

**Phase 1, East Horton Golf Club, Mortimers Lane,
Eastleigh, Hampshire**

Project specification for an archaeological evaluation

**13th June 2025
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Ref: 24e66ev

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1.0 Background

- 1.1 Planning permission (F/25/99007) has been gained from Eastleigh Borough Council for the re-siting/alterations to 1st tee box, fairway and green, enlarging 18th green and creation of event space with associated re-profiling, landscaping, footpath and drainage works following closure of existing driving range at East Horton Golf Club, Mortimers Lane, Eastleigh, Hampshire (SU 5087 1823) (Fig. 1). The site area is c. 2.8ha. The consent has been issued with a condition (7) concerning archaeology which requires an archaeological evaluation and an archaeological mitigation strategy to be submitted and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority prior to any development commencing on site. This Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) details the methodology proposed for the first stage of field investigation – trial trenching
- 1.2 The archaeological potential of the site has been highlighted in a Desk Based Assessment (DBA) (Elliot and Murray 2024). In summary, no known heritage assets are on the site, however fieldwalking and excavations in advance of the extraction of sand from a large area adjacent to the western area revealed Roman features. The prevalence of archaeology from all periods in the wider surrounding area suggests the potential for as of yet unknown archaeology. Significant Mesolithic activity has been uncovered in multiple locations around the site, and a Bronze Age barrow was mentioned in the Anglo-Saxon charters and a modern aerial survey to the east. The Roman finds and features to the west could potentially continue into East Horton Farm and the northernmost field of Phase 1 of the Golf Club development.
- 1.3 The natural geology is mapped as London Clay Formation - Clay, silt and sand (BGS 1987).

2.0 Requirement for Work

- 2.1 As a consequence of the possibility of archaeological deposits on the site which may be damaged or destroyed by groundworks, an initial phase of fieldwork is proposed, as detailed in the *National Planning Policy Framework* (NPPF 2024) and the Council policies on archaeology. The information gained will assist in the formulation of a mitigation strategy as necessary.
- 2.2 One component of work is proposed at this stage; namely field investigation by means of exploratory trenching. Dependent on the findings of this evaluation, further archaeological work may be requested, as will be determined through consultation with the Hampshire County Archaeological Officer.
- 2.3 This work is to take place according to a written scheme of investigation approved by the Council as advised by the Hampshire County archaeological officer.

3.0 Aims and Objectives

- 3.1 The aims of the investigation will be to determine the presence/ absence, extent, condition, character, quality and date of any archaeological features and deposits within the proposed area of development.
- 3.2 This work will be carried out in a manner which will not compromise the integrity of archaeological features or deposits which warrant preservation in-situ.
- 3.3 The specific research aims of this project are:
- a) To determine if archaeologically relevant levels have survived on this site.
 - b) To determine if archaeological deposits of any period are present.
 - c) To inform a strategy for mitigation if required.
- 3.4 The potential and significance of any such deposits located will be assessed according to the research priorities such as set out in *Historic England Research Agenda* (HE 2017) or any more local or thematic research priorities such as the Solent Thames Research Agenda (Hey and Hind 2014) as necessary.

4.0 Methodology

4.1 Trench layout

4.1.1 It is proposed to dig 18 trenches, each c.25m long and 1.8-2m wide (4% sample of development area), with the trenches located as indicated on Figure 2. The trenches will be set out using a GPS unit with a pre-loaded trench plan.

4.1.2 A contingency of 45m of trench (10%) is included should this be necessary to clarify the results of the initial findings.

4.2 Excavation methodology

4.2.1 Topsoil and any other overburden will be removed by a JCB-type or 360° machine fitted with a ditching (toothless) bucket under archaeological supervision. Topsoil will be kept separate from subsoil. The fieldwork will take place pre-demolition and as such a machine-mounted breaker will be used to break through surfaces such as roadways and pavements.

4.2.2 Where archaeological features are certainly or probably present, the stripped areas will be cleaned using appropriate hand tools.

4.2.3 Sufficient of the archaeological features and deposits exposed will be excavated or sampled by hand to satisfy the aims of the brief, without compromising the objective set out in 3.2.

4.2.4 In general, all finds and artefacts will be retained on-site. At the post-excavation stage (see 4.5 below) the collection policy of the recipient museum will be followed and which may involve the discarding of some classes of building material, such as brick and tile or flint nodules after recording with only a representative sample being retained.

