

**Archaeological Watching Brief Report
During the re-excavation of a Former Pond
Sissinghurst Castle
Sissinghurst, Kent**

**NGR 580745 138309
(TQ 80745 38309)**

Tunbridge Wells Borough Council Planning Reference 15/506987/FULL

**Project No: 7621
Site Code: SIS 12**

**ASE Report No. 2016033
OASIS ID: archaeol6-240875**



By Simon Stevens BA (Hons) MCIfA

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Abstract

Archaeology South-East was commissioned by was commissioned by the National Trust to undertake an archaeological watching brief during the re-excavation of a former pond at Sissinghurst Castle, Sissinghurst, Kent (NGR 580745 138309).

The archaeological monitoring of the groundworks did not reveal any remains of particular antiquity. The only artefact predating the post-medial era was a fragment of medieval floor tile, and the vast majority of material encountered during the watching brief was probably 20th century in date. The exact date that the pond was backfilled could not be established.

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1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Site Background

1.1.1 Archaeology South-East (ASE) was commissioned by the National Trust (NT) to undertake an archaeological watching brief during the re-excavation of a former pond at Sissinghurst Castle, Sissinghurst, Kent (NGR 580745 138309) (Figure 1).

1.2 Geology and Topography

1.2.1 The castle is located c.1.5km to the east of the village of Sissinghurst in the Kentish Weald. The site of the former (and new) pond lies close to the west entrance range of the main complex of historic buildings at the site.

1.2.2 According to current data from the British Geological Survey, the underlying geological strata at the site consists of the Tunbridge Wells Sand formation. There is no recorded superficial geology, but there are deposits of alluvium to the north, south and east associated with local watercourses (BGS 2016).

1.3 Planning Background

1.3.1 Planning permission for the re-excavation of a previously backfilled pond was granted by Tunbridge Wells Borough Council in 2014 (planning ref. 15/506987/FULL). Owing to the archaeological potential of the site, and following consultation between Tunbridge Wells Borough Council and the Heritage Conservation Group, Kent County Council (Tunbridge Wells Borough Council's advisers on archaeological issues) archaeological works were required as a condition of planning consent. The condition stated that:

'No development shall take place until the applicant, or their agents or successors in title has secured the implementation of a watching brief to be undertaken by an archaeologist approved by the Local Planning Authority so that the excavation is observed and items of interest and finds are recorded. The watching brief shall be in accordance with a written programme and specification which has been submitted to and approved by the Local Planning Authority.'

Reason: To ensure that features of archaeological interest are properly examined and recorded.'

1.3.2 Accordingly, a *Written Scheme of Investigation* (WSI) for the archaeological work was prepared by ASE (ASE 2015a) and duly approved by Kent County Council before the commencement of the work. The document outlined the methodologies to be used on-site and in the reporting and archiving of the results of the monitoring of groundworks for the new building (*ibid.*).

1.4 Research Aims and Objectives

- 1.4.1 The general aim of the archaeological work (in keeping with similar monitoring works undertaken by ASE) was to:

‘to record, interpret and report on any archaeological remains exposed during groundworks (including artefacts or ecofacts of archaeological interest) to appropriate archaeological standards and to establish whether any further archaeological work is necessary.’

1.5 Scope of Report

- 1.5.1 The current report provides results of the monitoring of mechanical excavations undertaken during January 2016. The on-site work was undertaken by Simon Stevens (Senior Archaeologist). The project was managed by Neil Griffin (Project Manager) and by Jim Stevenson and Dan Swift (Post-Excavation Managers).

2.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

- 2.1 The architectural history of Sissinghurst Castle and Gardens has been researched by Nigel Nicolson (Nicolson 1990) and recently re-evaluated for a Conservation Management Plan (ASE 2010). Sissinghurst Castle Garden is primarily known as a 20th century garden associated with Vita Sackville-West and Sir Harold Nicolson. However, it has a much older history, originating as a medieval manorial site, probably moated. This medieval manor was replaced by a large Tudor mansion which was itself re-modelled in the later 16th century, and then substantially demolished in the 18th century, following use as a prisoner-of-war camp during the Seven Years War (1756-1763). Following use as a workhouse and farm, it was bought by the Nicolsons in 1930 and restored.
- 2.2 The site is not scheduled although the buildings themselves are listed.
- 2.3 An archaeological watching-brief undertaken by ASE between November 2000 and January 2001 during groundworks associated with the installation of water pipes at Sissinghurst Castle Gardens (ASE 2001) located evidence of probable demolition deposits and possible 16th century garden wall within 30m of the pond. Broken tile fragments were interpreted as relating to a small building depicted on an engraving of 1760 and an 18th century prisoner's drawing. The small size of the observed trenches and their distribution mean that no detailed interpretation of the remains could be made. However, the results do demonstrate the survival of *in situ* structural remains at the site.
- 2.4 An archaeological evaluation undertaken by ASE in May 2008 on the lawn opposite Castle Farmhouse (approximately 50m west of the pond), in advance of the installation of LPG storage tanks identified a demolition deposit dating from the 20th century and a deposit possibly dating to the 18th century. No evidence was found for buildings depicted in 18th century illustrations of the site (ASE 2008a).
- 2.5 An archaeological watching brief undertaken by ASE in October 2008 during groundworks associated with the installation of three LPG storage tanks identified walls and brick structures most likely relating to a late post-medieval greenhouses and a possible boiler house within the gardener's nursery approximately 20m south-west of the pond, dated to the 19th Century ASE 2008b).
- 2.6 An archaeological watching-brief undertaken by ASE in 2012 during groundworks associated with the installation of an LPG tank and drainage trench identified only modern disturbance (ASE 2012)
- 2.7 A ground penetrating radar (GPR) was undertaken over the footprint of the car parking areas proposed for upgrading in 2014 in order to identify evidence for the potential location of burials associated with the 18th century use of this site as a prisoner of war camp (GSB 2014). No features of any kind were identified during an archaeological watching brief on the car park upgrade (ASE 2015).
- 2.8 Two 18th century depictions looking towards the western entrance of Sissinghurst Castle show the presence of a small two-story building in the

approximate location of the pond (Figures 3 and 4). The pond is clearly marked on the first large scale map of the site published by the Ordnance Survey in 1870/1 (Figure 5), and in subsequent maps of 1898 (Figure 6) and 1908 (Figure 7).

