

**Archaeological Watching Brief Report
Scotney Castle, Hastings Road
Lamberhurst, Kent**

**NGR: 568683 135402
(TQ 68683 35402)**

**Scheduled Monument No: SM 24400, HA 1009005, Ref: S00144203
Tunbridge Wells Borough Council Planning Ref: 16/504474/FULL**

**ASE Project No: 160638
Site Code: SOT 16
ASE Report No: 2016355
OASIS id: archaeol6-268623**



By Gary Webster



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Abstract

Archaeology South-East (ASE) was commissioned by the National Trust to undertake an archaeological watching brief during ground works associated with the installation of a new sub-main at Scotney Castle, Lamberhurst, Kent. The work took place between the 17th August and the 5th October 2016.

Some masonry was identified to the south-east of the castle, between the moat and the wall, and possibly relates to the original castle construction. A linear feature was identified on the edge of the moat. It indicates a secondary phase of work in the 18th century, probably focused on improvements to the bridge, which meant the moat was partially backfilled. Some other features were identified, including a pit and some landscaping features.

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1.0 Site Background

1.1.1 Archaeology South-East (ASE) was commissioned by the National Trust to undertake an archaeological watching brief during ground works associated with the installation of a new sub-main electricity cable at Scotney Castle, Lamberhurst, Kent centred on National Grid Reference (NGR) 568683 135402; Figure 1.

1.1 Geology and Topography

1.1.1 The site is located to the east of Lamberhurst and is surrounded by woodland and parkland. The property consists of the scheduled ruins of a medieval castle and a Victorian mansion.

1.1.2 The underlying geology is Wadhurst Clay Formation – mudstone to the north and Tunbridge Wells Sand Formation – sandstone and siltstone to the south (BGS 2016).

1.2 Planning Background

1.2.1 Tunbridge Wells Borough Council placed a planning condition (16/504474/FULL) for the monitoring and recording of the groundworks associated with the installation of a new sub-main by an archaeological contractor.

1.2.2 In addition to the planning consent, part of the scheme passes through the area designated as a Scheduled Monument and thus required Scheduled Monument Consent, which has been granted (Scheduled Monument No: SM 24400, HA 1009005, Ref: S00144203).

1.2.3 A Written Scheme on Investigation (WSI; ASE 2016) for the required archaeological monitoring brief was submitted to and approved by Wendy Rogers of the Heritage Conservation Group, Kent County Council (HCGKCC) in advance of the commencement of ground works. All work was undertaken in accordance with this, the Standards & Guidance for Archaeological Watching Briefs (ClfA 2014) and the Specification for Archaeological Watching Brief in Kent (KCC 2011).

1.3 Aims and Objectives

1.3.1 The overall aim of the watching brief, as it is listed in the WSI (ASE 2016), is to identify and record any potential archaeology impacted upon by the groundworks, and to report upon the work.

1.3.2 In addition, the watching brief has the potential to address the following specific research aims:

- Is there any evidence of former medieval buildings?
- Is there any evidence of earlier structures or landscape features?

1.4 Scope of Report

- 1.4.1 This report details the findings of the archaeological watching brief which took place between the 17th August and the 5th October 2016. The work was carried out by Tom Munnery (Senior Archaeologist), Chris Russell (Archaeologist), and Gary Webster (Archaeologist).

2.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

- 2.1 The entire Scotney Estate has been examined in detail (Bannister 2001) and an Archaeological and Historic Landscape Survey (AHLS) was undertaken by Archaeology South-East in 2007, which provided further detailed information on the archaeological background, the Victorian Mansion and development of the site, and assessed potential management issues (ASE 2007). The following information has been taken from these reports, with all due acknowledgement.
- 2.2 Scotney Castle occupies a south-east facing spur set on a gently rising slope overlooking the Bewl Valley. The Bewl River flows through the centre of the estate and the valley itself forms the general topography of the site. Conversely, the old castle lies a short distance to the southeast, located on relatively flat ground, in the base of the valley next to the river Bewl.
- 2.3 No significant prehistoric or Romano-British sites are known to lie within the immediate vicinity of the castle, although this may well reflect a gap in the archaeological record, rather than true site distribution. Place-name evidence suggests that the area around Scotney was heavily wooded during the early medieval period.
- 2.4 Old Scotney Castle dates from c.1377-80 and was first constructed as a quadrangle castle with round towers at each corner. Only one of the towers survives and is incorporated into a later 16th/17th century manor house. The old castle was itself arguably a fortified manor house rather than a 'true' castle and comparisons can be drawn with Bodiam Castle, another example of moated quadrangle construction.
- 2.5 Recent academic research suggests that such fortified manor houses may have been set within designed landscapes. Elements of such a landscape may still exist at Scotney hidden by the later gardens. The estate was bought by the Hussey family in 1778 and in c.1840 a new 'castle' was constructed and the old castle was deliberately landscaped into 'gothic' ruins and associated gardens, in much the same way that another local site, Bayham Abbey was partially demolished at the time.

3.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL METHODOLOGY

3.1 Fieldwork Methodology

- 3.1.1 Intrusive ground works associated with the scheme were monitored by an archaeologist. A Mini-digger fitted with a flat bladed bucket of the appropriate width was used to excavate the cable trench. Hand-digging to the south of the castle was also monitored. The line of the excavation can be seen in (Figure 2).
- 3.1.2 Where new excavations revealed archaeological remains, an opportunity was made for appropriate archaeological excavation by hand to identify and record the remains as far as possible within the limits of the works and in order to extract any potential archaeological and/or environmental information.
- 3.1.3 Spoil from the excavations was inspected by archaeologists to recover potential artefacts or ecofacts of archaeological interest and were also routinely scanned with a metal detector.
- 3.1.4 All archaeological features were recorded according to standard ASE practice. Features and deposits were described on standard *pro-forma* ASE recording sheets. All remains were levelled with respect to Ordnance Survey datum. A photographic record was made on a digital camera.
- 3.1.5 Features were left *in situ* where not removed due to the trenching.
- 3.1.6 Section lines were surveyed post excavation using RTK- GPS. Where surveying was not available, the archaeology was hand planned using standing structural remains as a baseline.

3.2 The Site Archive

- 3.2.1 ASE informed the National Trust prior to the commencement of fieldwork that a site archive would be generated. The site archive is currently held at the offices of ASE and will be deposited with the National Trust in due course. The contents of the archive are tabulated below (Table 1).

Number of Contexts	26
No. of files/paper record	1
Plan and sections sheets	3
Colour photographs	0
B&W photos	0
Digital photos	198
Trench Record Forms	0

Table 1: Quantification of site archive

4.0 RESULTS

4.1 Cable Trench through gardens

This section of the cable trench stretched from the existing 'Discovery Room' and through the gardens to the south where it ceases at the moat of the ruined Scotney Castle. The trench was 0.36m in width.

