

**Archaeological Watching Brief Report
Standen, East Grinstead
West Sussex**

NGR: 538974 135637

ASE Project No: 180866

Site Code: STD18

ASE Report No: 2019062

OASIS id: archaeol6-342628



By Thomas Simms

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Prepared by:	Thomas Simms	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

Archaeology South-East was commissioned by the National Trust (NT) to undertake an archaeological watching brief during excavations associated with duct installation for cabling at Standen, East Grinstead, West Sussex. The fieldwork took place between 7th January and 17th January 2019.

No archaeological features or deposits were encountered and no significant archaeological finds were recovered.

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1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Site Background

- 1.1 Archaeology South-East (ASE) was commissioned by the National Trust (NT) to undertake an archaeological watching brief during excavations associated with duct installation for cabling at Standen, East Grinstead, West Sussex (NGR 538900 135600; Figure 1).
- 1.2 The site lies within the Standen Estate, located on the northern edge of the High Weald near East Grinstead and situated on rising ground to the north of the Weir Wood Reservoir. The estate comprises 23.7 hectares (59 acres) in total of mainly deciduous woodland and pasture centred around an important Arts and Crafts house and its associated gardens. The centre of the estate is designated by English Heritage as a Registered Historic Park and Garden (Ref. 5309) and Standen House itself is a Grade I Listed Building (Ref. 430872), located adjacent to a Grade II Listed cottage (Ref. 430873) and farm buildings (Ref. 430874).

1.2 Geology and Topography

- 1.2.1 According to the British Geological Survey 1:50,000 scale geological map available online, the site traverses two geological areas: Ardingly Sandstone Member Sandstone to the north-west and Lower Tunbridge Wells Sand featuring sandstone, siltstone and mudstone to the south-east (BGS 2018). Superficial geological deposits are not recorded for this area.

1.3 Planning Background

- 1.3.1 Natural / Historic England have granted consent for the works. This project is understood to not be subject to Local Authority planning consent and lies outside of the Scheduled Monument boundary.
- 1.3.2 Due to the archaeological and historical significance of the site, Tom Dommett, Archaeologist, National Trust (hereafter 'the NT Archaeologist') has requested that an archaeological watching brief be maintained during excavation for underground ducts.

1.4 Aims and Objectives

- 1.4.1 The general Aims and Objectives have been taken from the WSI and are as follows:

The general objective of the archaeological watching brief is to record archaeological deposits exposed by the development. Exposed deposits or recovered artefacts should be interpreted within the context of the site as a whole.

A further aim is to inform the National Trust in the event that significant archaeological remains are encountered.

- 1.4.2 The watching brief has the potential to address the following research objectives set out in the South-East Research Framework:

- *The chronology and typology of farm buildings and lesser noticed post-medieval agricultural features (SERF post-medieval themes Part 1 Para 3)*
- *The impact of houses of the royalty/gentry had on the local landscape, economy, and social structure (SERF post-medieval themes Part 1 Para 4)*

1.4.3 A final aim is to make public the results of the archaeological watching brief subject to any confidentiality restrictions.

Specific Research Aims

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

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

1.5 Scope of Report

1.5.1 This report details the results of the watching brief carried from the 7th to the 17th January 2019 by Thomas Simms.

2.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

2.1 Overview

- 2.1.1 The following text (paragraphs 2.2.1 – 2.2.8) is taken from the background research carried out for the Written Scheme of Investigation (ASE 2018).

2.2 Period Summaries

Prehistoric

- 2.2.1 There is limited evidence for prehistoric land use at the property (a single finds spot of flint tools at MWS4480).

Romano-British

- 2.2.2 Evidence for Romano-British occupation around the site is similarly limited, though the presence of a bloomery site (MWS3184) to the south suggests a degree of localised activity.

Anglo-Saxon and Medieval

- 2.2.3 There is no evidence for Anglo-Saxon settlement in the area. The name 'Standen' does have pre-Conquest origins, though its meaning ('a stony swine pasture') suggests a marginal landscape.

