

**An Archaeological Watching Brief on land at
14-22 New Street, Worthing, West Sussex**

**NGR 514580 102388
TQ 14580 02388**

Planning Ref: WB/08/0282/FUL

**ASE Project No. 3588
Site Code: NSW 09**

**ASE Report No. 2009197
OASIS id: archaeol6-69092**

Kathryn Grant MSc AIFA

December 2009

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Abstract

Archaeology South-East (ASE) was commissioned to undertake an archaeological watching brief on land to the rear of 14-22 New Street, Worthing (NGR 514580 102388), during ground works associated with the redevelopment of the site. The watching brief took place from 9th to 11th November 2009.

No archaeological features or deposits were uncovered during the monitored ground work. No artefacts of archaeological interest were encountered. Only deposits of modern origin were observed during the excavations which also revealed considerable modern truncation of the natural Brickearth by up to 0.6m.

CONTENTS

- 1.0 Introduction**

- 2.0 Archaeological Background**

- 3.0 Methodology**

- 4.0 Results**

- 5.0 Finds Quantification and Assessment**

- 6.0 Discussion and Conclusions**

Bibliography

Acknowledgements

APPENDIX I SMR Summary Form

APPENDIX II OASIS Form

FIGURES

- Figure 1: Site location and plotted HER locations
- Figure 2: Plan of development
- Figure 3: Monitored groundworks

TABLES

- Table 1: Selected sites of archaeological interest held on the WSCC HER
- Table 2: Quantification of the site archive
- Table 3: List of recorded contexts

1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Project Background

- 1.1.1 Archaeology South-East (ASE), the contracting division of the Centre for Applied Archaeology, University College London (CAAUCL), was commissioned by the client, Kevin Fitzpatrick, to undertake an archaeological watching brief on land to the rear of 14-22 New Street, Worthing, West Sussex (NGR 514580 102388/ Fig. 1), hereafter referred to as 'the site'.
- 1.1.2 The archaeological watching brief was carried out during intrusive groundworks including the demolition of existing outbuildings and workshops and construction of seven residential dwellings (Figures 2 and 3).

1.2 Location and Geology (Fig. 1)

- 1.2.1 The site is located within the centre of Worthing to the south of Montague Street. It is bounded by shops to the north and east, residential property to the west (fronting New Street) and Augusta Place to the South.
- 1.2.2 The British Geological Survey 1:50,000 scale map (Sheet 318/333 *Brighton and Worthing*) indicates that the site's underlying geology is Brickearth.

1.3 Planning Background

- 1.3.1 Planning permission for the redevelopment of the site was granted by Worthing Borough Council (Ref: WB/08/0282/FUL) on 6th May 2008 with a condition (19) that states:

“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.

Reason: The site is of archaeological significance and it should be recorded by excavation before it is destroyed by development.”

- 1.3.2 Consultation with Mark Taylor, County Archaeologist, West Sussex County Council (WSCC), in his capacity as advisor to Local Planning Authorities on archaeological planning matters in connection with the planning condition, established that an archaeological watching brief was to be maintained during intrusive elements of the ground works due to the archaeological potential of the site.
- 1.3.3 A *Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI)* document outlining the strategy for the watching brief monitoring was prepared by ASE (2009). The document was compiled with reference to the *Recommended Standard Archaeological Conditions* (WSCC 2007), henceforth “the standard conditions” issued by WSCC. The WSI was approved by the County Archaeologist, prior to the commencement of archaeological works. All fieldwork undertaken during the watching brief works was carried out in accordance with the WSI.

1.4 Aims and Objectives

1.4.1 The general aim of the archaeological watching brief as outlined in the WSI (ASE 2009) was to monitor any intrusive ground work in order to ensure that any exposed features, artefacts or ecofacts of archaeological interest and affected by the excavations were recorded and interpreted to appropriate standards and an appropriate report produced.

1.3.2 The specific aims of the watching brief are to establish whether or not further evidence of Roman or medieval activity exists within the site boundary.

1.4 Scope of this Report

1.4.1 This report details the findings of the watching brief which was undertaken by Kathryn Grant and Nick Garland from 9th to 11th November 2009 over a course of three visits. The project was managed by Neil Griffin (fieldwork) and Jim Stevenson (post-excavation).

2.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

2.2 The Historic Environment Record

2.2.1 West Sussex Historic Environment Record (HER) data for the area within a 1 kilometre radius of the site is tabulated below (Table 1) and the site locations have been plotted on Figure 1.

