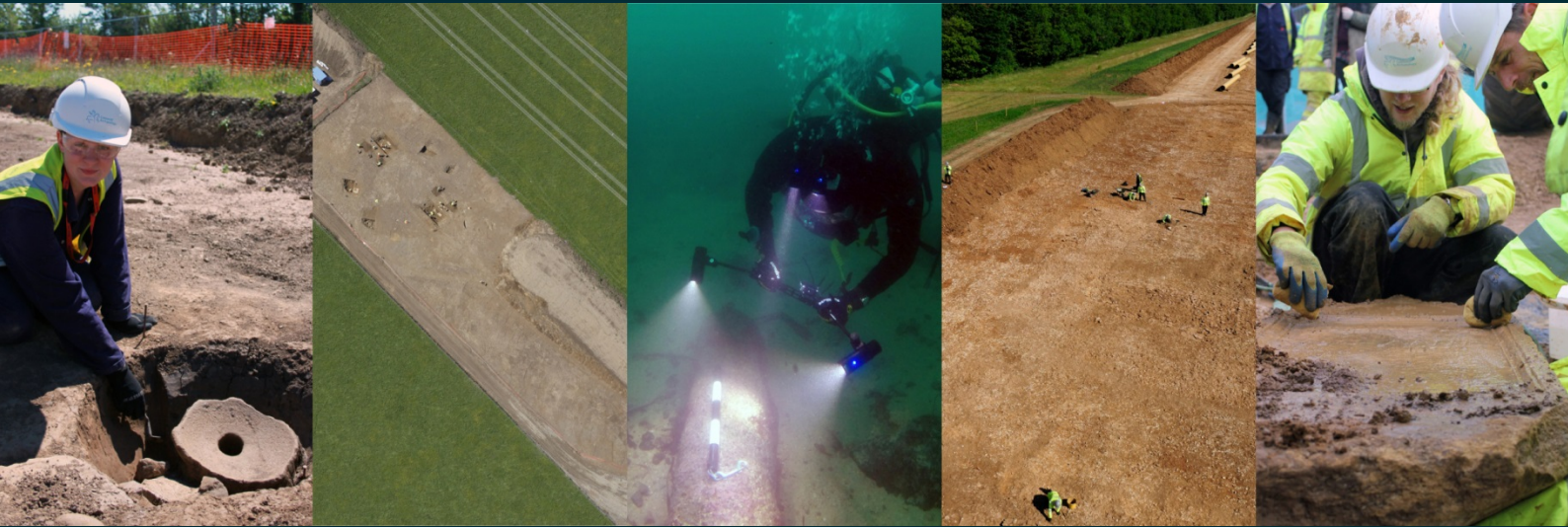


Wildwood Golf and Country Club Alfold Surrey

Archaeological Evaluation (Phase 1)



for
Nexus Heritage

on behalf of
Wildwood Golf and Country Club

CA Project: 770338
CA Report: 16260

May 2016



Wildwood Golf and Country Club
Alfold
Surrey

Archaeological Evaluation (Phase 1)

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SUMMARY

Project Name:	Wildwood Golf and Country Club (Phase 1)
Location:	Alford, Surrey
NGR:	TQ 04499 35282
Type:	Evaluation
Date:	18-21 April 2016
Planning Reference:	WA/2010/1489
Location of Archive:	To be deposited with a local museum
Site Code:	WIG 16

An archaeological evaluation was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology in April 2016 at the Wildwood Golf and Country Club, Alford, Surrey. Ten trenches were excavated.

No archaeological features or finds were uncovered within the excavated trenches. Modern overburden directly overlay the natural horizon, indicating that modern ground reduction likely occurred in this area. This modern disturbance was probably associated with the construction of the golf course and/or the establishment of the car parking areas.



1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 In April 2016 Cotswold Archaeology (CA) carried out an archaeological phase 1 evaluation for Nexus Heritage at the Wildwood Golf and Country Club, Alford, Surrey (centred on NGR: TQ 04499 35282; Fig. 1). The evaluation was undertaken as a condition to granted planning permission (Ref: WA/2010/1489) for the construction of an 84 room hotel with associated spa and leisure facilities.
- 1.2 The evaluation was carried out following consultation with Nick Truckle of the Surrey County Council Heritage Conservation Team, the archaeological advisor to Waverley District Council, and with a subsequent detailed *Written Scheme of Investigation* (WSI) produced by CA (2016) and approved by Nick Truckle. The fieldwork also followed *Standard and guidance: Archaeological field evaluation* (ClfA 2014). This report details the results of the first phase of trial trenching, as specified in the WSI.

