

**Archaeological Watching Brief Report
Recording of an Exposed Cobbled Path
Scotney Castle, Lamberhurst
Kent**

NGR: 568640 135350

**ASE Project No: 170618
Site Code: CGP17
ASE Report No: 2017287
OASIS ID: archaeol6-290253**



By Naomi Humphreys

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Abstract

This report presents the results of an archaeological watching brief carried out by Archaeology South-East (ASE) at Scotney Castle, Hastings Road, Lamberhurst, Kent. ASE was commissioned by The National Trust to record a cobbled surface located beneath an access road into the site. The area of cobbled surface had been exposed as a result of vehicle damage to the overlying tarmac road. The cobbled path was to be recorded prior to a planned repair of the road (which seeks to keep the cobbled surface protected beneath).

The exposed area of cobbled path was successfully surveyed, planned and photographed prior to road repairs which seek to preserve the cobbled paving in situ. Historical map evidence shows that the surface lays on the former junction between a wider road orientated north-south and a narrow path which ran east to west from the south of the former orchard towards the western entrance of the country house. The direction of the cobbled coursing indicates that the current tarmac road running north-south may sit on top of an earlier cobbled road.

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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 comprising of the recording of a cobbled surface located on the access road leading to Scotney Castle, Lamberhurst, Kent. The area of cobbled surface had been exposed as a result of damage to the overlying tarmac road. The cobbled surface was to be recorded prior to a planned repair to the tarmac road (which seeks to keep the cobbled path protected beneath). The site is centred on National Grid Reference (NGR) 568640 135350 and its location is shown in Figures 1 and 2.

1.2 Topography

1.2.1 The cobbled surface is located beneath a tarmac access road which is orientated north-south and leads from the main access road into the site, towards car parking areas to the north and west. The road gently slopes down towards the south and the area of exposed cobbled paving sits c.85m east from Scotney Castle country house.

1.3 Aims and Objectives

1.3.1 The aim of the visit was to accurately locate and record the exposed surface prior to planned road repairs, and potentially identify how the cobbled path relates to the former estate landscape.

1.4 Scope of Report

1.4.1 This report details the results of the visit undertaken on the 22nd June 2017 and provides further discussion.

2.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

2.1 Overview

- 2.1.1 The following has been taken directly from a recent WSI (ASE 2017a):
- 2.1.2 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 summarised from these reports.
- 2.1.3 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.
- 2.1.4 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.
- 2.1.5 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.
- 2.1.6 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.

2.2 Recent Archaeological Investigation

- 2.2.1 A c.59m stretch trench for an IT cable was monitored by ASE in February 2017 (ASE 2017b). The cable trench ran southwest to northeast and was located c.130m north-northwest of the exposed cobbled path. No archaeological finds, features or deposits were identified within this trench.

3.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL METHODOLOGY

3.1 Fieldwork Methodology

- 3.1.1 All work was carried out in line with the relevant professional standards and guidelines of the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA 2014) and complies with Kent County Council's standard specification (KCC 2007).
- 3.1.2 The exposed area of the cobbled surface was photographed and its position accurately recorded using a Leica CS15 RTK GNSS.
- 3.1.3 Constrained by the road being open to traffic at the time of the visit, a plan of the cobbled surface could not be drawn on site. However, several photographs were taken at a vertical angle to allow for images to be georeferenced. These photos were later digitised to create an accurate digital plan of the exposed cobbled surface (Figure 3).

3.2 The Site Archive

- 3.2.1 The site archive has been assembled in accordance with the guidelines set out in Historic England's Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (HE 2015) and in accordance with the guidelines published in Guidelines for the Preparation of Excavation Archives for Long-term Storage (UKIC 1990) and Standards in the Museum Care of Archaeological Collections (Museums and Galleries Commission 1994).
- 3.2.2 The archive is currently held at the Archaeology South-East offices in Portslade, and will be handed over to the NT in due course. The contents of the archive are tabulated below (Table 1).

