

**Archaeological Watching Brief Report
Worthing Crematorium, Findon
West Sussex**

**NGR 511592 109377
(TQ 11592 09377)**

**Permitted Development
Project No: 160808
Site Code: WCR 17
ASE Report No. 2017207
OASIS ID: archaeol6-284221**



By Simon Stevens BA (Hons) MCIfA

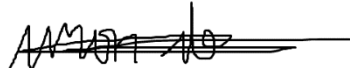

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Abstract

Archaeology South-East was commissioned by Southern Water to undertake an archaeological watching brief during groundworks associated with the replacement of a water main at Worthing Crematorium, Findon, West Sussex.

No archaeological deposits, features or finds were encountered during monitoring of groundworks.

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1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Site Background

1.1.1 Archaeology South-East (ASE) was commissioned by Southern Water to undertake an archaeological watching brief during groundworks associated with the replacement of a water main at Worthing Crematorium, Findon, West Sussex (NGR 511592 109377; Figure 1).

1.2 Geology and Topography

1.2.1 The new water main replaces an existing main which lies on a similar, but not identical, alignment. The scheme involved the mechanical excavation of drill pits to allow directional drilling for the new pipework.

1.2.2 According to current data from the British Geological Survey, the underlying geological strata at the site consists of the Seaford Chalk formation, with some superficial overlying deposits of the sand, silts, gravels and clays of the local head deposits (BGS 2017).

1.3 Planning Background

1.3.1 As Permitted Development under the terms of the Town and Country Planning (General Permitted Development) (England) Order 2015, the scheme falls outside of the usual Local Planning Authority framework(s).

1.3.2 However, following consultation between Southern Water, ASE and West Sussex County Council, it was agreed that archaeological monitoring of the groundworks associated with the scheme would be prudent.

1.3.3 Subsequently a *Written Scheme of Investigation* (ASE 2017) for the archaeological work was prepared by ASE and submitted to West Sussex County Council prior to the commencement of the work. The document outlined the methodologies to be used on-site and in the reporting and archiving of the results of the monitoring of groundworks for the replacement water main.

1.4 Research Aims and Objectives

1.4.1 The general aims and objectives of the archaeological monitoring given in the WSI (*ibid.*) were:

- *To determine the presence or absence of archaeological remains and deposits on site*
- *To assess the character, extent, preservation, significance, date and quality of any remains and deposits*
- *To assess how they might be affected by the proposed scheme*
- *To establish the extent to which previous groundworks and/or other processes have affected archaeological deposits at the site*

- *To assess what options should be considered for further evaluation/mitigation*

1.4.2 Specific aims of the investigation included:

- *Is there any evidence for prehistoric or Roman activity, possibly associated with Scheduled Monument located 150m south of the scheme?*
- *Is there any evidence for medieval activity, possibly associated with Highdown Hill that lies 1.4km south-west of the scheme?*

1.5 Scope of Report

1.5.1 The current report provides results of the monitoring of groundworks at the site during late February and early March 2017. The on-site work was undertaken by Greg Priestley-Bell and Simon Stevens (Senior Archaeologists). The project was managed by Neil Griffin (Project Manager) and by Jim Stevenson and Dan Swift (Post-Excavation Manager).

2.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

2.1 Introduction

- 2.1.1 The following information is taken directly from the WSI (ASE 2017) with all due acknowledgement, and summarises information held by the West Sussex Historic Environment Record (HER).
- 2.1.2 A search of entries in the HER within a 1km radius of the site was requested by WSCC. Only entries relevant to the scheme will be mentioned here and are depicted on Figure 1.
- 2.1.3 The scheme lies c.150m north of a Scheduled Monument and Archaeological Notification Area: The Iron Age and Romano-British settlement of Muntham Court (DWS44, DWS8164).
- 2.1.4 The scheme also lies c.800m north of another Scheduled Monument: a flint mine and part of a cross dyke that have been recorded 300m to the south-east of Tolmare Farm (DWS219). The flint mine (MWS 5073) is thought to be of Neolithic or Early Bronze Age date while the cross dyke (MWS 1101, MWS 7109), a type of substantial linear earthwork is of likely Middle Bronze Age date.