The site

- 1.3 The proposed development area is approximately 4ha, and comprises a golf course, areas of woodland, ponds and car parking. The site lies on a level area at a height of approximately 53m AOD. The part of the site evaluated during Phase 1 consists of several areas of car parking/hardstanding enclosing an area of approximately 1.15 hectares. This area is bounded to the north by woodland and to the south by ponds and a fairway of the golf course.
- 1.4 The underlying bedrock geology of the area is mapped as Weald Clay Formation, comprising mudstone and sandstone and formed during the Cretaceous period approximately 125 to 134 million years ago. No superficial geology has been mapped within the site however, borehole logs held by the British Geological Survey (BGS) for areas to the south-west of the site indicate that the Weald Clay was overlain by superficial sand deposits. There appear to be no recorded borehole logs within proposed development area. Variable thicknesses of made ground and reworked ground are likely to be present across the site, associated with the formation of the golf course.

2. ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

- 2.1 A detailed archaeological and historical assessment of the site was undertaken as part of a Cultural Heritage chapter within an Environmental Statement (WSP 2010). The assessment comprised a 1km study area surrounding the site. A summary of the results is presented below:

Prehistoric

- 2.2 A variety of findspots of material dating to prehistoric period have been uncovered within the assessment area, including Mesolithic flint tools and flint tools of possible Neolithic or Bronze Age date. Some of these findspots involve relatively large collections of artefacts of up to 178 flint tools. Two circular crop marks – putatively identified as possible Bronze Age burial barrows – have also been identified in this area. Remains of a prehistoric date are widely scattered across the Wealden Clay geology.
- 2.3 A number of burnt flints were recovered during an archaeological watching brief on extension works at Wildwood Golf and Country Club. The presence of these artefacts suggests activity during the prehistoric period within the area proposed for development. The actual location of these artefacts had been disturbed by previous development of the area and consequently the extent of associated archaeological remains is unknown. The assessment concluded that the potential for as yet undiscovered prehistoric remains within undisturbed parts of the application site was high. However, no known archaeological remains dating to the Iron Age were identified within the assessment area.

Romano-British

- 2.4 A single findspot of Roman date has been identified within the assessment area. A 3rd century AD Roman coin was uncovered in this area and likely represents a stray find rather than the presence of a more substantial occupation dating to the Roman period. Consequently the assessment judged the potential for as yet undiscovered Roman remains as low.

Saxon

- 2.5 No known archaeological remains from the Saxon period have been identified within the assessment area. The earliest reference to Alfold (Alfaude) appears to date from the thirteenth century, which corresponds with the historic presumption that in the

process of extending cultivation into the Weald after the eleventh century new parishes were created to cater for new villages. Alfold, itself came into existence by drawing a growing population in from existing manorial centres. No entry for Alfold in the Domesday Survey and the area may well have been included in the village of Bramley. Consequently the potential for as yet undiscovered Saxon remains was judged to be low.

Medieval

- 2.6 In the medieval period the parish of Alfold was located in the Hundred of Blackheath, bounded to the north by Woking, to the west by Godalming, to the east by Wotton, and to the south by the county of Sussex. Alfold parish contained the manor of Wildwood, now represented by Great and Little Wildwood Farms and Wildwood Copse and Moat, and was formerly possessed by the lords of Albury and Stoke D'Abernon, the D'Abernons and their successors. In the 13th century the D'Abernon family held land in Alfold, and in a deed of 1313 John D'Abernon's possession of 'le Wylwode' is recorded. This was probably the wood of 40 acres of oaks, possibly the 'Wealden' Wood named in the inquisition on the Albury Manor. In 1391 Elizabeth Grey, lady of Stoke D'Abernon, granted the soil and wood of Wildwood (except the moat, grange, and manorial rights) to John, Duke of Lancaster, and others.
- 2.7 Three sites of medieval date were identified in the assessment area; the homestead moated site in Wildwood Copse, iron ore pits in Stoney Copse, and a find spot of pot sherds and metalworking debris/slag. The ore pits and metalworking debris represent are suggestive of iron production in this location during the medieval period. The potential for other, as yet undiscovered evidence dating to the medieval period within the proposed development area was judged to be medium.

