

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

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

**Scheduled Monument No: SM 24400
ASE Project No: 170179
Site Code: SCY 17
ASE Report No: 2017105
OASIS id: archaeol6-278190**



By Gary Webster



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Prepared by:	Gary Webster	Archaeologist	
Reviewed and approved by:	Dan Swift	Project Manager	
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**Archaeology South-East
Units 1 & 2
2 Chapel Place
Portslade
East Sussex
BN41 1DR**

**Tel: 01273 426830
Fax: 01273 420866
Email: fau@ucl.ac.uk**

Abstract

This report presents the results of an archaeological watching brief carried out by Archaeology South-East at Scotney Castle, Hastings Road, Lamberhurst, Kent. The fieldwork was commissioned by The National Trust during groundworks for the installation of a new data cable.

The monitored trench was frequently truncated by existing services, though some areas of undisturbed natural stratigraphy was also encountered. No archaeological finds, features or deposits were identified.

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1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 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 data cable at Scotney Castle, Lamberhurst, Kent. The site is centred on National Grid Reference (NGR) 568683 135402 and its location is shown in Figure 1.

1.2 Geology and Topography

1.2.1 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.

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

1.3 Planning Background

1.3.1 A Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) for a watching brief was produced (ASE 2017) and submitted to the National Trust in advance of the commencement of ground works. This outlined the methodology that was undertaken during the fieldwork, in accordance with the Standards & Guidance for Archaeological Watching Briefs (ClfA 2014) and the Specification for an Archaeological Watching Brief in Kent (KCC 2011).

1.4 Aims and Objectives

1.4.1 The overall aim of the archaeological watching brief, as outlined in the WSI (ASE 2017), is to identify and record any archaeological features, deposits and artefacts that may be impacted by the groundworks.

Site Specific Aims

1.4.2 The watching brief has the potential to address the following site specific aims:

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

Research Aims

1.4.3 In addition, the following research aims have been drawn from SERF:

- Comparison of castle life and communities over time and space in terms of social, cultural and experiential factors within castles, relationships between castles and castle hinterlands, and between defensive sites on local and regional scales.

- Regional surveys of castles, crenellated manors and episcopal palaces, including comparison of buildings and other material culture and documentary evidence

1.5 Scope of Report

- 1.5.1 This report details the findings of the archaeological watching brief which took place on the 27th August and 28th February 2017. The work was carried out by Gary Webster (Archaeologist).

2.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

The following background is taken from the WSI (ASE 2017).

- 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. Placename 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 A trench measuring c. 59m and 0.3m wide, and two manhole excavations measuring 0.7m by 0.9m were monitored by an archaeologist. A mini-digger fitted with a flat-bladed bucket was used to excavate the cable trench. Hand-digging around services was also monitored. The line of the excavation can be seen on (Figure 2).

3.1.2 Spoil from the excavations was inspected by archaeologists to recover potential artefacts or ecofacts of archaeological interest.

3.3 The Site Archive

3.3.1 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	9
Section sheets	0
Plans sheets	0
Colour photographs	0
B&W photos	0
Digital photos	65
Context register	0
Drawing register	0
Watching brief forms	2
Trench Record forms	0

Table 1: Quantification of site paper archive

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

Table 2: Quantification of artefact and environmental samples

4.0 RESULTS

4.1 Data cable trench excavated on the 27th and 28th February 2017

Context	Type	Interpretation	Max. Length m	Max. Width m	Deposit Thickness m
1	Layer	Hardcore Surface	20	3	0.05
2	Layer	Made ground	11	0.3	0.45
3	Layer	Natural	-	-	-
4	Layer	Topsoil	50	50	0.2
5	Layer	Subsoil	50	0.3	0.2
6	Layer	Made ground	5	0.6	0.2
7	Void				
8	Masonry	Concrete	0.8	0.3	0.1
9	Layer	Road surface	30	3	0.2
10	Layer	Hardcore	3	0.3	0.2

