



Berkshire Archaeology Research Group

## **Proposal for Archaeological Surveys of Emmer Green Recreation Ground, Emmer Green, Berkshire**

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### **Summary:**

The Berkshire Archaeology Research Group (BARG) has been asked to do the surveys for and in conjunction with the South Oxfordshire Archaeology group (SOAG).

The requirement is to carry out archaeological surveys of the Emmer Green, Berkshire Recreation Ground situated at the corner of Kidmore End Road and Grove Rd (SU71791). The surveys to be undertaken are a magnetometry survey and a resistance survey.

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### **Distribution:**

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# 1 Document control

## 1.1 Change Control

Change control is the responsibility of the author. The document will be updated to include relevant comments and additional information.

## 1.2 Change History

Issue No.	Date	Reason for Change and Comments
0.1	05 May 2013	First Draft
0.2	9 May 2013	Added BARG Committee comments
1.0	9 May 2013	Approved by BARG Committee

## 1.3 Changes Anticipated

Changes to incorporate comments are anticipated.

# 2 Site Location

This site is the Recreation Ground situated at the corner of Kidmore End Road and Grove Road in Emmer Green, Berkshire (Figure 1).

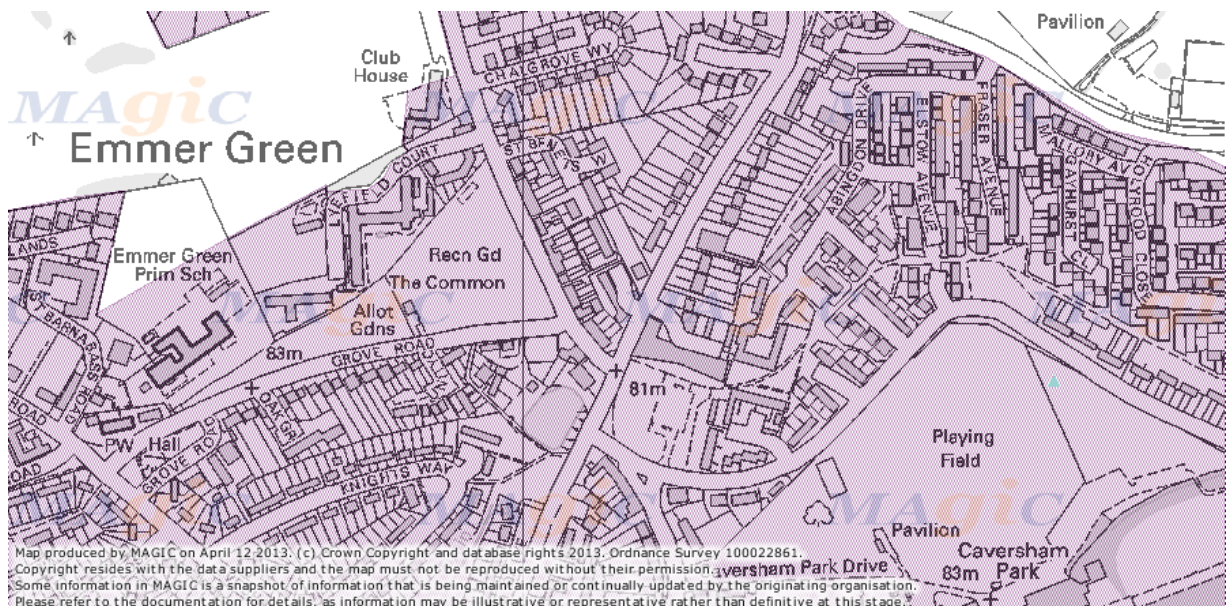


Figure 1: Emmer Green Recreation Ground (copyright Magic Map)

It is south east of the “Emmer Green” lettering and has allotment gardens adjacent and on the west. Grove Road runs along the southern boundary of the site. Kidmore End Road runs along the east end of the site.

### **3 Context for the Project**

In March 2013 David Nicholls of SOAG contacted BARG and asked the group to undertake geophysical surveys of the Recreation Ground in Emmer Green, Berkshire within the objectives and scope defined in this proposal.

### **4 Geological and Topographical Background**

According to the British Geological Survey the Emmer Green Recreation Ground sedimentary bedrock is clay, silt and sand formed approximately 55 to 65 million years ago in the Palaeogene Period. The superficial deposits comprise sand and gravel formed up to 2 million years ago in the Quaternary Period.

It is a medium sized Recreation Ground of flat grassland situated between housing. The perimeter is hedges, with short mown grassland and there is a children's play area to the North with immovable metal railings. There are several trees round the edge of the Recreation Ground which provide shady areas.

Heading towards the allotments from the play area there are 2 groups of trees against the Recreation Ground border. Each appears to have grown on shallow mounds.

