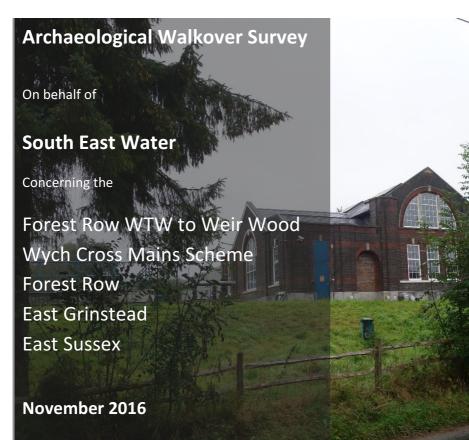
### archaeology & built heritage working throughout the UK





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Cover: View looking northeast towards Forest Row Water Treatment Works

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### 1 Executive Summary

A non-intrusive Archaeological Walkover Survey (AWS) of the proposed route of the Forest Row Water Treatment Works to Weir Wood/Wych Cross Mains Scheme was undertaken by Border Archaeology Limited (BAL) on behalf of South East Water (SEW). The aim of the survey was to characterize, quantify and locate known and hitherto unknown heritage assets likely to be affected by the engineering groundworks and associated vehicular movements and thus to identify areas requiring archaeological mitigation.

The walkover survey identified a number of features of archaeological interest along the route.

At TQ 42726 35387, towards the eastern end of the route, the pipeline route crosses the embankment of the disused East Grinstead, Groombridge and Tunbridge Wells Railway, opened in 1866. Although the embankment of the railway has survived in a well-preserved condition, no evidence of track-furniture was noted at the point where the pipeline crosses the embankment and then continues W across the River Medway.

At NGR TQ 42060 35415, an elongated northeast-southwest aligned linear depression was noted within a pasture field to the northwest of Burnt House Farm, interpreted as a relict drainage channel or, more likely, a relict field boundary feature of post-medieval date indicated on the East Grinstead tithe map of 1840.

Although a section of the route running along the southern bank of the River Medway does extend within the Archaeological Notification Area of Brambletye, the earthworks of the medieval moated site at Brambletye and the adjoining ruins of Brambletye House (built in the early 17<sup>th</sup> century) are located on the north side of the river and will not be impacted by the proposed works.

At TQ 41722 35180, the pipeline route crosses the line of an embanked lane lying to the S of Brambletye Manor Farm, extending S of the River Medway. This lane is shown on historic maps of the study area dating back to around 1800 and appears to represent a long-established routeway. Evidence of blackened soil was noted in the immediate vicinity of the embanked lane which may possibly represent evidence of cinder deposits associated with the site of a Tudor forge previously identified in this area, close to the River Medway, although its precise location remains unclear. Further to the W, at TQ 41407 35078, the pipeline route crosses a watercourse which appears to have been modified in the early post-medieval period to serve a forge site of 16<sup>th</sup>-17<sup>th</sup> -century date, located about 70m S of the stream-crossing.

While the results of this AWS identified relatively few features in the immediate vicinity of the route, there remains potential for buried archaeological assets to be identified during the pipeline works, particularly deposits and features associated with early post-medieval iron-working activity and flint scatters of prehistoric date.

Conclusion: It is therefore the considered opinion of BAL that a programme of Archaeological Observation of groundworks would be the most appropriate form of archaeological mitigation in this instance, with particular reference to the section of the route extending through the Archaeological Notification Area of Brambletye and immediately S of the Weir Wood Archaeological Notification Area.

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### 2 Introduction

Border Archaeology Ltd (BAL) undertook a non-intrusive Archaeological Walkover Survey (AWS) on behalf of South East Water (SEW) of the Forest Road Water Treatment Works to Weir Wood/Wych Cross Main Scheme, extending to the W of the settlement of Forest Row (East Sussex).

