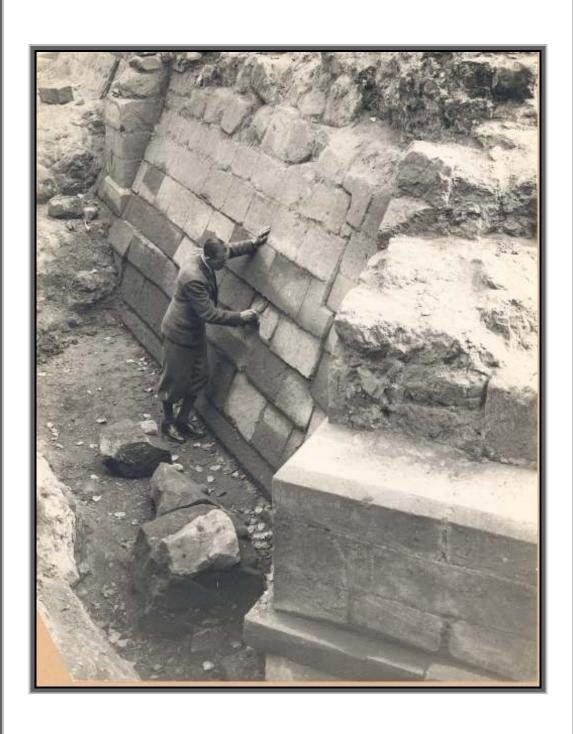
# Weoley Castle – the reduced archive 2.0 Pre-war Excavations



#### 2.0 PRE-WAR EXCAVATIONS

#### 2.1 The Archive

# 2.1.1 Site Reports etc.

Veoley Castle.

It will be within the knowledge of the members of the Consistee that recently a very interesting chapter has been opened in the mediaeval history of Birmingham, by the excavations corried on by the members of the Yown Clerk's Department and of the City Surveyor's Department, together with the assistance of University students, on the site of the fortified namor house of Weeley, known as Weeley Gastle. This manor house obtained a licence for erenellation in 1264, and so far as can be ascertained, was slroady in ruins in the early part of the igth century. The history of its various owners is well-known, but until last May no westiges of the castle itself remained, with the exception of a very small piece of monomry above ground. The excavations carried on under the direction of Mr. Bark of the Town Clerk's Department and of Mr. Chatwin as the representative of Missis His Majesty's Office of Works, Department of Antiquities, have revealed magnificent remains of masonry, and among other portions of the building a very fine archway has been brought to light.

In the course of the excavation a considerable number of objects of great interest, including sel spears, arrow-heads, fragments of painted, glass, and a very large amount of pottony have been discovered. These have been carefully classified by the escavators, and your Keeper felt that he was only anticipating the winhes of this Committee in placing at the disposal of the excavators a room in the Art Callery for the purpose of assembling and repairing those objects, a few of which are now shown.

As the obvious destination of objects found on a Birmingham historical site, which is actually Corporation property, must
be the Museum and Art Gallery, your Ecoper hopes that this
Consisted will wish to co-operate with the Public Verks Consisted
by velcowing these objects to the permanent collections. Your
Ecoper understands that this hope is shared by the Gity Surveyor's
Department, and by those engaged in the excavations. Maturelly,
however, before they are finally deposited here, the excavators

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would wish to have free opportunity of exhibiting them and discussing them with the Archaeological Society and with other interested.

# Cast Collection.

Mr. Holden has now completed the distribution of the casts allocated to the Schools of Art in the City, and an application has been received from the Head Master of the Hylar Memorial School of Art, West Bromwich, for a selection of the casts still remaining for distribution. Your Keeper hopen that the Committee will regard this application favourably, and will allow him to use his discretion in the allocation of casts from among the very few still remaining for distribution.

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#### INTERIM REPORT.

#### WEOLEY CASTLE EXCAVATION.

SITE.

This covers approximately one acre entirely surrounded by most, the ground level being approximately four feet above the present water level of most. The whole is covered for the first eighteen inches in depth with vegetable soil, which, with the exception of that lying immediately next to the walls, appears to contain very little of importance, and could be removed should such soil be required for any purpose on the adjoining Housing Estate.

The stratum immediately below the vegetable soil to the depth at present excavated (4-ft. below) is varied in character. In places it consists of rubble (i.e. broken masonry and disintegrated sandstone and sement) and in others a puddle clay, particularly alongside the north wall, which is rather suggestive of being dumped during the construction of the canal adjoining.

#### STRUCTURE.

From examination walls have been proved on three sides, north, south and west, but very little appears to remain of the east wall, though this may be discovered at a greater depth than at the moment reached.

# NORTH WALL.

This has now been exposed for nearly its entire length at varying depths from ground level to 9'0", proving to be both instructive and interesting, and from the finds which have come to light it appears that some of the more important chambers of the castle were situate in this portion of the site.

## SOUTH WALL.

This wall has now been partially exposed, but has not been excavated to sufficient depth to venture an opinion as to its purport.

(1)

(2)

#### WEST WALL.

This contains evidences of an important archway which was in all probability the main entrance, a horse-shoe bastion, and perhaps a wicket adjoining the main archway, but again a deeper excavation is necessary to prove its definite relation to the remainder.

#### WALLS GENERALLY.

These are constructed of Frankley stone, which in parts is sound but in others is of very poor quality. They are rich in masons' marks, but very little of the moulded and decorated stone still remains in situ. From the stones which have fallen and have been retained it is safe to say that there was window tracery of thirteenth century style, while another part of the building is of the Perpendicular period. The walls appear to be constructed with faced stones filled in with rubble core.

# FINDS.

For the short space of time at our disposal and the shallowness of the works up to date the finds upon the site have been both gratifying and, one might almost say, surprising. Amongst these are moulded stones, ornamental tiles, lead flashing and leaded lights, stained glass, decorated plaster and potsherd. From the nature of these finds it is safe to assume that the building was grandly decorated, and the workmanship of a high order. Special mention should be made of a double constructional arch which is "in situ" in the north-east corner of the site about 3:0" below ground level. It appears to be the top of an opening leading from a larger chamber to a smaller one which has small openings in three of its walls which have the appearance of dacks but until a deeper exploration is possible its use cannot be definitely ascertained. Amongst the tiles is an edging tile with fleur-de-lys design, which is in a good state of preservation. The glass discovered appears to be of two kinds, "pot" and "flash". The pot glass, which appears to be blown in one piece, is well

(3)

preserved, while the flash, which is made in layers, powders badly when dry and is difficult to preserve.

## HISTORICALLY.

Up to the present nothing has come to light to add to the facts already known. There is no reason for supposing that any building stood upon this site prior to the licence to crenellate in 1264. There are evidences of what might have been later additions on the north wall, but these are as yet insufficient in detail to justify an opinion as to period.

# WELL IN GARDEN OF FARM HOUSE.

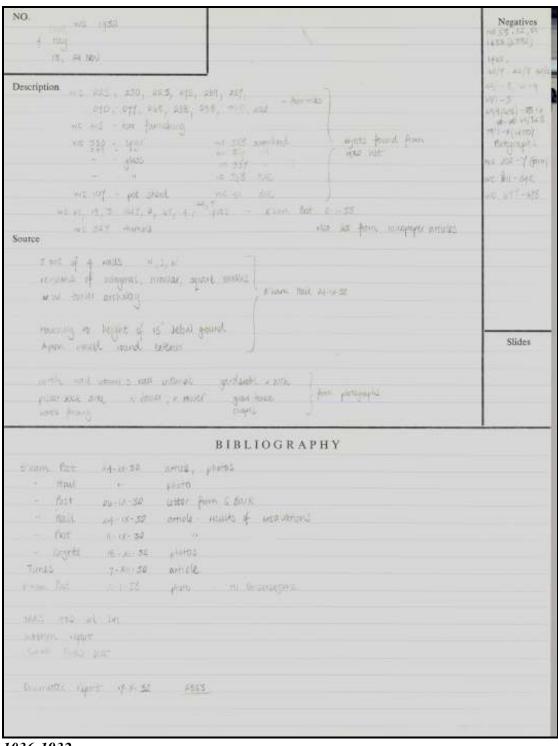
This is now excavated to a depth of 20 feet, but the water level has not yet been reached. For the first ten feet from the top it is constructed in ring formation made from sand-stone, then the remainder as far as we have gone is bored out of the sand-stone rock. Very little of interest has appeared in the debris drawn from the well except a few potsherds of doubtful period and origin.

# GENERAL.

Although the building has always been known as "Weoley Castle", it is safe to assume that it is really a fortified manor-house. No evidence of a keep has been found, or is expected.

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(5) Weoley Castle. The excavation of the remains of the Castle is		
being continued. By arrangement with the Public Assistance Com- mittee a number of unemployed men have been engaged in rough		
digging throughout the year, the spoil being transferred to adjoining land which is to be laid out as a playing-field.		
The Public Works Committee has made a grant towards the cost of consolidating the masonry, and this work has now been executed		
by H.M. Office of Works, which is also fixing the floor levels, making		
the masonry-work more secure and rendering the site more attractive.  No grant is available for the work of excavation which is still being		
carried out by voluntary labour under the supervision of Mr. G. M. Bark, F.S.A., with the advice of Mr. Philip B. Chatwin, F.S.A. The		
year's work has been mainly in the vicinity of the postern gate and		
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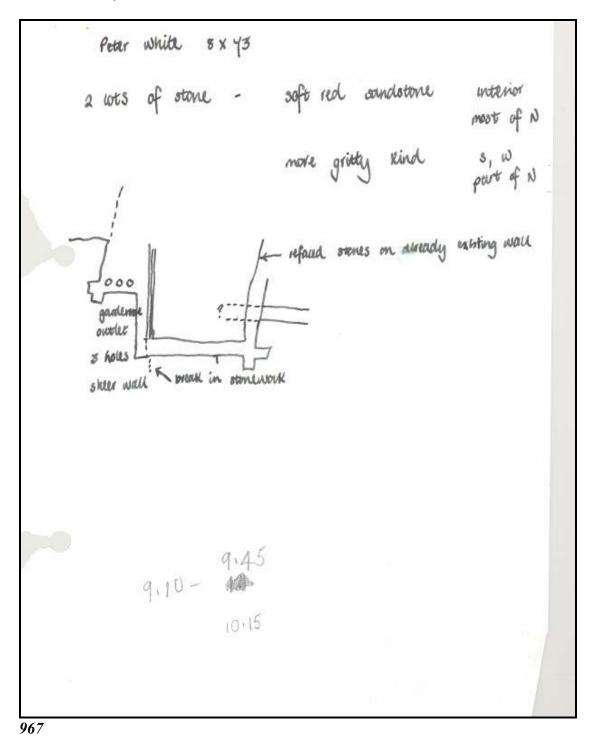
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(6) Weoley Casile. The clearing of the moat and consolidation of the masoary of the castle walls has been continued during the year,	
under the superintendence of the architects of H.M. Office of Works,	
in consultation with the City Engineer and Surveyor, and the President. A further sum of £215 has been paid by the Society on	
the certificate of the City Engineer and Surveyor towards the cost	
of the work. This payment, together with the payment of £500	
made last year, exhausts the special fund raised by the Society.  It is, however, gratifying to report that the City Council decided	
that the work should be continued.	
Mr. G. M. Bark, F.S.A., who for several years devoted practically	
all his leisure to the study of the history of the castle and superintended the band of voluntary workers, having now left Birmingham.	
it has been found necessary to dispense temporarily with voluntary	
assistance. Your Committee wish to record their high appreciation	
of the valuable work done by Mr. Bark in connexion with this site,	The state of the s
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since it earthed has been clated to	was last s . Much of a removed han was fo	een by the me the mud and cl , thereby enab ermerly possibl	nole of the east and south sides uncovered embers and much of interest has been un- ay that had accumulated in the north most ling the castle to be seen and better appro- e; practically the whole of the masonry of red and much of it has been consolidated.	18AS LXII (1943)	

