



JOHN MOORE HERITAGE SERVICES

AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION

AT

SOUTH CERNEY GOLF COURSE,

GLOUCESTERSHIRE

NGR SU 05354 98026

NOVEMBER 2020

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FIELDWORK 22nd – 26th October 2020

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CONTENTS

	Page
<i>SUMMARY</i>	<i>1</i>
1 INTRODUCTION	1
1.1 Site Location	1
1.2 Planning Background	1
1.3 Archaeological Background	1
2 AIMS OF THE INVESTIGATION	3
3 STRATEGY	3
3.1 Research Design	3
3.2 Methodology	3
4 RESULTS	3
4.1 Trenched with Archaeological Features - Undated	3
4.2 Blank Trenches	4
5 FINDS	4
5.1 Animal Bone	4
6 DISCUSSION	7
7 ARCHIVE	7
8 BIBLIOGRAPHY	7
 FIGURES AND PLATES	
Figure 1. Site Location	2
Figure 2. Trenches 1-3 and Sections	5
Figure 3. Trench 6 and sections, and Blank Trench Sections	6
 APPENDICES	
Appendix 1. Context Inventory	8
Appendix 2. OASIS Report Form	10

Summary

John Moore Heritage Services carried out an evaluation at South Cerney Golf Course, Northmoor Lane, Gloucestershire (NGR SU 05354 98026). The trenches revealed a substantial amount of truncation across the grounds associated with the initial landscaping of the current course. However, two ditches in two trenches (Tr1 and Tr2) survived to a depth of between 0.3-0.6m. No diagnostic material was recovered from either, but the ditch in Tr1 corresponds roughly to the location of the possible Bronze Age barrows.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Site Location (Figure 1)

The site, part of South Cerney Golf Course, is located to the north of South Cerney and is accessed from the north via Northmoor Lane (centred NGR SU 05354 98026). The site, currently in use as a golf course, lies at approximately 100m OD and the underlying geology is Cornbrash Formation limestone.

1.2 Planning Background

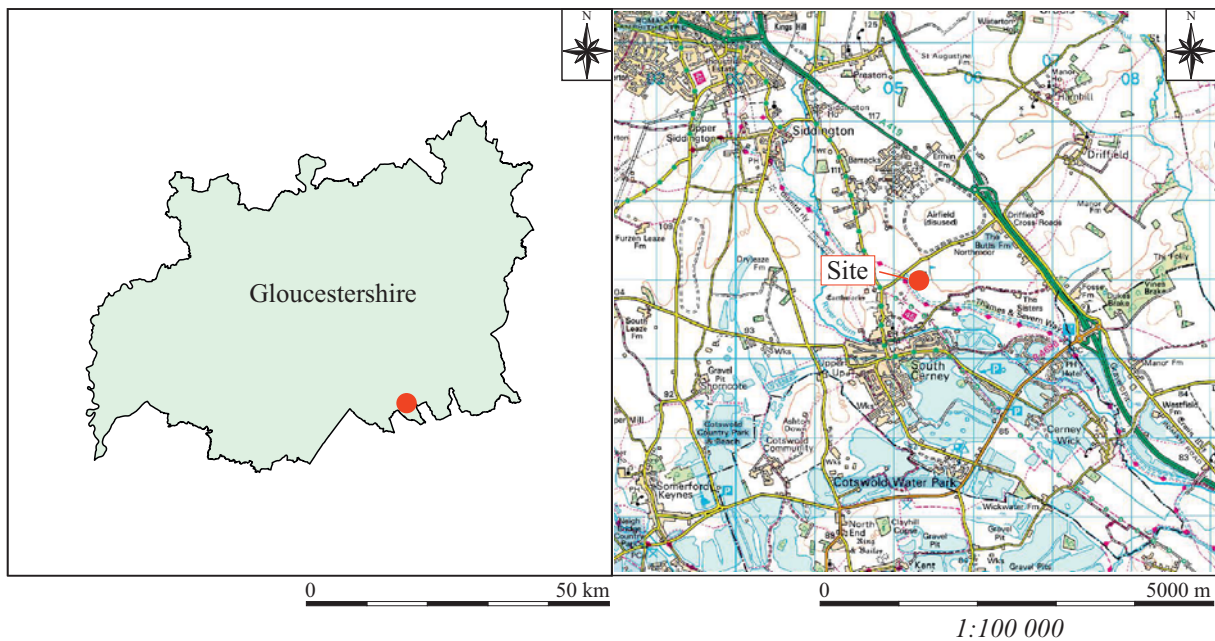
Planning permission has been sought from the Cotswold District Council for *Proposed upgrade to part of the golf course including an updated Practice Ground, Adventure Golf Course, New Greens, Landscaping and Water Harvesting Scheme for Irrigation, with significant planting and greatly increased biodiversity. The remodelling to involve the importation of recovered soils for the landscaping work mainly for the practice ground improvement, hole improvements and irrigation storage ponds (20/01899/FUL)*. Due to the potential of the site to contain archaeological remains a pre-determination evaluation was required.

