

**Written Scheme of Investigation
for Archaeological Monitoring & Recording
Access and Improvement Works
(Interpretation Boards and Stag Beetle loggery)
at
Walden Castle
Saffron Walden, Essex**

NGR: TL53907 38720

ASE Project no: 8349

February 2015

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1 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 This Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) is for a programme of archaeological monitoring during groundworks in connection with access and improvement works at Walden Castle, Saffron Walden, Essex, principally the installation of new interpretation boards and the creation of a stag beetle loggery. The castle keep and inner bailey are a designated heritage asset (Scheduled Monument (SM) 20671) and the keep is also a Grade 1 listed building (LB 1297737). The WSI has been prepared by Archaeology South-East (ASE) on behalf of Uttlesford District Council, in response to a request by English Heritage, in their capacity as advisors to the Department for Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS), for a programme of archaeological monitoring and recording as a condition of Scheduled Monument Consent for the improvement works.

2 BACKGROUND

2.1 Site Description (Fig. 1)

- 2.1.1 Walden Castle is located in the northeast of the historic core of Saffron Walden Town (Figure 1, NGR: TL 53907 38722). The keep and inner bailey of Walden Castle lie within the grounds of Saffron Walden Museum, the keep within an area of grassed park known as Castle Meadows.
- 2.1.2 The castle is situated on the top of a promontory known as Bury Hill. According to the British Geological Survey 1:50,000 scale geological mapping available online, the natural bedrock geology is Chalk of the Lewes and Seaford Formations patchily overlain by grey glacial clay.

2.2 Reasons for Project

- 2.2.1 Uttlesford District Council are undertaking access and improvement works at Walden Castle, as set out in an Outline Masterplan for the site (Purcell 2014), which includes amongst other works the installation of new interpretation boards and the creation of a stag beetle loggery. As the development lies in an area of significant archaeological potential, within the boundary of the Scheduled Monument (SM 20671), Scheduled Monument Consent (SMC) is required and has been obtained for these works. As part of this process

English Heritage, in their capacity as advisors to DCMS, have recommended that SMC be granted subject to a number of conditions, including:

B. No ground works shall take place until the applicant has confirmed in writing the commissioning of a programme of archaeological monitoring during the development in accordance with a written scheme of investigation which has been submitted to and approved by the Secretary of State advised by English Heritage.

K. A report on the archaeological recording shall be sent to the County Historic Environment Record and to Sarah Poppy at English Heritage within 3 months of the completion of the works (or such other period as may be mutually agreed).

I. The contractor shall complete and submit an entry on OASIS (On-line Access to the Index of Archaeological Investigations - <http://oasis.ac.uk/england/>) prior to project completion, and shall deposit any digital project report with the Archaeology Data Service, via the OASIS form, upon completion.

2.3 Archaeological Background

2.3.1 The following archaeological background makes use of the historic town survey for Saffron Walden (Medlycott 1998) and a published report on previous archaeological excavations in the town and castle (Bassett 1982).

2.3.2 Saffron Walden originated as a late Saxon settlement that developed into a prosperous market town during the early medieval period. In the 13th-16th centuries the town was a major centre for the cloth trade and was famous for the production of saffron dyestuffs, from which its name is derived.

2.3.3 The castle, around which the town developed, was presumably built in the mid-12th century, as in 1141 Geoffrey de Mandeville was given permission to remove the market at nearby Newport to his castle at Saffron Walden. It is assumed that by 1141 the keep and its earthworks were well advanced, if not finished (Bassett 1982, 16). However, Geoffrey was forced to surrender the

castle to King Stephen in 1144. The castle had inner and outer baileys, with the outer bailey to the west of Museum Street containing the parish church of St Mary and the original market place.

- 2.3.4 The town expanded in the early to mid-13th century, with a planned rectilinear street grid and a new market place added to the south of the castle's outer bailey. The enlarged town area was enclosed within a new defensive earthwork, the magnum fossatum (great ditch), although the northern length of the town defences used the existing outer bailey ditch. The castle's keep and inner bailey were presumably still intact in 1347, when Humphrey de Bohun was given permission to crenellate (Bassett 1982, 16).

