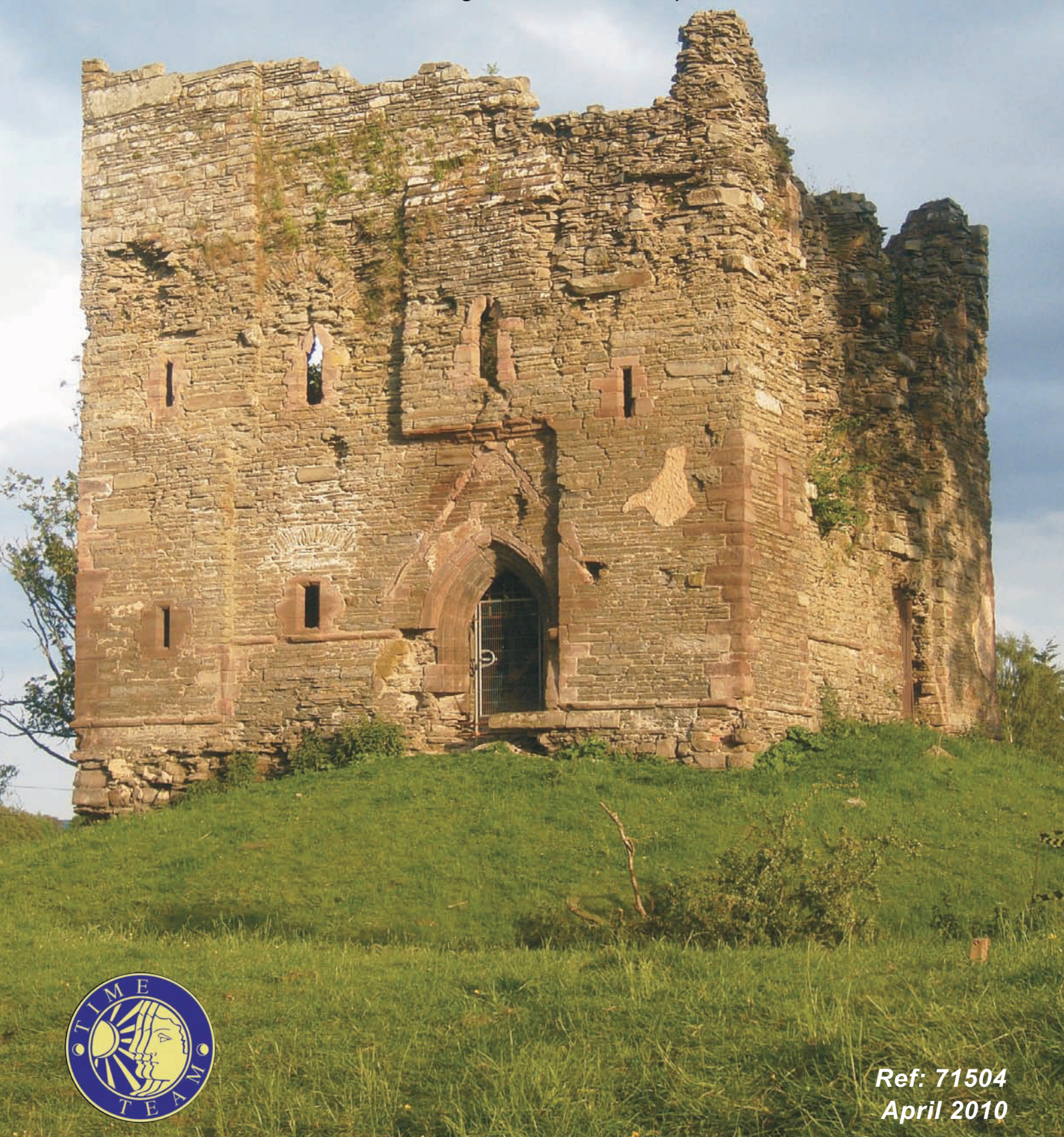




Hopton Castle, Shropshire

Archaeological Evaluation Report



Ref: 71504
April 2010



**HOPTON CASTLE
SHROPSHIRE**

Archaeological Evaluation

Prepared for:
Videotext Communications Ltd
49 Goldhawk Road
LONDON
SW1 8QP

by
Wessex Archaeology
Portway House
Old Sarum Park
SALISBURY
Wiltshire
SP4 6EB

Scheduled Ancient Monument No. 106648
Report reference: 71504.01
Path: X/projects/71504/post ex/report/TT Hopton Castle report (ed LNM)

April 2010

DISCLAIMER

THE MATERIAL CONTAINED IN THIS REPORT WAS DESIGNED AS AN INTEGRAL PART OF A REPORT TO AN INDIVIDUAL CLIENT AND WAS PREPARED SOLELY FOR THE BENEFIT OF THAT CLIENT. THE MATERIAL CONTAINED IN THIS REPORT DOES NOT NECESSARILY STAND ON ITS OWN AND IS NOT INTENDED TO NOR SHOULD IT BE RELIED UPON BY ANY THIRD PARTY. TO THE FULLEST EXTENT PERMITTED BY LAW WESSEX ARCHAEOLOGY WILL NOT BE LIABLE BY REASON OF BREACH OF CONTRACT NEGLIGENCE OR OTHERWISE FOR ANY LOSS OR DAMAGE (WHETHER DIRECT INDIRECT OR CONSEQUENTIAL) OCCASIONED TO ANY PERSON ACTING OR OMITTING TO ACT OR REFRAINING FROM ACTING IN RELIANCE UPON THE MATERIAL CONTAINED IN THIS REPORT ARISING FROM OR CONNECTED WITH ANY ERROR OR OMISSION IN THE MATERIAL CONTAINED IN THE REPORT. LOSS OR DAMAGE AS REFERRED TO ABOVE SHALL BE DEEMED TO INCLUDE, BUT IS NOT LIMITED TO, ANY LOSS OF PROFITS OR ANTICIPATED PROFITS DAMAGE TO REPUTATION OR GOODWILL LOSS OF BUSINESS OR ANTICIPATED BUSINESS DAMAGES COSTS EXPENSES INCURRED OR PAYABLE TO ANY THIRD PARTY (IN ALL CASES WHETHER DIRECT INDIRECT OR CONSEQUENTIAL) OR ANY OTHER DIRECT INDIRECT OR CONSEQUENTIAL LOSS OR DAMAGE

QUALITY ASSURANCE

| | | | | | |
|---------------------------|--------------|----------------|----------------------|-------------|--|
| SITE CODE | 71504 | ACCESSION CODE | | CLIENT CODE | |
| PLANNING APPLICATION REF. | | NGR | 336667 277930 | | |

| VERSION | STATUS* | PREPARED BY | APPROVED BY | APPROVER'S SIGNATURE | DATE | FILE |
|---------|---------|-------------|-------------|----------------------|----------|----------------------------------|
| 01 | F | NH | KEW | | 13/04/10 | TT HOPTON CASTLE REPORT (ED LNM) |
| | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | |

* I= INTERNAL DRAFT E= EXTERNAL DRAFT F= FINAL

**HOPTON CASTLE
SHROPSHIRE****Archaeological Evaluation****Contents**

| | | |
|-----------|---|-----------|
| | Summary | iv |
| | Acknowledgements | v |
| 1 | INTRODUCTION | 1 |
| | 1.1 Project Background | 1 |
| | 1.2 The Site, location and geology | 1 |
| 2 | METHODOLOGY | 1 |
| | 2.1 Archaeological Background | 1 |
| | 2.2 Previous Archaeological Work | 6 |
| 3 | AIMS AND OBJECTIVES | 7 |
| 4 | METHODS | 8 |
| | 4.1 Geophysical Survey | 8 |
| | 4.2 Landscape and Earthwork Survey | 8 |
| | 4.3 Evaluation Trenches | 8 |
| 5 | RESULTS | 8 |
| | 5.1 Introduction | 8 |
| | 5.2 Geophysical Survey | 9 |
| | 5.3 Evaluation Trenches | 9 |
| 6 | FINDS | 15 |
| | 6.1 Introduction | 15 |
| | 6.2 Pottery | 15 |
| | 6.3 Ceramic Building Material | 16 |
| | 6.4 Wall Plaster | 16 |
| | 6.5 Stone | 16 |
| | 6.6 Glass | 17 |
| | 6.7 Metalwork | 17 |
| | 6.8 Animal Bone | 18 |
| | 6.9 Other Finds | 19 |
| | 6.10 Potential and Recommendations | 19 |
| 7 | PALAEOENVIRONMENTAL EVIDENCE | 20 |
| | 7.1 Introduction | 20 |
| | 7.2 Charred Plant Remains | 20 |
| | 7.3 Recommendations | 20 |
| 8 | DISCUSSION | 20 |
| | 8.1 Introduction | 20 |
| | 8.2 Medieval | 21 |
| | 8.3 Early post-medieval (1500-1641) | 22 |
| | 8.4 The Civil War period (1642-46) | 23 |
| 9 | RECOMMENDATIONS | 26 |
| 10 | ARCHIVE | 26 |
| 11 | REFERENCES | 27 |

Appendix 1: Trench summaries**Figures****Figure 1:** Site and trench location**Figure 2:** The tower house

Plate 1: Tower house, view from south-east

Plate 2: Tower house, view from south-west

Figure 3: Results of the geophysical survey**Figure 4:** Trench 1: plan and photographs

Plate 3: South end Trench 1, wall 114, view from south

Plate 4: Oblique view Trench 1, view from south-west

Plate 5: Oblique view, west-facing section Trench 1 and wall 120

Plate 6: East-facing section Trench 1, view from north-east

Figure 5: Trenches 2, 3 and 6: plan**Figure 6:** Trenches 2, 3 and 6: photographs

Plate 7: Post-excavation view Trench 2, view from north

Plate 8: Post-excavation view Trench 2, view from south

Plate 9: South-facing elevation wall 303

Plate 10: Demolition deposits Trench 3, view from east

Plate 11: Northern part of Trench 3, view from south

Plate 12: Post-excavation view Trench 6, view from south

Figure 7: Trench 4: plan and photographs

Plate 13: West-facing elevation wall 403

Plate 14: North-facing section Trench 4

Figure 8: Trench 7: plan and photographs

Plate 15: Trench 7, view from north-west

Plate 16: Oblique view, north-east facing section Trench 7

Front cover: North elevation of tower house**Back cover:** (top) The tower house from the north
(bottom) Gold coin of James I**Tables****Table 1:** Finds totals by material type and by trench**Table 2:** Pottery totals by ware type**Table 3:** Animal bone condition and potential**Table 4:** Assessment of charred plant remains and charcoal

**HOPTON CASTLE,
SHROPSHIRE****Archaeological Evaluation****Summary**

Wessex Archaeology was commissioned by Videotext Communications Ltd to undertake a programme of archaeological recording and post-excavation work on an archaeological evaluation undertaken by Channel 4's 'Time Team' at the site of Hopton Castle, Shropshire (Scheduled Ancient Monument 106648; NGR 336667 277930). The evaluation, comprising seven trenches, identified three major phases of activity on the Site: medieval, early post-medieval and mid 17th century, involving a siege during the Civil War, in 1644. The work was carried out on the 2nd - 5th June 2009.

As well as reviewing what was previously known about the upstanding remains of the medieval tower house, the evaluation also found evidence for the medieval moat and curtain wall. A large cellared building and a stone-built tower were also identified within the confines of the bailey. The dating for these remains uncertain, but they were likely to have been of medieval origin, but still standing during the Civil War siege.

To the north-east of the Castle, remains were encountered which were interpreted as being structures associated with the early post-medieval re-landscaping of the Site prior to the Civil War period. There was also evidence that some structures may have been demolished at this time.

An eye-witness account of the 1644 siege described several parts of the castle complex, and the evaluation identified the remains of some of these, including the defensive earthworks, although others remain unidentified. In addition, this assessment was able to re-evaluate the earthwork and geophysical surveys conducted on the Site in the light of the archaeology uncovered.

This report adds to the assessment already undertaken as part of the Conservation Management Plan commissioned by the Hopton Castle Preservation Trust. The results are expected both to inform their interpretation as well as informing any future work on the Site.

It is recommended that the results of the Time Team evaluation are published as an interim statement, in the form of a summary report, with accompanying figures, to be submitted to the *Transactions of the Shropshire Archaeological and Historical Society*.

HOPTON CASTLE, SHROPSHIRE

Archaeological Evaluation

Acknowledgements

This programme of post-excavation and assessment work was commissioned and funded by Videotext Communications Ltd, and Wessex Archaeology would like to thank the staff at Videotext, and in particular Michael Douglas (Series Editor), Jane Hammond (Production Manager), Sarah Jobling (Assistant Producer), Louise Ord (Researcher) and Emily Woodburn (Production Coordinator) for their considerable help during the recording and post-excavation work.

The geophysical survey was undertaken by John Gater, Claire Stephens and Emma Wood of GSB Prospection. The field survey was undertaken by Henry Chapman, University of Birmingham and landscape survey and map regression was undertaken by Stewart Ainsworth of English Heritage. The excavation strategy was devised by Neil Holbrook. The on-site recording was co-ordinated by Naomi Hall, and on-site finds processing was carried out by Sue Nelson, both of Wessex Archaeology.

The excavations were undertaken by Time Team's retained archaeologists, Phil Harding (Wessex Archaeology), Matt Williams, Ian Powlesland, Faye Simpson, Tracey Smith and Meredith Wiggins assisted by Cat Rees, Ifan Edwards, Charlotte Barrons, Richard Cramp, Tony Hanna and Zoe Sutherland. The metal detector survey was carried out by Jack Dave and Martin Fullerway.

The archive was collated and all post-excavation assessment and analysis undertaken by Wessex Archaeology, with the exception of the geological identifications (Kevin Hayward, freelance specialist), and the initial historical research (Jim Mower and Tom Scott, Videotext Communications). This report was compiled by Naomi Hall, with specialist reports prepared by Lorraine Mephram (finds), Nicholas Cooke (coins), Jessica Grimm (animal bone) and Ruth Pelling (palaeo-environmental). The illustrations were prepared by Kenneth Lymer. The post-excavation project was managed on behalf of Wessex Archaeology by Lorraine Mephram.

Wessex Archaeology would also like to thank Richard Morriss for sharing his expertise on the Site and its upstanding remains, Peter Reavill (Finds Liaison Officer for Shropshire/ Hertfordshire) and Bill Klemperer (English Heritage Inspector) for their help and assistance during the excavation. Finally, thanks are extended to the Hopton Castle Preservation Trust for allowing access to the Site for geophysical survey and archaeological evaluation and to Mr John Williams for allowing access through the land of Upper House Farm.

HOPTON CASTLE SHROPSHIRE

Archaeological Evaluation

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Project Background

1.1.1 Wessex Archaeology was commissioned by Videotext Communications Ltd to undertake a programme of archaeological recording and post-excavation work on an archaeological evaluation undertaken by Channel 4's 'Time Team' at the site of Hopton Castle situated just south of the village of Hopton Castle, Shropshire (hereafter the 'Site') (**Figure 1**).

1.1.2 This report documents the results of archaeological survey and evaluation undertaken by Time Team, and presents an assessment of the results of these works.

1.2 The Site, location and geology

1.2.1 The Site consisted of the scheduled area of Hopton Castle (Scheduled Ancient Monument 106648, National Monument 19204), centred on NGR 336667 277930, and is located within the parish of Hopton Castle. The Site is bounded to the north by the main road through Hopton Castle and on the east by the road to Bedstone. A small stream skirts round the north-east part of the Site. The Scheduled Area covers 0.02km² and includes the still upstanding tower house and surrounding earthworks thought to be the remains of the bailey and Civil War defences.

1.2.2 The Site lies approximately 8km from Craven Arms to the north-east and 15km from Ludlow to the south-east. The Site is situated on a level platform with number of pronounced earthworks concentrated to the north and west of the central keep. Further earthworks lie beyond the Scheduled Area to the north and west. A pond lies in the south-eastern part of the Site.

1.2.3 The land and surrounding fields are currently under grass and they appear not to have been ploughed within living memory (J. Williams *pers. comm.*). The underlying geology is limestone (GSGB Sheet 56).

2 METHODOLOGY

2.1 Archaeological Background

Prehistoric (-43AD)

2.1.1 A bowl barrow (NMR 27532), lies 1.4km to the south of the Site and is likely to date from the Bronze Age

2.1.2 Two enclosures immediately to the south of the Site and situated either side of the modern road have been identified from cropmarks. These are likely to represent the focus of the early prehistoric settlement in the area (Bowden 2006, 1).

2.1.3 The remains of a small enclosed settlement known as Castle Ditches (NMR 34936), 2.4km to the south-west, are likely to date from the Iron Age or

Romano-British period. Within the ditched and banked enclosure there is evidence of building platforms.

- 2.1.4 Just under 6km to the south-west is the Iron Age multivallate hillfort of Caer Caradoc (NMR 34937), a D-shaped enclosure with traces of building platforms inside. This hillfort is traditionally associated with Caractacus, the leader of the Welsh tribes in their resistance against the Romans.

Romano-British (43-410AD)

- 2.1.5 A Roman road lies around 4km to the east of the Site, running through the village of Leintwardine. This was originally the settlement of *Bravonium*, situated where the road from the regional capital of *Uriconium* (Wroexter) crossed the River Teme.