Post-Medieval / Modern

- 2.8 This area of Surrey based on the Wealden clay seems to have been relatively sparsely populated during the post-medieval period and was mostly used for woodland and pasturage. Oats were the primary crop within the dispersed settlement pattern, which developed from an economy based on stock rearing. The site itself remained as open fields and woodland up until the establishment of the Wildwood Golf Course and Country Club in 1992. The potential for yet undiscovered remains of a post-medieval was also judged to be medium.

3. AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

- 3.1 The objectives of the Phase 1 evaluation were to provide information about the archaeological resource within the Phase 1 area, including its presence/absence, character, extent, date, integrity, state of preservation and quality. In accordance with *Standard and guidance: Archaeological field evaluation* (ClfA 2014), the evaluation has been designed to be minimally intrusive and minimally destructive to archaeological remains. The information gathered will enable the Surrey County Council Heritage Conservation Team, acting on behalf of the LPA to identify and assess the particular significance of any heritage asset, consider the impact of the proposed development upon it, and to avoid or minimise conflict between the heritage asset's conservation and any aspect of the development proposal, in line with the *National Planning Policy Framework* (DCLG 2012).

4. METHODOLOGY

- 4.1 The fieldwork comprised the excavation of 10 trenches (measuring 30m x 1.8m), in the locations shown on the attached plan (Fig. 2). The trenches were excavated within an area of rough ground used for general storage of materials (Trenches 1 to 4), a public car park (Trenches 5 to 8) and the Members car park (Trenches 12 and 13). Three trenches surrounding the club house (Trenches 9 to 11) could not be excavated due to the presence of live services and/or that this area was partially inaccessible. Trenches were set out on OS National Grid (NGR) co-ordinates using Leica GPS and surveyed in accordance with CA Technical Manual 4 *Survey Manual*.
- 4.2 All trenches were excavated by mechanical excavator equipped with a toothless grading bucket. All machine excavation was undertaken under constant archaeological supervision to the top of the first significant archaeological horizon or the natural substrate, whichever was encountered first. Where archaeological deposits were encountered they were excavated by hand in accordance with CA Technical Manual 1: *Fieldwork Recording Manual*.
- 4.3 Deposits were assessed for their palaeoenvironmental potential in accordance with CA Technical Manual 2: *The Taking and Processing of Environmental and Other Samples from Archaeological Sites* and, no deposits were identified that required

sampling. All artefacts recovered were processed in accordance with Technical Manual 3 *Treatment of Finds Immediately after Excavation*.

- 4.4 The archive and artefacts from the evaluation are currently held by CA at their offices in Andover. Subject to the agreement of the legal landowner the site archive will be deposited with a local museum. Until this location has been agreed the archive will be stored at the offices of CA in Andover. A summary of information from this project, set out within Appendix B, will be entered onto the OASIS online database of archaeological projects in Britain.

5. RESULTS (FIGS 2-4)

- 5.1 This section provides an overview of the evaluation results; detailed summaries of the recorded contexts are to be found in Appendix A. Details of the relative heights of the principal deposits and features expressed as metres Above Ordnance Datum (m AOD) also appear in Appendix A.

- 5.3 No archaeological features or deposits were revealed within any of the excavated trenches and no finds were recovered. The general stratigraphy of the area, as uncovered in the evaluation trenches, saw the natural horizon directly overlaid by modern overburden. No subsoil layers were present. The natural horizon, generally comprising a compact light yellow silty clay, was present in all trenches at an average depth of 0.2-0.3m below current ground level. Modern overburden consisted of rubble, which was overlaid in some areas by a compacted car park surface. Variations in the natural horizon were noted in some areas of the site and are detailed in the context descriptions in Appendix A. Some modern interventions, including the laying of services, were also observed within the excavated trenches.

6. THE FINDS AND BIOLOGICAL EVIDENCE

- 6.1 No finds or biological evidence was recovered from the trenches.

7. DISCUSSION

- 7.1 The results of the Phase 1 evaluation achieved its objective in establishing the absence of archaeological features across this part of the site. It appears that, based

on the shallow depth of the natural horizon below the current ground surface and the lack of subsoil layers, the areas investigated during this phase of works was subject to previous modern disturbance. This disturbance probably occurred as the result of ground reduction associated with the previous construction of the golf course and/or the establishment of car parking areas.