4.2.5 Conservation on site will follow guidelines in First Aid for Finds with any other specialist conservation work subcontracted to the Contractor's conservation advisor (see below).

4.2.6 A programme of environmental sampling will take place should sufficient well stratified subsoil deposits be located. Typically, this involves samples of up to 40l depending on the size of the feature examined. A programme of environmental sampling will take place, if any significant deposits are encountered. These will be sampled in consultation with the Hampshire County Archaeological Officer. Sampling will take place according to Historic England guidance (HE 2015b).

4.2.7 Discovery of any human remains will be reported to the Coroner and Hampshire County Archaeological Officer but no further action will be taken as part of the evaluation exercise, unless requested as additional work by the client in consultation with the Hampshire County Archaeological Officer. Any subsequent excavation of human remains will be carried out following receipt of the appropriate Ministry of Justice license and recording methodologies for human remains follow standard procedures identified by Mitchell and Brickley (2017).

4.2.8 Spoil heaps will be searched for finds.

4.2.9 Metal detectors will be used to enhance the recovery of metal finds as the overlying layers are removed. All gold and silver and any associated objects will be removed to a safe place and reported to the local coroner and county finds liaison officer according to the procedures relating to the Treasure Act (1996), and subsequent amendments. Where removal cannot be affected on the same working day as the discovery suitable security measures will be taken to protect the finds from theft. No title will be assumed by the finder of any items of value. Metal detectors will primarily be used to search hand excavated spoil, although site surveys may also be undertaken, with a log kept of any features surveyed and the results.

4.2.10 Following completion of all excavation and recording, the trenches will be efficiently backfilled with any turf replaced last.

4.3 Recording Methodology

- 4.3.1 A single context recording system will be used in accordance with the TVAS Field Recording Manual (9th edition 2021). Descriptions of individual deposits and features will be recorded on pro-forma context recording sheets.
- 4.3.2 All archaeological deposits exposed will be planned at a scale of 1:20 and sections drawn at a scale of 1:10. All site drawings will be by pencil on drafting film.
- 4.3.3 Heights above OD will be taken and recorded on plans and sections.
- 4.3.4 The location of the trenches, and of all plans and sections will be tied into the National Grid using a GPS system.
- 4.3.5 The photographic record will consist of digital images. It will record the principal features and finds discovered, both in detail and in their general context. The photographic record will also include 'working shots' and, where applicable, aerial photographs to illustrate the nature of the archaeological fieldwork programme. All feature shots will include appropriate scales and a photo board, the latter positioned in such a way that the writing is legible and including the context number and site code. Digital images are taken on Canon EOS 4000D cameras with APS-C sensors taking 16-megapixel images.

4.4 Post-fieldwork

- 4.4.1 Finds processing, environmental sample processing and analysis will commence immediately following the completion of the fieldwork in accordance with guidelines in MoRPHE (HE 2015a), ClfA guidance (ClfA 2020) and TVAS post-excavation procedures with the results included within the report.
- 4.4.2 Artefacts/ecofacts will be cleaned, conserved and prepared for long term museum storage.
- 4.4.3 Specialist reports will be prepared on the artefacts recovered. Particular attention will be paid to correlating the pottery recovered with local or regional fabric type sequences that have already been established for this area.
- 4.4.4 Specialist analysis and reporting will be carried out by the following specialist staff or consultants as appropriate:

Pottery	Dr J Timby or Mr. L Barber, Dr B McNee, or Ms S Anderson Ms L, Mephams (consultants) or Dr C Mateos-Leal (TVAS)
Stone	Dr K Haywood (consultant)
Bone	Dr M Holmes, (consultants) or Dr C Falys (TVAS)
Later struck flint	Dr S Ford (TVAS)
Charred plant remains/environment	Prof. M Robinson (Oxford University) or Ms. R Mckenna (consultant)
Metalwork	Dr R Taylor (consultant) or Ms. S Peng (TVAS)
Brick and tile	Ms. D Milbank (TVAS)
Slag	Dr D Dungworth or Mr. L Barber (consultant)
Soils/sediments	Quest (Reading University)
Pollen	Quest (Reading University)
Radiocarbon	Queens University, Belfast
Conservation	Wiltshire County Council Conservation Centre

5.0 Report and Dissemination

- 5.1 A full report on the results of the evaluation should be available within 3 weeks of completion of the fieldwork.
- 5.2 The reports will follow the TVAS established format, comprising a descriptive text, illustrations and catalogues in appendices.