Anglo-Saxon (410-1066)

- 2.1.6 Offa's Dyke lies nearly 11km to the west, placing Hopton Castle within the late 8th century Anglo-Saxon kingdom of Mercia. By the late 10th century it became part of the Saxon *scire* of Shropshire (Morriss 2006, 6).
- 2.1.7 In the mid 11th century the manor of *Opetune* (Hopton) was listed as within the hundred of Rinlau and was valued at 40 shillings. It was held by Eadric who also held Clun and Hopesay (Morriss 2006, 7).

Medieval (1066-1499)

- 2.1.8 In the Domesday survey, Hopton is listed as within the hundred of Purslow and described as waste, suggesting that it suffered either from Welsh raids or during the local rebellion (Morriss 2006, 7). At this time the land was being held by Picot de Say from the 1st Earl of Shrewsbury (Morriss 2006, 7). It retained its ties to Clun, remaining a chapelry of Clun until relatively late (Bowden 2006, 2). By the middle of the 12th century, however, the land appears to have been acquired by the de Hopton family, and they retained it until the middle of the 15th century when it passed through marriage to the Corbet family (Morriss 2006, 7-9).
- 2.1.9 The present village lies just to the north of the Site along the main road and predominantly along the northern edge of the road. This would place it on higher ground above the valley floor, which appears to have been liable to flooding (Curnow 1989, 81-3). The current village is barely more than a hamlet, although earthworks at the western end of the settlement might suggest that the settlement has shrunk or its focus shifted (Bowden 2006, 2).
- 2.1.10 There is no mention of a castle at Hopton in Domesday, but this cannot be taken as evidence for absence as castles are seldom included in what was essentially a record of land values and rent (Morriss 2006, 7). The castle first appears in the records of a case of theft in 1264 where there is mention of the '*castles of Hopton*' (Morriss 2006, 8).
- 2.1.11 The upstanding building usually referred to as the Keep (**Figure 2, Plates 1-2 and front cover**), is more correctly a tower house, standing on a low motte-like mound which would have raised it up from the water table (Curnow 1989, 81). It is not known whether the mound is a remodelling of an earlier higher motte or whether it was constructed as part of the construction of the tower house; some recent but limited excavations within the debris in the interior of the tower house have not found any traces of any

earlier structures (Morris 2006, 38). The tower house would have been situated in a bailey that is thought to have been originally surrounded by a wet moat, fed by the nearby stream, the course of which may have been diverted to achieve this (Curnow 1989, 81). The tower house appears to sit at an odd angle to the general alignment of the defences (Morris 2006, 38).

- 2.1.12 Hopton was just one of a swathe of marcher castles along the Shropshire and Herefordshire borders with Wales, and Curnow believes that its position among the marcher defences make the fortifications unlikely to have been founded later than the mid 12th century (Curnow 1989, 83). However, the present tower house seems to have been built as an expression of status and prestige rather than as a practically defensive structure. The design and form of the windows indicates that light rather than security was the dominant consideration. The entrance is in the north wall and appears to have been designed as an impressive frontispiece facing both the approach and the village (Curnow 1989, 89-90) (**front cover**). Large corbels flank the doorway within the north wall and there are clear indications that this would have supported a timber porch. This was the only entrance into the tower house and was almost certainly approached by a flight of steps along the north wall from the north-east (Curnow 1989, 89) or possibly across a drawbridge from a raised earthwork platform to the north (Morris 2006, 26). The ground floor entry was, therefore, only defended by a timber porch and a barred door. Although built to resemble a 12th century keep, this appearance is deliberately archaic, and it is essentially a late 13th or early 14th century fortified house (Curnow 1989, 96; Morris 2006, 26, 37-39).
- 2.1.13 The tower house is rectangular, not quite north-south aligned, and measures 12.19m along its north and south sides, 14.10m along its eastern edge and 15.17m along its western edge due to the projection of the south-west turret. It now stands to a maximum height of 12.2m. The architecture primarily employs a local, fairly soft siltstone, with a harder stone used for some of the upper quoins. A local red sandstone is used for the lower quoins and architectural details such as doorways and windows. The consistency of detailing between the three floors seems to accord with a single planned design, with changes in wall thickness and quoining likely to be due to practical considerations, the exception being that a number of the windows appear to have been replaced in the late 16th or early 17th century (Morris 2006, 25, 38) (**Figure 2, Plate 1**). There are traces of external rendering, a practical response to the friable nature of the local stone. All indications are that this rendering was part of the original construction (Curnow 1989, 83, 88-90).
- 2.1.14 The tower house could not have been a self sufficient structure and would have necessitated a number of ancillary buildings. There is little evidence for the ground floor being for service use, as there are apparently no cupboards, drains or cooking areas, whereas there are windows with seats, a fireplace and a garderobe. There is no space for any adjoining buildings within the confines of the motte. This would suggest that the service buildings were located within the bailey. There is also no indication of a cellar (Morris 2006, 23, 31, 41). The first floor accommodation appears to be the lord's principal hall, with the upper floor as his private chamber. There are indications of status, with a good-sized garderobe comparable to 14th century ones at Ludlow (Curnow 1989, 90-3).
- 2.1.15 The presence of substantial amounts of brickwork on the internal faces of the north and south gables is indicative of significant restoration or remodelling, this probably dates to the period between 1606 and 1644 when

the Wallop family are known to have carried out considerable work on the castle (Curnow 1989, 93; Morriss 2006, 36).

- 2.1.16 Other motte castles are situated nearby, 3km to the south-east at Marlow (NMR 32321), and at Clungunford (NMR 19199), some 3km to the north-east. These are thought to date to between the 11th and 13th centuries. Additionally, some 7.5km to the north-west is the castle of Clun (NMR 19179), owned by the overlord of the de Hoptons and that of Brampton Bryan, 5.4km to the south (NMR 27500). Beyond the immediate vicinity is the grand marcher castle of Ludlow (NMR 1399941) to the east, as well as the impressive fortified manor house at Stokesay Castle (NMR 109049) to the north-east. A moated manor site is also situated at Coston Manor (NMR 13683), some 3.2km to the north-east.

Post-medieval (1500-1799) and Modern (1800-)

- 2.1.17 In the mid 16th century the estate passed again through marriage to the Wallop family. The estate in Shropshire does not seem to have been their principal residence (Morriss 2006, 9). The later windows inserted into the tower house, however, do suggest some investment and updating of the structure at this time, as do the mentions in the later accounts of brick-built structures, a new and fairly expensive building material for the late 16th and early 17th centuries. The known re-landscaping of much of the Site, as evidenced by the earthwork survey, is likely to date to this period (Morriss 2006, 43-4).
- 2.1.18 From 1642 to 1646 the country was embroiled in the first phase of the English Civil War, as the King and Parliament fought for power and control. Robert Wallop (1601-67) was a MP and staunch Parliamentarian, involved in the trial of Charles I in 1640. Despite Hopton Castle's position in a largely royalist county, the Wallop family supported Parliament in this conflict. As a result the castle came under siege in 1644.
- 2.1.19 During 1643 and early 1644 the castle of Brampton Bryan was holding out against a Royalist siege. Those in command became aware of a plan by Royalist forces to take and garrison Hopton Castle to the north. Accordingly Samuel More, the son of a local Parliamentarian landowner, was sent with a small detachment of troops to take and garrison Hopton in order to guard against this threat to the northern flank. This was apparently achieved with minimal opposition in February 1644. However there was little time to consolidate his position, as only a few days later Hopton was besieged by a Royalist force under the command of Sir Michael Woodhouse. Samuel's journal account of the events forms the basis for much of what is known about the siege (held in the Shropshire Archives, ref. 1037/445/284-6). The account is informative, giving some clues as to the layout of the castle at that time, as well as subsequent alterations and damage occurring during the siege.
- 2.1.20 The entry for the 26th February records that *"the Royalists ... within an hour sent a body of foot who approached the out walls (we not being able to hinder them, because the work did not flank, being an old wall made round) and burnt the lodgings where Richard Steward lay. They brought ladders to scale the walls but upon our killing three of them they sent Major Sutton to tell me the Prince demanded the delivery of the castle."*
- 2.1.21 More refused to acknowledge the demand and after a few days the main Royalist force pulled back, leaving a small guard. During this time a number

of reinforcements appear to have got past the guard left by the Royalists, bringing the garrison's total up to 31 men. Soon, however, the Royalist troops returned with a much larger force and with the garrison's continued refusal to surrender attacked again: *"Two hours before day they approached the walls, burnt Richard Steward's chamber, and with the Pioneers made a breach behind a chimney, which the sentinels discovering gave the alarm, and there we fought at push of pike, throwing stones and shouting... the enemy, as we afterwards learned, were 200 strong, many of them got through the breach, but not within our works, but as a pinfold in the circumference of their burnt lodging..."*

- 2.1.22 Once again the Royalists retreated before marching upon Hopton in force, this time with the provision of heavy artillery. After once more refusing to surrender, the castle was once more attacked. More describes a breach being made in the 'out walls' which was blocked by earth and boughs of trees. In another attack the Royalist force *"came to the brick tower we had made the first week we came, and set it on fire... we set Gregory's house on fire, which burning, took hold on the newer brick house and burnt it. Then we fell to make up the door of the Castle...yet the porch burnt and the door began to fire... and the enemy gotten under us through a house of office on the south side..."* As the situation became desperate the garrison sought to parlay but were told that they would have to *'yield to the Colonel's mercy'*. The defenders appear to have been holed up in the first floor of the tower house as they described there being a room above and a room below and to be able to hear the attackers working beneath them. Escape being unlikely, the defenders surrendered, thinking they would be taken as prisoners. *"So whilst the soldiers and Henry Gregory had their arms tied, we all stayed, and then were bidden march. So I went, and thinking the rest followed, but having passed over the water by Richard's Steward's house, toward Mr. Sutton's house, I looked back and marvelled to see none follow..."* Later Samuel More learned that the rest of the defenders had been killed, and out of this act of bloodshed the phrase Hopton Quarter was coined. The harsh example of Hopton may have been designed as a warning to Brampton Bryan Castle which was induced to surrender soon afterwards.
- 2.1.23 The killing of enemies who had refused to surrender (as the garrison at Hopton had done three times before the situation became desperate) was accepted and even Biblically sanctioned (Donagan 1988, 73-7). In context, the actions of Sir Michael Woodhouse were in accordance with the rules of war as understood at the time and comparable atrocities were committed by Parliamentary forces in similar situations (Auden 1908, 309-10). Both sides accused the other of inhumane and uncivilised behaviour during the conflict, with a large volume of literature from the period graphically depicting and elaborating on a series of real and unreal tragedies (Donagan 1988, 73-5). That the case was used to vilify the royalist cause once the Parliamentary forces were in the ascendant should not come as a surprise.
- 2.1.24 Both Hopton and Brampton Bryan castles were slighted after falling and did not play any further part in the conflict. However, the extent to which Hopton Castle was dismantled after it fell is not clear. There is no obvious damage to the tower house except what is likely to have occurred during the siege, suggesting that the demolition focused on the outer defences (Morris 2006, 44), or that damage sustained in the conflict rendered the castle sufficiently indefensible.

- 2.1.25 In 1655 Robert Wallop sold the castle to Bartholomew Beale, whose family retained it until the 19th century. It does not appear to have been included in the Hearth Tax returns of 1672, signifying it was not used and may not have been habitable as a dwelling. An engraving from the early 18th century apparently shows the tower house in a similar condition to which it appears today. No other structures are illustrated in the vicinity of the tower house, suggesting the site had by that time been cleared (Morris 2006, 15-17).
- 2.1.26 Following some repairs at the end of the 19th century by the then owner, Sir Edward Ripley, little else was done to the ruins for over 50 years, and they were evidently again in a poor condition by the Second World War, despite being scheduled as an Ancient Monument in the 1930s.
- 2.1.27 After concerns about the state of the building and the danger it could pose to people or animals, the Ministry of Works undertook some minor repairs to the tower house during the 1950s and 1960s. Some of the different coursing seen at the upper levels is probably from this phase of work (Morris 2006, 27).
- 2.1.28 In 2008 ownership of the castle was acquired by the Hopton Castle Preservation Trust using grants from, amongst others, the Heritage Lottery Fund and English Heritage.

2.2 Previous Archaeological Work

- 2.2.1 An earthwork survey was undertaken in 2006 by English Heritage (Bowden 2006). This is summarised in the following paragraphs.
- 2.2.2 The survey identified a possible bailey enclosure immediately to the west of the tower house with a possible tower in the south-west corner. Possible traces of the curtain wall were identified running northwards from this before turning east along the northern edge of the bailey. Two possible buildings were identified within the 'bailey' area. However Bowden (2006) questions whether we can really be confident in this as an example of a motte and bailey castle, situated as it is in a relatively minor valley and with other known defensive earthworks nearby. The survey concludes that the alignment and position of the two possible buildings within the 'bailey' suggests they are later, probably 17th century. Earthworks just to the north of the 'bailey' area overlie the ditch running around the outside of the enclosure and potentially mask its entrance. They are thought to be relatively recent, and may relate to the Civil War defences.
- 2.2.3 To the south of the tower house is a large L-shaped enclosure bordered to the south by a substantial earthwork hollow, along which a stream flows. Just to the north-east of the enclosure is a large rectangular pond. All these features seem likely to be part of a landscaping scheme forming a garden and ornamental water features, although the pond may have been later modified for livestock. Raised areas along the southern bank of the enclosure may be the platforms for garden pavilions. A building platform lies on the northern edge of the pond. A mound at the intersection of the L of the enclosure and at an angle to it could be garden feature or Civil War earthwork, but could also be the location of the 'brick tower'.
- 2.2.4 The earthworks to the north-east of the tower house are much less substantial, but they do include two rectangular building platforms, a small section of counterscarp bank and a circular structure which was possibly a tower or dovecote.

- 2.2.5 Two triangular platforms to the west of the castle could be associated with the Civil War siege, although they may equally be ornamental garden features.
- 2.2.6 A geophysical survey was carried out on the Site in 2005 by Stratascan in conjunction with English Heritage (Elks 2005). A resistivity survey and detailed magnetic survey was carried out over an area of 3.2ha followed by a ground penetrating radar survey on targeted areas of interest. The survey shows a complex of anomalies surrounding the castle. Many of these are associated with visible structural features. Some of these may relate to former buildings. The report also suggested that some of the anomalies could be caused by structures of an industrial nature.
- 2.2.7 Some metal-detecting has been carried out in the fields around the scheduled area. This has produced a range of finds from the prehistoric through to the post-medieval period, although the assemblage is dominated by post-medieval finds (Peter Reavill *pers comm.*). Of particular interest are the numbers of lead shot or musket balls found in the vicinity of the castle, probably relating to the Civil War sieges.
- 2.2.8 Results from the most recent assessment of the upstanding remains by Richard Morriss (2006) have been incorporated into the discussion of the archaeological background (see above).
- 2.2.9 The most recent work undertaken by the Hopton Castle Preservation Trust subsequent to this evaluation (R. Morriss *pers. comm.*) included some trial excavations by the wall of the tower; these demonstrated that the mound on which the tower house is built was a motte predating this later structure and not a platform for the tower. Indeed there are indications that the tower was actually too big for the motte, leading to complications. Work on the walls has allowed the clearing hole for the garderobes on the south side to be exposed. Clearing out the shafts for the garderobes revealed evidence of the sides being attacked by pick - this was almost certainly associated with the Civil War siege.

3 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

- 3.1.1 A project design for the work was compiled (Videotext Communications 2009), providing full details of the research aims and methods. A brief summary is provided here.
- 3.1.2 The aim of the project was to characterise the nature and date of the Site and place it within its historical, geographical and archaeological context. Of particular interest was the establishment and refinement of the chronology and phasing of the Site from its medieval origins to its post-medieval history.
- 3.1.3 A number of structures are mentioned in Samuel More's detailed account of the 1644 siege, and it was therefore hoped that the project would identify some of the buildings mentioned in these accounts.
- 3.1.4 More detailed aims specified in the project design were:
- *What was the defensive layout of the castle complex during the civil war period?*
 - *When was the site founded and when was it abandoned?*
 - *Where are the brick buildings mentioned by More in the Civil War accounts?*

4 METHODS

4.1 Geophysical Survey

- 4.1.1 Prior to the excavation of evaluation trenches, a geophysical survey was carried out across the Site using a combination of resistance and magnetic survey. The survey grid was set out by Dr Henry Chapman and tied in to the Ordnance Survey grid using a Trimble real time differential GPS system.

4.2 Landscape and Earthwork Survey

- 4.2.1 A Landscape Survey and analysis of the cartographic evidence was undertaken by Stewart Ainsworth, Senior Investigator of the Archaeological Survey and Investigation Team, English Heritage. The findings are included within the main discussion.

4.3 Evaluation Trenches

- 4.3.1 Seven trenches of varying sizes were excavated, their locations determined in order to investigate and to clarify geophysical anomalies and to address specific research objectives (**Figure 1**).
- 4.3.2 The trenches were excavated using a combination of machine and hand digging. All machine trenches were excavated under constant archaeological supervision and ceased at the identification of significant archaeological remains, or at natural geology if this was encountered first. When machine excavation had ceased all trenches were cleaned by hand and archaeological deposits investigated.
- 4.3.3 At various stages during excavation the deposits were scanned by a metal detector and signals marked in order to facilitate investigation. The excavated up-cast was scanned by metal detector.
- 4.3.4 All archaeological deposits were recorded using Wessex Archaeology's *pro forma* record sheets with a unique numbering system for individual contexts. Trenches were located using a Trimble Real Time Differential GPS survey system. All archaeological features and deposits were planned at a scale of 1:20 with sections drawn at 1:10. All principal strata and features were related to the Ordnance Survey datum.
- 4.3.5 A full photographic record of the investigations and individual features was maintained, utilising digital images. The photographic record illustrated both the detail and general context of the archaeology revealed and the Site as a whole.
- 4.3.6 At the completion of the work, all trenches were reinstated using the excavated soil.
- 4.3.7 The work was carried out on the 2nd – 5th June 2009. The archive and all artefacts were subsequently transported to the offices of Wessex Archaeology in Salisbury where they were processed and assessed for this report.