Post-Medieval

- 2.2.4 The settlement site now known as Standen was until the late 18th century known as Homewood (and subsequently Great Hollybush Farm), with the earliest reference occurring in 1120.
- 2.2.5 From the 13th century onwards the High Weald began to see more intensive exploitation, particularly in the management of the woodland for timber and fuel. A number of wood banks (MWS12460; MWS12456; MWS12354; MWS12353; MWS12295), a sawpit (MWS12458; MWS12459) and a charcoal platform (MWS12457) bear testament to this land use, though these particular sites may date to the medieval or post-medieval period.
- 2.2.6 A number of well-established trackways likely date to the medieval or post-medieval period, and also attest to this increasing activity within the landscape.
- 2.2.7 The original farmhouse (surviving as 5 & 6 Standen Cottages) may have been built c.1450 as a detached kitchen accompanying a farmhouse that stood to the north. Former farm buildings were converted into the restaurant by the National Trust.
- 2.2.8 The remaining known archaeological sites in the area relate to the post-medieval designed landscape features of Standen House and associated water management features. The garden design incorporated earlier features, including Goose Green (MWS11961), the original farmyard of Hollybush Farm.

3.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL METHODOLOGY

3.1 Fieldwork Methodology (Figure 2)

3.1.1 The archaeological methodology was initially set out in the Written Scheme of Investigation (ASE 2018). All work was carried out in accordance with this document and in line with professional standards and guidelines (ClfA 2014a; ClfA 2014b; ClfA 2014c).

3.1.2 The archaeological watching brief involved monitoring trenching along the north side of the existing access road and around the western end of the stable block. The trenching was undertaken with a toothless bucket.

3.2 The Site Archive

3.3.1 The site archive is currently held at the offices of ASE and will be deposited at a suitable local repository in due course. The contents of the archive area tabulated below (Table 1)

Context sheets	6
Section sheets	0
Plans sheets	0
Colour photographs	0
B&W photos	0
Digital photos	33
Context register	1
Drawing register	0
Watching brief forms	7
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)	1 Bag
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. The excavation of the 300mm wide trench revealed topsoil [001] and [002] subsoil to the top of untruncated natural sandstone.
- 4.2. The trench (when not within the access road) was excavated to an overall depth of between 0.25m and 0.3m and had a stratigraphy comprising a mid-brown silt topsoil [001] with a depth of 0.17m to 0.23m above a mid-brown-grey silt subsoil [002] with a depth of 0.12m.to 0.17m. The natural geology [003] was formed of yellow orange sandstone.
- 4.3. The trench when excavated through the access road was excavated to a depth of between 0.5m to 0.75m, and had a stratigraphy of Tarmac and crush [004] with a depth ranging from 0.15m to 0.17m above a dark to mid-yellow made ground [005] with a depth up to 0.53m.
- 4.4. The trench when following the southern and eastern route through to the stables consisted of a dark brown made ground [006] with a depth of 0.25m.
- 4.5. No archaeological features or deposits were observed during the reduction and excavation of the duct trenching.

Context	Type	Interpretation	Max. Length (m)	Max. Width (m)	Deposit thickness (m)
001	Layer	Topsoil	40	0.3	0.17–0.23
002	Layer	Subsoil	40	0.3	0.12-0.17
003	Layer	Natural	210	0.3	0.05
004	Layer	Made ground	170	0.3	0.5- 0.75
005	Layer	Made ground	170	0.3	0.15- 0.17
006	Layer	Made ground	30	0.3	0.25

Table 3: List of recorded contexts

5.0 THE FINDS

5.1 Summary

- 5.1.1 A small assemblage of finds was recovered and were washed and dried or air dried as appropriate. They were subsequently quantified by count and weight and bagged by material and context (Table 1). All finds have been packed and stored following ClfA guidelines (2014).

