

**Birchwood Park Golf Centre
Dartford
Kent**

Archaeological Watching Brief

for

Savills

on behalf of

Burhill Golf and Leisure Ltd

CA Project: 660109


CA Report: 13610

October 2013

Birchwood Park Golf Centre
Dartford
Kent

Archaeological Watching Brief

CA Project: 660109
CA Report: 13610

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date	29 October 2013
approved by	Simon Carlyle, Principal Fieldwork Manager
signed	
date	1 November 2013
issue	01

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CONTENTS

SUMMARY	2
1. INTRODUCTION.....	3
<i>The site</i>	3
<i>Archaeological background</i>	3
<i>Archaeological objectives</i>	4
<i>Methodology</i>	4
2. RESULTS	4
3. DISCUSSION.....	5
4. CA PROJECT TEAM.....	5
5. REFERENCES.....	5
APPENDIX A: CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS	6
APPENDIX B: OASIS REPORT FORM.....	7

LIST OF ILLUSTRATIONS

- Fig. 1 Site location plan (1:25,000)
- Fig. 2 The site, showing location of observed groundworks (1:2500)
- Fig. 3 Section of monitored area (photo)



SUMMARY

Project Name:	Birchwood Park Golf Centre
Location:	Dartford, Kent
NGR:	TQ 5025 7019
Type:	Watching brief
Date:	12–20 September 2013
Planning Reference:	DA/12/01443
Location of Archive:	Dartford Borough Museum
Site Code:	BPG 13

An archaeological watching brief was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology during groundworks associated with the creation of an irrigation reservoir at Birchwood Park Golf Centre, Dartford, Kent. Stonehill Farm, which lies to the immediate north-east of the new reservoir site, formed part of the Stonehill Green post-medieval farm complex.

No features or deposits of archaeological interest were observed during groundworks, and no artefactual material pre-dating the modern period was recovered. This indicates that any below-ground remains associated with Stonehill Green Farm do not extend as far as the new reservoir footprint. This result is consistent with the site having been woodland in the post-medieval period, as indicated by late 19th-century cartographic sources. There was no evidence for earlier activity at the site.



1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 In September 2013, Cotswold Archaeology (CA) carried out an archaeological watching brief for Savills on behalf of Burhill Golf and Leisure Ltd at Birchwood Park Golf Centre, Dartford, Kent (centred on NGR: TQ 5025 7019; Fig. 1). The watching brief was undertaken to fulfil a condition attached to planning consent granted for the creation of an irrigation reservoir (planning ref: DA/12/01443).
- 1.2 The watching brief was carried out in accordance with a specification (Kent County Council 2013) prepared by Wendy Rogers, Senior Archaeological Officer for Kent County Council Heritage Conservation Group, the archaeological advisors to Dartford Borough Council (DBC; the local planning authority). The watching brief was also in line with a subsequent detailed written scheme of investigation (WSI) produced by CA (2013) and approved by DBC acting on the advice of Wendy Rogers.
- 1.3 In addition, the watching brief followed the *Standard and Guidance for an Archaeological Watching Brief* (IfA 2009), the *Management of Archaeological Projects 2* (English Heritage 1991) and the *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MORPHE): Project Manager's Guide* (English Heritage 2006).

The site

- 1.4 The monitored area covered approximately 1ha and was within the bounds of Birchwood Park Golf Centre (Fig. 2), which lies to the west of Birchwood Road, some 5.3km south-west of central Dartford. At the time of the watching brief, the site comprised an area of grassland from which a light tree covering had recently been removed.
- 1.5 The underlying bedrock geology of the site is mapped as Thanet Sand Formation. Where recorded, the superficial deposits are mapped as Head clays, silts, sands and gravels (BGS *Geology of Britain Viewer* website).

Archaeological background

- 1.6 Stonehill Farm, which lies to the immediate north-east of the new reservoir site, formed part of the Stonehill Green post-medieval farm complex.

- 1.7 Late 19th-century Ordnance Survey maps show the new reservoir site as managed woodland to the south-west of the farm complex. This woodland had been partially cleared by the 1930s and was largely removed by the 1960s (*Old Maps website*).

Archaeological objectives

- 1.8 The objectives of the archaeological works, as outlined in the WSI (CA 2013), were to:
- monitor the development groundworks, and to identify, investigate and record any significant buried archaeological deposits revealed at the site;
 - produce an integrated project archive;
 - produce a report setting out the results of the project and the archaeological conclusions that can be drawn from the recorded data.

Methodology

- 1.9 The fieldwork followed the methodology set out within the WSI (CA 2013). An archaeologist was present during intrusive groundworks, which comprised the machine-stripping of the new reservoir footprint (Fig. 2).
- 1.10 Written, graphic and photographic records were compiled in accordance with *CA Technical Manual 1: Fieldwork Recording Manual* (2007).
- 1.11 The watching brief archive is currently held by CA at their offices in Milton Keynes, prior to deposition with Dartford Borough Museum. A summary of information from this project, as set out within Appendix B, will be entered onto the OASIS online database of archaeological projects in Britain.

