

T V A S



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**Durrington Cemetery, Findon Road,
Worthing, West Sussex**

An archaeological evaluation

By Odile Rouard

**DCW18/154
(TQ 1290 0567)**

Durrington Cemetery, Findon Road, Worthing, West Sussex

**An Archaeological Evaluation
For Worthing Borough Council**

by Odile Rouard
Thames Valley Archaeological Services Ltd

Site Code: DCW 18/154

September 2018

Summary

Site name: Durrington Cemetery, Findon Road, Worthing, West Sussex

Grid reference: TQ 1290 0567

Site activity: Evaluation

Date and duration of project: 12th to 13th September 2018

Project manager: Sean Wallis

Site supervisor: Odile Rouard

Site code: DCW 18/154

Area of site: c.2.7 ha

Summary of results: The archaeological evaluation successfully investigated those areas which will be most affected by the development of the site. The six trenches revealed no archaeological features, including those targeting geophysical anomalies. The absence of subsoil and the shallow depths of the trenches suggest the site was landscaped at some point in the past, and perhaps removing any potential archaeology that would have been present. The only feature identified was a bank (recorded during the geophysical survey and still visible on site), aligned west-east that consisted of a loose, sterile silty clay that did not yield any finds. It is highly probable this feature is a field boundary of late post-medieval date. On the basis of these results the site is thought to have negligible archaeological potential.

Location and reference of archive: The archive is presently held at Thames Valley Archaeological Services, Brighton and will be deposited with Worthing Museum in due course.

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Report edited/checked by: Steve Ford ✓13.09.18 Steve Preston ✓13.09.18

Durrington Cemetery, Findon Road, Worthing, West Sussex An Archaeological Evaluation

by Odile Rouard

Report 18/154

Introduction

This report documents the results of an archaeological field evaluation carried out at Durrington Cemetery, Findon Road, Worthing, West Sussex (TQ 1290 0567) (Fig. 1). The work was commissioned by Mr Martyn Payne, of Adur and Worthing Councils, Town Hall, Chapel Road, Worthing, West Sussex, BN11 1HA.

Planning permission (AWDM/0598/18) has been gained from Worthing Borough Council to change the use of an existing field to a burial area, along with associated access, footpaths and services. The consent was subject to a condition (9) requiring the implementation of a programme of archaeological works. This is in accordance with the Department for Communities and Local Government's *National Planning Policy Framework* (NPPF 2012), and the Borough Council's policies on archaeology. The field investigation was carried out to a specification approved by Mr John Mills, the West Sussex County Council Archaeological Officer who advises the Borough Council on archaeological matters. The fieldwork was undertaken by Virginia Fuentes-Mateos and Odile Rouard between 12th and 13th September 2018, and the site code is DCW 18/154. The archive is presently held at Thames Valley Archaeological Services, Brighton, and will be deposited with Worthing Museum in due course.

Location, topography and geology

The site lies close to the junction of Findon Road and Crockhurst Hill (A27), approximately 3km north-west of the historic core of Worthing, West Sussex, centred on NGR TQ 1290 0567 (Figs 1 and 2). The site is bounded to the east and north by the existing cemetery, and to the west and south by Crockhurst Hill (A27). The cemetery overall is surrounded by residential areas. The field slopes from the north (at 45.9m above Ordnance Datum) to the south (at 34.97m aOD). According to the British Geological Survey the underlying geology consists of Tarrant Chalk Member in the eastern area and Head Deposits (Clay, Silt, Sand and Gravel) in the western area (BGS 2006). The geology recorded in the trenches comprised Head Deposits (Clay, Silt, Sand and Gravel) across the whole area.

Archaeological background

The archaeological potential of the site has been gleaned from a brief prepared by the West Sussex County Council Archaeological Officer (WSSCC 2018), and from the report on a recent geophysical survey of the site (Cook 2018). In summary, the site lies on the lower part of the dip slope of the South Downs, overlooking the Findon Valley to the east. A Roman cremation burial was found to the north of the site, along with a Bronze Age mace head. A Late Iron Age or Roman settlement has previously been investigated to the south, at High Salvington. A geophysical survey had been carried out in 1992 in the south-western corner of the site. An east-west World War Two defence line once ran through the cemetery, to the north of the present site. A number of anomalies possibly representing archaeological features were revealed during the more recent geophysical survey, including one linear feature which appears on historic maps.

