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**Castle Old Fort, Stonnall, Walsall:
An Archaeological Watching Brief 2001**

by
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1.0 Summary

An archaeological watching brief was carried out in December 2001, during the excavation of a construction trench within the Scheduled Ancient Monument of Castle Old Fort, Stonnall, Walsall (NGR SK 062 033, SAM No. 2613). The work was commissioned by Mr. K. D. Jones, through Derek Saunders, and was undertaken by Birmingham University Field Archaeology Unit (BUFAU), ahead of the construction of an extension to the implement store built in 1991 (Hughes 1991). No archaeological features or deposits were noted and no finds were recovered. Excavation of the trench exposed natural sand and modern overburden.

2.0 Introduction

This short report outlines the results of a watching brief carried out during the excavation of a construction trench for an extension to the existing implement store at Castle Old Fort, Stonnall, Walsall (NGR SK 062 033, SAM No. 2613). The work was carried out under a Scheduled Monument Consent. The purpose of the watching brief was to identify and record any archaeological features affected by the excavation of the construction trench.

3.0 Background

The implement store is part of a group of buildings situated within the scheduled area of Castle Old Fort, Stonnall (SAM No. 2613) (Figure 1). A description of the hillfort appears in a report describing a small evaluation at the site (Hughes 1991). This evaluation, and a subsequent excavation and watching brief, was conducted during the construction of a swimming pool and implement store (Figure 1). Subsequent watching briefs during further construction at the site (Moscrop 1996; Linnane 1998) noted no features of archaeological significance.

4.0 Methodology

The construction trench, running parallel to the existing building (Figure 2), was excavated by hand by the contractor. The exposed stratigraphy was cleaned and recorded by BUFAU. A full record was made of the stratigraphic sequence, using pro-forma context record cards; this was supplemented by scale drawings where appropriate. Site plans, sections and photographs form the site archive and are currently stored at Birmingham University Field Archaeology Unit.

5.0 Results

The construction trench (Figure 2) was L-shaped, measuring 3.8m along its longest side. The shorter side, which terminated at the existing building, measured 1.5m. The trench depth ranged from 0.64 to 0.70m. The topsoil (1000) consisted of soft red-

brown sandy clay, mixed with leaf mould (0.08 – 0.10m deep). A thin layer (0.04m deep) of black organic material mixed with clay (1001) underlay this. This was thought to have been buried during construction of the adjacent building. These two layers showed frequent evidence of root disturbance. The natural (1002) consisted of hard red-orange sandy clay which also showed evidence of root disturbance.

No archaeological features or deposits were noted and no finds were recovered.

6.0 Acknowledgements

The watching brief and reporting was carried out by Erica Macey. The project was managed by Iain Ferris, who also edited the report. Illustrations were prepared by Mark Brendon. Thanks are due to Mr. K. D. Jones and Derck Saunders for their co-operation and support on site.

