



Pontefract Castle, Pontefract West Yorkshire

Archaeological watching brief 2015-19



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Contents

Summary	iii
Acknowledgements.....	iii
1 INTRODUCTION	1
1.1 Project background.....	1
1.2 Location, topography and geology	1
2 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND.....	2
2.1 Introduction.....	2
2.2 Anglo-Saxon (8th to 11th centuries).....	2
2.3 Medieval (11th to 17th centuries).....	2
2.4 Civil War (1642–1649)	2
2.5 Later post-medieval (17th to 19th centuries)	2
2.6 Modern (20th century onwards)	3
3 METHODS.....	3
3.1 Aims	3
3.2 Fieldwork	3
3.3 Post-excavation and reporting	4
4 THE SALLYPORT	4
4.1 Introduction.....	4
4.2 Method	5
4.3 Phase 1: Motte ditch	6
4.4 Phase 2: Stone castle	6
4.5 Phase 3: Early post-medieval and Civil War	7
4.6 Phase 4: Late 17th century to 20th century.....	7
4.7 Medieval and later pottery.....	7
4.8 Ceramic building material	10
4.9 Clay pipe.....	11
4.10 Glass	11
4.11 Stone	11
4.12 Metalwork	12
4.13 Worked bone	12
4.14 Human bone	12
4.15 Animal bone.....	12
4.16 Marine shell	13
4.17 Environmental evidence.....	14
4.18 Discussion	15
5 OTHER AREAS.....	16
5.1 Introduction.....	16
5.2 Medieval remains.....	16
5.3 Demolition (17th century).....	16
5.4 Agrarian remains (18th and 19th centuries)	16
5.5 Modern remains.....	16
5.6 Finds.....	17
6 IMPACT AND VALUE OF THE PROJECT.....	17
6.1 Key knowledge gains.....	17
6.2 Future research potential	18
6.3 Potential community and cultural gains	19
6.4 Recommendations.....	20



REFERENCES	22
APPENDICES	24
Appendix 1 Context Descriptions	24
Appendix 2 Pottery data by context.....	51
Appendix 3 Environmental data	56
Appendix 4 Copyright information	57
Appendix 4 OASIS form.....	58

List of Figures

Figure 1	Site location
Figure 2	Trench locations
Figure 3	Plan of Trench 40
Figure 4	Section showing ditch 4047 (Trench 40)

List of Plates

Cover	View of the keep, looking south-west
Plate 1	The Sallyport before excavation
Plate 2	The Sallyport following conservation and installation of the new visitor access
Plate 3	The outer entrance to the Sallyport
Plate 4	Accumulated deposits above the inner Sallyport entrance
Plate 5	Debris in the Sallyport passage viewed from the outer entrance
Plate 6	Deepest extent of excavation of ditch 4047 in Trench 40
Plate 7	The northern side of the Piper Tower, door 6506 and structure 6508
Plate 8	Wall 6510/6512 adjacent to structure 6508
Plate 9	Undated wall built onto partially filled ditch 4047
Plate 10	The 'royal apartments', looking north-east
Plate 11	The 'early chapel', looking south-east

List of Tables

Table 1	Site archive quantification (all areas and trenches)
Table 2	Ceramic building material by context
Table 3	Clay tobacco pipe by context
Table 4	Glass by context
Table 5	Stone by context
Table 6	Metalwork by context
Table 7	Worked bone by context
Table 8	Human bone by context
Table 9	Number of identified animal bones present by broad chronological period
Table 10	Number of identified animal bones present by broad chronological period
Table 11	Marine shell by context
Table 12	Overall quantification of artefacts



Summary

In 2014 Wakefield Council commenced a programme of conservation, consolidation, interpretation and landscaping works at Pontefract Castle (a scheduled ancient monument).

The castle began life in the late Saxon period as the walls of a fortified settlement. Soon after the Norman conquest of 1066 a 'motte and bailey' castle was built on the site to defend an important road and river crossing. Over subsequent centuries the castle was developed into a formidable stone fortress, becoming a royal possession in 1399. Pontefract Castle played a prominent role in the Wars of the Roses and the English Civil War, but after the end of the civil war in 1649 it was demolished, and the grounds were then used for liquorice cultivation. The castle was landscaped and opened for public access in the 1880s. The first major programme of modern excavation and conservation took place between 1982 and 1986.

To protect against the loss of archaeological information and in accordance with a condition of scheduled monument consent, Wakefield Council commissioned Wessex Archaeology to carry out a photographic survey and watching brief during the recent works. Most of the groundworks were comparatively minor and served primarily to document the extent of 18th and 19th century liquorice cultivation, but other works were of greater archaeological significance. Results included castle structures such as a previously unlocated barbican structure, but of prime importance were potentially early remains and deposits which were revealed by the excavation of a backfilled defensive ditch.

Upon completion of fieldwork in 2019, the reporting and archiving requirements in the original specification for the works (prepared in 2014) were reviewed and amended by Historic England. In response, Wessex Archaeology prepared a short 'post-excavation statement' which quantified the data collected during the watching brief and, based on Historic England requirements, the scope of further analysis and reporting.

The agreed level of finds and environmental analysis has now been completed. This report describes the most significant results from the watching brief and summarises those of lesser importance to the ongoing management of the castle site. The archive will be transferred to Wakefield Council for storage either at Pontefract Castle or one of the district's museum stores. The archive comprises excavation and post-excavation records and finds.

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Pontefract Castle, Pontefract, West Yorkshire

Archaeological watching brief 2015–19

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Project background

- 1.1.1 Pontefract Castle (NGR SE 4605 2236) is a scheduled ancient monument (no 13298) owned by the Duchy of Lancaster and in the guardianship of Wakefield Council. Wakefield Council obtained heritage lottery funding to carry out a series of improvements and repairs to the castle as part of the 'Key to the North' project.
- 1.1.2 A limited programme of archaeological work was required as a condition of Scheduled Monument Consent. Details of the requirements were set out in a specification prepared by the West Yorkshire Archaeology Advisory Service (WYAAS 2014). The work consisted of a watching brief to identify and record any archaeological remains which were revealed and/or disturbed during groundworks, plus a photographic record of the site prior to landscaping and of repaired masonry following re-pointing.
- 1.1.3 Wessex Archaeology was originally commissioned by William Anelay Ltd to carry out recording during groundworks and conservation. Following completion of fieldwork, Wessex Archaeology was commissioned by Wakefield Council to undertake consultation with Historic England and complete the required analysis and reporting.
- 1.1.4 At the start of the project it was anticipated by Wakefield Council, Historic England and the West Yorkshire Archaeology Advisory Service that the groundworks would only disturb areas of Victorian landscaping and made ground. During the work however, the extent and depth of groundworks changed in response to unforeseen circumstances and local conditions – with corresponding changes to the nature and significance of the affected archaeological remains.
- 1.1.5 Fieldwork was undertaken in accordance with the specification (WYAAS 2014) but, upon completion of fieldwork in 2019, the post-excavation requirements were reviewed by Historic England. This resulted in changes to the reporting and archiving requirements which were then agreed with Wakefield Council and Wessex Archaeology (see Section 3.3 below).

1.2 Location, topography and geology

- 1.2.1 Pontefract Castle is situated on high ground at the north-eastern edge of Pontefract town centre at NGR SE 4605 2236 (44605 42236). The modern extent of the castle is defined by North Baileygate, Spink Lane, Castle Chain and Castle Garth, but the recent works focussed on the approximately 1 ha area within the curtain wall (Figure 1).
- 1.2.2 The castle lies on a promontory rising to a maximum height of 55 m aOD on a sandstone bedrock geology mapped as Newstead Rock or Pontefract Rock (British Geological Survey online viewer).



2 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

2.1 Introduction

2.1.1 The archaeology and history of Pontefract Castle is presented in detail in Ian Roberts' 2002 publication *Pontefract Castle Archaeological Excavations 1982-86*. The summary below draws on that volume and the work specification (WYAAS 2014) to outline key events in history of the castle and its immediate vicinity.

2.2 Anglo-Saxon (8th to 11th centuries)

2.2.1 Burials dated to the 8th to 10th centuries have been excavated within the castle site, and the remains of a 7th or 8th-century church and (separate) cemetery lie just outside the castle on The Booths. Roberts (2002, 401–4) makes a convincing case for this being a royal or monastic centre during the Anglo-Saxon period, with defensive earthworks, and possibly a chapel, occupying the promontory and influencing the location of the later castle.

2.2.2 Whilst occupation has not been confirmed archaeologically, settlement at Pontefract is recorded in the 9th-century *Anglo-Saxon Chronicle*, at which time it was known as *Tanshelf*, and the Domesday survey essentially describes an established commercial settlement, which strongly indicates Anglo-Saxon origins.

2.3 Medieval (11th to 17th centuries)

2.3.1 The earliest castle was established in the years following the Norman conquest (c.1070–80; Roberts 2002, 10) and flourished first under the ownership the de Lacy family and then the House of Lancaster. By the end of the 14th century Pontefract had become the administrative centre of Lancastrian holdings that controlled much of northern England (Roberts 2002, 12–13). Throughout this period, troops were garrisoned and prisoners were held at the castle. Although typically the military would have numbered around 30 men, records show that the castle could accommodate 300 to 400 men and 600 to 800 horses if required (Roberts, 2002, 14).

2.3.2 In 1399, Richard II was deposed by Henry Bolingbroke, who had inherited the Lancastrian estates including Pontefract Castle, from his father John of Gaunt. So, when Bolingbroke was crowned Henry IV, Pontefract became a royal castle. Throughout the 15th and 16th centuries the castle was rebuilt, improved and maintained by the monarchs, including construction and stocking of an artillery house and armoury. However, it remained largely unused by the royals and without much of a military presence (Roberts 2002, 14).

2.4 Civil War (1642–1649)

2.4.1 During the English Civil War the castle became a 'symbol of Royalist resistance in the north' (Roberts 2002, 413). It housed Royalist garrisons for Charles I and withstood three sieges. The castle did not fall during the final siege of 1648–9 but was demolished by an Act of Parliament (petitioned by the town of Pontefract) in 1649. The castle buildings were systematically taken down after the lead, timber, ironwork, glass and other materials had been salvaged and sold. The castle mound was levelled and the ditch was infilled. After the interregnum, the site remained the property of the crown through the Duchy of Lancaster.

2.5 Later post-medieval (17th to 19th centuries)

2.5.1 A substantial ruin was left on the castle site and unsurprisingly the remains continued to be plundered *ad hoc* for stone and other building materials. The only part of the castle to



survive in any useable form was part of the barbican; it was used as a debtors' prison during the second half of the 17th century.

- 2.5.2 Between the demolition and 1720 the castle grounds were used for grazing and small-scale cultivation. The Pontefract Corporation then let the site for commercial liquorice growing, for which the town became famous. During this period topsoil was imported and deposited to a considerable depth over the inner and outer baileys and the keep, and the harvested liquorice root was stored in the cellars of the castle.
- 2.5.3 At the start of the 19th century during the period of management by the Pontefract Corporation part of the castle ruins was demolished by the widening of North Baileygate (Roberts 2002, 447). The castle continued to be used for the propagation of liquorice until the last quarter of the 19th century.
- 2.5.4 In the early 1880s it was proposed to open the castle ruins as a pleasure garden and park and the Duchy of Lancaster agreed to let the castle grounds to the town. The grounds were landscaped and planted (during which the earliest archaeological excavations of the castle were carried out), a museum, bandstand, and sports facilities were built, and the park opened to the public in 1884.

2.6 Modern (20th century onwards)

- 2.6.1 The castle site has remained a museum and visitor attraction under local authority guardianship. It was first listed as of national importance by English Heritage in 1957 (Scheduled Ancient Monument no 13298).
- 2.6.2 By the end of the 20th century, erosion of the castle remains by wind, rain and vegetation led to the need for significant conservation and management. Several mature trees planted in the 1880s had to be removed. Extensive archaeological excavation and recording was led by the County Archaeologist between 1982 and 1986. The excavation results and historical research allowed a broad chronology to be established for the development of the castle, resulting in the 2002 publication (Roberts 2002).

3 METHODS

3.1 Aims

- 3.1.1 The aims of the watching brief (as set out in the specification; WYAAS 2014) were to identify and record the presence/absence, extent, condition, character and date (as far as circumstances permit) of any archaeological features and deposits which were disturbed or exposed as a result of groundworks
- 3.1.2 The aims of the photographic record were less clearly defined in the specification but were understood to be to provide a general photographic survey to permit comparison of the 'before' and 'after' condition of the remains.

3.2 Fieldwork

- 3.2.1 Archaeological fieldwork was carried out in accordance with the detailed methods set out in the specification (WYAAS 2014) and the relevant standards and guidance of the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA 2014a–c).
- 3.2.2 All groundworks were initially carried out by contractors under archaeological supervision; some areas were hand-excavated but most trenches were dug using a mini mechanical excavator. If potential archaeological remains were observed, the area was hand-



excavated and recorded as necessary. The watching brief was recorded using Wessex Archaeology's *pro forma* system. Each separate area of groundworks was allocated a unique sequential 'trench number' identifier. The context-based recording system utilised trench sheets, context sheets, structure sheets and drawing sheets. A day book was also maintained.

- 3.2.3 Human remains were removed under the terms of a Licence for the Removal of Human Remains held by Wessex Archaeology (licence number 19-0058, file number OPR/072/153, dated 18 March 2019).

3.3 Post-excavation and reporting

- 3.3.1 Upon completion of fieldwork in 2019, the data collected during the watching brief were quantified (Table 1).

Table 1 Site archive quantification (all areas and trenches)

Type	Quantity
Trench records	122 sheets
Context records	237 sheets
Context registers	13 sheets
Graphics (A4 and A3)	71 sheets
Graphics registers	5 sheets
Environmental sample registers	8 sheets
Digital photographs	1716
Artefacts	253.18 kg
Soil samples	8

- 3.3.2 The reporting and archiving requirements in the original specification for the works (prepared in 2014) were reviewed by Historic England and Wessex Archaeology, superseding the requirements the 2014 specification and resulting in the identification of:

- a high priority area (The Sallyport) where the trenches revealed significant remains that require further post-excavation analysis and reporting to inform the ongoing management of the castle site; and,
- low priority areas (all other areas) where most of the trenches revealed little or no archaeology. This may have been due to the limited nature of the excavations, the presence of overburden, previous removal/truncation of archaeological deposits or a true absence of previous human activity. Information on the locations of these interventions contributes to the ongoing management of the castle site, but detailed analysis and reporting is unnecessary at this stage.

- 3.3.3 This report contains detailed analysis and reporting for the watching brief in the Sallyport area only, with the results from other areas to be summarised to a sufficient level to inform the site management plan.

4 THE SALLYPORT

4.1 Introduction

- 4.1.1 A new visitor access was created from the outside of the castle through the Sallyport passage and up a spiral staircase onto a platform. This required the removal of material



filling the passage and significant excavations into castle deposits inside the curtain wall, all of which were monitored (Plates 1 and 2).

- 4.1.2 By the end of the watching brief, 13 ‘trenches’ had been monitored in the Sallyport area, but due to the nature of the construction groundworks and watching brief some of these were small shallow interventions and some trenches overlapped previously monitored areas. Archaeological deposits and features were recovered from all these trenches, but the deepest excavations and most significant archaeological information derived from Trenches 39, 40, 65, 68, 69 and 76 (Figures 2 and 3).

4.2 Method

- 4.2.1 Although probably cleaned-out at least once over the past 40 years a large amount of debris and spoil had accumulated within the passage from the enduring (and only recently curtailed) practice of dumping all sorts of rubbish downslope towards its entrance. Working from the outer entrance (Plate 3) groundworkers cleared the passage by hand, starting with layers of debris, stone, brick and mortar rubble recorded as Trench 39.

- 4.2.2 At the other end of the passage, from the castle interior (Trench 40), excavation started with a team of groundworkers removing vegetation, turf, loose masonry and rubble from the top of the slope down towards the Sallyport entrance (Plate 4). To facilitate the subsequent excavations, a sequence of electric-belt conveyors took spoil along the length of the passage, up the external bank and along the outer slope, where it was dumped and stockpiled.

- 4.2.3 Hand excavation was only partially successful in Trench 40 and the method was revised to allow shoring and mechanical excavation to the depth required (recorded as Trench 65). As the excavation progressed, safety terraces were created to ‘step’ the trench edge. Although some sections collapsed and had to be re-cut, this allowed the sequence of deposits to be recorded in full. The deepest deposits (around 3.9m below ground level) were not accessible but were recorded in as much detail as could be achieved safely. Figure 4 is a composite of sections drawn at different stages of these excavations.

- 4.2.4 Four broad phases of stratified remains were identified:

- Phase 1: large rock-cut ditch associated with the early castle,
- Phase 2a: construction of the stone castle,
- Phase 2b: occupation of the stone castle,
- Phase 3: Civil War activity,
- Phase 4+: subsequent dumping and backfilling.

- 4.2.5 The following summary of the significant archaeological results is presented in chronological order from earliest to later. Context descriptions are tabulated in Appendix 1. Spot dates are mentioned in the text where appropriate, and the detailed finds reports are in sections 4.7–4.16 below (unstratified finds were excluded from the analysis). Not all context numbers mentioned in the text are illustrated in this report.



4.3 Phase 1: Motte ditch

- 4.3.1 The eastern end of the Sallyport passage (Plate 5) led into a void between the upper and lower fills of a large ditch (**4047**).
- 4.3.2 Once excavated, it was clear that ditch **4047** was the earliest feature in this area. It had been dug into the underlying bedrock and is estimated to have been about 13 m wide at the top and 5.7 m deep. The sides of the ditch cut were observed in section and the base was excavated at the bottom of Trench 40 (Figures 3 and 4, Plate 6).
- 4.3.3 Ditch cut **4047** pre-dated the 12th-century stone castle (see below) and therefore was probably have been associated with the early motte and bailey castle. The lowest fill reached (**4045**) contained 13th- to 15th-century pottery and was probably deposited during phase 2b described below. It is likely that the ditch had been scoured and maintained prior to the deposition of fill **4045** and that the ditch was open during the earliest phases of construction and occupation of the stone castle.

4.4 Phase 2: Stone castle

Phase 2a: Construction (12th/13th century)

- 4.4.1 The curtain wall and Gascoigne Tower were constructed across ditch **4047**. The stratigraphic sequence was evident in the bottom of Trench 40 (not illustrated) where the foundation cut (**4046**) for a buttress to support the south-east corner of the Gascoigne Tower cut through the ditch. Set onto natural bedrock, the lower courses of the buttress were very roughly dressed blocks of sandstone. The upper courses comprised large blocks of dressed sandstone, some chamfered.
- 4.4.2 The curtain wall was built directly into the ditch cut (Plate 6) and the Sallyport passage entrance was located about 4 m south of the deepest part of the ditch (Figure 3). The passage was revealed to be 7 m long (through the full width of the Curtain Wall), 1.2 m wide and up to 2.4 m in high. It comprises a barrel-vaulted ashlar passage (probably once finished in lime mortar) with a compacted earth floor. The inner (east) entrance is plain whereas the outer (west) entrance has a low-arched doorway with surviving voissior springers indicating a round arch. Each side of the outer entrance are pilaster buttresses with wide-based plinths. The floor of the Sallyport comprised compacted lime mortar (3905) and excavation within the passage ceased at this level.

Phase 2b: Occupation (12th/13th to ?15th century)

- 4.4.3 Evidence of the medieval occupation of the castle comprised a sequence of fills in ditch **4047** (Figure 4). The pottery from fills **4045**, **4054**, **4056**, **4057** provides 13th- to 15th-century spot dates. In total, a series of about ten deposits filled the bottom 1 m of the ditch during this phase; most had been tipped from the northern side of the ditch, adjacent to the Gascoigne Tower. There was no evidence of maintenance or cleaning of the ditch during this phase.

