

**An Archaeological Watching Brief at
St Lawrence Surgery, Worthing, West Sussex**

Planning Ref: WB/09/0623/FULL

**NGR TQ 133041
NGR 513300 103860**

**Project No. 4092
Site Code: LSW 09**

**ASE Report No. 2009185
OASIS ID: archaeol6-67788**



Dylan Hopkinson MA

November 2009

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Abstract

An archaeological watching brief was conducted on land at St Lawrence Surgery, Worthing, West Sussex (NGR 513300 103860). The work was carried out between the 9th and 17th November by Archaeology South-East on behalf of the client ADM Architects and their client St Lawrence Surgery. Works to excavate the footings of an extension to the surgery were monitored over five days in order to assess the archaeological potential of the site and record any remains that were likely to be disturbed.

The site lies within an area close to settlements from the Bronze Age, Late Iron Age/Early Roman, and medieval periods, all of which lie to the northwest. The land remained in agricultural use until early post-medieval times and as such there was a low to moderate chance of archaeological survival from these periods.

The natural geology comprised light orangey brown silty clay, indicated on British Geological Survey Sheet 333 to be Brickearth. This was encountered at 0.36m below ground level in the north-eastern part of the site where it was overlain by subsoil and topsoil deposits; however over the majority of the site the natural sequence had been truncated, removing the subsoil and reducing the natural horizon to 0.50m below the current ground level.

The stratigraphic sequence was cut by wall foundations and service drain trenches; however no archaeological features were identified.

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1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Site background

1.1.1 Archaeology South-East (ASE), a division of the Centre for Applied Archaeology at the Institute of Archaeology, University College London, was commissioned by ADM Architects on behalf of their clients St Lawrence Surgery, Worthing, to undertake an archaeological watching brief during the excavation of wall footing trenches on land adjacent to the surgery (NGR 513300 103860) (Figure 1). Some elements of the surgery had been previously demolished in the west of the site, however the majority of the site was formerly gardens and car parking for the surgery.

1.2 Planning background

1.2.1 The proposed development involves the construction of an extension to the surgery.

1.2.2 Full planning consent was obtained for the development of the land (Planning Ref: WB/09/0623/FULL); permission was subject to an archaeological planning condition (condition 13) to ensure that features of archaeological interest were properly examined and recorded. This condition states that:

"No development shall take place 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 to and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority."

1.2.3 Due to the archaeological potential of the site West Sussex County Council requested that an archaeological watching brief be carried out in order to establish the presence, or absence, of archaeological deposits on the site.

1.2.4 A *Written Scheme of Investigation* (ASE 2009) was prepared by ASE in response to this condition and in accordance with the Recommended Standard Archaeological Conditions issued by West Sussex County Council (WSSCC 2007).

1.2.5 All work was carried out in accordance the WSI and the relevant Standards and Guidance of the Institute of Field Archaeologists (IFA).

1.3 Scope of the report

1.3.1 This report details the results of archaeological monitoring of works on the site. The work was undertaken between 9th and 17th November 2009 by Dylan Hopkinson (Archaeologist), and Sarah Porteus (Archaeologist).

1.3.2 The fieldwork was managed by Darryl Palmer (Project Manager) and the post-excavation analysis was managed by Jim Stevenson (Project Manager).

2.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

2.1 Location and geology

2.1.1 The site lies in the centre of Worthing, between Rectory Road (A2031) and St Lawrence Avenue.

2.1.2 According to the British Geological Survey 1:50,000 map (Sheet 318/333, Brighton and Worthing), the natural geology of the site comprises Brickearth over either Woolwich and Reading Beds or London Clay.

2.2 Archaeological and historical potential

2.2.1 The site is located on the lower Coastal Plain of West Sussex; this area of the coastal plain is rich in archaeological remains from a wide range of periods and has been the subject of numerous archaeological investigations in recent years. Archaeological remains are well known in this area of Worthing and comprise mainly artefacts dating to the Roman and medieval periods.

2.2.2 There is a low instance of archaeological remains in the vicinity of the site from the prehistoric and Saxon periods. However, finds from these periods are known to exist in the wider region and are outlined below.

2.2.3 Mesolithic

- A Mesolithic axe (HER Number 3005 - MWS217) and several Beaker flint implements (HER Number 3127 - MWS255) were found at Salvington to the north.

