



Creation of Two Additional Car Parks, Telford Crematorium, Woodhouse Lane, Red Hill, Telford, Shropshire, TF2 9NJ.

July - August 2019

V 1.0



aeon archaeology



Archaeological Watching Brief

Project Code: A0207.1

Report no. 0215



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Archaeological Watching Brief

Aeon Archaeology
25, Mold Road
Broughton
Chester
CH4 0PQ

Written by: Josh Dean BA ACIfA

Checked by: Richard Cooke BA MA MCIfA



Project Code: A0207.1

Date: 19/09/2019

Client: L F Architecture Ltd.

info@aeonarchaeology.co.uk



Creation of Two Additional Car Parks, Telford Crematorium, Woodhouse Lane, Red Hill, Telford, Shropshire, TF2 9NJ.

Juy - August 2019

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Project Code: A0207.1

Date: 18/09/2019

Client: L F Architecture Ltd.

info@aeonarchaeology.co.uk

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1.0 NON-TECHNICAL SUMMARY

Aeon Archaeology was commissioned by L F Architecture Ltd, to undertake an archaeological watching brief during the groundworks associated with the creation of two additional car parks providing 46 additional car parking spaces and 10no. lighting columns at Telford Crematorium, Woodhouse Lane, Red Hill, Telford, Shropshire, TF2 9NJ (**NGR SJ 72823 11161**).

The archaeological watching brief at Telford Crematorium consisted of the monitoring of two consecutive car park excavations which took place to the northwest of the main crematorium building, these additional car parks are referred to as (A) and (B). Both areas appeared to have been subject to a large land stripping event, onto and in some places into the natural sand-clay sub-strata. This wholesale removal and disturbance of soils is most likely associated with the works associated with the initial construction of the crematorium. Within the southern portion of the excavation area for car park (A) a single ditch was discovered which ran southwest to northeast across the Site. This feature did not produce any artefacts but is suspected to be a post-medieval field drainage ditch.

2.0 INTRODUCTION

Aeon Archaeology was commissioned by L F Architecture Ltd, hereafter the Client, to undertake an archaeological watching brief during the groundworks associated with the creation of two additional car parks providing 46 additional car parking spaces and 10no. lighting columns at Telford Crematorium, Woodhouse Lane, Red Hill, Telford, Shropshire, TF2 9NJ (**NGR SJ 72823 11161**).

Full planning permission was obtained from Telford and Wrekin Council on 11th September 2017 and the following condition concerning archaeology was applied to the consent (**TWC/2017/0596**):

Condition 3

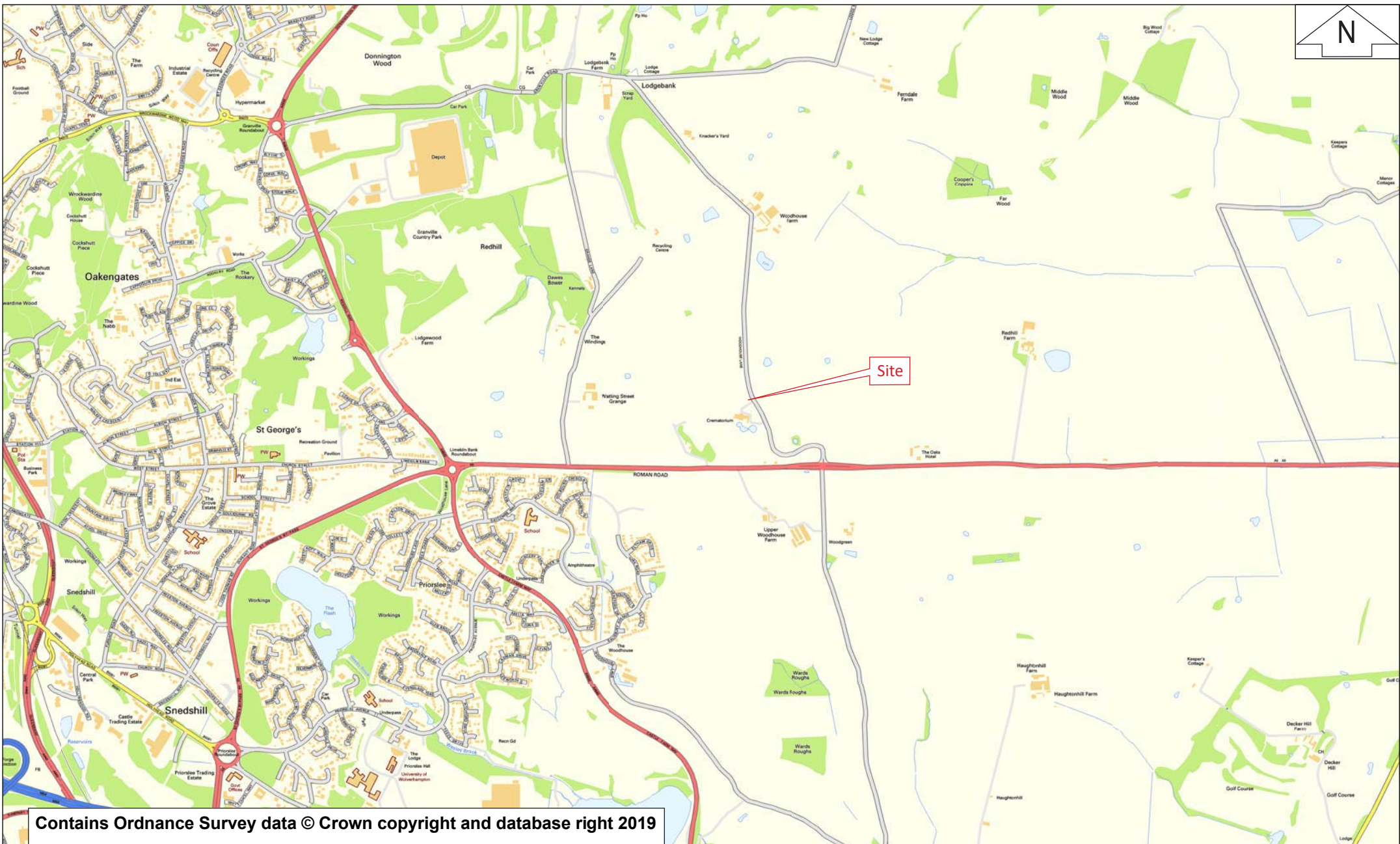
Development shall not take place until the applicants, or their agents, or their successors in title have secured the implementation of a programme of archaeological work in accordance with a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority (advised by Shropshire Council's Historic Environment Team) prior to the commencement of works. The applicant may wish to contact the Senior Archaeological Advisor, Shropshire Council, who can advise on and, if required, issue a brief for the WSI.

Reason: The site is known to be in an area of archaeological importance.

A written scheme of investigation (WSI) was produced by Aeon Archaeology in May 2019 (appendix I) which outlined the aims and objectives of the project and the methods by which they would be met. This formed the basis of a method statement for the works.

The use of such a condition is in line with guidance set out in paragraph 141, Section 12 (Conserving and Enhancing the Historic Environment) of the National Planning Policy Framework (2012), published by the Department for Communities and Local Government; Policy MD13 of the SAMDev component of the Shropshire Local Plan; and Managing Significance in Decision Taking in the Historic Environment, Historic Environment Good Practice Advice in Planning: 2 (Historic England 2015).

The work will adhere to the guidelines specified in Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Brief (Chartered Institute for Archaeologists, 2014).

