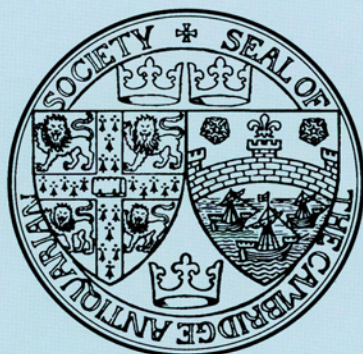

Proceedings of the Cambridge Antiquarian Society

(incorporating the Cambs and Hunts Archaeological Society)

Volume XCVII
for 2008



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for 2008**

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Excavation of the Civil War bastion ditch of Cambridge Castle

Craig Cessford

with a contribution by Andrew Hall

Excavations on land adjacent to 68 Castle Street, Cambridge, revealed part of the western bastion ditch of the Civil War defences. The excavations shed light on the size and form of the ditch, while the location and alignment of the ditch allows a reconsideration of this part of the Civil War defences on Castle Hill. The ditch was not completely infilled until the early nineteenth century, which has important implications for the area.

Introduction

Excavations were undertaken by the Cambridge Archaeological Unit (CAU) on behalf of Ashwell's Property Group on land adjacent to 68 Castle Street, Cambridge (Figure 1), between November 2005 and March 2006 (Ten Harkel 2006). These are the first detailed investigations of the Civil War ditch of Cambridge Castle, shedding important light on the form of the ditch, the arrangement of the defences and the infilling of the feature. The excavations took place in an irregular rectangular area roughly 14m by 11m, covering c. 155m². This revealed a considerable amount of Iron Age and Roman archaeology (Evans & Lucas forthcoming), plus a small number of Saxo-Norman and medieval features. Over half the excavation area was covered by a single feature, a ditch F.28 identified as part of the Civil War defences (Figures 2 & 3).

Background

Although there is evidence of continual occupation on Castle Hill since the 8th century AD, archaeological investigations have been relatively piecemeal and are largely unpublished (see Cessford with Dickens 2005 for a recent summary, plus McKenny Hughes 1894 and Palmer 1976 for summaries of Cambridge Castle). Twenty-seven late Saxon dwellings were destroyed to make room for the construction of a Norman motte and bailey castle in 1068. Towards the end of the 13th century the Castle was rebuilt in stone, but by the 15th century the great hall was in ruins and building stone was removed for the construction of King's College. Shortly afterwards, the remainder of the Castle was

sold to Emmanuel and Magdalene colleges. Only the outer wall and the southwestern gatehouse, used as a prison, were left intact and the area enclosed by the walls was let out as pasture. In 1592 the Castle was described as 'old ruined and decayed'. In the 16th century permission was granted to tip rubbish into ditch and in the early 17th century it was described as 'a noisome, foul ditch, which was filled up by earth and gravel'.

The most reliable depiction of Castle Hill prior to the Civil War is the map by John Hammond in 1592 (Figure 4). This indicates that Castle Street as such did not exist in the late 16th century. Instead there was a relatively wide open area to the southwest of the Castle, which continued northeastwards as a substantial open area in front of the church of All Saints at the Castle. Overall the impression provided by Hammond is that the construction of Civil War defences would have required the clearance of some houses, but not a very large number.

The situation changed drastically in the 1640's, when the Civil War gave a large number of castles, Cambridge included, a renewed military relevance (Harrington 2004, 36–59; contemporary documentary sources are discussed by Kingston 1897 and Varley 1935). In August 1642 'Mr. Cromwell ... seized the magazine in the Castle at Cambridge'. From then onwards Cambridge was controlled by Parliamentary forces and was the headquarters of the Eastern Counties Association. In March 1643 an appeal was read in local parish churches stating that, 'whereas we have been enforced, by apparent ground of approaching danger to begin to fortify the town of Cambridge ... now standing in need of your further assistance to the perfecting of the said fortifications, which will cost at least two thousand pounds ... we desire the free will offering of a liberal contribution from you'. In July 1643 the governor reported to Parliament that 'our town and Castle are now very strongly fortified being encompassed with breast works and bulwarks'. In the same year the restoration of the Castle began, and new brick barracks were built on the north side of the hill to house the garrison. A certain Thomas

