

An Archaeological Watching Brief at The Stables, Scotney Castle Estate, Lamberhurst, Kent

Planning Ref: TW/06/03797

NGR 568679 135400

**Project No:3434
Site Code:SOB08**

**ASE Report No. 2008169
OASIS id: archaeol6-49053**



PAUL RICCOBONI
with a contribution by Luke Barber

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Abstract

Archaeology South East (ASE) maintained an archaeological watching brief at the old Stable Block, Scotney Castle, Lamberhurst, Kent (NGR 568679 135400) during renovation works into a tea rooms (planning reference: TW/06/03797). The watching brief was maintained intermittently between April and June 2008. The groundworks involved the removal of the stable block floors, which were mostly mid 19th century in date and laid in a herringbone style. These floors were recorded before their removal and all works were monitored during their destruction. In four of the rooms (Rooms 3, 4, 5 & 6) earlier floors were discovered surviving beneath the herringbone styled floors. These were the original stable block floors, constructed of red bricks or mini bricks, which were specifically designed for use in a stable block.

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1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Site Background

1.1.1 Archaeology South East (ASE), a division of the University College London Centre of Applied Archaeology (UCLCAA), were commissioned by The National Trust Ltd to undertake an archaeological watching brief during the groundworks on the development of the Stable Block, Scotney Castle, Lamberhurst, Kent (NGR 568679 135400) hereafter referred to as 'the site'.

1.1.2 The site lies within the grounds of Scotney Castle originally built as a stable block.

1.2 Geology and Topography

1.2.1 According to the Geological Survey of Britain (Solid and Drift edition; Tenterden Sheet 304) the site lies on Wadhurst Clay.

1.2.2 Scotney Castle (Fig. 1) 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 valleys associated with this river form the general topography of the site. The stable block is located near the Victorian Manor house which is on the west side of the Bewl Valley.

1.3 Planning Background

1.3.1 An application for the development of the old stable blocks into tea rooms was granted by Tunbridge Wells Borough Council (Planning ref TW/06/03797). Due to The National Trust's commitment to maintain a high regard for the protection of its heritage sites, it was agreed by Caroline Thackray (National Trust Territory Archaeologist) that a watching brief be maintained during all groundworks associated with the new development works.

1.3.2 The groundworks involved the removal of the 19th century brick floors in advance of the installation of underground heating and disabled access.

1.4 Aims and Objectives

1.4.1 An existing Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) designed for use on the moat consolidation works at Scotney Castle was adapted for use during this project.

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

1.5 Scope of Report

1.5.1 The current report represents the findings of the watching brief undertaken intermittently by Paul Riccoboni and Dan Swift (Senior Archaeologists) between 24th April and 12th June 2008.

2.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

- 2.1** The entire Scotney Estate has been examined in detail by Bannister (2001) and the resulting document should be consulted for a detailed account of the estate. An Archaeological and Historic Landscape Survey (AHLS) was undertaken by Archaeology South East (ASE 2007a) and provides further detailed information on the archaeological background and the Victorian development of the site. The report also considered and assessed potential management issues. This report should be referred to for a complete background. A short summary of the Scotney Estate archaeological background follows here.
- 2.2** Little archaeological work has been undertaken within the ground of Scotney Castle, although some watching briefs have been undertaken by ASE and the Central Excavation Unit. Network Archaeology has undertaken work on the route of the Lamberhurst Bypass.
- 2.3** An HER search was conducted in the AHLS (ASE 2007a) which recorded only five sites. In summary, little activity is evident in the area from the prehistoric period to the 13th century when the first Castle was built. The area has been dense woodland for most periods of history and such activities such as low level land clearance and exploitation of iron ore probably took place on the estate from the prehistoric to the post medieval period, but very little evidence remains.
- 2.4** The area was transformed when the Victorian Mansion was built in 1834 by Edward Hussey. The stable blocks were designed by the architect Anthony Salvin who also designed the house. They comprise of two ranges of buildings arranged in an L-shaped plan with a courtyard to the north. The structures comprise four phases of building carried out over a 60 year period from Salvin's original design in 1838 until 1899. A detailed interpretative Historic Building Survey was undertaken by Archaeology South East on the stables (ASE 2007b) and should be referred to for a more detailed building history and survey. The stable block forms part of the original design of the development of the estate in the mid 19th century. External elevations are for the most part unmodified and the original internal features survived 1960's renovation.

3.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL METHODOLOGY

- 3.1** The excavations were undertaken by a 360° tracked mini digger fitted with a 1m wide ditching bucket where possible. In areas inaccessible to the mini digger the excavations were undertaken by hand using a hand held pneumatic drill, shovels and picks.
- 3.2** The 19th century floors were removed initially by use of the hand held pneumatic drill. Once the brick floor surface had been removed, the ground was reduced further by mini digger to a depth of between c.0.35 and 0.50m from the present ground level.
- 3.3** An appropriately qualified archaeologist was on site during all ground reduction work until/unless it became clear that no archaeological remains were present i.e. once excavations reached the undisturbed natural subsoil.
- 3.4** Where significant remains were discovered the contractors stopped work and sufficient time was made available for the attending archaeologist to record the exposed archaeological features. All features were hand cleaned to enable maximum information to be recovered.
- 3.5** All encountered archaeological deposits, features and finds were recorded according to accepted professional standards, using context record sheets based upon the Central Excavation Unit recording system as modified for use by Archaeology South-East.
- 3.6** The spoil from the excavations were inspected by the archaeologist to recover any artefacts or ecofacts of interest.
- 3.7** A full photographic record (colour slide, black and white monochrome & digital) of the work was kept and will form part of the site archive. The archive (including the finds) is presently held at the Archaeology South-East office in Portslade and will be offered to a suitable local museum in due course.
- 3.8** Levels were taken where possible and related to a known spot height supplied by the on site surveyor.

