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**HAZLEWOOD CASTLE,
TADCASTER
NORTH YORKSHIRE**

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**REPORT ON AN
ARCHAEOLOGICAL
WATCHING BRIEF**

**1998 FIELD REPORT
NUMBER 19**



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1. Introduction

Between the 31st October and the 19th December 1997, York Archaeological Trust carried out an archaeological watching brief at Hazlewood Castle, North Yorkshire (NGR SE 4487 3981), on behalf of Farquhar Associates Chartered Surveyors. The work resulted from a planning condition set by Selby District Council on foundation trenches for a two-storey restaurant and the dismantling and moving of an 18th century wall that flanked the western side of the courtyard. The machine excavation of foundation trenches was monitored for evidence of archaeological deposits and the dismantling of the wall was monitored to record evidence for the re-use of medieval masonry.

1.1 Methodology

The trenches were excavated under archaeological supervision by a three tonne mini mechanical excavator using a toothed bucket. The deposits revealed in section were cleaned, sketched, measured and recorded. All significant archaeological deposits were photographed using colour print film. Recording followed procedures laid down in the York Archaeological Trust *Context Recording Manual* (1996).

All worked stone from the dismantling of the 18th century wall was drawn and photographed. Site records and finds are currently stored with York Archaeological Trust under the Yorkshire Museum accession code YORYM:1997.41

1.2 Geology and Topography

Hazlewood Castle is situated on a ridge of Permian magnesian limestone (Geological Survey of Great Britain (England and Wales) Sheet 70 1973) at 71.59 m Above Ordnance Datum (AOD) approximately three miles south-west of Tadcaster, overlooking the vale of Towton to the south-west (Figure 1). During the excavations limestone bedrock was encountered at the base of a pit at the north end of the site. Overlying this were beds of peri- and post-glacial sands and gravels, which overlie the solid geology to a considerable depth. The trenches for the new restaurant lay to either side of an existing standing building known as the orangery parts of which, including the western courtyard wall, were known to be of 18th century date. To the west of this building the area was laid to turf between the orangery and a large fountain (now filled in), overlooking landscaped gardens, a driveway and Hazel Wood where the land sloped down towards the A1; to the east lay the existing courtyard which sloped gradually down to the east. Just to the south lay the main castle buildings.

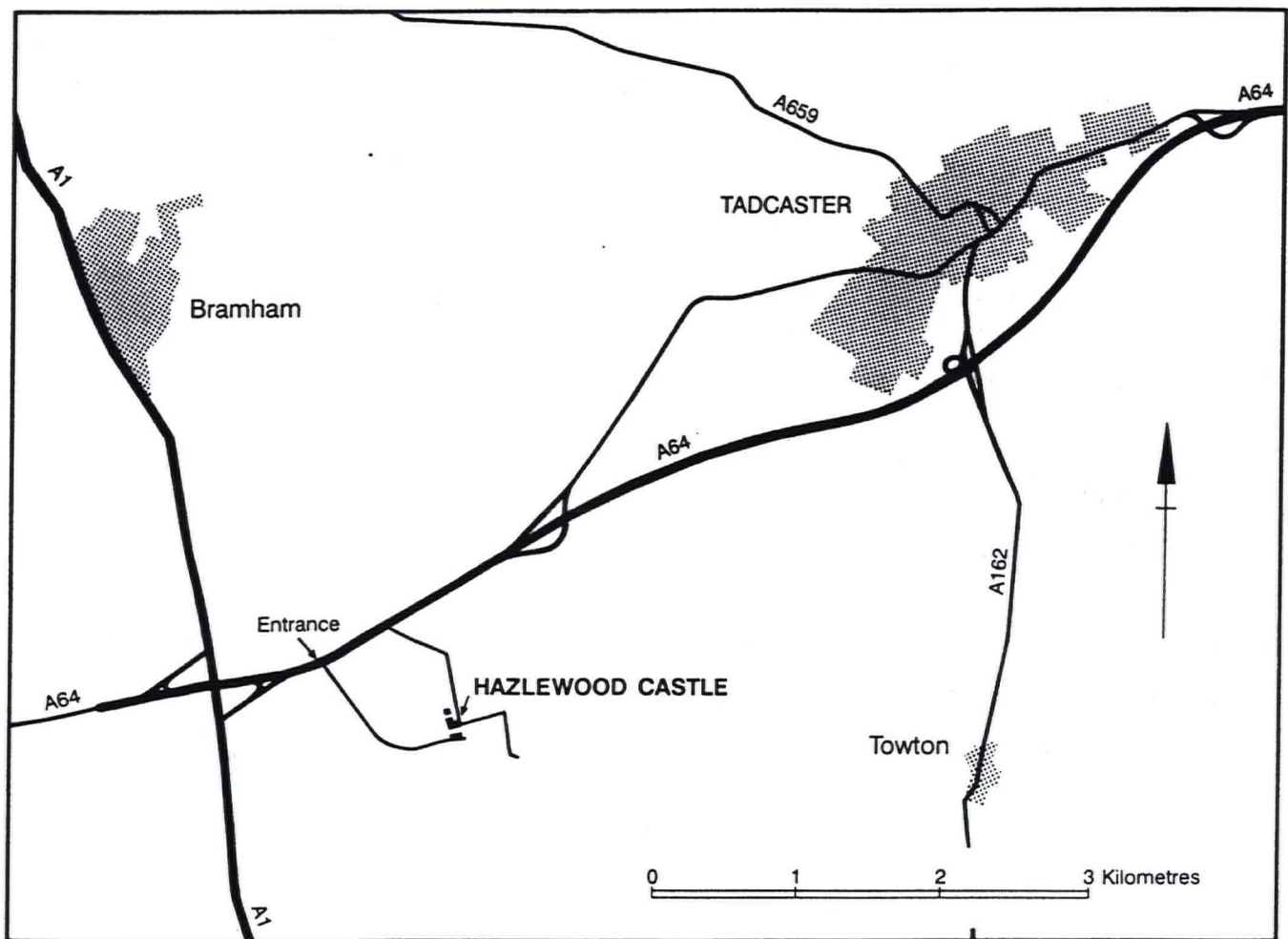


Figure 1 Site location.

1.3 Archaeological and Historical Background

This subject has been extensively covered within the evaluation report for the proposed development (Macnab, 1997) and only a brief summary is thus included here.

The castle was the residence of the 'Vavasours', (Franco-Norman meaning 'vassal of a vassal'), from just after the Norman conquest until 1907, (Leadman 1895, Oswald 1957), Malger Vavasour is mentioned as holding land at 'Ezelwoode' for his mesne lord William de Percy at the time of Domesday book in 1086 (Wheater 1888).

Sir Walter Vavasour founded a chapel on the site in 1167 (DOE 1987) which suggests that a manor was probably in existence by this date. This was confirmed in 1265 when the manor and church were burnt down during the Baron wars (Oswald, 1957). In 1286 Sir William le Vavasour had rebuilt the manor and chapel in stone and was granted licence to crenellate his hall, probably the core of the present castle.

