

WEOLEY CASTLE -
an appraisal of the surviving
Archaeological Archive



by
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1.0 INTRODUCTION

Excavations at Weoley Castle were undertaken in two campaigns; the first between 1932 and 1940 and the second between 1955 and 1962. The ravages of time and the war have not been kind to the written archives of these major excavations. The following report attempts to create as full a picture of the archaeology of Weoley Castle as possible within the constraints of the surviving information. A typical modern site archive might consist of:

Context sheets and register

Photographs, negatives, prints and register

Plans and sections, site drawings and register

Finds, objects and register

Survey data, both in plan and heights above sea level

Site note books

Interim reports

Until the recent past these would normally survive as actual finds and samples, paper/card records, photographic films, plastic drawing films and notebooks and all these categories would be cross-referenced. More recently all or most of these records would have been recorded, either primarily or as a secondary operation, as digital files.

The Weoley Castle archive until recently survived as an uncoordinated mass of paper records with finds information, newspaper cuttings, copies of publication plans, photographs etc all intermingled. More recently these papers have been scanned by K. Nicholls in an attempt to make them not only more accessible but also in an attempt to bring order and some understanding to them. The following assessment is based on that digitised archive.

1.1 Location

Weoley Castle is a medieval moated manor house situated four miles southwest of the centre of Birmingham. It occupies a low-lying site in the valley of the Stonehouse Brook with low hills rising to the north and south of the castle site. The stream originally fed the moat but its course was altered in 1792 during the construction of the Dudley Canal and it was diverted into a new sewer in the 1930s when the Weoley Castle Corporation Housing Estate was built. The moat

is now completely dry, although waterlogged during periods of prolonged rain (Blockley, 2006).

1.2 Recent History

The site now consists of a moated enclosure bounded by a red sandstone curtain wall, the interior containing the foundations of domestic ranges. After abandonment in the sixteenth century, the site was incorporated into Weoley Castle Farm and was described as a ruined castle in the middle of the seventeenth century. The moat remained at least partially wet whilst the castle interior was used for gardens and the masonry as a quarry for building stone on various building projects e.g. The Dudley Canal. Interest in the castle site was revived when Birmingham Corporation took possession of the area and began construction of a housing estate, which was soon to surround the site. The Corporation embarked on a campaign of excavation intended to reveal and consolidate the remaining masonry as a historical amenity for local and regional education and pleasure, in what was then perceived to be a largely modern industrial city. The first excavation campaign was directed by G.M. Bark of the Town Clerk's Department, assisted by J.T. Cutts of the City Surveyor's Department and advised by P.B. Chatwin for the Ministry of Public Buildings and Works. The campaign ran from 1932 to 1940 when the war intervened and when the major part of the excavation record was destroyed by enemy action.

The second campaign took place between 1955 and 1962 and was directed by A. Oswald for Birmingham Museums and Art Gallery. The archaeological discoveries at Weoley Castle were very significant both in terms of the structural history and the finds recovered during excavation. Despite this the published literature is very limited on the structures excavated although individual aspects of the finds aroused more interest and there are various published articles on different aspects of the finds collection.

1.3 History

The table below is taken, with slight amendments, from Pages 62-63 of Oswald's first interim report and is intended only to highlight some of the principal events known to be connected to Weoley Castle and its owners.

Year	Event
1264	Licence to Roger de Somery to enclose with a ditch and a wall of stone and lime, fortify and crenellate the dwelling house of his manor of Weoley.
1272	Roger died.
1276	Possibly work commenced by his son Roger who at this date took 40 acres of common pasture into his park at Weoley.
1280	Building in use for the birth of Roger's son John.
1322	Death of John de Somery. Manor reverts to his sister, Joan, who married Thomas de Botetort, who in 1339 was seized of land in Weoley.
1386	John de Botetort's heiress, Joyce, married Sir Hugh de Burnell.
1384- 1430	Sir Hugh represented the manor of Weoley until his death.
1439	Katherine, cousin of Joyce, married Sir Maurice de Berkeley who obtained possession of Weoley.
1475	Their grandson, Maurice de Berkeley died, seized of Weoley.
1495	William de Berkeley was attainted and Weoley passed to the Dudley family.
1536	Richard Jerveys, Sheriff of London, bought the manor for 1,200 marks.
1644	Thomas Jerveys, after fighting for Parliament, became steward of the manor of Richmond. The Jerveys family remained in possession of Weoley until early nineteenth century.

1.4 Publications

The following list incorporates only those articles concerned with the archaeological excavation and the structures they unearthed. John Hunts doctoral thesis concerns itself more with the documentary and historical setting of the early periods of the castle.

Blockley, M. 2006 Weoley Castle Conservation Management Plan

Chatwin, P.B. 1940 Transactions of the Birmingham and Warwickshire Archaeological Society Vol. 63:63-4, 69-70

Chatwin, P.B. 1947 Transactions of the Birmingham and Warwickshire Archaeological Society Vol. 67:34

Hunt, J. 1997 Lordship and the landscape: a documentary and archaeological study of the Honor of Dudley, c.1066-1322, British Archaeological Reports

Oswald, A. 1962 Interim Report on Excavations at Weoley Castle, 1955-60 Transactions of the Birmingham and Warwickshire Archaeological Society Vol. 78: 61-85

Oswald A 1964 Excavation of a thirteenth century wooden building at Weoley Castle, Birmingham 1060-61 Medieval Archaeology Vol. VI-VII: 109-134

Rigold, S.E. 1975 Structural aspects of medieval timber bridges Medieval Archaeology Vol. XIX: 48-91

Smith, J.T. 1965 The structure of the timber kitchen at Weoley Castle Birmingham Medieval Archaeology Vol. IX: 82-93

Symons, D. 1983 Weoley Castle and Northfield in 1424 Transactions of the Birmingham and Warwickshire Archaeological Society Vol. 93: 45-55

1.5 Aims of the project

The following report is specifically confined to an attempt at defining the amount of information to be gleaned from the remaining archives held by Birmingham Museum and Art Galleries. The current scheme of works including consolidation of the ruins, provision of a new educational facility and the re-appraisal of the site archive has been permitted by the provision of a Grant from the National Lottery Heritage Fund. The next stage is the detailed analysis of the finds collection which will be integrated with the excavation information to provide a more refined or possibly even different interpretation of the castle's phasing than that developed by Oswald. At completion the project should provide a better understanding of the monument with a fund of accessible information of educational value to students of all ages.

1.6 Reduced Archive

A series of PDF files have been compiled to accompany this report, containing a reduced archive which is intended to be used in conjunction with the text. The PDF files contain plans, photographs and notes, where available, broken down into individual excavation areas etc. based on the Contents of this report and numbered accordingly. The files should also be useful to all finds specialists when preparing their reports in order to better understand the site. At the end of the project it is intended that the whole of the Weoley Castle scanned archive will form an accessible addition to the museum's records. The files provided are broken down into sections and numbered corresponding to the principal elements of the Contents page with

some files being further sub-divided. Each image is referred to only by its Scan number.

2.0 PRE-WAR EXCAVATIONS

2.1 The Archive

2.1.1 Site Reports etc.

(PDF: Pre-war Excavations/Documents/Reports)

Excavations at Weoley Castle began in May 1932 with three documents surviving providing some information as to their progress.

Report 1, Scans 1032-1932b and 1032-1932a

Notes that prior to excavation there was “only a small piece of masonry above ground” but that magnificent masonry including an arch had been exposed and that finds had been collected. The excavations were undertaken by Mr Bark of the Town Clerk’s Department and involved the City Surveyors Department and university students. The excavations were overseen by Mr Chapman of His Majesties Office of Works, Department of Antiquities.

Report 2, Scans 1033-1035

A more detailed report of two and a half pages is dated July 1932, signed by Mr Bark and headed Interim Report. This document notes that the water level within the remaining moat was 4ft below the present ground surface and that excavations had removed 18 inches of turf and topsoil overlying a further 32 inches of demolition rubble although deposits of puddle clay were noted against the north wall, possibly associated with canal construction in the 18th century.

The third document is in the form of a card which contains transcripts from The Birmingham Archaeological Society and details of finds, photographs and press cuttings. It would appear that in the recent past an attempt to correlate as much information as possible has been made and incorporated on yearly cards. Further attempts to correlate the documentary and plan archive have been made and the following table provides the scans which can be found within their respective folders. The record cards may be of great use when work on finds analysis begins.

Year	Document	Plan
1932	1036-1932	1025
1933	Missing?	1027
1934	1020-1934	1022
1935	1019-1935	1018

1936	1013-1936	1007
1937	1010-1937	1011
1938	1012-1938	1006
1939	1004-1939	1002
1940	1015-1940	Missing?

The last document of interest is a scrap of blue paper, Scan 1003-1940, which records

Y43Y 4 Dec 1940

*All Bark's and Gauk's notes on Weoley ...
and Jones' reports, destroyed by enemy action*

2.1.2 The Diary

(PDF: Pre-war Excavations/Documents/Notebook)

A notebook was scanned producing 27 images, some single and some double paged. Scans 971 and 972 will be of use when finds analysis begins whilst the detailed notes on masons' marks will be of considerable interest if research in that area is pursued. Of particular interest are Scans 986-990 in which thoughts on the Great Hall and Northeast Tower Complex are laid out.

List of scans

967, 977 Sketch and notes on the North-east Tower

978 Notes on moat

971 Notes on finds from 1932

972 Notes on finds from 1938

978-985 and 996-999 Notes on masons' marks

986-990 Notes on the Great Hall etc.

991 Names and positions of site staff

992 1932 Notes

993-995 Notes on newspaper articles and committee report

Note: Word Document "Pre-war Notes" is a typed copy of Scans 971, 972, 978, 986-990, 991, 992 and includes an extract from Family Tree by Nancie Burns, published by Faber and Faber in 1962 (Chapter 6, Page 66).

2.1.3 The Plan Archive

(PDF: Pre-war Excavations/Plans)

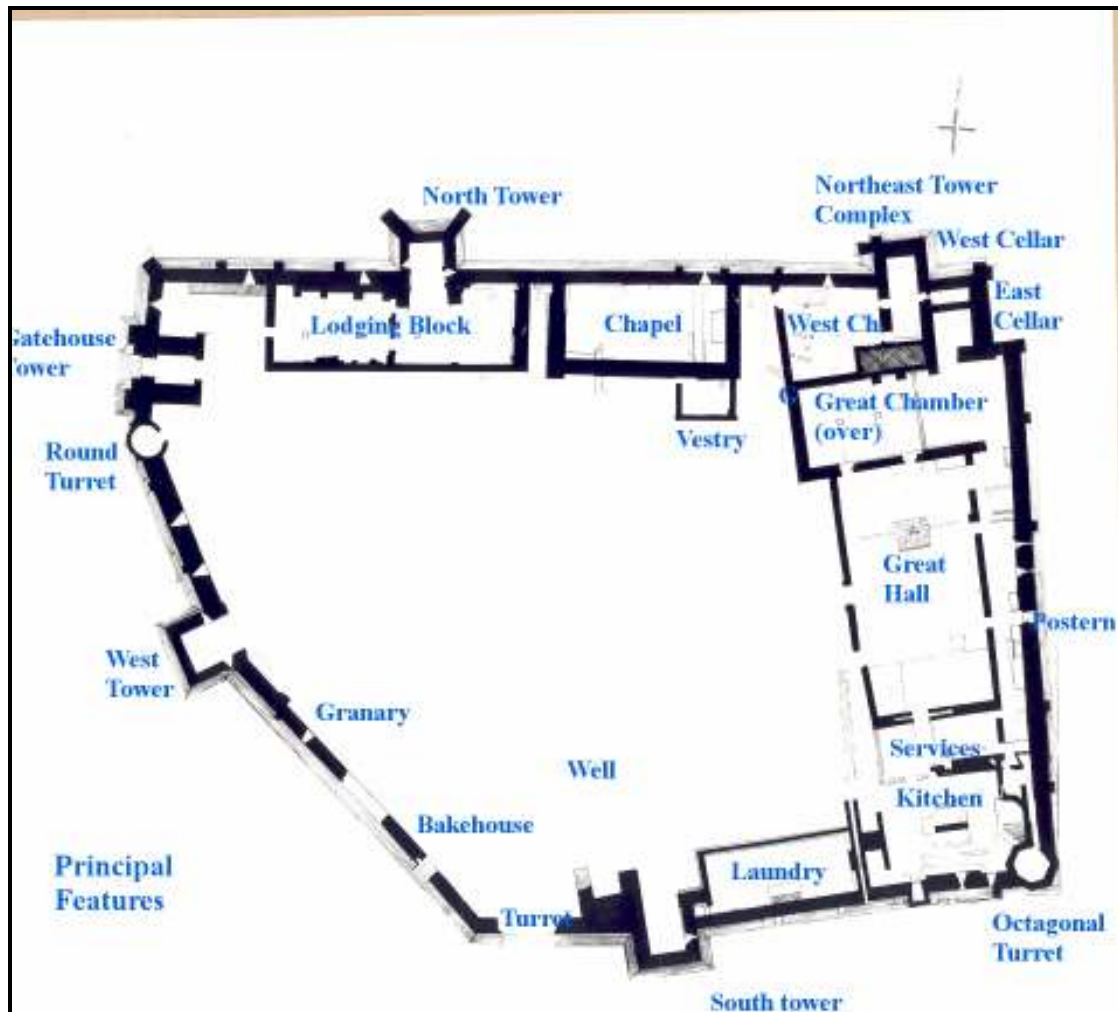


Fig. 2.1: Plan of castle showing principal features and chambers (Scan 030 modified)

Scan No.	Copies	Description
<i>Folder: Surveys</i>		
010	586, 969	Copy with notes on masons' marks
031	549	Ordnance Survey
067	1044 detail....	Survey of Northeast Tower Complex
068	detail of...	Fragment showing chapel and floor tile locations
1000/1001	January 1940 Plans A and B	Survey dated January 1940
333	1318-1934	General survey
<i>Folder: Annual Plans</i>		

973		Annotated Survey pre-1940
974		Green ink – can not read it
975		Red ink
976		Red ink
1002		1939
1006	1009	1938
1007		1936
1011		1937
1018		1935
1022		1934
1025		1932
1027		1933
Folder: coloured plan		
073-077	1050-1054 North Range 1-5	Survey of North Range
Folder: pencil survey – se corner		
069-072	1046-1049	Survey of south-east corner in pencil

2.1.4 Photographic Archive

Various attempts have been made to establish catalogues for the surviving pre-war photographic prints but none of them have proven comprehensive or necessarily correct. Some attempt has also been attempted to classify the photographs by year based on the surviving information scattered throughout the archive. All of these attempts survive within the scanned archive with their varying codes but have not been used for the purpose of this report. The referencing of the photographs has relied solely on the scanned image number and the identification of their location based on the surviving standing masonry. Within the scans there are photographs of finds, usually stonework, and photographs of the farm etc. these have been excluded from the excavation sequences listed below. The surviving photographs have been divided into three categories:

Initial clearance

Standing Masonry – Exterior

Standing Masonry – Interior

Initial Clearance



Fig. 2.2: Initial clearance, uncertain location, Gate Tower, looking west?

(Scan 190)

The archive contains the scans of pre-war photographs which appear to come from an early stage within the excavations. The majority show fragments of masonry appearing when foliage and topsoil cover are just in the process of removal and some of them show highly decorated architectural detail. Unfortunately, the locations of the majority of these scans have not, to date, been identified.

Scan	Copies	Description
003		
131	377, 936, 1482	
143	389, 934	
158	404	
160	162, 406, 408	West Tower
161	407	Round Turret
163		
164	410	
165	411, 897	
167	891	
169	415, 892	
177	423, 898	
178	424, 899	
190	436, 913	Back of Gate Tower
192	438, 914	
409		
439	440, 915	
891		
893		
894		
895		
896		

Standing Masonry – Exterior

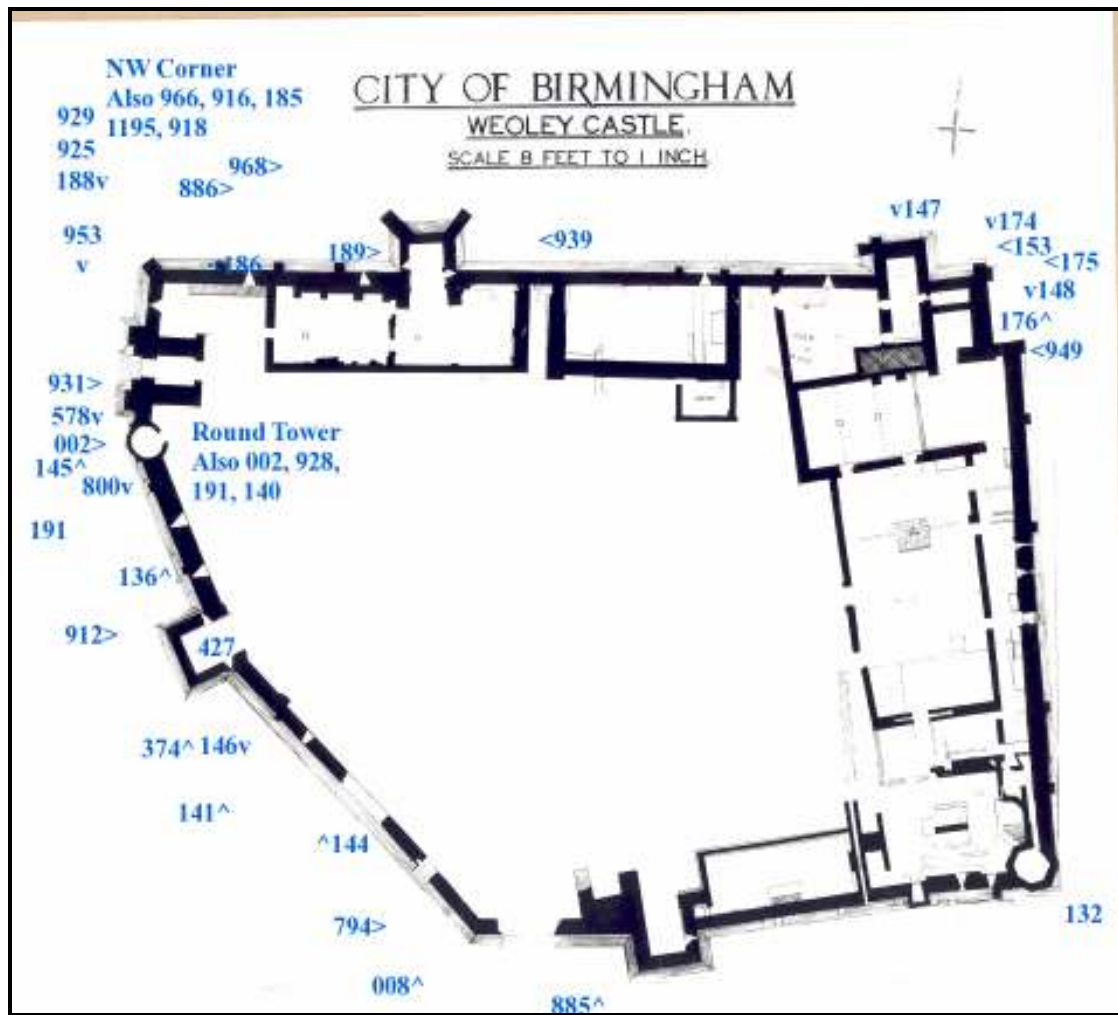


Fig. 2.3: Plan of castle showing approximate location of exterior masonry photographs (Scan 030 modified)

There are a number of Scans showing the external faces of the curtain wall as they were exposed during excavation. The table below catalogues the scans of the photographic prints as excavation progressed. The sequence proceeds anti-clockwise from the northwest corner, the Gatehouse Tower, and is intended to compliment the description within the following text, 2.2 The Standing Masonry - Exterior.

Scan	Copies	Looking	Description
009	585	north	Aerial view (probably post-war)
953		south	Wooden drawbridge timbers
931	932	east	Gatehouse Tower facade
145	391	northeast	Gatehouse Tower
578	930	southeast	Round Tower

002	577, 927	east	Round tower
928		north	Round Tower
191		northeast	Round Tower
140	437, 919, 386	northeast	Round Tower
136	382, 924, 1487	north	Round Tower
007	578	south	Round Tower
912		southeast	West Tower
800		south	West Tower
374		northeast	West Tower
427	902	north	West Tower, north arch
141	965	north	West Tower
146	392, 933	southeast	Southwest Wall
144	390, 937	north	Southwest Wall
794		east	Southwest Wall, the sink
008	155, 401. 583, 954	northeast	Southwest Wall, west corner
885		east	South Tower
132	378, 955, 1483	northwest	Southeast corner/Octagonal Tower
176		north	NE - East Cellar, east wall angle
949		west	NE - East Cellar, east wall angle
148	394	south	NE - East Cellar, east wall angle
175	421, 907	west	NE - West Cellar, north face cross buttress
174	420, 910	south	NE - East Cellar, cross buttress
153	399, 947	west	NE - West Cellar, north face
147	948, 993	east	NE - West Cellar, north face
149	395, 950	northeast	NE - West Cellar, internal
939		west	North Tower, east face
189	435, 917	East	North Tower, west face
968		southeast	North Tower, excavation in moat

886		east	North Tower, west face
908		north	North Tower, west face
186, 187	432, 433	west	Northeast corner, diagonal buttress
966		southwest	Northwest corner, diagonal buttress
916		southeast	Northwest corner, north face
185	431	east	Northwest corner, diagonal buttress
195		southeast	Northwest corner, diagonal buttress
918		east	Northwest corner, north face
188	441, 434	southeast	Northwest corner
925		southeast	Northwest corner
929		southeast	Northwest corner
923		?	Unidentified
142	388, 959	?	Unidentified buttress
957,958, 959			Sluice Gate (see post-war excavations)

Standing Masonry - Interior

The table below reveals the number of photographs identified within the scanned archive which show buildings exposed during excavation and undergoing consolidation. The table begins at the Gatehouse Tower and proceeds in an anti-clockwise direction and is intended to accompany the text, 2.3 The Standing Masonry - Interior.

Scan	Copies	Looking	Description
004	580, 941	north	Gate Tower
005	150, 396, 581, 942	east	Lodging Block and the northern range
797		east	Lodging block
006	582, 943	west	Lodging Block
945			
375	1480	east	Chapel, tile floor detail
909		east	Chapel, tile floor detail
944		west	Chapel
182	903	east	NE – Northwest Chamber

900		northeast	NE – Northwest Chamber
173	905	north	NE – Northwest Chamber
854		northwest	NE – Northwest Chamber
859		west	NE – Northwest Chamber
791		west	NE – Northwest Chamber
127	180, 1478	north	NE – West Cellar
168		west	NE – East Cellar
151		north	NE – West Cellar
154		north	NE – West Cellar
183		north	NE – West Cellar
804		north	NE – West Cellar
168		west	NE – West Cellar
092	338, 1327	east	NE – South Chamber
079	325, 1299	south	NE – South Chamber
1343		south	NE – South Chamber
594		northwest	NE – South Chamber
152	398, 946	north	NE - South Chamber
091	337, 1326	north	NE – South Chamber
156	402, 956	west	Kitchen
951		east	Kitchen
960		east	The Well

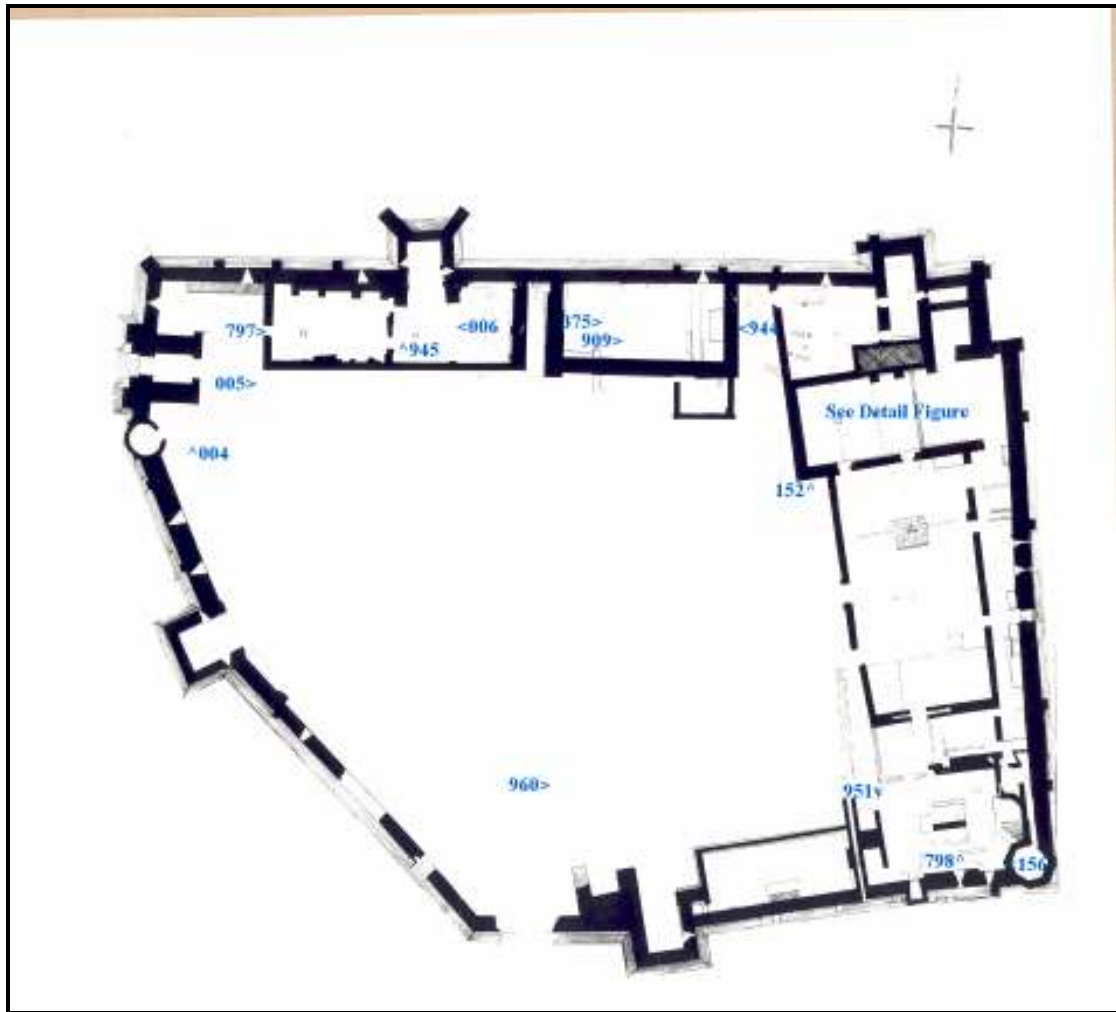
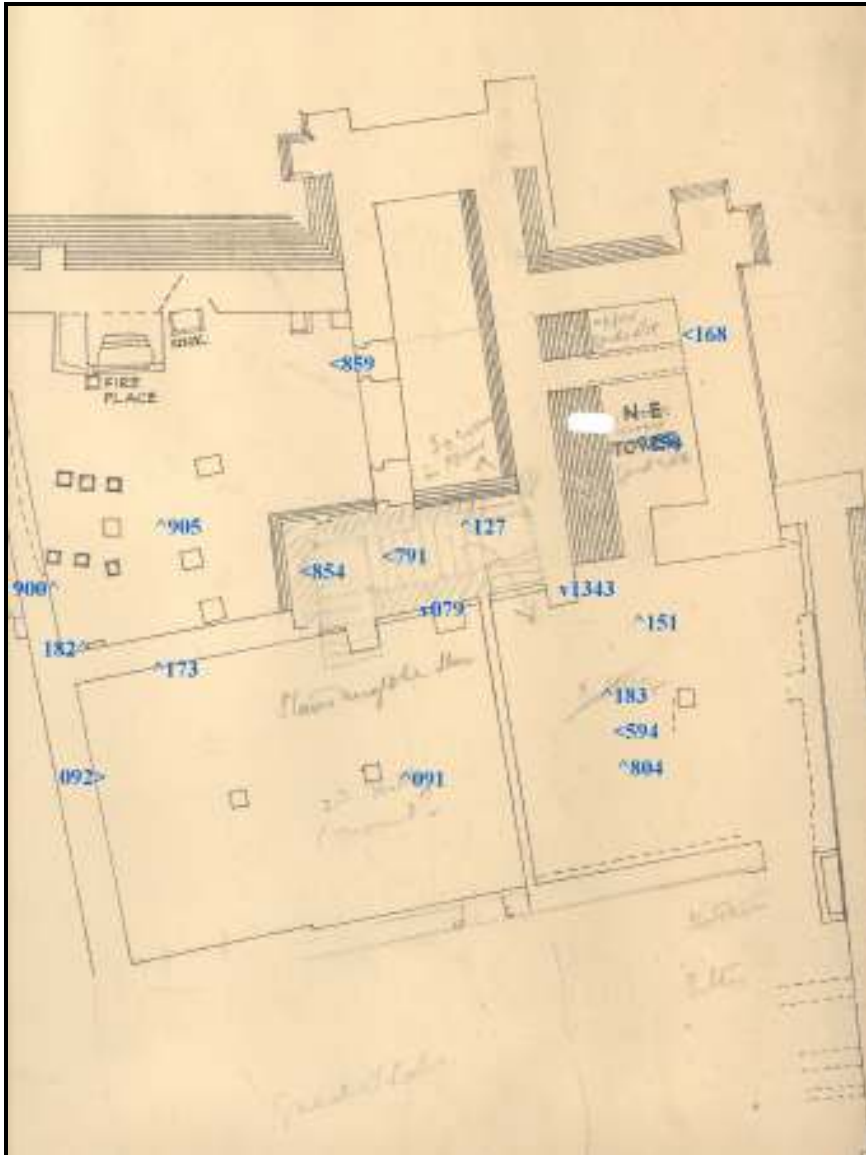


Fig. 2.4: Plan of castle showing approximate location of interior masonry photographs (Scan 030 modified)



*Fig. 2.5: The North East Tower Complex, approximate location of photographs
(Scan 1044, modified)*

2.2 The Standing Masonry, Exterior

On first viewing, the most distinctive feature of Weoley Castle is the battered plinth built of well coursed, red sandstone ashlar masonry which rises from the base of the moat at 20 degrees from the vertical to a height of 2.50m to support the encircling curtain wall. It is notable that if the moat were to be water-filled to a depth of 8 feet as has been suggested then the plinth would have been totally submerged. The wall faces are characterised by the various towers which project from its face and also by pilaster buttresses and other buttress-like features – possibly later insertions. Another frequent feature of the wall is the number of arrow loops noted in the pre-war survey. Due to

degradation of the masonry these are now not so readily visible as when freshly uncovered by the earliest excavators. On average the arrow loops were 1.30m wide internally with each reveal angled in at 25 degrees to create a narrow slit of unknown height. The bases of the arrow loops are generally very close to the ground level of the castle interior after the levelling which took place as part of the Period IV re-modelling. Unless the slits were exceedingly tall this makes them of little defensive value. This is highlighted when one sees them very quickly blocked or obscured by internal architectural features such as pier bases (in the Granary) etc. Could it be that the walls were designed before it was realised that the ground level in the interior was to be raised or was it always likely that the arrow loops were viewed as decorative or symbolic; signs of defensive capacity rather than real defences.

