

Report 2379



nau archaeology

An Archaeological Watching Brief at Norwich Castle Mound, CCTV Columns

ENF 125034

Prepared for
Norfolk County Council
c/o NPS Property Consultants Ltd
The Drill Hall
Cawston Road
Aylsham
Norfolk
NR11 6BX



Rebecca Sillwood, BA, PIfA

July 2010



www.nps.co.uk

PROJECT CHECKLIST		
Project Manager	David Whitmore	
Draft Completed	Rebecca Sillwood	27/07/2010
Graphics Completed	David Dobson	23/07/2010
Edit Completed	Jayne Bown	30/07/2010
Signed Off	Nigel Page	
<i>Issue 1</i>		

NAU Archaeology

Scandic House
85 Mountergate
Norwich
NR1 1PY

T 01603 756150

F 01603 756190

E jayne.bown@nps.co.uk

www.nau.org.uk

BAU 2379

© NAU Archaeology

Contents

<i>Summary</i>	1
1.0 Introduction	1
2.0 Geology and Topography	3
3.0 Archaeological and Historical Background.....	3
3.1 Prehistoric and Roman	3
3.2 Early and Middle Saxon.....	3
3.3 Late Saxon and Viking.....	4
3.4 Medieval	4
3.5 Post-Medieval and Modern.....	4
4.0 Methodology	5
5.0 Results	7
5.1 CCTV1.....	7
5.2 CCTV2.....	10
5.3 CCTV3.....	11
5.4 CCTV4.....	12
5.5 CCTV5.....	14
5.6 CCTV6.....	16
6.0 Conclusions	17
<i>Acknowledgements</i>	18
<i>Bibliography</i>	18
Appendix 1a: Context Summary	19
Appendix 1b: OASIS Feature Summary	19

Figures

- Figure 1 Site Location
- Figure 2 Location of CCTV trenches
- Figure 3 CCTV Pit 1, plan and sections
- Figure 4 CCTV Pit 5, plan and section
- Figure 5 Sections from CCTV Pits 2, 3, 4 and 6

Plates

- Plate 1 CCTV2, general shot with Castle, looking south-west
- Plate 2 CCTV1, Wall (27), looking south
- Plate 3 CCTV1, looking west
- Plate 4 CCTV2, looking west
- Plate 5 CCTV3, looking west
- Plate 6 CCTV4, looking north-west
- Plate 7 CCTV5, Wall (20), looking east
- Plate 8 CCTV6, looking north
- Plate 9 General working shot, looking west

Location:	Norwich
District:	Norwich City
Grid Ref.:	TG 2318 0852
HER No.:	ENF 125034
SM No.:	Norfolk 5
OASIS Ref.:	80148
Client:	NPS Property Consultants
Dates of Fieldwork:	13–16 July 2010

Summary

An archaeological watching brief was conducted for Norfolk County Council during works to install new CCTV columns around the perimeter of Norwich Castle Mound. A total of six 1m² pits were excavated to a depth of 1m, with connecting cable trenches of 0.45m width and depth, leading from the trenches towards the castle walls, these varied in length.

All of the trenches showed a similar series of make-up layers, rubble, gravel and chalk, and were blank of archaeological features and deposits.

Two of the trenches contained a wall, most likely contemporary with each other, one aligned north-south and one aligned east-west. These walls are probably both no earlier than 19th-century, due to their construction, and possibly relate to the low wall in which the iron railings that encircle the perimeter of the Castle Mound, sit. Although the walls are clearly not from that exact phase of activity, with the iron railings lying some c.0.3m away from the edge of the trenches, they are at least of the same type of construction as that described in a previous watching brief, and therefore likely to relate to an earlier perimeter demarcation.