The scheme extends for an approximate length of 2.1km, starting from the Forest Row Water Treatment Works (NGR TQ 42790 35362), before crossing the River Medway and skirting around the northernmost extent of the large village of Forest Row. It then roughly follows the course of the river to the S, passing to the W of Burnt House Farm and entering woodland to the S of the River Medway. It then continues on a WSW alignment to the Weir Wood/Wych Cross Main, located close to Weir Wood Cottages at NGR TQ 41197 34929.

The survey was undertaken on September 27<sup>th</sup> 2016. The aim of the survey was to characterize, quantify and locate known and hitherto unknown heritage assets likely to be affected by the engineering groundworks and associated vehicular movements and thus to identify areas of archaeological mitigation. This Report represents part of a two-volume submission comprising Archaeological Desk-Based Assessment (Volume 1) and Archaeological Walkover Survey (Volume 2).

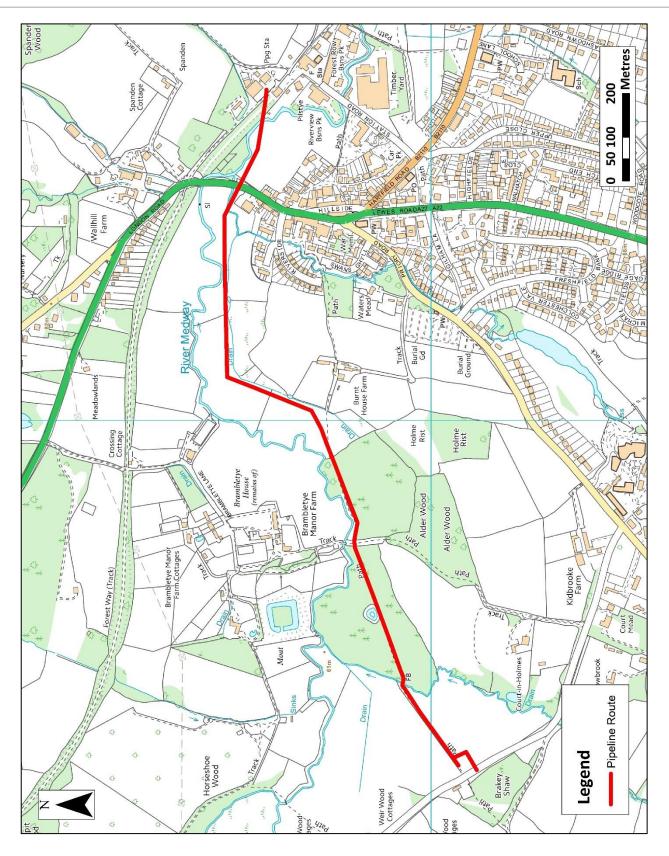
### 3 Methodology

BAL obtained copies of revised engineering plans from South East Water (SEW) which show the pipeline route overlaid onto Ordnance Survey map data (*fig.* 1).

A detailed photographic record was made of all fields to which access had been agreed in advance by SEW, and locations were logged using a handheld GPS system with an accuracy of 1-3m.

The easement was walked systematically in a single 20m transect by two senior BAL staff members. Access between adjacent fields was via established field-openings, such as stiles and gateways; where no such access was possible, the next designated access point was sought via public roads and footpaths.

A standard dataset describing each feature identified was captured in the field. A detailed photographic record of the route was created using a high-resolution digital camera (20 MPX) and a photographic register compiled detailing subject, direction of view and National Grid Reference (NGR) of the viewpoint. Results are presented in a tabulated database listing field number and description, NGR, description of feature and photographic reference (*Table 1*), with an annotated plan showing the location of photographs taken and the direction of view (*fig. 2*).



*Fig. 1: Outline plan based on information supplied by South East Water showing the route of the proposed route of the scheme (indicated in red)* 

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### 4 Walkover Narrative

For reasons of clarity, the route of the proposed water pipeline has been described from E to W.

