

**63A CASTLE STREET  
SAFFRON WALDEN  
ESSEX**

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL EXCAVATION AND WATCHING BRIEF**



**SEPTEMBER 2005**



**Essex County Council**

**Field Archaeology Unit**

**63A CASTLE STREET  
SAFFRON WALDEN  
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Cover. Excavated section through upper fill of the ditch (west facing), showing chalk capping

Plate 1. Excavated section through upper fill of the ditch (west facing), showing chalk capping

Plate 2. Excavated section through upper fill of the ditch (east facing), showing chalk capping

**63A CASTLE STREET,  
SAFFRON WALDEN, ESSEX  
ARCHAEOLOGICAL EXCAVATION  
AND WATCHING BRIEF**

Client: Oliver Hoare Developments Ltd

NGR: TL 537 387

Planning Application: UTT1391/04 and UTT1392/04CA

Site Code: SW45

ECC FAU Project No: 1448

Dates of Fieldwork: 26 January to 2 February, and 15 April 2005

## **SUMMARY**

*An archaeological excavation and watching brief was carried out on the site of a small residential development at 63a Castle Street, Saffron Walden. A large ditch, 6.4m wide, aligned north-east/south-west and cut into the natural chalk bedrock was excavated to a depth of 1.2m, and its bottom was subsequently recorded at a depth of 4.0m during a watching brief on the foundation trenches for the new houses. The ditch is clearly that of the outer bailey of the 12th century castle, within which the medieval town was initially established. This length of ditch remained in use in the 13th and 14th centuries, when it was incorporated within the enlarged circuit of the later town enclosure.*

*The lack of obvious rubbish material within the ditch, and the bands of slippage and erosion down its sides, suggest that it filled up gradually through natural processes, although its final infilling must have been deliberate as it was capped with a compacted layer of chalk. No pottery dating evidence was recovered from the earliest ditch fills, but the pottery from the later fills is dated to the 12th-14th centuries, with the most diagnostic pottery dated to the first half of the 13th century. No later pottery was recovered and the ditch had presumably become completely infilled by the late medieval period.*

*Later features at the north end of the trench, some of which cut the ditch, are undated, while a thick layer of garden soil is post-medieval, but not closely dated. A small brick structure at the north end of the trench and a cellar at its south end are both dated to the 19th/20th centuries.*

## **1.0 INTRODUCTION**

1.1 This report describes the results of an archaeological excavation and watching brief on a residential development at 63a Castle Street, Saffron Walden. The work was undertaken by the Essex County Council Field Archaeology Unit (ECC FAU) on behalf of Oliver Hoare Developments Ltd, in accordance with an archaeological brief prepared by Richard Havis of the Essex County Council Historic Environment Management team (ECC HEM 2004), and the Written Scheme of Investigation prepared by the ECC FAU (2005). Richard Havis of ECC HEM monitored the work on behalf of the local planning authority. The site archive will be deposited at Saffron Walden Museum.

1.2 The archaeological work was carried out to fulfil an archaeological condition placed on the planning application under the terms of Planning Policy Guidance Note 16 (PPG 16), because of the site's location within a potentially sensitive archaeological area. The planning application was for the construction of three houses to the rear of the property, following the demolition of two commercial buildings and removal of associated areas of tarmac.

## **2.0 BACKGROUND (Fig. 1)**

### **2.1 Topography and Geology**

2.1.1 The development area was located on the north side of Castle Street at the northern edge of the historic core of Saffron Walden. The area was bordered by properties to east and west and comprised 400m<sup>2</sup>, although the three houses at the rear of the plot covered an area of only 150m<sup>2</sup>. St Mary's Church is located approximately 100m to the south, and the keep of Saffron Walden Castle approximately 180m to the south-east.

2.1.2 The commercial buildings at the rear of the property had been demolished prior to the excavation. The entire development area sloped downwards from south to north. The underlying geology consisted of Chalk bedrock.

### **2.2 Archaeological and Historical Background**

2.2.1 Saffron Walden had its origins in the mid-late Saxon period and developed into a prosperous market town during the medieval period (Essex Historic Environment Record

(EHER) 0408). By the later medieval period (13th-15th centuries) the town had become a major centre for the cloth trade, and was famous for the production of the saffron dyestuffs from which its name derives. There is some evidence of earlier settlement of prehistoric, Iron Age and Roman date in the general area.

2.2.2 The castle, around which the town developed, is believed to have been founded in the 12th century by the de Mandeville family, for in 1141 Geoffrey de Mandeville was given permission to remove Newport's market and transfer it to his castle at Saffron Walden. It is assumed that by this date the keep and its earthworks were well advanced, if not finished (Bassett 1982). Following an initial phase of urban development in the 12th century, within the outer bailey of the castle, further expansion in the early to mid-13th century included the setting-out of a rectilinear street-plan in an area to the south of the castle bailey. This was enclosed by a large defensive ditch, which still partially survives as an earthwork to the south of Gibson Close, known as the Repell or Battle Ditches (EHER 0443). This expansion may have been associated with the grant of a new charter in 1236.

2.2.3 The development area is situated to the north of the 12th century market area, and within the outer bailey of the 12th-century castle, a Scheduled Ancient Monument (SAM 20671). The line of the 12th century outer bailey ditch is projected as running through the northern limit of the development area (Medlycott 1999).

2.2.4 The open area to the north of the town enclosure is thought to have been a later market area during the late medieval and post medieval period. Metal detecting in the area has found a large number of metal artefacts associated with market trading.

2.2.5 Saffron Walden has a large number of surviving late medieval buildings, but archaeological investigation has added relatively few well-dated sequences to improve our knowledge of the medieval town. Castle Street is one of the earliest streets of the medieval town and the buildings at the front of the development area are listed buildings dating to the 16th century (EHER 26921).

### **3.0 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES**

- 3.1 The archaeological work was undertaken to determine the location, extent, date, character, condition, significance and quality of any surviving archaeological remains threatened by the development and to record them.
- 3.2 The specific aims of the excavation were to:
- Identify the line of the medieval town enclosure ditch and bank.
  - Identify deposits associated with the medieval and post-medieval town, especially any structures or evidence for domestic occupation or industrial activity.

### **4.0 METHOD**

- 4.1 The original brief was to excavate the footprint of the new houses. However, this was amended, in consultation with the ECC HEM monitoring officer, after evidence from a builder's test pit indicated that there was over 2m of deposits above the chalk bedrock to the immediate south of the area of the new houses. The revised plan was to excavate a single trench, stepped and battered for safety, down to the top of the chalk bedrock, or to a maximum depth of 2.4m, in the western half of the footprint of the houses.
- 4.2 The trench was excavated under supervision by an archaeologist, using a 360° tracked mini-excavator fitted with a toothless ditching bucket. The exposed deposits were hand-cleaned and all features were investigated. Standard ECC FAU excavation and recording methodologies were employed.
- 4.3 When the presence of a large ditch was identified, a 1m-wide slot was hand-dug across its width. Due to the depth of the overburden and the extremely large and deep trench required to fully excavate the ditch, it was agreed with the monitoring officer that this slot would only be excavated to a depth of 1.2m below the natural chalk surface and that the full depth of the ditch should be recorded by a watching brief on the house foundation trenches. It was possible to create a continuous section relating the lower half of the ditch to the excavation of its upper half, but due to health and safety considerations the lower ditch fills were recorded from the top of the foundation trenches, and it was not possible to recover pottery or other artefacts.