Phase 2c: Renovation (?15th to 17th century)

- 4.4.4 The excavation of Trench 65 revealed a doorway (6506) inserted into the northern side of the Piper Tower (Plate 7). Whilst the tower structure was part of the original 12th/13th century curtain wall, its stonework had been cut away to form the 1.3 m wide and 1.9 m high opening, confirming that 6506 was a later addition. The doorway was missing its lintel and had inserted reveals. At the foot of the opening was a threshold with inset mortices that may have indicated the former presence of a heavy wooden frame. The doorway had

been constructed from reclaimed stone. Doorway 6506 led into the Piper Tower from a new structure that abutted the north-eastern face of the tower.

4.4.5 Structure 6508 comprised three stone walls enclosing an area approximately 2.5 m by 2 m, apparently built directly onto deposits filling ditch **4047**. The walls survived to two to three courses high and were constructed of reclaimed sandstone and limestone of various quality; some with mason's marks. The stone flagged floor included an incised drainage channel. The wall opposite door 6506 also included an opening/entranceway. There was no indication on the masonry of the Piper Tower that structure 6508 had possessed full-height walls or a roof (Plate 7).

4.4.6 The date and phase of door 6506 and structure 6508 are uncertain. The overlying deposit (6509) was of 18th or 19th-century date on the basis of pottery. Structure 6508 clearly pre-dated a Phase 3 wall.

4.5 Phase 3: Early post-medieval and Civil War

4.5.1 A stone wall extended northward from structure 6508, again founded directly on ditch fills (Plate 8). The remains comprised the outer facing (6510) and rubble core (6512) of an approximately 2.3 m-wide defensive wall, constructed from reused blocks of sandstone and limestone. The remnants of other stone structures (6513 and 6514) appeared to be associated with the defensive wall but were not recorded in detail (Plate 9).

4.5.2 A minimum of 0.8 m thickness of deposits (**4042**, **4043**) accumulated in the upper part of ditch **4047** during the early post-medieval period, including the Civil War. These deposits produced pottery of up to 17th-century date.

4.6 Phase 4: Late 17th century to 20th century

4.6.1 From the late 17th century on, further layers of soil and stone fragments (with a total depth of around 1.5 m) were deposited in this area. In contrast to the Phase 2–3 filling of ditch **4047** (tipped from the north), deposition in Phase 4 occurred mainly from the south-west.

4.6.2 The final event of the ditch fill sequence observed in Trench 40 appears to date to the 19th century when the upper 0.8 m of ditch fills and deposits were removed by cut **4032**. This cut was then infilled with a series of thin deposits.

4.6.3 The uppermost 0.6 m of deposits in Trench 40 contained several large (2 m x 1 m x 0.7 m) blocks of masonry dumped into the void at the entrance to the Sallyport (Plate 5). These blocks comprised sandstone and limestone in a hard cement-based concrete, some capped with concrete containing gravel, and probably derive from Second World War structures.

4.7 Medieval and later pottery

Introduction

4.7.1 The pottery assemblage from the Sallyport trenches consisted of 105 sherds of pottery weighing 2026 grams and representing a maximum of 98 vessels. The data are presented in Appendix 2.

The pottery

4.7.2 The pottery assemblage was diverse consisting of medieval and post-medieval pottery contemporary with the main phase of use of the castle and a smaller quantity of later material which post-dated its demolition in the mid-17th century.



- 4.7.3 The earliest pottery in the assemblage consisted of three sherds in various earlier medieval (12th to 13th century) gritty fabrics from contexts 6907 and 6512. Yorkshire Gritty ware and related types display a considerable degree of heterogeneity in terms of their composition, presumably related to production in different potteries although this has yet to be verified by detailed investigation.
- 4.7.4 The majority of the medieval pottery in the assemblage was of later medieval (late 13th to early/mid-15th century) date and consisted of two types; Humberware and an unidentified gritty ware classified as Oxidised Gritty ware (contexts 4045, 4057, 6906 and 7604) with smaller quantities of other wares.
- 4.7.5 Humberware was an important regional ware which was manufactured at Cowick and Holme-on-Spalding Moor (Mayes and Hayfield 1980, Hayfield and Grieg 1990, Hayfield 1992, Watkins 1987) and possibly elsewhere during the later medieval period. It formed a substantial part of the pottery assemblages from previous excavations of the interior of the castle, notably pit 290 adjacent to the Constable Tower, as discussed in detail elsewhere (Cumberpatch 2002, 181-182, 198-200, 218-9). The majority of the Humberware sherds in the present assemblage were of the finer type, associated with production in and around Cowick although some sandier fabrics, similar to those from Holme-on-Spalding Moor, were also identified (as indicated in the data tables). This would seem to reflect the situation in the castle more generally. Identifiable vessel forms were limited to jugs, again similar to the evidence from elsewhere on the site.
- 4.7.6 The Oxidised Gritty ware was of an unusual type and appeared to be somewhat later in date than the earlier medieval Gritty wares noted above. The fabric was pale grey to orange in colour with a distinctive and very dense texture containing common, well-sorted quartz grains up to 1 mm in size (measured along the longest visible axis). Some sherds also contained smaller quantities of red, iron-rich grit, also found widely in the earlier Yorkshire Gritty wares. Only one rim sherd was present (context 4045) and this had a distinctive heavy, round, clubbed shape and was set on a thin-walled body. In general terms the type can probably be considered to be part of the later medieval Northern Gritty ware / Orange Gritty ware group (Cumberpatch 2002, 178) but this is a rather poorly defined type and almost certainly encompasses a variety of local and regional variations. The sherd of Purple Glazed Gritty ware from context 6505 is probably part of the same group with the purple colour of the glaze the result of slight overfiring.
- 4.7.7 Other medieval wares included unidentified types distinguished by their fabrics. Two sherds of Coarse Sandy ware from context 7604 and a sherd of Buff-Orange Coarse Sandy ware (context 4057) resembled the Oxidised Gritty wares although the inclusions were finer (up to 0.5 mm) giving a sandy rather than a gritty texture to the sherds. A sherd of Micaceous White Sandy ware (context 7604) stood out as unusual and could not be identified to a specific type. The bright white fabric contained round quartz grains up to 0.5 mm in size but the distinctive feature was the common fine muscovite visible on the surfaces. It is unlikely that this sherd was of local origin. A sherd of Reduced Gritty ware (context 4056) appeared to be of later medieval date but was not identifiable to a specific type.
- 4.7.8 Early post-medieval wares were represented by sherds of Cistercian ware (contexts 4042 and 4061) and a sherd of Purple Glazed Humberware (context 6505). The inception of the post-medieval ceramic tradition dates to the mid-15th century and is marked by the appearance of Cistercian and other black and purple glazed wares (Cumberpatch 2003; in prep). The Cistercian ware sherds in the present assemblage were both decorated, suggesting that they pre-date the Reformation as the white pipe-clay motifs seem, in

many cases, to have specifically Catholic connotations (Spavold 2009). In this case the sherd from context 4061 bore three white discs, suggested by Spavold to be representative of the Trinity (*ibid*, 43). The sherd is also of interest as it was underfired and red in colour rather than black or purple as is more usual. The rectilinear pipeclay pattern on the sherd from context 4042 does not appear to have a specific religious significance although it may be that interpretation of the meaning, perhaps rooted in folk tradition rather than explicit or orthodox theology, may have been lost.

- 4.7.9 Later post-medieval wares included Blackware, Yellow ware, Midlands Purple ware, and Redware. Midlands Purple ware is, in many ways, the utilitarian ware counterpart of the Cistercian wares and Blackwares. Its precise origin is, like that of Cistercian ware, obscure and identifying the earliest date of its occurrence has been hampered by a lack of clarity in the definition of the type. The emerging definition of the ware focusses on its very hard, dense, semi-vitrified fabric, indicative of a high-quality clay and high-temperature firing. It usually contains common to abundant quartz inclusions sometimes giving a fine pimply surface. The glaze is typically purple in colour and varies from being very thick to little more than a fumed coating, again indicative of high temperature firing. Vessel forms include jugs, cisterns and jars, the latter often with lid-seated rims. The type had a longer life than some post-medieval forms with production at Ticknall in Derbyshire continuing into the mid-18th century although it appears to have ended somewhat earlier in Wrenthorpe. Four sherds were present in the assemblage (contexts 4043, 6906 and 6305) but could not be identified to specific vessel types.
- 4.7.10 Previous excavations within the castle produced a large assemblage of Blackwares associated with the post-Civil War demolition deposits, notably those in the basement of the Constable Tower (Cumberpatch 2002, 186–7). A total of nine sherds formed part of the present assemblage, including one and possibly two from flasks or costrels (contexts 4042 and 7604), one from a large cup or tyg (context 4061) and one from a larger vessel (context 4042). Blackware vessels, particularly the cups and tygs, tend to be larger than comparable Cistercian ware vessels and it has been suggested that they were particularly popular in situations, including garrisons and other military contexts, where communal drinking was an important part of social life.
- 4.7.11 Yellow ware is in many wares the opposite of Cistercian ware and Blackware, despite being produced alongside both types, most notably at Wrenthorpe. The fabric is a pale buff to white colour and often contains sparse to moderate fine white rock fragments. The clear glaze gives a bright lemon-yellow finish and is usually applied internally and externally. Vessel forms tend to be handled jars and bowls while drinking vessels are rare. In the case of the sherds from contexts 4043, 6505 and 6512, several had lighter streaks within the body and one sherd (context 6505) also contained fine black inclusions. The sherd from context 4043 has a notably harder fabric than is usual; a later date has been suggested but this is not definite.
- 4.7.12 Redwares, as the name implies, are distinguished by their red or orange colour, enhanced by the clear glaze and sometimes by darker red slip, usually applied externally. Wide, shallow dishes or bowls are the commonest form although in this case one of the two sherds (both from context 4042) is from a hollow ware vessel of undetermined form.
- 4.7.13 Although the castle was, in large part, demolished soon after the end of the Civil War, the site remained in use for a variety of purposes until the later 19th century. Large assemblages of 19th-century pottery exist relating to its use as a public park and tea garden although these have not yet been studied or published (author's observation). A small part of the present assemblage relates to this period in the history of the site.



- 4.7.14 Eighteenth-century pottery was represented by two sherds of Late Blackware from context 4017. Late Blackware is a typological development of 17th-century Blackware and is characterised by its orange to red fabric and a distinctive pattern of glazing which differs from the all-over glaze of earlier types. It was one of the commonest of the 18th century vernacular tablewares and has been discussed in more detail elsewhere (Cumberpatch 2014).
- 4.7.15 Brown Glazed Coarseware appeared first in later 17th century contexts but became more common during the 18th and 19th centuries when it was amongst the most important of utilitarian wares manufactured in both country potteries and factories (Cumberpatch 2014). A lack of detailed study of the type means that it remains hard to date individual examples and the date ranges suggested in Appendix 2 should be considered provisional.
- 4.7.16 Context 4017 contained two sherds of utilitarian stoneware, both from bottles or flagons dating to the mid-19th to early 20th century.
- 4.7.17 Nineteenth-century tablewares were represented by a small number of sherds from contexts 4007 and 4017 while the latter also included a sherd of 19th to 20th century Bone China. Other sherds included Sponged ware and transfer printed (TP) Whiteware, all from context 4017. The transfer printed designs were too badly damaged to be identifiable.

Discussion

- 4.7.18 Although there appeared to be a certain amount of intrusion and residuality within the assemblage, this did not seem to be severe and several distinct phases of activity were visible within the assemblage as a whole.
- 4.7.19 The earliest phase consisted of contexts 4045, 4054, 4056, 4057, 4059, 6511, 6906 and 6907, all of which contained exclusively medieval pottery, including earlier medieval residual material.
- 4.7.20 The second phase, dating to the post-medieval period (including the Civil War) consisted of contexts 4042, 4043, 4061, 6512 and 6911, all of which contained pottery of up to 17th-century date, including small quantities of residual later medieval material. Context 7604 may also belong to this phase; the assemblage was largely of medieval date but included a single sherd from a Blackware bottle or costrel. This could be intrusive into an earlier context but, given the extent of activity on the site over many years, residuality is also a strong possibility.
- 4.7.21 Contexts 6505 and 6509 contained mixed assemblages which included later medieval, post-medieval and early modern pottery with the latest types being Brown Glazed Coarseware. As noted above, this is a poorly dated type but 17th-century examples tend to be much more heavily tempered than 18th- and 19th-century variants, hence the later dating of the sherds from these contexts and their ascription to a later phase of activity.
- 4.7.22 Contexts 4007 and 4017 contained assemblages consisting of recent pottery (mid-19th- to early 20th- century) with small quantities of residual medieval, post-medieval and early modern wares.

4.8 Ceramic building material

- 4.8.1 Only one piece of ceramic building material came from the Sallyport ditch (see Table 2); this is a fragment of pantile (17th-century or later).

Table 2 Ceramic building material by context

Trench	Context	Context interp	Finds Type	No.	Wt. (g)	Comments
65	6512	Structure	CBM	1	140	Pantile fragment

4.9 Clay pipe

4.9.1 All nine fragments of clay tobacco pipe recovered comprise plain stem fragments (see Table 3), which can only be broadly dated as 17th-century or later.

Table 3 Clay tobacco pipe by context

Trench	Context	Context interp	Finds Type	No.	Wt. (g)	Comments
40	4017	Layer	CLAY PIPE	3	10	Plain stem fragments
40	4003	Layer	CLAY PIPE	1	1	Plain stem fragment
65	6505	Layer	CLAY PIPE	2	10	Plain stem fragments
65	6509	Layer	CLAY PIPE	1	6	Plain stem fragment
65	6511	Layer	CLAY PIPE	2	10	Plain stem fragments
65	6512	Structure	CLAY PIPE	2	6	Plain stem fragments

4.10 Glass

4.10.1 There is one fragment of window glass and one of vessel glass (see Table 4). The window glass is almost opaque, but in relatively good condition with no lamination or surface oxidation. It is not easily datable but is probably of early post-medieval date (16th/17th century). The vessel fragment is from a clear bottle or jar dating to the 19th/20th century.

Table 4 Glass by context

Trench	Context	Context interp	Finds Type	No.	Wt. (g)	Comments
40	4042	Layer	GLASS	1	5	Window glass, almost opaque
40	4057	Fill (cut 4047)	GLASS	1	2	Bottle/jar, clear

4.11 Stone

4.11.1 There are three architectural mouldings, all in fine-grained limestone (see Table 5). All include ovolo mouldings and could belong to window mullions. There is one other stone fragment; this is also in limestone and consists of a roughly rectangular block, but with irregular surfaces and showing no tool marks. It was probably utilised as building material.

Table 5 Stone by context

Trench	Context	Context interp	Finds Type	No.	Wt. (g)	Comments
40	4004	Layer	STONE	1	4030	Limestone slab-like block (no tool marks)
65	6505	Layer	STONE	2	959	Architectural fragments; window moulding?
65	6512	Structure	STONE	1	552	Architectural fragment; window moulding?

4.12 Metalwork

- 4.12.1 There are nine metal objects, seven iron and two lead (see Table 6). The iron objects include four nails and two sheet fragments of unknown function; there is also a small fragment of irregular shape which could be part of some kind of mechanism. The lead objects comprise one sheet offcut, and a roughly discoid fragment. None of the metal objects are datable.

Table 6 Metalwork by context

Trench	Context	Context interp	Finds Type	No.	Wt. (g)	Comments
40	4017	Layer	LEAD	1	21	Roughly discoid (diam c 28mm)
65	6509	Layer	IRON	4	165	2 nails; 2 sheet fragments
68	6811	Layer	IRON	1	9	Irregular-shaped piece; poss part of mechanism?
76	7604	Fill (cut 7605)	IRON	2	105	2 nails corroded together

4.13 Worked bone

- 4.13.1 One piece of worked bone was recovered (Table 7). This is a scale plate from a scale-tang knife handle, slightly tapering with a lenticular cross-section and two rivet holes; there is no ornamentation. It is probably made from a cattle metatarsal. Scale-tang knives were introduced in the 13th or 14th century, but this handle cannot be more closely dated within the later medieval or post-medieval period.

Table 7 Worked bone by context

Trench	Context	Context interp	Finds Type	No.	Wt. (g)	Comments
65	6505	Layer	WORKED BONE	1	10	Knife handle

4.14 Human bone

- 4.14.1 One piece of human bone was recovered (Table 8), presumably redeposited from a disturbed burial; its date is unknown. This is the lumbar vertebra from an adult individual, showing a Schmorl's node (a protrusion of soft tissue from the disc into the vertebral body surface), implying stress-related trauma.

Table 8 Human bone by context

Trench	Context	Context interp	Finds Type	No.	Wt. (g)	Comments
65	6511	Layer	HUMAN BONE	1	34	Vertebra

4.15 Animal bone

- 4.15.1 A total of 369 fragments (or 8.286 kg) of animal bone came from the Sallyport ditch. The assemblage was rapidly scanned and assessed following current guidelines for best practice (Baker and Worley 2019). The bone is well-preserved but fragmented, consequently once refits are considered the total count falls to 285 fragments (Tables 9 and 10).

- 4.15.2 Animal bones came from eight medieval deposits with the largest concentrations from 6511. The identified bones are mostly from livestock, particularly cattle, but also include some fallow deer, domestic fowl, partridge and fish. The composition of the assemblage is consistent with domestic refuse from meat consumption. Most beef came from adult animals, but some veal was also eaten. The fallow deer bones are from haunches of venison, the shoulders were often gifted to hunt participants (Sykes 2007, 149)

Table 9 Number of identified animal bones present by broad chronological period

Species	Medieval	Post-medieval	Modern	Total
Cattle	22	12	30	64
Sheep/goat	10	5	13	28
Pig	6	1	12	19
Fallow deer	3	-	5	8
Roe deer	-	-	1	1
Domestic fowl	3	4	5	12
Goose	-	-	4	4
Duck	-	-	2	2
Partridge	2	-	-	2
Fish	1	-	-	1
Total identified	47	22	72	141
Total unidentifiable	52	29	63	144
Overall total	99	51	135	285

Table 10 Number of identified animal bones present by broad chronological period

Type of information	Medieval	Post-medieval	Modern	Total
Age – fusion	16	6	21	43
Age – mandible 2+ teeth	-	-	2	2
Biometric	3	2	5	10
Butchery	9	6	24	39

- 4.15.3 Four post-medieval deposits contained animal bones. Cattle bones are common, the other identified bones include sheep/goat, pig and domestic fowl. The composition of the assemblage is also consistent with dumps of domestic food refuse and includes two scapulae from a veal calf.
- 4.15.4 A relatively large number of bones came from deposits of early modern date. The assemblage is dominated by bones from livestock, particularly cattle, but also includes some fallow deer, roe deer, domestic fowl, goose and duck. The assemblage is more mixed and includes some butchery waste. The deer bones are all from haunches of venison.

4.16 Marine shell

- 4.16.1 All of the marine shell (58 fragments from 12 contexts; see Table 11) is oyster. Both right (21) and left valves (30) are present, ie both preparation and consumption waste. The shells are relatively small, and one left valve has part of another valve adhering; this suggests that the oysters came from a relatively crowded bed.

