na	na	nw = 0.15 se = 0.20	Topsoil; mid brown grey clay silt, which contained frequent tree roots.	402	na
402	na	na	nw = 0.35 se = 0.50	Subsoil; light brown beige clay silt.	natural	401
				No archaeological finds or features were present within the trench.		
				TRENCH 5; 25m by 1.6m. Natural = chalk at average 123.90m OD.		
501	na	na	ne = 0.2 sw = 0.3	Topsoil; mid brown grey clay silt, which contained frequent tree roots.	502	na
502	na	na	ne = 0.2 sw = 1.4	Subsoil; light brown beige clay silt.	natural	501
				No archaeological finds or features were present within the trench.		
				TRENCH 6; 18m by 1.6m. Natural = chalk at average 124.90m OD.		
601	na	na	n = 0.14 s = 0.25	Topsoil; mid brown grey clay silt, which contained frequent tree roots.	602	na
602	na	na	n = 0.13 s = 0.37	Subsoil; light brown beige clay silt.	natural	601
				No archaeological finds or features were present within the trench.		



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Site Code: TWG15
Accession Code:

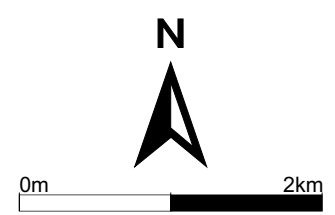
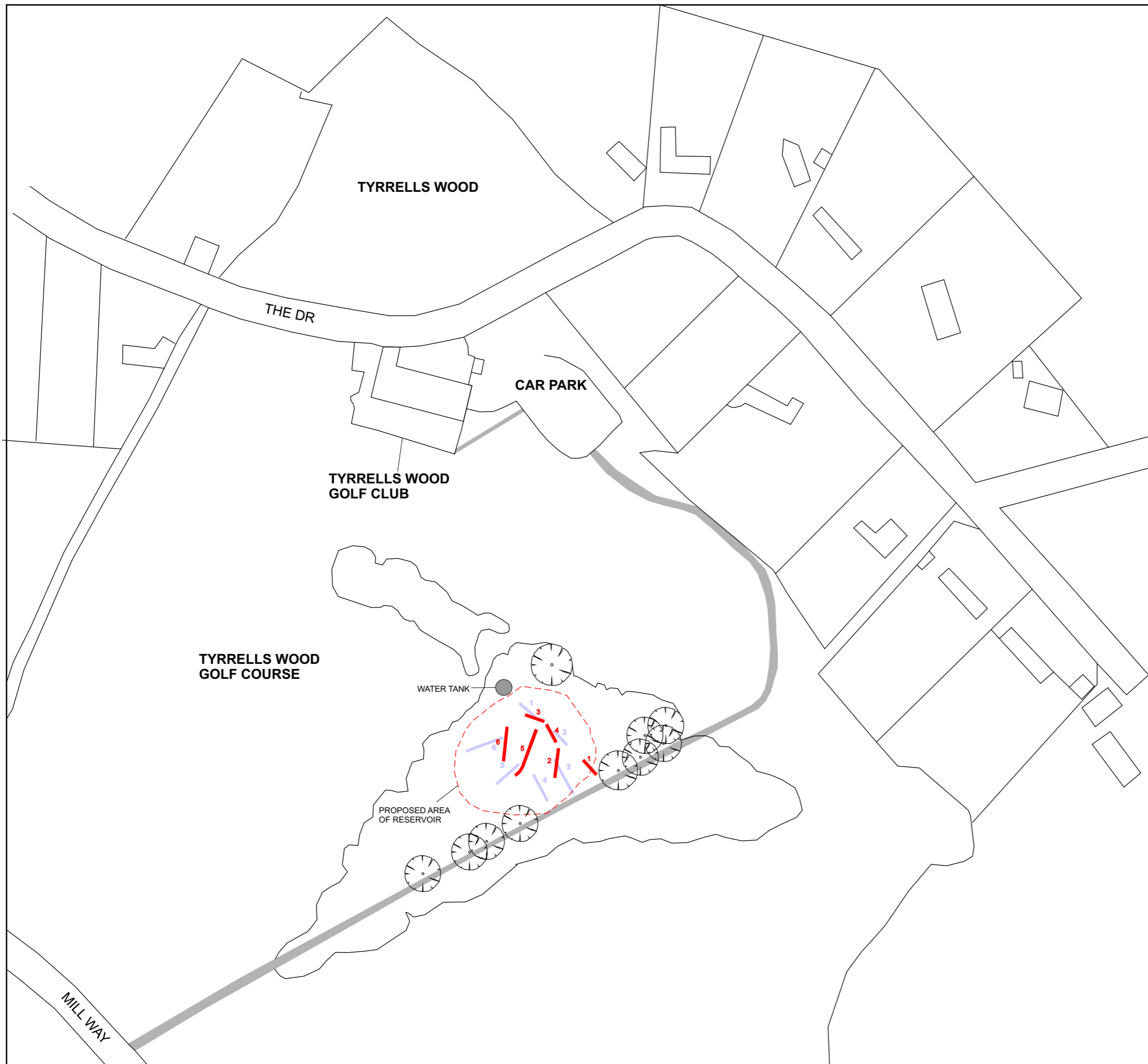


FIGURE 1: Site Location



Site Code: TWG15
 Accession Code:

N

PROPOSED TRENCH LOCATION
 ACTUAL TRENCH LOCATION
 PROTECTED TREE

0m 80m

FIGURE 2: Trench Locations