- 2.9 A photograph from the 1930s shows the pond still open (Figures 8a), but by the 1960s it appears to have been filled in (Figure 8b). Despite extensive research by the National Trust's Monique Wolak, the exact date that the pond was backfilled could not be established from records held by the National Trust (Monique Wolak, *pers. comm.*)

3.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL METHODOLOGY

- 3.1 Mechanical excavations for the recreation of the pond were monitored by a suitably qualified and experienced archaeologist from ASE. All sections were examined for the presence of archaeological features, and all spoil was scanned for archaeological artefacts.
- 3.2 All encountered deposits were recorded to accepted professional standards using standard Archaeology South-East context record forms. Deposit colours were recorded by visual inspection and not by reference to a Munsell Colour chart.
- 3.3 A full photographic record of the work was kept and will form part of the site archive which is currently held by Archaeology South-East at the offices in Portslade, and will be offered to the National Trust in due course. The archive consists of the following material:

Context sheets	4
Section sheets	0
Plans sheets	0
Colour photographs	0
B&W photos	0
Digital photos	45 images
Context register	1
Drawing register	0
Watching brief forms	4
Trench Record forms	0

Table 2: Quantification of site paper archive

Bulk finds (quantity e.g. 1 bag, 1 box, 0.5 box 0.5 of a box)	2
Registered finds (number of)	1
Flots and remains from bulk samples	0
Palaeoenvironmental specialists sample samples (e.g. columns, prepared slides)	0
Waterlogged wood	0
Wet sieved remains from bulk samples	0

Table 3: Quantification of artefact and environmental samples

4.0 RESULTS

(Figure 2)

4.1 Introduction

4.1.1 An archaeological watching brief was maintained during mechanical excavations at the site between 19th and 22nd January 2016. Weather conditions varied, with clear frosty days, but also periods of heavy rain.

4.1.2 An irregularly shaped area of the pond was reduced using a Kubota KX161-2 360° excavator to form a new pond roughly corresponding to the outline of the former pond.

4.2 The Stratigraphic Sequence

Context Number	Type	Description	Max. Deposit Thickness (m)
100	Layer	Topsoil	0.43
101	Layer	Brick Rubble	0.95
102	Layer	'Natural'	-
103	Layer	Pond Silt	0.23

Table 3: Recorded Contexts

4.2.1 The monitored groundworks for the recreation of the pond revealed a straightforward stratigraphic sequence. The current surface layer consisted of a humic mid-brown topsoil, context [100], which contained an assortment of modern detritus and a selection of older artefacts. It overlay a deposit consisting of brick rubble in a mid-greyish brown silty clay matrix, context [101], containing both frogged and unfrogged bricks, which also included modern detritus and a range of older material, used to backfill and level the former pond.

4.2.2 The brick rubble overlay an intermittent deposit of black silt, context [103], the surviving remains of organic build-up within the historic pond, which contained a small selection of artefacts. This directly overlay the 'natural' yellow and greyish yellow clay of the underlying geological deposits, context [102], which was reached in the base of the new pond (the sloping sides of the pond were made up of contexts [100] and [101]).

5.0 THE FINDS

5.1 Summary

5.1.1 A small assemblage of finds was recovered during the watching brief on the pond reinstatement at Sissinghurst Castle. All finds were washed and dried or air dried as appropriate. They were subsequently quantified by count and weight and were bagged by material and context (Table 4). All finds have been packed and stored following ClfA guidelines (2014).

Context	Pottery	Wt (g)	CBM	Wt (g)	Bone	Wt (g)	Fe	Wt (g)	Glass	Wt (g)	CTP	Wt (g)
100	59	1932	4	4326	2	804			61	15505	3	15
101	6	1030	3	7571			1	99	30	6896		
103	7	420							6	824		
Total	72	3382	7	11897	2	804	1	99	97	23225	3	15

Table 4: Finds quantification

5.2 The Pottery by Luke Barber

5.2.1 The archaeological monitoring recovered a moderately sized assemblage of pottery from the site: 73 pieces weighing 3944g, from three individually numbered contexts. The assemblage, which reflects a hand-collected sample, was mainly recovered from context [100]. Sherd sizes vary greatly from slightly abraded small/medium pieces to large fresh ones (including a single complete jar). A range of types is present and there is clearly some chronological mixing, even within the late post-medieval period. The assemblage has been listed on an Excel database as part of the digital archive and is summarised in Table 5.

Context	Fabric	Period	No	Weight (g)	Comments
100	Glazed red slipped earthenware	EPM	1	12	Bowl with int white slip. M C17th - m 18th
100	Tin-glazed earthenware	EPM	1	18	Polychrome charger - probably Pickleherring pothouse, Southwark. C17th
100	Frechen stoneware	EPM	1	14	Salt-glazed bottle
100	Unglazed red earthenware	LPM	1	348	Garden planter pot with moulded false ring handle
100	Glazed red earthenware	LPM	2	68	Bowls x2 (square club rims)
100	English stoneware	LPM	1	236	100% Bristol glazed black transfer-printed Virol jar (05mm tall, 45mm di rim)
100	English stoneware	LPM	1	204	Salt glazed bottle stamped 'LOVATT & LOVATT Ltd' near body base
100	English stoneware	LPM	6	114	Bristol glazed bottles x5 (inc tan topped spirit)
100	English stoneware	LPM	1	36	Salt glazed blacking bottle

Context	Fabric	Period	No	Weight (g)	Comments
100	Pearlware (sponged)	LPM	2	46	Bowl (beaded rim, blue sponged)
100	Pearlware (transfer-printed)	LPM	3	30	Plates x3 (floral)
100	Blue transfer-printed whiteware	LPM	16	484	Serving dish (Asiatic pheasant pattern), plates x7 (Wild Rose x2, Willow x1, English landscape x1, pattern x1, floral x2), saucer x1 (pattern), tea cups x2 (matching pattern and annular lines), bowls x2 (floral)
100	Brown transfer-printed whiteware	LPM	1	10	Plate (pattern)
100	Green transfer-printed whiteware	LPM	1	6	?Nursery mug
100	Red transfer-printed whiteware	LPM	1	30	Plate (foliage)
100	Polychrome transfer-printed whiteware	LPM	2	124	Stand/chopping board (1960s style), plate (pattern)
100	Refined whiteware (coloured glaze)	LPM	1	124	100% pink glazed tea cup. 88mm di, 73mm tall
100	Refined whiteware (coloured glaze)	LPM	2	84	Plate (yellow glazed), jar (ribbed with ext green and int yellow glaze)
100	Refined whiteware (sponged)	LPM	1	40	Bowl (purple stencilled)
100	Refined whiteware (plain)	LPM	3	222	Preserve jars x2 (x1 plain, x1 ribbed - MALING stamped base)
100	Refined whiteware (plain)	LPM	8	122	Plates x2 (x1 moulded, x1 with red annular rim edge lines), cups x2 (x1 marked ironstone), strainer x1, chamber pot x1 (early), lid (black transfer 'Finch')
100	English porcelain	LPM	5	122	Plate (ribbed), cup, mug
101	English stoneware	LPM	3	552	Preserve jars x2 (Britol glazed). 105mm di, 160mm tall
101	Black transfer-printed whiteware	LPM	1	348	Keiller's Dundee Marmalade. 110mm di base: stamped MALING / K / NEWCASTLE
101	Refined whiteware (plain)	LPM	1	130	Plate (trace of brown transfer maker's mark)
103	Black transfer-printed whiteware	LPM	4	392	Keiller's Dundee Marmalade. 112mm di base: stamped MALING / K / NEWCASTLE
103	Blue transfer-printed whiteware	LPM	1	16	Dish (floral)
103	Brown transfer-printed whiteware	LPM	1	10	Bowl (foliage)
103	English porcelain	LPM	1	2	?Cup

Table 5: Summary of pottery assemblage (EPM – early post-medieval c. 1550-1750; LPM – late post-medieval c. 1750-1950+)

5.2.2 By far the earliest sherds from the site were recovered from context [100] where they are clearly residual. The tin-glazed ware charger with polychrome decoration (blue, ochre, brown) and the Frechen stoneware sherd are likely to be of the 17th century, but the internally slipped fine red earthenware is better placed between the mid-17th and mid-18th centuries. The remaining sherds from [100] represent a fairly typical domestic assemblage of quite basic nature.

