

**An Archaeological Watching Brief
at Graffham First School, Graffham, West Sussex**

Planning Ref: G/07/00102

NGR 492916 116774

**Project No: 2924
Site Code: GFS 07**

**ASE Report No. 2008117
OASIS id: archaeol6-46529**



**by
Clive Meaton**

**An Archaeological Watching Brief
at Graffham First School, Graffham, West Sussex**

Planning Ref: G/07/00102

NGR 492916 116774

**Project No: 2924
Site Code: GFS 07**

**ASE Report No. 2008117
OASIS id: archaeol6-46529**

**by
Clive Meaton**

July 2008

**Archaeology South-East
Units 1 & 2
2 Chapel Place
Portslade
East Sussex
BN41 1DR**

**Tel: 01273 426830
Fax: 01273 420866
Email: fau@ucl.ac.u**

Summary

An archaeological watching brief was undertaken at Graffham First School, Graffham, West Sussex. The planned programme of works included redevelopment of the existing entrance porch, as well as extending and improving access to the present school hut. Archaeological monitoring of ground reduction, as well as the excavation of footing and drainage trenches was monitored. Although the site lies directly opposite St Giles Church, which has Medieval and possibly Anglo-Saxon origins, no significant archaeological features, deposits, or finds were identified. The site was found to lie on Cretaceous deposits of Upper Greensand.

CONTENTS

- 1.0 Introduction**
- 2.0 Archaeological & Geological Background**
- 3.0 Methodology**
- 4.0 Results**
- 5.0 Discussion**

Acknowledgements

Bibliography

SMR Summary Sheet

Oasis Form

ILLUSTRATIONS

Figure 1: Site Location

Figure 2: Site Plan

1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Archaeology South-East (ASE), the contracting division of The Centre for Applied Archaeology at the Institute of Archaeology, University College London, were commissioned by John Newson and Co. to undertake an archaeological watching brief at Graffham First School, Graffham, West Sussex. The planned programme of works included redevelopment of the existing main entrance porch, as well as extending and improving access to the present school hut (Figs 1 and 2).

1.2 The site is located on the southern edge of the village of Graffham, close to the foot of the scarp slope of the South Downs, and is centred on NGR 492916 116771

1.3 Planning permission was granted by West Sussex County Council for the works (Planning Reference G/07/00102). Due to the site's archaeological potential and following the advice of the West Sussex County Council's Archaeologist (in his capacity as advisor to the County Council on archaeological planning matters), West Sussex County Council attached the following condition (Condition 9) to the planning permission.

No development shall take place on the site until the applicant has secured the implementation of a programme of archaeological work in accordance with a written scheme of investigation which has been submitted by the applicant and approved in writing by the County Planning Authority.

Reason: This site is of archaeological significance and it is important that it is recorded by excavation before it is destroyed by development.

1.4 Discussions between ASE and John Mills, Archaeologist, West Sussex County Council (WSCC) established that an archaeological watching brief should be maintained during all intrusive ground works associated with the development.

1.4 Following communication between ASE and WSCC, a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) was prepared by Neil Griffin (Project Manager), and issued in June 2007. This document adhered to the WSCC *Recommended Standard Archaeological Conditions* (Revision February 2007), henceforth "the Standard Conditions", and confirmed that all work would be carried out in accordance with these standard conditions (unless otherwise specified below), and the relevant *Standards and Guidance* of the Institute of Field Archaeologists (IFA).

1.5 The general objective of the archaeological work was to monitor the excavation of new groundworks in order to ensure that any features, artefacts or ecofacts of archaeological interest exposed and affected by the groundworks were recorded and interpreted to appropriate standards.

1.6 The fieldwork was undertaken between July and August 2007, by Clive Meaton (Senior Archaeologist), and Paul Riccoboni (Senior Archaeologist). The project was managed by Neil Griffin (Project Manager).