2.2 Prehistoric

- 2.2.1 The scheme lies within a substantial later prehistoric landscape, with the most intense activity to the south-west and south of the scheme. As mentioned above Neolithic/Bronze Age activity has been recorded at Tolmare Farm in the form of a flint mine and cross dyke. Further activity close by includes a possible Neolithic inhumation (MWS 1107) and a flint chopper (MWS 248).
- 2.2.2 A large series of probable Bronze Age barrows have been recorded at Church Hill to the south of the scheme, most of these barrows were identified on aerial photographs but some have been excavated in the mid-20th century. Four platform barrows (MWS 1128-30, 3408) as well as groups of round barrows (MWS 1139 and 1140) (MWS 1355-1357) and (MWS 5602) have been identified on the crest of the hill. A possible flint mine (MWS 3731) has also been recorded.
- 2.2.3 Five further round barrows of Bronze Age Date have been identified at Muntham Court (MWS 1120-22, 1216, 12250) running roughly north to south along a chalk ridge. A Bronze Age perforated macehead was also found at Muntham Court (MWS 1238).
- 2.2.4 Ditches and lynchets of broadly prehistoric date were recorded during the construction of a pipeline at the Oval (MWS 4241, MWS 4246).

2.3 Iron Age and Roman

- 2.3.1 Activity continued into the Iron Age at Muntham Court where parts of a field system have been recorded (MWS 434) dating to the Early Iron Age. Agricultural activity in proximity to the scheme continued throughout the Iron Age and the Roman periods with lynchets of these dates recorded on aerial

photographs (MWS 246) including some approximately 100m north of the scheme. A settlement of Iron Age and Roman date just to the west of these lynchets (MWS 5598); excavations at this site during the mid-1950's found several hundred Iron Age postholes suggesting roundhouses and corn dryers as well as defensive structures suggesting a fort. The overlying Roman settlement (MWS 5830) included a shrine complex (MWS 5829) in the south-western corner comprising a circular wooden building with probable ritual deposition.

- 2.3.2 Further Roman activity has been noted in Findon itself where several building sites have unearthed pottery including Samian ware during works in 1962 (MWS 261) and during construction at the Oval (MWS 11009). Further pottery was found in 1962 (MWS 3321). Further low level Roman finds have been recorded at Findon Place to the south (MWS 1110), and at Tolmare (MWS 1138). Roman pottery and oyster shell were retrieved from the ploughsoil 100m south of the scheme (MWS 1111). Taken as a whole this evidence suggests the scheme lies within a rich agricultural landscape during the Iron Age and Roman periods with settlements interspersed with organised farmland.

2.4 Anglo-Saxon and Medieval

- 2.4.1 No Anglo-Saxon sites are recorded on the HER for the search area. The most significant medieval site close by is a possible deserted medieval village at Muntham Court (MWS 3370) although it is unclear whether reference to this has been confused with other deserted villages at Cobden.
- 2.4.2 A medieval or possible post-medieval trackway has been identified running towards Chanctonbury Ring (MWS 426), some possible medieval lynchets also run perpendicular to the trackway. The manor of Muntham dates back to the conquest and the first manor house was thought to have been built by Thomas DeMuntham in 1371.

2.5 Post-Medieval and Modern

- 2.5.1 The following is summarised from a documentary source (Stanley 1993) with due acknowledgement. The scheme lies within the historic parkland associated with Muntham Court, originally built c. 1371. 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.
- 2.5.2 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.
- 2.5.3 Muntham remained in the Frankland family until the death of Captain Frankland in 1826. 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.

