

# Archaeological Services & Consultancy Ltd

### WATCHING BRIEF: RICHMOND PARK GOLF COURSE LONDON BOROUGH OF RICHMOND-UPON-THAMES

### NGR: TQ 2202 7208

on behalf of Glendale Golf



Bob Zeepvat BA MIfA

July 2012

ASC: 1500/RGC/2



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### Site Data

ASC site code:	RGC		Project no:	1500		
OASIS ref:	119368		Event/Accession no:	tbc		
County/region:		London				
Borough (s):		London 1	Borough of Richmond-	upon-Thames		
Locality:		Richmon	d Park			
NGR (to 8 figs):		TQ 2202	7208			
Extent of site:		c.3ha				
Present land use:		Golf cou	rse			
Planning proposal:		park, 20 alteration	Construction of new clubhouse at Chohole Gate, new car park, 20 bay driving range, academy golf course, minor alterations to existing course, landscaping, and demolition of the existing facilities at Roehampton Gate.			
Local Planning Auth	ority:	Borough	Borough of Richmond-upon-Thames			
Planning application	ref/date:	10/3768/FUL				
Commissioned by:		Parkwood Consultancy Services Atherstone Barns Alscot Estate Atherstone-on-Stour Stratford-upon-Avon, CV37 8NE				
Client:		Glendale Golf Midlands Regional Office Princes Close Gardens off Stratford Road Longbridge Road, Warwick, CV34 6RA				
Contact name:		David Lancaster (Parkwood Consultancy Services)				

#### **Internal Quality Check**

Primary Author:	Bob Zeepvat	Date:	24 July 2012
Revisions:		Date:	
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Edited/Checked By:	1 ANPALL	Date:	24 July 2012
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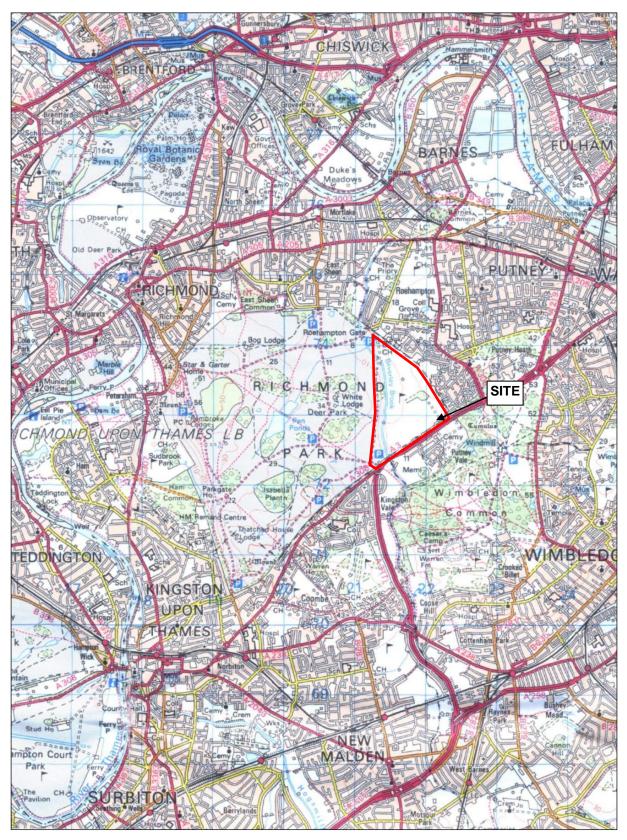


Figure 1: General location (scale 1:50,000)

### Summary

In June and July 2012 a watching brief was maintained at Richmond Park Golf Course, Richmond-upon-Thames, during the construction of a new clubhouse and landscaped pond. The watching brief did not reveal any features, deposits or finds of archaeological significance in the area of the new clubhouse and its adjacent pond. However, this area forms a very small part of the golf course, and it is possible that buried heritage assets may survive elsewhere on the course.

