

Archaeological Monitoring of replacement pipeline near London Road, Sholden, Deal, Kent

NGR: 636300 152650



Report for Clancy Docwra Ltd

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Archaeological Monitoring of replacement pipeline at London Road, Sholden, Deal, Kent

Date of report: 05/01/15



Plate 1. Aerial view showing the route of the pipeline.

(GoogleEarth 7/9/2013, eye alt 635m).

1.0 Summary

1.1. From 18th November to 19th December 2014 Swale and Thames Archaeological Survey Company (SWAT Archaeology) carried out an Archaeological Watching Brief on ground works involved in the replacement of a pipeline near London Road, Deal, Kent (Fig. 1, Plate 2).

1.2. The works were carried out on behalf of Clancy Docwra Ltd.

1.3. An Archaeological Watch was kept during the machine strip of the topsoil and the excavation of the trench to carry the replacement pipeline.

The archaeological work was undertaken in three phases.

Phase 1: Site strip (Plate 4).

Phase 2: Excavation of trench (Plate 5).

Phase 3: Laying of pipeline and backfill

1.4. The Archaeological Watching Brief was to watch for any signs of any archaeological remains that may be impacted on by the proposed works.

1.5. Although the archaeological potential was highlighted in the extensive archaeological remains being excavated prior to development in the adjacent area (Church Lane, Persimmon Homes) the Archaeological Watching Brief revealed no buried archaeological features and no archaeological finds were retrieved.

2.0 Introduction

2.1 A replacement sewer pipeline to facilitate the drainage from the Persimmons housing development at Sholden Gap, Church Lane, was required and part of the pipeline was planned to go through an area of the development which had been cleared of archaeology. However, no archaeological work had been carried out on the continuing route of the pipeline to the west which followed the route of a public footpath (Figure 1, Plate 1).

2.2 Following consultation with the Principal Archaeological Officer at Kent County Council (KCC) a methodology was agreed where test pits would be hand dug along the stripped

route of the pipeline to inform the archaeological contractor of the amount of topsoil and subsoil overlaying the known archaeological horizon. This was to ensure a suitable amount of subsoil was retained as a 'cushion' to make sure the contractor's tracked vehicles did not impact on any potential buried archaeology.

2.3. In some areas, and after continuous heavy rain, additional subsoil was added to protect any potential buried archaeology.

3.0 Schedule of Visits

Neil Chaney and Paul Wilkinson from SWAT Archaeology monitored the excavation works from 18th November to 19th December 2014.

4.0 Aims and Objectives

4.1. The reason for the monitoring and recording, were to:

'contribute to heritage knowledge of the area through the recording of the archaeological remains exposed as a result of excavations in connection with the groundworks' (KCC 2011)

4.2. A full programme of proposed works by the contractor were made available to SWAT Archaeology before the on-site monitoring took place.

4.3. Confidence Rating

No factors hindered the recognition of archaeological and deposits during the monitoring and recording exercise.

5.0 Archaeological and Geological Background

5.1 The site is located on the northern edge of the town of Deal in Kent and occupies a pocket of agricultural land between Deal and the neighbouring village of Sholden (NGR 636300 152650). The site is bounded to the north and west by open fields which are to be retained as a green buffer between the Persimmon development and the village of Sholden. To the south and east the site is bounded by urban development on the edge of Deal.

The current ground levels are between 4.10mOD at the eastern end of the pipeline and 6.20mOD at the western end of the pipeline with a gradual decline towards the north-east in the direction of the Lydden Valley.

5.2 The British Geological Survey (BGS) shows the underlying geology of the site consists of a Clay with Flints Head deposit which overlies bedrock chalk of the Seaford Chalk Formation. The geology revealed on the adjacent archaeological site (Church Lane, Persimmon Homes) was 34-36cm thick topsoil overlaying subsoil deposits up to 60cm thick which overlaid the natural geology.

