

**Archaeological Watching Brief Report:
Southampton Municipal Golf Course
Hampshire, SO16 7LE**

**NGR: 441060 116540
(SU 4106 1654)**

**ASE Project No: 5748
Site Code: STB 11 (SOU 1660)**

**ASE Report No: 2013077
OASIS id: archaeol6-147148**

By Antonio Reis

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Abstract

Archaeology South-East was commissioned by Arup on behalf of the Environment Agency to undertake a watching brief at Southampton Municipal Golf Course during site investigation works associated with flood defence improvements for Southampton.

The watching brief took place from 2nd November 2012 to 6th March 2013. The groundwork programme included a topsoil strip along the Site access, Compound Area, South Embankment and excavations for the proposed channel route. These areas were periodically monitored as part of the watching brief.

No archaeological cut features or artefacts were encountered during the monitoring process. Natural London Clay geology was observed at a depth of 250mm below ground level. This was overlain by topsoil and turf which was observed in all of the monitored areas.

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1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Site Background

1.1.1 Archaeology South-East (ASE), the contracting division of the Centre for Applied Archaeology, University College London, was commissioned by Arup on behalf of the Environment Agency to undertake an archaeological watching brief at Southampton Municipal Golf Course, hereafter referred to as 'the site', (Fig.1, NGR SU 4106 1654). The watching brief was undertaken during works associated with flood defence improvements for Southampton.

1.2 Geology and Topography

1.2.1 According to the British Geological Survey (BGS 2012) the site's geology comprises of the London Clay Formation (clay, silt and sand) with superficial deposits of alluvium in the east and river terrace sands and gravels in the north and west.

1.3 Planning Background

1.3.1 The flood defence improvements are permitted works which did not require planning consent. However, as part of a commitment to best practice, Arup's Heritage Consultant (Victoria Donnelly) consulted with Southampton City Council's Planning Archaeologist, Stephen Appleby, regarding the nature of the works and the archaeological methodology which should be employed.

1.3.2 Following this consultation A *Written Scheme of Investigation* (WSI) was produced by ASE (2011) for the proposed archaeological works.

1.4 Aims and Objectives

1.4.1 The general aim of the watching brief, as set out in the WSI, was to record, interpret and report on any archaeological remains exposed during the ground works (including artefacts or ecofacts of archaeological interest) to appropriate archaeological standards.

1.4.2 The watching brief also aimed to assess the past impacts on the site, paying particular attention to the character, height/depth below ground level, condition, date and significance of the deposits.

1.5 Scope of Report

1.5.1 This report details the results of the archaeological watching brief undertaken during ground works at the site. The work was undertaken between 2nd November 2012 and 6th March 2013 by Antonio Reis (Archaeologist). The fieldwork was managed by Jon Sygrave and the post-excavation work was managed by Jim Stevenson.

2.0 SITE BACKGROUND

2.1 Introduction

2.1.1 Much of the following information is reproduced with due acknowledgement from the Archaeology and Heritage Scoping Report (Arup 2011).

2.1.2 The site is situated within an abundant archaeological landscape. There is evidence of human activity from the Palaeolithic period through to the modern period, in the form of designated heritage assets such as Listed Buildings, Registered Parks & Gardens, Scheduled Monuments, and non-designated heritage assets recorded on the Historic Environment Record (HER).

2.2 Scheduled Monuments

2.2.1 There are two Scheduled Monuments in close proximity to Holly Brook. Castle Hill (Mon No. HA235) is located approximately 400m west of the municipal golf course. Chilworth Ring Earthwork (Mon No. HA79) is approximately 200m east of the municipal golf course.

2.3 Listed Buildings

2.3.1 There are two Grade II listed buildings within the locality of Bassett Avenue comprising the Church of St. Michael and All Angels (Listed Building No.135710) and 6 Little Oak Road (Listed Building No.135985) These buildings lie 920m and 830m south-east of the site respectively.