- 5.2.3 The exception to this is the large earthenware garden planter. The stonewares include the standard bottles for blacking, beer/spirits and probably ink and mineral waters (though no definite examples of the latter two types are present) as well as a complete Virol jar (a bone-marrow based food advertised as ideal for children and invalids). There is also a scatter of marmalade jars from the Maling pottery. The finewares include a few sherds of pearlware of the early 19th century, though these vessels may well have been still in use in the 20th century, a good range of transfer-printed whitewares (in different colours) as well as a range of plain refined whitewares and a scatter of English porcelain. There are few sherds from the same vessel and fragmentation is quite high suggesting the material may not be in its primary place of deposition.
- 5.2.5 Overall the assemblage is chronologically mixed: putting to one side the Early Post-medieval sherds, the bulk of the ceramics would best be placed between the mid-19th and early 20th century. A few later pieces, such as the polychrome transfer-printed chopping board, are likely to be of the 1950s or 60s. There is nothing in the assemblage from [100] to suggest an affluent household.
- 5.2.6 The smaller assemblage from [101] consists of much larger fresher sherds, some of which are clearly from the same vessels suggesting they are more likely to be in their primary context. Preserve jars totally dominate this group as well as that from context [103]. Overall the pottery groups from these two contexts could be placed anywhere between c.1890 and 1940.

5.3 The Ceramic Building Material by Isa Benedetti-Whitton

- 5.3.1 Thirteen pieces of ceramic building material (CBM) weighing a total of 10370g were hand-collected from two contexts. Context [100] produced a vitrified peg tile and an intact half-round coping brick, both of late post-medieval date c.18-19th century, and also a large fragment of medieval yellow-glazed floor tile; the material from context [101] included fragments of cement wall render c.20th century, and three late post-medieval bricks of varying form. All the material was quantified by form, weight and fabric and recorded on standard recording forms and this information was then entered into a digital Excel database.

Fabric code	Description
B1	Evenly fired red-orange fabric with moderate medium and coarse quartz; moderate burnt oxides up to 5mm; and cream silty streaking and deposits up to 4mm.
B2	Finem dense matrix with moderate voiding. Moderate oxides up to 3mm; sparse white inclusions (chalk?) up to 2mm; and sparse very coarse pebbles from 7-30mm.
FT1	Gritty' looking matrix with common unsorted quartz up to 1mm; moderate oxide speckle and inclusions up to 5mm; round cream silty deposits up to 4mm. Similar to B1.

Table 6: CBM fabric descriptions

- 5.3.2 Both the coping brick and peg tile from [100] and one frogged brick from [101] were vitrified to the extent that fabrics could not be determined. The other two bricks from [101] were each made from different fabrics, as was the floor tile

from [100] (see Table 6). The brick made from B1 was well-formed but unfrogged, suggesting a c.18th century date; the B2 example was heat-cracked and frogged and may date slightly later c.19th century. Collectively the CBM recovered from the castle pond is indicative of late post-medieval building debris, with a single fragment of residual medieval floor tile.

5.4 The Glass by Luke Barber

5.4.1 The archaeological monitoring recovered a large assemblage of glass from the site: 85 pieces weighing just under 25.5kg (including associated tops/lids) from some 79 different vessels. The assemblage, which reflects a hand-collected sample, was all recovered from contexts [100], [101] and [103], though the former context contained the majority. The assemblage is mainly composed of complete or near complete vessels. The assemblage has been fully listed on excel table for the archive giving specific details about each type of vessel, its full embossing details and its variations in dimensions and weight. The functional breakdown of the assemblage is given in Table 2. A general overview of the assemblage is given here, but detailed work on the branded bottles has not been undertaken as part of the current work.

General Type	Specific Type	Estimated Number of Vessels represented.
Drink Alcoholic	Beer	6
Drink Alcoholic	Wine	5
Drink Alcoholic	Spirit	3
Drink Non-alcoholic	Mixer	5
Drink Non-alcoholic	Mineral water	5
Drink Non-alcoholic	Hot beverage	3
Drink Non-alcoholic	Cordial	3
Drink Non-alcoholic	Milk	1
Drink Uncertain	Uncertain	4
Food	Jam etc	7
Food	Meat pastes	4
Food	Sauce	5
Household	Medicine	14
Household	Uncertain	9
Household	Light bulbs	3
Cosmetic	Face cream	1
Serving	Tumbler	1
Total		79

Table 7: Breakdown of glass assemblage by probable use

Alcoholic Drinks

5.4.2 These make up a notable proportion of the assemblage and include some of the latest types in the assemblage, certainly of the second half of the 20th century. The beer bottles, some of which still have parts of their foil paper labelling surviving, are typical of the period, with the only embossing relating to glass manufacturing marks rather than trademarks of contents. The exception to this consists of a vulcanite internal screw stopper, probably from a beer, that could be of the first half of the 20th century. The five wine bottles typically carry no markings and the three spirit bottles are also poorly marked. Despite this the form of the latter suggests two at least held whiskey. The small mixer bottles, like the beers, are obviously of the second half of the 20th

century and are composed of Canada Dry and Scheppes brands, the latter with gold painted aluminium screw caps surviving. Although strictly speaking soft drinks, they were undoubtedly mixed with alcoholic ones.

Non-alcoholic Drinks

- 5.4.3 The three cordial bottles, although not branded (by embossing), all have typical embossed textures or designs and one has an aluminium screw cap. They are likely to be of the second half of the 20th century. The mineral water bottles show more of a chronological mix. The Lyle & Sons (of Maidstone and Ashford) and the Alabaster (of Canal Rd, London) are of forms more likely to be of the 1920s/30s. However, the two Tizer bottles (both with bakelite screw caps intact) and the Corona example are stylistically more likely to be of the 1950s/60s.
- 5.4.4 Although there are a number of suspected drink bottles whose original contents is uncertain there is a single United Dairies milk bottle and three Horlicks jars with iron painted and branded lids. These are again of late styles more akin with the 1950s and 60s.

Food

- 5.4.5 Four vessels can be ascribed to being meat paste containers, all probably from the Shippams factory. However, although all vessels have embossed moulding on their bodies, none have brand names (Shippams normally used paper labelling). Such paste pots were recovered from all three contexts producing bottles.
- 5.4.6 None of the five probable sauce bottles carry trademark embossing – the vessels post-dating the period when this was common. Some are clearly of the same sauce and one still contains a little thin brown liquid not dissimilar to Worcestershire sauce (though the bottle was not opened to check). With seven vessels, preserve jars for jams and marmalades (amongst other commodities), are well represented (see also the pottery for further preserve jars). One of these, from [101], retains its white metal lid.