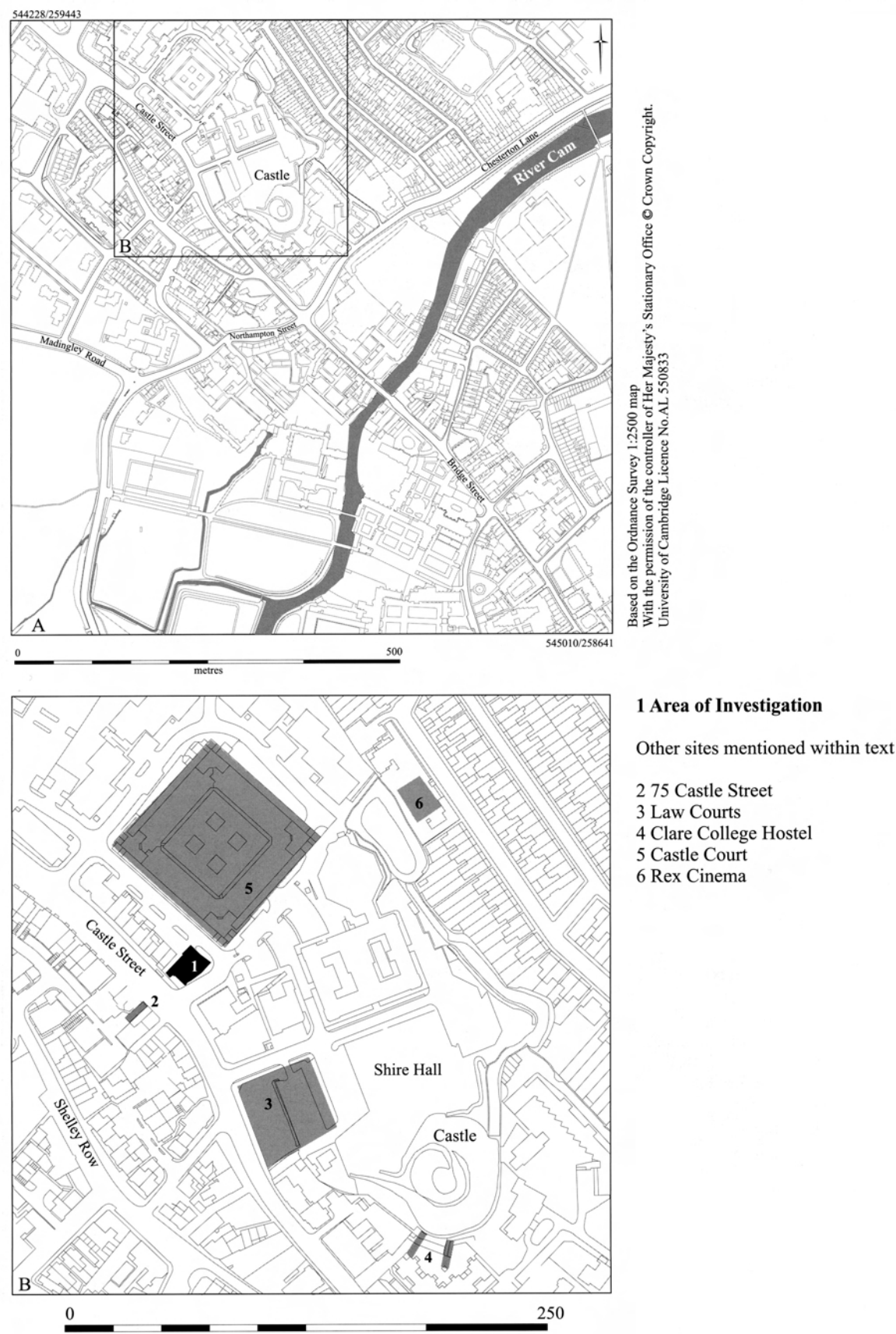


Figure 1. Location map and plan of sites where the Civil War ditch of Cambridge Castle has been identified.

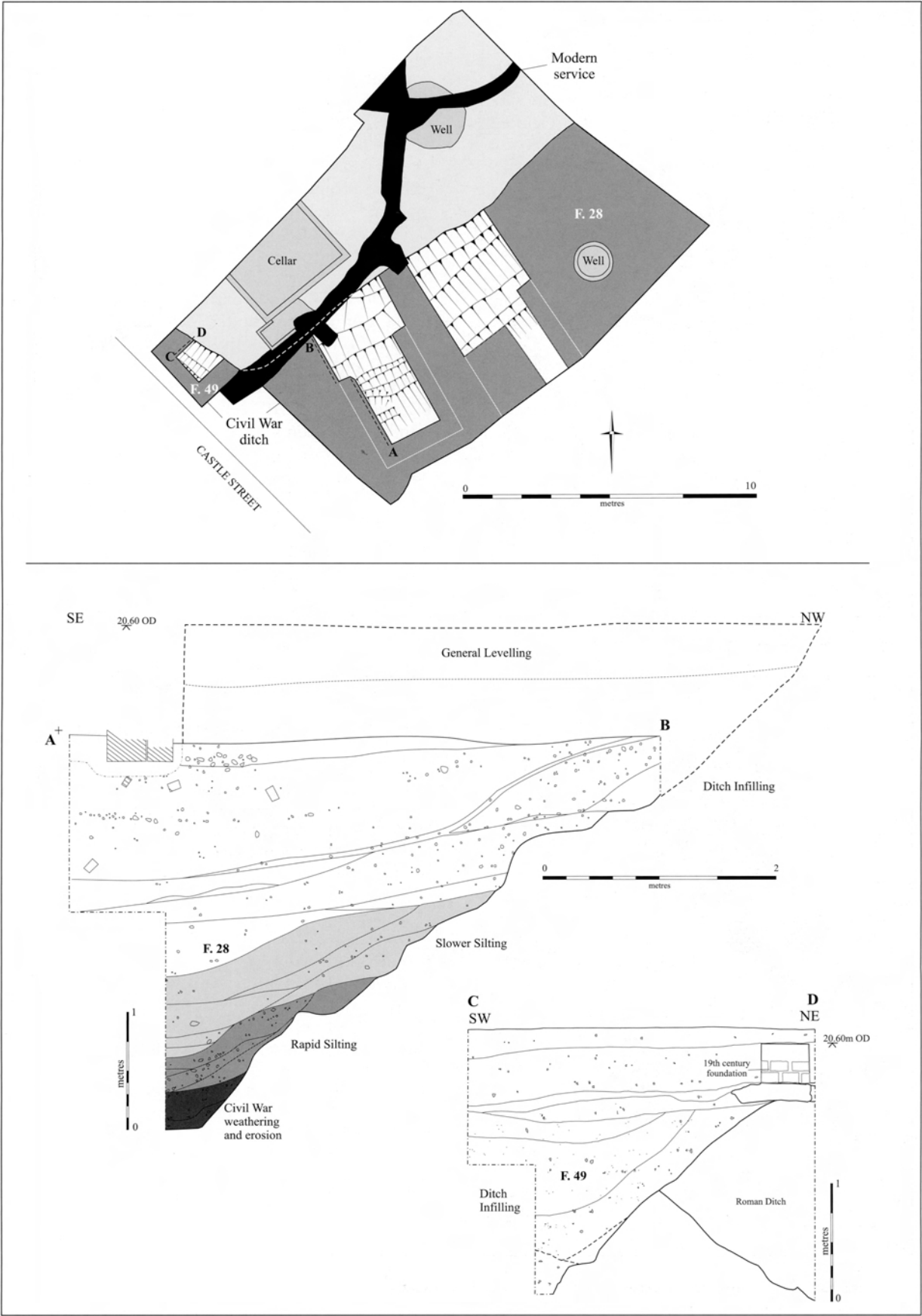


Figure 2. Site plan of the excavations on land adjacent to 68 Castle Street and sections through ditches F.28 and F.49.