The main castle buildings were constructed of magnesian limestone from Thevesdale quarry on the Vavasour estate. These quarries also supplied stone for the construction of York Minster and other churches and abbeys in Yorkshire, Lincolnshire and prestigious buildings in Cambridge and Eton. In a charter dating from 1225 Robert le Vavasour granted 'to God and Blessed Peter and the church of York' in pure and perpetual alms free passage in Thevesdale for the repair, rebuilding or enlargement of York Minster (Oswald, 1957).

A 15th century tower on the north-west corner is the only visible late medieval addition to the castle.

A north wing was added, extending out from the 15th century tower, on the west side of the courtyard. It has been alleged that this was built to provide suitable accommodation for King James I as he travelled north to Scotland after his proclamation in 1603, but the King didn't stay at Hazlewood (Mitchell, 1987). The north wing has firm architectural associations which date it to the 18th century, being three storeys in height and incorporating a Georgian style blind arcade at ground level framing windows and doorways (DOE 1987, Oswald, 1957) with a correspondingly identically designed west wing, which attached the main castle buildings to the chapel. The sixth baronet, Sir Walter Vavasour, who is documented to have carried out the alterations, also completely altered the internal design of the main castle buildings to a Georgian style and all of the work appears to have been carried out in the 1770s.

The Vavasour's sold the house in 1907 to Mr. E. O. Simpson who demolished the North Wing and the majority of the west wing. In 1997 only the ground floor blind arcades of each survived flanking the south and west sides of the courtyard. Successive owners in the 20th century have altered the castle's appearance, especially Mr. Donald Hart who owned it from 1960-67 and the Carmelite monks who acquired it in 1967 and used it as a monastery and retreat from 1972 until recently.

The only part of the castle to remain complete in its medieval form is the chapel but the present castle clearly incorporates much of the original medieval structure masked by later 17th and 18th century additions.

An archaeological evaluation by York Archaeological Trust in 1997 in the area proposed for development revealed evidence for the survival of medieval and post-medieval structures and deposits. The area in which the current observations took place lay beneath and adjacent to the 18th century (or earlier) north wing and within the bounds of the medieval courtyard (Figure 2).

2.0 Results

The foundation trenches were excavated to a maximum depth of 2.10m to the west and east of the orangery (Foundation Trenches A and B - Figure 3). Trench A proved to be extremely productive in revealing further evidence relating to the historical development of the castle. In Trench B the majority of the archaeological deposits had been removed by modern service trenches.

2.1 Trench A

2.1.1 The earliest deposits revealed were natural in origin. At the southern end of the trench a mid brownish orange sandy gravel (4042) formed the predominant deposit and was overlain by a mid reddish gravelly clay (4041) close to the wall of the 15th century tower. At the northern end of the trench a compact mid creamy orange sandy clay (4056) overlay (4042). These deposits were probably fluvio-glacial in origin laid down in the peri- or post-glacial period. At the base of a pit (see 2.1.4) at the northern end of the trench limestone bedrock (4059) was reached at a depth of 2.10m from the surface and this was overlain by (4056).

2.1.2 Sealing these natural deposits to a maximum depth of 0.20m was a friable mid reddish brown silty clay (4021) with frequent gravel inclusions and occasional charcoal flecking. One sherd of unidentifiable pottery was recovered from this deposit. At the northern end of the trench a mid reddish brown clay sand (4055) with frequent gravel inclusions was also located. Both were thought to have similar origins, being interpreted as early medieval occupation layers, possibly of 11th or 12th century date, which covered the whole area to the north of the castle.

2.1.3 Truncating these deposits and flanking the western side of the development area was a wall (4018) the construction cut for which was not visible due to later post-medieval truncation. The wall (the same as (2021) seen in the evaluation) was 0.83m wide, stood to a maximum height of 0.73m and was constructed of roughly rectangular and square limestone blocks mortared together with creamy white lime mortar on either side of a limestone rubble core. This was interpreted as an early medieval courtyard wall, perhaps 13th century in date, which would have flanked the western side of the original castle courtyard. No evidence was found for the northern wall of the courtyard which may have crossed the development area and it is thought that it was probably removed when the courtyard was extended in the 15th century (see 2.1.5)