Household

- 5.4.7 The absence of ink bottles is almost certainly due to the late date of the assemblage as they are usually a common in domestic groups. The bottles grouped under this category are, admittedly, not particularly diagnostic, however, they are likely to be from various cleaning products. The only definite example is that of the Sanpic disinfectant bottle from [103], though arguably this could be grouped with medicines.
- 5.4.8 The three bayonet cap pearl light bulbs can also be included under this category. Two are of standard size, while one measures 145mm long. All belong to the second half of the 20th century.

Medicines

- 5.4.9 A notable selection of medicine bottles are present in the assemblage. The only 'duplicate' involves the famous Lung Tonic of OWBRIDGE'S of HULL, where two panel bottles are present (context [100]). Invented by Walter

Owbridge in around 1874 'for all affections of the chest, throat and lungs' it continued in production long after his death in 1903 and is a common find on sites at least up to the 1950s. A similarly long-lived firm is represented by the Taylor, Brawn and Flood Ltd of Bedford bottle (context [100]). This pharmacy became a limited company in 1913, with its last shops closing in the 1960s and very early 1970s. There is a single hexagonal poison bottle and at least two different remedies for indigestion. The latter consist of a Bisurated Magnesia bottle from [101] and a Maclean Brand stomach powder bottle from [103]. The latter was still being advertised in magazines as late as the 1950s.

Serving

- 5.4.10 A single clear glass tumbler is the only vessel specifically for consumption within the assemblage (context [103]).

Conclusion

- 5.4.11 The glass assemblage is essentially domestic in nature, with a range of commodities being represented. As noted with the pottery, there are some apparently older pieces within the assemblage. However, with the glass these pieces are not likely to predate the 1920s/30s. This is quite logical in that the ceramics include tablewares that may have remained in use for a long period of time, in contrast to glass containers that were only useful while they still held their contents. The other similarity with the pottery is the fact that the few pieces of earlier glass were all recovered from context [100], where they are clearly residual alongside pieces from the 1950s/60s. This would suggest that context [100] was receiving old redeposited material as well as contemporary fresh refuse.

5.5 The Bulk Iron by Elena Baldi

- 5.5.1 One single find is considered bulk iron, from context [101]. This is a wrought iron door clasp, part of a door lock. The piece is part of a "Bean Head" Thumb Latch which dates to the 18th-19th century. The piece is covered with a layer of light corrosion throughout and white paint is visible on some parts, particularly on the latch. Further investigation is not deemed necessary; however XRF analysis could be carried out on the paint to allow further understanding of which type of metals were included in the mixture as these could give a more precise idea of dating.

5.6 The Plastic by Luke Barber

- 5.6.1 Context [100] produced a 22g piece from a white plastic washing up bottle. The bottle appears to have been deliberately cut down to make an open container 105mm tall, but enough of the original printed design is left to see it is QUIX washing up liquid represented, the bottle costing two shillings and sixpence. A 1960s date is probable.

5.7 The Registered Finds by Elena Baldi

- 5.7.1 One single object was assigned a unique Registered Finds Number and was recorded on separate pro-forma sheet and bagged individually. It is stored in an air-tight Stewart box with silica gel. X-radiography was not deemed necessary at this stage, as the piece is clearly identifiable.
- 5.7.2 The single find is a coin, RF <1>, recovered from context [100]. The coin is made of an alloy of aluminium and bronze, it measures 23.5 mm in diameter and weighs 4 g. The piece dates to 1973 and its condition is quite pristine, apart from light corrosion and soil present on either side, particularly on the obverse of the coins, on the head of Marianne (the iconic figure who carried the flag in the French Revolution).
- 5.7.3 The coin presents on the obverse the head of Marianne in left profile, wearing the Phrygian cap of liberty, a national emblem of France, and surrounded with the lettering: REPUBLIQUE FRANÇAISE; the engraver name, (Henri) LAGRIFFOUL, is visible on the left of the head.
- 5.7.4 On the reverse, the mark of value 20 CENTIMES is laid on two lines above the date it was struck, 1973. All is surrounded with a wheat ear, an olive branch and the French motto: "LIBERTE • EGALITE • FRATERNITE•" (liberty, equality, fraternity). The name of the engraver, A(drien) DIEUDONNÉ is visible on the left of the olive branch.
- 5.7.5 The coin was struck with 45,240,000 pieces and it is therefore quite common and does not have commercial value. However, it still provides a *terminus post quem* date for the deposition of the finds from the context it was retrieved from.

5.8 The Animal Bone by Gemma Ayton

- 5.8.1 The animal bone assemblage contains 2 fragments of bone hand-collected from a single context, [100]. The first fragment has been identified as the shaft of a cattle femur and the second specimen is a complete, left horse metatarsal. Measurements of the horse metatarsal were taken with reference to von den Driesch (1976) and are presented in Table 8.

		Measurements (in mm)				
Taxa	Bone	GL	GLI	LI	Bd	Bp
Horse	Metatarsal	293	291	286	56	55

Table 8: Horse metatarsal measurements (in mm)

- 5.8.2 Using factors presented in von den Driesch (1976), it is estimated that the metatarsal derived from horse with a withers height of 152cm.
- 5.8.3 There is no evidence of butchery, burning, gnawing or pathology on the bone

6.0 DISCUSSION

- 6.1 The archaeological monitoring of the groundworks at the site did not reveal any remains of particular antiquity. The only artefact predating the post-medial era was a fragment of medieval floor tile, and the vast majority of material encountered during the watching brief was probably 20th century in date. The exact date that the pond was backfilled could not be established.
- 6.2 There had clearly been considerable mixing of material deposited in the former pond, and problems with close dating of artefacts from the recent past does not allow any clear conclusion to the question of when the pond was filled in.
- 6.3 However what is clear is that a fine array of material has been dumped in this corner of the Sissinghurst Castle complex in recent years, some presumably directed dropped or thrown there (e.g. the 1970s coin and various bottles), or has become mixed with later deposits and dumped there as levelling (e.g. the earliest pottery, the medieval floor tile and the clay pipes).
- 6.4 Unfortunately it has proved impossible to link any of the finds directly to the Nicolsons, and much of the assemblage pre- and post-dates their ownership of the site. Nevertheless, the recovered material does provide some insight into life at the site, even if it can do little to highlight the changes of use of the site from moated site to Tudor manor to prison camp, or from workhouse to farm to tourist attraction.