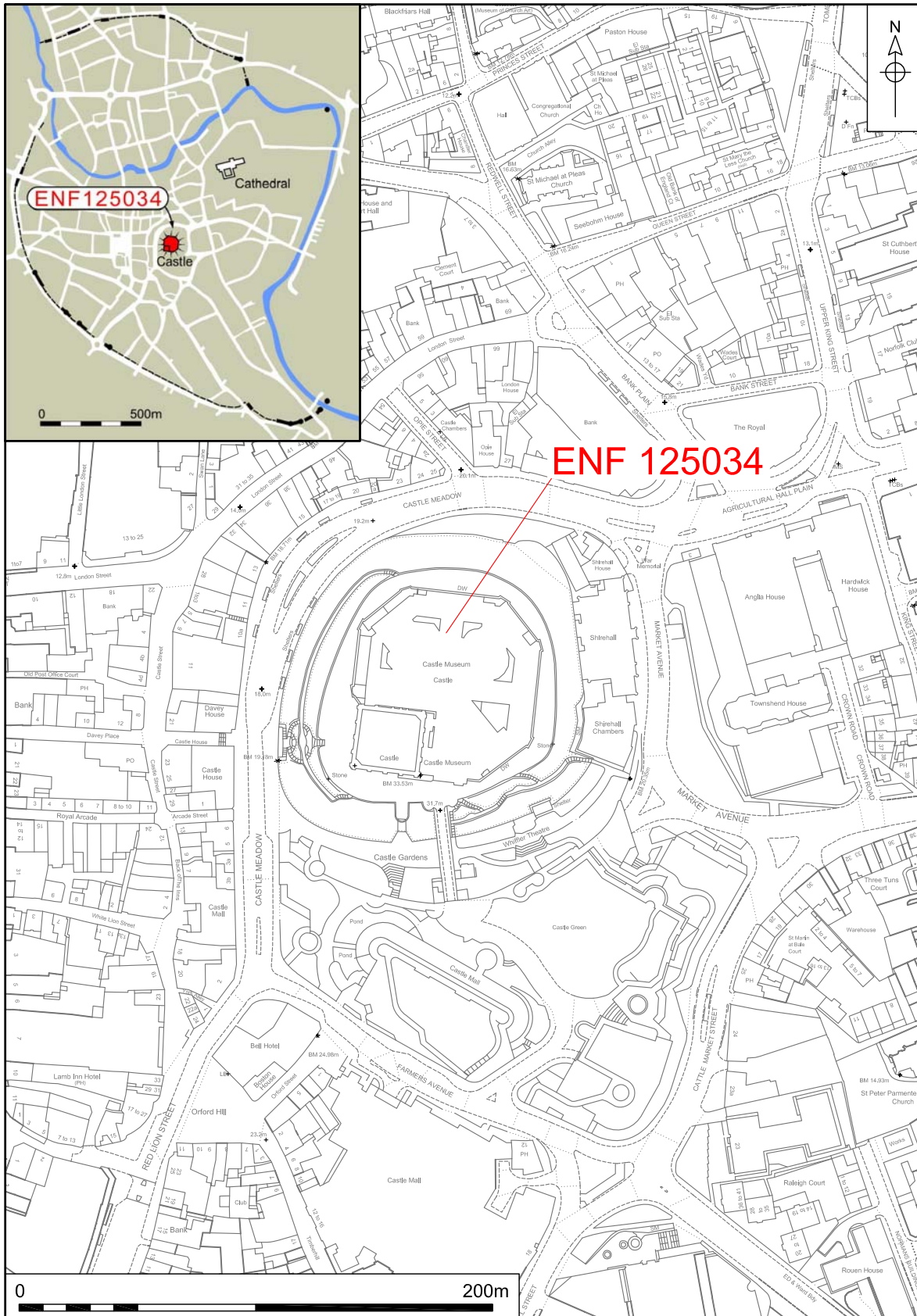
1.0 INTRODUCTION

A watching brief was undertaken during excavation of pits and trenches to accommodate CCTV columns and associated cabling at Norwich Castle Mound (Fig. 1).

This work was undertaken to fulfil a Scheduled Monument Consent set by English Heritage (Ref. S00005326) and a Project Design prepared by NAU Archaeology (Ref. BAU2379). This work was commissioned by NPS Property Consultants Ltd and funded by Norfolk County Council.

This programme of work was designed to assist in defining the character and extent of any archaeological remains within the proposed redevelopment area, following the guidelines set out in *Planning and Policy Guidance Note 16: Archaeology and Planning* (Department of the Environment 1990). The results will enable decisions to be made by the Local Planning Authority about the treatment of any archaeological remains found.

The site archive is currently held by NAU Archaeology and on completion of the project will be deposited with the Norfolk Museums and Archaeology Service (NMAS), following the relevant policies on archiving standards.



© Crown Copyright. All rights reserved. Local Authority No. 100019340

Figure 1. Site location. Scale 1:2500

2.0 GEOLOGY AND TOPOGRAPHY

The geology and topography of the Castle site are given detailed analysis within *East Anglian Archaeology 132: Norwich Castle: Excavations and Historical Survey, 1987-1998: Part I: Anglo-Saxon to c.1345* (Shepherd Popescu, 2009).

The site of Norwich Castle is to be found on a spur of high ground, a chalk ridge which runs into the city from the south, commonly known as the Ber Street Ridge (Shepherd Popescu, 2009, 41). The area slopes to the north and east towards the River Wensum, and to the west to the valley of the Great Cockey stream. The height at the top of the motte is around 27m OD. The surface geology of the area is of sand and gravel, with an underlying geology of Beeston chalk overlain by Norwich crag.

No natural deposits were encountered during this watching brief, only layers of made ground and rubble.

3.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

3.1 Prehistoric and Roman

The prehistoric and Roman periods in Norwich are represented more through a low background 'noise' of finds, rather than any solid excavated archaeological evidence. From the vicinity of this site a barbed and tanged arrowhead of probable Bronze Age date was recovered from the north-east bailey of Norwich Castle, polished flint axes were found at King Street (NHER 254) and Bedford Street/Little London Street (NHER 479), and as Shepherd Popescu states 'a few other sites producing low numbers of worked flints and occasional sherds of pottery'. Excavation at the site of the Millennium library (NHER 26437) located to the west of the Castle, near to the market place, recovered several prehistoric features, including Bronze Age and Iron Age quarries, and several finds of Mesolithic, Bronze Age and Iron Age date. There can be no doubt that the Norwich environs would have been an ideal place for settlement in the prehistoric period, with its location near to several watercourses, interspersed with high ground.

