

**Bearwood Lakes Golf Course,
Bearwood Road
Sindlesham
Berkshire**

Archaeological Evaluation



for
Bearwood Lakes Golf Course

CA Project: 770439
CA Report: 16652

November 2016



Bearwood Lakes Golf Course
Bearwood Road,
Sindlesham
Berkshire

Archaeological Evaluation

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SUMMARY

Project Name: Bearwood Lakes Golf Course
Location: Bearwood Road, Sindlesham, Berkshire
NGR: SU 477945,168590
Type: Evaluation
Date: 26th of October 2016
Planning Reference: 160414
Location of Archive: Berkshire Museum Services
Site Code: BEAR 16

An archaeological evaluation was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology in October 2016 at Bearwood Lakes Golf Course. Four trenches were excavated.

The trenches were not targeted on any archaeological anomalies but were distributed across the proposed development in order to assess the archaeological potential across as wide an area as possible.

Of the four trenches excavated, **Trench 3** contained evidence of heavy modern truncation. The four trenches excavated revealed no archaeological finds, features or deposits.



1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 In October 2016 Cotswold Archaeology (CA) carried out an archaeological evaluation for Bearwood Lakes Golf Course at Bearwood Lakes Golf Course, Bearwood Road, Sindlesham, Berkshire (centred on NGR SU 7794, 6859; Figure 1). The evaluation was undertaken to accompany a planning application (Ref: 160414) for the construction of a reservoir with a surface area of 4,000 square metres in a pocket of plantation woodland/hardstanding adjacent to Bearwood lakes Golf Club Maintenance Facility.
- 1.2 Following consultation by the client with Berkshire Archaeology, the archaeological planning advisor to Wokingham Borough Council (WBC) recommended that an archaeological trial trench evaluation was carried out on site to establish the archaeological potential of the site prior to development.
- 1.3 The evaluation was carried out in accordance with a detailed *Written Scheme of Investigation* (WSI) produced by CA (2016) and approved by Ellie Leary at Berkshire Archaeology. The fieldwork followed *Standard and guidance: Archaeological field evaluation* (CIfA 2014). It was monitored by Ellie Leary.

The site

- 1.4 The proposed development site of the reservoir is approximately 0.4ha in area and is located to the west of Bearwood Road currently located in an area of woodland within the northern part of Bearwood Lakes Golf Course. Bearwood Lake lies to the west of the site.
- 1.5 The Solid geology within the proposed development site is mapped as London Clay Formation - clay, silt and sand with no superficial deposits recorded (BGS 2016).
- 1.6 The Site is located between approximately 70m and 80m above Ordnance Datum (aOD).

2. ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

- 2.1 The archaeological background listed below is a succinct summary of the information available from the Heritage Gateway website within 1km of the site.

- 2.2 There are no known archaeological find-spots within 500m of the site.
- 2.3 Within 1km of the site, there are four known archaeological sites, one to the north of the site at land off Sadler's Lane; which revealed Middle Iron Age pits/post-holes and a Later Iron Age bloomery furnace and slag dump. Two archaeological sites to the west of the site, which revealed only modern or undated features or made ground, and one to the south of the site which revealed nothing of archaeological interest.
- 2.4 The Bearwood Lakes Golf Course was established in 1996 and lies within land that originally formed part of Windsor Great Park and royal hunting ground. The 5,000 acre estate within which the golf course once formed a part was acquired by John Walters, the founder of the Times newspaper in c.1830. Between 1865 and 1874 he built Bearwood House one of the largest Victorian houses in England. The house is located to the north of the site and is today an independent school, Bearwood College.
- 2.5 A study of historic Ordnance Survey mapping of the site shows that the site of the proposed reservoir has lain within extensive woodland plantation since at least the 1st edition OS map of 1870. It is likely that prior to 1870 with the site lying within royal hunting grounds that it has been in an area of extensive woodland since at least the medieval period.

3. AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

- 3.1 The objectives of the evaluation were to provide information about the archaeological resource within the site, including its presence/absence, character, extent, date, integrity, state of preservation and quality, in accordance *Standard and guidance: Archaeological field evaluation* (CIfA 2014). This information will enable WBC 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 4 trenches (25m x 1.5m) trenches equating to a 4% sample of the c. 0.4ha site in the locations shown on Figure 1. The trench locations had to be adjusted slightly because of above ground obstructions presence on site. 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 palaeo-environmental 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 from the evaluation is currently being held by CA at their offices in Andover. CA will make arrangements with the appropriate museum for the deposition of the site archive and, subject to agreement with the legal landowner(s), the artefact collection. Until agreement on the final deposition of the archive has been agreed it will be stored at the offices of CA 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 (FIGURES 2-6)

- 5.1 This section provides an overview of the evaluation results; detailed summaries of the recorded contexts are to be found in Appendices A.