2.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND GEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

- 2.1** The Manor of Graffham predates the Norman Conquest and at the time of Domesday was valued at 10 hides, being held of Earl Roger by four Frenchman (VCH). St Giles Church (Grade II Listed) lies opposite the site and contains late 12th-century elements, although a church was recorded in 1086 in the Domesday Book (Salzman 1958). The church was largely rebuilt in 1885 as a memorial to Bishop Samuel Wilberforce
- 2.2** Fieldwork and documentary evidence has revealed evidence for pottery production from the late 13th to the middle of the 19th century in the parish of Graffham (Aldsworth & Down, 1990). Surface flint collection on the Lower Greensand in the Graffham Common area has produced a substantial assemblage of worked flint spanning the early Mesolithic period to the Bronze Age (Holgate, Holden & Holden 1986).
- 2.3** Additional information held on the West Sussex Historic Environment Record (HER) maintained by WSCC includes a number of Bronze Age burial mounds on Graffham Down (HER Nos. 1522-WS3634, 1522-MWS3633, including a Scheduled bowl barrow c.1km to the southwest of the site (Scheduled Monumnet No. 20087); a Roman coin found at Pound Cottage in the centre of the village (HER No. 1504-MWS3273; and a Palaeolithic handaxe found near the South Downs Way on Graffham Down (HER No. 1554-MWS2442).
- 2.4** The school and schoolmaster's house are Grade II Listed and were constructed in 1856 in Gothic Style.
- 2.5** The site lies at the foot of the scarp of the South Downs at an elevation of approximately 80m Ordnance Datum, and overlies the contact between Upper Greensand and Lower Chalk, both laid down during the Cretaceous period (BGS Chichester Sheet 317: Drift edition One-Inch Series).

3.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL METHODOLOGY

- 3.1** Monitored groundworks fell into three phases. Firstly, the extension at the southern end of the existing school hut, which entailed general ground reduction, followed by the excavation of foundation trenches and piers, and a new drainage trench. Secondly, ground reduction in advance of the new pedestrian access, and finally the excavation of new footing trenches for the main porch entrance (Fig 2).
- 3.2** Excavation was undertaken with a tracked mechanical excavator, and wherever possible intrusive groundworks were undertaken using a wide toothless ditching bucket. All relevant excavations were under constant archaeological supervision, and exposed sections and surfaces were inspected for archaeological features, structures or finds. Removed spoil was also scanned for the presence of unstratified artefacts.
- 3.3** All encountered archaeological deposits, features and finds were recorded according to accepted professional standards (IFA), using context record sheets based upon the Central Excavation Unit recording system as modified for use by Archaeology South-East.
- 3.4** A full photographic record of the work was kept and will form part of the site archive. The archive (including the finds) is presently held at the Archaeology South-East office in Portslade and will be offered to a suitable local museum in due course.

4.0 RESULTS

4.1 The Hut Extension

4.1.1 Work to the existing hut was undertaken at its southern end; an area previously fenced off around a landscaped pond. General ground reduction, prior to the excavation of footing trenches, revealed a made ground deposit across the area. This comprised a very dark brown clayey loam, up to 500mm thick and containing occasional flint gravels, sand, ceramic building material and small chalk pellets, [001]. A footing trench was then excavated against and along the width of the existing hut on its southern edge, approximately 600mm wide and to a maximum depth of 800mm. Here, context [001] was found to overlie context [002]; the compacted light greyish yellow brown silty clay natural. Two footing piers, approximately 1200mm x 600mm x 1000mm deep, were also excavated in the southern corners of the new area (Fig. 2). In both piers, made ground [001], was also recorded directly overlying the natural [002]. A new drainage trench was then excavated to the west side of the hut, joining the new extension with existing services at the northern end. Only made ground was recorded along this trench, which did not impact greater than 300mm below the ground surface.

4.1.2 No archaeological finds or features were recorded during this phase of work.

4.2 Footpath Ground Reduction

4.2.1 Ground reduction for the new footpath was up to a maximum of 100mm deep and did not impact beneath the topsoil (Fig 2).

No archaeological finds or features were recorded during this phase of work.

4.3 Results: School Building Porch

4.3.1 This phase of work comprised the demolition of the existing porch and the excavation of new footing trenches, partially outside the footprint of the original ones. Tarmac deposits, c.200mm thick, [004] and [005], were noted overlying c.200mm of concrete crush [006]. Beneath this, [007] was identified; which was a made ground deposit of mid dark brown clayey silt, up to 200mm thickness. Underlying this the natural silty clay [002].

No archaeological finds or features were recorded during this phase of work.

