

**Archaeological Watching Brief Report  
During Works To Undertake Drainage between  
North East Path, Victorian Privy and Rill  
Ightham Mote, Mote Road, Ivy Hatch  
Sevenoaks  
Kent**

**NGR: 558436 153542**

**Scheduled Monument Consent Reference: S00125752**

**ASE Project No: 160006  
Site Code: IMT 16  
ASE Report No: 2016154  
OASIS id: archaeol6-248449**



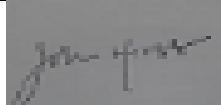
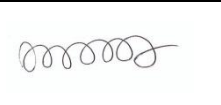
**By John Hirst**

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<b>Revision:</b>			

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**Abstract**

*Archaeology South-East was commissioned by the National Trust to undertake an archaeological watching brief during intrusive works to lay a drain to collect surface water between north east path, Victorian privy and rill at Ightham Mote, Mote Road, Ivy Hatch, Sevenoaks, Kent.*

*No archaeological finds, features or deposits were identified in the watching brief. There had been considerable disturbance from previous groundworks in the monitored area.*

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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 intrusive works to lay a drain at Ightham Mote, Mote Road, Ivy Hatch, Sevenoaks, Kent (centred on NGR 558436 153542; Figure 1.)

### **1.2 Geology and Topography**

1.2.1 Ightham Mote is a 14<sup>th</sup> century moated manor house situated to the south of Ivy Hatch in Kent and is designated a Scheduled Ancient Monument (Scheduled Ancient Monument No. 12717). The proposed drainage route lies on a pathway from the visitor reception that runs parallel to the bank and then follows the slope of the bank where it joins the pathway that surrounds the moat wall. It lies within the scheduled area.

1.2.2 According to the British Geological Survey of the area, the site lies on Wealden Group - interbedded sandstone and siltstone.

### **1.3 Planning Background**

1.3.1 ASE was commissioned to undertake the watching brief during groundworks which consisted of remedial works between the north east path, Victorian privy and rill in order to collect surface water and to carry out corrective measures required to prevent future standing water. These works took place within the area of the Scheduled Monument (Scheduled Ancient Monument No. 12717) and consent for the works was granted by the Department for Media, Culture and Sport (DCMS; SMC Ref: S00125752).

1.3.2 A written scheme of investigation for the watching brief was supplied (Page 2016).

### **1.4 Aims and Objectives**

1.4.1 The general aim of the archaeological work was to monitor any intrusive ground works to ensure that any features, artefacts or ecofacts of archaeological interest exposed and affected by the works were recorded and interpreted to appropriate standards.

### **1.4 Scope of Report**

1.5.1 This report details the results of the archaeological work on the site. The monitoring was undertaken by John Hirst (Assistant Archaeologist) between 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> April 2016. The project was managed by was by Paul Mason (fieldwork), Jim Stevenson and Dan Swift (post-excavation).

## 2.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

- 2.1 The following is reproduced from the English Heritage record of Scheduled Monuments (EH 2014), with due acknowledgement.

*'Ightham Mote includes an exceptionally well-preserved moated manor house, a nearly-square moat some 50m long by 7-10m wide, an infilled fishpond and an outer courtyard of buildings. The evolution of the building from a hall-house with adjoining solars and chapel in the mid-14th century to a grand Jacobean mansion set around a quadrangle in the 17th century is documented both historically and archaeologically. Such moated sites are generally seen as prestigious residences of the Lords of the Manor, the moat not only marking the high status of the occupier; but also serving to deter casual raiders and wild animals.*

*In the mid-16th century an outer courtyard to the west of the house was enclosed by ranges of half-timbered stables, staff quarters and a gatehouse. Only the western end of this courtyard survives, a fire having destroyed the remainder. The central area is now a lawn. To the north of the house the lawn [the site] occupies the area of a former fish-pond which would have provided fish for the table. The date of its construction is unknown, but it was infilled between 1789 and 1849 as part of a change in fashion towards lawns and landscaped gardens.'*

### **3.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL METHODOLOGY**

#### **3.1 Fieldwork Methodology**

- 3.1.1 A watching brief was maintained during groundworks associated with the laying of a drain to collect surface water between the north east path, Victorian privy and rill; spring water seeps under the joint between the paths from the north east grass bank and from beneath the Victorian privy creating a wet and muddy area of pathway. Corrective measures were undertaken, specifically entailing the manual excavation of a small drainage trench followed by the laying of a new pipe. Monitoring visits were undertaken in April 2016.
- 3.1.2 All excavations were examined for the presence of archaeological features or deposits and all spoil was visually scanned for the presence of artefacts.
- 3.1.3 All deposits encountered were recorded according to accepted professional standards using ASE standard record sheets. A full photographic record of the area was kept and forms part of the site archive.

#### **3.2 Fieldwork Constraints**

- 3.2.1 Owing to the nature of the groundworks the ground conditions were subject to flowing spring water.