- 5.2 The stratigraphic sequence encountered across the site consisted of light orange/brown sand natural which varied in depth from 0.08m below the ground surface (BGL) in **Trench 1** to 1.4m BGL in trench 3. Overlying the natural in **Trenches 2 and 4** was mid grey/brown silt/sand subsoil which was encountered at an average depth of 0.4m BGL and was covered by a dark greyish brown topsoil which was also found in **Trench 1**.
- 5.3 In **Trench 3** the natural was covered by a light grey/brown sand found at depth of 1.02m BGL, which was overlaid by a layer of modern tree roots encountered at depth of 0.88m BGL. The tree roots were covered by a modern made ground layer which consisted of a light yellow/brown sand/clay and modern building debris, this was overlaid by another modern made ground layer made up of very dark bluish grey sandy clay and modern building waste, these were encountered at depths of 0.42m and 0.2m BGL respectively. The made ground was covered by the existing work surface which consisted of gravel hardcore.

- 5.2 No archaeological remains were identified in any of the four trenches excavated.

6. DISCUSSION

- 6.1 The evaluation found evidence for large amounts of modern truncation across the northern end of the site and the lack of archaeology elsewhere on site suggests that the potential for archaeological remains is extremely low.

7. CA PROJECT TEAM

Fieldwork was undertaken by Oliver Good assisted by Georgie Johnston. The report was written by Oliver Good. The illustrations were prepared by Rosanna Price. 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.

10. REFERENCES

BGS (British Geological Survey) 2016 Geology of Britain Viewer.

CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2016 *Bearwood Lakes Golf Course, Bearwood Road, Sindlesham, Berkshire:: Written Scheme of Investigation for an Archaeological Watching Brief*