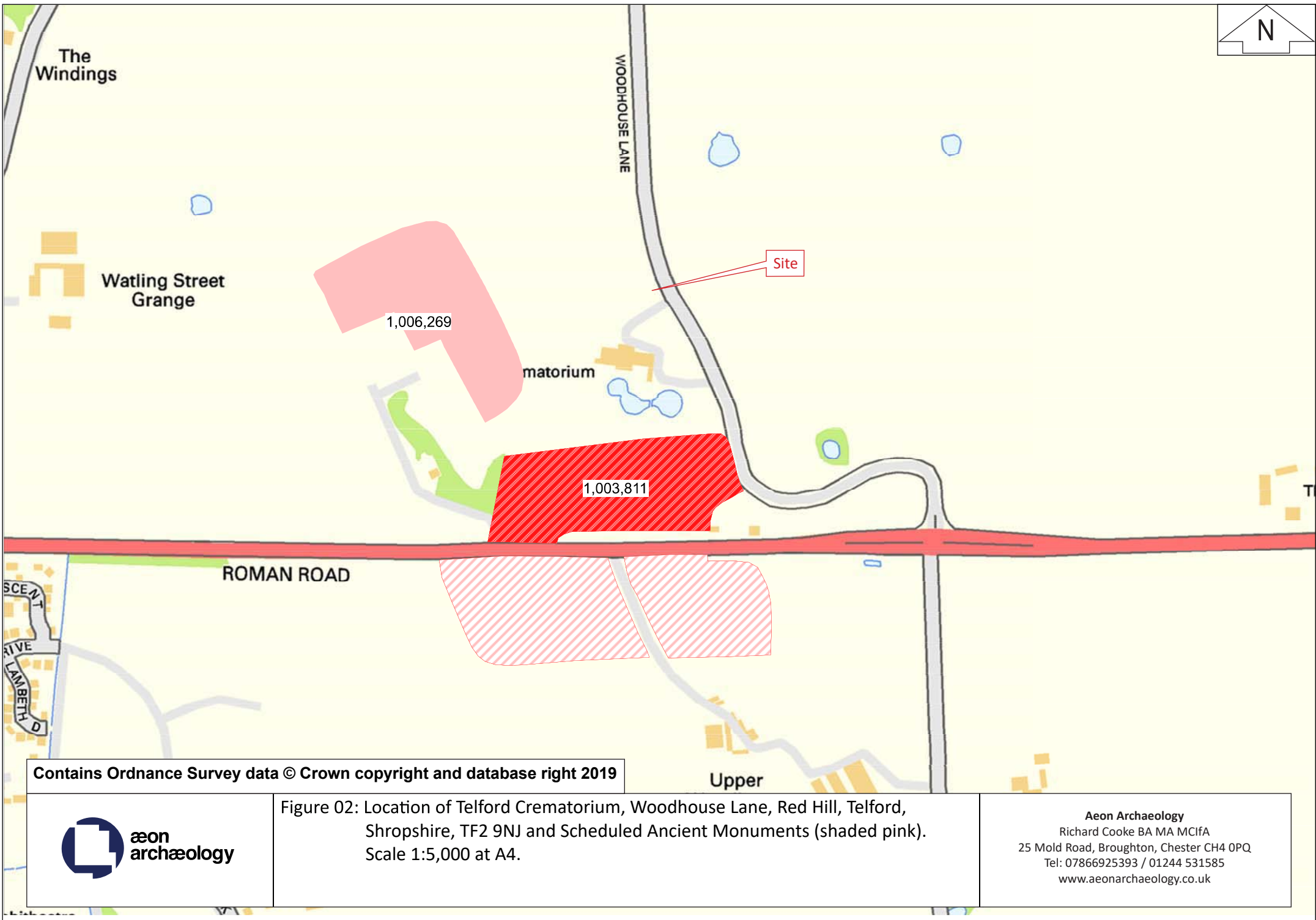


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Figure 01: Location of Telford Crematorium, Woodhouse Lane, Red Hill, Telford, Shropshire, TF2 9NJ. Scale 1:20,000 at A4.

Aeon Archaeology
 Richard Cooke BA MA MCifA
 25 Mold Road, Broughton, Chester CH4 0PQ
 Tel: 07866925393 / 01244 531585
www.aeonarchaeology.co.uk

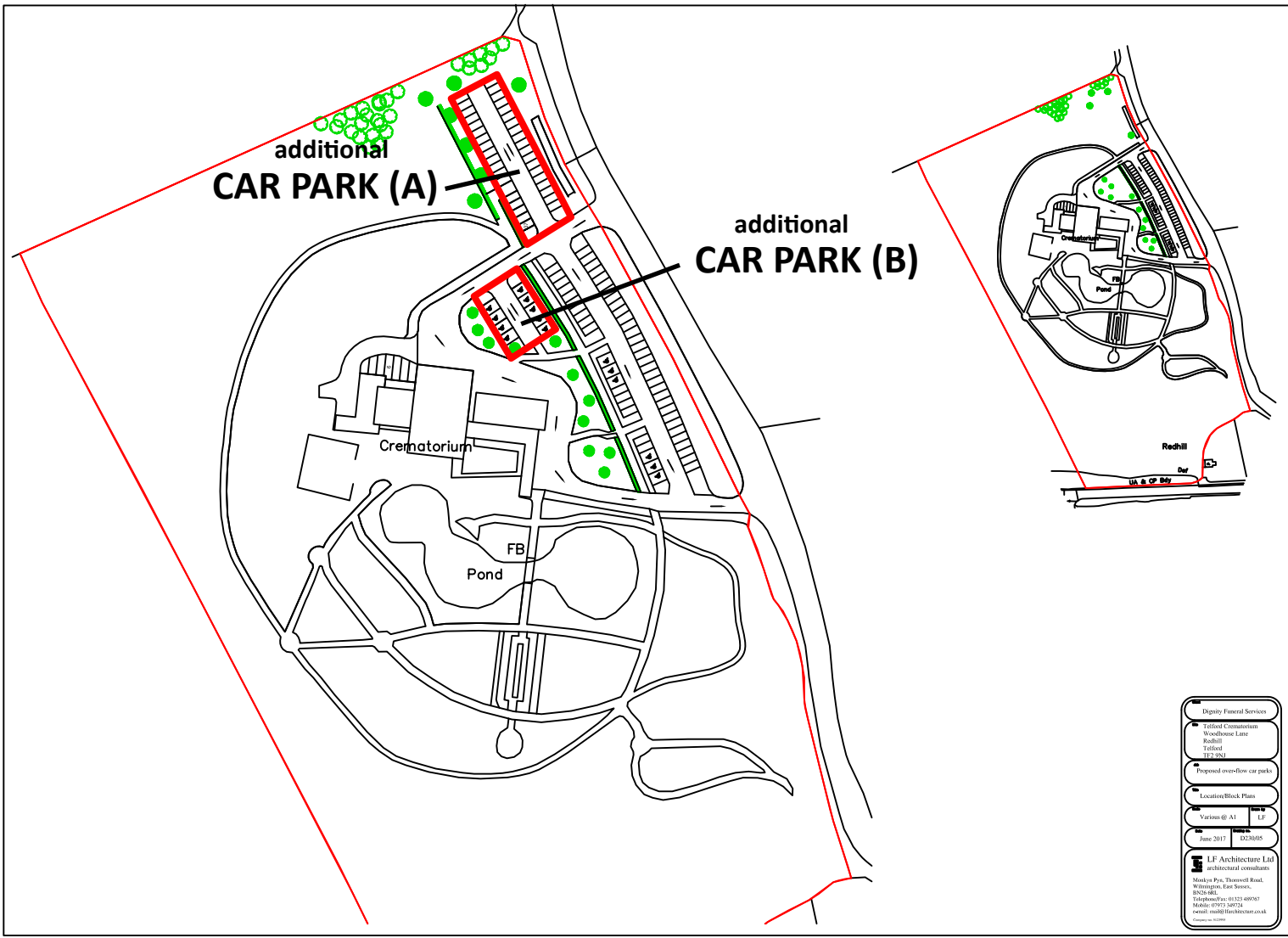


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Figure 02: Location of Telford Crematorium, Woodhouse Lane, Red Hill, Telford, Shropshire, TF2 9NJ and Scheduled Ancient Monuments (shaded pink). Scale 1:5,000 at A4.

Aeon Archaeology
 Richard Cooke BA MA MCifA
 25 Mold Road, Broughton, Chester CH4 0PQ
 Tel: 07866925393 / 01244 531585
www.aeonarchaeology.co.uk



Dignity Funeral Services

Telford Crematorium
Woodhouse Lane
Redhill
Telford
TF2 9NJ

Proposed over-flow car parks

Location/Block Plans

Version of: A1 Date: LF

June 2012 D23005

LF Architecture Ltd
architectural consultants
Stokeys Pys, Thornwell Road,
Wilmington, East Sussex,
BN24 9SL
Telephone: 01323 499307
Mobile: 07973 387334
email: info@lfarchitecture.co.uk
www.lf.co.uk