- 4.4 Soil samples were collected from five contexts, both within the ditch and the overlying soil 6. All samples were processed by bulk wet-sieving with flotation, using a 0.5mm mesh and collecting the flotation fraction (flot) on a 0.5mm sieve. The residue was then dried and separated into coarse and fine fractions using 4mm and 2mm sieves. All of the material in the 4mm (coarse) fraction was sorted by eye and artefacts and other ecofacts extracted, separated into type and recorded. The material smaller than 4mm (the fine fraction) was collected, weighed and bagged unsorted. The flots were also dried. Seeds, shells and charcoal recovered from the flots were retained separately.
- 4.5 All work was carried out in accordance with IFA (Institute of Field Archaeologists) by-laws and guidelines.

## **5.0 FIELDWORK RESULTS**

### **5.1 Introduction**

- 5.1.1 An area of 10m by 4.5m was stripped to a depth of approximately 1m by machine. A number of archaeological features and deposits dating to the post-medieval and medieval periods were revealed, including a large medieval ditch. These are described below in chronological order with further context information presented in Appendix 1.

### **5.2 Medieval ditch (Figs 3, 4 and 5)**

- 5.2.1 In the centre of the excavation trench was a large ditch (19), 6.4m wide, aligned north-east/south-west and cut into the natural chalk bedrock. This ditch lay directly on the projected line of the outer bailey ditch of the 12th-century castle, and was situated on ground that sloped down from south to north. The ditch was well defined with fairly steep sides (c. 55-60°) and continued below the bottom limit of excavation at a depth of 1.2m. The lower part of the ditch, recorded during the watching brief, had a steep-sided V-shaped profile, and was 4.0m deep below the surface of the natural chalk (Fig. 5). As the ditch was cut directly into chalk, the accompanying upcast bank, on the higher south side of the ditch, would have consisted almost entirely of chalky material.
- 5.2.2 The ditch was filled with a series of predominately chalk and chalky silt fills (1-3, 22-41 and 44). At the base of the ditch the initial silting was represented by two brown deposits (38 and 39). These were followed by three off-white chalky deposits (40, 41 and 30) and a chalky brown silt (25), all probably formed from erosion of the ditch sides. Above these

deposits, the centre of the ditch was filled by a thick deposit of silty chalk (44) that may have resulted from deliberate backfill or major slippage from the chalk upcast bank on the south side of the ditch. A series of four off-white silty chalk deposits (26-29) located on the southern side of the ditch probably formed as a result of further erosion and slippage of material from this bank.

5.2.3 A brown silt deposit (24) was recorded on the northern side of the ditch, which perhaps resulted from natural silting and vegetation growth. Several large sub-angular flints were recovered from this deposit and from a similar, but chalkier, brown silt (31) in the centre of the ditch. It is possible that some of this material, particularly the flints, originated from the topsoil on the, non-embanked, north side of the ditch. The brown silts were sealed by three silty chalk deposits (22, 23 and 32), above which deposits of loose chalk nodules (34) and thick compact creamy white chalk (33) represent a final episode of backfilling or capping of the ditch. The very top of the ditch was infilled by two bands of light brown silt (3 and 1/10), perhaps again reflecting vegetational growth, separated by a thin band of pinkish chalk (2). Traces of a light brown silt subsoil (37), similar to deposit 1/10, were found sealing the natural chalk to the north of the ditch.

5.2.4 A small amount of medieval pottery was recovered from the upper fills of the ditch. Although this pottery ranged in date from the 12th to 14th centuries, the most diagnostic pieces dated to the 13th century, and this probably represents the date at which the ditch was becoming infilled.

### **5.3 Post-medieval (Fig 3)**

5.3.1 The northern half of the infilled ditch (19) was cut by an irregular gully (4/35), containing a number of medium to large sub-angular flints, and a small posthole (20) only identified in section. The infilled ditch and the surrounding subsoil were sealed by a light grey brown chalky silt (7) and a layer of mid grey chalky silt (6) above. Layer 6 was an extensive deposit that continued beyond the area of the ditch and was up to 0.85m thick where undisturbed in section on the eastern side of the trench. It contained residual sherds of prehistoric and medieval pottery. Layer 7 was cut by a small undated post-hole (9) and layer 6 was cut by an oval pit (16) that contained one sherd of late medieval pottery dating to the 13th-16th centuries. At the northern limit of the trench, in an area of disturbance associated with the north boundary wall of the property, was a pit (14) containing five fragments of post-medieval roof tile.

5.3.2 Two, larger, well-defined, post-holes (12 and 18) cut the natural chalk to the north of the ditch. Neither feature contained any dating evidence. Post-hole 18 was truncated by the foundation trench of a small rectangular brick structure constructed from 'frogged' bricks and dating to the later 19th or 20th century. To the south of the ditch, layer 6 and the underlying chalk natural were truncated by a substantial cellar of similar date. The north wall of the cellar was constructed from frequent large flints and occasional fragments of brick, roof tile and drain pipe in a light sandy brown matrix.

## **6.0 FINDS** by Joyce Compton

### **6.1 Summary**

6.1.1 Finds, mainly comprising pottery and animal bone, were recovered from fifteen contexts. Most of the material was retrieved from the fills of the medieval ditch 19. All of the finds have been recorded by count and weight, in grams, by context. The medieval pottery, which forms the largest finds component, is reported on separately. Quantification details for all of the finds, and full descriptions of the pottery, are provided in Appendices 2 and 3. Finds quantities are all small, and the character of the entire assemblage suggests accidental deposition of material in ditch 19, rather than the deliberate dumping of large amounts of rubbish.

### **6.2 Medieval pottery** by Helen Walker

6.2.1 A small amount of medieval pottery, 88 sherds weighing 764g, was excavated, and has been recorded using Cunningham's typology for post-Roman pottery in Essex; Cunningham's cooking pot rim codes are also quoted (Cunningham 1985, 1-16). Most pottery came from fills of the medieval ditch (19). A thick layer of topsoil (6) overlying ditch 19, produced very similar pottery to that of the ditch, although this material was almost certainly residual.

6.2.2 The earliest pottery comprises thumbbed-and-beaded cooking pot rims in early medieval ware, characteristic of the 12th century. Also in this ware are glazed sherds and part of a rod handle with incised zig-zag decoration, probably from tripod pitchers, datable to the 12th to early 13th centuries. Other datable pottery comprises cooking pot rims with more developed B2- and B4-type rims in medieval coarse ware, datable to c.1200. Typologically the latest cooking pot rim is a medieval coarse ware H2-type rim current during the early to mid-13th century. A bowl rim in this ware is also present. The only

fine ware present is Hedingham ware, made in the area of Sible Hedingham in north Essex, and a common find in the northern half of the county and Cambridgeshire during the later 12th to 14th centuries. Some sherds of Hedingham ware are decorated with white slip pellets on a red slip background, and are examples of Rouen-style decoration datable to the first half of the 13th century (Cotter 2000, 91). Probably the latest pottery comprises a single sherd of Hedingham fine grey ware, a fabric which appears to be confined to northern Essex, and a single sherd of fine white medieval coarse ware (of unknown source). Both fabrics occurred at the Market Row excavations at Saffron Walden, where they were most abundant in phase II, dated to the early to mid-14th century (Walker 2002, 247-51), although this does not preclude an earlier date for these fabrics.

