

## **ARCHAEOLOGICAL RECORDING REPORT**

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**SCCAS REPORT No. 2010/200**

# **BUNGAY CASTLE ACCESS (BUN 095)**

**Stuart Boulter**  
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## HER Information

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**Planning Application No:** DC/09/0465/FUL

**Date of Fieldwork:** 26th and 27th October 2010

**Grid Reference:** TM 3347 8971

**Funding Body:** Bungay Castle Trust

**Curatorial Officer:** Jess Tipper

**Senior Project Officer:** Stuart Boulter

**Oasis Reference:** suffolkc1-85383

Digital report submitted to Archaeological Data Service:  
<http://ads.ahds.ac.uk/catalogue/library/greylit>



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## Summary

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*Bungay, Castle Access* (TM 3347 8971; BUN 095) A granted aided project to construct a timber walkway access to the inner bailey of Bungay Castle would involve limited invasive groundworks, particularly associated with the removal of 20th century concrete garden features. In order to ensure that no archaeological deposits were damaged during the construction process, the removal of the six areas of concrete was undertaken by archaeologists. All of the concrete was found to be superficial in character, only set into the topsoil layer.

In addition, English Heritage asked for a trench to be manually excavated across the projected line of the extant inner bailey wall where it crossed the proposed walkway. No evidence was revealed to suggest that the wall had continued at this juncture, with topsoil recorded lying directly on orange sand and gravel subsoil.

(Stuart Boulter for Suffolk County Council and Bungay Castle Trust)





# **1. Introduction**

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## **1.1 Site location**

A planning application (DC/09/0465/FUL) for a grant aided project to construct a walkway link between the inner bailey of Bungay Castle and Castle Lane (TM 3347 8971) (Fig. 1) attracted an archaeological condition requiring a programme of archaeological recording and limited evaluation.

## **1.2 Geology and topography**

The c.650 square metre site lies on the south side of the inner bailey and slopes steeply towards the south-west, falling from c.16m OD to c.9m OD over a horizontal distance of only 20m.

The base of the slope effectively marks the edge of the floodplain for the River Waveney which passes some 80m west of the site.

The underlying drift geology comprises glaciofluvial sands and gravels.

## **1.3 Archaeological and historical background**

In the county Historic Environment Record (HER) the site is recognised as being in an area of 'high archaeological importance' forming part of the medieval castle (BUN 004). In addition, the site itself is part of the statutorily protected scheduled area of the castle (SF 15921).

The street frontage was, until it was bombed and destroyed in the Second World War, occupied by a cottage with the remainder of the site forming its garden, the latter characterised by superficial terracing (Plates 1 and 2).

At an early stage in this project, SCCAS Conservation Team (Bob Carr) had visited the site and made a preliminary assessment (Carr 2008) which was used to inform the subsequent Brief and Specification.

