

**Archaeological Watching Brief Report
Cherkley Court, Leatherhead,
Surrey**

NGR: 517792 154543

Planning Ref: MO 2011/1451

**ASE Project No: 160138
Site Code: CCL 13**

**ASE Report No: 2016450
OASIS id: archaeol6-268272**

By Ian Hogg

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By Ian Hogg

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Abstract

Archaeology South-East was commissioned by CgMs Consulting to undertake an archaeological watching brief at Cherkley Court, Leatherhead, Surrey. The archaeological work comprised monitoring of the machine stripping of an area for a new set of cottages.

Natural chalk deposits were recorded across the area' it was overlain by a thin topsoil deposit and modern made ground. The natural deposit had been disturbed by tree roots and the area showed signs of having been terraced which given it lay on a relatively steep slope, is not surprising. A recent roadway running through the area had recently been removed but had not caused significant truncation.

No archaeological remains were encountered during the monitoring.

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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 (CAA), Institute of Archaeology (IoA), University College London (UCL) was commissioned by CgMs Consulting to undertake an archaeological watching brief at land at Cherkley Court, Leatherhead, Surrey (Figures 1 and 2, NGR: 518138 155049). The watching brief focussed on the monitoring of the machine stripping of an area for the construction of the new Glasshouse Cottages (Figure 2).

1.1.2 Cherkley Court lies approximately 2.5km south-east of Leatherhead. It is irregular in shape and is located within the undulating Leatherhead Downs. The site is bounded by woodland to the north, south and east and residential development to the west. The estate is currently being redeveloped as a hotel, golf course and spa complex. The site comprised the newly developed golf course surrounded by extensive parkland and woodland surrounding the stately home itself and other buildings; the Glasshouse Cottages are located immediately to the north-east of the new spa complex and to the north of the stately home.

1.2 Geology and Topography

1.2.1 The site is located on the Leatherhead Downs, an area of undulating chalk grassland ranging in height from 80m aOD to 150m aOD.

1.2.2 The British Geological Survey identifies the geology of the site and the surrounding area as Upper Chalk (BGS 1974, map 286 Reigate). The soils underlying the site are most likely brown rendzina soils of the 343g (Newmarket 2) association (CgMs 2012), overlying chalk bedrock. Colluvial deposits were present within many of the valleys.

1.2.3 The glasshouse cottages footprint was located on an area of land sloping down from north-east to south-west.

1.3 Planning Background

1.3.1 Outline planning permission (Ref: MO 2011/1451) was granted at the site for the use of Cherkley Court and its existing associated outbuildings as a hotel comprising guest accommodation, health club, spa and cookery school. The plans also included an 18 hole golf course, practice facilities, clubhouse and maintenance area.

- 1.3.2 Scheduled ancient monuments on the site include three Bronze Age barrows known collectively as the 'Tyrell's Wood Group' and the London to Chichester Roman road Stane Street.
- 1.3.3 The initial work comprised a geophysical survey (Wessex Archaeology 2011). Subsequently, a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) (CgMs 2012) was composed; this was followed by the first evaluation phase of work (Wessex 2012).
- 1.3.4 Subsequently, Archaeology South-East (ASE), the contracting division of the Centre for Applied Archaeology (CAA), Institute of Archaeology (IoA), University College London (UCL) were commissioned by CgMs Consulting on behalf of their client to undertake an archaeological evaluation, excavation and programme of strip, map and sample (ASE 2013).
- 1.3.5 Further phases of work have been undertaken during the development comprising watching briefs on works around the Stane Street Roman road and at the new spa complex (ASE 2016).
- 1.3.6 All works were carried out in accordance with the CgMs WSI (CgMs 2012) ClfA standards and guidance (ClfA 2015a, b and c).