Table 3: List of recorded contexts

- 4.1.1 Towards the west end of the excavation, to the building on the north of the walled garden, the natural geology [003] was overlain with a made ground [002], consisting of rubble and clay. This was overlain with hardcore, which forms the current yard surface.
- 4.1.2 Over most the excavation, through the grassland to the north-east of the walled garden, the natural geology [003] was overlain with a subsoil [002], which was a greyish yellow silty clay. It contained a fragment of post-medieval floor tile (Isa Benedetti, per coms). This was overlain by topsoil [001], a mid grey-brown silty clay. There were several iron objects identified, one of which was possibly part of the traces used in attaching a horse to a cart, and dated to the 1900's (Trista Clifford and Susan Chandler, per coms) which were not retained.
- 4.1.3 Where the cable crossed the road, the natural geology was overlain with made ground [006]. The made ground was overlain with [009], the current road surface. Some concrete [008] was identified beneath the a layer of hardcore [010]. It likely constituted a previous surface.
- 4.1.4 At the eastern end of the excavation, by the office buildings the natural [003] was overlain with a made ground [006]. The topsoil [001] overlay the made ground.
- 4.1.5 There were also several existing cables exposed during the work, causing significant disturbance to the stratigraphy of the site.
- 4.1.6 No archaeological finds, features or deposits were identified.

5.0 DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSIONS

5.1 Overview of stratigraphic sequence

5.1.1 Over most of the excavation the stratigraphic sequence was straightforward, with the natural geology overlain by subsoil and topsoil. At each end of the excavation, where the excavation is in the vicinity of buildings, the sequence is interrupted with made ground.

5.2 Deposit survival and existing impacts

5.2.1 There were over ten existing services encountered during the excavation, the majority of these being encountered during the excavation of the grassland area. Furthermore, the subsoil seemed quite disturbed, indicating that the area had possibly been landscaped.

5.2.2 The excavations reached a depth of between 0.5m and 0.6m, and a clean natural geology was encountered. If any substantial archaeological remains were present in the area that was excavated, it is likely they would have been identified.

5.3 Consideration of research aims

5.3.1 A concrete surface [008] was identified beneath the road surface, however it is of little significance as it is modern.

5.3.2 Due to the lack of archaeological features or significant finds the aims and research questions cannot be addressed.

5.4 Conclusions

5.4.1 The monitored trench was frequently truncated by existing services, though some areas of undisturbed natural stratigraphy were also encountered. No archaeological finds, features or deposits were identified.

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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, Archaeologist for The National Trust for her guidance and monitoring. The watching brief was undertaken by Gary Webster. Paul Mason managed the fieldwork, Jim Stevenson and Dan Swift the post-excavation process.