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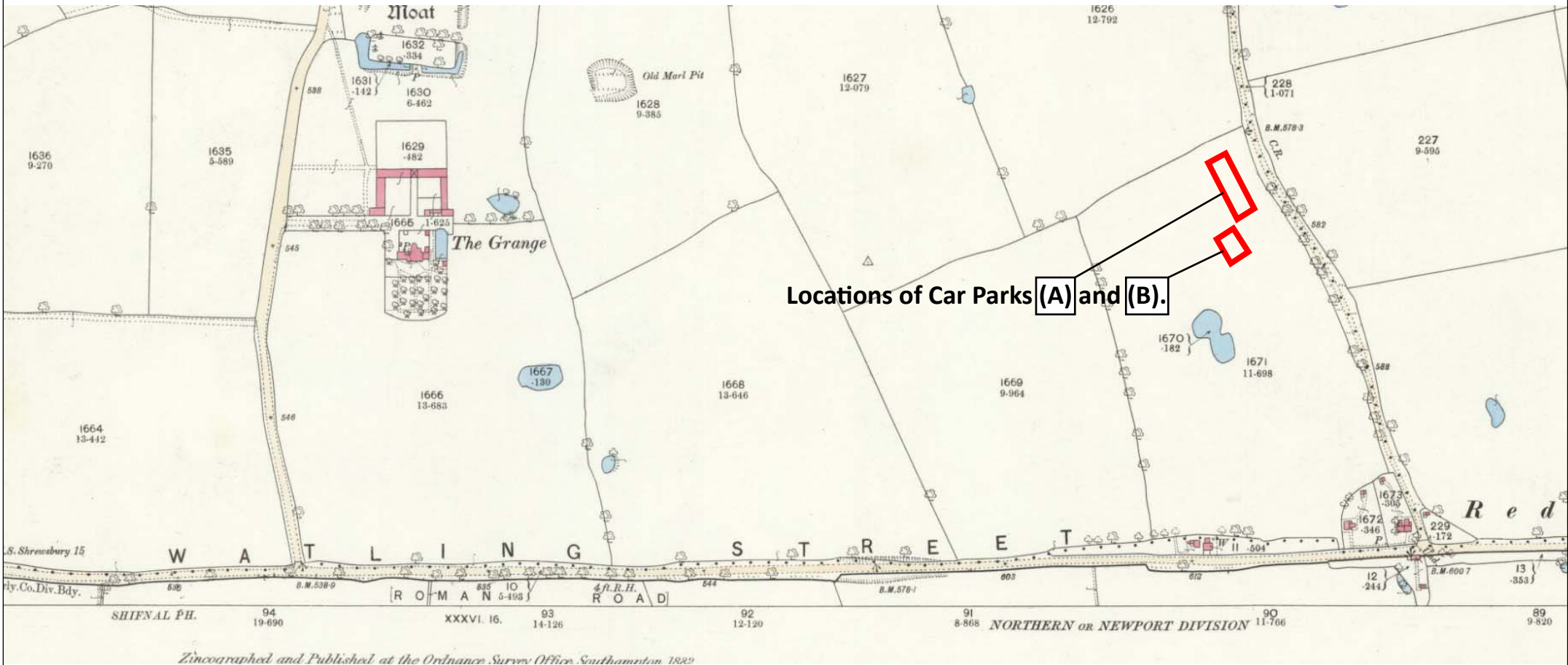
Figure 03: Location of proposed works at Telford Crematorium, Woodhouse Lane, Red Hill, Telford, Shropshire, TF2 9NJ.

Aeon Archaeology
Richard Cooke BA MA MCifA
25 Mold Road, Broughton, Chester CH4 0PQ
Tel: 07866925393 / 01244 531585
www.aeonarchaeology.co.uk

3.0 SITE LOCATION AND HISTORY

The proposed development site lies immediately adjacent to the Roman military site and civilian settlement at Redhill [Uxacona] (Shropshire Historic Environment [HER] no. PRN 01113) parts of which are Scheduled Ancient Monuments (Parts of a Roman camp and signal station 410m ESE of Watling Street Grange, National Ref.1006269 & Part of a small Roman town, the Roman road called Watling Street and a mansio 255m north west of Upper Woodhouse Farm, National Ref. 1003811) with numerous associated features. A number of findspots of prehistoric through to medieval date have also been made by field-walkers and metal-detectorists in the vicinity of the study area. An archaeological evaluation in 1994 (HER event ESA142) of an area immediately to the south of the proposed development site gave largely negative results. Nevertheless, the proposed development site is considered to have a moderate to high archaeological potential (Natural and Historic Environment Manager at Shropshire Council, 2017).

The first edition (1882), second edition (1902) and third (1927) edition 25” Ordnance Survey maps and the 1948 edition 6” Ordnance Survey map were checked in advance for any features of note within the excavation areas but none are depicted and both areas lie within an area formerly of enclosed agriculture field.

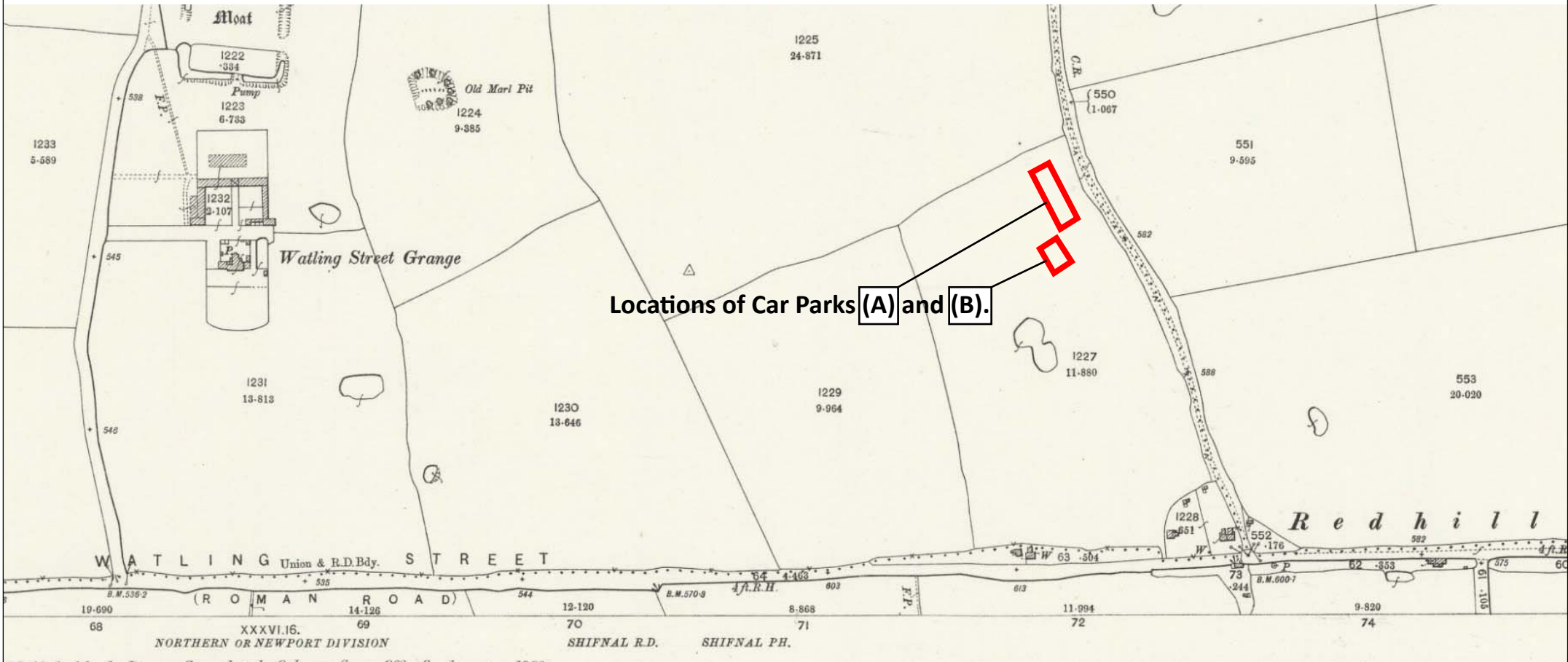


Locations of Car Parks (A) and (B).



Figure 04. 1st edition (1882) Ordnance Survey map 25" showing approximate location of car parks (A) and (B).

Aeon Archaeology
Richard Cooke BA MA MCifA
25 Mold Road, Broughton, Chester CH4 0PQ
Tel: 07866925393 / 01244 531585
www.aeonarchaeology.co.uk

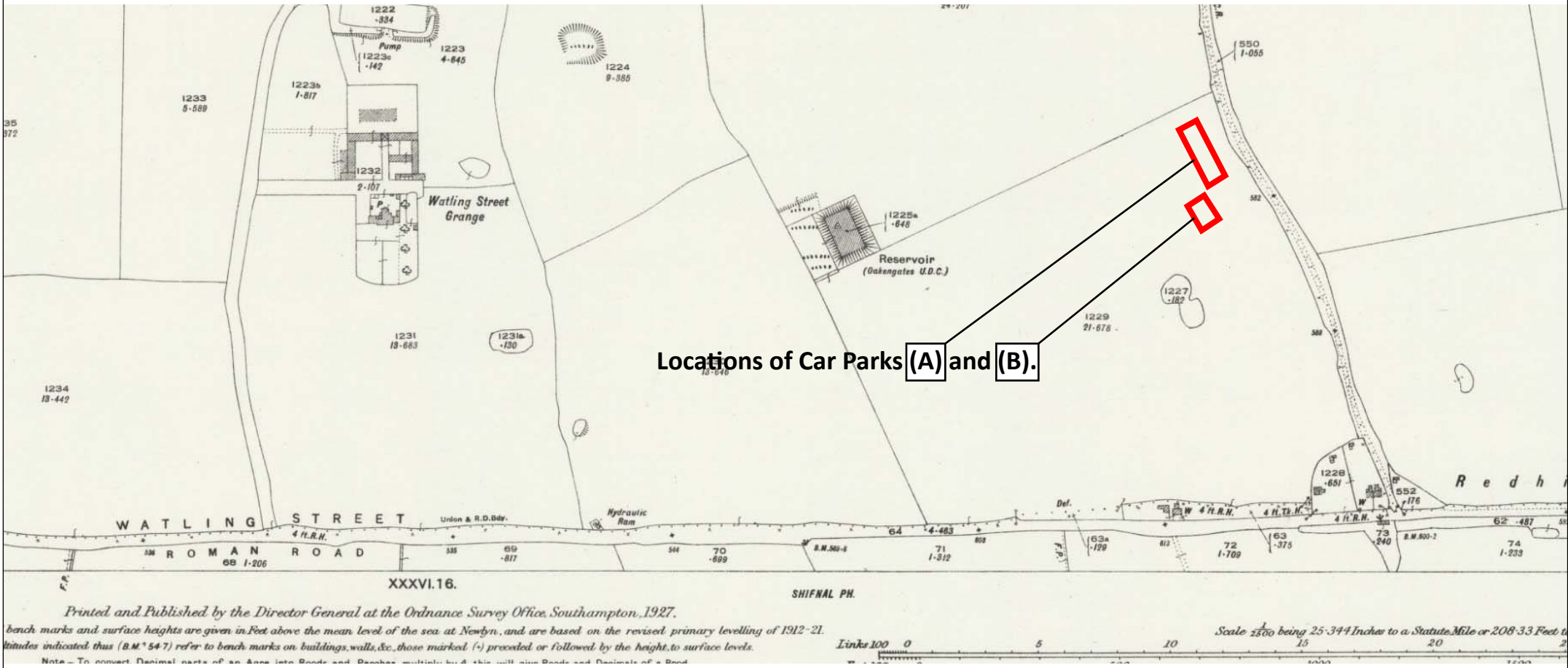


Locations of Car Parks (A) and (B).