Objectives and methodology

The purpose of the evaluation was to determine the presence/absence, extent, condition, character, quality and date of any archaeological deposits within the area of proposed development. The relevant and appropriate *Sussex Archaeological Standards* (ESCC 2015) were to be followed.

Specific aims of the project were:

- to determine if archaeologically relevant levels have survived on this site; and
- to determine if archaeological deposits of any period are present.

Six trenches were to be dug, with lengths varying between 24m and 35m, and with a width of 2m. The trenches were largely positioned to target the possible archaeological features recorded during the geophysical survey. They were to be dug using a 360° type machine fitted with a toothless ditching bucket under constant archaeological supervision. All spoil heaps were to be monitored for finds.

Results

A total of six trenches were dug during the evaluation (Fig. 2). All the trenches were 2m wide, and measured between 24m and 36.80m in length, and between 0.20m and 0.45m in depth. A complete list of the trenches giving lengths, breadths, depths and a description of sections and geology is given in Appendix 1. The stratigraphy of all trenches is described below.

Trench 1 (Fig. 3; Pl. 1)

Trench 1 was orientated approximately SW-NE, and was 28.20m long and up to 0.25m deep. The natural geology was observed directly beneath 0.13m of topsoil (50). No archaeological finds or features were identified in this trench.

Trench 2 (Fig. 3; Pl. 2)

Trench 2 was L-shaped and was orientated approximately NW-SE and then turned NE-SW. It was 24.60m long in total (with the first segment measuring 9.40m and the second one 15.20m), and up to 0.24m deep. The natural geology was observed beneath 0.14m of topsoil (50). No archaeological finds or features were identified in this trench. It was located between two trees and was subject to a lot of root disturbance.

Trench 3 (Fig. 3; Pl. 3)

Trench 3 was orientated approximately S-N, and was 36.80m long and up to 0.45m deep. The natural geology was observed beneath 0.14m of topsoil (50) and 0.20m of bank material (51) towards its northern end. The bank, that was identified during the geophysical survey, was recorded between 4.90m and 11m from the north end of the trench, with a thickness of 0.20m. It consisted of a loose, sterile, mid-grey brown silty clay atop the natural geology and did not yield any finds.

Trench 4 (Fig. 3; Pl. 4)

Trench 4 was orientated approximately W-E, and was 27.00m long and up to 0.25m deep. The natural geology was observed beneath 0.14m of topsoil (50). No archaeological finds or features were identified in this trench.

Trench 5 (Fig. 3; Pl. 5)

Trench 5 was orientated approximately SW-NE, and was 24m long and up to 0.20m deep. The natural geology was observed beneath 0.12m of topsoil (50). No archaeological finds or features were identified in this trench.

Trench 6 (Fig. 3; Pl. 6)

Trench 6 was orientated approximately S-N, and was 31.20m long and up to 0.34m deep. The natural geology was observed beneath 0.13m of topsoil (50) and 0.16m of bank material (51) at its northern end. The bank, that was identified during the geophysical survey, was recorded as being 0.16m thick in this trench. It consisted of a loose, sterile, mid-grey brown silty clay atop the natural geology and did not yield any finds.

Conclusion

The archaeological evaluation was carried out as intended and successfully investigated those areas of the site that showed geophysical anomalies and potential archaeological features (Fig. 4). No archaeological features were identified during the evaluation, and the absence of subsoil as well as the shallowness of the trenches suggest that the site was previously truncated and/or landscaped, removing any potential features. The bank that had been recorded during the geophysical survey, and that was still slightly visible on site, was identified in Trenches 3 and 6 and consisted of a loose, sterile silty clay layer between 0.16 and 0.20m thick that did not yield any finds. This bank probably represents a field boundary of post-medieval date, as it seems to be visible on maps from the late 18th century (e.g., Yeakell and Gardner's map from c.1780: Cook 2018, fig. 5b) but no such boundary is marked on the earliest Ordnance Survey maps. A boundary on a similar line on the 1912 Ordnance Survey (only) does not appear to be a close match.