An aerial photograph (Figure 2) shows circular parch marks that may indicate the presence of the remains of Bronze Age barrows. They are south and east of the children's playground to the north corner of the site.



Figure 2: Emmer Green Recreation Ground from the air (Google Maps)

## 5 Archaeological and Historical Background

Emmer Green has never been a parish in its own right and apparently came in to existence, as part of Caversham, between 1761 and 1790. Until 1911 Caversham was part of Oxfordshire. Now it is in Berkshire.

Emmer Green does not appear on Roque's 1761 map (Reading Library) of Caversham (Figure 3) but on comparison with a modern ordnance survey map (OS 175, 1996) the site of the Recreation Ground is in the area of the red circle. The site appears to have been grass and may have been common ground in 1761.



Figure 3: Roque's map of 1761 (Reading Library)

Emmer Green does appear on the 1791 map (Reading Library) as Emmir Green but the road or track system is rather different to the 1761 map and the site of the Recreation Ground is difficult to identify (Figure 4). The position of Grove Road can be surmised on the 1761 map but it has not been recorded on the 1790 map. Perhaps it was a track way and the condition had deteriorated or it was unused by 1790. The approximate position of the recreation site is identified by the red circle. There is not a key to the different symbols on the map but the Recreation Ground site appears to be grass and unploughed. It could, therefore, still be common land at that time.



Figure 4: 1790 map showing Emmir Green (Reading Library)

On the Emmer Green Tithe Map of 1844 the Recreation Ground is likely to be where indicated on the map in Figure 5. It doesn't seem to have been awarded to anyone which could mean that the land was still common ground in 1844. Documentary evidence to support this has not been found.

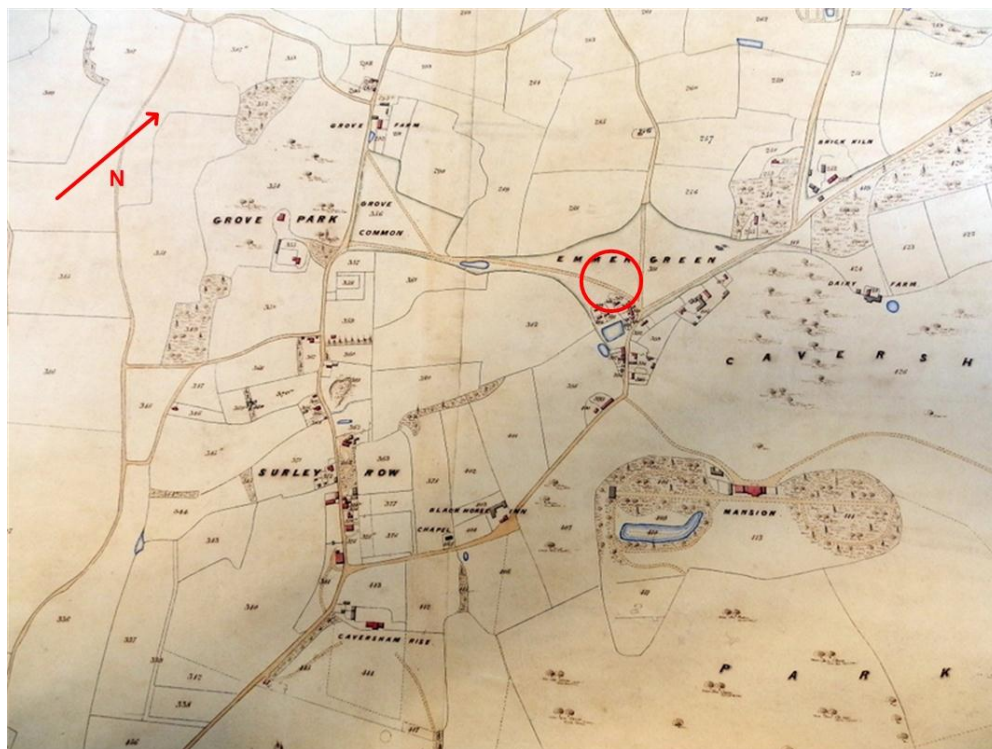


Figure 5: 1844 Tithe Map of Caversham and Emmer Green (copyright is with the Berkshire Record Office)

The site of the Emmer Green Recreation Ground, together with the allotments to the west of the site, is labelled “The Common” on the 1913 and 1932 maps (Reading Library). Figure 6 shows the 1932 map.