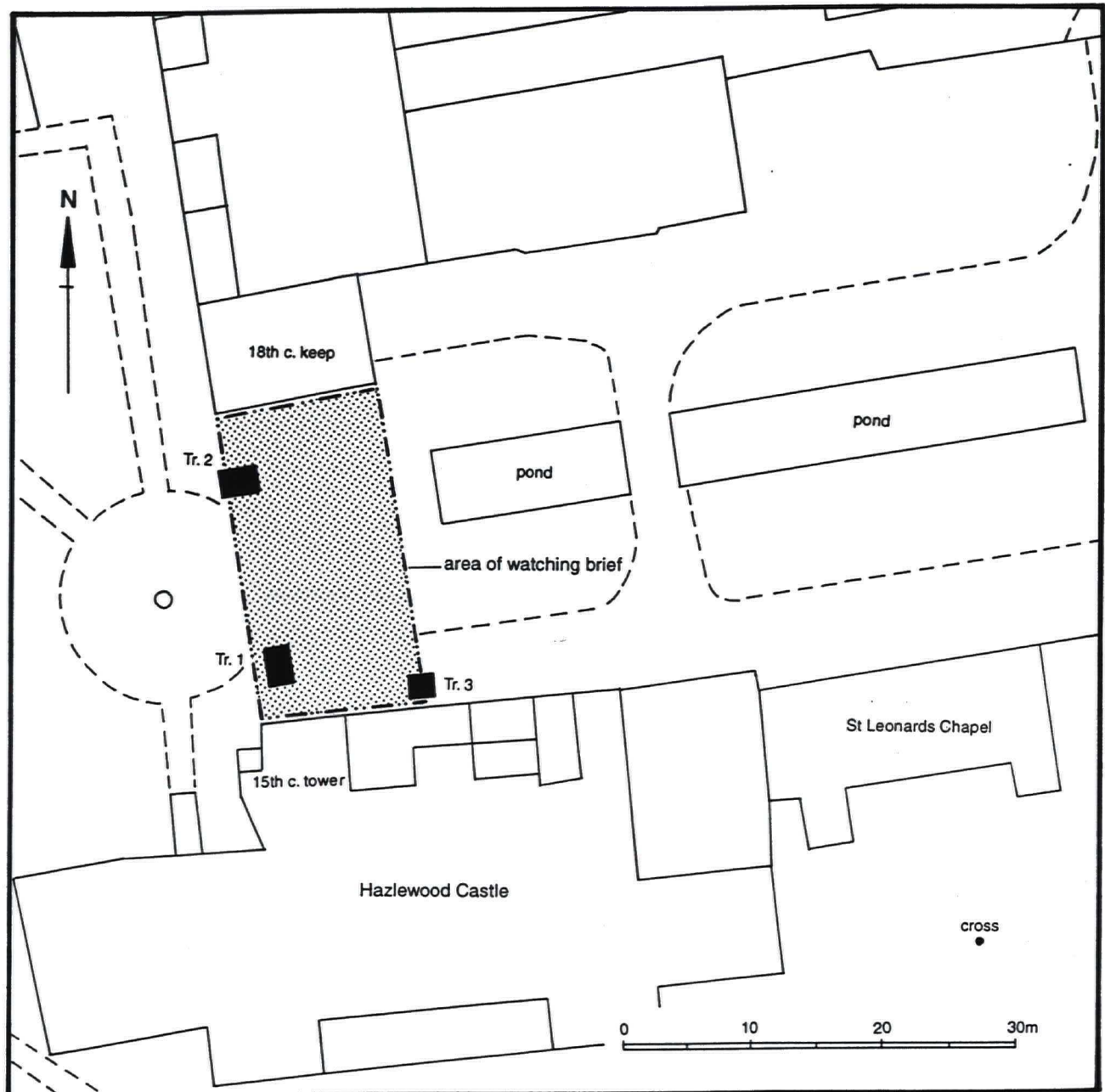


Figure 2 Location plan of watching brief area

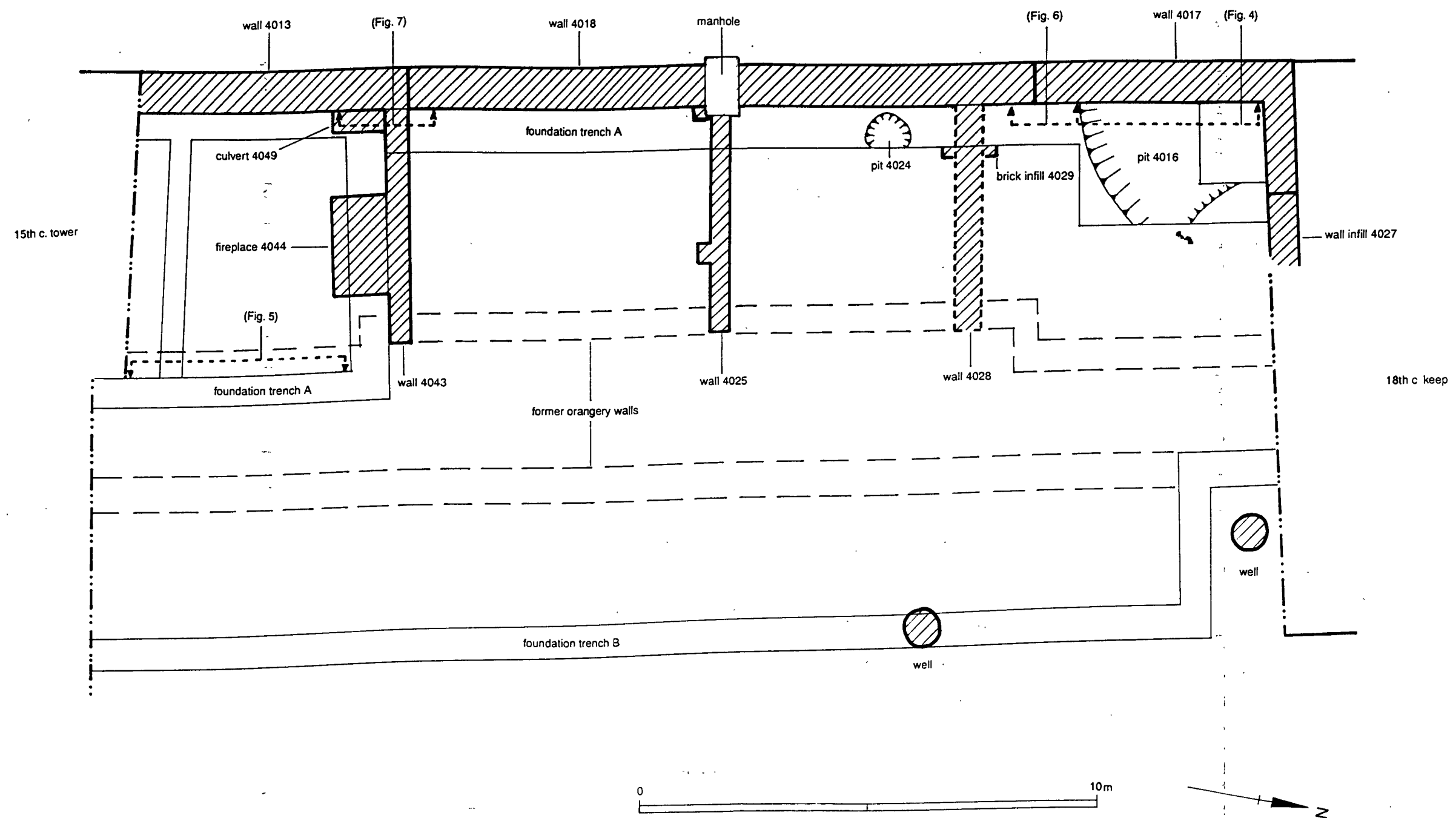


Figure 3 Plan of features within watching brief area

2.1.4 Cutting through (4021) to the north and east of wall (4018) were two large pits. The first (4016)(Figure 4), at the north end of trench A, was found to be at least 3.25m wide and 1.06m deep with an edge which broke sharply and sloped gradually to a depth of 0.40m before breaking again into very steep sides. The base was flat and cut into the limestone bedrock (4059) which had been scorched by a primary deposit of burnt cereal grain (4007) 0.08m thick (see 3.0). This was overlain by a layer of reddish orange burnt clay (4006) 0.12m thick and then a dump of large limestone rubble (4005) 0.85m thick which contained some fire scorched fragments. The rubble was in a matrix of compact mid orangy brown silty clay which contained frequent limestone flecks and the deposit completed the backfilling of the pit. A sherd of unglazed gritty ware which formed the base of a 12th or 13th century pitcher or cooking pot was recovered from the top of this deposit. South of this and east of wall (4018) a second pit (4024) was located. This was roughly circular in plan and measured c. 1.95m wide and more than 1.38m deep. Its edges broke sharply from the surface and sloped gradually down to a depth of 0.30m before breaking again into a very steep slope. The base of the feature could not be defined as the pit was not completely excavated. The pit was filled with compact dark brown clay silt (4023) which contained frequent medium to large limestone fragments, some of which had been heavily scorched, moderate charcoal flecks and occasional lumps of mid orangy brown clay. Five sherds of pottery were recovered from this deposit, two were unglazed gritty wares which joined together to form the base of a 12th or 13th century cooking pot or pitcher, two other fragments were identified as fragments of unglazed gritty ware pottery of the same date and a glazed beak spout from a jug of probable 13th century date was also recovered. Both pits would therefore appear to be of 12th to 13th century date and were backfilled with demolition debris which showed signs of burning. It was unclear whether wall (4018) pre- or post-dated them but it is thought likely that, since both pits respected the wall, they are probably later in date.

