

**An Archaeological Watching Brief at
Park Mill, Bateman's, Burwash, East Sussex**

**TQ 6705 2358
Site Code: BAT 07**

**Report No. 2007129
Project No. 3187**



**by
Paul Riccoboni BA
February 2008**

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Abstract

An archaeological watching brief was maintained from 22nd to 23rd October 2007, during the groundworks associated with the insertion of sheet piling adjacent to the pond of Park Mill, Bateman's, Burwash, East Sussex (TQ67052358). The excavations reached a depth of c. 2m below the present ground level (33.36m AOD) and destroyed most of the original brick culvert which lead from the pond to the waterwheel of Park Mill. The brick culvert was fully recorded. No other features or finds of archaeological significance were encountered.

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1. Introduction

- 1.1 Archaeology South-East (ASE), a division of the Centre for Applied Archaeology (UCL), was commissioned by The National Trust to undertake an archaeological watching brief during groundworks to the rear of Park Mill, Bateman's, Burwash, East Sussex (TQ67052358) (Fig. 1).
- 1.2 The archaeological works were undertaken outside of the normal planning procedures advised by the Local Authority. Caroline Thackray (Territorial Archaeologist for the National Trust) thought that Archaeology South East should monitor the ground works as part of the National Trust's standard conservation practices in relation to archaeological or historical concerns on their land.
- 1.3 The work was not administered under any Written Scheme of Investigation or Specification. The Project was carried out under standard archaeological conditions of practice (referred to in the *Standards and Guidance* of the Institute of Field Archaeologists. This report was prepared according to the *Recommended Standard Conditions for Archaeological Fieldwork, Recording, and Post-Excavation Work (Development Control) in East Sussex V3* (September 2003).
- 1.4 The extent and purpose of the archaeological work was to monitor the excavation of new groundworks to ensure that any features, artefacts or ecofacts of archaeological interest exposed and affected by the groundworks were recorded and interpreted to appropriate standards.
- 1.5 The works examined included ground reduction of an area approximately 3.5m x 1.5m to a maximum depth of c. 2m below ground level.
- 1.6 The underlying geology is Cretaceous Hastings Beds of the Wealden Series, overlain with small deposits of alluvium in the valleys of the small streams. Wadhurst Clay underlies the mid- to upper slopes and consists of shales and mudstones with subordinate beds of silt, sandstone, shelly limestone and clay ironstone.
- 1.7 The fieldwork was undertaken by Paul Riccoboni (Senior Archaeologist) on the 22nd & 23rd October 2007. The project was managed by Jon Sygrave (Project Manager) and Louise Rayner (Post-excavation Manager).

2. Archaeological Background

- 2.1 Unless otherwise stated, the following information has been taken from the Bateman's Estate, Burwash. *Archaeological and Historic Landscape Assessment Vols. 1 & 2* with due acknowledgement.
- 2.2 The Bateman's Estate lies 0.7 miles south-west of Burwash Church in the Dudwell Valley. It is situated on the western side of the lane leading northwards from Park Farm, immediately opposite the junction of the latter with a lane from Dudwell Farm. Bateman's lies in the High Weald Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty and within the Upper Rother Valley Landscape Character Area. The landform is of steep sided valleys with small fields and woods.
- 2.3 The earliest extant part of the Bateman's House was built in 1634 by William Langham, Esq. a local lawyer with a practice in Battle (Martin *et.al.* 2005, 1). He acquired Bateman's at some uncertain date prior to 1625 and the house he erected in 1634 was an early example of a double pile construction (two rooms in depth throughout). In the early 20th Century the Bateman's Estate became the residence of Rudyard Kipling.
- 2.4 The archaeological resource at Bateman's is mainly from the farming and rural industry, for example, the water features used to provide power for the mills and the Forge.
- 2.5 The Bateman's Estate covers 121.4 ha (300 acres) of fields and wooded shaves, with 1.8ha (4.5 acres) of garden around Bateman's. The Estate incorporates many buildings including Mills and Oast Houses. Park Mill (Listed building TQ62SE 11/11- LBII or County ES HER 3697) was constructed in 1795, a narrow 3-bay timber structure, extended in the 19th Century to include a house. The Mill was restored by the National Trust in the 1970's and was in working order until recently. The Park Mill Oast House (Listed building- TQ62SE 11/11A-LB II) adjoins the Mill and is also 18th Century in origin.

