

Replacement Chapel at Worthing Crematorium,  
Findon, Sussex  
Archaeological Watching Brief Report

NGR 511222 109721  
Planning Reference: FN/38/06  
Project No. 2679  
Site Code: BCS 07



Prepared By  
Deon Whittaker

April 2007

### **Archaeology South-East**

*Archaeology South-East is a division of the University College London Field Archaeology Unit. The Institute of Archaeology at UCL is one of the largest groupings of academic archaeologists in the country. Consequently, Archaeology South-East has access to the conservation, computing and environmental backup of the college, as well as a range of other archaeological services.*

*The Field Archaeology Unit and South Eastern Archaeological Services (which became Archaeology South-East in 1996) were established in 1974 and 1991 respectively. Although field projects have been conducted worldwide, Archaeology South-East retains a special interest in south-east England with the majority of our contract and consultancy work concentrated in Sussex, Kent, Greater London and Essex.*

*Drawing on experience of the countryside and towns of the south east of England Archaeology South-East can give advice and carry out surveys at an early stage in the planning process. By working closely with developers and planning authorities it is possible to incorporate archaeological work into developments with little inconvenience.*

*Archaeology South-East, as part of the Field Archaeology Unit, is a registered organisation with the Institute of Field Archaeologists and, as such, is required to meet IFA standards.*

**Abstract**

*An archaeological watching brief during works for a Replacement Chapel at Worthing Crematorium, Findon, Sussex, (NGR 511222 109721) took place between 30<sup>th</sup> January and 6th February 2007. During the monitoring of ground reduction, footing and service trenches, undisturbed upper chalks were exposed. The majority of the footing trench exposed existing services and re-deposits of modern material. An access way possibly with associated drainage cuts was found in section, but appears to be of modern date. No other archaeological deposits or features were found. The excavation of a 2m x 2m test pit produced 200mm of made ground and 400mm of undisturbed natural chalk.*

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## **1.0 Introduction**

- 1.1 Archaeology South-East (ASE), a division of University College London Field Archaeology Unit (UCLFAU), were commissioned by Worthing Borough Council to undertake an archaeological watching brief. The watching brief was to take place during groundworks associated with the construction of a new chapel and memorial gardens at Worthing Crematorium, Worthing, West Sussex, (centred NGR 511222 109721) (Figures 1 and 2).
- 1.2 An application for planning permission, for the development of the site has been granted to Martin Critchell Architects by Arun District Council (Planning ref. [FN/38/06](#)). Following the advice of the West Sussex County Council's Archaeologist (in the County Council's capacity as advisor to the District Council on archaeological planning matters), Arun District Council have imposed a planning condition (Condition 3). This requires the applicant to ensure that an archaeological watching brief be maintained during intrusive groundworks associated with the development.
- 1.3 A Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) was prepared (Griffin 2006) with reference to communication between ASE and WSCC, and their *Recommended Standard Archaeological Conditions* (version 2b). All work was carried out in accordance with these documents (unless otherwise specified below), and the relevant *Standards and Guidance* of the Institute of Field Archaeologists (IFA).
- 1.4 The site lies on Upper and Middle Chalk, but close to a finger of Head deposits associated with Findon Valley (BGS Sheet 318/33).
- 1.5 The work was carried out between the 30<sup>th</sup> January and 6<sup>th</sup> January by Deon Whittaker (Senior Archaeologist)

## **2.0 Archaeological Background**

- 2.1 It is believed that the first house was built on the site in 1371, by Thomas De Muntham and it passed through various families until 1743 when it was sold to Anthony Browne, Viscount Montague. It is understood that he commissioned Joseph Merlott to build a new house, in red brick, as a hunting lodge. The Viscount was also responsible for the great plantations and improved water supply.
- 2.2 In 1765 the house was acquired by William Frankland, a retired East India Merchant. He enlarged the house and on completion it consisted of two storeys, with eleven bays and a parapet flanked by higher wings.
- 2.3 The estate was probably at its greatest during the 1800's, and in 1835 it covered 1860 acres. It stretched on both sides of the London Road (now the A24) from Findon to Washington. Within the boundaries of the estate at this time was the house with its Gothic entrance lodges, stables, lighthouse, ice house and pleasure grounds with formal and crown gardens, and long Yew walks. To the north was a dovecote, and to the west a noble obelisk, windmill and wellhouse. The house was surrounded by a beautiful undulating park containing many other walks, a Dower House and the farms of Cobden, Muntham, North and North End.
- 2.4 In 1850 the house and grounds were purchased by Harriet Thynne, Dowager Marchioness of Bath. She made significant changes, and Henry Woodyer was commissioned to completely re-design the house in the Elizabethan or Jacobean style.
- 2.5 The estate remained in the family until the death of Colonel Thynne in 1957. Early in the 1960's the house was demolished and plans were put in hand to build a crematorium on the site. However, this was not possible and it was eventually erected where the tennis courts once stood. The building was finally opened in 1968.
- 2.6 All that now remains of this once magnificent house is the terrace with its monogrammed wall and cobbled approach to the main entrance, together with the ice house, wellhouse and family burial ground. The north lodge and pigeon house also still exist, both now converted into private dwellings.
- 2.7 The development site lies c.300m north of the Scheduled Ancient Monument (SAM) of Muntham Court Romano-British site (WS150), with further archaeological sites and SAMs known in the wider area, including burial mounds, flint mines and a cross dyke, with Cissbury Ring located some 3km to the southeast. It is possible that similar archaeological remains exist within the proposed development site.