- 6.2.3 The pottery from the town ditch therefore spans the 12th to 14th centuries, although most could have been current during the earlier 13th century. The pottery was all recovered from the upper fills representing the gradual silting and final capping of the ditch. This dating fits in with the history of this length of the ditch, dug in the 12th century as part of the outer bailey, but retained in use in the 13th century as part of the town enclosure. No post-medieval pottery was recovered, not even from the topsoil layer, and the only other type of pottery is a small sherd of very abraded sandy orange ware from pit 16, which belongs to either the medieval or late medieval periods.
- 6.2.4 The pottery from this site is comparable to that excavated from other lengths of the outer bailey and town ditches. Excavations at the Rose and Crown Hotel site, the Cinema Maltings and the Barnard's Yard site undertaken in the 1970s all produced early medieval wares dated to the 12th to early 13th centuries (Cunningham 1982, 83, 85). Much of the material from the Barnard's Yard site has been illustrated (Cunningham 1982, fig.44.63-84) and shows a group of early medieval ware cooking pots and dishes, along with a couple of examples of shell-and-sand-tempered ware rims. In common with the material from Castle Street, 12th-century thumb-and-beaded rims are present, with the addition of more developed rims datable to the first half of the 13th century.
- 6.2.5 An excavation of the extant section of the town ditch in the southwest corner of the town revealed that the ditch had been cleaned out, and only two sherds, thought to be residual, were recovered (Ravetz and Spencer 1962). However, groups of pottery pre-dating the earthwork produced St Neots-type ware with smaller amounts of Thetford-type

were not present at the Castle Street excavation, but, in common with Castle Street, early medieval ware cooking pot rims and a fragment of tripod pitcher were recovered.

- 6.2.6 It is worth noting that these excavations show that sand-tempered early medieval ware is much more common than the contemporary shell-tempered wares. This fits in with the general pattern in Essex, where shelly wares are less abundant in the north of the county than they are in the south.

### **6.3 Animal bone**

- 6.3.1 Twelve contexts produced animal bone, amounting to 239 pieces, weighing 661g; many of the smaller elements were recovered from the soil samples taken from six contexts. The animal bone has been scanned for condition and completeness, and identifications were carried out using Schmid (1972) and Cornwall (1956), where possible. The bone is fragmentary, but in good condition; preservation is also good and even the bones from very small animals have survived well.

- 6.3.2 A range of animals is present, comprising those derived from domestic food waste, and others such as dog and horse. Very small mammals, cats, rats and hedgehogs, were also identified, along with bird, frog and fish bones. The bones composing the food waste were from immature animals, many with chop and knife marks, resulting from butchery. Cattle, sheep/goat and pig were identified, and domestic fowl was also present, although many of the bird bones were from smaller taxa. A single bone from a horse was found in fragments across two contexts (fills 5 and 23 of ditch 19). This is a metatarsal, which has a naturally-occurring 'point' and has probably been used as an awl.

### **6.4 Shells**

- 6.4.1 A large number and variety of shells (totalling 119g from 11 contexts) was recovered, most of which were extracted from the soil samples. Oyster shells were found in six contexts, perhaps representing food waste, but nearly all of the shell probably occurred naturally, surviving well in the chalk deposits. Large garden snails came from fills 5, 27 and 29 of ditch 19 and a fossil shell fragment, derived from the chalk, came from fill 5. This has been discarded following recording.

## 6.5 Other finds

6.5.1 Other categories of finds are few. A sherd of flint-tempered prehistoric pottery was found in topsoil layer 6. A flat iron object, probably a blade came from context 5 of ditch 19, and iron nails, one of which is a fiddle key nail, came from fill 27 of ditch 19. Fragments of natural stone were recovered from fills 5 and 31 of ditch 19. These have been discarded. Fill 2 of ditch 19 produced two flints, one flake and one burnt piece, and a single piece of unworked flint was found in layer 6. Fill 13 of pit 14 produced several post-medieval roof tiles, unfortunately not more closely datable.

## 6.6 Environmental material

6.6.1 Almost all of the soil samples produced further animal bones and shells, some of which are very small. Single fish bones were recovered from three contexts, including post-medieval soil layer 6. The flots from layer 6 contained a quantity of seeds, as did the top ditch fill 1/10, which also contained vegetable material. Ditch fills 26 and 29 contained several seeds, but ditch fills 24 and 31 contained mainly molluscs.

## 7.0 CONCLUSIONS (Figs 2 and 6)

7.1 The length of ditch recorded in the Castle Street excavation is clearly part of the outer bailey ditch of the 12th-century castle. It lies directly on the postulated line of that ditch and its fills contain pottery with a date range of the 12th-14th centuries, with most of the pottery dating to the 12th to mid-13th centuries. The full profile of the ditch was recorded as being V-shaped, between 6m and 7m wide, and 4m deep, very similar to the section of the outer bailey ditch excavated to the south of the castle at Barnard's Yard by M. R. Petchey in 1975 (Bassett 1982, 64-6). Along its northern side the outer bailey ditch followed a pronounced scarp overlooking lower ground.

7.2 The pottery dating suggests that the ditch had become completely infilled by the end of the 14th century. The lack of obvious rubbish deposits within the ditch, and the bands of slippage and erosion down its sides, suggest that it mainly filled up naturally, although the final chalk fills appear to have been a deliberate capping.

7.3 Both the position and dating of the Castle Street ditch suggest that it was retained as part of the northern section of the enlarged circuit of the town enclosure, constructed in the 13th century (Fig. 6). The expansion of the town to the south and west in the 13th

century meant that the outer bailey, which enclosed the earliest phase of the medieval town, was superseded, but the northern section of the outer bailey ditch appears to have been retained in the new defensive circuit. The evidence from the Castle Street site suggests that the original outer bailey ditch would already have been partially filled up when it was incorporated in the new town enclosure.

- 7.4 The infilling of the ditch by the late medieval period implies that the town defences were not being actively maintained by that date. In addition, it is quite probable that the chalk capping at the top of the ditch fills may have been derived from levelling of the defensive rampart on the south side of the ditch. If so, this suggests that the town enclosure may have become completely defunct, on the north side of the town at least, by the late medieval period. The levelling of the town defences in this area would have had the advantage of allowing direct access to the late medieval and post-medieval market area to the north.
- 7.5 The post-medieval sequence is not well dated or understood, but the presence of 16th-century buildings at the frontage of 61 and 63 Castle Street indicates the presence of tenements along the north side of Castle Street from that date at least. Earlier, medieval tenements may also have extended back from Castle Street, occupying the area between the street and the defences. Despite the limitations of the evidence, there is some evidence of post-medieval back yard and/or garden activity, with a thick layer of garden soil creating a built-up terrace, on which outbuildings, some with cellars, were built in the 19th and 20th centuries. The rear boundary line of the modern properties runs along the north side of the former town ditch, and it is clear that at some stage in the post-medieval period back yards encroached upon the line of the ditch. Unfortunately, the precise date of this encroachment cannot be deduced from the site evidence.