5.3 Archaeological Data

The archaeological and historical background potential has been tested by an archaeological evaluation on the adjacent land (Church Lane, Persimmon Homes) when Headland Archaeology in 2013 revealed activity from the Neolithic and potential field systems from the Bronze Age. Recent work by SWAT Archaeology has confirmed the presence of Neolithic pits, prehistoric round barrows with cremations were also revealed, extensive Prehistoric field systems and also Iron Age, Roman and medieval.

6.0 Methodology

6.1. The Watching Brief was conducted in accordance with the Archaeological Specification, and it also complied with the Institute of Field Archaeologists' Standards and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Briefs (IfA: 1994, revised Oct 2008).

6.2. The works comprised the observation of all ground works, including the inspection of any revealed subsoil and natural deposits for archaeological features and finds.

6.3. The Watching Brief was carried out in three phases according to the needs of the contractors.

6.4. All excavation was carried out under the constant supervision of an experienced archaeologist.

6.5. Where possible the areas of excavation were subsequently hand-cleaned with the intention of revealing any observed features in plan and section.

6.6. If found archaeological features under threat were to be excavated to enable sufficient information about form, development date and stratigraphic relationships to be recorded without prejudice to more extensive investigations, should these prove to be necessary.

6.7. The archaeological watching brief was carried out in accordance with current IfA Standards and Guidance, (IfA: 2008), and the methodology itemised in the Archaeological Watching Brief Specification produced by the Heritage Conservation Group, KCC (2011).

7.0 Results

7.1 General

No archaeological features or finds were revealed or recovered.

8.0 Finds

No buried archaeological features were located in the Archaeological Monitoring phase and no finds were retrieved.

9.0 Discussion

The Watching Brief phase of works on the site included watching the topsoil strip, the reduction of the subsoil and the cutting of the trench for the replacement pipe.

10.0 Conclusion

The Archaeological Monitoring has fulfilled the primary aims and objectives of the Specification. As far as it is known no buried archaeological features have been affected as a result of the development.

11.0 Acknowledgments

SWAT Archaeology would like to thank Clancy Docwra for commissioning the works.

Dr Paul Wilkinson, FRSA., MIfA

References

HER data (KCC 2014)

IFA (1994 & 2008) Standards and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Briefs

KCC (2011) Specification for an Archaeological Watching Brief in Kent

Headland Archaeology (2013) Archaeological Evaluation at Church Lane, Deal

APPENDIX 1 Kent County Council HER summary form

Site Name: Land at London Road, Sholden, Deal, Kent	
Site Address: See above	
Summary: An Archaeological Watching Brief was carried out from 18 th November to 19 th December 2014 on the above site. No archaeological remains were revealed.	
District/Unitary: Dover	Parish:
Period(s):	
NGR (centre of site : 8 figures): 636300 152650 (NB if large or linear site give multiple NGRs)	
Type of archaeological work (delete)	