A survey of the exterior walls is reproduced in Blockley 2006 as Figures 20 and 21. The survey highlights areas of replacement and re-bedding of stonework, generally associated with the extensive consolidation work undertaken in the aftermath of the pre-war excavations. A number of measurements used in the following description are taken from this survey. The description follows the wall circuit starting at the northwest corner, the Gatehouse Tower, and proceeds anti-clockwise around the circuit.

The West Wall

The 1424 survey

“... whereof the gate at the entry to the second castle is one with six chambers and chimneys in the same. .”



Fig. 2.6: The Gatehouse façade, looking east (Scan 931)

The Gatehouse Tower measures 5.75m wide by 6.30m and projects only slightly from the curtain wall façade. The centre-line of its passageway is 8.67m from the inner face of the northern curtain. The north and south walls are 1.92m thick whilst the west wall is 1.40m thick, just as the majority of the curtain wall, and the east wall 0.80m thick. The internal passage measures 3.00m wide by 4.10m and the gateway was 2.50m wide. Very little survives above ground level but what does survive is the complex bridge abutment below, which projects slightly into the moat and was used in conjunction with the timber drawbridge described within the post-war excavations. The external face of the Gatehouse Tower was 8.90m wide, projected from the wall line by 1.70m and had the usual chamfered plinth below. Central to the facade is a broad, shallow recess, measuring 5.30m wide by 0.50m deep, effectively leaving a buttress 1.80m wide at either side of the facade. Central to the recess was a 2.40m wide battered recess set back a further 1.00m from the facade. On either side of this

recess and some 1.00m below the start of its batter were level platforms measuring 0.70m square. These would have supported massive timbers which stood either horizontally or vertically and were associated with the bridging structure discussed elsewhere. Two sockets cut into the central batter could have taken diagonal struts to brace the bridge arrangement above. There are no obvious details to point to a pivot point for a drawbridge and if such existed it must have been within masonry now destroyed or possibly within the timbers once positioned in the sockets described above. The central feature equates in width to the gate as it appears on the various pre-war surveys. An arrow loop was located equi-distant between the northwest, internal, corner of the castle and the Gatehouse.



Fig. 2.7: The Round Turret, looking southeast (Scan 007)

At a distance of 15.00m from the inner face of the northern curtain, the west wall changes direction slightly to create an internal angle of 152 degrees and then runs to the southeast. Immediately after this angle a round turret was inserted into the wall. The turret was 3.80m in diameter with a 0.40m thick wall providing a 3.00m internal diameter. The turret was mostly encased within the curtain wall but projected slightly beyond the wall line where it was supported by a platform corbelled out from the battered plinth of the original wall line. A doorway led into the turret at ground level and it is assumed that the turret functioned as a stair tower providing access to the

wall walk and the battlements of the Gatehouse Tower. Oswald believed this turret to have been inserted in Period VIII, post 1450, but does not explain why this should be and it seems unlikely that masonry of such quality would be used at a period when the castle was already in decline.

From the Round Turret to the West Tower is a distance of 15.25m within which there are two buttresses, each 0.73m wide, springing from the top of the third course of visible masonry and 8.20m apart.



Fig. 2.8: The West Tower, looking southeast (Scan 912)

The West tower is 5.00m wide and projects into the moat 3.60m, disregarding the battered plinth. The walls are 1.00m thick, enclosing an internal space of 2.90m by 5.00m. Arrow loops survived in the north and south walls, and probably existed in the west wall also. An important feature of this tower is the survival of the springers of a two-centred arch spanning the rear wall. Excavation proved that there was no walling at foundation level joining the curtain walls to either side of the tower - being further

proof that the towers were of the same build as the curtain walls. At the southeast corner of the West Tower the curtain turns again with an internal angle of 161 degrees and then extends for 30.00m, interrupted by the causeway retained to provide visitor access into the castle's interior. Internal to the wall were the Granary and the Bakery buildings excavated by Oswald. Features visible within this stretch of wall is an arrow loops at 7.50m from the West Tower, the remains of a buttress and a feature described as a "sink" - as in the south curtain wall. The feature is 1.80m wide and projects from the plinth in the same manner as the buttresses. The features are described in more detail within the accounts of the post-war excavations.

The South Wall

The South wall turns eastwards from the West wall with an internal angle of 128 degrees. The wall in this area seems to have been badly collapsed (pre-war photograph, Scan 008) and has been consolidated as core-work. There are no visible architectural details.



Fig. 2.9: The South Tower, looking northeast (Scan 885)

The South Tower is located 13.40m from the southwest corner. Disregarding its battered plinth, the tower projects from the line of the curtain by 2.70m and was

4.90m wide. The walls were 1.00m thick and an arrow loop is noted to the east on the 1940 survey, probably balanced by one to the west. The internal space within the tower was approximately 2.90m square. The substantial masonry to the west of the tower survives to a height of 5.00m above the moat base but no excavation has indicated what structures may have lain internal to the wall in this area. To the east of the South Tower the wall is characterised by four buttresses. The buttresses are 0.60m wide with distances of 5.80m from the West Tower to the first buttress, 5.40m from first to second, an estimated 5.90m from second to third and third to fourth. The third buttress has been removed by the insertion of a wide rectangular feature commonly referred to as “the sink”. There are three small openings through the wall all towards the east and associated with kitchen drainage.

The East Wall



Fig. 2.10: The southeast corner, looking northwest (Scan 132)

The southeast corner is notable for a diagonal buttress inserted into the corner contemporary with the Octagonal Turret. Oswald dated the buttress and turret to Period VII, 1400-1450, based on the stratigraphical interpretation of a coin find. The slightly irregular Octagonal Turret measures 4.50m from flat to flat externally and has walls of 0.65m width which leaves an internal space measuring 3.0m from flat to flat.

The entrance is 0.90m wide and is located to the north, immediately adjacent to the east curtain. A block of masonry within the tower seems to be the remnants of the spiral staircase which the tower once held and indicates steps leading up clockwise.

The East Wall is 43.20m long and runs without deviation until it reaches the Northeast Tower Complex. Between the Octagonal Turret and the Northeast Complex are six buttresses the first, from the south is 0.85m wide whilst the rest are 0.60m wide. The buttresses begin above the third visible course of stonework and the sides rise vertically without chamfered detail. The third buttress begins above the second course. The distance between the first and second buttresses is 4.90m whilst between all the others it is 6.34m until between the fifth and sixth it is 6.00m. The fourth buttress is corbelled out from the wall and is designed to support the end of a timber bridge which crossed the moat to give access to a postern gate above the buttress. The gate was 0.90m wide and was reached by three steps descending through the thickness of the curtain. The seventh buttress was 0.80m wide and formed the corner where the wall turned to the west to join the Northeast Tower Complex.

Three further details are noted a put-log hole to the south of the postern gate, level with the riser of its third step, possibly forming a structural element of the superstructure of the timber bridge and two more put-log holes on either side of the second buttress.

The Northeast Tower Complex

The detailing of the Northeast Tower is essentially similar to the rest of the walls associated with the Phase IV re-modelling of the castle but contains many contradictions within the masonry which makes it difficult to establish a convincing building sequence. The tower comprises two conjoined blocks each containing a cellar and both connected to the complex of chambers which formed the solar block of the castle. These chambers are described in detail in the following section, *The Interior*.

Externally, at the north end of the east wall a buttress forms the return – to the west for a distance of 2.30m before meeting the east wall of the eastern part of the tower, containing the East Cellar. The eastern curtain may abut the masonry of this part of the tower. The masonry then turns north for a distance of 6.00m before turning west again for a distance of 5.80m. A cross buttress with battered sides re-enforced this angle. The north wall of the East Cellar joins the east wall of the West Cellar which extends a further 3.50m to the north before turning to the west for 5.00m.

A cross buttress re-enforces this corner also. It is possible that the northern curtain wall abuts the west wall of the tower.

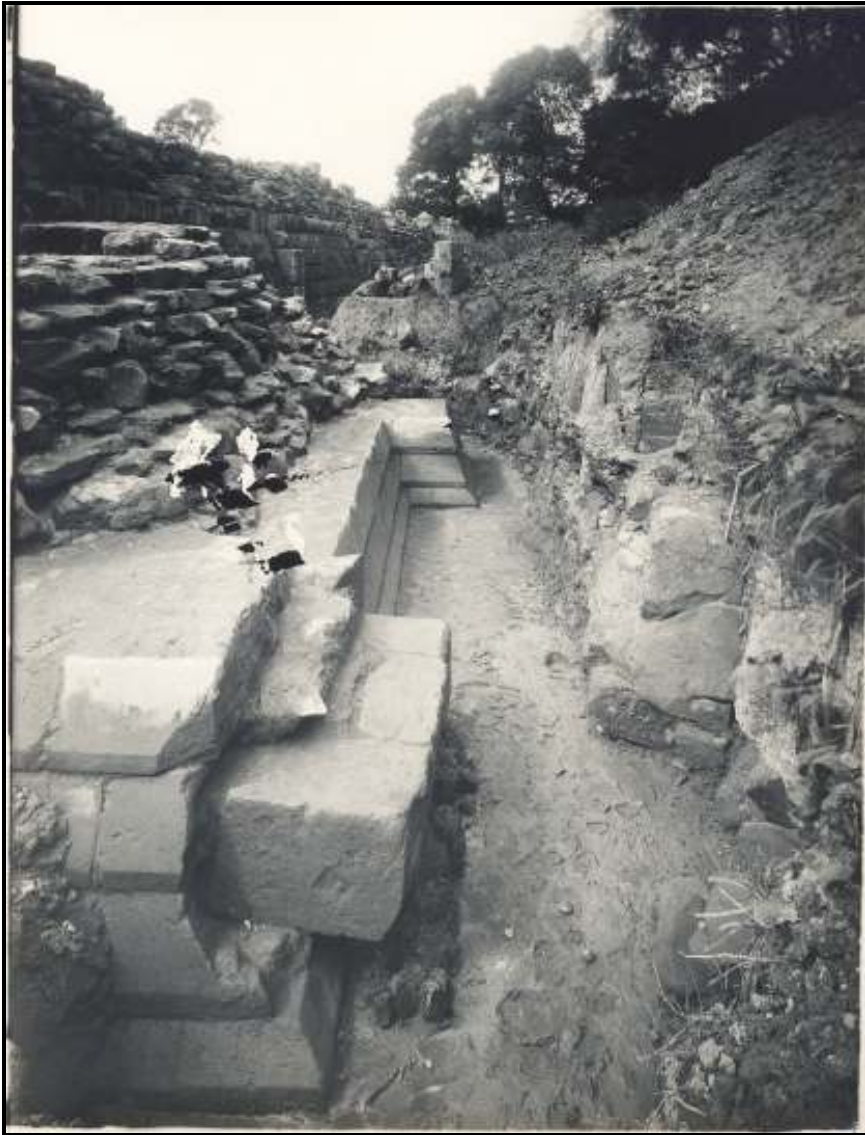


Fig. 2:11 The Northeast Tower, looking west (Scan 153)

Currently the northeast corner of this West Cellar block shows no sign of a buttress of any form but pre-war photograph, Scan 153 etc., shows an unusual block of ashlar masonry projecting northwards from this corner above the base course, which is battered, and partially below an upper course, also battered - it is unknown what the purpose or cause of this unusual feature was. The west wall of this tower returns southwards for a distance of 3.00m, where it meets the northern curtain wall. A battered cross-buttress re-enforces the northwest corner of the East Cellar block whilst it is possible that the north curtain wall abuts the west wall of the Cellar.

The North Wall

Between the Northeast Tower Complex and the North Tower a stretch of wall runs for 33.55m at an average height of 3.50m. Three features can be noted; two buttresses each 0.73m wide and springing from the same masonry course and a vertical wall scar which may indicate the loss of a third buttress. Further to the west the wall face has been lost to a lower level than that to the east and any trace of buttresses will have been lost with the facing. The first buttress is 6.20m from the northeast corner whilst the distance between the first and second is 4.76m and between second and third 6.20m, there is space for possibly two more buttresses to the west.

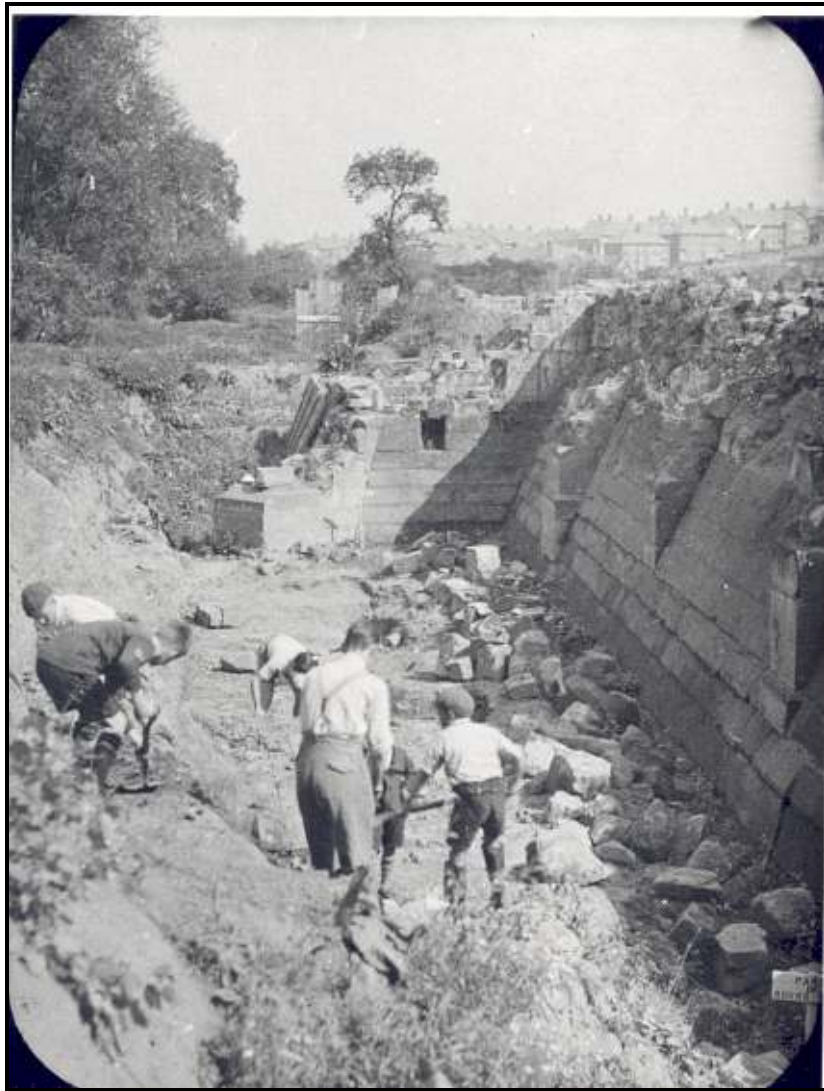


Fig. 2.12: The North Tower, looking east (Scan 886)

The North Tower is 6.00m wide and projects into the moat by 3.60m, the walls are 1.00m thick and arrow loops survive in the west and east walls. Internally the tower was 3.90m wide and 5.00m long, the length being achieved by two spur walls continuing the tower's west and east walls into the castle interior. At a later period the

tower was backed by the Lodgings Block. Two diagonal buttresses were added to the tower's external corners. The buttresses measured 2.00m by 1.00m with vertical faces, the only surviving detail being a chamfer on the outer face of the third course of the western buttress - similar details may have been incorporated at a higher level within the masonry of both buttresses. A rectangular opening in the outer, western face of the tower is visible on Scan 886, and partially survives still, but does not appear on the plans. If original, the purpose is unknown.

The curtain extended 25.50m to the west of the North Tower and contained three buttresses. The first buttress is 5.60m to the west of the tower and is 1.00m wide, the second buttress is 5.10m from the first and is 0.73m wide whilst the third buttress is 5.50m from the second and is the same width. The first buttress begins at a lower level than the second and third and its third course is chamfered, restoration work obscures the joint but there is a suggestion that the buttress has been inserted into the wall, possibly replacing the original. The third buttress has a chamfer on the top of the north face of the first course; this may be the result of restoration work.



Fig. 2.13: The northwest corner, looking east (Scan 195)

The northwest corner is a further 7.30m to the west and is notable for the insertion of a diagonal buttress approximately 1.00m square to reinforce the corner masonry possibly inserted at the same time as those on the North Tower. The buttress consists of a flat plinth a first course with chamfer and a further three courses the top one of which is also chamfered and a last, partially robbed, course.

2.3 The Standing Masonry - Interior

The following section describes the buildings exposed within the castle interior during Bark's excavations and subsequently consolidated. The description proceeds clockwise from the Gatehouse Tower.

The Lodging Block

The 1424 Survey

".. a chamber standing by itself in the same part of the castle with a stable under .."



Fig. 2.14: The Lodgings, looking west (Scan 006)

Photographs

Scan 005 (copies 150, 396, 581, 942), looking northeast from the Gate Tower

Scan 797, looking east

Scan 006 (copies 582, 943), looking west

Scan 945, central area, looking north

A rectangular building with internal dimensions of 21.80m west to east by 8.20m was constructed against the north curtain. The west wall was 0.82m thick with a central doorway of 1.20m width, the only entrance identified. The south wall was 0.70m thick and the east wall 1.40m. The building abutted the curtain and covered the rear opening of the North Tower. Against the curtain wall to the west of the North Tower was an additional skim of masonry 0.55m wide with attached projecting pier bases each 0.80m square and spaced, centre to centre, at 2.75m with the exception that the space between piers 2 and 3 (numbered from the west) was 3.40m, so forming four bays. The masonry skin did not extend across the first bay where the survey shows a drain running out through the curtain. A hearth had been built into the second bay. Two detached pier bases survive in the interior aligned with pier bases 1 and 2 (a third may have been robbed) at a distance of 4.10m to the south. Against the south wall an internal buttress lined up with pier base 2 measuring 2.30m, west-east, by 0.40m. A wall was built across the building on the line of the fourth bay with a doorway at its northern end. In the space behind the open backed North Tower a further pier base was discovered which aligned with those to the west providing a fifth bay with a sixth aligned with the east wall of the North Tower where a shallow internal buttress on the south wall lined up with the east wall of the North Tower which projected some 1.60m into the building. A hearth was built into the angle between the tower wall and the curtain. The section of the building to the east of the North Tower was 5.60m wide, possibly providing a further two bays, each 2.80m wide. This provides a structure with eight bays in total with an average width of 2.70m, each capable of stabling a horse with accommodation for owners or servants on the floor above.

The Chapel

The 1424 Survey

“.. a chapel set by itself on the north part of the said castle covered with lead and a vestry ..”



Fig. 2.15: The Chapel, looking west (Scan 944)

Photographs

Scan 375 (copy 1480) and Scan 909, looking east, detail shots show two separate areas of medieval floor tiles *in situ* within the chapel

Scan 944: looking west, showing the chapel in mid-clearance. The block of masonry interpreted as an altar can be seen along with surrounding walls. In the distance the Lodging Block can be seen, apparently already consolidated and grassed.

A building, without doubt correctly identified as the chapel, was located 1.90m to the east of the Lodging Block. This building measured 16.00m from west to east by 7.67m, narrowing to 7.00m at the western end. The wall foundations were 1.60m wide whilst the masonry above would have been 1.40m wide. Within the western gable the northern door jamb is shown and if the door was central to the wall it would have been 1.50m wide. Two further doors are shown; one in the eastern gable end to the north of the altar block giving access to an open area *c.*4.00m wide and facing a door giving access to the northwest chamber of the solar block, the second between the northwest corner of the vestry and the nave immediately west of the steps dividing nave and chancel. A single arrow loop within the curtain wall was partially blocked

by a dividing wall which created a divide between the altar area, at 1.90m wide, and the nave. Two sandstone steps, leading to the altar, emphasised the divide. The rubble base of the altar block survived against the east wall measuring 3.00m by 1.40m. Two areas of tiled flooring and window glass were recorded as having been found within the chapel, helping to confirm its usage. The flimsy footings of a building constructed against the southeast corner of the chapel have been identified as a vestry with internal dimensions of 5.20m west to east by 3.00m. The stone footings probably served as a support for a timber superstructure.

The Northeast Tower Complex

The 1424 Survey

“.. in which there is a Great Hall with a Great Chamber in the upper end and a nursery with other little chambers above and beneath the cellars in the same end.. “

The Northwest Chamber



Fig. 2.16: The Northwest Chamber, looking north (Scan 900)

Photographs

Scans 166, 419, 428, 790, 859 and 900

A trapezoidal chamber was constructed, butting up against the north curtain with north, south and west walls measuring 9.60m long internally and the east wall 7.80m.

The west and south walls were 0.80m thick whilst the east wall was 1.20m, being a part of the Northeast Tower proper.

A splayed doorway was located to the north of the west wall whilst two doorways led through the east wall into a chamber over the west cellar. These doorways were 0.96m wide and 3.40m apart (centre to centre). An arrow loop was located in the middle of the north wall and to the west of this a fireplace had been constructed. Within the arrow-loop a large, square stone block had been placed carved in the form of a shallow trough 0.30m deep and 0.70m wide by 0.50m, presumably late in the life of the building.

An intriguing aspect of this chamber was the number of square stone pier bases found within the interior. Presumably they were placed there late in the life of the building or even maybe after it had gone out of use. The carefully worked stones were chamfered on each side, at the top. In some instances they were carefully positioned on stone pads and were certainly not placed at random in other instances they were upside down or had no pad. Presumably they had been collected from elsewhere in the castle and positioned to possibly to support a floor for a structure such as a granary when the buildings were being used as little more than farm out-houses.

Protruding into the southeast corner of the room was a massive block of masonry measuring 2.75m square with battered faces to north and west. This is the northwest corner of the Central Masonry Block. This masonry certainly stood higher than the floor surface of the room and was built over by the south wall of the chamber.

The South Chamber

Photographs

Scan 800

Looking north, shows the opening into the East Cellar which is the north wall of the South chamber also showing a part of the eastern arch of the Central Masonry Block

Scan 079 (copies 323, 826 and 1299)

Looking south, showing pier bases and later dividing wall

Scan 091 (copies 337, 827 and 1326)

As Scan 079 but looking north

Scan 092

Looking east, along the north wall of the chamber

Scan 179

This unusual shot is thought to be within the South Chamber and shows a quantity of rounded stones of *c.*0.30m diameter which could have served no other purpose than as projectiles from a trebuchet or similar.



Fig. 2.17: The South Chamber, looking east (Scan 079)

To the north of the Great Hall and forming the south part of the Northeast Tower Complex was a rectangular chamber measuring 20.00m west-east by 6.10m – if it had run as far as the east curtain. The north wall comprised the Central Masonry Block and the southern walls of the Northwest Chamber and the East Cellar, the east wall was the east curtain. The south wall was party with the Great Hall and had two doorways connecting the two chambers. The surveys do not record this wall as having reached the curtain but the disposition of the pier bases in the interior would make this a logical arrangement. The west wall was along the same alignment as the west wall of the Northwest Chamber.

Internally there are three square, chamfered pier bases, a fourth was replaced by a later internal partition wall. The pier bases are positioned along the centre line of the chamber and divide the room into five bays each 3.05m wide. At a later date a wall was constructed, dividing the chamber into two along the line of the third bay. Access into the East cellar must have been from this chamber but neither Bark nor Oswald

noted any such arrangement. It seems probable that this ground floor chamber would have served for storage below the Solar proper and no fireplace was noted within it.

The West Cellar



Fig. 2.18: The West Cellar, looking south (Scan 127)

This chamber was 8.50m, north to south by 2.75m and *c.*3.00m deep below the door thresholds to the west. There were no doorways leading to it and joist holes within its walls indicate that the timber floor of the chamber above formed its roof. The north and west walls were vertical whilst those to the east and south were battered with the batter of the southern wall overlaying that of the east suggesting that the south wall was later. The northern part of the chamber projected into the moat to form the Northwest Tower. At ground floor level the walls were 1.20m wide to west and east and the south wall was 2.60m wide being a part of the Central Masonry Block.

The East Cellar



Fig. 2.19: The East Cellar, looking north (Scan 940)

Photographs

There are eight different views of the East Cellar differing slightly in detail but mostly looking north with the emphasis on the dividing arch; Scans 151, 154, 168, 183, 804, 901, 906 and 940.

This chamber measured 5.60m north-south by 3.80m and was *c.*3.00m deep. The chamber was entered via an opening in the south wall some 2.20m wide although no record survives as to how this entrance was arrived at – it is notable that the masonry of the east of the doorway is of good quality and is unlikely to have been within a foundation trench whilst that to the east is very poor quality and may even have been partially slighted and then poorly re-faced. The chamber was divided into two parts by

a two-centred arch supporting a wall over of 0.82m width leaving the northern part of the cellar only 1.23m wide. The north wall is 1.20m wide and faces into the moat where it is battered. The eastern wall again has a vertical face internally but is 1.90m wide with an external batter facing into the moat. The external corner between north and west walls has a cross buttress which appears to be contemporary with the walls. The south wall was 1.40m wide and contained the doorway opening whilst the west wall was 1.20m wide, being the east wall of the West Cellar. This wall was battered to west and east for reasons not yet discerned.

Central Masonry Block

An intriguing block of masonry forms the southeast corner of the West Chamber, the south wall of the West Cellar, the southwest corner of the East Cellar and the north wall of the South Chamber. The masonry is 8.20m west-east by 2.60m. It has battered faces to north and west and a pronounced batter to the east where it faces the East Cellar. The south face is vertical with three plain buttresses, each 0.82m square. The eastern buttress projects to the south from the southeast corner, a gap of 2.33m separates it from the second buttress and this gap contains an arch. An arch is also positioned between the second and third buttresses but here only 1.65m wide. No one has commented on these features before, their masonry is poor and it may be that they were intended to function as relieving arches within the foundation structure and never meant to be seen, without re-excavation their true purpose remains hidden. Various surveys survive with pencil sketches indicating that someone (Bark?) believed the block to have supported a stairway with access from the ground floor of the South Chamber running to the north and turning west up a flight of steps within the masonry and leading to the first floor where the principal private chambers of the owners would have been located.

The Great Hall

(No pre-war photographs of the hall have been identified)

The 1424 survey

“.. in which there is a Great Hall ..”

The Great hall had internal dimensions of 18.00m north-south by 10.56m and had extremely flimsy wall foundations which would suggest that the superstructure was of timber. A passageway of 2.40m width was left between the Hall and the east curtain.