Context	Pottery	Weight (g)	CBM	Weight (g)
6	6	306	3	5716
Total	6	306	3	5716

Table 4: Quantification of hand-collected bulk finds

5.2 The Pottery by Luke Barber

- 5.2.1 The archaeological monitoring recovered just six sherds of pottery, weighing 306g. All was recovered from context [6]. The material has been fully listed by common ware name in Table 5 as part of the visible archive. Overall the pottery consists of medium to large-sized sherds (to 140mm across) with no or limited signs of abrasion. As such the material does not appear to have been subjected to any significant reworking.

Context	Fabric	No	Weight	Comments (including estimated number of vessels represented)
6	Glazed red earthenware (late)	1	98g	Bowl x1 (Clear glaze internally, horizontal rectangular club rim)
6	Creamware	1	6g	Plate x1
6	Blue transfer-printed whiteware	2	66g	Plates x2 (Ironstone-type. Floral designs, one with red highlighting and pattern type and maker's transfer on rim underside: 'PERSIAN // GROUPS' over 'C.M.' – multiple possible makers)
6	Brown transfer-printed whiteware	1	68g	Chamber pot x1 (Foliage design, everted rim)
6	Refined whiteware (plain)	1	68g	Jug x1 (Vertical-sided vessel with squared elongated handle)

Table 5: Late post-medieval pottery assemblage (c. 1750-1900+)

- 5.2.2 The earliest pottery consists of the creamware sherd that is probably of the late 18th to very early 19th centuries. The fact the sherd is fresh suggests it may have been an old vessel when broken and thus in contemporaneous use with the later types. The glazed redware could also be of this period, though these types continued through into the early 20th century. The refined whitewares include both table and sanitary wares suggesting the whole is a normal assemblage of domestic waste. There is nothing to closely date the group considering the presence of older vessels within it, however, a deposition date between c. 1825 and 1900 is certain.
- 5.2.3 The pottery assemblage is small, late in date and of types well known of in the

area. It is not considered to hold any potential for further analysis beyond that undertaken for this report and is not suitable for long-term curation in a museum. As such it has been added to the pool of material held for handling/teaching.

5.3 The Ceramic Building Material

- 5.3.1 Three pieces of ceramic building material (CBM) comprising two bricks and one tile weighing 5716g in total were collected from [006]. The roof tile was post-medieval and punctured with two square-shaped peg holes. Two complete and over-fired 3038 bricks were also recovered, both frogged with worn and chipped surfaces and a large quantity of lime mortar attached to one of the brick samples. Bricks in fabric 3038 date no earlier than c.1890 and can be as late as the 1970s.

6.0 DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSIONS

6.1 Overview of stratigraphic sequence

- 6.1.1 Topsoil and subsoil were present intermittently along the duct trench, they were not present when excavating the existing road surface.
- 6.1.2 Investigations into the existing road surface running North-South across site revealed a stratigraphy comprising of tarmac and crush [004] sealing a layer of modern made ground. These layers directly overlay the truncated sandstone natural [003] below. The level at which the natural was encountered within this part of the site was a maximum of 0.53m, indicating extensive truncation of this area.
- 6.1.3 At the southern end of site the trench was excavated through an existing modern pathway, here a dark brown made ground [006] containing 19th-20th century pottery and CBM was observed.
- 6.1.4 No archaeological features or deposits were encountered.

6.2 Deposit survival and existing impacts

- 6.2.1 A large proportion of the duct pipeline development was shown to had been truncated by works carried out on the site previously, and further make up of ground level had occurred directly above the truncated sandstone natural. As a result, the potential archaeological horizon had been compromised, with only small pockets of undisturbed sandstone observed.