Figure 05. 2nd edition (1902) Ordnance Survey map 25" showing approximate location of car parks (A) and (B).

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Richard Cooke BA MA MCifA
25 Mold Road, Broughton, Chester CH4 0PQ
Tel: 07866925393 / 01244 531585
www.aeonarchaeology.co.uk

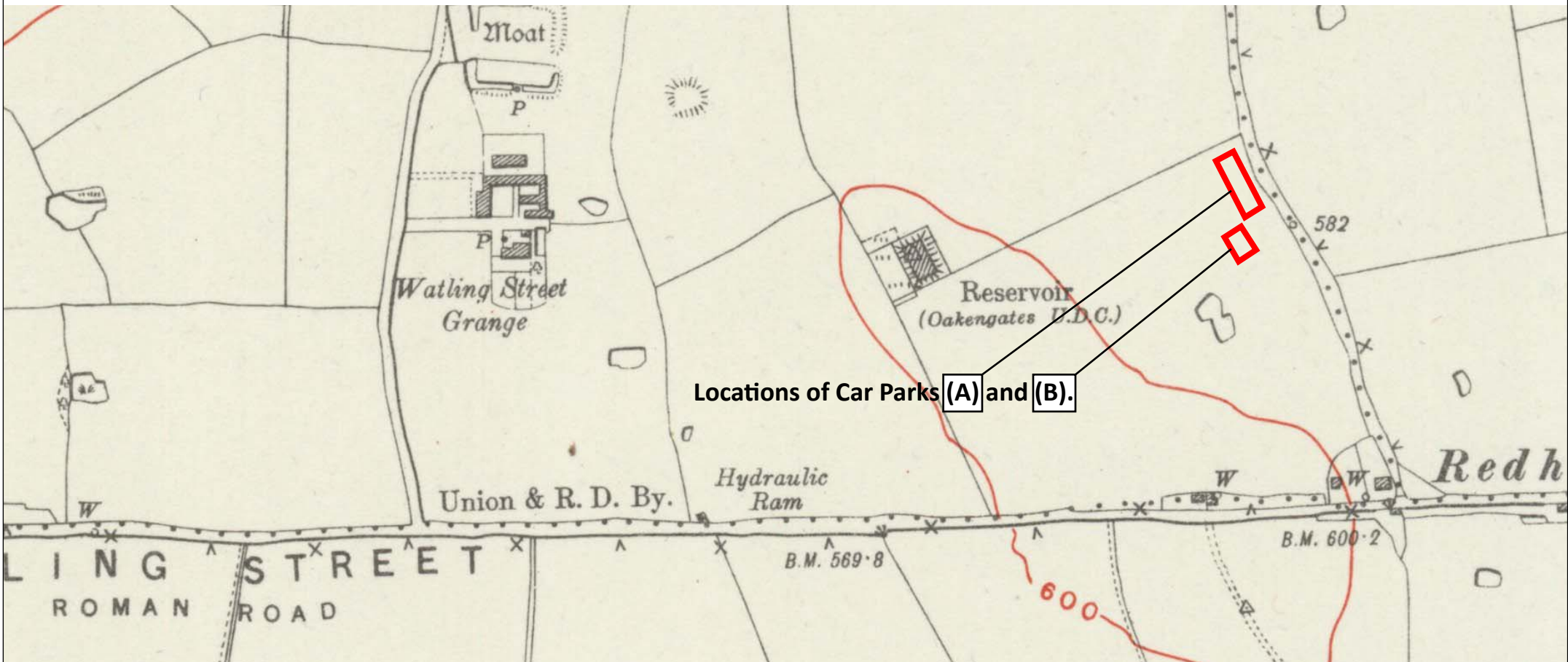


Locations of Car Parks (A) and (B).



Figure 06. 3rd edition (1927) Ordnance Survey map 25" showing approximate location of car parks (A) and (B).

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Richard Cooke BA MA MCifA
25 Mold Road, Broughton, Chester CH4 0PQ
Tel: 07866925393 / 01244 531585
www.aeonarchaeology.co.uk

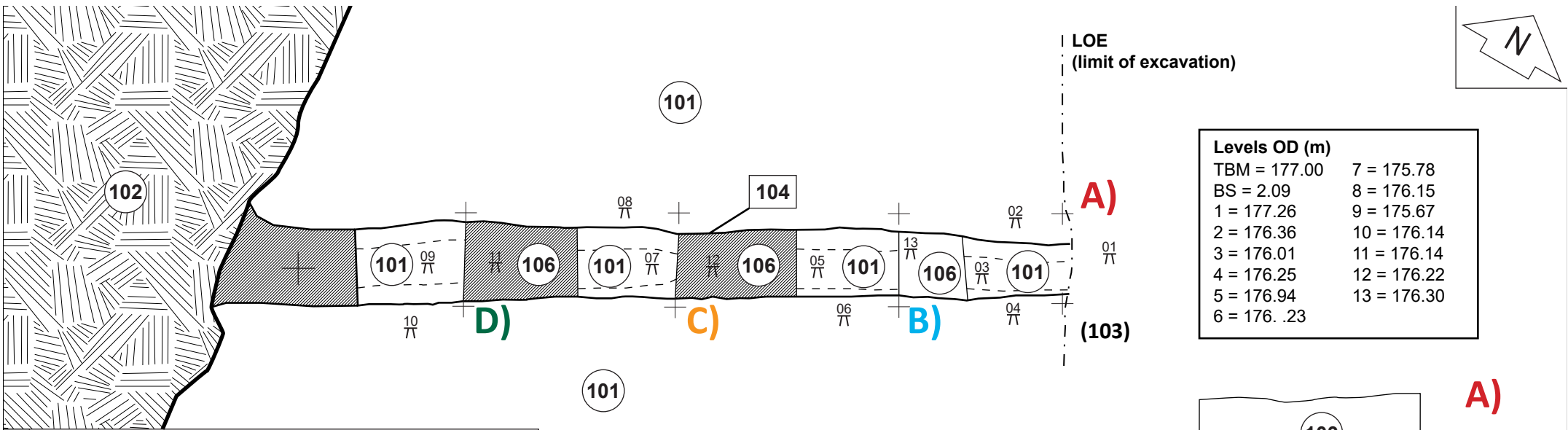


Locations of Car Parks (A) and (B).

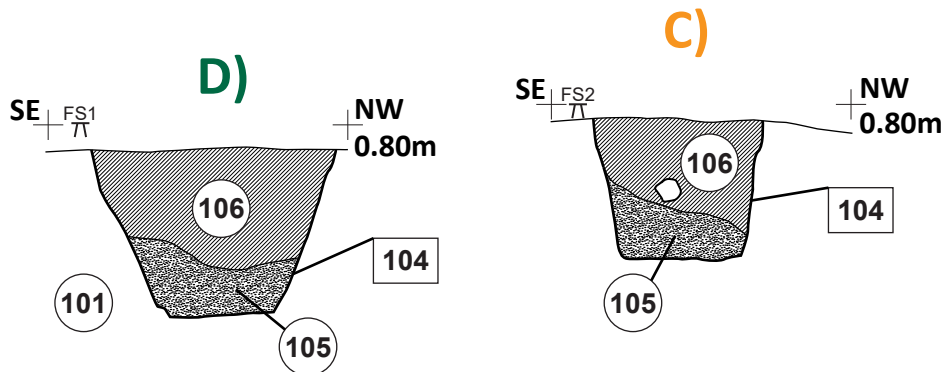


Figure 07. 1948 edition Ordnance Survey map 6" showing approximate location of car parks (A) and (B).