- 2.3.5 Buildings within the castle complex appear to have been maintained in the later medieval period as evidenced by repairs to the roof of a hall in 1393. Documentary and archaeological evidence suggests that the castle had become ruinous by 1594 and that the fabric of the keep was regularly robbed up to the mid-18th century (Bassett 1982, 50). The keep was used as a barn in the later 18th and 19th centuries and repairs were made to the structure in 1796 which included the construction of a small turret above the forebuilding (Bassett 1982, 48-50).

2.4 Previous archaeological work

- 2.4.1 Archaeological investigation, as opposed to antiquarian interest, in the keep began in 1881 the clearance and excavation of its interior. This involved the excavation of the 25m-deep well and removal of as much as 1m of potentially archaeologically-significant deposits relating to the structure's construction, use and disuse.

- 2.4.2 1970s investigations in Castle Meadow examined the nature of the below-ground deposits in and around the remains of the keep (Bassett 1982, 48-61). These revealed the presence of earthworks, made-ground and cut features relating to the construction, use and disuse of the castle keep.

- 2.4.3 A small trench excavated for a time capsule close to the museum recorded part of a vertical-sided pit or cellar sealed by chalk rubble and floor surfaces, undated, but probably medieval. These were sealed by a further chalk rubble

levelling layer containing a sherd of pottery dating to the 16th or 17th century (Andrews 1987).

- 2.4.4 To the northwest of the keep, in the rear of the plot of 54-56 Castle Street, extensive 19th century terracing of the hillslope had removed any remains that might have once been present, though slight remnants of the original topography survived in the southeast corner, behind the museum (Letch 2002).
- 2.4.5 Evaluation trenching carried out on the former chapel site on the corner of Castle Hill and Castle Street, a short distance northeast of the keep, identified the slight remains of a ditch, possibly the northern edge of the inner bailey ditch, largely removed by a post-medieval basement along the Castle Street frontage (Letch 2006).
- 2.4.6 Monitoring of foundation trenches for a house extension at 4 Castle Court, immediately northeast of the keep, recorded a probable pre-castle land-surface, or at least its subsoil, buried below c.1.2m of chalk-rich re-deposited material (Atkinson 2006). These deposits were interpreted as the mounding of excavated material around the keep presumably deriving from its associated construction works. A few small post-medieval features were also into the medieval re-deposited mound material.
- 2.4.7 More recent works have also been carried out within the inner bailey of the castle to the west of the keep. In 2009, excavation and monitoring work carried out during rebuilding of the retaining wall to the rear of 30 Castle Street revealed a series of compacted sand, flint and chalk deposits, laid upon buried medieval topsoil and interpreted as the foundations of the mid-14th century inner bailey curtain wall (Ennis 2010). The surviving foundations were sealed beneath c.1.5m of levelling deposits which had built up when the castle grounds were landscaped in the 19th century.
- 2.4.8 Also in 2009, layers of post-medieval levelling and landscaping were recorded in percolation trial pits excavated within the Saffron Walden Tennis Club grounds during preliminary works for new toilet facilities (Ennis 2011). The pits contained residual sherds of 12th and 13th/14th century pottery most

likely derived from occupation within the castle's inner bailey. Two small patches of mortared flint of possible medieval date were found in one of the test-pits. Subsequent monitoring of the drainage groundworks recorded the presence of building foundation remains of possible medieval date (ibid). An undated pit and a sequence of undated demolition or make-up deposits, including crushed limestone and plaster-like material were also noted to overlie a buried soil at a depth of c.1.5m.

2.4.9 In 2014 monitoring works were undertaken in connection with a first phase of access and improvement works. Machine ground reduction for a new cycle parking area was minimal, only removing topsoil and immediately underlying deposits which appeared to be of relatively recent date. A hand-excavated trench and excavations for various bins and noticeboard supports were however deeper, revealing several undated deposits of silt and chalk. Natural geology was not observed in any of the excavations, with deposits in the central gate pillar trench clearly extending below 1.3m in depth.

2.4.10 In 1975 what was believed to be the inner bailey ditch of the castle was observed during sewer works on the south side of the castle grounds. The inner edge of this ditch was seen 5.6m north of the boundary wall with Church Street and If this identification is correct then the ditch would run directly beneath the position of the current gateway, suggesting that many of the exposed deposits, particularly those in the deeper hand-dug trench, are likely to be upper fills or levelling deposits associated with the inner bailey ditch (ASE 2014).