The focus of Roman occupation in the area was *Venta Icenorum* at Caistor St. Edmund 5km to the south of Norwich. This was a centre for the Roman occupation of Norfolk, and was linked to the area that became Norwich by roads which headed north through the river valley.

3.2 Early and Middle Saxon

Early and Middle Saxon evidence near to Norwich Castle is scant. Part of a cremation urn was found just to the north of the Castle, adjacent to the church of St. Michael at Plea (NHER 425). Early Saxon pottery was also recovered from the north side of the Cathedral Close (NHERs 44, 46 and 280). It is thought that Norwich has coalesced from several smaller settlements that were extant during the Middle Saxon period, mainly focusing on the river; these were Westwick, Coslany, Conesford, Needham and Northwic. The settlement of Needham, the largest of the settlements is believed to have been located where the Castle fortifications were subsequently situated (the 98 houses recorded as being destroyed by the construction of the Norman Castle (Ayers 2003) could represent

a later manifestation of part of this settlement). Finds of Ipswich-ware pottery in the vicinity support the view that settlement existed in this area during the Middle Saxon period.

3.3 Late Saxon and Viking

After years of raiding, Vikings made East Anglia their home; Edmund, the last East Anglian king had been defeated and the Danelaw was created. The period of Danish occupation lasted from c.870-c.917, and may have assisted in Norwich's emergence as a town, with a possible fortified burh established on the north bank of the River Wensum. It is, however, in the 10th-century that Norwich really grows and acquires a mint. The area was reconquered in 917 by Edward the Elder but by the 990s Viking raids began again in earnest, and the *Anglo-Saxon Chronicle* (Garmonsway 1972) records that in 1004 King Swein of Denmark came to Norwich with his fleet, and completely ravaged the town. At the Norman conquest Norwich's population was recorded to be between 1,320 and 1,518 inhabitants, and so was clearly an important town, even before 1066.

3.4 Medieval

The Norman Conquest of 1066 brought great changes to the whole country, and Norwich was no exception. Ayers (2003, 54) states that 'The Castle, a royal rather than a baronial foundation, was probably under construction before the end of the 1060s', making Norwich Castle a very early intimation of Norman power. This first building was a timber and earthwork affair, construction of which entailed the demolishing of at least 98 houses. In 1075, the Constable, Ralph de Guader, rebelled against the king, and the Castle must have been in sufficient a state to withstand the ensuing siege. In the end the rebels surrendered, and were duly punished, by maiming and banishment: the Conqueror was unforgiving. Before the end of the 11th-century a massive remodelling in stone of the Castle and its defences was carried out. The Castle has undergone numerous episodes of construction work; for a more detailed history of the Castle and its defences see Ayers (2003) *Norwich 'A Fine City* and Shepherd Popescu's account of the excavations prior to the construction of the Castle Mall shopping centre in *Norwich Castle: Excavations and Historical Survey, 1987-98* (2009).

3.5 Post-Medieval and Modern

Norwich Castle may have always had provision for detainment of prisoners, but it is in the 15th-century that reports appear of prisoners being kept in the keep. By 1707 the keep was said to be in such a state of disrepair that prisoners were escaping, and this led to maintenance on the keep. In 1792 the prison was rebuilt, with a new block of prison offices and accommodation. The interior of the keep was gutted, and three cell blocks, three stories high, were built inside. The centre of the keep was kept open to the elements and used as an exercise yard. In 1824-8 the prison was rebuilt again and although the cells were still kept within the keep, other prisoners were housed in outbuildings. The prison continued in use until 1887, when a new building on Mousehold Heath was finished, and prisoners were transferred there. The Castle then became a museum in 1894 and still has that purpose today.

The Castle mound itself has also witnessed changes over the years. The construction of the Shirehall in 1822 and an extension in 1906 caused the mound to be cut back. A widening of the street now called Castle Meadow in the late 1920s led to the building of a brick and flint retaining wall (Ayers 2003, 57).

4.0 METHODOLOGY

The objective of this watching brief was to mitigate the impacts of the proposed works in line with the Scheduled Monument Consent i.e. by recording archaeological remains that may be exposed during works associated with introduction of CCTV cabling and columns on top of the Castle Mound (Fig. 2).