Aeon Archaeology
Richard Cooke BA MA MCifA
25 Mold Road, Broughton, Chester CH4 0PQ
Tel: 07866925393 / 01244 531585
www.aeonarchaeology.co.uk



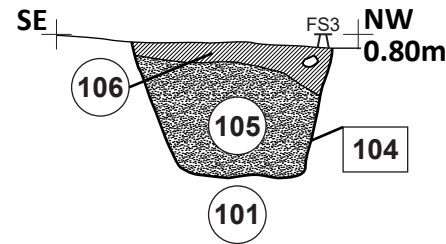
Plan of linear southeast to northwest ditch [104]



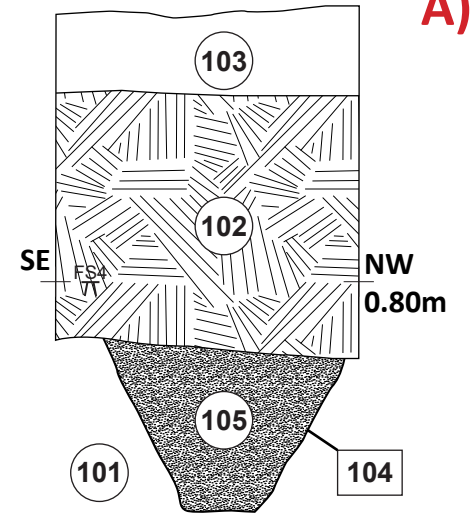
Levels OD (m)

TBM = 177.00	FS1 = 176.63	FS3 = 176.23
BS = 2.09	FS2 = 176.35	FS4 = 176.17

B)



A)



Sections along linear southeast to northwest ditch [104]

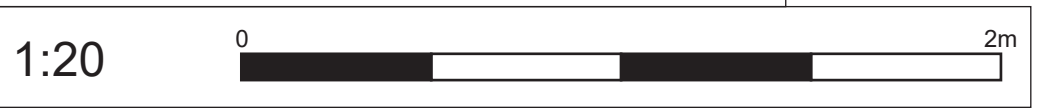


Figure 08. Figure showing Plan of linear southeast - northwest aligned ditch [104], Scale 1:50 @ A4, (upper left) and successive section along linear ditch [104], Scale 1:20 @ A4, (upper right).

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Richard Cooke BA MA MCifA
25 Mold Road, Broughton, Chester CH4 0PQ
Tel: 07866925393 / 01244 531585
www.aeonarchaeology.co.uk



Plate 01: Pre excavation shot of area; Car Park A at Telford Crematorium, Woodhouse Lane, Redhill, Shropshire, TF2 9NJ - from the southeast - scale 1m.



Plate 02: Pre excavation shot of area; Car Park A at Telford Crematorium, Woodhouse Lane, Redhill, Shropshire, TF2 9NJ - from the northwest - scale 1m.



Plate 03: Pre excavation shot of area; Car Park B at Telford Crematorium, Woodhouse Lane, Redhill, Shropshire, TF2 9NJ - from the northwest - scale 1m.

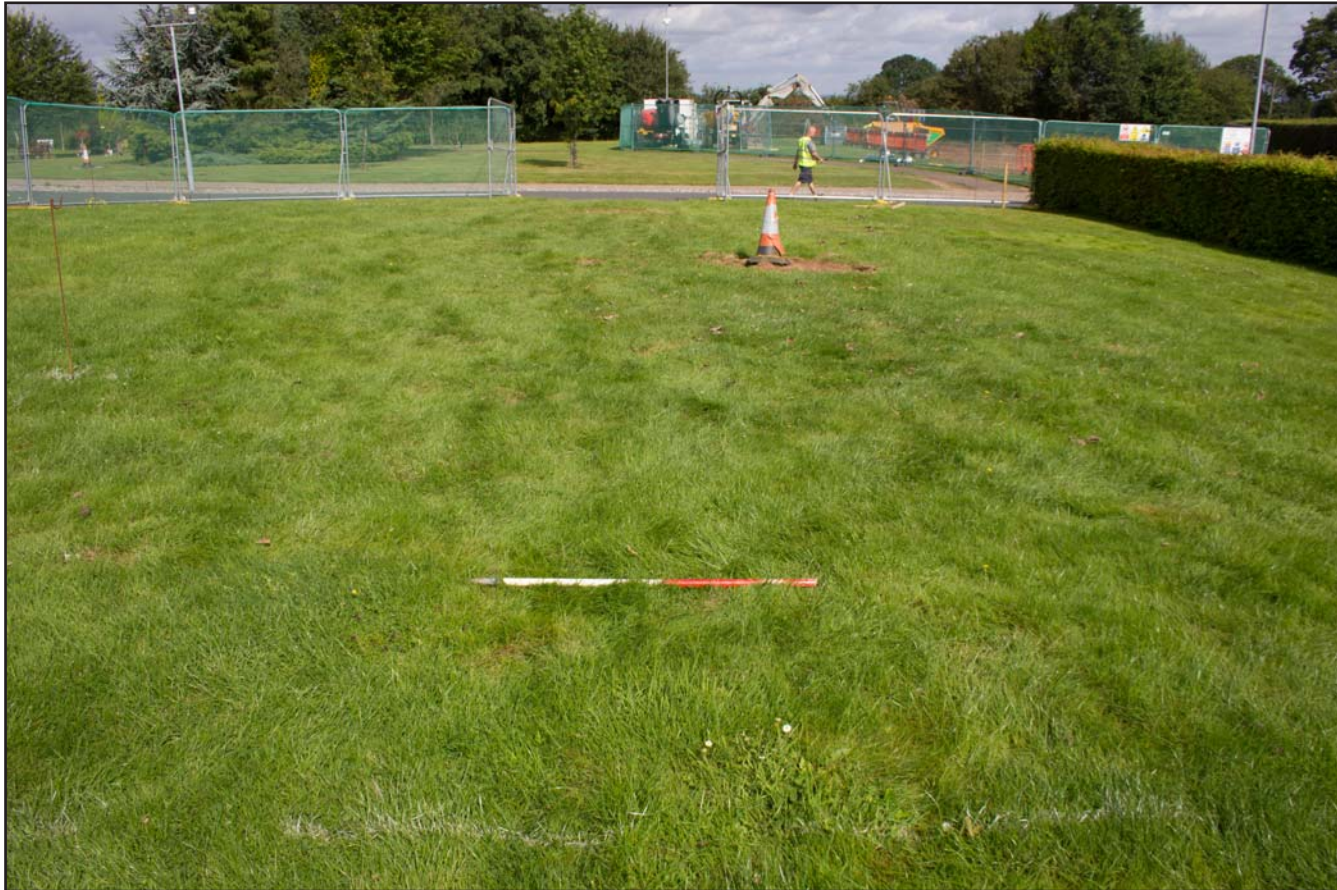


Plate 04: Pre excavation shot of area; Car Park B at Telford Crematorium, Woodhouse Lane, Redhill, Shropshire, TF2 9NJ - from the southeast - scale 1m.



Plate 05: Post excavation shot of area; Car Park A at Telford Crematorium, Woodhouse Lane, Redhill, Shropshire, TF2 9NJ - from the southeast - scale 1m.



Plate 06: Post excavation shot of area; Car Park A at Telford Crematorium, Woodhouse Lane, Redhill, Shropshire, TF2 9NJ - from the northwest - scale 1m.