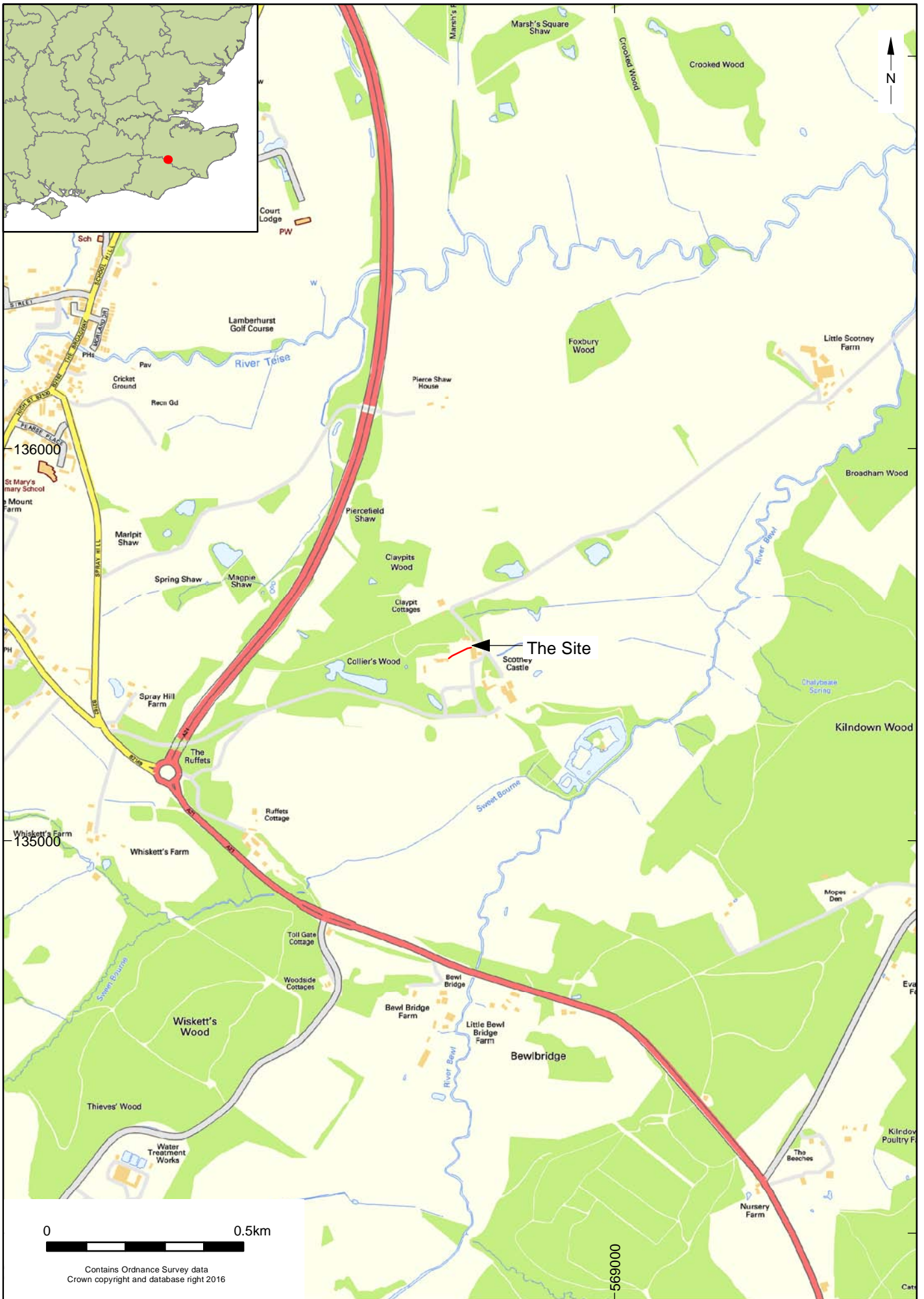
HER Summary

Site code	SCY 17				
Project code	170179				
Planning reference					
Site address	Scotney Castle, Hastings Road, Lamberhurst, Kent				
District/Borough	Tunbridge Wells, Lamberhurst				
NGR (12 figures)	568683 135402				
Geology	Wadhurst Clay Formation				
Fieldwork type			WB		
Date of fieldwork	27 th and 28 th February 2017				
Sponsor/client	The National Trust				
Project manager	Paul Mason				
Project supervisor	Gary Webster				
Period summary					
Project summary	<p><i>This report presents the results of an archaeological watching brief carried out by Archaeology South-East at Scotney Castle, Hastings Road, Lamberhurst, Kent. The fieldwork was commissioned by The National Trust during groundworks for the installation of a new data cable.</i></p> <p><i>The monitored trench was frequently truncated by existing services, though some areas of undisturbed natural stratigraphy was also encountered. No archaeological finds, features or deposits were identified.</i></p>				
Museum/Accession No.					