Table 11 Marine shell by context

Trench	Context	Context interp	Finds Type	No.	Wt. (g)	Comments
40	4004	Layer	SHELL	3	13	Oyster (3 R valve)
40	4017	Layer	SHELL	1	15	Oyster (L valve)
40	4042	Layer	SHELL	17	105	Oyster (13 L, 1 R valve, + frags)
40	4043	Layer	SHELL	2	9	Oyster (1 R valve + frag)
40	4045	Fill (cut 4047)	SHELL	5	23	Oyster (2 L, 1 R valve + frags)
40	4054	Fill (cut 4047)	SHELL	3	29	Oyster (3 R valve)
40	4056	Fill (cut 4047)	SHELL	5	36	Oyster (2 L, 3 R valve)
40	4057	Fill (cut 4047)	SHELL	5	55	Oyster (4 L, 1 R valve)
40	4061	Cut	SHELL	10	75	Oyster (6 L, 3 R valve + frag; 1 L valve has 2nd valve adhering)
65	6505	Layer	SHELL	4	71	Oyster (2 L, 2 R valve)
65	6509	Layer	SHELL	1	10	Oyster (1 R valve)
65	6511	Layer	SHELL	2	9	Oyster (2 R valve)

4.17 Environmental evidence

Introduction

- 4.17.1 Seven bulk sediment samples were processed for the recovery and assessment of the environmental evidence.
- 4.17.2 The purpose of this assessment is to determine the potential of the environmental remains preserved within the fills of ditch 4047 to contribute to the project aims and to provide data for wider research. The nature of this assessment follows the recommendations of Historic England (Campbell *et al.* 2011).
- 4.17.3 The size of the bulk sediment samples varied between 1 and 20 litres, and on average was around 8 litres. The samples were processed by standard flotation methods on a Siraf-type flotation tank and by bucket flotation; the flot retained on a 0.25 mm mesh, residues fractionated into 5.6 mm and 1 mm fractions. The coarse fractions (>5.6 mm) were sorted by eye and discarded. The environmental material extracted from the residues was added to the flots. The flots were scanned using a stereo incident light microscopy (Leica MS5 microscope) at magnifications of up to x40 for the identification of environmental remains. Different bioturbation indicators were considered, including the percentage of roots, the abundance of modern seeds and the presence of mycorrhizal fungi sclerotia (eg *Cenococcum geophilum*) and animal remains, such as burrowing snails (*Cecilioides acicula*), or earthworm eggs and insects, which would not be preserved unless anoxic conditions prevailed on site. The preservation and nature of the charred plant and wood charcoal remains, as well as the presence of other environmental remains such as terrestrial and aquatic molluscs, animal bone and insects (in cases of anoxic conditions for their preservation), was recorded. Preliminary identifications of dominant or important taxa are noted below, following the nomenclature of Stace (1997) for wild plants, and traditional nomenclature, as provided by Zohary and Hopf (2000), for cereals. Abundance of remains is qualitatively quantified (A*** = exceptional, A** = 100+, A* = 30-99, A = >10, B = 9-5, C = <5) as an estimation of the minimum number of individuals and not the number of remains per taxa.

Results

- 4.17.4 The flots from the bulk sediment samples range from 6 ml to 650 ml in volume (Appendix 3). There are variable quantities of roots and modern seeds that may indicate some stratigraphic movement and the possibility of contamination by later intrusive elements.
- 4.17.5 The charred material displays varying degrees of preservation. Wood charcoal was noted in proportionally large quantities to the flot volumes, except for two (deposits 7601 and 7607), and is from mature and round wood. Remains of terrestrial and marine molluscs, fish and small animal bones are also present. No other environmental evidence is preserved in the bulk sediment samples.
- 4.17.6 Three samples contain a small number of charred cereal remains (deposits 4007, 7601 and 7607). The cereal (Triticeae) taxa comprise an indeterminate culm and grains of *Triticum* sp. (wheat), including *T. aestivum/turgidum* (bread/rivet wheat), and cf. *Hordeum vulgare* (barley). One sample (deposit 4014) contains the wild taxon *Rumex* sp. (dock/sorrel) and a seed of indeterminate taxon.

4.18 Discussion

- 4.18.1 The Phase 1 remains support the location and size of the motte ditch proposed by Roberts (2002, 402, fig. 161, phase 2) and no evidence was found to contradict the suggested 11th/12th-century date for its construction.
- 4.18.2 Unfortunately, the pottery recovered from the lowest observed fill of the defensive ditch post-dated the construction of the curtain wall and Sallyport in the 12th/13th century (Roberts 2002, 402, fig. 161, phase 3). Any primary fills of the early motte ditch remain undiscovered if they do survive.
- 4.18.3 After the curtain wall, Sallyport, Gascoigne Tower and Piper Tower were built during Phase 2 the earlier defensive ditch seems to have been allowed to fill gradually. This part of the castle may not have been a priority at this time; the reorganisation and refortification of the 14th and 15th centuries was focussed on the opposite (north-eastern) side of the castle (Roberts 2002, 406-8). By the end of the 16th century, the ditch fills were around 1 m deep but presumably access to the Sallyport was retained.
- 4.18.4 The low-walled stone-floored structure abutting the Piper Tower, and the doorway inserted into the tower may have been constructed at the end of Phase 2 after the ditch had partially infilled, or during the Civil War in Phase 3.
- 4.18.5 Towards the end of 1644 the Civil War caused the access to the Sallyport to be sealed and the 'Sallyport hollow' was filled (Roberts 2002, 414). This low-lying area was a weak point in the castle defences and was targeted by Parliamentarians during the first siege in 1645. The Phase 3 stone wall recorded in Trench 65 may have been constructed at this time or possibly after the Piper Tower fell to heavy bombardment in early 1645.
- 4.18.6 At the time of the third siege in 1648 the desperate garrison may have made efforts to secure an escape route through the Sallyport by re-excavating the end of the ditch. This would explain the subsequent filling with collapsed masonry and rubble following the demolition of 1649 and from that point on it again slowly filled with rubbish.
- 4.18.7 The rate of backfilling may have increased in the early to mid-18th century when vast amounts of topsoil were imported for liquorice cultivation, but it was the Victorian conversion of the castle grounds into a pleasure park that caused visible changes, with a new cut into the upper ditch fills, possibly for landscaping. The practice of using the end of



the ditch and the Sallyport as a dumping ground continued to the end of the 20th century when local authority gardeners were still disposing of grass cuttings there (Ian Downes pers. comm.).

5 OTHER AREAS

5.1 Introduction

5.1.1 Across the rest of the site the groundworks did not reveal archaeological remains of note, based on current knowledge of the castle. For example, the presence of made ground and buried cultivated soils is to be expected given that large quantities of soil were imported into the site in the 18th century for liquorice growing (see section 2.5 above).

5.1.2 Observations are summarised below, grouped by the types of deposits encountered. Further details including context descriptions and trench dimensions are included in Appendix 1.

5.2 Medieval remains

5.2.1 A few trenches revealed medieval structural remains relating to above-ground structures adjacent to the trench or surviving nearby.

5.2.2 Probably medieval stonework was exposed in Trenches 10, 13, 20, 21, 24, 28, 29, 31, 32, 33, 34, 35, 36, 37, 43, 45, 46, 49, 50, 52, 55, 56, 63, 64, 68, 82 and 92.

5.2.3 Possible medieval ditches were revealed in Trenches 15, 25 and 27.

5.3 Demolition (17th century)

5.3.1 The buildings at the northern edge of the castle were developed as an integral set of 'royal apartments' in the 14th century (Roberts 2002, 59) and include the Great Hall, the King's Tower and the Queen's Tower (Figure 2, Plate 10). In this part of the site, the watching brief monitored groundworks in Trenches 41, 42, 55, 61 and 62.

5.3.2 The soil forming the castle grounds around the royal apartments was thought to comprise redeposited material (spoil) from late 19th-century antiquarian excavations of the 'Early Chapel' (Plate 11). Some of the trenches excavated during the watching brief, however, contained demolition deposits dating to the immediate aftermath of the Civil War, overlain only by topsoil.

5.3.3 All the artefacts recovered from this area were unstratified. The assemblage was dominated by animal bone, pottery, shell, glass and stone. The 56 pieces of worked stone were of particular note as these un-weathered fragments of masonry could derive from the internal walls of the Royal Apartments.

5.4 Agrarian remains (18th and 19th centuries)

5.4.1 Rich dark soil indicative of 18th/19th-century liquorice cultivation was recorded in Trenches 1, 2, 3, 4, 6, 7, 8, 9, 12, 14, 26, 46, 48 and 54.

5.5 Modern remains

5.5.1 A previously unknown blocked archway at the base of the King's Tower was observed in Trench 61. It is likely to have been built in the late 19th century during the development of the site as a park, possibly to consolidate the foundations of the King's Tower.



5.5.2 The following trenches revealed only topsoil, subsoil and/or other modern remains: Trenches 5, 7, 11, 14, 16, 17, 18, 19, 22, 23, 30, 38, 44, 47, 53, 57, 59, 60, 66, 67, 70, 71, 72, 73, 74, 81, 84, 86, 87, 88, 89, 90, 91, 93 and 94.

5.6 Finds

5.6.1 Following discussion with Historic England, artefacts from low priority areas have not been formally assessed. Table 12 below gives a total quantification of the finds and the proportion that have been described above.

Table 12 Overall quantification of artefacts

Material Type	Total Count	Total Weight (g)	Assessed Count	Assessed Weight (g)	Proportion Assessed (Count)	Proportion Assessed (Weight in g)
Animal bone	3817	65396	285	Not recorded	7.47	
Cement	1	2				
Ceramic building material	255	17497	1	140	0.39	0.80
Clay pipe	673	1977	11	43		
Copper alloy	3	22				
Glass	218	6513	2	7	0.92	0.11
Human bone	1	34	1	34	100.00	100.00
Iron	88	33663	7	279	7.95	0.83
Lead	25	816	1	21	4.00	2.57
Leather	127	10100				
Mineral aggregates	9	12				
Misc. Metal	18	440				
Mortar	6	145				
Other metal	4	43				
Pottery	4249	108182				
Shell	334	2301	58	450	17.37	19.56
Slag	81	5203				
Stone	186	111566	4	5541	2.15	4.97
Wall plaster	13	56				
Wood	3	7				
Worked bone	3	38	1	10	33.33	26.32
Total	10114	364013	371	11407.85	3.67	3.13

Note: the weight of the assessed animal bone was not recorded. For the totals it has been assumed that the proportion of the count of animal bone assessed was the same as the proportion of the weight of animal bone assessed.

6 IMPACT AND VALUE OF THE PROJECT

6.1 Key knowledge gains

6.1.1 Whilst many of the interventions produced little or no archaeological remains, significant information was collected from several areas, most notably the excavation and recording of a section through the ditch of the Norman earthwork castle (Trenches 39, 40, 65 and



69). Remarkably, the long sequence of ditch fills has revealed the impact of key events in the castle's history, on this very small part of the site, over a period of some 800 years.

- 6.1.2 Although not described in detail in the main body of this report, two interventions adjacent to the Gatehouse Tower (Trenches 21 and 28) revealed limestone structures beneath just turf and topsoil. Whilst it was anticipated that stonework would be uncovered, the extent was unexpected. This indicated that the main tower and the curved walls of its buttresses were of the same broad phase, i.e. that the buttresses were medieval and not Victorian additions.
- 6.1.3 Demolition deposits from the immediate aftermath of the Civil War survive in the areas around the royal apartments (Trenches 41, 42, 55, 61 and 62) and may include masonry from medieval internal walls.
- 6.1.4 Whilst it was known that the castle grounds were used for liquorice cultivation from the early 18th century until the late 19th century, it is now evident that it extended beyond the boundary wall on Castle Chain into the outer bailey (Trenches 4, 8 and 9). Cultivation was therefore spread over all areas of the castle except the steep slopes along the north and west sides of the curtain walls. In turn this suggests that the wall along Castle Garth was constructed in the 19th century period, possibly at the same time as the barn.

6.2 Future research potential

Site records

- 6.2.1 The site records created during the watching brief offer little potential for further research. Detailed recording, to normal excavation standards, was limited by site conditions such as lack of archaeological control of the excavations, safe access to trenches, and the size and depth of the interventions.

Pottery

- 6.2.2 Examination of the assemblage from ditch 4047 has demonstrated that although there is a certain amount of intrusion and residuality, this has not significantly impacted on the ceramic sequence, and several distinct phases of activity could be identified, of which the earliest is medieval.
- 6.2.3 The pottery has already been recorded to an appropriate archive level and no further analysis is therefore necessary, but the assemblage is of interest not just to the history of Pontefract Castle, but also as an addition to the much larger archive of pottery from the castle which provides a valuable insight into the medieval and post-medieval ceramic sequence of the region.
- 6.2.4 In addition to forming part of the much larger archive of pottery from the site of Pontefract Castle, the assemblage includes examples of a hitherto rarely recognised type of later medieval pottery. For these reasons, the assemblage should be deposited in the appropriate local museum or finds depository where it will be available for further research in the future. It should not be dispersed, downsized, sampled or otherwise reduced and is unsuitable for use as a teaching collection

Other finds

- 6.2.5 The quantity of detailed information available from the faunal assemblage limits its research potential, and no further analysis is recommended on this group alone.

- 6.2.6 There is little amongst the other miscellaneous finds that can be used to augment our knowledge of the castle. All these material types occurred in minimal quantities. Structural evidence is confined to three pieces of building stone, of which two architectural mouldings could be of medieval date, one piece of post-medieval window glass and one piece of post-medieval ceramic roof tile. Some of the metalwork (nails, lead sheet) could also be of structural function, but are undatable.
- 6.2.7 The remaining few objects consist of domestic refuse and have no further research potential: a fragment of 19th-/20th-century vessel glass, clay pipe stems (17th-century or later, none closely datable), oyster shell representing both preparation and consumption waste, but occurring in insufficient quantities to support any statistical analysis.
- 6.2.8 These artefacts have more limited research potential than the pottery and may not warrant retention for long-term curation. These include the animal bone, clay pipe stems, modern vessel glass, modern or undiagnostic metalwork and marine shell (the human bone should be retained). Nevertheless, these finds should not be considered in isolation, but any selection strategy should relate to the global assemblage from the castle.

Environmental remains

- 6.2.9 The small number of charred plant remains provide limited information about processing activities. Similar poor results on the botanical evidence were also found during a previous assessment of environmental remains at Pontefract Castle (Bastow 2002).
- 6.2.10 The moderate amounts of wood charcoal recovered could be analysed further with respect to the composition of the local woodland via the remains of its exploitation practices, but some information exists already (Bastow 2002) and the assemblage has low potential for providing additional data. Besides, the lack of association between the assemblage and any particular activities would not allow for informing on functional selection practices and would therefore be of little value.
- 6.2.11 Fish and small animal bones from three of the environmental samples (deposits 4005, 7602 and 7607) have the potential to provide more information about the exploitation of these resources. Therefore, further analysis of these is recommended as it could be compared with data obtained from the previous study of fish bones from the site (Nicholson 2002). The mollusc assemblages have little potential and require no further analysis.

6.3 Potential community and cultural gains

- 6.3.1 The results and finds from the watching brief provide potential for community and visitor activities at Pontefract Castle.

Excavation of the motte ditch

- 6.3.2 The absence of pre-12/13th century primary fills during the watching brief, suggests that the motte ditch was completely cleaned out prior to the construction of the stone curtain wall. This leaves key questions about the development of the castle unanswered:
- What was the date of construction of the early Norman earthwork castle, and what were the local trade, economy, consumption and environmental conditions at the time?



6.3.3 Further investigation of the ditch is warranted but proposals for future excavations should target parts of the ditch furthest away from stone structures. This should maximise the potential for recording and dating primary fills contemporary with the earthwork castle.

6.3.4 All of the tasks involved in excavation could be carried out by volunteers but the project should be designed and supervised by professional archaeologists to ensure that the data can be compared to those from previous excavations, the specific research aims are addressed and the results disseminated.

Test pits

6.3.5 The watching brief has recorded a number of locations around the castle grounds where small excavations could now be carried out without impacting significant archaeological remains (see 5.4 and 5.5 above).

6.3.6 Similarly, locations have also been identified where fairly robust structural remains can expect to be encountered (see 5.2 above), or where demolition debris containing unstratified artefacts is anticipated (see 5.3 above).

Unstratified finds

6.3.7 All finds recovered during the watching brief have been washed, bagged, packed appropriately, and recorded on Wessex Archaeology's finds database but only the stratified finds from the Sallyport area have been assessed by specialists. Remaining tasks/activities on the unstratified finds could include:

- Finds marking (note: pottery marking should be supervised)
- Finds drawing and photography

Stratified finds

6.3.8 Remaining tasks/activities on the stratified finds could include:

- Finds marking (note: pottery marking should be supervised)
- Finds drawing and photography
- Recording masonry fragments from the royal apartments to identify stones with potentially informative/diagnostic markings for retention

Finds for discard

6.3.9 Finds which do not warrant retention could be used for art projects or handling collections within the visitor centre.

6.4 Recommendations

Further work

6.4.1 No further archaeological assessment or analysis is recommended at this stage. Analysis of the complete stratified and unstratified pottery assemblages could advance regional pottery studies but would not significantly enhance interpretation of the features and deposits encountered during the watching brief.

Archive storage

6.4.2 The finds specialists have provided material-specific advice about retention and discard.



- 6.4.3 The pottery assemblage from the Sallyport should be retained in its entirety – including the unstratified, unassessed material. Pottery from the rest of the trenches, including unstratified assemblages, should be retained for future analysis.
- 6.4.4 Other finds may be suitable for discard or handling collections. In accordance with national guidelines on selection and retention (SMA 1993; Brown 2011, section 4), and any specific guidance prepared by Wakefield Museums, the process of selection and retention should ensure that only those artefacts or ecofacts that are considered to have potential for future study will be retained. The selection policy should be agreed with the museum and fully documented in the project archive.
- 6.4.5 The archive, including paper records, graphics, artefacts, ecofacts and digital data, will be checked and ordered by Wessex Archaeology and transferred to Wakefield Council for storage with Wakefield Museums or at Pontefract Castle. Responsibility for landowner consent and other museum requirements lies with Wakefield Council.

OASIS record

- 6.4.6 An OASIS online record (<http://oasis.ac.uk/pages/wiki/Main>) has been initiated. It will be finalised by Wessex Archaeology and a .pdf version of this final report submitted. Subject to any contractual requirements on confidentiality, copies of the OASIS record will be integrated into the relevant local and national records and published through the Archaeology Data Service ArchSearch catalogue.



