

**An Archaeological Watching Brief
On Land at Shalcombe WSW, Shalcombe
Isle of Wight, PO41 0UF**

(NGR: SZ 394 854)

**Project No. 4515
Site Code: FDS10**

ASE Report No. 2010219

OASIS id: archaeol6-87752

Alice Thorne

Nov 2010

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Abstract

An archaeological watching brief was maintained during groundwork associated with a new water and waste supply at Shalcombe, Isle of Wight (NGR: SZ 394 854). Despite the rich archaeological context of the site, no finds, features or deposits were observed. Instead, a substantial deposit of made ground was encountered to the base of the trenches.

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1.0 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 Archaeology South-East (ASE), the contracting division of the UCL Institute of Archaeology Centre for Applied Archaeology, was commissioned by 4 Delivery Ltd to undertake an archaeological watching brief at Shalcombe WSW, on the B3399, Isle of Wight (NGR: SZ 394 854; Figure 1).
- 1.2 A Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) for the watching brief was prepared prior to the commencement of the groundwork by Archaeology South-East (ASE 2010). All work was carried out in accordance with this document (unless otherwise specified below), and the relevant Standards and Guidance of the Institute for Archaeologists (IfA).
- 1.3 The proposed groundwork comprised an initial topsoil strip, followed by the excavation of trenches (0.50m wide by 0.70m deep) relating to a new water and waste supply (Fig. 2).
- 1.4 The underlying geology at the site consists of Upper Chalk.
- 1.5 The fieldwork was undertaken by Kathy Grant on the 22/09/2010. The project was managed by Andy Leonard (Project Manager) and Jim Stevenson (Post-excavation Manager).

2.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

- 2.1 The following information has been taken from the Archaeology Data Service (ads).
- 2.2 The site lies on Shalcombe Down within an archaeologically sensitive area. Prehistoric, Roman, medieval and post-medieval remains are known within the vicinity, as well as multiple as yet undated cropmarks and field boundaries etc.
- 2.3 Bronze Age barrows are common with the 'Five Barrows' and the 'Three Barrows' bowl barrow groups all situated within the immediate area. Bell Barrows and Disc Barrows are also known in the area.
- 2.4 Three Constantinian Roman coins were found at or near to Chessell.
- 2.5 A Late 5th and 6th century Jutish inhumation cemetery was investigated on Chessell Down. Over 130 graves were excavated in 1819 and 1855, all having associated grave goods, many of which were richly furnished.
- 2.6 Two barrows described as medieval also exist in the area though at least one of these is known to be Saxon reuse of a prehistoric (probably Bronze Age) monument.
- 2.7 The Grange of a Cistercian Abbey known to have existed at Shalcombe was destroyed during the Dissolution. The exact whereabouts of the Grange in or around Shalcombe is not known.

3.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL METHODOLOGY

- 3.1 The general objective of the archaeological work was to monitor ground works relating to the new water supply and waste in order to ensure that any features, artefacts or ecofacts of archaeological interest exposed and affected by the excavations were recorded and interpreted to appropriate standards.
- 3.2 Upon arrival at the site the monitoring archaeologist inspected the open service trenches and surfaces, and monitored the excavation of additional stretches of trenching.
- 3.3 All encountered deposits, features and finds were recorded according to accepted professional standards in accordance with the Specification using standard Archaeology South-East context record sheets. Deposit colours were verified by visual inspection and not by reference to a Munsell Colour chart.
- 3.4 The spoil from the excavations was inspected to recover any artefacts or ecofacts of archaeological interest.
- 3.5 A full photographic record of the work was kept (*digital images*) and will form part of the site archive. The archive is presently held at the Archaeology South-East offices at Portslade and will be offered to a suitable local museum.