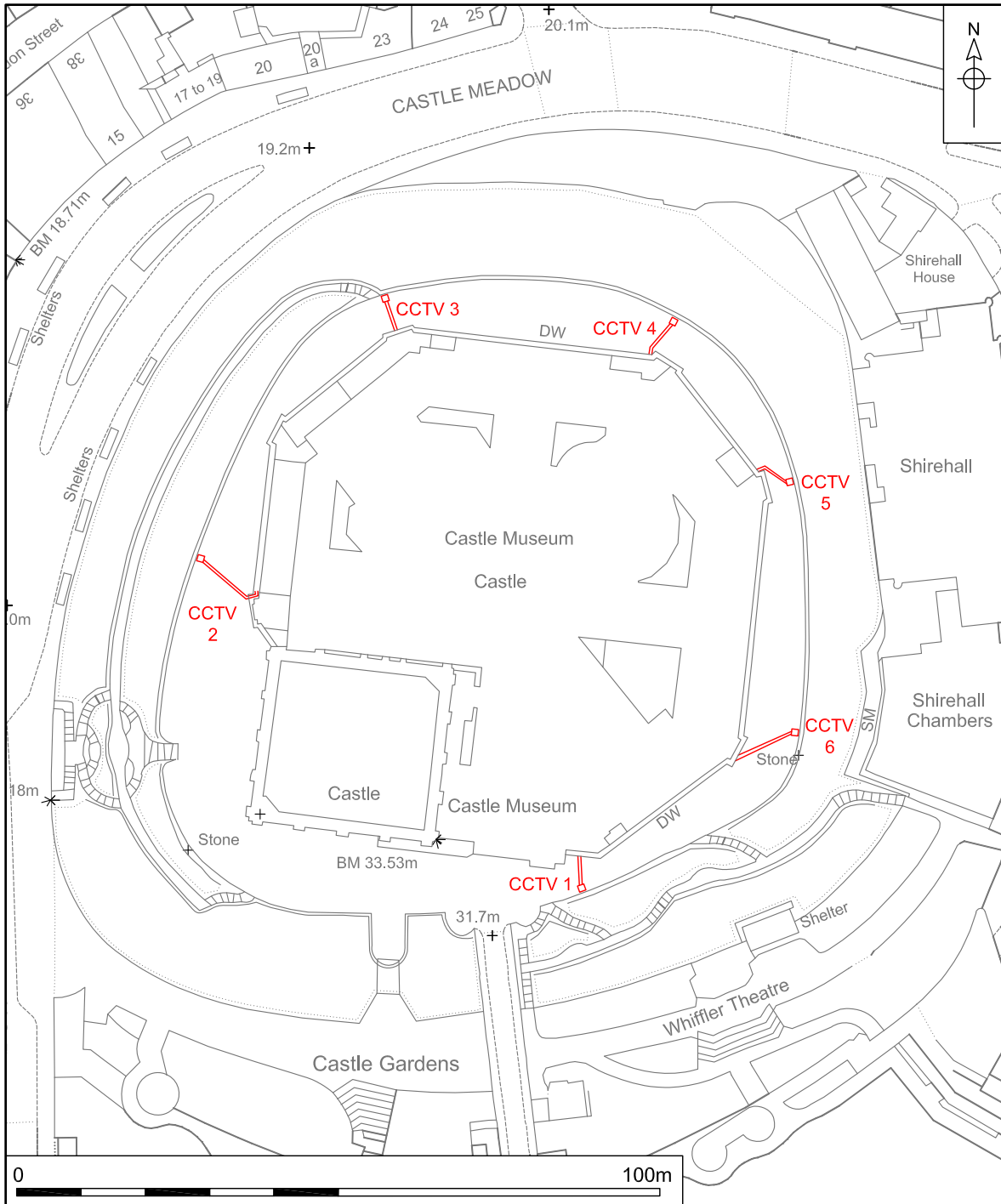
The Brief required that constant archaeological monitoring take place during all groundworks prior to the installation of a new CCTV system. Six pits measuring 1m², with a depth of c.1m and a connecting cable trench from each one to the Castle (measuring 0.45m in width and depth, the length varied from area to area) were excavated to accommodate the CCTV columns, placed around the perimeter of the Castle Mound, just within the iron railings that delimit the site.

Excavation was carried out with a tracked mini-digger operated under constant archaeological supervision.

No environmental samples were taken due to the lack of suitable deposits and no finds were recovered.

All archaeological features and deposits were recorded using NAU Archaeology *pro forma* sheets. Trench locations, plans and sections were recorded at appropriate scales. Colour, monochrome and digital photographs were taken of all relevant features and deposits where appropriate.

Site conditions were good, with the work taking place in fine, if windy, weather.



© Crown Copyright. All rights reserved. Local Authority No. 100019340

Figure 2. Location of CCTV trenches. Scale 1:1000



Plate 1. CCTV2, general shot with Castle, looking south-west

5.0 RESULTS

All pits measured 1m², with a depth of 1m, and each associated cable trench measured 0.45m in width, with a depth of 0.45m; the length of each cable trench varied in each area. The associated cable trenches recorded deposits identical to those seen within the CCTV pits, and are not recorded individually. The results from each of the CCTV pits, labelled CCTV1-6, are shown below in numerical order.

