

**Archaeological Monitoring at  
Shorts Farm, Nutbourne, Pulborough RH20 2HE**

**(NGR 507541 118872)**

**Planning Ref: DC/10/2331**

**PAS Ref: 115007**

**OASIS Ref: proarcha1-107073**



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**on behalf of**

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## Summary

*PRO Archaeology Services were commissioned by Ms Sarah Browne to undertake an archaeological watching brief during groundworks at Shorts Farm, Nutbourne, Nr Pulborough, RH20 2HE (Planning ref: DC/10/1293-amended DC/10/2331). Two separate site visits were made during the excavation of three wall footing trenches, service trenching and soakaway pit. No archaeological features or finds were discovered.*

### 1.0 Introduction

- 1.1 PRO Archaeology Services maintained an archaeological watching brief at Shorts Farm, Nutbourne, Nr Pulborough, RH20 2HE (centred: NGR: 507541 118872).
- 1.2 Following original planning refusal at the site DC/10/1293 amendments were made to the application and the site achieved planning permission (Ref:DC/10/2331) for the addition of a two storey side extension.
- 1.3 The Local Planning Authority (LPA) placed the following condition on the planning consent after consultation with the Senior Archaeologist Strategic Planning Division (Local Development) West Sussex County Council (John Mills)::

*The Developer shall arrange for an archaeological organisation or appropriately qualified archaeologists to observe the excavations and record archaeological evidence that may be uncovered as a result of the development in accordance with a written scheme of investigation which shall be submitted to and approved by the Local Planning Authority prior to the commencement of development.*

- 1.4 In accordance with the Institute for Archaeologists (Ifa) Guidance and Standards relating to archaeological watching briefs, this Report sets out the fieldwork results in accordance with a Written Scheme of Investigation (Riccoboni 2011) agreed with the LPA's archaeological advisor, Senior Archaeologist Strategic Planning Division (Local Development) West Sussex County Council (John Mills).
- 1.5 The site is bounded on all sides by gardens of neighbouring properties such as Ebbsworth Cottage to the east and a narrow pathway to the south.
- 1.6 According to the maps of the British Geological Survey the site lies on Hythe Beds. The site is roughly flat ground and stands at c. 29m AOD.

#### *Scope of Report*

- 1.7 The current report represents the findings of the watching brief undertaken by PRO Archaeology Services during two site visits on Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> July 2011 by James Vessey and Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> July 2011 by Andrew Margetts.