Context	Type	Description	Max. Length m	Max. Width m	Deposit Thickness m
100	Layer	Topsoil	-	-	0.15
101	Layer	Subsoil	-	-	0.28
102	Deposit	Path	-	-	-
103	Layer	Natural	2.8	-	-
104	Layer	Levelling deposit	4.5	-	-
105	Masonry	Unknown	1.56	0.36	-
106	Cut	Unknown feature	2.84	0.38	-
107	Fill	Fill of 106	2.84	0.38	-
108	Masonry	Land drain	-	-	-
109	Layer	Levelling deposit	-	-	-
110	Cut	Pit	1	0.2	-
111	Fill	Fill of 110	1	0.2	-
112	Cut	Pit/Ditch	5.22	0.36	-
113	Fill	Fill of 112/ levelling layer	5.6	0.36	0.4
114	Fill	Fill of 112/ levelling layer	5.91	0.36	0.36
115	Cut	Moat	1.22	0.36	-
116	Fill	Fill of backfilled moat	1.22	0.36	-
117	Fill	Unexcavated fill of 112	5.22	0.36	-
118	Masonry	Line of stones	2.6	0.4	-

Table 2: List of recorded contexts in trenching through gardens

- 4.1.1 Throughout the gardens the sequence was the same, except where there were specific areas of truncation or modern paths. The natural geology [103], a mid- brown sand with mudstone, was overlain by subsoil [101], which was a mid-yellow brown sandy clay. This was overlain with topsoil [100], a mid- grey brown loamy sand.
- 4.1.2 A mid-brown sandy clay deposit [102] containing brick, tile and green sandstone was identified beneath the subsoil [101] at a depth of 40.05m AOD. It is a disused pathway across the gardens which appears on an earlier map of the grounds, dating from 1877 (Figure 4).
- 4.1.3 A layer of unbonded, loose sandstone blocks, interspersed with tile fragments [105] was also identified beneath the subsoil [101] at a depth of 41.74m AOD. Some of the material had accretions of mortar, perhaps indicating that the material had previously been used in some structure and was reused here. The land rises c.0.07m to the north-west of this feature, indicating that it marks the edge of a raised area. A levelling deposit [104] to the north-west of this; a mid- brown silty sand with frequent CBM and sandstone fragments, was recorded, whilst to the south-east of [105] another levelling layer, a mid-brown silty sand [109] was recorded (Figure 4).
- 4.1.4 A pit [106] was identified beneath the subsoil [101] at a depth of c. 43.8m

AOD. Only the top 5cm were excavated by machine as the cable trench was excavated. It was filled with [107], which was a mid- brownish grey, silty sandy clay, with areas of grey mottling (Figure 3). No finds were recovered.

- 4.1.5 A land drain [108] was identified above [106], though it is not directly related with it.
- 4.1.6 A pit [110] was identified near the castle moat at a depth of c. 40.05m AOD. The top of the feature was excavated during the machine trenching. It was filled with [111] a firm mid brownish grey, silty sandy clay, with frequent mudstone fragments (Figure 5). There were no finds recovered.
- 4.1.7 The cut of an undetermined feature [112] was identified at a depth of 40.38m AOD. It was filled with [117], a firm mid to light brownish yellow, silty sandy clay. This was filled with mudstone and sandstone. This was overlain with deposit [113], a firm mid-light beige silty, sandy clay. It contained frequent lumps of sandstone. This was overlain with deposit [114] which is a mid- light beige silty, sandy clay, with occasional tile, mudstone and brick (Figure 5). A sherd of pottery dating from 1750-1900 was also recovered.
- 4.1.8 A linear feature [115] was identified on the edge of the moat at a depth of 40.35m AOD. It was machine excavated to c.0.05m. It was cut into the natural, with steep sides. The base was not seen as it was not fully excavated. This was filled with [116], a firm, mottled mid greyish brown silty sandy clay. It contained charcoal flecks, CBM and tile. It contained a seven sherds of pottery from a single jar dating from 1700-1775. This feature likely represents the original edge of the moat, with this edge having been slightly backfilled (Figure 5).
- 4.1.9 A curved line of unmortared stones [118] was discovered just below the topsoil. The limestone blocks vary slightly in size and are roughly worked. They were sitting directly on the natural geology [103]. It was 2.6m in length and 0.4m wide. Modern finds were identified in the adjacent topsoil. This masonry probably represents a modern garden feature (Figure 6).

4.2 Cable Trench into Castle through Brick Path

(Figure 7)

This is a very small excavation which leads from the moat to (and through) the south-eastern wall of old Scotney Castle. The trench was c. 0.36m in width.

Context	Type	Description	Max. Length m	Max. Width m	Deposit Thickness m
119	Masonry	Path	4.8	1.7	0.6
120	Layer	Backfill over service	-	-	0.2
121	Layer	Layer below cables	-	-	0.2
122	Masonry	Sandstone block	0.3	0.2	0.1
123	Masonry	Grey sandstone bricks	0.8	0.3	-
124	Layer	Layer underneath 120		0.3	0.07
125	Deposit	Midden on edge of moat	1.3	0.3	-

Table 3: List of recorded contexts in trenching through brick yard

- 4.2.1 The lowest layer that was encountered was [124] which was at 0.27m below ground level (the top of [119]), which was a soft, dark brownish grey clayey sand, which is possibly an alluvial deposit. It contained occasional shell and wood fragments. This was overlain with [121], a moderate mid-grey clayey silty sand, which included sandstone, CBM and wood fragments. The modern electricity cable was set within this layer. Towards the moat this layer was overlain by [120], a soft/moderate pale to mid grey slightly clayey silty sand. It contained frequent pieces of sandstone and CBM. Pottery dating from 1680-1800 was also recovered. The CBM was very tightly deposited towards the moat (probably a redepositon of [125], described below). This is backfill over the electricity cables, although it is formed of original material. A red brick path [119] overlay the entire area. It measured c.1.7m by 4.8m and was one course deep.
- 4.2.2 A deposit [125] of soft, dark brownish grey, clayey sand contained large quantities of CBM, which was potentially deposited into the moat from the rear of the castle. Pottery was also recovered from this fill, which dated from 1750-1900. It was partially exposed in the moat, and was covered by [119] further towards the castle.
- 4.2.3 Two large sandstone blocks [122] were identified towards the door of the castle, at 0.26m BGL (below ground level). The dimension of the block as they were seen was 0.2m by 0.3m and 0.1m thick. One of the stones had a moderately smooth top surface, though the sides did not seem to be worked. They were overlain by [120], and sat between [121] on the north-east and [124] on the south-west.
- 4.2.4 A wall [123] formed of grey sandstone bricks was identified 2.1m from the rear door of the castle. The 'bricks' were variable, with those to the north-west more well-defined, becoming more rubble like and degraded to the south-east. It was found c.0.33m BGL. The width of the wall would have been c.0.7m. The wall was overlain by [120], and surrounded on each side by

[124].

5.0 THE FINDS

5.1.1 A moderate-sized assemblage of finds was recovered during the watching brief on works associated with a new sub main cable at Scotney Castle, Lamberhurst. 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	Weight (g)	CBM	Weight (g)	Stone	Weight (g)	Iron	Weight (g)	Bone	Weight (g)	Glass	Weight (g)	Shell	Weight (g)	Wood	Weight (g)
101	2	1	3	991							1	54				
102	2	7	5	1079	3	883					1	8				
104	1	18	5	3050	2	1421										
105			1	156	2	6000					1	19				
108			2	1254												
113			5	254												
114	1	31	13	1708	2	61										
116	7	186	2	4000			1	10			3	54				
118					1	6410										
120	16	684	2	730	1	116	1	64	2	129	1	2				
121																
124									1	1			1	15	4	332
Total	29	927	38	13222	11	14891	2	74	3	130	7	137	1	15	4	332

Table 4: Finds quantification

5.2 The Pottery by Luke Barber

5.2.1 The archaeological monitoring recovered 39 sherds of pottery, weighing 1183g, from seven individually numbered contexts. The material has been fully listed in Table 5 as part of the visible archive.

5.2.2 The medieval pottery consists of such tiny granules that attribution to fabric and date remain very tentative. However, the general firing suggests a 12th- to early 13th- century date is likely. It was recovered from the subsoil [101].

5.2.3 The remaining sherds can all be placed within an 18th- century date when taken collectively. Although some could be of the early 18th century there is no reason why any need predate c. 1750 and there are no sherds that *have* to be later than c. 1800. Although sherd size is very variable, on the whole the pottery is in quite fresh condition and does not appear to have been reworked to any great extent. There is a dominance of coarseware vessels, most notably large cream bowls, but the creamware plate demonstrates

some fine tableware is also present in the combined group.