Wallis and Walter Chapman were paid £3.6s.8d 'to dig five poles (c. 25m) of ditch on the north and east flanks' (Osborne 1990, 23).

Wallis and Chapman completed their work in December 1644, but not without attracting criticism. The commander of the Castle reported in October 1643 that 'Oxford forces come within 20 miles and plunder at their pleasure ... How soon they may surprise us God only knows. Our ditch goes very slowly on, notwithstanding without it the Castle is of little value'. In August 1646 Parliament ordered the garrison buildings to be slighted and the defences to be demolished. In the second half of the 17th century the defences were levelled further to accommodate the construction of Castle Street, and in the late 18th or early 19th centuries the modern layout of Castle Hill began to take shape. Castle Street was widened, and more of the old earthworks were levelled for the construction of the octagonal county gaol, the present Shire Hall and the old police station.

The northern and eastern bastions of the Civil War defences at Cambridge still survive as earthworks up to 6m high. A number of other Civil War sites in Cambridgeshire survive as earthworks and some have been excavated (Keynes & White 1909; Malim 1991; Taylor 1999; Tebbutt & Rudd 1966). It is unknown to what extent the earlier Castle earthworks were still visible and extant by the 1640's, but the presumption is that the outer bailey ditch was re-opened and cleaned out to form the main part of the enclosure ditch, so that only the bastion ditches had to be dug into undisturbed natural chalk. In the 15th century the development of effective and manoeuvrable artillery had changed the nature of fortifications. In order to counteract the effect of artillery defensive walls were made lower and thicker and built from materials that did not shatter upon impact, usually earth and brick. Additionally projecting structures or bastions were added, facilitating active defense by allowing the defenders to cover adjacent bastions and the curtain walls between them with defensive fire. This system of fortification developed in Italy in the mid 15th to early 16th centuries and then spread across Europe in the 1530s and 1540s. By the time of the Civil War this system was well established in England and the defences of Cambridge Castle were probably typical of its time, with low arrow-headed earthen bastions built to mount artillery connected by earthen curtain walls and substantial ditches.

Previous Observations

Prior to these excavations there had been very limited opportunities to examine the Castle ditches (Figure 1). Unpublished excavations by John Alexander between the 1950s and the 1980 have revealed the Civil War defences in a number of locations (Alexander et al. 1994). On the northwestern side of the defences at Castle Court there was evidence for the recutting of the earlier ditch and alteration for a new bastion. The ditch was 13m wide, over 6m deep and filled with sticky black clay. On the southwestern side of the defences at the Law Courts the ditch was over 6.1m

deep; it was deliberately infilled with homogenous clay that contained 17th century pottery. At the Rex Cinema, on the side of the northern bastion, the ditch was 5m wide and deliberately infilled with clean chalk marl. More generally Alexander states that the ditch was infilled 'immediately after 1660' and 'back-filled when parts of the fortifications were slighted after the Restoration of 1660 and before 1688'.

More recently part of the ditch southeast of the motte was examined during a watching brief at Clare College Hostel (Malim & Taylor 1992). It was at least 14m wide and over 4m deep with waterlogged fills. No dating evidence was recovered, but it was thought to be 'cleaned out by Cromwell, which would explain the lack of medieval finds' (Malim & Taylor 1992, 6). This argument seems unlikely, as if the ditch was cleaned out at the time of the Civil War and then filled in later it would be more likely to contain dating evidence, as 17th century and later deposits in Cambridge generally contain higher densities of material than medieval deposits. In 1994 a large, roughly northeast to southwest aligned ditch, was observed under 75 Castle Street (Butler 1994). It was around 4m deep and filled with a dark homogenous silty loam, with no apparent weathering or tip lines. It was suggested that it was probably not backfilled for some time (*ibid.*), although it had probably disappeared by 1688 at the latest (Figure 5.1). All the previous work consisted of observations of machine-dug slots. The excavations described here represented the first opportunity to hand-dig and record in detail a section through this ditch.

Excavation Results

The present excavations revealed two substantial ditches, F.28 and F.49 (Figure 2). F.28 was the north-western side of a large northeast to southwest aligned ditch 4.0m deep and 6.5m wide (Figures 2 & 3). As only one side was revealed it was probably originally at least 13.0m wide with steep stepped sides and a flat base lying at 16.03 to 16.26mOD. F.49 was aligned southeast to northwest and was cut at a 100° angle to F.28. Only a small part of this feature fell within the excavation area; its sides were as steep as those of F.28, but the stepping was more regular and showed less sign of erosion. The area exposed demonstrated that F.49 was over 1.9m deep and 2.4m wide, in all likelihood the width and depth were similar to F.28. The size and profile of F.28 suggest it was not part of the Civil War defences and fulfilled some other function, such as a roadside ditch along Castle Street, highly improbable. F.49 can not have been very long, as it was not present under the cellars of 68 to 70 Castle Street (Hickling 2004) and the alignment and location of the ditch observed at 75 Castle Street (Butler 1994) favours the idea that F.49 is relatively short.

Initially F.28 was interpreted as the main north-western ditch of the Civil War fortifications and F.49 as the side of the western bastion (Ten Harkel 2006). Whilst appealing, this appears unlikely given the close



Figure 3. Photographs of ditch F.28 under excavation, both facing broadly southwest. The edge of the ditch is visible as a line of light chalk natural on its northwestern side.