The route of the proposed scheme extends for approximately 2.1km, starting from a connection point at the Forest Row Water Treatment Works (VP 1; NGR TQ 42790 35362) and proceeding on a WNW alignment across the line of the embankment of the disused East Grinstead, Groombridge and Tunbridge Wells Railway, opened in 1866 (VP 2). The site of the Forest Row railway station, now occupied by a modern industrial estate and fire-station, lies about 60m SE of the pipeline route. The steep embankment of the railway has survived in a well-preserved condition, although it is heavily overgrown with trees and scrub. No evidence of track-furniture or structural remains associated with former railway buildings was noted at the point where the pipeline crosses the railway embankment and continues WNW across the River Medway.

The pipeline route crosses the River Medway and continues WNW across a large. Irregularly-shaped meadow bordered on its N side by the river; this field is shown as subdivided into two enclosures on the 1840 tithe map for East Grinstead but no evidence for any relict boundary features was noted within this field (VP 3). At NGR TQ 42553 35434, the pipeline crosses a substantial tree-lined hedge-bank marking the W boundary of this field, which is shown on the 1840 tithe map (VP 4), and then crosses London Road (A22) at the northern tip of the large village of Forest Row.

The pipeline route then continues WNW of London Road across a small water-meadow bounded to the S by a modern commercial development ('Blenheim Studios') and then crosses a tributary of the Medway at NGR TQ 42485 35468 (VP 5). From this point, the pipeline route runs on a W alignment across three irregularly-shaped meadow and pasture fields lying to S of the River Medway (VPs 6 & 7), the boundaries of which appear to have been established by no later than 1840.

Within the westernmost of these fields, the pipeline route turns sharply SSW and appears to cross a shallow, elongated linear depression oriented roughly NE-SW at NGR TQ 42060 35415. This feature, extending SW as far as the southern boundary of the pasture field that is now marked by a modern fence (VPs 8 & 9), may represent either a drainage ditch or, more likely, the vestiges of a former field boundary shown on the 1841 tithe map (separating plots 895 and 896) and appears to have been relocated further to the E by no later than 1879 (as shown on the Ordnance Survey (OS) 1<sup>st</sup> Edition 6-inch map of that date).

The pipeline route continues SW across a large pasture field bounded to the W by the River Medway and lying about 100m to the W of Burnt House Farm, a farmstead of medieval origin. A long-established footpath runs ENE-WSW from Burnt House Farm across the southern part of the field, which first appears on the OS 1<sup>st</sup> Edition map of 1879 (VP 10). This pipeline route intersects with this footpath in the SW corner of the field and then crosses the S boundary of the field (defined by a substantial hedge boundary) at NGR TQ 41914 35231 (VP 11).

The pipeline route then continues on a WSW alignment, following the footpath to the S of the River Medway, which extends through a woodland plantation adjoining the riverbank and which appears to be of fairly recent origin, as the 1841 tithe map and OS 1<sup>st</sup>-4<sup>th</sup> Edition maps show this area to the S of the Medway as open water-

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meadow (VPs 12 & 13). The ruined towers of the early 17<sup>th</sup> -century mansion of Brambletye House (situated about 210m N of the route) are largely obscured by this modern woodland. From NGR TQ 41914 35231 to TQ 41574 35131, the pipeline route follows the public footpath to the S of the Medway, extending through the Archaeological Notification Area of Brambletye. It should be noted that both the medieval moated site of Brambletye Manor and the ruins of Brambletye House are situated on the N side of the river, respectively 144m and 210m to the N of the route at its closest point.

At NGR TQ 41722 35180, the pipeline route crosses the line of a low embankment, about 6m wide and oriented N-S (VP 15) and flanked by hedgerows on either side (VP 14 & 17). This embankment carries a bridle lane extending southwards from Brambletye House, which crosses the River Medway over a stone arched bridge and continues on a SSW alignment towards the farmstead of Court-in-Holmes, an estate of medieval origin.