Context sheets	2
Section sheets	0
Plans sheets	0
Colour photographs	0
B&W photos	0
Digital photos	40
Context register	1
Drawing register	0
Watching brief forms	1
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

Context	Type	Interpretation	Max. Length m	Max. Width m	Deposit Thickness m	Height m AOD
001	Layer	Tarmac Road	N/A	N/A	0.25-0.45	64.74
002	Structure	Cobbled Path	2.0 (exposed)	0.81 (exposed)	-	64.69

Table 3: List of recorded contexts

5.0 DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSIONS

5.1 Discussion

- 5.1.1 A c.2.0m x c.0.85m area of a stone cobbled path was left exposed as a result of damage to the overlying tarmac road.
- 5.1.2 The cobbles comprise of irregularly shaped (although broadly rectangular) stones of varying sizes laid in courses which run east to west. Some of the larger cobbles appear to have split *in situ*. Smaller irregular stone gravels infill the gaps between the larger cobbles (Figure 3).
- 5.1.3 Figure 4 details the location of the recently surveyed cobbled surface on the OS 25-inch 1st edition map from 1873 (sheet 19/1). The modern tarmac road orientated north-south appears to follow the same route as the road detailed within the 1873 OS map, however the junction and path which runs east-west to the south of the orchard towards the western entrance to the country house, is not presently visible. The east-west path is recorded within historic OS maps until 1939 but is not present on the 1972 OS map. It is not entirely clear from the map evidence whether the recorded cobbled surface relates to the east-west path, north-south road, or the junction between the two. Typically, courses of cobbled stones run at a 90° angle to the direction of 'traffic'. If this is true in the case of this exposed area, it could be suggested that a cobbled surface may be preserved beneath the entire stretch of the present tarmac road.

5.2 Deposit survival and existing impacts

- 5.2.1 Cobbled path [002] survives at a height of 64.69mAOD beneath a c.0.25-0.45 layer of tarmac road surface [001]. The tarmac appears to have been previously repaired in this area.
- 5.2.2 It is likely that the remainder of the cobbled surface in this area survives beneath the surrounding tarmac road.
- 5.2.3 The cobbled surface is at risk of damage from traffic which currently uses the access road.
- 5.2.4 Plans to repair the tarmac road in this locality seeks to protect the cobbled surface by creating a small hump in the road which will cover the currently exposed path.

5.3 Consideration of research aims

- 5.3.1 The watching brief was successful in its aims to accurately locate and record the exposed cobbled surface and provide further suggestion about its provenance.

5.4 Updated Research Agenda

- 5.4.1 Any potential further work on site may seek to determine whether a cobbled surface remains intact beneath the remainder of the tarmac road and further attempt to understand the nature and potential survival of the path present on historical maps which runs east-west at the junction with the recorded cobbled surface.

5.5 Conclusions

- 5.3.1 The exposed area of cobbled path was successfully surveyed, planned and photographed prior to road repairs which seek to preserve the cobbled paving *in situ*. Historical map evidence shows that the surface lays on the former junction between a wider road orientated north-south and a narrow path which ran east to west from the south of the former orchard towards the western entrance of the country house. The direction of the cobbled coursing indicates that the current tarmac road running north-south may sit on top of an earlier cobbled road.

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ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

ASE would like to thank The National Trust for commissioning the work and for their assistance throughout the project. The watching brief and illustrations were undertaken by Naomi Humphreys. Paul Mason managed the fieldwork and Dan Swift the post-excavation process.

HER Summary

Site code	CGP 17				
Project code	170618				
Planning reference					
Site address	Scotney Castle, Hastings Road, Lamberhurst, Kent				
District/Borough	Tunbridge Wells. Lamberhurst				
NGR (12 figures)	568640 135350				
Geology	Wadhurst Clay Formation				
Fieldwork type			WB		Survey
Date of fieldwork	22 nd June 2017				
Sponsor/client	The National Trust				
Project manager	Paul Mason				
Project supervisor	Naomi Humphreys				
Period summary					
				Post-Medieval	
Project summary	<p>An archaeological watching brief was conducted at Scotney Castle, Hastings Road, Lamberhurst, Kent, NGR 568640 135350 on the 22nd June 2017.</p> <p>The exposed area of cobbled path was successfully surveyed, planned and photographed prior to road repairs which seek to preserve the cobbled paving in situ. Historical map evidence shows that the surface lays on the former junction between a wider road orientated north-south and a narrow path which ran east to west from the south of the former orchard towards the western entrance of the country house. The direction of the cobbled coursing indicates that the current tarmac road running north-south may sit on top of an earlier cobbled road.</p>				