- 2.5.4 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.
- 2.5.5 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 crematorium was finally opened in 1968. The current driveway to the crematorium follows the line of a trackway created between 1910-1940 adjacent to Coventry Plantation. This was formerly a narrower belt of trees but expanded northwards between 1890-1910 and lies immediately adjacent to the southern side of the existing crematorium access road.
- 2.5.6 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. A former dewpond lies in very close proximity to the scheme, although is understood to have been almost completely levelled (MWS 10686)
- 2.5.7 The scheme also lies approximately 0.5km north of the mid-18th century mansion and parkland of Findon Place. A ruined limekiln is recorded at Tolmare Farm to the southwest of the scheme (MWS268).
- 2.5.8 The Downs around Findon were frequently used for training from the latter end of the nineteenth century through to the Second World War. In 1940 Findon became a Category 'A' Nodal Point and some 391 anti-tank cubes were placed around the village in addition to anti-tank ditches (MWS10683). There is very little evidence for the Nodal Point defences at Findon today, as they were quickly cleared after the war. However, near Tolmare Farm a set of some 12 hairpin rail sockets can be seen in the surface of the farm track (MWS7793) The small circular earthworks of two possible Second World War gun emplacements are visible on aerial photographs taken in 1946 approximately 300m west of the crematorium buildings (MWS12213). The earthworks of three possible post-medieval hollow ways are visible on aerial photographs taken in 1945, 1946 and 1965 (MWS12216).

2.6 Undated and Negative Evidence

- 2.6.1 During the laying of the Washington-Findon pipeline two undated ditches running northwest-southeast were recorded at (MWS4241). A further field boundary, found associated with a buried soil layer which produced a few sherds of prehistoric pottery. A number of soil marks and crop marks can be discerned from aerial images lying within the fields immediately north of the scheme.
- 2.6.2 ASE undertook a watching brief at Worthing Crematorium during construction of a new chapel and memorial gardens in 2007 but identified nothing of archaeological significance (MWS11950).

2.7 Listed Buildings

- 2.7.1 Seventeen Listed Buildings were recorded within 1 km of the scheme; the majority of these lay within Findon itself to the south-east of the scheme. Three further entries were located at North End to the north-east of the scheme. The medieval church of St John the Baptist lies some 800m south of the scheme. Given their lack of relevance and distance from the scheme, the listed building will not be described further.

3.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL METHODOLOGY

(Figure 2)

- 3.1 Mechanical excavations for the scheme were monitored by a suitably qualified archaeologist, in this case the mechanical excavation of pits to allow directional drilling of the new pipeline route. All sections were examined for the presence of archaeological features, and all spoil was scanned for archaeological artefacts, both visually and with a metal detector
- 3.2 All encountered deposits were recorded to accepted professional standards using standard Archaeology South-East context record forms. Deposit colours were recorded by visual inspection and not by reference to a Munsell Colour chart.
- 3.3 A full photographic record of the work was kept and will form part of the site archive which is currently held by Archaeology South-East at the offices in Portslade, and will be offered to Worthing in due course. The archive consists of the following material:

Context sheets	5
Section sheets	0
Plans sheets	0
Colour photographs	0
B&W photos	0
Digital photos	29 images (to be edited)
Context register	1
Drawing register	0
Watching brief forms	3
Trench Record forms	0

Table 1: Quantification of site paper archive

Bulk finds (quantity e.g. 1 bag, 1 box, 0.5 box 0.5 of a box)	0
Registered finds (number of)	0
Flots and remains from bulk samples	0
Palaeoenvironmental specialists sample samples (e.g. columns, prepared slides)	0
Waterlogged wood	0
Wet sieved remains from bulk samples	0

Table 2: Quantification of artefact and environmental samples

4.0 RESULTS

(Figure 3)

4.1 Introduction

4.1.1 An archaeological watching brief was maintained during the mechanical excavation of pits along the access road to the crematorium. Eleven pits were excavated over three working days in late February and early March 2017.

4.1.2 All of the pits measured c.3m by c.1m, and were mechanically excavated to a maximum depth of c.1.2m.

4.2 The Stratigraphic Sequence

Context Number	Type	Description	Deposit Thickness	Present in Pits
100	Layer	Tarmac	100mm -150mm	All
101	Layer	Levelling	150mm - 350mm	All
102	Layer	Made Ground	110mm - 150mm	Only 1, 2 and 3
103	Layer	'Natural' Head Deposits	310mm - 800mm	All except 4, 5 6 and 7
104	Layer	'Natural' Chalk	-	All except 2

Table 3: Recorded Contexts

4.2.1 The stratigraphic sequence seen in all monitored test-pits was remarkably similar, indicative of systematic earth-moving and deposition of materials during the construction of the road. The road surface consisting of tarmac, Context [100] which overlay a yellow flinty sand sub-base layer, context [101] laid on a Terram sheet, recorded in all monitored pits.