### **3.0 Archaeological Methodology**

- 3.1 Intrusive groundworks associated with the proposed development as listed below were monitored until it became clear beyond reasonable doubt that no archaeological remains were present (e.g. once excavation reaches undisturbed natural subsoils).
- General ground reduction
  - Construction of a new access road
  - Foundation trenches
  - Service trenches
  - Landscaping
- 3.2 All excavation was undertaken with a machine equipped with a suitably sized toothless bucket wherever practicable.
- 3.3 A test pit was requested in order to evaluate stratigraphy prior to footings being excavated.
- 3.4 Surfaces revealed were inspected. Archaeological features were recorded in plan and section as appropriate.
- 3.5 All archaeological features and deposits will be recorded using the standard context record sheets used by UCLFAU.
- 3.6 The contractor allowed the archaeological contractor reasonable time and resources to undertake any inspection or recording required.
- 3.7 A full photographic digital record was maintained throughout the duration of the evaluation. Digital colour images of work in progress and significant features are included in the archive. A copy of this report resides with the County Archaeologist, West Sussex County. Further copies and one electronic copy in PDF format have been deposited with WSCC and the client as appropriate.
- 3.8 An OASIS (Online Access to the Index of Archaeological Investigations) form has been completed for the project. A print-out of the form is included as an appendix to this report.

#### 4.0 **Results (Figures 2, 3)**

- 4.1 An initial area of ground reduction exposed three modern linear features presumed to be a road / access way with an adjacent drainage ditch. No other features were found and no dateable archaeological remains were recovered.
- 4.2 The footing and service trenches were approximately 20m long, 0.6 m wide and 0.5 m deep. These were dug directly into virgin chalk and a toothed bucket was used, it already having been established that no archaeological features were present.
- 4.3 The sections of the road and ditches exposed (fig.3) were contemporary, with very similar fills and sequences of deposition. The context descriptions were as follows:

##### **Cut [2] Road / pathway**

- Cut [2] - Linear, 5.5 m wide, flat based with straight sides at a 45-degree angle. Strong breaks at top and base with little sign of erosion. Filled by:
- Context (03) - a friable, dark reddish brown, fine grained, sandy silt subsoil with occasional chalk rubble no larger than 50mm and rare sub-rounded flint fragments no larger than 60mm. This subsoil was present throughout the site as a subsoil layer above the natural chalk and has been used to backfill the linear. This backfill contained pockets of loose chalk rubble, pieces no larger than 40mm, interspersed within it and deposited at the same time.
- Context (05) - a dark brown humic topsoil comprised of fine sandy silt with chalk flecks throughout, sealing the exposed features.

##### **Cut [8] Ditch**

- Cut [8] - Linear, 1 m wide, 400mm deep, irregularly based with straight west side at a 45-degree angle and a straight east side at a 60-degree angle. Strong breaks at top, abrupt break at west side of base, strong rounded break to east side of base. Little sign of erosion. No sign of silting. Filled by:
- Context (03) - as per above and also containing pockets of loose chalk rubble.
- Context (05) - as for cut [02] above, sealing the exposed features.

### **Cut [12] Ditch**

- Cut [12] - Linear, 1.5 m wide, 600mm deep. A stepped profile with steep (60 degrees) 200mm slopes, abrupt breaks to a flattish step. Irregular steep (50 - 60 degree) slopes to an asymmetric concave base which has a flattish 30 degree slope to the west, Strong rounded break to east side of base. Little sign of erosion. No sign of silting. Filled by:
- Context (03) - as per above and also containing pockets of chalk rubble.
- Context (05) - as for cut [02] above, sealing the exposed features.