2.1.5 Butting onto (4018) was a wall extension (4017) (the same as wall (2002) in the evaluation) which was similar in width but had a foundation construction cut (4019) 0.42 m deeper (Figure 6). It was constructed in a very similar fashion to wall (4018) using the same raw materials and bonding agent and also overlay the rubble backfill of pit (4016). The difference in the depths of foundations would seem to suggest that they were built at different times and that (4017) with the deeper footing is a later addition. Once the wall (4017) was built within construction cut (4019), possibly after the demolition and complete removal of the original northern wall of the castle courtyard, the construction cut was backfilled with mottled reddish brown silty clay (4020) with frequent limestone chippings, mortar and moderate charcoal flecking. Fragments of medieval vessel glass were recovered from this deposit. Wall (4017) appeared to extend as far as an 18th century building flanking the north side of the development area known as the *keep* before sharply turning to the east and forming the *keep's* southern wall. It is possible that it would have originally formed the outer wall of a late medieval courtyard extension, perhaps extended when the 15th century tower was constructed.

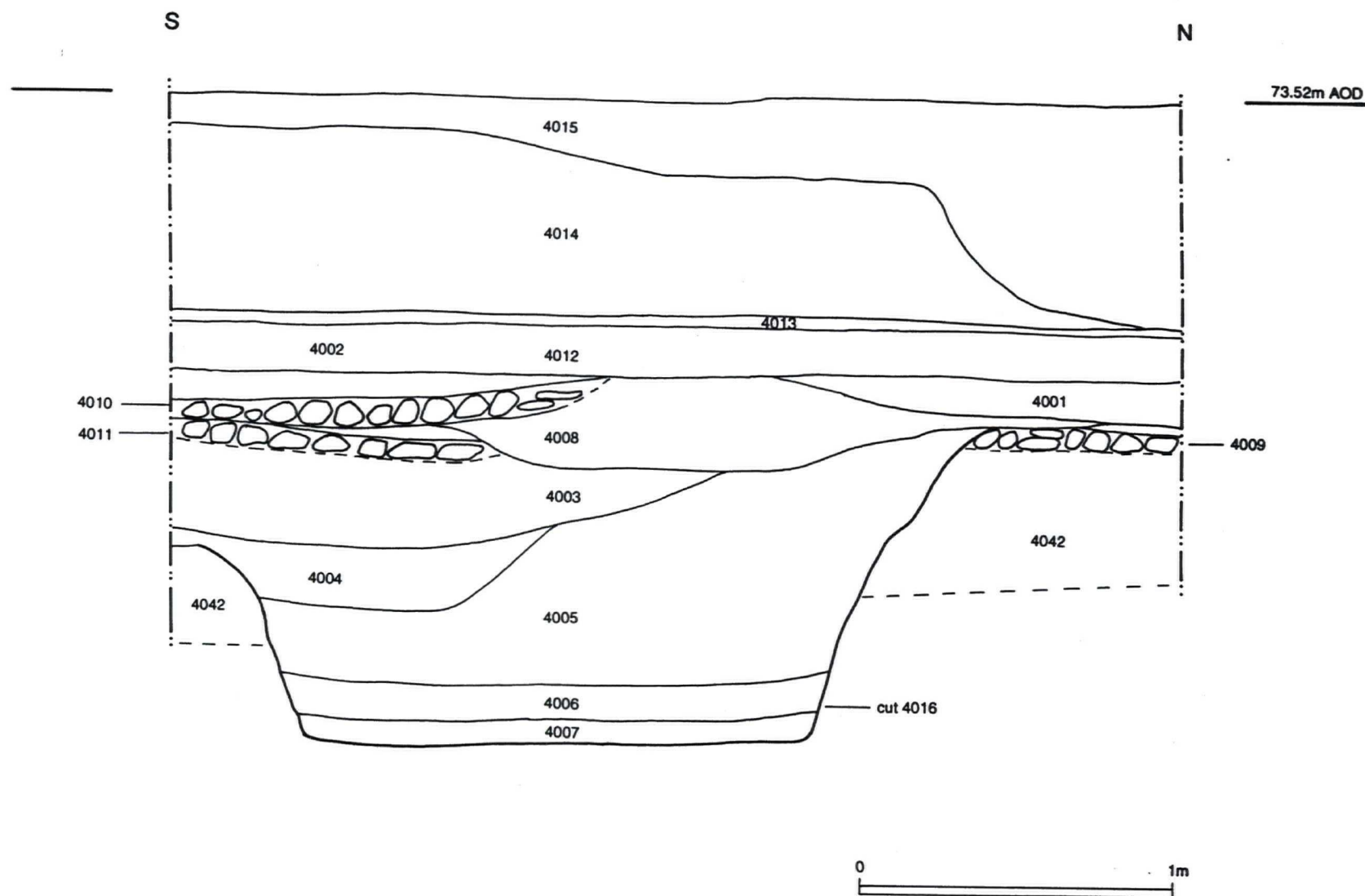


Figure 4 East facing section, pit 4016

2.1.6 Another possible length of wall, recovered in intermittent sections (4032), (4039) and (4040) (Figure 5) and only one course (0.34m) in height, was also located running out from the 15th century towers north-eastern corner and preserved under the 1960's orangery wall (4046). It was constructed of roughly squared limestone blocks bonded with creamy white lime based mortar. The wall, if it can be described as such, appeared to have been heavily disturbed and truncated by 18th to 20th century intrusions (see 2.1.9) and modifications such as the 1970s path. Where wall section (4040) joined the 15th century tower wall it was c. 0.60m wide and may have stood to an original height of 2.23m. At the junction between (4040) and the corner of the tower, no evidence was found to indicate that (4040) was a later addition butting onto the northern side of the 15th century tower. (4040) is therefore thought to have been at least contemporary with, if not earlier than, the 15th century tower and may indicate the presence of buildings to the north of the tower, possibly stables or store rooms, on the western side of a late medieval courtyard.

2.1.7 In the north-west corner, next to the possible 15th century courtyard wall extension (4017), and overlying the backfilled pit (4016), a series of dumps and possible surfaces appears to have accumulated, possibly in the late 17th or early 18th century. An initial deposit of compact mid orangy brown sandy clay (4004) with frequent mortar flecks was overlain by a friable dark greyish brown clay silt (4003) with frequent charcoal and mortar flecks. This in turn was overlain by a layer of rounded cobbles (4011) which formed a consistent surface from beyond the southern edge of the backfilled pit (4016) to the middle of the feature. A second spread of cobbles (4009) formed a consistent layer or surface to the north of the backfilled pit (4016). Both cobbled surfaces contained many small fragments of charcoal and it is possible that the machining process removed information which would have connected both of these surfaces. These possible cobbled surfaces were then covered by thin layers of pinkish grey mortar, (4022) and (4026) respectively, also containing frequent charcoal flecks (mortar spread (4022) is thought to be the same deposit as (2020) revealed in the evaluation) and these may also have formed working surfaces or floors. The whole area was then covered with a thick dump of ash, charcoal and burnt clay (4008). A further spread of cobbles (4010) overlay (4008) in the area directly above mortar spread (4022) and cobbled layer (4011). Two final dumps of compact mid orangy brown sandy clay (4001) and mid reddish brown sandy clay (4002), the latter containing occasional flecks of mortar and small limestone fragments, sealed the northern and southern sides of the made ground above the backfilled pit (4016). These stratified layers may be interpreted as the remnants of former courtyard surfaces or floors for buildings against the western wall of the courtyard, the rest of the courtyard area being cleared prior to the later 18th century construction of the north wing and the deposits only surviving due to the subsidence of the deposits backfilling pit (4016). However, these deposits seem to have been localised within the area of the large pit and they may have been laid down to counter act subsidence of the lower deposits.