2. RESULTS

- 2.1 See Appendix A for detailed descriptions of all recorded contexts.
- 2.2 The natural geological substrate (103) comprised yellow-orange clay and was revealed at an average depth of 0.45m below the present ground level (Fig. 3). It was overlain by 0.15m of clayey silt subsoil (102), which was sealed in turn by up to 0.3m of topsoil/turf (101/100).

2.3 No features or deposits of archaeological interest were observed during groundworks and, despite visual scanning of spoil, no artefactual material pre-dating the modern period was recovered.

3. DISCUSSION

3.1 Despite the archaeological potential of the application area, the watching brief identified no archaeological remains within the area of observed groundworks.

3.2 The absence of archaeological deposits indicates that any below-ground remains associated with the Stonehill Green post-medieval farm complex do not extend as far as the new reservoir footprint. This is consistent with the site having been woodland in the post-medieval period, as indicated by late 19th-century cartographic sources. There was no evidence for earlier activity at the site.

4. CA PROJECT TEAM

The fieldwork was undertaken by Robin Weaver, Caoimhin O'Coileain and Mark Patenall. The report was written by Derek Evans, with illustrations prepared by Lucy Martin. The archive has been compiled by Derek Evans and prepared for deposition by Nicky Powell. The project was managed for CA by Derek Evans.

5. REFERENCES

BGS (British Geological Survey) *Geology of Britain Viewer* (accessed 25/10/2013)

<http://www.bgs.ac.uk/discoveringGeology/geologyOfBritain/viewer.html>

CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2013 *Birchwood Park Golf Centre, Dartford, Kent: Written Scheme of Investigation for an Archaeological Watching Brief*

Kent County Council 2013 *Specification for an Archaeological Watching Brief in Kent*

Old Maps website (accessed 25/10/2013)

<http://www.old-maps.co.uk>

APPENDIX A: CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS

Context No.	Type	Context interpretation	Description	Depth/ thickness (m)
100	layer	turf	extant turfline	0.05
101	layer	topsoil	grey-brown silty clay	0.2–0.25
102	layer	subsoil	orange-brown silty clay	0.15
103	layer	natural	yellow-orange clay	N/A

APPENDIX B: OASIS REPORT FORM

PROJECT DETAILS		
Project Name	Birchwood Park Golf Centre, Dartford, Kent	
Short description (250 words maximum)	No features or deposits of archaeological interest were observed during groundworks, and no artefactual material pre-dating the modern period was recovered. This indicates that any below-ground remains associated with Stonehill Green Farm do not extend as far as the new reservoir footprint. This result is consistent with the site having been woodland in the post-medieval period, as indicated by late 19th-century cartographic sources. There was no evidence for earlier activity at the site.	
Project dates	12–20 September 2013	
Project type	Watching brief	
Previous work	None	
Future work	Unknown	
PROJECT LOCATION		
Site location	Birchwood Park Golf Centre, Dartford, Kent	
Study area (M ² /ha)	1ha	
Site co-ordinates (8 Fig Grid Reference)	TQ 5025 7019	
PROJECT CREATORS		
Name of organisation	Cotswold Archaeology	
Project Brief originator	Kent County Council	
Project Design (WSI) originator	Cotswold Archaeology	
Project Manager	Derek Evans	
Project Supervisor	Robin Weaver, Caoimhin O'Coileain and Mark Patenall	
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	N/A
Paper	Dartford Borough Museum	Site records
Digital	Dartford Borough Museum	Database, digital photos, survey data
BIBLIOGRAPHY		
	CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2013 <i>Birchwood Park Golf Centre, Dartford, Kent: Archaeological Watching Brief</i> CA typescript report 13610	