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Weoley Casile. Further valuable work has been done during the year.		
A well, apparently serving some of the outbuildings, was discovered and		
emptied, but the contents were of an inconclusive nature. Evidence has been found of an important timber-framed building, possibly the Great		
Hall. More of the stonework has been consolidated and some of the rooms previously uncovered have had their floors turied. Numerous small		
objects of interest and a few coins have also been found. It is perhaps numecessary to add that all further work has been stopped for the duration		
of the war.	TBAS IXIII (1944)	
	1000	
(#		

# FURTHER NOTES (8) Wesley Castle. The work of excavation is being continued by voluntary labour under the supervision of Mr. G. M. Bark, F.S.A. H.M. Office of Works is still engaged in consolidating the masonry. Turf has been laid down on the floor levels of portions of the buildings, which enables the ground plan to be more readily understood. The expenses incurred by the Office of Works up to March 31, 1936, were met by a grant from the Birmingham Corporation, but owing to the necessity for retrenchment in civic expenditure, an intimation was received that the grant could not be renewed. Your Committee, while appreciating the dilemma of the Civic Authorities, could not contemplate with equanimity the abandonment of the work, when so much had been accomplished, and so much remained to be done. It was therefore decided to appeal to the public for funds to enable it to be continued. This proposal met with the cordial approval of the Lord Mayor (Alderman S. J. Grey), who most kindly convened and presided at a meeting in the Council Chamber on April 30, 1936. As the result of the appeal the sum of £716, 178, 1d. has been raised, which has enabled the work to proceed for the present. Out of the fund collected £500 has been paid on the Certificate of the City Engineer and Surveyor as the amount due to H.M. Office of Works up to September 1, 1936. It will, therefore, be appreciated that it will be impossible to continue operations on the present scale very much longer, unless further aid is forthcoming. It is to be hoped that under the more favourable conditions now prevailing, the Corporation may see its way to resume responsibility for the reconditioning of this interesting ruin, the only medieval TBAS LX (1940) building of its kind within the City.

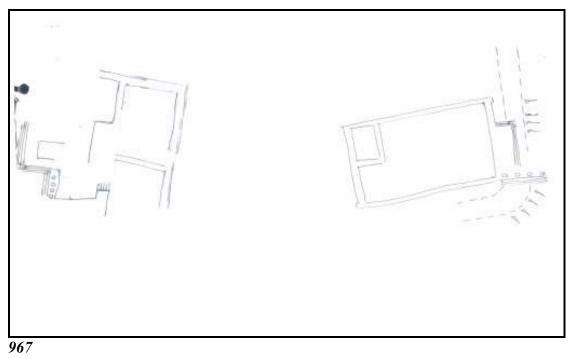
# 2.1.2 The Diary

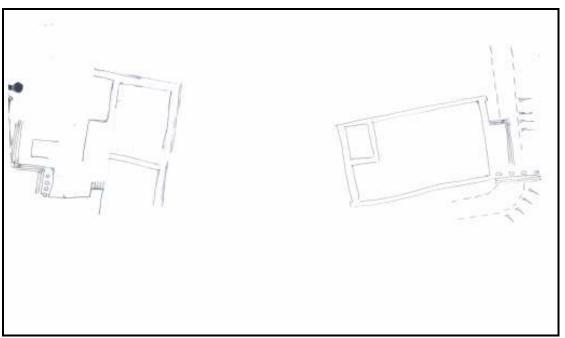


1932	Finds - taken from newspaper articles
WC 352	(1) Coin Edward III - not found, unless wrong elementification
	casting counters - one mentioned in 1952 amout floods wit
	Copper shimble
	Arothers of fathous dear
WC 350	, sag ague - turo mendioned in 1930 hist
	or 857 Armid Wad
WC 4	15 Long iron ornamental door-hinge
1	Chish postery
/	Early palated glass a lead work
	Painted wall plaster
1	Tiles, one with non passant (one identical with some a
	Maxodolic Garble)
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	somes with mouldings - rate (15th some have glass
	growes a are part of a B- light window with simple ausper
	makey (of stokkoay) - others are from arches
	Evidence of Rupendicular work

1988 Find	
WC 1061	"Bostom", portery head; in most sw of octagon Tower
WC 34	Crinicled edge green pot; most, near wall, 3 of NE angle
WC 31	Jug with fact; " " " " " "
WC 379	steelyard weight; passage close to Ortagen Tower, just below
WC 405	Husical pipe; bottom of moats store to remains of bridge
WD 451	Boass otrainer, handles, etc.; room close to octogen You're
WC 553	count of Ed. 111; same room in ties of the lower hearth;
10.1	north side, 2-2, the same level as etectional
	weight which was in passage just outside which
WU 440 (7)	Big suckers; meat, N side, c-ta way down, 23 well with top of
	pond weld and under "sop filling"
886 2M	gold coun (\$ signi); on other side of wall north of the dairy, near the small square patch of tries
WC 390	venetian out; bottom of most, near No tower
and the	*** *** *** *** *** *** *** *** *** **
e.	"Coin found at bottom of mout near drawbridge below 'puddle' at
	NW corner several feet from building (ie = 5 or 6") 4/54p/ 1938

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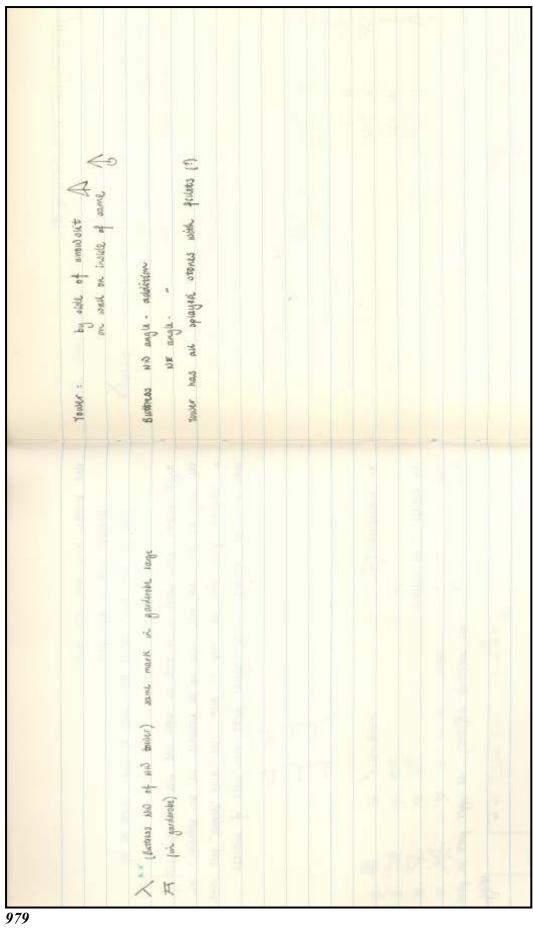


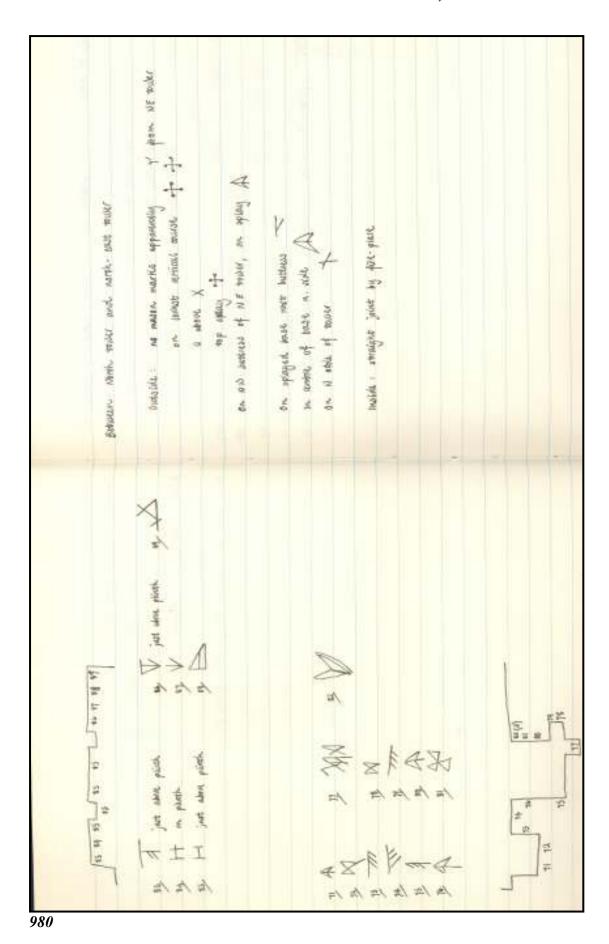


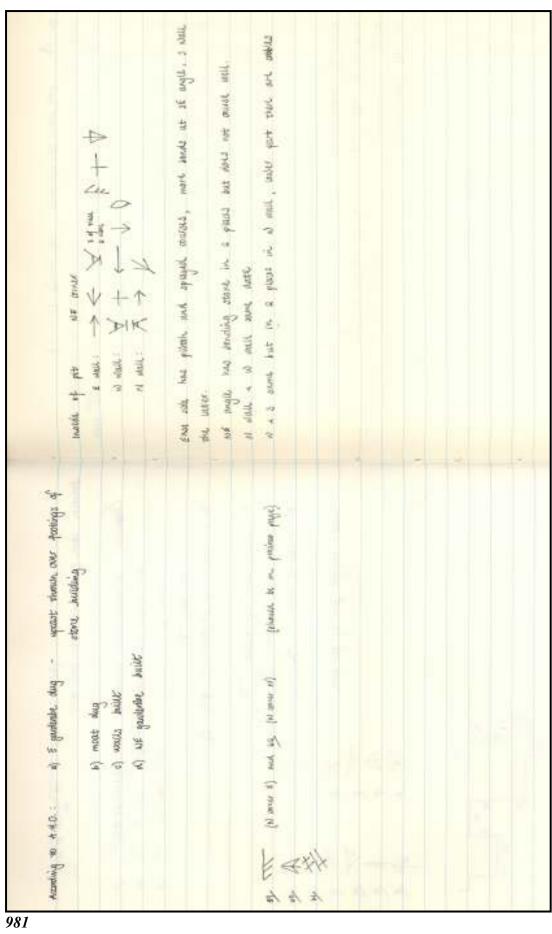
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	growes a are part of a B- light window with simple ausper
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	Evidence of Rupendicular work

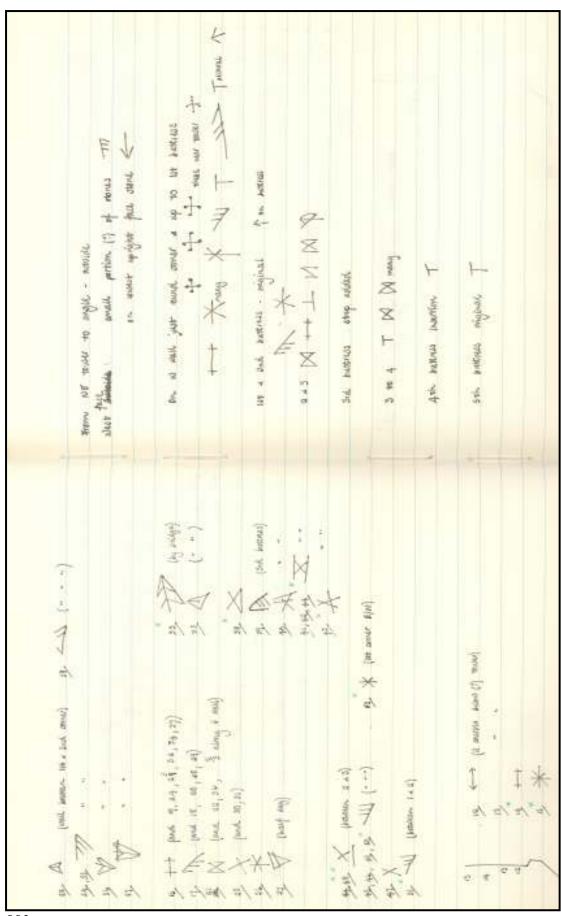
1988 Find	3
WC 1061	"Bostom", portery head; in most sw of octagon Tower
WC 34	Crinkled edge green pot; most, near wall, 3 of NE angil
WC 31	Jug with face; " " " " " "
WC 379	steelyard weight; passage close to Ortagon Tower, just below ourface of lower wei
WC 405	Husical pipe; bottom of moats stort to remains of bridge
WE 451	Brass otrainer, handles, etc.; room close to octogen You're
WC 383	count of Ed. 111; same now in ties of the lower hearth; north side, 2.2, the same level as steelyard
	weight which was in passage just outside this non
WU 440 (?)	Big suckert; mout, N side, c-to way down, 23 uncl with top of pond weed and under "top filling"
WC 755	gold coun (\$ 18yai); on other scale of wall north of the dairy, near the small square patch of thes
WC 390	venetian out; bottom of mout, near Not tower
n	"coin found at bottom of most near drawbridge below 'puddle' at
	NW corner several feet from building (1e-= 5 or 6') 4/54p/1938 venerian silver coin