Figure 4. Pre Civil War historic map of Cambridge Castle and environs by Hammond in 1592, showing earlier road layout including the substantial open area in front of All Saints at the Castle.

proximity of the area excavated to Castle Street, as all the cartographic sources show that the eastern side of the bastion was some distance from Castle Street (Figures 6.1 to 6.4). A detailed comparison between these historic maps, particularly that by Loggan in 1688 (Figure 6.1), and the modern Ordnance Survey was undertaken using a wide range of points that can be reliably located, including major college buildings, churches and road junctions. This indicates that Castle Street has not shifted position substantially between 1688 and the present day, it is probably in an identical location and has certainly not shifted by more than a metre or two. This is not enough to allow F.28 to be the main northwestern ditch of the Civil War fortifications and F.49 the side of the western bastion. Instead it appears that F.28 is the northwestern side of the western bastion and that F.49 is therefore probably a slight outwork or extension of the bastion. Such an outwork or extension appears to be depicted on the Bowtell Mss. of 1785 (Figure 5.3). It seems that F.28 and F.49 are both elements of the western bastion, which must have been of rather irregular form. This

has been tentatively reconstructed (Figure 7.1), using the evidence of the recent excavations, the 1994 observations, Loggan's plan of 1688 (Figure 5.1) and the Bowtell Mss. of 1785 (Figure 5.3). Civil War fortifications were constructed using clear design principles and the slightly unorthodox proposed shape of the bastion may relate to some unknown factor in the topography or terrain of the area. One possibility is that the western and southern bastions were in fact demi-bastions, which have only one face and flank and were used to fortify the angle of a place that is too acute. If this was the case then the ditch at 75 Castle Street might be a flanking entrenchment and not part of the main circuit of fortifications. Alternatively F.49 may be a post Civil War addition of some kind relating to the later use of the site, although this seems unlikely given its similarity to F.28. The scale of investigations undertaken obviates against dogmatic certainty, but the proposed reconstruction is the one that best fits with the archaeological and cartographic evidence.

The ditch sequence can be divided into four infilling horizons. The first consisted of c. 0.3m of mid grey

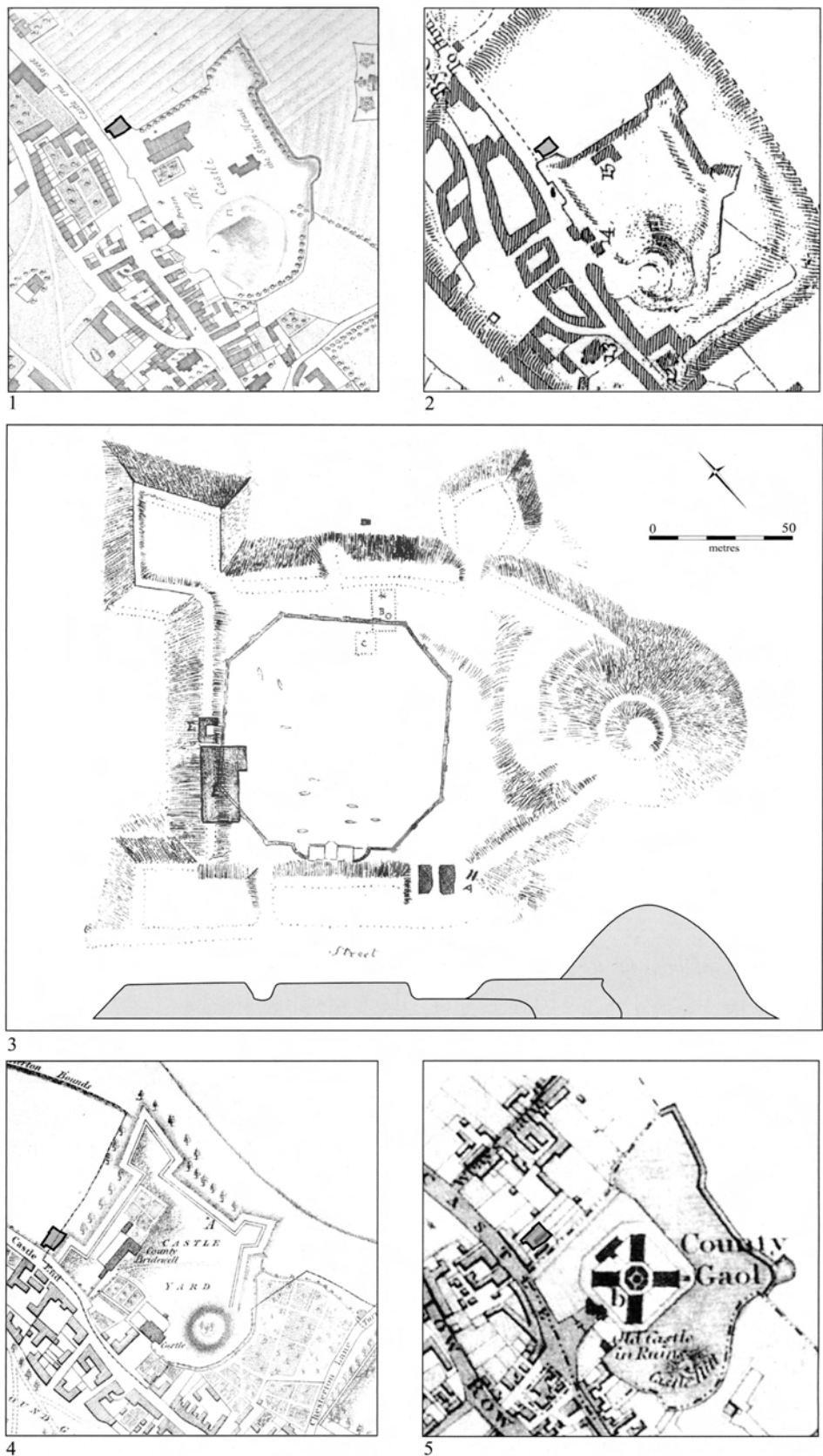


Figure 5. Post Civil War historic map sequence.
5.1 Loggan 1688.
5.2 Anonymous 1763.