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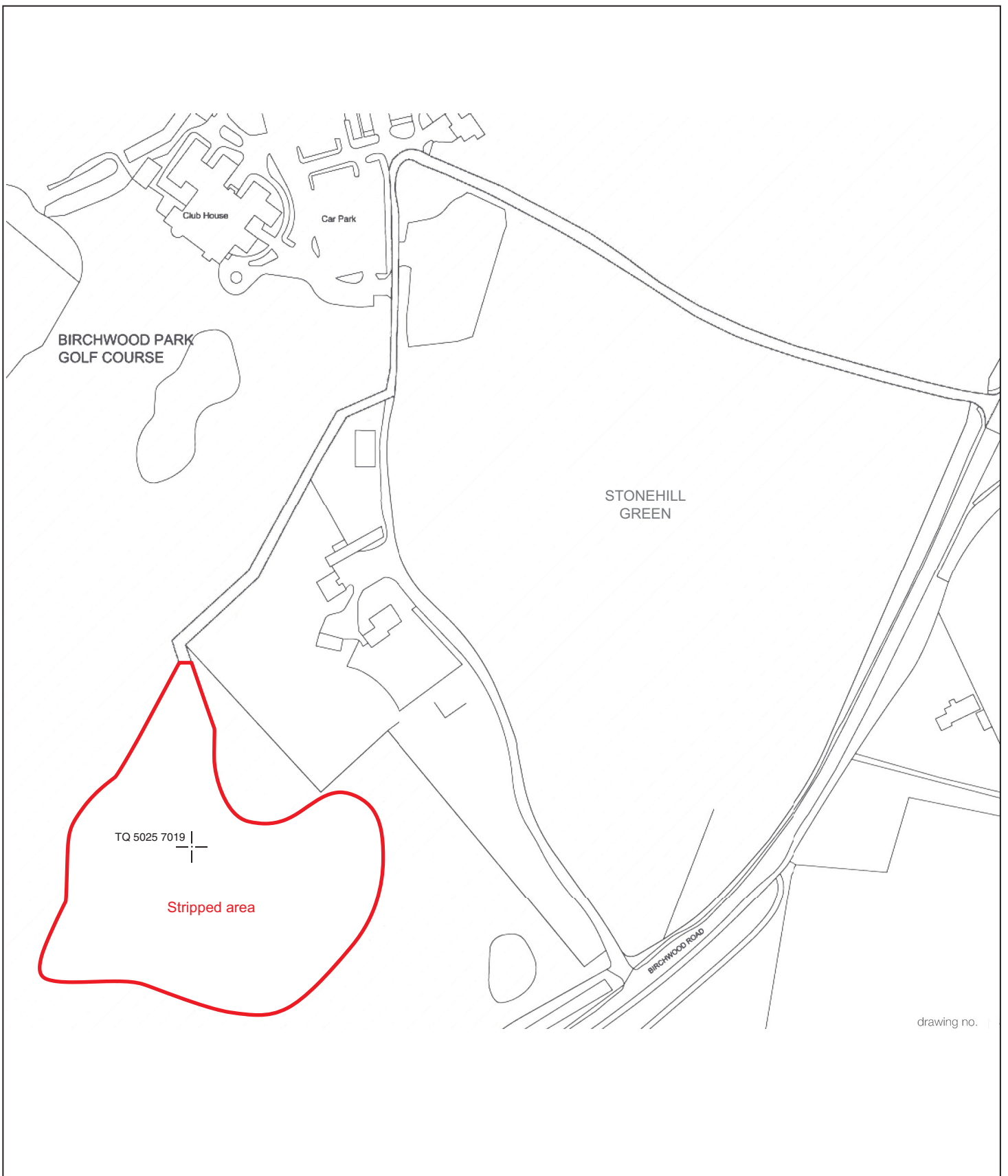


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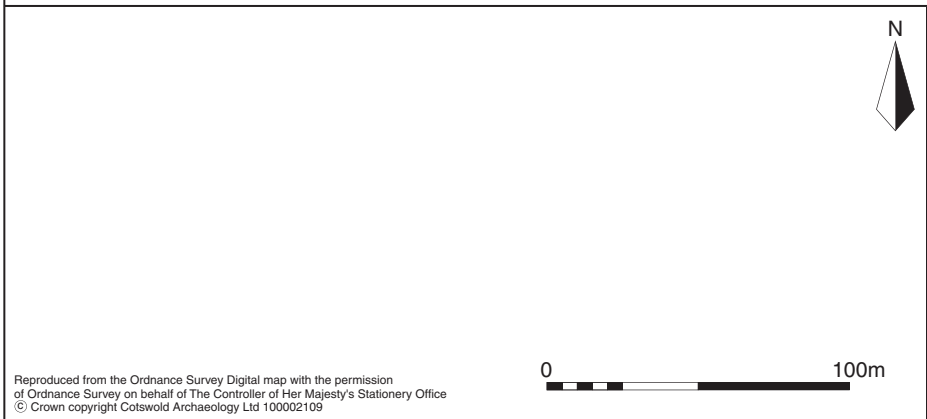
PROJECT TITLE
Birchwood Park Golf Club, Dartford, Kent

FIGURE TITLE
Site location plan

PROJECT NO.	660109	DATE	24/10/2013	FIGURE NO.	1
DRAWN BY	LM	REVISION	00		
APPROVED BY	LM	SCALE@A4	1:25,000		



drawing no. 1



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PROJECT TITLE
 Birchwood Park Golf Club, Dartford, Kent

FIGURE TITLE
 The site, showing location of observed groundworks

PROJECT NO. 660109	DATE 24/10/2013	FIGURE NO.
DRAWN BY LM	REVISION 00	2
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3 Section of monitored area (1m & 0.5m scale)



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PROJECT TITLE

Birchwood Park Golf Club, Dartford, Kent

FIGURE TITLE

Photograph

PROJECT NO. 660109 DATE 24/10/2013
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FIGURE NO.

3