2.2.4 Neolithic

- Two Neolithic axes were discovered west of the site, one in Durrington (HER ref 3300-MWS359) and another at Goring by Sea (HER ref 3324-MWS298).

2.2.5 Bronze Age

- Archaeological work at the Centenary House site on Durrington Lane, a little over one kilometre to the northwest of the site revealed evidence of Late Bronze Age roundhouses, pits and ditches with finds of pottery, foreign stone and worked flint (HER Number 7333 - MWS7401).
- Find spots of burnt flints (HER Number 3284 - MWS349) and a Bronze Age hoard of 12 palstaves (HER Number 3305 - MWS365) nearby at West Tarring.
- A Late Bronze Age two piece axe head was found at Castle Road, around 800 metres to the west of the surgery (HER ref: 3310-MWS5627). A Bronze Age flint was discovered very close to this, on a site on the Field Place Estate (HER ref: 3277-MWS342).

2.2.6 Iron Age and Romano British

- A Late Iron Age/Early Roman settlement with huts, rubbish pits, ditches and an oven were excavated at Mayfield Nurseries, Durrington to the northeast of St Lawrence Avenue (HER Number 3105 - MWS244). Ceramic sherds of Early Iron Age to Roman date were also recovered at Durrington-on-Sea (HER Number 3265 - MWS1147).
- A known Iron Age and Romano-British site was found on a site at Ringmer Road, Castle Road and Harefield Avenue 800 metres to the west of the site (HER ref 3226-MWS300).
- Roman pottery was found 600m to southwest of the site at Friar's Walk, West Tanning. At this same site, abundant post-medieval finds were recovered, including flints, slate potsherds and glass (HER ref: 5940-MWS4983).
- During the building of Northbrook College, a Roman villa was partially uncovered.

2.2.7 Medieval

- Evidence of an extensive medieval settlement was identified during the Gateway House excavation in Durrington Lane to the northeast of St Lawrence Avenue and included a large quantity of pottery of West Sussex ware jugs dating from the 14th and 15th centuries (HER Number 3292 - MWS5626).

2.2.8 Post medieval

- The potential for early post-medieval archaeology of pre-Victorian date is considered to be low as the area remained agricultural land prior to then.

3.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL METHODOLOGY

3.1 Methodology

- 3.1.1 The archaeological work was carried out in accordance with the WSI (ASE 2009) and the relevant Standards and Guidance of the Institute of Field Archaeologists.
- 3.1.2 The intrusive groundworks associated with the development were monitored by an archaeologist to assess the level of archaeological survival.
- 3.1.3 All machine excavators used for removal of material were fitted with a toothless bucket.
- 3.1.4 The WSCC County Archaeologist was kept informed of progress on the site so that he could assess the need to monitor the archaeological work or inform the Local Planning Authority (LPA) of developments if appropriate.
- 3.1.5 All deposits were recorded using ASE standard context sheets, with colours recorded by visual inspection. Sections were drawn at appropriate scales on plastic drafting film.
- 3.1.6 A full photographic record was made recording all features and contexts.
- 3.1.7 All features were drawn in plan at a scale of 1:20 on multi-context trench drawings and section drawings of the excavated profiles were drawn at a scale of 1:10, sample section drawings of the overlying deposits were also drawn at 1:10 scale.

3.2 Excavation aims and objectives

- 3.2.1 In general, the aim of the watching brief was to record, interpret and report on any archaeological and palaeoenvironmental remains exposed during the groundworks (including artefacts or ecofacts of archaeological interest) to appropriate archaeological standards.

3.3 Status of site archive

- 3.3.1 The site archive is currently held at the offices of ASE and will be deposited at the local museum in due course. The contents of the archive are tabulated below (Table 1).
- 3.3.2 Table 1. Quantification of site archive

Number of Contexts / Context Sheets	10
Context Register Sheets	1
Photographic Record Sheets	2
Annotated site plans	1
Watching Brief Record Sheets	5
No. of files/paper record	1
Photographs	16