2.3.2 There is one Grade II listed building (Listed Building No. 135954) located 230m west of the Dale Valley Road allotments site, c. 1.2km south-west of the site, comprising the entrance gates, gate piers & walls to Holly Brook Cemetery.

2.3.3 One locally listed building (MSH3550) is located 250m east of the site comprising a sports pavilion built in the 1930s.

2.4 Registered Parks and Gardens

2.4.1 There are two locally registered parks and gardens within 1km of the site. The former Bassett Wood Estate (MSH3613) lies 850m east of the site and the now demolished former Lordswood House and grounds lies 200m to the south-east.

2.5 Historic Environment Records

2.5.1 Within the locality of the golf course, there are two Palaeolithic flint find spots three areas of flint find spots from the Mesolithic and Neolithic periods and one prehistoric find spot where a fragment of sarsen stone and burnt flint was retrieved during an archaeological watching brief.

2.5.2 The route of a medieval road (MSH529) which might have had Roman origins lies 1km to the south of the site along what is now known as Burgess Road and Chilworth Drove (MSH1664) which lies 1km west of the site is thought to

have been a medieval drove road. A substantial earthwork (MSH2842) which runs along the boundary between the parishes of Nursling and Chilworth also lies to the west of the site at a distance of 200m and may date from AD 877.

- 2.5.3 A WWII pillbox and the surviving 19th and 20th century farm buildings of Red Lodge Farm and Nursery also lie within 1km of the site. The Red Lodge buildings lie 250m to the east, whilst the pillbox lies 800m to the north-east.

3.0 METHODOLOGY

3.1 Excavation Methodology (Figure 2)

- 3.1.1 A topsoil strip along the footprint of the new channel alignment was undertaken prior to any bulk excavation to formation levels. In addition to the meander, localised excavations for Site access, Compound Area, South Embankment were also monitored.
- 3.1.2 An area to the south of the channel was stripped using a 10 tonne 360° mechanical excavator to a maximum depth of 300mm for the compound area and site access.
- 3.1.3 The channel excavations were monitored intermittently throughout the groundwork programme.
- 3.1.4 All work was carried out in accordance with the WSI (ASE 2011) and the relevant *Standards and Guidance* of the Institute for Archaeologists (IfA 2008). The sections and exposed surfaces were cleaned by hand in order to identify any archaeological deposits or features and spoil removed from the excavations was inspected for archaeological finds.
- 3.1.5 All deposits were recorded on pro-forma Archaeology South-East context sheets. A photographic record of the work was also maintained

3.2 Site Archive

- 3.2.1 Southampton Museum was informed in advance that the watching brief would be taking place and that an archive would be generated. The archive, which is quantified in Table 1, is currently held at Archaeology South-East offices in Portslade and will be deposited with the museum in due course.

Number of Contexts	2
No. of files/paper record	1
Plan and sections sheets	0
Bulk Samples	0
Photographs	111
Bulk finds	0
Registered finds	0
Environmental flots/residue	0

Table 1: Quantification of site archive

4.0 RESULTS

4.1 Overview

- 4.1.1 This section has been divided into different areas of groundwork, which have been illustrated on Figure 2.
- 4.1.2 Only two contexts were revealed during the groundwork and these have been summarised and tabulated below (Table 2). The contexts are related to the Golf course and Leisure Park development.
- 4.1.3 Natural London Clay geology [002] was observed at a maximum depth of 350mm below ground level and sealed beneath brown silty topsoil overburden [001].
- 4.1.4 Only two contexts were recorded and these are tabulated below

Number	Type	Description	Deposit Thickness
001	Deposit	Topsoil and Turf	0.30m
002	Deposit	Natural Clay Geology	0.31m

Table 2: List of recorded contexts

4.2 Topsoil strip

- 4.2.1 A topsoil strip was carried out using a 10 tonne mechanical excavator fitted with a flat-bladed ditching bucket. Monitoring was undertaken during the initial strip in the south to ensure that the level of excavations would not impact on archaeological remains. A V-shaped bucket was used to angle the channel sides. It was agreed with the site manager that excavation below natural geology could be continued without archaeological monitoring. Only topsoil [001] and natural [002] deposits were observed during the topsoil strip. These deposits were very sterile and no archaeological finds were revealed.