This bridle lane is shown on historic maps of the study area dating back to *c*.1800 and almost certainly represents a long-established routeway, dating back to the medieval or early post-medieval period. Evidence of blackened soil was noted in the vicinity of the embanked lane, which could possibly represent evidence of forge cinder deposits associated with a 16<sup>th</sup> -century forge previously identified in this area by Ernest Straker during the late 1920s/early 1930s (Straker 1931, 241) and which is recorded in the immediate vicinity on the East Sussex Historic Environment Record. The precise location of the forge (first documented in 1574) remains unclear and no evidence of structural remains associated with the forge site was noted.

The bridge carrying the embanked bridle lane across the River Medway is constructed of roughly-coursed sandstone with stone coping; it is situated approximately 15m N of the pipeline route and appears to be of 18<sup>th</sup> - or 19<sup>th</sup> -century date, although it is likely that it succeeded an earlier structure (VP 16).

Having crossed the embanked lane, the pipeline proceeds in a SW direction continuing to follow the public footpath, which extends parallel to a modern fence boundary bisecting a large orchard plantation lying to the S of the river. At NGR TQ 41574 35131, about 150m W of the embanked lane, the pipeline route runs adjacent to an ovoid pond feature, with a small tree-lined island in the middle (VPs 18 & 19). This pond appears to be of modern date, as it is not shown on the tithe map or later OS 1<sup>st</sup>-4<sup>th</sup> Edition mapping of the area. A small number of flint artefacts have previously been identified in close proximity to this pond feature, comprising a Mesolithic core and microlith.

Continuing SW along the footpath towards the W end of the orchard, the pipeline route crosses a concrete bridge over a watercourse oriented NNE-SSW, which extends to the S of the Medway towards the historic farmstead of Court-in-Holmes (VP20; NGR TQ 41407 35078). At this point, the pipeline route lies within the southernmost edge of the Weir Wood Archaeological Notification Area (ANA). The watercourse appears to be a long-established feature, as it is shown on historic mapping of the study area dating back to the late 18<sup>th</sup>/early 19<sup>th</sup> century. Its course appears to have been altered at some point during the early post-medieval period to serve a 16<sup>th</sup>-17<sup>th</sup> -century forge site which was previously identified at NGR TQ 4140 3500 about 70m to the S of the stream crossing (Tebbutt 1982, 7-8). No obvious evidence for deposits or features associated with ironworking activity was identified during the walkover, although the watercourse is heavily overgrown.

After exiting the wooded area, the pipeline route continues along the public footpath along the N edge of a pasture field immediately parallel to a substantial hedge boundary indicated on the 1840 tithe map (VP 21). A significant number of prehistoric lithic scatters have previously been identified within the fields to the N of this hedge boundary (which lie within the Weir Wood ANA) ; however, no features or artefacts were identified in this area during the walkover survey.

The route follows this hedge boundary along the pasture field for approximately 260m before exiting via a large hedge-bank at TQ 41196 34936 (VP 22) and reaching its western terminus at the Weir Wood/Wych Cross Main connection, about 30m SE of Weir Wood Cottages (VP 23).