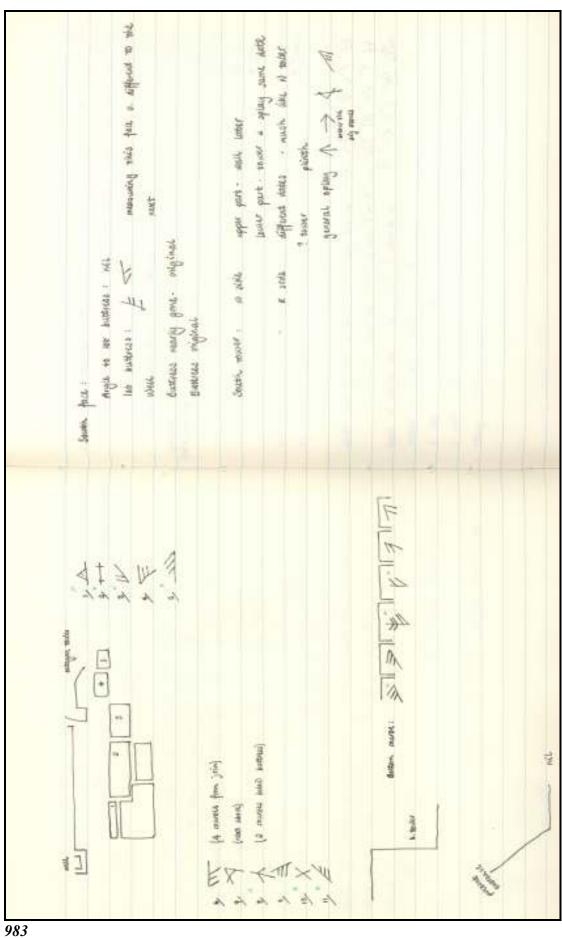
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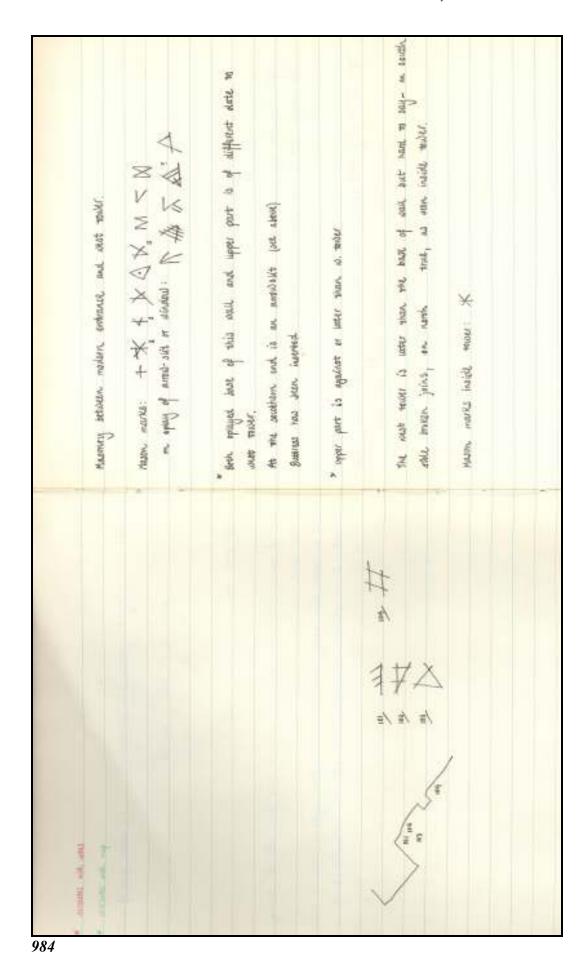


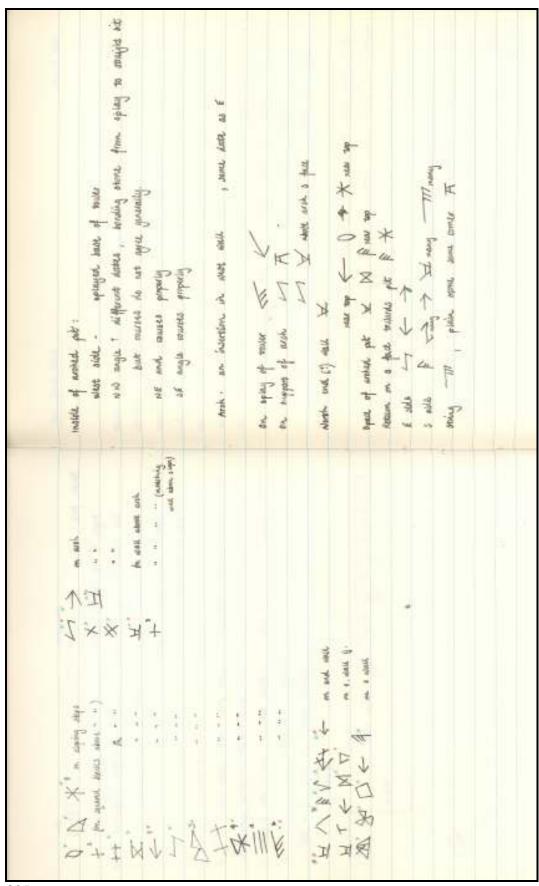












# The Great Hall

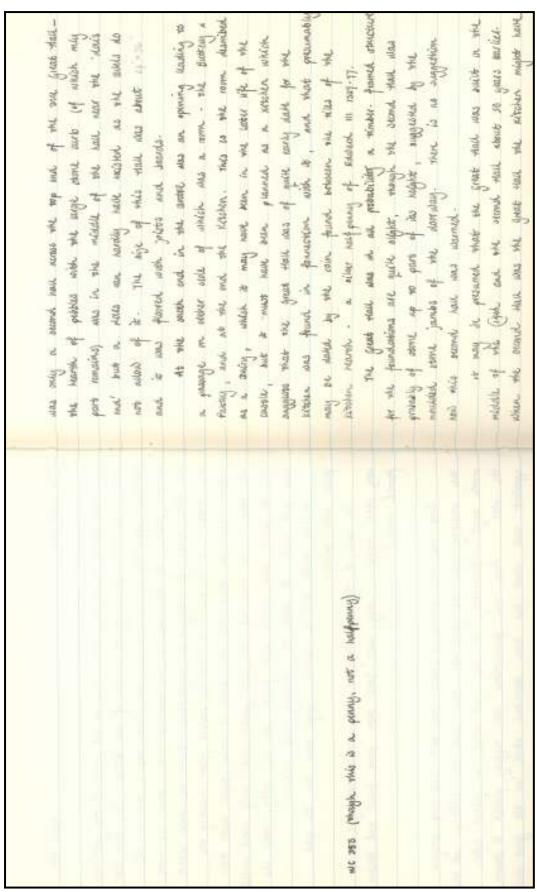
August 1939

This backed on to the masonry otc. 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 antre are otone 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 of the door jambs with heavy round mould was in stru and another was found not far away,— this has been put back to make the doorway more evidents.

Further south was a hearth— large otone Kerb, the space filled with pebbles.

The walls of the hall being so their cannot have gone up to any great height - they must have been stone below and timber-framed above.

Since this was written a watle more work was done between at the masonry near the gard-robe tower and the buildings and 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

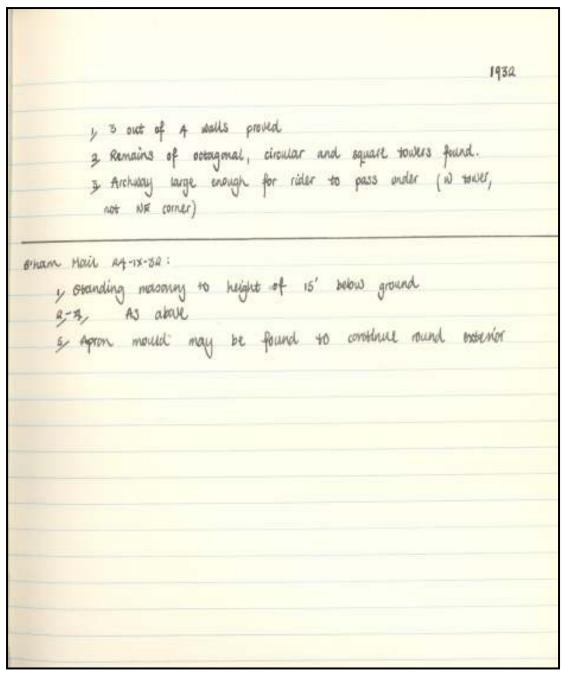


	been to the south-east and was destroyed when the great Mall and the new Kitchen were constructed.
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January 10, 1940 The souble NE bower was all built at once and apparently with it whi large block of movement to the soldlin. The boothesses or gieces built against the large block are additions and the transverse building, E-W, is built against the w face of whe large block. The n, 10, 1 s wall are all of one build, whe inner living of the bouth wall being an addition. If the room to the west of the NF tower was ever the Kitchen (as ubuid appear lokely from the postery found in this world and in the most next by) and the Hall served by it being to the sowth of whe large block, when she than must have been a previous building, possible timber-famed, as there is no means of communication botaleen it and the Kitchen. it is not obsides when the partition was what served wis Hall (if tall it was), after it was constructed with its lower storey at any rate in otone (the walls of which the lawler courses survive) and where is no obvious fileplace. This room, or rooms for the dividing sleeper wall may have counted a sceeen, had a boarded floor ranied on a anothe beam running from end to end so the space at the eastern and is best likely to be a cellar or kitchen (the pottery in the most near near das gractically all lote Tudor)

The west wall of the great Hall has been muchs opped but it is evident that it was only 22" thick at its maximum; as the not had a span of nearly 35' it is suggested that this is a majoring foundation only for a tember framed etricture. There is an opening of about y's' with the wall tolickening out a little on either side at about 36' from the north end, the only sign of possibly the entrance. The entrance must have been on the other side of a oceren at the adjust end; the present opening, or what is supposed to be an opening, is probably one made when the Hall was used as a biten. The otomes along the north [7] still were very irregular when first alsowered.