5.3 Bowtell Mss. 1785, including a redrawn section
from the same source.
5.4 Custance 1798.
5.5 Baker 1830

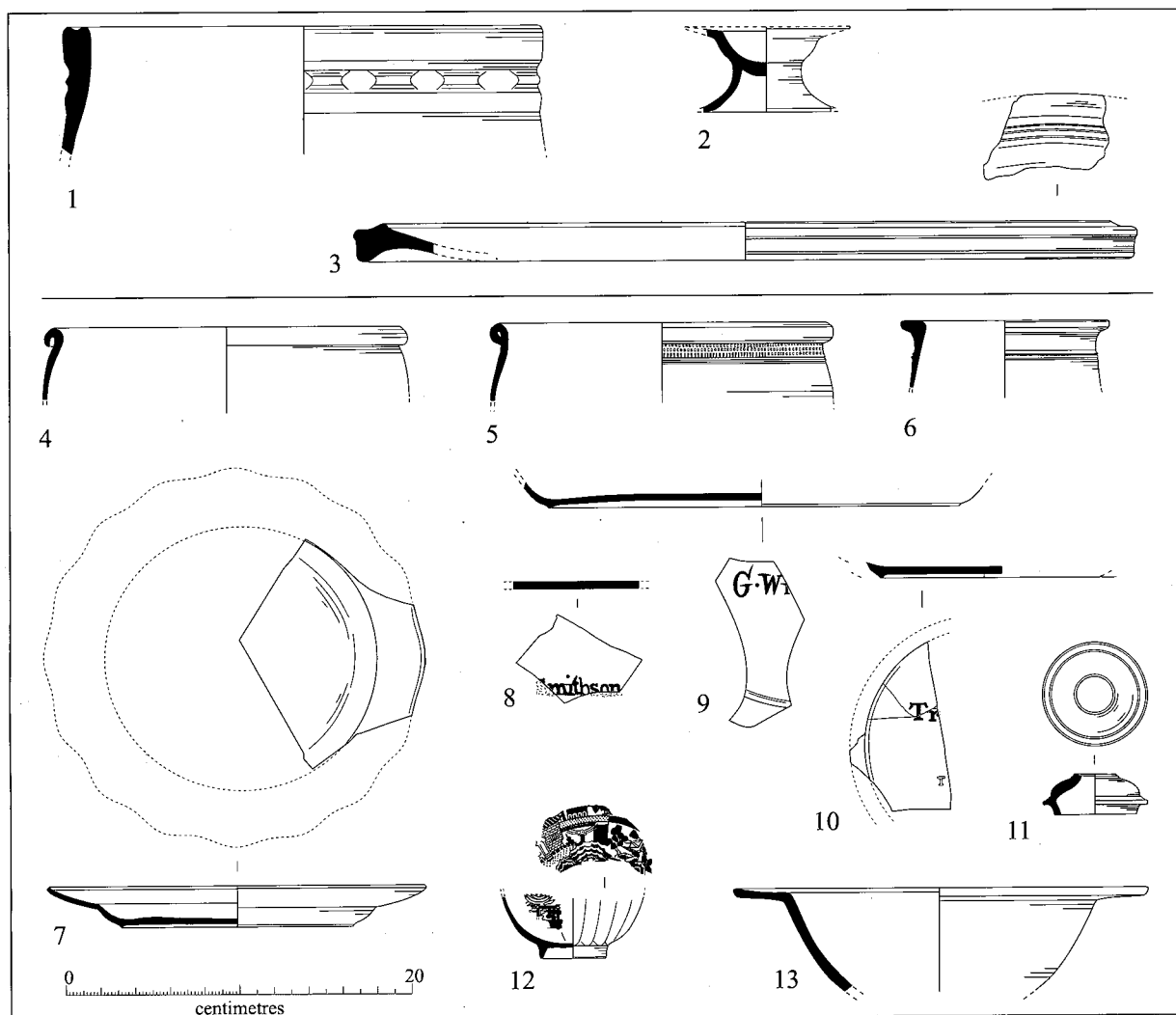


Figure 6. Pottery from Infilling Horizons 3 and 4 of ditch F.28.

- 6.1 Glazed Red Earthenware jar, with clear lead glaze to interior and dark brown mottled lead glaze to exterior.
- 6.2 Tin-glazed earthenware pedestal bowl with plain white-glaze.
- 6.3 Large, Glazed Red Earthenware pancheon, with mottled lead-glaze to interior.
- 6.4 Plain creamware chamber pot
- 6.5 Nottinghamshire/Derbyshire type salt-glazed stoneware jar with rouletted decoration.
- 6.6 Plain creamware jar.
- 6.7 Plain creamware plate with queen's-shape rim.
- 6.8 – 6.10 Fragments of creamware plates or dishes, with hand applied script to the base in underglaze blue.
- 6.11 Teapot or coffee pot lid in English soft paste porcelain.
- 6.12 Pearlware tea bowl of fluted form, with transfer-printed decoration (willow-type pattern).
- 6.13 Plain creamware bowl with flared rim.

clayey silt underneath some dirty white and yellowish white chalk, whose upper surface was most heavily compacted and quite smooth. These fills produced no dating evidence; and probably represent natural erosion and weathering of the ditch during the Civil War between the digging of the ditch in 1642/43 and the end of its active use in 1646. Alternatively, it could represent undisturbed deposits from the medieval Castle ditch. This is however unlikely, if the medieval Castle ditch was reused it is more likely that this was for the main enclosure ditch rather than the bastion.

The second infilling was a localised event found only in one slot. It consisted of light yellowish grey

silt containing a large quantity of fragmentary late medieval or early post-medieval brick and tile. The brick and tile may derive from the Civil War barracks and could relate to the 1646 slighting of these structures.

During the third phase of infilling the ditch seems to have initially silted up relatively rapidly with a variety of fills, which appear to derive from the cultural deposits and natural layers that the ditch was cut through. After this stage the ditch had presumably stabilised somewhat, with slower erosion, again consisting of a mixture of materials. The clay pipe bowls from this infilling horizon are forms that date

to c. 1660 to 1680 and 1680 to 1710, while the latest pottery is late 17th and 18th century. This silting raised the height of the base of the ditch to c. 17.6m OD, the overall width of the ditch had not been affected, but it now had a shallower more flat bottomed profile. It was still, therefore, around 13m wide and 2.6m deep.