Context	Fabric	No	Weight	Comments	Likely Date of vessels
101	Sandy shelly ware?	2	<1g	Too small to be certain	c. 1150-1225
102	Glazed red earthenware	2	8g	Uncertain form x2 (clear glaze internally)	c. 1700-1800
104	Glazed red earthenware	2	18g	Uncertain form x1 (clear glaze internally)	c. 1725-1800
114	Glazed red earthenware	1	32g	Uncertain form x1 (clear glaze internally)	c. 1750-1900
116	Glazed red earthenware	7	186g	Jar x1 (clear glaze internally, thickened everted rim)	c. 1700-1775
120	Glazed red earthenware	6	384g	Cream bowls x4 (clear glaze internally, curved hammer-headed rims)	c. 1750-1900
120	Staffordshire-type combed slipware	3	172g	Dish x1	c. 1680-1800
120	London stoneware	7	102g	Jug x1, uncertain form x2 (iron wash, slat glazed)	c. 1700-1800
125	Glazed red earthenware	3	260g	Cream bowl x1 (clear glaze internally, curved hammer-headed rim), uncertain form x1	c. 1750-1900
125	London stoneware	1	18g	Jug x1 (conjoins with [120])	c. 1700-1800
125	Creamware	5	22g	Plate x1 (moulded feather-edge), ?bowl x1	c. 1750-1800

Table 5: Summary of pottery assemblage

5.3 The Ceramic Building Material by Isa Benedetti-Whitton

5.3.1 Thirty-two pieces of ceramic building material (CBM) weighing a total of 12,049g were recovered from seven contexts: [101], [102], [104], [108], [113], [114] and [116]. The assemblage was mainly comprised of post medieval brick and tile, but two lengths of D-shaped field drain including one with a flat base tile were also collected. All the material was quantified by form, weight and fabric and recorded on standard recording forms. This information was then entered into a digital Excel spreadsheet. Fabric descriptions were developed with the aid of a x20 binocular microscope and use the following conventions: frequency of inclusions as sparse, moderate, common or abundant; the size of inclusions as fine (up to 0.25mm), medium (up to 0.25 and 0.5mm), coarse (0.5-1.0mm) and very coarse (larger than 1.0mm). Fabric samples and items of interest have been retained in case of any future work.

5.3.2 The field drain pieces were collected from [101] and [108], and were approximately the same size as each other and made from the same fabric, T1. It can be said with almost absolute certainty that they are pieces of the same field drain. Field drains as individual finds cannot be dated with any precision until after 1826 when it became standard practice for drains to have the words 'drain' impressed on them to avoid the 1784 Brick Tax. As neither of the drain fragments from Scotney Castle had this stamp, they can safely be dated to sometime before 1826, but that is all.

5.3.3 Some roof tile fragments in T1 were also recovered from [101] and [113]. Like the drain pieces the tile had either incredibly fine, virtually non-discernible moulding sand or alternatively were slop moulded. The T1 roof tile pieces were not dateable either, although based on the shared fabric type and production method were seemingly coeval to the field drain. The T1 fragment from [101] had a tar or bitumen type substance across a broken edge, suggesting contamination in the mid-late 19th century or later.

Fabric	Description
B1	Fine and dense pink-orange fabric, nearly sterile with exception of iron oxide pellets/ferrous deposits and occasional pale/cream streaking.
B2	(?overfired version of B1). Pale brown-orange fabric with moderate-common burnt out oxides and ferrous deposits.
T1	Dense red fabric with moderate black oxides and pellets up to 2.5mm; sparse paler clay marbling and calcareous material.
T2	Dense orange fabric with moderate-common medium quartz. Sparse oxides up to 1mm.
T3	Dense orange fabric with cream silty deposits up to 5mm; moderate oxides and pellets up to 3mm.
T4	Finer and slightly micaceous version of T3, with laminations of cream silt and sparse oxides and pellets.

Table 6: CBM fabric descriptions

5.3.4 Tile pieces in three other fabrics, described in Table 6, were retrieved from contexts [102], [104], [113] and [114]. T2 and T3 tiles were further characterised by the use of well sorted transparent moulding sand (medium-coarse), which was not present on the T4 fragments. Small, diamond-shaped peg holes were also present on both T2 and T3 tiles, suggesting that despite the difference in fabric types these two tiles may have been manufactured at the same time and by the same workshop. The piece of T4 tile from [102] had a partial square peg hole. A number of over-fired and vitrified tile fragments were also recovered from site, but these lacked any distinguishing characteristics. Peg tie in general cannot be dated, but greater variation in peg hole shape (e.g. diamond, square, polygonal) is associated with the post-medieval period, and so a fairly broad date range of 16th-18th century is suggested.

5.3.5 Bricks in two fabric types were collected. Those in B1 – recovered from contexts [102], [104], [116] – are of very typical 16th or early 17th century character, both in terms of the clay type and the inconsistencies in size. No full lengths were intact, but the widths and thicknesses varied from 102-112 x 53-64mm. The bricks did not appear to have been made with moulding sand and as a consequence the bases were often very pitted and irregular, with clear straw impressions on one example. Two fragments from [114] have very abraded upper surfaces, suggesting they may have been used as a floor surface.

5.3.6 One B2 and two ?B2 brick fragments were collected respectively from contexts [116] and [114]. The ?B2 pieces were very hard-fired to the extent that the fabric was vitrified but shared its general appearance with the B2 brick from [114]. Both were very evenly formed with sharp arises. The ?B2

bricks both had salt-dipped headers/faces to create localised vitrification and reduction, which would be incorporated into decorative schemes on exterior walls (e.g. 'diaper' work). The ?B2 brick pieces looked considerably later than the B1 bricks, although their fragmentary state make them difficult to date. They are unlikely to date before the mid-later 18th century.

5.3.7 The B2 brick from [116] was recovered intact. It did not have the same dark headers as the ?B2 examples, but did have traces of vitrified mortar on its base and upper surface, which was also very worn and suggestive of a paving or floor brick. It measured >230 x 120 x 60mm, which is not particularly typical of any period but it most likely to be of early 19th century date, after the brick tax of 1784, a consequence of which were bricks made in much larger sizes.

5.4 The Glass by Luke Barber

5.4.1 Fragments of mid/dark green wine bottle were recovered from contexts [102] (1/8g), [105] (1/20g), [116] (4/54g) and [120] (1/2g). None of the shards are particularly diagnostic of bottle form but they are probably from cylindrical vessels. With the exception of a little abrasion on the piece from [102] all are relatively fresh with no signs of surface corrosion. All can be placed in a mid-18th- to mid-19th- century date bracket.

5.5 The Geological Material by Luke Barber

5.5.1 The archaeological work recovered a relatively large assemblage of stone. The material is listed in Table 7 as part of the visible archive.

Context	Type	No	Weight	Comments
102	Hastings Beds sandstone	3	876g	Fine, dull yellow. X1 burnt orange
104	West Country slate	1	56g	Silver grey
104	Kentish ragstone	1	1346g	Worn. Part of 70mm thick slab
105	Hastings Beds sandstone	1	9500g	Fine, dull yellow squared block 270 x 150 x 135mm
105	Hastings Beds sandstone	1	9000g	Fine, dull yellow part of squared block 220 x 190+ x 165+ mm
114	West Country slate	2	62g	Silver grey
118	Kentish ragstone	1	6000g	Irregular building rubble
120	Off-white oolitic limestone	1	116g	Part of faced block. Not typical of Portland stone

Table 7: The stone assemblage

5.5.2 All of the stone appears to relate to building material. Unsurprisingly, the most common stone is of local Wealden origin – the local Hastings Beds sandstone dominating, with lesser quantities of Hythe Beds Kentish Ragstone from the north. The oolitic limestone and West Country slate came from further afield, the latter not a common find so far into the Weald. Its presence demonstrates a medieval structure of some status. Although associated with 18th- century pottery much of the stone is likely to be reused or residual.