1.4 Aims and Objectives

- 1.4.1 The aims of the watching brief were:
- To define, insofar as possible, the date, character, form and function of any archaeological features observed on site.
 - To establish the presence or absence of archaeological remains within the footprint of the proposed development and to preserve by record any such remains
 - To determine the survival, extent and minimum depth below modern ground level of any such remains
 - To determine the nature and significance of any archaeological deposits.
 - To determine the presence of any prehistoric remains on the site.
- 1.4.2 In light of the findings during the previous phases of work, the following specific aims have been compiled with reference to the South-Eastern Research Framework (SERF 2007) and the Surrey Archaeological Research Framework (Bird 2006):

- *The evolution of settlement: despite (or because of) the rapid accumulation of new evidence, there are major problems such as the long-term history of the land divisions laid out in the MBA/LBA; the problem of MIA settlements; the hiatus between earlier sites and those of the LIA (SERF 2007).*
- *Can we identify Bronze Age field systems off the river gravels? Might some systems survive in secondary woodland? (Bird 2006, 33).*
- *Was Surrey heathland mostly in origin a creation of the extension of agriculture in the Bronze Age? (Bird 2006, 33).*

1.5 Scope of Report

- 1.5.1 This report details the results of the archaeological watching brief carried out on the site between the 24th and 26th October 2016 and has been prepared in accordance with the Written Scheme of Investigation (CgMs 2012). The work was carried out by Ian Hogg (Senior Archaeologist).

2.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

2.1 Prehistoric

- 2.1.1 No material relating to the earliest Prehistoric periods is recorded for the site or its immediate environs. However Neolithic worked flints have been recorded in the western part of the site.
- 2.1.2 Three Bronze Age barrows are recorded on the site, collectively known as the 'Tyrell's Wood Group' (SCAU, 1994), however only the two westernmost barrows survive as visible earthworks, the eastern barrow having been buried under made ground during the 20th century.
- 2.1.3 The previous evaluation (Wessex Archaeology, 2012) identified Bronze Age ditches, gullies, pits and postholes.
- 2.1.4 A group of cropmarks identified from aerial photography have been interpreted as Iron Age field systems and are situated on Leatherhead Down and are partially located within the site. The field systems are described by the HER as almost obliterated by ploughing and resemble field banks scattered across the area.

2.2 Romano-British

- 2.2.1 A Scheduled Ancient monument, the London to Chichester Roman Road (Stane Street) bisects the site on a south-east/north-west alignment. Archaeological investigations on the route of the road identified a 5.6m wide agger, measuring some 0.4m thick, and was recorded comprising small pebbles, whilst to the east a roadside ditch was identified.
- 2.2.2 A small hoard of late Roman coins was recovered close to the line of Stane Street via a metal detector, whilst unstratified finds of pottery, including sherds of mortaria and jars, were located in the very east of the site at Cherkley Wood.

2.3 Anglo-Saxon and Medieval

- 2.3.1 Very few medieval features are recorded on the Surrey HER for the site. These include a lynchet towards the southern edge of Cherkley Wood which may be the result of ploughing up to the edge of the woodland.
- 2.3.2 The HER contains a record relating to an early 14th century settlement known as Poneshurst, which has been putatively positioned on either side of the Roman road near Tyrell's Wood to the north of the site.
- 2.3.3 During the medieval period the site was located in the agricultural hinterland, away from any known centres of settlement.

2.4 Post-medieval

- 2.4.1 Mapping up to 1866 illustrates the continuing pastoral nature of the site. Cherkley Court was completed in 1870, but was already depicted on the 1867-8 Ordnance Survey map (CgMs, 2012). This map also illustrates a number of outbuildings or estate buildings; tracks or roads leading to the house and extensive wooded areas in the southern part of the site, with copses lining trackways in the northern area. By 1894 Cherkley Court had been extended to include a large conservatory.
- 2.4.2 There appears to have been little further development of the site until the 1960's, and by 1961 the southern part of the site is illustrated as entirely wooded.
- 2.4.3 The Ordnance Survey map of 1970-1 illustrates some land division and the addition of Paddock Cottage alongside the north-western track, but no other significant changes to the site. By 1989 The Garden House and Garden Cottage had been constructed on the site of the former eastern range and by 2011 a large area of Cherkley Wood had been cleared to the south-east of the site.

2.5 Designated Heritage Assets

- 2.5.1 A number of Scheduled Monuments relating to the Bronze Age and Romano-British periods lie within the site boundary.
- 2.5.2 Three Bronze Age round barrows are recorded although only the two westernmost survive as extant earthworks with the landscape.
- 2.5.3 Extending north-east/south-west through the centre of the site is the London to Chichester Roman Road (Stane Street).