It was determined that the methods to be used for the construction of the car park and the driving range were unlikely to have any impact on any buried heritage assets that might be present in those areas. Accordingly, these parts of the development were not subject to the watching brief.

### 1. Introduction

1.1 In June and July 2012 Archaeological Services and Consultancy Ltd (ASC) carried out a watching brief at Richmond Park Golf Course, Richmond Park, London. The project was commissioned by Parkwood Consultancy Services on behalf of Glendale Golf, and was carried out according to a project design prepared by ASC (Rouse 2012), and approved by the Greater London Archaeological Advisory Service (GLAAS), archaeological advisors (AA) to the local planning authority (LPA), the London Borough of Richmond-upon-Thames. The relevant planning application reference is 10/3768/FUL.

#### 1.2 **Planning Background**

This watching brief was required under the terms of the *National Planning Policy Frameworks* (NPPF), as a condition of planning permission for the development of the site.

#### 1.3 Archaeological Services & Consultancy Ltd

ASC is an independent archaeological practice providing a full range of archaeological services including consultancy, field evaluation, mitigation and post-excavation studies, historic building recording and analysis. ASC is recognised as a *Registered Organisation* by the Institute for Archaeologists and is also accredited ISO 9001, in recognition of its high standards and working practices.

#### 1.4 The Site

#### 1.4.1 Location & Description

Richmond Park Golf Club is located in London, in the Borough of Richmondupon-Thames (Fig. 1). It lies on the eastern side of Richmond Park and comprises a roughly triangular area, measuring c.86ha (Fig. 2). The proposed development area is situated near the east corner of the park, covering an area of c.3ha, centred on Ordnance Survey National Grid Reference TQ 2202 7208.

Most of the west boundary of the park follows the course of the Beverley Brook. The east boundary is defined by the park wall and the conurbation of Roehampton. The southern boundary follows the line of the A3 trunk road. The

entrance to the golf course is currently from the north, through Roehampton Gate. There is a restricted private entrance at the south eastern side of the site at Chohole Gate (Fig. 3).

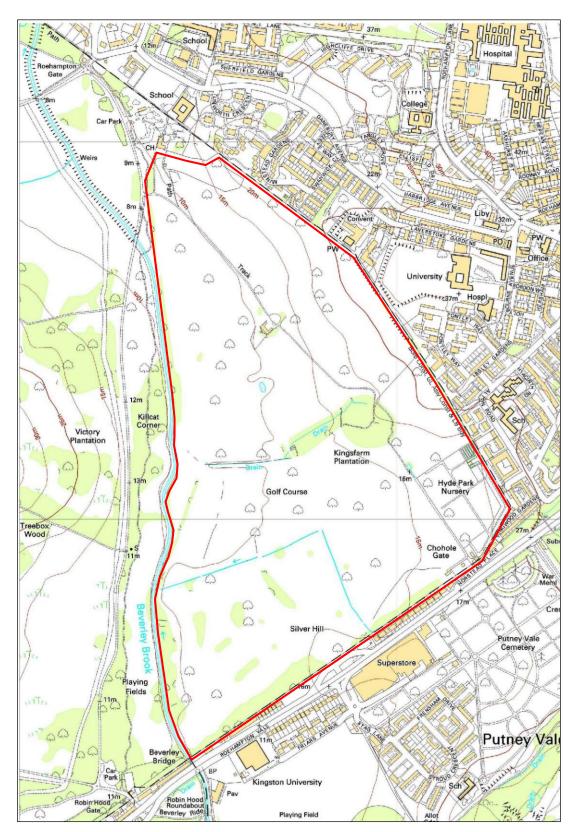
1.4.2 Topography & Geology

The site lies c.2km to the south of the river Thames and is situated on gently sloping terrain with the land falling from c.28m AOD on its eastern side to about 8m AOD on its western side (Fig. 3). The Beverley Brook flows from south to north and defines much of the west side of the golf course. The course of the brook has been considerably modified in the 20<sup>th</sup> century, having being straightened and widened in 1938 (Nat. Arch: Work 16/1208).