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APPENDICES

Appendix 1 Context Descriptions

Trench 1–3	Trench dimensions: L: 1.5 m, W: 0.6 m, D: 2.1 m		
Context	Type	Description	Depth (m)
100	Topsoil	Brown/black silty clay. Modern.	0.00–0.75
101	Subsoil	Brown/black and orange/brown silty clay.	0.75–2.10

Trench 4	Trench dimensions: L: 1.5 m, W: 2.0 m, D: 1.5 m		
Context	Type	Description	Depth (m)
102	Made ground	Orange/brown mixed sand, gravel and silty soil.	0.00–1.50

Trench 5	Trench dimensions: L: 32.0 m, W: 10.0 m, D: 0.1 m		
Context	Type	Description	Depth (m)
100	Topsoil	Brown/black silty clay. Post-medieval and modern finds.	0.00–0.10+

Trench 6	Trench dimensions: L: 1.5 m, W: 2.0 m, D: 1.5 m		
Context	Type	Description	Depth (m)
100	Topsoil	Brown/black silty clay. Post-medieval and modern finds.	0.00–0.55

Trench 7	Trench dimensions: L: 0.25 m, W: 0.25 m, D: 0.5 m		
Context	Type	Description	Depth (m)
103	Made ground	Black/grey gravel crush hardcore.	0.00–0.10
104	Topsoil	Black/brown silty clay. Liquorice soil?	0.10–0.40
105	Made ground	Mixed rubble with CBM, stones and gravel.	1.10–0.50

Trench 8	Trench dimensions: L: 0.25 m, W: 0.25 m, D: 0.5 m		
Context	Type	Description	Depth (m)
106	Structure	Black/grey layer of tarmac.	0.00–0.15
107	Structure	Red machine made brick path.	0.15–0.25
108	Buried soil	Orange/brown sandy silt. Post-medieval and modern finds	0.25–0.50
109	Buried soil	Black/brown silty sandy clay.	0.25–0.35
110	Made ground	Red rubble material in black silty sandy clay.	0.15–0.25
111	Topsoil	Black/brown sandy clay with pot and CBM. 'Liquorice' soil?	0.15–0.50
112	Structure	Red machine made brick path. Same as (107)?	0.15–0.50
113	Buried soil	Orange/brown silty sandy clay. Same as (108)?	0.25–0.50
114	Layer	Orange/brown sandy silty clay. Garden soil/ 'Liquorice' soil?	0.25–0.50



Trench 9		Trench dimensions: L: 40 m, W: 0.3 m, D: 0.7 m	
Context	Type	Description	Depth (m)
901	Structure	Path surface. Grey grit with frequent small angular stones.	0.00–0.16
902	Layer	Backfill/levelling layer. Dirty orange clay with angular stone.	0.16–0.30
903	Subsoil	Greyish brown clayey sand. Post-medieval pottery.	0.16–0.30+
904	Layer	Levelling layer. Builder's sand.	0.16–0.20
905	Layer	Levelling layer. Clinker.	0.16–0.21
906	Subsoil	Grey silty sand.	0.00–0.25
907	Layer	Brown/black silty clay. Butchered bone, pottery and clay pipe.	0.00–0.70+

Trench 10		Trench dimensions: L: 20 m, W: 1.2 m, D: 2.5 m	
Context	Type	Description	Depth (m)
1001	Topsoil	Same as (100) in Trenches 1–3.	0.00–0.75
1002	Subsoil	Same as (101) in Trenches 1–3.	0.75–2.00
1003	Subsoil	Mid grey/brown silty clay.	2.00–2.50+
1004	Structure	Wall between Middle Barbican and Castle Garth.	2.50+

Trench 11		Trench dimensions: L: 15 m, W: 0.25 m, D: 1.2 m	
Context	Type	Description	Depth (m)
1101	Topsoil	Black/brown loose sandy clay.	0.00–0.40
1102	Subsoil	Orange/brown silty clay.	0.40–0.75
1103	Layer	Thick orange/yellow clay and sand mix.	0.75–1.10
1104	Buried soil	Orange/brown silty sand.	1.10+

Trench 12		Trench dimensions: L: 1.5 m, W: 0.5 m, D: 1.2 m	
Context	Type	Description	Depth (m)
1201	Topsoil	Brown/black silty clay.	0.00–0.70
1202	Subsoil	Brown/black and orange brown silty clay.	0.70–2.20

Trench 13		Trench dimensions: L: 15 m, W: 0.25 m, D: 1.2 m	
Context	Type	Description	Depth (m)
1301	Topsoil	Grey silty sand.	0.00–0.40
1302	Subsoil	Yellowish brown silty sand.	0.40–1.70
1303	Made ground	Grey sandy clay.	1.70+
1304	Structure	Stone wall running from Castle Garth to the barn.	0.00–1.60



Trench 14		Trench dimensions: L: 15 m, W: 0.25 m, D: 1.2 m	
Context	Type	Description	Depth (m)
1401	Topsoil	Brown/black silty clay.	0.00–0.60

Trench 15		Trench dimensions: L: 14 m, W: 2.0 m, D: 2.35 m	
Context	Type	Description	Depth (m)
1501	Structure	Modern/very recent gravel surface.	0.00–0.10
1502	Topsoil	Brown/black silty clay.	0.10–0.70
1503	Subsoil	Possibly Victorian. Brown silty sand and stone blocks	0.70–2.00
1504	Subsoil	Brown silty sand. Trench too deep to investigate.	2.00–2.35+
1505	Structure	Modern brick with mortar and gravel.	0.60–0.90
1506	Cut	Possible edge of ditch. Filled with 1509.	?
1507	Fill	Fill of 1506. Orange brown silty sand.	?

Trench 16		Trench dimensions: L: 35 m, W: 6 m, D: 1.4 m	
Context	Type	Description	Depth (m)
1601	Structure	Floor surface. Laid brick floor in barn.	0.00–0.16
1602	Made ground	Reddish/brown silty clay with patches of topsoil.	0.16–1.10+
1603	Structure	Wall foundation. Sandstone, three courses.	0.10–1.40
1604	Subsoil	Reddish/brown silty clay.	-
1605	Structure	Padstone for Post 3.	-
1606	Structure	Padstone for Post 4.	-
1607	Structure	Padstone for Post 5.	-
1608	Structure	Padstone for Post 6.	-
1609	Structure	Wall. Six courses of modern brick wall. Header and stretcher bond with a hard cement mortar.	0.10–0.60

Trench 17		Trench dimensions: L: 0.30 m, W: 0.30 m, D: 0.08 m	
Context	Type	Description	Depth (m)
1701	Topsoil	De-turfed blackish brown peaty soil.	0.00–0.08

Trench 18		Trench dimensions: L: 0.40 m, W: 0.30 m, D: 0.10 m	
Context	Type	Description	Depth (m)
1801	Topsoil	Series of 8 holes for scaffold pads. Blackish-brown loamy soil.	0.00–0.10



Trench 19	Trench dimensions: L: 13 m, W: 6 m, D: 0.6 m		
Context	Type	Description	Depth (m)
1900	Topsoil	Dark brown sandy loam.	0.00–0.60
1901	Layer	Rubble spread. Yellowish brown sand with broken sandstone and CBM.	0.00–0.60
1902	Structure	Circular well/cistern. Barrel lined?	0.60–1.48
1903	Structure	Stone wall. Dressed yellow limestone with some rubble.	0.20–0.60+
1904	Structure	Stone wall. Dressed limestone and limestone and sandstone rubble. House foundations.	0.20–0.60+
1905	Structure	Brick wall. Outbuilding foundations.	0.60–0.65+
1906	Layer	Reddish-brown sandy silt. Landslip material.	0.60–2.00+
1907	Layer	Brownish black gritty sand and CBM.	0.00–0.60
1908	Structure	Stone wall. Faced limestone with some limestone and sandstone rubble. House foundations.	0.20–0.60+
1909	Structure	Stone wall. Sandstone with some limestone and sandstone rubble. House foundations.	0.20–0.60
1910	Fill	Fill of cellar. Brownish-pink sandy loam with CBM.	0.00–0.60+
1911	Structure	Stone wall. Faced sandstone. Lime mortar bond.	0.25–0.65+
1912	Structure	Stone wall. Limestone with some sandstone, lime mortar bond.	0.20–60+
1913	Topsoil	Brown to black humic sandy loam with CBM.	0.00–0.45
1914	Subsoil	Dark brown compact sandy loam with CBM.	0.45–0.70
1915	Layer	Reddish brown loamy sand with sandstone/limestone fragments.	0.70–1.10
1916	Layer	Reddish brown loamy sand with sandstone fragments.	1.00–1.40
1917	Layer	Reddish-brown sand and fragmented stone.	1.40–1.65
1918	Layer	Reddish brown sand with stone and mortar fragments.	1.65–2.00+
1919	Structure	Stone wall. Mixed roughly-dressed limestone and sandstone.	0.20–0.60+
1920	Structure	Stone wall. Rough blocks of sandstone and limestone.	0.20–0.60
1921	Structure	Stone and brick wall. Brick sits over stone.	0.10–0.85
1922	Structure	Brick surface. Area of laid brick. External.	0.30–0.42

Trench 20	Trench dimensions: L: 75 m, W: 0.50 m, D: 0.30 m		
Context	Type	Description	Depth (m)
2001	Topsoil	Turf. Brown silty sand.	0.00–0.10
2002	Topsoil	Dark brown sandy loam.	0.10–0.25
2003	Subsoil	Pinkish sand with grey patches. Compact.	0.25–0.30
2004	Structure	Platform wall. Mainly sandstone with some limestone.	-



Trench 21	Trench dimensions: L: 10+ m, W: 0.1.40 m, D: 0.70 m		
Context	Type	Description	Depth (m)
2101	Topsoil	Brownish black sandy loam.	0.00–0.35
2102	Structure	Stone wall. Weathered sandstone ashlar and lime mortar.	0.35–0.50+
2103	Structure	Stone wall. Weathered sandstone ashlar with lime mortar. Part of a buttress.	0.35–0.60+
2104	Structure	Stone wall. Limestone rubble core work.	0.45–0.70+

Trench 22	Trench dimensions: L: 0.40 m, W: 0.30 m, D: 0.05–0.08 m		
Context	Type	Description	Depth (m)
2201	Topsoil	12 small interventions for scaffold pads. Dark brown sandy loam.	0.00–0.08

Trench 23	Trench dimensions: L: 0.40 m, W: 0.30 m, D: 0.10 m		
Context	Type	Description	Depth (m)
2202	Topsoil	6 small interventions for scaffold pads. Dark brown sandy loam.	0.00–0.10

Trench 24	Trench dimensions: L: 2.10 m, W: 0.5+ m, D: 2.50 m		
Context	Type	Description	Depth (m)
2401	Structure	Reclaimed sandstone blocks and rubble in hard cement-based mortar. Very occasional limestone.	0.00–0.15
2402	Structure	Medieval core work. Sandstone rubble in lime mortar.	0.15–0.50+

Trench 25	Trench dimensions: L: 30+ m, W: 0.40 m, D: 0.75+ m		
Context	Type	Description	Depth (m)
2501	Layer	Black gritty Tarmac. Cut for cable trench.	0.00–0.05
2502	Structure	Cobbled surface.	0.05–0.20
2503	Made ground	Pale yellow rubble and sand.	0.20–0.30
2504	Layer	Reddish brown compact clay and sand.	0.30–0.75
2505	Layer	Natural sandstone bedrock	0.75+
2506	Layer	Thin orange/red sand.	0.20–0.30
2507	Cut	Ditch cut. Medieval.	-
2508	Fill	Ditch fill. Brown/grey sandy loam with rubble.	0.20–0.75+



Trench 26		Trench dimensions: L: 30+ m, W: 0.65 m, D: 0.80 m	
Context	Type	Description	Depth (m)
2601	Surface	Blackish brown mix of broken tarmac, gravel and stone.	0.00–0.12
2602	Layer	Recent consolidation. Yellow and pinkish brown sandstone and limestone.	0.12–0.35
2603	Buried soil	Brown soft humic sandy loam. Liquorice soil.	0.35–0.80+

Trench 27		Trench dimensions: L: 22 m, W: 0.38 m, D: 0.65 m	
Context	Type	Description	Depth (m)
2701	Layer	Black tarmac.	0.00–0.05
2702	Layer	Loose mid-light brown gritty loam. Substrate.	0.05–0.22
2703	Cut	Medieval defensive ditch.	0.22
2704	Fill	Ditch fill. Loose sandy loam and stone.	0.22–0.65+

Trench 28		Trench dimensions: L: 10+ m, W: 0.50 m, D: 0.60–1.10 m	
Context	Type	Description	Depth (m)
2801	Structure	Gatehouse Tower. Faced medieval wall. Blocks of sandstone.	0.30
2802	Topsoil	Brown humic silty sand.	0.00–0.30+
2803	Structure	Medieval wall. Repaired c.1880s. Large blocks of stone with lime mortar and later cement based pointing.	0.35
2804	Structure	Limestone wall core. Medieval.	0.30
2805	Structure	Medieval wall/buttress. Sandstone ashlar.	0.30

Trench 29		Trench dimensions: L: 15+ m, W: 0.50 m, D: 0.40 m	
Context	Type	Description	Depth (m)
2901	Topsoil	Topsoil. Brown sandy loam with stone fragments.	0.00–0.15
2902	Structure	Sandstone wall. Victorian.	0.00–0.25+
2903	Structure	Face of medieval curtain wall. Blocks of dressed limestone.	0.25–0.40+

Trench 30		Trench dimensions: L: 10+ m, W: 1.50m, D: 0.15m	
Context	Type	Description	Depth (m)
3001	Topsoil	Brown sandy loam with stone fragments.	0.00–0.15
3002	Structure	Concrete wall-marker curbs. 1980s.	0.00–0.20



Trench 31		Trench dimensions: L: 4.15 m, W: 1.30 m, D: 0.85+ m	
Context	Type	Description	Depth (m)
3101	Topsoil	Brown sandy loam with fragmented stone.	0.00–0.15
3102	Subsoil	Subsoil. Brown sandy loam with limestone and sandstone rubble.	0.15–0.25
3103	Layer	Demolition. 1649. Yellow/brown sand and mortar mix with blocks of limestone and sandstone rubble	0.25–0.85+
3104	Structure	Victorian sandstone wall on line of Medieval curtain wall.	0.00–0.35
3105	Structure	Wall. Large blocks of sandstone with lime mortar. Post 1649.	0.35–0.85+

Trench 32		Trench dimensions: L: 4.80+ m, W: 1.30 m, D: 0.60–0.90 m	
Context	Type	Description	Depth (m)
3201	Topsoil	Brown sandy loam with fragmented stone.	0.00–0.25
3202	Layer	Ash and charcoal over compact sandy loam with quantities of crushed stone. Associated with liquorice cultivation?	0.25–0.32
3203	Buried soil	Brown sandy loam with fragmented stone and charcoal.	0.32–0.48
3204	Layer	Demolition layer. Yellow limestone rubble, sand and mortar.	0.48–0.95+
3205	Structure	Sandstone blocks. Victorian on line of Medieval Curtain wall.	0.00–0.35
3206	Structure	Single course of large blocks of sandstone. Victorian.	0.35–0.55
3207	Structure	Line of sandstone blocks.	0.15–0.40
3208	Structure	Squared, coursed blocks of limestone. Curtain wall facing.	0.40–0.70

Trench 33		Trench dimensions: L: 3.60+ m, W: 1.35 m, D: 0.60–0.75 m	
Context	Type	Description	Depth (m)
3301	Topsoil	Dark brown sandy loam and stone.	0.00–0.26
3302	Structure	Courses of squared limestone blocks. Face of curtain wall.	
3303	Structure	Limestone rubble core work for Curtain wall.	
3304	Layer	Destruction of Curtain wall. Limestone rubble.	0.25–0.75

Trench 34		Trench dimensions: L: 1.25 m, W: 0.80 m, D: 0.50+ m	
Context	Type	Description	Depth (m)
3401	Topsoil	Brown sandy loam with fragments of stone.	0.00–0.50
3402	Structure	Face of curtain wall. Large blocks of squared sandstone and slightly smaller blocks of limestone.	0.00–0.24+
3403	Structure	Coursed blocks of squared yellow limestone.	0.00–0.50+
3404	Structure	Curtain wall core work. Yellow limestone rubble with lime mortar.	0.00–0.15+
3405	Structure	Face of curtain wall. Large blocks of sandstone and limestone.	0.00–0.50



Trench 35		Trench dimensions: L: 1.30 m, W: 1.15 m, D: 0.60–1.05 m	
Context	Type	Description	Depth (m)
3501	Topsoil	Brown sandy loam with sandstone and limestone.	0.00–0.30
3502	Layer	Brown/grey mortar and sand with fragments of stone Demolition.	0.30–1.05
3503	Structure	Victorian sandstone wall. On line of Curtain wall.	0.00–0.30
3504	Structure	Face of curtain wall. Three courses of square-faced limestone blocks.	0.30–1.05

Trench 36		Trench dimensions: L: 4.40 m, W: 1.00 m, D: 0.80+ m	
Context	Type	Description	Depth (m)
3601	Topsoil	Dark brown sandy loam with fragments of limestone.	0.00–0.30
3602	Layer	Victorian rubble. White/grey mortar and small gravel.	0.30–0.58
3603	Layer	Demolition rubble. Pale greyish-red sand with mortar and stone.	0.58–0.87
3604	Structure	Wall core. Pale orange/yellow limestone rubble and mortar	-
3605	Structure	Curtain wall rubble core. Limestone rubble and lime mortar.	0.40+
3606	Structure	Sandstone wall of later kitchen.	-
3607	Structure	Outer face of curtain wall. Facing stone robbed away.	0.10–0.80+

Trench 37		Trench dimensions: L: 1.50 m, W: 1.30 m, D: 0.85 m	
Context	Type	Description	Depth (m)
3701	Topsoil	Brown sandy loam with fragmented stone.	0.00–0.80
3702	Layer	Destruction/demolition layer. Sandy decayed lime mortar with fragmented stone rubble.	0.80–0.85+
3703	Structure	Victorian wall. Two courses of sandstone blocks bonded with pale grey lime mortar.	0.00–0.42
3704	Structure	Medieval wall. Face of curtain wall. More than two courses of squared limestone with evidence of lime mortar.	0.42–0.85

Trench 38		Trench dimensions: L: 2.80 m, W: 1.20 m, D: 0.80 m	
Context	Type	Description	Depth (m)
3801	Topsoil	Brown sandy loam with fragments of stone.	0.00–0.30
3802	Subsoil	Brown sandy loam with fragmented stone and mortar.	0.30–0.50
3803	Layer	Demolition layer. Brown sand and lime mortar with fragments of stone.	0.50–0.80
3804	Structure	Line of loose mortar and stone. May indicate wall robbing.	0.50–0.80



Trench 39			
Trench dimensions: L: 4.70 m, W: 1.50 m, D: 0.60–1.50 m			
Context	Type	Description	Depth (m)
3901	Layer	Modern debris relating to the period 1975 to 2015. Loose sandy loam, stone and debris.	0.00–0.25
3902	Layer	Compact dark brown sandy loam with a mixture of modern debris.	0.25–0.75
3903	Structure	Rough dry wall of limestone and sandstone. Constructed 1980s.	0.90
3904	Layer	Yellow limestone rubble, stone fragments and lime mortar. 1649 demolition.	0.75–1.50
3905	Structure	Lime mortar floor surface. Floor of the Sallyport passage. Pale pinkish yellow with a hard 'burnished' surface.	1.50+

Trench 40			
Trench dimensions: L: 9.00 m, W: 6.50 m, D: 5.50+ m			
Context	Type	Description	Depth (m)
4001	Topsoil	Turf and vegetation on the side of the Sallyport ditch.	Depths not recorded
4002	Topsoil	Brown sandy loam with rubble and mixed debris.	
4003	Layer	Sondage. Brown sandy loam with sandstone and limestone rubble. Dumped material.	
4004	Layer	Sondage. Brown sandy loam with compacted stone rubble. Dumped material.	
4005	Layer	Decayed natural visible in side of ditch cut. Blueish grey clayey shale.	
4006	Cut	Cut for Medieval ditch into bedrock.	
4007	Layer	Decayed natural in side of ditch cut. Blue/ grey, slightly pink clayey shale.	
4008	Layer	Sondage. Brown sandy loam with fragments and small pieces of stone.	
4009	Fill	Sondage. Possibly part of the 14th century backfilling. Charcoal with a small percentage of sandy silt.	
4010	Fill	Sondage. Backfilling of ditch. Limestone rubble with sand.	
4011	Fill	Sondage. Brownish yellow sandy loam with abundant stone rubble.	
4012	Cut	Near-vertical cut into post mid-17th century ditch. May be 20th century	
4013	-	Not allocated	
4014	Layer	Backfilling. Thin layer of silty loam with a high percentage of charcoal fragments and fragments of stone.	
4015	Layer	Backfilling. Brown sandy loam with fragments and small pieces of stone.	
4016	Layer	Backfilling. Pale yellow crushed and fragmented sandstone and limestone rubble.	
4017	Layer	Brown sandy loam with fragments and pieces of stone.	
4018	Fill	Fill of construction trench for Victorian or later stone wall.	