2.1.8 Two parallel east-west partition walls (4025) and (4028) were then constructed. Wall (4025) was 0.52m wide and stood to a height of 0.84m, whereas wall (4028) was 0.58m wide and 1.29 m high. Both were constructed with very roughly squared limestone blocks, bonded with light greyish white lime based mortar. The walls were both two blocks thick with the gaps being packed with limestone rubble. Their foundation depths were deeper than the medieval wall (4018) which they both butted against; (4025) being 0.10m deeper

and (4028) being 0.51m deeper. It is thought that these partition walls were inserted during the construction of the 18th century north wing and that the northern most six arches of the blind arcade wall that flanks the western side of the present courtyard were contemporary with them (see 2.1.9). The partition walls divided the new building internally and utilised the medieval walls mentioned above. No substantive dating evidence for their construction was recovered. It is possible that, when the north wing was constructed in the 1770s, a gate or doorway in the 15th century courtyard extension (4017) was blocked with limestone block infill (4027) but it was difficult to discern fully what (4027) filled since a small fireplace had been inserted against the backfill, just to the east of the foundation trench. The infill may even be of a later date, the door or gate in the 15th century wall being utilised as part of a large stone range prior to being blocked and the smaller fireplace inserted in the 19th century.

2.1.9 The medieval wall (4018) was then truncated at its southern end close to the 15th century tower by a wall (4043) (Figure 7), with foundations 0.60m deeper than (4018), which extended 6.18m north from the north-west corner of the 15th century tower before turning through ninety degrees to head east. This wall was constructed in a very similar fashion to the earlier partition walls, using roughly squared blocks of limestone bonded with creamy white mortar and it was 0.46m wide and 1.37m high. This wall formed a new room adjacent to the 15th century tower and appeared to incorporate the two southern arches of the 18th century blind arcade fronting the present courtyard. During the demolition of the arches it became apparent that they were later additions to the original six arches, being fairly crudely constructed in comparison to the originals and butting onto them. Perhaps this was a late 18th or early 19th century addition to the north wing, filling the gap between the 15th century tower and an 18th century arcaded building to the north.

2.1.10 Within this new room several structures were recovered which hinted at its function. A limestone footing (4045) for a brick range (4044) and later fireplace (not numbered) appear to have been constructed in the middle of the north wall of the room (these were recorded in detail in Trench 1 of the evaluation (1006), (1002) and (1004) respectively). On the west side of the room a small linear brick built structure (4049) was discovered running parallel to the western wall of the room. This was constructed of single bricks three courses high, capped by a sandstone flag and bonded with light greyish white mortar. The brick structure was c. 0.46m wide and 0.27m high, with an internal void measuring 0.21m wide and 0.22m high. It did not have a flagstone base which suggests that it was constructed to draw air from a vent in the wall for the fireplace rather than being a culvert for carrying water. (4049) rested directly on top of a mid reddish brown silty sand (5053) which appears to have been a disturbed natural deposit, trampled during the construction process. The ground around the base of the fireplace and the ventilation shaft was then raised using two deposits. Initially a dump of limestone rubble, pebbles and mortar in a matrix of mixed mottled dark brown silty sand (4052) raised the ground surface by up to 0.12m. This was then sealed by a dump of limestone rubble (4050) 0.20m thick. The latter layer was then either sealed by a sandstone floor (4051) or covered with a scatter of broken sandstone flags. Three other brick structures may have been built at the same time as (4044) and (4049). Two of them were within the room adjacent to the 15th century tower and truncated the earlier late medieval limestone wall, breaking it into its three sections (4032), (4039) and (4040). It was difficult to interpret their function as they were only partially revealed during machining but they may have

formed the footings or base for some internal structure; (4034) was three courses (0.21m) high and 1.10m wide, situated just to the north of the 15th century tower; (4033), 1m to the north of this, was eight courses (0.46m) high and 1.08m wide. The other brick structure (4029) was built in and around the limestone partition wall (4028) and may have formed a brick surround for a doorway.

2.1.11 The whole of the ground floor of the north wing was then sealed by a thick layer of sand (4012) to form a bedding deposit for a new sandstone flag floor (4013) which was supported in some areas such as the corner between partition wall (4025) and the medieval courtyard wall (4018) by bricks laid on their sides and mortared together (4054). All of the interior walls were then plastered, some not for the first time.

2.1.12 The majority of the north wing was demolished in 1908 and the area was converted into a patio and summer house. The ground floor of the north wing was backfilled with demolition materials (4014) to a depth of 0.56m. A ceramic drain running west to east close to the southern end of the site was inserted into a service trench (4030) after the ground had been raised. In the late 1960s a single storey building was constructed on top of part of the former north wing and known as the 'orangery'. Its western wall (4046) was built on top of part of the former medieval wall sections (4032), (4039) and (4040) and also the brick structures (4033) and (4034). A concrete floor was then laid on the ground floor (4048) and later, when this area was converted into a toilet block for visitors, the ground was raised with a dump of gravel and clay (4047) and a second thicker concrete floor (4035) was inserted. Adjacent to the northern side of the 15th century tower a path was inserted, the ground being first levelled with gravel (4038) then with limestone quarry waste hard-core (4037) and finally sealed with tarmac (4036). On the extreme western side of the development a larger fountain was inserted with a brick manhole (4058) housing the electric water pump. The cut for the latter structure (4057) truncated walls (4018) and (4025) as well as the demolition layer (4014). The whole area to the west of the orangery was then sealed by a thick garden soil (4015).

2.2 Trench B

This trench was excavated within the courtyard to the east of the blind arcade (see Figure 3) and produced very little archaeological information since the majority of the area was criss-crossed by a large number of service pipes. The only evidence for former courtyard surfaces was a spread of cobbles found under the lawn to the south-west of the canal (a 20th century insertion into the courtyard). Other features of archaeological note were two post-medieval wells (see Figure 3). The northern one was left undisturbed by the development but the top of the southern one was truncated, backfilled and bridged by the foundations. This well was slightly oval in plan and had not been constructed vertically, there being a slight curve towards the east. It measured 0.79m long by 0.76m wide and was found to be 13.5m deep and was built in a construction cut with a diameter of c. 1m.