Most of the golf course area lies on soils belonging to the Wickham 3 Association (Soil Survey 1983, 711g). These are described as 'typical stagnogley soils, developed in fine loamy on firm silty drift over clay' (Jarvis et al 1984, 299). The underlying natural geology comprises London Clay laid down in shallow marine conditions of the Palaeogene period (Sumbler 1996, 103; BGS, sheet 270).

1.4.3 Proposed Development

The proposed development comprises the construction of a new clubhouse at Chohole Gate, along with a new car park, a twenty bay driving range, academy golf course, minor alterations to the existing course and associated mounding and landscaping, and the subsequent demolition of the existing facilities at Roehampton Gate (Fig. 3).



**Figure 2:** Site plan (*scale 1:10,000*)

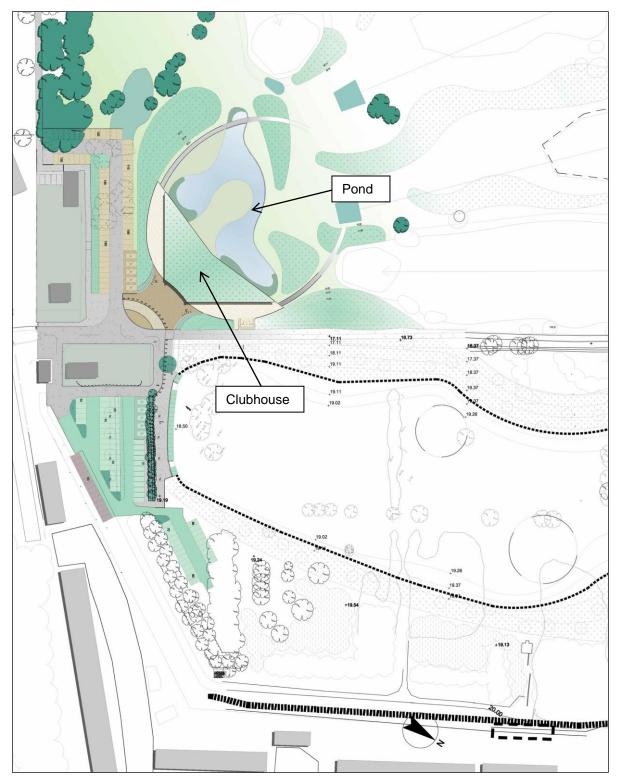


Figure 3: Proposed development (not to scale)

### 2. Aims & Methods

#### 2.1 *Aims*

As described in the project design, the aims of the watching brief were:

• To determine the location, extent, date, character, condition, significance and quality of any surviving archaeological remains

#### 2.2 Standards

The work conformed to the project design, to the relevant sections of the Institute for Archaeologists' *Standard & Guidance Notes* (IfA 2008a & b) and *Code of Conduct* (IFA 2010), to current English Heritage guidelines (EH 1991; EH 2006), and to the relevant sections of ASC's *Operations Manual*.

#### 2.3 *Methods*

The work was carried out according to the project design, which described:

- Soil and overburden stripping under archaeological supervision;
- Inspection of subsoil for archaeological features;
- The excavation and recording of any archaeological features/deposits;
- Subsoil stripping under archaeological supervision;
- Examination of any service and foundation trenches and the subsequent recording of any exposed archaeological deposits;
- Rapid examination of spoil heaps for archaeological material;
- A programme of post-fieldwork analysis, archiving and publication.

#### 2.4 Constraints

The watching brief was undertaken during a period of wet weather. Although this was primarily a cause of delay to the construction work, observations on site were made difficult by the presence of standing water.

### 3. Archaeological & Historical Background

3.1 The following section provides a summary of the readily available archaeological and historical background to the development site and its environs. The site lies within an area of archaeological and historical interest, and has the potential to reveal evidence of a range of periods.

This section has been compiled from information contained in the initial desk-based assessment (Hunn 2007) which was based on information in the Greater London *Historic Environment Record* (HER) and other readily available sources.