### **General**

- Context (01) – un-weathered Upper Cretaceous Chalk containing:
- Context (06) - weathered Upper Cretaceous Chalk cut by [02, 08, 12]

#### **4.4 Test Pit**

A 1m x 1.5m x 400mm deep test pit was requested and positioned as per figure 2. Contexts recorded were:

- Context (09) - 50 mm of very compact black tarmac with gravel chips.
- Context (11) – 100mm of friable, dark reddish brown, fine grained, sandy silt subsoil with occasional chalk rubble no larger than 50mm and rare sub-rounded flint fragments no larger than 60mm (same as (03) directly above natural chalk (01).

### **5.0 Summary**

- 5.1 An archaeological watching brief during works for a Replacement Chapel at Worthing Crematorium, Findon, Sussex, (NGR 511222 109721) took place between 30<sup>th</sup> January and 6<sup>th</sup> February 2007. During the monitoring of ground reduction, footing and service trenches, undisturbed upper chalks were exposed. The majority of the footing trench exposed existing services and re-deposits of modern material. An access way with contemporary drainage cuts was found in

section, but appears to be of modern date (contexts **[02]**, **[08]** & **[12]**). No other archaeological deposits or features were found.

- 5.2 The excavation of a 1m x 1.5m x 400mm test pit produced 150mm of tarmac **(09)** and made ground **(11)** with 250mm of undisturbed natural chalk **(01)**.

## **6.0 References**

- Griffin, N. Proposed Replacement Chapel at Worthing Crematorium, Worthing, West Sussex. Archaeological Watching Brief -Written Scheme of Investigation, unpub. ASE Report 2679. October 2006.

**SMR Summary Form**

Site Code	WCR06					
Identification Name and Address	Worthing Crematorium, Findon					
County, District &/or Borough	West Sussex, Arun District					
OS Grid Refs.	NGR 511222 109721					
Geology	Cretaceous Chalk					
Arch. South-East Project Number	2679					
Type of Fieldwork	Eval.	Excav.	Watching Brief ✓	Standing Structure	Survey	Other
Type of Site	Green Field	Shallow Urban ✓	Deep Urban	Other		
Dates of Fieldwork	Eval.	Excav.	WB. 2 Nov – 6 Feb 07	Other		
Sponsor/Client	Worthing Borough Council					
Project Manager	Neil Griffin					
Project Supervisor	Deon Whittaker					
Period Summary	Palaeo.	Meso.	Neo.	BA	IA	RB
	AS	MED	PM	Other Modern ✓		
<p>An archaeological watching brief during works for a Replacement Chapel at Worthing Crematorium, Findon, Sussex, (NGR 511222 109721) took place between 30<sup>th</sup> January and 6th February 2007. During the monitoring of ground reduction, footing and service trenches, undisturbed upper chalks were exposed. The majority of the footing trench exposed existing services and redeposits of modern material. No archaeological deposits or features were found. The excavation of a 2m x 2m test pit produced 200mm of made ground and 400mm of undisturbed natural chalk.</p>						

## 1.1 OASIS ID: archaeol6-26045

### Project details

Project name	Worthing Crematoruim
Short description of the project	An archaeological watching brief Replacement Chapel at Worthing Crematorium, Findon, Sussex, (NGR 511222 109721) took place between 30th January and 6th February 2007. During the monitoring of ground reduction, footing and service trenches, undisturbed upper chalks were exposed. The majority of the footing trench exposed existing services and re-deposits of modern material. An access way possibly with associated drainage cuts was found in section, but appears to be of modern date. No other archaeological deposits or features were found. The excavation of a 2m x 2m test pit produced 200mm of made ground and 400mm of undisturbed natural chalk.
Project dates	Start: 30-01-2007 End: 06-02-2007
Previous/future work	Yes / No
Any associated project reference codes	2679 - Sitecode
Type of project	Recording project
Site status	None
Current Land use	Residential 1 - General Residential
Significant Finds	IRON SLAG Medieval
Investigation type	'Watching Brief'
Prompt	Planning condition

### Project location

Country	England
Site location	WEST SUSSEX WORTHING WORTHING Worthing Crematorium

Postcode	BN14
Study area	150.00 Square metres
Site coordinates	TQ 11222 09721 50.8757075175 -0.418981599458 50 52 32 N 000 25 08 W Point
Height OD	Min: 48.00m Max: 49.54m