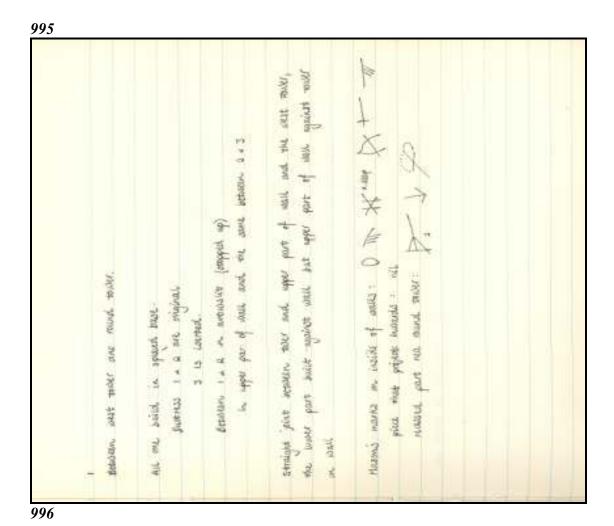
	g. M. Bark	Yown clerk's Dept.	<b>Director</b>
	d. T. Cutts	city Surveyor's Dept.	Assistant
4	P. B. Chartwin		Advisor
		and to had the state of the sta	
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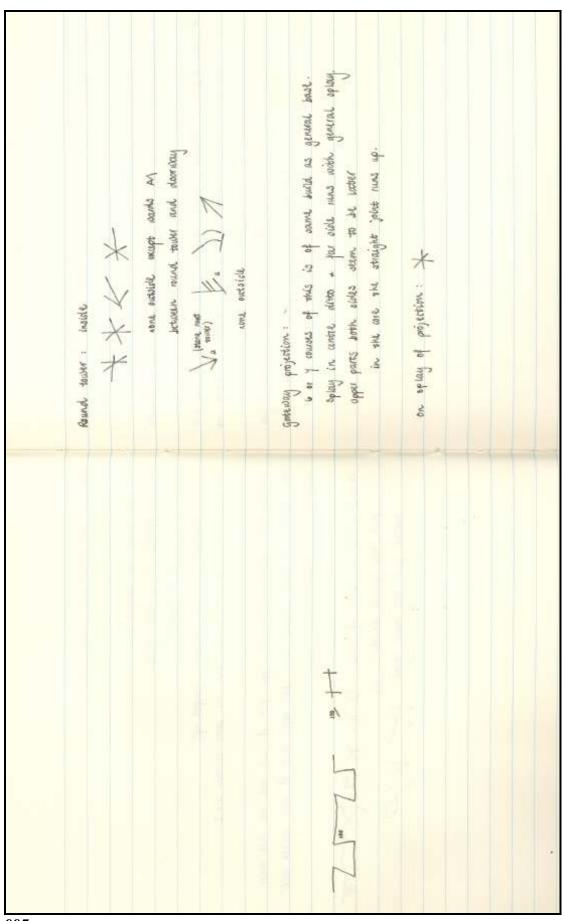


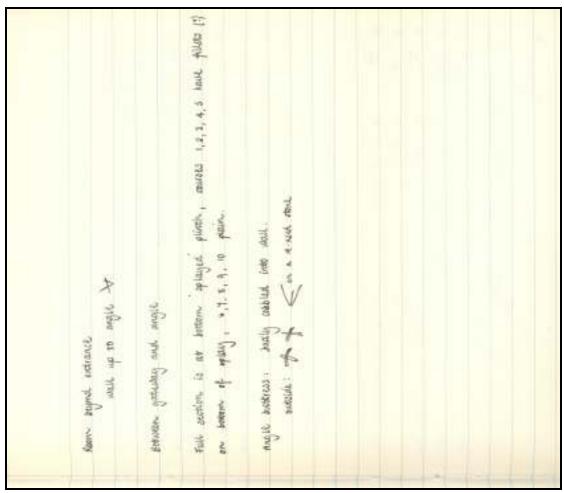
8 ham toot 26-1x-52: Letter from GM Bork ownerling photograph of 24-1x-52. --- The excellent photograph ---- shows a pointed archivary which has been uncovered to it fullest extent and has a maximum headway of eight feet. It is too early to state definitely what was the purpose of this portion of the building, but the finding of a rich layer of fourteenth untury portery is suggestive. the arch is at the north east angle of the site and is not a main entrance. in the west wall of the pastle is a fragment of another arch, which has it foundations many feet below the proent ground wel. This is large enough to allow a mounted rider to pows and may perhaps prove to be part of a principal entrand Times y-su-sa: short report, no new material- says that glass and tiles may be of later date than maroning B'ham Mail 11-10-56: what to find at welly at foster - birds make nests in neits - 3 years since heron a kingfisher seen - office of works turted parts of floor

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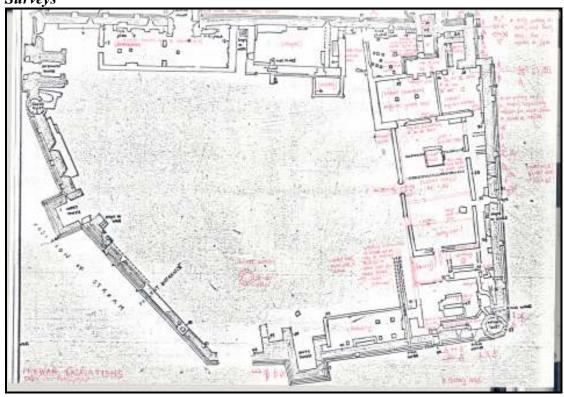


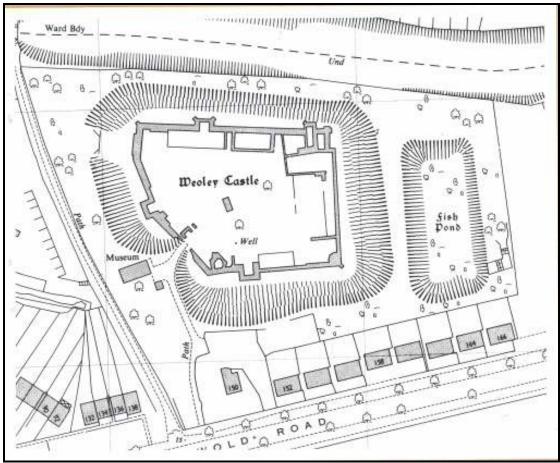


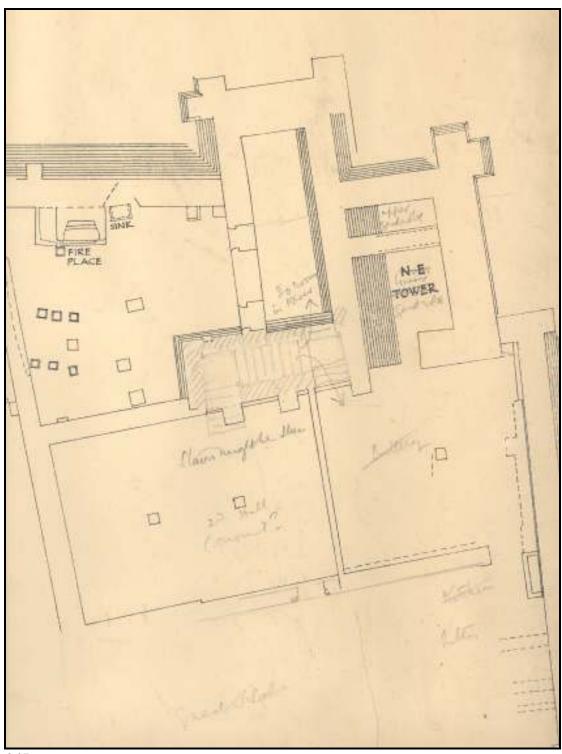
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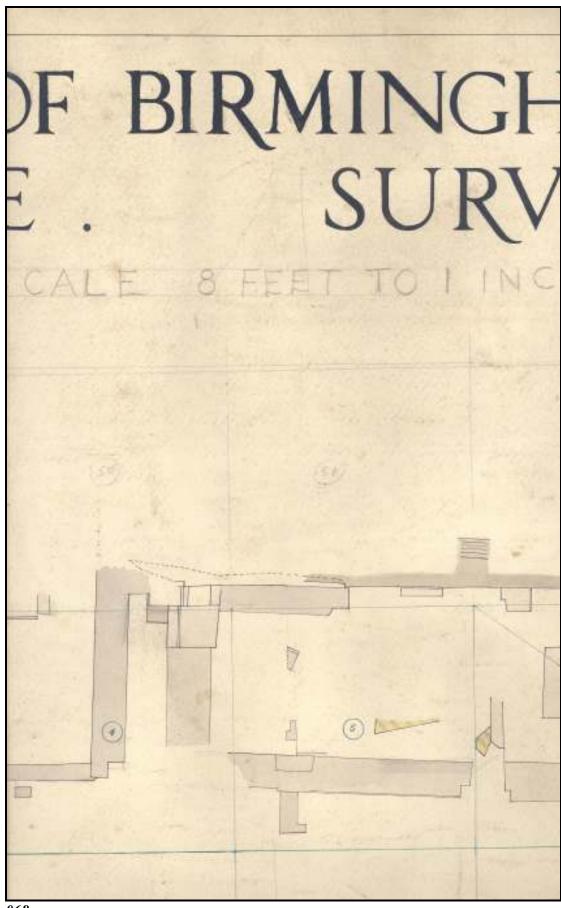
## 2.1.3 The Plan Archive