#### 3.2 *Early Prehistoric* (*before 600BC*)

No archaeological sites or artefacts are currently known within the golf course but a number are known in the surrounding area. A number of palaeolithic flint hand axes and flakes have been recorded (HER8082, 12244, 12459) and the mesolithic period is similarly represented (HER8612, 10437, 11659). Artefacts of the Neolithic period are also known in the area and include flint arrowheads (HER4061, 18927) flakes and other flint implements (HER18238, 18929, 19010). A possible Neolithic long barrow has been identified on Wimbledon Common (HER23182).

Bronze Age settlement sites have been identified in areas such as Bermondsey and Southwark, but evidence for this period in the area around the site is limited to chance finds of artefacts. These currently include arrowheads (HER18984), knives (HER10707, 18983) and occasional sherds of pottery (HER59431).

#### 3.3 *Iron Age* (600BC-AD43)

Little is known of the Iron Age in Richmond and the only evidence for this period in the area comprises two sherds of pottery (HER62763, 77093).

Within the wider London area a continuation of late Bronze Age field systems on the gravels at Upminster, Tilbury and Stanwell has been suggested. A number of defended enclosures of this period have been identified, notably at Holwood Hill, Keston, and Uphall Camp, Ilford. Open settlement also developed during the Iron Age at Caesar's Camp, Perry Oaks, Heathrow, Stockley Park, Dawley and Hunt's Hill Farm, Upminster (Wait & Cotton 2000).

#### 3.4 **Roman** (AD43-c.450)

As the capital of Roman Britain, London (*Londinium*) had considerable importance throughout this period, and the closest settlement to Richmond Park was located at Putney (Perring & Brigham 2000). Within the park, the possible foundations of a building have been identified to the south-west of the golf course (HER13244), and cremation urns have been found to the east (HER10489). Two coin hoards have also been found within the park (HER812, 13105).

#### 3.5 *Saxon* (*c.*450-1066)

There was a marked decline of population and commercial activity in the late Roman period, manifested by a gradual contraction of London (Cowie & Harding 2000, 177). What happened in the wider London area is uncertain, though a trend to less intense farming methods is possible. A widespread abandonment of settlements seems

unlikely, and the problem is compounded by a change in the material character of the inhabitants of the region. The only site of this period in the area is a barrow cemetery on Putney Heath (HER13114).

#### 3.6 *Medieval* (1066-1500)

There is little evidence for the medieval period in Richmond and during this period Richmond Park probably comprised open land, part of the open field system of the area. Ridge and furrow cultivation strips have been identified in the park (Greeves 1992, fig. 2). Earthworks comprising headlands (HER23977), field systems and enclosures (HER26340, 26487) have been identified in the surrounding area.

At the time of the Domesday survey (1086) what later became Richmond was almost certainly included in the land holding of Kingston. At that time Kingston was held by the king, Mortlake by the archbishop, and Petersham by the abbey of Chertsey (Williams & Martin 2003, 72-3, 78).

During the medieval period the land in the area was held by several different manors. The largest was Wimbledon (Roehampton) with Ham on the western side of the old course of the Beverley Brook and Putney adjacent to Chohole Gate. It is not certain whether any of these manors held discrete blocks of land, or whether there was a degree of intermixing of land parcels or arable strips.

#### 3.7 **Post-Medieval** (1500-1900)

The park was enclosed in 1637, and at that time the area now occupied by the golf course was divided into an irregular pattern of enclosures held by six landholders.

In the early 19<sup>th</sup> century the eastern part of the park was managed as an agricultural holding. During the second quarter of the century the land management changed and in 1825 tree planting took place at King's Farm (DOE 1984, 233). By the mid-19<sup>th</sup> century the landscape to the east of the Beverley Brook had assumed a more open aspect, with the virtual disappearance of all enclosed field parcels except those that ran adjacent to the main drainage ditches.