### 5 Walkover Database

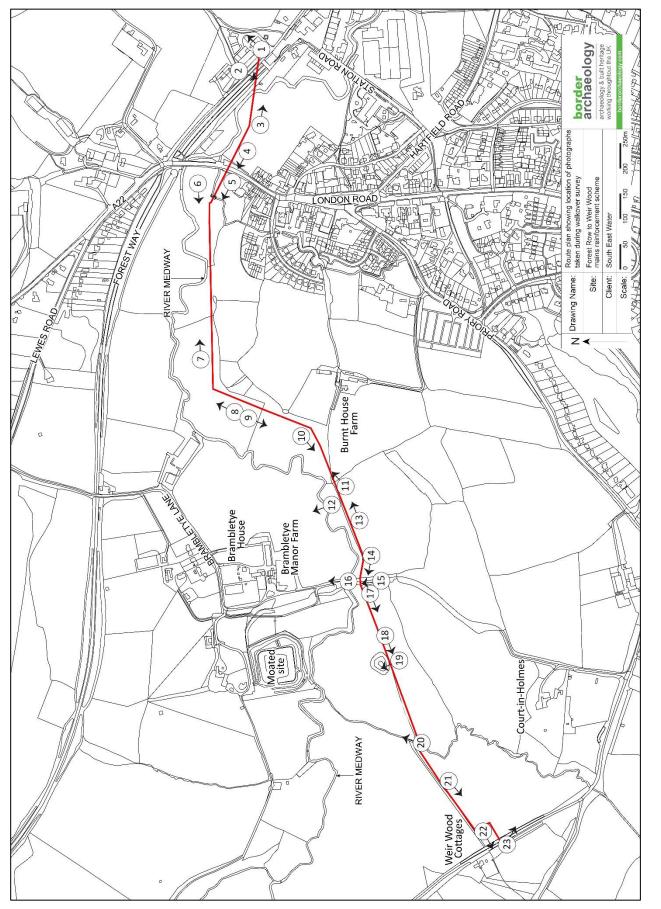
Viewpoint	NGR	Description	Features	Photo Ref	
1	TQ 42790 35362	Forest Row Water Treatment Works	Modern	DSC05814	
2	TQ 42726 35387	Disused mid-C19 railway embankment NW of	Railway DSC058		
		Forest Row Water Treatment Works	embankment (post-		
			medieval)		
3 TQ 42684 35376 Large meadow to E side of London Road (A22		Large meadow to E side of London Road (A22)	None observed	DSC05819	
		adjoining River Medway			
4	4 TQ 42553 35434 Tree-lined hedge boundary on W side of		Hedge boundary	DSC05821	
		meadow to E of London Road (A22)	(post-medieval)		
5	TQ 42529 35449	Water-meadow on S side of river, to W of	None observed	DSC05808	
		London Road (A22)			
6	TQ 42460 35482	Water-meadow on N side of river, to W of	None observed	DSC05811	
		London Road (A22)			
7	TQ 42244 35470	Substantial tree-lined hedge boundary at E end	Hedge boundary	DSC05804	
		of pasture field to N of Burnt House Farm	(post-medieval)		
8	TQ 42060 35415	Linear depression aligned NE-SW in pasture	Possible relict field	DSC05803	
		field 185m NW of Burnt House Farm. View NE	boundary/channel		
9 TQ 42060 35415 Linear depression a		Linear depression aligned NE-SW in pasture	Possible relict field	DSC05802	
		field 185m NW of Burnt House Farm. View SW	boundary/channel		
10	TQ 41911 35239	Trackway leading across pasture field to SW of	Trackway (post-	DSC05800	
		Burnt House Farm	medieval)		
11	TQ 41914 35231	Hedge boundary marking S edge of field to SW	Hedge boundary	DSC05765	
		of Burnt House Farm	(post-medieval)		
12	TQ 41879 35220	Wooded bank N of footpath adjoining river	Woodland (post-	DSC05769	
		with distant view of Brambletye House (to NW)	medieval)		
13	TQ 41835 35202	Trackway in woodland to S of River Medway	Trackway (post-	DSC05772	
			medieval)		
14	TQ 41732 35181	Hedge boundary to E of trackway leading S of	Hedge boundary	DSC05773	
		bridge across River Medway to Brambletye	(post-medieval)		
		House			