#### **3.3 The Site Archive**

- 3.3.1 The project archive is presently held at Archaeology South-East offices at Portslade, East Sussex, and will be deposited with the National Trust in due course. The contents of the project archive are tabulated below (Table 1).

Number of Contexts	5
No. of files/paper record	1
Photographs	35 digital images

Table 1: Quantification of site archive

## 4.0 RESULTS

### 4.1 Introduction

4.1.1 The watching brief was undertaken over a two day period in April 2016. Despite eventual localised flowing spring water, initial conditions were favourable for the identification of archaeological features and the recovery of artefacts.

4.1.2 From 1985 until 2003 NT undertook a series of repairs and conservation projects on the mansion. During the mid-1980's extensive groundworks were undertaken to reform the pathway that surrounds the moat wall and drainage put in, this disturbed ground was observed during the watching brief.

4.1.3 A drainage trench 14.70m x 0.35m was hand excavated to a depth of 0.29m at the NW end of the trench following a downward gradient to 0.41m at 12.30m to the SE. This included a 90° adjunct at 12.30m for 0.58m into an existing modern soakaway.

4.1.4 The stratigraphy of the drainage trench for the first 4.60m was observed to be blue clay (4) overlain by hoggin (1) and capped by stone cobbles (5) which then changed to made ground (3) overlain by hoggin (1), finally changing to made ground (3) overlain by levelling layer (2) and hoggin (1). This is likely a result of the mid 1980's groundworks.

4.1.5 No archaeological deposits, finds or features were identified.

Context	Type	Description	Max. Length m	Max. Width m	Deposit Thickness m
1	Layer	Hoggin	Trench	Trench	0.13m
2	Layer	Levelling Layer (crushed aggregate)	5m	Trench	0.05m
3	Deposit	Made ground	10.10m	Trench	>0.30m (l.o.e)
4	Deposit	Blue clay (re-deposited natural)	4.60m	Trench	0.15m
5	Masonry	Stone cobbles	3.97m	Trench	0.05m

Table 2: List of recorded contexts



## **5.0 DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSIONS**

- 5.1 No archaeological features or deposits were identified in the watching brief.
- 5.2 There had been considerable disturbance from previously laid services in the monitored area.
- 5.3 None of the research aims set out in section 1.4 can therefore be addressed.

## **BIBLIOGRAPHY**

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## **ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

ASE would like to thank the National Trust for commissioning the work and for their assistance throughout the project and Nathalie Cohen, National Trust Archaeologist, for her guidance and monitoring. The watching brief was conducted by John Hirst. Lauren Gibson produced the figures for this report; Paul Mason managed the excavations, Jim Stevenson and Dan Swift the post-excavation process.

**HER Summary**

<b>Site code</b>	IMT 16				
<b>Project code</b>	160006				
<b>Planning reference</b>					
<b>Site address</b>	Ightham Mote, Mote Road, Ivy Hatch, Sevenoaks, Kent, TN15 0NT				
<b>District/Borough</b>	Tonbridge and Malling, Kent				
<b>NGR (12 figures)</b>	558436 153542				
<b>Geology</b>	Wealden Group - interbedded Sandstone and Siltstone.				
<b>Fieldwork type</b>			WB		
<b>Date of fieldwork</b>	11 <sup>th</sup> & 12 <sup>th</sup> April 2016				
<b>Sponsor/client</b>	National Trust				
<b>Project manager</b>	Paul Mason				
<b>Project supervisor</b>	John Hirst				
<b>Period summary</b>					
					Other: Modern
<b>Project summary (100 word max)</b>	<p><i>Archaeology South-East was commissioned by the National Trust to undertake an archaeological watching brief during intrusive works to lay a drain to collect surface water between north east path, Victorian privy and rill at Ightham Mote, Mote Road, Ivy Hatch, Sevenoaks, Kent.</i></p> <p><i>No archaeological finds, features or deposits were identified in the watching brief. There had been considerable disturbance from previous groundworks in the monitored area.</i></p>				

## OASIS Form

**OASIS ID: archaeo16-248449**

### Project details

Project name	Pathway Drainage Works, Ightham Mote, Kent
Short description of the project	Archaeology South-East was commissioned by the National Trust to undertake an archaeological watching brief during intrusive works to lay a drain to collect surface water between north east path, Victorian privy and rill at Ightham Mote, Mote Road, Ivy Hatch, Sevenoaks, Kent. No archaeological finds, features or deposits were identified in the watching brief. There had been considerable disturbance from previous groundworks in the monitored area.
Project dates	Start: 11-04-2016 End: 12-04-2016
Previous/future work	Yes / Not known
Type of project	Recording project
Site status	Scheduled Monument (SM)
Current Land use	Other 11 - Thoroughfare
Monument type	MANSION Medieval
Significant Finds	NONE None

### Project location

Country	England
Site location	KENT TONBRIDGE AND MALLING IGHTHAM Ightham Mote
Postcode	TN15 0NT
Study area	0 Hectares
Site coordinates	TQ 558436 153542 50.916000132258 0.217283356639 50 54 57 N 000 13 02 E Point