3. Archaeological Methodology

- 3.1 The excavations were undertaken predominantly by a 360° mechanical excavator fitted with a 0.5m toothless bucket, although limited hand excavation was also used where it was thought the presence of archaeological remains might exist.
- 3.2 Adequate time was made available for appropriate archaeological excavation by hand to identify and record the remains as far as possible within the limits of the works. Groundworks mentioned in Section 1.5 above were monitored at all times by an archaeologist until/unless it became clear beyond reasonable doubt that no archaeological remains were present (e.g. once excavation reached undisturbed natural subsoils, below which there would be no archaeological remains present - after the recording of any significant remains if present at higher levels).
- 3.3 The spoil from the excavations was inspected by the archaeologist to recover any artefacts or ecofacts of archaeological interest.
- 3.4 All recording was undertaken in accordance with accepted professional standards in accordance to the *Institute for Field Archaeologists (IFA) Standard and Guidance for an archaeological watching brief* (2001) and a full photographic record maintained as applicable.
- 3.5 All archaeological features and deposits encountered were recorded according to accepted professional standards. A full photographic record was kept of the work as appropriate.
- 3.6 The site was levelled using a dumpy level. The OD height was obtained from a Bench Mark found marked on the side of the Mill Oast House measuring a height of 34.39m AOD.
- 3.7 The National Trust staff were kept informed of progress so that they could monitor the archaeological work as necessary.

4. Results (Fig. 2)

- 4.1 The excavations were carried out in order to establish where the pond (associated with Park Mill) was leaking from. Previous work of this nature had been conducted in this area to achieve this aim. A large trench was excavated around this area of the pond and then backfilled with clay. This was unsuccessful in stopping the leak and was not monitored by any archaeologist.
- 4.2 A trench was excavated c. 4m in length by c. 1.5m in width and c. 2m in depth. This trench uncovered the remains of a large brick built culvert which pumped water from the pond to the waterwheel. As part of the works this brick culvert was cut through its centre. Sheet piling was then installed across all sides of the trench to depths of up to 3 or 4m. It was hoped that the sheet piling would stop the leak from the pond.
- 4.3 The trench revealed the following stratigraphy (from latest to earliest). Context 100 (35.36m AOD-top of deposit) was a c. 0.10m thick deposit of topsoil, of a mid brownish grey colour and of a silty clay texture. Directly beneath this was a c. 0.40m thick deposit of made ground (Context 101) which had a mid yellowish brown colour and silty clay texture. Beneath this Context 102 was c. 0.50m thick deposit of made ground very similar to 101, but of firmer consistency. This in turn was above Context 103, a 0.70m thick deposit of a dark blue clay with yellow mottling throughout. All three deposits are thought to have been laid down as part of the construction of the pond. Context 104 was beneath 103 and was the natural mid orange yellow natural clay.
- 4.4 A profile was drawn of the brick culvert after the trench was excavated through it (Fig. 3). Section 1 details the following stratigraphy: Context 100 was the 0.10m thick deposit of topsoil. Beneath this was layer 101 (described in 4.3). Encasing the outer edge of the brick culvert (Context 106) was Context 105, a dark brownish yellow, clay silt of a firm consistency containing occasional brick and sandstone fragments (<20-50mm). The brick culvert (106) had a total width (external edges) of 1.75m and an internal depth of c. 1.0m (to rendered base surface (107)). It was constructed of unfrogged/hand made red bricks (average size: 250mm x 120mm x 70mm) of a rectangular shape. The arched roof of the structure consisted of two courses, well bonded with a cement based mortar. It is thought that this culvert was part of the original (18th Century) mill. The floor/base of the culvert was finished with a render (Context 107) which was c. 50mm in thickness. Beneath this the base of the structure was constructed of hand made red bricks which reached a depth of c. 0.30m. The natural clay was seen beneath these bricks.