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Viewpoint	NGR	Description	Features	Photo Ref
15	TQ 41722 35180	N-S -aligned tree-lined embanked lane leading	Embanked lane or	DSC05774
		S of bridge from Brambletye House	trackway	
			(medieval)	
16	5 TQ 41722 35201 Stone arched bridge crossing River Medway S		Bridge (post-	DSC05775
		of Brambletye House about 15m S of route	medieval)	
17	TQ 41716 35180	Hedge boundary on W side of trackway leading	Hedge boundary	DSC05777
		S from bridge across River Medway to	(post-medieval)	
		Brambletye House		
18	TQ 41574 35131	Ovoid pond feature immediately N of field	Pond feature	DSC05778
		boundary within orchard S of river. View SSW	(modern)	
19	TQ 41574 35131	Ovoid pond feature immediately N of field	Pond feature	DSC05779-
		boundary View N	(modern)	057780
20	TQ 41407 35078	Linear watercourse oriented NNE-SSW at W	Watercourse (post-	DSC05783-
		end of orchard	medieval)	05786
21	TQ 41344 35045	Tree-lined hedge boundary marking N edge of	Hedge boundary	DSC05787-
		pasture field	(post-medieval)	05788
22	TQ 41196 34936	Substantial hedge-bank at W end of route	Hedge boundary	DSC05790
		adjacent to lane	(post-medieval)	05793-6
23	TQ 41197 34929	Route terminus at lane SE of Weir Wood	Roadway (post-	DSC05792
		Cottages	med)	

Table 1: Database detailing results of archaeological walkover survey

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### 6 Conclusions

The walkover of the route of the proposed water mains scheme extending from the Forest Row Water Treatment Works to the Weir Wood/Wych Cross Main, to the W of the historic settlement of Forest Row, has identified relatively few visible features of archaeological interest along the route.

The features identified can be summarised briefly thus:

At the eastern end of the route, the pipeline route crosses the embankment of the disused East Grinstead, Groombridge and Tunbridge Wells Railway, opened in 1866. Although the embankment of the railway has survived in a well-preserved condition, no evidence of track-furniture was noted at the point where the pipeline crosses the embankment and then continues W across the River Medway.

At NGR TQ 42060 35415, an elongated NE-SW -aligned linear depression was noted within a pasture field to the NW of Burnt House Farm, interpreted as a relict drainage channel or, more likely, a relict field boundary feature of post-medieval date indicated on the East Grinstead tithe map of 1840.

Although a section of the route running along the southern bank of the River Medway does extend within the Archaeological Notification Area of Brambletye, the earthworks of the medieval moated site at Brambletye and the adjoining ruins of Brambletye House (built in the early 17<sup>th</sup> century) are located on the N side of the river and will not be impacted by the proposed works.

At TQ 41722 35180, the pipeline route crosses the line of an embanked lane lying to the S of Brambletye Manor Farm, extending S of the River Medway. This lane is shown on historic maps of the study area dating back to around 1800 and appears to represent a long-established routeway.

Evidence of blackened soil was noted in the immediate vicinity of the embankment, which may possibly represent evidence of cinder deposits associated with the site of a Tudor forge previously identified in this area, close to the River Medway, although its precise location remains unclear. Further to the W, at TQ 41407 35078, the pipeline route crosses a watercourse which appears to have been modified in the early post-medieval period to serve a forge site of 16<sup>th</sup>-17<sup>th</sup> century date, located about 70m S of the stream-crossing.

While the results of this AWS identified relatively few features in the immediate vicinity of the route, there remains potential for buried archaeological assets to be identified during the pipeline works, particularly deposits and features associated with early post-medieval ironworking activity and flint-scatters of prehistoric date. In view of the fact that the proposed pipeline extends through the floodplain of the River Medway, running in close proximity to the river for much of its length, it is possible that buried features of geoarchaeological importance (e.g. palaeochannels) may be encountered along the route, which could contain waterlogged deposits with inherent potential for preservation of palaeoenvironmental materials.

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### 7 Copyright

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### 8 Bibliography

#### 8.1 Primary Sources

- 8.1.1 National Archives
- 1839: Tithe apportionment of East Grinstead parish (NA IR 29/35/117)

#### 8.2 Secondary Sources

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### 9 Cartography and Aerial Photography

(All maps were obtained from the East Sussex Record Office unless otherwise stated)