4.0 RESULTS

4.1 Natural Geology and Overburden

- 4.1.1 The natural geology across the site comprised firm light orangey brown silty clay Brickearth [002]. This was encountered at 0.36 metres below ground level in the north-western part of the site and 0.50 metres below the current ground level over the majority of the site where it had been truncated during the levelling of the site presumably prior to the construction of the Surgery buildings.
- 4.1.2 Only in the north-western part of the site was there any survival of an undisturbed subsoil / topsoil sequence. The subsoil was firm dark orangey brown clayey silt with occasional chalk flecks and was 0.10 metres thick [009] (Section 1, Figures 2 to 4).
- 4.1.3 The topsoil was loose dark brown clayey silt with a significant organic component [005]. The topsoil was between 0.30 metres and 0.05 metres thick.
- 4.1.4 The majority of the site that lies to the south of the surgery had been horizontally truncated during a levelling episode presumably associated with the construction of the surgery. The stratigraphic sequence had been reduced removing the deposits down to approximately 0.15 metres. Underlying natural was sealed beneath a 0.20 metre thick layer of crushed chalk and building rubble [010] interpreted as a levelling deposit of made ground (Section 2, Figures 2 to 4).
- 4.1.5 Further contexts recorded were either variation in the made ground levelling layer [001], [003], [006]; or modern makeup deposits associated with the surgery building and its utility services and drains [004], [007], [008].
- 4.1.6 Once a representative sample of the intrusive groundworks had been observed covering all areas of the site it became apparent that the chances for archaeological survival were very remote. The WSCC County Archaeologist was informed and it was agreed that archaeological monitoring could cease.

5.0 DISCUSSION

- 5.1 No archaeological deposits or residual material was identified on the site and it was observed that the horizontal truncation of the site had reduced the stratigraphic sequence to a level well below the natural / subsoil horizon.
- 5.2 If any archaeological remains had existed on the site prior to the construction of the surgery they would have been destroyed by the levelling episode.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

ASE 2009: *St Lawrence Surgery, 79 St Lawrence Avenue, Worthing, West Sussex BN14 7JL: Archaeological Watching Brief: Written Scheme of Investigation*. Dan Swift ASE October 2009

WSCC 2007: *Recommended standard conditions for archaeological fieldwork, recording and post-excavation work*. West Sussex County Council guidance document 2007.

HER Summary Form

Site Code	LSW 09					
Identification Name and Address	St Lawrence Surgery, 79 St Lawrence Avenue, Worthing, West Sussex BN14 7JL					
County, District &/or Borough	Worthing					
OS Grid Refs.	NGR 513300 103860					
Geology	Brickearth					
Arch. South-East Project Number	4092					
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.	W.B. 09-11-09 to 17-11-09	Other		
Sponsor/Client	ADM Architects					
Project Manager	Darryl Palmer					
Project Supervisor	Dylan Hopkinson					
Period Summary	Palaeo.	Meso.	Neo.	BA	IA	RB
	AS	MED	PM	Other Modern ✓		
<p>100 Word Summary.</p> <p><i>An archaeological watching brief was conducted on land at St Lawrence Surgery, Worthing, West Sussex (NGR 513300 103860). The work was carried out between the 9th and 17th November by Archaeology South-East on behalf of the client ADM Architects and their client St Lawrence Surgery. Works to excavate the footings of an extension to the surgery were monitored over five days in order to assess the archaeological potential of the site and record any remains that were likely to be disturbed.</i></p> <p><i>The site lies within an area close to settlements from the Bronze Age, Late Iron Age/Early Roman, and medieval periods, all of which lie to the northwest. The land remained in agricultural use until early post-medieval times and as such there was a low to moderate chance of archaeological survival from these periods.</i></p> <p><i>The natural geology comprised light orangey brown silty clay, indicated on British Geological Survey Sheet 333 to be Brickearth. This was encountered at 0.36m below ground level in the north-eastern part of the site where it was overlain by subsoil and topsoil deposits; however over the majority of the site the natural sequence had been truncated, removing the subsoil and reducing the natural horizon to 0.50m below the current ground level.</i></p> <p><i>The stratigraphic sequence was cut by wall foundations and service drain trenches; however no archaeological features were identified.</i></p>						