5 RESULTS

5.1 Introduction

- 5.1.1 Details of individual excavated contexts and features, the full geophysical report (GSB 2009), the summary of the landscape and earthwork survey and details of artefactual and environmental assessments, are retained in the

archive. Summaries of the excavated sequences can be found in **Appendix 1**.

5.2 Geophysical Survey

- 5.2.1 Geophysical survey was carried out over a total area of 0.5ha. Due to the steep topography it was decided to concentrate on resistance survey with a smaller area resurveyed using a magnetometer (**Figure 3**). Small gaps within the data are due to the location of excavation trenches or large trees.

Resistance Survey (Figure 3A)

- 5.2.2 Located within the south-western corner of the inner bailey, a high resistance response (A) corresponds with the position of a corner tower, and subsequent excavations revealed substantial stone walling over this anomaly. Other, similar high resistance responses within this area may relate to the curtain wall or internal buildings.
- 5.2.3 Linear trends (B) correspond to a depression in the ground and it is thought that they relate to the cellar and foundations of a 'new brick house' mentioned in early 17th century documents. These trends can also be seen in the magnetic data.
- 5.2.4 Responses (C) possibly represent structural remains, due to the rectangular form. However, some of these anomalies correlate with the earthworks marked on the current OS mapping and may relate to the defences. Further, similar responses (D) could indicate buildings surrounding a courtyard, given the lack of anomalies in the 'interior'.
- 5.2.5 A high resistance response (E) in the eastern section of the data again may represent structural remains and possible 'rooms' can be seen within the data.
- 5.2.6 Towards the limits of the survey, high (F) and low (G) resistance responses are visible which relate to the extant earthwork defences. These responses are best seen to the west of the castle.
- 5.2.7 Other responses such as those at (H) have been given an 'uncertain' category as it is likely that they are topographic/natural responses but an archaeological origin cannot be dismissed.

Gradiometer Survey (Figure 3B)

- 5.2.8 A small area was surveyed magnetically. Results indicated a large area of increased response along with negative trends which correspond to anomalies (B) within the resistance data.
- 5.2.9 A short stretch of the defensive ditch has been detected in the western limits of the dataset. An area of magnetic disturbance could have resulted from modern bonfires or it may be associated with the 17th century building.

5.3 Evaluation Trenches

Introduction

- 5.3.1 The trenches mainly lay to the west and north-west of the tower house, within what is thought to have been the inner bailey area (**Figure 1**). Trench 7 lay in a slightly different location, being situated to the north of the keep. The size and shape of the trenches varied to account for the potential targets on which they were sited and the archaeology subsequently

uncovered. Any substantial remains were left *in situ*. The topography varied considerably due to the presence of the earthworks and *in situ* remains. For instance over the ditch within Trench 1 the ground level was 158.92m aOD and over the cellar interior in Trench 3 it was 158.83m aOD. However, the southern bank in Trench 1 occupied a height of 160.02m aOD and the ground over the tower wall in Trench 4 a height of 161.23m aOD. Trench 7 occupied a relatively level area of ground, slightly lower than the other areas investigated, at a height of 157.55m aOD.

- 5.3.2 The overlying topsoil was between 0.11-0.17m deep, and there was no subsoil. Where encountered, the natural geology was a clay with frequent coarse components.

Trench 1 (Figure 4)

- 5.3.3 Trench 1 was opened up within the putative area of the approach to the castle. It lay over two roughly east – west aligned earthworks and the sunken area between them. Originally it was thought that the southern bank could be the part of the earthworks of the original bailey, whereas the northern bank was thought to relate to the Civil War defences.
- 5.3.4 After the removal of the topsoil, the southern bank was found to be constructed of rubble and earth and appeared to be distinctly different in the east-facing section to the west-facing section. To the west of the trench, the bank (105) was a lot more pronounced and contained larger, more angular fragments of stone. However the variation between this and layer (109), seen in the eastern part of the trench, may merely reflect variation within the bank itself, as no relationship between them could be seen. The ground to the east of the trench was not as high, and the bank sloped away downwards to the east. Pottery within (105) dates its construction to between the late 15th and early 17th century.
- 5.3.5 Bank (105) appears to have been constructed over an already levelled north – south stone wall (114). Indeed, a thin layer (104), beneath the bank and overlying the wall, signifies a period of disuse before the construction of the bank. A similar deposit (110) was found beneath (109) and deposited up against wall (114). This deposit also contained fragments of worked building stone. Frequent large fragments of charcoal within both these deposits implies nearby burning. Charcoal from (104) and (110) has been identified as predominantly oak. It is not possible to ascertain whether the charcoal derives from the destruction of structural timbers during the Civil War but, given the known history of the Site and the position of these deposits within the stratigraphy of the Site, this seems the most likely interpretation.
- 5.3.6 Wall (114) (**Figure 4, Plate 3**) was of dry stone construction, constructed from thin stone slabs and with a stone rubble core. Only three courses remained, and the relatively narrow width of the wall, along with its lack of a defined foundation course, suggests a relatively slight build rather than a defensive structure. A large stone block was found resting on top of wall (114). This block is sandstone rather than the local mudstone from which the wall is constructed. This sandstone is capable of forming larger blocks and taking finer detailing. Similar blocks can be seen, especially at the quoins, within the tower house. Although not *in situ*, the size of this block indicates that it is unlikely to have been moved far, suggesting the possibility of a more substantial structure in the immediate vicinity.

- 5.3.7 Wall (114) was built upon a relatively deep deposit (113). This deposit appeared to represent largely redeposited natural material and may represent an earlier medieval bank. This directly overlay the natural geology.
- 5.3.8 The north end of wall (114) was disturbed and cut by the ditch, (112), running in between the two earthworks (**Figure 4, Plates 3-6**). This ditch was not fully excavated but was over 0.65m deep. The tumble of stones from destruction of the northern part of the wall (108) and eroded material (102) from the northern bank (106) seem to have largely made up the stone-rich fill (107) of ditch (112), probably a reflection on the instability of the two earthworks. This contrasts with the lowest fill encountered, (121), which incorporated far fewer inclusions. The upper fill of the ditch (103) contained large stone inclusions; the uniformity of these and lack of structure indicates that this may be a deliberate backfilling event.
- 5.3.9 To the north of ditch (112) was another rubble and earth bank (106) (**Figure 5, Plate 4**). As (105), this appears to have been contemporary with the ditch. A small amount of excavation on the southern edge of this bank suggests that it rested upon a thin layer (111) which, like (104) and (110), incorporated a significant amount of charcoal. This in turn overlay layer (115). Only a small portion of this deposit was seen, but its position within the stratigraphy of the trench suggests that it may have been a levelling layer relating to the re-landscaping of the Site in the early post-medieval period. The date of this deposit is supported by a small piece of post-medieval pottery from the deposit beneath, as well as brick fragments within the deposit itself. Brick production started at a relatively late date in Shropshire; most bricks are at least late 16th century in date (R. Morris pers. comm.).
- 5.3.10 Layer (115) was found to overlie a loose, stone rubble deposit (116), which was interpreted as the demolition and tumbled remains of another stone wall (**Figure 5, Plate 5**). Only a small segment of this wall (120) was seen in the west-facing section and its width was not fully revealed. However, it appeared to differ in character from wall (114), being constructed from much larger stone blocks and utilising a yellow-grey lime mortar. The small section exposed suggested a north-north-west – south-south-east alignment. The east-facing section at this point exposed the extreme southern edge of an apparent cut (117) (**Figure 5, Plate 6**). This was at least partly filled with deposit (119), upon which wall (120) appears to have been constructed. The position of (117) relative to the visible earthworks to the north-west (which form the remnant of the moat), indicates that this is the southern edge of the medieval moat and that (120) is likely to be part of a defensive structure associated with that. The alignment of (120) would, however, place it at an oblique angle across the moat. What seems most likely, therefore, is that the small fragment of (120) seen is part of more elaborate structure than a simple straight curtain wall along the edge of the moat. It may even have been part of the entrance way defences, as this area of Site is the most likely place for this construction.
- 5.3.11 A limited auger survey was carried out along the section of the moat in the north-west corner. This found deposits consistent with there having been slow moving water to a depth of over 1.4m from the present ground level.

Trench 2 (Figures 5 and 6)

- 5.3.12 Trench 2 was positioned over a possible structure to the north-west of the tower house. After removal of the topsoil and some demolition debris (202), a north-south wall (206) was exposed in the southern end of the trench (**Figure 6, Plate 8**). This area of the trench was up to 0.80m higher than the northern part of the trench. To the north the ground continued to slope away and another demolition layer (203) was encountered. In order to clarify the stratigraphy, a sondage was dug against wall (206).
- 5.3.13 The sondage revealed (206) to be a stone wall with a stepped-out foundation course (213). Although no mortar was visible within the upper courses, some pale grey lime mortar was visible within (213). The wall appeared to have been constructed on a deliberately levelled area (214), rather than placed within a construction trench.
- 5.3.14 Deposited up against wall (206) was layer (205) which in turn overlay (207). Both these deposits differed considerably in character from the other demolition deposits encountered elsewhere on the Site. Layer (207) in particular contained very little stone and no CBM; it appears to have been a deliberate made ground to cover the foundation (213), and may have acted as a surface. No finds were recovered from this deposit. The rarity of CBM and relative scarcity of larger stone fragments within (205) suggests that if it was a demolition layer, it resulted from a significantly different event to the other demolition layers encountered in this trench. Contained within layer (205) was a medieval iron arrowhead.
- 5.3.15 The northern part of wall (206)/(213) had been removed by robber cut (215). The orientation of the cut suggests that the wall turned west at this point, although any traces of this had been removed by the robbing. Deposit (210), the backfill of the robber cut (215), contained a red sandstone block and a large fragment of quartz. Within the tower house, red sandstone was used for the quoins and around the windows. No CBM was observed within the fill, so this could be indicative of a medieval date for this robbing event.
- 5.3.16 In the northern part of the trench, deposit (203) was seen to be the fill of a deep robber cut (208) associated with an east-west stone wall (212) (**Figure 6, Plate 7**). This cut through two demolition deposits, (211) to the south of the wall and (204) to the north. While (204) comprised predominantly fairly clean brick rubble, (211) contained large angular stone fragments and no visible CBM, and was cut by another robber cut (215).
- 5.3.17 Despite the brick rubble within the interior of the structure, (212) itself was stone-built with pale yellow sandy mortar. While the northern, interior side was faced, the southern edge appears to have been built up against deposit (209). The width varied, with the western part around 0.25m wider. Immediately to the south of the wall was a posthole (216). Its position in relation to the wall (212) suggests that it pre-dates the wall's construction.

Trench 3 (Figures 5 and 6)

- 5.3.18 Trench 3 was originally a small sondage designed to expose more completely the stone masonry visible to the north-east of Trench 2. The trench was subsequently enlarged and, after testing the depth of the demolition debris by hand, deepened and extended by machine. A northern extension was also excavated by hand to reveal the deposits lying to the north of the wall.

- 5.3.19 The wall (303) was revealed to be the northern wall of a cellar (**Figure 6, Plate 9**), which lay parallel to wall (212) seen in Trench 2. The full depth of the surviving elevation of 1.8m was exposed. The wall was of unevenly coursed local stone slabs with pale yellow lime mortar. A few surviving areas of plastering could also be seen. An area of keyed stones at the top of the wall may be a projection for a corbel. The wall appears to have been constructed directly on the natural geology (309).
- 5.3.20 Deposited up against (303) were a number of demolition deposits (302), (310), (305) and (306) (**Figure 6, Plate 10**). While (302) appeared to be similar in character to demolition debris (202), the clean brick rubble of (310) was clearly the same as (204). Beneath (302) and cut through (310) was a steep-sided, clearly defined cut running alongside the wall. Its purpose was unclear but it may be an unexploited robber cut. Deposit (305), which lay directly beneath (310), showed a distinct change from brick- to stone-dominated rubble and included a number of clearly identifiable stone roof tile fragments, implying that it represents the demolition of the roof. Beneath (305) was a layer containing large fragments of charcoal (306); this layer also contained a gold coin of James I (1623-4) and an iron cannonball.
- 5.3.21 To the north of the wall was a demolition layer (304), similar to (302). This was not fully excavated. At the limit of excavation, a dark 'L' shaped band (308) was uncovered, east – west aligned with a southern return (**Figure 6, Plate 11**). To the north of this was a stony demolition deposit (307). To the south a brick rubble deposit (313), very similar to (304), was exposed. Although (307) clearly overlay (308), the relationship between (308) and (313) was not determined. The shape in plan of (308), and its position directly beneath a slight earthwork, suggests that it may either have been the clay foundation for a wall or a possible beam slot, or it could equally have been the fill of a robber cut associated with a structure.

Trench 4 (Figure 7)

- 5.3.22 Trench 4 was positioned on the eastern wall of a possible tower structure, clearly visible as a positive earthwork. After opening an area stretching westwards within the tower, the trench was later extended to the east to reveal the full width of the wall. Due to the depth of the surviving wall and the associated demolition deposits, it was not possible to excavate to the base of the tower.
- 5.3.23 The top of the stone wall (403) was encountered just beneath the turf (**Figure 7, Plate 13**). In construction it appeared to be similar to wall (212)/(303)/(606), although of a dry-stone build. The lower portion of the exposed interior elevation was plastered with a pale yellow plaster, and this appeared to be darker and applied more thickly than that encountered in Trench 3.
- 5.3.24 Both to the east and the west of wall (403) a number of demolition deposits were encountered (**Figure 7, Plate 14**). To the west of (403), in the interior of the tower, the sequence of demolition deposits reached a depth of over 1.27m. The highest layer encountered, (402), was extremely stone-rich, although these stones were highly fragmented with no discernible fragments of building stone. Further down the sequence of deposits, the stone fragments were larger and there were more voids. In contrast to the demolition deposits associated with Trenches 2, 3 and 6, very little brick or CBM was encountered in Trench 4.

Trench 5 (not illustrated)

- 5.3.25 Trench 5 was positioned on the eastern edge of a possible structure directly in front of the motte.
- 5.3.26 Below the topsoil was a demolition layer (502). This generally contained much less rubble than that encountered in the other trenches. Below this was another demolition layer (503), which was unexcavated. Since the earthwork did not immediately appear to correspond with an underlying wall the decision was made to cease excavation.

Trench 6 (Figures 5 and 6)

- 5.3.27 Trench 6 was opened in order to establish the dimensions of the cellar seen in Trenches 2 and 3. The cellar wall (606) lay slightly to the west of the visible earthwork bank and beneath demolition layers (611) and (603) (**Figure 6, Plate 12**). In the interior of the cellar was a brick rubble layer (602) equivalent to layers (204) and (310). An apparently unexploited robber cut (608), filled with (609), equivalent to (312), cut through this rubble. The construction of wall (606) was the same as wall (212) in Trench 2 and, in common with the section exposed there, the exterior part of the wall appears to have been built up against the redeposited natural (607).
- 5.3.28 Also cutting through (607) was feature (605). Although this feature was not fully exposed in plan and not fully excavated, it was thought to be the western edge of a possible ditch running around the base of the motte. Its relationship to wall (606) was uncertain. It contained animal bone and post-medieval pottery.

Trench 7 (Figure 8)

- 5.3.29 Trench 7 was located to the north of the keep on a strong geophysical anomaly. It was hoped that this would provide more information about the early post-medieval occupation of the Site.
- 5.3.30 Excavation uncovered two rough cobbled surfaces (706) and (707), either side of a NE-SW aligned water channel (705) (**Figure 8, Plates 15-16**). Surface (706) was overlain by a stony deposit (703), which had also tumbled into the upper part of the channel. Surface (707) was overlain by a layer of demolition debris (708), which had also been incorporated into the upper silting of the channel. This lay beneath another demolition deposit (709).
- 5.3.31 The full profile of the cut (705) was not excavated, although its full depth was established in a sondage. The channel appears to have been relatively shallow for its width of 2.52m and with a relatively flat base. The lowest fill (704) is suggestive of gradual silting and slow-moving water, while the upper fill (702) also seems to suggest a period of slow accumulation but incorporating topsoil material.
- 5.3.32 The relationship between the channel and the two surfaces could not be established as the surfaces were left *in situ*, but it seems likely that they were relatively contemporaneous. The demolition debris (708) and (709) post-dates both the disuse of the surfaces and the silting and abandonment of the ditch.

6 FINDS

6.1 Introduction

- 6.1.1 Finds were recovered from all seven of the trenches excavated, although finds from Trenches 4, 6 and 7 were relatively minimal. The assemblage is very largely of post-medieval date, with a few medieval items.
- 6.1.2 All finds have been quantified by material type within each context, and totals by material type and by trench are presented in **Table 1**. Following quantification, all finds have been at least visually scanned, in order to ascertain their nature, probable date range, and condition. Spot dates have been recorded for datable material (pottery). This information provides the basis for an assessment of the potential of the finds assemblage to contribute to an understanding of the site, with particular reference to its medieval origins, and to the Civil War siege.