2.6 Previous Work

- 2.6.1 A Preliminary Archaeological Assessment for a proposed golf course at Cherkley Court has previously been prepared (CgMs 2012).
- 2.6.2 Further archaeological investigation was undertaken at Cherkley Court during the construction of a new access road (CgMs 2012). A c.400 long and 3m wide watching brief took place in the north-east of the site and no archaeological remains were found present.
- 2.6.3 A geophysical survey comprising c.20ha of the site was completed (Wessex 2011). The results of this survey were used to inform an updated archaeological assessment completed in October 2011 (CgMs, 2012) and are included in brief below.
- 2.6.4 A subsequent archaeological evaluation was carried out by Wessex Archaeology (Wessex Archaeology 2012) consisting of 70 trenches located across the site. Archaeological features were identified within five of the 70 trenches; the features included Bronze Age ditches, pits, gullies and postholes; and a post-medieval ditch. A further phase of evaluation was undertaken by ASE in February 2013, no significant archaeological remains were recorded during this work (ASE 2013).

- 2.6.5 Archaeological mitigation involved the excavation of eight strip, map and sample areas and three excavation areas. The excavations revealed evidence for multi-period activity on the site from the late Bronze Age onwards. The majority of the activity was dated to the late Bronze Age and a lesser extent the mid to late Iron Age. Very scant evidence of Roman activity was recorded (ASE 2013).
- 2.6.6 The subsequent phases of watching brief have included the monitoring of directional drilling pits beneath Stane Street and the removal of a protective covering over Stane Street. The stripping of the area for the new spa complex was also monitored (ASE 2016).

3.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL METHODOLOGY

3.1 Fieldwork Methodology

- 3.1.1 The work comprised the monitoring of the excavation of the area of the new Glasshouse Cottages (Figure 2) which measured 250m².
- 3.1.2 Spoil from the test pits was visually scanned for finds.
- 3.1.3 All deposits were recorded using standard ASE recording sheets, with colours recorded by visual inspection.
- 3.1.4 A digital photographic record was taken of the work.

3.2 The Site Archive

- 3.2.1 The site archive is currently held at the offices of ASE and will be deposited at a local museum in due course. The contents of the archive are tabulated below (Tables 1).

Context sheets	3
Section sheets	0
Plans sheets	0
Colour photographs	0
B&W photos	0
Digital photos	9
Context register	1
Drawing register	0
Watching brief forms	0
Trench Record forms	0

Table 2: Quantification of site paper archive

4.0 RESULTS

- 4.1 The natural white chalk [003] was recorded across the area between 0.39m and 1.18m below ground level. The disparity in these depths was due to modern terracing. The natural deposits were heavily disturbed by modern rooting from trees which had been removed relatively recently.
- 4.2 The natural deposit was overlain by a thin topsoil deposit [002] which consisted of dark grey brown silt between 0.09m and 0.15m thick. The topsoil was overlain by modern made ground [001] comprising mid brown rubbly silt between 0.30m and 0.95m in thickness. The made ground was thickest at the northern end of the area where the ground level had been raised to create a bank. Across the centre and south of the area the made ground was thinner as a result of a former roadway running in this area.
- 4.3 No archaeology was recorded during the watching brief.

5.0 DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSIONS

5.1 Overview of stratigraphic sequence

5.1.1 Natural chalk deposits were recorded across the area and were overlain by topsoil deposits. The topsoil was overlain by modern made ground of varying thickness.

5.1.2 No archaeological features or finds were recorded during the watching brief.

5.2 Deposit survival and existing impacts

5.2.1 This watching brief confirmed the presence of localised root disturbance also seen to a lesser degree during the previous watching brief (ASE 2016). Topsoil was seen across most of the area suggesting the probable terracing also seen during previous work was not severe. The modern roadway which had subsequently been removed was underlain by topsoil indicating that little truncation occurred during its construction or removal.

5.2.2 Modern made ground was present in varying thicknesses across the area; these deposits had been used to help terrace the site and build a bank to the north of the roadway.

5.3 Consideration of research aims

5.3.1 The watching brief did not any evidence of archaeological remains. No finds or features of Bronze Age date were recorded.

5.3.2 The site showed evidence for having been terraced relatively recently, probably for the construction of the roadway which ran across the area until last year. This terracing was also recorded during the watching brief on the spa complex (ASE 2016).

5.4 Conclusions

5.4.1 The watching brief confirmed presence of modern made ground overlying topsoil and natural chalk. The chalk showed signs of root disturbance from trees. No archaeological remains were recorded.