4.2.2 In the three pits at the western end of the scheme (Pits 1, 2 and 3) the sub-base overlay a thin layer of a reddish brown layer of clay and flint gravel, interpreted as made ground/levelling, context [102], which directly overlay the 'natural' reddish brown silty clay head deposits. Similar 'natural' was also encountered directly below the sub-base layer at the eastern end of the scheme (in Pits 8, 9, 10 and 11).

4.2.3 Head deposits were not recorded in Pits 4, 5, 6 and 7, where the sub-base lay directly on top of 'natural' chalk, context [104]. The head deposits were found to overlay the chalk in all of the pits, except for Pit 2, where head deposits extended to the base of the excavation. There was regular disturbance to the 'natural' from the laying of services.

4.2.4 No archaeological deposits, features or finds were recorded during the monitoring.

5.0 DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSION

- 5.1 The monitoring of the mechanical excavation at the current site clearly demonstrated that work on the access road to the crematorium involved systematic removal of deposits overlaying the head deposits and/or chalk to allow deposition of materials for the road. No topsoil or subsoil survived at the site, and although it is unclear if the surface of the head deposits/chalk was truncated/reduced to any degree, it is possible that potential existing archaeological deposits were removed at that time.
- 5.2 Given that no archaeological deposits, features or finds were encountered it has proven impossible to address the site specific research aims identified before the commencement of the monitoring (ASE 2017). However, it can be said with confidence that no archaeological deposits were destroyed during the excavation of the pits at the site.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

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ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

ASE would like to thank Southern Water for commissioning the archaeological work. Thanks are also due to the groundworkers from Clancy Docwra for their co-operation.

HER Summary

Site Code	WCR 17					
Identification Name and Address	Worthing Crematorium, Findon					
County, District &/or Borough	Arun District, West Sussex					
OS Grid Refs.	504028 103554 to 504765 103076					
Geology	Head Deposits over Chalk					
ASE Project No.	160808					
Type of Fieldwork			Watching Brief			
Type of Site	Road					
Dates of Fieldwork			24.02.17 - 04.03.17			
Sponsor/Client	Southern Water					
Project Managers	Neil Griffin					
Project Supervisors	Simon Stevens					
Period Summary						
				None		
<p><i>Summary</i></p> <p><i>Archaeology South-East was commissioned by Southern Water to undertake an archaeological watching brief during groundworks associated with the replacement of a water main at Worthing Crematorium, Findon, West Sussex (NGR 511592 109377).</i></p> <p><i>No archaeological deposits, features or finds were encountered during monitoring of groundworks.</i></p>						