#### 3.8 Modern (1900-present)

The eastern side of the park was opened to the public during the 1920s. The first golf course was opened there in 1923, followed by the second in 1925 (DOE 1984, 244). During the Second World War the Duke's Course was returned to agricultural production with the exception of two clusters of golf bunkers shown on aerial photography (Hunn 2007).

In the post-war years the eastern side of the golf course has seen a limited amount of disturbance including the construction of a sewage treatment plant, though these activities are not immediately apparent in the landscape (Land Use Consultants 2000, fig. 10). Like the park itself, the present landscape is a man-made creation. This is emphasised by the presence of non-native tree species and the distribution of distinct zones of machine-cut grass (Land Use Consultants 2000, 77).

### 4. **Results & Conclusions**

#### 4.1 *Results*

Three days were spent on site monitoring ground reduction and excavations for the footings of the new clubhouse, and excavations for a new pond and associated landscaping. The watching brief monitoring sheets are reproduced in Appendix 1.

Clubhouse

Stratigraphy encountered in this area (Fig. 3) comprised:

0.00 – 0.30m Topsoil, containing modern bottle glass and clay pipe stems.

0.30 – 0.45m Subsoil, comprising sandy yellowish brown soil containing varying amounts of pebbles: greyish brown in places.

0.45m+ Natural: mid orange brickearth

No archaeological features or deposits were present in the stripped area, and no significant finds were observed in the spoil removed from the site.

Excavations for the footings for the clubhouse comprised a series of pits, each c.1.6m across and up to 1.5m deep, linked around the perimeter of the building by a narrow footing trench (Plate 1). The pits and footing trenches were all cut into the natural. No archaeological features or deposits were present in these excavations, and no significant finds were observed in the spoil removed from them.

#### Pond

The area to the immediate west of the clubhouse was stripped of topsoil and overburden prior to the excavation of a pond and associated landscaping (Fig. 3). This work was undertaken during particularly wet conditions: consequently, patches of standing water were present across the area (Plate 2). Much of this area had formerly been landscaped as part of the golf course, and was covered with landscaped overburden, comprising redeposited dumps of sandy loam, former bunkers and pathways made of sea shells.

In order to determine the unmodified site stratigraphy in this area, a trench was excavated on the north-west side of the stripped area (Plates 3 & 4). The stratigraphy comprised:

0.00 – 0.25m Topsoil 0.25 – 0.55m Subsoil: dark yellowish brown sandy clay, with patches of rounded gravels

0.55m+ Natural: mid orange brickearth

No archaeological features or deposits were present in this area, and no significant finds were observed in the spoil removed from the site.

#### Other Works

Following consultation with the clients, it was determined that the car park was to be constructed by skimming off the turf, laying grasscrete blocks, and spreading soil over them. The driving range was to be built up with imported material. As neither of these works was likely to have any impact on buried archaeological features or deposits, no watching brief was maintained on them.

#### 4.2 *Conclusions*

The watching brief did not reveal any features, deposits or finds of archaeological significance in the area of the new clubhouse and its adjacent pond. However, this area forms a very small part of Richmond Park Golf Course, and it is possible that buried heritage assets may survive elsewhere on the course.

It was determined that the methods to be used for the construction of the car park and the driving range were unlikely to have any impact on any buried heritage assets that might be present in those areas.



Plate 1: Clubhouse: view NE along foundation for N half of west facing facade



Plate 2: Area of pond looking west



Plate 3: View along trial trench exposing dry subsoil horizon, looking west



Plate 4: Detail of subsoil in trial trench looking west

### 5. Acknowledgements

The project was commissioned by *Parkwood Consultancy Services* on behalf of *Glendale Golf.* The writer is grateful to Paul Burton (NU Construction) the site manager for his assistance. The project was monitored by Diane Abrams of GLAAS on behalf of the local planning authority.

The project was managed for ASC by David Fell BA MA MIfA. Fieldwork was carried out by Gareth Shane BSc and Jonathan Hunn BA PhD FSA MIfA. The report was prepared by Bob Zeepvat BA MIfA and edited by David Fell.