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### Project creators

Name of Organisation	Archaeology South East
Project brief originator	Archaeology South East
Project design originator	Archaeology South-East
Project director/manager	Neil Griffin
Project supervisor	Deon Whittaker
Type of sponsor/funding body	Developer
Name of sponsor/funding body	Worthing Borough Council

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### Project archives

Physical Archive Exists?	No
Digital Archive recipient	Local Museum
Digital Contents	'Stratigraphic'

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Digital Media available	'Images raster / digital photography'
Paper Archive recipient	Worthing Museum
Paper Contents	'Stratigraphic','other'
Paper Media available	'Context sheet','Diary','Drawing','Notebook - Excavation','Research',' General Notes','Plan','Report','Section','Unpublished Text'

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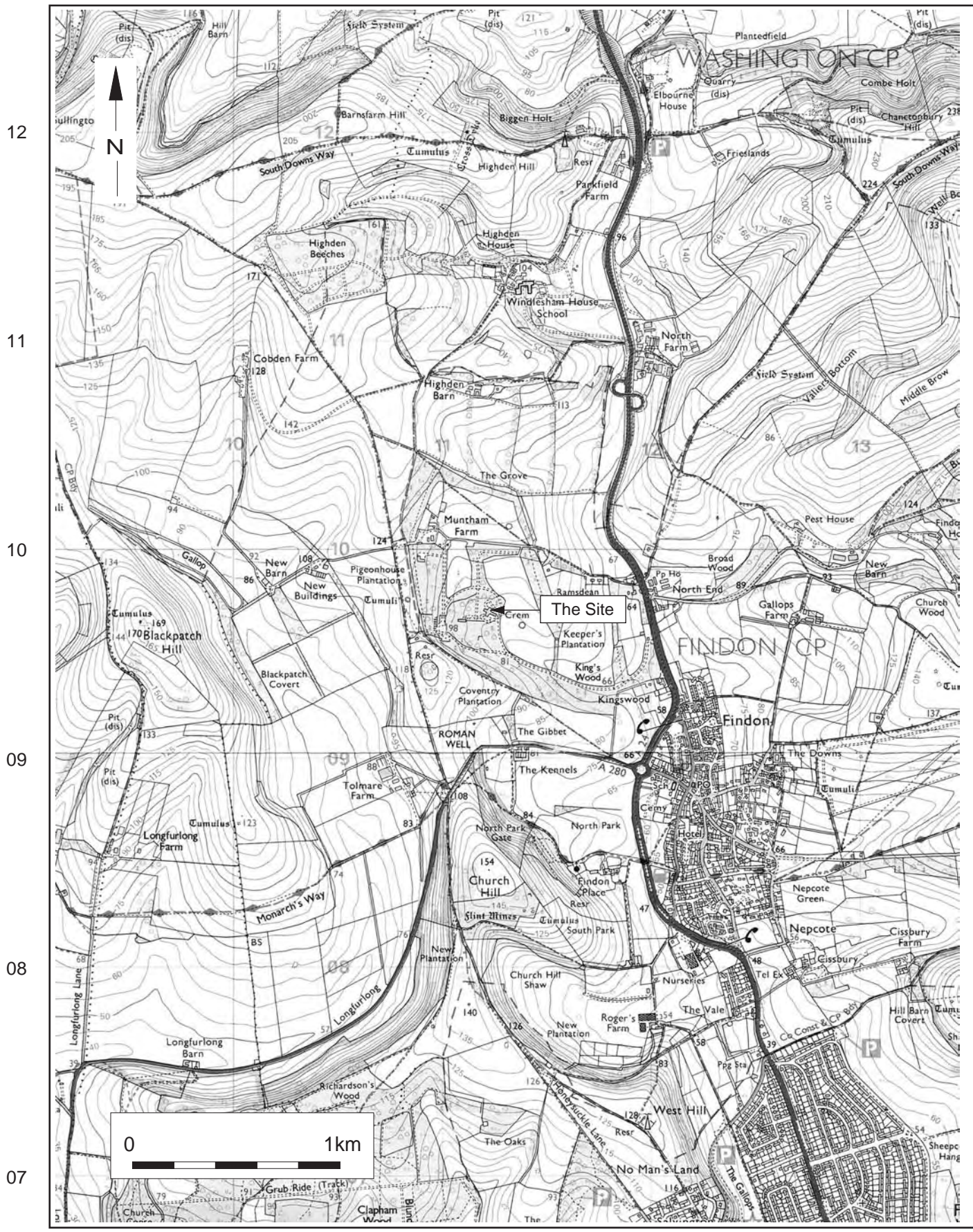
**Project bibliography 1**

Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title	Replacement Chapel at Worthing Crematorium, Findon, Sussex
Author(s)/Editor(s)	Whittaker, D.
Other bibliographic details	Site Code: BCS 07
Date	2007
Issuer or publisher	Archaeology South East
Place of issue or publication	Ditchling
Description	A4 Spiral Bound Card backed Word Processed

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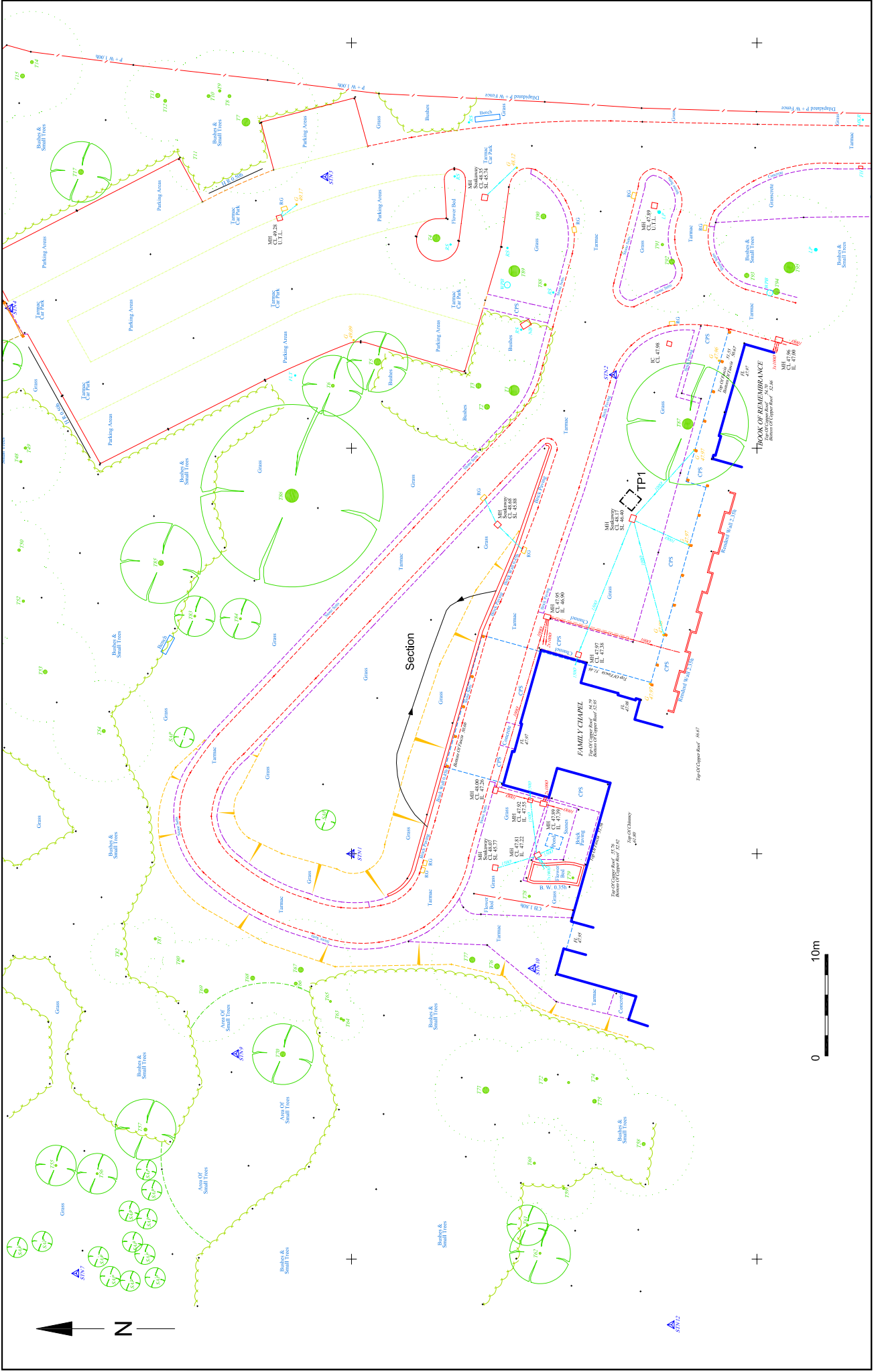
Entered by	Deon Whittaker (mushak@hotmail.co.uk)
Entered on	10 April 2007