5.1 CCTV1

(Figs 2 and 3; Plates 2 and 3)

The lowest deposit encountered within this CCTV Pit 1 was a mid orange-brown silty sand (29), although this was only recorded within the northern section of the trench, along with a lens of orange sand (28). The deposit covering much of the trench was a mid brown sandy-silt (26), which appears to overlay wall (27).

The wall (27) was fragmentary, and had been cut to the west by a ceramic water pipe. It comprised of red brick and creamy lime mortar, and measured c.0.34m in width, with a remaining height of c.0.5m. There was no visible coursing, and the construction appears to have been quite rough.

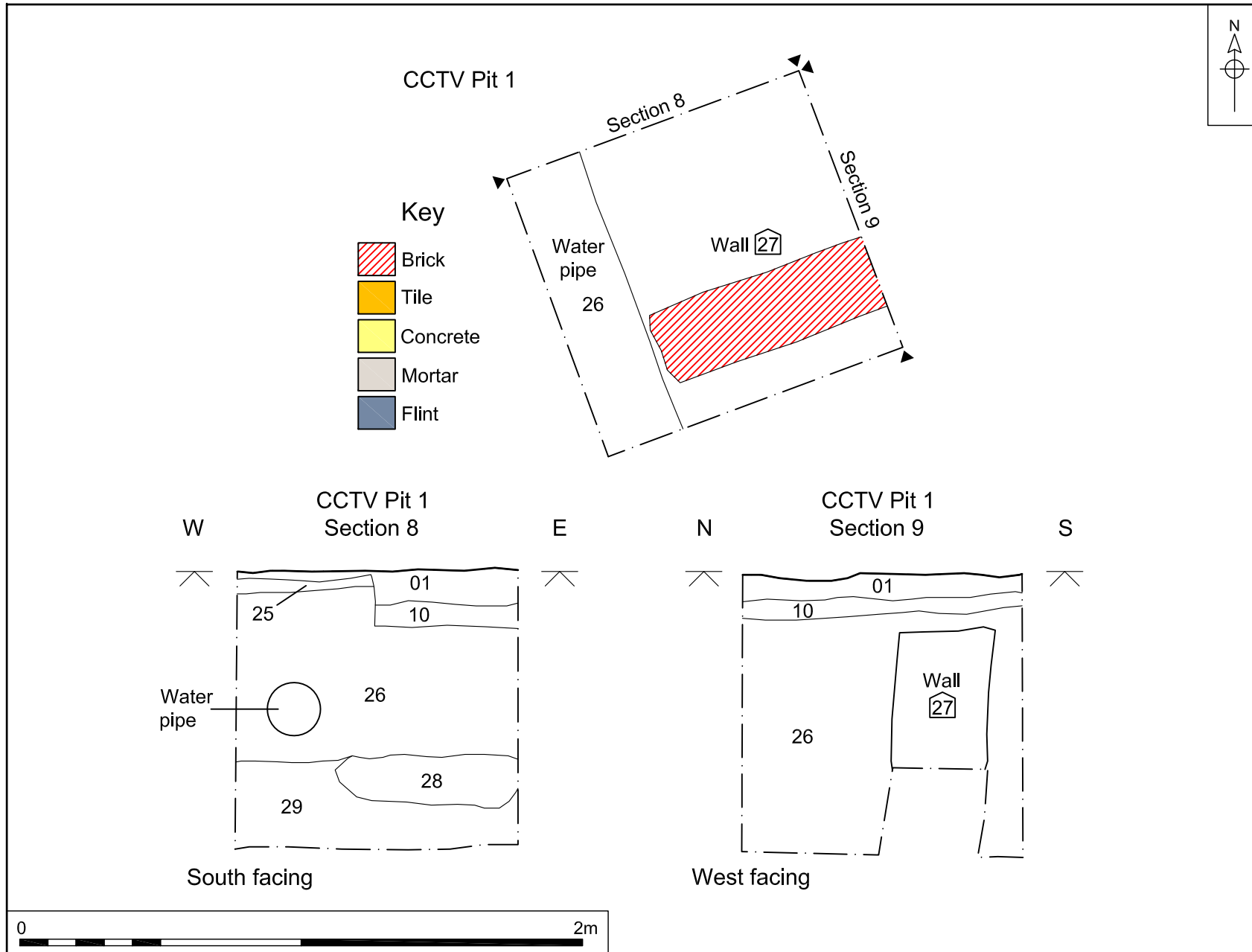


Plate 2. CCTV1, Wall (27), looking south

Above (26) was a layer of chalk (10), which has been seen in almost all of the trenches at this depth, and is probably a make-up layer, being a very solid foundation for the gravel road which lies on top (01).



Plate 3. CCTV1, looking west



5.2 CCTV2

(Figs 2 and 5; Plate 4)

The lowest deposit seen in this trench was a fairly clean and compact chalk (07), similar to the deposit seen in CCTV1. Above this lies a layer of yellow-orange powdery chalk with white chalk flecks (05). Overlying this is a deposit of light grey-yellow-brown silt, with common chalk fragments (06), followed by light grey-brown silt with occasional chalk flecks (04). A rubble layer (03) containing frequent fragments of flint, brick, tile and chalk was cut by a modern service trench, containing a lead pipe [08].