Surveys



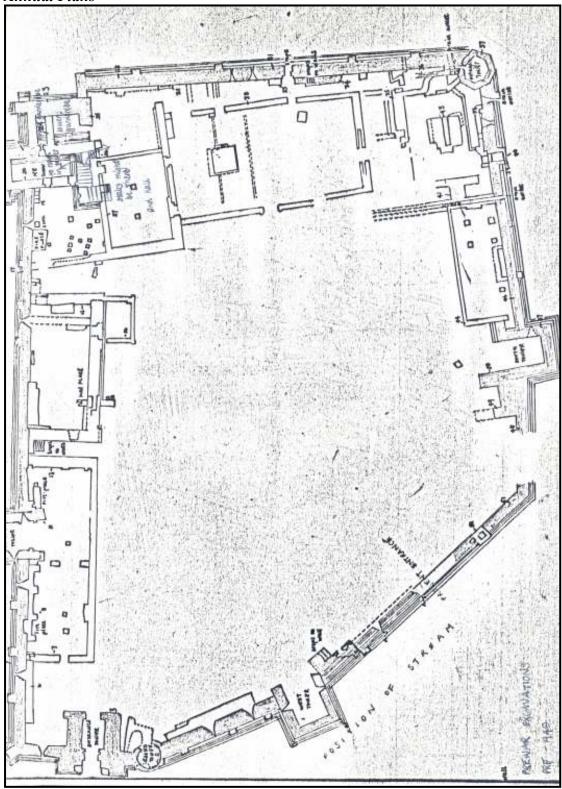


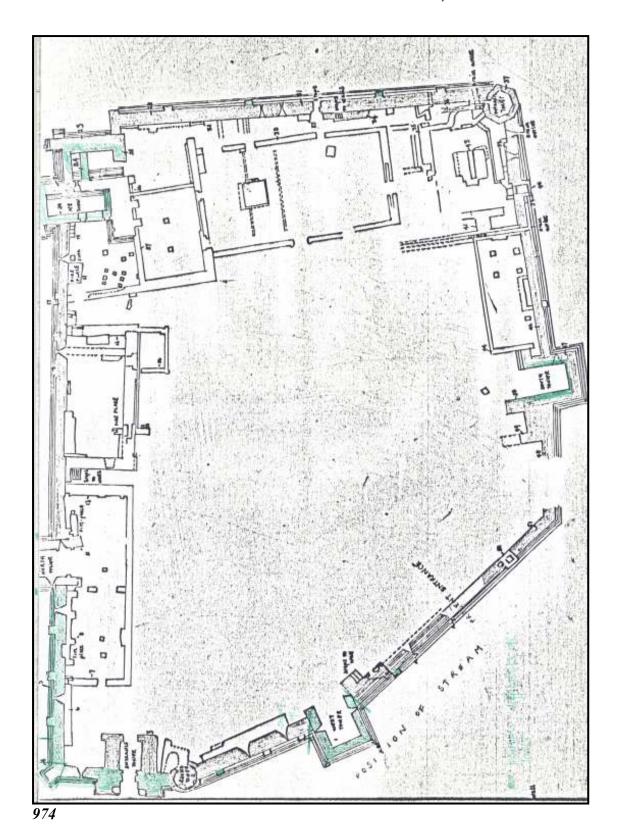


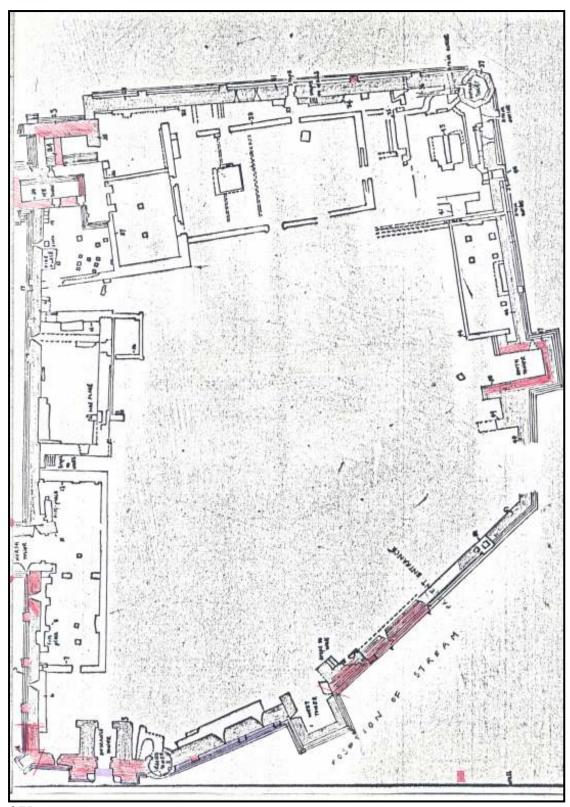


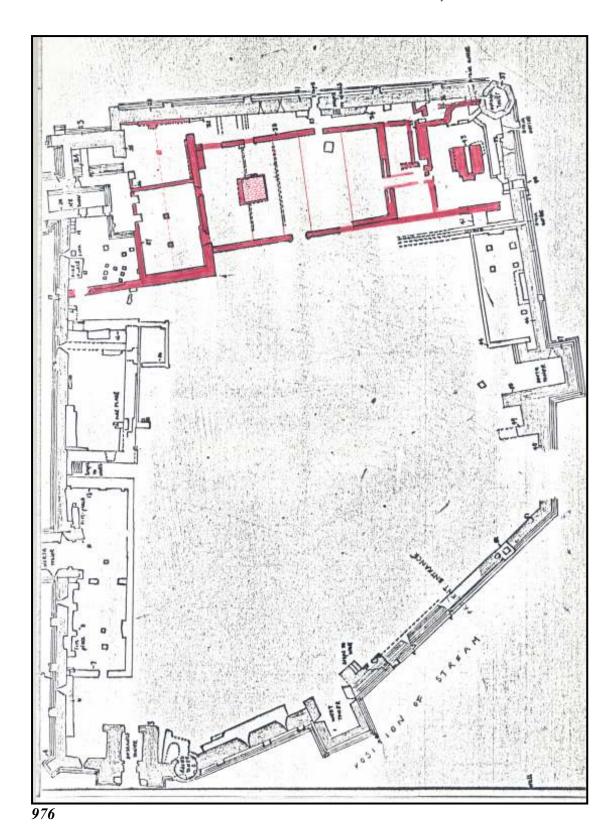


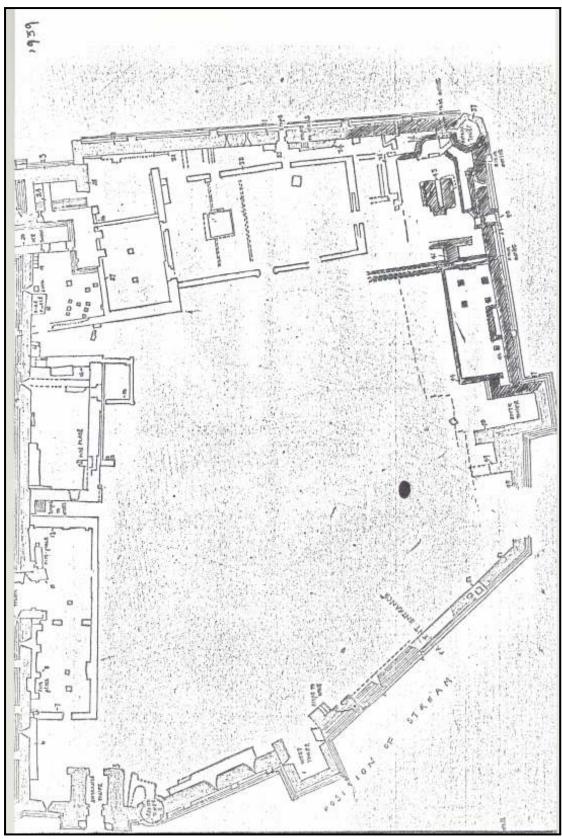
## Annual Plans

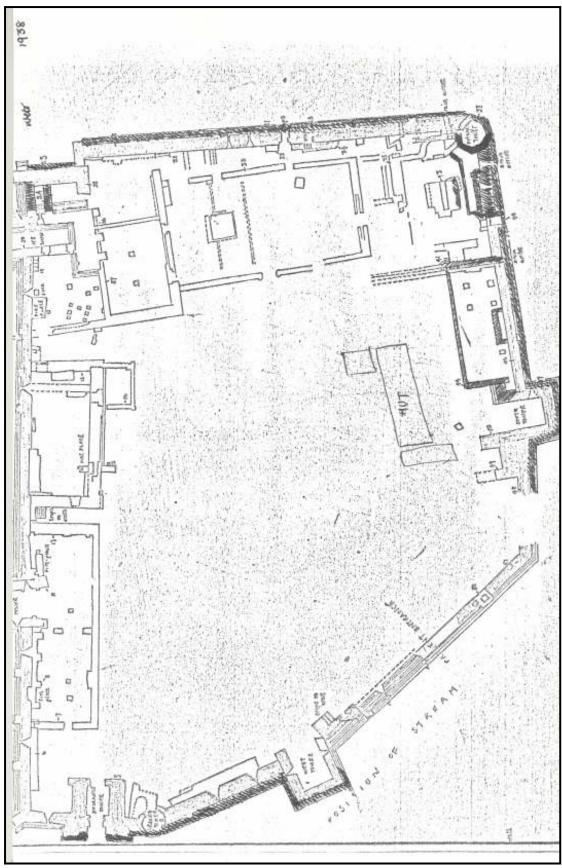


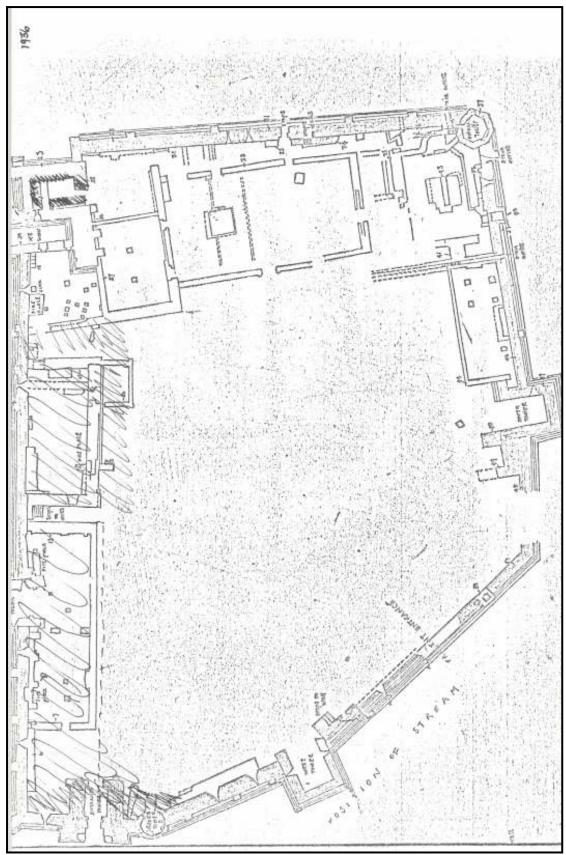


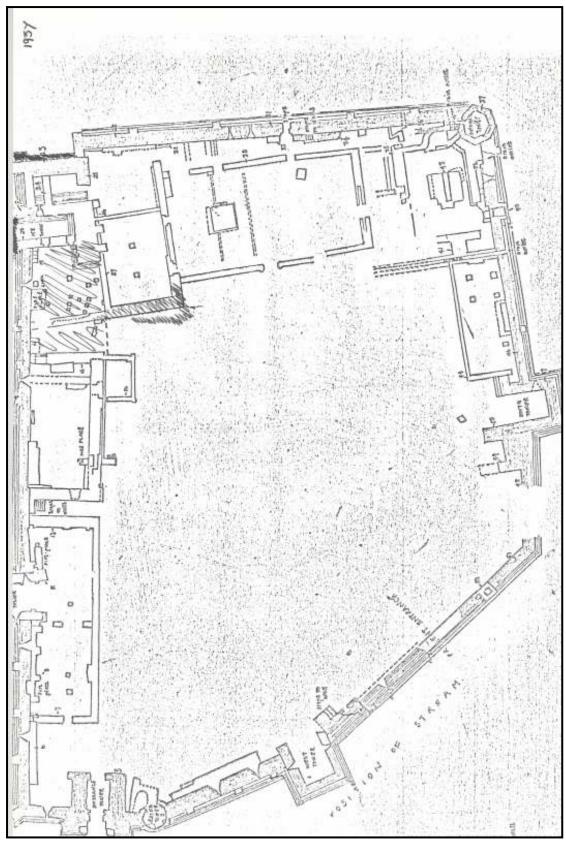


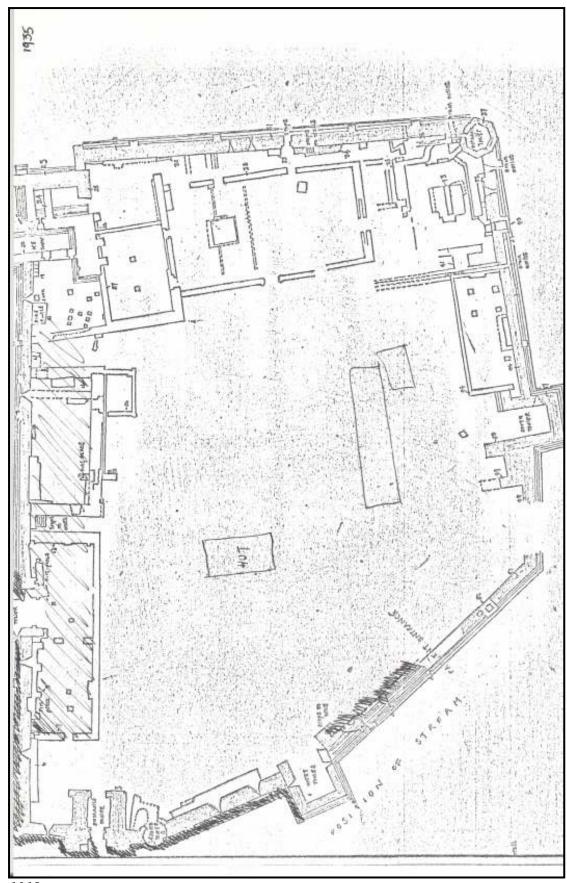


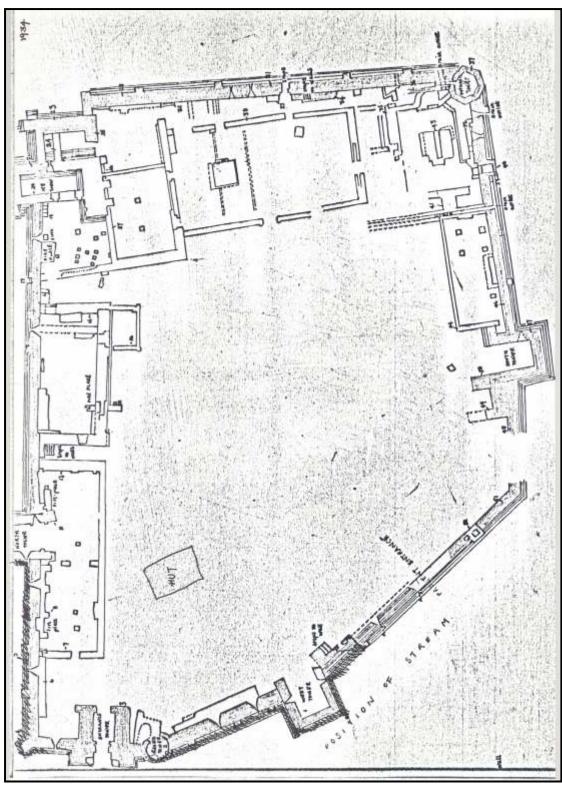