Heritage Gateway - <http://www.heritagegateway.org.uk/gateway/>

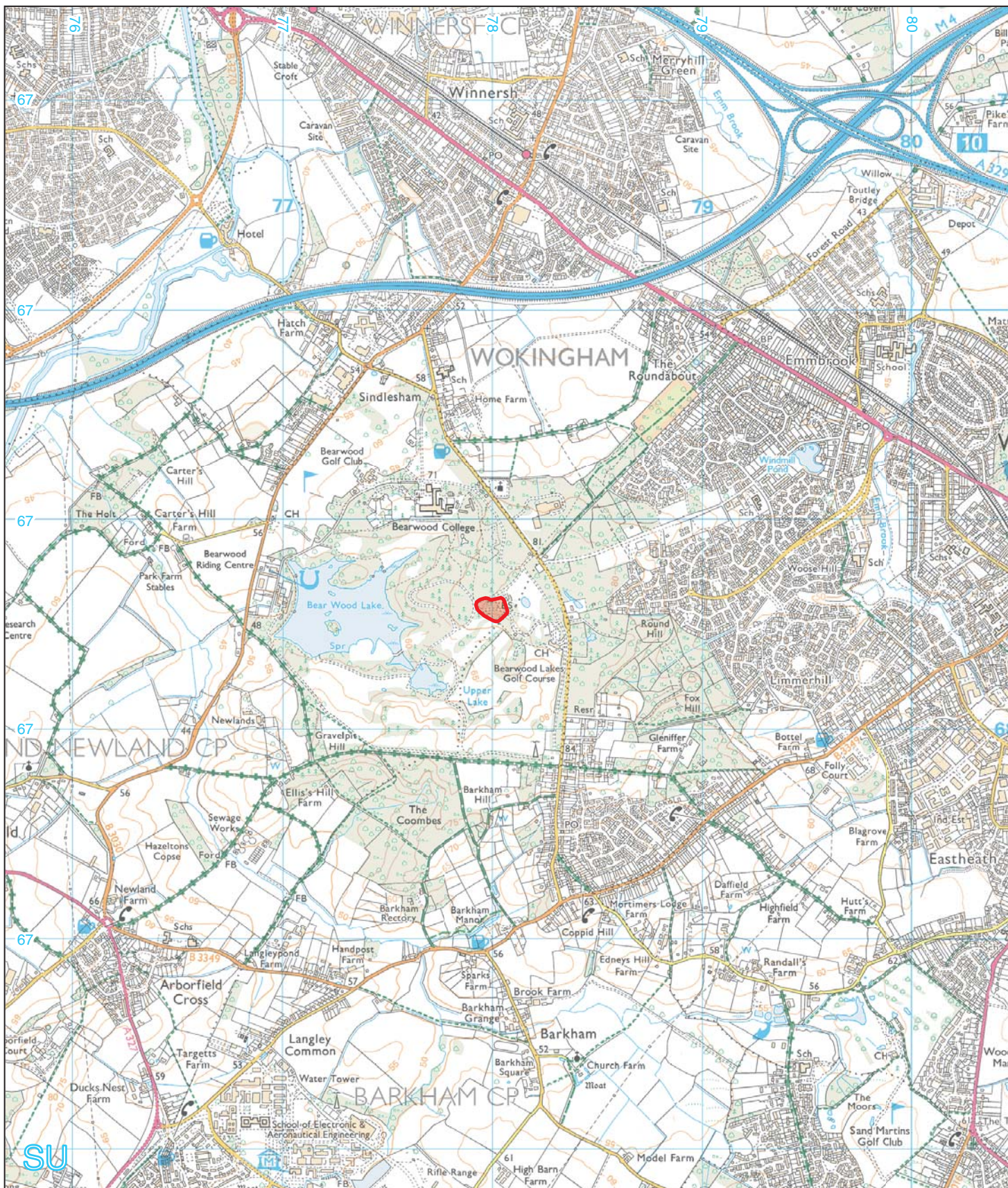


APPENDIX A: CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS

Trench No	Context	Type	Fill of	Context Interpretation	Context Description	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth/thickness (m)
1	100	Layer		Topsoil	Dark grey brown silt sand with common sub rounded gravel	25	1.5	0-0.08
1	101	Layer		Natural	Orange brown sand	25	1.5	0.08+
2	200	Layer		Topsoil	Dark greyish brown silty sand with common tree roots	25	1.5	0-0.53
2	201	Layer		Subsoil	Mid greyish brown silty sand with moderate tree rooting	25	1.5	0.53-0.66
2	202	Layer		Natural	Light orangey brown sand	25	1.5	0.66+
3	300	Layer		Modern surface	Modern work surface - gravel hardcore	25	1.5	0-0.2
3	301	Layer		Modern made ground	Very dark bluish grey sandy clay with common rooting and modern building debris	25	1.5	0.2-0.42
3	302	Layer		Modern made ground	Light yellowish brown containing common modern building waste and redeposited natural	25	1.5	0.42-0.88
3	303	Layer		Rooting	Dark greyish brown sand made up of 90% tree roots	25	1.5	0.88-1.02
3	304	Layer		Natural	Light greyish brown sand	25	1.5	1.02-1.4
3	305	Layer		Natural	Light orangey brown sandy gravel	25	1.5	1.4+
4	400	Layer		Topsoil	Dark greyish brown silty sand with sparse rooting	25	1.5	0-0.3
4	401	Layer		Subsoil	Mid greyish brown silty sand with moderate tree rooting	25	1.5	0.3-0.51
4	402	Layer		Natural	Light orangey brown sand	25	1.5	0.51+

APPENDIX B: OASIS REPORT FORM

PROJECT DETAILS		
Project Name	Bearwood Lakes Golf Course	
Short description	<p>An archaeological evaluation was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology in October 2016 at Bearwood Lakes Golf Course. 4 trenches were excavated.</p> <p>Planning permission was granted by Wokingham Borough Council (WBC) for the construction of a reservoir adjacent to Bearwood lakes Golf Club Maintenance Facility subject to the results of this archaeological evaluation. An evaluation was required as the site had been identified as an area of possible archaeological interest, the results would help to inform Berkshire Archaeology, the planning advisor to WBC, of the archaeological potential of the site.</p> <p>Of the four trenches excavated, Trench 3 contained evidence of heavy modern truncation while all four trenches did not any archaeological features or material.</p>	
Project dates	26 th of October	
Project type	Evaluation	
Previous work	None	
Future work	Unknown	
PROJECT LOCATION		
Site Location	Bearwood Road, Sindlesham, Berkshire	
Study area (M ² /ha)		
Site co-ordinates	SU 477945,168590	
PROJECT CREATORS		
Name of organisation	Cotswold Archaeology	
Project Brief originator		
Project Design (WSI) originator	Cotswold Archaeology	
Project Manager	Damian De Rosa	
Project Supervisor	Oliver Good	
MONUMENT TYPE	None	
SIGNIFICANT FINDS	None	
PROJECT ARCHIVES	Intended final location of archive (museum/Accession no.)	Content (e.g. pottery, animal bone etc)
Physical		
Paper		
Digital		
BIBLIOGRAPHY		
<p>BGS (British Geological Survey) 2016 Geology of Britain Viewer. Online resource at http://maps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyviewer_google/googleviewer.html</p> <p>CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2016 Bearwood Lakes Golf Course, Bearwood Road, Sindlesham, Berkshire:: Written Scheme of Investigation for an Archaeological Watching Brief</p> <p>Heritage Gateway - http://www.heritagegateway.org.uk/gateway/</p>		



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PROJECT TITLE

**Bearwood Lakes Golf Course,
Sindlesham, Berkshire**

FIGURE TITLE

Site location plan

0 1km

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FIGURE NO.

1



- site boundary
- evaluation trench



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PROJECT TITLE
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FIGURE TITLE
Trench location plan

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FIGURE NO.
2



3

3 Trench 1, facing north-west (1m and 2m scales)



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FIGURE TITLE

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4

4 Trench 1 representative section, facing north-east (1m scale)



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FIGURE NO.

4



5

5 Trench 2, facing south-west (1m and 2m scales)



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6

6 Trench 2 representative section, facing north-west (1m scale)



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FIGURE NO.

6



7

7 Trench 3, facing north (1m and 2m scales)



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8

8 Trench 3 representative section, facing west (1m scale)



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FIGURE TITLE

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FIGURE NO.

8



9

9 Trench 4, facing east (1m and 2m scales)



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FIGURE TITLE

Photograph

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10

10 Trench 4 representative section, facing south (1m scale)



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FIGURE NO.

10

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