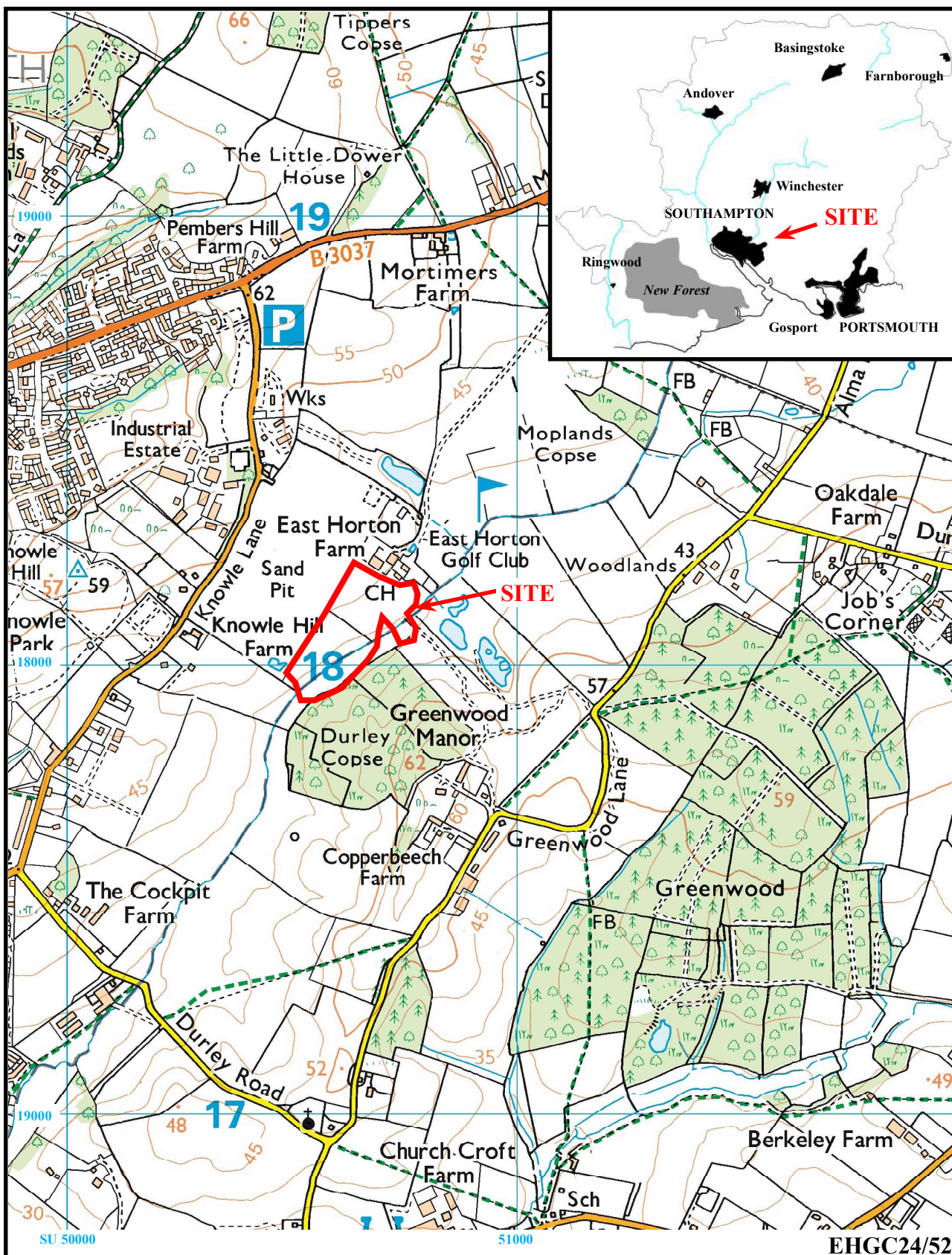
- 5.3 The text will address the aims and objectives of the evaluation, the methodology employed, describe the basic nature of the archaeological deposits discovered, and report on the artefacts recovered. It will then attempt to place the significance of the findings in their local, regional and national setting if appropriate.
- 5.4 The reports will include a front sheet providing the following information:
- *Site name
 - *District and Parish
 - *Planning reference
 - *Grid reference
 - *Site activity (e.g. evaluation trenching, geophysical survey, fieldwalking, watching brief, excavation etc.)
 - *Date and duration of project
 - *Site code
 - *Area of site
 - *Summary of results
 - *Monuments identified (referenced to the RCHME Thesaurus of Monument Types)
 - *Location and reference of archive
- 5.5 The illustrations will include:
- *A site location plan
 - *A trench layout plan
 - *Trench plans and sections
 - *Profiles/sections of a selection of excavated features
 - *A selection of colour photos of significant findings
- 5.6 Catalogues giving descriptions of trenches, archaeological features, and artefacts will be contained in a series of appendices.
- 5.7 Any findings of academic merit will be published as a note in an appropriate journal such as *Hampshire Studies*. Non-published report(s) will be made available for inspection or download online from the TVAS website.
- 5.8 Copies of the results will be supplied to the Hampshire HER in both digital (.pdf) and paper copy as necessary. A copy of the report will also be forwarded to the local planning authority in due course. A selection of digital images documenting the project will also be supplied to the HER if requested.
- 5.9 Information will be made available to interested local historical or archaeological societies, along with members of the local community, including the opportunity to visit the fieldwork should this be requested. This is in keeping with the requirements of the recent *National Planning Policy Framework*, although due to health and safety considerations, and the possible issue of commercial confidentiality, any dissemination of information or arranging of site visits will only take place following consultation with the client and the Hampshire County Archaeological Officer.
- 6.0 Archive Deposition**
- 6.1 The finds and site archive will be prepared in accordance with guidelines in MoRPHE (HE 2015a), TVAS Digital Recording Policy (2021), CifA guidance (CifA 2020a) and after consultation with the recipient museum. Guidance produced by the Museum and Galleries Commission's Standards in the Museum Care of Archaeological Collections (1992), the Society of Museum Archaeologist's Selection, Retention and Dispersal of Archaeological Collections (1993) and the United Kingdom Institute for Conservation Guidelines for the preparation of excavation archives for long term storage (1990) will be followed.
- 6.2 The site and finds archive will be deposited with the Hampshire Cultural Trust and/or the Archaeology Data Service.
- 6.3 With the consent of the landowner, the site finds will be deposited with the Hampshire Cultural Trust
- 6.4 A digital version of the report will be provided to the OASIS project.