In the fourth and final infilling horizon the remaining open portion of the ditch was deliberately and completely backfilled, with mixed dark clayey silt containing lighter lenses. The pottery from this deposit dates to the late 18th century and there was also a George III first issue halfpenny minted in 1771. This coin was probably deposited no later than 1817, when pre-1792 copper coins were withdrawn from circulation. The clay pipe bowls are forms dated c. 1680 to 1740, indicating that they are residual. Straight after the ditch itself was backfilled a layer of dirty white chalky clay was laid over the entire area as a general levelling or foundation layer. This appears to have occurred immediately after the backfilling of the ditch and indicates that the ditch was infilled as part of a more general levelling of the area. Infilling Horizon 4 probably relates to the early 19th century construction of the County Gaol (see below).

Pottery
Andrew Hall

The pottery from Infilling Horizon 3 (Table 1) included tin-glazed earthenware (Figure 6.2), German stoneware from Frechen, Staffordshire slipware plus locally produced Glazed Red Earthenware (Figure 6.1 & 6.3) and Babylon ware from Ely (Table 1). The Staffordshire slipwares date to the end of the 17th and 18th century, while the Glazed Red Earthenwares show little variance in fabric or forms between the 16th and 18th centuries. Frechen stoneware dates mainly to the 17th century, although it was also in use in the 16th and early 18th centuries (Gaimster 1997), while the tin-glazed earthenware is probably 17th century. The relatively small size and abraded nature of the sherds combined with the low density of ceramics implies the incorporation of ‘background’ refuse from the general vicinity rather than specific domestic refuse dumping events.

Infilling Horizon 4 pottery includes ceramics dating from the mid 17th to late 18th centuries (Table 1). The mid 17th century wares are similar to the Infilling Horizon 3 group, although much fresher with less abrasion. This suggests that this had been relatively protected, perhaps in a midden or other feature that was disturbed and deposited in the ditch. Early 18th century wares are poorly represented with English tin glaze earthenware, Kangxi and early Qianlong Chinese export wares conspicuous by their absence.

Most of the ceramics were fragments of flatware, kitchenware, chamber pots and teaware in the full range of later 18th century fabrics, including Staffordshire white salt-glazed stoneware, lead-glazed Staffordshire earthenware, creamware (Figure 6.4, 6.6-10 & 6.13), pearlware (Figure 6.12), Nottinghamshire/

Table 1. Pottery from Infilling Horizons 3 and 4, quantified by number of sherds (Roman pottery and unidentified material omitted).

Fabric	Infilling Horizon 3	%	Infilling Horizon 4	%
Creamware	0	-	211	37.8
Pearlware	0	-	30	5.4
Tin-glazed earthenware	9	15.6	6	1.1
Chinese export porcelain	0	-	7	1.3
Salt-glazed stoneware	1	1.7	24	4.3
English soft paste porcelain	0	-	4	0.7
Staffs lead-glazed earthenware	0	-	7	1.3
Staffs slipware	10	17.2	36	6.4
Scratch blue	0	-	3	0.5
Black basalt	0	-	1	0.2
Glazed Red Earthenware	34	58.6	216	37.2
Babylon ware	2	3.4	1	0.2
German stoneware	2	3.4	14	2.4
Total	58		560	

Derbyshire type stoneware (Fig. 6.5), scratch blue ware, slipware plus a small amount of English soft paste porcelain (Figure 6.11) and Chinese export porcelain.

The most common type of pottery creamware was first produced in the 1740s; by the 1760s it had largely replaced earlier wares and remained extremely popular until the 1780s. Pearlware came into use in the mid 1770s and significant production occurred from the early 1780s. There was also a single fragment of a Staffordshire black basalt teapot or cream jug, this ware was refined by Josiah Wedgewood in the early 1770s and was popular and widely imitated until the early 19th century. The bulk of the pottery probably dates to the 1770s and 1780s; as a whole the group probably relates to the period when pearlware was replacing creamware in the 1780s. None of the other pottery is closely dateable, but it is all compatible with this dating. No 19th century wares, such as general refined white earthenwares, bone china and utilitarian stonewares, were present.

The assemblage lacked any reconstructable vessels and the sherd-size and mean weight (12g for creamwares) is relatively low, indicating that this is not a ‘clearance deposit’ involving the direct dumping of domestic refuse (cf Pearce 2000); the pottery may derive from a midden or other feature. If the majority of the pottery dates to the 1770s and 1780s, then a time lag from production to discard of 15–25 years (cf. Adams 2003) suggests a date of deposition around 1800.

The period 1770 to 1780 witnessed the increasing popularity of creamwares and pearlwares, in the main produced in Staffordshire (Barker & Halfpenny 1990). These replaced white salt-glazed stonewares, Staffordshire lead-glazed and tin-glazed earthen-

wares within the marketplace at this time (Mountford 1971). This assemblage is a 'snap-shot' of these consumer trends. The vast majority of the wares are plain, standard utilitarian wares with little decorative appeal. The finer English porcelains with underglaze decoration by Worcester, Lowestoft etc are rare (1%), as is fine Qianlong blue and white Chinese export porcelain (2%), and there are no enamelled creamwares, suggesting a relatively low status origin for the material. Three creamware plates have under glaze painted names of either colleges or individuals on the underside of their bases. They read "Tr.." (probably Trinity or Trinity Hall), "Smithson", and "G.Wi..." (Figure 6.8 to 6.10). The named individuals may well be the head chefs from college kitchens, who had to supply such plates themselves, or innkeepers.¹ Similarly marked vessels have been found at other recent excavations in Cambridge, including Grand Arcade (Cessford in prep) and Bradwell's Court (Newman in prep).