## **8 ASSESSMENT OF RESULTS**

### **8.1 Fieldwork**

- 8.1.1 The excavation has conclusively located the line of the 12th-century outer bailey ditch, later retained in the 13th and 14th centuries as part of the town enclosure ditch. The ditch had become completely infilled by the end of the medieval period, and it is likely that the defensive rampart was levelled at the same time. Within the area of the site the medieval ditch was well preserved beneath a thick post-medieval soil layer, and should

survive well along other parts of its length, even where it may have been truncated by later cellars. The ditch contained a reasonably large amount of pottery to date its fills, but organic deposits that might contain environmental evidence were entirely absent, no doubt due to the good drainage properties of the chalk into which the ditch was cut.

8.1.2 During the post-medieval period the yards and/or gardens to the rear of the 16th-century houses on the Castle Street frontage encroached upon the infilled medieval ditch, forming a new boundary on the northern (outer) edge of the ditch. The line of the ditch appears to be fossilised in many of the rear property boundaries on the north side of Castle Street.

## **8.2 Finds**

8.2.1 Most categories of finds are too small for further study to be worthwhile. There are no conservation requirements. The soil samples all produced material, but the best environmental remains came from poorly dated post-medieval layers overlying the medieval ditch. No further work is thus recommended for the environmental remains. For publication, a short note on the finds, principally the pottery, is all that will be required.

8.2.2 The finds, including the environmental material, should all be retained. As noted above, the unworked stone and the fossil shell fragment have already been discarded. The oyster shell and perhaps the iron blade from fill 5 could also be discarded at the archiving stage.

## **8.3 Publication**

8.3.1 As the results of the excavation are of importance for the medieval development of Saffron Walden and its defensive circuit, it is planned to publish them as a shorter note in a future volume of *Essex Archaeology and History*.



## **ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

The Essex CC Field Archaeology Unit would like to thank Oliver Hoare Developments Ltd for commissioning and funding the archaeological excavation, especially Brett Oliver for his help and assistance. Thanks are also due to Oliver Hoare Developments and their building contractor for providing a mini-digger to remove overburden from the area of the archaeological trench, and for enabling access to record the lower part of the ditch during groundworks.

The excavation was undertaken by J. Archer, D. Smith and A. Turner, under the supervision of T. Ennis, and the watching brief by A. Robertson, all of the Essex CC Field Archaeology Unit. The excavation was monitored by R. Havis of the Essex CC Historic Environment Management Team.

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## APPENDIX 1: CONTEXT DATA

All dimensions given in metres

Context	Feature	Type	Description	Period
1	19	Fill	Light brown chalky silt	Medieval
2	19	Fill	Pinkish chalk	Medieval
3	19	Fill	Mid brown silt	Medieval
4	35	Fill	Light brown silt, common large flints	
5	19	Finds	From upper part of chalk fills 22, 23 and 32	Medieval
6	-	Layer	Mid grey chalky silt, 0.85m thick	
7	-	Layer	Light grey brown chalky silt, 0.16m thick	
8	9	Fill	Dark grey silt	
9	9	Post-hole	Circular, diameter 0.46m x 0.22m deep	
10	19	Fill	Same as 1	Medieval
11	12	Fill	Mid grey brown silt	
12	12	Post-hole	Sub-rectangular, 0.6m x 0.4m x 0.37m deep	
13	14	Fill	Dark grey silt	
14	14	Pit	0.75m x 0.28m x 0.2m deep	Post-med/mod?
15	16	Fill	Dark grey silt	
16	16	Pit	Oval, 1.4m x 1.2m x 0.28m deep	Post-med/mod?
17	18	Fill	Mid grey silt	
18	18	Post-hole	Truncated, 0.5m x 0.3m+ x 0.26m deep	
19	19	Ditch	6.4m wide x 1.25m+ deep	Medieval
20	20	Post-hole	0.13m+ x 0.28m x 0.18m deep	
21	20	Fill	Mid to dark brown	
22	19	Fill	Grey white soft chalk, silty	Medieval
23	19	Fill	Dull white/grey chalk, silty	Medieval
24	19	Fill	Mid to light brown silt-loam	Medieval
25	19	Fill	Brown silt with white chalk mottles	Medieval
26	19	Fill	Light grey chalk, silty	Medieval
27	19	Fill	White/grey-brown chalk, silty	Medieval
28	19	Fill	White/cream chalk, silty	Medieval
29	19	Fill	Mid brown/white chalk, silty	Medieval
30	19	Fill	Dull white chalk, compact	Medieval
31	19	Fill	Light brown silt	Medieval
32	19	Fill	Light brown/white chalk, compacted, silty	Medieval
33	19	Fill	Creamy white chalk, compact	Medieval
34	19	Fill	Off white chalk nodules, loose	Medieval
35	35	Gully/slot?	Linear, 1.5m x 0.78m x 0.3m deep	
36	35	Fill	Mid brown silt, rare medium flints	
37	-	Layer	Light brown chalky silt	
38	19	Fill	Dark brown silt	Medieval
39	19	Fill	Mid brown silt, frequent chalk nodules	Medieval
40	19	Fill	Light grey silty chalk, frequent nodules	Medieval
41	19	Fill	Brownish white chalk, frequent nodules	Medieval
42	19	Fill	Duplicate number = lower part of fill 30	Medieval
43	19	Fill	Duplicate number = lower part of fill 25	Medieval
44	19	Fill	Greyish white chalk, silty	Medieval
45	19	Fill	Duplicate number = lower part of fill 29	Medieval
46	19	Fill	Duplicate number = lower part of fill 27	Medieval
47	19	Fill	Duplicate number = lower part of fill 26	Medieval
48	19	Fill	Duplicate number = lower part of fill 24	Medieval
49	19	Fill	Duplicate number = lower part of fill 31	Medieval

## APPENDIX 2: POTTERY DATA

All weights given in grams

Context	Feature	Count	Weight	Description	Date
1	19	1	13	?modern ceramic	?modern
		3	25	Shell-dusted early medieval ware	10th - 13th C
		2	8	Medieval coarse ware	12th - 14th C
3	19	2	10	Early medieval ware	10th - 13th C
5	19	1	3	Hedingham ware, green-glazed	Later 12th - 13th C
		8	98	Early medieval ware including a thickened everted cooking pot rim and a B2 cooking pot rim, some sherds are grey-firing	c.1200
		4	32	Medieval coarse ware including everted rim from bowl	12th - 14th C
		2	17	White medieval coarse ware (Fabric 20w; see Walker 2002, 247)	12th - 14th C
6	Layer	1	7	Hedingham ware decorated with white slip pellets over red stripe, mottled green/clear glaze – Rouen-style decoration	c.1200-1250
		1	3	Glazed early medieval ware	12th-early 13th C
		6	31	Early medieval ware including sherd with thumbbed, applied strip	10th to 13th C
		17	111	Medieval coarse ware including B4 cooking pot rim (3 sherds weighing 2g are from sample 4)	c.1200
10	Layer	2	14	Early medieval ware thumbbed cooking pot rim (body sherd weighing 2g from sample 3)	12th C
15	16	1	2	?sandy orange ware, surfaces missing	?13th-16th C
23	19	6	20	Medieval coarse ware including joining sherds, borderline early medieval ware	12th to 13th C
25	19	1	4	Shell-dusted early medieval ware	10th -13th C
26	19	1	30	Medieval coarse ware	12th– 14th C
29	19	2	10	Medieval coarse ware, borderline early medieval ware	12th - 13th C
31	19	4	14	Hedingham ware, same vessel in context 6	c.1200-1250
		10	167	Early medieval ware including thumbbed cooking pot rim, two beaded rims and rod handle most likely from a tripod pitcher showing incised zigzag decoration	12th to early 13th C
		12	139	Medieval coarse ware including H2 cooking pot rim	Early to mid 13th C
		1	6	Hedingham fine grey ware (Fabric 20Df; see Walker 2002, 247)	12th to 14th C
	<i>Total</i>	<b>88</b>	<b>764</b>		