Table 1: Quantification of site archive

Number of Contexts	44
No. of files/paper record	69
Plan and sections sheets	2
Bulk Samples	0
Photographs	44 colour slide, 18 B & W, 165 digital
Bulk finds	5
Registered finds	0
Environmental flots/residue	0

4.0 RESULTS

4.1 The contexts recorded during the watching brief are outlined below.

Table 2: List of Recorded Contexts

No	Room	Context type	Maximum length	Max Width	Depth	Description	Height m AOD
100	1	Wall	4m	0.30m	0.20m	Sleeper wall	c. 61.79m
101	1	Wall	4m	0.30m	0.20m	Sleeper wall	c. 61.79m
102	1	Wall	5m	/	0.10m	Stepped foundation	c. 61.79m
103	1	Deposit	5m	4m	0.05m	Concrete	c. 61.79m
104	2	Floor	7m	5m	0.11m	Red brick –on edge	c. 61.79m
105	2	Floor			0.01m	Concrete surface	c. 61.79m
106	2	Deposit	2m	5m	0.20m	Mid blackish brown silty clay	c. 61.59m
107	2	Wall	4m	0.20m	0.05m	Line of bricks laid flat	c. 61.79m
108	2	Deposit	7m	5m	0.11m	Light orange yellow crushed sandstone	c. 61.68m
109	3	Floor	5.5m	4m	0.20m	Bricks –on edge-herringbone style	61.88m
110	3	Drain	2m	0.40m	0.05m	Iron drain	61.87m
111	3	Drain	2m	0.40m	0.05m	Iron drain	61.87m
112	3	Wall			0.05m	Ragstone wall- one course in width.	c. 61.88m
113	4	Floor	5.5m	4m	0.20m	Bricks–on edge-herringbone style	c. 61.87m
114	4	Wall foundation ?	2m	0.20m	0.05m	Line of bricks laid flat	61.87m
115	6	Floor	5.5	4m	0.10m	Bricks –on edge-herringbone style	61.83-86m
116	6	Floor	3.5m	3m	0.15m	Concrete	61.80m
117	unused context number						
118	5	Deposit	5.5m	5m	0.50m	Modern made ground-composed of crushed concrete	/
119	6	Floor	1m	1m	0.20m	Red bricks-laid flat	61.83m

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No	Room	Context type	Maximum length	Max Width	Depth	Description	Height m AOD
120	6	Floor			0.10m	Red bricks – laid flat	61.83m
121	6	Deposit				Sand bedding beneath tiles	61.63m
122	9	Deposit	7.5m	7m	0.20m	A made ground containing CBM	61.59m
123	9	Floor	7.5m	7m	/	Mid brownish yellow clay silt-Natural	61.49m
124	4	Floor	3.20m	2.10m	0.10m	Red bricks-laid flat	61.70-77m
125	4	Floor	4m	2.5m	0.10m	Rectangular shaped Flemish? Style bricks-on edge.	61.60m
126	3	Floor	2m	1.60m	0.10m	Red bricks-laid flat	61.70m
127	3	Floor	2m	1.80m	0.10m	Red bricks-laid flat	61.70m
128	4	Floor	0.60m	0.50m	0.10m	Red bricks-laid flat	61.75m
129	4	Drain	2.20m	0.20m	0.20m	Red bricks-laid flat	61.65m
130	4	Pipe	2.20m	0.20m	0.20m	Ceramic pipe	61.65m
131	4	Drain	2.20m	0.20m	0.20m	Red bricks-laid flat	61.66m
132	Toilet Block	Deposit				Mixed brown black silty clay	
133	Toilet Block	Deposit			0.50m	Dark brownish black silty clay	/
134	Toilet Block	Deposit			0.30-0.60m	Mid brownish grey silty clay	/
135	3 – 6, Toilet Block	Deposit			/	Mid brownish yellow clay silt-Natural	/
136	4	Deposit	5.5m	4m	0.20m	Mid brownish yellow silty sand with clay patches	61.50m
137	3	Deposit	5.5m	4m	0.08-0.10m	Mid brownish yellow silty sand with clay patches	61.50m
138	3	Deposit			0.05m	Concrete	61.50m
139	4	Deposit	5.4m	4m	0.05m	Concrete	61.50m
140	3	Drain	c. 5m	0.40m	0.20m	Red brick-laid flat	61.70m
141	3	Drain	c. 2.5m	0.30m	0.20m	Red brick-laid flat	61.70m
142	6	Deposit	4m	2m	0.27m	Mid yellowish	61.63m

No	Room	Context type	Maximum length	Max Width	Depth	Description	Height m AOD
						brown clay silt	
143	1	Deposit	4m	4m	0.15m	Mottled brownish yellow-clay silt.	61.59m
144	5	Deposit	5.5m	4.8m	0.20m	Light orange yellow crushed sandstone with CBM	/
145	5	Floor tiles	2m	0.40m	0.10m	0.40m ² in situ floor tiles within Room 5	/
146	6	Deposit			0.10m	Concrete	61.73m
147	8	wall	c. 3m	c. 0.20m	c. 0.02	Sleeper wall	61.88m
148	8	wall	c. 3m	c. 0.20m	c. 0.02	Sleeper wall	61.88m
149	6	wall				Stone blocks	/

4.2 Building 1 (Fig. 2)

4.2.1 This building is situated to the south of building 2 and is orientated on an approximate east- west alignment. This building is formed of Rooms 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 & 8.