OASIS ID: archaeol6-67788

Project details

Project name	St Lawrence Surgery, 79 St Lawrence Avenue, Worthing
Short description of the project	<p><i>An archaeological watching brief was conducted on land at St Lawrence Surgery, Worthing, West Sussex (NGR 513300 103860). The work was carried out between the 9th and 17th November by Archaeology South-East on behalf of the client ADM Architects and their client St Lawrence Surgery. Works to excavate the footings of an extension to the surgery were monitored over five days in order to assess the archaeological potential of the site and record any remains that were likely to be disturbed.</i></p> <p><i>The site lies within an area close to settlements from the Bronze Age, Late Iron Age/Early Roman, and medieval periods, all of which lie to the northwest. The land remained in agricultural use until early post-medieval times and as such there was a low to moderate chance of archaeological survival from these periods.</i></p> <p><i>The natural geology comprised light orangey brown silty clay, indicated on British Geological Survey Sheet 333 to be Brickearth. This was encountered at 0.36m below ground level in the north-eastern part of the site where it was overlain by subsoil and topsoil deposits; however over the majority of the site the natural sequence had been truncated, removing the subsoil and reducing the natural horizon to 0.50m below the current ground level.</i></p> <p><i>The stratigraphic sequence was cut by wall foundations and service drain trenches; however no archaeological features were identified.</i></p>
Project dates	Start: 09-11-2009 End: 17-11-2009
Previous/future work	No / No
Any associated project reference codes	LSW 09 - Sitecode
Type of project	Field evaluation
Site status	None
Current Land use	Community Service 1 - Community Buildings
Monument type	NONE None
Significant Finds	NONE None
Methods & techniques	'Visual Inspection'
Development type	Urban residential (e.g. flats, houses, etc.)
Prompt	Planning condition
Position in the planning process	After full determination (eg. As a condition)

Project location

Country	England
Site location	WEST SUSSEX WORTHING WORTHING St Lawrence Surgery, 79 St Lawrence Avenue
Postcode	BN14 7JL
Study area	435.00 Square metres
Site coordinates	TQ 133 041 50.8247707128 -0.391194812544 50 49 29 N 000 23 28 W Point
Lat/Long Datum	Unknown
Lat/Long Datum (other)	relative to ground
Height OD / Depth	Min: -0.50m Max: -0.36m

Project creators

Name of Organisation	Archaeology South-East
Project brief originator	West Sussex County Council
Project design originator	Archaeology South-East
Project director/manager	Darryl Palmer
Project supervisor	Dylan Hopkinson
Type of sponsor/funding body	Architects
Name of sponsor/funding body	ADM Architects

Project archives

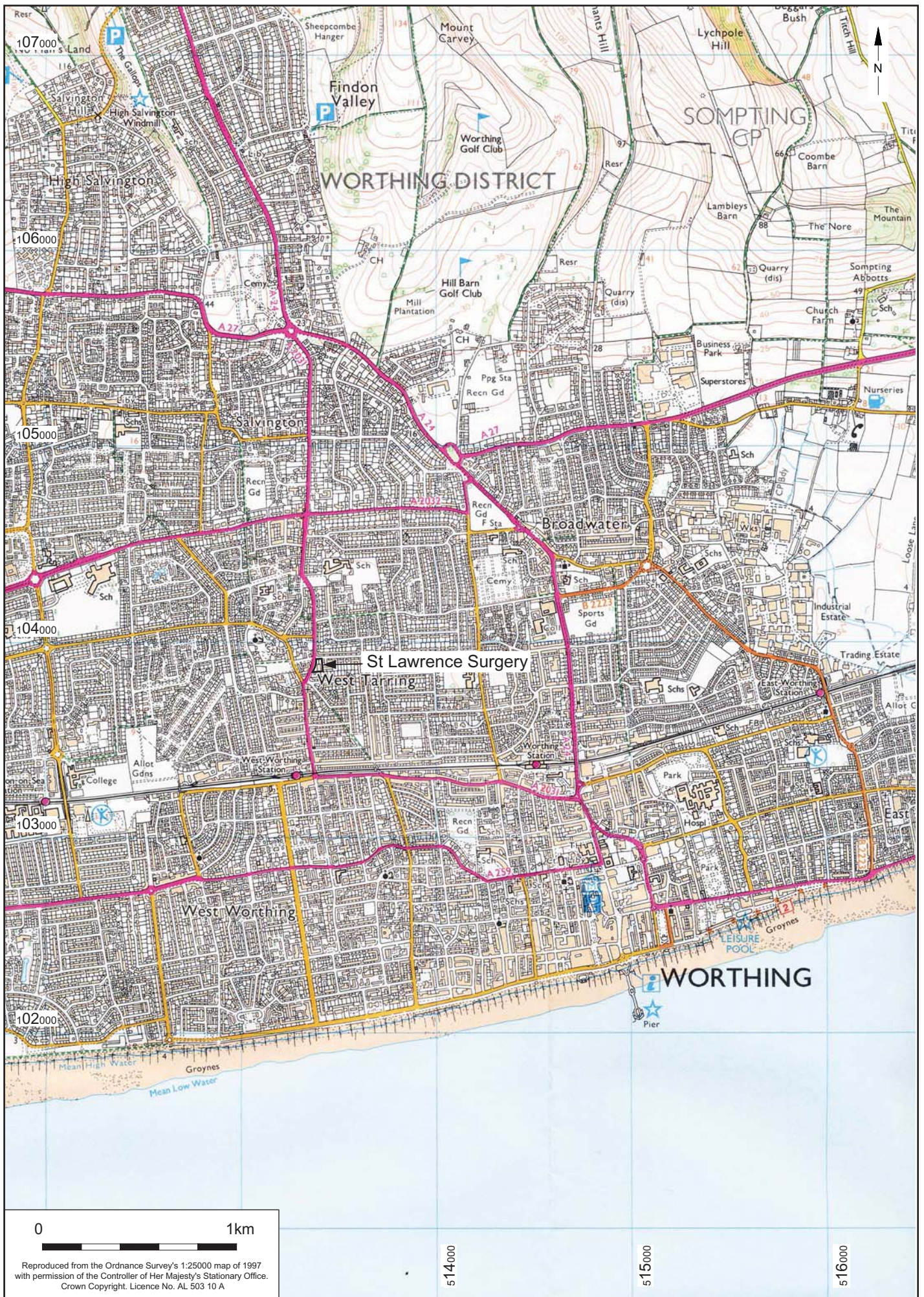
Physical Archive Exists?	No
Digital Archive recipient	local museum
Digital Contents	'Stratigraphic','Survey'
Digital Media available	'Images raster / digital photography'
Paper Archive recipient	local museum