### APPENDIX 3: FINDS DATA

All weights given in grams

Context	Feature	Count	Weight	Description	Date
1	19	4	54	Animal bone; cattle metatarsus, distal end, small beast; long bone fragments	-
		2	8	Oyster shell, one valve, one fragment	-
		-	42	Mortar fragment with piece of corroded iron attached	-
		6	46	Pottery; body sherds and a funny straight piece	Medieval
2	19	2	74	Flints; one burnt lump, one flake	-
3	19	2	10	Pottery; body sherds	Medieval
5	19	1	50	Iron object, ?knife blade	-
		15	52	Animal bone; mandible hinge, large mammal; sheep/goat molar and incisor; metatarsal, proximal end, horse; femur, hedgehog; fragments, mainly long bones	-
		4	14	Shell; oyster, one valve; garden snails	-
		1	14	Fossil shell (Discarded)	-
		1	134	Stone fragment, natural unworked (Discarded)	-
		15	150	Pottery; rim, base and body sherds, one glazed	Medieval
6	Layer	62	74	Animal bone; femur, distal end, humerus, distal end, phalanges and hoof, sheep/goat; metatarsals, small mammal; bird bones; fragments; frog/fish bones and fragments, 40/4g from sample 4	-
		8	24	Shell; oyster, one valve; mussel, one valve; garden snails; fragments and small molluscs from sample 4	-
		1	6	Flint, unworked	-
		26	160	Pottery; rim and body sherds, two glazed, inc 3/2g from sample 4	Medieval
10	Layer	8	2	Animal bone fragment; fragments from sample 3	-
		-	2	Shell; fragments and small mollusc from sample 3	-
		2	14	Pottery; rim sherd, and body sherd (2g) from sample 3	Medieval
13	14	5	576	Roof tile fragments, one with peg hole	Post med.
15	16	2	20	Animal bone; rib fragment, large mammal; long bone fragment	-
		1	2	Oyster shell fragment (Discarded)	-
		1	2	Pottery; body sherd	Medieval
23	19	20	78	Animal bone; mainly rib and long bone fragments; sheep/goat incisor; horse metatarsal fragments which joins the one in fill 5	-
		1	14	Oyster shell, one valve	-
		6	20	Pottery; body sherds	Medieval
24	19	9	1	Animal bone; single fish bone and fragments from sample 6	-
		-	2	Shell; fragments and small molluscs from sample 6	-
25	19	2	4	Animal bone fragments	-
		1	4	Pottery; body sherd	Medieval
26	19	17	2	Animal bone; dog molar; fish bone and fragments, all from sample 5	-
		6	1	Shell, snails and fragments from sample 5	-
		1	30	Pottery; body sherd from sample 5	Medieval
27	19	2	8	Iron nails, one is probably a fiddle key nail	-
		5	24	Animal bone; long bone fragment, large mammal; fragments	-
		1	2	Shell; garden snail	-
29	19	20	28	Animal bone; phalanx and radius, proximal end, sheep/goat; caudal vertebra, small mammal; ?humerus fragment, very small mammal; fragments, mainly rib; 7/2g from sample 1, inc ulna, small mammal, ?bird bone, fragments, inc	-

		11 2	22 10	cancellous tissue Shell; garden snails Pottery; body sherds	- Medieval
31	19	88	326	Animal bone; cattle metapodial, distal end, unfused, with chop marks; cattle phalanges; axis vertebra, dog; ribs, metapodials, thoracic and tail vertebrae, ?dog; pig maxilla with two molars; sheep/goat mandible with molars; sheep/goat molars x 6; femur and humerus fragments, sheep/goat and dog; skull, vertebra rib and pelvis fragments, various sized mammals; fragments, 12/4g from sample 2	-
		1	14	Oyster shell, one valve; fragments and small molluscs from sample 2	-
		3	380	Stone fragments, unworked (Discarded)	-
		27	326	Pottery; rim, handle and body sherds, some glazed, inc 1/6g from sample 2	Medieval

#### APPENDIX 4: CONTENTS OF ARCHIVE

SITE NAME: 63a Castle Street, Saffron Walden  
 SITE CODE: SW 45

##### Index to Archive:

#### 1. Introduction

- 1.1 Copy of the Brief for the Excavation
- 1.2 WSI

#### 2. Research Archive

- 2.1 Client Report
- 2.2 Finds Report

#### 3. Site Archive

- 3.1 Context Record Register
- 3.2 Original Context Records (1 to 49)
- 3.3 Plan Register
- 3.4 Section Register
- 3.5 A4 plan sheets x 2
- 3.6 A4 section sheets x 6
- 3.7 Trench location plan
- 3.8 Photographic Register
- 3.9 Site Photographic Record (Set of Colour Slides and Colour prints)

#### Not in File

#### Finds

The finds occupy one box.

**APPENDIX 5: EHER SUMMARY SHEET**

<b>Site name/Address:</b> 63a Castle Street, Saffron Walden	
<b>Parish:</b> Saffron Walden	<b>District:</b> Uttlesford
<b>NGR:</b> TL 537 387	<b>Site Code:</b> SW45
<b>Type of Work:</b> Archaeological Excavation and Watching Brief	<b>Site Director/Group:</b> T. Ennis ECC Field Archaeology Unit
<b>Date of Work:</b> 26 January to 2 February 2005, 15 April 2005	<b>Size of Area Investigated:</b> 150m <sup>2</sup>
<b>Location of Finds/Curating Museum:</b> Saffron Walden	<b>Funding source:</b> Oliver Hoare Developments Ltd
<b>Further Seasons Anticipated?:</b> No	<b>Related HER Nos.:</b> 26921
<b>Final Report:</b> EAH Shorter Note?	
<b>Periods Represented:</b> Medieval/Post-medieval/Modern	
<p><b>SUMMARY OF FIELDWORK RESULTS:</b>  <i>An archaeological excavation and watching brief was carried out by the Essex County Council Field Archaeology Unit on land proposed for residential development at 63a Castle Street, Saffron Walden. A large ditch, 6.4m wide, aligned north-east/south-west and cut into the natural chalk bedrock was excavated to a depth of 1.2m. The full depth was subsequently identified as approximately 4m during the watching brief. The ditch is clearly that of the outer bailey of the 12th century castle. This stretch of ditch is believed to have been re-used in the 13th century as the northern section of the town enclosure.</i></p> <p><i>No post-medieval pottery was recovered from the ditch and the latest medieval pottery was dated to the 14th century. This suggests that the ditch had been completely infilled by the end of the 14th century. The lack of obvious rubbish material within the ditch and the bands of slippage and erosion suggest that this occurred mainly as a natural process rather than deliberate infill.</i></p> <p><i>A number of other undated features were excavated at the north end of the trench, most clearly post-dated the infilling of the ditch. A modern (19th/20th century) small brick structure was identified within the northern part of the excavation trench and the natural chalk was truncated by a cellar, of similar date, at the south-end of the trench.</i></p>	
<b>Previous Summaries/Reports:</b> -	
<b>Author of Summary:</b> T. Ennis	<b>Date of Summary:</b> September 2005