3 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

3.1 Aims

3.1.1 The aim of the archaeological work will be to record, excavate, analyse and report on any archaeological remains present within areas impacted upon by groundworks, thereby preserving by record those features/deposits threatened by the proposed access improvement works.

- 3.1.2 In the event that significant discoveries are made appropriate research objectives will be identified for any post-excavation assessment and reporting work that is required, in line with those laid out in *Research and Archaeology: a Framework for the Eastern Counties, 2. research agenda and strategy* (Brown and Glazebrook 2000) and *Research and Archaeology Revisited: a revised framework for the East of England*. (Medlycott 2011).

4 METHODOLOGY

4.1 Requirements and Methods

- 4.1.1 Prior to the start of fieldwork, an OASIS online record will be started and key fields on Details, Location and Creators forms completed. A site code will be obtained for the works.

- 4.1.2 The required work consists of:

- monitoring of all groundworks that have the potential to expose, damage or destroy any archaeological remains that are present.

- 4.1.3 This will comprise monitoring of the installation of two interpretation boards and the construction of the stag beetle loggery and associated planting (see Figure 2).

4.2 Standards

- 4.2.1 Archaeology South-East (ASE) will adhere to the Chartered Institute for Archaeologist's ClfA *Code of Conduct* (2014a), the *Standard and Guidance for an archaeological watching brief* (ClfA 2014b) and the *ALGAO Standards for Field Archaeology in the East of England* (Gurney 2003) throughout the project. ASE is a Registered Organisation with the ClfA.

4.3 Archaeological monitoring

- 4.3.1 All monitoring will be undertaken by a professional archaeologist.

- 4.3.2 All deposits will be removed by the groundworks contractor to the required depth using a mechanical excavator, with an archaeologist in attendance. Where applicable, machine stripping will be carried out to ASE standards.
- 4.3.3 Spoil heaps will be rapidly examined for archaeological material.
- 4.3.4 Exposed sections/ excavation faces will be inspected and any significant remains recorded. Manual excavation and detailed recording will be undertaken where important remains (e.g. masonry walls, tile structures, recognisable archaeological features, etc.) are encountered during machining and will be restricted to the confines of the required dimensions of the extension footprint.

4.4 Recording

- 4.4.1 All archaeological features and deposits will be recorded and excavated where possible, except obviously modern features.
- 4.4.2 Standard ASE methodologies will be employed. All stratigraphy will be recorded using the ASE context recording system.
- 4.4.3 An overall plan, related to the site grid and tied in to the Ordnance Survey National Grid, will be drawn in addition to individual plans showing specific areas of archaeological interest. This will locate the site area and record the positions of any significant remains within it.
- 4.4.4 Site plans will be at 1:20 unless circumstances dictate otherwise. Plans at other scales will be drawn if appropriate. Sections will be drawn at 1:10.
- 4.4.5 Datum levels will be taken where appropriate. Sufficient levels will be taken to ensure that the relative height of the archaeological/subsoil horizon can be extrapolated across the whole of the development area.
- 4.4.6 Archaeological features and deposits will be excavated using hand tools, unless the trench/area cannot be accessed safely or unless a machine excavated trench is the only practical method of excavation. Any machine-

excavation of archaeologically-significant features will be agreed with the English Heritage monitoring officer in advance.

4.4.7 All articulated human remains, graves and cremation vessels/deposits will receive minimal excavation to define their extent and establish whether they are burials or not. Generally all graves and cremation burials will be recorded and their positions noted without full excavation, only surface cleaning. A decision would then be made on future treatment of the human remains in consultation with the client and/or their agent and the English Heritage monitoring officer, and the coroner would be informed. Graves and cremation burials would only be excavated if they have already been disturbed, or if it is decided that a small sample of the burials need be evaluated to assess their condition and preservation.