6.3 Consideration of research aims

- 6.3.1 As no archaeological finds or deposits were encountered within undisturbed archaeological horizons, the watching brief was unable to address the identified site specific research aims set out in WSI.
- 6.3.2 It is clear from the archaeological and historical background of the area that the trench in which the BT Duct was located had the potential to contain archaeological deposits. However, the localised nature of the watching brief and the extensive modern truncation of the area has resulted in very little information being recovered which could add to our understanding of the known heritage assets in the area.

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ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

ASE would like to thank National Trust for commissioning the work and for their assistance throughout the project, The watching brief was undertaken by Thomas Simms. Neil Griffin managed the excavations and Dan Swift the post-excavation process.

HER Summary

Site code	STD18					
Project code	180866					
Planning reference						
Site address	Standen House, Standen, East Grinstead, West Sussex					
District/Borough	East Grinstead					
NGR (12 figures)	538974 135637					
Geology	Sanstone					
Fieldwork type			WB			
Date of fieldwork	07-01-2019 – 17-01-2019					
Sponsor/client	National Trust					
Project manager	Neil Griffin					
Project supervisor	Thomas Simms					
Period summary						
				Post-Medieval		
Project summary	<p>Archaeology South-East was commissioned by the National Trust (NT) to undertake an archaeological watching brief during excavations associated with duct installation for cabling at Standen, East Grinstead, West Sussex. The fieldwork took place between 7th January and 17th January 2019.</p> <p>No archaeological features or deposits were encountered and no significant archaeological finds were recovered.</p>					

Finds summary

Find type	Material	Period	Quantity
Pottery	Ceramic	PM	
CBM	Ceramic	PM	

OASIS Form

OASIS ID: archaeol6-342628

Project details

Project name	An Archaeological Watching Brief at Standen, East Grinstead, West Sussex
Short description of the project	Archaeology South-East was commissioned by the National Trust (NT) to undertake an archaeological watching brief during excavations associated with duct installation for cabling at Standen, East Grinstead, West Sussex. The fieldwork took place between 7th January and 17th January 2019. No archaeological features or deposits were encountered and no significant archaeological finds were recovered.
Project dates	Start: 07-01-2019 End: 17-01-2019
Previous/future work	Yes / Not known
Any associated project reference codes	STD18 - Sitecode
Any associated project reference codes	180866 - Contracting Unit No.
Type of project	Recording project
Site status	National Trust land
Current Land use	Other 5 - Garden
Monument type	BACK YARD Post Medieval
Significant Finds	N/A None
Investigation type	"Watching Brief"
Prompt	Conservation/ restoration

Project location

Country	England
Site location	WEST SUSSEX MID SUSSEX EAST GRINSTEAD Standen
Postcode	RH19 4ND
Study area	0 Square metres
Site coordinates	TQ 538974 135637 50.900432990679 0.18886016771 50 54 01 N 000 11 19 E Point
Lat/Long Datum	Unknown
Height OD / Depth	Min: 111m Max: 111m

Project creators

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

Project archives

Physical Archive recipient	ASE
Physical Contents	"Ceramics"
Digital Archive recipient	ASE
Digital Contents	"none"
Digital Media available	"Database","Images raster / digital photography","Text"
Paper Archive recipient	ASE
Paper Contents	"none"
Paper Media available	"Context sheet","Photograph","Unpublished Text"