1808 Ordnance Survey Surveyor's Drawing of East Grinstead

1841 Tithe Map for East Grinstead

1875 Ordnance Survey 1<sup>st</sup> Edition 25-Inch Map of Sussex

1879 Ordnance Survey 1<sup>st</sup> Edition 6-Inch Map of Sussex

1899 Ordnance Survey 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition 25-Inch of Sussex

1899 Ordnance Survey 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition 6-Inch Map of Sussex

1911 Ordnance Survey 3<sup>rd</sup> Edition 6-Inch Map of Sussex

1949 Ordnance Survey Provisional Edition 6-Inch Map of Sussex

1961 Ordnance Survey 1:10560 National Survey

1972 Ordnance Survey 1:2500 National Survey

1980 Ordnance Survey 1:10000 National Survey

#### 9.1 Aerial Photographs and LiDAR Imagery

Oblique and vertical photographs of the study area dating back to 1946 were consulted at the East Sussex Record Office, Cambridge University Centre for Aerial Photography (CUCAP) and the Historic England Archive Swindon. LiDAR Imagery of the study area (DTM and DSM) was consulted using datasets held by the Environment Agency

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### 10 Photographic Survey



Viewpoint 1: View looking NE towards Forest Row Water Treatment Works



Viewpoint 2: View SSW looking upslope towards heavily overgrown railway embankment of mid-19<sup>th</sup> -century date to NW of Forest Row Water Treatment Works



Viewpoint 3: View looking E across pasture field to E of London Road (A22) towards the River Medway



Viewpoint 4: View looking WNW towards substantial hedge boundary marking W edge of pasture field adjoining London Road (A22)

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Viewpoint 5: View looking WNW across meadow to E of London Road (A22) adjoining tributary of the River Medway



Viewpoint 6: View looking W across large pasture meadow to W of London Road and S of River Medway



Viewpoint 7: View E towards hedge boundary at E end of pasture field S of River Medway



Viewpoint 8: View looking NNE showing NE-SW -aligned linear depression (in centre left of picture) in pasture field 185m NNW of Burnt House Farm



Viewpoint 9: View looking SE along linear depression extending as far as the southern boundary of the pasture field



Viewpoint 10: View SW along footpath leading through pasture field SW of Burnt House Farm

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Viewpoint 11: View NE showing hedge-bank and stile in SW corner of pasture field situated to the SW of Burnt House Farm



Viewpoint 12: View looking NW from footpath running through woodland plantation to S of River Medway, with ruined towers of Brambletye House visible in centre of picture (about 200m NW of the route at this point)

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Viewpoint 13: View ENE along footpath through woodland plantation S of River Medway



Viewpoint 14: View W showing footpath crossing tree-lined hedge flanking E side of lane leading S of Brambletye House

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Viewpoint 15: View looking N showing embanked lane leading N towards river crossing S of Brambletye House (with evidence of patches of darker soil on surface of embankment in centre of picture)



Viewpoint 16: View looking N towards masonry bridge at crossing of the River Medway S of Brambletye House



Viewpoint 17: View looking E along footpath crossing hedge boundary on W side of embanked lane leading to Brambletye House



Viewpoint 18: View looking WSW towards modern ovoid pond feature to N of footpath in orchard plantation about 150m WSW of embanked lane to Brambletye House

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Viewpoint 19: Close-up view looking N towards modern ovoid pond feature adjacent to orchard plantation



Viewpoint 20: View looking NNE from concrete bridge crossing linear watercourse in woodland about 200m N of Court-in-Holmes Farm



Viewpoint 21: View looking WSW along footpath through pasture field adjacent to substantial hedge boundary oriented ENE-WSW leading towards Weir Wood Cottages



Viewpoint 22: View looking WSW towards substantial tree lined hedge boundary and footpath gate at SW end of pasture field with Weir Wood Cottages visible in background

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Viewpoint 23: View W along lane to SE of Weir Wood Cottages showing terminus of route to SW of hedge boundary

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Report Title		Report Ref		
Archaeological Walkover Su Weir Wood Wych Cross Ma East Grinstead East Sussex	•	BA1640FRWW		
Report written by	Stephen Priestley MA MCIfA & Ross Shurety MA			
Report edited by	George Children MA MCI <i>f</i> A			
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