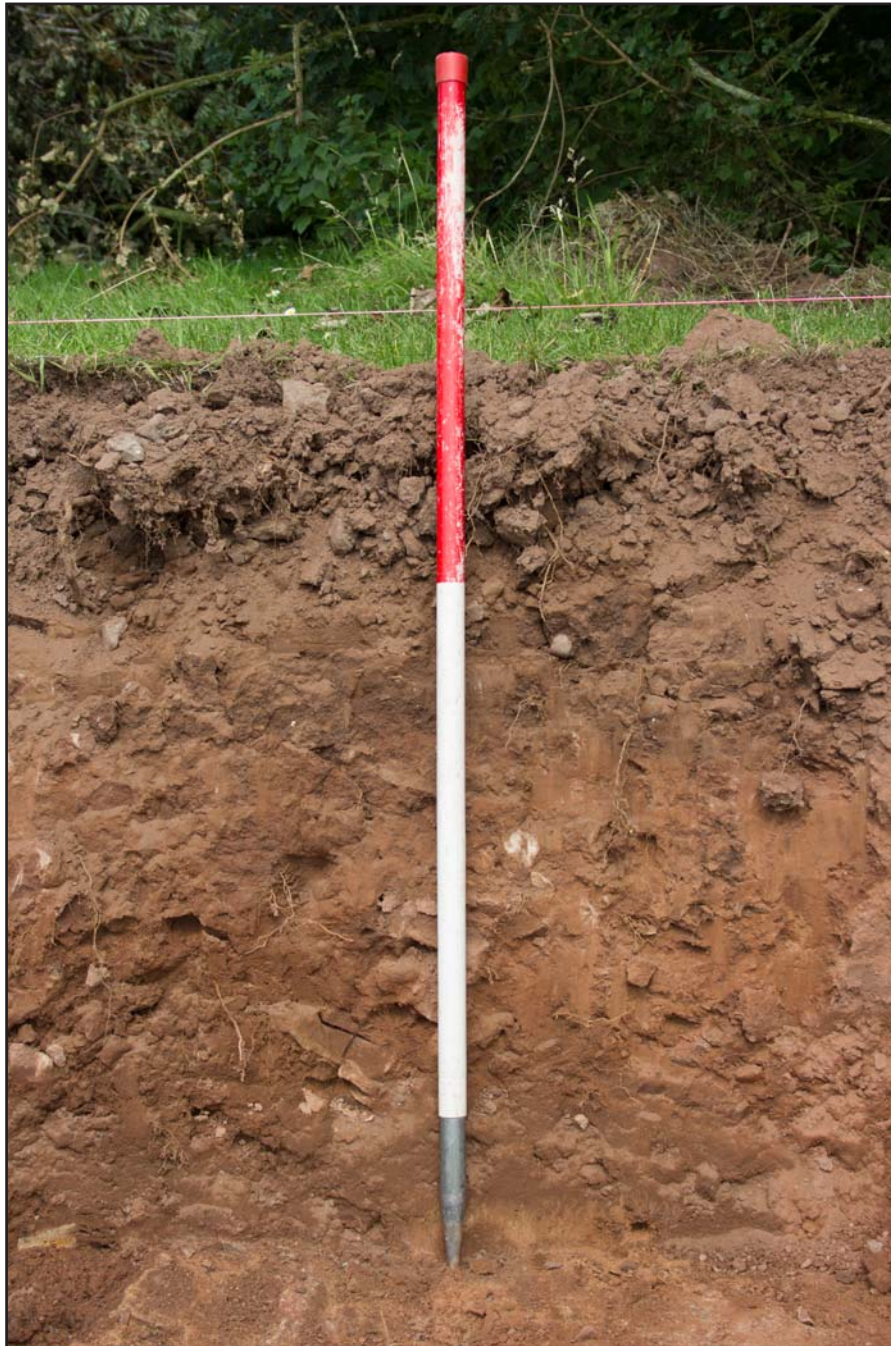


Plate 07: Generic section of excavated area; Car Park A at Telford Crematorium, Woodhouse Lane, Redhill, Shropshire, TF2 9NJ - from the southeast - scale 1m.



Plate 08: Post excavation shot of area; Car Park B at Telford Crematorium, Woodhouse Lane, Redhill, Shropshire, TF2 9NJ - from the northwest - scale 1m.



Plate 09: Post excavation shot of area; Car Park B at Telford Crematorium, Woodhouse Lane, Redhill, Shropshire, TF2 9NJ - from the southeast - scale 1m.



Plate 10: Generic section of excavated area; Car Park B at Telford Crematorium, Woodhouse Lane, Redhill, Shropshire, TF2 9NJ - from the northeast - scale 1m.



Plate 11: Plan shot showing Linear ditch [104] at Telford Crematorium, Woodhouse Lane, Redhill, Shropshire, TF2 9NJ - from the northeast - scale 1m.



Plate 12: Plan shot showing Linear ditch [104] at Telford Crematorium, Woodhouse Lane, Redhill, Shropshire, TF2 9NJ - from the southwest - scale 1m.



Plate 13: Section A of Linear ditch [104] within area; Car Park A at Telford Crematorium, Woodhouse Lane, Redhill, Shropshire, TF2 9NJ - from the southwest - scale 1m.

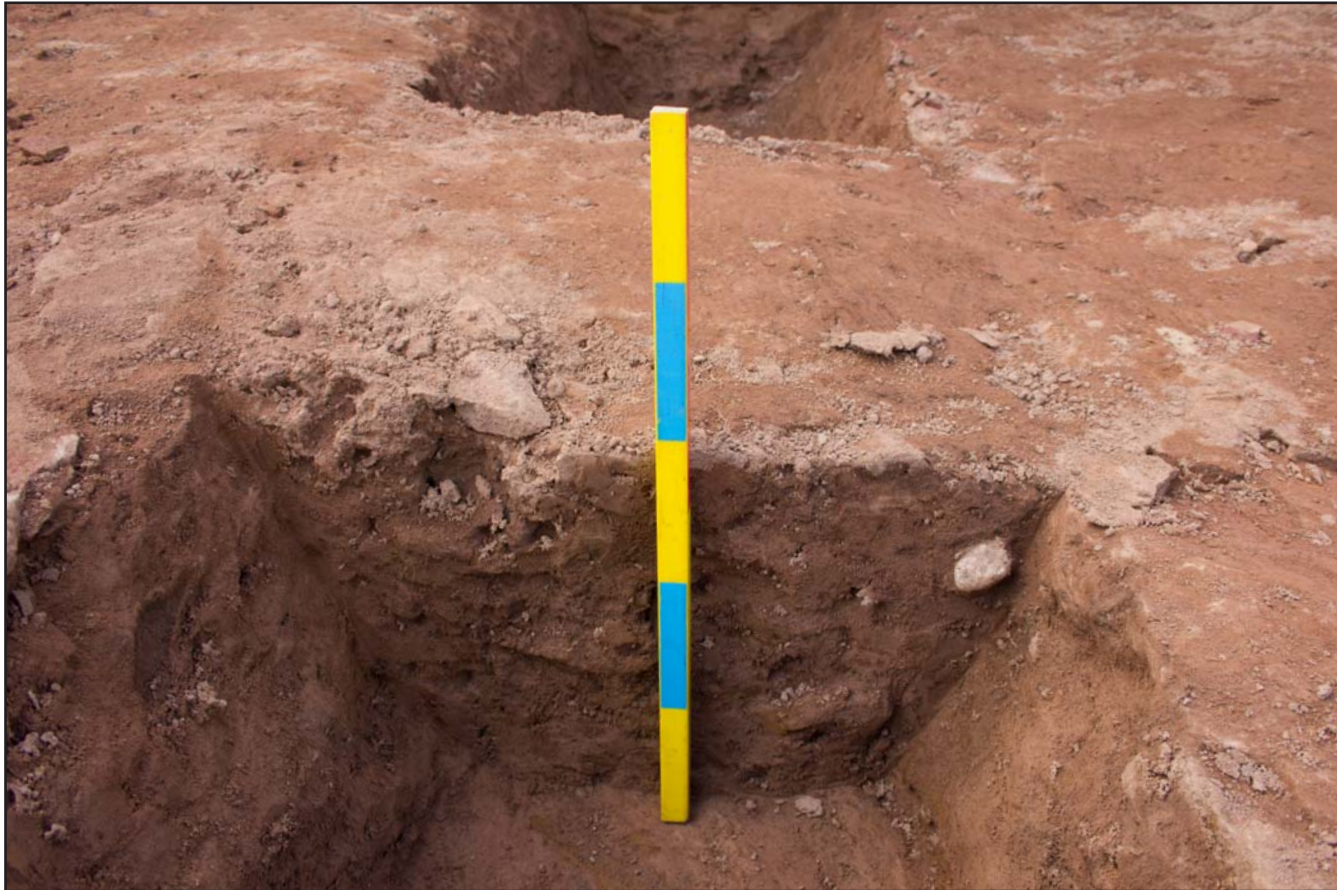


Plate 14: Section B of Linear ditch [104] within area; Car Park A at Telford Crematorium, Woodhouse Lane, Redhill, Shropshire, TF2 9NJ - from the southwest - scale 1m.