### 6. Archive

- 6.1 The project archive will comprise:
  - 1. Project Design
  - 2. Initial Report
  - 3. Clients site plans
  - 4. Site Monitoring Sheets
  - 5. Finds records
  - 6. Finds
  - 7. Site record drawings
  - 8. List of photographs
  - 9. B/W prints & negatives
  - 10. Original specialist reports and supporting information
  - 11. CDROM with copies of all digital files.
- 6.2 The archive will be deposited with the London Archaeological Archives Resource Centre.

### 7. References

#### Standards & Specifications

EH 1991 The Management of Archaeological Projects, 2<sup>nd</sup> edition. English Heritage (London).

- EH 2006 The Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment. English Heritage (London).
- IFA 2010 Institute for Archaeologists' Code of Conduct.
- IFA 2008 Institute for Archaeologists' Code of Approved Practice for the Regulation of Contractual Arrangements in Field Archaeology.
- IFA (various dates) Institute for Archaeologists' Standard & Guidance documents (Desk-Based Assessments 2011, Watching Briefs 2008, Evaluations 2009, Excavations 2008, Investigation and Recording of Standing Buildings 2008, Finds 2008, Archiving 2009).
- Rouse C 2012 Richmond Park Golf Course, London Borough of Richmond-upon-Thames: Project Design for Archaeological Watching Brief. ASC doc ref 1500/RGC/1.

#### Secondary Sources

BGS British Geological Survey 1:50,000 Series, Solid & Drift Geology.

- Cowie R & Harding C 2000 'Saxon settlement and economy from the Dark Ages to Domesday', in Kendall 2000, 172-206.
- DOE 1984 Richmond Park Historical Survey. Prepared by Land Use Consultants. Dept of Environment unpubl. rep (London).
- Greeves T 1992 Richmond Park, London Archaeological Survey. Royal Parks Agency. unpubl. rep (London).
- Hunn J 2007 Archaeological Desk Based Assessment: Richmond Park Golf Course. ASC rep ref 911/RGC/1
- Kendall M (ed.) 2000 *The archaeology of Greater London. An assessment of archaeological evidence for human presence in the area now covered by Greater London.* Museum of London
- Land Use Consultants 2000 Richmond Park Management Plan. Royal Parks Agency. unpubl. rep (London).
- Perring D & Brigham T 2000 'Londinium and its hinterland: the Roman period' in Kendall 2000, 120-70.
- Soil Survey 1983 1:250,000 Soil Map of England and Wales, and accompanying legend (Harpenden).
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- Wait G & Cotton J 2000 'The Iron Age' in Kendall 2000, 105-113
- Williams A & Martin G H (eds) 2003 Domesday Book: a complete translation. Penguin Books (London).

# **Appendix 1: Monitoring Sheets**

A.S.C. LTD	WATCHING BRIEF RECORD					
Project: Richmond Park Golf	Project No/Code: Sheet: 1500   Reg c   of 3					
	Date of / /					
Course ·	visit: 21/6/12 .					
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# **Appendix 2: List of Photographs**