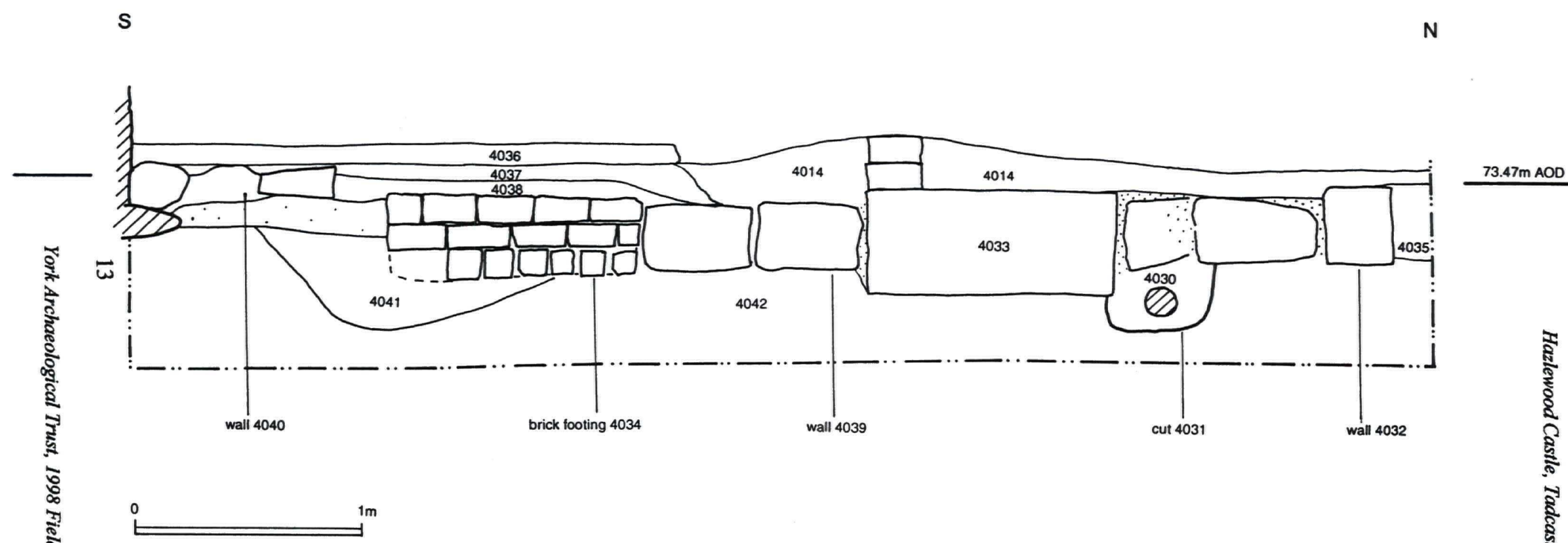


Figure 5 East facing section showing wall fragments 4040, 4039 & 4032

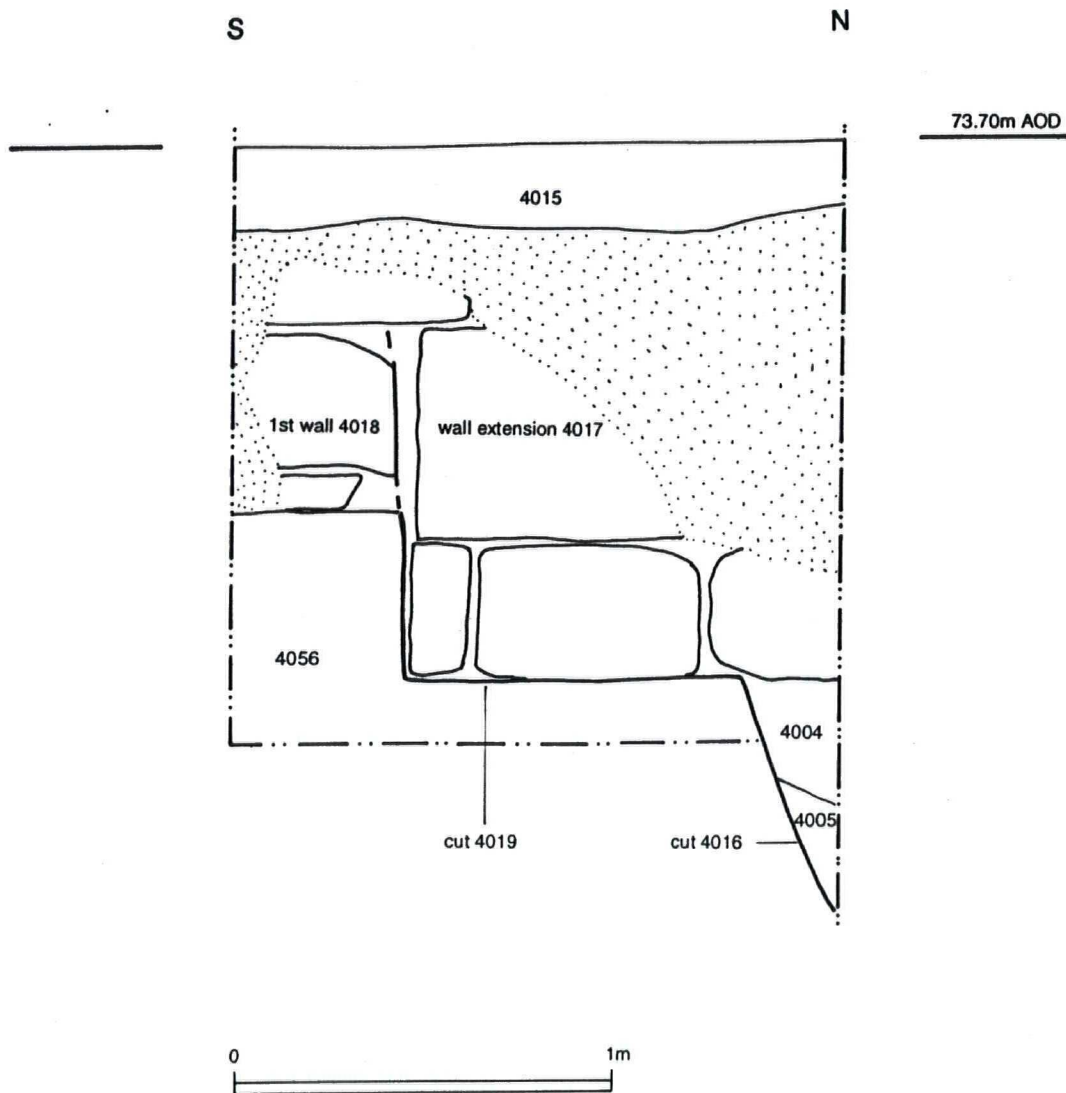


Figure 6 East facing elevation, walls 4018 & 4017

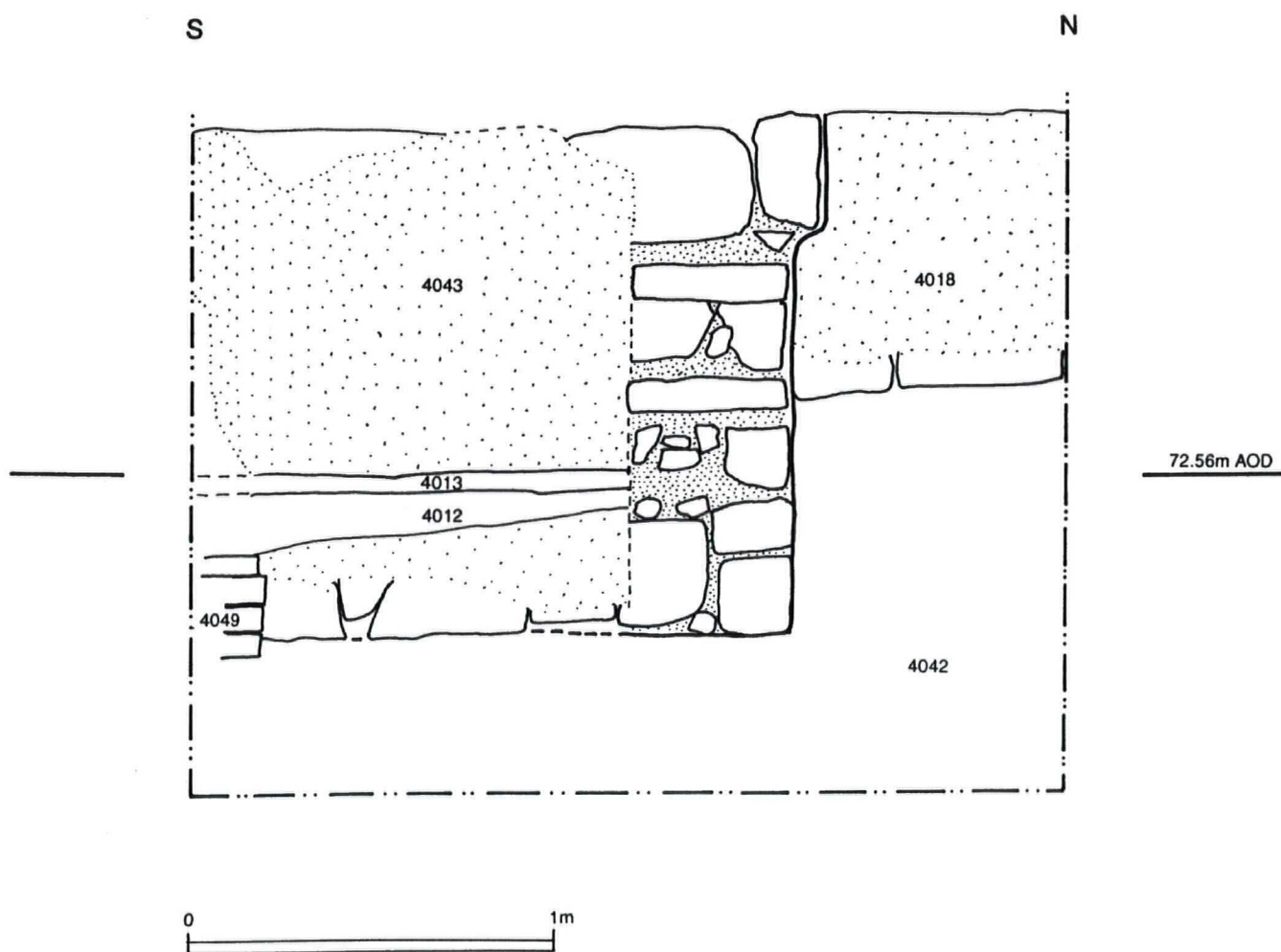


Figure 7 East facing elevation, walls 4018 & 4043

2.3 The Demolition Phase.

This involved the complete dismantling of the western courtyard wall, formerly the ground floor of the 18th century north wing. During this work thirty-nine fragments of re-used worked stone were recovered and recorded photographically (see 3.1). These varied in date from the 12th to the 18th or 19th century, the latter being recovered from above the string course within the core of the two arches closest to the 15th century tower and in areas of the wall where 19th and 20th century alterations had occurred.

Constructional details of the 18th century wall were also recorded photographically where they survived. These included slots cut into the tops of the arches and along the wall length for the timbers that supported the first floor; preserved wooden wedges used to hold the arches in place at the right angle; and a plastered window recess preserved by backfilling, perhaps just after the demolition of the north wing.

Two major discoveries were noted during the demolition of the wall. The first of these, as noted above, was the fact that the two arches closest to the 15th century tower had been constructed at a later date than the six arches to the north of them. These two arches were much cruder in their construction techniques and utilised brick and wood to support the limestone facade, whereas the earlier arches were constructed completely of large shaped limestone blocks the full thickness of the wall. This information, combined with the archaeology recovered in Trench A, suggests that the north wing was constructed in two phases. The first being confined to the six arches at the north end and the second involving the insertion of a room to link the north wing to the 15th century tower perhaps in the 19th century.