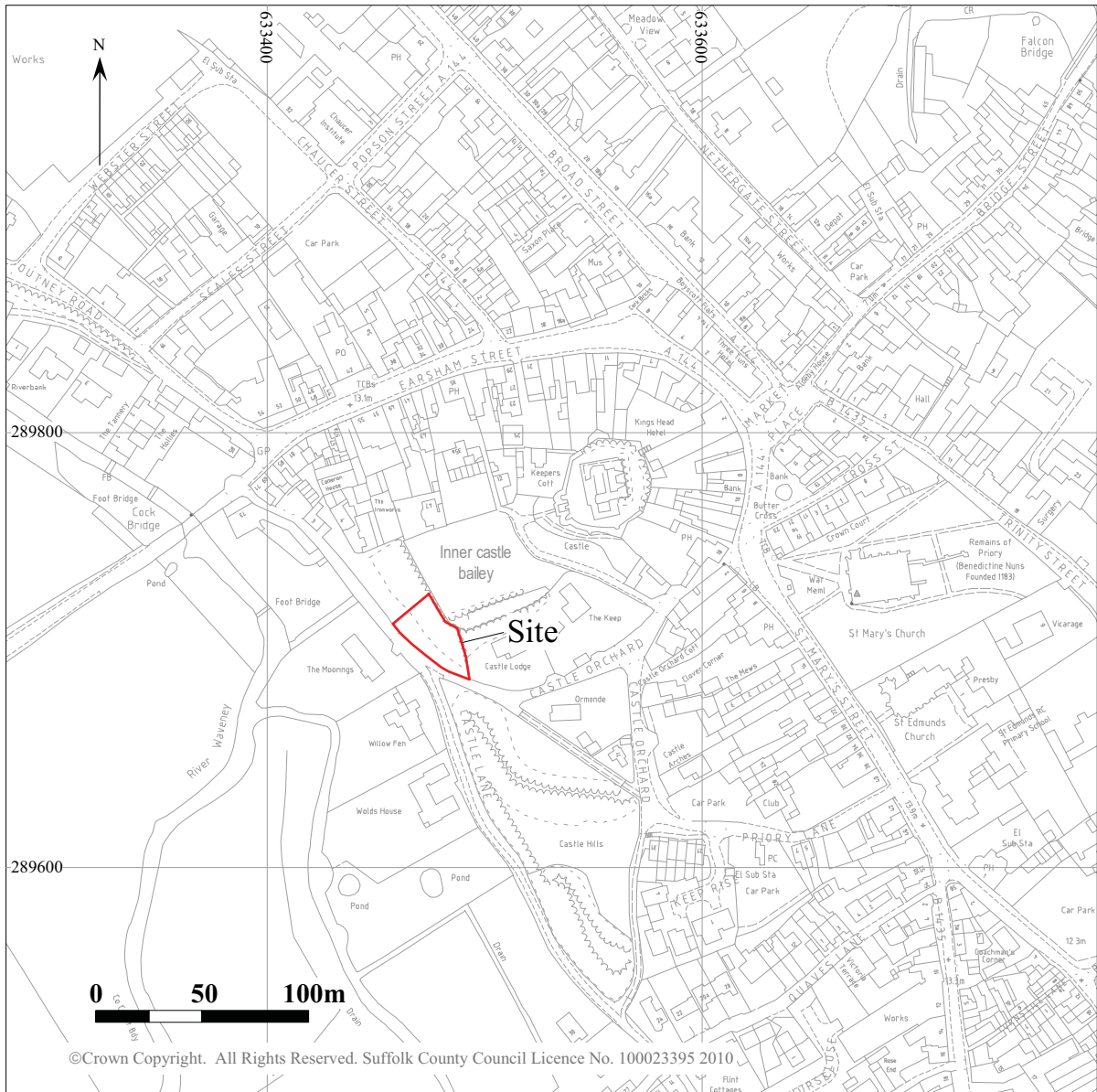
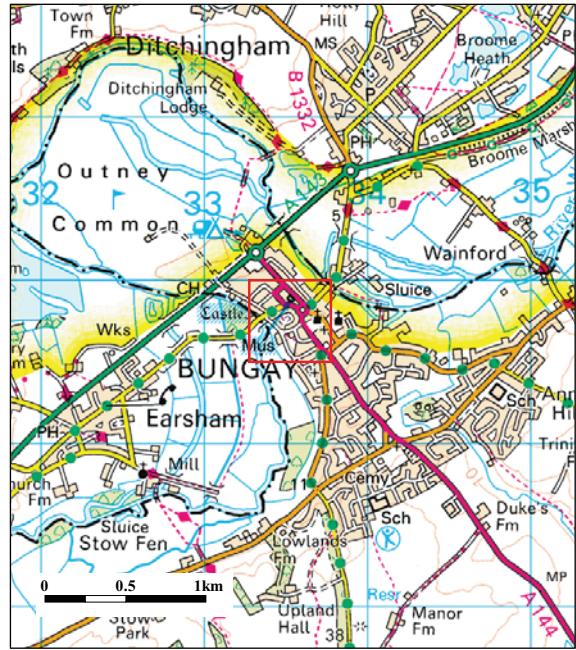
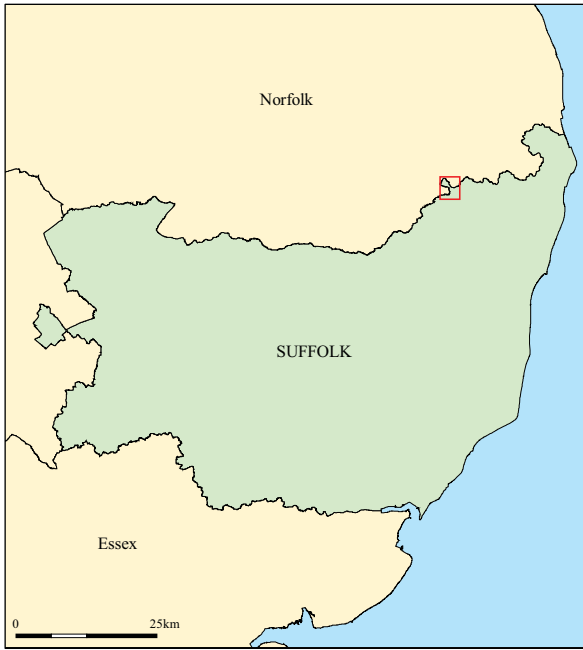


Figure 1. Site Location



Plate 1. Walkway route, lower level from the NW



Plate 2. Walkway route, upper level from the NE

While the proposal to construct a raised timber walkway only required limited invasive groundworks, there were a number of difficult areas where upstanding concrete would need to be removed to even out the route. Furthermore, the walkway would cross the projected line of the surviving section of the southern side of the inner bailey wall.