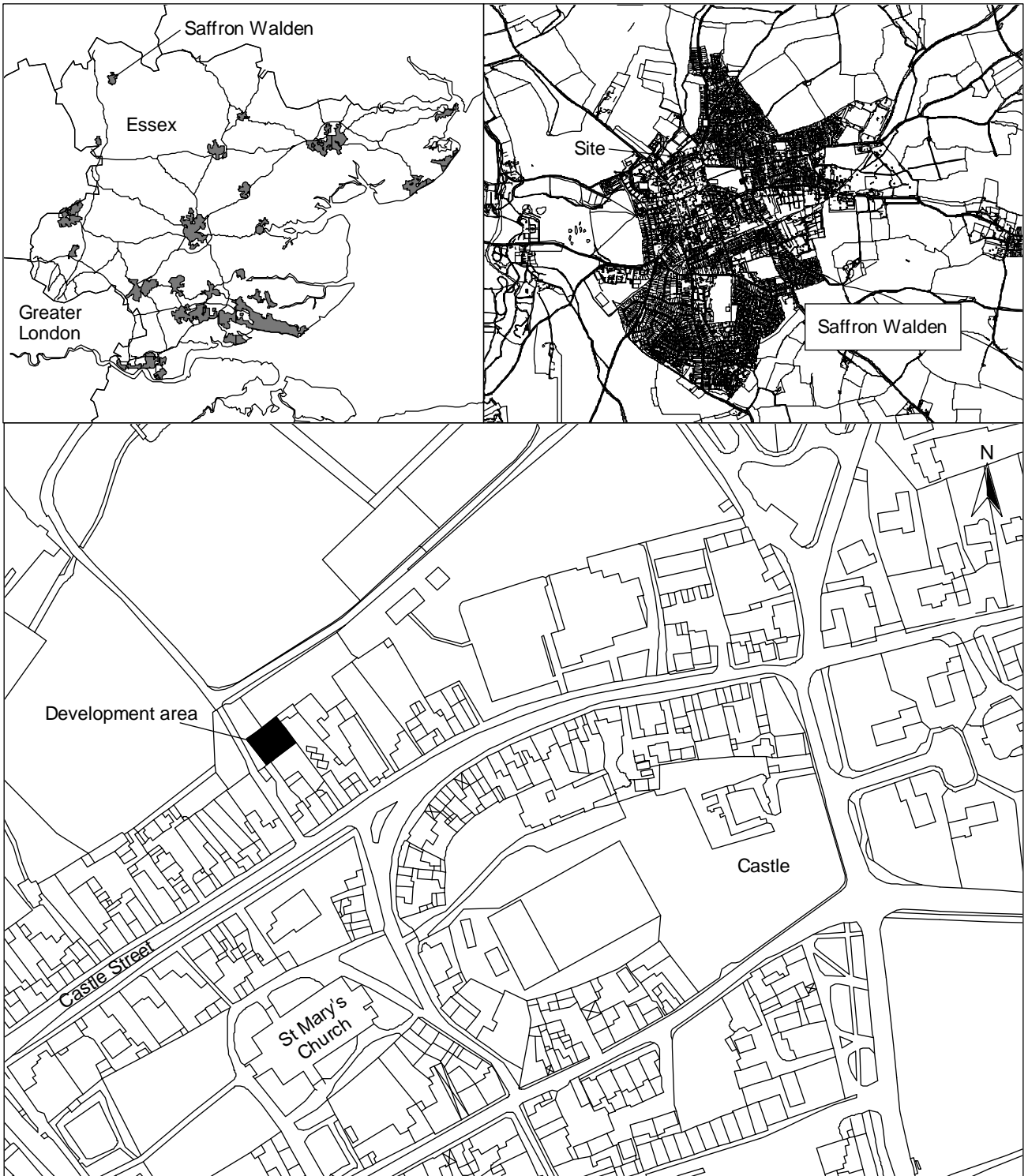
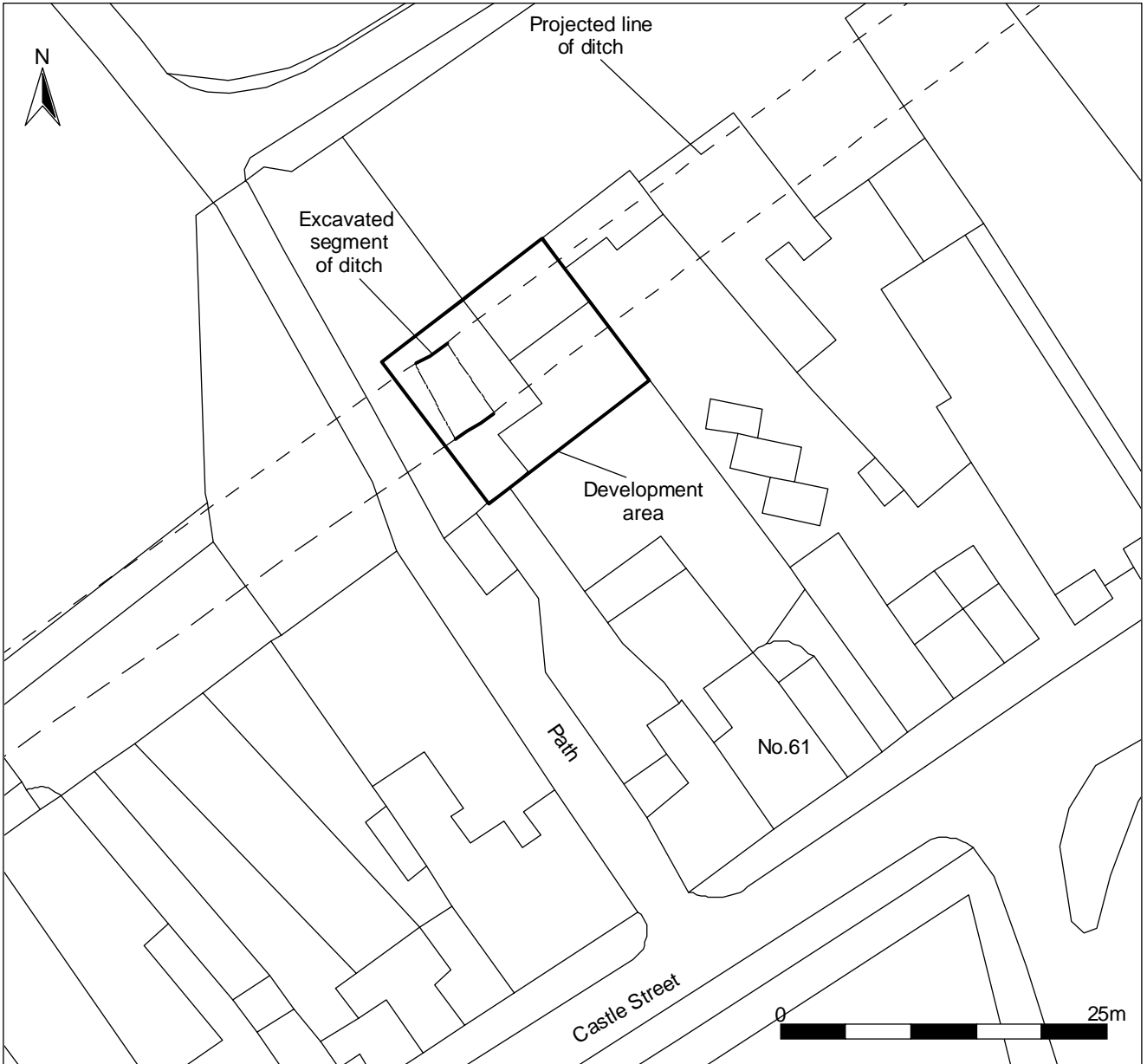