On top of all of these layers is a layer of make-up or hoggin (02), with the gravel road (01) forming the modern ground surface.



Plate 4. CCTV2, looking west

5.3 CCTV3

(Figs 2 and 5; Plate 5)

The lowest deposit encountered in CCTV3 was a light orange-brown chalky sandy clay (16) overlain by a browner chalky deposit containing brick fragments (15).

Cut into (15) was a probable service trench [14], although no actual pipe was seen in the course of the excavations.

The upper two deposits are the same as in many of the other pits i.e. chalk (10) overlain by gravel (01).



Plate 5 CCTV3, looking west.

5.4 CCTV4

(Figs 2 and 5; Plate 6)

A rubble layer (19) was the lowest deposit recorded in Pit CCTV4 and included flint, tile and chalk fragments. Over this layer was the chalk layer (10), seen elsewhere. Between this layer and the gravel road (01), was a thin layer of mid brown silt (18).



Plate 6. CCTV4, looking north-west

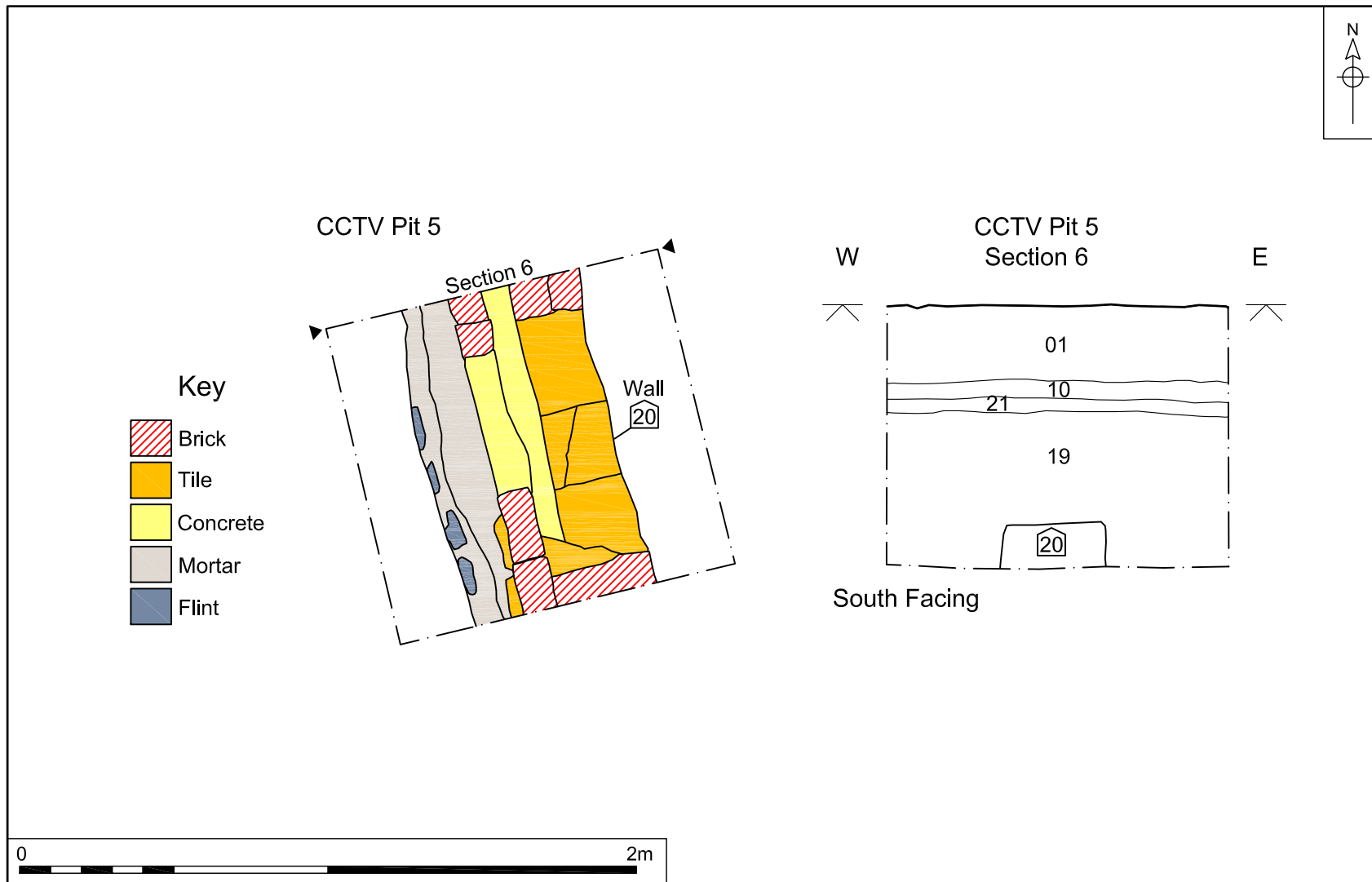


Figure 4. CCTV Pit 5, plan and section. Scale 1:20

5.5 CCTV5

(Figs 2 and 4; Plate 7)

The earliest deposit encountered within pit CCTV5 was a shallowly-surviving wall (20) running north-south which contained various elements including a flint facing, concrete, mortar, tile and red brick. The wall measured 0.34m in width, with an elevation of just 0.15m.