4.3 Compound area and site access

- 4.3.1 An area measuring 25m x 25m with a depth of 0.30m was excavated for the compound area in the south of the site, at the northern end of the Leisure Park.
- 4.3.2 The stratigraphy revealed during these excavations was as follows: topsoil [001] (300mm thick); over natural London clay geology [002]. This area appears to have been disturbed by the construction of a football pitch in the 1940's and 1960's. No archaeological features, deposits or finds were encountered during the excavations. The only noticeable disturbances were land drains, which were revealed on a northeast to southwest alignment across the area.
- 4.3.3 The access path area measured approximately 100m x 4m with a depth of 0.20m. This area was noticeably disturbed by the construction of the lake and by existing services. Natural clay geology [002] was encountered 0.20m below ground level with topsoil [001] immediately overlying it. Both contexts

were identical to those described above. No archaeological features, deposits or finds were observed.

4.4 The North-South Channel

4.4.1 This channel measured approximately 700m x 3m with variable depths between 1m and 2.20m with V-shaped sides. The final alignment of this channel slightly changed from its proposed position due to existing tree locations and other constraints (e.g. flooding). Groundworks associated with the new channel consisted of bulk machine-excavations through natural geology [002] and topsoil [001] down to a maximum depth of approximately 2.20m below ground level. An existing channel measuring approximately 130m in length was located between the two new channels.

4.4.2 The North-South Channel revealed natural clay geology [002] at 0.30m below ground level. Above this was a topsoil deposit [001], which was made up of friable mid dark brown clay silt with frequent sub-angular flint inclusions and contained modern golf balls (not retained). No archaeological features, deposits or finds were observed.

4.5 The East-West Channel and Embankment

4.5.1 The east-west channel is a continuation of the main channel to the east measuring approximately 120m x 4m with variable depths between 0.8m and 2.5m. Large logs were placed on the sloping edges of the main channel 4.5m apart to support bedding of small black angular flint gravel created in order to prevent erosion, followed by a 40m long cement pipe (backfilled).

4.5.2 The topsoil strip for the embankment in the south of the site covered an area measuring approximately 100m x 23m with a depth of 200mm.

4.5.3 The East-West Channel and the Embankment revealed natural clay geology [002] was encountered 0.25m below ground level with topsoil [001] immediately overlying it. Both contexts were identical to those described above. No archaeological features, deposits or finds were observed.

5.0 THE FINDS

- 5.1 No finds of archaeological significance were recovered during the archaeological work.

6.0 DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSIONS

6.1 Geology and Overburden

- 6.1.1 The area monitored during the Tanners Brook watching brief revealed a simple stratigraphic sequence of natural London Clay [002] with topsoil [001] directly overlying it.

6.2 Archaeological Evidence

- 6.2.1 The topsoil appeared to be relatively recent in date as it contained a modern golf ball. It was probably the product of landscaping relating to the site's recent use as a golf course. No archaeological evidence was revealed on the natural clay deposit.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

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ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

ASE would like to thank Arup for commissioning the work and Stephen Appleby for his guidance during the project.