6.2 Pottery

- 6.2.1 Almost all of this small assemblage is of post-medieval date, with a small quantity of medieval material. The assemblage is relatively fragmentary, with few reconstructable profiles, although levels of surface and edge abrasion are generally low. Mean sherd weight overall is 21.6g.
- 6.2.2 The assemblage has been quantified by ware type, and the totals are given in **Table 2**.

Medieval

- 6.2.3 Nine of the 11 medieval sherds recovered, including one jar rim, came from one context (demolition/levelling layer 205), and are all in a similar coarse, micaceous sandy fabric; they may all derive from a single jar of probable 12th/13th century date.
- 6.2.4 One small body sherd in a finer sandy glazed ware from Trench 4 topsoil probably dates to the 13th or 14th century, while a sherd from a bowl with a horizontal solid lug handle in a fine sandy fabric, but unglazed, could be 14th or 15th century (robber cut 215).

Post-medieval

- 6.2.5 The majority of the post-medieval assemblage consists of coarse redwares, which are not generally closely datable within the period. In this instance dating relies instead on the wares found alongside the redwares. These include thin-walled, black-glazed Cistercian-type wares, dating between the late 15th and early 17th centuries (bank deposit 105, demolition debris 202, ditch 605), later (17th/18th century) black-glazed wares (robber cut 208, demolition debris 502), Midlands Purple and Midlands Yellow wares, of 16th/17th century date (demolition debris 502 and 503), English stoneware, probably late 17th or early 18th century (demolition debris 306), and tinglazed earthenware, sherds of which represent a single polychrome drug jar of 17th century type (demolition debris 502).
- 6.2.6 Modern pottery (refined whitewares and yellow wares, and stoneware jars/bottles) came from topsoil contexts in Trenches 1 and 3, and from demolition deposit (302).

6.3 Ceramic Building Material

- 6.3.1 The CBM consists largely of brick; some are complete (six examples), but most survive as fragments. From the surviving dimensions, there appear to be three size groups, of which the first two may be variants of the same type within a broad size range:
- length 240mm, width 110-20mm, thickness 50-60mm
 - length 215-25mm, width 100-15mm, thickness 55-60mm
 - length unknown, width 80-5, thickness 45-50mm
- 6.3.2 The first two sizes both fall within the range of Tudor bricks; similar sizes were observed, for example, within the mid 16th century construction of Hill Hall, Essex, where again a bimodal size range was observed, which was considered, on the basis of compositional analysis of the clay, to reflect different sources of brick supply (Drury 2009, 140, brick types TB2/3). It is possible, again using Hill Hall as a comparable site, that at least some of the bricks may have been made on site. The smaller bricks (of which there were only six examples) are of similar size to the partition bricks identified at Hill Hall, used internally within panels of timber framing (Drury 2009, 141, type TB5).
- 6.3.3 The Hopton Castle bricks, however, are likely to be of slightly later date. Probably due to the presence of local supplies of stone and timber, brick-built buildings are a relatively late phenomenon in Shropshire (R. Morriss *pers. comm.*). The use of brick remained uncommon in the area until the 17th century (Curnow 1989, 94).
- 6.3.4 All the bricks are of very irregular, handmade appearance, and are in coarse fabrics with prominent inclusions, generally poorly wedged and relatively soft-fired, although some have clearly been overfired, some to vitrification of surfaces.
- 6.3.5 The remaining CBM is made up of fragments of roof tile, including both flat tiles (probably secured by pegs or nails) and curved ridge tiles; the latter are generally at least partly glazed, but their overall form, and the possible presence of applied crests or other decorative treatments, are unknown.
- 6.3.6 The larger deposits of CBM came, not unsurprisingly, from demolition deposits (in Trenches 2, 3 and 5), but another group came from bank deposits (105/106). The possible partition bricks were restricted to layers (115) and (116) in Trench 1, and demolition deposit (202) in Trench 2. None of the CBM was recovered from *in situ* structural elements

6.4 Wall Plaster

- 6.4.1 Further building material was present in the form of wall plaster. All of this is monochrome white, and the mortar backing displays some lath/beam impressions. Most of the plaster came from demolition debris layers in Trench 4.
- 6.4.2 Plaster was also observed still adhering to walls (303) and (403); these walls were not disturbed and so the plaster was not collected.

6.5 Stone

- 6.5.1 The stone consists almost entirely of building material, although three possible whetstones or rubbers were identified (Trench 1 topsoil, demolition deposits 202, 205). The building material comprises fragments of roof tiles or slabs in micaceous sandstone, and blocks, apparently roughly shaped.

One such block, from demolition debris (404), could be from a lintel or sill. There is also one block showing further signs of working in the form of surface pecking, and a small possible mortise hole in one face; this came from bank deposit (105).

6.5.2 Although Hopton lies within an area of extremely complex geology, these fine grained sandstones and siltstones are most likely to be from the Silurian Bailey Hill Formation. These rocks have been quarried locally in the Hopton Park area and probably served the local needs of the castle and manor house, and other buildings in the area. The extreme variety and abundance of suitable stone in Shropshire meant that it could be obtained within a short distance. At Hopton Park, 150mm thick units of flaggy silts and fine sandstone are described (by the local quarry group) from the disused quarry (at NGR 335800 277700), which are comparable to the examples from the castle.

6.5.3 The stone came mainly from Trenches 1-3; no stone was retained from any of the surviving stone walls recorded on the Site.

6.6 Glass

6.6.1 The glass includes both vessel and window glass. The latter consists of small fragments, mostly heavily oxidised and actively laminating. A few pieces retain the original grozed edges, but quarry shape cannot be discerned. Window glass came from topsoil contexts in Trenches 1, 2 and 7, from demolition deposits in Trench 5, and from robber cut (208).

6.6.2 The vessel glass includes two (joining) base fragments from a later 17th/early 18th century bottle, probably of 'onion' form, and another basal fragment, from a vessel of unknown form, all from demolition debris (202). There is also a rim fragment from a smaller bottle in pale green glass, and a small, clear, thin-walled body fragment, possibly from a drinking vessel, both from layer (104); both these have a probable 17th/18th century date. Other vessel glass is all of modern date, and came from topsoil and demolition contexts in Trenches 2 and 3.

6.7 Metalwork

6.7.1 The metalwork includes coins, as well as objects of silver, copper alloy, lead and iron.

Coins

6.7.2 There are two coins and one token. One of the coins is a very worn and almost illegible Roman issue, a barbarous radiate of 3rd or 4th century AD date (Trench 1 topsoil). The second is a gold quarter laurel of James I, dated 1623-4 (demolition debris 306) (**back cover**). In addition, there is one copper alloy token (Trench 2 topsoil), a Nuremberg issue of Hanns Krauwinkel II (1585-1635).

Silver

6.7.3 The single silver object is a button, with an engraved floral design, of 18th century or later date (Trench 4 topsoil). It is missing the rear loop attachment.

Copper alloy

- 6.7.4 Other copper alloy objects comprise a lace tag and a possible belt fitting made from folded sheet (see Margeson 1993, fig. 21, 241-2), both from Trench 1 topsoil. Both objects are likely to be of late medieval or early post-medieval date. The belt fitting carries stamped decoration (a floral motif).

Lead

- 6.7.5 One impacted musket ball (diameter 17mm) was recovered, and there are a further 16 irregular fragments which represent fired shot of various (small) sizes. One piece appears to have impacted on to a brick surface. The shot came from topsoil contexts in Trenches 1, 2, 3, 6 and 7, from demolition deposit (302), and ditch (705).
- 6.7.6 Two small window came fragments were identified, of which one, from robber (208), was milled in a toothed mill and should, therefore, be of later 16th century date or later (Knight 1985).
- 6.7.7 One small, asymmetrically biconical object from Trench 2 topsoil is of unknown function, as is a short, perforated strip (Trench 6 topsoil). Other lead objects comprise small fragments of waste or offcuts.

Iron

- 6.7.8 The majority of the ironwork consists of nails (113 examples). Other identifiable objects comprise a latch rest (layer 109); fragments of a cast iron cooking pot, probably a cauldron (demolition layer 302); a large ring with three chain links, possibly associated with the cooking pot (from the same context); a cannonball (demolition layer 306); an arrowhead (demolition/levelling layer 205); and a thin shank, possibly from a pin (demolition debris 503).
- 6.7.9 The arrowhead is a long, slender type (length 153mm) with a diamond cross-section; this is a later medieval type (mid 13th to 15th century), designed to be armour-piercing, and is commonly found on Welsh castle sites (Jessop 1997, fig. 13).
- 6.7.10 The cannonball is severely corroded, but weighs around 5kg (c. 11lb), with a diameter of around 110mm (c. 4.25 inches), which would make it suitable for a gun of 'demi-culverin' size (Scott 2001, table 5.1), and consistent with a date range in the 16th or 17th century.

6.8 Animal Bone

Introduction

- 6.8.1 A total of 134 bones were recovered, mainly by hand excavation. Conjoining fragments that were demonstrably from the same bone were counted as one bone in order to minimise distortion, so bone numbers do not correspond to the raw fragment counts given in **Table 1**. All bones derive from mammals and birds. No bones from fish or amphibians were present. No fragments were recorded as 'medium mammal' or 'large mammal'; these were instead consigned to the unidentified category.

Condition and preservation

- 6.8.2 The condition of the animal bone varies within the site. Some bones show good preservation, others are only barely recognisable. One bone showed

signs of butchery and this, combined with the breakage pattern, burnt bone and disarticulated nature of the material, indicates that the remains are food waste (**Table 3**). The gnawed bones show that dogs had access to the bones prior to deposition. No loose but matching epiphyses or articulating bones were found. Alongside a fair proportion of loose teeth, this might indicate that most bones come from re-worked contexts or secondary deposits.

Animal husbandry

- 6.8.3 The identified bones in this small assemblage derive from cattle (n=43), sheep/goat (14), pig (7), deer (1), rabbit (3), wild boar (1) and domestic fowl (2). Cattle and sheep/goat bones derive mainly from adult animals, whereas pigs were slaughtered as subadults. The latter is to be expected in an animal that is solely reared for food.
- 6.8.4 A complete cattle metacarpus in demolition debris (502) indicates an animal with a height at the withers of 1.16m (Von den Driesch and Boessneck 1974). This is a normal size for medieval cattle.

Consumption and deposition

- 6.8.5 The small assemblage contains a wide range of skeletal elements and this suggests that the animals were butchered nearby. Undoubtedly, the bad preservation of some of the material has obscured butchery marks.

Wild mammals

- 6.8.6 Demolition deposit (302) contained a suid pelvis that probably derives from wild boar based on its size. Demolition debris (502) contained the mandible of a deer. Both bones show that although most meat was provided for by the domesticated animals, occasional hunting took place.
- 6.8.7 The presence of rabbit bones in demolition debris (305) and (603), and ditch (605) must be treated with caution. This burrowing animal has a habit of enriching archaeological depositions and might thus not reflect food waste.

6.9 Other Finds

- 6.9.1 Other finds comprise a single clay pipe stem, and small quantities of fired clay (uncertain date and origin), ironworking slag, and oyster shell.

6.10 Potential and Recommendations

- 6.10.1 This is a relatively small finds assemblage, of which a high proportion derived from topsoil or demolition contexts. The range of material culture overall is fairly limited, only pottery, animal bone and building material (both ceramic and stone) occurring in any quantity.
- 6.10.2 Evidence for medieval activity is sporadic, and the majority of the datable artefacts can be assigned to the late medieval or early post-medieval period (15th to 17th century). Items attesting to the military nature of the site comprise the iron arrowhead and cannonball, and the lead musket shot, the latter certainly (and probably also the cannonball) resulting from the Civil War siege of the castle. Also of interest was the recovery of a gold coin of James I, although this was not from a well stratified context.
- 6.10.3 The finds have been recorded to minimum archive standard and, given the quantities involved, and the stratigraphic integrity of the excavated contexts, no further work is proposed. Some finds categories, such as the ceramic

building material, could be targeted for selective discard prior to archive deposition.

7 PALAEOENVIRONMENTAL EVIDENCE

7.1 Introduction

7.1.1 Two bulk samples were taken from destruction layers in Trenches 1 (layer 104) and 3 (demolition deposit 306). In addition charcoal was collected by hand from a layer banked up against wall (114). All three deposits appear to be associated with disuse and destruction episodes.

7.1.2 Bulk samples of 8 and 10 litres were processed by standard flotation methods; the flots retained on a 0.5mm mesh, residues (4.5mm) were sorted, weighed and discarded. Flots were scanned under a x10 – x40 stereo-binocular microscope and the presence of charred remains quantified (**Table 4**) to record the preservation and nature of the charred plant and wood charcoal remains. Charcoal fragments were fractured and examined in transverse section to identify the presence of oak or non-oak taxa. Identifications of dominant or important taxa are noted below, following the nomenclature of Stace (1997).

7.2 Charred Plant Remains

7.2.1 Both flots consisted almost entirely of charcoal: one vetch/tare seed (*Vicia/Lathyrus* sp.) was noted in sample 2 (demolition deposit 306). The residues consisted largely of tile and stone building material. The charcoal appears to be entirely of oak (*Quercus* sp.) in layer (104). The charcoal in deposit (306) is also largely oak with some large fragments of round wood of a diffuse porous taxa which is clearly not oak. The hand-picked charcoal from the deposit up against wall (114) consists of round wood of diameter 20 to 40mm, all of which appears to be oak.

7.2.2 While the origin of the wood present in the samples is not clear, it is possible that it derives from structural timbers destroyed during the siege of the castle. The round wood may derive from poles used in hurdles or some other structural use.

7.3 Recommendations

7.3.1 No further work is recommended on the samples. The flots and charcoal are suitable for archiving following standard procedures.

8 DISCUSSION

8.1 Introduction

8.1.1 This evaluation, although limited in its extent, confirmed the presence of surviving structural remains on the Site beyond the upstanding remains. It suggests that there are a number of buildings within the area of the bailey and that further intrusive work would be needed in order to elucidate the nature and phasing of these. While some identifications for many of the structures in the Civil War account can be postulated, further work would be required to confirm or disprove this.

8.1.2 Three major phases of activity on the Site can be identified: medieval, early post-medieval and the Civil War siege, but it is likely that there was also an earlier period of medieval activity.

- 8.1.3 The demolition rubble that overlay the majority of the Site proved to be a hindrance to clear geophysical responses. For example, the majority of the strong response connected to the tower in Trench 4 is likely to relate to the collapse of that structure down the bank rather than to the building itself. The response at (B) is actually an amalgamation of the cellar and another building in the southern part of Trench 2, although the southern wall of the cellar can still be seen as a weaker trend in the data. The line of potentially structural responses at (C) are now known to follow the line of the medieval moat, and the response shown is likely to be the result of infilling of the feature with rubble. The difference in response seen here in contrast to that at (F) and (G) is a reflection both of the landscaping of this area and the later disturbance during the Civil War. The position of the high response just to the north of (C) is suggestive and could possibly relate to some kind of gatehouse or similar structure, since the castle approach seems to be from this direction. The alignment of the stream makes it unlikely to have been much further east. The slightly weaker response to the south of (C) could still be structural but this is likely to relate to a building within the bailey rather than another potential corner tower, as suggested by the present day earthworks. There was no evidence found to support the possibility of industrial activity postulated by Stratascan (Elks 2005).
- 8.1.4 Interpretation of the present-day earthworks is also complicated by the successive phases of activity reworking or masking those that came before.

8.2 Medieval

- 8.2.1 The focus of the evaluation was mainly on the post-medieval history of the Site. However, a few traces of possible earlier, medieval structures were found. These demonstrated that many of the medieval features are masked or disturbed by later activity. Fuller understanding of this period would therefore require much more substantial excavation.
- 8.2.2 It seems likely that the stone tower house was constructed to replace an earlier timber motte and bailey structure, simply because it would be illogical to build such an archaically designed stone structure if a stone structure in the style it was attempting to emulate already existed. It is known from the sources that a castle existed here in the 13th century, and from the most recent investigations it seems likely that this stood where the tower house stands today (R. Morriss, *pers. comm.*).
- 8.2.3 The inspiration for the existing tower house at Hopton is likely to be the castle at Clun, whose baron was the overlord of the de Hoptons. The keep at Clun, although larger and with an additional floor as well as a cellar, is essentially still a tower house (Curnow 1989, 99-101). Originally thought to be Norman in date, a more detailed assessment prior to recent restoration work dates it to the late 13th or early 14th century (Morriss 1993). Although archaic in form, Clun Castle was still built in a style worth emulating at Hopton Castle, both to flatter the lord of Clun and also to express the status of an increasingly wealthy and influential family (Curnow 1989, 102).
- 8.2.4 The stone wall (120), although only partially seen within Trench 1, seems to be most likely to relate to the medieval stone defences of the site (**Figure 4, Plate 4**). It was not only clearly post-dated by the Civil War defences, but it appears to have been partly demolished and levelled prior to this. This probably occurred in the early post-medieval period, when the areas to the north and east of the tower house appear to have been re-landscaped. Wall (120) stratigraphically overlay the lowest deposit within the moat, but the

upper moat fill appeared to be silted up against the masonry. This demonstrates that the moat pre-dated the wall, but implies that the moat was still in use after its construction. This suggests that the castle was originally defended by a moat and bank, but that these were later upgraded to include stone-built defences. This investment in stone is likely to relate to the remodelling of the keep in stone in the early 14th century. The slightly odd alignment of wall (120) in relation to the moat implies that it formed part of something more elaborate than a straight curtain wall.

