

**Archaeological Watching Brief Report
Moat Consolidation Works
Scotney Castle
Lamberhurst, Kent**

NGR: TQ 568570 135540

**ASE Project No: 6966
Site Code: SCM14**

**ASE Report No: 2014314
OASIS id: archaeol6-191192**



By Steve Price

**Archaeological Watching Brief Report
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September 2014

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Abstract

Archaeology South-East was commissioned by the National Trust to undertake an archaeological watching brief during a program of consolidation works on the moat bank at Scotney Castle, Lamberhurst, Kent. Two trenches were excavated, the first measuring 41.50m long by 0.60m wide, in order to repair leaks draining water from the moat into the adjacent River Bewl. The second trench measured 1.50m long by 0.50m wide, and was excavated in order to carry out repairs to a leaking sluice.

The purpose of the watching brief was to monitor these works and to record and interpret any archaeological features. None were encountered, although a small assemblage comprising six roof tiles was recovered from four different contexts which could only be broadly dated to the post-medieval period. The deposits encountered consisted of alluvial clay, upcast deposits for the moat bank and made ground related to the existing footpath.

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1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Site Background

1.1.1 Archaeology South-East (ASE), the contracting division of the Centre for Applied Archaeology (CAA), Institute of Archaeology (IoA), University College London (UCL) was commissioned by the National Trust to undertake an archaeological watching brief during a programme of consolidation works on the moat bank at Scotney Castle, Lamberhurst, Kent. The site is centred on National Grid Reference (NGR) 68570 35540 and its location is shown on Figure 1.

1.2 Geology and Topography

1.2.1 The site was located across the moat bank, which separates the moat itself from the River Bewl to the south-east.

1.2.3 The underlying geology of the site, according to the latest data from the British Geological Survey (BGS 2014) consists of alluvium over Tunbridge Wells Sands.

1.3 Planning Background

1.3.1 The works were undertaken just outside the Scheduled Area (Scheduled Ancient Monument No. 24400) and Scheduled Monument Consent was therefore not required for the works to take place.

1.3.2 A Written Scheme of Investigation was prepared by ASE (2014) and approved by Nathalie Cohen, National Trust Archaeologist with responsibility for sites in the South East.

1.3.3 The consolidation works consisted of the excavation of trenches up to 1.5m deep and 0.60m wide, to be backfilled with engineering clay, in two locations around the south-eastern and eastern perimeter of the moat.

1.4 Aims and Objectives

1.4.1 The general aim of the archaeological work was to record the moat bank during the consolidation works, ensuring that any features, artefacts or ecofacts of archaeological interest exposed and affected by the works were recorded and interpreted to appropriate standards.

1.4.2 Site specific aims include:

- Understanding any construction techniques employed with the moat bank.
- Recovering of evidence relating to the development of the moat and its relationship with the nearby River Bewl, i.e. was the moat edge changed during the landscaping undertaken in the 1840s?
- Does evidence exist relating to an early medieval landscape?

1.5 Scope of Report

- 1.5.1 This report represents the results of the watching brief undertaken by ASE between the 22nd July and 7th August 2014. The field work was undertaken by Steve Price, Antonio Reis and Guy Hopkinson. The project was managed by Neil Griffin, and the post-excavation work was managed by Jim Stevenson and Dan Swift.

2.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

2.1 Overview

2.1.1 The following is taken from the Written Scheme of Investigation for the site (ASE 2014), the notes on the Scheduled Monument, an Archaeological Survey of the Castle and its Environs (Leach 1987), archaeological and historic landscape surveys of the castle and estate (ASE 2007; Bannister 2001) and the current Conservation and Management Plan (NT 2006).

2.2 Archaeological Background

2.2.1 No prehistoric or Romano-British sites lie within the immediate vicinity of the site. However, the paucity of nearby prehistoric and Romano-British remains may relate to a gap in the archaeological record rather than a true representation of the distribution of sites.

2.2.2 The Weald is known for its iron working industry, which begun during the Iron Age, the nearest such site being c. 6km away at Bardown.