- 7.3 Three trenches, located on the eastern edge of the area of investigation could not be excavated as part of this phase of works as part of this area was inaccessible (Trench 9) and live services were present (Trenches 10 and 11). Based on the results of the excavation of Trenches 1-8 and 12-13 and the presence of services in this area, it is probable that this part of the site may also be truncated. Further planned phases (2 to 4) of trial trenching in the areas to the north and south may uncover as yet unidentified archaeological remains.

8. CA PROJECT TEAM

Fieldwork was undertaken by Adam Howard, assisted by Tim Sperring, Jack Marten-Jones and Chris Brown. The report was written by Nicky Garland. The illustrations were prepared by Lesley Davidson. The archive has been compiled by Andrew Donald, and prepared for deposition by Hazel O'Neill. The project was managed for CA by Damian De Rosa.

9. REFERENCES

BGS (British Geological Survey) 2016 *Geology of Britain Viewer*
<http://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home.html> Accessed 16 May 2016

CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2016 *Wildwood Golf and Country Club, Alford, Surrey: Written Scheme of Investigation for Archaeological Evaluation*

CIfA (Chartered Institute for Archaeologists) 2014 *Standard and guidance for archaeological field evaluation*

DCLG (Department of Communities and Local Government) 2012 *National Planning Policy Framework*



WSP 2010 Wildwood Golf & Country Club - Environmental Statement – Cultural Heritage Assessment.