1.3 Archaeological Background

Two possible conjoined Bronze Age barrows are located within the site, identified through aerial photography as cropmarks. The eastern ditch, sub-circular in plan, measures 20m in diameter while the western, also sub-circular, measures 26m in diameter. A site visit and analysis of LIDAR imagery failed to identify any extant remains, though this may be a result of later farming practices (CA 2019, p.20).

The desk based assessment identified some potential for remains of possible Iron Age/ Romano-British deposits, however the presence and extent of such features was not identified. This was due to the presence of cropmarks seen to the east and northeast of the site that appeared to represent a series of enclosures, ditches and tracks (CA 2019, p.23).

The site is located within the agricultural environs of South Cerney, a village of probable medieval origin. As such there is also potential for medieval agricultural remains, including former field boundaries, ditches, post holes and possibly furrows associated with ridge and furrow cultivation (CA 2019, p.24).



1:100 000



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Key Site boundary Evaluation trenches
 Archaeological features Study Building

1:5000

Figure 1: Site location

2 AIMS OF THE INVESTIGATION

The aims of the investigation as laid out in the Written Scheme of Investigation were as follows:

- To establish the presence or absence of archaeological remains within the site and the depth of soil deposits that overlie any remains.
- To determine the extent, condition, nature, character, quality and date of any archaeological remains encountered.
- To determine the degree of complexity of any horizontal and/or vertical stratigraphy present.
- To determine the impact of the proposed development on any remains present.

In particular:

- To determine the presence of any remains relating to the Bronze Age, Romano-British and medieval landscape.

3 STRATEGY

3.1 Research Design

John Moore Heritage Services carried out the work to a Written Scheme of Investigation agreed with the Gloucestershire Planning Archaeologist, the archaeological advisor to Cotswold District Council.

The recording was carried out in accordance with the standards specified by the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (2020).

3.2 Methodology

Eight evaluation trenches, 30m in length by 1.65m in width, were excavated across the golf course. The trenches were targeted on areas of proposed ground reduction.

Standard John Moore Heritage Services techniques were employed throughout, involving the completion of a written record for each deposit encountered, with scale plans and section drawings compiled where appropriate. A photographic record was also produced.

4 RESULTS (Figures 2 and 3)

Descriptions of deposits and fills are given in the context inventory.

4.1 Trenches with Archaeological Features - Undated

Trench 1

Tr1 was located so as to target the perceived intersection of the two possible Bronze Age barrow mounds seen in the LiDAR and cropmark evidence. The natural geology of Cornbrash Formation limestone was revealed below a topsoil and turf layer. The original area appears to have been reduced down to the natural geological formation layer and topsoil and turf laid down over this to produce the desired landscaping effect. The only archaeological feature encountered was a single linear ditch which was observed roughly 10m along the 30m long trench. This ditch, 1/04, extended at a NE-SW alignment, ever so slightly at an angle to the trench alignment. This

along with the relatively narrow width of the trench (1.65m) made it difficult to say with certainty whether the ditch may have been curvilinear. The ditch survived to a depth of 0.65m with a single fill, (1/05) which produced one small fragment of animal bone. The ditch survived 1.42m wide.

Trench 2

Tr2 was repositioned to avoid the existing drainage channel to the north of the original trench location. There was a single ditch (2/04) running in a N-S alignment which was 1.2m in width and was seen to be over 4m in length, running outside of the limits of the trench excavation.

Trench 3

Tr3 was also repositioned to avoid the existing drainage channel it had been positioned to transect. Unfortunately, most of this trench was greatly disturbed by modern irrigation and drainage. This disturbance was seen to exist across the entire trench until the western most 10m, where a possible curvilinear ditch was revealed. This ditch was seen to curve from a NE-SW alignment in the northern trench limit of excavation to nearly an E-W alignment in the southern trench limit, extending to over 3.5m in visible length. The ditch was 0.98m to 1.59m wide and 0.24m deep.