5.0 DISCUSSION

- 5.1** The site is located directly opposite St Giles church, which has known Medieval, and possibly Anglo-Saxon origins. Otherwise the SMR data shows a relative lack of archaeological finds and sites in the immediate vicinity.
- 5.2** During the course of the watching brief no archaeological features or finds were noted. Although this may seem unsurprising, given the lack of known sites in and around the school, it should however be emphasised that areas of general reduction were either through made ground, or of insufficient depth to impact below the top soil. Hence the footing trenches and piers were the only intrusive excavation into the underlying strata, and provided only keyhole sample of the total area.
- 5.3** Excavations revealed the site to overlie a compact silty clay, thus indicating that the area is situated on Upper Greensand deposits

BIBLIOGRAPHY

Aldsworth, F.G. and Down, A.G. 1990. 'The production of late and post-medieval pottery in the Graffham area of West Sussex'. *Sussex Archaeological Collections* 128, 117-139.

Salzman, L.F (ed) 1953. Graffham, A History of the County of Sussex: Volume 4: The Rape of Chichester. (URL: <http://british-history.ac.uk/report.asp?compid=41697>. Date accessed: 22 June 2007.)

Griffin, N. 2007 Written Scheme of Investigation for Archaeological Watching Brief at Graffham First School, Graffham, West Sussex. ASE client report.

Holgate, R.D.C., Holden, E.W. and Holden, H.G. 1986. 'An early Mesolithic site and prehistoric flintwork from Graffham Common and neighbouring areas on the Lower Greensand, West Sussex'. *Sussex Archaeological Collections* **124**, 1-8.
Brandon, P. 2005. *The North Downs*. Chichester: Phillimore & Co Ltd

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Thanks to John Newson & Co., and John Mills at West Sussex County Council.

APPENDIX I: SMR Summary Sheet

Site Code	GFS 07					
Identification Name and Address	Graffham First School, Graffham, West Sussex					
County, District &/or Borough	West Sussex County Council					
Ordnance Survey Grid Reference	NGR 492916 116774					
Archaeology South-East Proj. No.	2924					
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. 08/2007	Other		
Sponsor/Client	John Newson & Co					
Project Manager	Neil Griffin					
Project Supervisor	Clive Meaton					
Period Summary	Palaeo.	Meso.	Neo.	BA	IA	RB
	AS	MED	PM	Other: No Archaeology ✓		
<p>100 Word Summary.</p> <p><i>An archaeological watching brief was undertaken at Graffham First School, Graffham, West Sussex. The planned programme of works included redevelopment of the existing entrance porch, as well as extending and improving access to the present school hut. Archaeological monitoring of ground reduction, as well as the excavation of footing and drainage trenches was monitored. Although the site lies directly opposite St Giles Church, which has Medieval and possibly Anglo-Saxon origins, no significant archaeological features, deposits, or finds were identified. The site was found to lie on Cretaceous deposits of Upper Greensand.</i></p>						

OASIS ID: archaeol6-46529

Project details

Project name	An archaeological watching brief at Graffham First School, Graffham, West Sussex.
Short description of the project	An archaeological watching brief was undertaken at Graffham First School, Graffham, West Sussex. The planned programme of works included redevelopment of the existing entrance porch, as well as extending and improving access to the present school hut. Archaeological monitoring of ground reduction, as well as the excavation of footing and drainage trenches was monitored. Although the site lies directly opposite St Giles Church, which has Medieval and possibly Anglo-Saxon origins, no significant archaeological features, deposits, or finds were identified. The site was found to lie on Cretaceous deposits of Upper Greensand.
Project dates	Start: 01-07-2007 End: 01-08-2007
Type of project	Field evaluation
Current Land use	Community Service 1 - Community Buildings

Project location

Country	England
Site location	WEST SUSSEX CHICHESTER GRAFFHAM Graffham First School, Graffham, West Sussex
Study area	100.00 Square metres

Project creators

Name of Organisation	Archaeology South East
Project brief originator	West Sussex County Council
Project design originator	west sussex county council