4.3 Room 3 (Figs. 2-4, 7- 8)

4.3.2 Room 3 measures 5.5m x 4m and was excavated to a depth of 0.55m. The earliest recorded deposit was context [135], the natural mid brownish yellow clay. Above this was [137], a c. 0.10m thick mid brownish yellow imported levelling deposit of a silty clay texture. Within this deposit two drains were recorded, [140] & [141]. These were constructed of red unfrogged hand made bricks (Fig. 5)

4.3.3 At the western end of Room 3, the original floor of the stable block was seen above [137]. There were two surviving rectangular shaped floor areas [126] & [127] (Fig. 4 & Fig. 8) composed of red bricks with no (or very little) bonding material between the bricks. Floor [126], seen on the southern side of the room, was 1.60m x 2m in size and it had bricks set in a way to enable water to drain to the centre of the floor (Fig. 4). Floor [127] located adjacent to [126] was almost identical in size and construction methods (1.80m in width x 2m in length). Less than half of both floors were surviving. Above floors [126] and [127] was a thin layer of concrete [138]. This was a levelling deposit cast over the original floors and context [137].

4.3.4 Above [138] was the high quality herringbone styled floor constructed of mid brownish yellow cut down bricks, [109]. Within this floor were two drains constructed of iron, [110] and [111] running on an east-west direction (Fig. 3). The eastern end of the room was constructed of the same bricks but not

laid in the herringbone style, and bricks were laid flat around the perimeter of this room to form an edging. The remains of a partition wall was recorded near the centre of the room, [112].

4.4 Room 4 (Figs. 2-5, 9-12)

- 4.4.1 Room 4 measured 5.2m x 4m and was excavated to a total depth of 0.55m. The earliest recorded deposit was [135], the mid yellow natural clay. Directly above the natural clay was context [136], a c. 0.20m thick mid brownish yellow silty sand with clay patches throughout. It contained frequent crushed building materials, slate and stone inclusions (Fig. 5).
- 4.4.2 Within deposit [136] were two drains [129] (Fig. 12) and [131], both of which were constructed entirely of red bricks (<0.22m x 0.10m) mostly laid flat (Fig. 5). A ceramic pipe ran east-west between the drains [130]. Above the drains were floor surfaces [124] & [125] (Figs. 4, 11).
- 4.4.3 On the western side of the room was floor surface [125] (3.8m x 2.2m), which was constructed of small rectangular shaped mini bricks (151 x 55 x 46mm). The blocks were set in a thin mortar mix and were mostly laid on edge (Fig. 10). In one small area the blocks were laid flat which may have filled a previous post hole (Fig. 4).
- 4.4.4 Above floor surface [125] was a section of surviving floor [128] (Fig. 4), this was constructed of red bricks (<0.22m x 0.10m) which were laid flat and would have formed a similar floor to that of [124] but was mostly not surviving.
- 4.4.5 Floor surface [124] was on the eastern half of the room. It was constructed of red bricks (<0.22 x 0.10m) of a rectangular shape (Fig. 4). The bricks were arranged to form a rectangular floor surface which measured 3.20m x 2.10m, set to lead water to a drain in the centre of the floor (same as Room 3- [126] and [127]).
- 4.4.6 Above floor surfaces [124], [125] & [128] was a thin layer of concrete [139] of a mid grey colour laid down as a levelling deposit before the later herringbone styled floor was laid, [113] (Figs. 3, 9). This floor was constructed of cut down pale orange bricks laid on edge set within a hard mortar. Drain runs were laid in two cross patterns directly above the drains from the earlier floors.
- 4.4.7 Bricks were laid flat in the centre of the room where an earlier partition wall probably existed. Larger bricks of a similar colour were laid flat around the edges of this room (Fig. 3).

4.5 Room 5 (Figs. 2-5)

- 4.5.1 Room 5 measured 5.5m x 4.8m and contained two deposits seen above natural ground. Deposit [144] was a c. 0.20m thick light orange yellow colour which contained a high frequency of Ceramic Building Material (CBM) throughout (Fig. 5). Directly above this, a very small area of *in situ* tiles was seen on the eastern side of the room butting up against the wall. These tiles [145] were 0.40m² and were made of a dark coloured stone (Fig.

4).

4.5.2 Directly above the stone tiles was deposit [118], a c. 0.30m thick deposit of crushed concrete with CBM inclusions throughout (Fig. 3). This deposit raised the level of the floor in this room c. 0.30m above that in the adjacent rooms. During the groundworks both of these deposits were removed. Where the floor tiles [145] were not present, deposit [118] was seen directly above context [144].