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HER Summary

Site Code	SIS 12					
Identification Name and Address	Sissinghurst Castle Pond Re-Instatement					
County, District &/or Borough	Tunbridge Wells District, Kent					
OS Grid Refs.	580745 138309					
Geology	Tunbridge Wells Sand					
Arch. South-East Project Number	7621					
Type of Fieldwork			Watching Brief			
Type of Site				Close to Listed Building		
Dates of Fieldwork			19.01.2016 – 22.01.2016			
Sponsor/Client	National Trust					
Project Managers	Paul Mason					
Project Supervisors	Simon Stevens					
Period Summary						
			Medieval	Post-Medieval		
<p><i>Archaeology South-East was commissioned by was commissioned by the National Trust to undertake an archaeological watching brief during the re-excavation of a former pond at Sissinghurst Castle, Sissinghurst, Kent (NGR 580745 138309).</i></p> <p><i>The archaeological monitoring of the groundworks did not reveal any remains of particular antiquity. The only artefact predating the post-medial era was a fragment of medieval floor tile, and the vast majority of material encountered during the watching brief was probably 20th century in date. The exact date that the pond was backfilled could not be established.</i></p>						

OASIS Form

OASIS ID: archaeol6-240875

Project details

Project name	Sissinghurst Castle - Re-Excavation of Former Pond
Short description of the project	<p>Archaeology South-East was commissioned by was commissioned by the National Trust to undertake an archaeological watching brief during the re-excavation of a former pond at Sissinghurst Castle, Sissinghurst, Kent (NGR 580745 138309).</p> <p>The archaeological monitoring of the groundworks did not reveal any remains of particular antiquity. The only artefact predating the post-medial era was a fragment of medieval floor tile, and the vast majority of material encountered during the watching brief was probably 20th century in date. The exact date that the pond was backfilled could not be established.</p>
Project dates	Start: 19-01-2016 End: 22-01-2016
Previous/future work	No / No
Any associated project reference codes	7621 - Contracting Unit No.
Any associated project reference codes	SIS 12 - Sitecode
Any associated project reference codes	15/506987/FULL - Planning Application No.
Type of project	Recording project
Site status	National Trust land
Current Land use	Other 13 - Waste ground
Monument type	POND Post Medieval
Significant Finds	GLASS Post Medieval
Significant Finds	POTTERY Post Medieval
Significant Finds	CLAY PIPE Post Medieval
Investigation type	""Watching Brief""
Prompt	Direction from Local Planning Authority - PPS

Project location

Country	England
Site location	KENT TUNBRIDGE WELLS CRANBROOK Sissinghurst Castle
Postcode	TN17 2AB
Study area	300 Square metres
Site coordinates	TQ 80745 38309 51.114943756055 0.582652630421 51 06 53 N 000 34 57 E Point

Project creators

Name of Organisation	Archaeology South-East
Project brief originator	National Trust
Project design originator	Archaeology South-East
Project director/manager	Neil Griffin
Project supervisor	Simon Stevens
Type of sponsor/funding body	Client
Name of sponsor/funding body	National Trust

Project archives

Physical Archive recipient	National Trust
Physical Contents	"Glass","other","Animal Bones","Ceramics"
Digital Archive recipient	National Trust
Digital Contents	"other"
Digital Media available	"Images raster / digital photography","Text"
Paper Archive recipient	National Trust
Paper Contents	"other"
Paper Media	"Context sheet","Correspondence","Miscellaneous"

available Material","Notebook - Excavation"," Research"," General
Notes","Report","Unpublished Text"

**Project
bibliography 1**

Publication type Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)

Title Archaeological Watching Brief Report - Sissinghurst Castle
Re-Excavation of Former Pond

Author(s)/Editor(s) Stevens, S.

Other bibliographic details ASE Report No.2016033

Date 2016

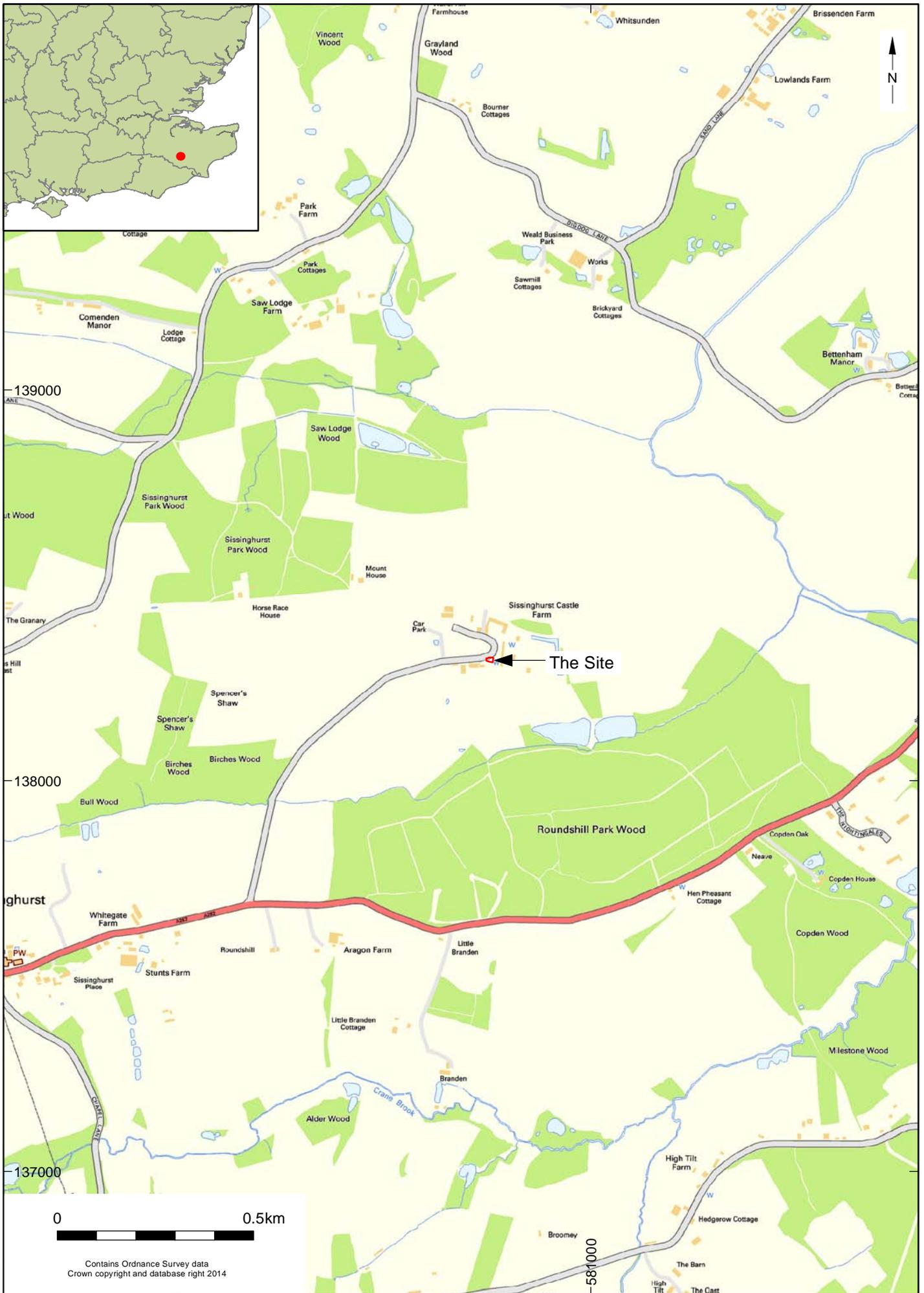
Issuer or publisher Archaeology South-East