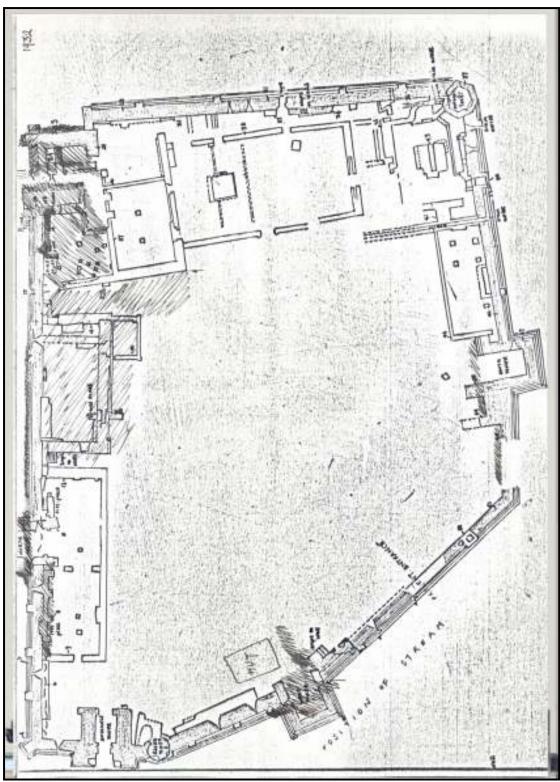


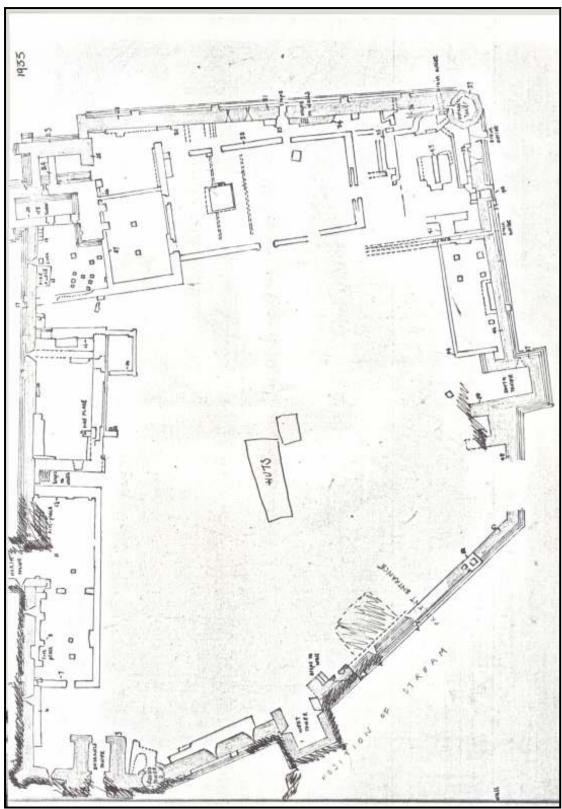




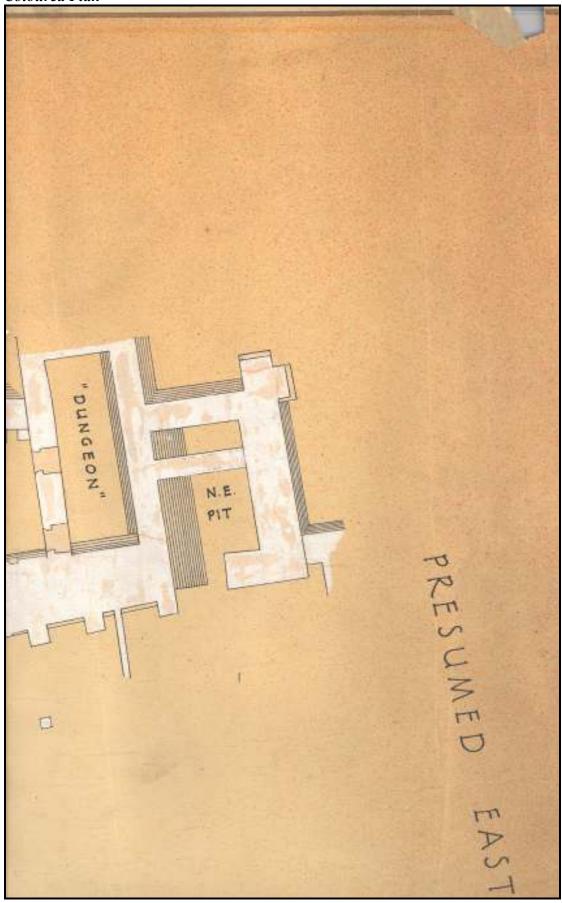


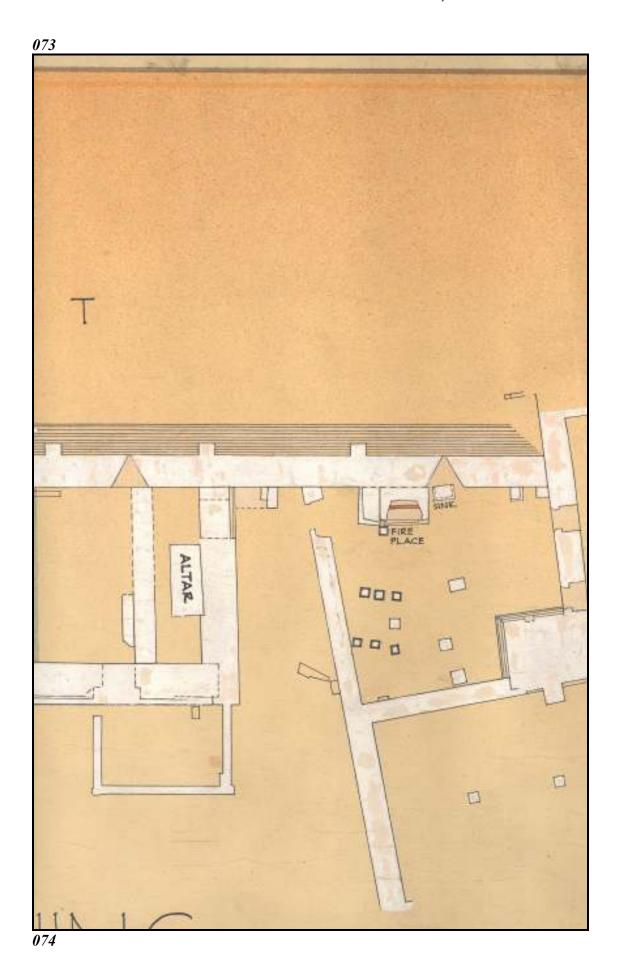


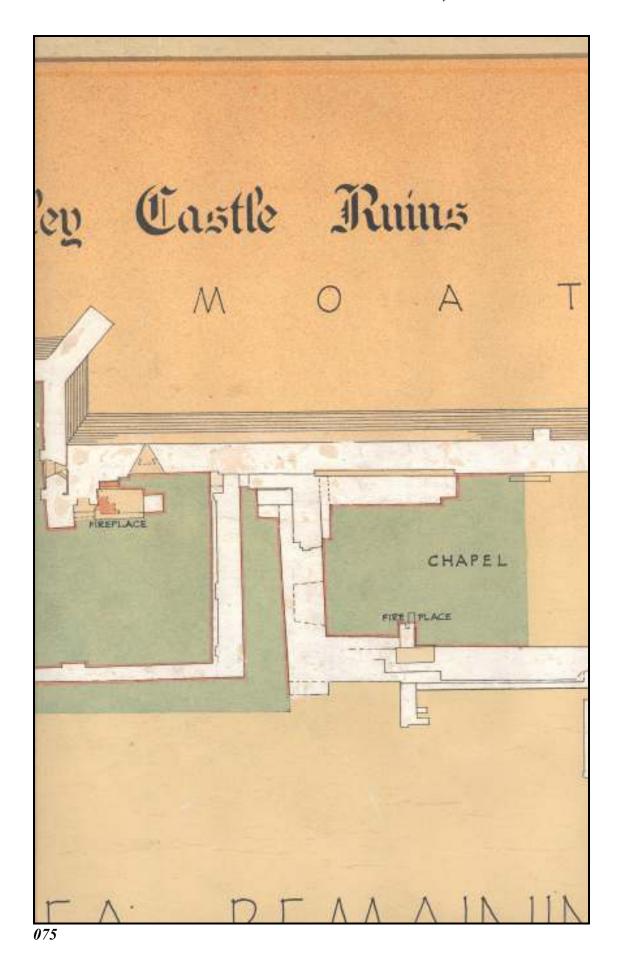


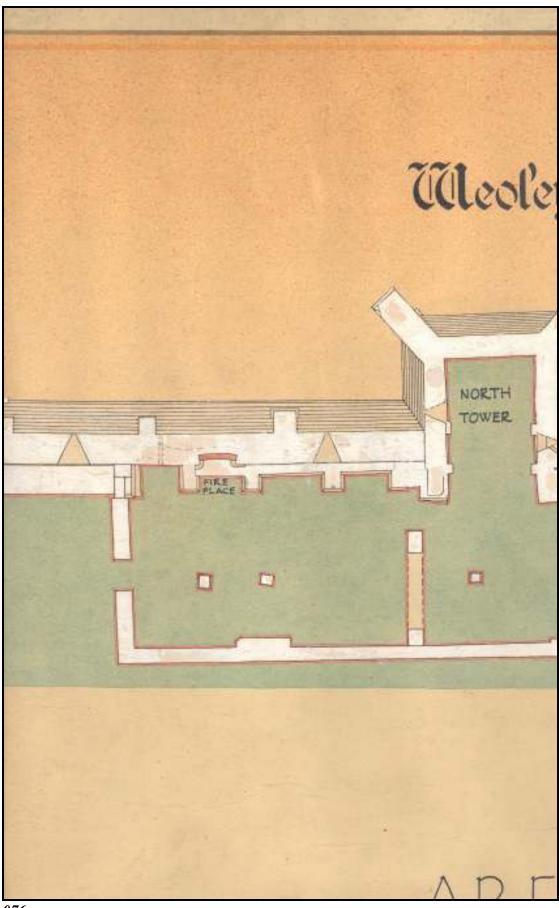


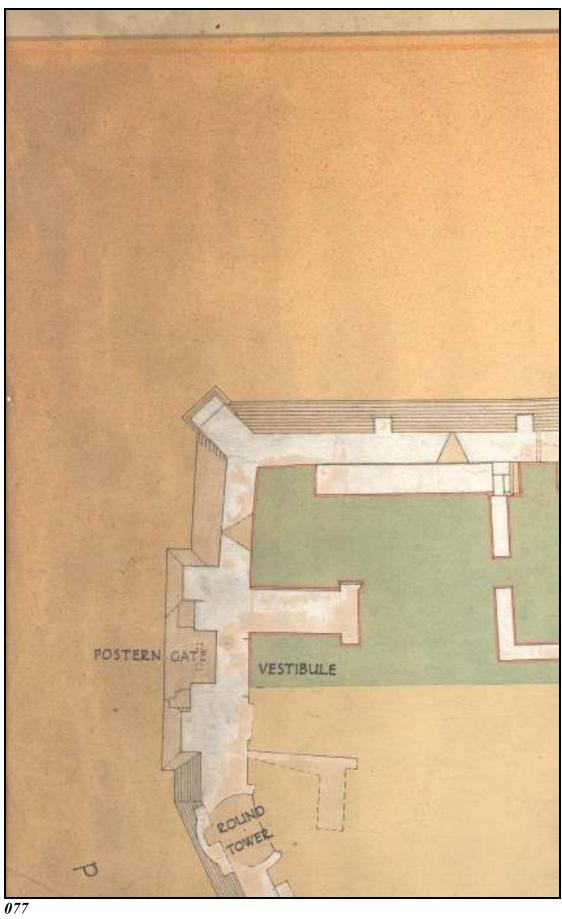
**Coloured Plan** 

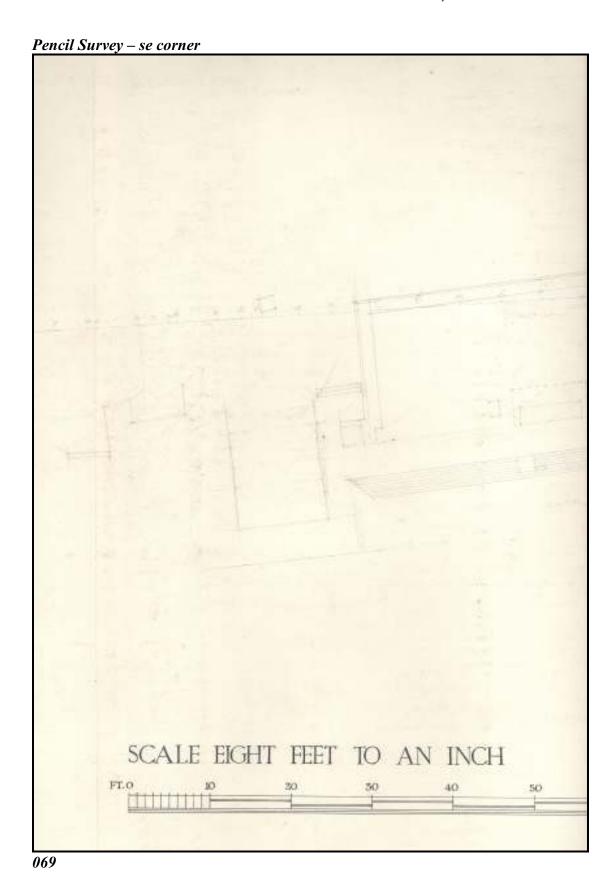


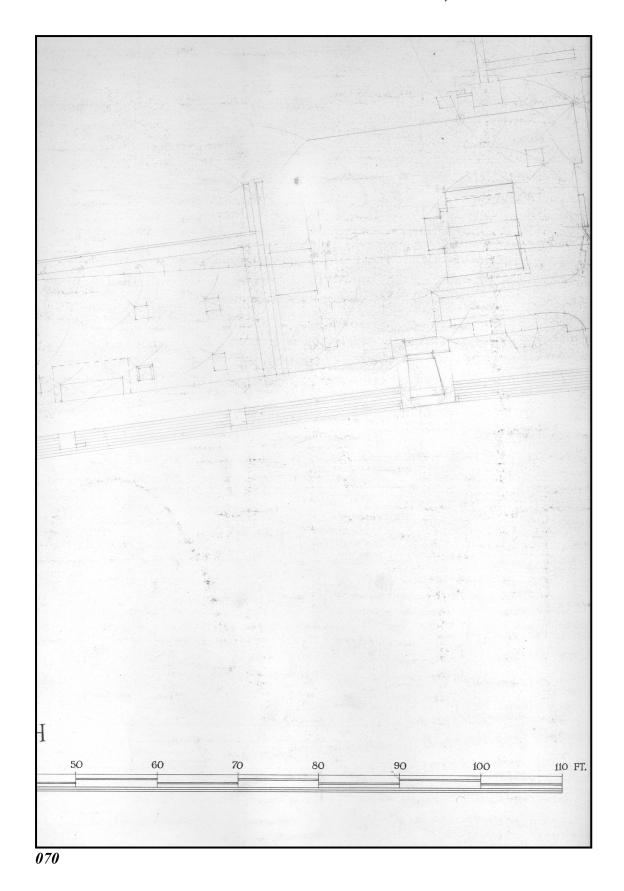


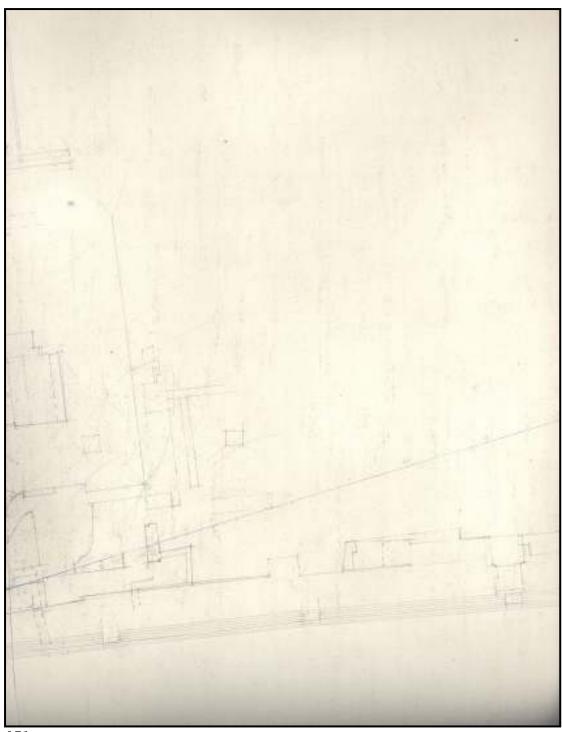