OASIS ID: archaeol6-278190

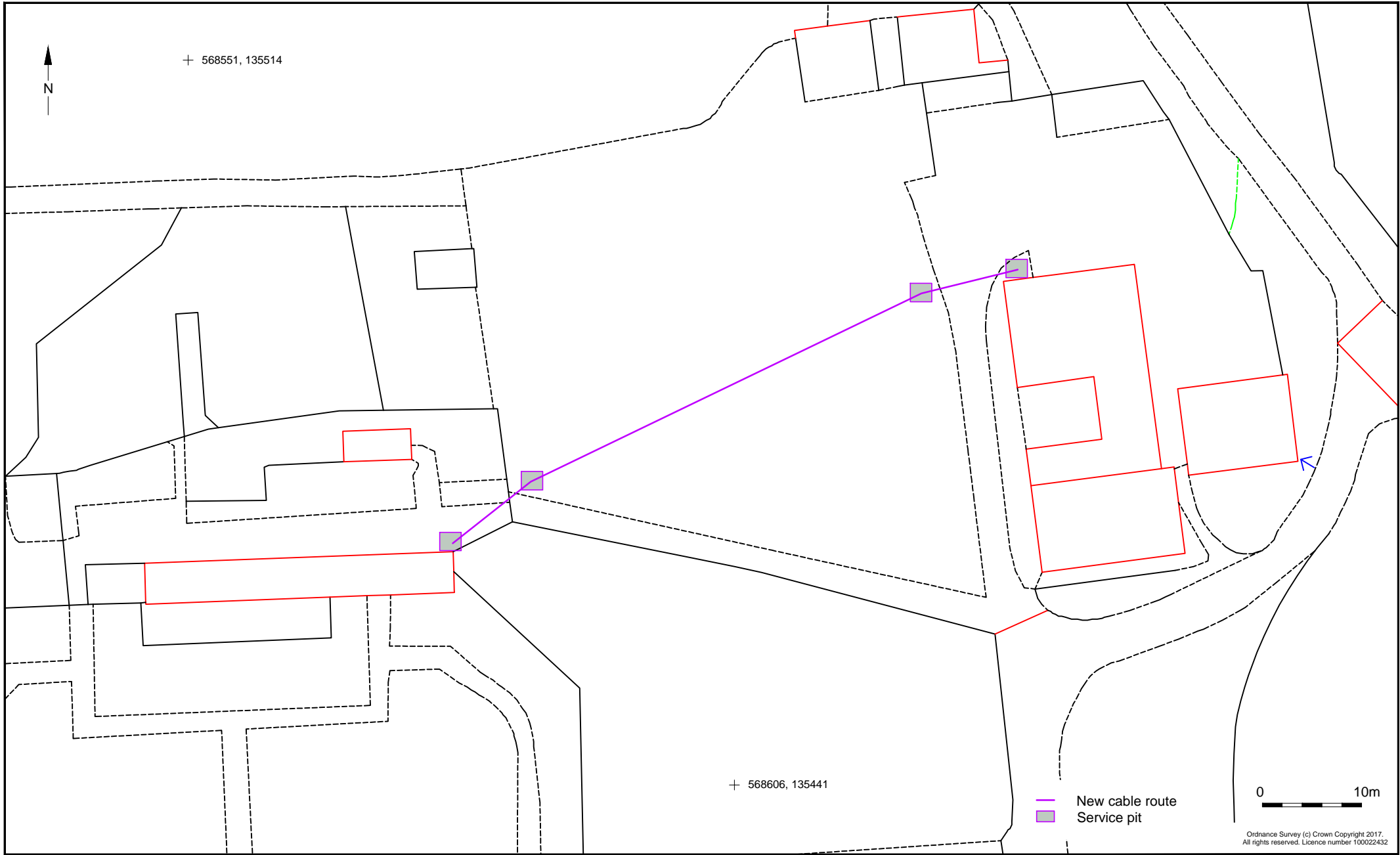
Project details

Project name	An Archaeological Watching Brief at Scotney Castle, Lamberhurst, Kent
Short description of the project	This report presents the results of an archaeological watching brief carried out by Archaeology South-East at Scotney Castle, Hastings Road, Lamberhurst, Kent. The fieldwork was commissioned by The National Trust during groundworks for the installation of a new data cable. The monitored trench was frequently truncated by existing services, though some areas of undisturbed natural stratigraphy was also encountered. No archaeological finds, features or deposits were identified.
Project dates	Start: 27-02-2017 End: 28-02-2017
Previous/future work	Yes / Not known
Any associated project reference codes	SCY17 - Sitecode
Type of project	Recording project
Site status	National Trust land
Current Land use	Other 8 - Land dedicated to the display of a monument
Investigation type	"Watching Brief"
Project location	
Country	England
Site location	KENT TUNBRIDGE WELLS LAMBERHURST Scotney Castle, Lamberhurst, Kent
Postcode	TN3 8JN
Study area	25 Square metres
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	Paul Mason
Project supervisor	Gary Webster
Type of sponsor/funding body	National Trust
Project archives	
Physical Archive recipient	National Trust
Digital Archive recipient	National Trust



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© Archaeology South-East		Scotney Castle New IT Cable	Fig. 1
Project Ref: 170179	March 2017	Site location	
Report Ref: 2017105	Drawn by: AR		



© Archaeology South-East		Scotney Castle IT Cable Trenches	Fig. 2
Project Ref: 170179	March 2017	Data cable trench location	
Report Ref: 2017105	Drawn by: AR		

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008, looking north



generic trench view, looking south



View of ground works



example of service pit, looking north-west

Sussex Office

Units 1 & 2
2 Chapel Place
Portslade
East Sussex BN41 1DR
tel: +44(0)1273 426830
email: fau@ucl.ac.uk
www.archaeologyse.co.uk

Essex Office

27 Eastways
Witham
Essex
CM8 3YQ
tel: +44(0)1376 331470
email: fau@ucl.ac.uk
www.archaeologyse.co.uk

London Office

Centre for Applied Archaeology
UCL Institute of Archaeology
31-34 Gordon Square
London WC1H 0PY
tel: +44(0)20 7679 4778
email: fau@ucl.ac.uk
www.ucl.ac.uk/caa