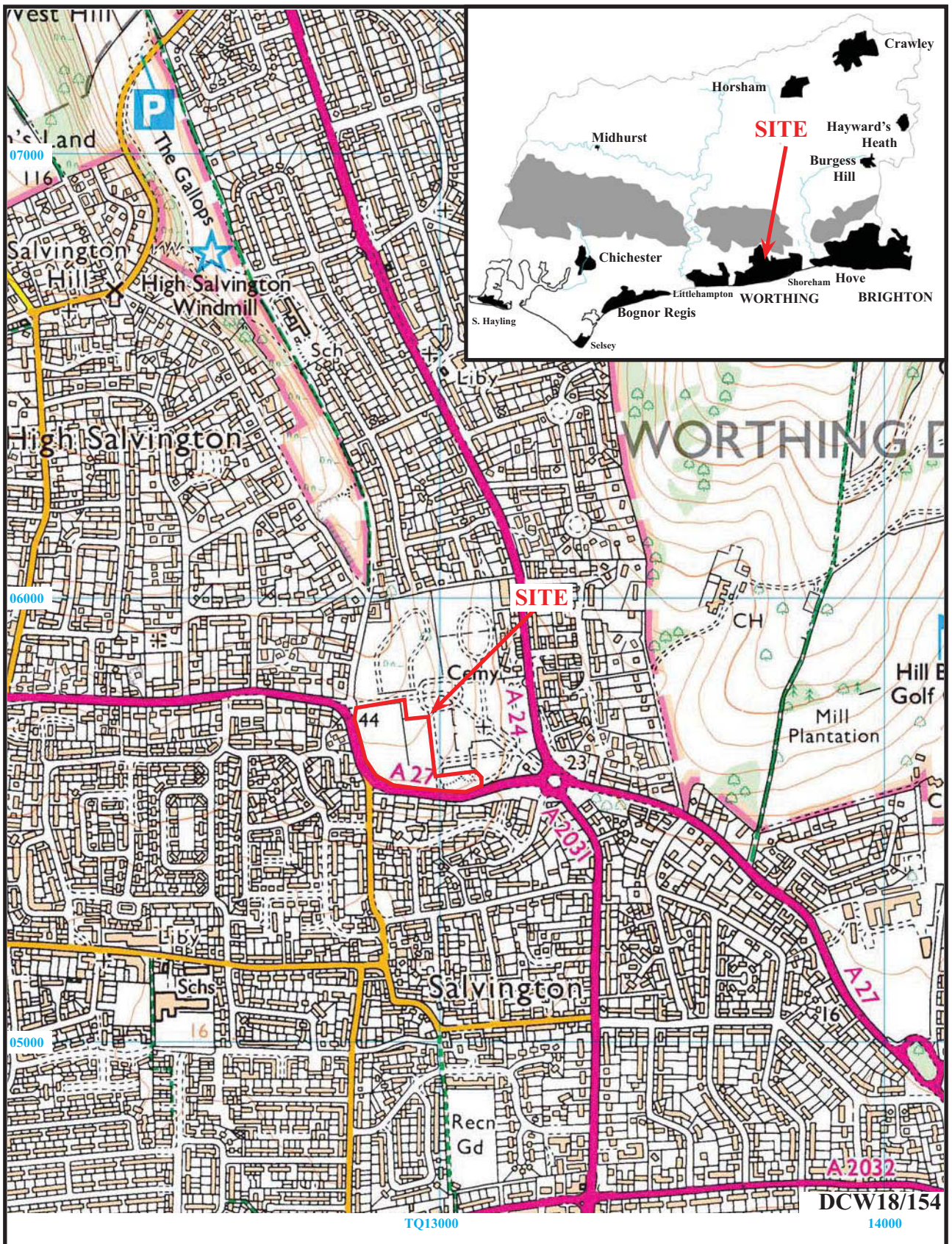
On the basis of these results the site can be considered to have negligible archaeological potential.