Table 1: Quantification of the Site Archive

Number of Contexts	2
Number of files/paper record	1 file
Plan and sections sheets	1
Photographs	8 digital images

4.0 RESULTS

4.1 Table 2: List of Recorded Contexts

Context Number	Type	Description	Max. Thickness (m)
001	Deposit	Brown-grey silt topsoil	0.25
002	Deposit	Orange-sandy silt made ground, (CBM, tarmac, concrete fragments)	0.70

4.2 The topsoil on site comprised a 0.20 – 0.25m thick layer of a loose mid brownish grey silt, containing occasional sub-rounded flint stones and fragments of modern Ceramic Building Material (CBM) [001]. Below this, a made ground deposit comprising a light to mid orange sandy silt, containing modern cbm, tarmac and fragments of concrete, was encountered to the base of excavations at 0.70m depth [002].

4.3 No finds, features or deposits were observed.

5.0 DISCUSSION

5.1 Despite the rich archaeological context of the site no finds, features or deposits were observed during this watching brief. A substantial deposit of made ground measuring a minimum of 0.50m thick was encountered, and indicates that a significant degree of modern disturbance has occurred across the site.

References

ASE. 2010. *Shalcombe WSW Isle of Wight: Archaeological Watching Brief Written Scheme of Investigation*. Unpublished ASE document.

<http://ads.ahds.ac.uk/> Accessed 2/8/10

SMR Summary Form

Site Code	FDS10					
Identification Name and Address	Shalcome WSW					
County, District &/or Borough	Isle of Wight					
OS Grid Refs.	SZ 394 854					
Geology	Chalk					
Arch. South-East Project Number	4515					
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. 22/09/10	Other		
Sponsor/Client	4 Delivery Ltd					
Project Manager	Andy Leonard					
Project Supervisor	Kathy Grant					
Period Summary	Palaeo.	Meso.	Neo.	BA	IA	RB
	AS	MED	PM	Other		
<p>100 Word Summary.</p> <p><i>An archaeological watching brief was maintained during groundwork associated with a new water and waste supply at Shalcombe, Isle of Wight (NGR: SZ 394 854). Despite the rich archaeological context of the site, no finds, features or deposits were observed. Instead, a substantial deposit of made ground was encountered to the base of the trenches.</i></p>						

OASIS FORM

OASIS ID: archaeol6-87752

Project details

Project name	Shalcombe, Isle of Wight
Short description of the project	An archaeological watching brief was maintained during groundwork associated with a new water and waste supply at Shalcombe, Isle of Wight (NGR: SZ 394 854). Despite the rich archaeological context of the site, no finds, features or deposits were observed. Instead, a substantial deposit of made ground was encountered to the base of the trenches.
Project dates	Start: 22-09-2010 End: 22-09-2010
Previous/future work	No / No
Any associated project reference codes	FDS10 - Sitecode
Type of project	Recording project
Site status	None
Current Land use	Other 12 - Verge
Monument type	NONE None
Significant Finds	NONE None
Investigation type	'Watching Brief'
Prompt	Voluntary/self-interest

Project location

Country	England
Site location	ISLE OF WIGHT ISLE OF WIGHT CALBOURNE Shalcombe
Postcode	PO140UF
Study area	20.00 Square metres
Site coordinates	SZ 4394 0854 49.9747658749 -1.3871472374 49 58 29 N 001 23 13 W Point
Height OD / Depth	Min: 0m Max: 0m

Project creators

Name of Organisation	Archaeology South East
Project brief	4 Delivery Ltd

originator	
Project design originator	Archaeology South-East
Project director/manager	Andy Leonard
Project supervisor	Kathryn Grant
Type of sponsor/funding body	4D Ltd

Project archives

Physical Archive Exists?	No
Physical Archive recipient	local museum
Digital Archive recipient	Local Museum
Digital Contents	'other'
Digital Media available	'Images raster / digital photography'
Paper Archive recipient	Local Museum
Paper Contents	'Stratigraphic','other'
Paper Media available	'Context sheet','Correspondence','Plan','Report'