4.4.8 A photographic record will be made, comprising digital images with monochrome prints of significant features/feature groups or in situ artefacts only. The photographic record will aim to provide a representative sample of the trenches where archaeological remains have been uncovered. A representative sample of individual feature shots and sections will be taken, in addition to working shots and elements of interest (individual features and group shots). The photographic register will include: shot number, location of shot, direction of shot and a brief description of the subject photographed.

4.5 Finds/Environmental Remains

4.5.1 In general, all finds from all features will be collected. Where large quantities of 19th-20th century finds are present and the feature is not of intrinsic or group interest, a sample of the finds assemblage will normally be collected, sufficient to date and characterise the feature.

4.5.2 Finds will be identified, by context number, to a specific deposit or, in the case of topsoil finds, a specific area of the site.

4.5.3 All finds will be properly processed according to ASE guidelines and IFA *Guidelines for Finds Work*. All pottery and other finds, where appropriate, will be marked with the site code and context number.

- 4.5.4 Environmental samples will be taken from well-stratified, datable deposits that are deemed to have potential for the preservation/survival of ecofactual material. Bulk soil samples (minimum 40 litres or 50% of context) will be taken for wet sieving and flotation, and for finds recovery. Archaeology South-East's in-house environmental specialist is Karine Le Hegarat and, if necessary, the English Heritage regional scientific advisor will be consulted.
- 4.5.5 If samples are taken, a pilot study will be undertaken as an initial stage of environmental processing. This will enable an assessment of which groups of samples are likely to be most productive for complete processing and further study.
- 4.5.6 The results of any palaeoenvironmental investigation or industrial residue analysis will be included in a full report and sent to the English Heritage Regional Science Advisor.
- 4.5.7 See above and Appendix 1 for information regarding specialist consultants.

5.0 PRESENTATION OF RESULTS

5.1 Client/archive Report

- 5.1.1 The report will contain the following information:

SUMMARY: A concise non-technical summary

INTRODUCTION: General introduction to project including reasons for work and funding, planning background.

BACKGROUND: This will include geology, topography, current site usage/description, and what is known of the history and archaeology of the surrounding area.

AIMS AND OBJECTIVES: Summary of aims and objectives of the project

METHOD: Methodology used to carry out the work

FIELDWORK RESULTS: Detailed description of results. In addition to archaeological results, the depth of the archaeological horizon and/or subsoil across the site will be described. The nature, location, extent, date, significance and quality of any archaeological material will be described.

SPECIALIST REPORTS: Summary descriptions of artefactual and ecofactual remains recovered. Brief discussion of intrinsic value of assemblages and their more specific value to the site.

DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSIONS: Overview of archaeological deposits and artefacts, including details of preservation and the expected survival of deposits and structures across the site.

APPENDICES: Context descriptions, finds catalogues, contents of archive and deposition details, EHER summary sheet

FIGURES: These will include a location plan of the archaeological works in relation to the proposed development (at an Ordnance Survey scale), specific plans of areas of archaeological interest (at 1:50), a section drawing to show present ground level and depth of deposits, section drawings of relevant features (at 1:20), and photographic images if appropriate.

- 5.1.2 In addition to copies of the report supplied to the client, copies will also be supplied to English Heritage and the Essex Historic Environment Record.
- 5.1.3 Copies of the report will also be submitted to Saffron Walden Museum (as part of the project archive) if it is willing/able to accept the archive.
- 5.1.4 A form will be completed for the Online Access to Index of Archaeological Investigations (OASIS) at <http://ads.ahds.ac.uk/project/oasis/> in accordance with the guidelines provided by English Heritage and the Archaeological Data Service.

5.2 Publication

- 5.2.1 If appropriate, a publication report will be submitted to *Essex Archaeology and History* within the year of completion of fieldwork. Unless important archaeological remains are found a summary report will be submitted for publication in the annual roundup of fieldwork section.

5.3 Archive

- 5.3.1 A full archive will be prepared for all work undertaken.

- 5.3.2 Guidelines contained in the ClfA *Standard and guidance for the creation, compilation, transfer and deposition of archaeological archives* (2014c) and the requirements of Saffron Walden Museum will be followed for the preparation of the archive for museum deposition.
- 5.3.3 Finds from the archaeological recording work will be kept with the archival material.
- 5.3.4 Contact will be made with Saffron Walden Museum to discuss requirements for archive storage. Subject to agreement with the legal landowner the ASE will make arrangements with the museum for the deposition of the archive and artefact collection. The landowner will be asked to donate the finds to the local museum.