Within the original excavations Bark was unsure where the entrance was but thought it to be towards the southern end of the Hall. The hearth was placed at the

northern/upper end of the Hall, was 2.40m square with a sandstone kerb surrounding a cobbled interior, its centre 4.30m from the north wall. Two doorways led from the Hall to the Solar basement and to the south a service passage was identified connecting the Hall to the Kitchen with buttery and pantry chambers on either side. It must be noted that the masonry of these features was very fragmentary and that as outlined now other stones may have been used to re-enforce the interpretation during consolidation. Bark was convinced that the Hall would have had a planked floor, as described below.

The following is taken from the typescript of Scans 986-900 in the site diary.

The Great Hall, August 1939

This backed on to the masonry etc at the south of the gard-robe tower. Its walls were very thin and of two dates. The room was divided, apparently by a screen, and there was a wall at the expected place, to the east of the entrance door. Down the centre are stone bases for carrying a longitudinal beam on which rested the joists – it is plain it had a boarded floor including the eastern part in which the soil below is rather deeper down than the other. One stone of the door jambs with heavy round mould was in situ and another was found not far away – this has been put back to make the doorway more evident. Further south was a hearth – large stone kerb, the space filled with pebbles. The walls of the hall being so thin cannot have gone up to any great height – they must have been stone below and timber framed above.

Since this was written a little more work was done between the masonry near the gard-robe tower and the buildings at the south angle: fortunately it was just about all cleared before the war. When the foundations were roughly plotted it became apparent that what has been described above as the great hall was only a second hall across the top end of the true great hall – the hearth of pebbles with the large stone curb (of which only part remains) was in the middle of the hall near the ‘dais end’ but a dais can hardly have existed as the levels do not allow of it. The size of this hall was about 64’ x 36’ and it was floored with joists and boards. At the south end in the centre was an opening leading to a passage on either side of which was a room – the Buttery and Pantry, and at the end the kitchen. This is the room described as a Dairy, which may have been in the later life of the castle, but it must have been planned as a kitchen which

suggests that the great hall was of quite early date for the kitchen was found in connection with it, and that presumably may be dated by the coin found between the tiles of the kitchen hearth – a silver half penny of Edward III 1327-77.

The Great Hall was in all probability a timber-framed structure for the foundations are quite slight, though the second hall was probably of stone up to part of its height, suggested by the moulded stone jambs of the doorway. There is no suggestion that this second hall was warmed.

It may be presumed that the great hall was built in the middle of the 14th c. and the second hall about 50 years earlier. When the second hall was the great hall the kitchen might have been to the south-east and was destroyed when the great hall and the new kitchen were constructed.

Jan 10th 1940

The double NE tower was all built at once and apparently with it the large block of masonry to the south. The buttresses or pieces built against the large block are additions and the transverse building, e-w, is built against the w face of the large block. The n, w, and s walls are all one build, the inner lining of the south wall being an addition. If the room to the west of the NE tower was ever the kitchen (as would appear likely from the pottery found in this tower and in the moat near by) and the hall served by it being to the south of the large block, when the hall must have been a previous building, possibly timber-framed, as there is no means of communication between it and the kitchen. It is not obvious where the kitchen was that served this hall (if hall it was), after it was constructed with its lower storey at any rate in stone (the walls of which the lower courses survive) and there is no obvious fireplace. This room, or rooms, for the dividing sleeper wall may have carried a screen, had a boarded floor carried on a centre beam running from end to end so the space at the eastern end is best likely to be a cellar or kitchen (the pottery in the moat near here was practically all late Tudor). The west wall of the Great Hall has been much robbed but it is evident that it was only 22” thick at its maximum; as the roof had a span of nearly 35’ it is suggested that this is a masonry foundation only for a timber-framed structure. There is an opening of about 7’6” with the wall thickening out a little either side at about 30’ from the north end, the only sign of possibly the entrance. The entrance must have been on the other side of a screen at the south end; the present opening, or what is supposed to be an

opening, is probably one made when the Hall was used as a barn. The stones along the north (?) side were very irregular when first discovered.

The Kitchen

The 1424 survey

“.. and also a Great Chamber at the nether end of the said hall with other chambers to the same annexed a pantry and a buttery in the said end of the hall a kitchen with a larder annexed ..”



***Fig. 2.20: The Kitchen, also showing the octagonal turret, looking southeast
(Scan 156)***

Four photographs of the kitchen were identified

Scan 156 was taken from the Octagonal Turret, looking west across the stone-slabbed wet area and the area of the Laundry. A cutting measuring approximately 0.50m deep by 3.00m wide has been excavated through the overlying rough turf and rubble to reveal wall foundations along the full length of the south side of the castle, presumably at a very early stage of works within the interior.

Scan 951 was taken looking east and shows the southern curtain with arrow loop surviving to 4/5 courses and the ashlar masonry of the Octagonal Turret in the

southeast corner, surviving to three courses. Against the south wall a rectangular stone feature with a raised kerb around has been described as a wet working area. The southern edge of the central hearth is visible in the corner. The kitchen measured 14.40m west-east by 8.10m and was fitted into the south-east corner of the castle, connecting to the Great Hall via the service passage to the north. Numerous scraps of masonry obscure the precise interpretation of the building but a number of major features survive. The central hearth consists of two hearths one on either side of a central spine wall running west-east. The hearth measured approximately 3.50m north-south by 2.50m and the spine wall was 0.65m thick. The hearth bases were made of tiles on edge within a sandstone kerb. There were some irregularities on the western edge. Against the south curtain an area of stone slabs with slightly raised kerb surrounding has been interpreted as a wet area and there are three openings leading out into the moat (this was recently re-exposed and recorded by K. Nicholls). A rectangular drainage channel pierces the curtain adjacent to the Octagonal Tower, an arrow loop is located further south and a rectangular “sink” further south again. The complex of stonework visible in the original pencil survey, some still extant, requires further detailed survey before an attempt to describe and analyse its date and purpose could be attempted.

The Laundry



Fig. 2.21: The Laundry beyond the Kitchen, looking west (Scan 402)

Scan 402 was the only photograph of the Laundry identified and was taken looking west from the Kitchen showing the interior at an early stage of excavation. The pier bases mentioned below are not obvious in this photograph but appear on the pencil survey of the southeast corner of the castle (Scans 069-072). Abutting the south curtain and immediately to the east of the South Tower a rectangular building was uncovered. The building had internal dimensions of 12.65m west-east by 4.95m with walls 0.55m thick. Internally, in the east end were four pier bases. The two southern were placed 0.55m from the Outer Wall and were 2.75m apart, the eastern one was 1.54 from the eastern wall. The two northern were placed 2.20m to the north. This layout if continued westward might suggest a building of four and a half bays of 2.75m width, the same width as identified in the Lodgings Block. Possibly, those pier bases found in the West Chamber of the North-east Complex came from the west end of this building. A fireplace had been constructed against the curtain wall, measuring 2.75m west-east by 1.32m. The flimsy nature of the surviving stone wall footings, some of which were chamfered externally, along with the layout of the pier bases might suggest a timber superstructure.

There is no archaeological reason for identifying this building as a laundry as it has been labelled. The 1424 survey describes the laundry as being within the Outer Bailey which would not be surprising and perhaps this building should be considered as the “larder annexed” to the kitchen as described in that survey.

3.0 POST-WAR EXCAVATIONS

3.1 Introduction

Adrian Oswald excavated at Weoley Castle between 1955 and 1962 and gave an account of his work in two interim reports published in 1962 and 1964.

Oswald, A. 1962 Interim Report on Excavations at Weoley Castle, 1955-60
Transactions of the Birmingham and Warwickshire Archaeological Society Vol.
78: 61-85

Oswald A 1964 Excavation of a thirteenth century wooden building at Weoley
Castle, Birmingham 1960-61 Medieval Archaeology Vol. VI-VII: 109-134

The first report covered the excavation results between 1955 and 1960 but is not detailed and the references to individual excavations and buildings are generally slight; although it does provide an excellent introduction to the site, its location and history as then understood. The second report concerns itself with the timber kitchen excavated in the southeast corner of the castle but does make reference to other buildings, pre-dating the Period IV rebuild of the castle, but again in no great detail.

The surviving archive for the excavations of these years is a mix of photographs, multiple copies of inked plans (generally for publication) and fragments of the site notebooks. For some areas e.g. the wooden kitchen the archive is remarkably comprehensive and indeed repetitive but this building has been well served by the extensive description within the second report. The archive that remains for other, equally important, buildings is frequently much reduced or even non-existent e.g. the Period II/III Stone Hall which was contemporary with the wooden kitchen.

The dating of the site relies on Bark's and Oswald's detailed knowledge of the finds assemblage and until the re-evaluation of the finds has been completed as part of the current project there is no reason to attempt a revision. The table below is taken from Oswald's interim report of 1962 and is retained as the only available sequence of dating to have been applied to the excavation results. The rest of this report refers to the Periods so described.

Date	Period	Work
1150-1200	I	Erection of palisaded bank and ditch. Wooden buildings in the interior.
1200-1260	II and III	A comfortable stone dwelling house with timber floors and thatched roof. Destroyed by fire in <i>c.</i> 1230 and again <i>c.</i> 1260. Wooden out-buildings, one made of weather boarding only with thatched roof and four floor levels. A farmyard.
1270-1280	IV	Construction of present moat, outer walls and curtain towers.
1280-1320	V	Erection of timber building on the northeast and stone barn on the west. A bridge across the moat in the east.
1320-1380	VI	Erection of further stone barn on the west and further structures on the northeast. Probable building of the chapel, the northeast garderobe and the structures surrounding it. A kitchen in use in the southeast corner. A destruction of the whole in <i>c.</i> 1380.
1400-1450	VII	Erection of massive building on the west. Great Hall and kitchen in use. The 1424 description. Some alterations in the northeast where a secondary kitchen is in use. Construction of southeast octagonal tower and buttress.
1450-1600	VIII	Slight buildings in the west in use till 1600. Construction of round tower. A kitchen in use in the northeast corner.

Excavation Areas and Trenches

Although it is certain that Oswald understood his methodology and consequent reasons for designating trench and area codes; it is now no longer clear what constraints led to the variously numbered trenches and areas that appear in the site notes. The fragmentary nature of the notes can lead to much confusion as to the correct designation for a particular Area or Trench and, other than Figure 3 in the first interim report, no plan survives to indicate their locations. The following notes describe the locations as currently understood, but it must be stressed that there are clues within some of the site notes that may yet be unravelled in order to further

expand the following information. The trench numbering system within the moat excavations is described in the relevant section (3.2. The Moat)

The West Courtyard

Area D

This site was located on the west side of the castle interior, to the south of the West Tower but was expanded to incorporating further excavation to the north i.e. within the West Tower and against the Round Turret.

Area E

There are two references to this site code; the first appears on Figure 3 of the first interim report and is located to the east of Area H between the Great Hall and the east curtain wall, the second occurs as an area to the east of Area D in the western part of the courtyard and contained the remains of a Period I timber building. The designation has been retained for the latter.

Area F

This excavation was located in the southwest corner of the castle interior, to the south of Area D and the causeway providing visitor access.

The 1961 Boxes

These were a series of box excavations, located to the east of Area D, which revealed the footings of a Period II/III building.

The East Courtyard

The excavations on the east side of the courtyard were constrained by the existence of Period IV and later walls and features which had been unearthed during Bark's pre-war excavations and later consolidated. As a consequence Oswald's trenches tended to be irregular and in many cases small. Oswald notes that his campaigns in the east were intended to discover evidence of the early castle or manor house pre-dating the Period IV rebuild and it is notable in his writings and in the remaining archive that no mention of archaeological survival dating to the later Periods is made. It would appear that Bark had very efficiently removed all evidence of floor surfaces etc. down to the top of the Period IV moat up-cast deposits. The results of the excavations are described in section: 3.3 Periods I-III.

The location of the following Areas and Trenches are based mostly on Figure 3 of the first interim report supplemented by additional information from the site notebook.

Area A

Located in the Northeast Tower Complex; primarily within the west end of the South Chamber basement.

Area B

Located to the east of Area A, extending to the east curtain wall.

Area C

Located to the north of Area A, within the Northwest Chamber of the Northeast Tower Complex.

Area G

Located to the south of Area H within the southern part of the Great Hall.

Area H

Located to the north of Area G, west of Area E within the centre of the Great Hall.

Area K

Occasionally, within the site notebooks, an Area K is mentioned; its location has been identified as lying between the timber kitchen and Area G.

Note: If there was an Area K were there also Areas I and J?

Trenches

The notebooks and interim reports make reference to a total of 15 trenches although all records are partial and the location of many of them is not explained; other than those that appear on Figure 3 in the first interim report. It might be assumed that the trenches were numbered 1 to 15 sequentially within a time frame running between 1960 and 1961 or 2, assuming that all trenches were associated with the work on the eastern side of the courtyard. Below is a précis of the surviving archive with deductions as to the locations of the trenches etc.

Trench 1

No records, location unknown.

Trench 2

Notebook: Scan 1234, location unknown

Trench 3

Notebook: Scans 1229-1233. The site notebooks provide descriptions of this trench but it became obvious that this was what Oswald referred to as Trench H in the first interim report. The Trench ran west-east across the width of the centre of the Great Hall. The section re-produced as Figure 4 in that report is the south side of this trench. See Periods I-III, The Timber Hall.

Trench 4

Notebook: Scans 1160-1169 and 1228. This trench was excavated in 1960 across the north wall of the timber kitchen with dimensions of 1.66m north-south by 0.96m. See Periods I-III, The Timber Kitchen.

Trench 5

Notebook: 1148-1152 north part, 1153? 1154 to north and 1155-1159 south part, also 1227 and context info 2.

This trench was excavated in 1960, was 1.20m wide by 22.50m long and ran north-south between the southern wall of the “stone building” in Area H and the south curtain wall. The archive consists of

The south part of the trench exposed the western end of the timber kitchen and recording of its eastern section formed part of Section C-D, published as Figure 42b in the second interim report. Elements of 1155-1159 formed part of the major detail drawing described in Trench 4 and published as Figure 44 in the second interim report.

Trench 6

Notebook: Scans 1226 and 1236. This trench probably ran to the north from the northeast corner of the laundry.

Trench 7

Notebook: Scan 1237. This scan also makes mention of Area K, an area otherwise unidentified within the Archive. Location unknown.

Trench 8

Notebook: Scans 1269, 1277-1279. This trench is shown on Figure 3 of the first interim report as being 1.20m wide and extending for 23.00m from the northern curtain wall southwards into the courtyard. That plan indicates that the early bank and ditch had been identified within the northern part of the trench. The archive consists of notebook scans 1269 and 1277-1279 within which are two conjoining sections running from 60 to 78 feet, approximately the last northern 5.40m, of the trench but at this time the layer descriptions are still missing and it is difficult to discern the bank and ditch features within the section drawings.

Trench 9

Notebook: Scans 364-371 (many copies). This trench was excavated in 1961 and was located to the east of Trench 5, the site notebooks indicate a proximity to a Hall wall and WB might stand for the wooden building whilst Area K is also mentioned. The

trench was 1.05m wide, of uncertain length with a depth of 3.00m and a major concern with the pre-moat dump deposits. The notes provide good sections for the interpretation of the trench once its location has been established.

Trench 10

Notebook: Scans 1182, 1184-1188 and 1197. The scans appear to show postholes but as yet the trench location has not been finalised.

Trench 11

Notebook: Scans 1174-1181 and 1183.

This trench was 15.00m long by 1.20m wide and ran from west to east; the southern section had been drawn and a very rough sketch plan. The trench had a maximum depth of 2.20m at its eastern end. The most significant features recorded were four post-holes, the largest 0.60m in diameter by 0.30m deep, apparently cutting natural and running east west partially below the southern section. Immediately to the north of the post-holes was a sill beam trench of 0.30m width and recorded as surviving for a length of 2.00m. These appear to form a part of the northern wall of the Phase I timber hall. The post holes are overlain by 0.30m of waterlogged deposits, occasionally containing wooden fragments and these presumably belong to the Phase II/III boggy area between the wooden kitchen and the stone hall. Overlying these are deposits of the moat up-cast, dating to the Phase IV re-construction of the castle, on average 1.05m deep. Overlying all was a topsoil deposit of 0.40m depth with a horse burial cut into it. There were no indications of structures associated with Phase IV and later occupation.

Trench 12

This trench may have been as small as 1.20m square and was possibly excavated across the north-south wall divide to the west of the building i.e. to the east of Trench 5. The notebook scans consist of Scans 1170-1173.

Trench 12/6

It seems probable that this excavation was of a baulk separating Trenches 12 and 6. Four notebook scans, Scans 1203-1206, indicate a trench of 1.20m width, west-east, by 2.70m. The trench again appears to cross the north wall of the kitchen.

Trench 13

No records, location unknown.

Trench 14

No records, location unknown.

Trench 15

Notebook: Scans 1266-1268 and 1270-1271. This trench was excavated in 1961 in order to locate the southeast part of the timber kitchen. The trench measured 2.70m north-south by 2.70m and remained isolated from other excavations. The trench description is incorporated into the overall wooden kitchen report. The principal features were the Phase I hearth, one of the Phase III aisle posts and part of the southern wall of the timber kitchen.

Trench W

A single scan, Scan 1261, refers to this trench which measured 2.36m, north-south, by 1.70m and was located to reveal the southern continuation of the western dividing wall within the wooden kitchen.

3.2 The Moat

(PDF: Post-war Excavations/The Moat)

The 1424 Survey

“The castle of Weoley with a water called the moat compassing the first castle ...”

3.2.1 Pre-war Excavations



Fig. 3.02: The timber bridge at the Gatehouse Tower, looking south (Scan 953)

There are no detailed records of the excavations which Bark undertook within the moat. However the photographic archive reveals glimpses of his activities e.g. the carved stone details recovered from the northwest corner etc. Generally the excavation can be seen to have been a wall chasing exercise intended to expose the curtain wall to the base of the moat and only then to expand the excavation to open out the moat to a width of approximately 8.00m. Thus it is that the eastern end of the northwest bridge was exposed but the western end was left for Oswald to excavate after the war. Photographs of the pre-war moat excavations are to be viewed in the folder Pre-war Excavations/Standing Masonry/External). It would appear that Bark excavated to the base of the moat in some areas whilst in others; notably to the south, he left approximately 1.00m of moat deposits to be excavated by Oswald in the post-

war campaigns. An interesting feature may have been exposed by Bark as described below and occasionally described as a mussel trap.

The Moat Sluice?

Photos: Scans 957-959

Plans: None identified



Fig. 3.03: The sluice, looking ? (Scan 957)

Three photographs show an unusual feature which appears to be a drain and which was not located on any plan. The photographs do not have a scale and are thought to be pre-war although this may be mistaken. The feature consisted of four substantial, squared timber uprights forming a 1.00m square box with the remains of planking surviving to a height of *c.*0.30m and surrounding a squared timber beam of *c.*0.30m width with a square socket cut into it. The socket would appear to have functioned as a plug-hole and the plug is pictured, having also been recovered. The plug was made of lead? and is square with a sharply tapering base and gradually tapering shank containing an iron ring attached to a chain? The vertical, surrounding planking is perforated and was probably intended to allow water to drain through to the plug-hole whilst filtering any potential blockages. The feature was cut into a substantial bank and the excavation cutting shows stonework which may have been a dry-stone

revetment to the bank whilst the photographs might indicate that timbers extended from the bank on either side of the drain.

Assuming that the feature was located within the moat then it must have been intended as a drainage system taking water from the moat out below the bank behind. Without knowing the location of the feature it is impossible to describe the manner in which it would have fitted into the water management system on the site.

3.2.2 Post-war Excavations

Oswald's first interim report (Pages 63-64)

Work in the three seasons 1955, 1956 and 1957, was confined to cutting sections across the moat at the south-east corner and, on the east side, to stripping a considerable area of the moat on the south side and later clearing the moat mechanically.

The natural subsoil is a red sandstone exceedingly porous. In order to make the moat hold water, this was treated over its whole area with puddled clay. Six layers of puddled clay were distinguished in the moat sections, since, apparently each cleansing of the moat necessitated a further repuddling. Between these layers of clay were deposits of kitchen refuse and builder's rubbish (Fig.2).

3.2.2.1 The South Moat

Twenty pages of a document marked Diary 1956 were identified and appear to provide some clues as to the manner of excavation involved in the southern part of the moat. The first page indicates a start using a machine to excavate the first 9 inches (0.23m) of soil after which the excavation proceeded by hand on 4th September. The following table describes the most pertinent information within the pages.

Page	Scan	Trench	Finds
1	704	Introduction	
10	715	1A	
13	725	1B	WC302 pewter plate,
16	733	2A	
19	734	2B	WC303 pewter plate, T1 bronze lump
?	735	2C	
22	737	3A	WC488 whetstone

?	705	3B/3C	3B T6 china sherd, 3C T37 and 38?
26	706	4B	WC990 maiolica sherd
28	707	4/5B	
31	708	5B	
34	709	6A	WC425 blue glass base, T4 glazed tile
37	710	6B	T5 twisted wire
40	712	7A	T3 charred wood
43	713	7B	T8 and 13 ?
46	714	8A	
49	716	8B	
52	717	9A	
58	720	10A	T2 charcoal

From the layout of the diary the excavation would appear to have started in the south-eastern corner of the moat with Trench 1A against the southern outer face of the curtain wall, 1B to the south and 1C further south. Trench 2A etc was excavated to the west, presumably beyond a baulk which was eventually numbered e.g. 4/5B a finds location from the baulk between Trenches 4B and 5B.

North ^

10A	9A	8A	7A	6A	5A	Trench D 1955	4A	3A	2A	1A	SE
10B	9B	8B	7B	6B	5B		4B	3B	2B	1B	corner
10C	9C	8C	7C	6C	5C		4C	3C	2C	1C	1956

Trench locations in southern part of moat

Note: There is some evidence from studying references to finds locations that the C trenches were to the north of the A trenches i.e. against the curtain wall. This would then provide a sequence of, from the north; C, A, B. The table above will be altered if this proves to be the case.

The diary appears to have been started with three or four pages allocated to each trench. The opening entries being completed the diary was then abandoned. At a later date some of the finds descriptions have been annotated with accession numbers beginning with WC. Otherwise finds are numbered within triangles, in the table above pre-fixed T. In general the notes are confined to the opening stage of the excavations and after stating that the first level was brown, occasionally sticky, observations are

made on deposits of demolition debris, kitchen refuse and clay deposits, all seen in the remaining sections as described below.

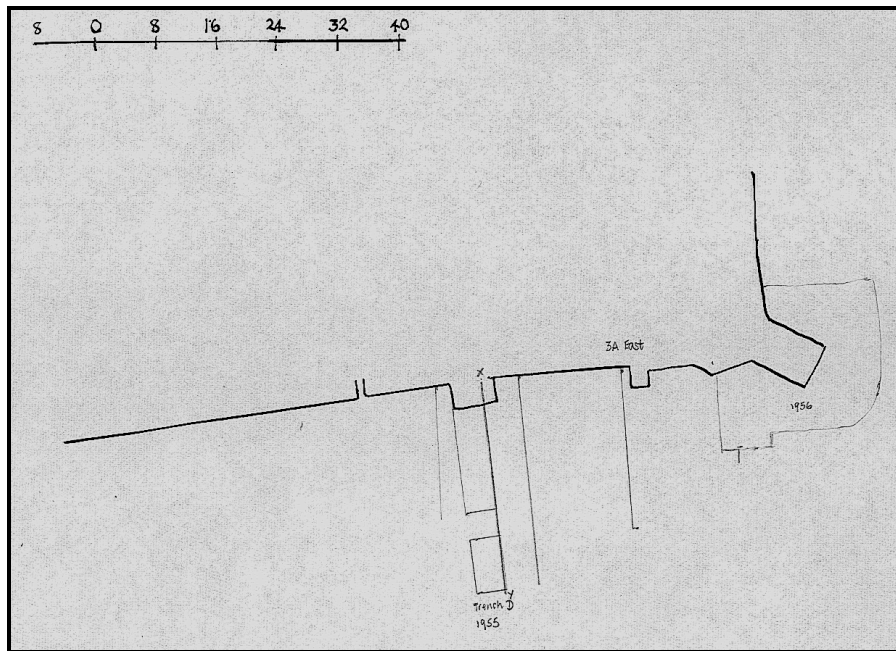


Fig. 3.04: Plan showing moat excavations in the southeast corner (Scan 698)

A sketch plan, showing excavations within the southeast corner of the moat, indicates that Section X-Y was excavated in 1955 and was annotated as Trench D. This excavation was presumably a precursor to full excavation in 1956. The same sketch also shows the location of Trench 3A and notes the excavation around the southeast corner as having taken place in 1956. Section 3A East Side forms part of the archive with a note of the location of the pewter plate find, as does Section 2A/3A East Side (see Scan 691 etc.). The scan also indicates three other section cuts in this area of the moat; 1m to the west of Trench D, 1.50m to the east of Trench D and 4.10m to the east of Trench D. These are not numbered and as yet I am unsure as to whether they were recorded as part of the sequence described above.

The Southeast Corner

Oswald's interim report (Page 64)

At the south-east corner a retaining buttress was excavated, whose date would seem to be prior to c.1450, as a rubbish layer containing a spur of this date and some pottery had accumulated against it. It presumably should be connected with the building of the octagonal tower above it, which the previous excavators considered erected in the fourteenth century, perhaps by Lady de Botetourt.

The Archive

Photos: Scan 196 (copies 442, 801 and 915)
Scan 197 (copies 443, 787 and 916)
Scan 790
Plan: Scan 043 (copies 566, 696, 697 and S319)
Notebook: Scans 702, 703 and possibly 769, a section

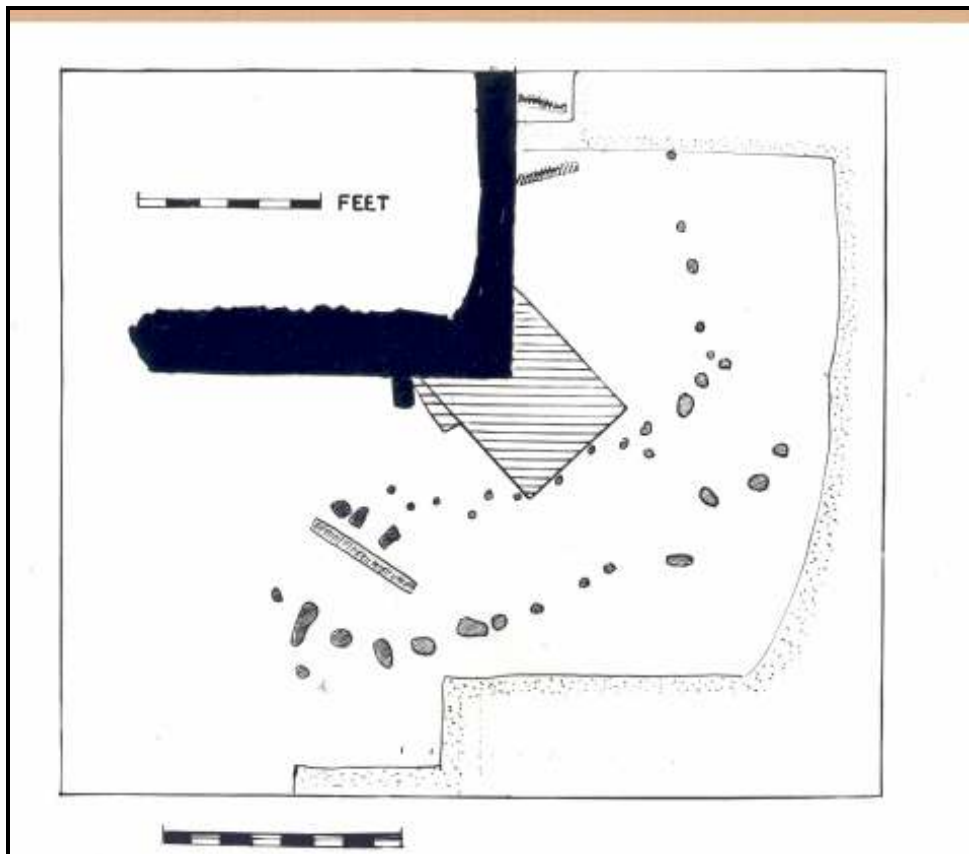


Fig. 3.05: Inked plan of the southeast corner excavation (Scan 043)

In 1956 a trench was hand excavated against the battered revetment of the southeast corner. The irregular trench had approximate dimensions of 3.00m by 3.00m and was centred on a diagonal corner buttress with dimensions of 1.35m wide by 1.70m. Although constructed of red sandstone as normal the buttress had plain vertical faces and was similar in form to the diagonal buttresses found at the northwest corner of the castle and on the external corners of the North Tower. Only two courses of masonry were exposed and it is probable that the buttress was chamfered at a higher level. A photograph, Scan 197, shows a spread of large sandstone blocks extending around the northeast side of the buttress, possibly going below the upper course and forming a foundation raft for the upper masonry

Although the site plan does not indicate whether the cutting went to natural it is probable. Surrounding the buttress a number of timber stakes and posts had survived *in situ*. Oswald suggests that these may have been intended to form a coffer dam against water during construction. It seems more probable that the water within the moat could be managed; see The Sluice described above, and that any substantial building work would have required the drainage of the moat. Thus the posts may have merely been remnants of the scaffolding associated with the construction of the buttress and tower above. The posts formed two parallel, curving alignments *c.* 1.20m apart, the inner very close to the buttress, the outer of substantially larger timbers.