- 8.2.5 Given the emulation of the keep at Clun in the tower house at Hopton, it seems likely that other aspects of the building works at this time may also have drawn their inspiration from the Clun defences. These are known to have included a stone curtain wall and gatehouse.
- 8.2.6 Trench 1 also demonstrated that the post-medieval demolition and Civil War defences must mask the original position of the moated bailey and the alignment of the curtain wall (**Figure 4, Plate 6**). In contrast to the visible earthworks, the small portions of the moat and possible curtain wall seen in Trench 1 would shift the position of the medieval moat northwards, making the bailey area much more regular in shape. A faced block visible in one of the banked areas to the east of the trench is on an alignment which is a potential continuation of wall (120). This may mean that this banked area relates to the early post-medieval remodelling rather than to the Civil War defences as previously believed.
- 8.2.7 Despite the presence of a few large brick fragments among the demolition layers alongside the tower in Trench 4, there is nothing in the form of wall (403) itself to suggest that this is a later build. Its construction and the addition of an external render is the same as that of the tower house. Logically, this is likely to be part of the construction of stone defences in the late medieval period.
- 8.2.8 Nearly all of the medieval pottery came from deposits within Trench 2, although occurring residually there, and in the vicinity of north-south wall (206/213). This wall could potentially be the remains of one of the medieval ancillary buildings. A posthole (216) within Trench 2 was the only indication found during this evaluation for an earlier timber structure. The majority of the animal bone came from the demolition layers within Trenches 2, 3, 5 and 6, suggesting that domestic activity (or at least the disposal of domestic refuse) was focused in this area.
- 8.2.9 The north-south wall (114) suggests that there was a building in the southern area of Trench 1, although it was not clear where the interior lay. The levelling and abandonment of this structure suggest that it was a late medieval structure. However, it appears to be fairly insubstantial and may not even be an external wall. The large sandstone block found by it, however, does suggest a more substantial structure in the immediate vicinity.
- 8.2.10 Of interest, given the lack of evidence for any late medieval conflict, is the armour-piercing arrowhead from (205). It could perhaps relate to the expedient use of an older weapon during the Civil War siege.

8.3 Early post-medieval (1500-1641)

- 8.3.1 Extensive remodelling of the earthwork defences and the replacement of windows in the tower house in the late 16th and early 17th century are both in keeping with the shift in emphasis from an ostensibly defensive structure

to a fashionable country house. The early 17th century was a time of peace and stability in England, in contrast to upheaval on the Continent (Donagan 1988, 67).

- 8.3.2 This levelling, and the construction of formal gardens within a more open landscape, seems to be focused to the immediate north and east of the keep, while the southern and western areas of the moat and outer bailey remained largely unchanged. However, there are some traces of early post-medieval landscaping beyond the moat to the west. The later account of the siege also suggests that the curtain wall survived in the southern and western portions. There may have been some modifications to what was most probably a medieval fishpond to the immediate south-east of the castle. Although all the current indications are that the tower located in Trench 4 is part of the stone phase of construction c. 1300, the bricks within the demolition at the very least imply that this structure was still standing at this time and may have had, in common with the tower house, some minor brickwork repairs or modifications.
- 8.3.3 Indications of the levelling of a number of the buildings within the bailey were seen in a number of the trenches. The north-south wall (114) in the southern part of Trench 1 appears to have been levelled in this period, before the construction of the siege defences. Another levelling layer was seen in the northern part of the trench in conjunction with the dismantling or demolition of wall (120). The structure associated with wall (206/213) in Trench 2 may also have been removed at this time.
- 8.3.4 In the same way that the tower house can be seen as an imitation of the keep at Clun, the gardens created by the Fitz Alan family at Clun may provide a likely parallel for the pleasance (pleasure gardens) at Hopton. What the geophysical survey and the findings within Trench 7 make clear is that the creation of the gardens may have coincided with the construction of some new buildings, possibly as part of the garden design. The results from Trench 7 suggest the incorporation of water into this design: the channel (705) seems to be ornamental rather than defensive or practical, and the geophysical survey suggests that it may have bordered a courtyard. While the surfaces either side of this channel appeared similar, the higher resistance data to the east of the channel suggests that more substantial structural remains may lie beneath it. The survey data support the idea that buildings lie on the western, northern and eastern edges of the possible courtyard. Two brick structures mentioned in the account of the siege must also date to this period.
- 8.3.5 The cellared building represented by walls (212), (303) and (606) was definitely in use at this time, although it may have been partly constructed earlier. Deposit (308) may indicate another building just to the north of this and there is a possible earthwork in this area, but its nature and date are unknown.
- 8.3.6 Several of the metal finds, including a lace tag, belt buckle, gold coin of James I and token, are likely to date to this period.
- 8.4 The Civil War period (1642-46)**
- 8.4.1 One of the most vivid and well documented periods of the castle's history occurred during the early part of the Civil War. One of the aims of the current project was to try and identify some of the structures mentioned in the

contemporary account of the Civil War siege, as well as attempting to verify some of the documented details.

- 8.4.2 The account mentions the lodging of Richard Steward, the 'out walls', the 'brick tower', 'Gregory's house', the 'new brick dwelling' and the Castle itself.
- 8.4.3 Richard Steward's lodging must have been comfortably appointed enough to include a fireplace, as there is a reference in the siege account to a breach through the chimney. It also seems to have been still substantial enough, despite being razed by fire, to trap the attackers, allowing them to be repulsed by the defenders. The reference to the Royalists approaching the walls and the fact that the breach (and by inference the building) lay beyond the defenders' 'works' suggests that the building lay immediately before or just behind the 'out walls' but in front of the defensive line the garrison had thrown up. Samuel More also recounts leaving the castle 'over the water' by Richard Steward's house. This suggests three possibilities - that the building lay near or beyond the moat, by the stream or by the water features of the formal garden. The fishponds and stream course to the south-east of the castle can be discounted as it is fairly clear that the main attack and approach to the castle lay to the north.
- 8.4.4 A section of the defenders' 'works' was seen in Trench 1. This was a large, deep ditch with banks thrown up either side. This would serve both to deepen the drop of the ditch and to dispose of the spoil. The size of the ditch shows that it was a significant investment of labour by the defenders, understandable if it was their main defensive line. The collapse of material from both the banks into the ditch is perhaps a reflection of their hasty and unconsolidated construction.
- 8.4.5 The numerous references to the 'out walls' make it clear that there was a stone curtain wall, and crucially include the phrase '*the work did not flank, being an old wall made round*'. This suggests that the curtain wall was already discontinuous by the time of the Civil War and accords with the northern part of the defences having been substantially re-landscaped in the early post-medieval period. We also know from the account that there was at least one major breach which the defenders were forced to shore up with wood and timber.
- 8.4.6 The account mentions two brick buildings, the brick tower and the newer brick house. It seems reasonably certain that these refer to two separate structures. The brick tower is mentioned as part of the 'works' which went "*from the out-wall and so to the castle; and on the other side from the castle to the out-wall another, to keep the water to us*". This suggests a line of defence linking waterways (be it the moat, stream or garden landscaping) along which was the brick tower. More seems to claim that this structure was made as part of the improvised defences, although it seems likely, as Morriss suggests (2006, 12), that it was merely adapted to form part of the defences rather than being constructed from scratch.
- 8.4.7 The moat ditch still survives today along the western and southern west side of the bailey, and the south-eastern part of the Site is blocked by the fishpond. The stream skirts the north-eastern part of the Site but today is only a narrow and shallow watercourse. Clearly the defensive line would have had to traverse across the northern area of the Site, either straight across or turning south-east. Bowden (2006, 5) suggests the possibility that the circular mound to the east of the tower could be one of the outworks mentioned by More, although Stratascan (2005) considered it to be possibly

industrial feature. The geophysical survey within the current project was inconclusive. The mound is in a good place to mirror the tower found in Trench 4, and this leads to the interesting possibility that the extent of the bailey was originally much larger than previously thought, placing the tower house much more centrally within the bailey. This would put the eastern extent of the moat near the present stream course.

- 8.4.8 'Gregory's house' is perhaps one of the most enigmatic structures mentioned, although it is known that Gregory was the steward of the castle at the time of the siege. All that can be really inferred is that it must lie in close proximity to the newer brick house mentioned in the same sentence for the fire to spread from one to the other. The firing of Gregory's house was apparently a response to the attack on the brick house, also suggesting that it lay close to this structure.
- 8.4.9 Due to the large amounts of brick rubble within demolition layers (204) and (310), it is tempting to place the new brick house in the vicinity of Trenches 2 and 3. Indeed, the building encountered there is slightly confusing. The cellar wall survives to a height of 1.8m in Trench 3 and was built entirely of stone. Its uneven coursing and the few remnants of pale white grey plaster remaining suggest construction not dissimilar to that of the tower house. However, there were no particular architectural features with which to date it. It seems improbable that such quantities of brick rubble would result in this area if the structure, or an immediately adjacent one, was not at least predominantly built of brick. There is also the possibility that the stone walls may be earlier and that later modifications were made above ground level in a newer, more modern style.
- 8.4.10 The presence of the north-south wall (206) in the southern part of Trench 2, along with the GSB geophysical survey, suggest that another building lay immediately to the south of the cellared building. However, as discussed above, this may have been demolished in the early post-medieval period. Another structure lay within the northern part of Trench 3, and a geophysical anomaly just to the north-east of Trench 3 could be a further structure, giving perhaps three closely situated structures which would correlate with More's account. However, there are also two less regular but high resistance readings to the north-west of the circular earthwork mentioned earlier as a possible candidate for a brick tower. Without further information it is impossible to determine even from which angle the attack came.
- 8.4.11 The description of the defenders' retreat to the Castle accords closely with what can be seen surviving in the upstanding ruins. The porch is described as being timber-built and damaged by the attack. As there is no mention of a drawbridge or fixed bridge on the approach to the door it seems more likely that a flight of steps led up to the entrance. The reference to the mining through a house of office is explained by the still visible damage to the garderobe in the south-west turret (Morriss 2006, 13). The doorway now at this point must be a later feature (**Figure 2, Plate 2**), possibly utilising the existing breach (Morriss 2006, 30). The description of the three floors matches what is known about the layout of the tower house and confirms that there were few internal divisions.
- 8.4.12 The demolition deposits within Trench 3 are consistent with a deliberate dismantling of a building. Indeed, the isolated survival of the tower house relatively intact, in contrast to the above-ground removal of all other structures, suggests a deliberate plan to clear the area around the tower.

Such a well defined and potentially labour-intensive plan is more likely to relate to later landscaping by the Beale family rather than slighting by the Royalist troops. The intention may have been to create a more open parkland with a single romantic ruin.

9 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 9.1.1 This report adds to the assessment already undertaken as part of the Conservation Management Plan commissioned by the Hopton Castle Preservation Trust who wish to maintain and display the Site to the public. The results are expected both to inform their interpretation as well as informing any future work on the Site.
- 9.1.2 An online OASIS (Online Access to the Index of Archaeological Investigations) entry will be created for this excavation and its findings and submitted to the website.
- 9.1.3 Clearly, more work is required in order to elucidate the full plan of the castle and to ascertain its detailed development. However, it is recommended that the results of the Time Team evaluation are published as an interim statement, in the form of a summary report, with accompanying figures, to be submitted to the *Transactions of the Shropshire Archaeological and Historical Society*.
- 9.1.4 The summary report, which would be based on the information presented in the current report, would be in the region of 3000 words of narrative text, with one or two accompanying plans. Artefactual and environmental information would be integrated into the narrative text as appropriate.

10 ARCHIVE

- 10.1.1 The excavated material and archive, including plans, photographs and written records, are currently held at the Wessex Archaeology offices under the project code 71504. It is intended that the archive should be deposited with the Shropshire Museums Service.

11 REFERENCES

- Auden, A., M., 1908:** 'Clun and its Neighbourhood in the First Civil War', *Trans. Shropshire Archaeol. Natur. Hist. Soc.* 8, 287-336
- Bowden, M., 2006:** *Hopton Castle, Shropshire: A survey of the earthworks*, English Heritage: Archaeological Survey & Investigation Report Series AI/20/2005
- Curnow, P.E., 1989:** 'The Tower House at Hopton Castle and its Affinities' in C. Harper-Bill, C.J Holdsworth, and J.L. Nelson (eds), *Studies in Medieval History presented to R. Allen Brown*, Woodbridge: Boydell Press, 81-102
- Donagan, B., 1988:** 'Codes and Conduct in the English Civil War', *Past and Present* 118, 65-95
- Driesch, A. von den, and Boessneck, J., 1974:** 'Kritische Anmerkungen zur Widerristhöhenberechnung aus Längenmaßen vor- und frühgeschichtlicher Tierknochen', *Säugetierkundliche Mitteilungen*, 22, 325-48
- Drury, P., 2009:** *Hill Hall: a singular house devised by a Tudor intellectual*, Soc. Antiq. London
- Elks, D.E., 2005:** Geophysical survey report, Hopton Castle, Shropshire, unpub. rep. for Hopton Castle Preservation Trust, Stratascan, ref. J2057
- GSB Prospection Ltd., 2009:** *Geophysical Survey Report Hopton Castle, Shropshire*, unpub. rep. for Videotext Communications ref. 2009/26
- Jessop, O., 1997:** 'Medieval arrowheads', *Finds Research Group 700-1700, Datasheet* 22
- Knight, B., 1985:** 'Cames' in J.N. Hare, Battle Abbey: the eastern range and the excavations of 1978-80, HBMCE Archaeol. Rep. 2, 154-6
- Margeson, S., 1993:** *Norwich Households: Medieval and post-medieval finds from Norwich Survey Excavations 1971-78*, East Anglian Archaeology 58
- Morriss, R., K., 1993:** *Clun Castle, Shropshire*, Hereford Archaeology Series 176
- Morriss, R., K., 2006:** *Hopton Castle, Shropshire: An Architectural & Archaeological Analysis of the Tower*, Mercian Heritage Series 270
- Scott, I., 2001:** 'The military artefacts and horse gear' in M. Biddle, J. Hiller, I. Scott and A. Streeten, *Henry VIII's Artillery Fort at Camber Castle, Rye, East Sussex*, English Heritage / Oxford Archaeology Unit, 189-212

Stace, C, 1997: *New Flora of the British Isles*, Cambridge: Cambridge University Press (2nd ed.)

Stratascan, 2005: Geophysical Survey Report, Hopton Castle, Shropshire, unpub. rep. for Hopton Castle Preservation Trust, J 2057

Videotext Communications, 2009: Proposed Archaeological Evaluation Hopton Castle, Shropshire NGR SO 3670 7794, unpub. project design

Table 1: Finds totals by material type and by trench (number / weight in grammes)

| Material | Tr 1 | Tr 2 | Tr 3 | Tr 4 | Tr 5 | Tr 6 | Tr 7 | Total |
|---------------------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|--------------|
| Pottery | 16/155 | 34/1123 | 28/1416 | 2/12 | 78/905 | 3/7 | 5/70 | 166/3688 |
| <i>Medieval</i> | - | 10/337 | - | 1/2 | - | - | - | 11/339 |
| <i>Post-Medieval</i> | 16/155 | 24/786 | 28/1416 | 1/10 | 78/905 | 3/7 | 5/70 | 155/3349 |
| Ceramic Building Material | 55/11,941 | 16/10,805 | 25/32,100 | 19/25,729 | 11/4026 | 6/385 | 6/468 | 138/85,454 |
| Wall Plaster | - | 2/248 | - | 22/243 | - | - | - | 24/491 |
| Fired Clay | 2/42 | - | - | 1/34 | - | - | 3/15 | 6/91 |
| Clay Pipe | 1/3 | - | - | - | - | - | - | 1/3 |
| Stone | 16/19,298 | 16/10,805 | 19/18,708 | 8/16,458 | 5/1157 | 2/751 | - | 64/75,344 |
| Glass | 4/8 | 21/112 | 6/246 | - | 2/2 | - | 1/1 | 34/369 |
| Slag | 1/9 | 3/185 | - | - | - | - | - | 4/194 |
| Metalwork (no. objects) | 36 | 21 | 52 | 4 | 6 | 15 | 34 | 168 |
| <i>Coins</i> | 1 | 1 | 1 | - | - | - | - | 3 |
| <i>Silver</i> | - | - | - | 1 | - | - | - | 1 |
| <i>Copper Alloy</i> | - | 2 | - | - | - | - | - | 2 |
| <i>Lead</i> | 5 | 8 | 7 | - | - | 3 | 5 | 28 |
| <i>Iron</i> | 30 | 10 | 44 | 3 | 6 | 12 | 29 | 134 |
| Animal Bone | 45/366 | 39/190 | 10/459 | 3/10 | 27/467 | 41/329 | - | 165/1821 |
| Marine Shell | - | 2/7 | - | - | - | - | - | 2/7 |