HER Summary Form

Site Code	STB 11					
Identification Name and Address	Southampton Municipal Golf Course					
County, District &/or Borough	Southampton City					
OS Grid Refs.	SU 441060 116545					
Geology	London Clay					
Arch. South-East Project Number	5748					
Type of Fieldwork	Eval.	Excav.	Watching Brief X	Standing Structure	Survey	Other
Type of Site	Green Field	Shallow Urban	Deep Urban	Other		
Dates of Fieldwork	Eval.	Excav.	WB. 2.11.12-6.3.13	Other		
Sponsor/Client	Arup					
Project Manager	Neil Griffin and Jim Stevenson					
Project Supervisor	Antonio Reis					
Period Summary	Palaeo.	Meso.	Neo.	BA	IA	RB
	AS	MED	PM	Other Modern		
<p><i>Archaeology South-East was commissioned by Arup on behalf of the Environment Agency to undertake a watching brief at Southampton Municipal Golf Course during site investigation works associated with flood defence improvements for Southampton.</i></p> <p><i>The watching brief took place from 2nd November 2012 to 6th March 2013. The groundwork programme included a topsoil strip along the Site access, Compound Area, South Embankment and excavations for the proposed channel route. These areas were periodically monitored as part of the watching brief.</i></p> <p><i>No archaeological cut features or artefacts were encountered during the monitoring process. Natural London Clay geology was observed at a depth of 250mm below ground level. This was overlain by topsoil and turf which was observed in all of the monitored areas.</i></p>						

OASIS Form

OASIS ID: archaeol6-147148

Project details

Project name	watching brief at Southampton Municipal Golf Course
Short description of the project	Archaeology South-East was commissioned by Arup on behalf of the Environment Agency to undertake a watching brief at Southampton Municipal Golf Course during site investigation works associated with flood defence improvements for Southampton. The watching brief took place from 2nd November 2012 to 6th March 2013. The groundwork programme included a topsoil strip along the Site access, Compound Area, South Embankment and excavations for the proposed channel route. These areas were periodically monitored as part of the watching brief. No archaeological cut features or artefacts were encountered during the monitoring process. Natural London Clay geology was observed at a depth of 250mm below ground level. This was overlain by topsoil and turf which was observed in all of the monitored areas.
Project dates	Start: 02-11-2012 End: 06-03-2013
Previous/future work	Not known / Not known
Any associated project reference codes	5748 - Contracting Unit No.
Type of project	Recording project
Site status	None
Current Land use	Other 14 - Recreational usage
Monument type	NONE None
Monument type	NONE None
Significant Finds	NONE None
Significant Finds	NONE None
Investigation type	"Watching Brief"
Prompt	Planning condition

Project location

Country	England
Site location	HAMPSHIRE SOUTHAMPTON SOUTHAMPTON, Southampton Municipal Golf Course
Postcode	SO167LE
Study area	3600.00 Square metres
Site coordinates	SU 41060 16545 50 -1 50 56 46 N 001 24 55 W Point