2.2.3 Nearby place names such as *hurst* and *ley* suggest that the area around Scotney was heavily wooded in the early medieval period.

2.2.4 Old Scotney Castle dates from c. 1377-80 and was first constructed as a Quadrangle Castle for Roger Ashburnham with four round towers at each corner. Only one of the towers still survives and is incorporated into a later 16th/17th century manor house.

2.2.5 Old Scotney Castle was a fortified manor house rather than a defensive site and comparisons can be drawn with Bodiam castle, another example of quadrangle construction. Recent research suggests that 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.

2.2.6 The estate was bought by the Hussey family in 1778 and in c. 1840 a new 'castle' was constructed and the old castle landscaped into ruins and gardens.

3.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL METHODOLOGY

3.1 Fieldwork Methodology

- 3.1.1 The decision was made prior to excavation to increase the length of the moat bank repair trench from 30m to 41.50m (Figure 2).
- 3.1.2 The excavations were carried out using a 1.5 tonne 360° mechanical excavator fitted with a 0.60m wide flat-bladed ditching bucket. Archaeological supervision was maintained throughout all intrusive ground works.
- 3.1.3 All exposed surfaces and sections were manually cleaned by the ASE archaeologist in attendance in an attempt to identify archaeological features.
- 3.1.4 The spoil from the excavations was also inspected by the archaeologist to recover any artefacts or ecofacts of archaeological interest.
- 3.1.5 All archaeological deposits, features and finds were recorded according to standard ASE practice on standard pro-forma recording sheets. Where practicable, all features were planned at 1:20 and section drawings at 1:10. Drawings were on plastic draughting film.
- 3.1.6 A digital photographic record of the work was kept and will form part of the site archive.
- 3.1.7 All finds were collected and retained.

3.2 The Site Archive

- 3.2.1 The site archive is currently held at the offices of ASE and will be offered to the appropriate National Trust offices in due course. The contents of the archive are tabulated below (Table 1).

Number of Contexts	21
No. of files/paper record	1
Plan and sections sheets	4
Photographs	127
Bulk finds	4 bags

Table 1: Quantification of site archive

4.0 RESULTS

4.1 Repair trench along moat bank – monitored 22/07/14 – 01/08/14

4.1.1 The first repair trench was excavated along the footpath between the castle moat and the River Bewl in order to locate the source of leaks draining water from the moat into the river. The trench was initially proposed to be 30m in length running south-west to north-east, but the decision was taken prior to excavation to extend it to 41.50m. It measured 0.60m wide, though from 5.58-11.06m from the south-west end of the trench the width was extended to 1.38m in order to negotiate an earlier concrete repair which had proven to be ineffective. The maximum depth it was excavated to was 1.48m. All contexts encountered are summarised in Table 2 below.

Context	Type	Description	Max. Length m	Max. Width m	Deposit Thickness m
001	Layer	Tarmac surface	>8.96m	>0.60m	0.06m
002	Layer	Ballast – same as 012 & 018	>4.94m	>0.60m	0.10m
003	Layer	Levelling layer	>4.31m	>0.60m	0.06m
004	Layer	Sandstone deposit	>2.71m	>0.60m	0.15m
005	Layer	Upcast from moat	>5.23m	>0.60m	0.39m
006	Layer	Upcast from moat	5.13m	>0.60m	0.48m
007	Layer	Alluvial clay	>6.29m	>1.38m	>0.59m
008	Layer	Concrete surface	>36.60m	>0.60m	0.09m
009	Layer	Sandstone deposit	0.87m	>0.60m	0.14m
010	Layer	Gravel deposit	4.03m	>0.60m	0.26m
011	Layer	Upcast from moat	5.94m	>1.38m	>1.02m
012	Layer	Ballast – same as 002 & 018	22.85m	>0.60m	0.08m
013	Layer	Sandstone deposit	22.88m	>0.60m	0.14m
014	Layer	Alluvial clay	>32.63m	>1.38m	0.70m
015	Layer	Upcast from moat	>30.79m	>0.60m	0.55m
016	Layer	Alluvial clay	>20m	>0.60m	>0.30m
017	Layer	Upcast from moat	>12.30m	>0.60m	0.42m
018	Layer	Ballast – same as 002 & 012	>9.11m	>0.60m	0.09m
019	Layer	Gravel deposit	1.42m	>0.60m	0.28m

Table 2: List of recorded contexts, moat bank repair trench

4.1.2 A running measured sketch was kept of the entire south-east facing section of the moat bank repair trench, along with sections drawn at 1:10 at various points along the trench. These form part of the site archive.