Fig.1. Site location

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Fig.2. Projected ditch line

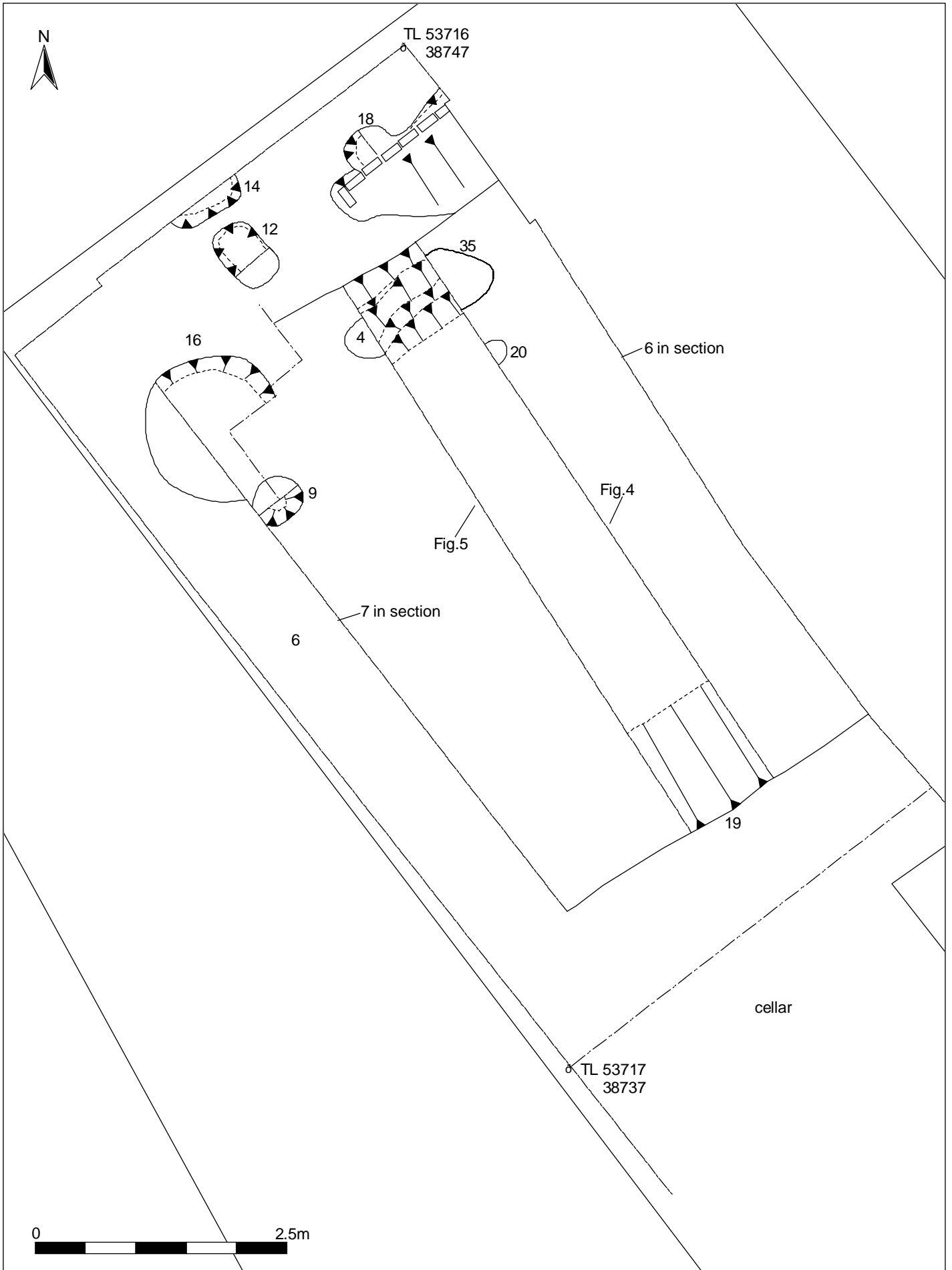


Fig.3 Excavated features

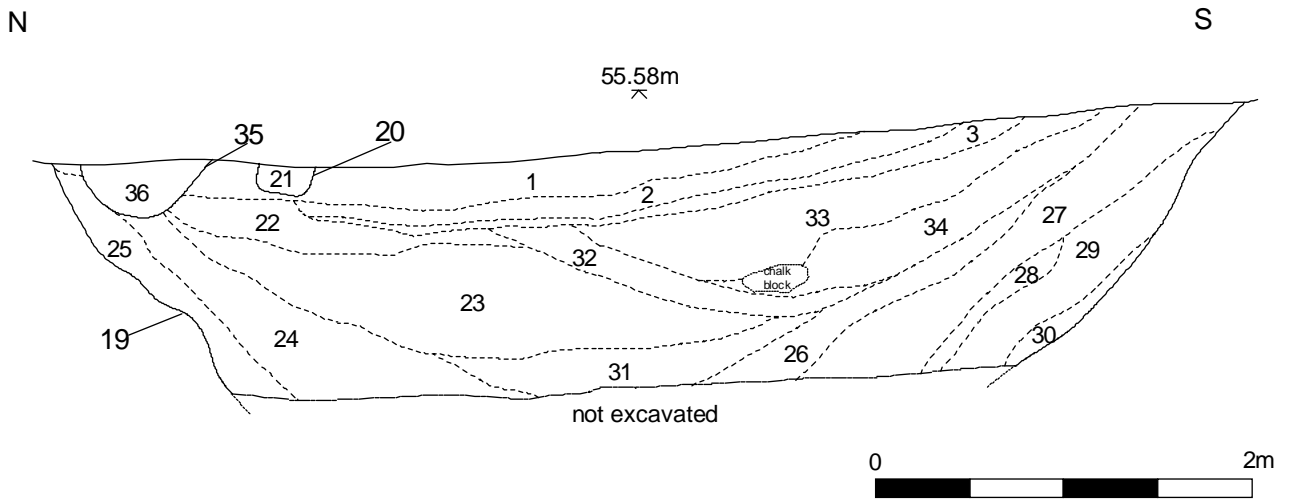


Fig.4 West facing section of ditch 19

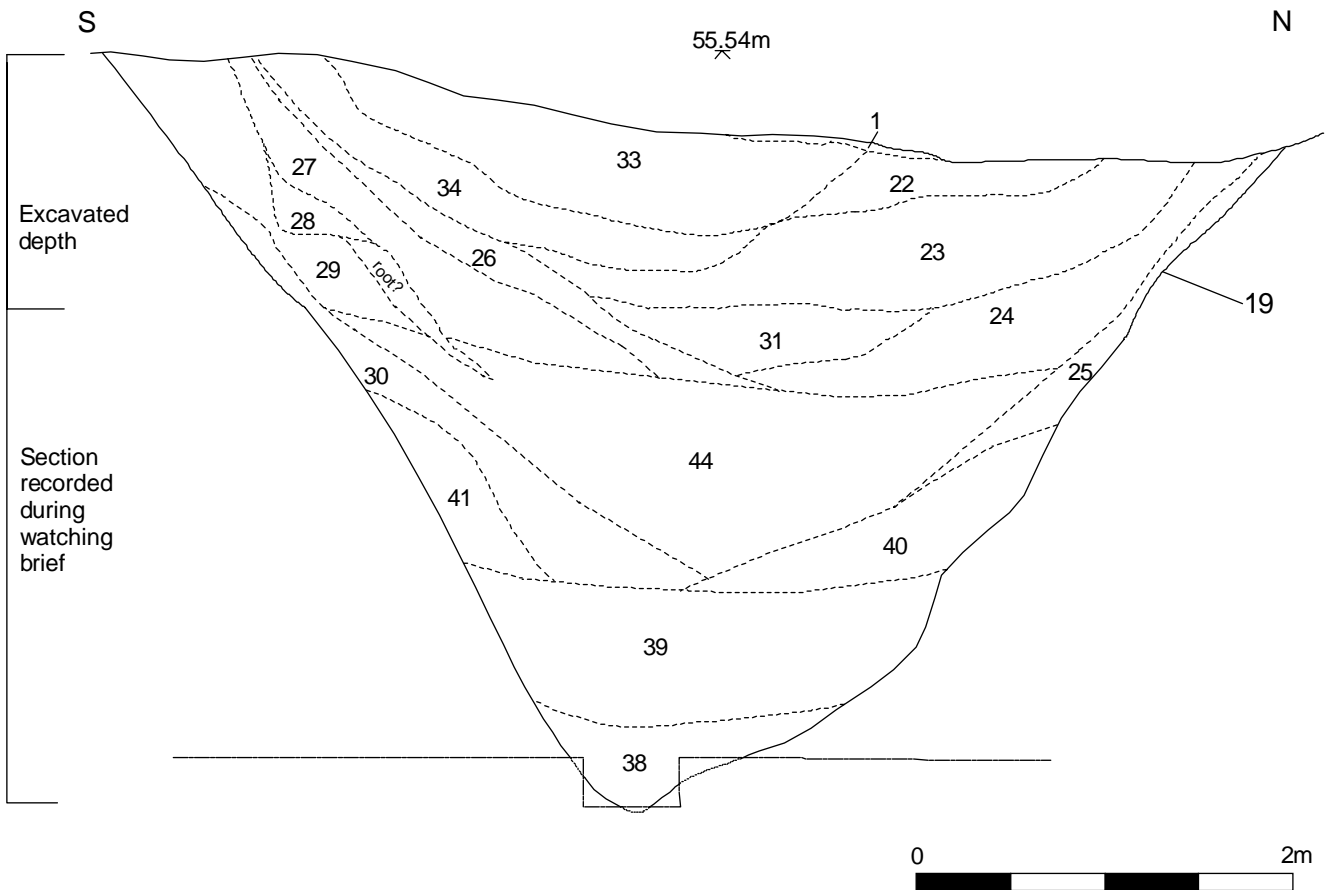