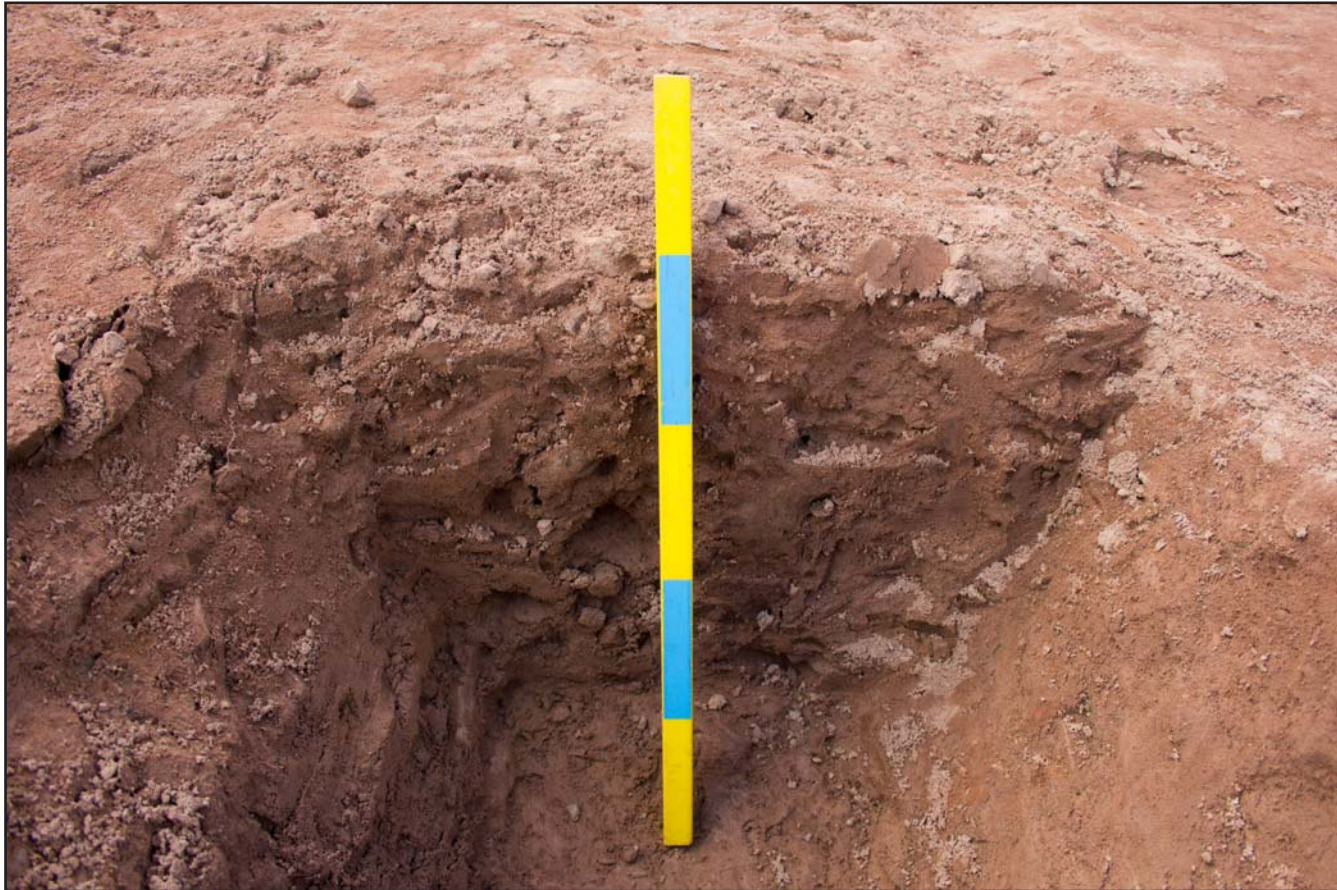


Plate 15: Section C of Linear ditch [104] within area; Car Park A at Telford Crematorium, Woodhouse Lane, Redhill, Shropshire, TF2 9NJ - from the southwest - scale 1m.

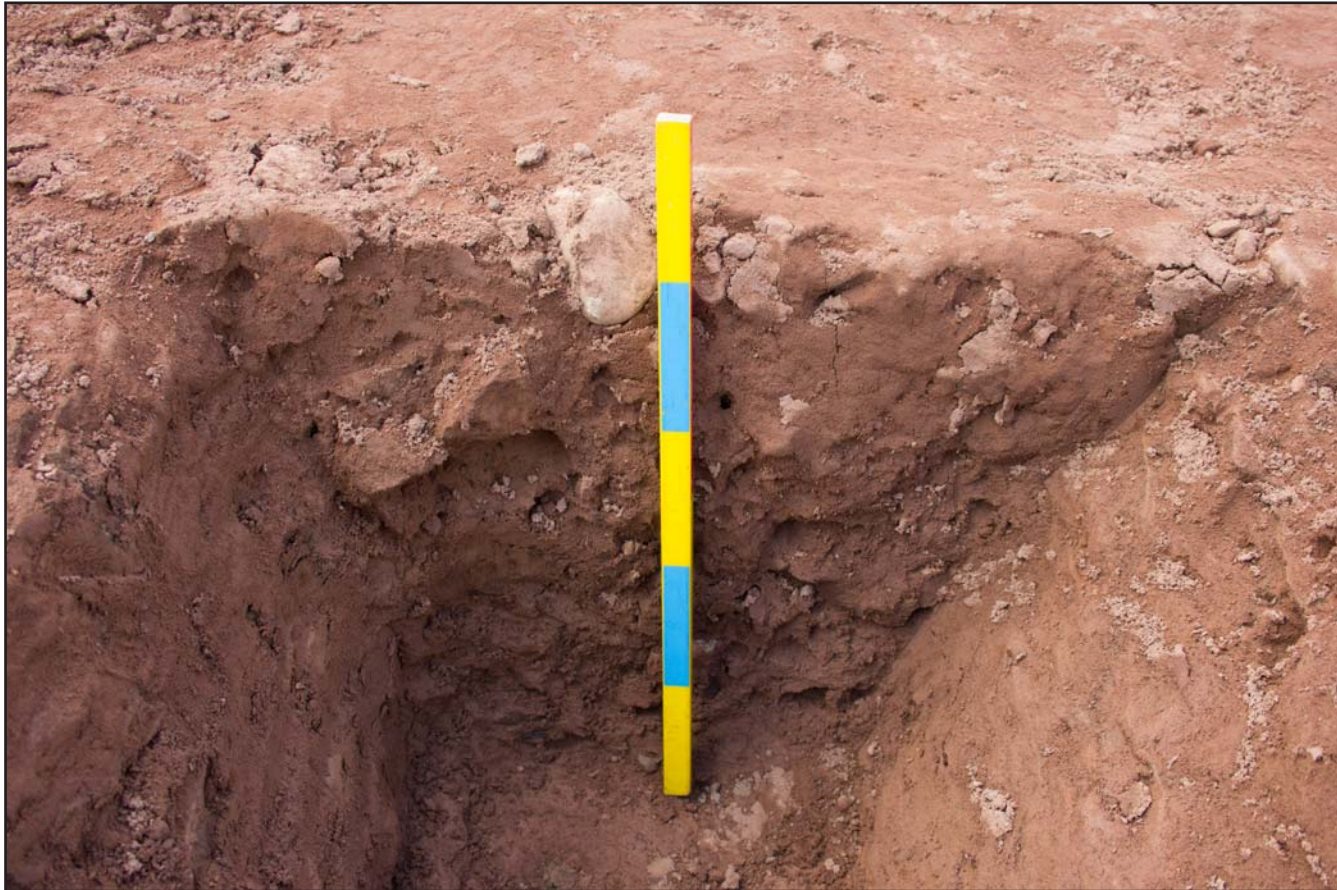


Plate 16: Section D of Linear ditch [104] within area; Car Park A at Telford Crematorium, Woodhouse Lane, Redhill, Shropshire, TF2 9NJ - from the southwest - scale 1m.

4.0 METHODOLOGY

4.1 Archaeological Watching Brief

The methodology for the watching brief was prepared with reference to the Cifa's document *Standards and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Brief (2014)* and was kept under constant review during the project, in order to see how far it met the terms of the aims and objectives, and in order to adopt any new questions should they have arisen.

Curatorial monitoring of the archaeological work was carried out by the Natural and Historic Environment Manager at Shropshire Council.

A suitably qualified and experienced archaeologist from Aeon Archaeology was commissioned for the maintenance of the watching brief. On arrival on site, the archaeologist reported to the site manager and conformed to the arrangements for notification of entering and leaving site. The archaeologist kept a record of the date, time and duration of all attendances at site, the names and numbers of archaeologists deployed and any actions taken. The archaeologist was provided with a Health & Safety Induction by the construction contractor and wore a safety helmet, safety footwear and high visibility jacket/vest at all times.

All of the archaeological deposits, features and structures identified were investigated and recorded under the terms of the watching brief and were excavated manually in a controlled and stratigraphic manner sufficient to address the aims and objectives of the project.

The method of recording followed the normal principles of stratigraphic excavation and the stratigraphy was recorded by written descriptions even where no archaeological deposits were identified. The archaeologist recorded archaeological deposits using proformae recording forms and located them on a large-scale site plan related to the Ordnance Survey National Grid and Datum references.

The groundworks excavations were undertaken using hand tools.

The drawn record comprised of plans at scale 1:20 and sections drawn at scale 1:10; propriety electronic hardware and software to prepare site drawings was used as appropriate.

A photographic record was maintained throughout, using a digital SLR camera (Canon 550D) set to maximum resolution and any subsurface remains were also recorded photographically, with detailed notations and measured drawings being undertaken where required.

The archive produced is held at Aeon Archaeology under the project code **A0207.1**.

4.2.1 Post-excavation Assessment

This report on the results of the watching brief, in accordance with the recommendations in *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment Project Manager's Guide* (English Heritage 2006; 2015), and in the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists *Standard and Guidance for an archaeological watching brief* (2014) has now been produced upon conclusion of the archaeological fieldwork.