Discussion

The Civil War refortification of Cambridge Castle occupied a crucial strategic position overlooking the town and the route to Magdalene Bridge. A relatively regular four-bastioned fortification was constructed, with the existing motte effectively forming a fifth 'bastion'. The western and northern bastions facing away from the town were substantially larger than the eastern and southern bastions, indicating that this was the perceived direction of greatest threat. The ditch of the western bastion of the Civil War defences was around 4m deep and 13m wide, steep sided and flat bottomed. The excavations on land adjacent to 68 Castle Street allow the establishment of the exact location of the bastion and combined with the 1994 observations allows us to tentatively reconstruct its form (Figure 7.1), although the result is undoubtedly somewhat unorthodox and only larger scale investigations will allow greater certainty.

The most reliable depiction of Castle Hill prior to the Civil War is the map by John Hammond in 1592 (Fig 7). This indicates that Castle Street as such did not exist in the late 16th century. Instead there was a relatively wide open area to the southwest of the Castle, which continued northeastwards as a substantial open area in front of the church of All Saints at the Castle. Overall the impression provided

by Hammond is that the construction of Civil War defences would have required the clearance of some houses, but not a very large number.

Although a small portion of the ditch filled from natural erosion and weathering (plus deliberate infilling) during and soon after the Civil War, this still left a substantial extant feature that slowly continued to partially fill over a period of around 150 years. The earliest reasonably accurate map of Castle Hill after the Civil War was produced by David Loggan in 1688 (Figure 5.1), which shows the southwestern extent of the surviving Castle defences stopping short of Castle Street by this date. The southeastern and northeastern sides are shown as having open ditches, no open ditch is shown on the northwestern side but this may be due to the three-dimensional perspective of the map. The northwestern rampart is depicted as having trees growing along it, but these are not shown on the western bastion. The area to the north of the bastion is open fields. The area inside the defences contained a number of buildings including the Shire House, the Prison, an enclosed orchard and the House of Correction and jurors house. Outside the ditch to the north, the area was ploughed fields. A rather curious kink in the alignment of Castle Street probably reflects a partial reversion to the layout of the area prior to the Civil War as depicted by Hammond. Although Loggan's map of 1688 established the traditional model for the Civil War Castle defences, two factors need to be borne in mind. Loggan records the contemporary late 17th century townscape, not the Civil War fortifications of over 40 years earlier. Additionally he utilised a three-dimensional perspective, which created potential confusion when later cartographers or authors reused his work. The excavations have demonstrated that, contrary to some later sources but not necessarily to Loggan, the western bastion did cross the line of Castle Street and was probably relatively similar in size and shape to the northern bastion.

Castle Street had definitely been reopened by the time of Loggan's plan of 1688. Much of the western bastion ditch must, therefore, have been infilled and the earthworks slighted. F.28 fulfilled no obvious role, as it only divided the Castle area from ploughed fields. This suggests that it was acceptable to whoever owned the land for such a large open feature to exist, and that they had the power and will to prevent casual encroachment or dumping of material in the ditch. This indicates that the Castle authorities were deliberately maintaining the ditch, possibly relating to the use of the Castle as the County Gaol.

An anonymous plan of 1763 (Figure 5.2) adds relatively little, although the western bastion is depicted rather differently. A plan of 1785 (Figure 5.3) provides considerable detail; in particular it suggests that the western bastion was similar to the northern bastion. A plan by William Custance in 1798 (Figure 5.4) appears to simply replicate elements of the earlier Loggan plan, which Custance often did when major changes had not occurred.

By the early 19th century the ditch was still around 2.6m deep and 13m wide when it was deliberately

¹ With the assistance of Rachel Wroth it was possible after this article was written to identify the individuals probably associated with these names. 'Smithson' probably relates to Christopher Smithson, a cook of St John's College, who paid a bond to the trustees of the Cambridge to Ely Turnpike in 1782. Smithson married Sarah Geary at All Saint's in 1769; the baptisms and burials of their children are mentioned in the parish registers of St. Edward's in 1772 and Holy Sepulchre between 1773 and 1776. 'G. Wi...' was probably a member of the Wicks family, cooks at various Colleges between 1750 and 1857. A George Wicks was cook between 1820 and 1851, too late to be linked to the plates, but there may have been an earlier member of the family with the same name.