6. HEALTH AND SAFETY

6.1 General

- 6.1.1 All work will be undertaken in accordance with the Health and Safety Policy of Archaeology South-East and The Centre for Applied Archaeology (UCL). ASE will adhere to all current Health and Safety legislation.
- 6.1.2 ASE has employer's liability insurance and third party liability insurance in respect of any incident on site involving its staff.

6.2 Risk Assessment

- 6.2.1 ASE's Risk Assessment and Method Statement (RAMS) system covers most aspects of excavation work and ensures that for most sites the risks are adequately controlled. Prior to and during fieldwork sites are subject to an ongoing assessment of risk. Site-specific risk assessments are kept under review and amended whenever circumstances change which materially affect the level of risk. Where significant risks have been identified in work to be carried out by ASE a written generic assessment will be made available to those affected by the work. A copy of the Risk Assessment is kept on site.

6.3 Site risk assessment and safety measures

- 6.3.1 An initial appraisal of risk suggests that adherence to ASE's RAMS system should adequately control identified risk. Assessment of risk is an ongoing process and should circumstances demand additional risk assessments will be carried out prior to and during archaeological work.

- 6.3.2 ASE staff will liaise with the client or their agent and will follow any additional Health and Safety instructions that are given/agreed.

7 RESOURCES AND PROGRAMMING

7.1 Staffing and Equipment

- 7.1.1 The archaeological works will be undertaken by a professional team of archaeologists

- 7.1.2 The team undertaking the work will initially comprise a single project supervisor (to be appointed) and an assistant will be deployed if and when required. Further assistants will be allocated to the work should this prove necessary.

- 7.1.3 The project supervisor will be responsible for fieldwork, post-excavation and publication in liaison with the relevant specialists and under the overall direction of the designated project manager (Adrian Scruby).

- 7.1.4 Specialists who may be consulted are listed in Appendix 1.

- 7.1.5 Other specialists may be consulted if necessary. These will be made known to the monitoring office for approval prior to consultation. Similarly, any changes in the specialist list will be made known to the monitoring office for approval prior to consultation.

8 MONITORING

- 8.1 The English Heritage monitoring officer will be responsible for monitoring progress and standards throughout the project.

- 8.2 Any variations to the specification will be agreed with the English Heritage monitoring officer prior to being carried out.

- 8.3 The English Heritage monitoring officer will be kept informed of progress throughout the project, and will be contacted to inspect significant archaeological features.

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Purcell

2014

Walden Castle, Saffron Walden: Outline Masterplan

APPENDIX 1

List of Specialist Consultants

The following specialists will be consulted as appropriate:

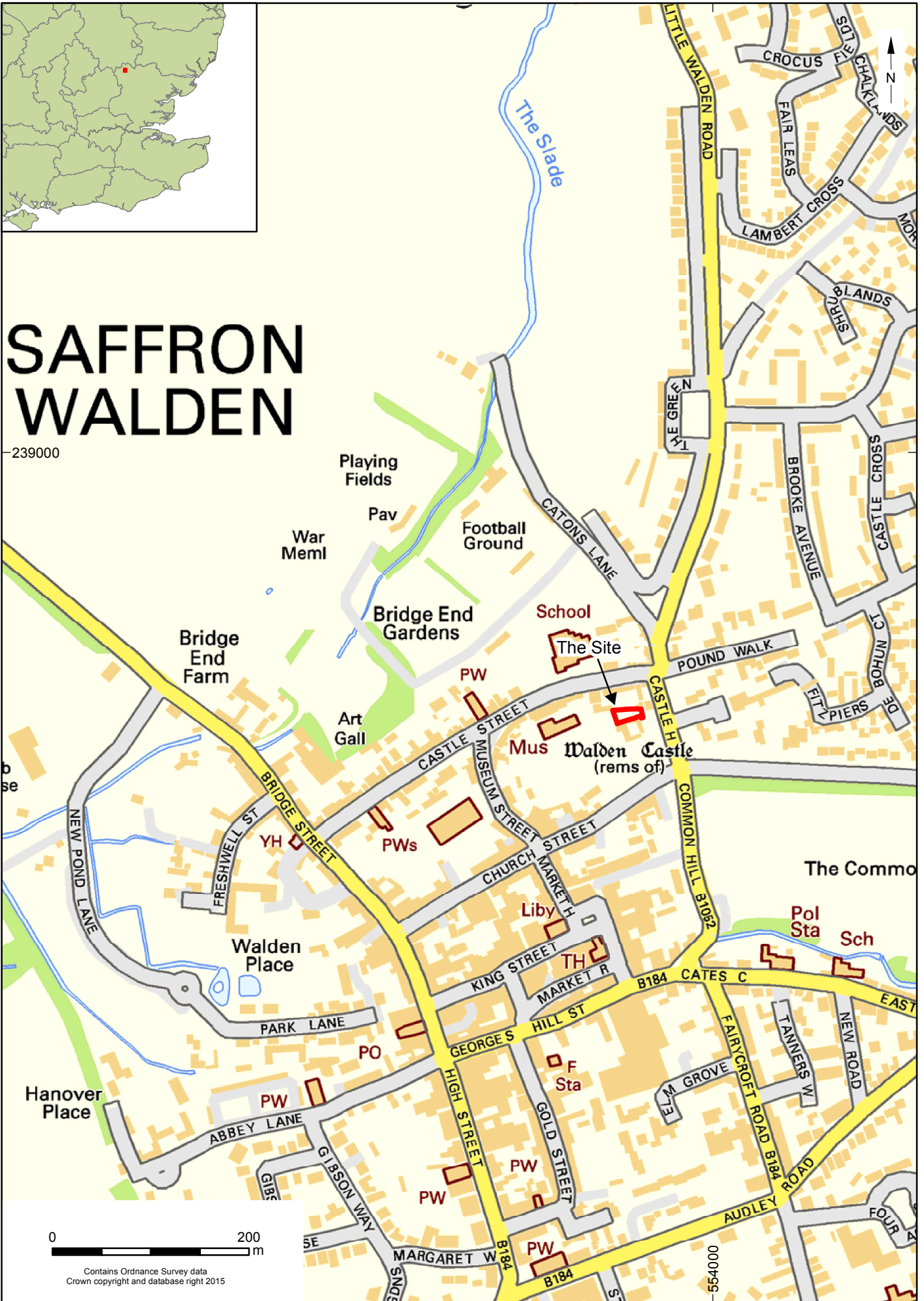
Prehistoric and Roman pottery	Louise Rayner & Anna Doherty (ASE)
Prehistoric	Nick Lavender (external: Essex region)
Post-Roman pottery	Luke Barber (external: Sussex, Kent and London)
Post-Roman pottery	Helen Walker (external: Essex region)
CBM	Sue Pringle & Luke Barber (external)
Fired Clay	Elke Raemen & Trista Clifford (ASE)
Clay Tobacco Pipe	Elke Raemen (ASE)
Glass	Elke Raemen (ASE)
Slag	Luke Barber, Lynne Keyes (external); Trista Clifford (ASE)
Metalwork	Trista Clifford (ASE)
Worked Flint	Karine Le Hégarat (ASE); Hugo Anderson-Whymark (external)
Geological material and worked stone	Luke Barber (external)
Human bone incl cremated bone	Lucy Sibun (ASE)
Animal bone incl fish	Gemma Ayton (ASE)
Marine shell	Elke Raemen (ASE); David Dunkin (external)
Registered Finds	Elke Raemen & Trista Clifford (ASE)
Coins	Trista Clifford (ASE)
Treasure administration	Trista Clifford (ASE)
Conservation and x-ray	Fishbourne Roman Villa or UCL Institute of Archaeology
Geoarchaeology	Dr Matt Pope & Liz Chambers (ASE)
Geoarchaeology (incl wetland enviro)	Kristina Krawiec (ASE)
Macro-plant remains	Dr Lucy Allott & Karine Le Hégarat (ASE)
Charcoal & Waterlogged wood	Dr Lucy Allott (ASE)

Other external specialists (regional, environmental, and scientific dating) are used dependent on needs of particular projects; details can be provided as required.