4.2.2 Post-excavation Report

This report includes the following:

- A non-technical summary.
- A table of contents.
- An introduction with acknowledgements, including a list of all those involved in the project and the location and description of the site.
- A statement of the project aims.
- An account of the project methodology undertaken, with an assessment of the same to include a statement on preservation bias and the means of data collection and sampling strategies.
- A factual summary of the history, development and use of the site.
- A statement setting out the nature, quantity and condition of the material archive (artefacts and ecofacts) including commentary on any bias observed due to collection and sampling strategies and commentary on long-term storage requirements.
- A statement setting out the nature and quantity of the documentary archive (notes, photographs, drawings, digital data).
- A general site plan indicating the position and size of the areas subject to watching brief and the locations of archaeological deposits identified and recorded during the works.
- Plans and sections at appropriate scales, augmented with appropriate photographs. All plans and sections will be related to the Ordnance Survey datum levels and to the National Grid.
- Other maps, plans, drawings, stratigraphic matrices and photographs as appropriate.
- Summary assessment reports on the artefact, bio-archaeological, dating and other assessments/analyses.
- A discussion of the location, extent, date, nature, condition, quality and significance of any archaeological deposits and finds identified during the project.
- A discussion of any research implications arising from the archaeological work.
- Notes on consultations with conservators and the nominated archive repository related to the immediate and long-term conservation and storage requirements for the data held in the site archive and recommendations of retention/discard of artefacts and ecofacts.
- A bibliography of sources consulted.
- Appendices to the report will include artefact catalogues, reports on assessments/analyses and an index to the project archive and a statement on its location/proposed repository.
- In addition the post-excavation report will summarise and draw together the findings of all of the phases of work.

4.3 Archive

A full archive including plans, photographs, written material and any other material resulting from the project has been prepared. All plans, photographs and descriptions have been labelled, and cross-referenced, and upon approval from the Client copies of the report will be sent to the Shropshire Historic Environment Record, the Planning Officer (Archaeology) at Shropshire County Council, and the OASIS online database.

5.0 QUANTIFICATION OF RESULTS

5.1 The Documentary Archive

The following documentary records were created during the archaeological watching brief:

Watching brief day record sheets	4
Digital photographs	48
Context sheets	6
Drawings	5

5.2 The Archaeological Artefacts

Very few archaeological artefacts were recovered from the works and these were limited to household ceramics found in the topsoil in the area of car park (A); a single sherd of Late Victorian blue and white transfer printed ware and a single sherd of late 19th / early 20th yellow glazed earthen ware. Apart from these ceramics the soils only contained modern agricultural refuse e.g. fragments of barbed wire fencing and timber fence posts etc.

5.3 The Environmental Samples

No environmental samples were taken during the extent of these archaeological works and no ecofacts recovered.

6.0 RESULTS OF THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF

The archaeological watching brief was maintained on 31st July, 1st, 2nd & 5th August 2019, when conditions were sunny with periods of overcast cloud. The purpose of the archaeological component of the work was to observe the excavation of two areas located to the northwest of the crematorium building: car park (A) (44.00m northwest approx.) which measured 23.00m in length by 14.00m in width, and car park (B) (12.00m northwest approx.) which measured 44.00m in length by 15.00m in width. These areas were subject to a reduction of ground level via excavation of the upper soils and in places partially cutting into the natural glacial substrata beneath. This work was undertaken with a tracked excavator with toothless ditching bucket.

6.1 Excavation of Car Park A

Description

The archaeological watching brief was maintained while car park (A) was excavated 44.00m to the northwest of the crematorium building. This area was excavated in two separate phases, with the initial phase reducing the topsoil (103) and part of the subsoil (102) by 0.40m and the second phase reducing the subsoil further down to the level of the natural glacial substrata (101), to a maximum depth of 0.82m. The area is bounded to the northwest and northeast by well-established boundary hedges and beyond the north-eastern hedgerow is Woodhouse Lane. To the southeast is the existing entrance road for the crematorium complex and to the southwest is the area which was to become car park B. Furthermore, to the west is a large area given over to memorial gardens.

The reduced excavation in the area of car park (A) cut through approximately 0.20m of a soft, mid-red-brown, sand-silt topsoil (103) with occasional inclusions of corroded iron, plastic and very rare fragments of post-medieval ceramic. Below this layer was 0.44m of mid grey-brown, sand-silt-clay, subsoil (102) with occasional patches of sub-rounded gravel and plastic inclusions. Beneath this was a > 0.18m layer of light orange-brown, sand-clay natural (101). Along the north-eastern boundary of the site the subsoil (102) persisted to a greater depth and obscured the natural, encompassing an area 20.00m in length and 8.00m in width approximately.

Within the south-western corner of the site and cut into the sand-clay natural (101) was a >7.00m long linear ditch which was orientated southeast to northwest. This ditch had a sharp break of slope near the top of its cut [104] which proceeded sharply to the base; the sides were almost vertical. The base was quite flat although it did undulate slightly along its length. The ditch sloped at its base from southwest (176.01m OD) to northeast (175.67) achieving a fall of 0.34m across its length. The north eastern extent of the ditch [104] was obscured by 8.00m of subsoil (102) which persisted to a greater depth in this area.

The primary fill (105) of the ditch consisted of a mid-grey brown, silt-sand-clay with occasional sub-rounded pebble inclusions and frequent charcoal flecks. It also extended to a maximum depth of 0.44m at the south western end and 0.21m deep at the north eastern end of the feature. The secondary fill (106) of the ditch consisted of a mid-red brown, sand-clay with occasional sub-rounded pebble and cobble inclusions and occasional charcoal flecks. It also extended to a maximum depth of 0.12m at the south western end and 0.31m deep at the north eastern end of the feature.

Discussion

Following an examination of levels taken from the base of the feature, it exhibited a very definite slope running southeast to northwest and drained in the direction of Woodhouse Lane, although this physical relationship was obscured by the persistence of subsoil (102) at a greater depth than elsewhere. The feature is of unknown origin but is suspected to be commensurate with a post-medieval drainage ditch. This theory can be afforded some explanation due to the organic nature of

the fills (105) & (106) and the profile of the ditch cut not being reminiscent of a traditional roman 'V' cut ditch. Furthermore, to further convey the concept of the linear feature as being post medieval in origin, the ditch is also found in apparent isolation, without any associated features e.g. pits or gulleys, which alludes to it not having been part of a prehistoric 'landscape' or setting.

The perpendicular alignment of the ditch with Woodhouse Lane suggests it is respecting that route and draining into the gully present on the western side of the Lane forming part of a larger drainage scheme in the area. Also observed on the site were more modern drainage ditches full of gravel which were orientated in the same direction as the linear ditch [104] and apparently channelled water towards Woodhouse Lane.

6.2 Excavation of Car Park B

While the area for car park (A) was excavated in two separate phases, car park (B) was reduced down to the level required in a single phase of excavation, as the depth required for the construction work was less. This area lay 12.00m northwest of the crematorium building and was excavated to a maximum depth of 0.72m. To the northwest of the area was an expanse of tarmac which formed a turning area near the entrance of the crematorium, to the northeast the area was bounded by the entrance road and to the southeast and southwest were existing parking areas.

Description

The reduced excavation in the area of car park B cut through approximately 0.20m of a soft, mid-red-brown, sand-silt topsoil (103). Below this layer was 0.50m of mid grey-brown, sand-silt-clay subsoil (102) with occasional inclusions of timber posts, barbed wire and plastic. In very isolated areas patches of light orange-brown, sand-clay natural (101) were exposed but generally the area retained subsoil in its base.

Discussion

The stratigraphy of the soils suggests that the area had been previously stripped with defined topsoil and subsoil horizons devoid of ceramic finds though replete with modern debris such as elements of timber fence posts and barbed wire fencing. Furthermore, the proximity of the area to the entrance of the crematorium advocates that it was most likely that this area was subject to a soil strip during the initial works associated with the construction of the building.

7.0 CONCLUSION

The archaeological watching brief at Telford Crematorium consisted of the monitoring of two consecutive excavations northwest of the main crematorium building, for the additional car parks A & B. Approximately 12m to the northwest of the crematorium building was the area - car park B. This area appeared had been previously stripped down to the natural glacial sub-strata (clay sand natural) and the subsoil above it was characterised as modern due to the remains of barbed wire and timber. Approximately 44m to the northwest of the crematorium was another area which was to become car park A. This area had also been previously stripped down to the natural, however there was a flat based linear ditch [104] measuring >7.00m long that was orientated southwest to northeast.

Following an examination of levels taken from the base of the feature it formed a very definite slope running southeast to northwest and appeared to be draining in the direction of Woodhouse Lane although this physical relationship was obscured by the persistence of subsoil at a greater depth. The feature is of unknown origin but is suspected to constitute a post medieval drainage ditch. This can be afforded some explanation due to the organic nature of the fills (105) & (106) and the profile of the ditch cut not being reminiscent of a traditional roman 'V' cut ditch. Furthermore, to further convey the concept of the linear feature as being post medieval in origin, the ditch is also found in apparent isolation, without any associated features e.g. pits or gulleys, which alludes to it not having been part of a prehistoric landscape or setting.

The perpendicular alignment of the ditch with Woodhouse Lane suggests it is respecting that route and draining into the gully present on the western side of the Lane forming part of a larger drainage scheme in the area. Also observed on the site were more modern drainage ditches full of gravel which were orientated in the same direction as the linear ditch [104] and apparently channelled water towards Woodhouse Lane.

Following an examination of the evidence, provided by the opportunity of the groundworks conducted at Telford Crematorium, the watching brief can be said to have met the aims and expectations of the condition and it is therefore recommended that the condition now be discharged.

8.0 SOURCES

OS Maps

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**APPENDIX I – WRITTEN SCHEME OF INVESTIGATION FOR ARCHAEOLOGICAL
WATCHING BRIEF**