

**LAND AT GERRARDS CROSS GOLF COURSE,  
BUCKINGHAMSHIRE.**

**NGR: 501460/190115 (centred)**

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION**

April 2016  
Report No. 1119



**ARCHAEOLOGICAL CONSULTANCY, MANAGEMENT & FIELD SERVICES**

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**Quality Assurance**

This Document has been compiled and authorised in accordance with  
AMS's Quality Procedures (BS EN ISO 9001: 2008)

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## **SUMMARY**

*In March 2016 Foundations Archaeology undertook a programme of archaeological evaluation on an area of land to the northwest of Gerrards Cross Golf Course, Buckinghamshire (NGR: 501460/190115 - centred), prior to the construction of a reservoir pond. The project was commissioned by BSA Heritage on behalf of Gerrards Cross Golf Course.*

*The evaluation comprised the excavation of four 30m long evaluation trenches within the development area, one targeted on an anomaly identified in a geophysical survey undertaken by Headland Archaeology in November 2015.*

*No archaeological features were present within the evaluated areas and the identified geophysical anomaly targeted in Trench 1 was found to be a very shallow (0.02m deep) band of a slightly more clayey subsoil. Deposits in Trenches 3 and 4 showed a build-up of colluvial sediments in a shallow northwest-southeast aligned valley (0.40m deep) and a natural hollow (0.53m deep).*

*Two fragments of undiagnostic worked flint were found in subsoil and upper colluvial deposits. Both showed heavy post-depositional damage and were almost certainly residual.*

## **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 This report presents the findings of an archaeological evaluation undertaken by Foundations Archaeology in March 2016 on an area of land to the northwest of Gerrards Cross Golf Course, Buckinghamshire (NGR: 501460/190115 - centred). The project was commissioned by BSA Heritage on behalf of Gerrards Cross Golf Course.
- 1.2 The evaluation was undertaken in accordance with the approved Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI), prepared by Foundations Archaeology (2015). The project was conducted in accordance with the *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluations* issued by the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (rev. 2014) and complies with the principles of *National Planning Policy Framework* (2012).

## 2 PROJECT BACKGROUND

- 2.1 The proposed development is for the construction of a reservoir pond on the northeastern edge of the golf course, between Gerrards Cross and Mopes Farm.
- 2.2 A desk-based assessment was undertaken by BSA Heritage (2015) with regard to the site. It did not identify any particular potential within the site, although there has been activity in the wider area since Prehistoric times. The results of this document are summarised below.
- 2.3 Designated heritage assets nearby include a Scheduled moat to the west and a group of three Grade II listed former farm buildings east of Denham Lane. Finds and investigation suggest activity on the plateau from Prehistory with likely Iron Age to Roman field system remains investigated east of the site. Although a high status Roman site is known west of the proposed development, the higher ground may not have been settled at this time. Indeed the area may have become or remained forested and may have been a chase, with the nearby moat containing a hunting lodge.
- 2.4 A geophysical survey of the development area undertaken in November 2015 (Headland Archaeology 2015) had identified two probable linear features forming a potential enclosure which respects existing field boundaries.
- 2.5 As a result of its identified archaeological potential, the archaeological advisors to Chiltern District Council requested a programme of field evaluation to fully assess the potential impact on any heritage asset of

archaeological interest, in accordance with paragraph 128 of the NPPF, prior to determination of the application.

- 2.6 To satisfy this condition Foundations Archaeology issued a Written Scheme of Investigation (2015) outlining a programme of archaeological evaluation for comment and approval by the archaeological advisors to Chiltern District Council. It was accepted and forms the basis of the current works.

### **3 SITE LOCATION AND TOPOGRAPHY**

- 3.1 The development area is c. 1 ha and lies between Gerrards Cross Golf Course to the west and north and Mopes Farm to the northeast (Figures 1 & 2), at the time of the evaluation it comprised a single plot of land under pasture.
- 3.2 The topography is undulating with a shallow hollow (in the location of Trench 4) and a shallow valley running between Trenches 1 and 2 to the southeast. Heights vary across the site, with 88.20m above Ordnance Datum (aOD) in the area of Trench 1 to 84.61m aOD in the area of Trench 3.
- 3.3 The underlying solid geology comprises clays, silts and sands of the Lambeth Group overlain by superficial deposits of sands and gravels (British Geological Survey 2016).