No on Fig 1	HER No.	OS Grid Reference	Comments	Period
1	3232	TQ 14790 02610	Roman pottery found when laying services	R
2	3243	TQ 14420 02820	Probable Early Bronze Age flint tool	P
3	3247	TQ 14900 02610	Romano-British ditch containing grain & pottery	R
4	3301	TQ 14400 02700	Roman and medieval pottery	R & M
5	3302	TQ 14400 02700	Roman and medieval pottery	R & M
6	3303	TQ 14600 02600	Roman and medieval pottery	R & M
7	3304	TQ 14600 02600	Roman and medieval pottery	R & M
8	4321	TQ 14759 02902	Evidence for a Roman villa and associated settlement activity	R
9	5581	TQ 14699 02872	Walls, pits, ditches, pottery and metal finds located during an archaeological evaluation	PM
10	6121	TQ 14300 02400	Brickworks operating from at least 1838 - 1847	PM
11	6125	TQ 14600 02500	Pre-1847 brickworks	PM
12	7285	TQ 14762 02470	Two flint walls found during re-development	PM
13	7512	TQ 14200 02500	Former location (approx) of WWII pillbox	Mrd
14	7514	TQ 14900 02500	WWII pillbox	Mrd
15	7992	TQ 14500 02400	Victorian pits and undated ditch located during an archaeological evaluation	PM & U

P=prehistoric, R=Roman, M=medieval, PM=post-medieval, Mrd=modern, U=undated

Table 1: Selected sites of archaeological interest held on the WSCC HER

3.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL METHODOLOGY

3.1 The Groundwork (Figs 2 and 3)

3.1.1 The initial ground work for the development required the demolition of existing outbuildings and workshops. The degree of disturbance and truncation resulting from these previous buildings was unknown at this point and monitoring of the excavation of footing trenches was required to fully establish this.

3.2 Archaeological Methodology

3.2.1 The complete adopted methodology is given in the WSI (ASE 2009). This section is a brief précis of the detail within the WSI.

3.2.2 Machine excavation was carried out using a mechanical excavator fitted where practicable with a flat-bladed bucket to minimise damage to deposits.

3.2.3 New ground work excavations undertaken by engineering contractors were monitored at all times by an archaeologist until/unless it became clear beyond reasonable doubt that no archaeological remains were present (e.g. once excavation had reached undisturbed natural subsoils, below which there were no archaeological remains present - after the recording of any significant remains, if present, at higher levels). All revealed deposits were examined for archaeological features and artefacts. The excavations were taken down to the top of the underlying geology or to the surface of any significant archaeological deposit; whichever was higher. Revealed surfaces were manually cleaned in an attempt to identify individual archaeological features. The sections of the trenches were selectively cleaned to observe and record their stratigraphy. The removed spoil was scanned for any stray, unstratified archaeological artefacts or ecofacts of archaeological interest. The uncovered deposits were recorded according to accepted professional standards (IFA 2000 and 2001, EH 1991) using pro-forma context record sheets,

3.2.4 A full photographic record of the work was kept and forms part of the site archive.

3.2.5 The monitored external groundworks were planned at a scale of 1:50 (Figure 4) and tied into the Ordnance Survey 1:1250 scale map of the area.

3.2.6 Once excavation had demonstrated beyond reasonable doubt that the potential for archaeological remains at the site was very low due to the significant modern truncation observed within the trenches, Mark Taylor was consulted and the watching brief ceased.

3.3 The Site and Project Archive

3.3.1 The site archive is presently held at the Archaeology South-East offices in Portslade, East Sussex pending submission to a suitable local museum. The contents of the site archive are summarised below in Table 2.

Number of Contexts	3 contexts
Number of files/paper record	1 file

Plan and sections sheets	1 plan showing monitored groundworks and measured sections
Photographs	30+
Finds and samples	None

Table 2: Quantification of the site archive

4.0 RESULTS

4.1 Overview

4.1.1 Only three contexts were revealed during the monitoring of the intrusive ground works. These have been tabulated in 4.1.2 (Table 3) and summarised in 4.2. No archaeological features or deposits were encountered during the excavations.

4.1.2 The monitored areas have been illustrated on Figure 3.

Number	Type	Description	Deposit Thickness
100	Layer	Concrete slab	0.1m
101	Layer	Made ground	0.2m - 0.9m(+)
102	Layer	Natural	-

Table 3: List of Recorded Contexts

4.2 Context Summary

4.2.1 Natural geology, [102], comprising brickearth, was encountered along the northernmost footing trench at a minimum depth of c.0.3m below ground level (measured from the level footpath that borders the northern and eastern perimeter of the new-build). There was a variation in the depth of the brickearth, [102], (0.30m-0.90m below the ground surface) suggesting varying degrees of truncation by modern activity across the site. No subsoil was present.