4.1.2 Excavation of the trench was carried out beginning from the south-west end.

Natural alluvial clay layers [007] and [014] were identified within the trench, and a further alluvial clay layer [016] was found to be overlain by [014] beginning at 25.45m from the south-west end of the trench.

- 4.1.3 The alluvial clay layers were overlain by various deposits which consisted of upcast deposits from the moat [005], [006], [011], [015] and [017]. A small assemblage of tiles was recovered from contexts [005], [006] and [017] which were broadly dated to the post-medieval period.
- 4.1.4 In addition to the upcast deposits, some deliberate sandstone and gravel deposits were also identified as contexts [004], [009], [010], [013] and [019]. A further post-medieval roof tile was recovered from [019].
- 4.1.5 Overlying the upcast deposits and sandstone and gravel layers, various make-up layers for the existing pathway were identified. Context [003] appears to be a levelling layer, and layers of ballast [002], [012] and [018] were noted as part of the make-up for the pathway, which consisted of a tarmac surface [001], replaced by a concrete surface [008] at 4.90m from the south-west end of the repair trench.

4.2 Repair trench for leaking sluice – monitored 07/08/14

- 4.2.1 The second repair trench was excavated along the culvert wall in order to repair the leaking sluice channel. It measured 1.50m long, 0.50m wide and 0.90m deep. All contexts encountered are summarised in table 3 below.

Context	Type	Description	Max. Length m	Max. Width m	Deposit Thickness m
020	Layer	Topsoil	>1.50m	>0.50m	0.05m
021	Layer	Subsoil/ backfill	>1.50m	>0.50m	>0.85m

Table 3: List of recorded contexts, sluice repair trench

- 4.2.2 A firmly compacted orange-brown silty clay layer [021] was identified as possibly backfill of the construction cut for the culvert wall, although no cut was visible at this point.
- 4.2.3 Context [021] was overlain by friable light greyish-brown sandy silt topsoil [020], which had occasional small pebble inclusions measuring around 5mm.

5.0 THE FINDS

5.1 Summary

Context	CBM	wt (g)
5	1	40
6	2	130
17	1	26
19	1	328

Table 4: Finds quantification

5.1.1 A small assemblage of finds was recovered during the watching brief. Finds were all washed and dried or air dried as appropriate. They were subsequently quantified by count and weight, and bagged by material and context. Finds are packaged and stored according to IFA guidelines (2008). No further conservation is required.

5.2 The Ceramic Building Material by Elke Raemen

5.2.1 A small assemblage comprising six roof tiles (weight 505g) was recovered from four different contexts. One of these retained a diamond-shaped nail hole. Two different fabrics were encountered. Fabric T1 comprises a silty orange fabric with lighter, calcareous streaks, and rare iron oxides to 1mm. Fabric T2 is similar but poorly mixed. The clay is a more pale orange with calcareous swirls and contains moderate to common coarse to very coarse red and black iron oxides. The majority of tile is fairly abraded suggesting extensive reworking. They can only be broadly dated to the post-medieval period.

5.2.2 The assemblage consists entirely of post-medieval roof tile. It is not considered to be of potential and the assemblage is recommended for discard.

6.0 DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSIONS

- 6.1 Excavation of the moat bank revealed alluvial clays overlain by upcast deposits from the moat as well as some further deliberate deposits of sandstone and gravels. Various made ground deposits which consisted of the existing pathway and associated make-up layers were also noted.