Section: Scan 769

Within the notebooks is a section drawing dated September 1955 drawn at a scale of 1:30 and described as: *Trench in moat south of southeast corner – Trench D*

The section is 1.60m long by 0.84m deep and to the left/north? runs up against the battered revetment. The main moat excavation began in 1956 and it is possible that this earlier section drawing was located within the vicinity of the buttress. The sequence of deposits described within the section consisted of, from the top:

- 1 Turf and topsoil
- 2 Sandstone rubble – demolition rubble
- 3 Black – domestic debris?
- 4 Sandstone rubble with some clay admix
- 5 Mortar and clay
- 6 Brown Clay
- 7 Black – domestic debris?
- 8 Black, greasy, pebbly fill of cut at base of revetment
- 9 Cut – construction trench? Dimension of 0.30m wide by 0.22m deep with sloping side leading to flat base
- 10 Natural

Sections

Trench D, Section X-Y

Photos: None identified
Plan: Scan 698
Section: Scan 051 (copies 565, 745, 746, 748, S239)
Notebook: Scans 753, 754 and 756

This section was taken from the eastern side of a 1.20m wide trench marked as Trench D on plan, Scan 698. The section was 7.45m long with an average depth of 1.10m and was located running south from east of the centre of the feature known as “*The Sink*”, immediately outside the kitchen complex. As with other moat sections the outer edge of the moat was not reached. A 0.90m baulk disrupted the excavation and recording.

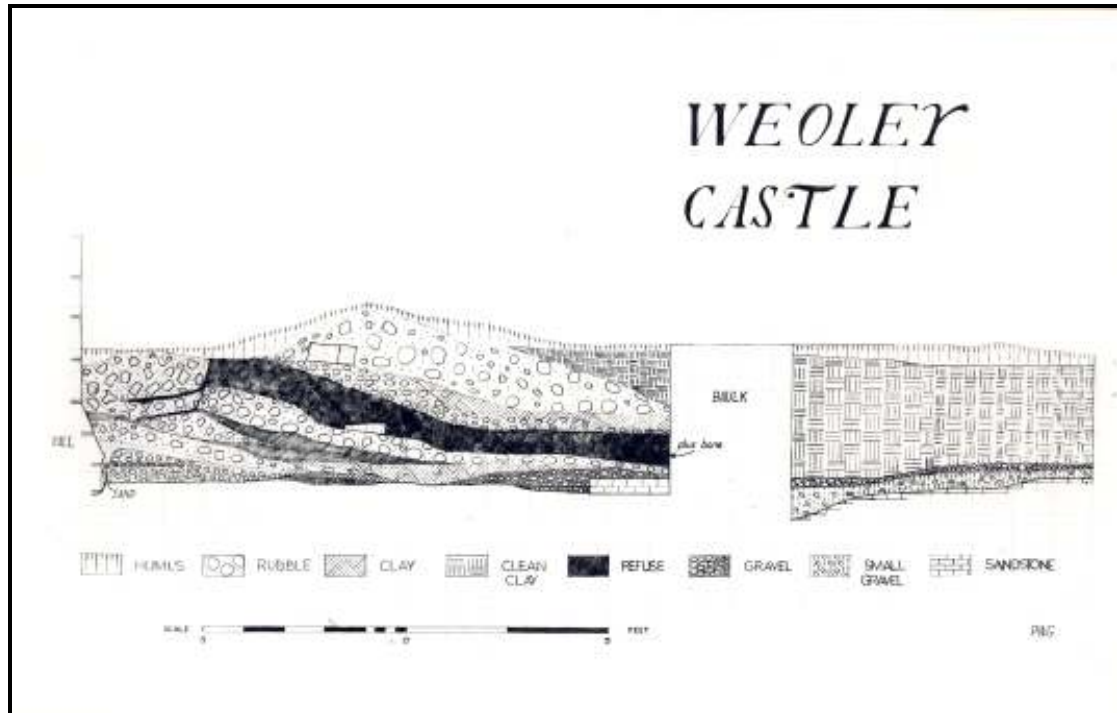


Fig. 3.06: Inked section X-Y (Scan 565)

The sequence of deposits within Section X-Y consisted of, from the base:

- 1 The natural sandstone bedrock with gravel deposits over. It is possible that some of the gravel had been re-deposited and may have been archaeological.
- 2 A cut through 1, 0.12m wide at the top tapering to nothing at the base at a depth of 0.35m. The cut was excavated to take the masonry of the curtain wall and was filled with sand which extended beyond the confines of the cut for 1.15m as a thin spread.
- 3 The curtain wall consisting of a base course with vertical face within 2, two courses with batter above which the wall was vertical; the outer face of the sink which protruded from the curtain wall in the form of a projecting buttress hence appearance of the reduced batter.
- 4 A thin lens of kitchen refuse overlying 1 and underlying 5, located to the east of sand spread 2.

- 5 A thin spread of clay overlying 4 and underlying 6.
- 6 A deposit of rubble banked against the wall 3, 0.15m deep, petering out at 1.15m from it and overlying 2 and 5.
- 7 A spread of clay sitting within a depression, overlying 6 and 1, 1.80m long by 0.15m deep max.
- 8 A thin deposit of kitchen refuse, extending from wall 3 for 3.00m, sloping down into the moat over 6 and 7.
- 9 A deposit of rubble, overlying 8 and truncated against wall 3 by cut 17.
- 10 A second deposit of kitchen debris overlying 9 and extending for 3.00m from the wall 3 but disrupted by cut 17.
- 11 An extensive spread of demolition rubble 0.25m thick and sloping down into the moat for 4.60m.
- 12 A third deposit of kitchen debris, 0.30m deep and extending 5.00m into the moat before petering out. Apparently containing significant quantities of animal bone.
- 13 Spread of small gravel/rubble overlying 12 and possibly cut by 14.
- 14 This deposit of clay was 0.10m thick and extended from 2.30m from wall 3 to 5.20m, sloping downwards into the moat base. It is possible that the clay was sitting within a re-cut of the moat but this observation is by no means convincing.
- 15 A substantial deposit of demolition rubble 0.45m deep, cut by 19, overlying 14 and sloping down into the moat, terminating at 5.00m from wall 3.
- 16 Beginning at 3.00m from wall 3 and overlying 15 was a massive deposit of clean clay which was 1.00m deep and rested on the natural moat base from 5.20m from wall 3. It is probable that the clay was sitting within a cut dating to post-occupation period.
- 17 A cut against wall 3, 0.90m wide with near vertical side and a flat base at 0.46m deep. The cut was filled with demolition rubble with lenses of kitchen debris probably re-deposited from the excavation. The feature cut 12 and was in turn cut by 18. This was probably a trench running along the curtain wall and was probably excavated during the pre-war works.

18 A second cut, possibly associated with 17, 1.88m wide by 0.48m deep, cutting rubble 15 and underlying turf and topsoil 19 and left empty to leave masonry exposed. Definitely the result of pre-war works.

19 Turf and topsoil, 0.10m deep.

Notes: 17 and 18 probably 1930s, 16 could be associated with canal building in the 18th century, 2 and 3 primary construction, 4-15 occupation, construction and demolition. There were three distinct deposits of kitchen debris separated by rubble. There were no obvious re-cuts during the period of occupation.

Section 2a/3a

Photos: None identified

Plan: Scan 691 (inked),

Notebook: Scan 711

This section was 4.20m long with a maximum depth of 1.10m and did not reveal the outer edge of the moat. There was no numbering on the section and the allocated numbers are of this work. The sequence of deposits consisted of, from the base:

- 1 Level surface of the moat bottom, cut into the natural red sandstone.
- 2 A shallow depression cut into the sandstone and filled with gravel containing some wood fragments.
- 3 A vertical cut through 2, 0.13m wide and not bottomed, the construction trench for the curtain wall, filled with sandstone chippings.
- 4 The masonry of the curtain wall which here is shown sitting on a vertical faced plinth with slight chamfer at the top, level with the top of cut 3 underlying the battered plinth proper.
- 5 A level deposit of clay extending from the eastern edge of cut 2 and 0.07m deep, possibly waterproofing of the moat base.
- 6 A level deposit of peat extending the full length of the section, 0.10m deep overlying 2, 3 and 5.
- 7 A dump of sandstone chippings lying against the masonry of 4.
- 8 A layer of clay extending eastwards from 4 for a distance of 3.00m and 0.10m thick
- 9 A deposit of kitchen debris extending 2.20m from 4 and 0.15m deep, sloping down into the moat.

- 10 A dump of demolition /building rubble, 0.35m deep and cut by 11 at 0.50m from 4.
- 11 A steep sided re-cut of the moat fills, cutting 10 and 0.40m deep.
- 12 The primary fill of re-cut 11 consisting of kitchen refuse which had in turn been re-cut by 13
- 13 The second re-cut within the moat fills steep-sided, 0.75m from 4 and cutting through 12 and 9 to a maximum depth of 0.50m.
- 14 The primary fill of 13 consisting of clay – possibly an attempt at re-sealing the moat base.
- 15 Demolition/builders rubble sloping down from 4 to the moat base, extending 3.40m and 0.15m thick, tapering out to the south.
- 16 Kitchen debris starting 0.70m from 4, thickening to a maximum depth of 0.20m and interleaved with clay lenses towards the eastern extent of the section.
- 17 Demolition rubble interleaved with clay lenses. Note that the pewter plates are said to come from this level.
- 18 Deposit of clay filling the central or eastern part of the moat section.

Only two re-cuts were noted within this section. Notes on Scan 691 suggested dates of:

1-8	not noted but presumably pre 1320
9 and 10	1320-1385
11-15	1385-1440
16 and 17	1440-1500
18	post 1550

Section 8A and two more associated but un-numbered sections

Photos: None identified

Section: Scan 700 (inked)

Notebook: Scans 718, 719 and 728 (small sections)

Section 8A

This section was 3.30m long with an average depth of 1.00m with the curtain wall masonry to the left. The notes suggest that the section is the western face of Trench 8 but this is impossible if the section is a part of the sequence within the South Moat

and it must be the eastern face. The Diary, page 49, suggests that Trench 8 was intended to provide the template for the western trenches 6 to 10. The stratigraphy consisted of, from the base

- 1 The natural bedrock, consisting of red sandstone was cut by the construction trench 2 for the curtain wall 3 and to the south by a depression of 0.25m depth extending beyond the section.
- 2 Construction trench for the curtain wall, 0.68m wide with steeply sloping side leading to a flat base at 0.50m deep. The fill consisted of dirty gravel, sandstone chippings with clay? lenses.
- 3 The masonry of the curtain wall with vertical faced lower block above which a block was chamfered from half way up after which the battered plinth ascended.
- 4 A shallow depression cut into the bedrock and filled with 5 and 6, starting at 1.90m from 4 and extending beyond the section edge; probably part of the original moat cut.
- 5 Within the base of 4 a deposit of peat 0.12m deep.
- 6 Overlying 5 within 4 and extending as far as 4, a deposit of red clay with mortar inclusion close to 4, average depth 0.12m.
- 7 Overlying 6, located against 4, a dump of builders rubble, 0.50m deep petering out at 0.85m from 4.
- 8 Overlying 7 a deposit of kitchen debris 0.10m deep and petering out 1.28m from 4.
- 9 A dump of clay 0.25m thick, overlying 8 close to 4 and 6 further to the north.
- 10 Demolition rubble containing tile with some lenses of kitchen waste containing oysters, overlying 9.
- 11 Deposit – no description.
- 12 Deposit of demolition rubble containing white mortar over 11 and below 13, 0.35m deep.
- 13 Deposit – no description
- 14 Against 4 was a 1.70m wide depression, 0.35m deep and obviously open at the time of excavation, possibly left by the pre-war excavation. A deeper pit/trench against 4 but backfilled was probably part of the same process.

Other than Section 8A, two more small sections, each 1.00m long, occurred on Scan 700. The sections were not numbered other than one described as “18 feet to the west of the sink”. Both sections showed similar stratigraphy and were presumably located in the vicinity of 8A. The stratigraphy consisted of, from the bottom:

- 1 Pebble deposit, presumably natural, cut by 2
- 2 Construction trench for 3, vertical sided, 0.12m wide with a sandy fill
- 3 Masonry of the Outer Wall, vertical within 2, battered above
- 4 Black kitchen debris over overlying 1 and 2, 0.07m thick
- 5 Demolition debris, 0.15m thick
- 6 Black kitchen debris overlying 5, 0.12m thick
- 7 Demolition debris, 0.15m thick
- 8 A slot cutting 7 and running along the base of the wall with sandstone and mortar fill, possibly from the pre-war excavation.

Section - 42 feet east of sink top course

Archive

Inked trace Scan 701

Notebook Scans 729 and 730

This section is presumably wrongly titled and should read “... west of sink”. As such this would be the most westerly surviving section within the southern moat. The section measures 5.70m long by 1.40m deep and runs south from the battered plinth. The deposits are numbered from the top, as follows

Note: # Not numbered on section.

- # No description, presumably topsoil
- 1 Starting 1.80m from the wall, within the topsoil, a deposit of rubble containing tile.
- 2 Starting 1.00m from the wall, a deep deposit of black kitchen debris.
- 3/4 Rubble containing tiles to the south.
- 5 Kitchen debris.
- 6 Rubble.
- 8 Kitchen debris which merges with 5.
- 7 Rubble.
- 9 Seep sandy layer, 0.30m thick

- 10 Grey layer, overlying 11 and 12.
- 12 Black silt, overlying the natural at base of the moat cut.
- 13 Clay layer, apparently merging with 12 and possibly representing Oswald’s initial water-proofing of the moat.
- 11 Construction trench for the curtain wall, starting at 0.56m wide sloping shallowly then vertical at 0.16m wide, filled with red sandstone, chippings?
- # The curtain wall which rises vertically until level with the moat base and is then battered.
- # The natural subsoil, which is here described as pebbles.

Notes: There are three or possibly four deposits of kitchen debris separated by rubble dumps but no interleaving clay layers are noted. There are also no obvious re-cuts within the moat fills. The section appears to depict an undisturbed sequence of fills, tending to lie against the curtain wall and slope down into the moat.

3.2.2.2 The North Moat

Section

Notebook: Scans 757 and 758 (copy of 757, Scan 755)

Title: November 27th 1955, Section in North Wall, 15ft east of Northwest Tower

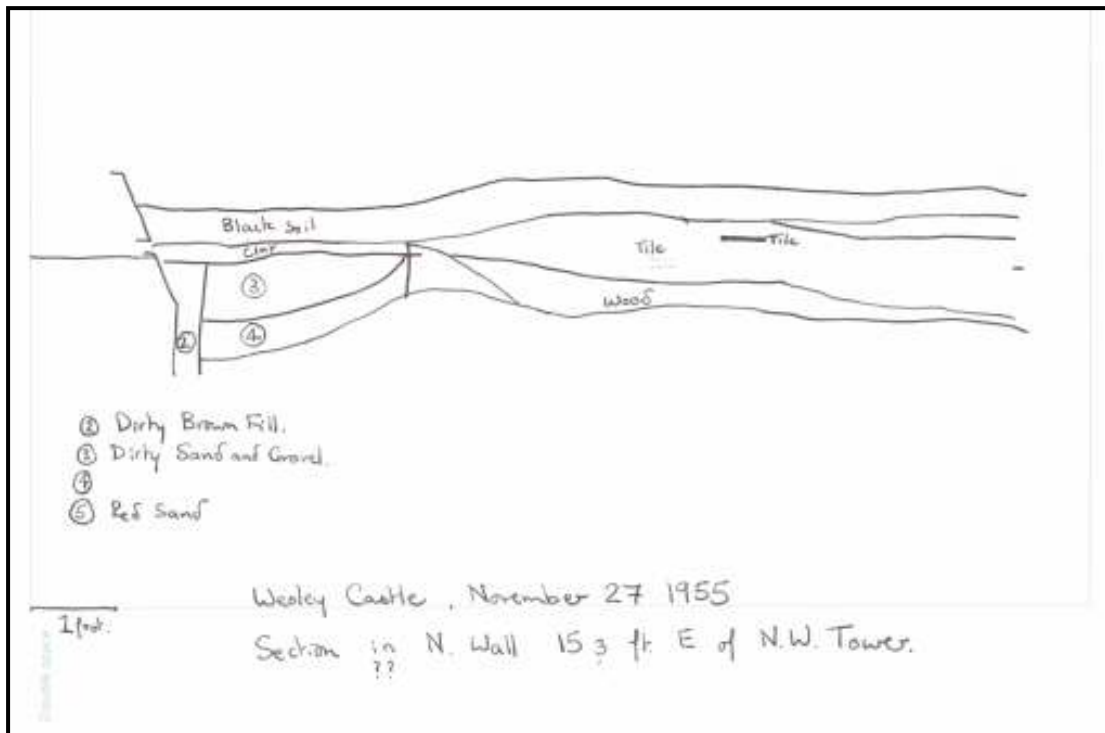


Fig. 3.07: Section in north moat (Scan 755)

Presumably the title is mistaken and should read “ .. west of the Northwest Tower”. The section was 10.00m long by 1.00m deep and ran northwards from the outer face of the northern curtain wall but did not reach the outer edge of the moat. The stratigraphy consisted of, from the base;

- 1 Somewhat irregular natural base
- 2 A bank of dark brown silt/clay cut south by 3 and north by 10
- 3 A cut to the south of 2 with vertical northern edge and base sloping down to the south, filled by 4 and 5.
- 4 Base fill of 3, light grey sand
- 5 Upper fill of 3, dirty sand and gravel
- 6 Construction trench for the north wall, vertical side, 0.15m wide
- 7 Fill of 6, dirty brown sand?
- 8 Masonry of north wall, vertical in cut 6, then battered
- 9 Layer of clay sealing 7 and limited within cut 3
- 10 A shallow cut through 2 to its north and on to the natural base of the moat
- 11 Within 10, the base moat layer containing wood, no other description
- 12 Over 11, a thick deposit of black material (kitchen debris?) containing tile
- 13 Over 12, a thin deposit of material, no description
- 14 Top layer consisting of black soil (more kitchen debris?)

Possibly the important elements of this section are features 2 to 4 which appear to pre-date the construction of the north wall.

The Grill

Oswald, first interim report, page 64

“An iron grill, probably part of a window, and a wooden door with stone door jambs was found, collapsed, in the moat as it fell northwards from the north-east tower. The debris of the tower was covered by a third layer of clay and, therefore, represents an early destruction; in fact, a deposit of builders rubbish between the first and second layers of clay was noted all around the walls, that between layers two and three being particularly heavy and clearly representing a complete re-modelling of the building, probably in the second half of the fourteenth century.”

The Archive

Photographs: Scans 205, 206, 207 and 595 (copies 451-453, 773-775, 888, 929-931 and Grill from NE corner of moat 1300-1350).



Fig 3.08: The Grill and associated elements, looking northwest? (Scan 595)

It seems probable that the grill, wooden door and jamb stones were all part of the same structure – a window with external protective grill, inward opening wooden shutters and dressed stone jambs, it is possible that the stone to the left, partially underlying the wooden shutter is a jamb stone with a glazing groove. The stratigraphy Oswald describes can not be discerned from any of the photographs and, as Scan 595 shows the feature is very close to the turf-line. The idea of a disastrous demolition – nobody would have wasted such a significant quantity of expensive iron – followed by a major re-build is attractive but further proof is lacking for this and a historical context has not yet been identified.

3.2.2.3 The Moat Bridges

Introduction

The moat at Weoley Castle was fed by the Stonehouse brook as was the adjacent fishpond. The archive does not provide any information on water management methods which might have been found during excavation other than the three photographs of what looks like a timber drain arrangement (see above). At the principal entrance to the enclosure, in the northwest, the moat is 21.00m wide and

would have held water to a depth of 2.50m, elsewhere the moat could have been even wider but none of the excavation records show the external edge of the moat.

Three potential bridges were identified during the course of excavations including both pre and post-war works. These were mentioned by Oswald in his first interim report and described more fully by S.E. Rigold in his article on medieval bridge typology. The individual bridges are described below in the order that Rigold discussed them.

The Northeast Bridge

A. Oswald

There was a suggestion of an entrance at the north-east corner where timbers again occurred in the moat and where a gravel causeway was visible.

S. E. Rigold

A. North-east Bridge: deduced from timbers in the moat, not otherwise described, which if they represent a bridge would seem to be of the later 12th century, since they do not correspond with any later opening.

The Archive

There seems to be no evidence of any entrance, indeed no records of any consequence survive for this area other than that concerning the iron grill, see above. Three photographs exist, of uncertain location, showing timbers within the moat but without any obvious structural function – these may be what Oswald is referring to.

Scan 198 (copies 444, 812 and 917)

Scan 199 (copies 445, 882 and 918)

Scan 200 (copies 446 883 and 919)



Fig. 3.09: The Northeast Bridge, looking south? (Scan 198)

Note: Interestingly Scan 198 shows a pit excavated against the footings of the ashlar apron and reveals the wall to be founded on a bed of cobbles. This is not seen or noted elsewhere within the Archive.

Discussion

Excavation established that the line of the pre-1264 ditch fell well within the footprint of the post-1264 curtain. It also seems apparent that the excavation of the post-1264 moat would have removed any trace of an earlier ditch if it had existed within the footprint of the later moat; all evidence suggested that the ditch and its accompanying bank were very slight by comparison to the later moat. Any timbers found anywhere within the post-1264 moat are likely to be contemporary or later than the construction of that moat.

The East Bridge

A. Oswald

The remains of a bridge were found on the east side. This was a strong affair in timber. It was built in the first period of the moat, for the second puddled clay layer went over the top of the timbers, and may well have been used to carry materials from the fish ponds into the castle to make up the level. Equally it may have served as the main entrance to the early manor house.

S.E.Rigold

B. East Bridge: the remains lie in front of a postern in the middle of the post-1264 E. curtain but at right angles to the edge of the pre-1264 moat, over which the bridge seems to have formed the main approach and to have been adapted to the later postern. Significantly the passage from it is impeded by the earliest buildings of the time when Bridge A may have been operative. Bridge B would have been quite long (over 14m), if it reached the earlier moat-edge, and of three bays even when reduced. The visible timbers were apparently of great scantling, up to 50cms. Close to the later curtain was a transverse plate, as though for a type 2 trestle, but it rested on heavy, pointed timbers, which looked like the exposed ends of longitudinal plates running under the curtain, in which case the pre-1264 inner support would have been of type IIIa or IIIc. Farther out lay two transverse rows of heavy packing-pieces, some obviously cut off earlier members, presumably to take later supports of type 2.

The Archive

Photos: View A, Scan 792 (copy 889)
 View B, Scan 462 (copy 813)
Plans: Scans 681, 682, 683
Notebook: Scan 649 and Section A-B, Scans 647 and 651

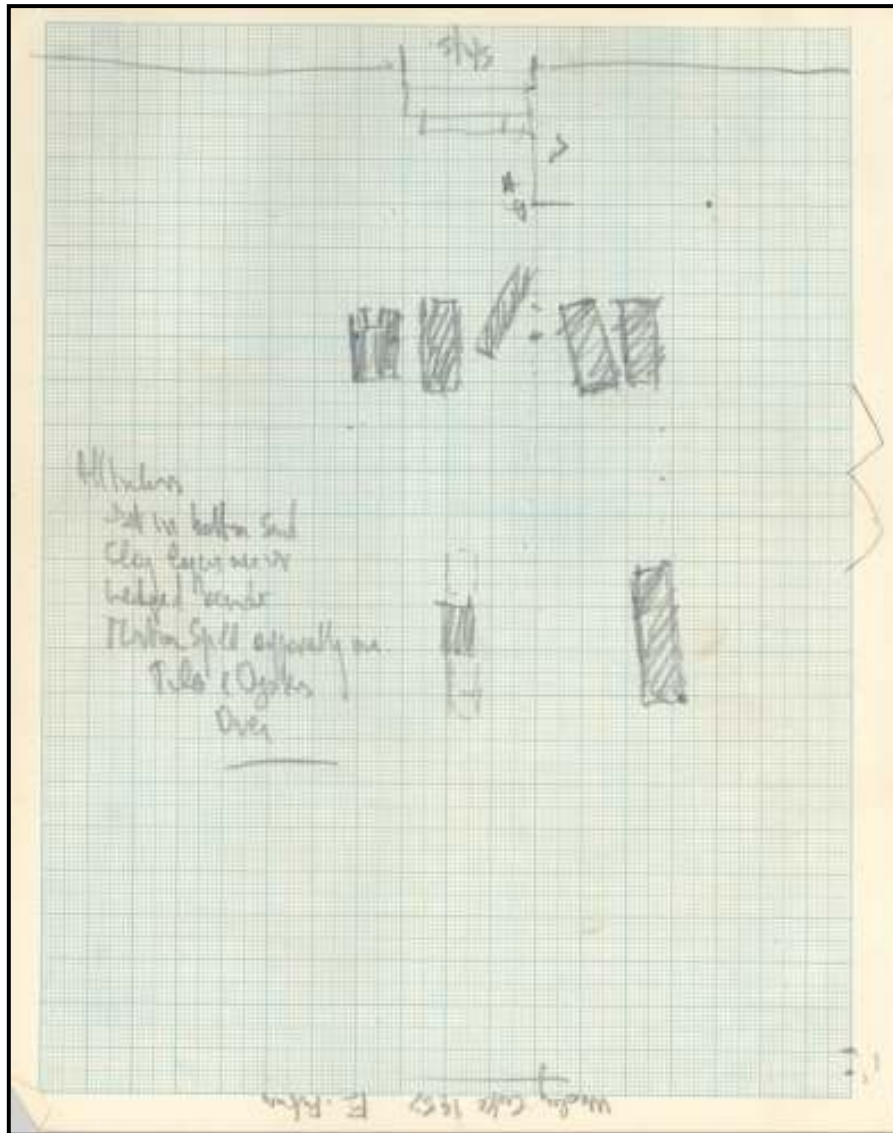


Fig. 3.10: Sketch plan from notebook of the East Bridge (Scan 649)

Description

Located central to the eastern side of the castle enclosure was a postern gate, approximately 0.90m wide, with a flight of three steps leading through the curtain wall down to a corbelled support of 0.60m width. A put-log/joist hole was noted 1.00m to the south of the postern but no corresponding hole was noted to the north.

During excavation of the moat ten timber beams were revealed and interpreted as the remains of a timber bridge leading across the moat. The timbers rested on the base of the moat at an estimated 2.70m below the bottom step of the postern.

The principal element was a transverse beam, 3.70m long by 0.39m wide, placed against the base of the curtain wall centred on the postern. Two beams ran for 1.30m eastwards from each end of the transverse beam which rested upon them. These

would have functioned as packing pieces and there is no indication that they went below the curtain wall masonry within the surviving records.

At 1.65m from the transverse beam four further timbers, each measuring 1.23m west-east by 0.45m continued the bridge footings eastwards, forming two pairs with a gap between the pairs of 1.35m. A fifth timber, probably out of place, lay between the two pairs. Two more timbers, 2.40m further to the east, continued the two southern alignments. The timbers were 2.16m long by 0.45m and had a central portion of 0.80m length which had been highlighted on the site drawing. In total the remains extended 8.00m into the moat. Only one mortise appeared on the site drawing cut into the western end of the southern central timber (0.60m wide) and this, a half mortise, was 0.20m wide by 0.20m and probably indicated that the timber was re-used from an earlier structure.

The timbers appeared only in plan and the thickness of the timbers can only be estimated, possibly 0.30m (Section A-B might suggest somewhat thinner).

The masonry of the sally port appeared to be contemporary with the main construction of the curtain wall built in Period IV and the bridge may therefore belong to this phase although it could be a replacement or have been repaired at a later date.

Interpretation

Timber 1 was the only surviving transverse beam, resting on longitudinal packing pieces 2 and 3. Six longitudinal packing pieces 4-9 formed the bases for a further two transverse sills which do not survive. Timber beam 10 was out of position. The sills would have formed two bays of a four bay bridge crossing the moat at an estimated width of 13.20m; the two central bays being 3.9m long (13 feet) and the bay at each end being 2.70m long (9 feet).