5.6 The Metallurgical Remains by Luke Barber

- 5.6.1 Context [101] produced a 54g piece of black/olive green blast furnace slag from early post-medieval iron smelting activity. Such material was frequently taken from the iron working sites for use as road/track metalling and its presence here is not unexpected.

5.7 The Bulk Metalwork by Susan Chandler

- 5.7.1 Two iron objects were recovered during the works on site, weighing a total of 64g. These are from two separate contexts; [116] and [120]. Both of the objects are nails; from [116] an incomplete nail stem, heavily corroded and from [120] a larger nail with square head. Both are hand-forged but due to their condition and the relative lack of changes in nail forms are hard to date.

5.8 The Animal Bone Hayley Forsyth-Magee

- 5.8.1 A small assemblage of animal bone containing just three fragments and weighing 130g were recovered from the excavation. The bones were hand-collected from two contexts; [120] and [124] and are in a moderate state of preservation with some signs of surface erosion present. No complete bones are present.
- 5.8.2 Context [120] contained a small mammal tibia shaft fragment, staining on the bone could indicate that it had been cooked or heated before being discarded. A weathered cattle scapula was also present, butchery saw marks were noted midshaft, cutting across the bone. Context [124] contained a single medium mammal rib-shaft fragment. Multiple cut marks were observed to the cortical surface of the bone. These butchery marks indicate carcass portioning, suggesting the bones are that of domestic refuse. No evidence of burning, pathology or gnawing has been noted.

5.9 The Shell by Susan Chandler

- 5.9.1 A single *Ostrea edulis* (Oyster) shell was recovered from context [124] during the works on site. This shell weighs 15g and is the lower part of the Oyster. A single shell does not represent a significant assemblage; oysters are a common archaeological find as a staple of the diet in the past.

5.10 The Wood by Susan Chandler

- 5.10.1 Four pieces of waterlogged wood was recovered from undated context [124], weighing 332g. All of it is in a poor condition; it is largely not possible to tell if it is worked. The pieces include a fragment of split round wood, two small undiagnostic fragments and a larger piece which does display some possible evidence of working. This larger piece is likely to be oak and is 252mm long, 51mm wide and 28mm thick. It has two holes spaced 89mm apart and 15mm in diameter. Due to the condition of the wood it is not possible to tell how the holes were created. In general the wood does not provide much information due to its poor condition

6.0 DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSIONS

6.1 Overview of stratigraphic sequence

- 6.1.1 The stratigraphic sequence identified in the trenching in the gardens was generally straightforward, despite there having been some landscaping. Three pits, three masonry features and one linear feature were identified during this stretch of trenching.
- 6.1.2 The excavation through the brick path saw a more complicated stratigraphic sequence, with layers of made ground topped with a brick footpath, and then disturbed for the laying of the previous electrical cable, and the footpath being reinstated. Several layers of made ground were identified, as well as two masonry features, and one midden deposit.
- 6.1.3 A single piece of medieval pot, dating from AD 1150 – 1225, was recovered from the subsoil. Some of the masonry that was identified is possibly redeposited, and has been reused from the original castle construction.
- 6.1.4 The majority of the finds and features that were identified date from the post-medieval period.
- 6.1.5 There were some features identified just below the topsoil that are likely 20th Century garden features and pathways.
- 6.1.6 The methodology employed was effective in identifying a variety of features across the length of the cable trench. The interpretation of some of the features is difficult, due to the narrow trench, and that many of the features were left unexcavated.

6.2 Discussion of archaeological remains by period

Medieval Period

- 6.2.1 The sandstone masonry and blocks ([122] and [123]), located beneath the current yard surface [119], appear to form a wall are likely to be part of the previous rear yard, associated with the construction of the castle itself, and is therefore medieval. It was left *in situ*.
- 6.2.2 The linear feature [115] located near to the edge of the moat is most likely the original cut for the moat. It follows the edge of the moat more naturally than the current edge, which narrows significantly at the edge of the crossing. It is likely that some work was carried out on the crossing at some point in the 18th Century, with the edge of the moat being backfilled to facilitate this.

Post-medieval Period

- 6.2.3 The midden deposit [125] identified on the edge of the moat is likely to be formed of broken kitchenware that was simply discarded out of the backdoor, and into the water, during the 18th Century. From the presence of this midden, and the other associated deposits, we can ascertain that the brick path [119] is a later addition as it sits on top of them

- 6.2.4 Feature [112], and the associated layers can be broadly dated to the 16th – 18th Century. The function is unknown, but it is likely the result of garden landscaping.
- 6.2.5 The masonry [105] can be roughly dated from the associated tile to 18th Century. It is likely the remains of a garden feature, or possibly the remains of hard landscaping, due to the associated levelling deposits.
- 6.2.6 Path [102] appears on a map of the grounds from 1877, and has subsequently been covered up.
- 6.2.7 The line of stones [118] is likely a garden feature, such as the edge of a flower bed which has now been removed or relocated.

Undated

- 6.2.8 Pits [106] and [110] were unexcavated, and no finds were recovered from them, and no interpretation can be drawn. They remain *in situ*.

6.3 Consideration of research aims

- 6.3.1 *Is there any evidence of former medieval buildings?*

Though no unknown buildings were identified, a small section of sandstone wall was uncovered to the south-east of Scotney Castle. It is most likely associated with an earlier phase of the castle, and was covered over by the brick path in the 18th Century.

- 6.3.2 *Is there any evidence of earlier structures or landscape features?*

There is evidence of landscaping features throughout the gardens, but these date from the post-medieval period. There were no archaeological finds, features or deposits identified that pre-dated the medieval period.

6.4 Conclusions

- 6.4.1 The identification of the masonry to the south-east of the castle, between the moat and the wall, is significant. Only a very small amount of undisturbed material was removed, so only a small amount of this masonry was uncovered. Further excavation of the area would elaborate on the exact nature of the wall. The findings in this area are accurate to the narrative that this area was altered in the 1830's (ASE 2008).
- 6.4.2 The potential movement of the moat is significant as it indicates a secondary phase of work in the 18th Century, probably focussed on improvements to the bridge.
- 6.4.3 The other features identified throughout the gardens are less significant, as little interpretation can be undertaken, due to the narrow cable trench and the fact that the features were left in situ, unexcavated.

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ASE would like to thank National Trust for commissioning the work and for their assistance throughout the project. The work was conducted by Tom Munnery, Chris Russel, and Gary Webster. Neil Griffin managed the excavations and Jim Stevenson and Dan Swift the post-excavation process.