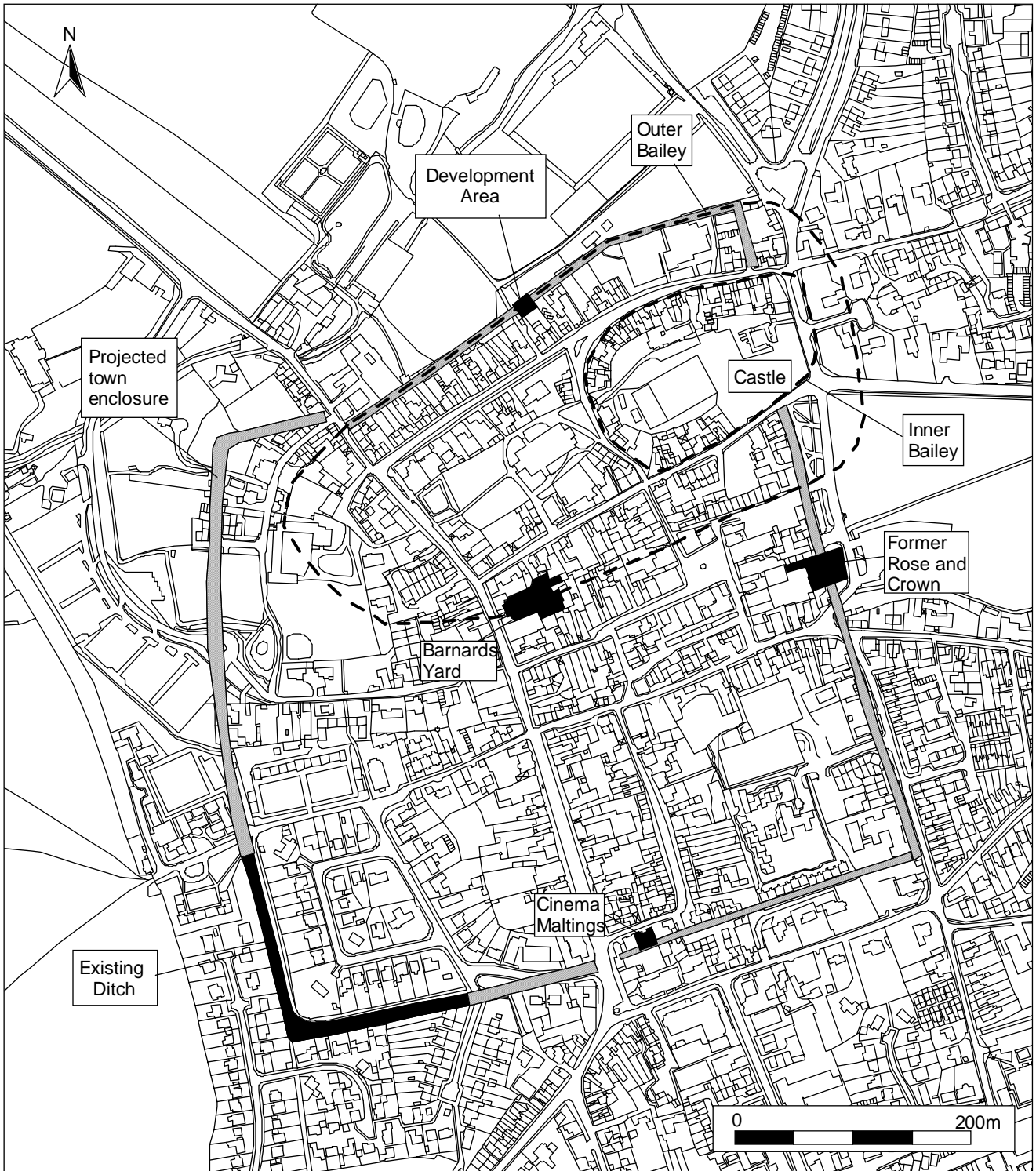


Fig.5. East facing section of ditch 19



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Fig.6. The medieval town enclosure



PLATE 1 Excavated section through upper fill of the ditch (west facing)



PLATE 2 Excavated section through upper fill of the ditch (east facing)