Section A-B

Photograph, Scan 792, shows a baulk left in situ immediately below the postern gate and sealing the principal timber cross beam. The baulk was 1.00m deep by 1.50m long with a sloping eastern face and was drawn as Scan 647. The stratigraphy consisted of, from the base:

- 1 Red sand (stone?), presumably the natural, forming a level surface across the moat base.
- 2 The battered sandstone plinth of the eastern wall which has a corbelled buttress springing from above the third course to support the upper bridge structure. Note: no construction trench through 1 was noted.

- 3 A thin layer of clay possibly intended to make the moat base waterproof.
- 4 The timber transverse beam, 1 above, partially embedded in 3 and measuring 0.40m wide by 0.20m with a slight chamfer towards the upper surface but possibly the result of decay. Located 0.40m from the wall base.
- 5 Thin, level deposit of builders' rubble and sand sealing 3.
- 6 Thin, level band of clay.
- 7 Sand and builders rubble banked against wall 2 and petering out towards the east, 0.30m deep.
- 8 Thin lens of clay.
- 9 Deep, 0.30m, deposit of kitchen refuse and sand forming a level surface but truncated to the east.
- 10 Thin, level deposit of clay
- 11 Deposit of kitchen refuse, 0.15m deep, forming a level surface.
- 12 Thin, level deposit of clay.
- 13 Topsoil? Level with base of corbelling and presumably where the pre-war excavations ceased.

The Northwest Bridge

A. Oswald

There is no mention of the Northwest Bridge in either of Oswald's interim reports.

S. E. Rigold

C. North-west Bridge (FIG. 24; not shown on the published site plan): at the main entrance to the post-1264 enceinte and unrelated to the earlier moat. A long bridge, in four bays, later reduced to three (on the assumption, consistent with the massive chases in the inner stone abutment, that the innermost section was mobile and 6.5m long). The outer stone abutment had three phases, the earliest of which Oswald considered to be later than the curtain and the primary bridge. Be that as it may be, he reasonably associated the demolition of the first phase of the abutment (X) and the building of the second with a reconstruction of the castle early in the 15th century, and placed the third phase, which shared its facade with the second, later in the same century. The timbers found are difficult to associate with any particular phase of the abutment. P.B. Chatwin's plan of 1938 shows a braced frame, A, lying on the bed of the moat, apparently articulated on but not central to the site of the mobile inner section. It does not look like part of an

intermediate support, even a late one. Oswald, on tenuous associations, thought all the timber remains were very late – subsequent to the last phase of the abutment. This seems most questionable. Discounting loose fragments and frame A, they can be resolved into three well-spaced transverse plates (B, C, D), some 6m long and suited to supports of type II. B and C had packing-pieces of reused timber; under them, towards one side, was a longitudinal beam with a groove (but lighter than T1 and T2 at Eynesford) or perhaps two beams; over them lay a longitudinal plank. Plate D was laid in a trench against the common facade of the two later phases of abutment X and all the plates were aligned on this, not that of the first phase. The most obvious interpretation is that they belong to a series of type II trestles consequent on the reconstruction of the abutment early in the 15th century, that the packing pieces are taken from the previous bridge and that the grooved beam may be a relic of a first phase support of type IIIc or similar, to take the mobile section of the bridge. The final bridge might be compared with that at Bodiam (no. 21) but was less solid. Trestle B had no transverse, which is a ground for supposing there was, in the second phase, a support near frame A. If so when the fourth bay was eliminated near the outer abutment, another bay was inserted near the inner one. On plate D the only one where all the mortises are recorded, there were only two uprights and two shores which may have passed them and reached the lintel. Oswald reckoned the walkway as 2.4m. wide.

The Archive

- Photos: View A, Scan 107, pre-war? (copies 133, 353, 379, 1454ii, 1484)
 View B, Scan 125 (copies 371, 852, 1475)
 View C, Scan 122 (copies 368, 851, 1471)
 View D, Scan 369 (copy 1472)
 View E, Scan 801
 View F, Scan 789
 View G, Scan 126
- Plans: Scan 042 (copies 239, 485, 568, s438 Bridge Abutment, S438)
 Scan 1005
- Notebook: Scans 607, 608, 609, 610, 611

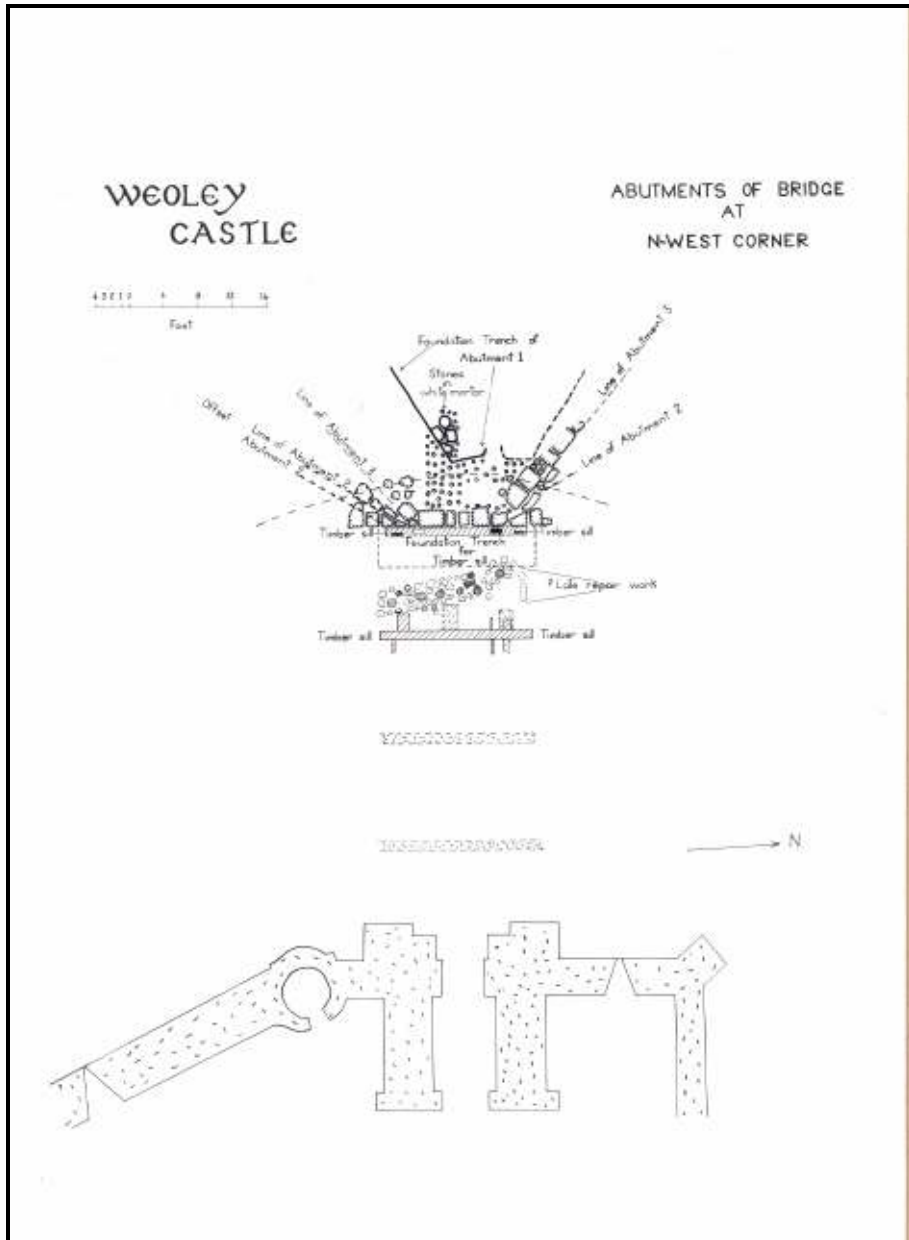


Fig. 3.11: Plan of Northwest Bridge and abutments (Scan 042)



Fig. 3.12: The Northwest Bridge and West Abutment, looking southeast (Scan 126)

Discussion

Excavations of elements of the northwest bridge occurred in both pre-war and post-war excavation campaigns. Rigold refers to a drawing attributed to Chatwin and dated 1938 and this must be Scan 1005, showing the eastern two bays of the bridge whilst Scan 042 is based on Oswald's post-war excavations and shows the western bridge abutment and eastern bay in detail with the three western bays shown only by the stippled outlines of two transverse beams, presumably meant to be the two shown on Scan 1005. The illustration in Rigold appears to be a combination of the two drawings.

Scan 042 reveals the transverse beam with four mortises positioned against the western bridge abutment, sitting within a bedding trench, and the next transverse beam lying on packing pieces at a distance of 5.70m from the first. The next two bays are indicated by the position of the stippled transverse beams again with a bay length of 5.70m. This left the final bay at 4.10m and it is likely that this bay would have been spanned by a drawbridge operated from the Gatehouse.

Scan 1005: This drawing has no scale appended but a scale was applied by cross referencing with Scan 042. Unfortunately the relative positions of transverse beams do not correspond on both drawings. On Scan 1005 the two transverse beams shown are 5.00m apart and the distance between the Gatehouse and the first beam is 6.50m. Rigold believes this span to have been the length of the drawbridge. Photographic evidence does not assist in interpreting these conflicting measurements. It seems probable that a span of 6.50m for a drawbridge on a site such as Weoley Castle is over-ambitious – it is highly unlikely that the Gatehouse tower was as high as this. It may well be that a mistake had been made in the original drafting of Scan 1005 and it seems probable that the three even bays and slightly shorter one for the drawbridge provide a more convincing interpretation. In imperial measurement this would give approximate bay spans of 19ft for the first three bays and, at approximately 2/3 the length, 13ft for the final bay.

Note: Plan, Scan 042 and photograph, Scan 122, show an area of rubble with some associated timbers lying within the first bay and annotated on the plan as “? Late Repair Work”, lacking further information it is not possible to amplify this comment.

The Western Bridge Abutment

Information on the interpretation of this abutment relies on plan Scan 042 and the photographic archive, as above. Oswald would appear not to have written about this feature but must have been responsible for creating the plan Scan 042 which Rigold uses in his account. The abutment sequence would appear to be as follows, with Abutment 1 being the earliest;

Abutment 1 had a front face of 4.30m width set back 3.30m from the face of Abutment 2 whilst the sides angled back at 60 degrees from the face. Photographs and plan combine to indicate that the abutment survived as a cut, presumably filled with demolition rubble. It seems probable that none of the excavated bridge timbers were connected to this abutment.

Abutment 2 was constructed above a straight stretch of ashlar masonry measuring 10.80m in length and 1.50m high and consisted of an outer face on the same alignment as the lower masonry, measuring 4.80m wide and with sides angled back at 35 degrees.

Abutment 3 had a similar frontage to Abutment 2 with sides angled back at 50 degrees.

The scope for re-interpreting this development sequence is limited by the paucity of the surviving archive.

The Eastern Bridge Abutment

This abutment was constructed as one with the Period 4 Gatehouse and its details are described in Pre-war Excavations, The Standing Masonry, Exterior.

Conclusions

Within the archive there are ten sections across the moat varying in length and depth but none showing the full width and revealing what form the outer edge of the moat might have taken. The full width of the moat appears to have been excavated only at the Northwest Bridge crossing. Oswald describes a very concise and logical sequence of deposition within the moat with six phases of clay water-proofing, kitchen debris and construction/demolition debris intervening. None of the surviving sections illustrates this sequence although individual sections contain fragments of stratigraphy resembling it. The overall impression is of the moat being used as a dump for kitchen and rubble deposits throughout its life, evidence for one or more scourings of the moat is not visible and indeed the noted finds sequences might indicate that deposits were left undisturbed. On average, Oswald was left with 1.00m of moat deposits to excavate, all above having been removed during the pre-war excavation campaigns.

It seems obvious that only two bridges ever crossed the moat and that these post-dated the creation of the moat in Period IV. The archive is sparse but enough survives to describe the bays and to fit the form into the typical bridge construction of the period with transverse beams supporting a braced super-structure. Comparison with the much greater site at Bodiam Castle with its two bridges and semi-hexagonal abutments is not unreasonable.

3.3 THE WEST INTERIOR

3.3.1 Area D: The Granary

(PDF: Post-war Excavations/West Interior/Area D/The Granary)

The 1424 Survey

“... one house standing alone for a wardrobe with a granary under ...”

Oswald’s first interim report

Period V

Soon after the construction of the curtain wall stone bases, presumably to carry vertical wooden beams – nine in all – were placed in position. One of these bases obscures an arrow slit in the outer wall. Associated with these was a coin of Alexander III of Scotland, minted in Berwick about A.D. 1300, suggesting that the close of this period was within the decades 1300-1320.

Period VI

Some time in the first half of the fourteenth century the buildings of Period V were pulled down or destroyed and the whole level was made up with eight inches to a foot of sandstone rubble which contained architectural details, part of a pinnacle and the remains of a circular staircase, as well as pottery and arrowheads. A fresh building also on stone bases, this time set in white mortar and slightly to the east of the earlier building, was then erected. This building had a tiled roof and a white plaster floor the surface of which yielded evidence suggesting a closing date not later than the end of the fourteenth century. Like its predecessor it appears to have been some sort of barn and stabling combined.

Period VII

A very massive building was constructed on the south side of the area; it was associated with the white plaster floor which yielded a very worn coin of Richard II and a horse’s bit of the fifteenth century, together with fifteenth century pottery. Pottery and coin evidence suggests that this building went out of use about 1450. It also had a tiled roof.

Period VIII

Very rough walling associated with plaster and cobbled flooring was erected against the ruins of the earlier building and had all the appearance of being a poor agricultural structure. Pottery evidence suggests a closing date of c.1600 for this structure.

The Archive

Inked Plans: 1955 Scan 036 (copies 534, 592, 749, 943, 1955 plan)

1957 Scan 046 (copies 236, 482, 569, 684, 685, S317, Phase Plan 1957, S517)

Inked Section: Section P/Q (A) Scan 052 (copies 561, 747, S1048, Notebook: Scans 751 and 752)

Photos: Scans 139, 209, 210, 211, 212, 217, 218, 226, 229 (multiple copies)

Notebook: Four sections running from southeast to northwest, showing eastern faces of test pits, drawn June 1955.

Section A/B (A) Scan 768

Section A/B (B) Scan 767

Section A/B (C) Scan 765

Section A/B (D) Scan 763

Notebook: Scans 658, 738, 740, 741, 747, 761, 762, 764, 766, 770

Scans 679, 680, 681 and 693; These scans consist of four pages of notes on pink paper, describing Phases A-D, with some finds information and annotations.



Fig. 3.13: Area D, mid-excavation, looking southeast (Scan 210)

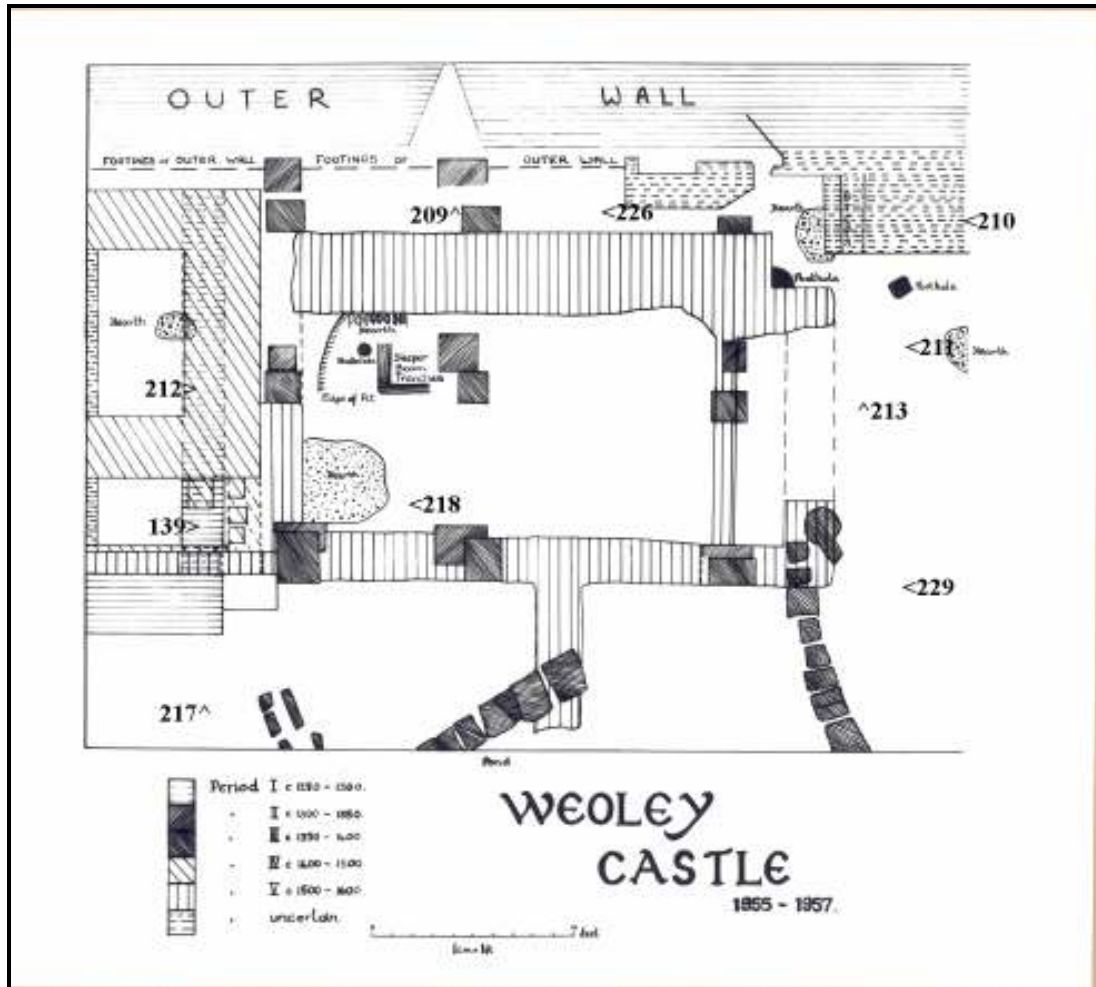


Fig. 3.14: Area D, The Granary, with photo locations added, 217^ etc. (Scan 046, modified)

The Excavation

Location

This site was located on the western side of the castle to the south of the West Tower and north of the visitor access causeway which is still *in situ*. The site was aligned northwest-southeast, adjacent to the southwest curtain wall, was excavated between 1955 and 1957 and at completion had overall dimensions of 13.00m northwest-southeast by 8.50m.

Background

The excavation began in 1955, with the notebook suggesting that the first trial pits had been excavated by June. These consisted of four pits running from southeast to northwest, each measuring 8 feet square (2.35m) and numbered A, B, C and D, starting at the south. The test pits ran parallel with the curtain wall and 3 feet (0.96m) in from it and had 4 feet (1.17m) baulks between them.

The next stage of the excavation was to remove the baulks and extend the excavation to the curtain, creating an area excavation measuring 13.00m southeast-northwest by 3.80m. This stage is shown in plan, Scan 036.

The final stage was to extend the excavation to the northeast by an additional 4.70m giving a final area of 13.00m by 8.50m, illustrated in plan, Scan 046. In general the excavations stopped on top of the Period IV moat up-cast.

The Curtain Wall

The curtain wall here ran straight, between the West Tower and the southwest corner of the enclosure. The wall was 1.26m thick and sat on an internal offset, 0.36m wide. The principal feature consisted of a splayed arrow slit, narrowing from 1.14m to 0.10m and located central to the west side of the excavation. A second arrow slit is indicated on plan, Scan 036 and on Section P/Q but not on plan Scan 046, located 5.60m (centre to centre) further to the southeast. Note that the sill of this arrow slit is only 0.30m above the wall offset.

It would appear that, apart from occasional small sondages, excavation ceased on top of the level, Period IV moat up-cast. These thick sand and gravel layers formed part of the re-modelling of the castle in the late 13th century and Oswald indicates on his plan key that he believed all excavated features in this area post-dated the re-modelling.

The following description is based on the annotation on plan Scan 046 and revised to accord with the phasing in Oswald's first interim report.

Period I, 1280-1300

(equals Period V in interim report but should equal Period IV 1270-1280)

Although it is by no means certain from the available evidence that the following features are contemporary they do not relate to later identifiable structures and in some cases obviously pre-date them. All information below is taken from the two Phased plans, Scans 036 and 046. The features consist of

Pits etc.

- 1 Post-hole, 0.22m square, located 2.10m from the curtain wall to the north of the site.
- 2 Post-hole, 0.70m diameter, located 1.85m to the south of 1 and same distance from curtain wall
- 3 Post-hole, 0.22m square, located 1.40m to the south of 2 but only 1.06m from the curtain wall

- 4 Post-hole, 0.14m diameter located to the central southern part of the site, and possibly associated with 5 and 6.
- 5 The edge of a pit is indicated on plan, possibly associated with 2.
- 6 A beam slot with right angle, located immediately north of 4, was 0.15m wide and ran for 0.70m west to east before turning north to run for 0.70m, parallel with the curtain at a distance of 3.50m. This could be the corner of a wooden structure built against the curtain.

Hearths

- 7 0.64m diameter, extending beyond the north trench section.
- 8 0.70m diameter lying below the wall steps to the northwest.
- 9 Oval 1.50m north-south by 1.14m, extending below later masonry.
- 10 0.57m diameter, as 9.

The features may all pre-date the later structures and could be associated with activities occurring during and immediately after the Period IV construction work, possibly temporary features used by the builders.

Note: Scan 046 (plan) also shows a building, underlying the Period IV building to the south of the site, measuring 6.75m wide and possibly butting up to the curtain wall. Only fragments of the masonry of this building could have been seen below the overlying masonry but Scan 217 (photo) shows the northeast corner convincingly underlying all the later masonry. There appears to be no reason why this building did not exist contemporary with the Period II and/or III granaries and their pier bases do respect its northern gable but Oswald makes no mention of it in the interim report or in the surviving notebooks.

Period II 1300-1350

(equates to Periods V/VI in interim report but should probably equal Period V 1280-1320)

Note: where relevant, measurements are given to and from the estimated centre point of the pier bases.

Nine pier bases/post pads were laid on top of the levelling layers (the northwest base was removed or obscured by later building work). The sandstone blocks were, on average, 0.50m square. The western row was positioned 0.43m from the curtain wall's inner face and overlay that wall's foundation off-set. The central base was so positioned as to obscure the northern reveal of the central arrow slit whilst the southern base was 2.84m distant and the northern 3.70m. The central row was 2.50m

to the east and the eastern row a further 2.50m, providing a rectangular structure measuring 6.54m by 5.00m.

No surrounding masonry has been associated with these bases and it would seem that they were intended as supports for either stone or timber uprights to provide a storage area raised above the dangers of damp/flooding and/or vermin, exactly as a granary would require. The floor surface of this structure consisted of white plaster.

The obscuring of the arrow loop is intriguing at so early a point after the re-modelling of the castle also the fact that as elsewhere the sill of the loop is scarcely above the floor level. Effectively the arrow loops became militarily redundant once the interior of the castle had its ground surface raised by *c.*0.60m with material from the excavation of the moat.

The variation in bay width is also of interest and must surely be of some significance to the manner in which the building was used.

Period III, 1350-1400

(equals Period VI in interim report 1320-1380)

The Period II granary structure was re-modelled on substantially the same lines as before, although slightly off-set and with bases not quite so regularly spaced. The pier-bases were now 0.57m square, on average, and were constructed of three or four courses of stone blocks of diminishing size set in white mortar. The western row was 0.80m from the curtain wall whilst the central and eastern rows were 2.50m apart as in Period II, pushing the whole structure slightly to the east and north. The flooring of this structure again consisted of white plaster

Period IV, 1400-1500

(equals Period VII in interim report, 1400-1450)

At the southern end of the site a building constructed of well-coursed sandstone ashlar was excavated. Only 2.50m of the north-western end of the building was exposed, the rest remaining below the visitor access causeway. Interestingly the northern gable respects the alignment of the pier bases of the earlier period suggesting that the granary was still standing at the time of construction. The building was 4.10m wide with west and east walls 0.85m thick and the north gable 1.15m thick. The interior was only 2.40m wide and the building was of unknown length – it did not re-appear in Area F (see below). This building appears to accord with Oswald's "very massive building" but it's size does not seem to justify this description. Assuming it is the same building it had a white plaster floor and tiled roof.

Period V 1500-1600

(equals Period VIII in the interim report, post-1450)

Overlying the pier bases and to the north of the Period IV building was a building measuring 8.00m northwest-southeast by 5.00m. It had walls of varying thickness with shallow foundations and a cobbled floor surface. External details included a northwest projection/annexe and a wall running to the northeast from the middle of the west wall. The western wall possibly extended southwards parallel with the west wall of the Period IV building. This structure is presumably the remnants of Oswald's poorly constructed late agricultural building.

Staircase to the Curtain Wall

A block of masonry built against the curtain wall at the north end of the site has been interpreted as the remnants of a staircase providing access to that wall's parapet and also to the battlements of the West Tower. The masonry was 1.56m wide with a 0.36m wide extension running for 0.72m against the curtain to the south. The surviving steps were 1.20m wide with treads of 0.30m width and risers of 0.20m.

The West Tower

(PDF: Post-war Excavations/The West Interior/Area D/The West Tower)

The 1424 Survey

“Item, six turrets of stone ...”

Oswald's first interim report

Erection of curtain wall and towers

The wall was dug into the fill of the earlier moat, and its footings were composed of un-faced stone. Immediately before this was done the towers had been built to the level of the first faced course. After the rough footings of the wall were completed the faced stones of the tower were then added.

The Archive

Section: Scan 037 (copies 237, 483, 572, 652, 653, s330)

Note: the scale appears to be wrong.

Photos: Scans 128, 181, 807, 920, 921 (including pre and post-war)

Notebook: Scans 654-657 Eight pages of notes survive describing the excavation, consisting of four pages of notes with complimentary section drawings. The drawings were combined to create inked drawing, Scan 037. It is plain that a fifth set of notes describing the central part of the trench section is missing.

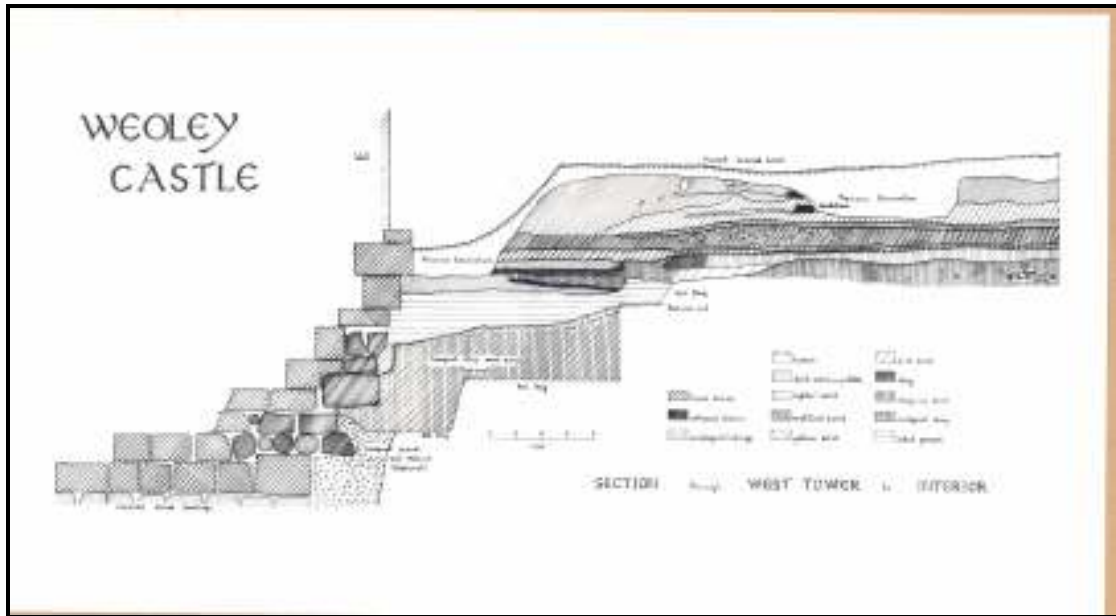


Fig. 3.15: The West Tower, south facing section (Scan 037)

Description

This tower is 5.00m wide and projects into the moat 3.60m, disregarding the battered plinth. The walls are 1.00m thick, enclosing an internal space of 2.90m by 5.00m. Arrow loops survived in the north and south walls, and probably existed in the west wall also. The important feature of this tower are the remains of a two-centred arch running across the back wall with evidence from excavation proving that there was no walling at foundation level joining the curtain at either side of the tower - being further proof that the towers were of the same build as the curtain walls in Period IV.