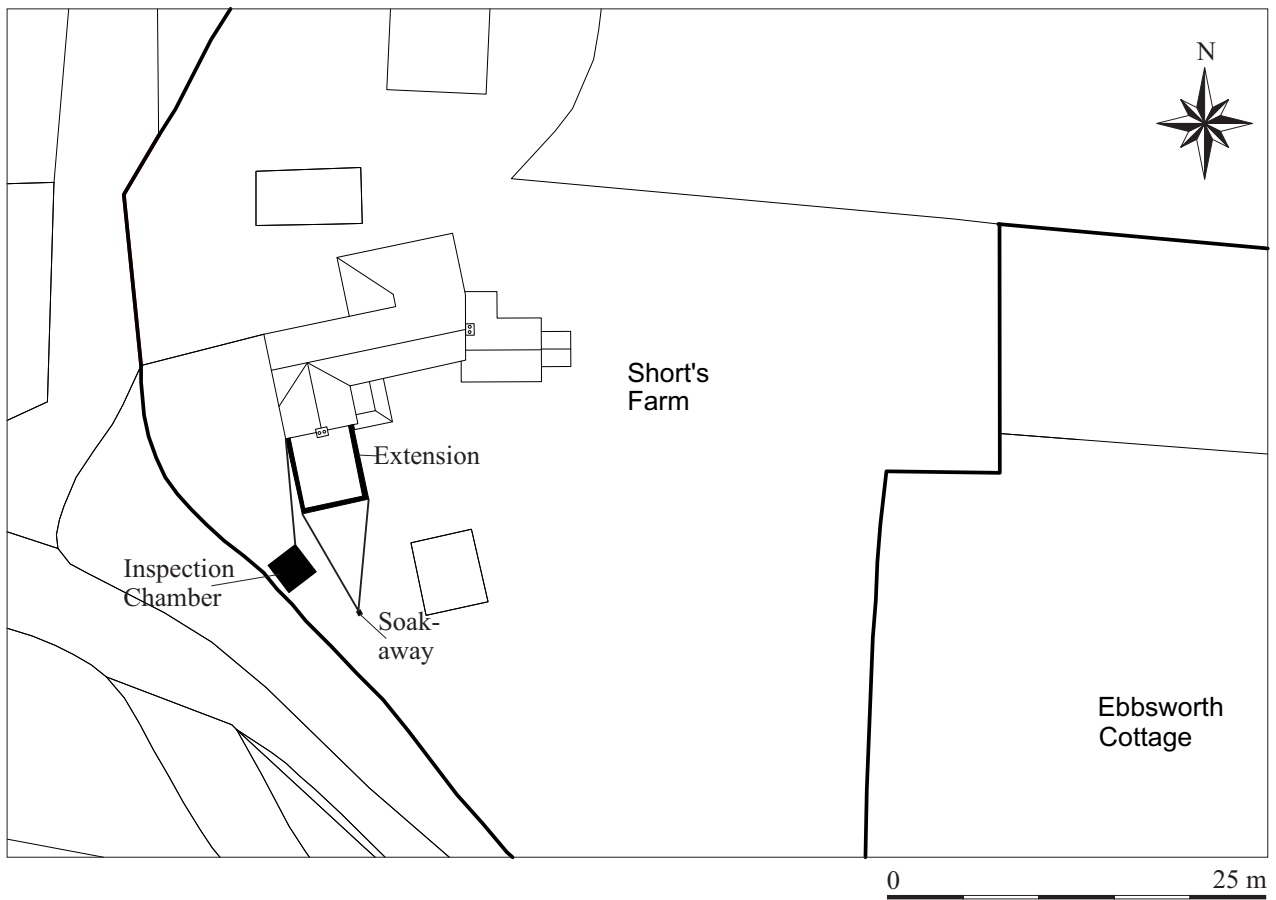
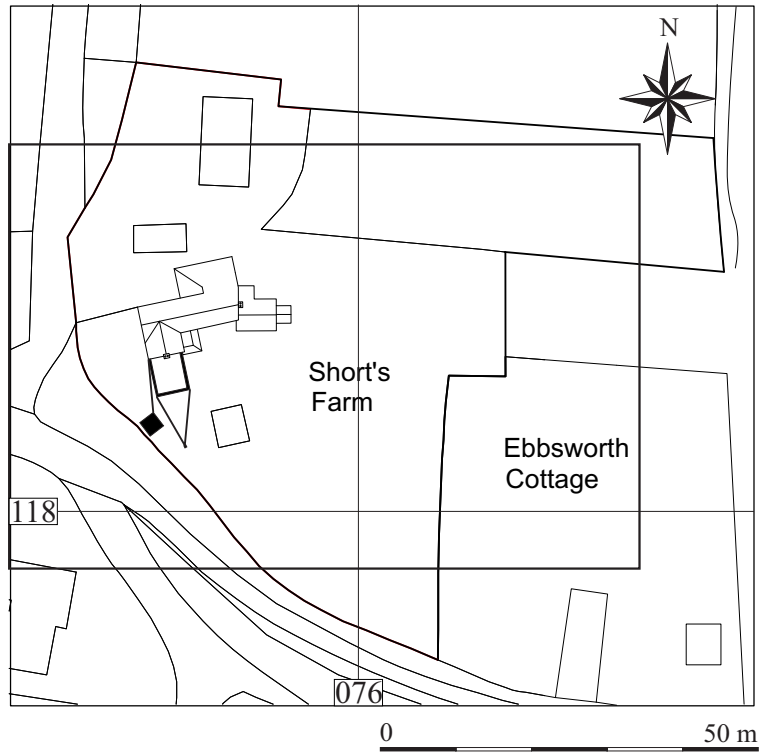


Figure 1. Site location

## 2. The Archaeological Background

- 2.1 The site is of archaeological interest located approximately 50 metres to the north-west of buried remains of part of a Roman building, observed in 1940 in the south-west corner of the garden of Ebbsworth Cottage. John Mills Senior Archaeologist Strategic Planning Division (Local Development) West Sussex County Council provided advice on behalf of Horsham District Council and stated that