OASIS Form

OASIS ID: archaeol6-290253

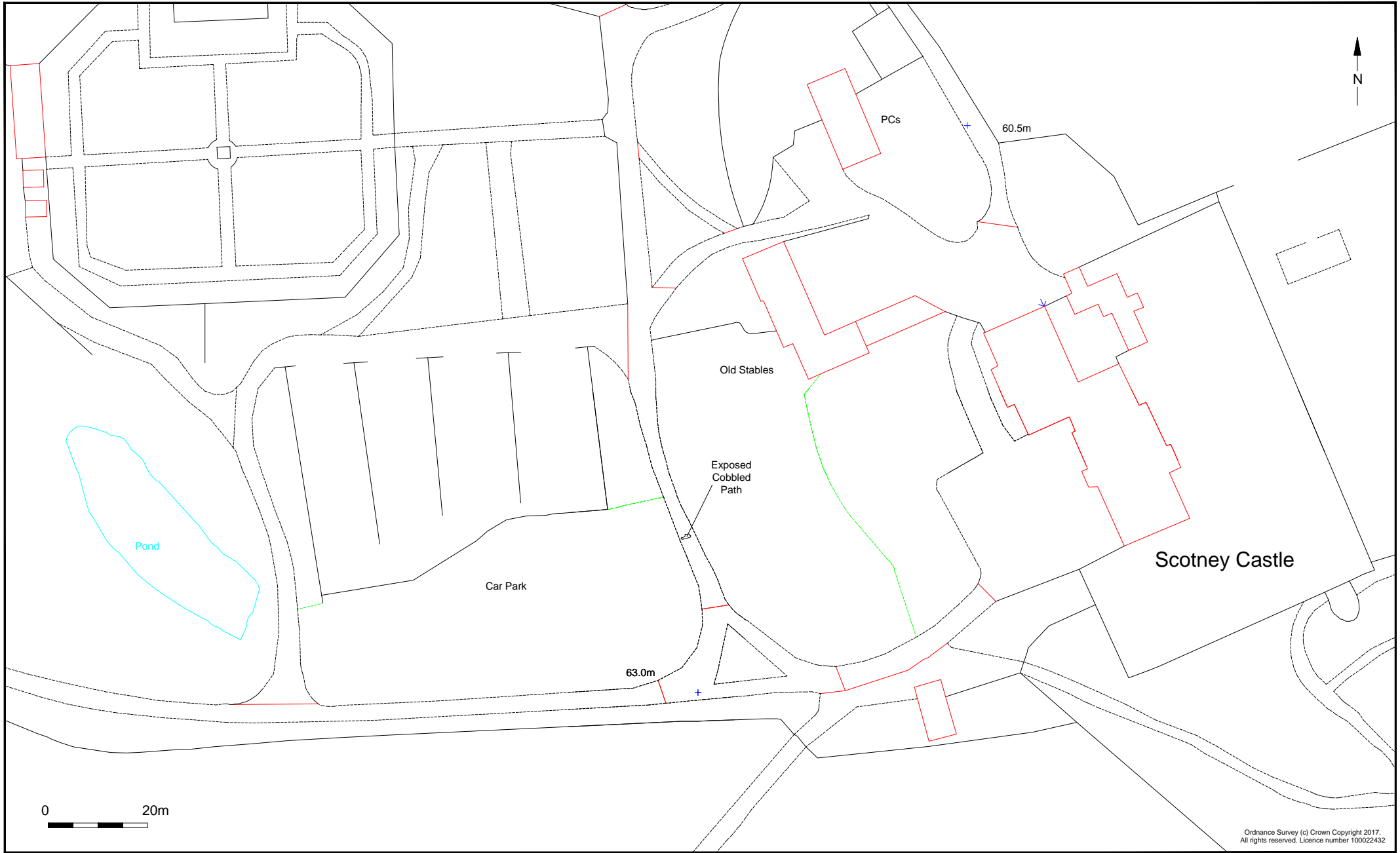
Project details

Project name	An Archaeological Watching Brief: Cobbled Path 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 (ASE) at Scotney Castle, Hastings Road, Lamberhurst, Kent. ASE was commissioned by The National Trust to record a cobbled surface located beneath an access road into the site. The exposed area of cobbled path was successfully surveyed, planned and photographed prior to road repairs which seek to preserve the cobbled paving in situ. Historical map evidence shows that the surface lays on the former junction between a wider road orientated north-south and a narrow path which ran east to west from the south of the former orchard towards the western entrance of the country house. The direction of the cobbled coursing indicates that the current tarmac road running north-south may sit on top of an earlier cobbled road.
Project dates	Start: 22-06-2017 End: 22-06-2017
Previous/future work	Yes / Not known
Any associated project reference codes	CGP17 - 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	"Part Survey", "Watching Brief"