Plate 7. CCTV5, Wall (20), looking east

Above the wall is a rubble layer (19), also seen in the previous trench. This contained brick, flint, tile and chalk inclusions. Above this is a thin layer of coarse pink sand (21). The chalk make-up layer (10) was seen above this, followed by the orange sand and gravel that make up the road surface (01).

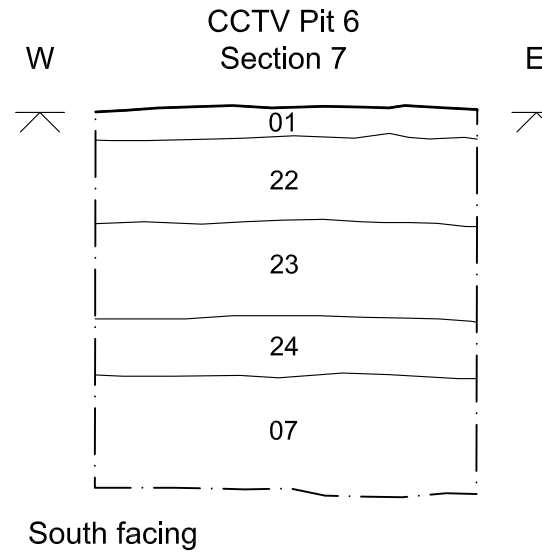
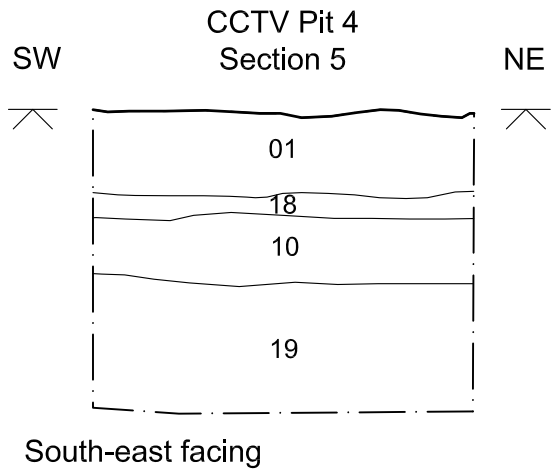
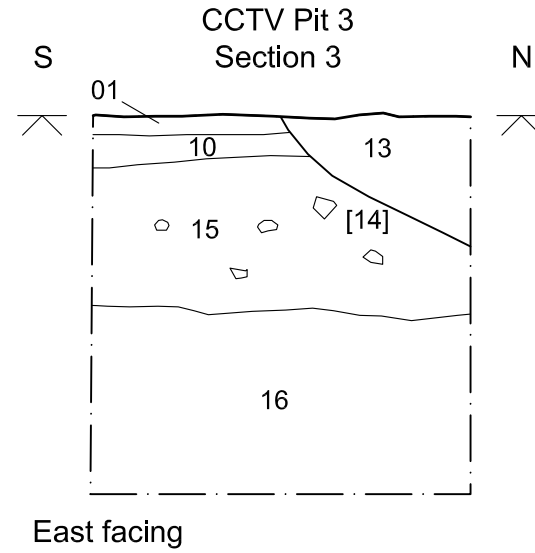
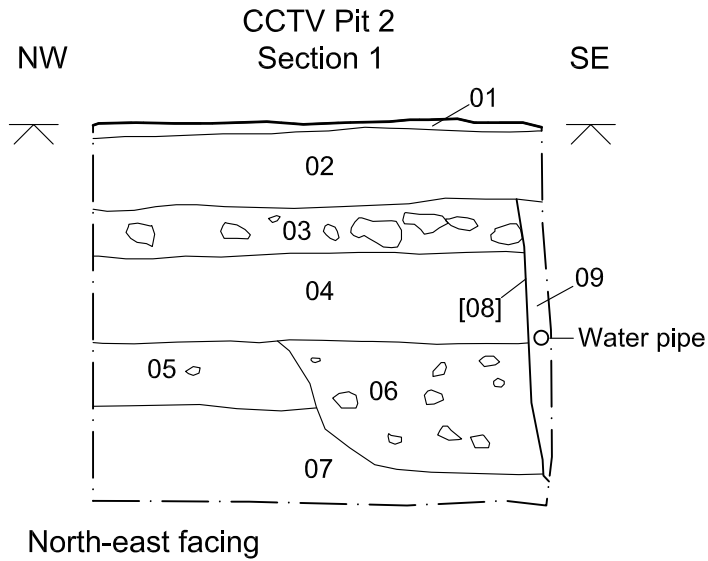


Figure 5. Sections from CCTV Pits 2, 3, 4 and 6. Scale 1:20

5.6 CCTV6

(Figs 2 and 5; Plate 8)

The earliest deposit observed is the compacted chalk (07), first seen in pit CCTV2. Above the chalk is a mid grey-brown clay-silt (24), followed by mid brown-orange clay-sand with chalk inclusions (23). Above this is a dark brown-black clay-silt with frequent chalk and brick fragments (22). The gravel for the road surface is the uppermost deposit (01).