4.6 Room 6, 7, 8 & Hallway (Figs. 2-5)

4.6.1 Room 6 was originally 7.7m x 5.5m before the renovations of the 1960's, when four rooms were created, labelled Room 6, Room 7, Room 8 and Hallway. For the purposes of this report each room shall be described separately.

4.6.2 Room 6 was composed of the following deposits and floor surfaces. The earliest recorded deposit was the natural clay. Directly above the natural clay was deposit [121], a bright yellow sand deposit of a soft consistency which contained occasional CBM (Fig. 5). Above the sand deposit in the centre of the room were the remains of a probable thin partition wall [149] orientated north-south. To the east of this was [119], a small area of red bricks (<0.22m x 0.10m) (Fig. 4) which were probably part of a similar floor surface as the red brick floors within Rooms 3 & 4. This floor surface was mostly destroyed by deposit [116], a c. 0.15- 0.25m thick deposit of concrete (Fig. 3).

4.6.3 Above the natural clay to the west of [149] was context [142], a c. 0.20m mid yellow brown clay silt (Fig. 4). Directly above this deposit was a thin layer of level concrete [146]. The herringbone styled floor constructed of brick tiles was seen above this, [115] (Fig. 3). One iron drain was recorded on a north-south orientation within this room. On a level with the herringbone styled floor was [120], an area of rectangular shaped red bricks (<0.25m x 0.20m) laid flat (Fig. 3). The bricks may represent a repair to the floor.

4.6.4 Within Room 7 (eastern side of the building 1) the same sand deposit was recorded, [121], beneath the herringbone style floor [115] (Fig. 3), cut by a drain. The ground reduction did not exceed the depth of the sand deposit.

4.6.5 Within Room 8 (eastern side of the building 1) the earliest recorded deposit was the sand deposit [121] seen beneath the mid orange brown herringbone styled floor [115]. Along the northern side of the room and the southern edge of the room were bricks (measuring 2.8m x 0.60m and 2.8m x 0.30m respectively) laid flat. An iron drain cut through the floor of this room (Fig. 3). Two sleeper walls were recorded in this room, [147] & [148] (Fig. 3), which would have provided support for floor boards.

4.6.6 The stratigraphy recorded during ground reduction in the hallway area was the same as that described for in Rooms 7-8 above

4.7 Building 2 (Figs. 2, 6)

4.7.1 This building comprises the north-south orientated range made up of two

successive phases of construction, with a later addition on the western side of the building. This building is formed of four rooms (Room 1a, 1b, 2 & 9).

4.7.2 Room 9 was built of red brick in Sussex Bond. The floor was reduced during the works and the following stratigraphy was observed. The earliest recorded deposit was [123], a mid brownish yellow clay (natural) (Fig. 5). Overlying this deposit was context [122], a c. 0.20m thick mid greyish brown silty clay of a firm consistency which contained brick (some frogged, some unfrogged) and other crushed building materials including CBM (<50%) and iron nails and other scrap metals (2%) (Fig. 4). The latest deposit was the concrete which formed the current hardstanding. No finds or features were recovered from this room (Fig. 3).

4.7.3 Room 1a was 5m x 4m in dimensions and underwent a ground reduction of c. 0.35m. The earliest recorded deposit was context [143], a mottled brown yellow clay silt which contained occasional CBM (Fig. 5). This deposit had a minimum depth of c. 0.15m. Overlying this deposit was context [103], a c. 50mm thick concrete levelling deposit (Figs. 4, 6; Section 2). Above [103] was context [102], the stepped foundation of the building which was constructed of sandstone blocks set in a thin mortar (Figs. 3, 4, 6; Section 1). Also above [103] were two sleeper walls (supports for floor boards) which were constructed of sandstone (<0.20m x 0.10m) and red bricks (0.20m x 0.10m) contexts [100] & [101] (Fig. 3).

4.7.4 Room 1b (a later addition to the original building), revealed the same stratigraphy as described above for Room 1a.

4.7.5 Room 2 measured 7m x 5m and also underwent a 0.35m ground reduction. The earliest recorded deposit was context [106] (Fig. 5) a 0.20m thick imported deposit of mid blackish brown silty clay of a firm consistency which contained occasional CBM. Above this was deposit [108], a c. 0.10m thick light orange yellow crushed sandstone deposit (Fig. 4). This was an imported deposit almost certainly laid down as a bedding for [104], the red brick floor (Figs. 3, 6; Section 3). The bricks (<0.25m x 0.10m) were laid on edge and covered the entire barn floor set within a sandy cement mortar. The floor sloped gently towards a central drain. In one small area a thin deposit of concrete overlay the bricks, [105], which was laid down to repair to the floor. A partition may have existed within the centre of the room, [107] (Fig. 3)

4.8 New Column Excavations within Room 6 (Figs. 5, 6)

4.8.1 Two excavations in advance of the insertion of the new columns which measured 1m², took place between Rooms 5 & 6 (Column Base 1 & Column Base 2). The revealed section was recorded (Figs. 5, 6; Section 4). The earliest recorded context was context [135], the natural weald clay. Directly above this was context [142], a mid yellowish brown clay silt of a firm consistency. It contained occasional CBM. The floor surface [115] was the latest surface shown on this section. Floor surface [115] was seen butting up against the modern wall. No trace of any floor was seen on the western side of the excavations within Room 5.