References

- BGS, 2006, *British Geological Survey*, 1:50000, Sheet **318/333**, Drift Edition, Keyworth
- Cook, J, 2018, 'Detailed Magnetometer Survey, Durrington Cemetery, Worthing, West Sussex', Archaeology South East, unpubl rep **2018260**, Portslade
- ESCC, 2015, *Sussex Archaeological Standards*, East Sussex County Council, Lewes
- NPPF, 2012, *National Planning Policy Framework*, Dept Communities and Local Government, London

APPENDIX 1: Trench details

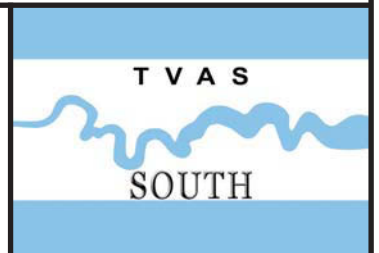
<i>Trench</i>	<i>Length (m)</i>	<i>Breadth (m)</i>	<i>Depth (m)</i>	<i>Comment</i>
1	28.20	2.0	0.25	0-0.13m topsoil (50); 0.13-0.25m+ natural geology (Head Deposits – Clay, Silt, Sand and Gravel). PI. 1
2	24.60	2.0	0.24	0-0.14m topsoil (50); 0.14-0.24+ natural geology (Head Deposits – Clay, Silt, Sand and Gravel). PI. 2
3	36.80	2.0	0.45	0-0.15m topsoil (50); 0.15-0.35m bank material (51); 0.35-0.45m+ natural geology (Head Deposits – Clay, Silt, Sand and Gravel). PI. 3
4	27	2.0	0.25	0-0.14m topsoil (50); 0.14-0.25m+ natural geology (Head Deposits – Clay, Silt, Sand and Gravel). PI. 4
5	24	2.0	0.20	0-0.12m topsoil (50); 0.12-0.20m+ natural geology (Head Deposits – Clay, Silt, Sand and Gravel). PI. 5
6	31.20	2.0	0.34	0-0.13m topsoil (50); 0.13-0.29m bank material (51); 0.29-0.34m+ natural geology (Head Deposits – Clay, Silt, Sand and Gravel). PI. 6