The other major discovery was that the column between the fourth and fifth arch (north from the 15th century tower) had been hollowed out and doors cut into its north and west faces. The hollowed out space was rectangular in shape with a shallow curved hollow cut into the southern side. The hollowed space was capped over by the pediment just below the arches. The door in the north face was c.1.00m high and c. 0.50m wide and contained a small semi-circular depression cut out of the limestone above it. It was difficult to ascertain the original height of the western door (possibly c.1.5m) which was c.0.70m wide due to the later re-cutting of the upper portion of the door for the insertion of a vent for a hearth on the first floor, built when the orangery was constructed. The doorway did contain chamfered edges in places and rebated recesses on either side, perhaps to hold the hinges for a wooden door. The doorway in the north face was later bricked up and the facade filled with blocks of limestone. The hollow in the column may have been filled in the 19th century with limestone before later being re-cut for the vent, the backfill contained a key of 19th century date. The function of this particular hollowed out column is not certain, perhaps it was used to house a guard dog. The Vavasours were staunchly Roman Catholic throughout their ownership of the castle and rumours of priest holes were rife among the builders on site - it is thought that this particular function would be unlikely as a door in a column would be too easily discovered.

3. Environmental Assessment

A single sample of deposit was submitted to the Environmental Archaeology Unit at the University of York for their comments. The sample was from the deposit of charred cereal grain (4007) from pit cut 4016 in Trench A. A 0.5kg sub-sample of the material was washed and was found to be rich in charred cereal grains with a little charcoal. On preliminary inspection the bulk of the grain appeared to be oats (probably mostly cultivated rather than wild), with a few grains which may have been wheat. Some of the oat grains appeared to show signs of having begun to germinate prior to charring. This suggests that spoiled grain was being disposed of by burning.