### **4 AIMS**

- 4.1 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 the management of the resource, including further archaeological works if necessary. This would allow reasonable planning decisions to be taken regarding the archaeological provision for the areas affected by the proposed development.
- 4.2 These aims were achieved through pursuit of the following specific objectives:
- i) to define and identify the nature of archaeological deposits on site, and date these where possible;
  - ii) to attempt to characterise the nature and preservation of the archaeological sequence and recover as much information as possible about the spatial patterning and extent of features present on the site;

iii) to recover a well dated stratigraphic sequence which will attempt to determine the complexity of the horizontal and vertical stratigraphy present, and to recover coherent artefact, ecofact and environmental samples;

iv) to determine the potential of the site to provide palaeoenvironmental and/or economic evidence and the forms in which such evidence may be present.

v) to define any research priorities that may be relevant should further field investigation be required.

## **5 METHODOLOGY**

5.1 The fieldwork strategy comprised the excavation of four evaluation trenches within the development area, with Trench 1 targeted on an anomaly identified in the geophysical survey, as shown in Figure 3. Each trench was 30m long and 1.6m wide making a total excavation area of 192m<sup>2</sup> - an approximate 2% sample of the development area.

5.2 Non-significant overburden was removed, under constant archaeological supervision, to the top of archaeological remains or the underlying natural deposits, 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.

5.3 All excavation and recording work was undertaken in accordance with the WSI and the Foundations Archaeology Technical Manual 3: Excavation Manual.

## **6 RESULTS & DISCUSSION**

6.1 A full description of all contexts identified during the course of the project is presented in Appendix 1, along with a list of finds in Appendix 2.

6.2 No archaeological features were found during the evaluation. The identified geophysical anomaly targeted in Trench 1 was found to be a shallow (0.02m deep) band of a slightly more clayey subsoil. While Trenches 1 and 2 were relatively shallow at 0.25m deep, Trenches 3 and 4 contained colluvial deposits of up to 0.53m deep.

6.3 In Trench 3 the colluvial deposit **(301)** was 0.4m deep and had formed in the shallow northwest-southeast orientated valley present across the development area. In Trench 4 two colluvial deposits (**(401)** and **(402)**) at 0.33m and 0.20m



deep respectively) filled a natural hollow. This hollow was more pronounced to the southeast of Trench 4.

- 6.4 Two undiagnostic pieces of worked flint were recovered from the evaluation. The first from subsoil in Trench 1 (**101**), the second from the upper colluvial deposit in Trench 4 (**401**). Both showed heavy post-depositional damage and were almost certainly residual. In addition, two fragments of Post-medieval CBM were recovered from the same upper colluvium deposit in Trench 4 (**401**).

## **7 CONCLUSION**

- 7.1 No archaeological features were found during the evaluation, and the identified geophysical anomaly targeted in Trench 1 was found to be a very shallow (0.02m deep) band of a slightly more clayey subsoil.
- 7.2 Deposits in Trenches 3 and 4 showed a build-up of colluvial sediments in a shallow northwest-southeast aligned valley (0.40m deep) and a natural hollow (0.53m deep).
- 7.3 Two fragments of worked flint were found in subsoil and upper colluvial deposits. Both showed heavy post-depositional damage and were almost certainly residual.

## **8 ARCHIVING, STORAGE & PUBLICATION**

- 8.1 The archive is currently held at the offices of Foundations Archaeology, but will be deposited in due course with the local museum. Copies of the report in paper and digital format will be supplied to the County Archaeological Service and an additional copy will be deposited with the site archive.
- 8.2 The report will be published in an appropriate form in a relevant journal within 12 months from completion of fieldwork. An OASIS record will also be completed and submitted on completion of the project.

## **9 BIBLIOGRAPHY**

British Geological Survey, 2016. *Geology of Britain viewer*. <http://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home.html>.