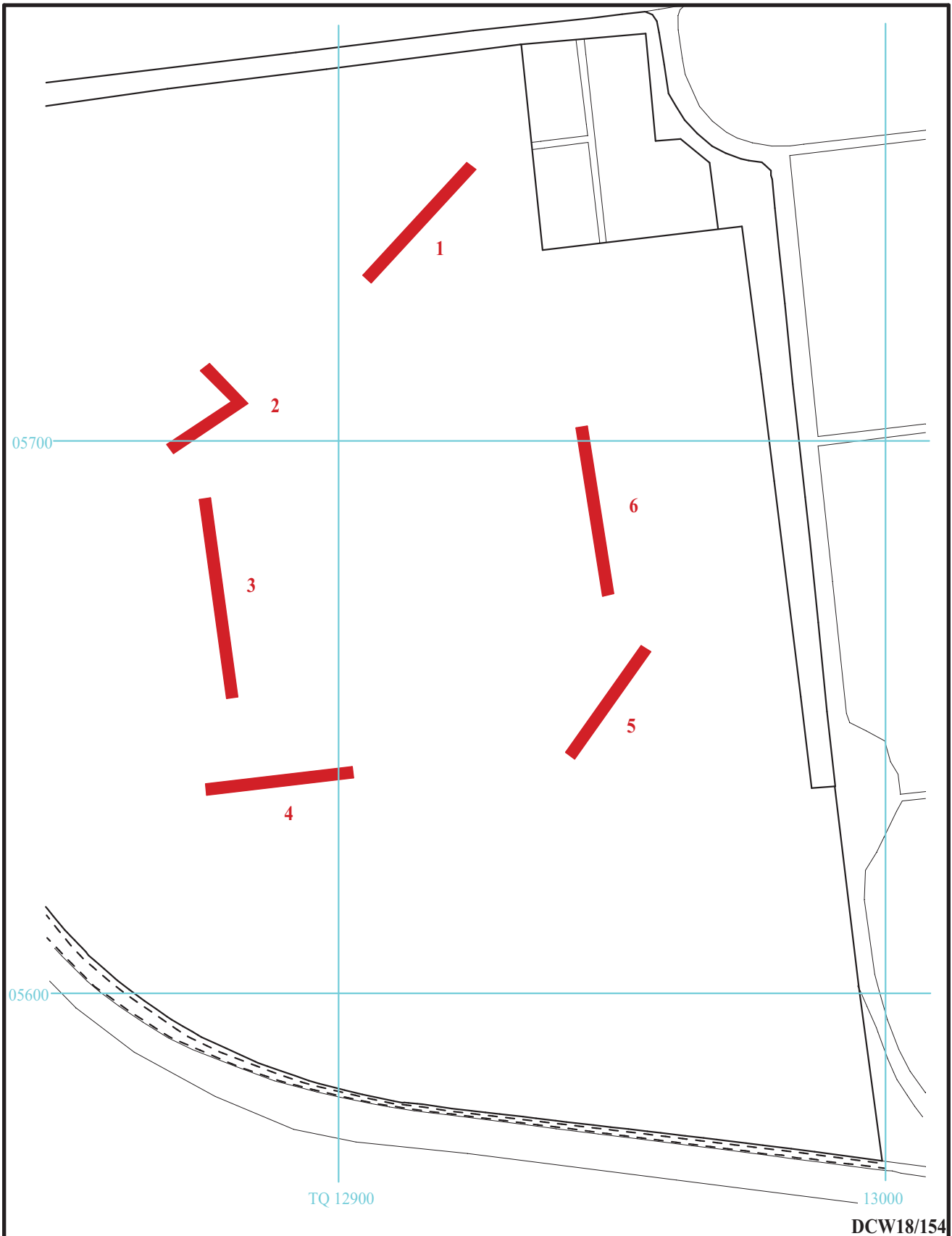


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Figure 1. Location of site within Worthing and West Sussex.

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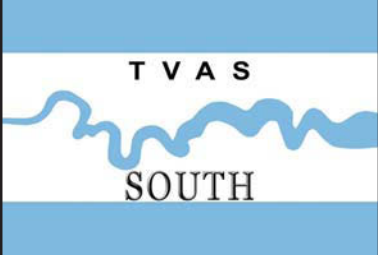


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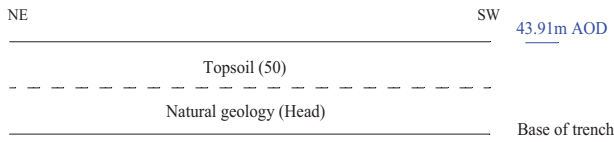


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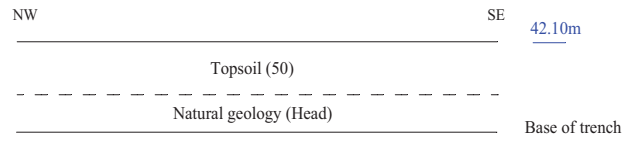
Figure 2. Detailed location of site showing excavated trenches.