HER Summary

Site Code	SOT16					
Identification Name and Address	Scotney Castle, Lamberhurst, Kent					
County, District &/or Borough	Tunbridge Wells, Lamberhurst					
OS Grid Refs.	TQ 68683 35402					
Geology	Wadhurst Clay Formation					
Arch. South-East Project Number	160638					
Type of Fieldwork			Watching Brief			
Type of Site				Other Castle, Monument		
Dates of Fieldwork			WB.			
Sponsor/Client	The National Trust					
Project Manager	Neil Griffin					
Project Supervisor	Gary Webster					
Period Summary						
		MED	PM	Other Modern		
<p>Summary</p> <p>Archaeology South-East (ASE) was commissioned by the National Trust to undertake an archaeological watching brief during ground works associated with the installation of a new sub-main at Scotney Castle, Lamberhurst, Kent. The work took place between the 17th August and the 5th October 2016.</p> <p>Some masonry was identified to the south-east of the castle, between the moat and the wall, and possibly relates to the original castle construction. A linear feature was identified on the edge of the moat. It indicates a secondary phase of work in the 18th century, probably focused on improvements to the bridge, which meant the moat was partially backfilled. Some other features were identified, including a pit and some landscaping features.</p>						

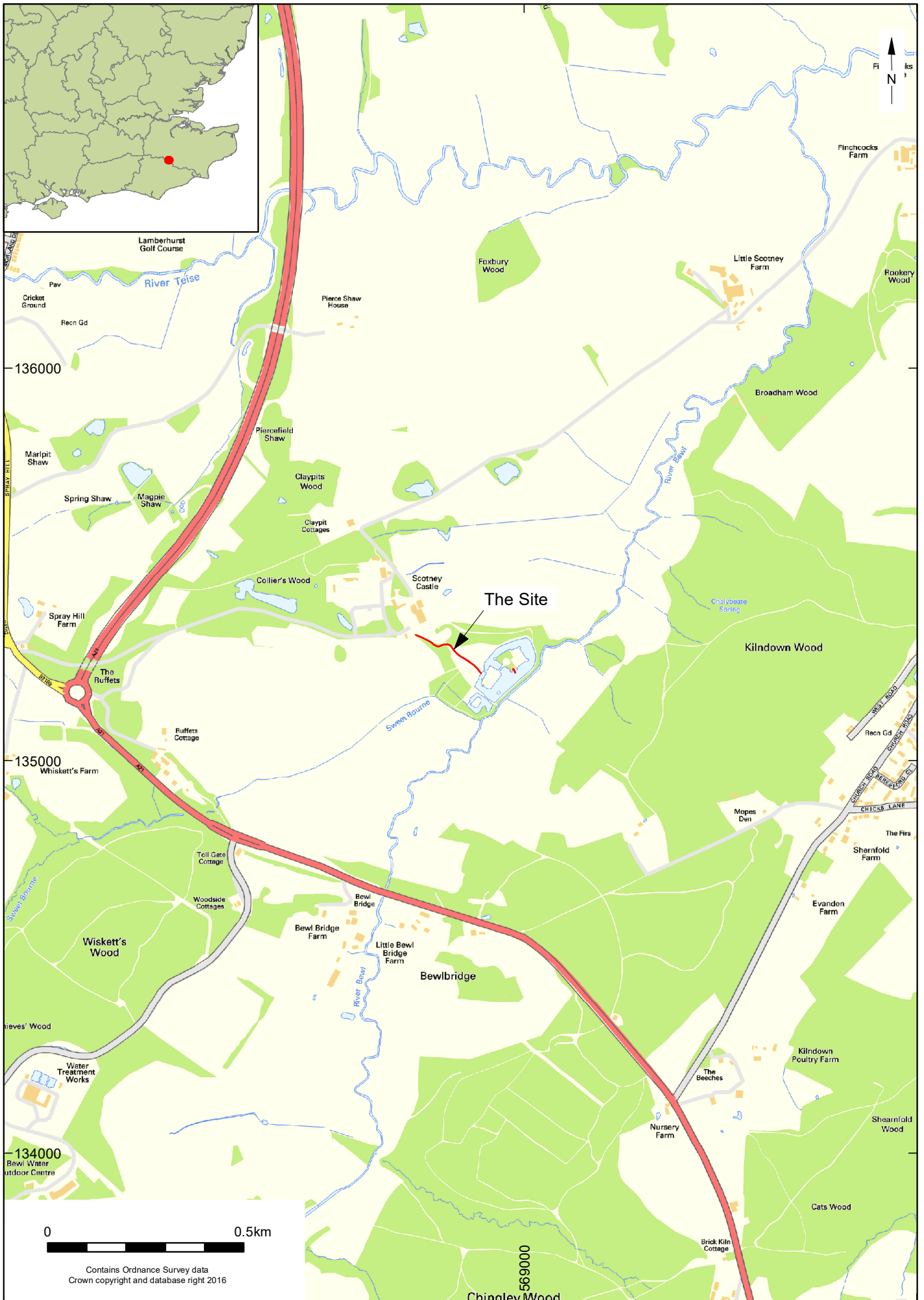
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OASIS id: archaeol6-268623