4.2.2 Made ground, [101], overlay [102] and ranged from 0.20m thick in the northernmost trench to 0.9m further south. This was sealed by a concrete slab which extended across approximately sixty per cent of the site. The brick footings of the previous outbuildings and workshops were encountered towards the middle of the site in the eastern trench (Section B on Figure 3).

4.2.3 No archaeological features or deposits were encountered during the monitored excavations.

5.0 DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSIONS

- 5.1** The intrusive groundworks associated with the development on land to the rear of 14-22 New Street, Worthing were monitored until it became clear that no archaeological remains were likely to be present at the site. No archaeological features were uncovered during the excavations and no artefacts of archaeological interest were recovered from the recorded contexts.
- 5.2** The watching brief monitoring was stopped after consultation with Mark Taylor (WSCC) because of the extent of modern truncation and disturbance which would have removed any archaeological remains which may have been present.

REFERENCES

British Geological Survey Sheets Sheet 318/333 *Brighton and Worthing* (Solid and Drift Edition) 1:50 000 Series.

ASE, 2009. *14-22 New Street, Worthing West Sussex - Archaeological Watching Brief - Written Scheme of Investigation*. Unpublished ASE Document (Author: Neil Griffin). Project No. 3588

English Heritage, 1991. *The Management of Archaeological Projects*. 2nd edition, London: English Heritage

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ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The co-operation and assistance of Kevin Fitzpatrick is gratefully acknowledged. Many thanks also to Mark Taylor, of WSCC for his on site advice and guidance.

APPENDIX I: SMR Summary Form

Site Code	NSW 09					
Identification Name and Address	14-22 New Street, Worthing					
County, District and/or Borough	West Sussex					
OS Grid Refs.	NGR 514580 102388					
Geology	Brickearth					
Arch. South-East Project Number	3588					
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. 09-11-09 - 11-11-09	Other		
Sponsor/Client	VKHP-Douglas Rose Consulting Engineers/ESCC					
Project Manager	Darryl Palmer					
Project Supervisor	Kathy Grant					
Period Summary	Palaeo. None	Meso. None	Neo. None	BA None	IA None	RB None
	AS None	MED None	PM	Other Modern made ground and truncation only – no archaeological features or finds		
<p>100 Word Summary.</p> <p>Archaeology South-East (ASE) was commissioned to undertake a programme of archaeological watching brief monitoring on land to the rear of 14-22 New Street, Worthing (NGR 514580 102388), during ground works associated with a redevelopment. The watching brief took place from 9th to 11th November 2009.</p> <p>No archaeological features or deposits were uncovered during the monitored ground work. No artefacts of archaeological interest were encountered. Only deposits of modern origin were observed during the excavations which also revealed considerable modern truncation of the natural Brickearth by up to 0.6m.</p>						

APPENDIX II: OASIS Form

OASIS ID: archaeol6-69092

Project details

Project name 14-22 New Street, Worthing

Short description of the project Archaeology South-East (ASE) was commissioned to undertake a programme of archaeological watching brief monitoring on land to the rear of 14-22 New Street, Worthing (NGR 514580 102388), during ground works associated with a redevelopment. The watching brief took place from 9th to 11th November 2009. No archaeological features or deposits were uncovered during the monitored ground work. No artefacts of archaeological interest were encountered. Only deposits of modern origin were observed during the excavations which also revealed considerable modern truncation of the natural Brickearth by up to 0.6m.

Project dates Start: 09-11-2009 End: 11-11-2009

Previous/future work No / No

Any associated project reference codes NSW 09 - Sitecode

Any associated project reference codes WB/08/0282/FUL - Planning Application No.