Project location	
Country	England
Site location	KENT TUNBRIDGE WELLS LAMBERHURST Scotney Castle
Postcode	TN3 8JN
Study area	1.1 Square metres
Site coordinates	TQ 68640 35350 51.092060362986 0.408471836436 51 05 31 N 000 24 30 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	Naomi Humphreys

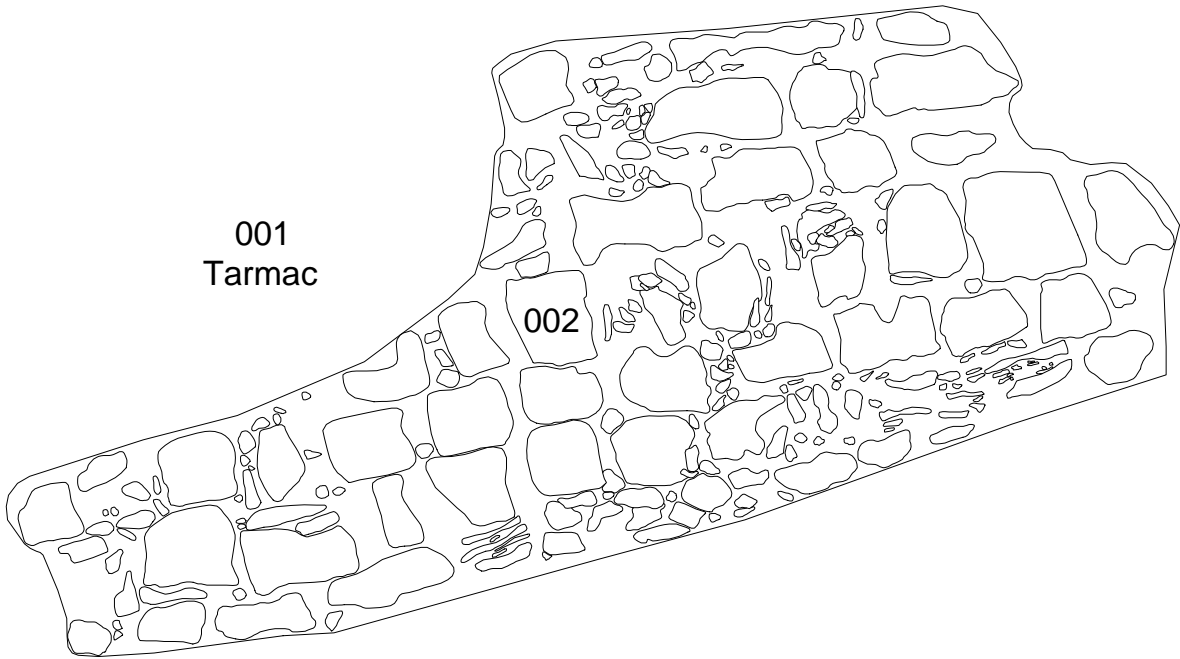
Type of sponsor/funding body	National Trust
Name of sponsor/funding body	National Trust
Project archives	
Physical Archive Exists?	No
Digital Media available	"Images raster / digital photography","Survey","Text"
Paper Media available	"Context sheet"
Project bibliography	
1	
Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title	An Archaeological Watching Brief Comprising of the Recording of an Exposed Cobbled Path at Scotney Castle, Lamberhurst,
Author(s)/Editor(s)	Humphreys, N.
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Issuer or publisher	ASE
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Entered on	13 July 2017



© Archaeology South-East		Scotney Castle: Cobbled Path, Scotney Castle, Lamberhurst, Kent		Fig. 1
Project Ref: 170618	June 2017	Site location		
Report Ref: 2017287	Drawn by: NH			