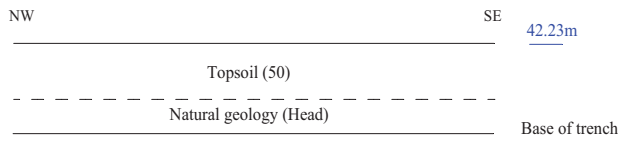
Trench 1



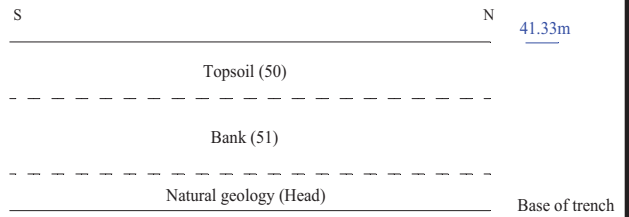
Trench 2



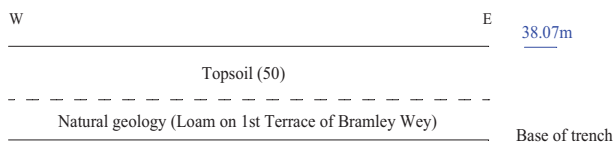
Trench 2



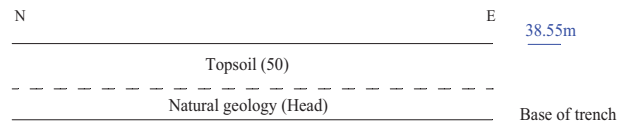
Trench 3



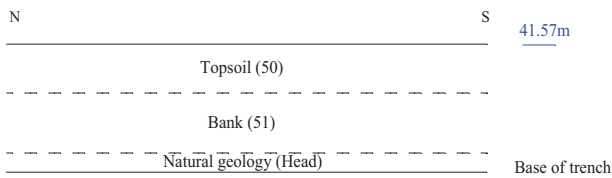
Trench 4



Trench 5



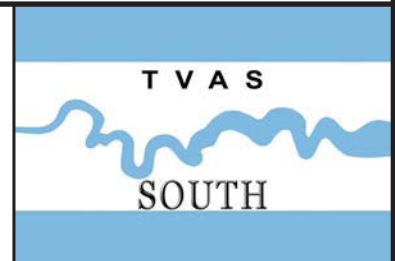
Trench 6

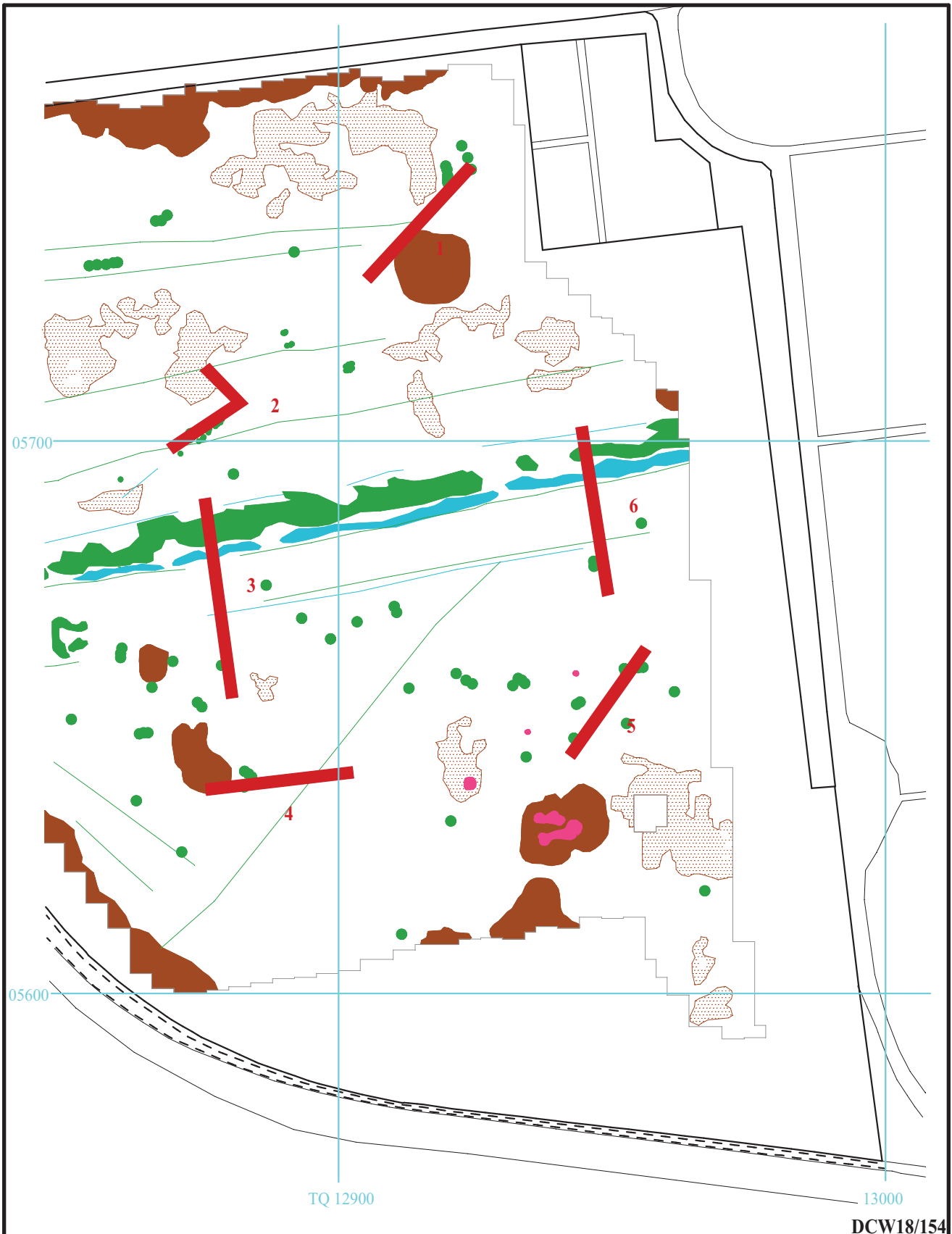


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Figure 3. Representative Sections.





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Figure 4. Trenches superimposed on geophysical survey interpretation plot
(after Cook 2018, fig. 6)

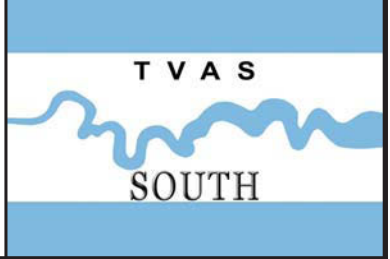




Plate 1. Trench 1, looking South South-west.
Scales: 2m, 1m and 0.50m.



Plate 2. Trench 2, looking South-east.
Scales: 2m, 1m and 0.50m.



Plate 3. Trench 3, looking South.
Scales: 2m, 1m and 0.50m.



Plate 4. Trench 4, looking East.
Scales: 2m, 1m and 0.50m.