Type of project Recording project

Site status None

Monument type NONE None

Significant Finds NONE None

Investigation type 'Watching Brief'

Prompt Planning condition

Project location

Country England

Site location WEST SUSSEX WORTHING WORTHING 14-22 New Street, Worthing

Postcode BN11 3

Site coordinates TQ 14580 02388 50.8091276417 -0.373562010361 50 48 32 N
000 22 24 W Point

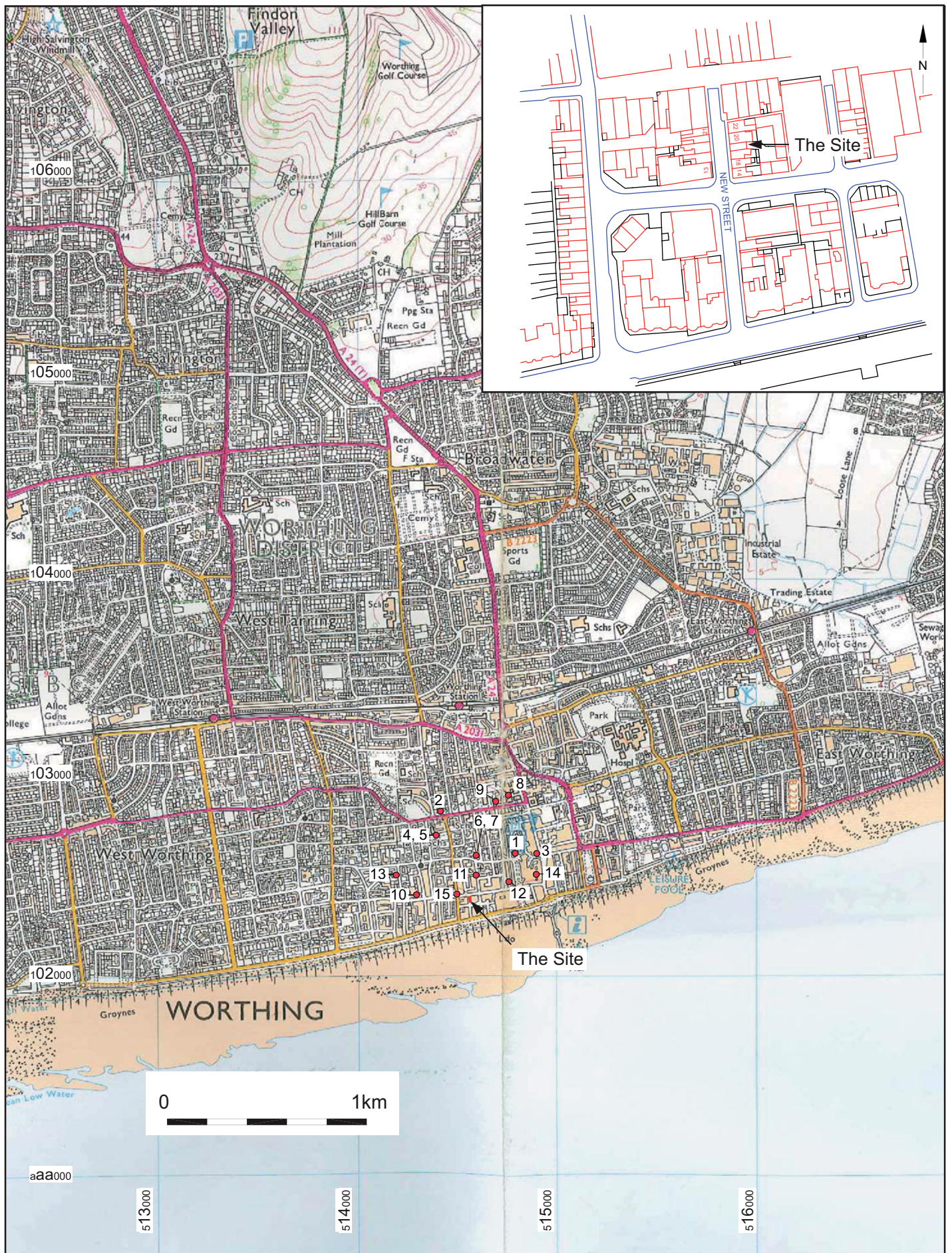
Project creators

Name of Organisation Archaeology South East

Project brief Archaeology South East

originator
Project design originator West Sussex county council
Project director/manager Neil Griffin
Project supervisor Kathryn Grant
Type of sponsor/funding body private client

Entered by Kathryn Grant (Kathryn.Grant@ucl.ac.uk)
Entered on 8 December 2009



© Archaeology South-East		14-22 New Street, Worthing	Fig. 1
Project Ref: 3588	March 2009	Site Location Plan	
Report Ref:	Drawn by: HLF		