Project bibliography 1

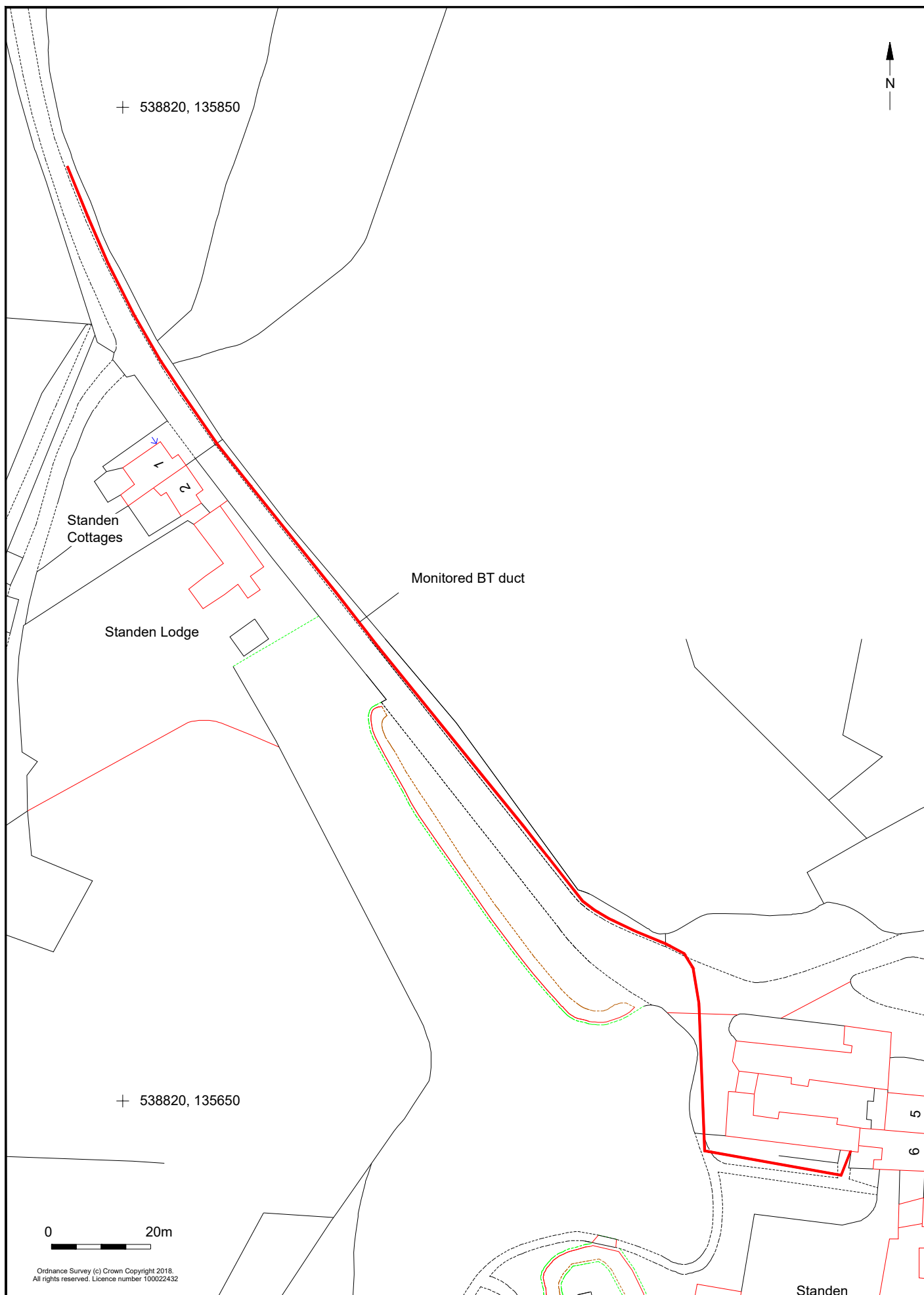
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© Archaeology South-East		Standen BT Duct, East Grinstead	Fig. 1
Project Ref: 180866	Feb 2019	Site location	
Report Ref: 2019062	Drawn by: JR		



© Archaeology South-East		Standen BT duct, East Grinstead	Fig. 2
Project Ref: 180866	Feb 2019	Monitored BT duct	
Report Ref: 180866	Drawn by: JR		



Monitored duct trench looking south



Monitored duct trench looking south



Monitored duct trench section



Monitored duct trench looking north

© Archaeology South-East		Standen BT duct, East Grinstead	Fig. 3
Project Ref: 180866	Feb 2019	Photographs	
Report Ref: 180866	Drawn by: JR		

Sussex Office

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

Essex Office

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