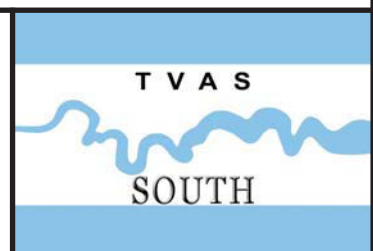
Plate 5. Trench 5, looking North.
Scales: 2m, 1m and 0.50m.



Plate 6. Trench 6, looking North.
Scales: 2m, 1m and 0.50m.

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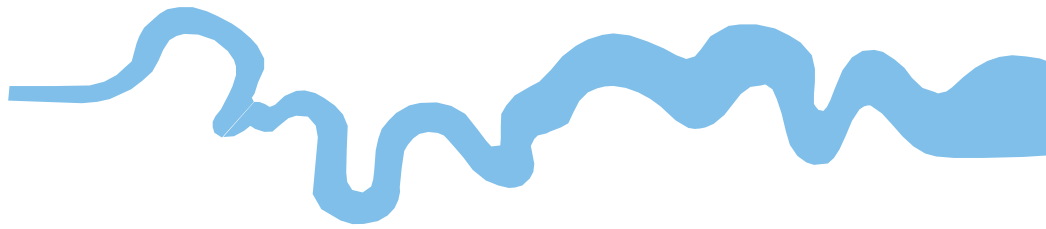
**Durrington Cemetery, Findon Road, Worthing,
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Plates 1 to 6.**



TIME CHART

	Calendar Years
Modern _____	AD 1901
Victorian _____	AD 1837
Post Medieval _____	AD 1500
Medieval _____	AD 1066
Saxon _____	AD 410
Roman _____	AD 43 AD 0 BC
Iron Age _____	750 BC
Bronze Age: Late _____	1300 BC
Bronze Age: Middle _____	1700 BC
Bronze Age: Early _____	2100 BC
Neolithic: Late	3300 BC
Neolithic: Early	4300 BC
Mesolithic: Late	6000 BC
Mesolithic: Early	10000 BC
Palaeolithic: Upper	30000 BC
Palaeolithic: Middle	70000 BC
Palaeolithic: Lower	2,000,000 BC





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