

Devon County Council Historic Environment Record

Civil Parish & District: Branscombe, East Devon	National Grid Reference: SY 1602 8927	Number:
Subject: Archaeological monitoring and recording on land adjacent to Slade House Farm, Branscombe, Devon.		Photo attached: Y
Planning Application no: 15/0861/MFUL	Recipient museum: n/a	
OASIS ID: oakforda1-207572	Museum Reference no: n/a	
Contractor's reference number/code: OA1237	Dates fieldwork undertaken: 24/08, 25/08, 27/08, 07/09/2015, 08/03, 17/05, 20/05 and 23/05/2016	
<p>Description of works: An archaeological watching brief was undertaken by Oakford Archaeology (OA) between August 2015 and May 2016 on works associated with the construction of a new restaurant and water main on land adjacent to Slade House Farm, Branscombe, Devon (SY 1602 8927). The work was required by East Devon District Council (EDDC) as advised by the Devon County Historic Environment Team (DCHET) and followed on from an evaluation undertaken in January 2015 (Steinmetzer 2015). The site lies in an area where only limited archaeological fieldwork has been previously undertaken, although the landscape in the immediate vicinity of the Donkey Sanctuary has yielded a significant amount of artefactual material indicative of intensive Neolithic, as well as later prehistoric and Romano-British activity.</p> <p>Works associated with the construction of a new car park and associated road works (Fig. 1 - pink) were also meant to be monitored. However, due to a breakdown in communication between the main contractor and OA the work was completed without archaeological monitoring.</p> <p>Results: A watching brief was maintained during the excavation of the foundations of the new restaurant (Fig. 1 - red). This identified a 1.85m thick layer of modern made ground across the entire footprint of the new building. The foundations, extending to a depth of c. 1.05m, were contained within this material and no original ground was identified during the works. The material is likely to have been deposited in the 20th century as hardcore for a thick concrete slab, creating access for heavy vehicles to the veterinary building and the main visitor complex.</p> <p>Finally, the excavation of a new electricity main to the west and south of the new restaurant was also monitored. The works revealed a simple deposit sequence consisting of mid-reddish brown silty clay topsoil above a mid-orange yellow clay and flint natural subsoil. No finds were recovered from this.</p> <p>OASIS entry Due to the limited nature of the findings a project archive will not be produced. A summary of the investigations has been submitted to the on-line archaeological database OASIS (Online AccesS to the Index of archaeological InterventionS).</p>		
Recorder: MFR Steinmetzer (Oakford Archaeology)		Date sent to HER:



Fig. 1 Location of site.



Pl. 1 General view of new restaurant area showing depth of foundations through modern made ground. Looking northeast.



Pl. 2 General view of electricity trench to south of new restaurant area. Looking north.