Place of issue or publication Portslade, East Sussex

Description Standard ASE client report. A4-sized with cover logos

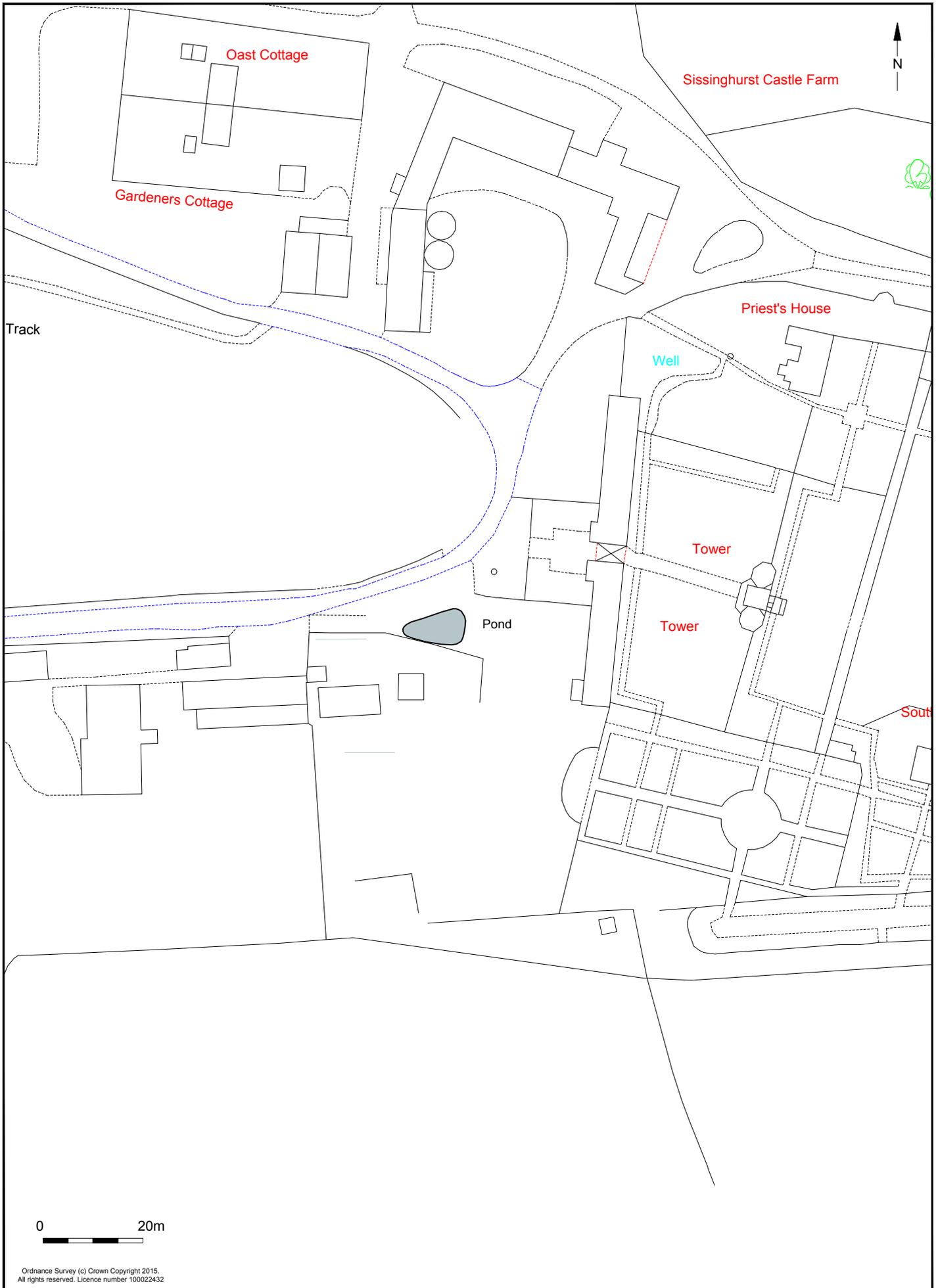
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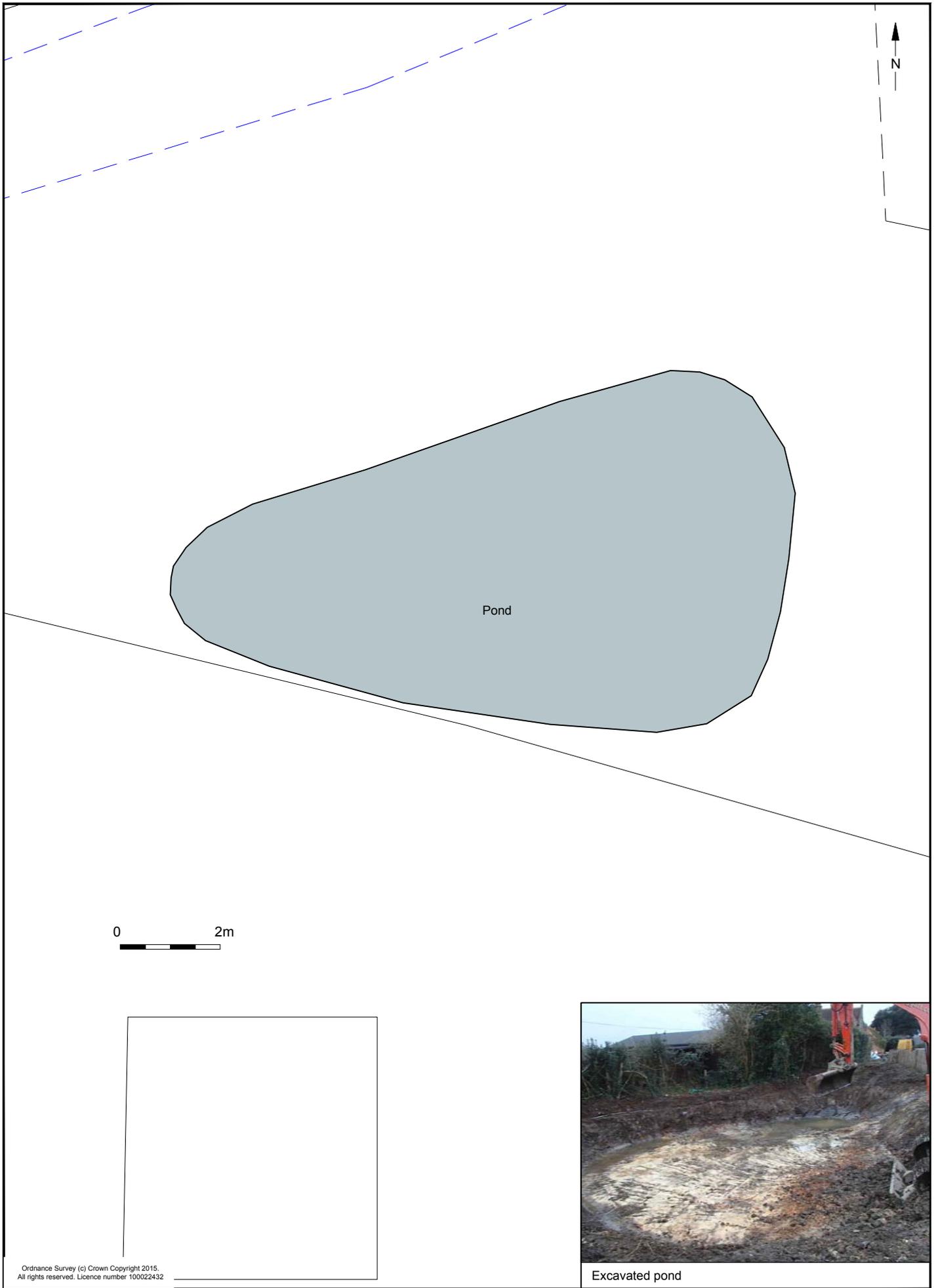