Paper Contents 'Stratigraphic','Survey'

Paper Media
available 'Context sheet','Unpublished Text'

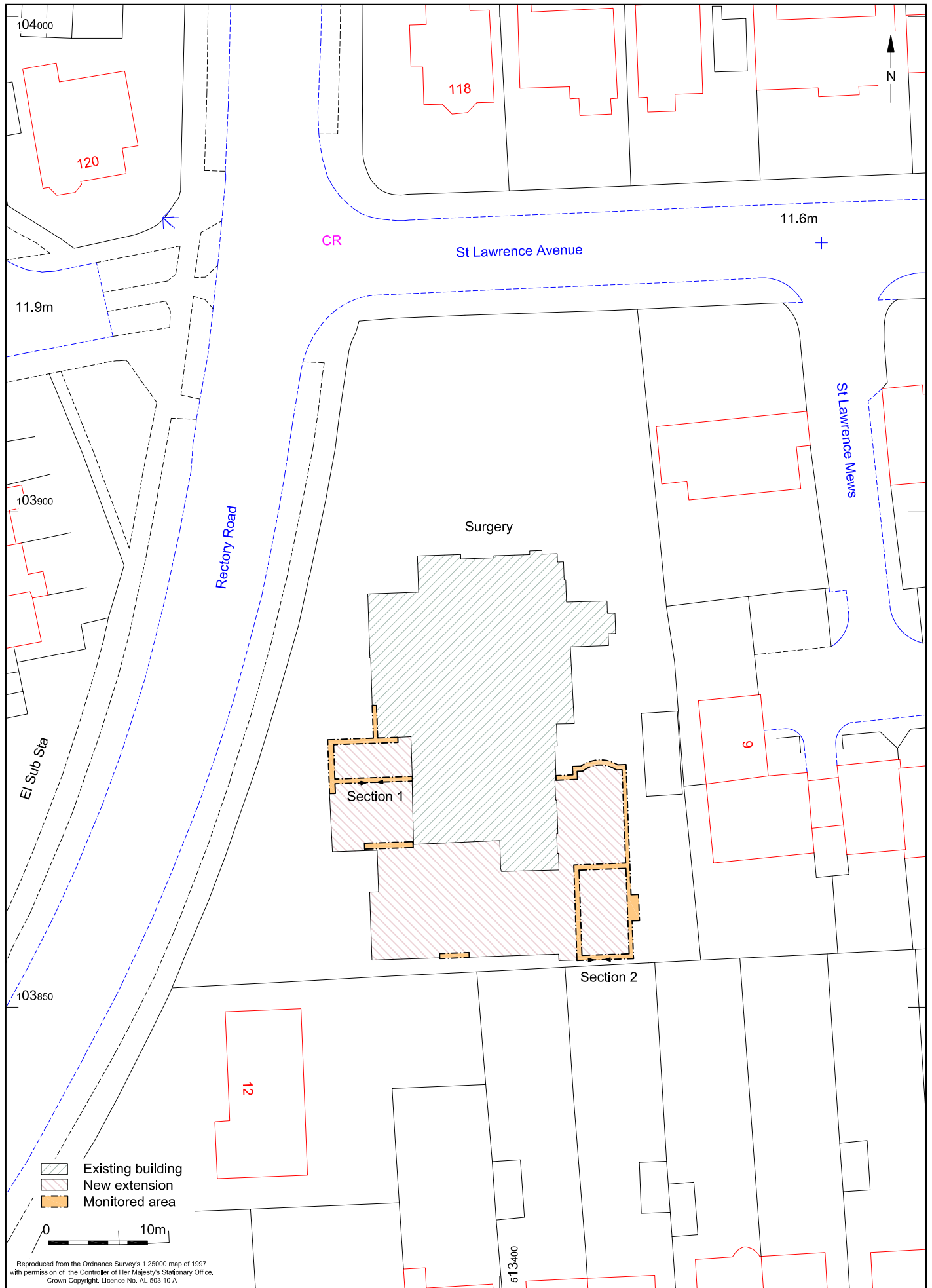
Entered by Dylan Hopkinson (dylan.hopkinson@ucl.ac.uk)