### Project creators

Name of Organisation	Archaeology South-East
Project brief originator	National Trust
Project design originator	National Trust

Project director/manager Paul Mason

Project supervisor John Hirst

Type of sponsor/funding body Charity

Name of sponsor/funding body National Trust

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**Project archives**

Physical Archive Exists? No

Digital Archive recipient National Trust

Digital Media available "Images raster / digital photography"

Paper Archive recipient National Trust

Paper Media available "Context sheet", "Drawing", "Miscellaneous Material", "Report"

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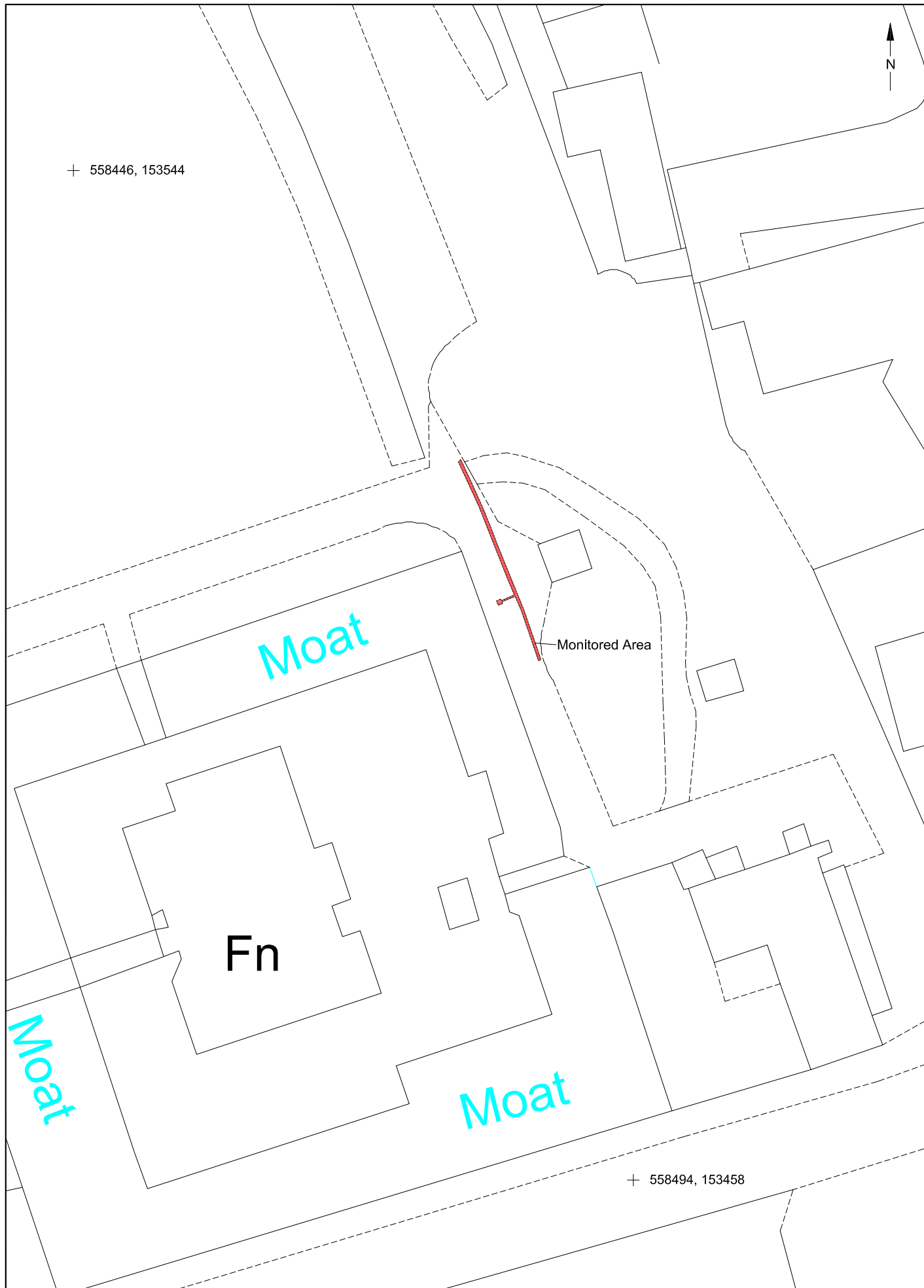
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Entered on 15 April 2016

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© Archaeology South-East		Ightham Mote	Fig. 1
Project Ref: 160006	April 2016	Site location	
Report Ref: 2016154	Drawn by: LG		



© Archaeology South-East		Ightham Mote	Fig.2
Project Ref: 160006	April 2016	Area of Watching Brief	
Report Ref: 2016154	Drawn by: LG		



Monitored drainage trench looking south



Monitored drainage trench looking north



Drainage trench and soakaway looking west



West facing section of drainage trench



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