Plate 8. CCTV6, looking north

6.0 CONCLUSIONS

The Castle Mound has been investigated archaeologically on several occasions, demonstrating that the earthwork sitting astride a chalk ridge was made of chalk itself and that it had been modified on several occasions. Wallis (*in prep*).

Numerous small-scale interventions have also taken place in response to the changing needs of the Castle and its environs. The erection for CCTV cameras around the perimeter of the Castle Mound has resulted in a limited amount of excavation into the mound, although none of the trenches appear to have been deep enough to locate the original mound surface. Penn (1999) located the top of the original earthwork motte in two trenches on the top of the mound at 2m below current ground surface, far below the depth reached on this occasion. Penn's trenches also located a brick and flint wall containing iron railings which had been recorded by Shelley (1995) during consolidation work. The current work exposed two fragments of wall, both of a similar construction to each other, and very similar to that described by Shelley i.e. faced by flint, with a layer of red tile overlain by red brick. The similarity is so strong that the walls are very likely to be contemporary even if they are not part of the same construction - the walls seen during this phase of work were located at least 0.3m from the railings.

It is unlikely that the two walls seen during this intervention are the foundations of a building and more likely they represent a boundary wall. Their construction and the materials used imply a 19th-century date.



Plate 9 General working shot

Acknowledgements

The author would like to thank Norfolk County Council who funded the project and NPS Property Consultants Ltd who commissioned it on behalf of their client. The fieldwork and recording was carried out by Andy Phelps and the author. R & S Whiting undertook the groundworks and provided additional data. David Dobson provided the illustrations for the report which was edited by Jayne Bown.

Bibliography

- Ayers, B. 2003 *Norwich 'A Fine City'*. Tempus Publishing
- Department of the Environment 1990 *Planning Policy Guidance Note 16: Archaeology and Planning*. London: HMSO.
- Garmonsway, G.N. 1972 *The Anglo-Saxon Chronicle*, Everyman Press, London
- Penn, K. 1999 *An Evaluation Excavation at Norwich Castle (Site 429). Summary Report for English Heritage*. NAU Client Report No.367
- Shelley, A. 1995 *Watching Brief at Norwich Castle Mound*. NAU Client Report No.146
- Shepherd Popescu, E. 2009 *Norwich Castle: Excavations and Historical Survey, 1987-1998 Part I: Anglo-Saxon to c.1345 and Part II: c.1345 to Modern*. East Anglian Archaeology 132
- Wallis, H in prep *Excavations on the site of Norwich Castle Mound 1999-2001*

Appendix 1a: Context Summary

Context	Category	Type	Fill Of	Description	Period
01	Deposit	Layer		Gravel	Modern
02	Deposit	Layer		Hoggin layer	Modern
03	Deposit	Layer		Make-up layer	Modern
04	Deposit	Layer		Make-up layer	Modern
05	Deposit	Layer		Make-up layer	Modern
06	Deposit	Layer		Make-up layer	Modern
07	Deposit	Layer		Make-up layer	Modern
08	Cut	Service trench		Service trench	Modern
09	Deposit	Service trench fill	08	Fill of service trench [08]	Modern
10	Deposit	Layer		Make-up layer	Modern
11	Deposit	Layer		Make-up layer	Modern
12	Deposit	Layer		Make-up layer	Modern
13	Deposit	Service trench fill	14	Fill of service trench [14]	Modern
14	Cut	Service trench		Service trench	Modern
15	Deposit	Layer		Make-up layer	Modern
16	Deposit	Layer		Make-up layer	Modern
17	Deposit	Layer		Make-up layer	Modern
18	Deposit	Layer		Make-up layer	Modern
19	Deposit	Layer		Rubble layer	Modern
20	Masonry	Wall		North-south wall	Modern
21	Deposit	Layer		Make-up layer	Modern
22	Deposit	Layer		Make-up layer	Modern
23	Deposit	Layer		Make-up layer	Modern
24	Deposit	Layer		Make-up layer	Modern
25	Deposit	Layer		Tarmac	Modern
26	Deposit	Layer		Rubble/Make-up layer	Modern
27	Masonry	Wall		East-west wall	Modern
28	Deposit	Layer		Sandy lens	Modern
29	Deposit	Layer		Make-up layer	Modern

Appendix 1b: OASIS Feature Summary

Period	Type	Total
Modern	Service trench	2
Modern	Wall	2