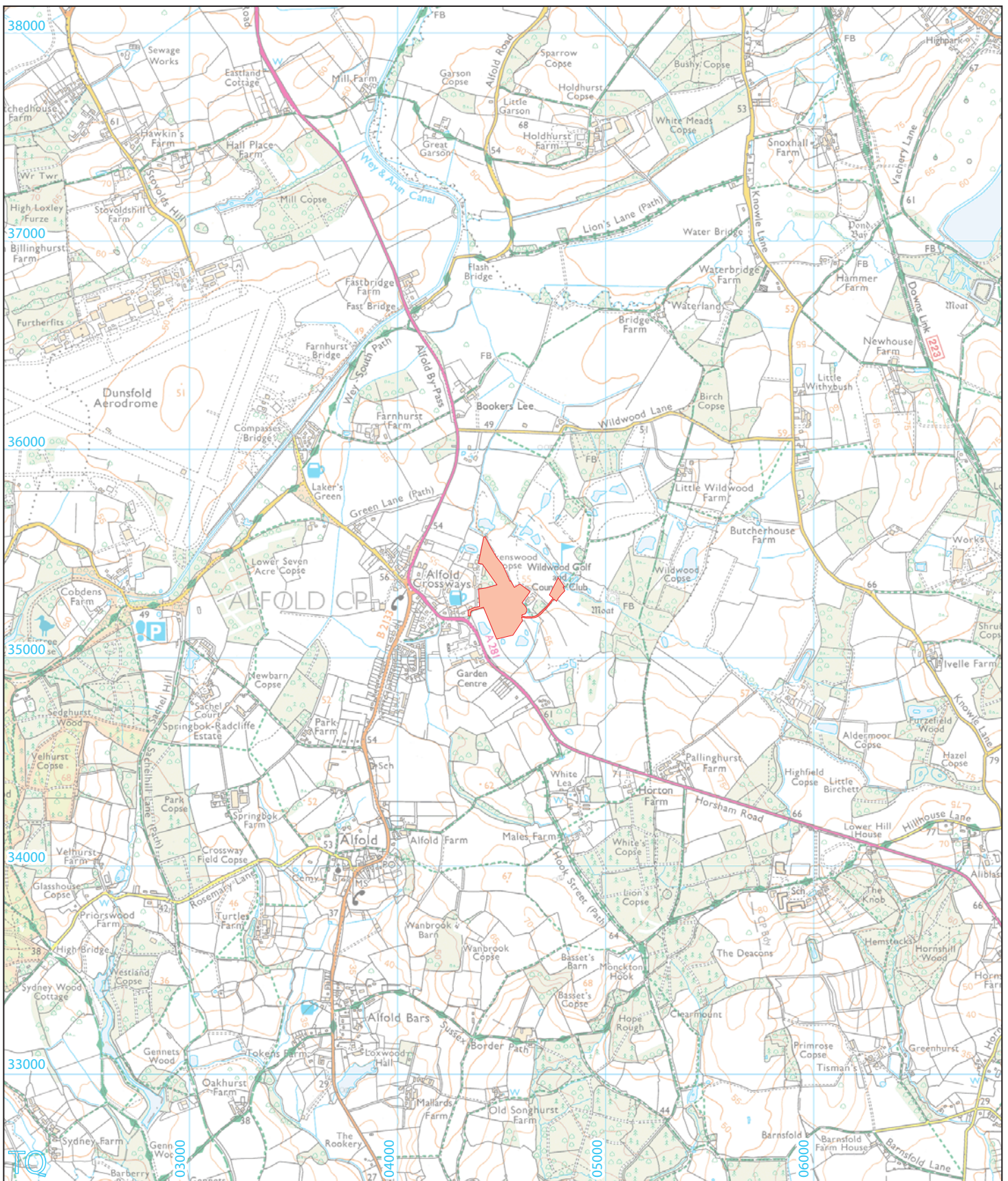


APPENDIX A: CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS

Trench No.	Context No.	Type	Fill of	Context interpretation	Description	L (m)	W (m)	D (m)	Height (m AOD)
1	100	Layer		Made Ground	Tarmac, gravel, compact modern rubble	>30	>2	0.3	55.93
1	101	Layer		Made Ground	A friable mid greyish brown silty clay with moderate modern brick and rubble	>30	>2	0.28	55.63
1	102	Layer		Natural	Compact mid yellowish brown silty clay	>30	>2	N/A	55.35
2	200	Layer		Made Ground	Tarmac, gravel, compact modern rubble	>30	>2	0.39	56.04
2	201	Layer		Made Ground	Modern rubble and brick	>30	>2	N/A	55.65
2	202	Layer		Natural	Compact mid greyish yellow silty clay	>30	>2	N/A	55.65
3	300	Layer		Made Ground	Tarmac, gravel, compact modern rubble	>30	>2	0.26	55.84
3	301	Layer		Natural	Compact mid yellowish grey silty clay	>30	>2	0.14	55.58
3	302	Layer		Natural	Compact mid greyish yellow silty clay	>30	>2	N/A	55.44
3	303	Layer		Made Ground	Modern rubble and brick	>30	>2	N/A	55.44
4	400	Layer		Topsoil	Friable mid reddish brown clayey silt	>30	>2	0.28	55.69
4	401	Layer		Natural	Compact light yellowish grey silty clay	>30	>2	N/A	55.41
5	500	Layer		Made Ground	Tarmac, gravel, compact modern rubble	>30	>2	0.35	54.98
5	501	Layer		Natural	Compact mid yellowish red silty clay	>30	>2	N/A	54.63
6	600	Layer		Made Ground	Tarmac, gravel, compact modern rubble	>30	>2	0.14	54.69
6	601	Layer		Made Ground	Mid greyish brown silty clay with frequent inclusions of modern stone and rubble	>30	>2	0.3m	54.55
6	602	Layer		Natural	Compact mid yellowish red silty clay	>30	>2	N/A	54.35
7	700	Layer		Made Ground	Tarmac, gravel, compact modern rubble	>30	>2	0.14	54.20
7	701	Layer		Natural	Compact mid reddish yellow silty clay	>30	>2	N/A	54.06
8	800	Layer		Made Ground	Tarmac, gravel, compact modern rubble	>30	>2	0.18	53.43
8	801	Layer		Natural	Compact mid yellowish red silty clay	>30	>2	N/A	53.25
9					Not excavated				
10					Not excavated				
11					Not excavated				
12	1200	Layer		Made Ground	Tarmac, gravel, compact modern rubble	>30	>2	0.13	52.94
12	1201	Layer		Made Ground	Friable mid brownish yellow coarse sand	>30	>2	0.23	52.81
12	1202	Layer		Redeposited Natural	Compact dark greyish brown silty clay with moderate inclusions of modern rubble	>30	>2	0.39	52.58
12	1203	Layer		Natural	Compact Mid grey silty clay	>30	>2	N/A	52.19
13	1300	Layer		Made Ground	Tarmac, gravel, compact modern rubble	>30	>2	0.25	52.56
13	1301	Layer		Natural	Compact mid grey silty clay	>30	>2	N/A	52.31
13	1302	Layer		Made Ground	Friable mid yellow coarse sand	>30	>2	N/A	52.31