4. Finds Assessment

4.1 Small Finds

Few finds were recovered which relate to early episodes of the Castle's history. Most of the material comprised glass of various types. Small finds numbers 6-19 are all parts of a blue glass bottle of a 19th century type, recovered from context 2001. Small find number 20 (also from context 2001) represents fragments of opaque modern glass. From context 1001 were recovered several fragments of another late 19th or early 20th century glass bottle (sfs 23-25) and further modern glass was found in contexts 1001 and 2011 (sfs 16-18). Context 2005 produced three very small fragments of window glass (sfs 31,32,33) which could be medieval in date, although the fragments are plain, unpainted and much decayed; a further similar sherd (sf 36) was recovered from context 2015.

A piece of painted wall plaster (sf 21) was recovered from context 1001 which preserved thin traces of a floral, leaf pattern on the surface.

The only other finds included an iron bracket (sf 4) from context 2001, a nail (sf5) from the same context, and two unidentifiable iron fragments from context 2015 (sfs37 and 38). A piece of tobacco pipe stem was recovered from context 2015 (sf 35).

4.2 Worked Stone

4.2.1 12th Century

1. A fine polished fragment, with a roll moulded edge, suggested to be from the top surface of a stone seat/bench.
2. A fragment of arch head, chamfer moulding round the reveal, couple roll moulding on the rebate.

4.2.2 Late 12th - 15th century

3. A fragment from a moulded jamb.

4.2.3 14th - 17th century

4. A spandrel fragment from a late medieval window, rather crudely fashioned with minimal leaded tracery.

5-6. Two fragments of window mullion, without window glazing, late medieval or early post-medieval, unlikely however to be later than 1620-30. Both pieces originally formed a single block, which was broken prior to insertion as rubble within the 18th century wall.

7. A small fragment from a corner, with five faces, some showing claw hammer tooling marks and weathering.

8. A piece of coping stone, from the top of a wall, in three fragments, not particularly distinctive and fire damaged.

9 - 10. Two fragments of roll moulding, both asymmetrically cut and badly weathered.

11 - 16. Six fragments of roll moulding from a massive plinth course.

17. A large fragment with three roughly hammered faces, possibly originally from an arch piece, badly weathered.

18. A fragment of splayed jamb with claw hammer tooling marks.

4.2.4 18th-19th century

19-20. Two fragments of rebated section

21-22. Two fragments of elaborate chimney pot, possibly made of Coade stone.

4.2.5 Undated

23. A large block with one smoothed face, with a shallow rough socket cut into it.

24. A large block with chamfered edge (possibly 18th or 19th century)

25-27. Three large blocks with rebated sections, probably from door or window jambs (found above string course, so probably 18th-19th century in date).

28. A large block with chamfered side.

29. A fragment of rebated section, very roughly cut.

30. A fragment with hollowed out square centre, possibly part of stone trough.

31. A large block with roll moulded side, very finely cut, and possibly polished, (possibly 12th-14th century).

32. A large block, with top edge chamfered, and rebated, with a socket cut into top surface (possibly late medieval).

33-34. Two large blocks with rebated and chamfered corners, both very badly weathered.

35. A large elaborately carved block, roll moulded, and rebated, with a scroll motif on one side (from above string course).

36. A medium sized block curved on inner and outer faces, perhaps, an arch stone for a window or door.

37-38. Two large flat slabs, with elaborate roll moulded decoration on a chamfered side, perhaps from window sills (from window backfill).

39. A large block, with roll moulding on the top surface, which was curved in design, a rough bench mark symbol cut into side (from window backfill).

40. A large block with one side completely chamfered, possibly kneeler from a buttress, (possibly 12th-14th century) - this piece was found in the backfill of service trench (2031) during the foundation excavations.

4.3 Pottery

4015 (2001) one sherd 20th century marmalade jar

4005 one sherd unglazed gritty ware, difficult to date but probably base of 12/13th century pitcher or cooking pot

4020 two scraps of tile

4021 one sherd, probably post-medieval

4023 six sherds; two unglazed gritty wares join to form base of a 12th/13th cooking pot or pitcher; two other unglazed gritty ware sherds are probably of the same date; glazed beak spout from a medieval jug is probably 13th century in date.

This small assemblage of pottery is of little significance other than to confirm that medieval occupation is likely to have taken place on this site.

5. Discussion and Conclusions

The investigations at Hazlewood Castle have been extremely productive in revealing the structural sequence of the building of the north wing. Unfortunately the dating evidence is extremely poor and it was difficult to tie the structural development into a tight chronology but some conclusions may be drawn. Prior to any construction work taking place on the site the ground appears to have been used as a yard and occupation deposits built up within it. A medieval courtyard wall was then constructed on the western side of the area and may have turned east across the development area but no evidence for this return was recovered. Two large pits were then dug. One was situated to the north of the medieval wall and on its line which suggests that the north side of the courtyard wall must have turned before this pit. The second pit was to the east of and probably within the courtyard. These two pits were then backfilled with fire scorched demolition debris and one of the pits contained a layer of burnt oats at its base. The north side of the courtyard was then demolished and the courtyard western wall extended, possibly in the 15th century, when

the tower and other ancillary buildings were constructed to the north of the castle and flanking the western side of the courtyard. In the 18th century these ancillary stables and storerooms were partially demolished for the construction of the north wing which was built in two phases re-using walls of earlier date. The first phase involved the six arches at the north end of the site and the second included the insertion of a new room and two arches adjacent to the 15th century tower. This completed the southern end of the arcade and was probably constructed in the late 18th or the early 19th century. In 1908 the Vavasour's, who had owned the manor for over 800 years, sold the house and the new owner Mr. Simpson demolished the majority of the north wing apart from the western arcade. The ground floor was then filled in with demolition materials and garden soil, the area to the west of the arcade being used as a patio and gardens with a fountain. In the late 1960's the orangery was built on earlier walls and a path and a larger fountain were inserted.

The question of whether the north wing had a 17th century predecessor still remains. It has proved to have at least two phases of constructional history and the sparsity of finds could argue for a 17th century date for the first phase of construction. This would only be based on negative evidence and the architectural design of the arcade strongly argues for a Georgian (18th century) date for the first phase of construction. The present excavations and demolition work therefore produced no evidence to prove that the first phase involving the six arches at the north end of the development area could be dated as early as the 17th century, a 18th century interpretation is therefore favoured here. Further investigative study of the documentary evidence and the archaeological resource may lead to a more definite conclusion and answer the chronological questions raised by the current excavations.

4. Archaeological Implications

The watching brief has revealed important evidence for the structural development of this particular part of Hazlewood Castle from the 11th and 12th centuries to the present day. This has focused on the development of buildings on the western side of a medieval courtyard and the development of the 18th century north wing and its later alterations.

The watching brief examined all of the areas which were threatened by the current development and there are thus no implications for further work on this particular site in the immediate future. However, should further development be planned within the surrounding area then appropriate mitigation strategies should be devised to ensure that the significant information retained within these well stratified archaeological deposits is suitably investigated and recorded and the chronology of the structural development of the castle is more accurately determined.

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