4.9 The New Toilet Block and Boiler House (Fig. 2)

- 4.9.1 The excavations for the new toilet block and boiler house involved the excavation of wall footing trenches. The area chosen for this new block had been used as a waste disposal area for many years.
- 4.9.2 Two trenches were monitored which revealed the following stratigraphy. The earliest recorded deposit was context [135], a mid brownish yellow clay silt which was the natural Weald Clay. Directly above this was context [134] a mid brownish grey silty clay which had a variable thickness of between 0.30-0.60m (getting thicker towards the south). Above [134] was deposit [133], a 0.40-0.50m thick dark brownish black silty clay of a friable consistency. This deposit contained scrap metals, glass bottles, tin and other waste mainly from the Victorian period. It was an organic deposit and was therefore probably once used for organic waste as well as domestic refuse. The latest deposit was [132], a heterogeneous silty clay which contained modern waste such as scrap metals and general CBM.
- 4.9.3 There were no archaeological features or deposits observed in this area.

5.0 THE FINDS

Table 3: Finds quantification

Context	CBM	wt (g)
104	1	2828
115	1	1194
125	2	1320
131	1	1424

5.1 The Ceramic Building Material by Luke Barber

- 5.1.1 The archaeological work recovered a small assemblage of bricks from four individually numbered contexts. Context [104] produced a complete red frogless brick (224 x 105 x 59mm) tempered with moderate fine sand and sparse iron oxide inclusions to 5mm. The brick is well made/formed, with sharp edges and well fired. There is the impression of a cat's paw on one edge of the brick. A mid C18th- to 19th- century date bracket is most probable and wear on one edge suggests it was laid edge-on as part of a floor. The adhering bonding agent consists of a fine grey sandy cement more likely to be of C19th- date.
- 5.1.2 Context [115] contained a probably cut-down and smoothed pale orange brick (155 x 65 x 49mm) tempered with sparse fine sand with rare/sparse iron oxide inclusions to 2mm. The piece is well formed and hard fired though most of its faces are obscured by the adhering hard grey sandy cement which contains moderate iron oxide (to 1mm) and chalk (to 5mm) inclusions. This piece is most likely to be of C19th- date and it may have been cut down to a size similar to the sample from context [125] to be used in a surface drainage channel.
- 5.1.3 The complete mini-brick (151 x 55 x 46mm) from context [125] is in a buff fine sand tempered fabric with sparse iron oxide inclusions. It is well made and hard fired. There is notable wear on one side suggesting it had been

laid on edge, probably to form a surface floor drain or for decorative wall work. The adhering bonding agent is identical to that noted on the cut-down brick from [115] suggesting they were used in the same C19th- phase. This context also produced a medium fired, quite well made buff brick fragment tempered with fine sand and rare/sparse iron oxide inclusions to 1mm. This example, which originally measured 60mm high, appears to have been a mid C18th- to 19th- brick cut down to c. 130+ x 60 x 30mm, presumably to be used alongside the brick in [115] and the mini brick. The adhering mortar consists of a grey yellow fine sandy lime mortar with moderate flint inclusions to 5mm. It is possible this was the original mortar which was later patched with the grey cement noted above.

- 5.1.4 The final context to produce brick was [131]. This contained a red frogless brick, cut in half (? X 112 x 53mm). The brick is well made with sharp edges in a similar fabric to the example from [104] and is quite hard fired with a deliberate thin black glaze on one header (for use in decorative walling). A later C18th- to 19th- date is probable.

6.0 DISCUSSION

- 6.1 The common dimensions for individual stalls in stable blocks of this period were 3m between head and foot and 1.8m between stall partitions giving enough space for the horse to lie down or to stand up when being fed or groomed (Brunskill 1999).

‘The design of stable floors were important. It had to be impermeable but comfortable giving firm grip to the feet, sloping from front to rear and easily cleaned into a drainage channel. Special pavior bricks were developed for use in stable floors’ (Brunskill 1999).

The original stable block building (east-west range) fits well into this design.

- 6.2 The original floors were designed with a gradual dip towards the centre which led to the centrally placed drain and it appears that these drains were maintained and re-used each time the floors were up-graded. The half cut or broken brick sample recovered from drain [131] in Room 4 has been described as ‘for use in decorative walling’. Its location in the floor drain therefore suggests the possible re-use of materials for the drain construction.
- 6.3 Of particular significance were the centrally drained red brick floors, [124], [126], [127], [128] & [119] seen beneath the herringbone styled brick floors. It would seem probable that brick floor [125] was the earliest floor within the stables. It was covered by a surviving area of red bricks, [128] which probably would have formed a similar red brick floor to [124]. The high quality herringbone brick floors were the last upgrade across the east-west range of the stable block.
- 6.4 Evidence was found for internal divisions in rooms 2, 3, 4 and 6. In the case of rooms 2 and 3 this divide seems to be contemporaneous with the latest phase of flooring. However, in rooms 4 and 6 it is likely that the division was in existence before the final floor layers were constructed. Although a dividing wall in room 4 ([114]) was apparent in the latest phase of flooring [113], an extra floor surface [125] exists in the western end of the room. It is possible that either the remains of an earlier dividing wall have been destroyed by subsequent building work, or that the divide was of different / temporary construction. In room 6, the dividing wall was in existence beneath the latest phase [115], with different stratigraphy on each side of the divide.
- 6.5 A search of the historic architect plans within the National Trust Regional Headquarters at the Scotney Castle office did not reveal any of the original stable block designs and the original room functions are therefore unknown. It is likely that a variety of different functions were taking place within the complex of rooms as would be expected from a stable block of the High Farming Period. This would enable an animal to be washed and then rested or fed in different areas.