5. The Finds

- 5.1 A sample of ceramic building material (CBM) was taken from context [106]. The piece of brick, dating to the mid 18th to mid 19th century, is hard fired with sparse fine sand-tempering, occasional iron oxide inclusions to 3 mm and rare slag inclusions to 5 mm. The fragment is composed of poorly mixed clay and has a dull yellow mortar adhering to it. The brick measures 83 mm high, with a width of 137 mm.
- 5.2 No further work is required and it is recommended to discard the piece.

6. Discussion

- 6.1 The watching brief at Park Mill, Bateman's, Burwash proved useful as industrial archaeological remains were encountered and recorded. These results have helped to give a better understanding of Park Mill and the way it was constructed.
- 6.2 Due to the size of the excavation it is difficult to make accurate interpretations of the site in the wider context. However, some conclusions can be made as to the possible date and function of the feature discovered.
- 6.3 The brick culvert, which was destroyed as part of the essential maintenance works at the site, was constructed of red unfrosted hand made bricks which formed a well structure with a curving concave roof. It is assumed that this was the original 18th Century culvert which controlled the supply of water to the waterwheel of the mill.
- 6.4 No other features or artefacts were discovered at the site.

7. References

Martin D, Martin B & Knight S (2005) *An Archaeological Survey and Watching Brief relating to Batemans, Burwash, East Sussex* Unpub ASE Doc. 1759

Bateman's Estate, Burwash. *Archaeological and Historic Landscape Assessment Vol 1: Landuse History & Archaeological Significance.*

Bateman's Estate, Burwash. *Archaeological and Historic Landscape Assessment Vol 2: Archaeological Inventory.*

Acknowledgements

A special thanks to Andi (National Trust) who was very helpful and provided much useful information to me on site. Also to Elaine (National Trust) for supplying the Historic Landscape Assessment documents for me to photocopy and use as background information in this report. Also Caroline Thackray should be acknowledged for asking Archaeology South East to monitor this work even though it was not officially part of a planning consent agreement (PPG16).

SMR Summary Form

Site Code	BAT 07					
Identification Name and Address	Park Mill, Bateman's, Burwash, East Sussex					
County, District &/or Borough	Rother District					
OS Grid Refs.	TQ 67052358					
Geology	Cretaceous Hastings Beds of the Wealden Series					
Arch. South-East Project Number	3187					
Type of Fieldwork	Eval.	Excav.	Watching Brief ✓	Standing Structure	Survey	Other
Type of Site	Green Field	Shallow Urban	Deep Urban	Other Water mill		
Dates of Fieldwork	Eval.	Excav.	WB. 22-23 rd Oct 07	Other		
Sponsor/Client	The National Trust					
Project Manager	Jon Sygrave and Louise Rayner					
Project Supervisor	Paul Riccoboni					
Period Summary	Palaeo.	Meso.	Neo.	BA	IA	RB
	AS	MED	PM ✓	Other		
<p>100 Word Summary. <i>An archaeological watching brief was maintained from 22nd to 23rd October 2007, during the groundworks associated with the insertion of sheet piling adjacent to the pond of Park Mill, Bateman's, Burwash, East Sussex (TQ67052358). The excavations reached a depth of c. 2m below the present ground level (33.36m AOD) and destroyed most of the original brick culvert which lead from the pond to the waterwheel of Park Mill. The brick culvert was fully recorded. No other features or finds of archaeological significance were encountered.</i></p>						