*'...the Roman building may have extended into the eastern part of the garden of Shorts Farm. Because such buildings would normally have been associated with outbuildings, boundary ditches, rubbish pits and wells, it is possible that new ground excavations for construction of the 2-storey extension may expose or cut through buried Roman archaeological features.*

*In addition, as stated in the Design and Access Statement, Shorts Farm – including the original destroyed pre-fire part of the building – is shown on the Pulborough Tithe Map of 1839, and may be of still older origin. Buried remains of the former farmhouse, or of still earlier buildings on the same site, may also therefore be of archaeological interest, particularly if they are very much older than the existing building.*

*The anticipated amount of new ground excavation in previously undisturbed ground should be limited. Should planning permission be granted for the current proposals, it is suggested that new ground excavations for construction of the 2-storey extension should be observed by an archaeologist, so that any buried archaeological remains that are exposed or cut through may be adequately recorded.*

*Policies: refer PPS 5 (Planning for the Historic Environment), esp. Policy HE12.3 and PPS 5 Practice Guide, paragraph 140; Horsham District Council LDF Adopted General Development Control Policies document (December 2007), Policy DC10 (Archaeological Sites and Ancient Monuments).*

- 2.2 The archaeological potential was based on the proximity of archaeological remains presently recorded on the HER. A search detailing a 500m radius of the site was obtained from the WSCC HER Officer and summarised as follows.
- 2.3 Part of a Roman building and a 2nd Century brass of Agrippa were found at Nutbourne (HER 2367 - MWS3190). The precise site of the building is not known but it could be the same as the Roman building in Nutbourne discovered in 1940 when part of a hypocaust was cut through whilst laying a water pipe to Ebbsworth Cottage. Some of the pillars were erect and intact but most had collapsed. The exact site is under a lawn and is marked by a slight depression. Such a building would not normally have existed in isolation, but would have been accompanied by other buildings and outbuildings, refuse pits, ovens, ditch systems defining

paddocks or fields.

- 2.4 Nutbourne windmill (HER 2413 - MWS2734) is a ruinous brick tower-mill dating from 1854, which stands on its own in a field (TQ 07830 18870). A few timbers across the top remain to show its function. It ceased working about 1900 when the fan was blown off and never replaced.
- 2.5 A Post medieval Watermill (TQ 07660 18800) - Nutbourne Upper Mill is shown at Nutbourne by the OS in 1876. It is now converted into a house. (HER 2417 - MWS2738) The Nutbourne Lower Mill (HER 2418 - MWS2739) is shown at Nutbourne by the OS in 1876 and demolished in 1937 (TQ 07700 18630)
- 2.6 An archaeological watching brief was carried out on Manor Farmhouse at TQ 0750 1870 while building alterations took place, this revealed nothing of archaeological interest.

### **3. Archaeological Objectives**

- 3.1 The objectives of the archaeological investigation were to contribute to heritage knowledge of the area through the recording of the archaeological remains exposed as a result of the excavations
- 3.2 Specific aims were set out in the WSI (Riccoboni 2011) and were to clarify (if possible):
  - the nature of deposits and assess whether any Roman remains first discovered at Ebbsworth Cottage in the 1940's extend into the site;
  - whether archaeological remains from the former farmhouse or any other earlier buildings existed at the development site;
  - the character date and quality of any ancient remains and deposits and
  - whether particularly important remains should be preserved *in situ*

### **4. Groundworks (Fig 1)**

- 4.1 The groundworks comprised the excavation of foundation trenches for a new extension plus associated service works.
- 4.2 A development plan was obtained from PAD Architecture and used in the WSI to show the extent of the new extension, reduced in size from original proposals to be entirely within the previous existing footprint demolished by fire.

## **5. Methodology**

- 5.1 A suitably qualified archaeologist (James Vessey and Andy Margetts) were present to undertake monitoring of the groundworks connected with the development and recording of any features revealed.
- 5.2 The investigation comprised continuous monitoring of all groundworks throughout the programme of ground excavation. PRO Archaeology Services informed the Senior Archaeologist Strategic Planning Division (Local Development) West Sussex County Council (John Mills) that arrangements were in place for appropriate monitoring and there was liaison during the ground works taking place.
- 5.3 Any modern overburden was carefully removed by a mechanical excavator fitted with a ditching bucket or similar. Care was taken not to damage any archaeological deposits through excessive use of mechanical excavation should they have become apparent.
- 5.4 The on site archaeologist inspected the surfaces revealed. Exposed natural surfaces were hand cleaned with suitable tools

## **6. Recording**

- 6.1 All recording was undertaken to the standards detailed in the Museum of London Archaeology Service Archaeological Site Manual Third Edition 1994.
- 6.2 Plans showing monitored areas were drawn at an appropriate scale, located on the site plan and levelled with respect to OD. An overall trench plan was maintained at a scale of 1:50.
- 6.3 All plans were then accurately tied in to the site grid.
- 6.4 All archaeological contexts were recorded individually on context record sheets.