Initially, it had been considered that the monitoring of the construction work would be the way in which the archaeological recording would be undertaken (Brief and Specification 1, March 2010). However, following a meeting between SCCAS Field Team, the Bungay Castle Trust and the project architect, the SCCAS Conservation Team were advised that a more sensible and cost effective way of proceeding would involve the archaeological contractor doing the concrete removal as an initial, discrete, phase of work.

As a result, a revised Brief and Specification document was prepared (Brief and Specification 2, August 2010, Appendix I). This document also included the need for a hand-dug trench, asked for by English Heritage, over the line of the inner bailey wall where it crossed the proposed walkway.

After receiving their Scheduled Monument consent to undertake the work, Bungay Castle Trust commissioned Suffolk County Council's Archaeological Service Field Projects Team to carry out the archaeological recording works, the fieldwork for which was completed on the 26th and 27th of October 2010.

#### **1.4 Research objectives**

Essentially, the project research objectives were those defined in the Brief and Specification document prepared by SCCAS Conservation Team (Appendix I), also presented in the Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) (Boulter 2010) as Research Objectives (RO's) 1 - 3. These were:

**RO1:** To provide a record of archaeological deposits which are damaged or removed by any development (including services and landscaping) permitted by the current planning consent.

**RO2:** To evaluate the condition of the bailey wall in the area where it is crossed by the proposed walkway.

**RO3:** Provide sufficient information to construct an archaeological conservation strategy, dealing with preservation, the recording of archaeological deposits, working practices, timetables and orders of cost that might be incurred.

## **2. Methodology**

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### **2.1 Fieldwork**

Areas where concrete and rubble were to be removed were shown on a plan provided by the architect. These were identified on the site and investigated manually, removing all material to a series of storage areas where they could subsequently be removed by the building contractors.

An evaluation trench was excavated manually across the projected line of the south side of the inner bailey wall with its 0.5m wide x 4m long x 0.4m deep dimensions as outlined in the Brief and Specification.

A photographic record was made of the trench and its north side recorded as a drawn section at a scale of 1:20 on plastic drafting film.

The section string was related to Ordnance Datum from a Bench Mark at 15.02m on a building at the junction of Castle Orchard and St. Mary's Street.

The upcast spoil was examined for the presence of artefactual evidence, but as only asbestos sheet, plastic wrappers and other modern debris was encountered, none was retained for further analysis.

Excavated contexts were allocated OP (Observed Phenomena) numbers under the HER code BUN 095.

## **2.2 Post-excavation**

The locations where concrete/rubble was removed were plotted, along with the location of the hand-dug trench (Fig. 2).

The drawn section was digitised for inclusion in this report (Fig. 3).

Photographs were added to the SCCAS photographic archive.

## **3. Results**

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Six areas were marked by the architect for investigation (Fig. 2, 1 - 6) and these are described below.

- 1) Site access steps constructed from variable sized concrete blocks, probably railway sleepers, with a brick retaining wall on the side. These were removed revealing only topsoil and roots. (Plates 3-5)
- 2) Terraced bank faced with rubble and flint cobbles set in topsoil. (Plate 6)
- 3) Concrete pieces, one large, forming garden steps, set in topsoil to a maximum depth of 0.2m. (Plate 7)
- 4) Single piece of concrete lying on surface.
- 5) Series of large pieces of concrete set in a stepped formation into the existing slope to a maximum depth of 0.25m. All in topsoil. (Plates 8 and 9)
- 6) Series of large pieces of concrete set in a stepped formation into the existing slope to a maximum depth of 0.20m. All in topsoil. (Plate 10)