7.0 CONCLUSION

- 7.1 The ground reductions at the stable block revealed several possible phases of construction and up-grading and showed that the original stable block floors were surviving well in some areas, especially Room 4. These floors were at some point upgraded to the herringbone styled floors. A confidence rating is high that the best possible results were achieved.

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ASE 2007a. *Archaeological and Historic Landscape Survey: Scotney Castle, Kent*. Unpublished Archaeology South East Report (2744) commissioned by The National Trust. Author James, R

ASE 2007b *The Stables, Scotney Castle Estate, Lamberhurst, Kent; Interpretative Historic Building Survey*. Unpub ASE Report. 2744 commissioned by The National Trust. Author Henderson, M.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Thanks to the National Trust for commissioning the work and to all the staff at Barwick construction Ltd for their help on site.

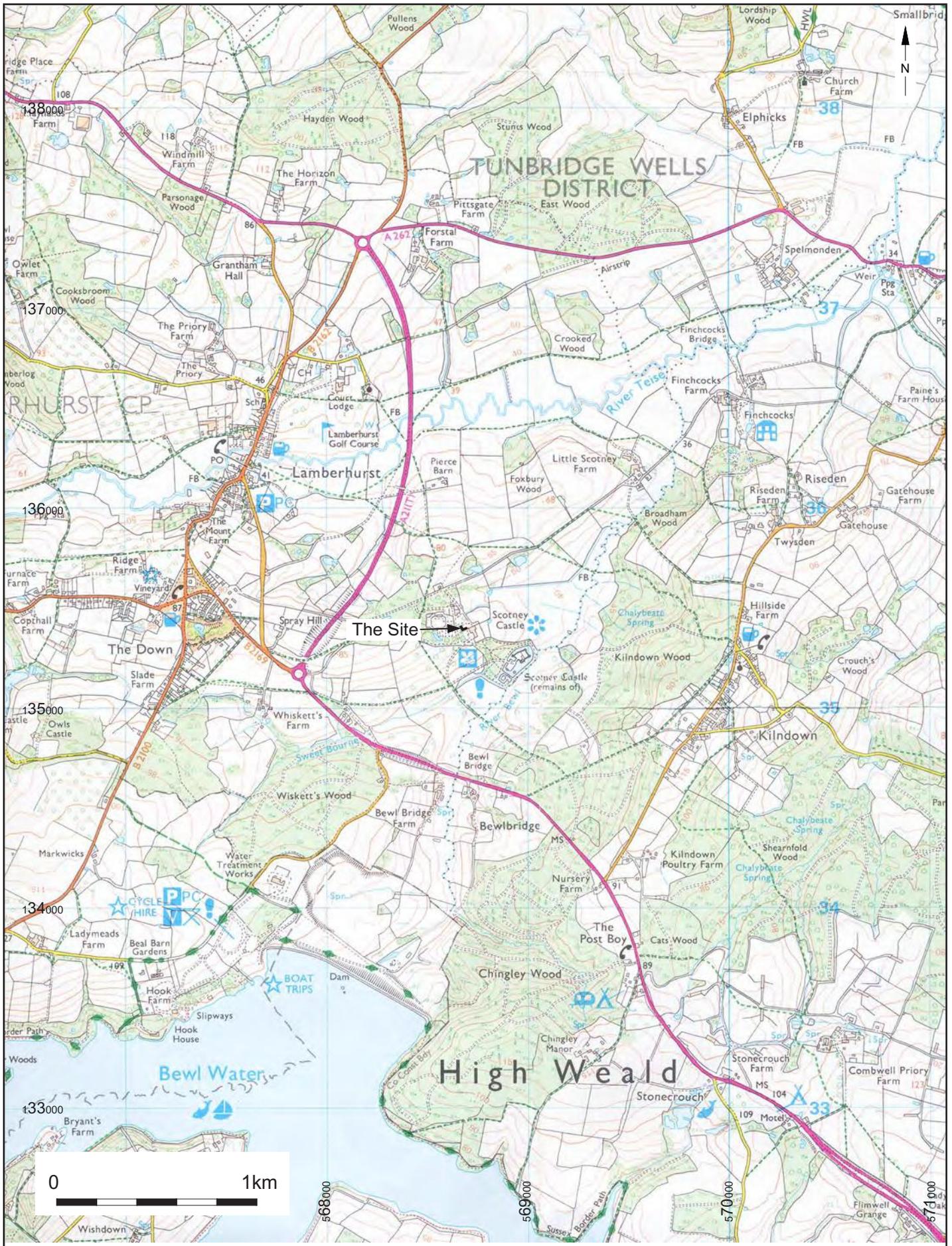
SMR Summary Form

Site Code	SOB 08					
Identification Name and Address	The Stables, Scotney Castle, Lamberhurst					
County, District &/or Borough	Tunbridge Wells Borough, Kent					
OS Grid Refs.	TQ 68679 35400					
Geology	Weald Clay					
Arch. South-East Project Number	3434- Report number 2008169					
Type of Fieldwork	Eval.	Excav.	Watching Brief ✓	Standing Structure	Survey	Other
Type of Site	Green Field	Shallow Urban ✓	Deep Urban	Other		
Dates of Fieldwork	Eval.	Excav.	WB. April to June 08	Other		
Sponsor/Client	The National Trust					
Project Manager	Jon Sygrave					
Project Supervisor	Paul Riccoboni					
Period Summary	Palaeo.	Meso.	Neo.	BA	IA	RB
	AS	MED	PM ✓	Other Modern		
<p>100 Word Summary.</p> <p>Archaeology South East (ASE) maintained an archaeological watching brief at the old Stable Block, Scotney Castle, Lamberhurst, Kent (NGR 568679 135400) during renovation works into a tea rooms (planning reference: TW/06/03797). The watching brief was maintained intermittently between April and June 2008. The groundworks involved the removal of the stable block floors, which were mostly mid 19th century in date and laid in a herringbone style. These floors were recorded before their removal and all works were monitored during their destruction. In four of the rooms (Rooms 3, 4, 5 & 6) earlier floors were discovered surviving beneath the herringbone styled floors. These were the original stable block floors, constructed of red bricks or mini bricks, which were specifically designed for use in a stable block.</p>						