Trench 6

Tr6 was located in the south-central part of the site, running parallel to a grove of young saplings planted between 5-10 years ago. The only archaeological feature revealed in this trench was a small pit, 6/04, which was very circular in plan, 0.75m in diameter, and had two fills. The surface fill had frequent charcoal visible, and the lower fill also contained charcoal flecks. No finds were recovered and it is thought to have likely been associated with the planting activities in the immediate vicinity. The pit was 0.34m deep and the profile was rounded.

4.2 Blank Trenches

Trenches 4, 5, and 7

All four of these trenches showed that the landscaping for the current golf course had removed all deposits down to the natural limestone geology, or had considerable irrigation and/or drainage related truncation which resulted in an absence of archaeological evidence.

Trench 8

TR8 was on what appeared to be a flood-plain along a canal and at the bottom of a slope, resulting in a large amount of alluvial accumulation over the natural geology. No evidence of archaeological deposits were found in this area, despite the relative depth of potential preservation.

5 FINDS

5.1 Animal Bone

One fragment of unidentified animal bone weighing 8g was recovered from ditch fill (1/05) in Tr1. No further information was able to be ascertained due to its fragmentation and it was not retained.

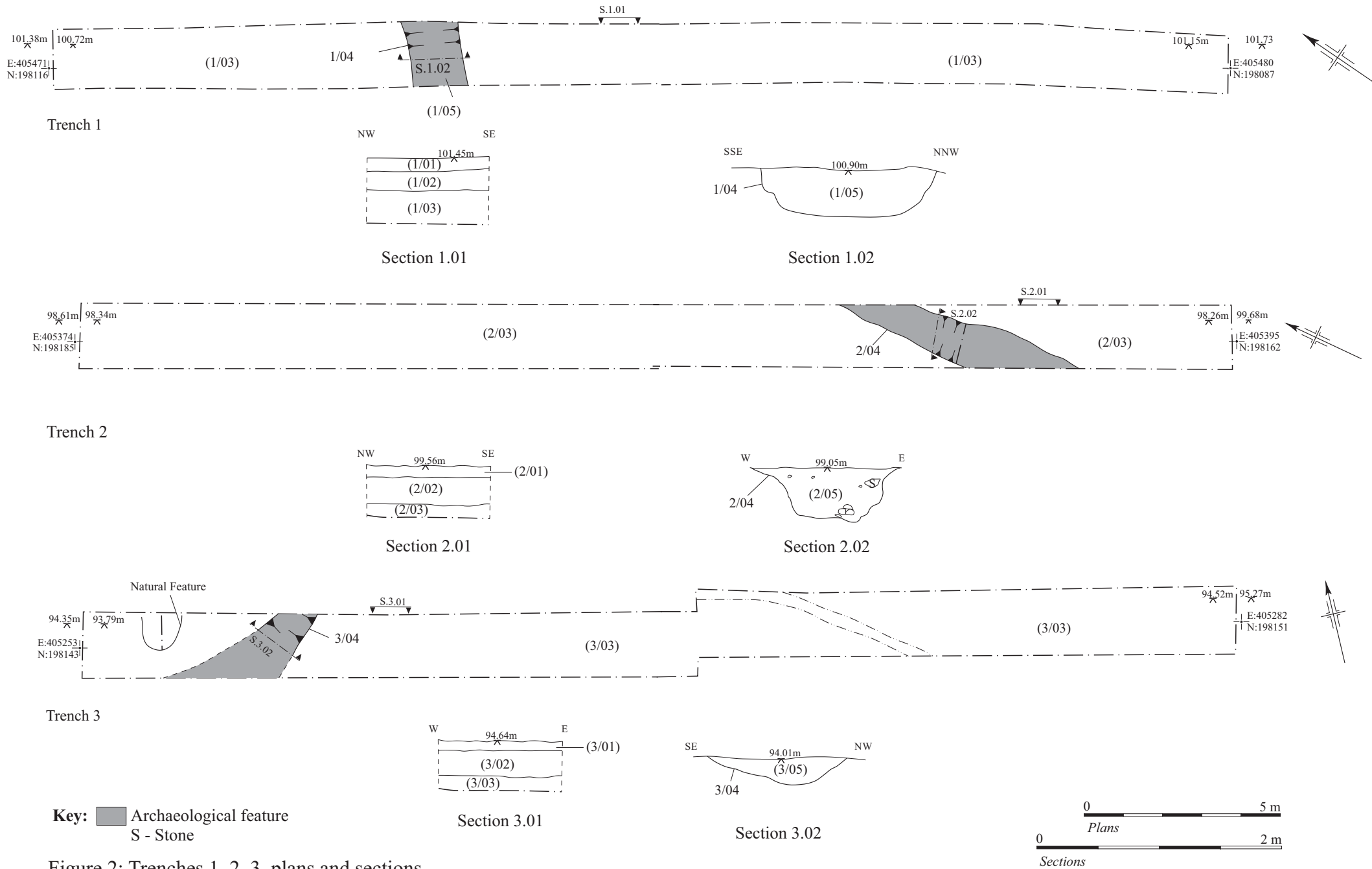
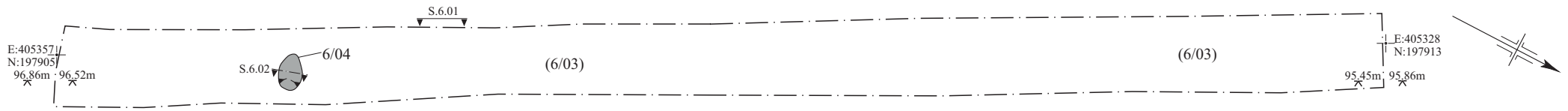
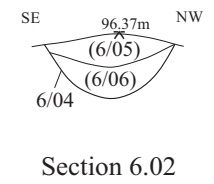
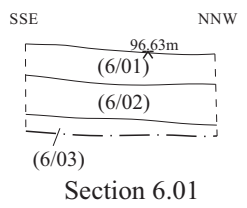