The Excavation

In 1957 a trench was excavated against the north, internal wall of the West Tower occupying approximately half its width. The trench extended for a distance of 7.00m from the rear face of the tower/curtain wall. The trench might have been considered as an extension to Area D, granary excavation, which was located immediately to the south of the tower. The Section appears as Figure 5 in the first interim report but the deposits are not numbered but keyed by material type. The section is described below; from the base

- 1 At a depth of 1.50m the natural subsoil was encountered, consisting of yellow/brown sand with a high clay content which capped a compact gravel deposit. The excavation went to a depth of 2.00m through these natural deposits.

- 2 A thin deposit of dark, pebbly, silt/sand overlay 1 and underlay 3, probably a compressed turf line.
- 3 A shallowly shelving cut into the natural and a bank of compact, pebbly clay, mottled blue/red and containing wood fragments (anaerobic) was interpreted by the excavator as a part of the early, Period I, bank and ditch, pre-dating the Period IV late 13th century re-modelling. The bank survived to a depth of 0.57m and the combined ditch and bank sloped at an angle of only ten degrees.
- 4 The ditch cut, 3, was filled with a deposit of compact gravel with occasional larger stones and this in turn was overlain by a clay/sand deposit to the level of the top of the bank, at 0.95m below the ground level.
- 5 A cut into the upper fill in 4 was located 2.25m to the east of the curtain wall and was 0.33m deep. The western side had been truncated by 11. The fills consisted of lenses of clay, sand and silt/sand.
- 6 Overlying bank and ditch fills 3 and 4 was a deposit of blue/grey clay with occasional pebbles and 0.15m thick. The deposit petered out 2.30m from the curtain wall.
- 7 Very thin, level deposit of pink sand merging into yellow sand and extending across the whole length of the trench except where truncated by 11 next to the Outer Wall. This was possibly laid as a floor surface and may be contemporary with the re-modelling.
- 8 Buff sand with pink flecking containing some sandstone blocks, possibly associated with the construction work during re-modelling. The deposit was 0.20m thick and formed a level surface at 0.60m below the ground surface.
- 9 Overlying 8 was a thin deposit of grey/brown sand with lenses of green and bright red sand within it. The deposit was remarkably flat and was interpreted as a floor surface.
- 10 Thick deposits of buff, white and yellow sand with varying quantities of pebbles and no mention of sandstone working, immediately below the topsoil and 0.60m thick.
- 11 Two cuts through archaeological deposits associated with pre-war excavations. The first cut, against the curtain, was 1.60m deep by 1.60m wide with steeply sloping side and a flat base and can be detected on the

pre-war photographs. This cut disrupted the stratigraphical relationships between deposits 10 to 5 and the curtain wall. The second, 1.60m wide by 0.40m deep, was located 4.00m from the Outer Wall.

12 Turf and topsoil.

Discussion

The disruption caused by cut 11 to the underlying stratigraphy poses problems in providing a definitive interpretation but it seems probable that 10 was the final levelling of the castle interior during the late 13th century re-build whilst 6 to 10 and possibly 4 developed whilst construction was underway or possibly pre-dated it. Turf-line 2 and bank and ditch 3 definitely pre-dated the re-modelling.

No evidence of structures/buildings within the courtyard was noted within the excavation trench and it seems likely that none existed in this area at any stage during the castle's occupation.

The Round Turret

(PDF: Post-war Excavations/West Interior/Area D/The Round Turret)

Oswald's first interim report (Page 66)

Further sections by the round tower and the north-west entrance also picked up the lip of this early moat.

The Archive

Photo: Scan 223 (copies 824 and 955)

Notebook: Scan 663



Fig. 3.16: The Round Turret, adjacent excavations, looking north (Scan 223)

This excavation occurred between 1955 and 1957 and appears to have been an extension of Area D. Although Oswald refers to further excavations by the Gatehouse Tower no records survive.

Description

The Round Turret is 3.80m in diameter with a 0.40m thick wall providing a 3.00m internal diameter. The turret was mostly encased within the curtain wall but projected slightly into the moat where it was supported by a plinth, corbelled out from the battered apron of the original wall line. A doorway led into the turret at ground level from the courtyard and it is assumed that the turret functioned as a stair tower, providing access to the wall walk and the battlements of the Gatehouse Tower. Oswald believed this turret to have been inserted in Period VIII, post 1450, but does not explain why this should be and it seems unlikely that masonry of such quality would be used at a period when the castle was already in decline.

The photograph and sketch plan which are all that remain do not reveal what was found of the first bank and ditch but do show the northeast jamb of the doorway into the turret, an external step or foundation off-set and an indication of some very scrappy wall footings running to the east and north of the turret. A bed of pebbles

appears to underlie the footings and a narrow trench running north-south had been excavated through the pebble deposit.

3.3.2 Area F: The Bakery/Brew-house

(PDF: Post-war Excavations/West Interior/Area F/The Bakery)

The 1424 survey

“... of the south part of the said castle a house for a bake-house and a brew-house and ... (the granary)”

Oswald’s interim report

No mention of this excavation occurs in any of Oswald’s reports.

Surviving Archive

Inked Plans: 034 (copies 525, 601, 1054), 619-623 (individual oven plans)

Site notebook: 617, 624, 625, 626, 627, 632

Strat. Breakdown

Photos: A Scan 116 (copies 362, 817, 1464)

B Scan 117 (copies 363, 806, 1465)

C Scan 118 (copies 364, 858, 1466)

D Scan 121 (copies 367, 814, 1470)

E Scan 138 (copies 384, 828, 857,1594)

So far 21 scans have been identified as Area F photographs but these have been examined to reveal only five distinct views, numbered A-E; the location of these photographs are shown on Fig. 3.17

The archive for this complex excavation now consists of one phase plan without a Key, five individual oven plans, five pages within the site notebook, five photographs and the strat. table reproduced below.

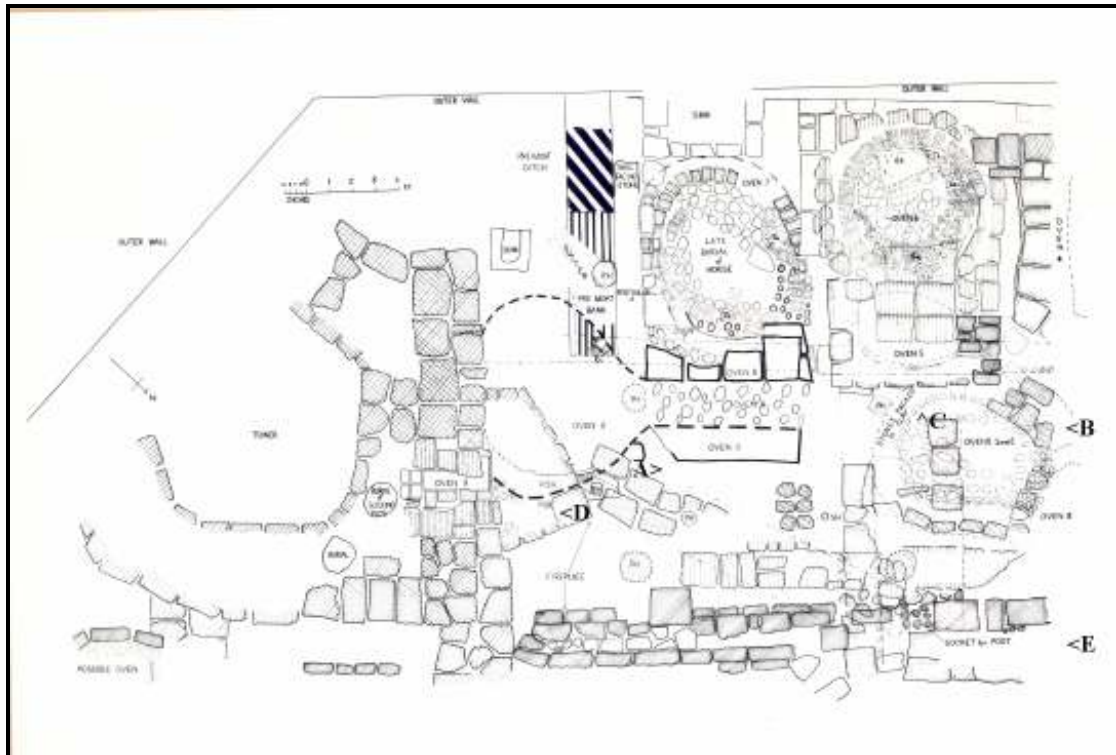


Fig. 3.17: Plan of Area F, The Bakehouse, showing photo locations (Scan 034)



Fig. 3.18: Area F, the Bakehouse, looking south (Scan 117)

Description

Area F was excavated in 1962 and was a southern extension of Area D, the granary excavation. The visitor entrance causeway, between it and Area D was left unexcavated – a strip with a width of 3.80m. The area measured approximately 14.50m north-south by 8.10m and included a polygonal turret within the southwest corner. Generally excavations ceased on top of the Period IV moat up-cast but one trench was excavated to a greater depth, measuring 3.25m west-east by 0.65m and running eastwards from the curtain wall. The bank, ditch and a palisade post-hole of the Period I enclosure were identified below the Period IV moat up-cast.

The Curtain Wall

In Area F the curtain wall was a direct continuation of that in Area D, running northwest-southeast. The wall met the south curtain wall at an angle of 128 degrees whereupon the south wall ran west-east. Pre-war photograph (Scan 008) shows the south wall to have been completely collapsed in this area but was rebuilt using rubble from the moat excavations leaving a wall-core finish. The only unusual architectural detail occurs in the southwest wall where an opening occurs referred to as a sink. A similar feature occurs at the east end of the south wall in the vicinity of the kitchen. The sink was a square shaft within the masonry of the curtain wall, measuring 1.08m square. The inner face had a thin skin of masonry whilst the outer projected from the wall line in the same manner as the many buttresses but 1.80m wide. It is no longer apparent whether this feature was built as one with the curtain wall or was a later insertion. Views B and E show a pier base, not unlike those from Area D, blocking access to the sink feature but it does not appear on plan and no reference to it occurs elsewhere in the Archive and it is probably a late intrusion. Oven 7 would also have blocked access to the sink in the latter part of the castle's life.

Note: Could these sinks have actually been wells fed by the moat and providing easy access to water, useful for many purposes even if not potable?

Oswald's Stratigraphy

The table below provides a breakdown of stratigraphy, structures and finds as Oswald understood the site. Further detailed information would be required to fully understand the meaning of the sequence but it can be seen that Oswald obviously believed he had a well stratified site. Some of the codes e.g. F+1 etc. may be of use in finds analysis.

Date	Tower?	Building?	Layer	Oven	Finds
1270			Dirty grey gravel/clay		Pottery WC996
1280	Tower with slab floor	Building with fire-place	Ash layer 1		Slipware WC427
1300			Orange sandstone rubble	1 and 2	
	Cobble floor 1	Red mortar floor	Ash layer 2		
	Cobble floor 2		Grey sandstone rubble	3	Knife WC427
1350	Tower levelled	Building levelled	Grey sandstone rubble		
		Yellow clay floor			
		Black ash layer			
		Wooden building			
1400	Enclosing wall		Sleeper beams	4	
			Red plaster floor		
1450	Wall			5	
1500	Out of use?			6	
				7 and 8	
				9 and 10	
18 th Cent.	Animal burials				

The following text concerns itself with the main area of excavation and is phased in accordance with the table above and referenced to Oswald's phasing given in his first interim report.

Ovens 1 and 2, 1300, Period V

After the curtain wall had been constructed and the ground level raised in Period IV the ground was levelled with grey gravel/clay and the ovens constructed, presumably in the open. Ash layer 2 was produced as a result of usage of the ovens. The ovens

were located in the northeast corner of the site and no detail concerning their form of construction etc. has survived. They both lay directly below Oven 3.

Oven 3 later than Ovens 1 and 2

The ground level was raised with grey sandstone rubble and a red mortar floor laid for use with Oven 3 which was situated to the north of the site, to the east of Oven 6 and underlay both Ovens 8 and 5. The oval chamber had dimensions of 1.80m from north to south by 1.40m and was floored with large pebbles set in clay? The surrounding masonry, where it survived, was 0.65m thick with a flue opening wide to the north, estimated at 0.70m wide but of uncertain length. A later, yellow clay floor was laid with black ash layer over.

Oven 4, 1400, Period VII

This oven was located in the northwest corner of the site and extended below the section. The remains consisted of a line of stone blocks running for 2.70m parallel to the northern edge of Oven 6. A southern extension of the oven apparently overlay Oven 6, indicating the later date of Oven 4. The oven is associated with the enclosing wall, see below, and a red plaster floor.

Oven 5, 1450, Period VII

This oven was situated within a rectangular block of masonry measuring 2.64m from northwest to southeast by 1.46m. The chamber was oval with dimensions of 1.43m by 1.00m and was accessed via a flue measuring 0.55m square, located to the north. Details concerning the material construction of the chambers are lacking. Stratigraphically, the oven lay below the flue of Oven 6 and overlay elements of Oven 3.

Oven 6, 1500, Period VIII

This oven was situated in the northern part of the site overlying the remains of Oven 5. The oven has been consolidated and is still visible. The chamber was circular with a diameter of 1.70m, a floor of clay-set cobbles and a surrounding wall of fired clay tiles measuring 0.23m by 0.16m by 0.02m. These lined the interior of a rough-mortared rubble wall of 0.50m width. The flue, located to the northeast, was constructed of stone slabs and measured 1.08m square – the slabs extended into the northern part of the chamber forming part of the floor.

Oven 7

This oven underlay Oven 8 and apparently blocked access to the sink/well in the curtain wall. The oven had an oval, tile-built chamber measuring 2.00 north-south by 1.50m and its flue was probably to the east but was obscured by Oven 8.

Oven 8

Overlying Oven 7 and slighted walls to the south Oswald believed that the surrounding buildings had gone out of use, this oven consisted of two well-constructed, parallel walls running for 2.30m northwest to southeast with a flue between them of 0.60m width and paved with large pebbles set in clay. The phase plan indicates a circular chamber of 2.40m diameter located to the south of the flue – no further information is available concerning this feature.

Oven 9

This oven consisted of a 1.20m square block of masonry inserted into the north wall of the polygonal turret. The masonry contained a combined chamber and flue which was 0.85m long, 0.50m wide to the south, tapering to 0.30m at the flue opening to the north. The base consisted of clay tiles to the east and a large stone slab to the west, whilst the end wall to the south was constructed of tiles; laid flat to the west and on edge to the east.

Oven 10

This oven does not appear on plan and no further information has been identified. An oven with no number does occur on plan to the southwest of the site and this may be it.

Masonry

Based on an attempt at interpreting the site plan, the earliest masonry on the site consisted of two parallel walls each 1.08m wide and 2.90m apart. The walls were at right angles to the southwest curtain and ran to the northeast. The walls ran below the west trench section whilst to the east they were overlain by later masonry. The west gable of this structure may have lain below this later masonry.

The Southwest Turret

To the south of the site a pentagonal turret was constructed with walls of up to 1.50m thick and one side incorporating the south curtain. The internal space was coffin-shaped with dimensions of 4.00m north-south by 3.20m. The turret overlay the masonry of the earlier parallel walls and Oswald believed it to have been built in 1280 and gone out of use in 1350 and notes an initial slab floor dating to 1280, Period 5, and two later cobbled surfaces. Other than late animal burials no later activity is noted

in the area of the turret but its north wall foundation appears to have been re-used in later buildings.

Enclosing Wall

This feature could be the sleeper beam associated with a red plaster floor noted by Oswald and dated to 1400, Period VII, with Oven 4.

A wall footing is recorded as running to the northwest from the north wall of the turret and enclosing the majority of the ovens. The footing ran parallel to the southwest curtain at a distance of 7.00 and was 0.86m wide; an upper course of masonry was 0.65m wide and consisted of two parallel lines of stone blocks with an apparent gap between the two rows. No evidence of mortar was noted and it seems probable that the wall was clay bonded. It seems unlikely that this footing supported a stone-built superstructure and the presence of a post socket at its northern end, 0.50m square, would suggest that the foundation functioned as a dwarf wall supporting a timber superstructure. The feature was 5.40m long but continued along the same alignment to the north of the post setting as a single layer of stone slabs, possibly an extension of the structure. A substantial block of masonry was built against the north wall of the turret some 1.20m to the west of the footing and the intervening space is noted on plan as having been a fire-place; this might suggest that the footing supported a stone superstructure rather than timber.

Post-holes

Seven post-holes were noted on the phase plan, forming a possible structure. Four post-holes with an average diameter of 0.40m formed a rectangle with dimension of 3.60m, from northwest to southeast, by 2.40m. Two more, smaller post-holes were located 0.50m internal to the eastern side, 1.80m apart and a seventh 0.50m external to the southern side. These post-holes appear to have formed a coherent rectangular structure although whether the whole or a part of a larger structure will remain unknown. No information concerning the stratigraphic relationships between the post-holes and the various other features was recorded but it seems probable that the post structure pre-dated the ovens and other features and maybe cut into the moat dumps as a temporary structure associated with the Period 4 re-modelling of the castle. Oswald notes a post-built structure and dates it to 1350, if the post-holes described here are the same they could have been contemporary with the continued use of Oven 3 but this is not obvious from the plan.

Animal Burials

There were three animal burials recorded on the phase plan. The first recorded on plan as “Late burial of horse” was excavated into the backfill of disused Oven 7. The second marked “Burial of suckling pig” was deposited in a pit (0.40m diameter) cut into remains of the masonry of the southwest turret. The third was marked as “Burial” and was located 0.50m to the east of the second and was in a pit of the same size excavated into the same masonry. It seems probable that these burials came late in the life of the castle or possibly after its abandonment and Oswald places them in the 18th century.

Other Features

Other small features are shown on the plan but these can not be fitted into an adequate description of the site. A stone sink is shown in the southwest of the site but may have been out of place whilst a possible kiln extends below the western section and other stone alignments must form part of the story of the site’s development but not enough information survives to place them into the sequence.

3.4 Periods I-III, 1100-1260

3.4.1 Introduction

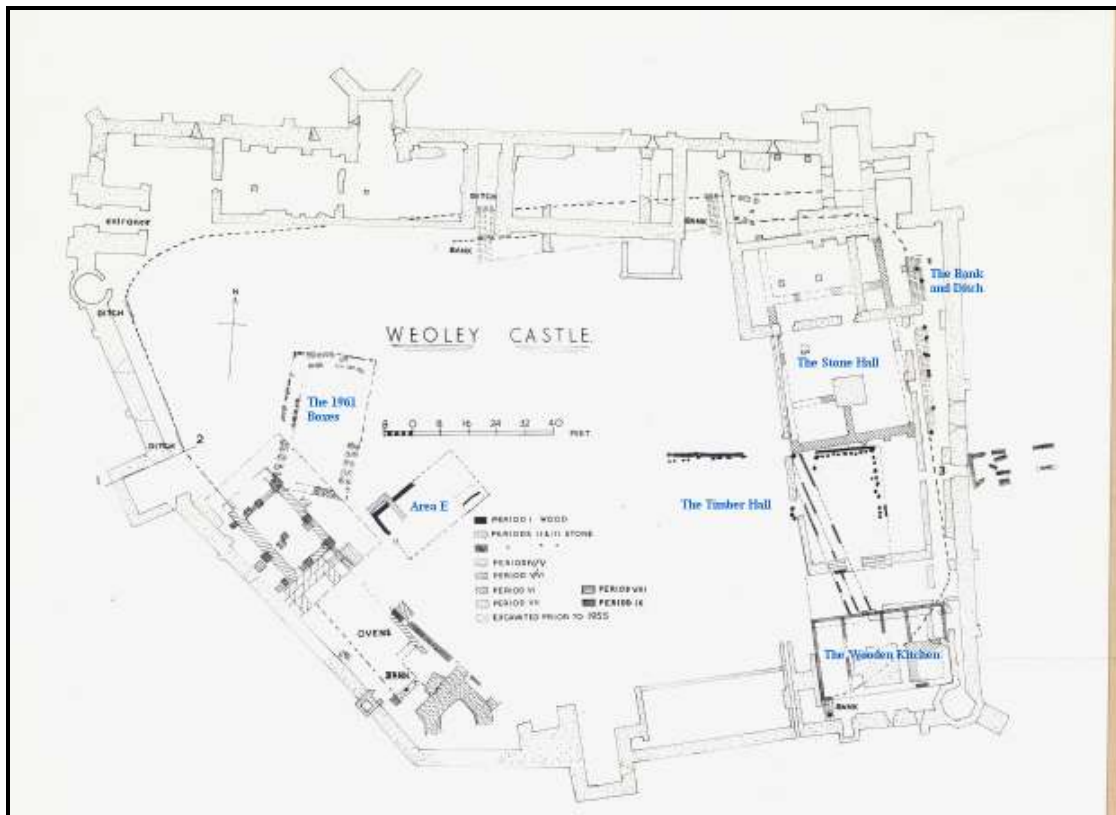


Fig. 3.19: Plan showing principal areas of excavation of Periods I-III, in blue (Scan 032, modified)

Oswald's first interim report

Timber structures of this early period were found together with pits and hearths. The associated pottery is not particularly characteristic of the twelfth century, but on the other hand there are two stone gorgon head gargoyles which cannot be later than 1150 at the latest. The evidence, then, as far as it goes, indicates a manor occupied perhaps by 1100, with stone buildings already in use and large timber structures.

Over the whole of the area of the wooden building there were traces of still earlier structures – two pits on the N. and what appeared to be the remains of a big hearth or oven at a considerable depth, about 1ft., below the level of the earliest period.

3.4.2 The Early Bank and Ditch, Period I, 1150-1200



Fig. 3.20: Post-holes of the palisade in Area # (Scan 101)

Oswald's first interim report (Page 66)

The bank and ditch

Area B. East of the stone building and cut by the wall foundation trench was a bank of yellow gravel with post-holes 1 ft. in diameter 6ft. apart. The tail of this

bank lay under two exterior floor levels (one cobble, the other red gravel) of the building and therefore preceded the latter in date. In 1961 proof that a still earlier ditch existed was obtained.

Area E. A considerable area was stripped here to investigate the early yellow gravel bank found in Area B. The bank ran to the level of about 2ft. above the natural clay and contained post-holes, single or double, again at intervals of 6ft. One of these post-holes at the southern end of the area still retained its original timber and sloped markedly to the east. It is probable that all these posts were diagonally supporting timbers for a palisade placed further forward on the bank and swept away by the construction of the moat c.1270 (Fig. 4, Nos. 23 and 25).

Trench 8. In the northern half of Trench 8 a gravel bank with a large ditch outside was discovered. The bank was revetted on the interior by a timber revetment of small posts and on the exterior, on the lip of the ditch, apparently by turf. A large portion of the bank had been thrown back into the ditch at an early date, and above this was a level of silt covered in turn by moat deposits.

Trench 5. At the southern extremity traces of the bank and a post-hole were found. So far nothing to date the bank and ditch has been found.

Area D (Fig. 1). A complete section through the western tower and this revealed (Fig. 5) the lip of an early moat cut into by the first curtain wall. Further sections by the round tower and the north-west entrance also picked up the lip of this early moat.

Oswald's second interim report (Page 122)

Earlier structures on the site

Apart from the wooden building, the excavation of 1961 showed that the initial stage was a large ditch without a bank; a ditch which was later re-cut to make a ditch and bank for a palisade. This ditch and bank antedated the stone and wooden buildings we have been discussing and therefore the initial beginning on the site, if the large ditch is indeed the beginning, must be placed perhaps well before 1200.

Oswald identified an early bank and ditch with post-holes indicating a timber palisade, angled supporting struts with a timber revetment to the rear of the bank and piled turf at its outer face, pre-dating the late 13th century re-modelling of the castle.

His reference in the second interim report to an earlier ditch without bank is difficult to confirm because the trench section which might have shown this feature has not yet been identified. The bank and ditch features were recognised in eight areas listed below, clockwise from 12.00 o'clock.

- Trench ? : to the north, between the Lodgings Block and the Chapel
- Trench 8 : to the northeast, between the Chapel and Northeast Tower Complex
- Areas B and E : to the east, between the Great Hall and the eastern curtain
- Trench H : to the east, to the centre east of the Great Hall
- Trench 5 : to the southeast, at the western end of the Period II/III Timber Kitchen
- Area F : to the southwest, the Bake-house
- Area D? : West Tower, section against north internal face
- Area D? : Round Tower, mentioned in the interim report.

These areas generally show the outer edge of the bank and inner lip of the ditch following just inside the current line of the curtain, except to the north where the outer edge of the bank is shown to have run 3.60m further south than the northern inner face of the curtain in Trench 8, 5.80m in the Trench between Lodging Block and Chapel and estimated at 11.00m in the northwest corner. The space enclosed, internal to the bank, measured 41.40m north-south by 63.00m at the northern edge of the enclosure and 43.20m at the southern.

The surviving details for each trench or area where the bank and ditch was encountered are listed under their relevant Trench/Area headings elsewhere in the text. The section is described below because its location has not yet been identified.

Section #: *Archive* Scan 053 (copies 562 and S 1049)

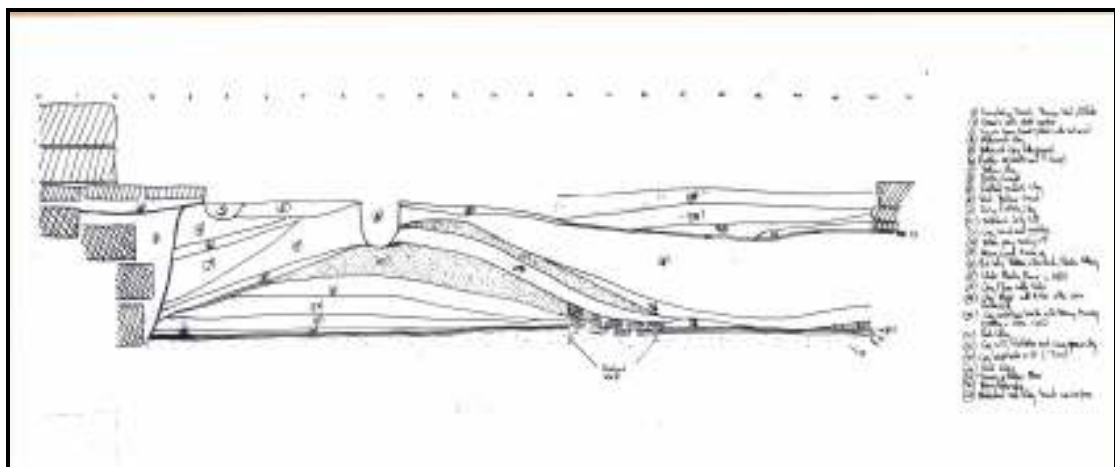


Fig. 3.21: *Section through bank, uncertain location (Scan 053)*

This inked section is some 6.90m long with masonry to the left and revealing in detail the sequence of bank and its burial prior to later building work. The masonry is assumed to be the curtain wall but the section location has not yet been established.

Description

The natural subsoil was level and consisted of red clay heavily burnt on the surface. Above this a bank was constructed which survived to a height of 0.68m and width of 5.00m with gently sloping sides and no obvious platform. The bank was constructed of, from the top red/yellow sand, dirty pebbly clay, yellow/grey silt, grey pebbly sand and yellow/grey sandy silt. The rear of the bank was cut by a rubble filled robber trench some 0.75m wide indicating an early stone wall line to the rear of the bank. Traces of a plaster floor immediately overlay the burnt natural subsoil, possibly the building floor and this, in turn, was overlain by a thin charcoal-rich deposit. Overlying the bank and demolished building were dumps of yellow and red clay with lenses of gravel, silt and loam which are associated with the excavation of the moat in the late 13th century and raising of the castle platform prior to re-building in Phase IV. The dumps were approximately 0.70m deep and formed a fairly level surface. The new surface was cut by the construction trench for the masonry to the left of the section with a near vertical cut, a beam slot running parallel to the wall and 0.85m from it (dimensions 0.27m wide by 0.17m deep, unknown length filled with red sand) and at 1.20m from the slot a post-hole with diameter of 0.27m and depth of 0.41m. It is possible that the slot and post-hole were intended to support timber scaffolding during the construction of the Outer Wall.

To the right of the section a wall face is shown sitting above the levelling deposits and 5.95m in from the curtain, traces of a plaster floor may have been contemporary with the wall. Overlying the plaster and butting up to the wall was a red clay deposit with a sandstone hearth over, sealed by two floor surfaces of clay with tiles - the earlier floor with a coin of Richard II.

