

THE CASTLE  
SUTTON VALENCE  
NR MAIDSTONE  
KENT  
HBMC. CEU SITE 293  
Sept.-Oct. 1984

On 25 September a narrow trench was hand dug by custodians of the monument along the outer south side and south east corner of the castle. The uphill north side of the trench was stepped up to the base of the exposed foundations of the south wall and south east corner. The downhill south side of the trench was 1m out from the foundations and 2m deep below the foundations. This trench was later filled with concrete stepped up to just below the wall foundations. This concrete was needed to support new core work in repairing and restoring the corner of the castle.

On 25 October a low mound of natural earth, context layer 4 (originally cut by the foundation trench of the south wall of the castle) lying against the lower face of the plinth along the west half of the south wall was excavated and lowered 1m leaving a flat natural surface 1m wide out from the foundations of the wall below the bottom of the plinth.

This mound had already a small 0.75m wide exploration trench cut across the middle of it exposing the bottom of the plinth. Altogether the lowering of this mound exposed not only the full plinth but also the empty horizontal timber slots and holes formed in the fabric of the wall foundations running under the bottom edge of the plinth. Lowering of the mound was thought necessary in order to complete a full length repair and restoration of the bottom of the wall.

It is hoped that imagination and care is taken in the way the empty timber slots and holes are consolidated so that they are not just masked off by a face of meaningless concrete.

All excavation cut through a thin down sloping grassy turf and topsoil and into a firm natural silty loam. No finds were made and except for the upper edge of the wall foundation trench of the south wall and southeast corner of the castle no other archaeological features were encountered.

Please see section and plan drawing, context record and photographic record accompanying the report.

17 November 1984

P HARRINGTON