- 6.2 No archaeological features were identified, but a small assemblage of roofing tiles was recovered from contexts [005], [006], [017] and [019] which could only be broadly dated to the post-medieval period. This possibly suggests that the upcast deposits and sandstone and gravel deposits may be related to the landscaping that was undertaken during the 1840s when the new 'castle' was constructed, although nothing more substantial than this can really be concluded.

- 6.3 No evidence relating to an early medieval landscape was found.

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HER Summary

Site Code	SCM14					
Identification Name and Address	Scotney Castle, Lamberhurst, Kent					
County, District &/or Borough	Kent					
OS Grid Refs.	TQ 68570 35540					
Geology	Alluvium over Tunbridge Wells Sands					
Arch. South-East Project Number	6966					
Type of Fieldwork	Watching Brief					
Type of Site						
Dates of Fieldwork	22/07/14 -07/08/14					
Sponsor/Client	National Trust					
Project Manager	Neil Griffin					
Project Supervisor	Steve Price					
Period Summary						
			PM			
Summary						
<p>Archaeology South-East was commissioned by the National Trust to undertake an archaeological watching brief during a program of consolidation works on the moat bank at Scotney Castle, Lamberhurst, Kent. Two trenches were excavated, the first measuring 41.50m long by 0.60m wide, in order to repair leaks draining water from the moat into the adjacent River Bewl. The second trench measured 1.50m long by 0.50m wide, and was excavated in order to carry out repairs to a leaking sluice.</p> <p>The purpose of the watching brief was to monitor these works and to record and interpret any archaeological features. None were encountered, although a small assemblage comprising six roof tiles was recovered from four different contexts which could only be broadly dated to the post-medieval period. The deposits encountered consisted of alluvial clay, upcast deposits for the moat bank and made ground related to the existing footpath.</p>						

OASIS Form

OASIS ID: archaeol6-191192

Project details

Project name	An Archaeological Watching Brief at Scotney Castle, Lamberhurst, Kent during Moat Consolidation Works
Short description of the project	Archaeology South-East was commissioned by the National Trust to undertake an archaeological watching brief during a program of consolidation works on the moat bank at Scotney Castle, Lamberhurst, Kent. Two trenches were excavated, the first measuring 41.50m long by 0.60m wide, in order to repair leaks draining water from the moat into the adjacent River Bewl. The second trench measured 1.50m long by 0.50m wide, and was excavated in order to carry out repairs to a leaking sluice. The purpose of the watching brief was to monitor these works and to record and interpret any archaeological features. None were encountered, although a small assemblage comprising six roof tiles was recovered from four different contexts which could only be broadly dated to the post-medieval period. The deposits encountered consisted of alluvial clay, upcast deposits for the moat bank and made ground related to the existing footpath.
Project dates	Start: 22-07-2014 End: 07-08-2014
Previous/future work	Yes / Not known
Site status	National Trust land

Project location

Country	England
Site location	KENT TUNBRIDGE WELLS LAMBERHURST Scotney Castle, Lamberhurst, Kent
Postcode	TN3 8JN
Study area	0 Square metres
Site coordinates	TQ 68570 35540 50.8995471765 0.230916209081 50 53 58 N 000 13 51 E Point

Project creators

Name of Organisation	Archaeology South-East
Project brief originator	Archaeology South-East
Project design originator	National Trust
Project	Neil Griffin

director/manager

Project supervisor Steve Price

Type of sponsor/funding body National Trust

Project archives

Physical Archive recipient National Trust

Digital Archive recipient National Trust

Digital Media available "Images raster / digital photography"

Paper Archive recipient National Trust

Paper Media available "Context sheet", "Plan", "Report", "Section"