3.4.3 Period I, 1150-1200: Timber Hall

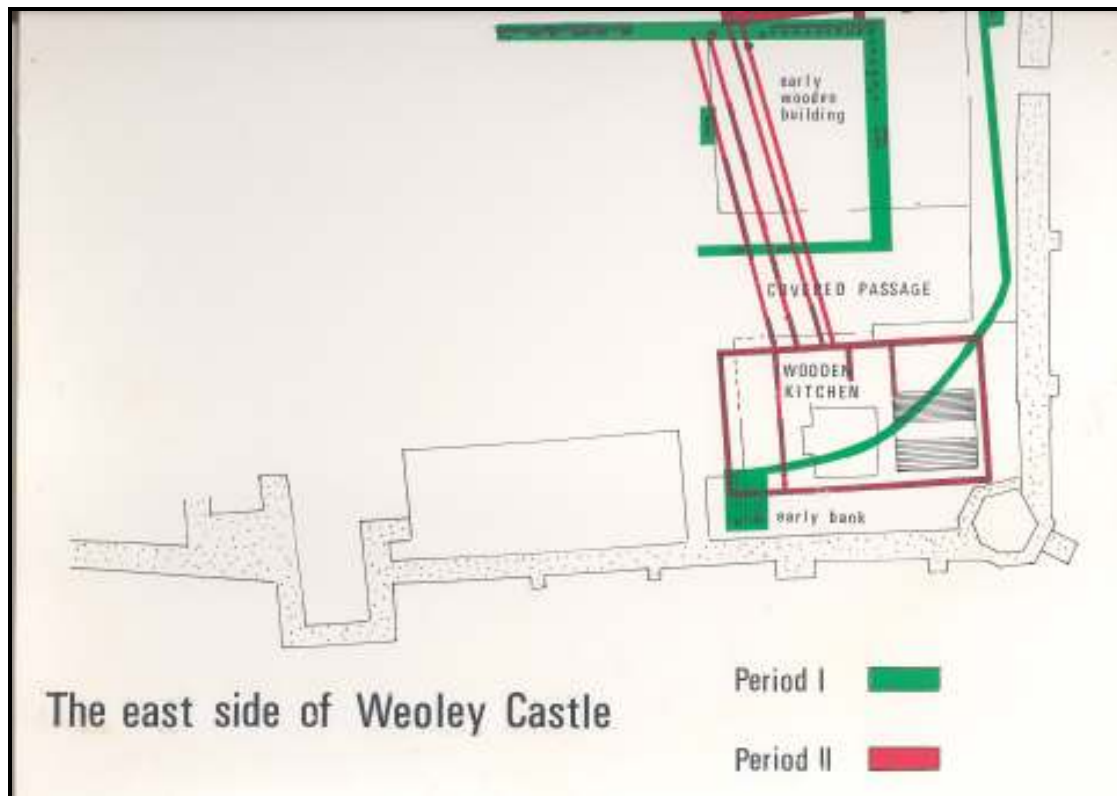


Fig. 3.22: Plan of Timber Hall (Scan East Side Period I and II)

Area G, Trench 3

Oswald's interim report (Pages 66-67 and Figure 3)

The main discovery was a row of east-west and north-south post-holes in Area G, with a sleeper beam trench to the north. The interior consisted of cobble flooring with wood and vegetation on its surface. A cobbled path lay immediately outside the building to the north and beyond this in Area H was a row of stake-holes. At the east and west ends of the building were pits filled with yellow gravel apparently to act as soakaways. No roofing materials were found.

The Archive

Notebook: Scans 1229-1233

Interpretation

Area G

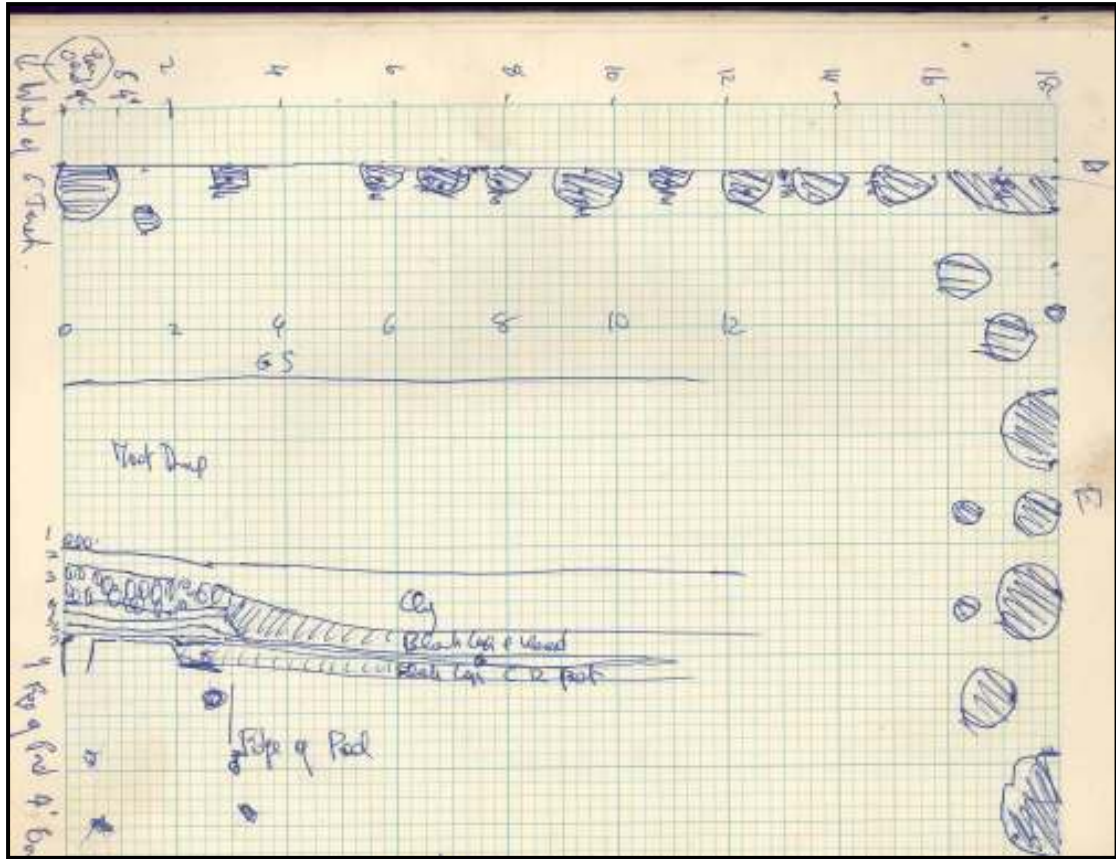


Fig. 3.23: Plan from site notebook (Scan 1233)

Area G is referred to in Oswald's interim report and appears on Figure 3 located to the south of Area H and within the confines of the Period IV Great Hall. The northern end of Trench 5 lies to the west. Within the site notebook the relevant Area is referred to as Trench 3 and Scan 1233 shows an area measuring 5.40m west-east by 4.20m, within this area the north and east edges are shown with numerous post-holes.

The northern edge revealed 12 post-holes. The northwest post-hole had a diameter of 0.76m and may best be regarded as a post-pit designed to carry a substantial timber post – a corner post. To the east of this post were eight post-holes with an average diameter of 0.28m and spaced, centre to centre, at 0.46m – leaving a putative gap of 0.18m between the posts. Further east was a gap of 1.61m followed by a post-hole with a diameter of 0.35m; this leaves a gap of 1.26m between these two posts, possibly a doorway with a 0.16m square post-hole located central to the gap, again maybe part of a door arrangement. The eastern side contained ten post-holes, the largest at 0.58m diameter furthest south and 3.70m from the northeast post-pit. Two intermediate post-holes were 0.46m in diameter and the rest were smaller and somewhat irregular.

A cluster of five stake-holes with an average diameter of 0.10m was located within the southwest corner of the site.

Section: Scan 1233 and 1232

A north-south section 3.60m long, running from an unknown point in the northern edge of Area G, shows the base stratigraphy to consist of the natural subsoil (red clay) cut by a post-hole to the north and 0.60m to the south a cut, extending southwards beyond the drawn section, 0.15m deep and filled with black, organic silt. This fill was overlain by a thin layer of dirty clay with some burning in turn overlain by a thin deposit of sandstone chippings. Three overlying deposits, a dirty layer containing wood fragments, sandy clay and a cobbled surface with a combined depth of 0.34m were cut some 0.90m from the northern section edge to the same depth and filled with black silt containing wood fragments. This deposit was in turn overlain by a clay layer forming the base for a cobbled surface which was then overlain by the Phase IV moat dumps.

Area H

The sleeper beam to the north of Area G, the cobbled path, one of the soakaways and the line of stake-holes mentioned by Oswald occurred in Area H and are mostly visible in Section reproduced as Figure 4 in the report (the other soakaway lies in Trench 5). As yet no further/detailed records have been found for these features within the archive. According to Figure 3 of the report the cobbled path ran northwards from the area of the doorway within the west-east post alignment, the northern wall. The path was 0.72m wide and was identified for a distance of 3.60m where it met the “stake-holes”. The stake-holes were spaced at 0.70m apart and appear to have been solid posts forming a substantial fence line running west-southwest to east-northeast.

Scan 1312-1960

This drawing is at a small scale of the eastern half of the castle and the information reproduced occurs in numerous other drawings in a similar small scale format within the Archive but no other records have been identified and the following information does not appear in the interim report. Trench numbers have yet to be identified.

Running along an identical alignment to the northern wall identified in Area G and starting some 6.00m from its western end was a 6.50m stretch of beam slot with up to 13 post-holes mostly aligned to its south, as in Area G. No southern return was

identified and, if these features were to be part of the same building or range of buildings, it would have had a minimum length of 18.00m. Presumably Oswald specifically sited a line of boxes or a trench in an attempt to discover the extent of the building.

A further trench, at least 1.00m wide by 8.00m, appears to have been excavated running west-east and 1.00m south of Area G. Within the trench three post-holes and a beam slot were identified along the same alignment as the east wall of the building whilst 7.80m to the west a further three post-holes aligned north to south with the post-hole forming the western jamb of the putative doorway in Area H/Trench 3.

Lastly, whilst investigating the path/causeway running between the Period II/III stone hall and the wooden kitchen, two lengths of beam slot were identified as pre-dating the causeway. The beam slots ran from west to east and were interpreted as indicating the southern wall of the building.

The timber building therefore measured a minimum of 18.00m west-east by 10.00m with an internal division creating a 7.80m wide chamber to the east.

Allowing for the vagaries of poor ground layout during construction and working with very small scale plans it might be possible to suggest a hall range consisting of six bays, converted to imperial, each 12 ft. wide, providing external dimensions of 72 ft. by 36 ft. Internally there could have been five pairs of aisle posts creating a twin aisled hall with the eastern pair of bays divided from the hall by a substantial partition to create a solar of 24 ft. by 36 ft. The hall proper would have measured 48ft. by 36ft., no doubt with a central hearth and dais to the east. Apparently the floor would have been cobbled whilst the lack of evidence for the type of roofing material might suggest that thatch was used. At least one doorway exited from the north-west corner of the solar whilst the location of further doors and windows is unknown.

The structure was supported on substantial earth-fast posts with infilling of thinner posts and external beam-slots which might have held wooden sills to support weatherboarding which was not intended to be integral to the stability of the structure a little like the Timber Kitchen of Period II/III.

3.4.4 Area E

Report: Never reported upon

The Archive

Notebook: Test hole A1, Scan 631

Photos: View A: 114 (copies 360, 834 and 1462)

View B: 119 (copies 365, 848 and 1467)

View C: 120 (copies 320, 366 and 1094)

Plan: 050 (copies 560, 598, 599 and S1047)

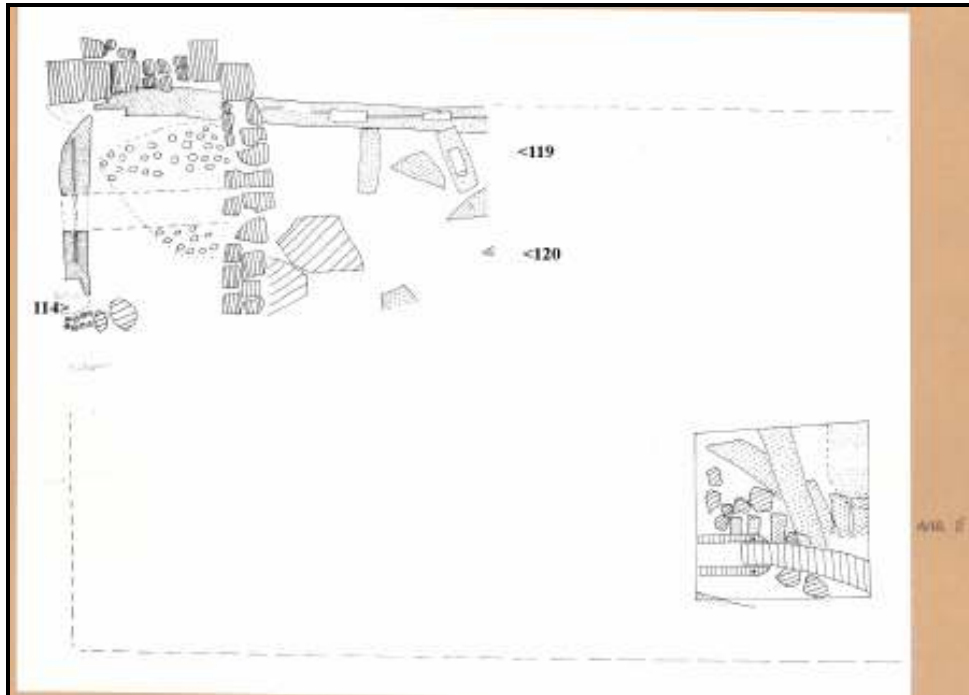


Fig. 3.24: Plan of Area E (Scan 050)



Fig. 3.25: Area E, looking southwest (Scan 119)

Located approximately 1.00m to the west of the southeast corner of the Granary excavation (Area D) a new trench was opened, measuring 4.90m southwest-northeast by 2.30m. The plan shows the corner of a timber building, the northwest side consisted of a timber beam of which 4.14m was exposed. The timber was 0.25m wide and of unrecorded depth and its upper surface retained two rectangular mortise holes the larger measuring 0.40m by 0.10m. The second mortise was somewhat smaller and centred 0.94m to the northeast. A third mortise probably existed below the retained baulk below a later wall. A slot had been cut into the beam between the mortise holes to take weather-boarding – probably horizontal. At its western end the sill beam had rebates cut into both sides, possibly suggesting that it had been re-used. Forming a right angle to this at the western end was another sill beam 1.87m long, 0.29m wide with a slot cut into its centre line and with rebate at its southern end but tapering to a point at its northern, again suggesting re-use. On the plan a pit is indicated at the junction of the two posts and another at the southern end of the latter timber. These would have taken vertical timbers which were removed when the building was dismantled. Traces of cobbling lay directly to the south of the second beam and pit and the plan suggests that this is a doorway. Assuming that the doorway was central to the gable end and was 1.00m wide the building could have been approximately 5.30m wide.

Overlying the Period I timber building and some 0.60m above was single layer of stone blocks forming a right angle – the north-eastern corner of a building which extended beyond the trench to west and south.

The feature consisted of either single large blocks or double rows of smaller blocks forming a wall footing 0.45m wide. The width and single course would suggest that the footing was a dwarf wall for a timber sill beam supporting a timber structure over. No floor levels are noted associated with this level and the structure might have been expected to extend into the Area D excavation but no corresponding feature was noted. Oswald believed this feature to belong to Period II/III.

Test Pit A1

A test pit measuring 1.80m square was excavated approximately 3.00m to the west of Square A. The results are shown on Scan S1047 and annotated site notes on Scan 631, no photographs have been identified.

The stratigraphy within the eastern section is described on Scan 631 as (with some interpretation):

Dump layers as before.

Top floor at 1.35m below surface.

Sand, equals moat dumps at 0.90m thick.

Planks? and tiles? 0.05m deep.

Green clay 0.03m deep

Red clay 0.12m deep, top floor

Heavy #####

Green stones = BS? = second floor?

The site notes reveal an interesting structure consisting of a square ended, slightly curving plank running from the eastern section for a distance of 1.40m with dimensions of 0.35m wide and 0.13m deep. At its western end the plank/beam is flanked by two planks on edge, each 0.05m wide with vertical peg holes and extending below the western section edge. These features overlay three large planks extending to the north which in turn overlay a series of six? planks running from north to south and apparently forming a level surface. These were in turn surrounded by stones marked BS – possibly burnt stone. A large post-hole is noted within the northern corner of the test pit. All of these timbers appear to be structural but certainly appear to be out of place and may be the result of abandonment during the dismantling of the building. The notes attached to the drawing would indicate two floor surfaces associated with the timbers but the exact sequence of deposition would be difficult to establish from the available information. These features and deposits were probably internal to the Building and resulted from its dismantling, possibly within Period I – which Oswald appeared to believe.

Additional note: Reed thatch was found on all floors and find WC370 was found on the second floor.

3.4.5 Periods II /III: The stone building

Oswald' first interim report

Area B and Area H (Fig. 3)

A stone structure was found in Area B buried underneath 3ft. of clay and gravel make-up from the moat. The excellent walling, 2ft. in width, consisted of re-used

blocks of stone. The roof must have been of timber or thatch and two periods of flooring were found in the interior. Both these levels contained a heavy deposit of burnt wood and there were traces of a plaster floor on the bottom level. The upper level apparently represents a wooden floor, for inside the walls baulks of clay and probably turf were found against the walls in a position such as to suggest that they supported joists.

Trench H-Area H (Fig. 3)

This trench revealed the southern wall of the stone structure observed in Area B. The wall again consisted of re-used material with three buttresses on the south side, and from the robbing above the wall a fine jug (Fig. 8, No. 25), presumably dating to about the year 1270, was found. The wall had been robbed out entirely on its western side but the turn of the western wall was traceable. Again two floor levels were associated with this structure; both had burnt material on their surfaces.

In the interior the upper floor, which on the western side consisted of cobbles as apart from clay on the eastern side, produced a silver halfpenny of Henry III, minted in 1248. It was in excellent condition and must have been lost within 10 or 15 years of its date of minting. We may assume that this building was destroyed by fire somewhere about 1260, and it may well have been this destruction that induced the de Somery family to apply for a licence to crenellate.

Two interior walls both heavily robbed were traced. To the south outside the building were two cobble floors corresponding with the interior levels.

Oswald's second interim report (Page 109)

A considerable stone building in the NE. part of the castle was discovered. This structure, made of re-used stones, suffered two destructions. It was probably an end hall and was built inside a bank and ditch enclosing a slightly smaller area than the present one. The bank of this defensive structure had post-holes which were dug before the building, for the outside levels of this stone building overlay the clay of the bank. This stone structure came to an end by fire sometime subsequent to 1248. The date rests on a halfpenny of Henry III, in excellent condition, of a type introduced in 1248. A final date of, perhaps, 1260 might not seem unreasonable for the conclusion of this structure.

The Archive

Photos: Scan 594

Scan 1343 (copy Excavation in NE corner)

Scan 345

Scan 348

Scan 104

Plans: 035, 570, 1424 Phase Plan A and East Side Periods I and IIB (and numerous copies of these)

Notebook: No scans identified as connected to this structure.



Fig. 3.26: The Hall, mid-excavation, showing Oswald standing on the remains of the east wall, looking northwest (Scan 1343)

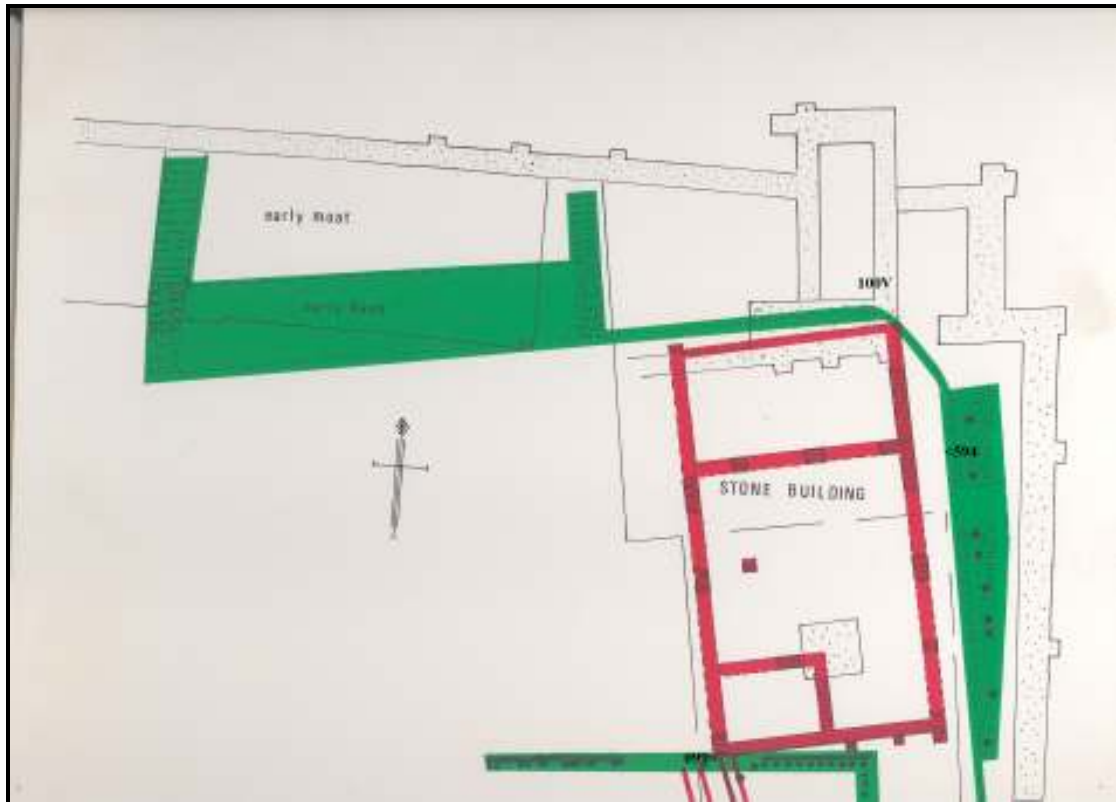


Fig. 3.27: Plan of the stone building, showing relationship with the surrounding bank and ditch (Scan: East Side Period I & 2A)

Description

This stone building appears on Figure 3 within Oswald’s first interim report and various versions thereof. The building lay within the footprint of the Period IV Great Hall and the South Chamber of the Northeast Tower Complex and fitted snugly within the northeast corner of the Period I enclosure.

The building is shown to have run north-south with a slight tendency to the west and had internal dimensions of 16.30m by 9.00m. An internal division was probably intended to separate the hall section to the south from a private chamber to the north; leaving the hall measuring 11.65m by 9.00m and the private chamber 4.00m by 9.00m. The southwest corner of the hall had been partitioned off, providing a small chamber of 4.10m west-east by 2.85m; possibly an entrance vestibule approached via the track way connecting the hall to the kitchen as described within the Wooden Kitchen. A small block of masonry shown on plan in the northwest part of the hall can not be explained. Only five photographs have been identified showing the masonry of this building; Scan 1343 shows the east wall running southwards from below the eastern buttress of the Central Masonry Block and the partition wall running to the west whilst Scan 594 shows the same masonry viewed from the southeast. The

masonry is built of rectangular sandstone blocks with diagonal tooling marks evident. Two courses of ashlar masonry sit above a course of roughly worked stones sitting within a construction trench. Scan 104, looking west, reveals a small amount of the east wall viewed at the base of a small trench principally concerned with the Period I palisade post-holes. Scan 345, looking east and Scan 348, looking west, show an east-west trench with stone foundations at 1.00m below ground level. This appears to be the south wall of the hall and 345 might show the enclosed southwest corner of the building with a metallised surface. Notably, the walling looks very poor by contrast to the east wall. The walls were 0.60m thick and Oswald believed the masonry to be re-used; he does not explain why or from whence the stone might have come. The earliest buildings were of wood and the evidence for an early stone chapel even if demolished would not have furnished adequate stone to build a hall of this size. The roofing material was probably of timber shingles or thatch, presumably deduced from a lack of any other excavated roofing material.

No additional evidence survives to augment the information on floor surfaces given in Oswald's report, as the table below

	Areas B and H	Trench H – Area H		Exterior, south
	Burnt timber	Burnt timber		-
Floor 2	Wood planking on clay baulks	Cobbles, west	Clay, east	Cobbles
	Burnt timber	Burnt timber		-
Floor 1	Plaster	Plaster?		Cobbles

3.4.6 The 1961 Boxes

Oswald

There would appear to be no mention of these excavations within the two interim reports published by Oswald and it is possible that these excavations were undertaken by Philip Barker and Philip Rahtz with assistance from students at the University of Birmingham.

Archive

Scan 038 sections (copies 563, S1929)

Scan 039 plan (copies 564, S1930)

Scan 032 castle plan (numerous copies)

Scan 046 plan of the Granary, Area D, showing wall footings

Note: The correlation between Scans 032 and 039 is not wholly convincing and the interpretation given above might be mistaken; for the moment it is the only suggestion for this elusive un-named excavation.

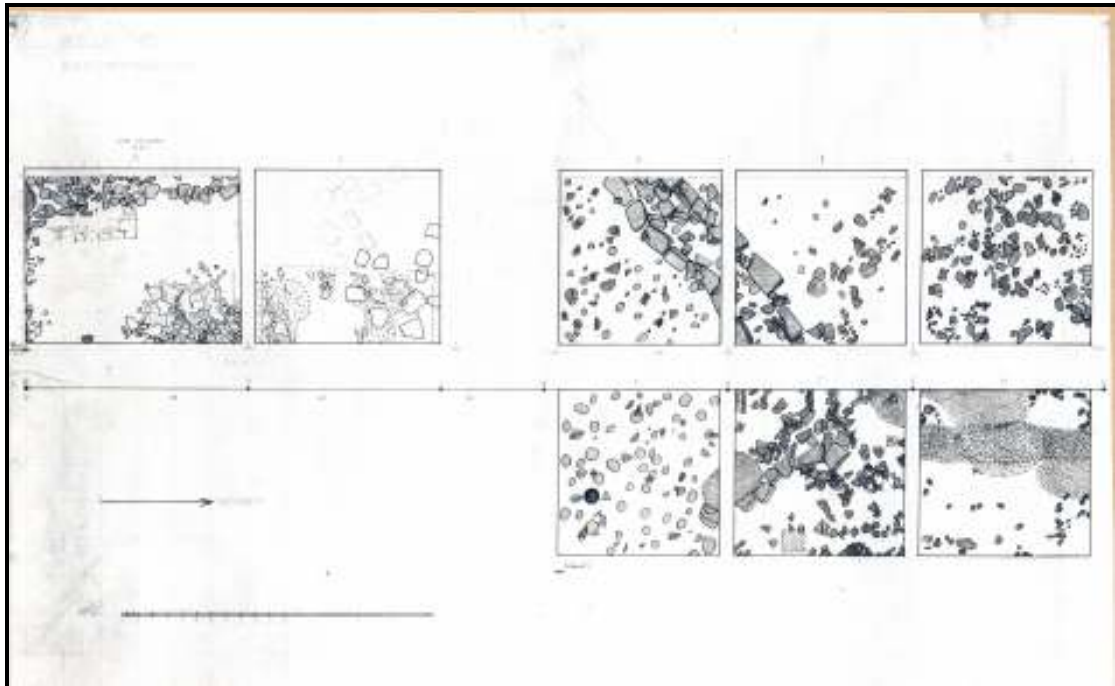


Fig. 3.28: Plan of the 1961 Boxes, showing corner of building (Scan 039)

Description

In 1961 a new area was opened based on findings of wall-like features extending from Area D (the Granary) to the northeast, into the courtyard interior. Excavations in Area D were not recorded as having gone to depths which pre-ceded the Period IV re-modelling of the castle but the wall lines which occur on the principal plan of Area D must pre-date the Phase IV work as they align with the walls within the Boxes which are shown in section to pre-date the levelling. Oswald, although he makes no reference to the excavations within the text in either of his interim reports, places the walls in Period II/III on plan, Scan 032 etc. The overall area of excavation had dimensions of 21.80m from north to south by 7.80m. Within this area eight test pits were opened with reference to a ninth Box C made as having been excavated in the previous year – possibly a trench.

North >

A <4.20m>	B <3.75m>	C 1960 Trench <2.40m>	D	E	G
Unexc.	Unexc.		K	J	H

The table above shows the layout of the Boxes with all boxes north-south separated by 0.30m wide baulks and west-east by a 0.60m baulk. Box C was noted as having been excavated in 1960 and positioned within the 2.40m wide gap between Boxes B and D. Each Box measured 3.60m by 3.60m except for A and B with slightly longer north-south dimensions as indicated.

Sections were drawn of the north faces of Boxes G and H, the east faces of A and B and the south face of K; surprisingly, none of these are associated with the actual walls indicated in Plan. The building as indicated in castle plan, Scan 032, had external dimensions of 12.00m northeast-north to southwest-south by 7.20m with poorly constructed wall footings of 1.20m width. The wall footings may have been intended as dwarf walls to support a timber superstructure. Scan 039, plan, does not have a key but appears to show a sparsely cobbled interior and some indications of a gravel surface outside. The plan notes a No. 3 in a triangle in Box K and F6 in a square in Box J, possibly finds references. In Box A, a buttress-like wall protrudes from below an area of cobbling/rubble but no further information is available on this feature.

