Archaeological Evaluation and Monitoring at Malton Golf Club, Orwell

S. N. Kemp

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Archaeological Evaluation and Monitoring at Malton Golf Club, Orwell
(TL 36334839 and 36854830)

by S N Kemp BA MSc AIFA

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Editor: T Malim
Illustrator: C Gait

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© Archaeological Field Unit,
Cambridgeshire County Council,
Fulbourn Community Centre,
Haggis Gap, Fulbourn,
Cambridgeshire CB1 5HD
Tel (01223) 881614
Fax (01223) 880946
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Summary

The Archaeological Field Unit, Cambridgeshire County Council was contracted by Malton Golf, Newmarket to undertake an evaluation and monitoring project at the Malton Golf Club, Malton Farm, Orwell. The investigations resulted in the discovery of a pond or quarry feature of unknown date. The project vicinity is known to contain evidence of Iron Age occupation, but none was found during these investigations.

1 INTRODUCTION.

The Archaeological Field Unit of Cambridgeshire County Council was commissioned to undertake a field evaluation and monitor groundworks at Malton Golf Club, Malton Farm, Orwell (Figure 1). Excavations were undertaken on behalf of Malton Golf, Newmarket.

In 1990 fieldwalking was undertaken by the Archaeological Field Unit in advance of the construction of the golf course; except for two sites artefactual evidence was sparse within the development area (Kemp et al. 1990). Fieldwalking identified a concentration of medieval pottery to the south-west of Malton Rook Grove and north of the River Cam. A small scatter of Iron Age pottery, possibly indicative of settlement, was located close to a proposed reservoir. On the basis of these findings further proposals were prepared for the evaluation of the development area.

The development consisted of the excavation of a 1.23 hectare reservoir at TL 36334839 and a club house at TL 36854830 (Figure 2). The proposed archaeological work as specified in the brief prepared by the County Archaeology Office consisted of a trenching evaluation within the area

![Figure 1 Project Location Map](image-url)
Figure 2 Location of Evaluation and Watching Brief
proposed for the reservoir due to the site's proximity to a series of Iron Age pot sherds. Due to the absence of pottery in proximity to the club house monitoring of the foundation trenches, and the excavation and recording of any archaeological features were proposed.

2 METHODOLOGY AND RESULTS.

Two trenches and ten test pits were opened by machine within the area defined for the excavation of a reservoir (Figure 2). Trenches were hand cleaned, photographed and surveyed as part of the recording procedure. No archaeological features were recognised, although an abraded sherd of Roman pottery (2nd-3rd century) was recovered from the topsoil alongside fragments of post-medieval tile and brick.

The club house foundation excavations, undertaken by a mechanical excavator with a narrow (0.50m wide) toothed bucket, were monitored. Excavations penetrated to a depth of 1m below plough soil into a loose silty clay substrate which lay across the whole of the trenched area. It would appear that the proposed clubhouse was located over an old pond or quarry pit. No dating evidence was recovered during the course of this work and no historical references or witnesses to a pond or quarry in this location are known. Due to the presence of unstable ground Malton Golf proposed to use raft foundations over the pond and within the original floor plan of the clubhouse; therefore no further work was deemed to be necessary.

3 CONCLUSION

Archaeological evaluations and monitoring of ground works at TL 36334839 and TL 36854830 indicate the absence of settlement remains in both locations. Only one archaeological feature was identified during this work, a pond or quarry feature of unknown date at TL 36854830 where the clubhouse is presently located.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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This archaeological investigation was undertaken in accordance with a Brief prepared by Louise Austin of the County Archaeology Office; Development Control.

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