Plate 3. Area 1) Steps and retaining wall



Plate 4. Area 1) After removal



Plate 5. Area 1) Removed concrete and rubble



Plate 6. Area 2) Prior to removal





Plate 7. Area 3) Prior to removal



Plate 8. Area 5) Concrete after removal



Plate 9. Area 5) After removal



Plate 10. Area 6) Concrete after removal

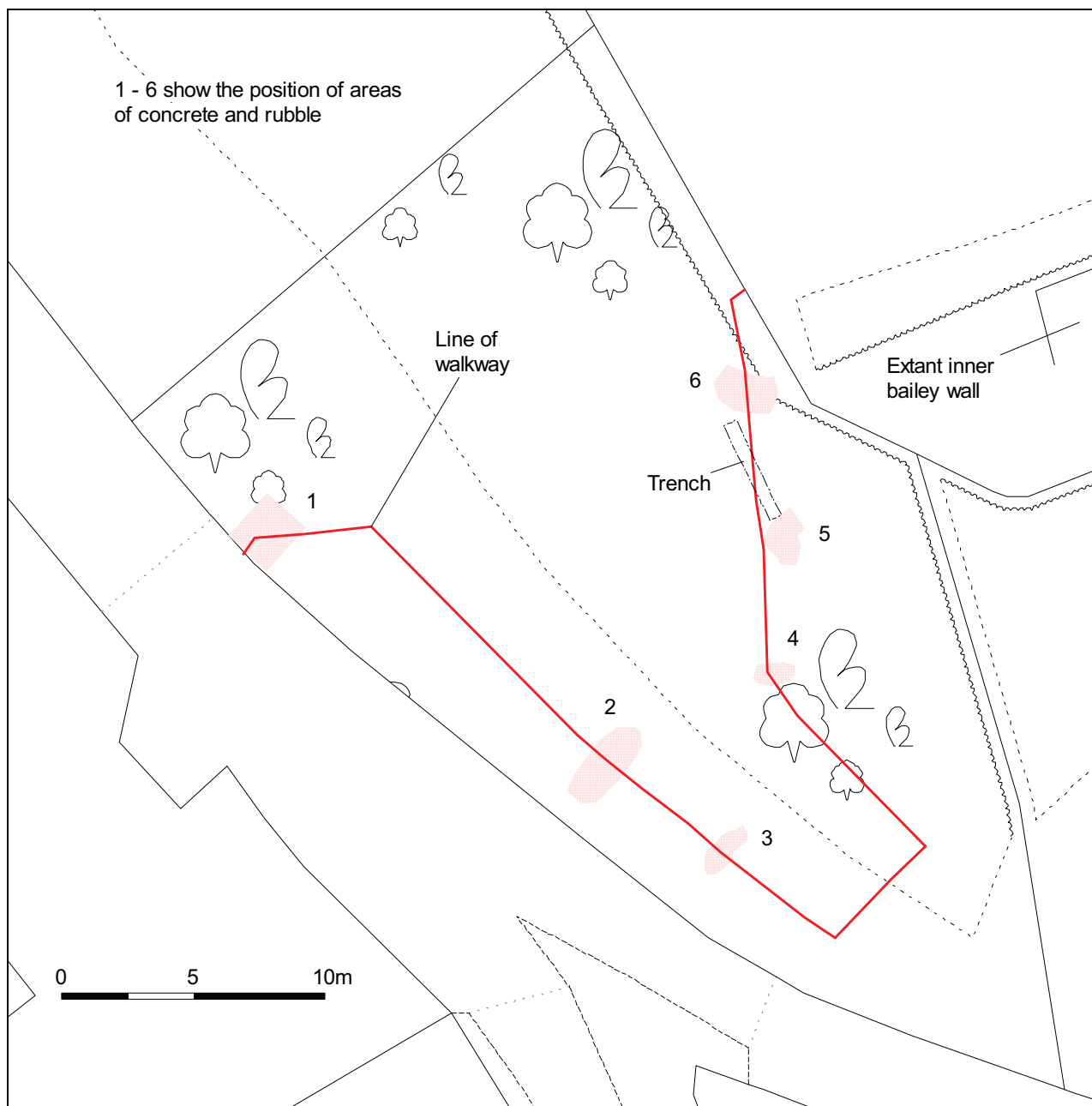


Figure 2. Site plan

The hand-dug trench was positioned by observing the line of the extant south side of the inner bailey wall and projecting it across the route of the proposed walkway.

Excavation revealed c.0.3 metres of heavily rooted topsoil and leaf litter (0001) over loose orange sand and gravel to pebble-sized stones (0002) (Fig. 3 and Plate 11). While this material is that which could be expected as naturally occurring subsoil, the looseness of it and lack of geological structure could indicate that it was re-deposited.