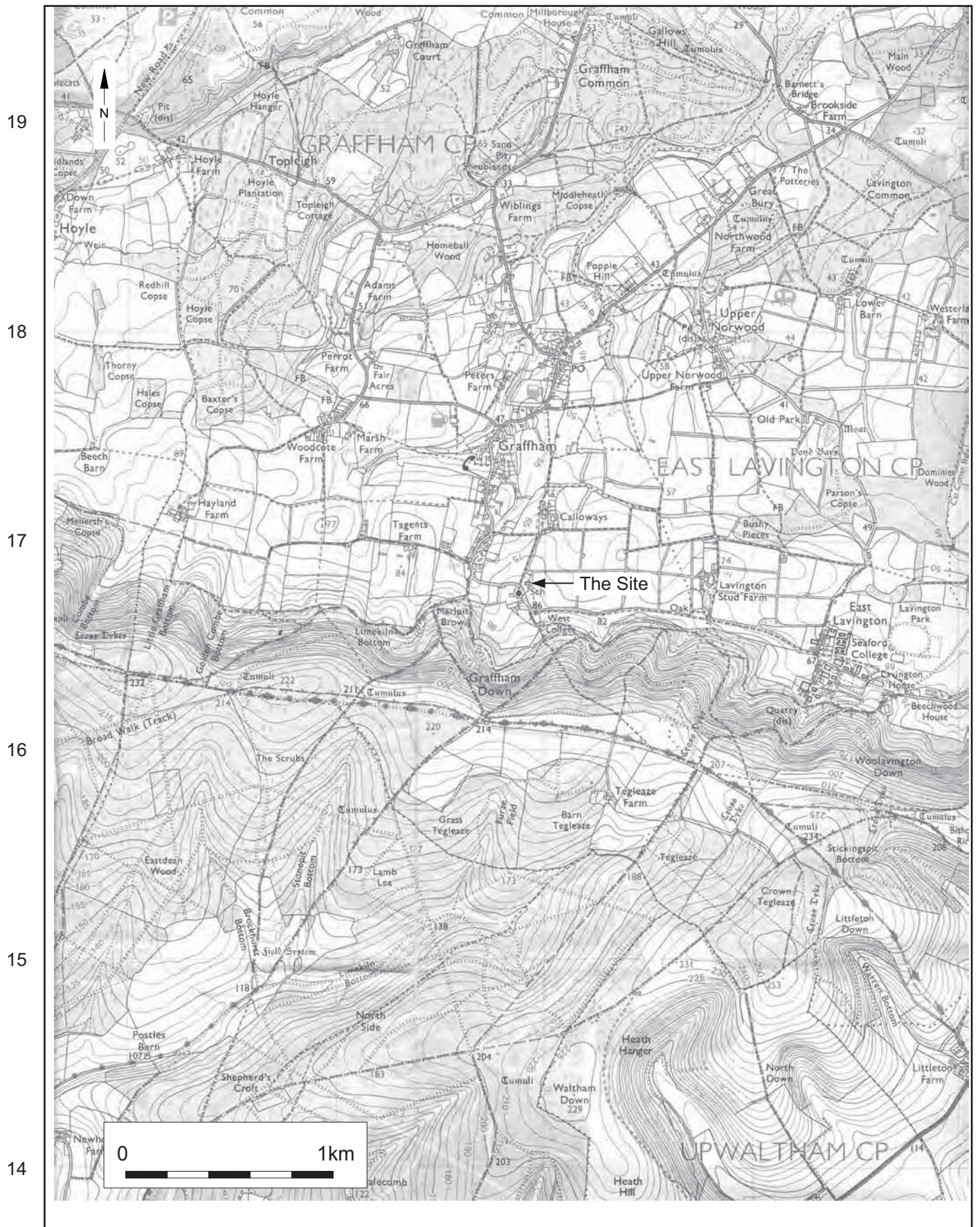
Project director/manager Neil Griffin

Project supervisor Clive Meaton

Type of sponsor/funding body District Council

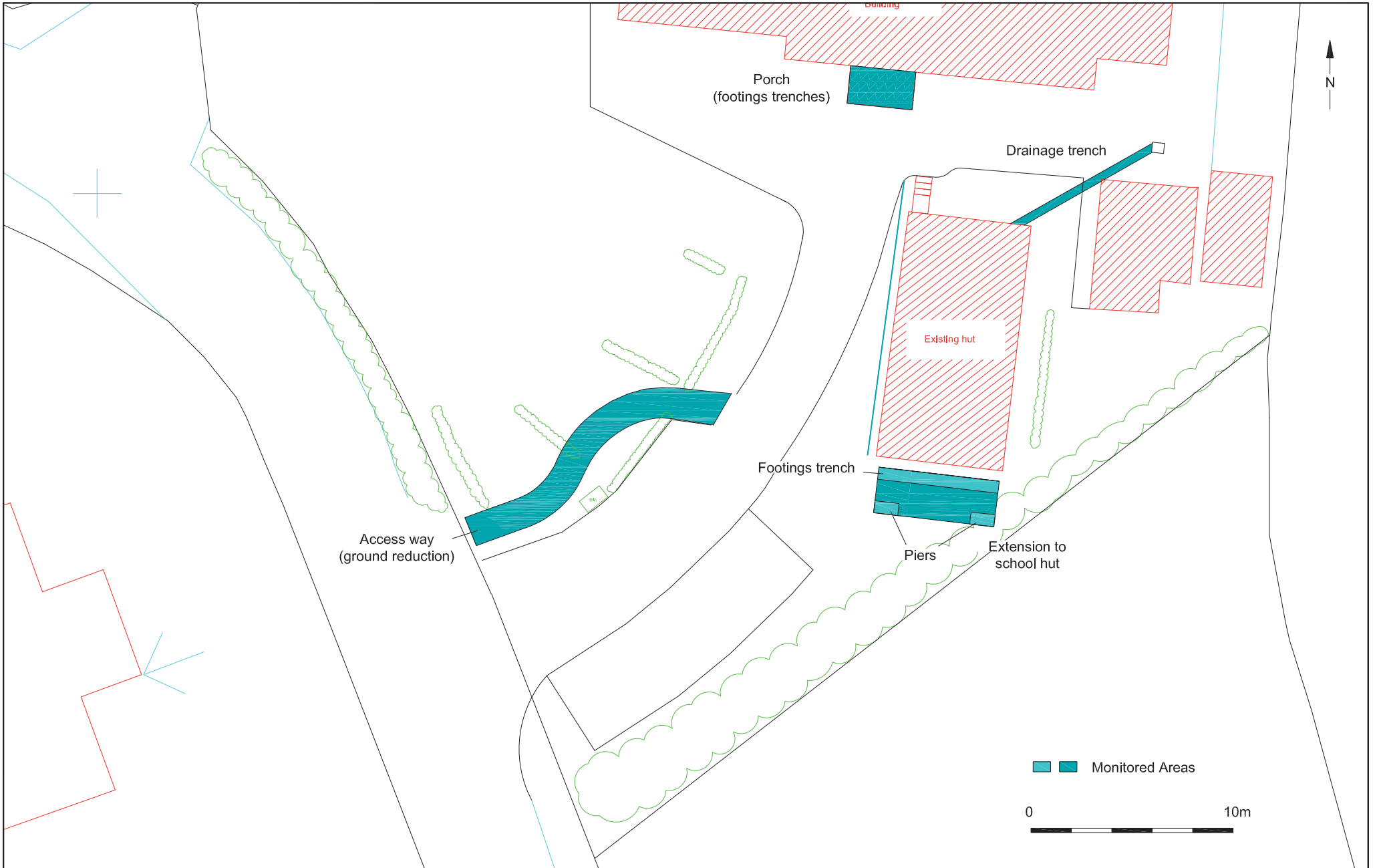
Entered by Jim Stevenson (jim.stevenson@ucl.ac.uk)

Entered on 5 August 2008



© Archaeology South-East		Graffham First School	Fig. 1
Project Ref: 2924	July 2008	Site Location Plan	
Report Ref: 2007152	Drawn by: JLR		

Reproduced from the Ordnance Survey's 1:25000 map of 1997 with permission of the Controller of Her Majesty's Stationary Office. Crown Copyright. Licence No. AL 503 10 A



Head Office
Units 1 & 2
2 Chapel Place
Portslade
East Sussex BN41 1DR
Tel: +44(0)1273 426830 Fax: +44(0)1273 420866
email: fau@ucl.ac.uk
Web: www.archaeologyse.co.uk



London Office
Centre for Applied Archaeology
Institute of Archaeology
University College London
31-34 Gordon Square, London, WC1 0PY
Tel: +44(0)20 7679 4778 Fax: +44(0)20 7383 2572
Web: www.ucl.ac.uk/caa

The contracts division of the Centre for Applied Archaeology, University College London 

©Archaeology South-East