OASIS SUMMARY

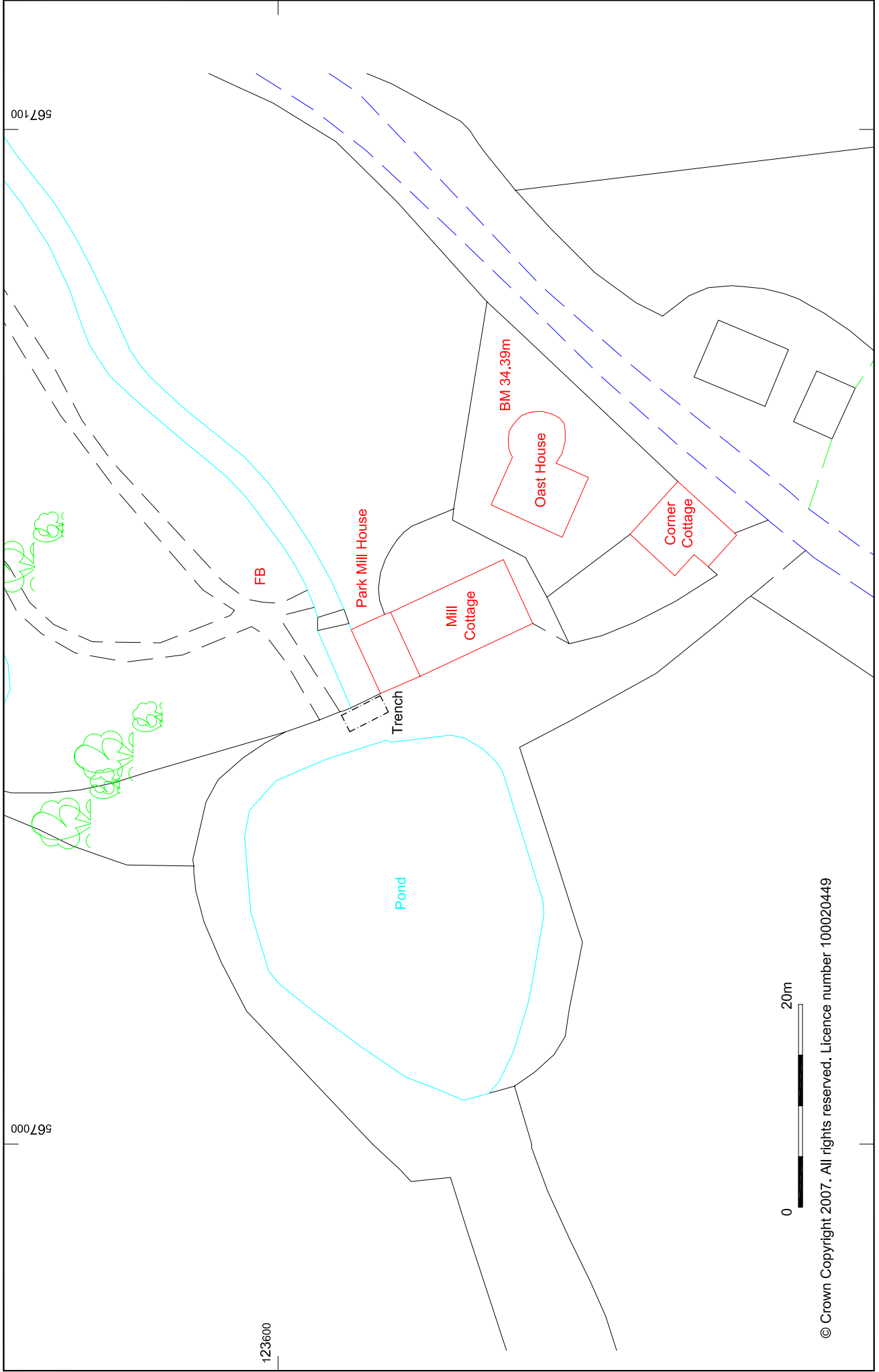
OASIS ID: archaeol6-36628	
Project details	
Project name	Bateman's Park Mill, Burwash, East Sussex
Short description of the project	An archaeological watching brief was maintained from 22nd to 23rd October 2007, during the groundworks associated with the insertion of sheet piling adjacent to the pond of Park Mill, Bateman's, Burwash, East Sussex (TQ67052358). The excavations reached a depth of c. 2m below the present ground level (33.36m AOD) and destroyed most of the original brick culvert which lead from the pond to the waterwheel of Park Mill. The brick culvert was fully recorded. No other features or finds of archaeological significance were encountered.
Project dates	Start: 22-10-2007 End: 23-10-2007
Previous/future work	No / No
Any associated project reference codes	BAT07 - Sitecode
Type of project	Recording project
Site status	Listed Building
Current Land use	Other 2 - In use as a building
Monument type	CULVERT Post Medieval
Significant Finds	BRICK Post Medieval
Investigation type	'Watching Brief'
Prompt	Voluntary/self-interest
Project location	
Country	England
Site location	EAST SUSSEX WEALDEN MAYFIELD Bateman's
Postcode	TN19 7TS
Study area	121.00 Hectares
Site coordinates	TQ 6706 2357 50.9866763921 0.380494354053 50 59 12 N 000 22 49 E Point
Height OD	Min: 31.36m Max: 33.36m
Project creators	
Name of	Archaeology South East