Trench 40		Trench dimensions: L: 9.00 m, W: 6.50 m, D: 5.50+ m	
Context	Type	Description	Depth (m)
		Brown sandy loam with fragmented stone.	
4019	Structure	Wall to the side of the Piper Tower. Coursed sandstone footings with upper courses of squared limestone and a hard cement capping.	
4020	Layer	Yellow loose sandy rubble.	
4021	Layer	Yellow sandy rubble. Compact.	
4022	Layer	Compact mixed brown sandy loam with lenses of lighter and darker material.	
4023	Cut	Steep cut for the construction of a wall.	
4024	Structure	Wall to the side of piper Tower.	
4025	Fill	Humic sandy loam with occasional fragmented stone.	
4026	Fill	Brown sandy loam with occasional fragments and small pieces of stone and flecks of charcoal.	
4027	Fill	Brown sandy loam with occasional fragments of stone.	
4028	Fill	Brownish red sandy loam with occasional fragments and small pieces of stone and occasional flecks of charcoal.	
4029	Layer	Reddish brown sandy loam with sparse fragments of stone and charcoal.	
4030	Layer/Fill	Dirty yellow sand with fragmented stone and mortar. Occasional flecks of charcoal.	
4031	Layer/Fill	Brown sandy loam with occasional charcoal flecks.	
4032	Cut	Cut through ditch backfill deposits to realign the later ditch fills.	
4033	Layer	Brown sandy loam with frequent fragments of stone and flecks of charcoal.	
4034	Layer	Brown sandy loam with occasional fragments and small pieces of stone.	
4035	Layer	Brown sandy loam with occasional small stones and flecks of charcoal.	
4036	Layer	Brown sandy loam with flecks of charcoal and fragments of stone.	
4037	Layer	Small lens of dirty yellow sand with fragments of stone and charcoal.	
4038	Layer	Brown very sandy loam withy fragments and pieces of stone and frequent charcoal.	
4039	Layer	Thin layer of fragmented dirty yellow stone.	
4040	Layer	Thin layer of almost solid charcoal with some fine sand.	
4041	Layer	Light brownish yellow compact sandy fragmented stone.	
4042	Layer	Brown sandy loam with abundant charcoal and small pieces of stone and large block of chamfered sandstone.	
4043	Layer	Brown very sandy loam with fragments and pieces of predominantly limestone.	
4044	Layer	Brown sandy loam with fragments of stone and flecks of charcoal.	



Trench 40	Trench dimensions: L: 9.00 m, W: 6.50 m, D: 5.50+ m		
Context	Type	Description	Depth (m)
4045	Layer	Pink/buff silty sandy loam with charcoal and stone fragments, adjacent to the natural rock side of the ditch.	
4046	Cut	Foundation trench for buttress, cut into natural rock.	
4047	Cut	North-west side of a rock-cut defensive ditch. Associated with upper cut.	
4048	Fill	Secondary fill of foundation trench for the construction of the stone buttress. Dirty pinkish grey mixture of clay and sand with small fragments of stone.	
4049	Fill	Primary fill of foundation trench. Pale brown sandy loam with fragments of stone.	
4050	Structure	Buttress to support the south-east corner of the Gascoigne Tower. Upper courses comprise large blocks of dressed sandstone, some chamfered; lower courses comprise very roughly dressed blocks of sandstone set at a slight angle to those above. Constructed off natural rock.	
4051	Fill	Brown silty sandy loam with occasional flecks of charcoal and fragments and small pieces of stone. Could be the first layer of pre-castle demolition deposit and consequently part of the fill of ditch.	
4052	Fill	Mid to light brown very sandy loam with fragments and occasional pieces of stone.	
4053	Fill	Brown slightly loamy sand with flecks of charcoal, fragments and small pieces of stone, flecks of mortar and light rubble.	
4054	Fill	Grey/black charcoal with a small amount of silty sand with fragments of stone, animal bone, oyster shell and pottery.	
4055	Fill	Pinkish brown sandy silt with occasional flecks of charcoal and fragments and pieces of stone.	
4056	Fill	Mid brown slightly silty sandy loam with flecks of charcoal, small and large stones, oyster shell, animal bone and pottery. Below (4053) and (4054). Above (4055) and (4057). Fill of (4047).	
4057	Fill	Mid to light brown compact sandy loam with fragments and pieces of stone, flecks of charcoal, animal bone and pottery. Below (4055), (4056) and (4060). Above and fill of (4047).	
4058	Fill	Mid to dark greyish brown sandy loam with abundant fragments and flecks of charcoal and fragments and pieces of stone. Below (4055) and above (4059). Fill of (4047).	
4059	Fill	Dirty yellow predominantly limestone rubble and sand with occasional sandstone pieces and fragments of mortar. Below (4058), above (4060) and fill of (4047).	
4060	Fill	Dark grey/black charcoal with a small amount of sandy silt and occasional fragments of stone. Below (4059), above (4057), fill of (4047).	
4061	Cut	Cut for emptying of ditch fill to gain access to the Sallyport in the 17th century? Aligned northwest to southeast. Cuts (4051), (4055), (4058), (4059) and (4060).	
4062	Fill	Mid to light brown pink yellow predominantly sandy loam	



Trench 40		Trench dimensions: L: 9.00 m, W: 6.50 m, D: 5.50+ m	
Context	Type	Description	Depth (m)
		with fragments and pieces of stone, charcoal and mortar fragments. Some animal bone. Several small lenses of mid-brown sandy loam within the layer. Fill of (4061), above (4063).	
4063	Fill	Mid to dark brown sandy loam with fragments and pieces of stone, flecks of charcoal, shell, animal bone and pottery. Fill of (4061), below (4062).	

Trench 41		Trench dimensions: L: c.5.00m, W: c.4.00m, D: 0.15-0.45m	
Context	Type	Description	Depth (m)
4101	Layer	Removal of material from the top of the Royal Apartment Range forward of the Queen's Tower. Turf and dark brown sandy loam.	0.00–0.15
4102	Layer	Mixed rubble. All sizes of both limestone and sandstone in a light to mid-brown sandy matrix. Whilst this <i>may</i> be redeposited it looks very much like <i>in situ</i> Demolition material. Animal bone and pottery.	0.15–0.45

Trench 42		Trench dimensions: L: 10+ m, W: 0.50 m, D: 0.60–1.10 m	
Context	Type	Description	Depth (m)
4201	Layer	Removal of material from the top of the Royal Apartment Range on the edge of the escarpment close to the King's Tower. To prepare for the construction of a scaffold ramp in advance of the removal of further material. Dense vegetation with dark brown sandy loam with stone and considerable rooting below. Some large masonry blocks. Possibly redeposited material.	0.00–0.70

Trench 43		Trench dimensions: L: c.1.00m, W: c.1.00m, D: c.1.30m	
Context	Type	Description	Depth (m)
4301	Layer	Outer face of south-west curtain wall c.2.00m north-west of its junction with the western tower of the keep. Location of a cluster of 5 cannon balls. Estimated depth of cannon balls from original wall face 1.30m. Face of wall is missing revealing decayed core work. Pinkish grey clay/shale-like material where limestone core should be. Decomposed stone. Direction of the battery is c.260 degrees from north (slightly to the south of west).	Width 1.30 m



Trench 44			
Trench dimensions: L: c.5.00m, W: c.2.20m, D: c.2.00m			
Context	Type	Description	Depth (m)
4401	Structure	Removal of decaying wooden decking which had been laid over the excavated cavity of the Treasurer's Tower c.1985. The decking was supported on a softwood sub-frame that was also removed. The cavity has been filled with spoil from a number of castle locations.	0.00–0.20

Trench 45			
Trench dimensions: L: 15.00m+, W: 0.60m+, D: 0.10m–0.15m			
Context	Type	Description	Depth (m)
4501	Layer	Section of north curtain wall to the east of the Queen's Tower. Removal of turf and soil immediately below to reveal the top of the curtain wall stone which comprises sandstone and limestone. Limestone rubble core exposed to the north.	Depth not recorded

Trench 46			
Trench dimensions: L: 25m+, W: 1.00m, D: 0.70m			
Context	Type	Description	Depth (m)
4601	Layer	Mid brown slightly silty sand with root inclusions. Fragments of stone, coal and brick	0.00–0.70
4602	Structure	Segment of masonry wall comprising blocks of sandstone rubble in a pinkish grey matrix. Probably some of the western core of wall (4903).	0.70

Trench 47			
Trench dimensions: L: 6.00m, W: 0.70m, D: 1.10m			
Context	Type	Description	Depth (m)
4701	Layer	Modern flagstones and concrete. A recently-laid walkway.	0.00–0.15
4702	Structure	Laid frogged brick path, probably Victorian in the Castle Lodge rear garden.	0.15–0.23
4703	Layer	Victorian made ground comprising mid greyish brown silty sand with sandstone rubble and broken brick. Small quantity coal.	0.23–1.10+

Trench 48			
Trench dimensions: L: 50m+, W: 0.35mm, D: 0.80–0.90m			
Context	Type	Description	Depth (m)
4801	Layer	Crushed limestone hardcore, possibly deposited during the last 12 months.	0.00–0.30
4802	Layer	Dark brown sandy loam with fragments of stone and flecks of charcoal. Probably redeposited topsoil for liquorice cultivation.	0.30–0.80
4803	Layer	Mid brown sandy loam with fragmented stone, occasionally noted below (4802)	0.30–0.85



Trench 49	Trench dimensions: L: 12.00m+, W: 7.00m+, D: 2.00m+		
Context	Type	Description	Depth (m)
4901	Layer	Mid to dark brown sandy loam with fragments of stone and abundant roots. Landscaped topsoil.	0.00–0.70
4902	Layer	Pale pink/buff sandy mortar and fragmented stone deposit. Probably the upper part of a destruction level.	0.70–1.05
4903	Structure	Masonry wall aligned SSE-NNW. Full thickness not yet revealed but more than 1.20m. Faced ashlar finely tooled sandstone with a narrow joint of dirty grey lime mortar. Butts (4904) to the NNW. Butted by (4905). Sealed by (4928). Part of barbican complex.	Depths not recorded
4904	Structure	Masonry wall aligned WSW-ENE, at 90 degrees to (4903). Width 1.50m, length 3.60m+, height 0.75m+. Very fine sandstone ashlar in a dirty pale pink lime mortar matrix. Sandstone rubble core. Slightly different in character to (4903). Mason's marks noted on the SSE face.	
4905	Structure	Block of masonry set into the corner of walls (4903) and (4904). Probably part of a later repair. Several courses of roughly dresses sandstone in a dirty pale grey lime mortar matrix. Butts against (4906) to the ENE.	
4906	Structure	Block of coursed masonry set into the corner between (4904) and (4905). Has a slight curve to its outer face. Roughly dressed and set into a dirty grey lime mortar matrix. Some of the stone is burnt pink.	
4907	Structure	Masonry wall, square to (4904) and parallel to (4903). Part of the same structure, possibly a draw-bridge pit. Comprises very smooth sandstone ashlar facing with sandstone rubble core in a dirty pink lime mortar matrix. Width 2.20m.	
4908	Structure	Chamber (pit) formed by walls (4903), (4904), (4907) and one likely to exist to the SSE. Known dimensions are 2.20m x 2.50m x 0.80m.	
4909	Fill	Upper fill of (4908). Mid brown silty sandy loam with fragments of sandstone, charcoal and infrequent pieces of limestone. Animal bone and pottery. Sealed by (4928) and seals (4910). Formation between c.1650s and c.1750s	
4910	Fill	Fill of (4908) below (4909). Dirty pale brown/buff sand with little loam and many fragments and pieces of broken stone and rubble. Several very large pieces of mainly sandstone and some limestone. Animal bone and pottery. Mid-17th century destruction layer.	
4911	Structure	Curved and chamfered wall at right angles to (4904) and (4907), leading off to the east. Total of five courses set in a lime mortar matrix. Tied into and of the same date as (4907). Mason's marks evident on the lower ashlar facing. Sandstone core extends to the north. Base of a circular tower.	
4912	Cut	Cut for sub-circular post hole cut into the top of wall (4904). Later than wall destruction and having a diameter of c.0.50m. Filled with (4913) and possibly associated with post holes (4914) and (4922).	
4913	Fill	Of post hole (4912). Mixed pale and mid-brown sandy loam	



Trench 49		Trench dimensions: L: 12.00m+, W: 7.00m+, D: 2.00m+	
Context	Type	Description	Depth (m)
		with fragments and pieces of sandstone and fragments of mortar.	
4914	Cut	Cut for sub-circular post hole cut into the top of wall (4907). Later than wall destruction with a length of 0.65m and a width of 0.55m. Filled with (4915) and possibly associated with (4912) and (4922).	
4915	Fill	Of post hole (4914). Mid brown sandy loam with fragments and small pieces of sandstone.	
4916	Cut	Cut for sub-circular pit cut into the top of wall (4907). Cuts post hole (4914). Length 1.00m, width 0.80m. Filled with (4917). Below (4928).	
4917	Fill	Of pit (4916). Light yellow grey/pink silty sand with fragments and small pieces of sandstone. Shell and pottery.	
4918	Structure	Roughly constructed wall running approximately north-south and butting against wall (4911), which is of earlier date. Comprising over four courses of roughly dressed sandstone with the upper two courses chamfered. In poor repair and showing scant evidence of the lime mortar that bonded the courses. Has a natural rock foundation.	
4919	Layer	Mid to light reddish brown silty sandy loam with fragments and small pieces of sandstone. Similar to (4902) but slightly darker. Seals foundation courses of (4911) and (4918). Sealed by (4901).	
4920	Structure	Sandstone wall to the north-west of (4904). Less than 0.90m in length revealed. Part of possible structure with fill (4921) to western side.	
4921	Fill	Pale dirty yellow sand with decayed mortar and fragments and pieces of stone. May be 17th century destruction rubble. Located on the western side of wall (4920).	
4922	Cut	Sub-circular post hole, length 0.50m, width 0.45m, cut into the top of wall (4907). Filled with (4923). May be associated with post holes (4912) and (4914).	
4923	Fill	Of post hole (4922). Mid brown sandy loam with fragments and small pieces of sandstone and flecks of charcoal.	
4924	Cut	Cut for small slot or drain. Filled with (4925). Cuts wall (4911) close to wall (4907). Length c.1.50m, width c.0.25-0.35m.	
4925	Fill	Of slot/drain (4924). Light to mid-brown sandy loam with fragments and small pieces of sandstone and flecks of charcoal. In a few areas patches of redeposited pink/mauve clay were evident.	
4926	Cut	Cut for small sub-oval post hole. Length 0.30m, width 0.20m. Cuts interface between walls (4911) and (4918). Filled with (4917).	
4927	Fill	Of post hole (4926). Mid to dark brown sandy loam with infrequent fragments and small pieces of sandstone.	
4928	Layer	Mid greyish brown silty sand with charcoal. Below (4902). Imported material post-dating destruction layer (4929)	



Trench 49		Trench dimensions: L: 12.00m+, W: 7.00m+, D: 2.00m+	
Context	Type	Description	Depth (m)
4929	Layer	Pinkish brown silty sand with sandstone rubble and mortar fragments. Pottery. Demolition layer. Below (4928).	
4930	Layer	Pale dirty yellow fragmented sandstone. Natural bedrock. Below (4911) and (4918).	
4931	Fill	Of cavity/circular chamber on the northern side of wall (4911). Mid pinkish brown sandy loam with fragments and pieces of sandstone, occasional limestone and flecks of charcoal.	

Trench 50		Trench dimensions: L: 20.00-25.00m, W: 0.40-0.50m, D: c.0.30m	
Context	Type	Description	Depth (m)
5001	Structure	A line of large blocks of roughly squared and weathered sandstone reused by Victorian landscapers to define the southern face of the north curtain wall. Laid over interface layer (5002) on top of the original limestone wall.	0.15
5002	Layer	Interface layer between the Victorian and Medieval masonry. Mixture of decayed lime mortar and dark brown sandy loam.	c.0.25–0.30

Trench 52		Trench dimensions: L: 1.60m, W: 1.45 m, D: 1.10m	
Context	Type	Description	Depth (m)
5201	Layer	Reduction of fill within the base material of a small bread oven constructed in the Great Kitchen at some point later than the construction of a series of four roasting hearths. The oven cuts into the north-west curtain wall and is located between two of the earlier hearths. Mid brown sandy loam with fragments and pieces of predominantly limestone, some burnt. In part of the layer, large pieces of rubble in a cement/mortar matrix (Victorian or later).	Depths not recorded
5202	Layer	Light yellow sand with high quantities of limestone rubble, probably demolition material.	
5203	Structure	Remains of the back lining and floor of the inserted oven. Set within a curve cut out of the earlier curtain wall. A single course of vertically curved blocks of limestone with pink burning evident. Below the stones, the remains of three red bricks or thick tiles which formed part of the oven base.	
5204	Structure	Walls to both sides facing the remains of the oven and a wall across the front with what appears to be an entry. Constructed of large blocks of sandstone. The walls originally formed the sides of the early roasting hearths; the front and part of the side walls may be largely Victorian invention.	



Trench 54		Trench dimensions: L: 16.00m, W: 1.50m, D: 1.80m	
Context	Type	Description	Depth (m)
5401	Layer	Mid to dark brown sandy loam. Many roots. Some tree stumps. Fragmented stone and general debris. 20th century landscaping?	0.00–0.25
5402	Layer	Pinkish brown sand with some dirty silt mixed with light rubble; brick, tile and fragmented sandstone. Made ground redeposited late 19th/early 20th century	0.25–1.30
5403	Layer	Mid brown sandy loam with stone fragments and flecks of charcoal. Clean and humic. Cultivation soil, mid-18th century.	1.30–1.70
5404	Layer	Light brown silty sand over decayed and fragmented sandstone. Natural bedrock.	1.70–1.80+

Trench 55		Trench dimensions: L: 7.00m, W: 1.00m, D: 0.40–0.65m	
Context	Type	Description	Depth (m)
5501	Layer	Dark brown sandy silt with heavy rooting and modern debris. Excavation (1982–6) backfilling.	0.00–0.50
5502	Layer	Reddish brown silty sand with very common sandstone rubble. Possible excavation backfilling.	0.30–0.50
5503	Structure	Greyish sandstone ashlar wall with mason's mark.	0.00–0.65
5504	Structure	Sandstone. Possible top of King's Tower wall.	0.60–0.65+

Trench 56		Trench dimensions: L: 7.00m, W: 3.40, D: 0.55m	
Context	Type	Description	Depth (m)
5601	Layer	Mid reddish brown sandy loam with silt and fragmented rubble. Slipped or washed material?	Depths not recorded
5602	Structure	Length of wall constructed of wire-cut red brick in a pale buff lime mortar. Irregular coursed and poorly constructed.	
5603	Structure	Length of unfrogged wire cut red brick in a dirty pale buff lime mortar. Irregular stretcher bond.	
5604	Structure	Length of brick wall constructed of red brick and one block of sandstone in a dirty pale yellow lime mortar.	
5605	Fill/layer	Dirty greyish black silty ash with small sandstone rubble and broken brick. Ash or rubbish pit.	
5606	Fill/layer	Dirty greyish black silty, sandy ash with light sandstone rubble, fragments of stone, broken brick and coal. Fill of ash or rubbish pit.	
5607	Structure	Natural outcrop of sandstone. The outcrop is exposed and weathered. Carved into the vertical face of the rock is a square depression, c. 0.56m by 0.76m with a maximum depth of 0.40m. Pick marks are evident in the face of the carving. Interpreted as a possible abandoned attempt by Parliamentarians to mine under the east-facing curtain wall.	
5608	Layer	Dirty grey/black sandy loam with mixed sandstone rubble, some limestone rubble and some broken brick rubble.	