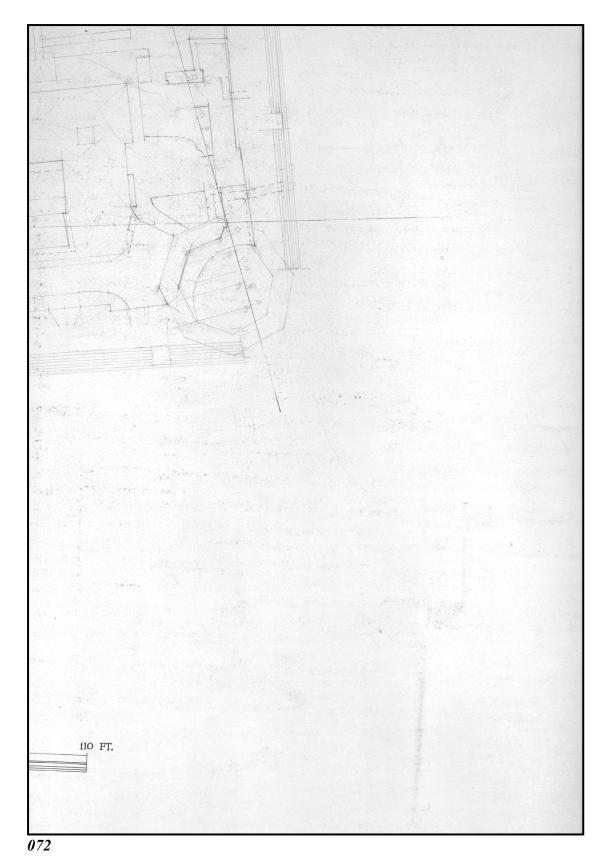












## 2.1.4 The Photographic Archive

## The Initial Clearance































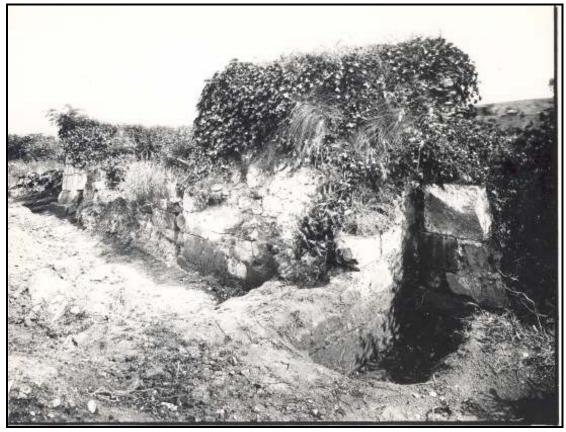












## 2.2 The Standing Masonry - Exterior

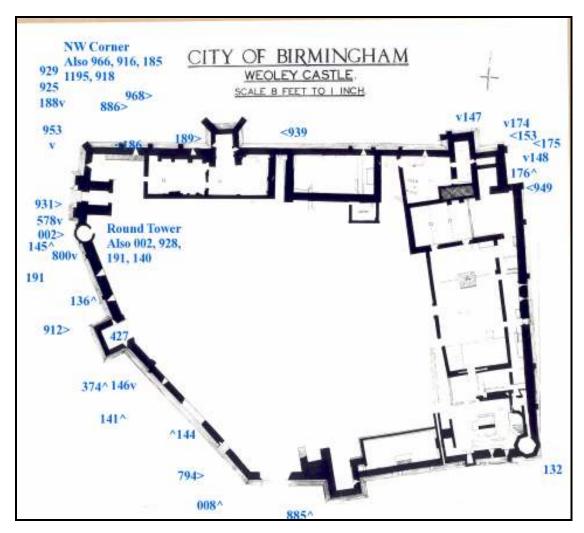
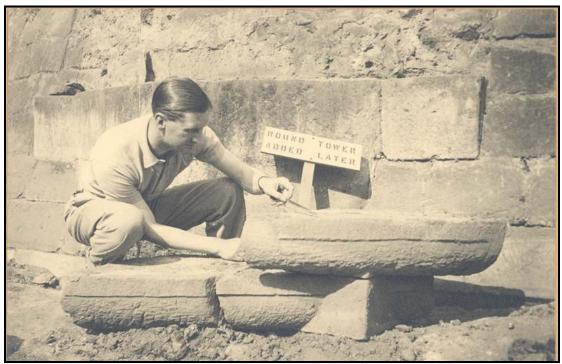


Fig. 2.3: Plan of castle showing approximate location of exterior masonry photographs (Scan 030 modified)