SITE NA	ME: Richr	nond Par	k Golf Course, Richmond-upon-Thames SITE NO/CODE: 1500/RGC		
Shot	B&W	Digital	Subject		
1		001	NW corner of the site, view north		
2		002	NW corner of the site in greater detail, view north		
3		003	SE portion of the site looking west		
4		004	General view of site looking north after ground reduction		
5		005	West end of site looking NNE		
6		006	Detail of soil horizons (trowel as scale) on eastern side of site		
7		007	Same as above		
8		009	Detail of foundation trench on west side of site		
9		010	Detail of character of underlying sub-soil		
10		011	View of upper portion of square foundation		
11		012	Ditto		
12		013	Southern end of major foundations run on west side of site looking NNE		
13		014	As above but with park boundary beyond		
14		015	Ditto view SW		
15		902	General view of construction site looking NW		
16		903	Closer view , soil heap		
17		904	Laying down hard core looking west		
18		905	Eastern tip of site view north to Roehampton		
19		906	Area of proposed landscaped pond view west		
20		907	Area of proposed landscaped pond view NW		
21		908	View east from spoil heap		
22		909	View NE from spoil heap		
23		910	View N from spoil heap		
24		911	View NE along foundations from north half of west facing facade		
25		912	Detail of 1 <sup>st</sup> large foundation pad along above trench		
26		913	Detail of 2 <sup>nd</sup> large foundation pad along above trench		
27		914	Foundation run on SW end of new building		
28		915	Detail of square foundation pad at SW end of new building		
29		916	General view of site looking NE to Roehampton		
30		918	Laying hardcore in area of new club house looking NE		
31		1024	General view of northern half of pond area looking west		
32		1025	Pond area looking west		
33		1026	View of SW corner of site		
34	ł	1027	Construction underway view SW		
35		1028	Northern end of new building view east		
36	ł	1029	Construction site looking NE		
37		1030	Detail of seashell path		
38		1031	Machining in area of pond view west		
39		1032	Machining in area of pond view NNW		
40		1033	Trial trench looking west		
41	ł	1034	Completed trial trench looking west with adjoining pond area		
42	ł	1035	Ditto		
43	1	1036	Pond area looking WSW		
44	ł	1037	View along axis of trial trench looking west		
45		1038	Detail of subsoil in trial trench view west		
46	1	1039	Detail of water ingress on west side of site looking west		
			· · · ·		

# **Appendix 3: ASC OASIS Form**

PROJECT DETAILS						
Project Name:	Richmond Park Golf Course		OASIS reference:	119368		
Short Description:In June and July 2012 a watching brief was maintained at Richmond Park Golf Course, Richmond-upon-Thames, during the construction of a new clubhouse and landscaped pond. The watching brief did not reveal any features, deposits or finds of archaeological significance in the area of the new clubhouse and its adjacent pond. However, this area forms a very small part of the golf course, and it is possible that buried heritage assets may survive elsewhere on the course.It was determined that the methods to be used for the construction of the car park and the driving range were unlikely to have any impact on any buried heritage assets that might be present in those areas. Accordingly, these parts of the development were not subject to the watching brief.						
Project Type:	Watching Brief					
Previous work:	DBA: Hunn 2007		Site status:	none		
Current land use:	Golf course		Future work:	unknown		
Monument type:	n/a		Monument period:	n/a		
Significant finds:	None					
	PROJECT	LOCATIC	N			
County:	Greater London	OS refe	rence: (8 figs min)	TQ 2202 7208		
Site address: (+ postcode if known)	Richmond Park Golf Course, Rich	mond-up	on-Thames			
Study area: (sq. m. / ha)	c.3ha	Height OD: (metres) 28m				
	PROJECT	CREATO	RS			
Organisation:	Archaeological Services & Consu	Itancy Ltd				
Project brief originator:	Diane Abrams (GLAAS)	Project	design originator:	C Rouse (ASC)		
Project Manager:	David Fell (ASC)	Director/Supervisor: J Hunn (ASC)		J Hunn (ASC)		
Sponsor / funding body:	Glendale Golf					
	PROJEC	CT DATE				
Start date:	21 June 2012	End dat	e:	11 July 2012		
	PROJECT	ARCHIVE	S			
	Location (Accession no.)	Content	eg. pottery, animal	bone, files/sheets)		
Physical:		none				
Paper:	London Archaeological Archives Resource Collection	WSI, site records, photos, report				
Digital:		CD with all digital files				
BIBLIOGRA	APHY (Journal/monograph, publish	ned or fort	thcoming, or unpublish	ned client report)		
Title:	Watching Brief: Richmond Park G	olf Cours	e, London Borough of	Richmond-upon-Thames		
Serial title & volume:	ASC Ltd Report ref. 1500/RGC/2					
Author(s):	Bob Zeepvat BA MIfA					
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