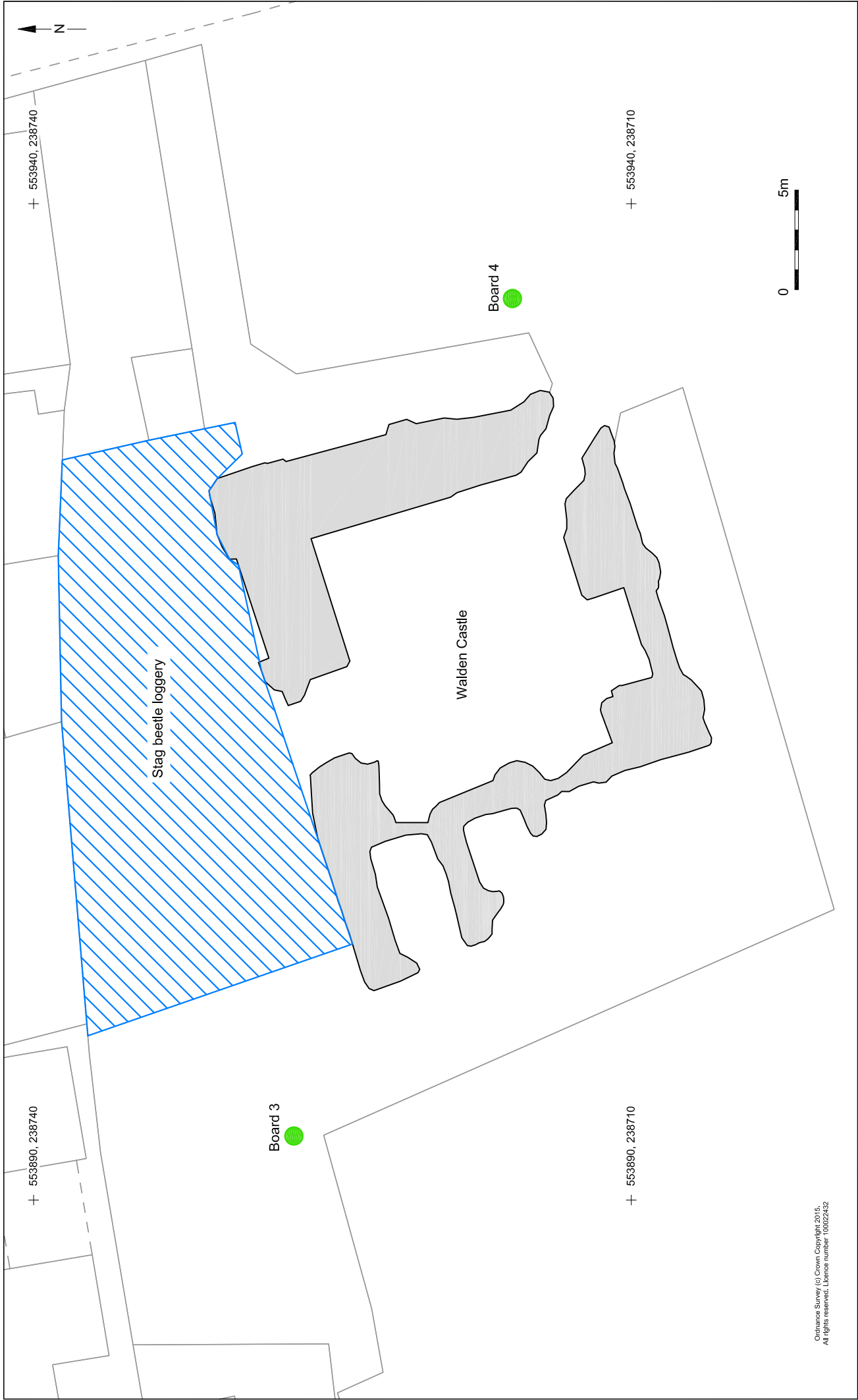
SAFFRON WALDEN

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© Archaeology South-East		Walden Castle, Saffron Walden	Fig. 1
Project Ref: 8349	Feb 2015	Site location	
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Walden Castle, Saffron Walden

Location of areas to be monitored

Fig. 2