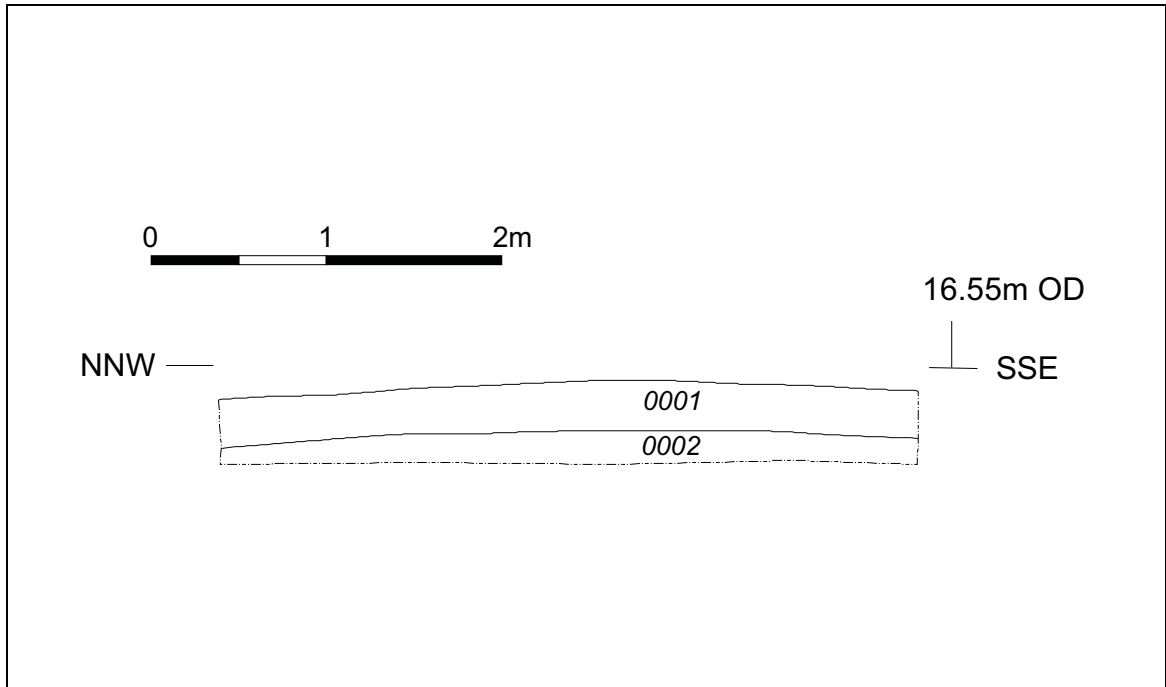


Figure 3. Trench section



Plate 11. Hand-dug trench

There was no evidence within the trench to suggest that the bailey wall had ever continued through at this juncture. If a wall had previously been present, it is almost certain that there would have been residues of mortar and flint cobbles present; this was not the case.

Finds recovered from the topsoil were all modern, including asbestos roofing fragments, plastic bags and glass. In addition, the body of a dog had relatively recently been placed in a shallow pit which just encroached on the southernmost end of the trench.

#### **4. Conclusion**

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All discrete areas of concrete on the line of the proposed walkway were successfully removed and none were found to be associated with any earlier archaeological deposits. Provided the building contractors remain within their specified 0.25m ground disturbance margin, then only topsoil and leaf mould will be disturbed during the construction process.

A wall previously only viewed from a distance (Carr 2008) and thought to possibly be of medieval date, was clearly modern, forming part of the garden terracing.

The hand-dug evaluation trench failed to find evidence for any continuation on the same line of the southern arm of the inner bailey wall. However, if the reconstruction by Hugh Braun (PSIAH Volume XXII, 1934), reproduced here as Figure 4, is an accurate representation of the castle configuration, then encountering the wall at this juncture would be unlikely. His plan clearly shows the wall turning to the north along top of the slope on the west side of the plateau forming the inner bailey. The hand-dug trench was located towards the top of the slope, but to the west of the wall line.