BSA Heritage, 2015. *Land at Gerrards Cross Golf Course, Buckinghamshire: Archaeology and Heritage Statement* Report No BSA 1470\_1a

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Headland Archaeology, 2015. *Land at Gerrards Cross Golf Course, Buckinghamshire: Geophysical Survey* Ref GCBU/01

### **10 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

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## Land at Gerrards Cross Golf Course, Buckinghamshire: Archaeological Evaluation

### APPENDIX 1: Trench Summaries

<b>TRENCH 1</b> ; 30m by 1.6m, aligned north-south Ground level; 88.16m aOD (north), 87.62m aOD (south)						
CXT	L(m)	W(m)	D(m)	DESCRIPTION	CUTS/ LATER THAN	CUT BY/ EARLIER THAN
100	Trench	Trench	0.20	Greyish brown firm silty clay with frequent small to medium subrounded and subangular flint pebble. Interface with (101) diffuse. TOPSOIL	101	-
101	Trench	Trench	0.05	Light greyish brown sticky clay silt with frequent small to medium subrounded and subangular flint fragments. SUBSOIL	102	100
102	na	na	na	NATURAL – orange and pale grey clays with patches of gravel.	-	101

<b>TRENCH 2</b> ; 30m by 1.6m, aligned northwest-southeast Ground level; 86.55m aOD (northwest), 85.79m aOD (southeast)						
CXT	L(m)	W(m)	D(m)	DESCRIPTION	CUTS/ LATER THAN	CUT BY/ EARLIER THAN
200	Trench	Trench	0.25	Greyish brown firm silty clay with common small to medium subrounded and subangular flint pebble. Interface with (201) diffuse. TOPSOIL	201	-
201	Trench	Trench	0.05	Mid brown firm to sticky clay silt with occasional small to medium subrounded and subangular flint fragments. SUBSOIL	202	200
202	na	na	na	NATURAL – orange brown clays with patches of gravel.	-	201

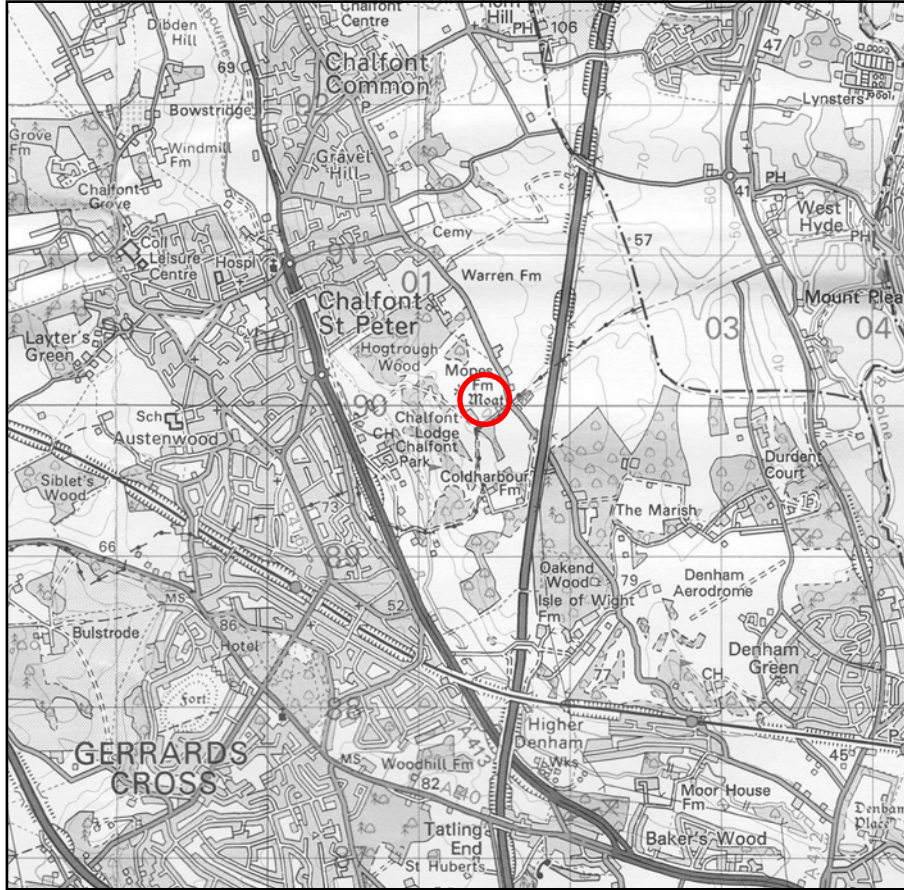
<b>TRENCH 3</b> ; 30m by 1.6m, aligned northwest-southeast Ground level; 84.89m aOD (northwest), 84.61m aOD (southeast)						
CXT	L(m)	W(m)	D(m)	DESCRIPTION	CUTS/ LATER THAN	CUT BY/ EARLIER THAN
300	Trench	Trench	0.25	Greyish brown firm silty clay with common small to medium subrounded and subangular flint pebble. Interface with (301) diffuse. TOPSOIL	301	-
301	Trench	Trench	0.40	Mid brown firm to sticky clay silt with rare small to medium subrounded and subangular flint fragments. Rare small fragments of lime occur in patches in upper 0.05m of deposit. COLLUVIUM	302/303	300
302	na	na	na	NATURAL – orange brown brickearth. Occurs in northern half of trench.	-	301
303	na	na	na	NATURAL – gravels with patches of orange brown clay. Occurs in southern half of trench.	-	301
Trench deepest (0.65m) above brickearth natural (302) shallowing to the south, at 0.30m deep above gravels (303).						