Organisation	
Project brief originator	Archaeology South East
Project design originator	Archaeology South-East
Project director/manager	Neil Griffin
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 Media available	'Images raster / digital photography','Text'
Paper Media available	'Context sheet','Drawing','Notebook - Excavation',' Research',' General Notes','Photograph','Plan','Report','Section','Unpublished Text'
Entered by	Paul Riccoboni (tcnprmr@ucl.ac.uk)
Entered on	22 January 2008



© Archaeology South-East		Bateman's, Burwash	Fig. 1
Project Ref: 3187	Feb 2008	Site Location Plan	
Report Ref: 2007129	Drawn by: JLR		

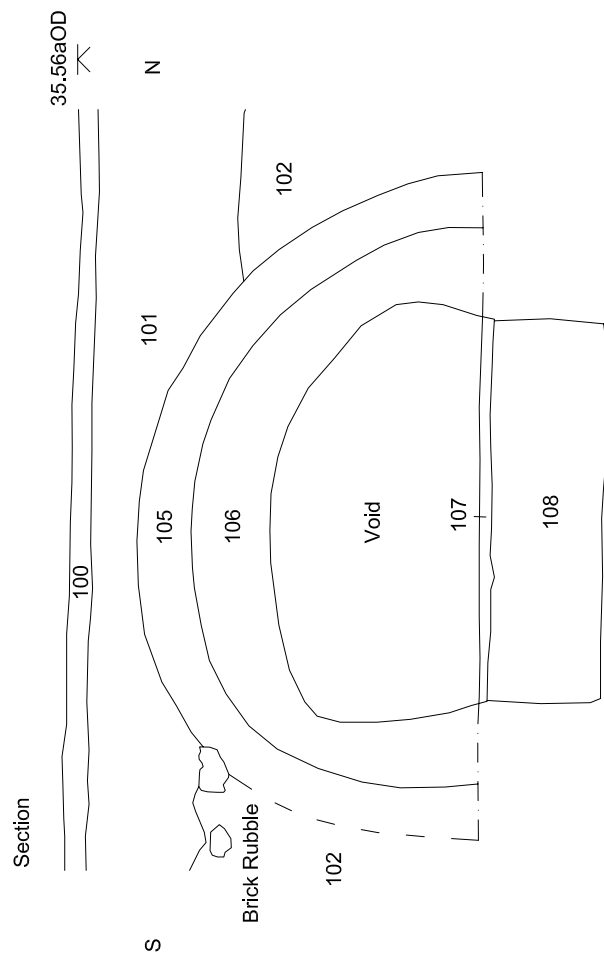
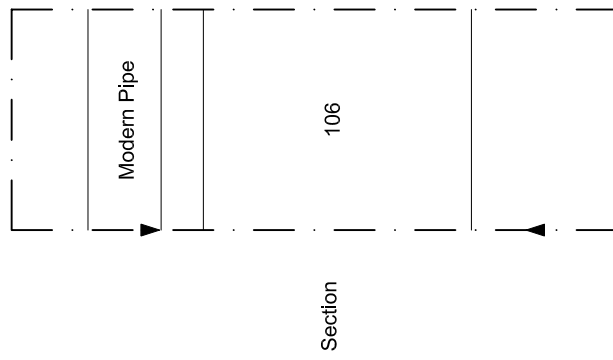
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Project Ref: 3187	Feb 2008	Trench Location Plan	
Report Ref: 2007129	Drawn by: SM		

Fig. 2



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