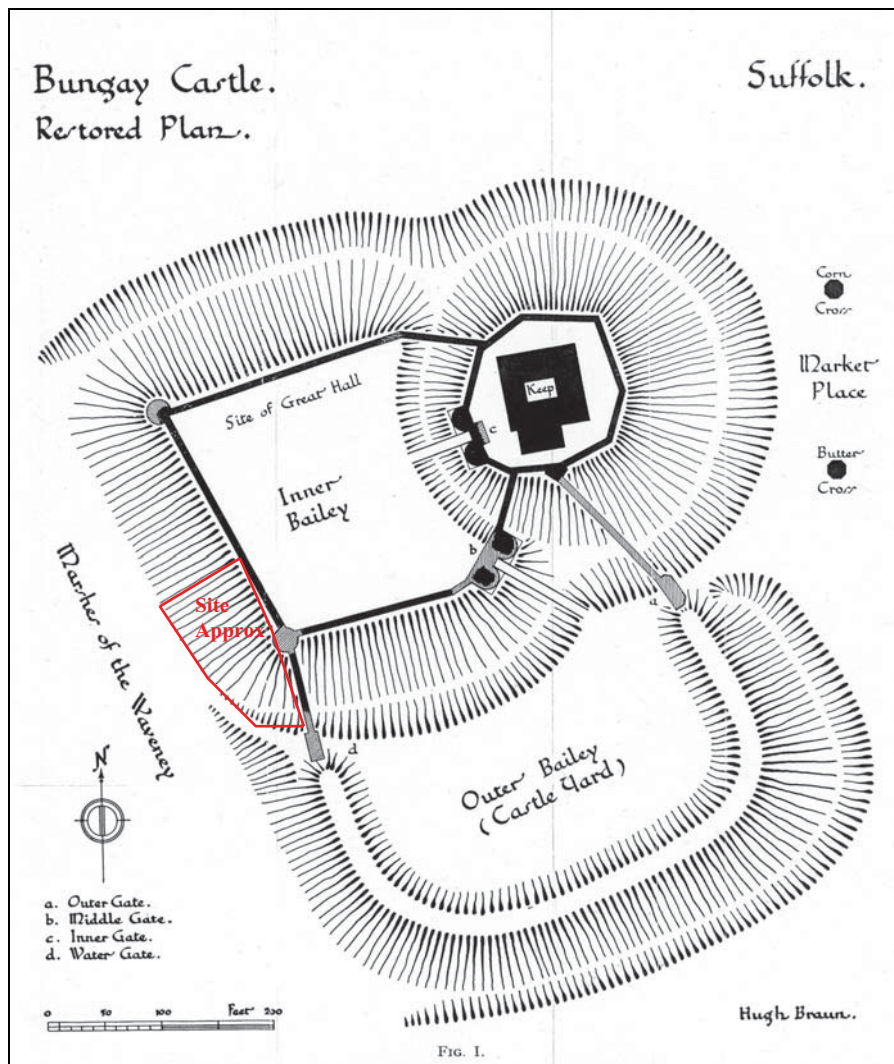


Figure 4. Bungay Castle; restored plan (Braun 1934)

## 5. Archive deposition

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Paper and photographic archive: SCCAS Bury St Edmunds

Digital archive: SCCAS Ipswich:

T/ENV/ARC/MSWORKS3/PARISH/Bungay/BUN 095 Bungay Castle Access

## 6. List of contributors and acknowledgements

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The archaeological recording work was carried out by Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service Field Team staff (Stuart Boulter and Roy Damant).

The project was directed and managed by Stuart Boulter.

## 7. Bibliography

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- Boulter, S. P.,  
2010                    *Bungay Castle Access, Bungay, Suffolk, Archaeological Evaluation:  
Written Scheme of Investigation and Risk Assessment*  
(SCCAS Field Team document prepared for the local planning authority)
- Braun, H.,  
1936                    'Some notes on Bungay Castle' in the *Proceedings of the Suffolk Institute  
of Archaeology and Natural History*, Volume XXII, 1934, pp 109 - 19
- Carr, R. D.,  
2008                    *Bungay Castle: Record of a site visit*  
(SCCAS Conservation Team internal document)





## **Appendix I**

### **Brief and Specification for Archaeological Excavation**



9-10 The Churchyard, Shire Hall  
Bury St Edmunds  
Suffolk  
IP33 2AR

## **Brief and Specification for Continuous Archaeological Recording**

### **PROPOSED CASTLE LINK, CASTLE LANE, BUNGAY, SUFFOLK (DC/09/0465/FUL)**

*Although this document is fundamental to the work of the specialist archaeological contractor the developer should be aware that certain of its requirements are likely to impinge upon the working practices of a general building contractor and may have financial implications*

#### **1. Background**

- 1.1 Planning permission has been granted by Waveney District Council (DC/09/0465/FUL) for the construction of a castle link between the inner bailey of Bungay Castle, Castle Lane and Castle Hills at Bungay Castle, Bungay (TM 182 774). **Please contact the applicant for an accurate plan of the site.**
- 1.2 The location of the proposed work is situated within an area of high archaeological importance that is recorded in the County Historic Environment Record, within the area of Bungay Castle (HER no. BUN 004). This monument is of national importance and the area of the proposed castle link is statutorily protected as a Scheduled Monument (SF 15921).
- 1.3 Aspects of the proposed works will cause ground disturbance that has potential to damage any heritage assets of archaeological importance that exists.
- 1.4 Assessment of the available archaeological evidence indicates that the area affected by development can be adequately recorded by continuous archaeological monitoring and recording during all groundworks (**Please contact the developer for an accurate plan of the development**).
- 1.5 In addition to the monitoring, a slot/trench is to be hand-excavated by the archaeological contractor, prior to development, where the link/walkway crosses the bailey wall.
- 1.6 In accordance with the standards and guidance produced by the Institute of Field Archaeologists this brief should not be considered sufficient to enable the total execution of the project. A Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) based upon this brief and the accompanying outline specification of minimum requirements, is an essential requirement. This must be submitted by the developers, or their agent, to the Conservation Team of the Archaeological Service of Suffolk County Council (9-10 The Churchyard, Shire Hall, Bury St Edmunds IP33 2AR; telephone/fax: 01284 352443) for approval. The work must not commence until this office has approved both the archaeological contractor as suitable to undertake the work, and the WSI as satisfactory. The WSI will *provide the basis for measurable standards* and will be used to establish whether the requirements of the planning condition will be adequately met.