Plates



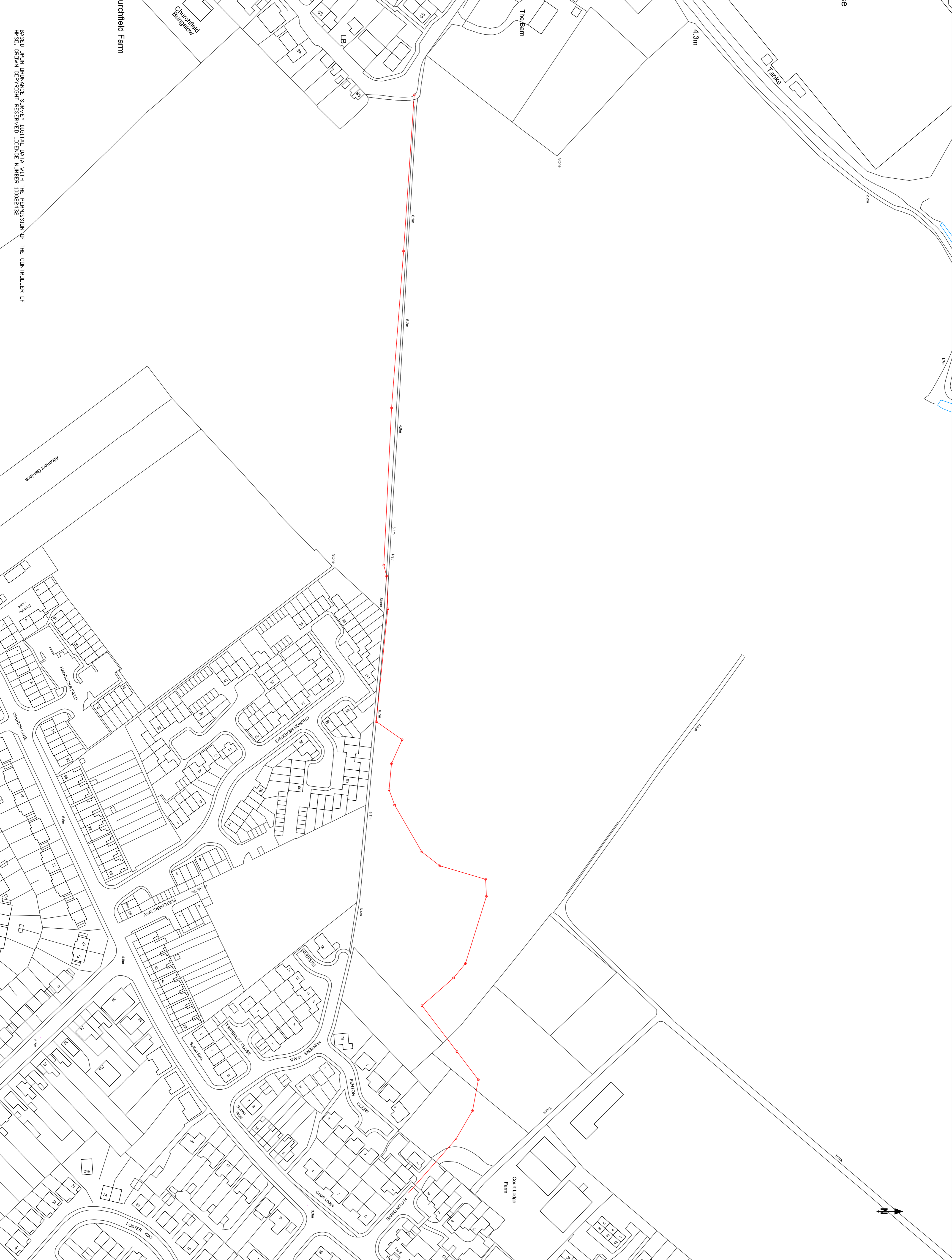
Plate 2. Test Pit showing depth of topsoil and subsoil. Plate 3 (below) Test Pit showing depth of topsoil and subsoil.





Plate 4. Phase 1. Topsoil strip. Plate 5 (below) Phase 2. Cutting trench for pipe

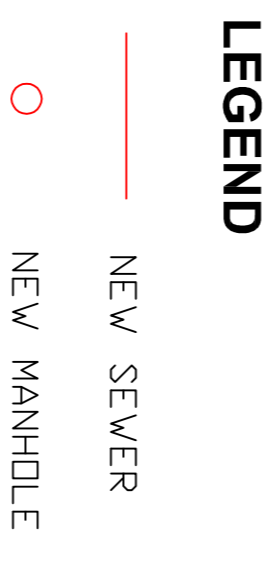




NOTES

1) ALL DIMENSIONS IN MILLIMETRES, UNLESS STATED OTHERWISE

2) DD NOT SCALE THIS DRAWING



REV.	DATE	DESCRIPTION	BY
A	17.12.14	FIRST ISSUE	AB



PROJECT TITLE
 S98 LONDON ROAD,
 SHOLDEN, DEAL

PROJECT REFERENCE
 6588622

DRAWING TITLE
 WORKS IN FIELD

SCALE	SIZE
1:1000	A1

DRAWN	CHECKED	APPROVED
AB	JB	RF

DATE	REVISION
17.12.14	A

DRAWING NUMBER	REVISION
6588622-FW101	A

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