7.0 General Items

- 7.1 The project will be managed on a regular basis by a Member of the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists with an appropriate area of competence.
- 7.2 The project will be carried out in accordance with the CIfA Standard and Guidance for archaeological evaluation (2023a; 2023b) and Code of Conduct (2022) and the quality control mechanisms set out in the Contractor's fieldwork and post-fieldwork manuals.
- 7.3 Safe working practices as set out in TVAS health and safety manual will be adopted and current health and safety regulations will be adhered to. If the site is accessible to the public, the trenches will be fenced with barrier mesh/bunting and road pins or Heras fencing as necessary.
- 7.4 TVAS will ensure that they have the relevant insurance cover (public liability, employee liability, cover for any hired-in plant, and professional indemnity cover).
- 7.5 The fieldwork and post-fieldwork will be monitored by the Hampshire County Archaeological Officer and all reasonable access will be provided to the works. Any changes in the agreed project design will be discussed and agreed with the Hampshire County Archaeological Officer before implementation.

8.0 References

- BGS, 1987, *British Geological Survey*, 1:50,000, Sheet **315**, Solid and Drift Edition, Keyworth
- CIfA, 2020, *Standard and guidance for the creation, compilation, transfer and deposition of archaeological archives*, Chartered Institute for Archaeologists, Reading
- CIfA, 2022, *Code of Conduct*, Chartered Institute for Archaeologists, Reading
- CIfA, 2023a, *Standard for archaeological field evaluation*, Chartered Institute for Archaeologists, Reading
- CIfA, 2023b, *Universal guidance for archaeological field evaluation*, Chartered Institute for Archaeologists, Reading
- Elliott, G, and Murray, M, 2024, 'East Horton Golf Club, Mortimers Lane, Eastleigh, Hampshire' Archaeological Desk Based Assessment, Thames Valley Archaeological Services report 24/52, Reading
- HE, 2015a, *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment*, MoRPHE project planning, Historic England, London
- HE 2015b, *Environmental Archaeology*. Centre for Archaeology Guidelines 1, Historic England, Portsmouth. (3rd edn)
- HE 2017, *Research Agenda*, Historic England, London
- Hey, G and Hind, J, 2014, *Solent-Thames Research Framework for the Historic Environment: Resource Assessments and Research Agendas*, Oxford Wessex Monogr **6**, Oxford
- Mitchell, P D, and Brickley, M (eds), 2017, *Updated Guidelines to the Standards for Recording Human Remains*, CIfA and BABAO, Reading
- NPPF, 2024, *National Planning Policy Framework* (revised), Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities, London



**Phase 1, East Horton Golf Club, Mortimers Lane,
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Proposal for an Archaeological Evaluation
 Figure 1. Location of site within Eastleigh and Hampshire.