Entered on 20 November 2009

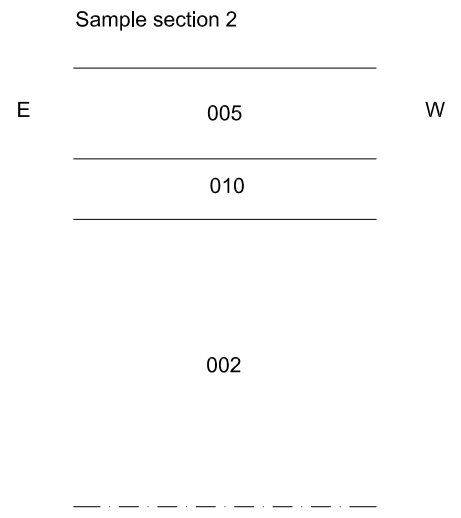
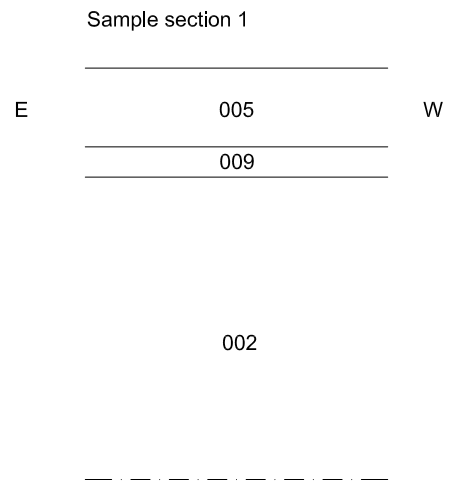


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© Archaeology South-East		St Lawrence Surgery, Worthing		Fig. 1
Project Ref: 4092	Nov 2009	Site location		
Report Ref: 2009185	Drawn by: JLR			



© Archaeology South-East		St. Lawrence Surgery, Worthing	Fig. 2
Project Ref: 4092	Nov 2009	Site plan showing the location of sections 1 and 2	
Report Ref: 2009185	Drawn by: JLR		



© Archaeology South-East		St Lawrence Surgery, Worthing	Fig. 3
Project Ref: 4092	Nov 2009	Sample sections 1 and 2	
Report Ref: 2009185	Drawn by: JLR		



161000



160000

159000

Section 1

158000



157000

156000

Section 2

1613000

1614000

1615000

1616000

1617000

© Archaeology South-East		St Lawrence Surgery, Worthing	Fig. 4
Project Ref: 4092	November 2009	Photographs of sections 1 and 2	
Report Ref: 2009185	Drawn by: DJH		

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