Table 2: Pottery totals by ware type

| Date Range | Ware type | No. sherds | Weight (g) |
|---------------|--------------------------------|------------|-------------|
| MEDIEVAL | Medieval coarse sandy ware | 9 | 241 |
| | Medieval fine glazed ware | 1 | 2 |
| | Late medieval sandy ware | 1 | 96 |
| | <i>sub-total medieval</i> | <i>11</i> | <i>339</i> |
| POST-MEDIEVAL | Black-glazed ware | 3 | 70 |
| | Cistercian-type ware | 4 | 10 |
| | English stoneware | 1 | 106 |
| | Midlands Purple ware | 2 | 29 |
| | Midlands Yellow ware | 3 | 10 |
| | Post-medieval whiteware | 14 | 667 |
| | Redware | 95 | 1878 |
| | Tinglazed earthenware | 21 | 73 |
| | Modern stoneware | 2 | 293 |
| | Refined whiteware | 6 | 64 |
| | Yellow ware | 4 | 149 |
| | <i>sub-total post-medieval</i> | <i>155</i> | <i>3349</i> |
| | OVERALL TOTAL | 166 | 3688 |

Table 3: Animal bone condition and potential

| Unid. | Burnt | Loose teeth | Gnawed | Measureable | Ageable | Butchered | Total no. frags. |
|-------|-------|-------------|--------|-------------|---------|-----------|------------------|
| 63 | 2 | 14 | 13 | 10 | 18 | 1 | 134 |

Table 4: Assessment of the charred plant remains and charcoal

| Trench | Context | Sample | Litres | Flot (ml) | % roots | Grain | Chaff | Charred other | Seeds | Charcoal >4/2mm | Notes |
|--------|---------|--------|--------|-----------|---------|-------|-------|---------------|------------------|-----------------|--------------------|
| 3 | 306 | 1 | 8 | 1200 | - | - | - | - | - | 800/150 | Quercus sp. |
| 1 | 104 | 2 | 10 | 1150 | - | - | - | - | 1 Vicia/Lathyrus | 750/150 | Oak + rare non-oak |
| | 110 | 3 | 0.2 | 200 | - | - | - | - | - | 200 | Hand-picked, oak |

Appendix 1: Trench Summaries

bgl = below ground level

| TRENCH 1 | | | Type: | Hand/machine excavated |
|-------------------------------|--------------------|--|---|------------------------|
| Dimensions: 1.48x7.98m | | Max. depth: 1.07m | Ground level: 158.92-160.02m aOD | |
| context | description | | depth | |
| 101 | <i>Topsoil</i> | Modern topsoil. Mid grey-brown silt loam; 2% stone, sub-angular – sub-rounded, <1-3cm. Highly bioturbated; directly under turf. Fairly loose and friable; homogeneous. Fairly clean interface with (102). Overlies (102), (103), (105) and (109). | 0.00-0.17m bgl | |
| 102 | <i>Layer</i> | Eroded/weathered material from bank (106). Mid yellow-brown silt loam; 30% stone, sub-angular – sub-rounded, <1-5cm. Some bioturbation; fairly loose and friable; occasional CBM fragments. Overlies (106) and (107). | 0.22m deep | |
| 103 | <i>Deposit</i> | Upper secondary fill of ditch (112). Dark grey-brown silt loam; 5% stone, sub-angular, 2-10cm. Some bioturbation; fairly homogeneous; moderately compact. Topsoil derived material, but inclusion of large stones, lack of structure and uniformity suggest this may be deliberate backfill. Overlies (106) and (107). | 0.60m deep | |
| 104 | <i>Layer</i> | Secondary deposit overlying already levelled wall (114). Mid grey-brown silty clay; 5% stone, sub-angular – sub-rounded, 2-10cm; occasional CBM fragments; frequent charcoal fragments and flecks. Related to disuse of wall (114) and possible (?later) nearby burning (?destruction). | 0.15m deep | |
| 105 | <i>Layer</i> | Rubble and earthen bank deposit. Mid grey-brown silt loam; 30% stone, sub-angular – angular, 2-20cm; includes stone roof tile and occasional CBM. Moderately compact; slightly mixed deposit; bioturbated. Seen in the east-facing section of the southern end of the trench. May be a variation of (109), since no relationship between them could be seen. Overlies (108). | 0.41m deep | |
| 106 | <i>Layer</i> | Rubble and earthen bank deposit. Mid grey-brown silt loam; 40% stone, sub-angular – angular, <1-15cm; includes occasional CBM fragments. Moderately compact; fairly homogeneous; some bioturbation. Overlies (111). | 0.43m deep | |
| 107 | <i>Deposit</i> | Secondary fill of ditch (112). Mid grey silty clay; 40% stone, sub-angular – sub-rounded, 2-18cm; moderately compact; fairly homogeneous; some bioturbation. Stone within this probably derives from the erosion/tumble of (108) and (102). Overlies (121). | 0.30m deep | |
| 108 | <i>Layer</i> | Tumbled/disturbed stones from wall (114) as the result of the cutting of ditch (112). Mid grey silt loam; 80% stone, angular, 10-22cm; fairly homogeneous; some bioturbation. Overlies (104). | 0.18m deep | |
| 109 | <i>Layer</i> | May be a variation of (105) since no relationship between them could be seen however the layer contains significantly fewer and smaller inclusions. Mid grey silt loam; 15% stone, sub-angular – angular, 2-20cm; includes occasional CBM. Moderately compact; slightly mixed deposit; bioturbated. Seen in the west-facing section of the southern end of the trench. Overlies (110). | 0.23m deep | |
| 110 | <i>Layer</i> | Secondary deposit. Mid grey silty clay; 5% stone, sub-angular – sub-rounded, 2-6cm; occasional charcoal flecks; moderately compact; fairly homogeneous. Banked up against wall (114). Similar to (104) and visible at same level therefore maybe related to disuse of wall (114) and possible (?later) nearby burning (?destruction). | 0.22m deep | |
| 111 | <i>Layer</i> | Secondary deposit. Dark grey silty clay; 25% stone, sub-angular – sub-rounded, 2-6cm; occasional charcoal flecks. Moderately compact; slightly mixed. Maybe related to a period of disuse and possible (?later) nearby burning (?destruction). Overlies (115). | 0.04m deep | |
| 112 | <i>Cut</i> | Cut of Civil War defensive ditch. Filled with (103), (107) and (121). East – west aligned. Moderate, concave sides. 3.38m wide. Cuts | 0.65m+ deep | |

| | | | |
|-----|---------|--|--------------------|
| | | (115) and (114). Not fully excavated. | |
| 113 | Layer | Possible medieval bank. Pale yellow-brown silty clay; 15% stone, sub-angular, <1-3cm; moderately compact; fairly homogeneous; some bioturbation. Overlies (122). | 0.57m deep |
| 114 | Wall | North – south stone wall. Only two courses remaining; stone slab construction, with no visible mortar. Uneven courses, irregular jointing. Overlies (113). | 0.28m high |
| 115 | Layer | Possible levelling layer. Pale yellow-grey silty clay; 5% stone, sub-angular, 8-10cm; occasional mid-yellow clay mottles; fairly compact; rare CBM fragments. Overlies (116). | 0.10m deep |
| 116 | Layer | Rubble/tumble from the demolition of wall (120). Mid grey silty clay; 60% stone, sub-angular – angular, 2-20cm; includes voids. Concentrated around wall (120). Overlies (118). | 0.34m deep |
| 117 | Cut | Possible cut of medieval moat. Thought to be linear, east – west cut. Filled with (119); cuts (122). Wall (120) appears to have been constructed when the cut was partly filled up, allowing (118) to fill up within the cut. Only small section seen, largely unexcavated. | 0.36m+ deep |
| 118 | Layer | Possible upper silting of (117) after the construction of (120). Mid grey-brown silty clay; 20% stone, sub-angular, 2-12cm; compact, gravelly. Similar to (119). Banked up against (120). | 0.36m deep |
| 119 | Deposit | Secondary fill of (117). Mid grey-brown silty clay; 30% stone, sub-angular, 2-12cm; compact, gravelly. Similar to (118) but includes more stone and has a higher clay content. Overlies (117). | 0.13m+ deep |
| 120 | Wall | NNW–SSE stone wall; only three courses remaining with a fallen course above this. Only small section seen; stone slab construction with mid yellow-grey lime mortar. Uneven courses, irregular jointing. Overlies (119). | 0.42m high |
| 121 | Deposit | Lowest fill of (112) encountered. Mid yellow-grey silty clay; 15% stone, sub-angular, 2-6cm. Largely unexcavated. Moderately compact; fairly homogeneous. | 0.28m deep |
| 122 | Natural | Natural geology. Mid brown-yellow clay; 60% stone, sub-angular – sub-rounded, <1-3cm; compact; homogeneous. | 0.81m+ bgl |

| TRENCH 2 | | | Type: | Hand excavated |
|-------------------------------|-------------|--|---|----------------|
| Dimensions: 1.50x4.97m | | Max. depth: 1.08m | Ground level: 159.21-160.00m aOD | |
| context | Description | | | depth |
| 201 | Topsoil | Modern topsoil. Mid grey-brown silt loam; 2% stone, sub-angular – sub-rounded, <1-3cm; highly bioturbated. Directly under turf. Fairly loose and friable; homogeneous. Overlies (202). | | 0.00-0.15m bgl |
| 202 | Layer | Demolition debris. Mid brown silt loam; 20% stone, sub-angular - angular, 2-18cm; frequent brick and stone roof tile; moderately compact. Mostly seen in the northern part of the trench. Overlies (203) and (205). | | 0.42m deep |
| 203 | Deposit | Fill of robber cut (208), collapse of surrounding loose rubble, possibly in combination with some deliberate backfilling. Mid grey-brown silt loam; 25% stone, sub-angular – sub-rounded, 2-10cm; frequent CBM and mortar fragments; very mixed and fairly loose. Includes variations. Overlies (208). | | 0.75m deep |
| 204 | Layer | Demolition debris. Mid grey-brown silt loam; 60% brick rubble, frequent mortar flecks; very little sediment matrix; moderately loose. Banked up against northern side of wall (212). Very different to (211). Cut by (208). | | 0.87m+ deep |
| 205 | Layer | Demolition/levelling layer. Mid grey silt loam; 25% stone, angular, 2-12cm; some bioturbation; fairly homogenous. Banked up against (206). Overlies (207) and (210). | | 0.28m deep |
| 206 | Wall | North – south stone wall; only three courses remaining; stone slab construction, with no visible mortar. Uneven courses, irregular jointing. Overlies (213). Full width not exposed. | | 0.32m high |

| | | | |
|------------|------------|---|-------------------|
| 207 | Layer | Demolition/levelling layer. Pale yellow-grey silt loam; 2% stone, sub-angular, 2-4cm; occasional charcoal flecks. Some bioturbation; fairly homogenous. Banked up against (206). | 0.51m deep |
| 208 | Cut | East – west robber cut associated with wall (212). Filled with (203). Sides step to moderate, concave to slightly convex; 1.71m wide. Cuts (211) and (204). | 0.75m deep |
| 209 | Natural | Possible natural geology. Pale yellow-grey clay; 25% stone, sub-angular, <1-3cm; compact; homogeneous. Similar/same as (214). | 0.45m+ bgl |
| 210 | Deposit | Fill of robber cut (215), collapse of surrounding loose rubble, possibly in combination with some deliberate backfilling. Mid grey-brown silty clay; 15% stone, sub-angular – angular, 2-22cm; includes sandstone and quartz fragments. Moderately compact, fairly homogeneous. Overlies (215). | 0.50m deep |
| 211 | Layer | Demolition debris. Mid grey-brown sandy silt loam; 25% stone, sub-angular – angular, <1-6cm, 10-18cm; compact; slightly mixed. Debris to the southern side of wall (212). Very different to (204). Cut by (208) and (215). | 0.27m+ deep |
| 212 | Wall | East – west stone wall; only three courses remaining; stone slab construction with pale yellow sandy lime mortar. Uneven courses, irregular jointing. Appears to have been built against (209) on southern side. Post-dates (217). | 0.56m+ high |
| 213 | Wall | North – south stone wall. Foundation for (206). Pale grey lime mortar. Built on (214). | 0.35m high |
| 214 | Layer | Possible natural geology (?re-deposited). Mid yellow-grey clay; 15% stone, sub-angular, 2-4cm; compact; homogeneous. Similar/same as (209). | 0.90m+ bgl |
| 215 | Cut | East – west robber cut associated with wall (206)/(213). Filled with (210). Sides moderate, concave; 0.94m wide. Position suggests this robbed out a western return of the wall. Also cuts (211). | 0.50m deep |
| 216 | Cut | Large sub-circular posthole. Steep, straight sides, flat base. 0.42m long, 0.32m wide. 100% excavated. Filled with (217). | 0.35m deep |
| 217 | Deposit | Secondary fill of posthole (216). Topsoil and re-deposited natural material filling posthole after removal of the post. Dark grey silty clay; 10% stone, sub-angular, 2-4cm, concentrated at base of cut. Sediment oxidizes on contact with the air. | 0.35m deep |

| TRENCH 3 | | | Type: | Hand/machine excavated |
|-------------------------------|--------------------|---|---|------------------------|
| Dimensions: 8.00x4.95m | | Max. depth: 1.95m | Ground level: 158.83-159.74m aOD | |
| context | Description | | | depth |
| 301 | Topsoil | Modern topsoil. Mid grey-brown silt loam; 5% stone, sub-angular – sub-rounded, <1-6cm; highly bioturbated. Directly under turf. Fairly loose and friable; homogeneous. Overlies (302) and (304). | | 0.00-0.24m bgl |
| 302 | Layer | Demolition debris. Mid grey silt loam; 25% stone, sub-angular, 2-12cm; frequent brick fragments. Slightly mixed, loose rubbly layer; some bioturbation. South of wall (303). Overlies (311). | | 0.64m deep |
| 303 | Wall | East – west stone-built, north wall of cellar. Pale yellow lime mortar – but very little remaining. Uneven coursed; irregular jointing; 1.02m wide. Some areas of pale grey plaster remaining – very thin and patchy. Built on (309). | | 1.80m high |
| 304 | Layer | Demolition debris. Mid brown sandy silt loam; 15% stone, sub-angular, 2-8cm; occasional brick fragments. Slightly mixed, fairly loose rubbly layer; some bioturbation. North of wall (303). Overlies (307) and (313). | | 0.41m deep |
| 305 | Layer | Demolition debris. Mid grey-brown silt loam; 40% stone, sub-angular – angular, 2-18cm, includes frequent roof tile fragments; occasional CBM; moderately compact. South of wall (303). Overlies (306). | | 0.28m deep |
| 306 | Layer | Demolition debris. Dark grey silty clay; 30% stone, sub-angular – angular, 2-12cm, includes roof tile fragments; very occasional CBM; | | 0.30m deep |

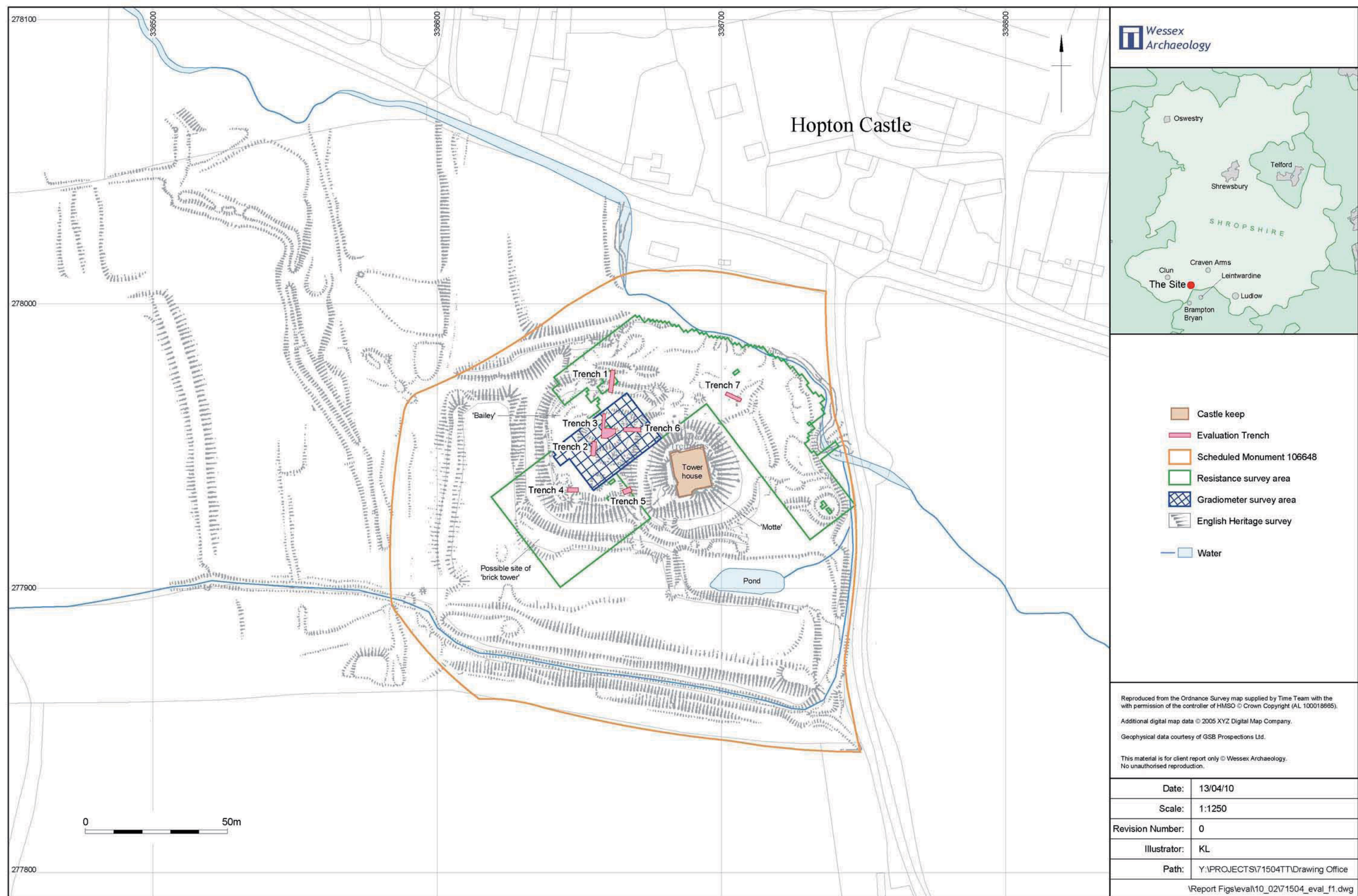
| | | | |
|-----|---------|---|-------------------|
| | | moderately compact. South of wall (303). Banked up against (303). | |
| 307 | Layer | Demolition debris. Mid grey-brown silt loam; 30% stone, sub-angular – angular, 4-14cm; rare CBM and charcoal flecks; moderately compact. North of wall (303). Largely unexcavated. Overlies (308). | 0.06m+ deep |
| 308 | Layer | Dark grey brown sandy clay; compact; occasional charcoal flecks. 'L' shaped in plan, with very sharp, vertical interfaces; 0.96m wide. Unexcavated. | - |
| 309 | Natural | Natural geology. Mid yellow-grey clay; 30% stone, sub-angular, <1-3cm; compact. | 1.80m+ bgl |
| 310 | Layer | Demolition debris. Mid brown silt loam; 5% stone, sub-angular – angular, 2-18cm; 60% brick rubble, frequent mortar fragments; loose with frequent voids. South of wall (303). Cut by (312). Overlies (305). | 0.75m deep |
| 311 | Deposit | Fill of (312). Mid brown silty clay; 1% stone, sub-angular, 2-4cm; occasional CBM fragments. Moderately compact. | 0.38m deep |
| 312 | Cut | Possible unexploited robber cut. Cut up against south side of wall (303). Filled with (311). Straight steep sides; flat base; 0.22m wide. Cuts (310). | 0.38m deep |
| 313 | Layer | Demolition debris. Mid brown sandy silt loam; 15% stone, sub-angular, 2-8cm; frequent brick fragments; slightly mixed; moderately compact. North of wall (303). Unexcavated. | - |