## Land at Gerrards Cross Golf Course, Buckinghamshire: Archaeological Evaluation

<b>TRENCH 4</b> ; 30m by 1.6m, aligned northeast-southwest Ground level; 85.92m aOD (northeast), 87.14m aOD (southwest)						
CXT	L(m)	W(m)	D(m)	DESCRIPTION	CUTS/ LATER THAN	CUT BY/ EARLIER THAN
400	Trench	Trench	0.28	Greyish brown firm silty clay with common small to medium subrounded and subangular flint pebble. Interface with (401) diffuse. TOPSOIL	401	-
401	14	Trench	0.33	Reddish brown firm to sticky clay silt with frequent small to medium rounded, subrounded and subangular flint fragments. Rare charcoal flecks. Interface with (402) diffuse. UPPER COLLUVIUM	402	400
402	14	Trench	0.20	Greyish brown sticky clay silt with occasional rounded, subrounded and subangular flint pebble. Rare charcoal flecks. LOWER COLLUVIUM	403	401
403	na	na	na	NATURAL – orange clays with patches of gravel.	-	402
Colluvial deposits (401) and (402) only occurred for 14m in the centre of the trench – a maximum of 0.53m deep. At either end of the trench topsoil (400) lay directly over natural (403) at a depth of 0.3m.						

**APPENDIX 2: Finds List**

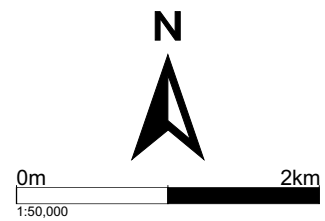
<b>Context</b>	<b>Type</b>	<b>No</b>	<b>Weight (gr)</b>
<i>101</i>	Flint flake	1	3
<i>401</i>	Flint flake	1	8
<i>401</i>	CBM	2	112