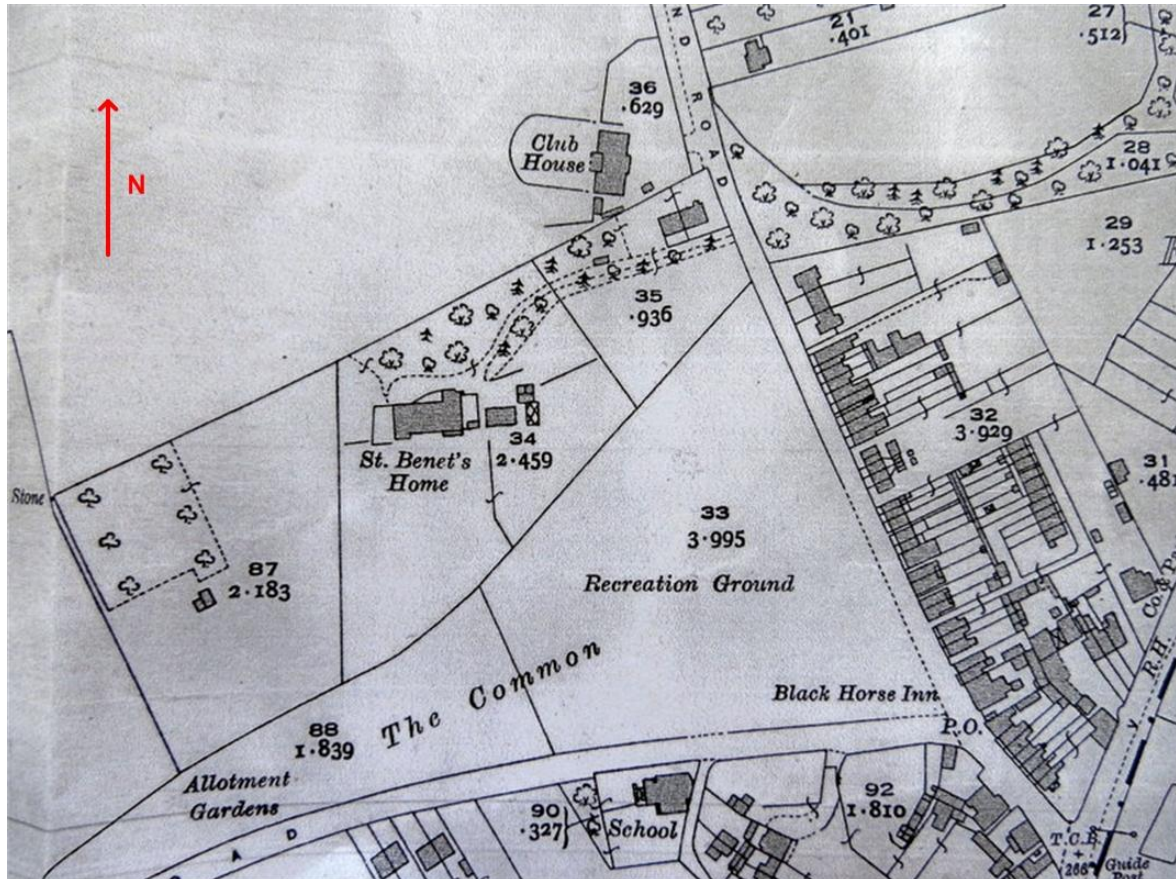


Figure 6: 1932 Map of Caversham and Emmer Green (Reading Library)

The maps suggest that the site of the Emmer Green Recreation Ground was common land at one time and is still referred to as “The Common” on the 1985 map (Reading Library) (Figure 7).

The Recreation Ground site was transferred from Mr Alfred George Holdsworth to The Corporation on 8 October 1935. RBC’s title is registered under BK432550.

The land is subject to an Inclosure award dated 3 March 1865, ‘to be used as a place of exercise and recreation for the inhabitants of the said parish of Caversham’.

Parch marks seen in the aerial photo at Figure 1 may represent the remains of Bronze Age barrows. If so, RBC would have additional ammunition with which to protect the site from developers.

## **6 General and Specific Aims of the Fieldwork**

The objective of the fieldwork is to determine whether there is evidence of Bronze Age barrows on Emmer Green Recreation Ground.

## **7 Relevant Legislation Relating to the Site**

### **7.1 Legal Position**

There are no legal restrictions, but the surveys are constrained by the requirements of RBC and the people who use the Recreation Ground.

### **7.2 Access to the Land**

The land is managed by RBC and is used as a Recreation Ground by local people and the Caversham Football Team.

There is a changing room, with toilets, to the South West of the site that can be used by the survey team and RBC will supply a key for the duration of the survey. There is also a gateway near the changing rooms that would allow parking of 2 cars. RBC is prepared to let the team have the key.

Limited parking is available on the South side of Grove Road and refreshments can be obtained from the White Horse or Black Horse Public Houses on either side of Kidmore End Road, between Grove Road and Peppard Road.