Project creators

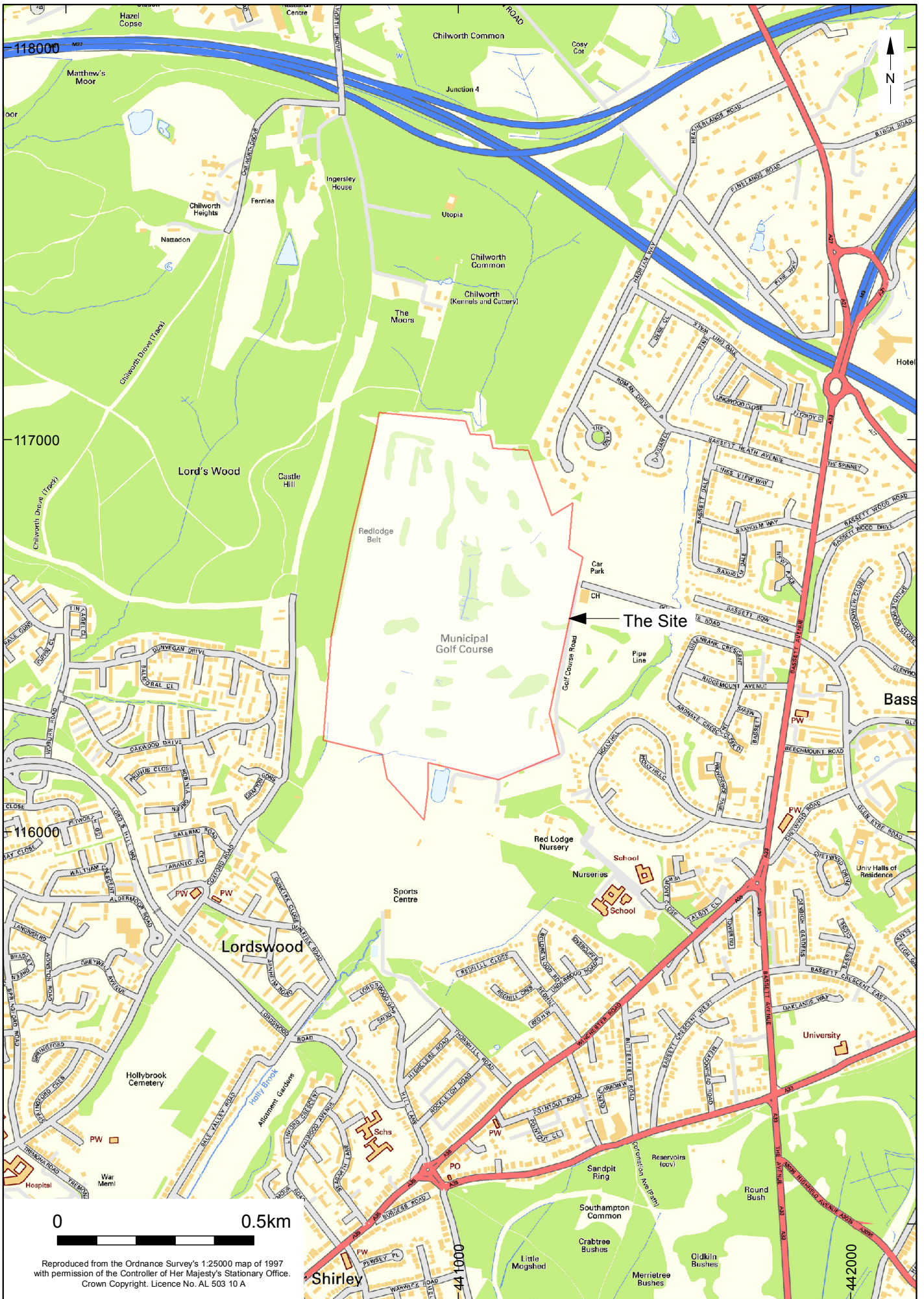
Project brief originator	Archaeology South East
Project design originator	Archaeology South-East
Project director/manager	Jon Sygrave
Project supervisor	Antonio Reis
Type of sponsor/funding body	Environment Agency
Name of sponsor/funding body	environment agency

Project archives

Physical Archive Exists?	No
Digital Archive recipient	local museum
Digital Media available	"Images raster / digital photography"
Paper Archive recipient	local museum
Paper Media available	"Context sheet", "Unpublished Text"