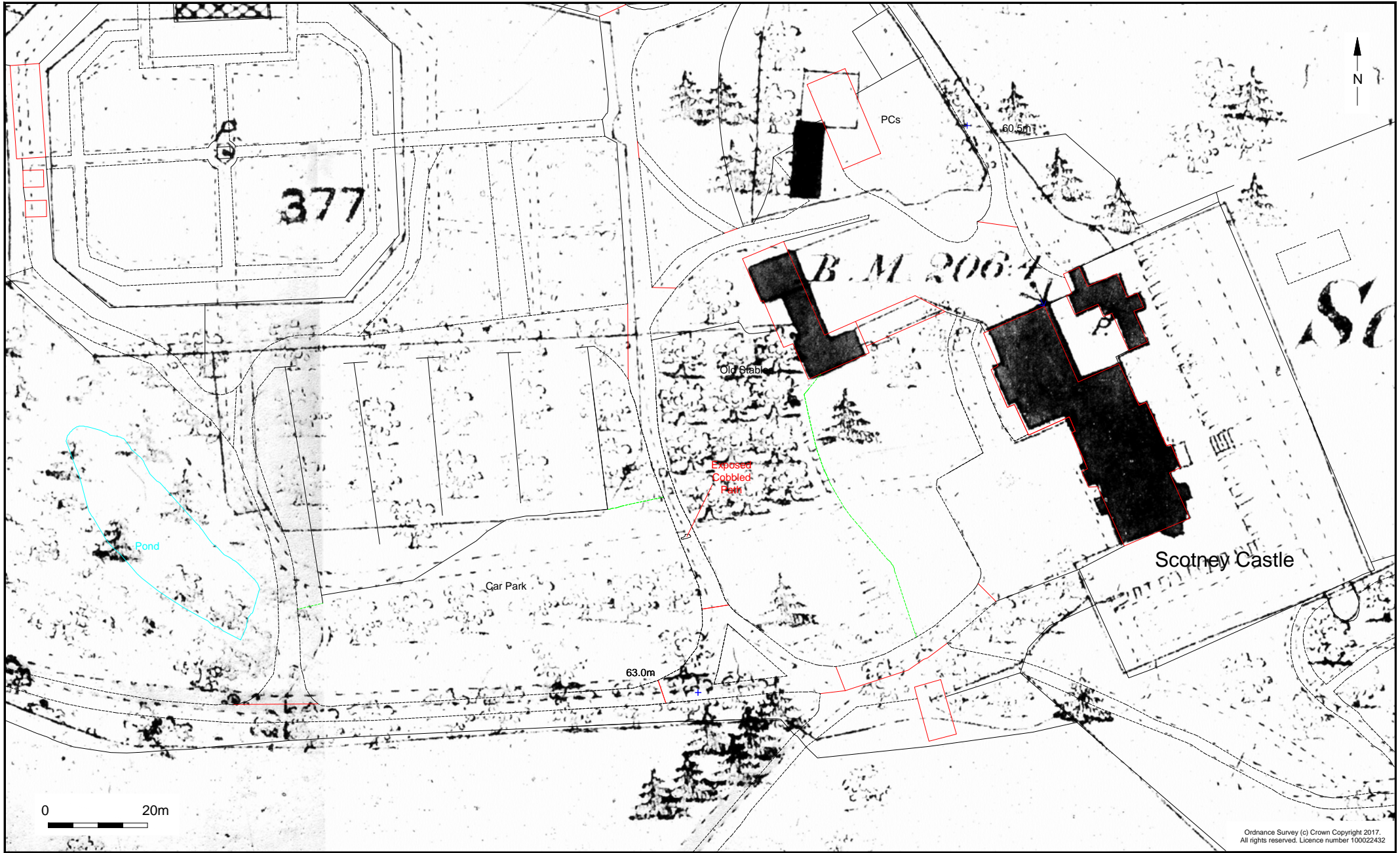


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Project Ref: 170618	June 2017	Path Location	
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Cobbled path [002], looking north

© Archaeology South-East		Scotney Castle: Cobbled Path, Scotney Castle, Lamberhurst, Kent	Fig. 3
Project Ref: 170618	June 2017	Plan and photo of exposed cobbled path	
Report Ref: 2017287	Drawn by: NH		



© Archaeology South-East		Scotney Castle: Cobbled Path, Scotney Castle, Lamberhurst, Kent	Fig. 4
Project Ref: 170618	July 2017	Cobbled path location on OS 25-inch 1st edition map 1873 (sheet 19/1)	
Report Ref: 2017287	Drawn by: NH		

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