Table 2: Quantification of site archive

Number of Contexts	3
No. of files/paper record	4
Plan and sections sheets	1
Bulk Samples	0
Photographs	7 digital photographs
Bulk finds	0
Registered finds	0
Environmental flots/residue	0

## 7.0 Results

Table 3: Results: List of recorded contexts

Context No	Cut/Fill	Description	Depth	Height m AOD
101	Deposit	Dark brown topsoil	0.05-0.20	32.07
102	Deposit	Dark orange yellow compact sand- natural	0.66	/
103	Deposit	Dark orange grey compact sand -natural	/	31.82

### 7.1 The Wall Footing Trenches (Fig 1)

7.1.1 The earliest deposit recorded was the natural orange sand (103) which was overlain by natural yellow sand (102) and a thin layer of topsoil (101). The previous footings were recorded as loose rubble within the trenches. No archaeological features or finds were observed.

### 7.2 The Soakaway, Inspection Chamber and Service Trenches (Fig 1)

7.2.1 The soakaway (1.50m x 0.60m x 1.50m. l/w/d) and inspection chamber pit (1.2m<sup>2</sup>) consisted of natural yellow sand (102) overlain directly by topsoil (101). No archaeological features or finds were observed.

7.2.2 The service trenches showed a variable thickness of topsoil which were deepest towards the sunken lane. No archaeological features or finds were observed.

## 8.0 The Finds

8.1 There were no finds recovered from the excavations.

## 9.0 Discussion

9.1 The watching brief do not reveal any features or finds of archaeological significance. The shallow overburden indicates the site had been stripped of topsoil and levelled in the recent past, likely to have happened during the construction of the original build.

9.2 The remains of the Roman building do not extend this far into garden of Shorts Farm which provides additional evidence as to a postulated size or status of the Roman building.



9.3 The watching brief proved conclusively that archaeology was not present within the extension or any services trenches.

## 10.0 Conclusions

10.1 Although the groundworks did not reveal any archaeological features or finds this report has proven that the area had potential to reveal important Roman remains.

10.2 The excavations for the new extension were limited and the 'key hole' nature of the groundworks makes site interpretation difficult. Previous topsoil removal, terracing and levelling across the development area may have removed shallow archaeological features or finds (had they been present).

10.3 A confidence rating is high that the best possible results were achieved.

**Figure 2:** Excavation of soakaway pit showing topsoil over natural clay



## 11.0 BIBLIOGRAPHY

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## 12.0 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Many thanks to Sarah Browne for commissioning PRO Archaeology to undertake the archaeological work and Rachel Salter for supplying the HER data used in this report. Also many thanks to John Mills and Mark Tailor for their very much appreciated help and support.

### HER Summary Form

Identification Name and Address	Shorts Farm, Nutbourne, Pulborough RH20 2HE					
Site Code						
County, District &/or Borough	Pulborough West Sussex					
OS Grid Refs.	507541 118872					
Geology	Hythe Beds					
PRO Archaeology Project Number	11/50/007					
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. 7 <sup>th</sup> & 12 <sup>th</sup> July 2011	Other		
Sponsor/Client	Ms Sarah Browne					
Project Manager	Paul Riccoboni					
Project Supervisor	James Vessey & Andy Margetts					
Period Summary	Palaeo.	Meso.	Neo.	BA	IA	RB
	AS	MED	PM	Other		
<p>100 Word Summary.</p> <p><i>PRO Archaeology Services was commissioned Sarah Browne to undertake an archaeological watching brief during groundworks at Shorts Farm, Nutbourne, Nr Pulborough, RH20 2HE (Planning ref: DC/10/1293-amended DC/10/2331). Two separate site visits were made during the excavation of three wall footing trenches and service trenches. No archaeological features or finds were discovered.</i></p>						