APPENDIX B: OASIS REPORT FORM

PROJECT DETAILS		
Project Name	Wildwood Golf and Country Club, Alford, Surrey (Phase 1)	
Short description	<p>An archaeological evaluation was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology in April 2016 at the Wildwood Golf and Country Club, Alford, Surrey. Ten trenches were excavated.</p> <p>No archaeological features or finds were uncovered within the excavated trenches. Modern overburden directly overlay the natural horizon, indicating that modern ground reduction likely occurred in this area. This modern disturbance was probably associated with the construction of the golf course and/or the establishment of the car parking areas.</p>	
Project dates	18-21 April 2016	
Project type	Field evaluation	
Previous work	Cultural Heritage Assessment (WSP 2010)	
Future work	Unknown	
PROJECT LOCATION		
Site Location	Alford, Surrey	
Study area (M ² /ha)	4 ha.	
Site co-ordinates	TQ 04499 35282	
PROJECT CREATORS		
Name of organisation	Cotswold Archaeology	
Project Design (WSI) originator	Cotswold Archaeology	
Project Manager	Damian De Rosa	
Project Supervisor	Adam Howard	
MONUMENT TYPE	None	
SIGNIFICANT FINDS	None	
PROJECT ARCHIVES		
	Intended final location of archive (museum/Accession no.)	Content (e.g. pottery, animal bone etc)
Physical	N/A	None
Paper	TBC (currently held at CA Andover)	Context sheets, trench record sheets
Digital	TBC (currently held at CA Andover)	Database, digital photos, survey
BIBLIOGRAPHY		
CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2016 <i>Wildwood Golf and Country Club, Alford, Surrey: Archaeological Evaluation (Phase 1)</i> . CA typescript report 16260		



 site boundary

0  1km

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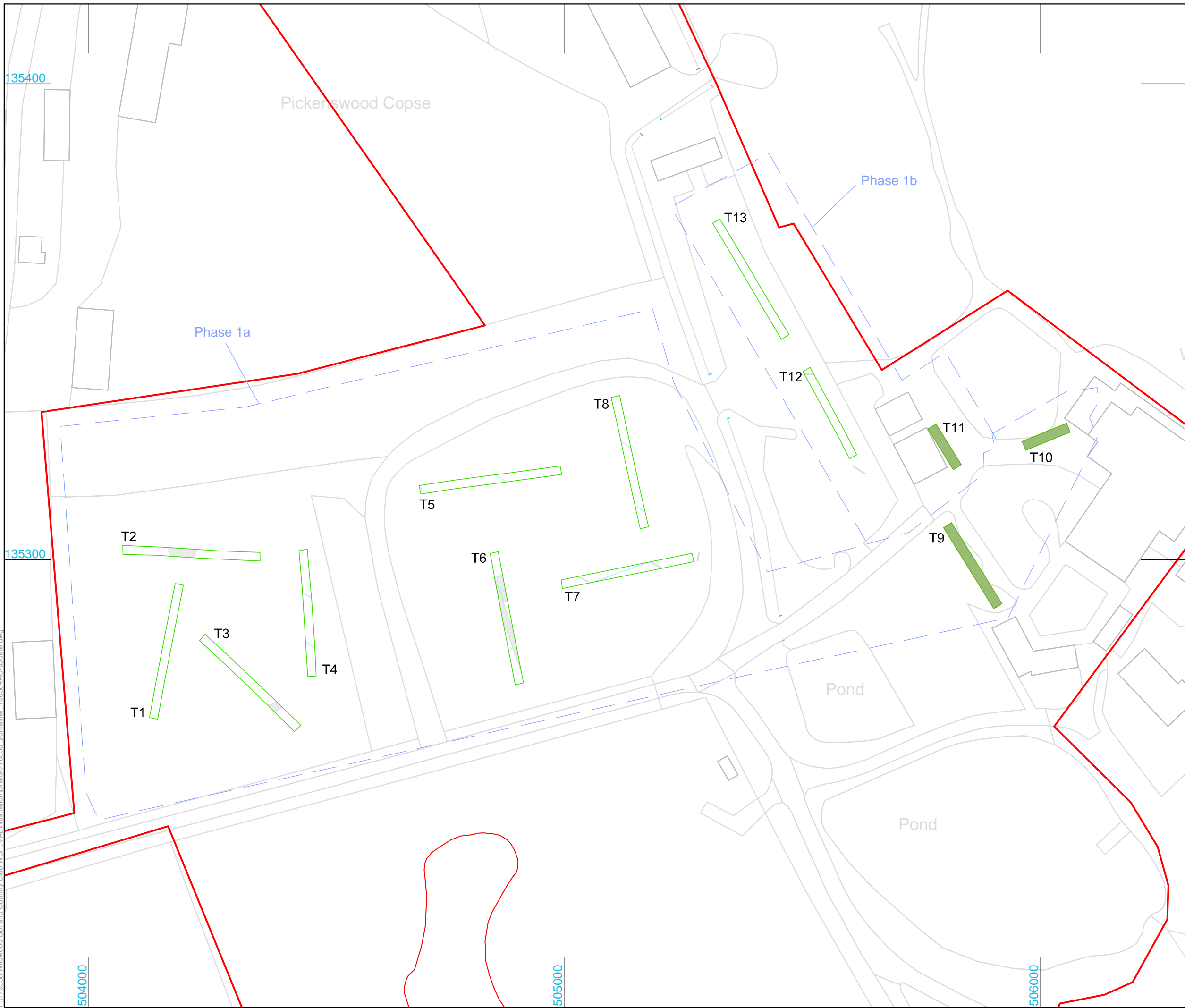