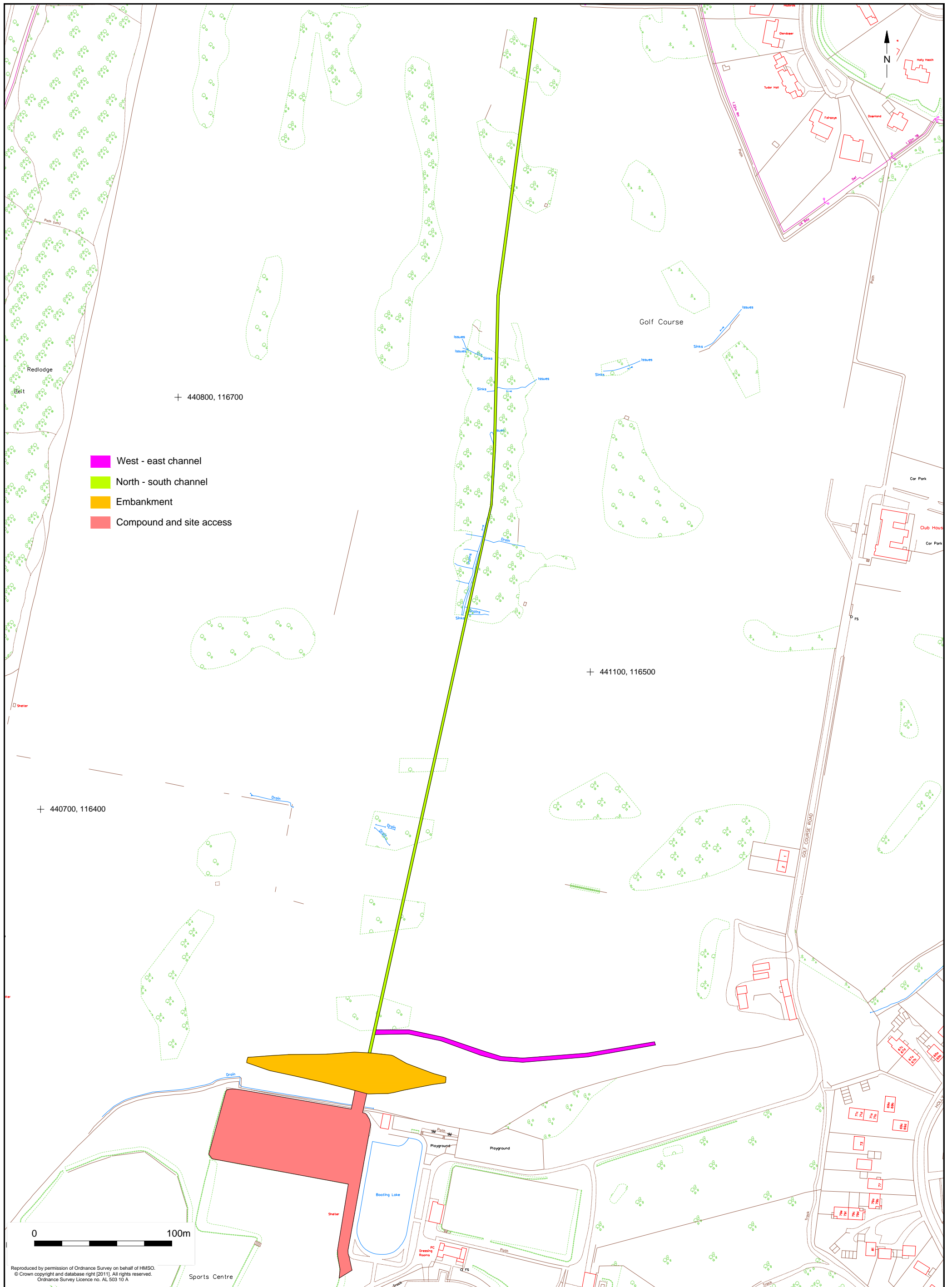
Project bibliography 1

Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title	Archaeological watching brief report: Southampton Municipal Golf Course Hampshire SO167LE
Author(s)/Editor(s)	Reis, A
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Place of issue or publication	Portslade
Description	unpublished archive report



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© Archaeology South-East		Southampton Municipal Golf Course		Fig. 1
Project Ref: 5748	March 2013	Site location		
Report Ref:	Drawn by: AR			



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© Archaeology South-East		Southampton Municipal Golf Course		Fig. 2
Project Ref: 5748	March 2013	Monitored area location		
Report Ref:	Drawn by: AR			



Access path, facing north



Access path, facing west



Section of Embankment, facing north-east



Embankment, facing east



Compound area, facing west



East channel, facing east

© Archaeology South-East		Southampton Municipal Golf Course	Fig. 3
Project Ref: 5748	March 2013	Monitored Areas, photographs	
Report Ref:	Drawn by: AR		

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