OASIS ID: archaeol6-49053	
Project details	
Project name	Stable Block, Scotney Castle, Lamberhurst, Kent
Short description of the project	Archaeology South East (ASE) maintained an archaeological watching brief at the old Stable Block, Scotney Castle, Lamberhurst, Kent (NGR 568679 135400) during renovation works into a tea rooms (planning reference: TW/06/03797). The watching brief was maintained intermittently between April and June 2008. The groundworks involved the removal of the stable block floors, which were mostly mid 19 th century in date and laid in a herringbone style. These floors were recorded before their removal and all works were monitored during their destruction. In four of the rooms (Rooms 3, 4, 5 & 6) earlier floors were discovered surviving beneath the herringbone styled floors. These were the original stable block floors, constructed of red bricks or mini bricks, which were specifically designed for use in a stable block.
Project dates	Start: 21-04-2008 End: 12-06-2008
Previous/future work	No / No
Any associated project reference codes	SOB08 - Sitecode
Any associated project reference codes	TW/06/03797 - Planning Application No.
Type of project	Recording project
Site status	Listed Building
Current Land use	Residential 1 - General Residential
Monument type	FLOOR Post Medieval
Investigation type	'Watching Brief'
Prompt	Listed Building Consent
Project location	
Country	England
Site location	KENT TUNBRIDGE WELLS LAMBERHURST Stable Block, Scotney Castle, Lamberhurst, Kent
Postcode	TN3 8JD
Study area	100.00 Square metres

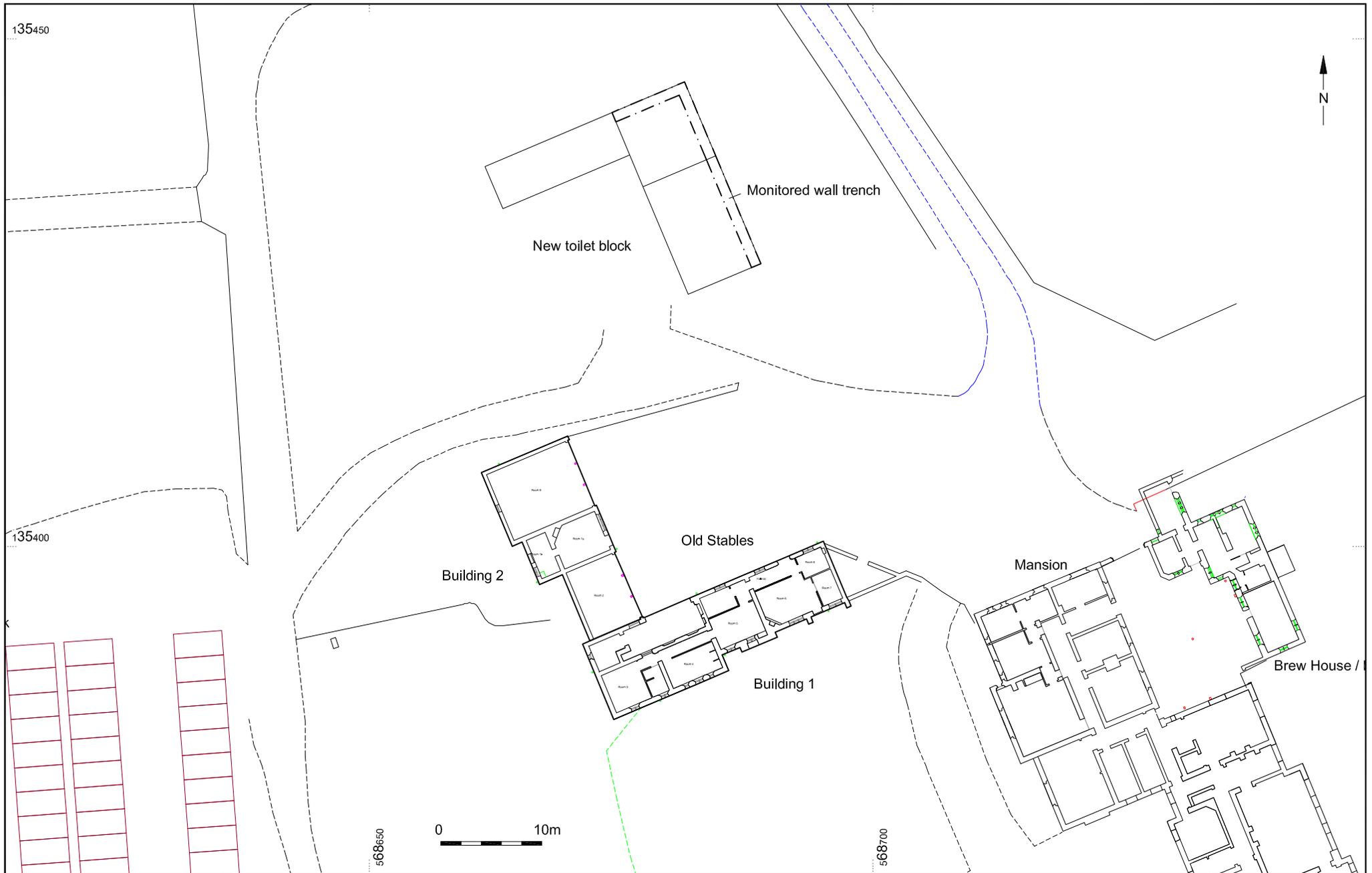
Site coordinates	TQ 686 353 51.0916229053 0.407877762866 51 05 29 N 000 24 28 E Point
Height OD / Depth	Min: 61.40m Max: 61.85m
Project creators	
Name of Organisation	Archaeology South East
Project brief originator	National Trust
Project design originator	Archaeology South-East
Project director/manager	Jon Sygrave
Project supervisor	Paul Riccoboni
Type of sponsor/funding body	National Trust
Name of sponsor/funding body	National Trust
Project archives	
Physical Archive recipient	Local Museum
Physical Contents	'Ceramics'
Digital Archive recipient	Local Museum
Digital Contents	'Ceramics'
Digital Media available	'Text'
Paper Archive recipient	Local Museum
Paper Contents	'Ceramics'
Paper Media available	'Context sheet', 'Diary', 'Drawing', 'Map', 'Photograph', 'Plan', 'Report', 'Section', 'Survey', 'Unpublished Text'
Project bibliography 1	
	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)