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© Archaeology South-East		Sissinghurst: Pond Re-Excavation	Fig. 1
Project Ref: 7621	Jan 2016	Site location	
Report Ref: 2016033	Drawn by: JLR		



© Archaeology South-East		Sissinghurst: Pond Re-Excavation	Fig. 2
Project Ref: 7621	Feb 2016	Location of pond	
Report Ref: 2016033	Drawn by: JLR		



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Project Ref: 7621	Jan 2016	New pond	
Report Ref: 2016033	Drawn by: JLR		



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Project Ref: 7621 Jan 2016
Report Ref: 2016033 Drawn by: JLR

Sissinghurst: Pond Re-Excavation

James Peak engraving (1760) showing buildings
in front of the west entrance range

Fig. 4



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Project Ref: 7621

Jan 2016

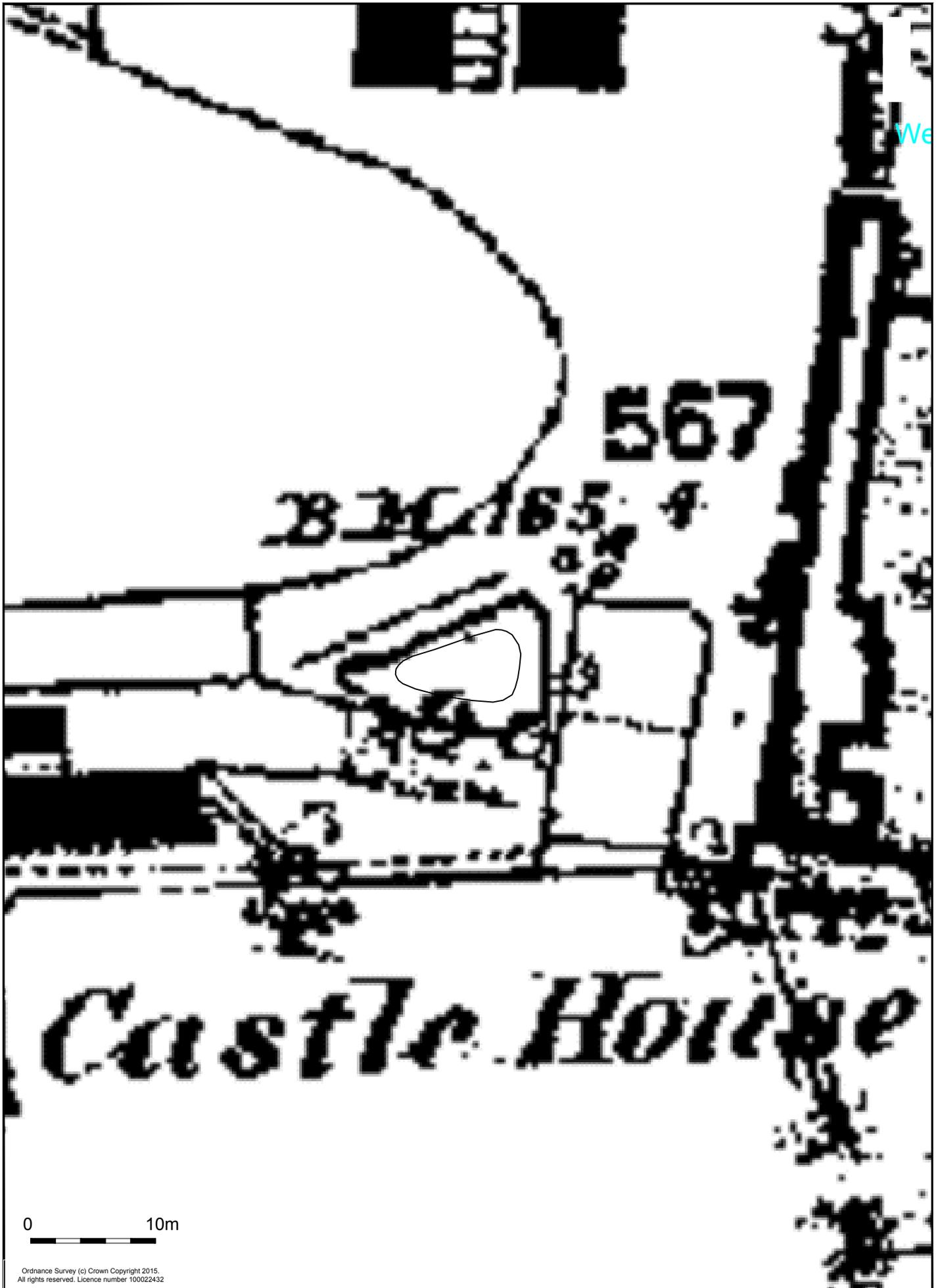
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Drawn by: JLR

Sissinghurst: Pond Re-Excavation

18th Century prisoner's drawing
showing buildings in front of the west entrance range