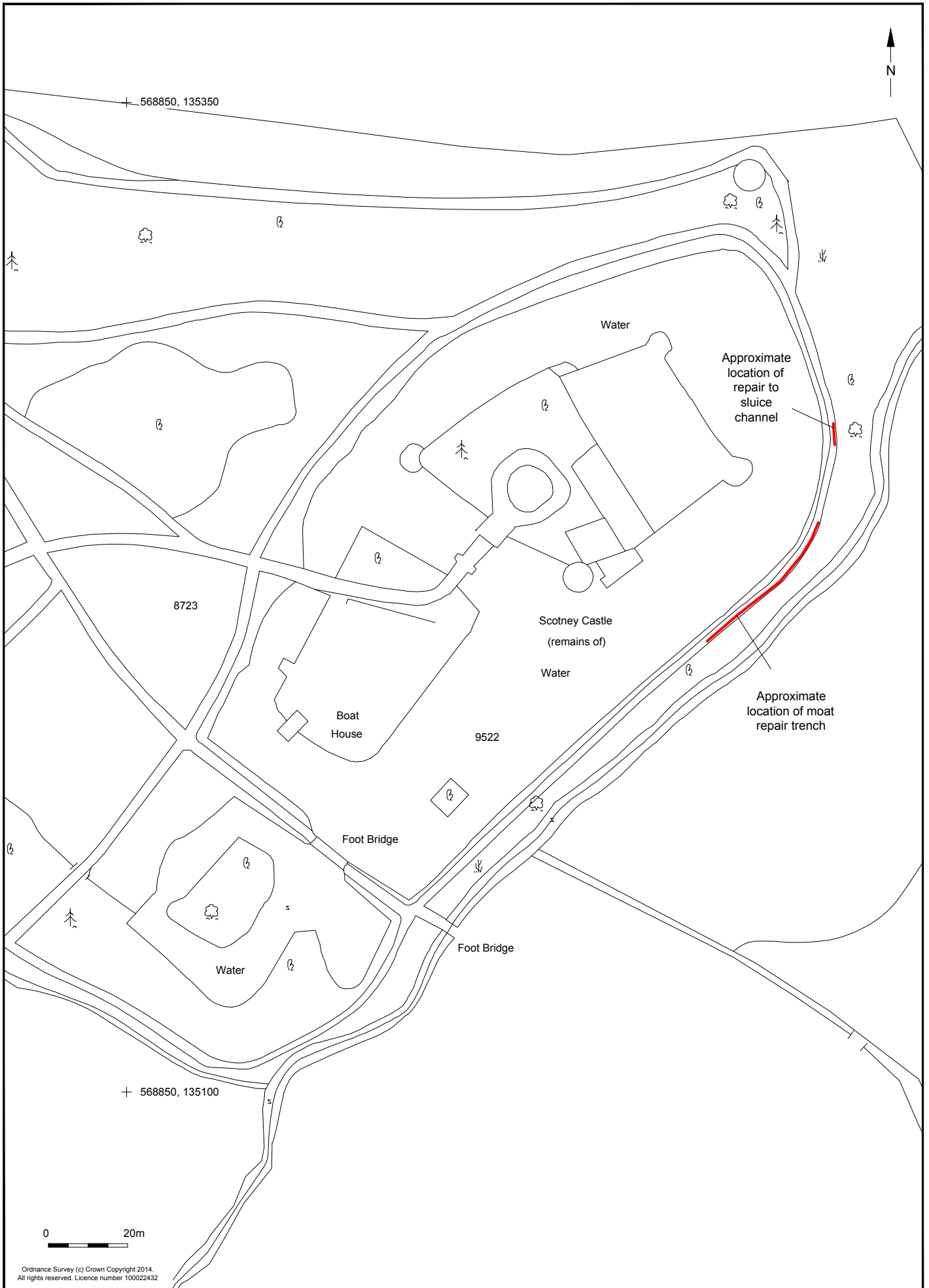
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Entered on 29 September 2014



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Project Ref: 6966	October 2014	Site location	
Report Ref: 2014314	Drawn by: RHC		



© Archaeology South-East		Scotney Castle	Fig. 2
Project Ref: 6966	October 2014	Location of moat consolidation works	
Report Ref: 2014314	Drawn by: RHC		



Excavation of sluice repair channel



Sluice repair channel section



Moat repair trench



Moat repair trench

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