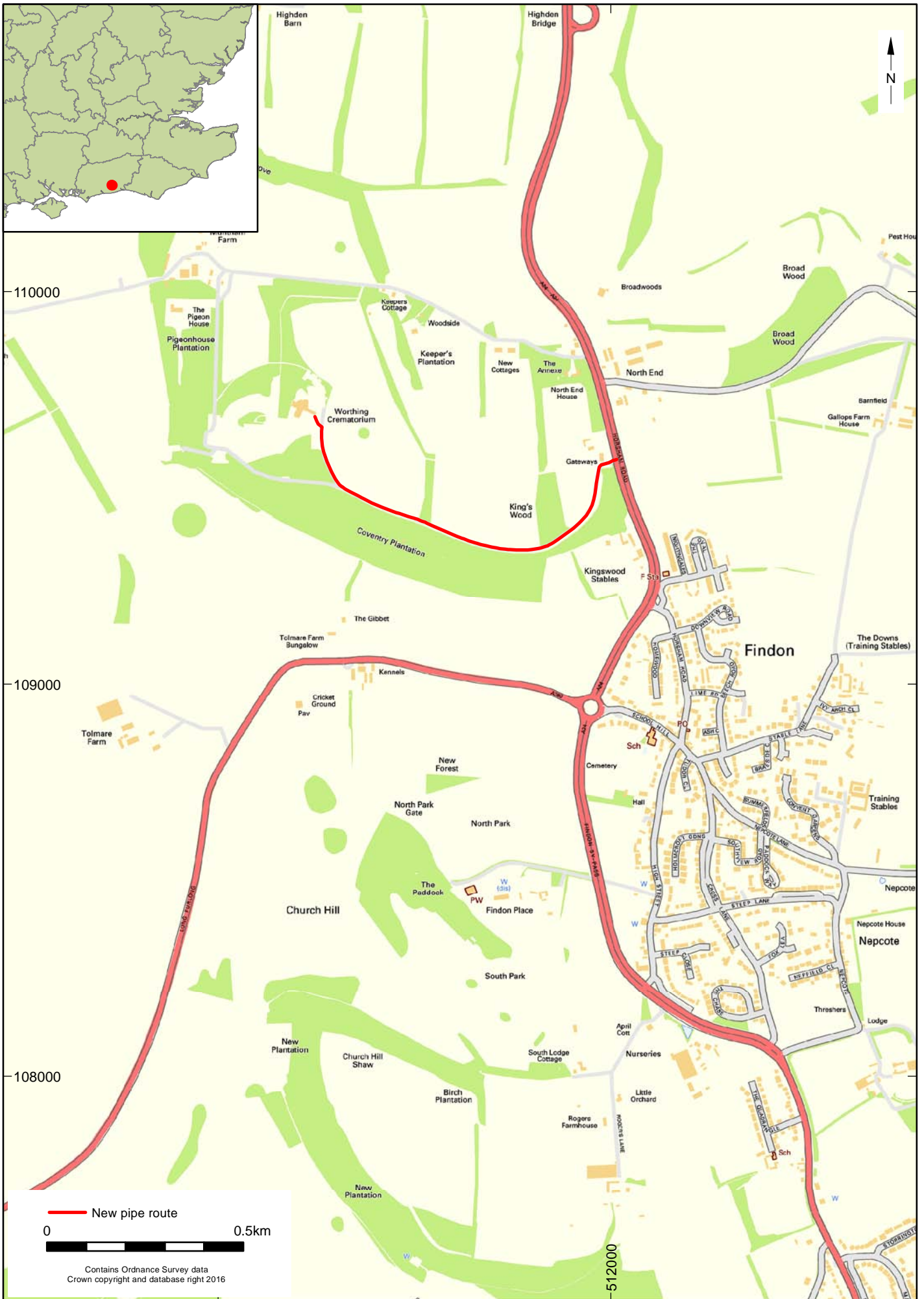
OASIS Form

OASIS ID: archaeol6-284221

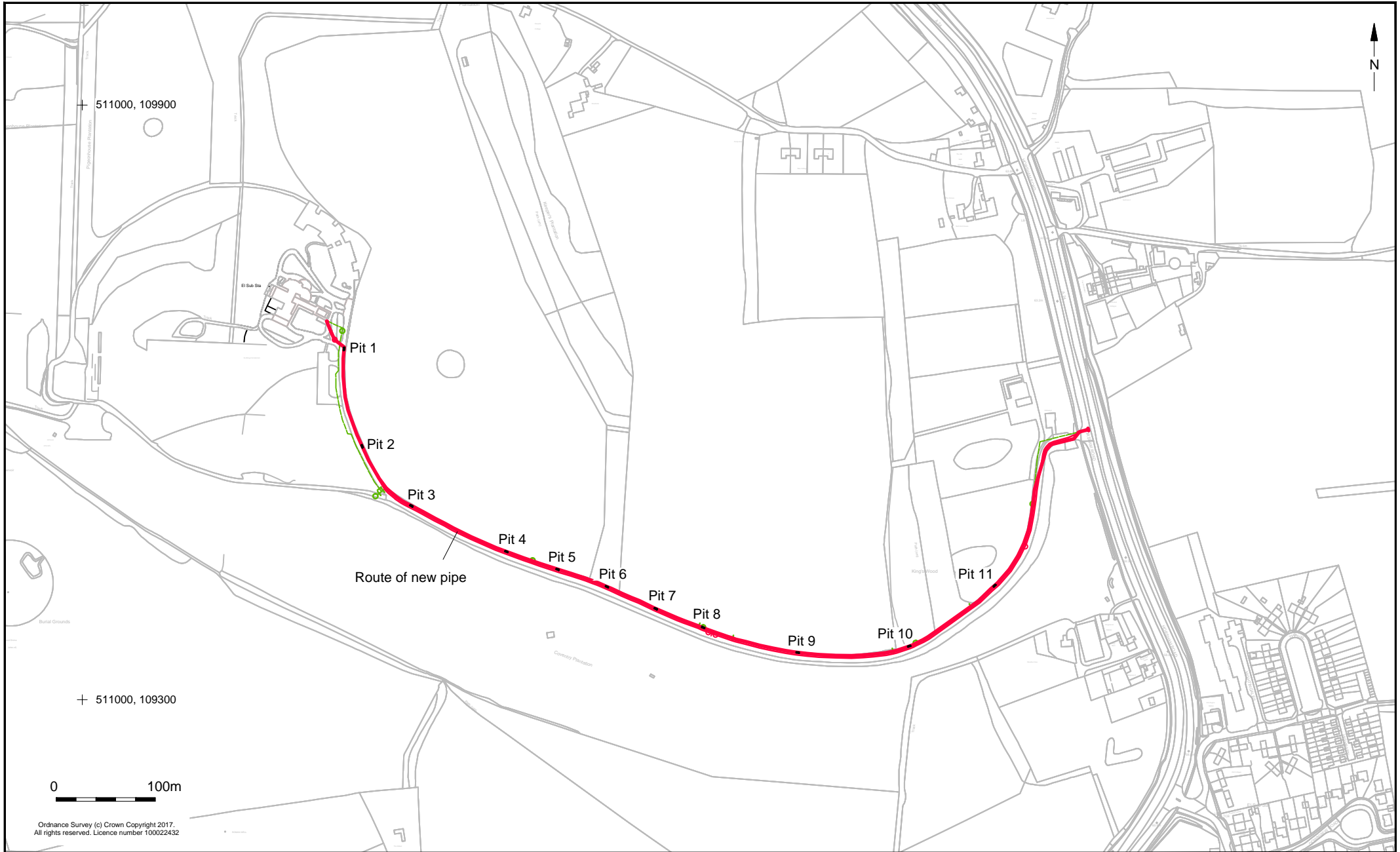
Project details

Project name	Archaeological Watching Brief Report - Worthing Crematorium, Findon, West Sussex
Short description of the project	Archaeology South-East was commissioned by Southern Water to undertake an archaeological watching brief during works associated with the replacement of a water main at Worthing Crematorium, Findon, West Sussex (NGR 511592 109377). No archaeological deposits, features or finds were encountered during the monitoring.
Project dates	Start: 24-02-2017 End: 04-03-2017
Previous/future work	No / No
Any associated project reference codes	160808 - Contracting Unit No.
Any associated project reference codes	WCR17 - Sitecode
Type of project	Recording project
Site status	None
Current Land use	Other 11 - Thoroughfare
Monument type	NONE None
Significant Finds	NONE None
Investigation type	""Watching Brief""
Prompt	Water Act 1989 and subsequent code of practice
Project location	
Country	England
Site location	WEST SUSSEX ARUN FINDON Worthing Crematorium
Study area	35 Square metres
Site coordinates	TQ 11592 09377 50.872543512009 -0.41382920626 50 52 21 N 000 24 49 W Point
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	Simon Stevens

Type of sponsor/funding body	Client
Name of sponsor/funding body	Southern Water
Project archives	
Physical Archive Exists?	No
Physical Archive recipient	Worthing Museum
Digital Archive recipient	Worthing Museum
Digital Contents	"other"
Digital Media available	"Images raster / digital photography","Text"
Paper Archive recipient	Worthing Museum
Paper Contents	"other"
Paper Media available	"Context sheet","Correspondence","Miscellaneous Material","Notebook - Excavation"," Research"," General Notes","Report","Unpublished Text"
Project bibliography	
1	
Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title	Archaeological Watching Brief Report - Worthing Crematorium, Findon, West Sussex
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Entered on	4 May 2017



© Archaeology South-East		Worthing Crematorium, Findon	Fig. 1
Project Ref: 160808	May 2017	Site location	
Report Ref: 2017207	Drawn by: HG		



© Archaeology South-East		Wothing Crematorium, Findon	Fig. 2
Project Ref: 160808	May 2017	Route of new pipe with trench locations identified	
Report Ref: 2017207	Drawn by: HG		

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