High visibility barrier tape will be tied to each pole on the edges of the grid and all cane/pole positions will be marked with water-based, non-toxic white paint and the canes and poles will be removed each evening and replaced each morning. This is to minimise inconvenience to Recreation Ground users.

## **8 Field Methodology**

The geophysics surveys will be conducted in accordance with the guidelines laid down by the English Heritage (Jones 2008).

### **8.1 The Survey Grid**

The initial proposed survey area fits within the area indicated in Figure 7. Each full square represents 20m x 20m and the grid will be on a north south alignment after Temporary Bench Marks (TBMs) have been established. It is estimated that 2 days will be required to survey the squares, resources permitting.

Additional surveying may be required, depending on the results.



tivity meter can be run at the same time as the magnetometer, provided sufficient resources are available. The partial squares will also be surveyed if deemed appropriate.

These results will be downloaded and processed using the Snuffler software (Snuffler, 2013).

#### **8.4 Equipment Used on Site**

The equipment to be used on site will include:

- BARG Bartington 601 gradiometer
- BARG Geoscan RM15 resistance meter
- BARG survey poles and sticks (around 20 plus some extra if the area to be surveyed needs to be cordoned off)
- BARG 50m and 30m tapes and ropes
- Clip boards etc., as provided by BARG and SOAG members as needed.

### **9 Collection and Disposal Strategy for Artefacts and Ecofacts**

It is unlikely that any artefacts or ecofacts will be found but if they are they will not be picked up, collected, or removed from the site during this work. If anything of interest is found, its position will be recorded; it will be photographed and left in its original place.

### **10 Arrangement for Conservation of Artefacts**

Given the policy identified in section 8, there will be no provision for the conservation of artefacts.

### **11 Report Preparation**

A field work report will be produced in accordance with English Heritage Guidelines (Jones 2008).

The geophysics results will be processed using Snuffler (Snuffler, 2013).

If the results of this fieldwork prove to be significant, an expert in geophysics survey analysis will be asked to review them prior to their publication.

A draft of the report will be sent to David Nicholls of SOAG and members of the BARG Committee for approval.

## **12 Publication and Dissemination Proposals**

A copy of the completed field work report will be given to David Nicholls of SOAG, Luke Lloyd of RBC, Andy Payne of English Heritage and to Fiona MacDonald the East Berkshire County Archaeologist.

## **13 Copyright**

The copyright of this proposal and any reports and papers will remain with the author, with the exception of the 1844 Tithe map & the map at Figure 1. The copyright for the former map remains with Magic Map & the latter copyright remains with the Berkshire Record Office.

## **14 Archive Deposition**

Initially, archive copies of the report and the data produced from this work will be held by the author on BARG's behalf.

SOAG will take responsibility for archiving their copy of the report.

## **15 Timetable**

The work is planned to start 12 June and an estimate of 2 days will initially be required to complete the surveys. It is anticipated that work will start 09:00 in the morning and finish at 15:30 and will be done on week days so that the Team will inconvenience Recreation Ground Users as little as possible.

If considered necessary and the resources are available, an additional area of the Recreation Ground will be surveyed beginning 14 June.

The days worked do not have to be consecutive but if work is significantly delayed the availability of BARG equipment is likely to become an issue.

## **16 Staffing**

This work will be undertaken by members of BARG and SOAG. It is planned to have Teams of at least 5 people on site at any one time. It is proposed that people book to work for half or a whole day.

The main problem is finding enough people to carry the magnetometer. They need to be fit and free of metalwork.

## **17 Health and Safety Considerations**

There are few risks from working on this site as it is laid to grass. However, the poles surrounding the area to be surveyed will have high visibility tape attached and the grid marker pole positions will be marked with water based non-toxic paint and the poles and canes will be removed at the end of each working day. This is to minimise adverse impact on recreation users.

## **18 Monitoring procedures**

None

## **19 Contingency arrangements**

None

## **20 Budget**

There is no budget for this work.

People, both BARG and SOAG, working on site will be charged £1 a day as a contribution towards insuring the BARG equipment.

## Bibliography

Jones, D. M. 2008. *Geophysical Survey in Archaeological Field Evaluation*. Swindon: English Heritage

Reading Library, Abbey Square, Reading, RG1 3BQ

Berkshire Record Office, 9 Coley Avenue, Reading RG1 6AF

And online:

British Geological Survey: <http://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home.html>

British History Online: <http://www.british-history.ac.uk>

Google Maps: <https://maps.google.co.uk>

Magic Map: <http://magic.defra.gov.uk>

Snuffler. 21 Jan 2013. *Snuffler manual and software*:  
<http://www.sussexarch.org.uk/geophys/snuffler.html>