| TRENCH 4 | | | Type: | Hand excavated |
|-------------------------------|-------------|--|---|----------------|
| Dimensions: 3.84x1.50m | | Max. depth: 1.48m | Ground level: 161.23-160.52m aOD | |
| context | Description | | depth | |
| 401 | Topsoil | Modern topsoil. Mid grey-brown silt loam; 5% stone, sub-angular – angular, 2-8cm; highly bioturbated. Directly under turf. Fairly loose and friable; homogeneous. Very thin. Overlies (407) and (408). | 0.00-0.13m bgl | |
| 402 | Layer | Demolition debris. Mid yellow-brown silt loam; 60% stone, sub-angular – angular, <1-15cm; very rare CBM fragments. Compact; fairly homogeneous; some bioturbation. Very fragmented, compact, scree-like rubble; no discernible building fragments. To west of wall (403). Overlies (404). | 0.39m deep | |
| 403 | Wall | East wall of tower. Stone, north - south wall. Unevenly coursed; irregular jointing with no visible mortar. Pale yellow plaster with a white surface seen on the lower part of the exposed wall. Height not fully exposed. Possible buttress on east side of wall. Width 0.72m widening to 1.24m at location of possible buttress. | 1.38m+ high | |
| 404 | Layer | Demolition debris. Mid grey-brown silt loam; 60% stone, sub-angular – angular, 2-22cm; rare CBM fragments, occasional mortar fragments. Fairly compact but occasional voids. West of wall (403). Overlies (405). | 0.54m deep | |
| 405 | Layer | Demolition debris. Mid grey-brown silty clay; 70% stone, sub-angular – angular, 2-20cm; occasional CBM fragments and stone roof tiles. Fairly compact but frequent voids. To west of wall (403). Overlies (409). | 0.45m deep | |
| 406 | Layer | Demolition debris. Mid grey-brown silt loam; 65% stone, sub-angular – angular, 10-20cm; occasional CBM fragments, frequent mortar fragments. Fairly compact but occasional voids. Not fully excavated. Similar to (404) but to the east of wall (403). Overlies (405). | 0.22m+ deep | |
| 407 | Layer | Demolition debris. Mid yellow-brown silt loam; 60% stone, sub-angular – angular, <1-15cm; very rare CBM fragments. Compact; fairly homogeneous; some bioturbation. Very fragmented, compact, scree-like rubble; no discernible building fragments. Similar to (402) but to the east of wall (403). Overlies (406). | 0.27m deep | |
| 408 | Layer | Tumble from wall (403). Mid grey-brown silt loam; 40% stone, sub-angular – angular, 2-20cm. Overlies (402). | 0.18m deep | |
| 409 | Layer | Demolition debris. Mid grey silty clay; 70% stone, sub-angular – angular, 2-20cm; occasional CBM fragments, occasional charcoal flecks. Frequent large voids. Not fully excavated. To west of wall (403). | - | |

| TRENCH 5 | | | Type: | Hand excavated | |
|------------------------|-------------|--|----------------------------------|----------------|----------------|
| Dimensions: 1.50x3.00m | | Max. depth: 0.51m | Ground level: 159.81-160.30m aOD | | |
| context | Description | | | depth | |
| 501 | Topsoil | Modern topsoil. Mid grey-brown silt loam; 2% stone, sub-angular – angular, <1-6cm; highly bioturbated. Directly under turf. Fairly loose and friable; homogeneous. Overlies (502). | | | 0.00-0.11m bgl |
| 502 | Layer | Demolition debris. Mid grey-brown silt loam; 25% stone, sub-angular – angular, 2-10cm; occasional CBM fragments; moderately compact. Not fully excavated. Overlies (503). | | | 0.40m deep |
| 503 | Layer | Demolition debris. Mid brown silt loam; 5% stone, sub-angular, 2-8cm; occasional CBM fragments and charcoal flecks. Moderately compact. Unexcavated. | | | - |

| TRENCH 6 | | | Type: | Machine/hand excavated | |
|------------------------|-------------|--|----------------------------------|------------------------|----------------|
| Dimensions: 1.40x6.00m | | Max. depth: 1.17m | Ground level: 158.71-159.30m aOD | | |
| context | Description | | | depth | |
| 601 | Topsoil | Modern topsoil. Mid grey-brown silt loam; 5% stone, sub-angular – sub-rounded, <1-6cm; highly bioturbated. Directly under turf. Fairly loose and friable; homogeneous. Overlies (609). | | | 0.00-0.13m bgl |
| 602 | Layer | Demolition debris within cellar. Mid brown silt loam; 5% stone, sub-angular – angular, 2-10cm; 60% brick rubble, frequent mortar fragments. Very little sediment matrix; loose with frequent voids. Cut by (608); overlies (606). Not fully excavated. | | | 0.62m+ deep |
| 603 | Layer | Demolition debris. Mid grey-brown silt loam; 30% stone, sub-angular – angular, 2-18cm; rare CBM; moderately compact. East of wall (606). Overlies (606) and (604). | | | 0.29m deep |
| 604 | Deposit | Secondary fill of ditch (605). Dark brown silty clay; 10% stone, sub-angular – angular, 2-15cm; moderately compact. Fairly homogeneous. Not fully excavated. | | | 0.46m+ deep |
| 605 | Cut | North – south ditch. Filled with (604). Not fully excavated. Width not fully exposed, 2.8m+. Moderate, concave sides. Cuts (607). Some finds originally assigned to this number, more correctly assigned as (604). | | | 0.46m+ deep |
| 606 | Wall | North - south, stone built, north wall of cellar and southern return. Pale yellow lime mortar. Unevenly coursed; irregular jointing. | | | 0.67m high |
| 607 | Layer | Re-deposited natural material. Mid yellow-brown silty clay; 2% stone, sub-angular, <1-2cm. | | | 0.26m deep |
| 608 | Cut | Possible unexploited robber cut. Cut up against south side of wall (606). Filled with (609). 0.20m wide. Straight steep sides; flat base. Cuts (602) and (611). | | | 0.58m deep |
| 609 | Deposit | Fill of (608). Mid brown silty clay; 1% stone, sub-angular, 2-4cm; rare CBM fragments. Moderately compact. | | | 0.58m deep |
| 610 | Natural | Natural geology. Mid brown-yellow clay; 15% stone, sub-angular – sub-rounded, <1-3cm. Compact; homogeneous. | | | 1.02m+ bgl |
| 611 | Layer | Demolition debris within cellar. Mid brown silt loam; 5% stone, sub-angular – angular, 2-12cm; 40% brick rubble, frequent mortar fragments. Moderately loose; some bioturbation. Cut by (608). Overlies (603). | | | 0.53m deep |

| TRENCH 7 | | | Type: | Machine/hand excavated | |
|-----------------------|-------------|---|-------|---------------------------|-------------------|
| Dimensions 1.26x5.78m | | Max. depth: 0.92m | | Ground level: 157.55m aOD | |
| context | Description | | | depth | |
| 701 | Topsoil | Modern topsoil. Mid grey-brown sandy silt loam; 2% stone, sub-angular – angular, <1-6cm. Under turf. Heavily bioturbated; homogeneous. Overlies (703) and (708). | | | 0.00-0.17m bgl |
| 702 | Deposit | Main secondary fill of ditch (705) . Mid grey-brown sandy silt loam; 2% stone, sub-angular – angular, <1-6cm; moderately compact. Some bioturbation; fairly homogeneous. Overlies (704). | | | 0.48m deep |
| 703 | Layer | Eroded material on top of surface (706), washed into ditch (705) , derives from the south-east. Mid yellow-brown sandy silt loam; 15% stone, sub-angular – angular, <1-6cm. Moderately compact; some bioturbation; fairly homogeneous. Overlies (702) and (706). | | | 0.25m deep |
| 704 | Deposit | Lower secondary fill of ditch (705) , gradual silting. Mid brown silty clay; 2% stone, sub-angular – angular, <1-4cm. Moderately compact; fairly homogeneous. Overlies (705) . | | | 0.34m deep |
| 705 | Cut | Cut of water channel, NE-SW aligned. Moderate, concave sides, flat base; 2.52m wide. Filled with (702) and (704). | | | 0.68m deep |
| 706 | Surface | Rough cobbled surface to SE of (705) . Mid yellow-brown sandy silt loam; 50% stone, sub-angular – angular, 2-12cm; compact. Unexcavated. | | | - |
| 707 | Surface | Rough cobbled surface to NW of (705) . Mid grey-brown sandy silt loam; 60% stone, sub-angular – angular, 2-10cm; compact. Unexcavated. | | | - |
| 708 | Layer | Demolition debris. Mid grey-brown silt loam; 30% stone, sub-angular – angular, 2-20cm; moderately compact; fairly homogeneous; some bioturbation. Overlies (707). | | | 0.32m deep |
| 709 | Deposit | Demolition debris, collapse into top of (705) . Mid grey-brown sandy silt loam; 5% stone, sub-angular – angular, <1-8cm. Some bioturbation; fairly homogeneous. Overlies (702) and (708). | | | 0.24m deep |



Site and trench location


Figure 1

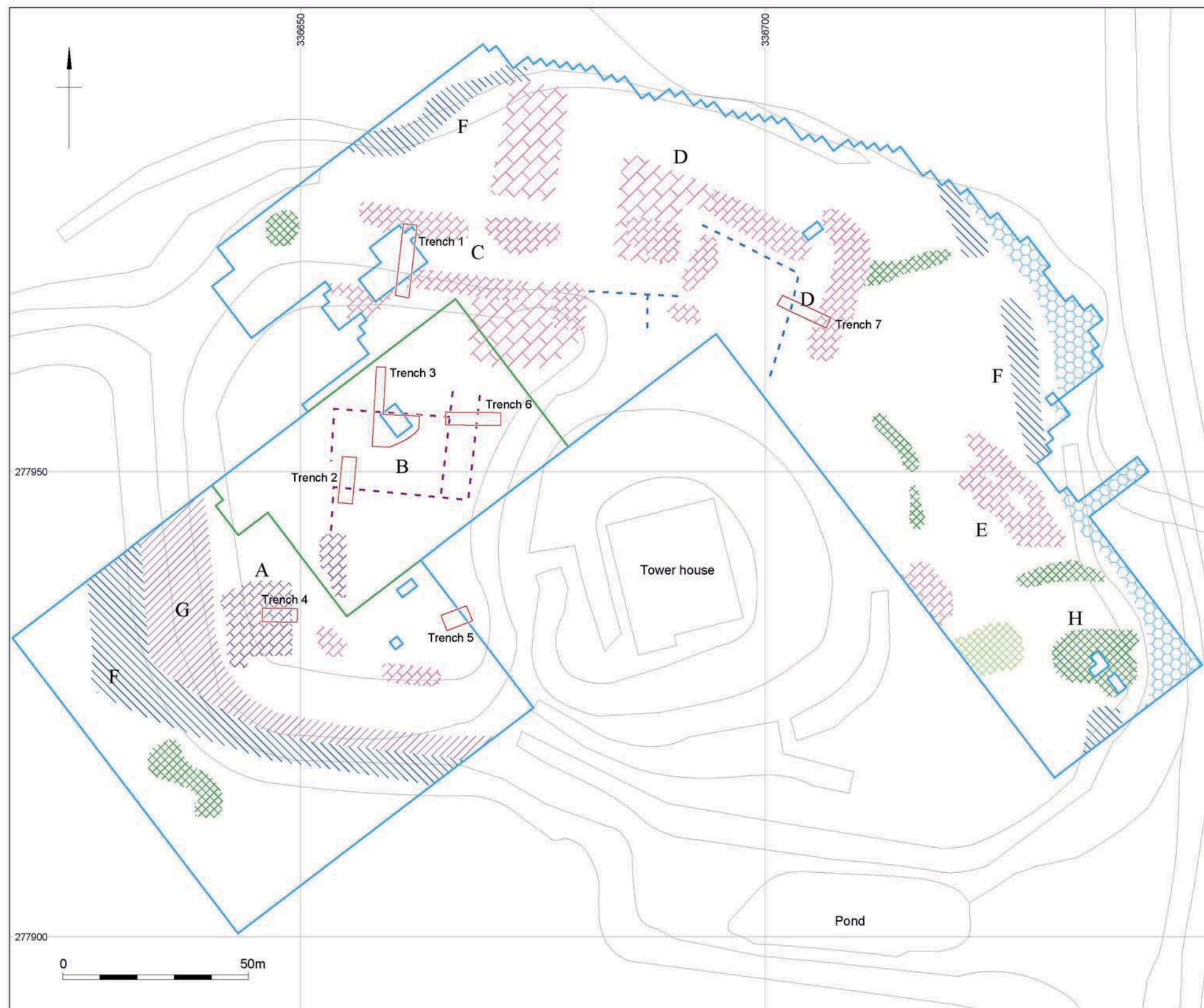


Plate 1: Tower house, view from south-east

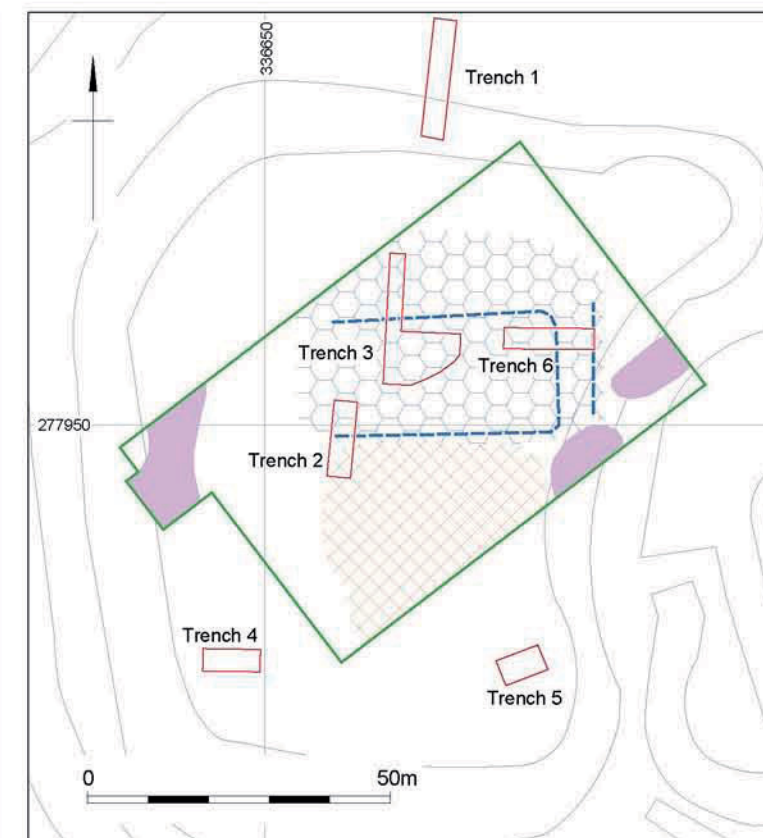


Plate 2: Tower house, view from south-west

| | | | |
|---|---|--|--------------------|
|  | This material is for client report only © Wessex Archaeology. No unauthorised reproduction. | | |
| | Date: | 13/04/10 | Revision Number: 0 |
| | Scale: | n/a | Layout: KL |
| | Path: | Y:\PROJECTS\71504TT\Drawing Office\Report Figs\eval\10_02\71504_eval_Fig02.cdr | |