- 1.7 Following approval of the WSI, our office will advise the Local Planning Authority that an acceptable scheme of work is in place, and therefore we (will) have no objection to the work commencing. Neither this specification nor the WSI, however, is a sufficient basis for the discharge of the planning condition relating to archaeological investigation. Only the full implementation of the scheme, both completion of fieldwork and reporting based on the approved WSI, will enable SCCAS/CT to advise Waveney District Council that the condition has been adequately fulfilled and can be discharged.
- 1.8 Before commencing work the project manager must carry out a risk assessment and liaise with the site owner, client and the Conservation Team of SCCAS (SCCAS/CT) in ensuring that all potential risks are minimised.
- 1.9 All arrangements for the excavation of the site, the timing of the work, access to the site, the definition of the precise area of landholding and area for proposed development are to be defined and negotiated by the archaeological contractor with the commissioning body.
- 1.10 The responsibility for identifying any constraints on field-work (e.g. Scheduled Monument status, Listed Building status, public utilities or other services, tree preservation orders, SSSIs, wildlife sites &c., ecological considerations) rests with the commissioning body and its archaeological contractor. The existence and content of the archaeological brief does not over-ride such constraints or imply that the target area is freely available.
- 1.11 Detailed standards, information and advice to supplement this brief are to be found in *Standards for Field Archaeology in the East of England*, East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Papers 14, 2003.
- 1.12 The Institute of Field Archaeologists' *Standard and Guidance for an archaeological watching brief* (revised 2001) should be used for additional guidance in the execution of the project and in drawing up the report.

## **2. Brief for Archaeological Recording**

- 2.1 To provide a record of archaeological deposits which are damaged or removed by any development [including services and landscaping] permitted by the current planning consent.
- 2.2 The significant archaeologically damaging activity in this proposal is the ground works associated with the new timber walkway.
- 2.3 Any ground works (including removal of existing concrete), and also the upcast soil, are to be closely monitored during and after stripping in order to ensure no damage occurs to the heritage asset. Adequate time is to be allowed for archaeological recording of archaeological deposits during excavation, and of soil sections following excavation.
- 2.4 In addition to the monitoring and recording, a narrow test slot/trench (2–4.00m long x 0.50m wide x 0.40m deep) is to be hand-excavated by the archaeological contractor in the area at the top of the link, where it crosses the bailey wall, prior to construction of the walkway in this area.

## **3. Arrangements for Monitoring**

- 3.1 To carry out the monitoring work the developer will appoint an archaeologist (the archaeological contractor) who must be approved by SCCAS/CT.
- 3.2 The developer or his contracted archaeologist will give SCCAS/CT five working days notice of the commencement of ground works on the site, in order that the work of the

archaeological contractor may be monitored. The method and form of development will also be monitored to ensure that it conforms to previously agreed locations and techniques upon which this brief is based.

- 3.3 Allowance must be made to cover archaeological costs incurred in monitoring the development works by the contract archaeologist. The size of the contingency should be estimated by the approved archaeological contractor, based upon the outline works in this Brief and Specification and the building contractor's programme of works and time-table.
- 3.4 If unexpected remains are encountered SCCAS/CT must be informed immediately. Amendments to this specification may be made to ensure adequate provision for archaeological recording.

#### **4. Specification**

- 4.1 The developer shall afford access at all reasonable times to SCCAS/CT and the contracted archaeologist to allow archaeological monitoring of building and engineering operations which disturb the ground.
- 4.2 Opportunity must be given to the contracted archaeologist to hand excavate any discrete archaeological features which appear during earth moving operations, retrieve finds and make measured records as necessary. Where it is necessary to see archaeological detail one of the soil faces is to be trowelled clean.
- 4.3 All archaeological features exposed must be planned at a scale of 1:20 or 1:50 on a plan showing the proposed layout of the development, depending on the complexity of the data to be recorded. Sections should be drawn at 1:10 or 1:20 again depending on the complexity to be recorded.
- 4.4 A photographic record of the work is to be made of any archaeological features, consisting of both monochrome photographs and colour transparencies/high resolution digital images.
- 4.5 All contexts must be numbered and finds recorded by context. All levels should relate to Ordnance Datum.
- 4.6 Archaeological contexts should, where possible, be sampled for palaeo-environmental remains. Best practice should allow for sampling of interpretable and datable archaeological deposits and provision should be made for this. Advice on the appropriateness of the proposed strategies will be sought from Helen Chappell, English Heritage Regional Adviser for Archaeological Science (East of England). A guide to sampling archaeological deposits (Murphy, P.L. and Wiltshire, P.E.J., 1994, *A guide to sampling archaeological deposits for environmental analysis*) is available for viewing from SCCAS.
- 4.7 All finds will be collected and processed (unless variations in this principle are agreed with SCCAS/CT during the course of the monitoring).
- 4.8 The data recording methods and conventions used must be consistent with, and approved by, the County Historic Environment Record.