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



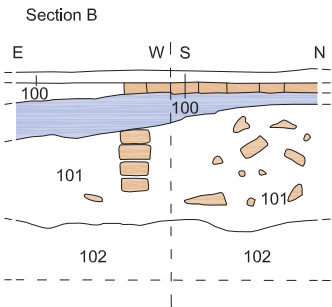
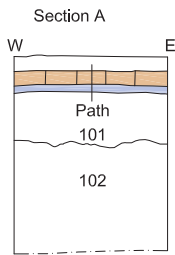
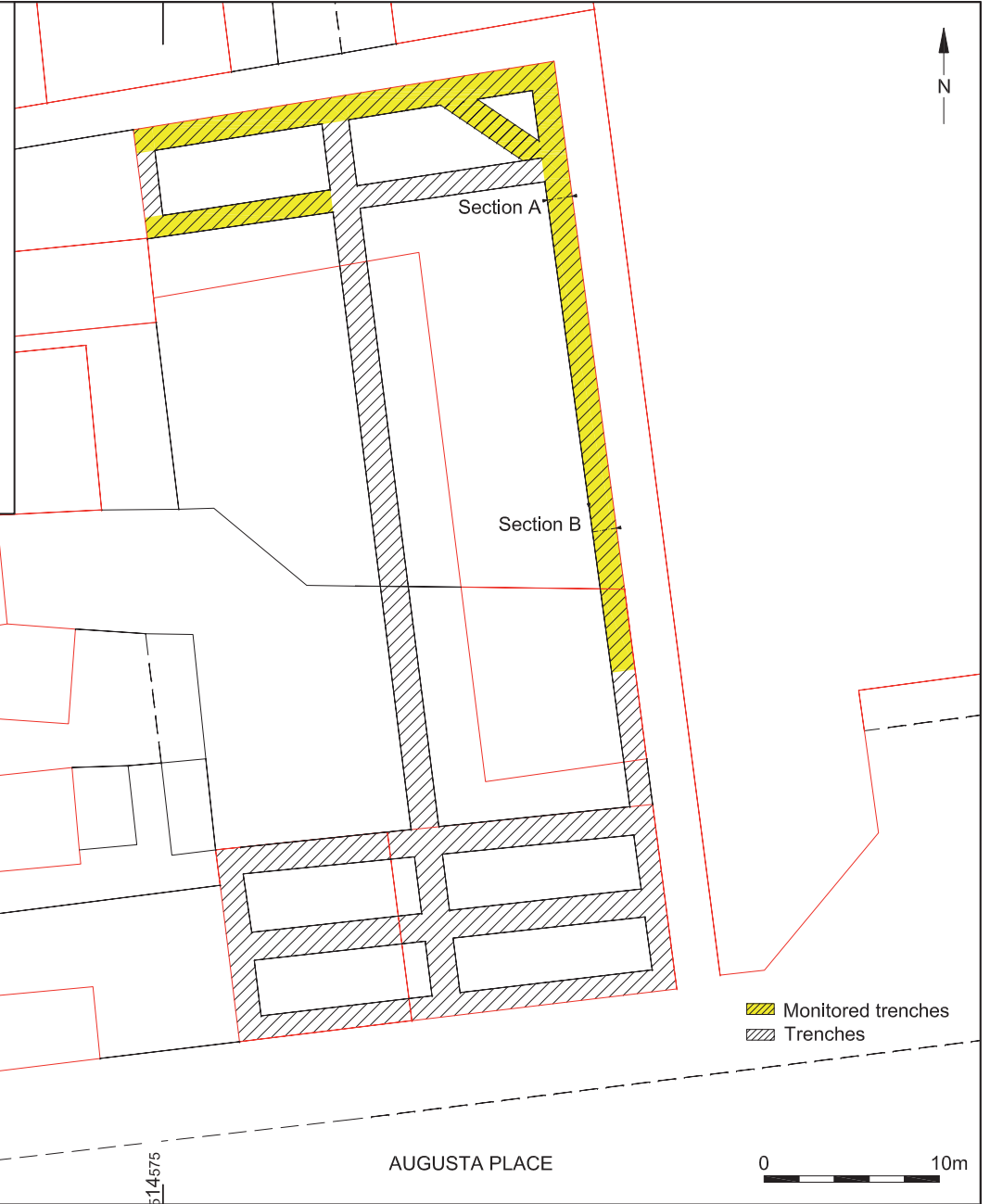
© Archaeology South-East		New Street, Worthing	Fig. 2
Project Ref: 3588	Dec 2009	Proposed site layout	
Report Ref: 2009197	Drawn by: HLF		



Photograph illustrating section A



Photograph illustrating section B - east-west



0 1m

Brick
Concrete

0 10m

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Project Ref: 3588 Dec 2009
Report Ref: 2009197 Drawn by: HLF

14-22 New Street, Worthing

Monitored groundworks

Fig. 3

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