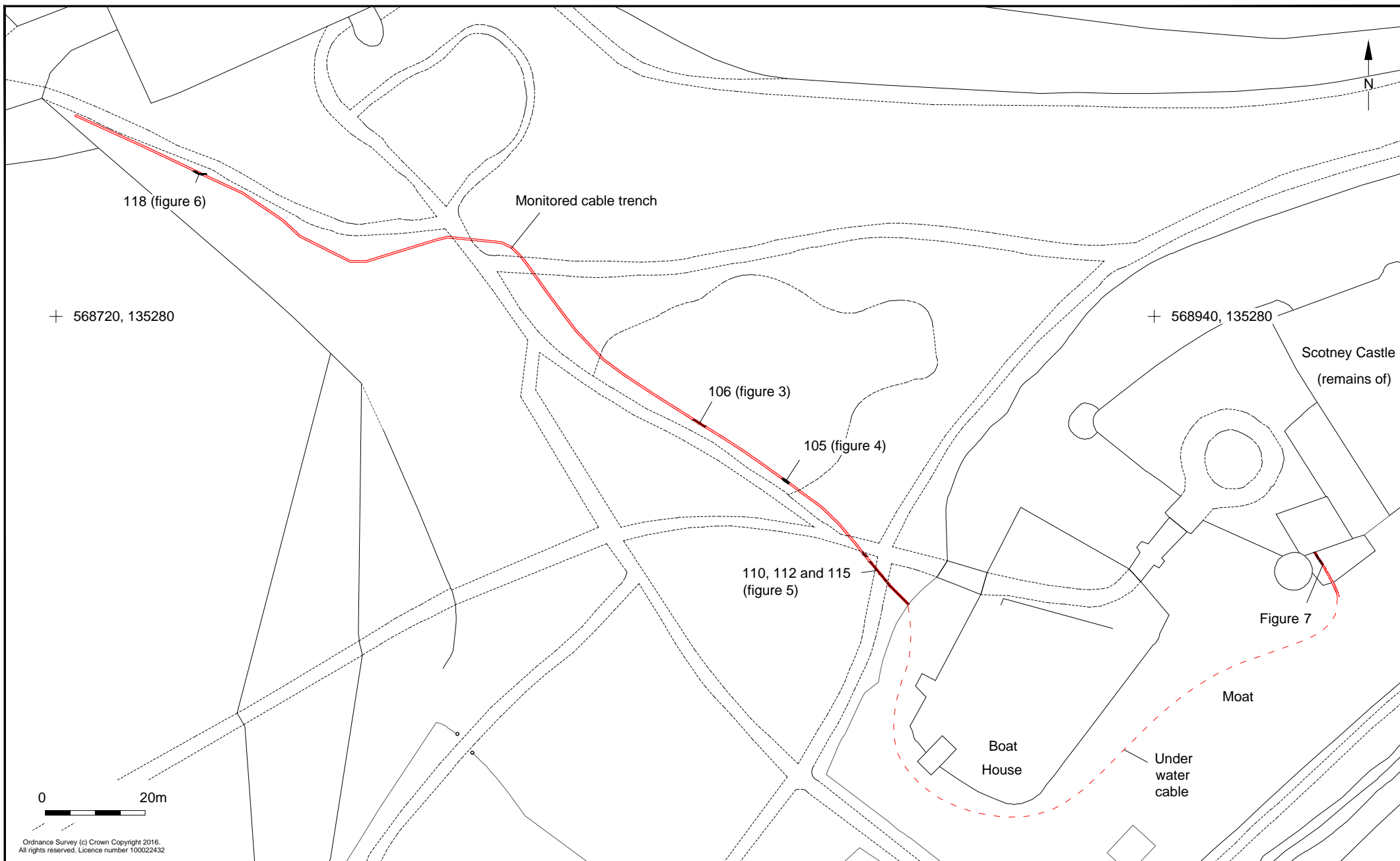
Project details

Project name	An Archaeological Watching Brief at Scotney Castle, Lamberhurst, Kent
	Archaeology South-East (ASE) was commissioned by the National Trust to undertake an archaeological watching brief during ground works associated with the installation of a new sub-main at Scotney Castle, Lamberhurst, Kent. The work took place between the 17th August and the 5th October 2016.
Short description of the project	Some masonry was identified to the south-east of the castle, between the moat and the wall, and possibly relates to the original castle construction. A linear feature was identified on the edge of the moat. It indicates a secondary phase of work in the 18th century, probably focused on improvements to the bridge, which meant the moat was partially backfilled. Some other features were identified, including a pit and some landscaping features.
Project dates	Start: 17-08-2016 End: 05-10-2016
Previous/future work	Yes / Not known
Any associated project reference codes	SOT16 - Sitecode
Type of project	Recording project
Site status	Scheduled Monument (SM)
Current Land use	Other 8 - Land dedicated to the display of a monument
Monument type	SCOTNEY CASTLE Medieval
Investigation type	"Watching Brief"
Prompt	Scheduled Monument Consent
Project location	
Country	England
Site location	KENT TUNBRIDGE WELLS LAMBERHURST Scotney Castle, Lamberhurst, Kent
Postcode	TN3 8JN
Site coordinates	TQ 68683 35402 51.092514902436 0.409109660606 51 05 33 N 000 24 32 E Point
Project creators	
Name of Organisation	Archaeology South East
Project brief originator	Archaeology South East
Project design originator	National Trust

Project director/manager	Neil Griffin
Project supervisor	Gary Webster
Type of sponsor/funding body	National Trust
Project archives	
Physical Archive recipient	National Trust
Digital Archive recipient	National Trust
Paper Archive recipient	National Trust



© Archaeology South-East		Scotney Castle	Fig. 1
Project Ref: 160638	Nov 2016	Site location	
Report Ref: 2016355	Drawn by: AR		



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Project Ref: 160638

Nov 2016

Report Ref: 2016355

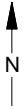
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Scotney Castle

Location of monitored groundwork

Fig. 2

+ 568848, 135261

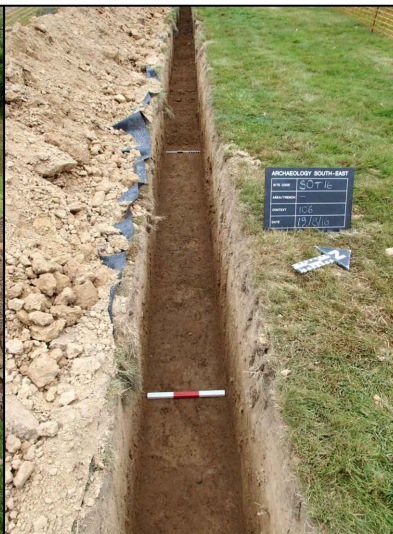


+ 568848, 135258

106



Garden area, looking south-east



Pit 106, looking north-west

0 0.5m

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Scotney Castle

Project Ref: 160638

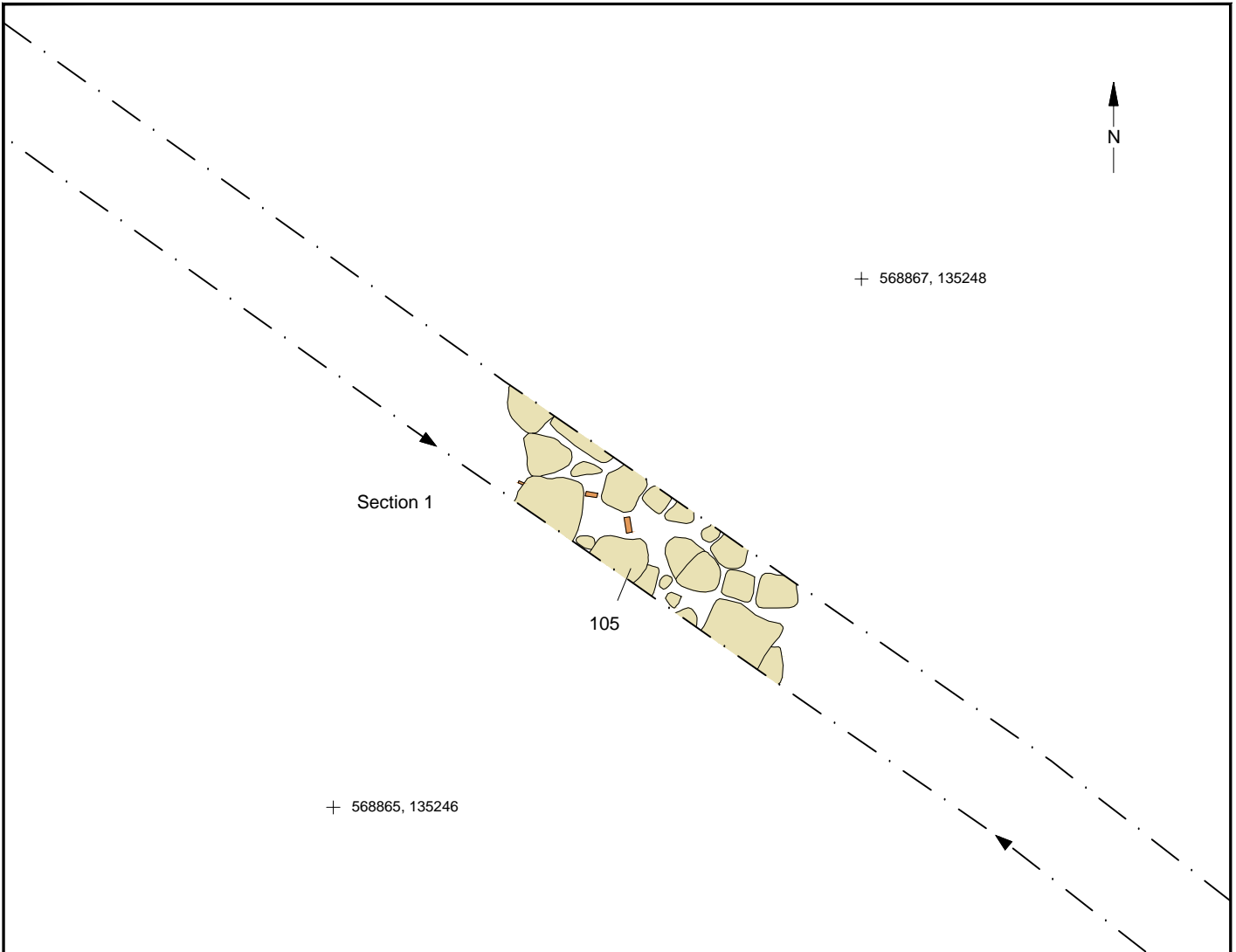
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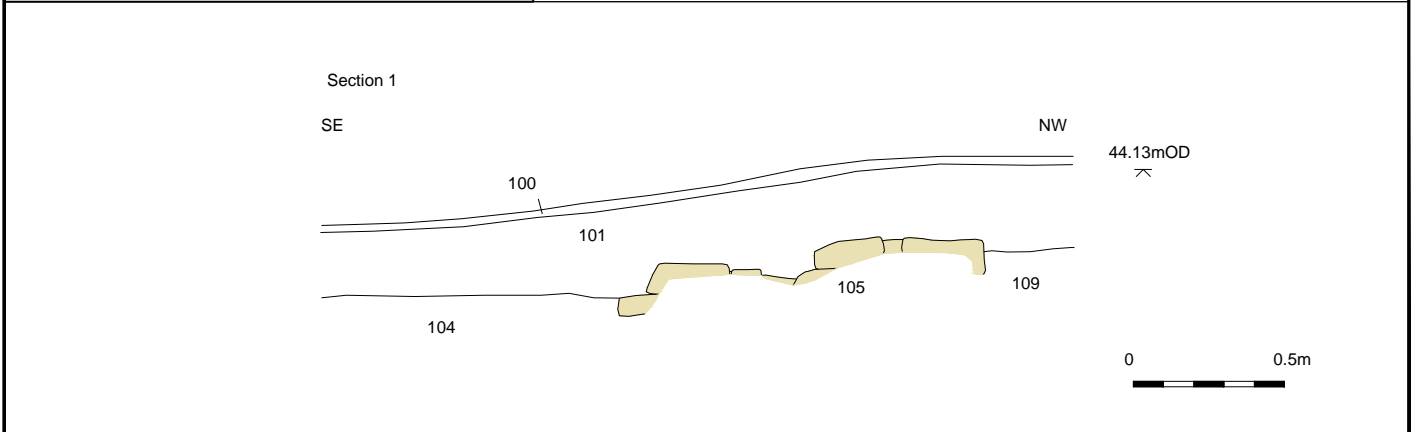
Drawn by: AR