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ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

ASE would like to thank CgMs Consulting for commissioning the work and for their assistance throughout the project, and Nigel Randall of Surrey County Council for his guidance and monitoring. Ian Hogg conducted the fieldwork.

Darryl Palmer managed the field work, Jim Stevenson the post-excavation work. Justin Russell created the illustrations for this report.

Appendix 1: Recorded contexts

Context	Type	Description	Deposit Thickness m
001	Layer	Modern made ground	0.30-0.95
002	Layer	Topsoil	0.09-0.15
003	Layer	Natural chalk	-

HER Summary

Site code	CCL13				
Project code	160138				
Planning reference	MO 2011/1451				
Site address	Cherkley Court, Reigate Road, Leatherhead Surrey				
District/Borough	Mole Valley, Surrey				
NGR (12 figures)	NGR: 517792 154543				
Geology	Cretaceous Chalk				
Fieldwork type			Watching Brief		
Date of fieldwork	24-10-2016 to 26-10-2016				
Sponsor/client	CgMs Consulting				
Project manager	Darryl Palmer				
Project supervisor	Ian Hogg				
Period summary					
					Modern
Project summary	<p>Archaeology South-East was commissioned by CgMs Consulting to undertake an archaeological watching brief at Cherkley Court, Leatherhead, Surrey. The archaeological work comprised monitoring of the machine stripping of an area for a new set of cottages.</p> <p>Natural chalk deposits was recorded across the area' it was overlain by a thin topsoil deposit and modern made ground. The natural deposit had been disturbed by tree roots and the area showed signs of having been terraced which given it lay on a relatively steep slope, is not surprising. A recent roadway running through the area had recently been removed but had not caused significant truncation.</p> <p>No archaeological remains were encountered during the monitoring.</p>				

OASIS Form**OASIS ID: archaeol6-268272**

Project details

Project name	Cherkley Court, Reigate Road, Leatherhead
Short description of the project	The archaeological work comprised monitoring of the machine stripping of an area for a new set of cottages. Natural chalk deposits was recorded across the area' it was overlain by a thin topsoil deposit and modern made ground. The natural deposit had been disturbed by tree roots and the area showed signs of having been terraced which given it lay on a relatively steep slope, is not surprising. A recent roadway running through the area had recently been removed but had not caused significant truncation. No archaeological remains were encountered during the monitoring.
Project dates	Start: 24-10-2016 End: 26-10-2016
Previous/future work	Yes / Not known
Any associated project reference codes	160138 - Contracting Unit No.
Any associated project reference codes	CCL13 - Sitecode
Type of project	Recording project
Site status	None
Current Land use	Vacant Land 2 - Vacant land not previously developed
Monument type	NONE None
Significant Finds	NONE None
Investigation type	"Watching Brief"
Prompt	National Planning Policy Framework - NPPF
Project location	
Country	England
Site location	SURREY MOLE VALLEY LEATHERHEAD Cherkley Court, Reigate Road, Leatherhead
Postcode	KT22 8QX
Study area	159 Hectares

Site coordinates TQ 17792 54543 51.277320813501 -
0.311021593474 51 16 38 N 000 18 39 W Point

Project creators

Name of Organisation Archaeology South-East

Project brief originator Surrey County Council

Project design originator CgMs Consulting

Project director/manager Darryl Palmer/Jim Stevenson

Project supervisor Ian Hogg

Type of sponsor/funding body CgMs Consulting

Name of sponsor/funding body CgMs Consulting

Project archives

Physical Archive Exists? No

Digital Archive recipient Leatherhead Museum

Digital Contents "Stratigraphic"

Digital Media available "Images raster / digital photography"

Paper Archive recipient Leatherhead Museum

Paper Contents "Stratigraphic"

Paper Media available "Context sheet", "Photograph", "Plan"

Entered by Ian Hogg (ian.hogg@ucl.ac.uk)

Entered on 10 November 2016



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© Archaeology South-East		Cherkely Court, Leatherhead	Fig. 1
Project Ref: 160138	May 2017	Site location	
Report Ref: 2016450	Drawn by: AR		



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© Archaeology South-East		Cherkely Court, Leatherhead		Fig. 2
Project Ref: 160138	May 2017	Watching Brief area		
Report Ref: 2017450	Drawn by: AR			



Western area looking south



Western area looking south



Eastern area, looking north

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