Trench 56		Trench dimensions: L: 7.00m, W: 3.40, D: 0.55m	
Context	Type	Description	Depth (m)
		Dumped layer associated with domestic buildings off Beech Hill. Seals brick and stone structures.	
5609	Structure	Length of wall constructed of sandstone with occasional limestone in a pale buff/pink lime mortar. Faced to the south-east. Part of an early to mid-19th century structure.	
5610	Layer	Mid reddish brown sand with some silt and loam and fragments of sandstone and limestone. Pre-dates the brick and stone platform structure.	
5611	Structure	Length of double faced sandstone wall in a dirty pinkish buff lime mortar. Very randomly coursed.	
5612	Structure	Sandstone cross wall, roughly faced in a dirty pale buff lime mortar. Occasional oblique tooling may be indicative of reuse.	
5613	Structure	Length of roughly dressed sandstone wall in a dirty pale buff lime mortar. Part of the platform structure, early 19th century?	
5614	Structure	Length of wire-cut red brick walling in a grey lime mortar matrix, part of the platform structure.	
5615	Structure	Length of red brick walling in a dirty greyish pink lime mortar. Stretcher bond. Early to mid-19th century.	
5616	Structure	Wall of unfrogged wire-cut red brick, header bond in a dirty greyish pink lime mortar. Early to mid-19th century.	
5617	Fill/layer	Dark brown/black ash with silt and loam with copal, charcoal and stone and brick rubble. Possible fill of ash or rubbish pit.	
5618	Fill/layer	Mid brown sandy loam with some silt. Fragments and larger pieces of sandstone and some limestone. Sub-floor level.	
5619	Layer	Reddish brown silty sandwich large quantities of sandstone rubble. Sub-floor level.	
5620	Layer	Mid brown sand with silty loam with large quantities of sandstone rubble. Sub-floor level.	
5621	Structure	Outer face of curtain wall overlooking Beech Hill. Wall has concrete underpinning and a near vertical face of poorly executed sandstone core work in a hard pale grey cement mortar. Conservation work of the period 1982-4 or earlier.	
5622	Structure	Limited area of laid sandstone flag floor laid directly over sub-floor material. Part of the platform building.	
5623	Structure	Narrow and fragmentary brick and stone wall defining part of the edge of the flagged floor area. May indicate a narrow passage or capped drain.	

Trench 57		Trench dimensions: L: 0.40m, W: 0.30m, D: 0.15m	
Context	Type	Description	Depth (m)
5701	Layer	Turf and dark brown sandy loam with fragmented stone. Series of 21 small interventions for the positioning of scaffold pads.	0.00–0.20



Trench 59		Trench dimensions: L: 40.00m+, W: 0.35m, D: 0.50m	
Context	Type	Description	Depth (m)
5901	Layer	Tarmac and hardcore substrate.	0.00–0.12
5902	Layer	Made ground. Mixed mid to dark brown sandy loam with brick and stone inclusions, clay pipe and pottery. Possibly late Victorian.	0.12–0.50+
5903	Layer	Up the slope towards the keep. Turf and topsoil. Mid brown sandy loam with mortar and stone fragments.	0.00–0.25+
5904	Layer	Mixed pale mortar and sandy rubble. Victorian landscaping.	0.25–0.70

Trench 60		Trench dimensions: L: 6.50m, W: 0.30m, D: 0.65m	
Context	Type	Description	Depth (m)
6001	Layer	Very recent redeposited material. Gravel and crushed limestone hardcore with some dark loam and stone.	0.00–0.15
6002	Layer	Dirty pale buff fragmented mortar, sand and limestone. Recently redeposited material.	0.00–0.30
6003	Layer	Dirty mid to dark brown sandy loam with fragments of stone and charcoal and pieces of limestone. Probably late Victorian.	0.30–0.65

Trench 61		Trench dimensions: L: 3.00m, W: 0.40m, D: 4.50m	
Context	Type	Description	Depth (m)
6101	Structure	Stone arch to support the base of the King's Tower. Shaped blocks of sandstone in a lime mortar matrix.	Depths not recorded
6102	Structure	Stone blocking for archway 6101 . Constructed of shaped blocks of mainly sandstone with some limestone and some hard red brick in the lower courses.	

Trench 62		Trench dimensions: L: 3.50m, W: 2.50, D: 2.00m	
Context	Type	Description	Depth (m)
6201	Layer	Mid grey sandy loam with large amounts of sandstone rubble, with less limestone. Occasional CBM. Backfilling of 1980s excavations.	0.00–0.40
6202	Layer	Lower 1980s backfilling between the Royal apartment wall and the wall of the King's Tower. Greyish brown sandy loam with stone and CBM.	0.40–1.70
6203	Structure	Wall of the King's Tower. Large blocks of well-cut sandstone in a lime mortar matrix. Some very well preserved ashlar.	Depths not recorded
6204	Structure	Royal Apartment wall. Large blocks of well-cut sandstone. Some excellent well preserved ashlar blocks with a few Mason's marks. Upper courses are Victorian.	
6205	Structure	Plinth to support pentis arcade for passage between the	



Trench 62			
Trench dimensions: L: 3.50m, W: 2.50, D: 2.00m			
Context	Type	Description	Depth (m)
		apartments and the Elizabethan Chapel. Exposed in the 1980s.	
6206	Cut	Cut (not observed) for the insertion of all structures.	

Trench 63			
Trench dimensions: L: 0.70m, W: 0.65m, D: 0.80m			
Context	Type	Description	Depth (m)
6301	Cut	For the insertion of 6303/6304 , limestone shaft. Sub-square in plan.	Depths not recorded
6302	Fill	Fill of 6302 . Mid brown sandy loam with stone fragments.	
6303	Structure	Stone surround for a vertical shaft comprising coursed limestone blocks to four sides forming an internal void. No evidence of mortar.	
6304	Structure	Internal shaft with no filling. Dimensions 0.25m by 0.20m.	

Trench 64			
Trench dimensions: L: 40.00m, W: 2.00m D: 0.30m			
Context	Type	Description	Depth (m)
6401	Layer	Vegetation and topsoil. Dark brown sandy loam with small pieces of sandstone and limestone.	0.00-0.25
6402	Layer	Mid purplish brown sandy loam with an abundance of stone fragments. Top of decayed demolition material from mid-17th century that had slipped down the slope.	Depths not recorded
6403	Structure	Eastern one of two parallel walls that may have formed a passaged communication between the main castle and Swillington Tower. Sandstone in a lime mortar matrix. Some facing stone robbed away, may have had an original thickness of about 1.00m	
6404	Structure	Western wall of passageway with wall 6403 . Very similar construction and thickness.	

Trench 65			
Trench dimensions: L: 10.00m, W: 10.00, D: 2.50m			
Context	Type	Description	Depth (m)
6501	Layer	Turf and topsoil. Dark greyish brown sandy loam with fragments of both sandstone and limestone.	0.00–0.30
6502	Layer	Subsoil. Mid dirty brown sandy loam with a high percentage of limestone and sandstone. Occasional very large pieces of stone.	0.30–0.75
6503	Layer	Destruction deposit. Limestone rubble in a dirty pale buff/brown sandy matrix. Many very large pieces of limestone, some with worked faces.	0.35–1.80
6504	Layer	Pre-Civil War deposit. Dirty buff/brown sandy silt and small pieces of fragmented stone. Occasional charcoal flecks.	1.80–2.15
6505	Layer	Dark brown sandy loam with an abundance of charcoal.	2.15–2.60



Trench 65	Trench dimensions: L: 10.00m, W: 10.00, D: 2.50m		
Context	Type	Description	Depth (m)
		Some animal bone. May represent tipped rubbish of 17th century date	
6506	Structure	Vertical opening cut into the north-east face of the Piper tower. Full width 1.30m and a height of 1.90m. The tower stone has been cut away to form the opening.	Depths not recorded
6507	Structure	Blocking of opening into Piper Tower between the two inserted door reveals. Reused blocks of shaped limestone with a small number of similar in sandstone. Dirty pale to mid-brown gritty lime mortar. Poorly and hastily constructed.	
6508	Structure	Series of three stone walls enclosing an area approximately 2.50m by 2.80m. The north-east wall has an opening near to the eastern corner. All walls are two to three courses in height and are constructed of reclaimed stone of various quality and of both common types. Some stones have mason's marks. The structure butts against the north-east face of the Piper tower and appears to relate to the opening 6506 . A stone flagged floor with cur drainage channel forms part of this structure.	
6509	Fill	Material within the structure 6508 , directly over the flagged floor. Dirty mid greyish brown sandy loam with limestone rubble, some sandstone and fragments of mortar.	
6510	Structure	Stone wall extending from structure 6508 towards the north-east on the north-west side. Constructed of blocks of reused sandstone and limestone. Outer facing wall of a wide (2.30m) defensive wall probably constructed in haste during the third siege.	
6511	Fill	Material located over the central core 6512 of the siege wall. Mainly limestone destruction rubble but including some darker sandy loam.	
6512	Structure	The rubble core and south-east face of the wide defensive wall, in association with 6510 . Rubble core included large blocks of cut and worked stone not usually associated with such features.	
6513	Structure	The end of a stone wall seen in section. Running on a northwest-southeast alignment towards the south-east. To the northeast of structure 6508 . Sandstone facing to two sides with a rubble core. Width 0.85m, height 0.80m	
6514	Structure	Wall associated with wall 6513 . Sandstone, possibly 0.50m wide but not fully excavated. Aligned southwest to northeast.	



Trench 66		Trench dimensions: L: 25.00m, W: 3.00m, D: 0.16m	
Context	Type	Description	Depth (m)
6601	Layer	Topsoil and turf. Mid brown loose clayey sand. Redeposited.	0.00–0.15
6602	Layer	Imported subsoil. Light brown sandy silt with coarse sand inclusions and modern finds.	0.15–0.16

Trench 67		Trench dimensions: L: 30.00m+, W: 3.00m, D: 1.20m	
Context	Type	Description	Depth (m)
6701	Layer	Topsoil. Dark brown to black sandy loam with fragments of sandstone, glass and CBM. Post 1880s landscaping.	0.00–0.10/0.65
6702	Layer	Mid brown sandy loam with sandstone and limestone fragments. Possibly weathered and washed material over demolition rubble.	0.10/0.65–0.75
6703	Structure	Victorian stone steps. Laid to the front of the curtain wall buttress. Large blocks of reused sandstone.	0.65–1.20
6704	Structure	Two large blocks of sandstone halfway up a path towards the Treasurer's tower. Stones not <i>in situ</i> .	0.10–0.30

Trench 68		Trench dimensions: L: 25.00m, W: 8.00m, D: 1.50m	
Context	Type	Description	Depth (m)
6801	Layer	Dark greyish brown sandy loam with mortar and stone fragments. Topsoil.	0.00–0.25
6802	Structure	Southeast side of a curvilinear siege defence wall on the southwest side of the Sallyport passage. Constructed of reclaimed stone in the mid-17th century and added to in the 1880s. Stone is mainly sandstone but with some limestone. Wall appears to be drystone and has a width of 2.40m	0.25–1.50
6803	Structure	Northwest side of the same siege defence wall as 6802 . The gap between the two walls is thought to be a Victorian access.	0.25–1.50
6804	Structure	Semi-circular stone structure that appears to project from the outer face of the Piper tower/curtain wall to the southeast side of the Sallyport passage. Has a flat surface of close fitting sandstone blocks some of which are pink. Held together with lime mortar. Interpreted as a civil war period gun platform.	Depths not recorded
6805	Structure	A semi-circular stone structure occupying the same plan as 6805 but continuing vertically down and faced with curved blocks of smooth sandstone. Interpreted as the base of a late medieval extramural flanking tower. Stepped robbing of stone may be indicative of a lost chamfered face. Radius approximately 5.50m.	
6806	Structure	Late medieval wall on the northwest side of the Sallyport passage. Runs between the curtain wall towards and beyond the siege wall to the west. Wall comprises a minimum of three courses of dressed chamfered sandstone	



Trench 68		Trench dimensions: L: 25.00m, W: 8.00m, D: 1.50m	
Context	Type	Description	Depth (m)
		and would have formed a revetment to the external corner of the Gascoigne tower.	
6807	Layer	Dark brown sandy loam, possibly Victorian landscaping activity or material that has slipped down the slope in the past 120 years or so.	
6808	Layer	Dirty greyish pink clayey shale. A deposit found above the natural rock and considered to be natural. Indicative of the side of the 11th century timber phase ditch.	
6809	Structure	Two to three courses of stone lying over the top of the outer curved siege wall and thought to represent a Victorian redefining of the wall as part of their landscaping scheme.	
6810	Layer	Brown fill between wall	
6811	Layer	Red clay made ground	
6812	Structure	Wall civil war in slot close to castle wall	

Trench 69		Trench dimensions: L: 15.00m, W: 3.00m, D: 4.50m	
Context	Type	Description	Depth (m)
6901	Layer	Redeposited material placed into the 2016 excavated area to form a machine platform. Unstratified.	0.00–2.50
6902	Layer	The top of the deposits left undisturbed at the end of the 2016 excavations. Mid brown sandy loam with large quantities of stone rubble.	2.50–3.50
6903	Layer	Undisturbed deposit. Mixture of light and dark sandy loam with a high percentage of stone rubble and fragmented stone.	3.50–4.00
6904	Layer	Light to mid-brown sandy silt with frequent flecks of charcoal and fragments of sandstone and limestone. Occasional thin bands of blue grey clay.	4.00–4.50
6905	Structure	Stone wall aligned northwest to southeast with a width of 0.90m and a minimum length of 3.00m. Height varies between 0.30m and 0.70m. Constructed within the fill of the defensive ditch. Structure comprises large roughly cut blocks of sandstone in pale grey lime mortar. The wall steps down towards the southeast end.	Depths not recorded
6906	Layer	Fill of ditch of post medieval date sealing parts of wall 6905 , probably of late medieval date. Dirty mid brown sandy loam with abundant fragments of stone.	
6907	Layer	Pale brown and buff sand and crushed sandstone directly above the top of wall 6905 which may relate to its truncation.	
6908	Layer	Early fill of the northwest side of the defensive ditch. Thick mottled pink/grey clay with some silt.	
6909	Structure	Right-angled return to the northeast of wall 6905 forming a sharp corner, the depth of which was 2.00m+. Wall has a length of 3.00m+ and a width in excess of 0.90m. Constructed of sandstone blocks in a strong lime mortar.	



Trench 69		Trench dimensions: L: 15.00m, W: 3.00m, D: 4.50m	
Context	Type	Description	Depth (m)
6910	Structure	Cut for possible chute in the corner of walls 6905 and 6909 .	
6911	Layer	Fill of 6910 . Mid brown sandy loam with a high percentage of stone rubble.	

Trench 70		Trench dimensions: L: 1.50m, W: 1.00m, D: 1.00m	
Context	Type	Description	Depth (m)
7001	Layer	Topsoil. Dark brown to grey sandy loam with fragments of stone and flecks of charcoal. Frequent roots.	0.00–0.20
7002	Layer	Subsoil. Mid pinkish buff sandy loam with a high percentage of decayed sandstone and limestone. Probably eroded demolition material.	0.20–0.95
7003	Layer	Top of demolition material. Large pieces of limestone and some sandstone.	0.95–1.00+

Trench 71		Trench dimensions: L: 1.50m, W: 1.00m, D: 1.00m	
Context	Type	Description	Depth (m)
7101	Layer	Topsoil. Dark brown dirty sandy loam with a large percentage of fragmented stone.	0.00–0.25
7102	Layer	Subsoil. Mid buff/pink sandy soil with an abundance of stone of both types. Post 1650s erosion and rubble.	0.25–0.90
7103	Layer	Top of demolition rubble. Large pieces of limestone and some sandstone, sand and grey mortar.	0.90–1.10+

Trench 72		Trench dimensions: L: 1.50m, W: 1.00m, D: 1.00m	
Context	Type	Description	Depth (m)
7201	Layer	Topsoil. Dark sandy soil. Victorian landscaping activity. Some stone.	0.00–0.20
7202	Layer	Subsoil. Pinkish buff very sandy soil. High percentage sandstone and limestone. Decayed demolition rubble and slipped material.	0.20–0.85
7203	Layer	Top of demolition rubble. Limestone and sandstone.	0.85–1.20

Trench 73		Trench dimensions: L: 1.50m, W: 1.00m, D: 1.00m	
Context	Type	Description	Depth (m)
7301	Layer	Topsoil. Dark brown/black sandy soil with an abundance of fragmented stone.	0.00–1.18
7302	Layer	Subsoil. Pinkish buff grey sandy soil with a high percentage of stone. Slope slippage and decayed stone.	0.18–0.78
7303	Layer	Top of destruction layer. Large amounts of sandstone and limestone rubble.	0.78–0.95



Trench 74		Trench dimensions: L: 20.00m, W: 3.00m, D: 0.90m	
Context	Type	Description	Depth (m)
7401	Layer	Topsoil. Mid to dark brown sandy loam with occasional stone fragments, CBM and roots.	0.00–0.40
7402	Layer	Subsoil. Pale brown/buff sandy rubble with frequent pieces and fragments of sandstone and limestone. Top of demolition layer.	0.40–0.90

Trench 76		Trench dimensions: L: 4.70m, W: 2.30m, D: 1.10m	
Context	Type	Description	Depth (m)
7601	Layer	Mixed brown silty sand with mortar close to the foundations of the curtain wall in the Sallyport ditch.	Depths not recorded
7602	Layer	Dark grey silty sand with sandstone fragments and coal and charcoal. Possible secondary fill of ditch.	
7603	Layer	Reddish brown clayey sand with an abundance of limestone fragments. Possible construction rubble.	
7604	Layer	Pale yellow sand with abundant stone fragments. Possible construction debris.	
7605	Cut	Cut for Sallyport ditch. May be same as 4006 and 4047 at higher levels.	
7606	Layer	Dirty pinkish red decayed sandstone.	
7607	Layer	Yellow sand. Seems to immediately overlie the natural bedrock and may be the primary fill of the ditch.	

Trench 81		Trench dimensions: L: 0.70m, W: 0.60m, D: 1.00m	
Context	Type	Description	Depth (m)
8101	Layer	Turf and topsoil. Brown sandy soil.	0.00–0.18
8102	Layer	Redeposited. Greyish brown sandy loam.	0.18–0.40
8103	Layer	Redeposited. Compact greyish brown sandy loam.	0.40–1.00

Trench 82		Trench dimensions: L: 0.75m, W: 0.70m, D: 0.80m	
Context	Type	Description	Depth (m)
8201	Layer	Turf and topsoil. Brownish grey sandy soil.	0.00–0.15
8202	Layer	Limestone wall core or 17th century demolition	0.15–0.80
8301	Layer	Redeposited greyish brown sandy loam.	0.00–0.35

Trench 84		Trench dimensions: L: 3.00m, W: 1.35m, D: 0.40m	
Context	Type	Description	Depth (m)
8401	Layer	Redeposited banking. Brownish grey sandy loam.	0.00–0.40



Trench 85	Trench dimensions: L: 0.00m, W: 0.00m, D: 0.00m		
Context	Type	Description	Depth (m)
8501	Structure	Blocked doorway into the base of the Piper Tower	c. 4.00m

Trench 86	Trench dimensions: L: 0.20m, W: 1.50m, D: 0.45m		
Context	Type	Description	Depth (m)
8601	Layer	Redeposited brownish grey sandy soil.	0.00–0.45

Trench 87	Trench dimensions: L: 0.30m, W: 1.50m, D: 0.30m		
Context	Type	Description	Depth (m)
8701	Layer	Redeposited greyish brown sandy soil.	0.00–0.30
8702	Layer	Topsoil. Dirty brown sandy soil.	0.00–0.30

Trench 88	Trench dimensions: L: 0.30m, W: 1.50m, D: 0.30m		
Context	Type	Description	Depth (m)
8801	Layer	Made ground. Mid to dark brown gritty sand.	0.00–0.75

Trench 89	Trench dimensions: L: 0.30m, W: 1.50m, D: 0.30m		
Context	Type	Description	Depth (m)
8901	Layer	Dark brown soil and mortar.	0.00–0.15

Trench 90	Trench dimensions: L: 0.30m, W: 1.50m, D: 0.30m		
Context	Type	Description	Depth (m)
9001	Layer	Mid brown sandy loam.	0.00–0.15

Trench 91	Trench dimensions: L: 0.90m, W: 0.45m, D: 0.45m		
Context	Type	Description	Depth (m)
9101	Layer	Redeposited topsoil. Mid brown sandy loam.	0.00–0.15
9102	Layer	Redeposited limestone rubble.	0.15–0.35
9103	Layer	Brown sandy loam. Victorian landscaping.	0.35–0.45+



Trench 92	Trench dimensions: L: 0.90m, W: 0.45m, D: 0.45m		
Context	Type	Description	Depth (m)
9201	Layer	Topsoil. Greyish brown sandy silt.	0.00–0.20
9202	Layer	Greyish yellow limestone rubble.	0.20–0.42
9203	Layer	Pinkish pale grey silt and lime mortar.	0.20–0.60
9204	Structure	Yellow limestone wall. Piper Tower.	