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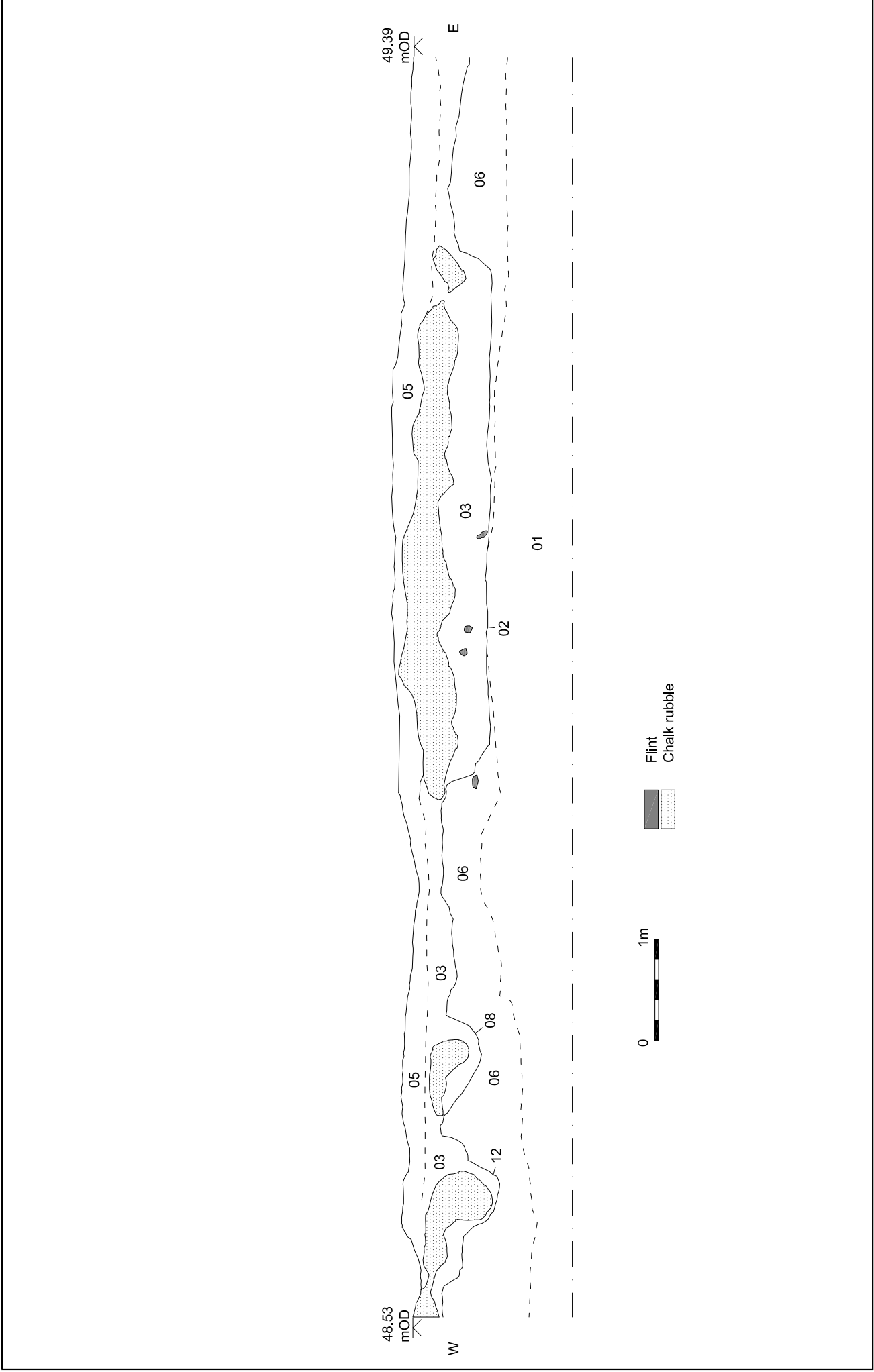
© Archaeology South-East			Worthing Crematorium	
Ref: 2679	April 2007	Drawn by: JLR	Site Location Plan	
				Fig. 1

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Ref: 2679	April 2007	Drawn by: JLR	Site Plan

Fig. 2



© Archaeology South-East		Worthing Crematorium	
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Fig. 3

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