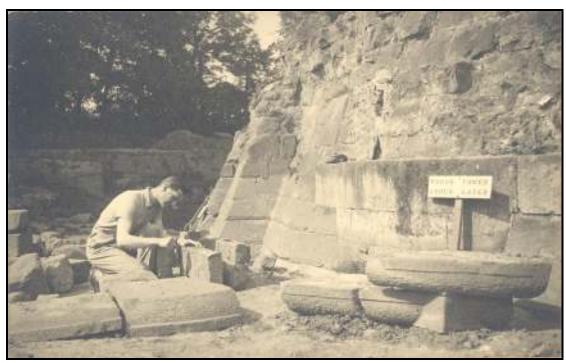
















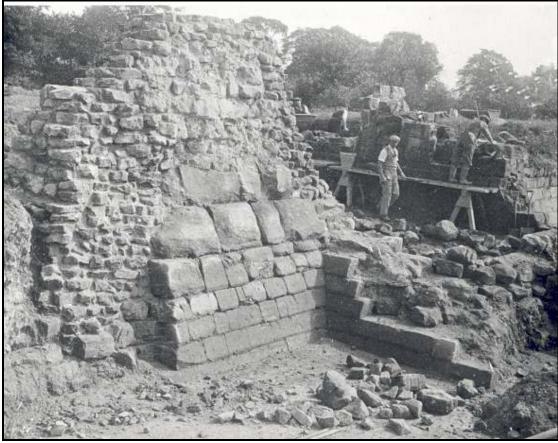




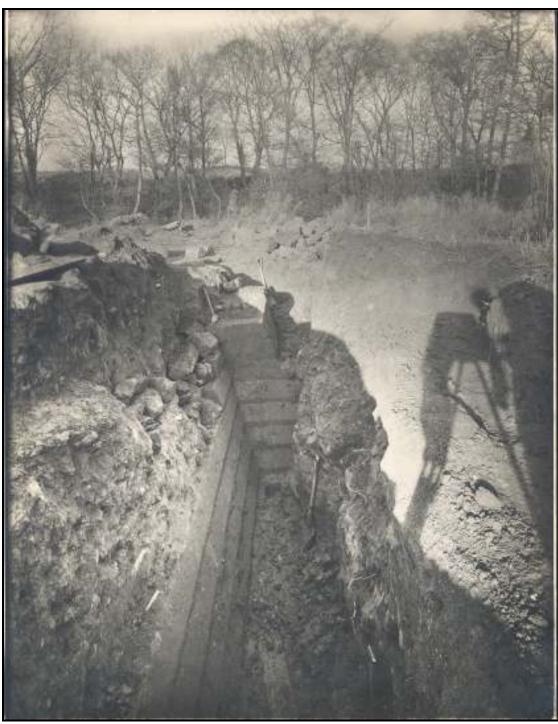






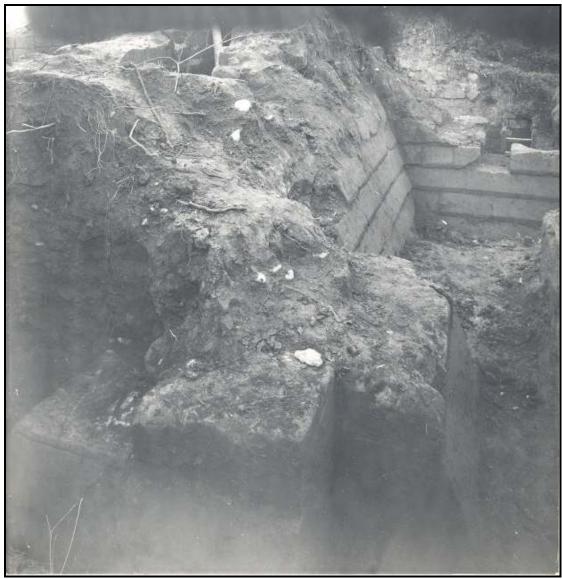




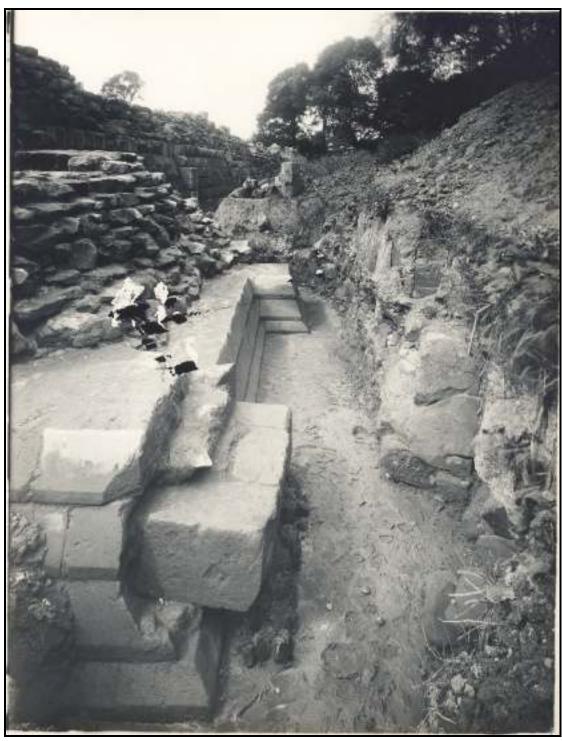










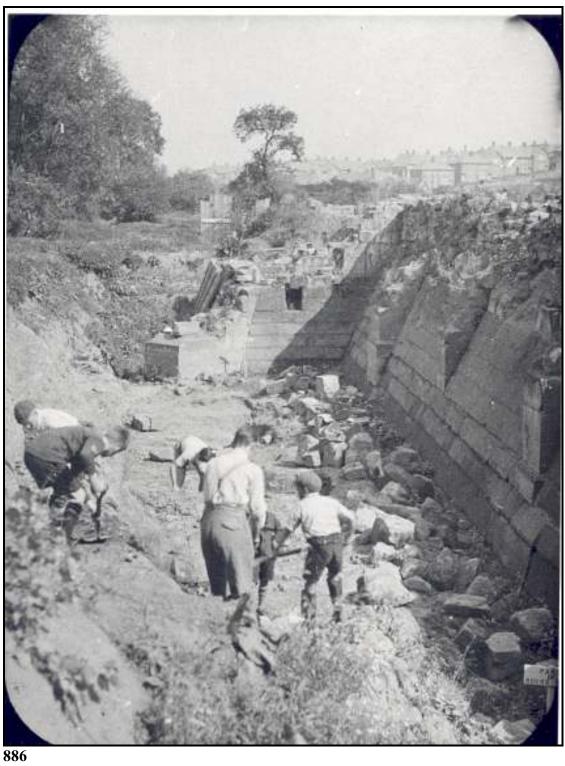




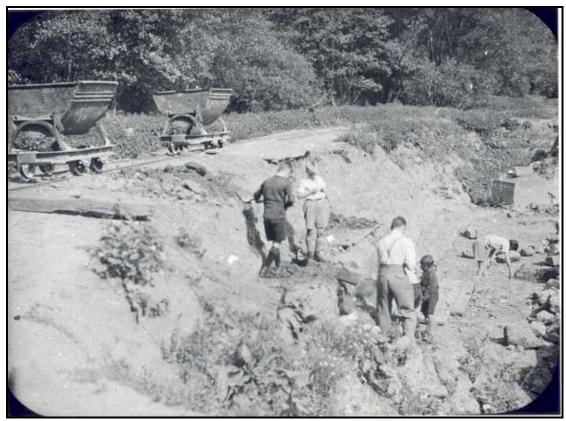


<u>149</u>

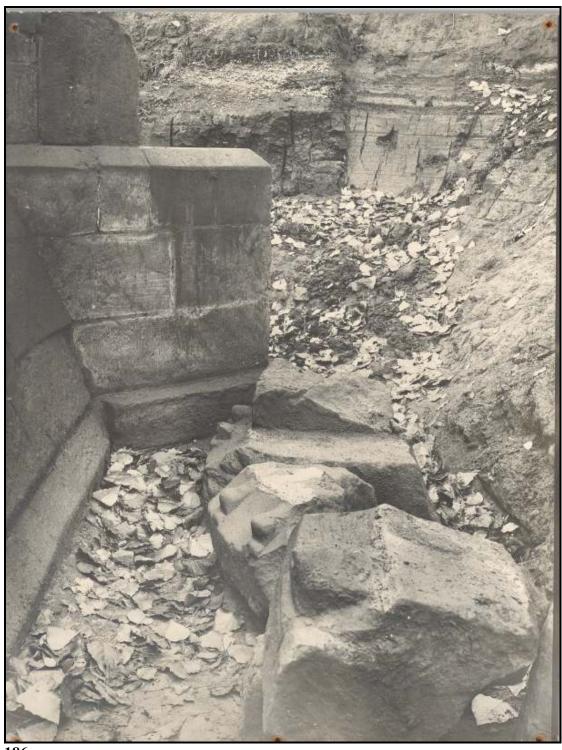








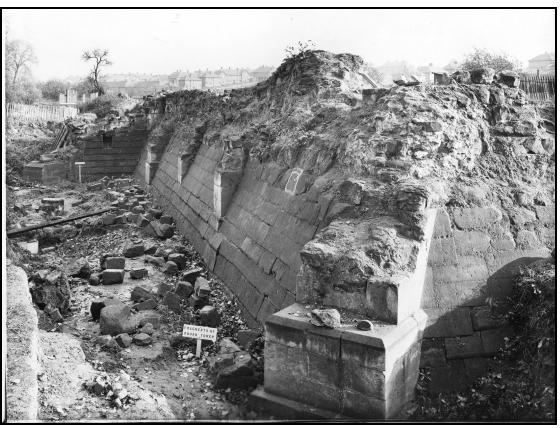






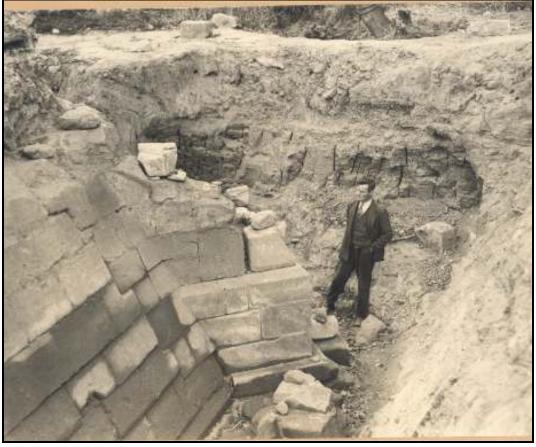












## 2.3The Standing Masonry - Interior

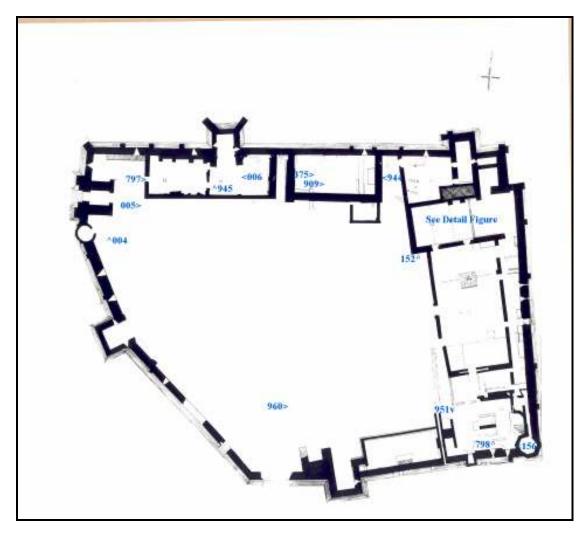
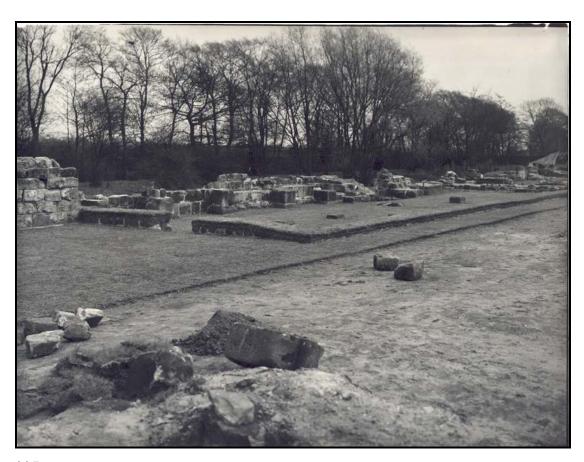


Fig. 2.4: Plan of castle showing approximate location of interior masonry photographs (Scan 030 modified)











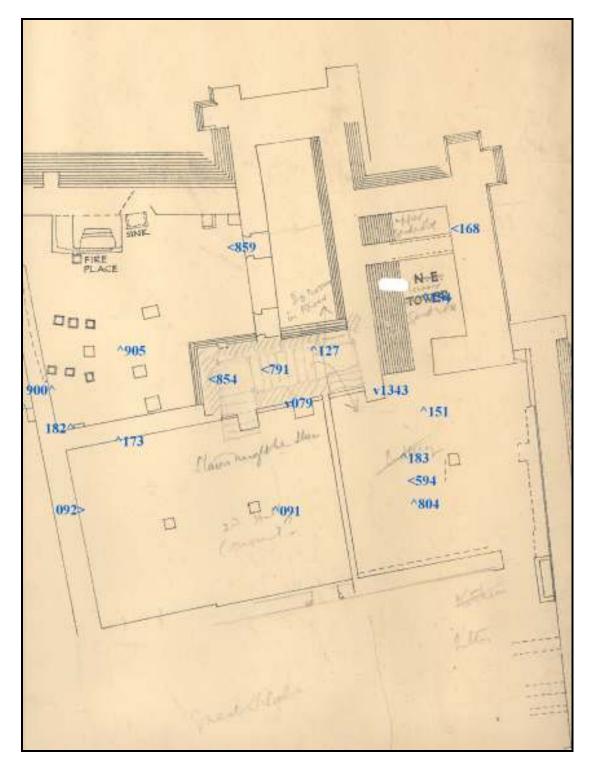


Fig. 2.5: The North East Tower Complex, approximate location of photographs (Scan 1044, modified)