Detail plan of garden area, 106

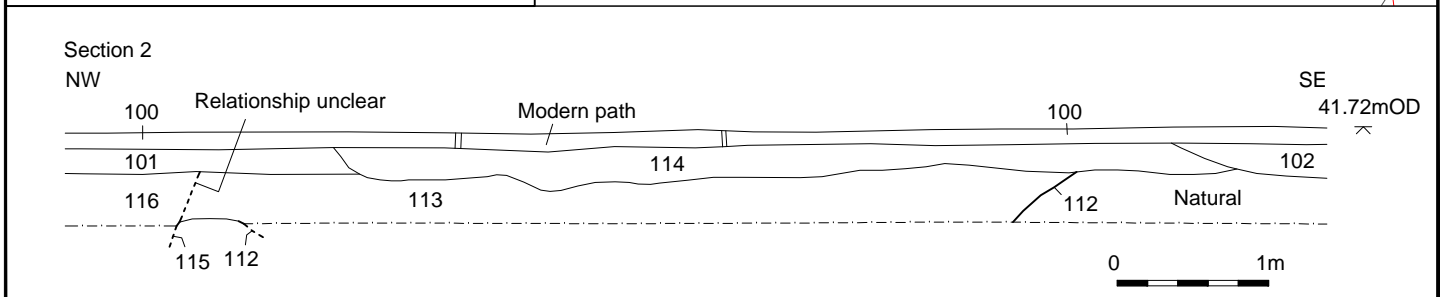
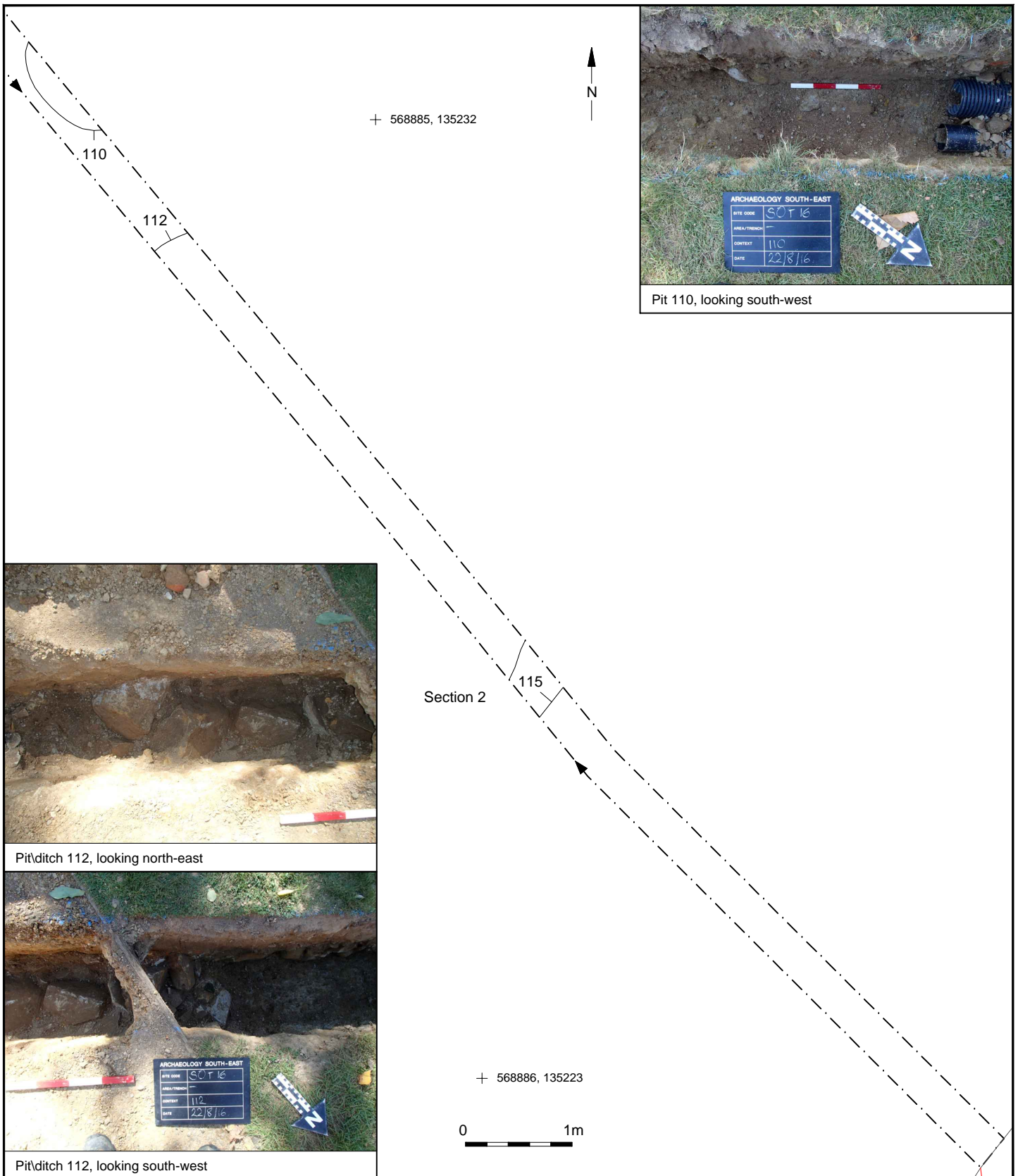
Fig. 3