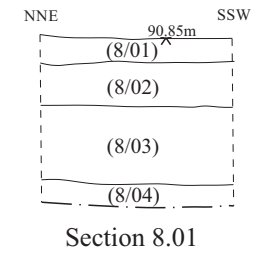
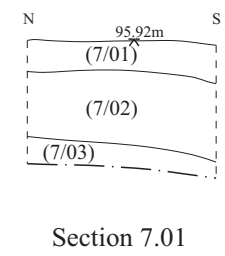
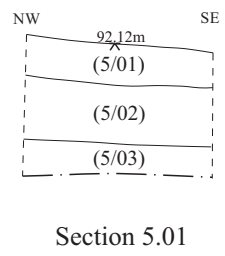
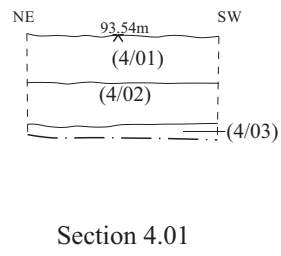
Figure 2: Trenches 1, 2, 3 plans and sections



Trench 6



Blank Trench Sections:



Key: Archaeological feature

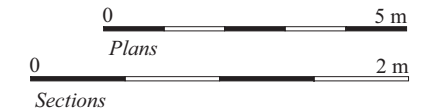


Figure 3: Trench 6 plan and sections, and Blank Trench Sections

6 DISCUSSION

The evidence from the sample evaluation trenching demonstrated that despite heavy truncation across the area, there are still some surviving archaeological elements, particularly on the higher elevation points near Tr1 and Tr2 were located. Though little diagnostic evidence was recovered which might give an indication of a date, the relative position near a possible Bronze Age barrow mound seems to at least confirm that there remains the potential for archaeological preservation in that area.

The ditch in Tr1 was not visible enough to confidently confirm a curvilinear orientation which would firmly support a ring ditch interpretation.

The N-S aligned ditch found in Tr2 conforms to known boundary ditches in the area.

The possible curvilinear ditch in Tr3 may represent an enclosure ditch return, but this could not be confirmed.

Finally, the small pit in TR6 is thought to be associated with modern activities, possibly associated with horticultural planting nearby, or possibly from actions pre-dating the landscaping, but still within the modern period.

7 ARCHIVE

Archive Contents

The archive consists of the following:

Paper record

The project brief

Written scheme of investigation

The project report

The primary site record

Physical record

N/A

The archive currently is maintained by John Moore Heritage Services and will be transferred to the Corinium Museum.

8 BIBLIOGRAPHY

Chartered Institute for Archaeologists. 2020 *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Evaluation*.