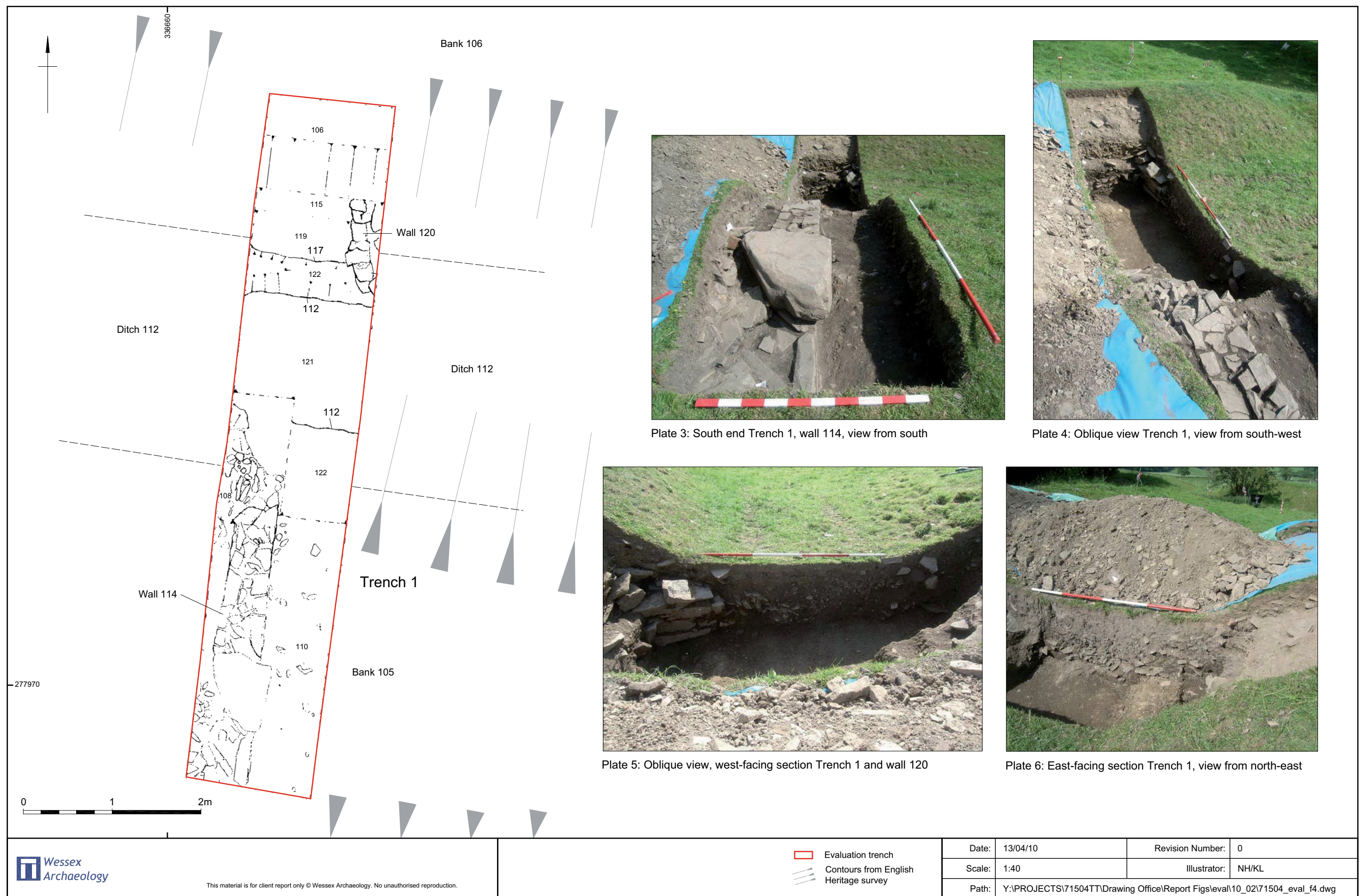


A. Resistance interpretation



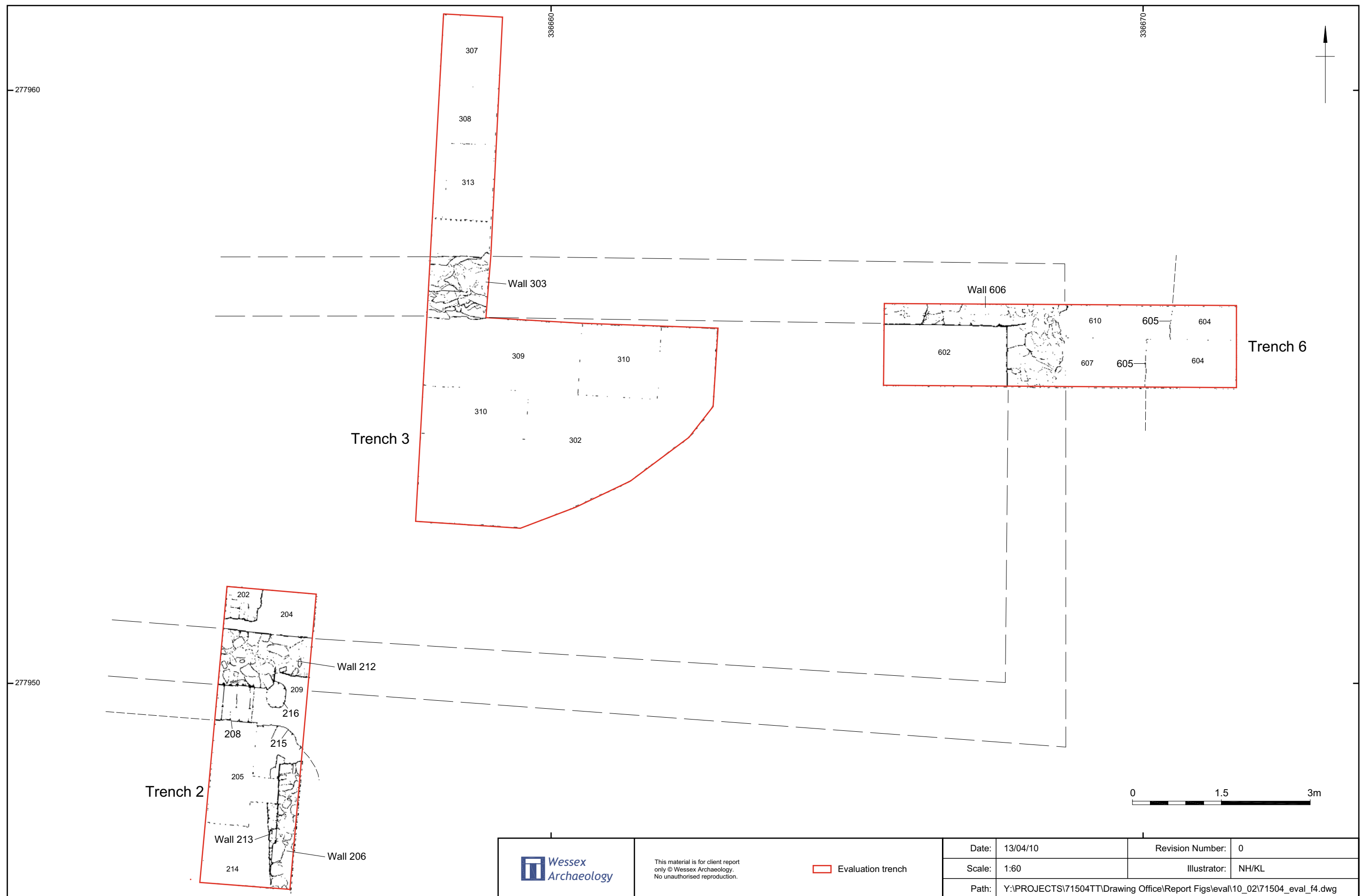
B. Gradiometer interpretation

- Gradiometer interpretation**
- Defences
 - Trend - wall foundations
 - Increased Magnetic Response - building remains
 - Magnetic disturbance
- Resistance interpretation**
- High resistance - building remains
 - High resistance - wall foundations
 - High resistance - ?structural remains
 - High resistance - defences
 - Low resistance - defences
 - Low resistance - trends
 - Low resistance - ?defences/topography
 - High resistance - uncertain
 - Low resistance - uncertain



Trench 1: plan and photographs

Figure 4



Trenches 2, 3 and 6: plan

Figure 5



Plate 7: Post-excavation view Trench 2, view from north



Plate 8: Post-excavation view Trench 2, view from south



Plate 9: South-facing elevation wall 303



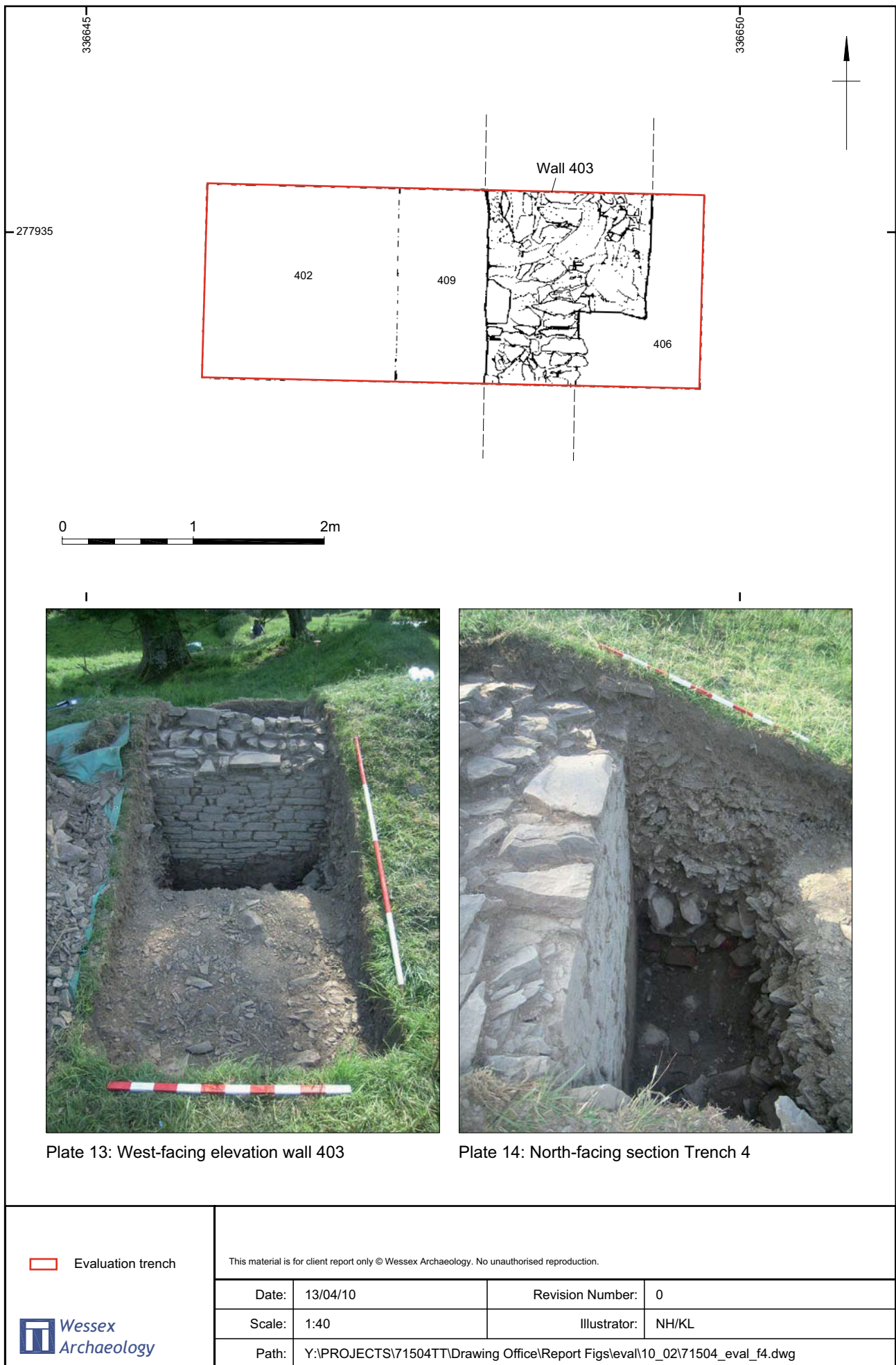
Plate 10: Demolition deposits Trench 3, view from east



Plate 11: Northern part of Trench 3, view from south



Plate 12: Post-excavation view Trench 6, view from south



Trench 4: plan and photograph

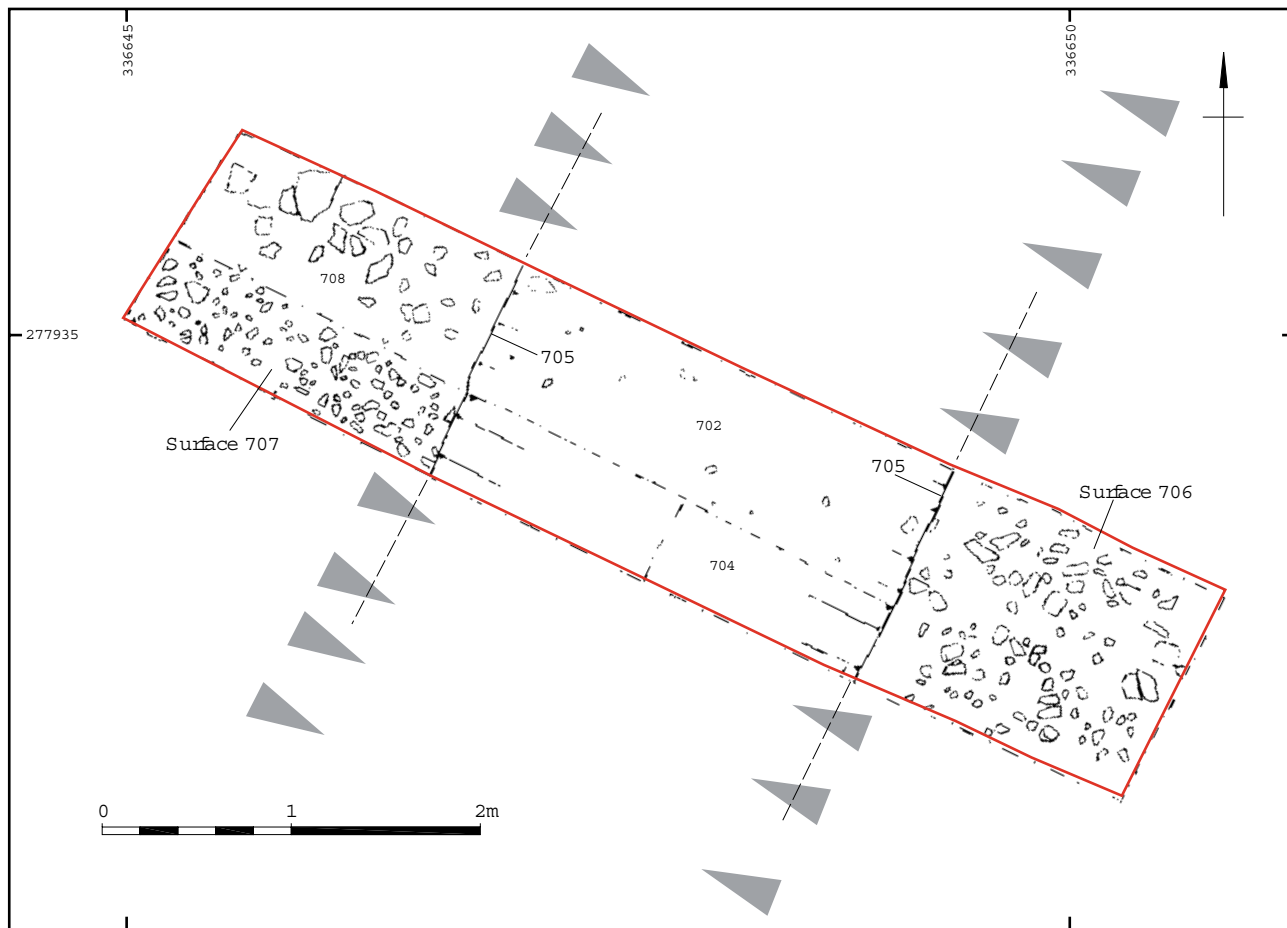


Plate 15: Trench 7, view from north-west



Plate 16: Oblique view, north-east facing section Trench 7

| | | | |
|--|---|--|--------------------|
| <div> <div></div> <div>Evaluation trench</div> </div> <div> <div></div> <div>Contours from English Heritage survey</div> </div> <div> </div> | This material is for client report only © Wessex Archaeology. No unauthorised reproduction. | | |
| | Date: | 13/04/10 | Revision Number: 0 |
| | Scale: | 1:40 | Illustrator: NH/KL |
| | Path: | Y:\PROJECTS\1504\TTP\Drawing Office\Report\Figs\eval10_02\1504_eval_01.dwg | |



WESSEX ARCHAEOLOGY LIMITED.

Registered Head Office: Portway House, Old Sarum Park, Salisbury, Wiltshire SP4 6EB.

Tel: 01722 326867 Fax: 01722 337562 info@wessexarch.co.uk

With regional offices in **Maidstone** and **Sheffield**

For more information visit www.wessexarch.co.uk



Registered Charity No. 287786. A company with limited liability registered in England No. 1712772.