Trench 93	Trench dimensions: L: 10.00m, W: 2.00m, D: 0.00m		
Context	Type	Description	Depth (m)
9301	Layer	Made ground. Dirty yellow rolled limestone.	0.00–0.50
9302	Layer	Levelling layer. Greyish brown silty sand.	0.00–0.50+
9303	Layer	Topsoil. Greyish brown sandy silt.	0.00–0.30
9304	Layer	Subsoil. Yellowish brown silt.	0.30+

Trench 94	Trench dimensions: L:, W:, D:		
Context	Type	Description	Depth (m)
9401	Structure	Existing concrete substrate.	0.00–0.15
9402	Structure	Coursed red brick wall.	0.15–0.50+
9403	Layer	Gravel levelling layer for slab.	0.00–0.70+
9404	Structure	Yellow limestone curtain wall.	0.00–0.13+
9405	Layer	Orangey brown silty loam.	



Appendix 2 Pottery data by context

Context	Type	No	Wt	ENV	Part	Form	Decoration	Date range	Notes
4007	TP Whiteware	1	1	1	BS	Hollow ware	U/ID TP floral design in& ext	M – LC19th	
4017	Blackware	1	5	1	BS	Hollow ware	Black glaze int & ext	C17th	Hard dark red fabric
4017	Bone China	1	4	1	Footring base	Plate	U/Dec	LC19th – C20th	
4017	Brown Glazed Coarseware	1	28	1	Rim	Bowl	Dark brown glaze int only	C19th	Curved rounded rim
4017	Humberware	1	4	1	BS	Hollow ware	U/Dec	LC13th – C15th	Fine Humberware; cf Cowick
4017	Late Blackware	1	15	1	Footed base	Hollow ware	Black glaze int & ext	C18th	Fine dark red fabric
4017	Late Blackware	1	5	1	BS	Hollow ware	Black glaze int & ext	C18th	Bright orange fabric
4017	Sponged ware	2	2	1	Rim	Flatware	Finer pale blue sponging int	c.1840+	Fresh break
4017	Stoneware	1	19	1	Rim	Bottle	U/Dec (secondarily burnt)	MC19th – EC20th	
4017	Stoneware	1	13	1	BS	Bottle/flagon	Green lead glaze ext only	MC19th – EC20th	
4017	TP Whiteware	1	5	1	Rim	Bowl/dish	U/ID TP design int (flaked surface)	M – LC19th	
4042	Blackware	1	33	1	BS	Bottle/costrel	Black glaze ext only	C17th	Hard red fabric
4042	Blackware	1	42	1	BS	Jar/cistern	Thin dark brown glaze int & partially ext	C17th	Thick-walled sherd
4042	Cistercian ware	1	10	1	BS	Hollow ware	Applied white pipeclay stripes ext	c.1450 – c.1600	Probably early Cistercian ware
4042	Humberware	1	5	1	BS	Hollow ware	Patchy clear to green glaze ext	LC13th – C15th	Thin-walled vessel; sandy Humberware
4042	Redware	1	11	1	BS	Dish/bowl	Red slip ext; clear glaze int over pale orange slip	C17th	Soft orange fabric
4042	Redware type	1	6	1	BS	Hollow ware	U/Dec	C17th	Fine quartz grains in a hard orange fabric
4043	Midlands Purple ware	1	18	1	BS	Hollow ware	Thin, hard purple-brown glaze int & ext	EC16th – MC18th	Very hard, dense, semi-vitrified fabric w/ common fine quartz inclusions



Context	Type	No	Wt	ENV	Part	Form	Decoration	Date range	Notes
4043	Yellow ware	1	6	1	BS	Hollow ware	Shiny clear (yellow) glaze int & ext	C17th	Hard, dense pale buff fabric w/ sparse white rock frags
4045	Humberware	1	13	1	Base	Jug/jar	Streak of overfired purple glaze ext; pinched foot	LC13th – C15th	Hard, fine fabric; cf Cowick
4045	Humberware	1	28	1	Base	Hollow ware	Spots of glaze on underside	LC13th – C15th	Hard, fine fabric; reduced w/ a thin oxidised margin cf Cowick
4045	Humberware	1	4	1	BS	Hollow ware	Hard brown shiny glaze ext	LC13th – C15th	Hard fine fabric; reduced throughout
4045	Oxidised Gritty ware	4	53	4	BS	Hollow ware	U/Dec	C14th – C15th	See text for description
4045	Oxidised Gritty ware	1	55	1	Rim	Jar	U/Dec	C14th – C15th	See text for description; a very distinctive round clubbed rim
4054	Humberware	1	6	1	BS	Hollow ware	Partial thin glaze ext	LC13th – C15th	Oxidised throughout
4056	Humberware	2	52	1	Base	Hollow ware	Patches of green glaze around base/body angle	LC13th – C15th	Very fine Humberware; oxidised ext margin, reduced int; cf Cowick
4056	Humberware	1	12	1	BS	Hollow ware	Traces of thin glaze ext	LC13th – C15th	Very fine Humberware; oxidised ext margin, reduced int; cf Cowick
4056	Humberware	1	16	1	Rim	Jug	Ridge on neck; patchy green glaze	LC13th – C15th	Inturned rim w/ external angle; fine orange fabric w/ thin pale grey core; cf Cowick
4056	Humberware	1	5	1	BS	Hollow ware	Dark green glaze ext	LC13th – C15th	Fine pale grey fabric w/ thin int margin; cf Cowick
4056	Humberware type	1	1	1	BS	Hollow ware	U/Dec	LC13th – C15th	Fine Humberware fabric w/ sparse fine muscovite
4056	Reduced Gritty ware	1	6	1	BS	Hollow ware	U/Dec	Late Medieval	Grey body w/ bright orange ext margin; common well-sorted quartz up to 1mm
4057	Buff-Orange Coarse Sandy ware	1	16	1	BS	Hollow ware	Dry-smoothed ext	C13th – C14th	A light buff-pink fabric w/ common quartz & red grit up to 0.5mm, occ larger
4057	Humberware	1	25	1	Base	Hollow ware	U/Dec	LC13th – C15th	Hard, fine fabric; cf Cowick
4057	Humberware	2	40	2	Base	Hollow ware	U/Dec	LC13th – C15th	Hard, fine fabric; cf Cowick
4057	Humberware	4	68	4	BS	Hollow ware	Patches & streaks of green glaze ext	LC13th – C15th	Hard, fine grey fabric w/ orange ext margin; cf Cowick
4057	Humberware	2	10	2	BS	Hollow ware	Green glaze ext	LC13th – C15th	Hard, fine pale grey fabric; cf Cowick



Context	Type	No	Wt	ENV	Part	Form	Decoration	Date range	Notes
4057	Humberware	1	6	1	Base	Hollow ware	U/Dec	LC13th – C15th	Fine orange fabric w/ a thin grey core
4057	Humberware	1	6	1	Base	Hollow ware	Patch of green glaze on underside	LC13th – C15th	Hard, fine orange fabric w/ a grey core; cf Cowick
4057	Humberware	1	24	1	BS	Hollow ware	U/Dec	MC14th – C15th	Hard, fine fabric; cf Cowick
4057	Oxidised Gritty ware	7	127	5	Base & BS	Hollow ware	U/Dec	C14th – C15th	
4059	Humberware	1	29	1	BS	Hollow ware	Streak of thin glaze ext	LC13th – C15th	Hard, fine fabric; fresh breaks
4059	Humberware type	1	8	1	BS	Hollow ware	Brown glaze ext over two impressed lines	LC13th – C15th	Late Humberware?
4061	Blackware	1	16	1	Handle	Cup/tyg	Black glaze all over	C17th	
4061	Cistercian ware type	1	6	1	BS	Cup/tyg	Three discs of white pipeclay ext; clear glaze int & ext	c.1450 – c.1600	Underfired Cistercian ware; dark orange fabric w/ fine quartz <0.2mm
6505	Blackware	1	27	1	Base	Hollow ware	Thin hard purple glaze int & ext above base	C17th	Deep footed base
6505	Brown Glazed Coarseware	1	14	1	BS	Hollow ware	Brown glaze int & ext	C18th	Hard fine red fabric
6505	Brown Glazed Coarseware type	1	23	1	Rim	Bowl	Traces of flaky brown glaze int & ext; chipped & abraded	C18th	A hard orange fabric; an unusual example of BGCW
6505	Humberware	3	45	3	BS	Hollow ware	Traces of glaze on one sherd	MC14th – C15th	
6505	Midlands Purple ware	1	105	1	BS	Hollow ware	Purple glaze int & ext	EC16th – MC18th	Very hard, dense purple fabric; semi-vitrified
6505	Purple Glazed Gritty ware	1	88	1	BS	Hollow ware	Spots & patches of thin purple glaze ext w/ sparse spots int	C15th	Very hard, dense buff-orange fabric w/ common, poorly sorted quartz & black grit up to 0.5mm, occ larger quartz
6505	Purple Glazed Humberware	1	17	1	Base	Hollow ware	Thick purple glaze ext	C15th	See Watkins 1987
6505	Yellow ware	1	114	1	Rim	Bowl	Hard clear (yellow) glaze int over possible white slip	LC15th – C17th	A pale buff fabric w/ white streaks & moderate, well-sorted black grit up to 0.4mm
6505	Yellow ware	1	23	1	Base	Dish/bowl	Flaky clear glaze int	LC15th – C17th	Soft white fabric w/ sparse white rock frags



Context	Type	No	Wt	ENV	Part	Form	Decoration	Date range	Notes
6509	Blackware type	1	3	1	BS	Hollow ware	Dark brown/black glaze int & ext	C17th – EC18th	Fine dark orange fabric
6509	Brown Glazed Coarseware	1	31	1	BS	Hollow ware	Brown glaze int & ext	C18th – C19th	Hard, fine red fabric
6511	Humberware	1	20	1	BS	Hollow ware	U/Dec	LC13th – C15th	Hard sandy Humberware w/ abundant fine quartz; Holme-on-Spalding Moor
6512	Yellow ware	1	40	1	Rim	Bowl	Thin, hard clear (yellow) glaze over thin white slip int	LC15th – C17th	Fine white fabric w/ sparse white rock frags; sooted ext
6512	Yorkshire Gritty ware type	1	28	1	Rim	Jar/CP	U/Dec	LC12th – C13th	Thin-walled vessel w/ heavy sharply-everted sub-square rim; common, well-sorted quartz & black grit up to 0.5mm
6906	Humberware	1	61	1	Handle	Jug	Prominent ridges on top of handle w/ patchy green glaze	LC13th – C15th	Hard, fine fabric; cf Cowick
6906	Humberware	3	44	3	BS	Hollow ware	U/Dec	LC13th – C15th	Hard, fine fabric; cf Cowick
6906	Midlands Purple ware	2	12	2	BS	Hollow ware	Thick purple-green glaze ext; glaze fuming int	EC16th – MC18th	Typical hard, dense semi-vitrified fabric
6906	Oxidised Gritty ware	1	88	1	BS	Hollow ware	Patches & streaks of glaze ext	C14th – C15th	Very hard, dense orange fabric w/ a grey core; abundant sub-round quartz up to 2mm
6906	Oxidised Gritty ware	1	11	1	BS	Hollow ware	U/Dec	C14th – C15th	Thin-walled sherd; abundant quartz & occ red grit up to 0.5mm, occ larger
6907	Buff-White Gritty ware	1	7	1	BS	Jar/CP	U/Dec	C12th – C13th	Hard, dense white fabric w/ abundant quartz & red grit up to 0.8mm w/ thin platy red grit up to 1.5mmx0.2mm
6907	Humberware	2	20	2	BS	Hollow ware	Thin green glaze ext	LC13th – C15th	Hard, fine orange to grey fabric; cf Cowick
6907	Humberware	1	14	1	BS	Hollow ware	Thick green glaze ext on a rilled body	LC13th – C15th	Hard, fine pale grey reduced fabric; cf Cowick
6907	Humberware	1	30	1	BS	Hollow ware	Mottled green-brown glaze w/ short sections of combing ext	LC13th – C15th	Hard fine sandy fabric w/ fine round quartz up to 0.2mm
6907	Humberware	1	6	1	BS	Hollow ware	Very small spots of glaze ext	LC13th – C15th	
6907	Yorkshire Gritty ware	3	90	1	Base	Jar/CP	U/Dec; sooted ext	C12th – C13th	Slightly sagging base w/ sharp base/body angle; buff fabric w/



Context	Type	No	Wt	ENV	Part	Form	Decoration	Date range	Notes
									abundant quartz & sparse red grit (no mudstone)
6911	Blackware	1	18	1	BS	Hollow ware	Black glaze int & ext; rilled ext	C17th	
6911	Blackware	1	12	1	BS	Hollow ware	Black glaze int & ext	C17th	
7604	Blackware	1	10	1	BS	Bottle/costrel ?	Hard black/purple glaze int & ext	C17th	Very heavily overfired; odd form w/ narrow diameter; flask/bottle neck?
7604	Coarse Sandy ware	1	19	1	Base	Hollow ware	Small spots of glaze on underside	C14th – C15th	Resembles Gritty ware w/ common quartz & red grit but no larger than 0.5mm
7604	Coarse Sandy ware type	1	10	1	BS	Hollow ware	Rilled body	C14th – C15th	A bright orange fabric w/ moderate, very poorly sorted quartz & sparse red grit up to 0.5m, rare large quartz up to 3mm
7604	Humberware	2	66	1	Neck/shoulder	Jug	Patchy green glaze ext	LC13th – C15th	Sandy Humberware w/ fine round quartz up to 0.2mm
7604	Micaceous White Sandy ware	1	8	1	Base	Hollow ware	U/Dec	Medieval	Very unusual bright white fabric w/ common round white quartz up to 0.5mm & common fine muscovite on surfaces
7604	Oxidised Gritty ware	3	46	3	BS	Hollow ware	U/Dec	C14th – C15th	See text for description
7604	Oxidised Gritty ware type	1	12	1	BS	Hollow ware	U/Dec	C14th – C15th	As Oxidised Gritty ware but w/ sparse red grit amongst the quartz
	Total	105	2026	98					



Appendix 3 Environmental data

Context	Sample	Vol (l)	Flot (ml)	Bioturbation proxies	Grain	Chaff	Cereal Notes	Charred Other	Charred Other Notes	Charcoal >2mm (ml)	Charcoal	Other	Analysis	Comments (Preservation)
4009	1	1	81	<1%, I	-	-	-	-	-	78	Mature	-		-
4005	2	5	17	50%, I	-	-	-	-	-	1.5	Mature	Moll-t (C), Sab (C)	Sab	-
4007	3	3	6	20%, I	C	-	cf. <i>Hordeum vulgare</i>	-	-	1	Mature	Moll-t (A), slag (C)		Poor
4014	4	4	482	<1, B, I	-	-	-	C	<i>Rumex</i> sp., indet. seed	56	Mature and roundwood	Bone (A*), coal (A), moll-t (C), clinker (A**)		Fair
7601	6	1.5	16	10%, C, I, E	-	C	Triticeae culm	-	-	<1	Mature	Moll-t (A)		Fair
7602	7	20	650	<1%, A*, E, I	-	-	-	-	-	80	Mature	Coal (A**), clinker (A*), A bone (B), Sab (C), Fish bone + scales (A) slag/ind waste (B), Moll-t (B), Moll-m (C)	Sab/fish	Possibly some mineralisation
7607	8	20	20	15%, A*	C	-	<i>Triticum</i> sp. (inc. <i>aestivum/turgidum</i>)	-	-	1	Mature	Coal (A), Moll-t (A*), fish bone/scales (B), A. bone (A), Sab (B)	Sab/fish	Heterogenous

Key: Scale of abundance: A*** = exceptional, A** = 100+, A* = 30-99, A = 30-10, B = 9-5, C = <5; Bioturbation proxies: Roots (%), Uncharred seeds (scale of abundance), E = earthworm eggs, I = insects; Sab = small animal bones, Moll-t = terrestrial molluscs, Moll-m = marine molluscs.



Appendix 4 Copyright information

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Appendix 4 OASIS form

OASIS ID: wessexar1-211537

Project details

Project name	Pontefract Castle, Pontefract, West Yorkshire
Short description of the project	<p>In 2014 Wakefield Council commenced a programme of conservation, consolidation, interpretation and landscaping works at Pontefract Castle (a scheduled ancient monument). To protect against the loss of archaeological information and in accordance with a condition of scheduled monument consent, Wakefield Council commissioned Wessex Archaeology to carry out a photographic survey and watching brief during the recent works. Most of the groundworks were comparatively minor and served primarily to document the extent of 18th and 19th century liquorice cultivation, but other works were of greater archaeological significance. Results included castle structures such as a previously unlocated barbican structure, but of prime importance were potentially early remains and deposits which were revealed by the excavation of a backfilled defensive ditch. Upon completion of fieldwork in 2019, the reporting and archiving requirements in the original specification for the works (prepared in 2014) were reviewed and amended by Historic England. In response, Wessex Archaeology prepared a short 'post-excavation statement' which quantified the data collected during the watching brief and, based on Historic England requirements, the scope of further analysis and reporting. The agreed level of finds and environmental analysis has now been completed. This report describes the most significant results from the watching brief and summarises those of lesser importance to the ongoing management of the castle site. The archive will be transferred to Wakefield Council for storage either at Pontefract Castle or one of the district's museum stores. The archive comprises excavation and post-excavation records and finds.</p>
Project dates	Start: 01-05-2015 End: 30-04-2019
Previous/future work	Yes / Not known
Any associated project reference codes	109220 - Contracting Unit No.
Any associated project reference codes	13298 - SM No.
Any associated project reference codes	1010127 - SM No.
Any associated project reference codes	109221 - Contracting Unit No.
Any associated project reference codes	109222 - Contracting Unit No.
Any associated project reference codes	109223 - Contracting Unit No.
Type of project	Recording project
Site status	Scheduled Monument (SM)
Current Land use	Other 2 - In use as a building



Current Land use	Other 8 - Land dedicated to the display of a monument
Monument type	CASTLE Medieval
Significant Finds	POTTERY Medieval
Investigation type	"Watching Brief"
Prompt	Scheduled Monument Consent

Project location

Country	England
Site location	WEST YORKSHIRE WAKEFIELD PONTEFRACT Pontefract Castle
Postcode	WF8 2JE
Study area	1 Hectares
Site coordinates	SE 46050 22360 53.695422154774 -1.302486632954 53 41 43 N 001 18 08 W Point
Height OD / Depth	Min: 55m Max: 55m

Project creators

Name of Organisation	Wessex Archaeology
Project brief originator	West Yorkshire Archaeology Advisory Service
Project design originator	West Yorkshire Archaeology Advisory Service
Project director/manager	Alexandra Grassam
Project director/manager	Andy Norton
Project director/manager	Andrea Burgess
Project supervisor	Andy Swann
Type of sponsor/funding body	Local Government
Name of sponsor/funding body	Wakefield Council

Project archives

Physical Archive recipient	Wakefield Council
Physical Contents	"Animal Bones", "Ceramics", "Glass", "Metal", "Worked bone"
Digital Archive recipient	Wakefield Council
Digital Contents	"none"
Digital Media	"Images raster / digital photography", "Text"



available

Paper Archive recipient Wakefield Council

Paper Contents "none"

Paper Media available "Context sheet", "Diary", "Drawing", "Map", "Notebook - Excavation", ' Research', ' General Notes', "Photograph", "Plan", "Report", "Section"

Project bibliography 1

Publication type Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)

Title Pontefract Castle, Pontefract, West Yorkshire: Archaeological watching brief 2015-19

Author(s)/Editor(s) Burgess, A.