Andover 01264 347630
Cirencester 01285 771022
Exeter 01392 826185
Milton Keynes 01908 564660
www.cotswoldarchaeology.co.uk
enquiries@cotswoldarchaeology.co.uk

PROJECT TITLE
Wildwood Golf and Country Club,
Alford, Surrey

FIGURE TITLE
Site location plan

DRAWN BY LD	PROJECT NO. 770338	FIGURE NO.
CHECKED BY NJG	DATE 17-05-2016	1
APPROVED BY DDR	SCALE@A4 1:25,000	



- site boundary
- evaluation trench
- unexcavated trench
- phase 1a and 1b
- modern
- field drain



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 **Cotswold Archaeology**

Andover 01264 347630
 Cirencester 01285 771022
 Exeter 01392 826185
 Milton Keynes 01908 564660
 www.cotswoldarchaeology.co.uk
 enquiries@cotswoldarchaeology.co.uk

PROJECT TITLE
Wildwood Golf and Country Club, Alford, Surrey

FIGURE TITLE
Trench Location Plan

DRAWN BY LD	PROJECT NO. 770338	FIGURE NO.
CHECKED BY NJG	DATE 17/05/2016	2
APPROVED BY DDR	SCALE@A3 1:750	

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1



2

- 1 Trench 3, NE facing
- 2 Trench 4, NW facing



Andover 01264 347630
 Cirencester 01285 771022
 Exeter 01392 826185
 Milton Keynes 01908 564660
 w www.cotswoldarchaeology.co.uk
 e enquiries@cotswoldarchaeology.co.uk

PROJECT TITLE

Wildwood Golf and Country Club,
 Alford, Surrey

FIGURE TITLE

Photographs 1 and 2

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FIGURE NO.

3



3



4

3 Trench 5, NE facing
4 Trench 13, NW facing



Andover 01264 347630
Cirencester 01285 771022
Exeter 01392 826185
Milton Keynes 01908 564660
w www.cotswoldarchaeology.co.uk
e enquiries@cotswoldarchaeology.co.uk

PROJECT TITLE

Wildwood Golf and Country Club,
Alford, Surrey

FIGURE TITLE

Photographs 3 and 4

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FIGURE NO.

4

Andover Office

Stanley House
Walworth Road
Andover
Hampshire
SP10 5LH

t: 01264 347630

Cirencester Office

Building 11
Kemble Enterprise Park
Cirencester
Gloucestershire
GL7 6BQ

t: 01285 771022

Exeter Office

Unit 53
Basepoint Business Centre
Yeoford Way
Marsh Barton Trading Estate
Exeter
EX2 8LB

t: 01392 826185

Milton Keynes Office

41 Burners Lane South
Kiln Farm
Milton Keynes
Buckinghamshire
MK11 3HA

t: 01908 564660