Publication type	
Title	Stable Block, Scotney Castle, Lamberhurst, Kent
Author(s)/Editor(s)	Riccoboni, P.
Other bibliographic details	3434
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Entered by	Paul Riccoboni (trnpr@ucl.ac.uk)
Entered on	30 September 2008



© Archaeology South-East		Scotney Stable Block	Fig. 1
Project Ref: 3435	Oct 2008	Site Location Plan	
Report Ref: 2008169	Drawn by: JLR		

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Project Ref: 3434	Oct 2008	Site Plan	
Report Ref: 2008169	Drawn by: JLR		



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Project Ref: 3434	Oct 2008	Plan, Spit 1		
Report Ref: 2008169	Drawn by: JLR			



© Archaeology South-East		Scotney Stable Block		Fig. 4
Project Ref: 3434	Oct 2008	Plan, Spit 2		
Report Ref: 2008169	Drawn by: JLR			



© Archaeology South-East		Scotney Stable Block		Fig. 5
Project Ref: 3434	Oct 2008	Plan, Spit 3		
Report Ref: 2008169	Drawn by: JLR			

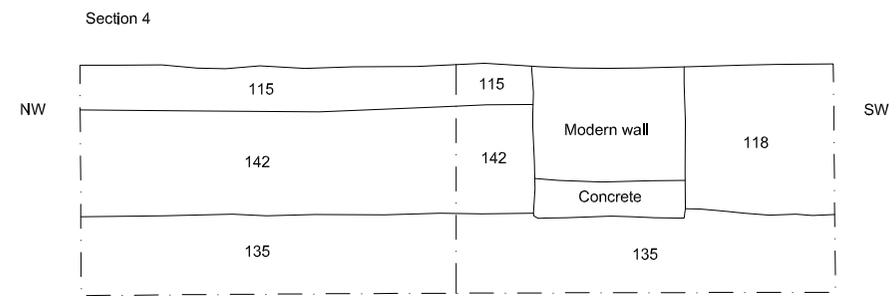
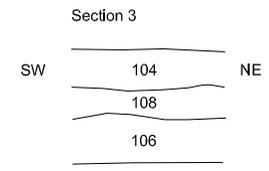
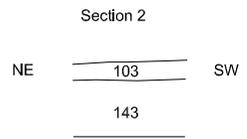
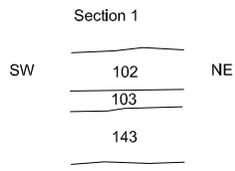




Fig. 7: Room 3; floor surface [109] Spit 1



Fig. 8: Room 3; [126] & [127] Spit 2

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Project Ref: 3435	Oct 2008		
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Fig. 9: Room 4; Herringbone floor surface [113] Spit 1



Fig. 10: Room 4: Floor surface: [125] Spit 2

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Report Ref: 2008169	Drawn by: JLR		



Fig. 11: Room 4: Floor surfaces: [124] & [125] seen beneath herringbone styled floor [113] Spit 2



Fig. 12: Room 4; Drain [129] seen beneath floor [125] Spit 3

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