#### **5. Report Requirements**

- 5.1 An archive of all records and finds is to be prepared consistent with the principles of *Management of Archaeological Projects (MAP2)*, particularly Appendix 3. This must be deposited with the County Historic Environment Record within three months of the completion of work. It will then become publicly accessible. It must be adequate to

- perform the function of a final archive for deposition in the County Historic Environment Record (The County Store) or museum in Suffolk.
- 5.2 The project manager must consult the County Historic Environment Record Officer to obtain an event number for the work. This number will be unique for each project or site and must be clearly marked on any documentation relating to the work.
  - 5.3 Finds must be appropriately conserved and stored in accordance with *UK Institute of Conservators Guidelines*.
  - 5.4 Every effort must be made to get the agreement of the landowner/developer to the deposition of the full site archive, and transfer of title, with the intended archive depository before the fieldwork commences. If this is not achievable for all or parts of the finds archive then provision must be made for additional recording (e.g. photography, illustration, scientific analysis) as appropriate.
  - 5.5 The project manager should consult the intended archive depository before the archive is prepared regarding the specific requirements for the archive deposition and curation, and regarding any specific cost implications of deposition.
  - 5.6 If the County Store is the intended location of the archive, the project manager should consult the SCCAS Archive Guidelines 2010 and also the County Historic Environment Record Officer regarding the requirements for the deposition of the archive (conservation, ordering, organisation, labelling, marking and storage) of excavated material and the archive. A clear statement of the form, intended content, and standards of the archive is to be submitted for approval as an essential requirement of the WSI.
  - 5.7 The WSI should state proposals for the deposition of the digital archive relating to this project with the Archaeology Data Service (ADS), and allowance should be made for costs incurred to ensure proper deposition (<http://ads.ahds.ac.uk/project/policy.html>).
  - 5.8 A report on the fieldwork and archive, consistent with the principles of MAP2, particularly Appendix 4, must be provided. The report must summarise the methodology employed, the stratigraphic sequence, and give a period by period description of the contexts recorded, and an inventory of finds. The objective account of the archaeological evidence must be clearly distinguished from its interpretation. The Report must include a discussion and an assessment of the archaeological evidence, including palaeoenvironmental remains recovered from palaeosols and cut features. Its conclusions must include a clear statement of the archaeological value of the results, and their significance in the context of the Regional Research Framework (*East Anglian Archaeology*, Occasional Papers 3 & 8, 1997 and 2000).
  - 5.9 An unbound hardcopy of the assessment report, clearly marked DRAFT, must be presented to both SCCAS/CT and English Heritage for approval within six months of the completion of fieldwork unless other arrangements are negotiated with the project sponsor and SCCAS/CT.
  - 5.10 Following acceptance, a single copy of the assessment report should be submitted to both SCCAS/CT and English Heritage. A single hard copy should be presented to the County Historic Environment Record as well as a digital copy of the approved report.
  - 5.11 A summary report, in the established format, suitable for inclusion in the annual 'Archaeology in Suffolk' section of the *Proceedings of the Suffolk Institute of Archaeology*, must be prepared and included in the project report.
  - 5.12 Where appropriate, a digital vector trench plan should be included with the report, which must be compatible with MapInfo GIS software, for integration in the County Historic Environment Record. AutoCAD files should be also exported and saved into a format that can be imported into MapInfo (for example, as a Drawing Interchange File or .dxf) or already transferred to .TAB files.

- 5.13 At the start of work (immediately before fieldwork commences) an OASIS online record <http://ads.ahds.ac.uk/project/oasis/> must be initiated and key fields completed on Details, Location and Creators forms.
- 5.14 All parts of the OASIS online form must be completed for submission to County Historic Environment Record. This should include an uploaded .pdf version of the entire report (a paper copy should also be included with the archive).

Specification by: Dr Jess Tipper

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Date: 17 August 2010

Reference: /BungayCastle2010

**This brief and specification remains valid for six months from the above date. If work is not carried out in full within that time this document will lapse; the authority should be notified and a revised brief and specification may be issued.**

**If the work defined by this brief forms a part of a programme of archaeological work required by a Planning Condition, the results must be considered by the Conservation Team of the Archaeological Service of Suffolk County Council, who have the responsibility for advising the appropriate Planning Authority.**