John Moore Heritage Services 2020 20/01899/FUL – *South Cerney Golf Course, Gloucestershire. Archaeological Evaluation; Archaeological Written Scheme of Investigation* Unpublished document

Context	Type	Description	Depth	Width	Length	Findings	Interpretation	Date
Trench 1								
1/01	Deposit	Mid-brown, friable, silt with roots (turf), rare rounded pebbles 5-15mm	0.12m	1.6m	30.55m	n/a	Topsoil	n/a
1/02	Deposit	Mid-orangish brown, friable clayey-silt with roots (turf) and occasional rounded pebbles 10-70mm.	0.16m	1.6m	30.55m	n/a	Subsoil	n/a
1/03	Deposit	Plated limestone with mid-orangish brown friable silty clay soil matrix	>0.25m	1.6m	30.55m	n/a	Natural	n/a
1/04	Cut	Cut of NE-SW aligned ditch, possible slight curvature noted, sharp break-of-slope at top and base, with single fill.	0.65m	1.42m	>1.65m	n/a	Cut of ditch	n/a
1/05	Fill	Mid-orangish brown, friable, clayey-silt with occasional limestone sub-rounded pebbles 40-220mm.	0.41m	1.42m	>1655m	Animal bone	Fill of ditch 1/04	n/a
Trench 2								
2/01	Deposit	Mid-brown, friable, silt with roots (turf), rare rounded pebbles 5-15mm	0.16m	1.6m	29.95m	n/a	Topsoil	n/a
2/02	Deposit	Mid-orangish brown, friable clayey-silt with roots (turf) and occasional rounded pebbles 10-40mm.	0.22m	1.6m	29.95m	n/a	Subsoil	n/a
2/03	Deposit	Mid-yellowish brown clayey-silt, with frequent limestone nodules, in places plated, but mostly sub-rounded 30-280mm	>0.12m	1.6m	29.95m	n/a	Natural	n/a
2/04	Cut	Cut of ditch, gentle break-of-slope at top and base, steep concave sides due to plated natural geology, flat irregular base, with single fill.	0.44m	0.6m	>4.0m	n/a	Cut of ditch	n/a
2/05	Fill	Mid-greysish brown clayey silt, friable occasional sub-rounded limestone pebbles 10-170mm.	0.44m	0.6m	>4.0m	n/a	Fill of ditch 2/04	n/a
Trench 3								
3/01	Deposit	Mid-brown, friable, silt with roots (turf), rare rounded pebbles 5-15mm	0.13m	1.6m	30m	n/a	Topsoil	n/a
3/02	Deposit	Mid-orangish brown, friable clayey-silt with roots (turf) and occasional rounded pebbles 10-30mm.	0.27m	1.6m	30m	n/a	Subsoil	n/a
3/03	Deposit	Mid-yellowish brown clayey-silt, with frequent limestone nodules, sub-rounded 50-270mm	>0.2m	1.6m	30m	n/a	Natural	n/a
3/04	Cut	Cut of potential curvilinear, gradual break-of-slope at top and base, concave base and sides, with single fill.	0.24m	0.98m – 1.59m	>3.5m	n/a	Cut of ditch	n/a
3/05	Fill	Mid-orangish brown, friable, clayey-silt with rare limestone pebbles 40-90mm.	0.24m	0.98 – 1.59m	>3.5m	n/a	Fill of 3/04	n/a
Trench 4								
4/01	Deposit	Mid-brown, friable, silt with roots (turf), rare rounded pebbles 5-15mm	0.13m	1.6m	30m	n/a	Topsoil	n/a
4/02	Deposit	Mid-orangish brown, friable clayey-silt with roots (turf) and occasional rounded pebbles 10-30mm.	0.54m	1.6m	30m	n/a	Subsoil	n/a
4/03	Deposit	Mid-yellowish brown clayey-silt, with frequent limestone nodules, sub-rounded 40-270mm	>0.09m	1.6m	30m	n/a	Natural	n/a