Masonry 105, looking north-west

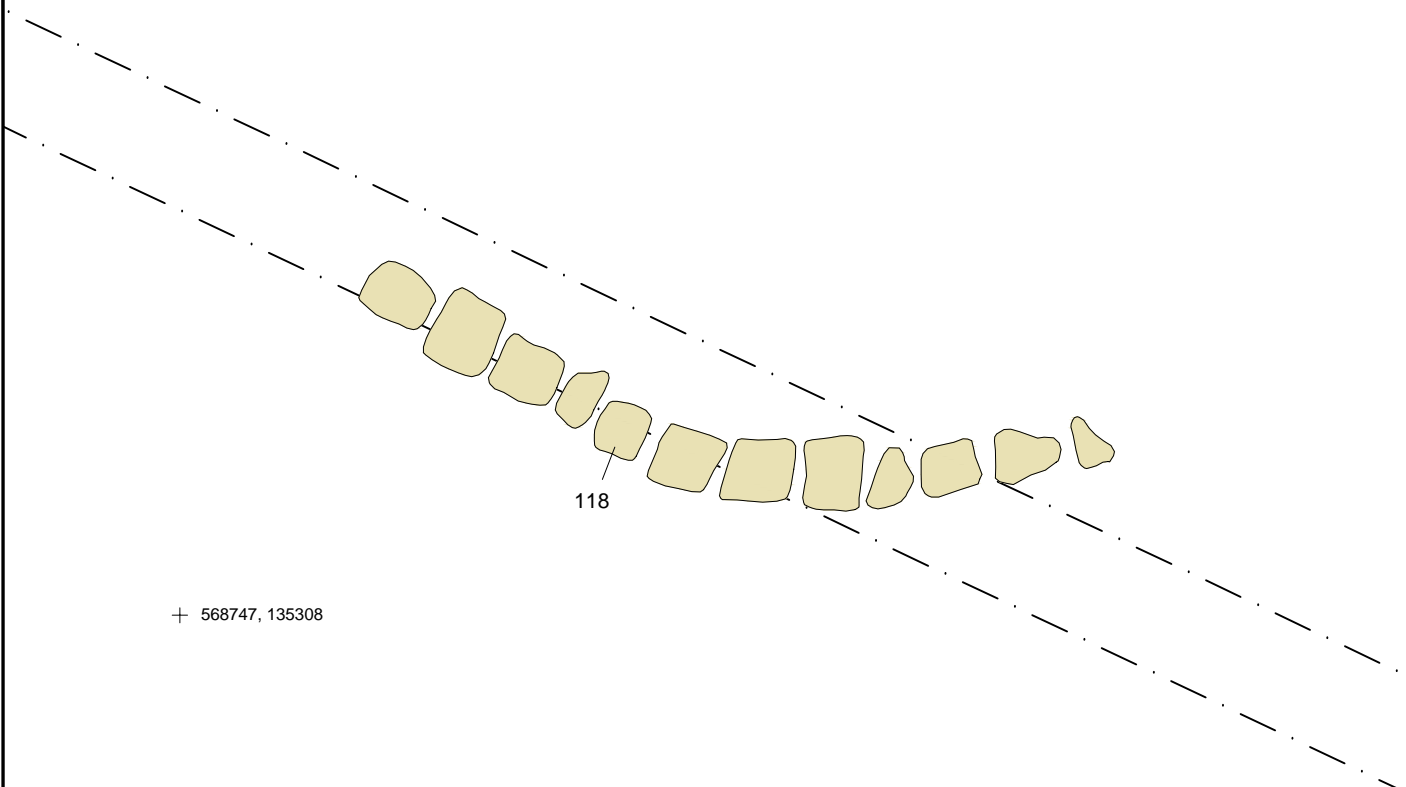
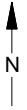


© Archaeology South-East		Scotney Castle	Fig. 4
Project Ref: 160638	Nov 2016	Detail plan of garden area, 105	
Report Ref: 2016355	Drawn by: AR		




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Project Ref: 160638	Nov 2016	Detail plan of garden area, 110, 112, 115		
Report Ref: 2016355	Drawn by: AR			

+ 568747, 135311



+ 568747, 135308

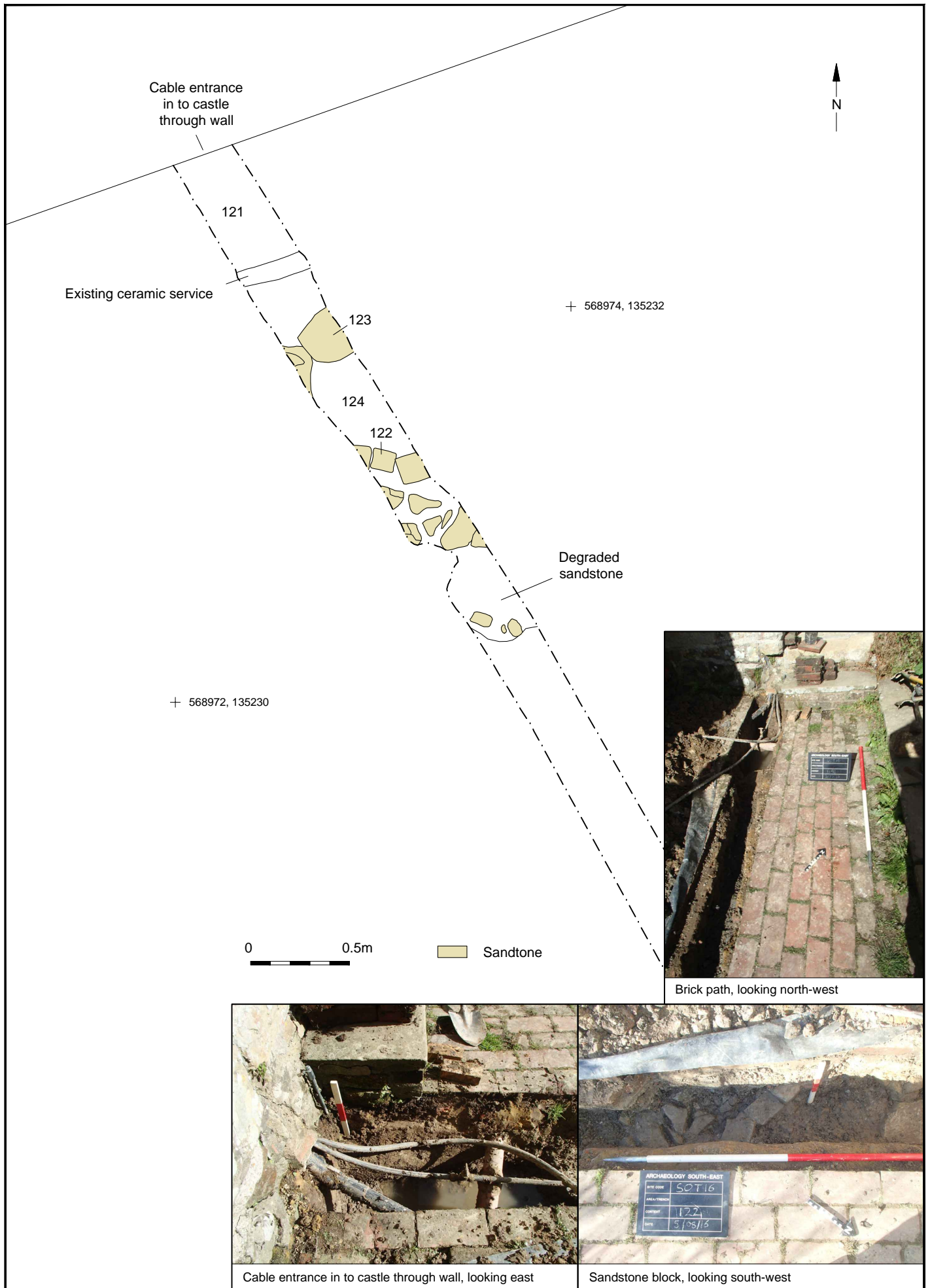
 Stone

0 0.5m



118 looking north-west

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Project Ref: 160638	Nov 2016	Detail plan of 118	
Report Ref: 2016355	Drawn by: AR		



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Project Ref: 160638	Nov. 2016	Detail plan of Old Scotney Castle Yard	
Report Ref: 2016355	Drawn by: AR		

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