

wall along the northern ditch was probably very narrow.

The general absence of structural remains, such as post-holes, between the two sets of ditches is probably the result of 19th century truncation. Within one backfilled Norman pit were four post-holes grouped in a square pattern, their plan suggests that they were part of one structure of unknown function.

Archaeological survey of the party wall between 56 Carter Lane and 1-3 Ludgate Square revealed no sign of Norman masonry; the oldest fabric is probably of late 16th century date.

The associated city defences

The western side of the fortress was protected by the existing city defences, which according to the deed of 1278 ran from Ludgate south to the Thames. This part of the Roman city wall was demolished in c 1282 when the city wall was extended westwards at the request of the Dominicans¹². The exact position of this stretch of city wall is uncertain, but its approximate position can be inferred from several excavations. Firstly, excavations at 7 Ludgate Broadway in 1985 revealed the western edge of a large ditch aligned north-south, interpreted as part of the Roman defences¹³. Secondly, excavations at 12-13 Ludgate Broadway in 1983 revealed two intercutting ditches aligned north-south¹⁴,

12. *Op. cit.* fn. 1, 9.

13. J. Hill 'Excavations at 7 Ludgate Broadway (LBY85)'. Archive report, DUA, Museum of London.

the later of which was probably part of the Norman defences (see Fig. 3). Thirdly, excavations further east along Carter Lane have revealed no sign of the city wall, suggesting that it lies undiscovered between these various excavations.

Conclusions

The recent excavations bear out the existence of a Norman fortress near Ludgate, on the site indicated for Montfichet's Tower in the deed of 1278. The fortress was defended on the west side by the existing city defences and on the other sides by ditches, of which to date only those to the north and south have been located. The absence of walls, ramparts or internal structures is probably due to truncation of the site in the Victorian period. The western part of the interior appears to have been open space and was used for pit digging. This area is interpreted as the bailey and was probably occupied by timber buildings such as stables and store houses, as well as accommodation for the garrison. The eastern part of the site remains unexplored, but it may have been occupied by a motte and keep (see Fig. 5).

Acknowledgements

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14. P. Rowsome 'Excavations at 12/13 Ludgate Broadway (WAY83)'. Archive report, DUA, Museum of London.

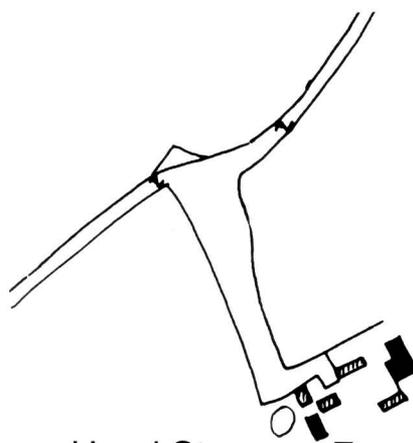
Letter

Headstone Manor

I NOTED THAT in the article on the Headstone Manor excavation (*LA* 6, no. 12, 328-332) the discussion referred to cartographic evidence dating from 1819 to 1914. I attach an extract from Isaac Messeder's plan of the Parish of Harrow, dated 1759 and prepared for Lord Northwick, then Lord of the Manor, which shows the estate in quite large detail. It confirms that at that date the area proposed for siting the new barn was open farmyard.

I should be interested to know something about the building to the right of the pond should they decide to build anything there.

Humphrey Ward
47 The Chase
Stanmore
Middlesex



Head Stone Farm

Extract from Isaac Messeder's map of Parish of Harrow in 1759, in GLRO.