Trench 5								
5/01	Deposit	Mid-brown, friable, silt with roots (turf), rare rounded pebbles 5-15mm	0.21m	1.6m	30m	n/a	Topsoil	n/a
5/02	Deposit	Mid-orangish brown, friable clayey-silt with roots (turf) and occasional rounded pebbles 30-70mm.	0.34m	1.6m	30m	n/a	Subsoil	n/a
5/03	Deposit	Mid-yellowish brown clayey-silt, with frequent limestone nodules, sub-rounded 10-270mm	>0.21m	1.6m	30m	n/a	Natural	n/a
Trench 6								
6/01	Deposit	Mid-brown, friable, silt with roots (turf), rare rounded pebbles 5-15mm	0.11m	1.6m	30m	n/a	Topsoil	n/a
6/02	Deposit	Mid-orangish brown, friable clayey-silt with roots (turf) and occasional rounded pebbles 10-70mm.	0.25m	1.6m	30m	n/a	Subsoil	n/a
6/03	Deposit	Mid-yellowish brown silty-clay, with frequent limestone nodules, in places plated, but mostly sub-rounded 50-280mm	>0.19m	1.6m	30m	n/a	Natural	n/a
6/04	Cut	Cut of pit, steep concave sides, flat base, very round, possibly modern with charcoal flecks visible on surface.	0.34m	0.7m	0.78m	n/a	Cut of pit	n/a
6/05	Fill	Mid-reddish brown clayey-silt with frequent charcoal and limestone cobbles 20-250mm	0.18m	0.69m	0.78m	n/a	Top fill of pit 6/04	n/a
6/06	Fill	Friable, mid-brown clayey-silt with frequent limestone cobbles 20-80mm and rare charcoal flecks.	0.16m	0.36m	0.68m	n/a	Basal fill of pit 6/04	n/a
Trench 7								
7/01	Deposit	Mid-brown, friable, silt with roots (turf), rare rounded pebbles 5-15mm	0.2m	1.6m	30m	n/a	Topsoil	n/a
7/02	Deposit	Mid-orangish brown, friable clayey-silt with roots (turf) and occasional rounded pebbles 10-70mm. NB: To the south, this layer is thicker due to landscaping for the golf course.	0.4m	1.6m	30m	n/a	Subsoil	n/a
7/03	Deposit	Mid-yellowish brown clayey-silt, with frequent limestone nodules, sub-rounded 20-250mm	>0.16m	1.6m	30m	n/a	Natural	n/a
Trench 8								
8/01	Deposit	Mid-brown, friable, silt with roots (turf), rare rounded pebbles 5-15mm	0.16m	1.6m	30m	n/a	Topsoil	n/a
8/02	Deposit	Mid-orangish brown, friable clayey-silt with roots (turf) and occasional rounded pebbles 10-40mm.	0.22m	1.6m	30m	n/a	Subsoil	n/a
8/03	Deposit	Mid-orange soft but dense silty clay.	0.46m	1.6m	30m	n/a	Colluvium	n/a
8/04	Deposit	Mid-yellowish brown clayey-silt, with frequent limestone nodules, sub-rounded 20-270mm	>0.14m	1.6m	30m	n/a	Natural	n/a

APPENDIX 2: OASIS REPORT FORM**OASIS ID: johnmoor1-407178****Project details**

Project name	South Cerney Golf Course
Short description of the project	John Moore Heritage Services carried out an evaluation at South Cerney Golf Course, Northmoor Lane, Gloucestershire (NGR SU 05354 98026). The trenches revealed a substantial amount of truncation across the grounds associated with the initial landscaping of the current course. However, two ditches in two trenches (Tr1 and TR2) survived to a depth of between 0.3-0.6m. No diagnostic material was recovered from either, but the ditch in TR1 corresponds roughly to the location of the possible Bronze Age barrows.
Project dates	Start: 22-10-2020 End: 26-10-2020
Previous/future work	No / Not known
Type of project	Field evaluation
Site status	None
Current Land use	Other 14 - Recreational usage
Methods & techniques	"Sample Trenches"
Development type	Golf course
Prompt	National Planning Policy Framework - NPPF
Position in the planning process	Between deposition of an application and determination

Project location

Country	England
Site location	GLOUCESTERSHIRE COTSWOLD SOUTH CERNEY South Cerney Golf Club, Northmoor Lane, Gloucestershire
Postcode	GL7 5QD
Study area	300000 Square metres
Site coordinates	SU 05354 98026 51.68050964161 -1.922553441357 51 40 49 N 001 55 21 W Point
Height OD / Depth	Min: 91m Max: 101m

Project creators

Name of Organisation	John Moore Heritage Services
Project brief originator	Cotswold District Council
Project design originator	JMHS
Project director/manager	John Moore
Project supervisor	Stephanie Duensing
Type of sponsor/funding body	Developer
Entered by	Stephanie N Duensing (admin@jmheritageservices.co.uk)
Entered on	4 November 2020