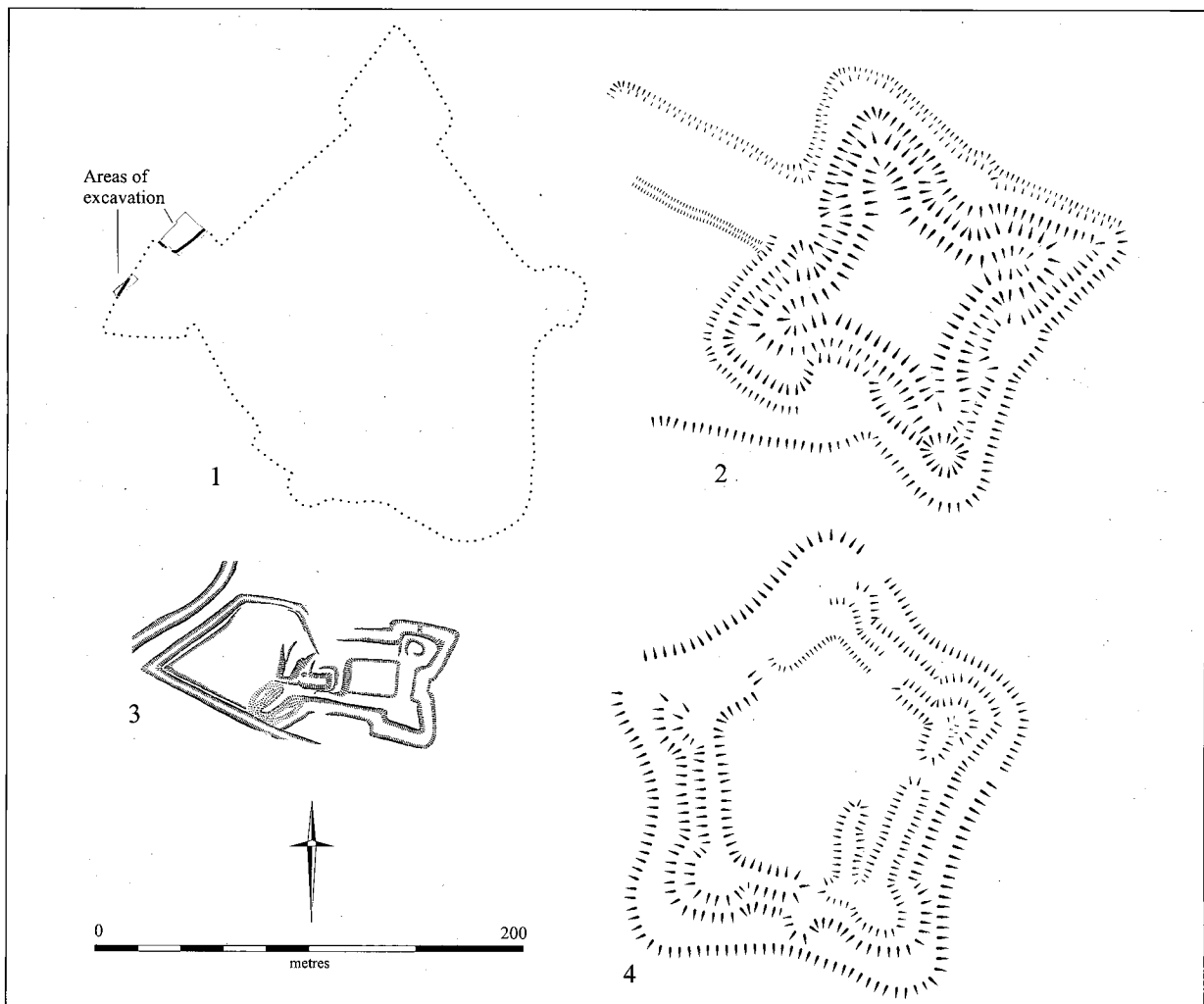


Figure 7. Cambridge Castle and other Civil War earthworks in Cambridge.

7.1 Cambridge Castle

7.2 Earith Bulwark.

7.3 Battery Hills, March.

7.4 Horsey Hill, Stanground.

backfilled. The octagonal County Gaol was built between 1802 and 1807 and at the time a local antiquary John Bowtell made some valuable records. In 1802 'the height of these [the Civil War] ramparts from the bottom of the fosse, in a diagonal direction, was full sixteen yards' (14.6m). The ramparts 'perpendicular height from the level of the surface on which they were raised, was 17 feet 6 inches' (5.3m) and they had 'courses of retentive gault and firm white clay, alternately laid in a chevronal position'. The figures provided by Bowtell suggest that in 1802 the ditch was roughly 3m deep, which is broadly comparable with the archaeological results of around 2.6m; 'Some of the ramparts were thrown into the adjacent deep fosse', and the surface of the bailey was lowered and levelled by four to ten feet (1.2 to 3.0m). The material removed contained 'a great number of stone bullets' and clay tobacco pipes 'down to the reign of Charles I', suggesting that it included Civil War deposits. Allowing for a time-lag in the deposition of the pottery, the ditch around the western bastion could well

have been infilled as part of the events of 1802. It is unlikely to have occurred much later as 19th century wares would probably have been present. By the time of Richard Baker's map in 1830 (Figure 5.5), most of the northwestern defences and the western bastion had disappeared and the area to the north (formerly occupied by open fields) has been built up. These early 19th century buildings were represented archaeologically by a cellar and two wells (Figure 2), lying to the rear of buildings fronting onto Castle Street.

As well as the refortification of the Castle, there were a number of other Civil War defensive measures in Cambridge. Most of the bridges over the Cam were removed and a gun emplacement was located on Magdalene Bridge. A ditch with rampart was dug around the lower town, with a small square fort with angle bastions known as a sconce where the defences crossed Jesus Lane. The Castle and town defences did not exist in isolation; to the northeast along the river Cam, there was another sconce in Chesterton at Mount Ararat and, also, a gun battery on the Devil's

Ditch. Further downriver on the Ouse, before Ely, there were defences at Stretham and Upware, and westwards along the Ouse more were located at Aldreth, Willingham and Earith. The well preserved earthworks of the fort at Earith, known as the Bulwark (Figure 7.2), show that it was a roughly square enclosure, around 60m by 60m, with arrow-headed bastions on each corner measuring around 30m by 24m. The top of its rampart was around 9m wide and 0.9m above the ground level inside the fort and the ditch 1.5 to 2.75m deep and 5m wide at the base. Further afield, there are other well preserved earthworks at March and Stanground. At Battery Hills, March (Figure 7.3), there is a low rectangular platform 60m long by 35m wide, around 1m high, with a ditch 8m wide and 0.8m deep, which has 15m wide bastions. The fortifications at Horsey Hill, Stanground (Figure 7.4), are similar to those at Earith, but pentagonal and are 5m from the base of the ditch to the top of the rampart. These are among a large number of sites around the northern and northwestern edge of Cambridgeshire generally controlling lines of communication and defining the limits of the parliamentarian Eastern Association. The Civil War defences of Cambridge Castle enclose an area of broadly 130 by 110m and the bastions appear to be around 22m wide. It, therefore, had around four times the internal space of the other sites with a more substantial ditch and earthwork.

Conclusion

Although the excavations adjacent to 68 Castle Street only revealed a small area of the Civil War ditch of Cambridge Castle, it was the first opportunity to examine this feature in detail. It allows part of the ditch to be precisely located and provides information about its shape and form. The most unanticipated discovery was the demonstration by the infilling sequence of something of the overall character of Castle Hill during the mid 17th to early 19th centuries (*cf.* Cessford with Dickens 2005). For over a century and a half it was left largely undisturbed, as the area was a relatively unimportant backwater. Its final infilling related to the beginning of the 19th century, when the area was absorbed into the town proper and in particular to the construction of the County Gaol.

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