Surprisingly, the sections drawn on Scan 038 are not associated with the wall-lines and show only deposits of orange/yellow/red sands and gravels to a depth of 0.90m above a possible turf or occupation deposit. The gravels would definitely correlate with the Phase IV re-modelling of the castle whilst the building below presumably went out of use immediately prior to that event, hence its location in Period II/III.

3.4.7 The Timber Kitchen

3.4.7.1 The Archive

The archive of the timber kitchen excavations is the most extensive of all Oswald's excavations and reflects his particular enthusiasm for this building. Although extensive most of the archived information was condensed into his second interim report and the site notes do not allow of an easy re-interpretation of Oswald's conclusions. The principal elements of the archive are

Plans: Scan 022, phased plan

Scan 028, plan

Scan 045, phased entrance plan

Sections: Scan 046, Section CD (north-south)

Scan 047, Section A-B (west-east)

Details: Scans 014, 040, 041, 048, 290, 1057, 1058 and 1274

The majority of the detail drawings were combined to create Scan 571 information on Trench 4 and the west wall.

Photographs: There are numerous prints and copies of the timber kitchen excavations and these can be viewed on the accompanying PDF.

Notebooks: See the individual Trench descriptions below.

Reports

Oswald, A. 1964 Excavation of a thirteenth century wooden building at Weoley Castle, Birmingham 1060-61, *Medieval Archaeology* Vol. VI-VII: 109-134

Smith, J.T. 1965 The structure of the timber kitchen at Weoley Castle, Birmingham, *Medieval Archaeology* Vol. IX: 82-93

3.4.7.2 The Excavation

The timber kitchen was discovered as part of a comprehensive effort to find information on the castle as it may have appeared before the major Period IV rebuild which covered the remains of all earlier structures below c.0.60m of moat up-cast. Previous work had led Oswald to believe that water-logging might even have preserved structural timbers *in situ*. All work was constrained by the location of Period IV and later walls and features that had been excavated and consolidated by Bark as part of the pre-war excavation campaigns. The kitchen was first discovered in 1960 when Trench 5 was excavated running north-south from the southwest corner of the Period II/III stone hall to the southern curtain wall. The trench was 1.20m wide by

22.00m long and exposed the western end of the timber kitchen with substantial timber remains still extant. The following year as much of the building as possible was exposed in a number of different trenches. Less emphasis was attached to locating the east and south walls which Oswald found not to be water-logged and therefore without the timber detail to be found within the water-logged north and west walls.

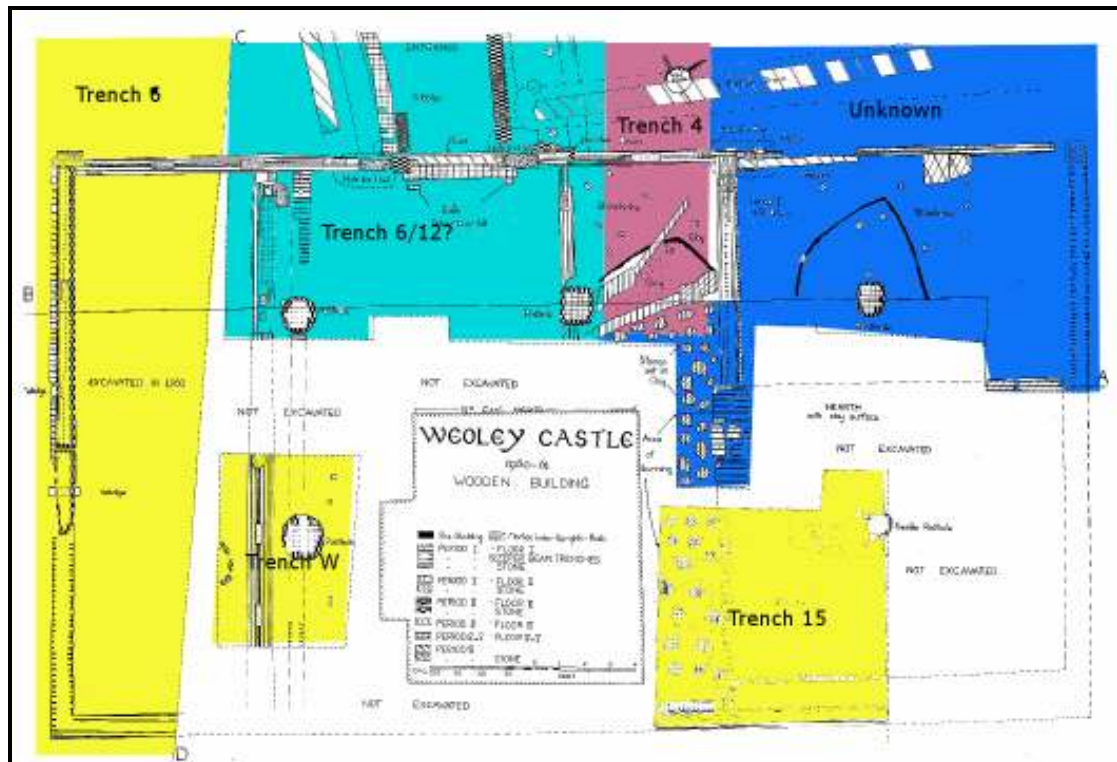


Fig. 3.29: Plan of Trench locations within the Timber Kitchen (Scan 028 modified)

Trench 4

This trench was designed to cross the north wall to the east of the doorway and measured 1.20m, west to east, by 2.10m. The notebook archive consists of Scans 1160-1169 and possibly 1228; the information contained in the notes was combined to create Scan 571 which was reproduced in Oswald's interim report.

Trench 5

This trench was excavated in 1960 and ran from the south curtain wall northwards. The trench was initially 1.20m wide but was extended to the west at its southern end in order to reveal the full extent of the western wall of the building. The notebook scans consisted of Scans 1148-1159, 1227 and "context info 2". The eastern section was used to create Fig. 42b, Section C-D in the interim report.

Trench 6

The archive consists of two pages from the notebook, Scans 1226 and 1236. The location of the trench is uncertain but may possibly be external to the building – to the north.

Trench 12

This trench may have been as small as 1.20m square and was possibly excavated across the north-south wall divide to the west of the building i.e. to the east of Trench 5. The notebook scans consist of Scans 1170-1173.

Trench 12/6

It seems probable that this excavation was of a baulk separating Trenches 12 and 6. Four notebook scans, Scans 1203-1206, indicate a trench of 1.20m width, west-east, by 2.70m. The trench again appears to cross the north wall of the kitchen.

Trench 15

Located to the southeast and intended to expose the south wall and elements of the Phase I/II hearth. The trench was approximately 2.80m square and the notebook archive contained Scans 1266-1268, 1270 and 1271.

Trench W

A single scan, Scan 1261, refers to this trench which measured 2.36m, north-south, by 1.70m and was located to reveal the southern continuation of the western dividing wall.

As noted above the Archive for the timber kitchen is extensive and very repetitive with various renditions of the same drawings ultimately combining to provide the illustrations used in the Oswald report. No other element of the excavations has such an extensive archive or has been reported upon so widely. The following notes effectively form a precis of Oswald's report with a few additional observations. It must be noted that as with most excavation reports there is room for alternative interpretations and indeed in his re-appraisal of the kitchen Smith was forced to write

“The rapid sequence of partial reconstructions coupled with incomplete evidence for the plan of the building makes an analysis period by period impossible. Instead the structure will be discussed primarily in terms of period III, ignoring all the variations found in later periods which appear to be of little significance and the two earlier periods which from a structural standpoint I would describe as incomprehensible. As the walls remained unaltered in essentials throughout the history of the building, it is not at all clear how a span of about 21ft. was

supported without freestand posts in I and II, or, if this was in fact achieved, why posts should have become necessary in III-VI. Period III shows more clearly than any other a series of four or perhaps five post-holes standing in a regular relation to one another and to the walls, as if they were the main roof supports – what Oswald calls an aisled hall (FIG. 21). Such an arrangement suggests three pairs of round posts each about 1ft. 3in. in diameter, the north row standing about 5ft. 6in. and the south about 6ft. 6in. from the respective side walls to give a clear middle span of about 8ft. 9in. (centre to centre). Such a setting out of the two rows of posts puts them unusually near the long axis for an aisled structure. In the length of the building the posts formed two main bays about 11ft. long and two shorter end-bays about 8ft. 9in. long, thereby showing a regularity which seems pointless if the posts represent a new system of construction inserted into an already subdivided building; in a standing building one might have expected the posts to be put in the old positions. In the discussion which follows I have ignored minor variations of size in the hope of establishing the structural system intended by the builders.”

Clearly Smith does not accept the stratigraphical basis for Oswald’s insertion of the aisle posts as late as Phase 3 and maybe did not study or believe the available stratigraphic information, being swayed purely by his own understanding of the potential spans of different wall/roof structures. Smith in his article also transposes north and south, east and west, a possible indication that only the structural elements were of interest to him.

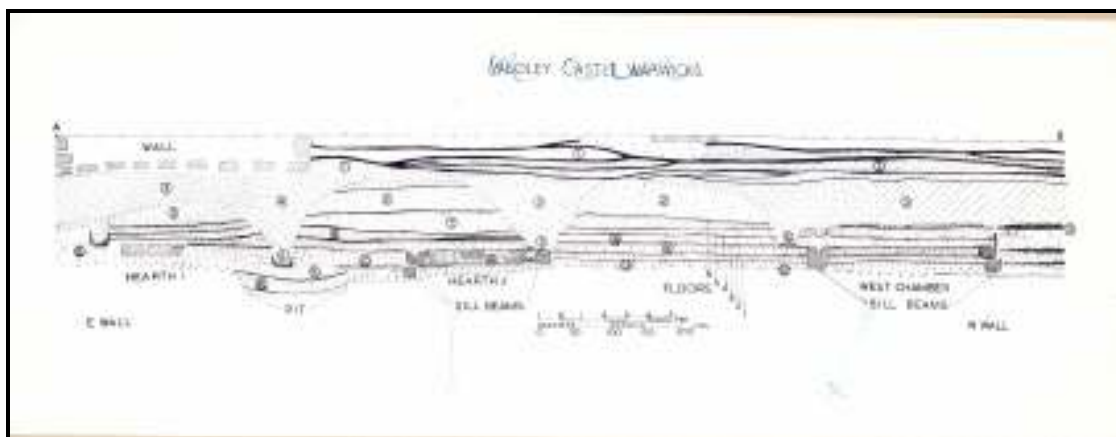


Fig. 3.30: Timber Kitchen, Section A-B (Scan 047)

Smith’s dispute with Oswald’s interpretation centred on the disposition of the six aisle posts which Oswald believed were inserted in Phase III of the building’s history.

Oswald’s article Figure 42a, Section A-B, running from east to west, shows the position of the three northern aisle posts. The posts had been robbed during the Period IV re-build of the castle and the robber pits obscure the post’s stratigraphic relationship with the later floor surfaces, however the section is unequivocal in showing that the posts do not penetrate or even reach Floors 1 and 2 but are apparently free-standing on top of Floor 3 (the floor numbering sequence equates to Phases I to VI). It is possible that the excavators did not identify the full depth of the post-pits and it does seem unusual that what is effectively an earth-fast structure should somehow end up with some of its main load bearing elements as effectively free-standing. At this remove from the excavation the problem remains intractable.

3.4.7.3 The Building Sequence

Oswald identified six building “Periods” and numbered them accordingly I to VI using Roman numerals. This system is the same as his system for describing the main building sequence for the whole castle, therefore, to differentiate “Phase” has been used to describe the timber kitchen throughout the following text.

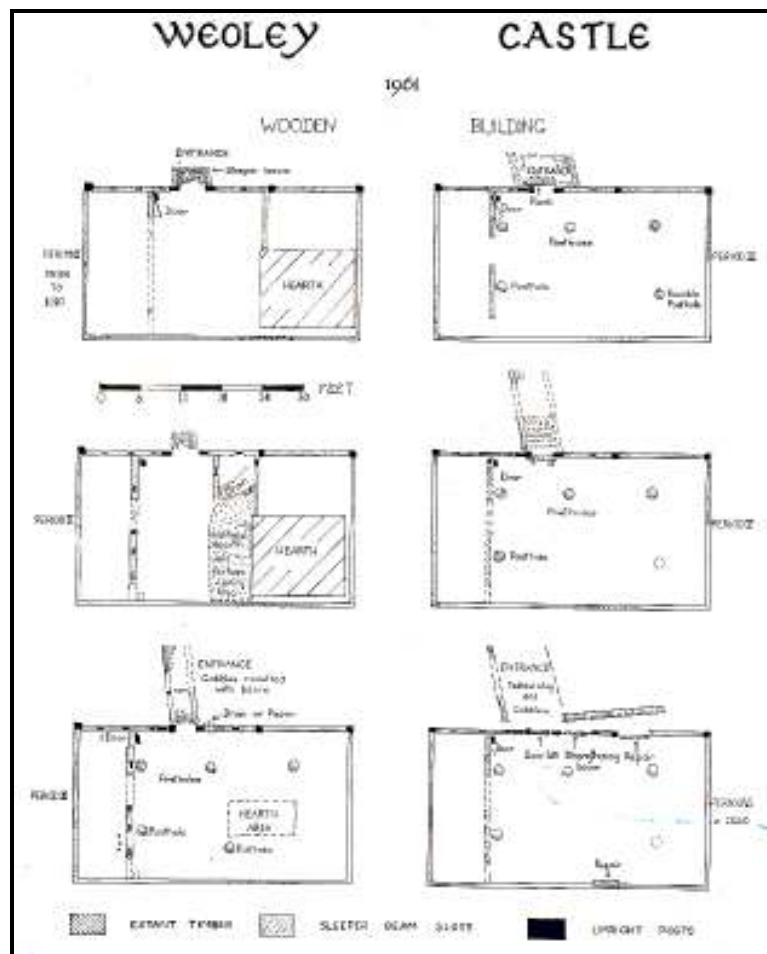


Fig. 3.31: The Timber Kitchen building sequence (Scan 022)

Early Deposits

At the southern part of Trench 5, Section C-D, Scan 046, the earliest level encountered lay between the southern curtain wall with an attached buttress forming the east side of the trench and the beam slot for the south wall of the wooden kitchen. Within this space of 1.50m and immediately overlying the natural subsoil was the early bank with a maximum depth of 0.46m, tapering to 0.17m where it was cut by the beam slot of the southern wall of the kitchen. A post-hole of 0.37m depth was noted below the buttress but its diameter could not be ascertained. A thin 0.05m deposit may have been a compacted turf-line; this appeared to overlie the post-hole and fill. The published plan shows three post-holes in this area, associated with the early bank. The kitchen had been terraced into the early bank but within the main area of the excavation the kitchen beams and posts had been inserted into a 0.02m thick layer of gravel overlying a 0.12m thick deposit of grey silt containing wood fragments which in turn overlay an 0.10m thick deposit of brown silt overlying the yellow clay/sand which here formed the natural.

Section A-B Scan 047 and Plan Scan 028 show three areas where pits pre-dating the timber kitchen were cut into the natural but Oswald provided no further information as to their size or likely interpretation.

The Floor Surfaces

Oswald identified six floor levels within the building and it would appear that finds from within the building were catalogued by reference to these floor numbers. Although all floors had a thin occupation layer overlying them that over Floor 5 and below 6 was much more substantial and contained wood fragments. The build up of successive floors combined to a total depth of 0.65m.

Phase I

The first stage of construction involved the excavation of eight irregular pits (four pairs running west-east), each 0.78m deep, into which large, squared timber posts were inserted, measuring, on average, 0.40m square. The posts were squared off at the base, placed on stone pads in the pit bases and held in place with packed clay. The building frame thus constructed had dimensions of 12.70m, west-east, by 7.06m and was divided into three, slightly unequal, bays of an average width of 4.20m. A ninth post, with dimensions of 0.45m, west-east, by 0.15m, was inserted into the northern façade at 1.34m to the east of the west post of the second bay thus creating a doorway which despite modification was to survive for the life of the building. Sill beams were

then laid between and butting up to the vertical posts. The sill beams measured on average 0.20-0.30m wide by 0.15-0.25m deep. The sills had rectangular mortises cut into them; on the west and presumably east walls at 1.70m intervals, centre to centre, the north and south walls at 1.40m intervals. The mortises were intended to take the tenons of vertical posts to reinforce the whole structure. Sill beams had central grooves intended to take timber planking – weatherboarding. In this Phase the weatherboarding was horizontal, possibly fastened by wedges to the uprights and sills. The internal space was divided into three unequal rooms by two sill beam which partially survived, notably at the northern end where a doorway was detected in the western beam. The sill beam does not appear in Section A-B. The doorway was indicated by a circular pivot hole cut into the sill beam close to the north wall. The width of the western chamber was 2.76m, the central chamber was 5.60m and that to the east was 4.30m. It is notable that the sill beam is on the same alignment as the western pair of the Phase III aisle posts. Oswald believed the partitions to have had horizontal planking as in the exterior walls at this stage. The hearth was located in the south-eastern corner of the building with dimensions of 4.32m, west-east, by 3.60m. The hearth was constructed of two courses of large sandstone kerbs and a clay working surface with intense burning in the central area. The hearth was visible in Section A-B and in Trench 15. In an alternative interpretation of the building sequence it is suggested that this hearth was constructed external to a near square building which only changed with the major re-structuring of Phase III. The floor surface consisted of fine gravel with grey silt over and was 0.30m lower than the hearth.

Phase II

In this Phase the internal western sill beam was replaced by a new sill located 0.50m to the west. The new sill was 0.30m wide by 0.35m deep and had mortised recesses at 1.50m centres along its length joined by a rebate, complicated by an arrangement for the doorway at the northern end. It seems probable that this partition would have been completed with horizontal weather boarding.

A third sill beam was also inserted at this stage, dividing the central chamber into two 3.65m wide to the east and 1.92m wide to the east. The sill beam was 0.20m wide by 0.15m deep and was cut through Floor 1. Section A-B indicated a groove 0.06m deep by 0.03m wide running along the centre of the sill whilst a single mortise was noted with dimensions of 0.18m by 0.09m – it is probable that this partition was also

constructed of panels of horizontal planks between posts. The hearth continued in use. A new floor was laid consisting of grey silt and cobbles with black occupation deposit above, 0.14m deep.

Phase 3

Oswald believed this phase to represent a major structural change with all the internal divisions other than the westernmost partition becoming redundant. Six aisle posts (*c.*0.30m in diameter) were inserted into the interior to divide the building into four bays. The northern posts were 1.84m from the outer wall whilst the southern were 2.30m from the southern outer wall. The bays were from west to east 2.76m, 3.20m, 3.20m and 2.35m wide, whilst the posts within each pair were 2.53m apart. Note: the central, southern post was not excavated.

Of the six posts the three northern ones were shown in Section A-B (Fig. 3.30, Scan 047). The most westerly post survived as a vertical-sided, flat-bottomed cut 0.27m in diameter by 0.22m deep at the base of a robber pit 0.75m deep with the western edge sloping at 45 degrees. The fill of this pit and the overlying material consisted of red sand. The central post survived as a vertical-sided, flat-bottomed cut 0.37m in diameter and 0.22m deep at the base of a robber pit which was 0.82 m deep by 1.95m in diameter at the top. The eastern post survived as a vertical sided, flat bottomed cut with diameter of 0.29m and depth of 0.30m at the base of a robber pit, measuring 0.97m deep by 1.50m diameter at the top. The three post-pits all bottomed out either on top of or in the make-up of Floor 2. Oswald suggested that the posts were inserted in Phase III/Floor 3 which would have meant they were inserted into pits with a maximum depth of *c.*0.30m. There were no traces of post pads and it would appear that the posts could not have offered a significant improvement of stability to the building. The presence of the robber pits appears to preclude knowing when these posts were actually inserted because their relationship with the higher floor levels has been destroyed – it is possible that they are later than Phase III.

The west wall was rebuilt with a new sill beam with external rebate to take vertical weather-boarding and a new floor was inserted consisting of red clay with black occupation deposit above, 0.09m deep. It is unclear whether the Phase I/II hearth went out of use but a new hearth was identified central to the third bay.

Phase 4

The western internal partition sill was replaced by a new beam 0.24m wide by 0.11m deep located slightly to the west of the earlier beam. The door remained at the

northern end of the partition. A new floor was laid consisting of grey silt with black occupation deposit above, 0.12m deep. It is notable that Oswald does not indicate a hearth location in this and the succeeding Phases, possibly indicating that the building was no longer in use as a kitchen.

Phase 5

The basic arrangements remained the same as in Period 4 with the exception of a new floor made of cobbles set in yellow clay with a black occupation deposit above, 0.14m deep. Alterations were made to the entrance.

Phase 6

The basic arrangements remained the same as in Period 5 with the exception of a new floor of yellow sand, 0.13m thick with a black silt occupation deposit above, 0.13m deep. Repairs were made to south and north walls and alterations to the doorway.

The Entrance and Causeway

Throughout its life the kitchen had its principal entrance in the north wall exiting onto a causeway leading to the south-western corner of the stone-built hall to the north.

Although not devoting much space in the text to the entrance and associated causeway, Oswald obviously considered them to be of significance and included an analysis of the doorway's development seen in Fig. 3.32 (Scan 045), the information from which can be enhanced by relating it to Fig. 3.31 (Scan 022). The causeway led from the kitchen doorway northwards to the south-western corner of the Period II/III stone hall – a distance of 18.00m. The causeway was detected or should have been detected in Trench 5 and Trench H although the section drawings of these excavations do not make the varying phases of construction clear. The need for a causeway was, seemingly, a waterlogged yard which existed between the two buildings, overlying the Period I timber hall. A section from within Area G might indicate that the wet area had been created intentionally.

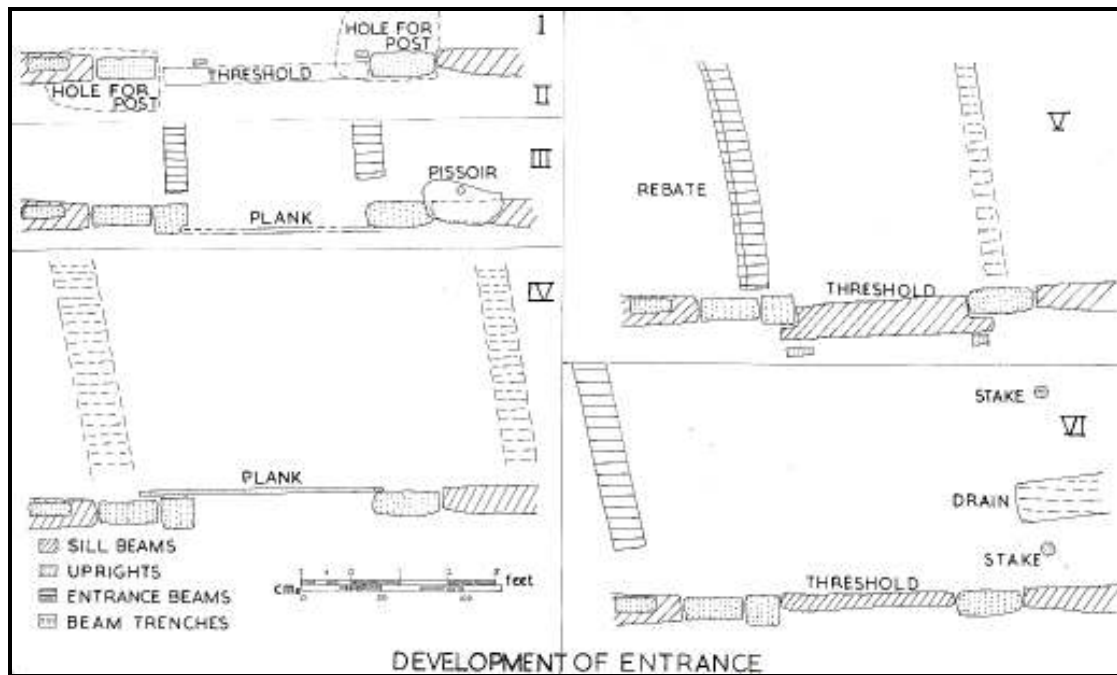


Figure 3.32: Plan of the entrance's development, north to top (Scan 045)

Phases I and II

In the original stage of construction the doorway was located between two earth-fast rectangular posts, principal members of the building's construction. The doorway width was 1.35m and a timber sill beam extended the width held in position by two rectangular pegs external to the sill. Fig. 3.32 does not show any evidence of the causeway but Fig 3.31, Phase I, indicates sleeper/sill beams revetting a cobbled track, whilst in Period II only a narrow cobbled track is shown. Oswald's text does not clarify this development.

Phase III

A vertical timber was inserted into the western door jamb reducing the doorway to 1.14m wide. The upright was 0.20m square and appears to have had a rebate in its south-eastern corner to hold a plank which now formed the sill, placed against the internal faces of the jambs. Two sleeper beams ran due north of the doorway providing a passage of 1.04m width with a cobbled surface. The timbers apparently had external rebates to take vertical weather-boarding suggesting an elaborate superstructure at least during this phase. Immediately to the east of the eastern door jamb a timber drain was inserted below the weather-boarding. The drain was 0.52m, west to east, by 0.26m and was bowled with a small drainage hole external to the building. Oswald conjectured that the drain could have been used as a *pissoir*.

Phase IV

By this stage the pissoir had gone out of use and the sill plank had been replaced by another located external to the door jambs. Two beam trenches ran to the north but now formed a cobbled passage way 2.34m wide; the beams had been robbed from these trenches.

Phase V

A new substantial sill beam was inserted into the doorway 0.24m wide by 1.33m with substantial rebates to accommodate the door-jambs. Externally to the west a beam survived, running northwards with a rebate cut into its western edge possibly suggesting further timberwork above. The eastern beam had been robbed and was represented by a trench giving a passage of 1.30m width.

Phase VI

The sill beam was again replaced by a less substantial beam whilst externally the passageway became wider, possibly 2.34m wide. The new western beam survived but no evidence for an eastern beam was found only two stake-holes and the robber trench of a timber drain, 0.26m wide, running eastwards 0.40m outside the building.



Fig. 3.33: The doorway, looking north, showing the Phase V sill and cobbled causeway, looking north (Scan 341)

Sadly no section across the causeway beams and cobbled surfaces has been identified within the archive with which to justify the structural sequence which Oswald identified. The surviving photographs and publication drawings however would suggest that the sequence is substantially correct and that the internal features and

associated floors could be connected to the entrance building sequence and hence to the external deposits.

The exterior

West (Section A-B)

Pre-dating the construction of the kitchen was a thin spread of brown silt overlying the natural which in turn was overlain by grey silt with some wood fragments which was then overlain by a thin gravel spread. The gravel spread is identified as Floor 1 within the building but apparently extended beyond to the west and thus may pre-date the building or be contemporary with its construction. The west wall sleeper beam had been inserted into the gravel and underlying silt. A thin layer of black silt containing wood fragments overlay the gravel and was in turn overlain by a deeper layer of grey silt/clay which effectively sealed the west wall sleeper beam. In Phase III a new sleeper beam was inserted which remained in use throughout the rest of the life of the building. Another thin layer of black silt was deposited and underlay grey silt/clay which was overlain by another thin deposit of black silt, level with Floor 5 of the sequence and contemporary with the abandonment of the building and its burial below the moat up-cast in Period IV.

North (Section C-D)

The section shows the same sequence as the western section except that the first north wall sleeper beam remained in use throughout the life of the building with all external deposits built up against the wall line.

East (Section A-B)

The ground surface to the east was 0.45m higher than to the west and consisted of yellow gravel overlying natural and below clean yellow clay. The east wall sleeper beam had been inserted into the yellow clay and the beam trench was filled with chocolate brown soil which extended eastwards over the yellow clay. Possibly the clay gravel deposits were the remnants of the Period I bank. There was no evidence of water-logging in this area and timber had not survived.

South (Section A-B)

As to the east, this area was not waterlogged and the building had been cut into the Period I bank.

4.0 CONCLUSIONS

The Weoley Castle archive on first examination appeared to be large, confusing and potentially uninformative, however close examination has revealed that much of the material has been duplicated over the years and that by paring the archive back to its essential bones the picture becomes much clearer. If the archive became smaller yet it became more obvious where the majority of the details fitted within the over-all picture and, much like a jig-saw, slowly a picture has emerged with adequate archival material to support it. There are still gaps within the story and there are still pages within the site notebooks which have not yet been fully understood. Further examination may yet help to fill these gaps.

Preliminary examination of the results presented by the various specialist, finds reports suggest that Oswald's conclusions will not have to be extensively modified but the information now available is much more extensive. It seems safe to say that whilst acknowledging the constraints imposed by the limitations of the surviving archive it will, one day, be perfectly feasible to produce a monograph dedicated to placing the important site of Weoley Castle within its regional, social, historic and architectural context.