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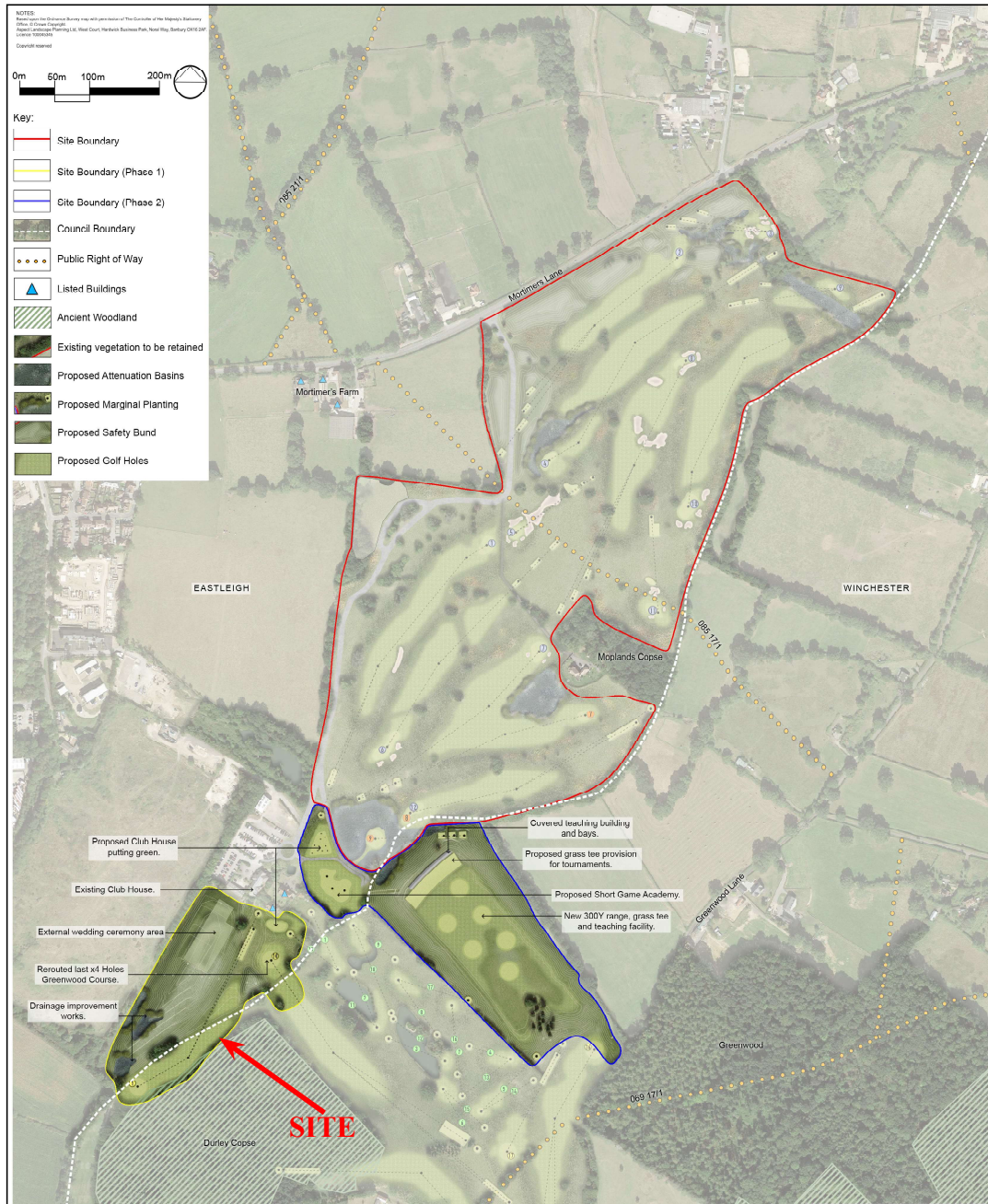


EHGC24/53



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Proposal for an Archaeological Evaluation
Figure 2. Detailed location of site showing proposed trench
positions

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Proposal for an Archaeological Evaluation
Figure 3. Proposed Development Plans

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