Fig. 5

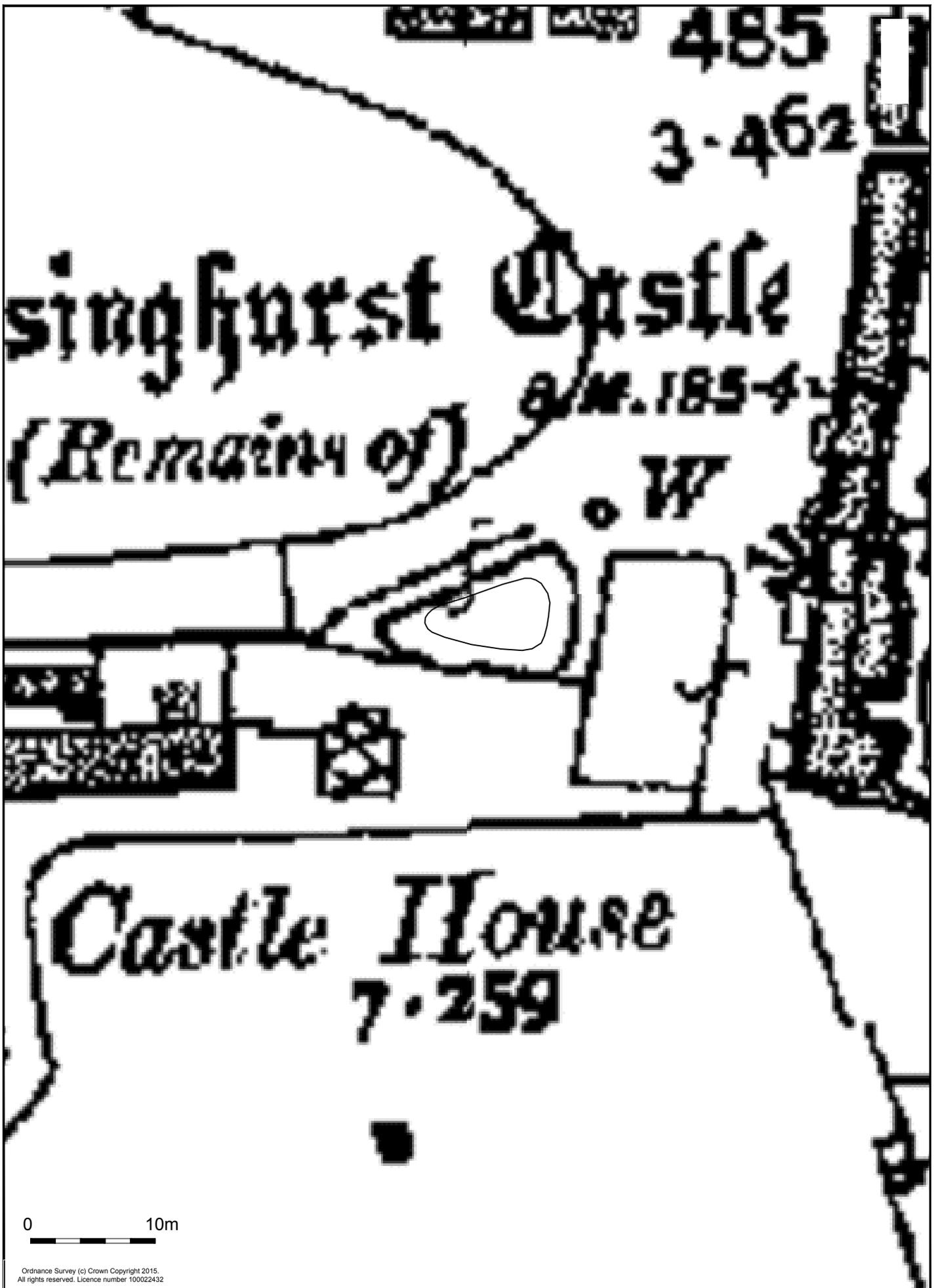


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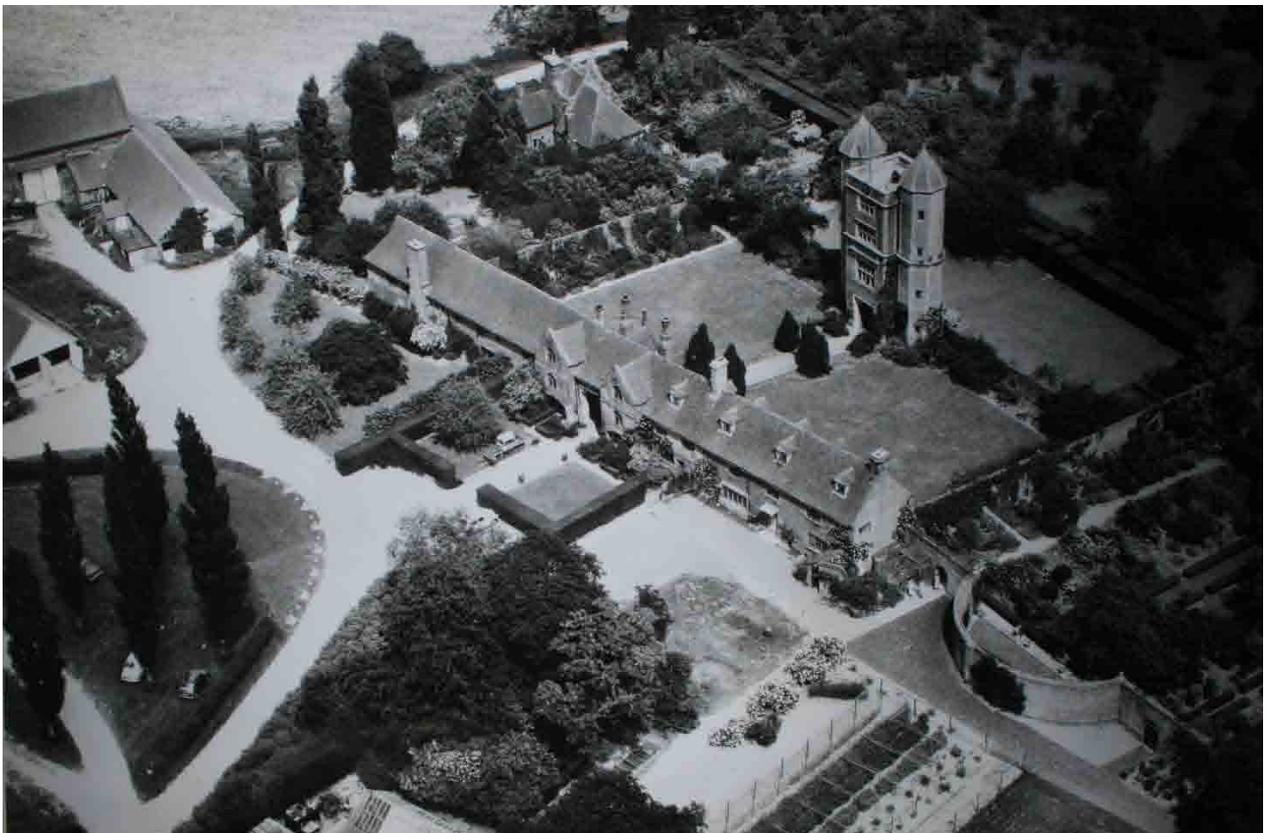
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Project Ref: 7621	Jan 2016	New pond	
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Project Ref: 7621	Jan 2016	New pond	
Report Ref: 2016033	Drawn by: JLR		



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Project Ref: 7621	Jan 2016	Photographs	
Report Ref:2016033	Drawn by: JLR		



© Archaeology South-East		Sissinghurst: Pond Re-Excavation	Fig. 9
Project Ref: 7621	Jan 2016	Context 101 Glass bottles Photographs	
Report Ref:2016033	Drawn by: AR		



100



101

© Archaeology South-East		Sissinghurst: Pond Re-Excavation	Fig. 10
Project Ref: 7621	Jan 2016	Contexts 100 and 101 Pottery Photographs	
Report Ref: 2016033	Drawn by: AR		

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