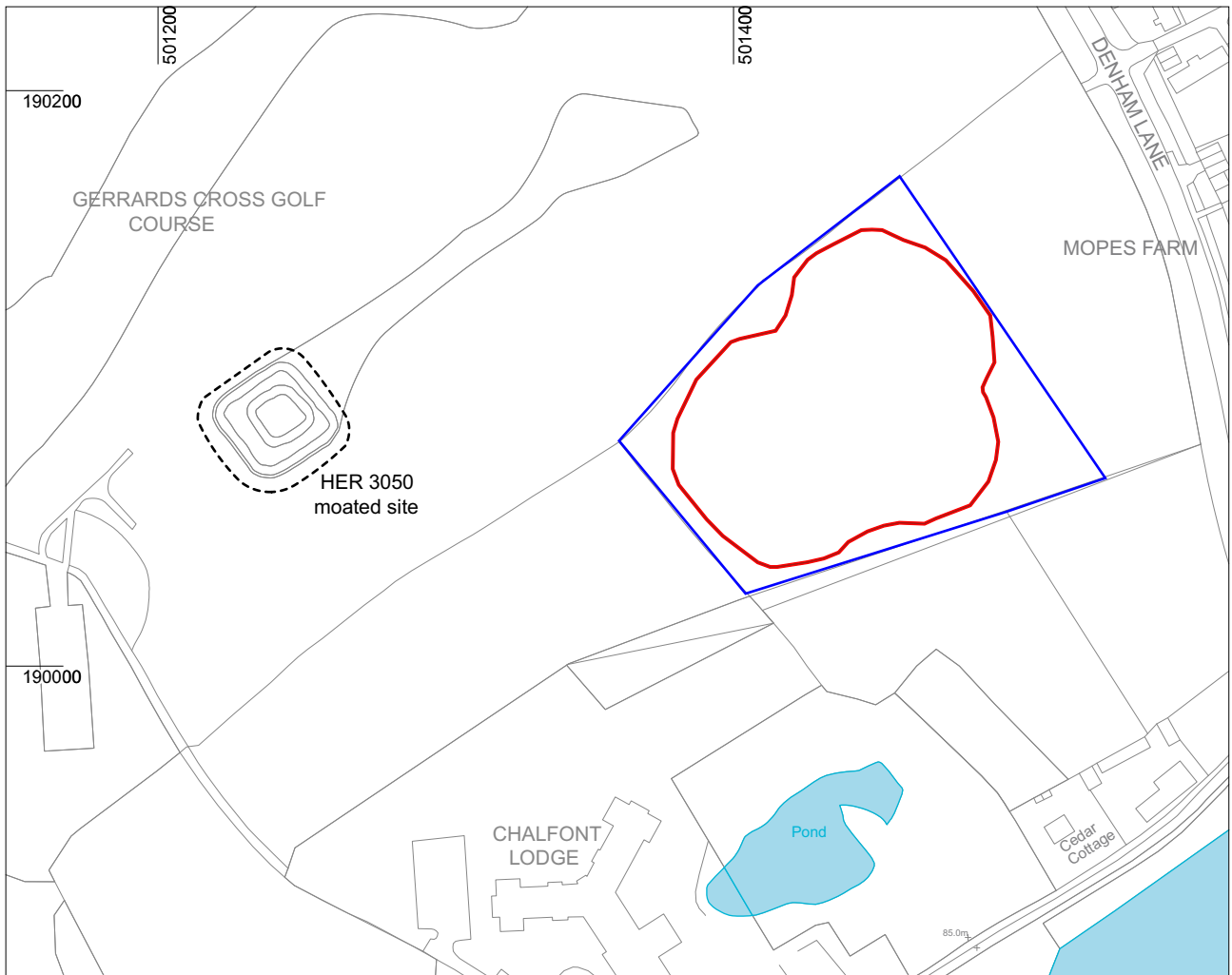
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**Site Code: GCG16**

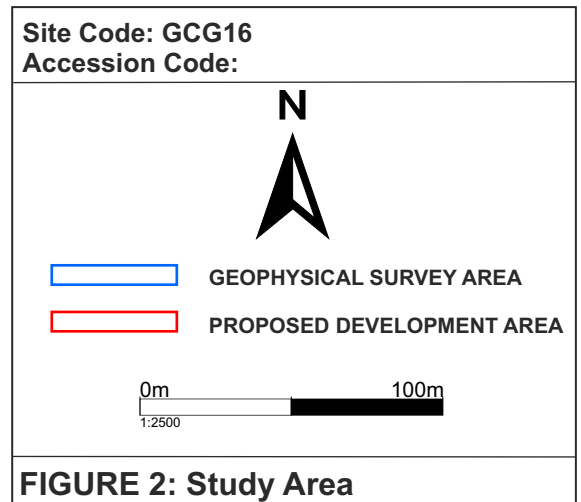
**Accession Code:**



**FIGURE 1: Site Location**



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Site Code: GCG16  
 Accession Code:

N

TRENCH LOCATIONS

0m 40m  
 1:1,000

**FIGURE 3: Trench Locations**