7.0 References

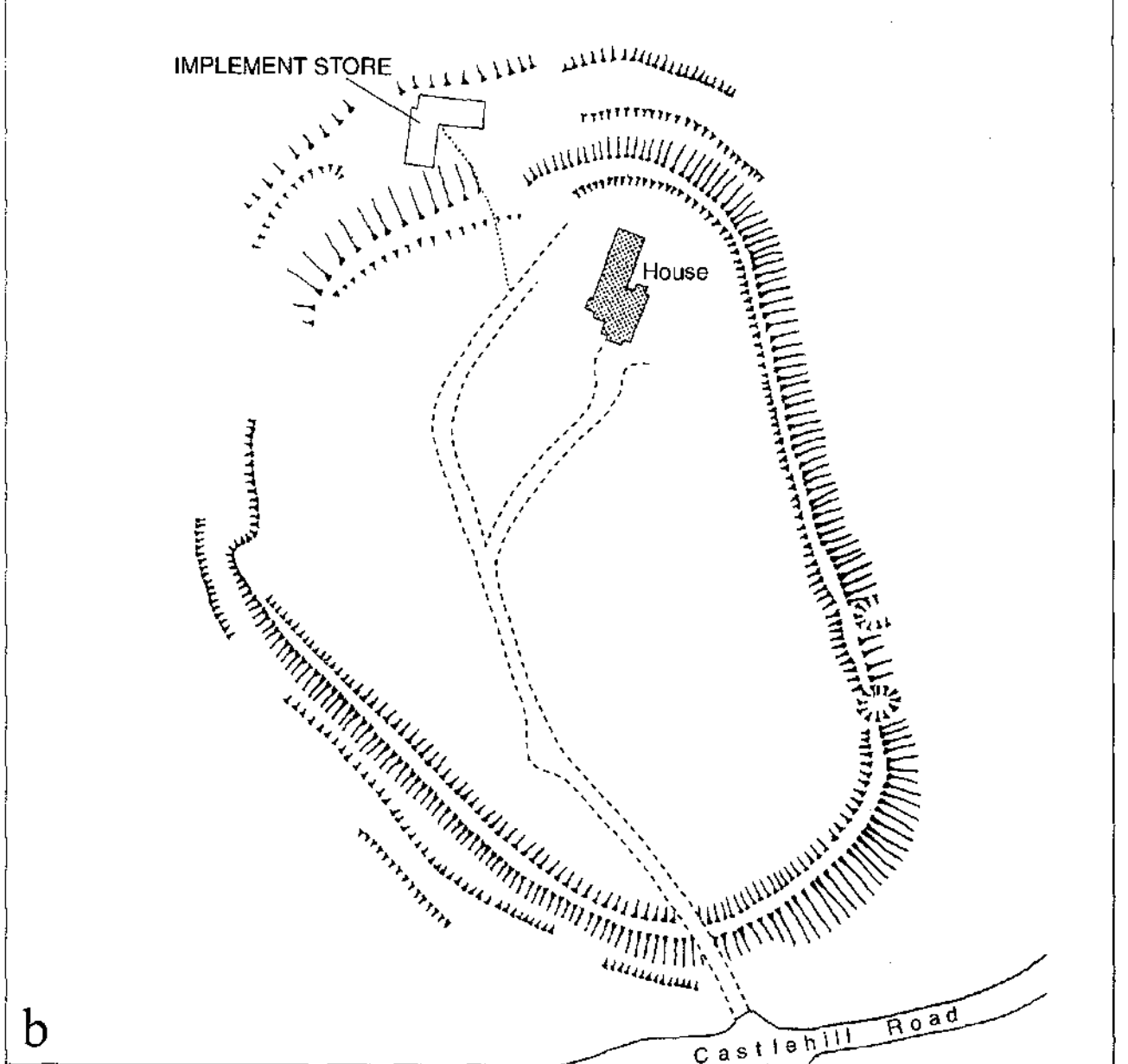
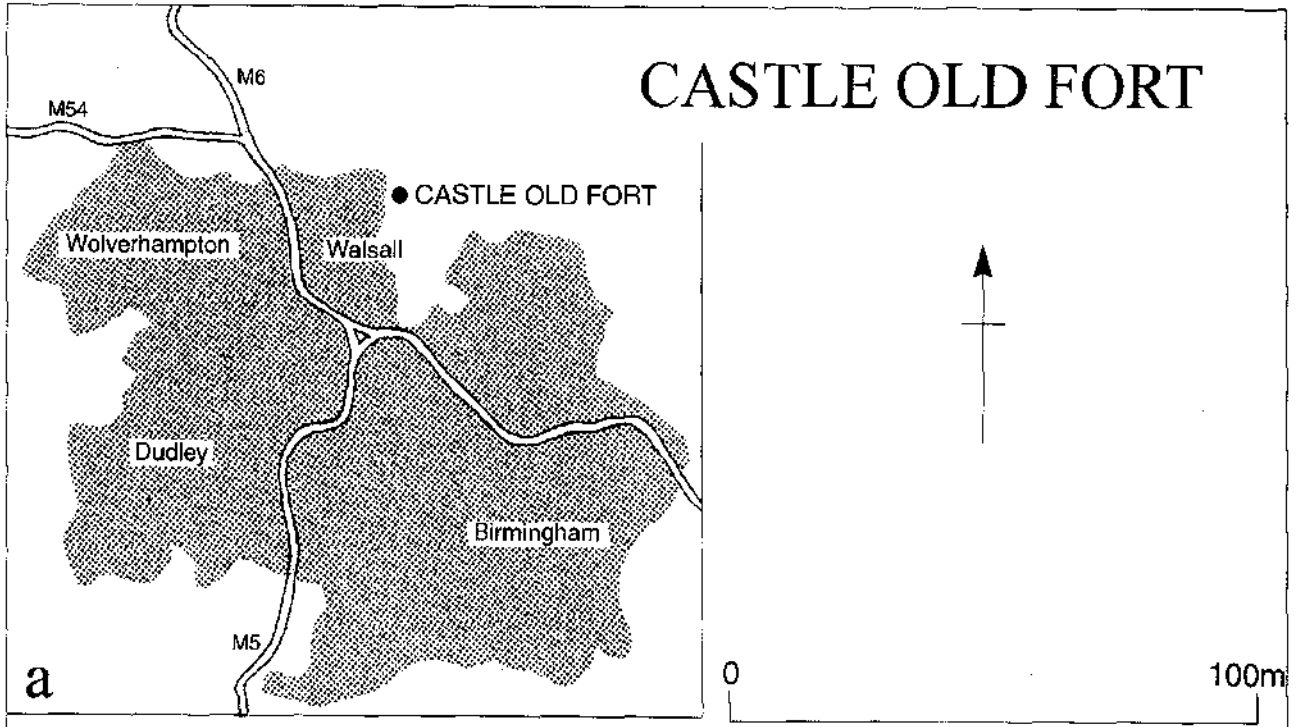
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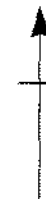
CASTLE OLD FORT



CASTLE OLD FORT

Area of Excavation

Implement Store



0 5m

Fig.2