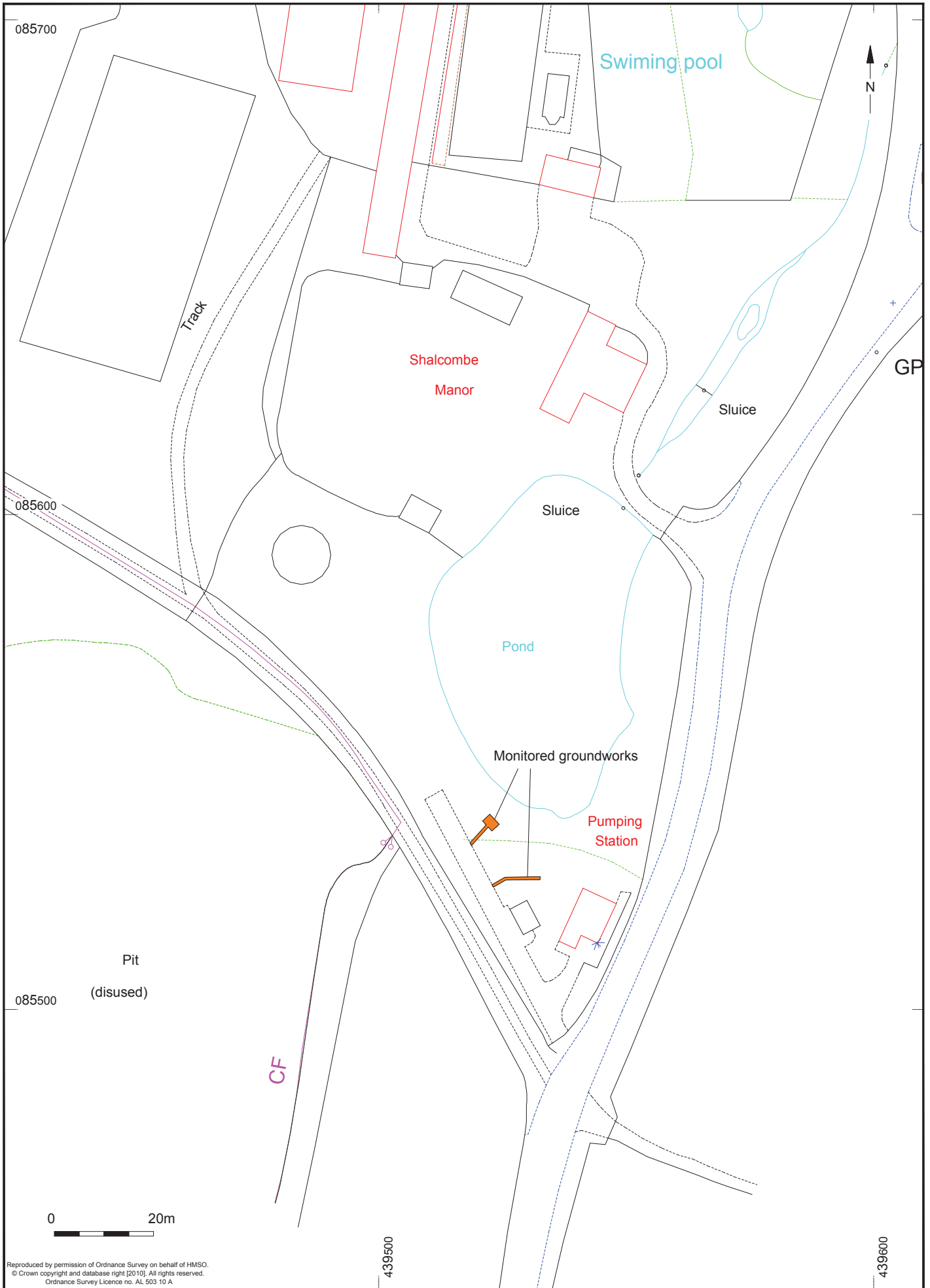
Project bibliography 1

Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title	An Archaeological watching Brief at Shalcombe, Isle of Wight
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© Archaeology South-East		Shalcombe WSW		Fig. 1
Project Ref: 4515	Nov 2010	Site location		
Report Ref: 2010219	Drawn by: JLR			



© Archaeology South-East		Shalcombe WSW	Fig. 2
Project Ref: 4515	Nov 2010	Site plan showing monitored groundwork	
Report Ref: 2010219	Drawn by: JLR		

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