Other bibliographic details 109223.1

Date 2019

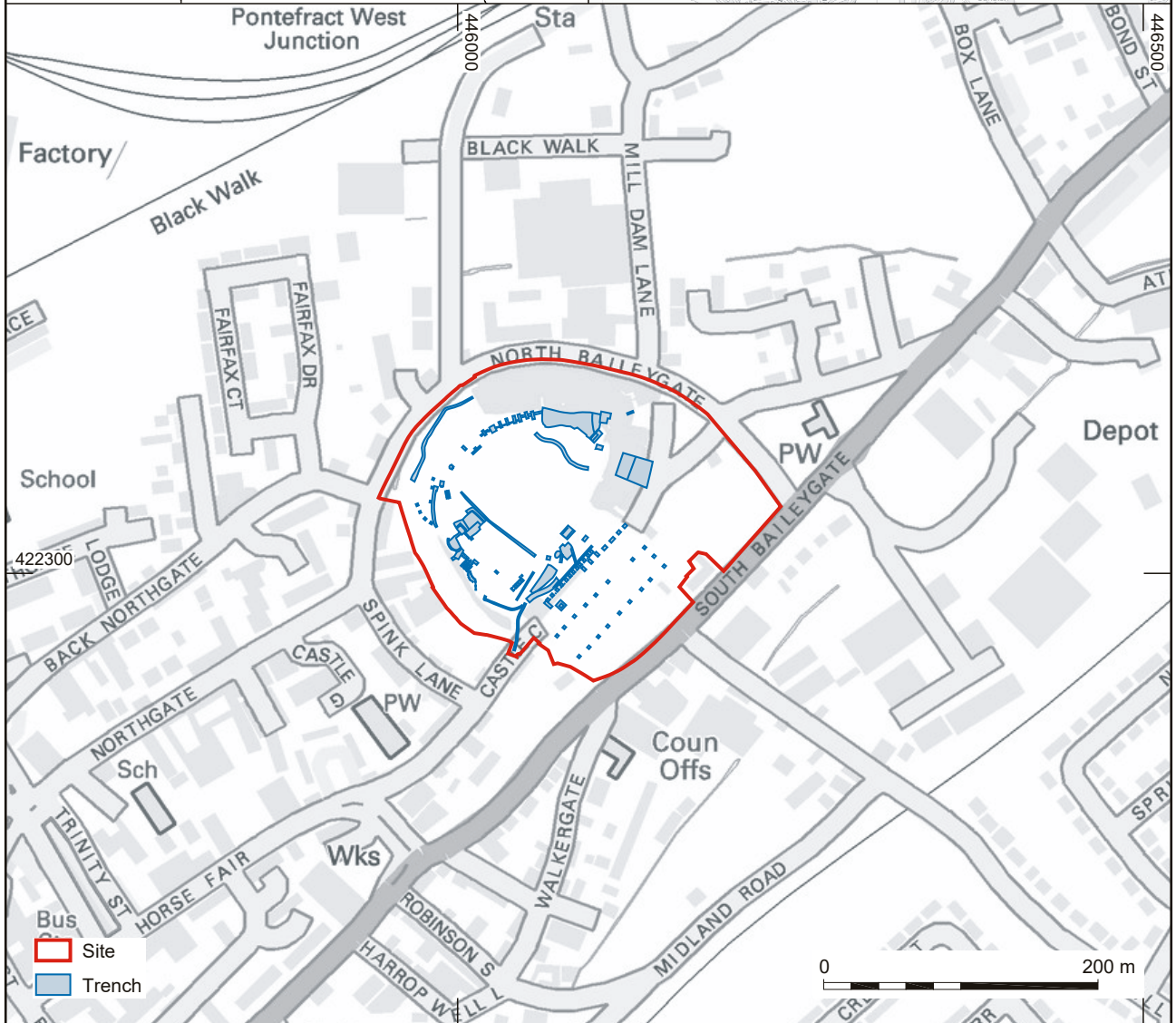
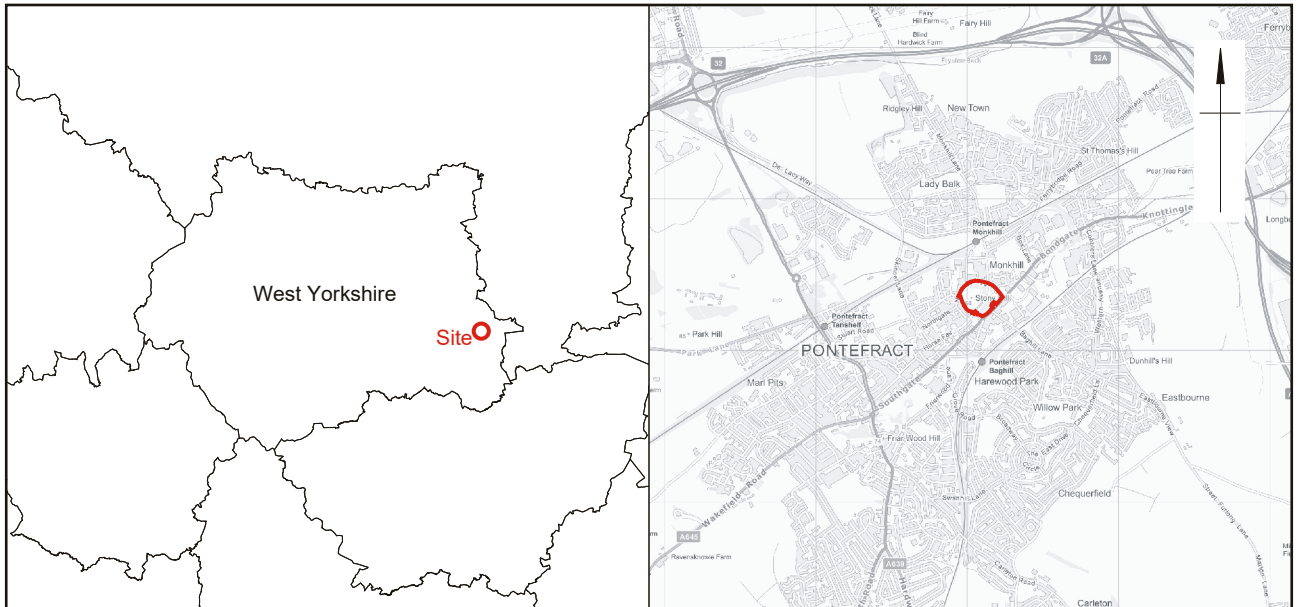
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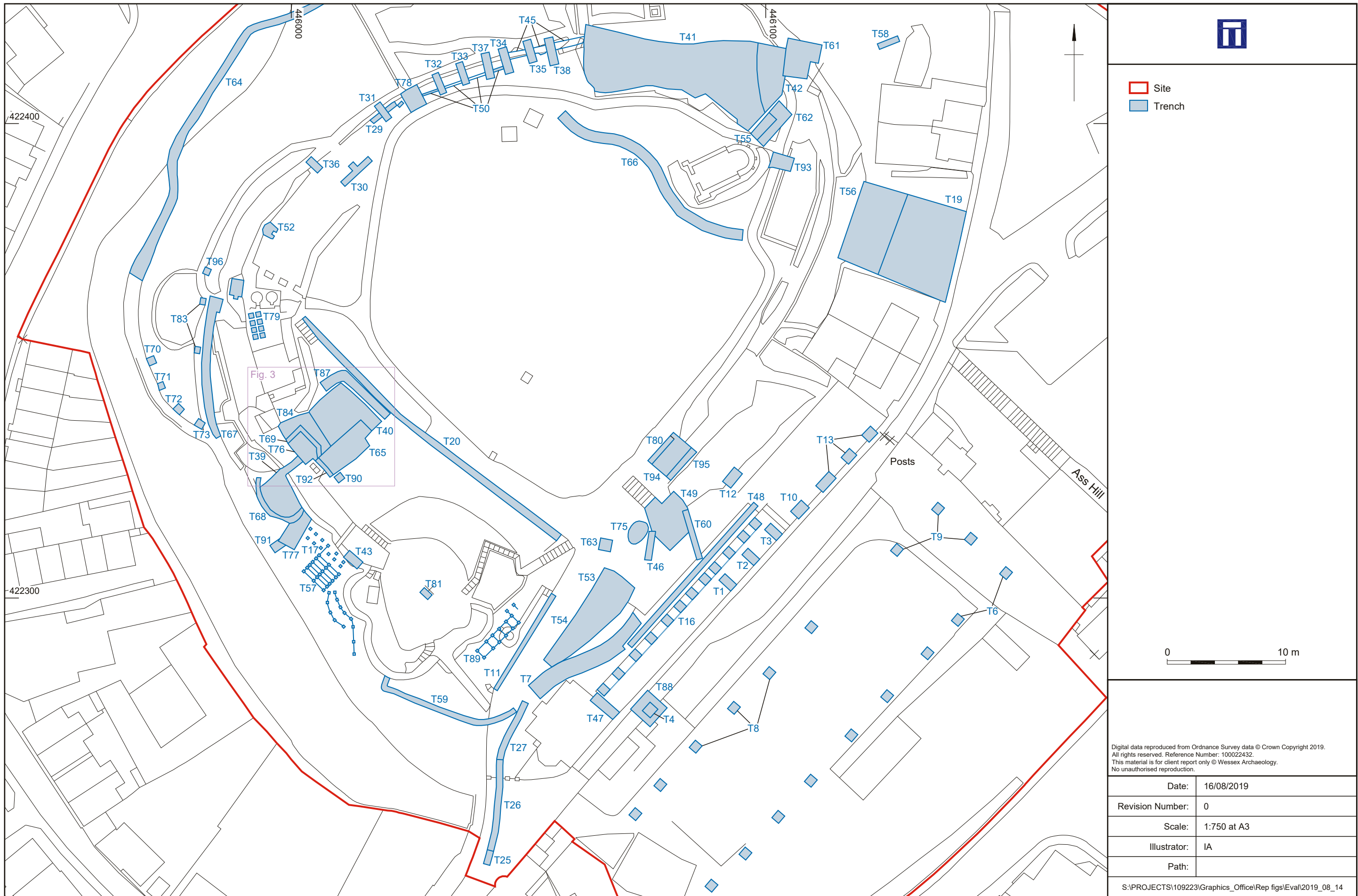
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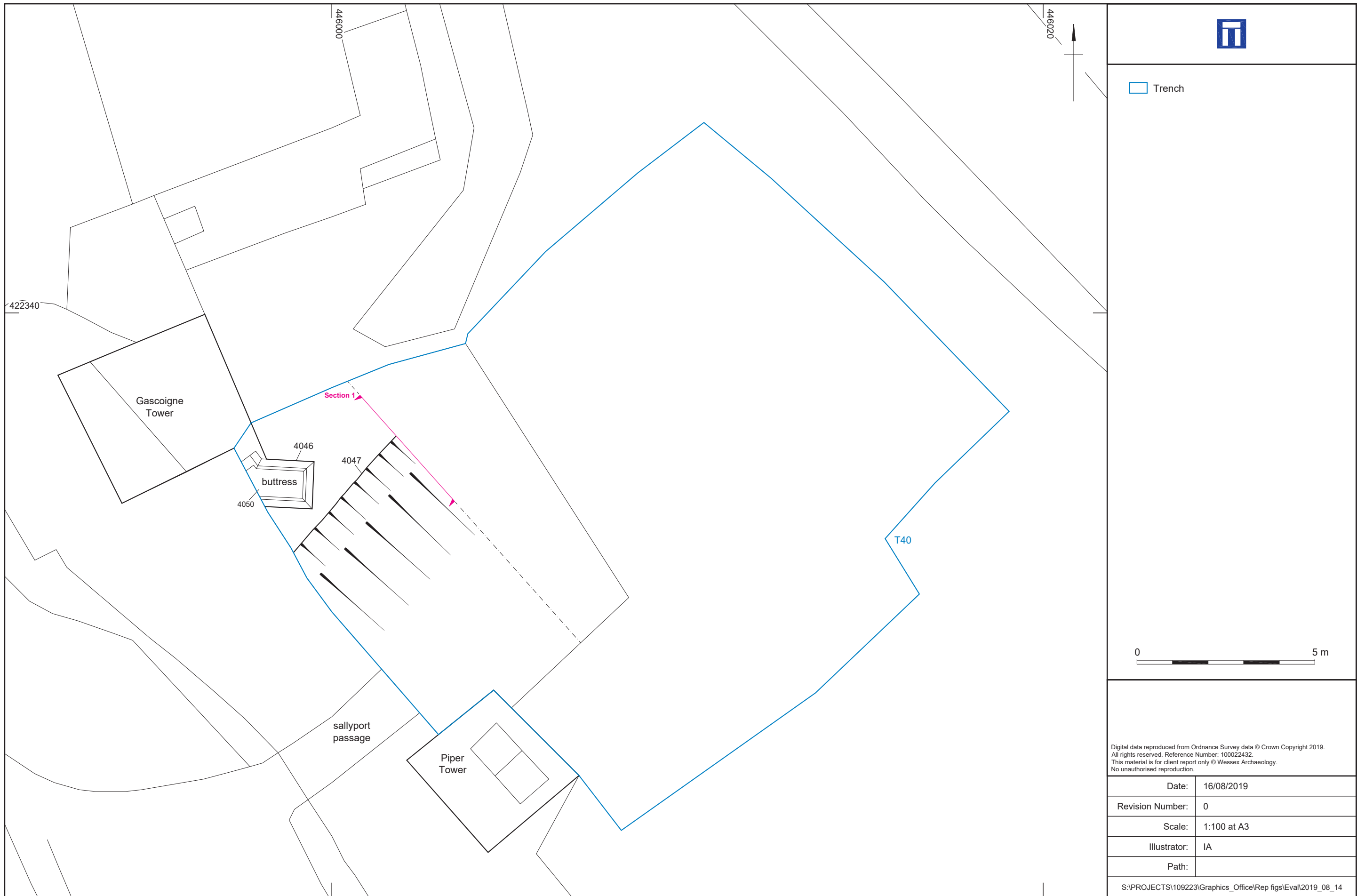
Site location

Figure 1



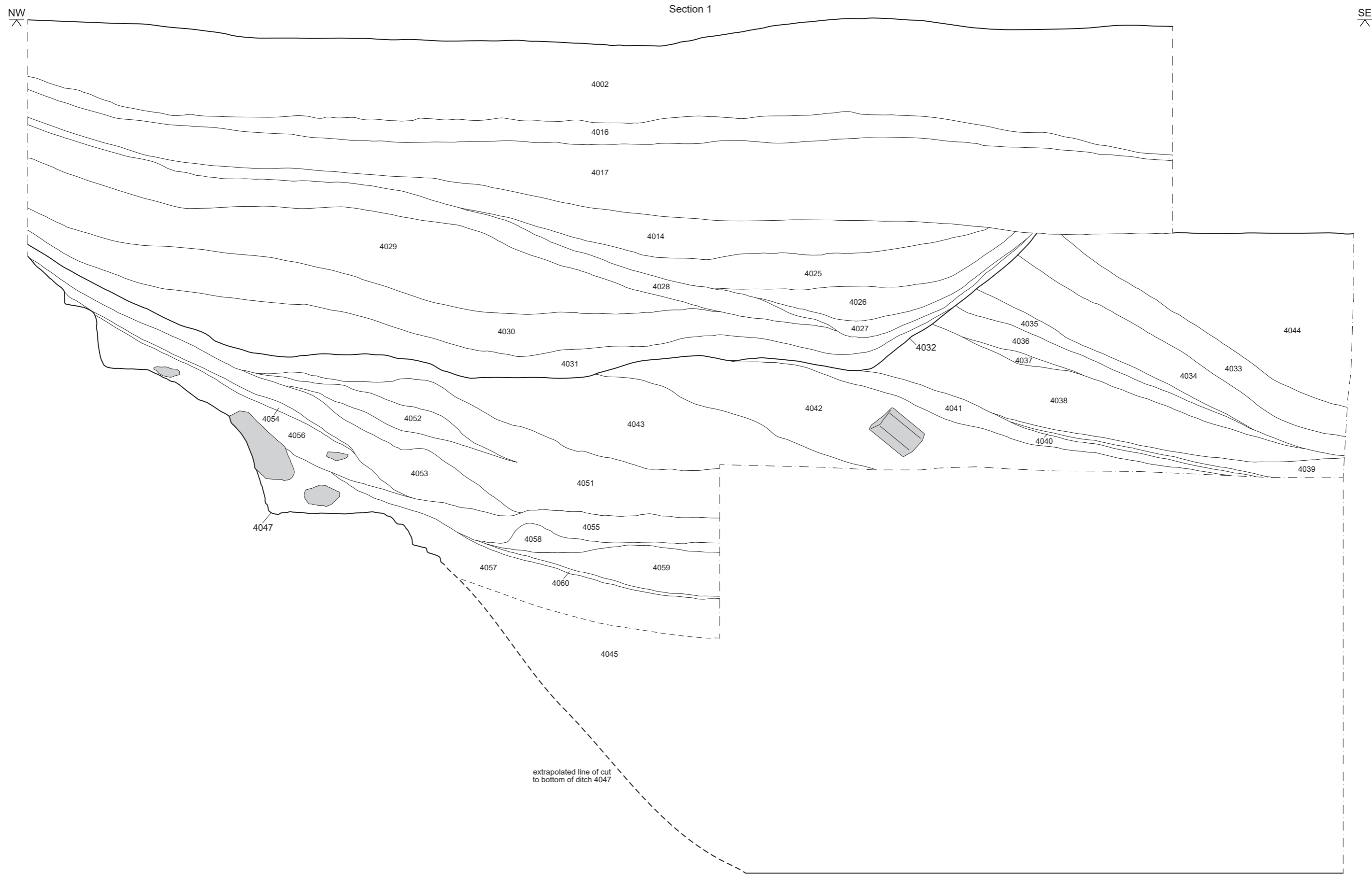
Trench locations



Figure 2



Plan of Trench 40

Figure 3



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Section showing ditch 4047 (Trench 40)

Figure 4



Plate 1: The Sallyport before excavation



Plate 2: The Sallyport following conservation and installation of the new visitor access


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Plate 3: The outer entrance to the Sallyport



Plate 4: Accumulated deposits above the inner Sallyport entrance


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Plate 5: Debris in the Sallyport passage viewed from the outer entrance



Plate 6: Deepest extent of excavations of ditch 4047 in Trench 40


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Plate 7: The northern side of the Piper Tower, door 6506 and structure 6508



Plate 8: Wall 6510/6512 adjacent to structure 6508


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Plate 9: Undated wall built onto partially filled ditch 4047



Plate 10: The 'royal apartments', looking north-east



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Plate 11: The 'early chapel', looking south-east

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