

**4 CASTLE COURT
CASTLE HILL, SAFFRON WALDEN
ESSEX**

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL
MONITORING AND RECORDING**



**Essex County Council
Field Archaeology Unit
August 2006**

**4 CASTLE COURT,
CASTLE HILL, SAFFRON WALDEN, ESSEX**

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL
MONITORING AND RECORDING**

| | |
|---|-------------------------|
| Prepared By: Mark Atkinson Position: Unit manager | Signature: Date: |
| Approved By: Patrick Allen Position: Project Manager | Signature: Date: |

| | |
|-------------------|---|
| Document Ref. | 1655rep |
| Report Issue Date | August 2006 |
| Circulation | Mr & Mrs A. Snowdon ECC Historic Environment Management Essex Historic Environment Record |

As part of our desire to provide a quality service, we would welcome any comments you may have on the content or the presentation of this report.

Please contact the Archaeological Fieldwork Manager, at the
Field Archaeology Unit,
Fairfield Court, Fairfield Road, Braintree, Essex CM7 3YQ
Tel: 01376 331470
Fax: 01376 331428

CONTENTS

| | Page |
|--|------|
| SUMMARY | 1 |
| 1. INTRODUCTION | 2 |
| 2. BACKGROUND | 2 |
| 2.1 Location and topography | |
| 2.2 Geology | |
| 2.3 Historical and Archaeological | |
| 3. AIMS AND OBJECTIVES | 5 |
| 4. METHOD | 5 |
| 5. FIELDWORK RESULTS | 5 |
| 5.1 Ground reduction and foundation trenches | |
| 5.2 Post-medieval wall | |
| 6. FINDS AND ENVIRONMENTAL MATERIAL | 8 |
| 7. CONCLUSIONS | 10 |
| Acknowledgements | 11 |
| BIBLIOGRAPHY | 11 |

Appendices

- Appendix 1: Context data
- Appendix 2: Finds data
- Appendix 3: Archive index
- Appendix 4: EHER summary

Figures

- Figure 1. Site location plan
- Figure 2. Site plan
- Figure 3. Foundation Trench sections
- Figure 4. Detail from Eyre's 1758 map of Saffron Walden

Plates

- Plate 1. Initial ground clearance
- Plate 2. Site reduced and foundation trenches cut
- Plate 3. Rear foundation trench and flint wall 009
- Plate 4. Flint wall 009
- Plate 5. Carved ?lion head spout in flint wall 009
- Plate 6. Flint wall fragment 019

Front cover: Excavation of rear foundation trench, looking south, castle in background

**4 CASTLE COURT, CASTLE HILL
SAFFRON WALDEN, ESSEX**

ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING AND RECORDING

Client: Mr & Mrs A. Snowdon
Planning ref: UTT/0217/06
FAU Project No: 1655
NGR: TL 539 387
Site Code: SW 49
OASIS Record: essexcou-16800
Date of Fieldwork: 26-27 June 2006

SUMMARY

Archaeological monitoring was undertaken on site preparation and the excavation of foundation trenches for an extension to a residential property at 4 Castle Court, Saffron Walden. These works were located on the former site of a garage and lay only 2.5m from the northeast corner of the keep of Saffron Walden Castle, a scheduled ancient monument.

Inspection of the groundworks established that a probable pre-castle land-surface, or at least its subsoil, remains largely intact, buried below c.1.2m of chalk-rich re-deposited material. These deposits represent the mounding of excavated material around the keep and are probably derived from its associated construction works. It therefore appears that the slope of the driveway of the property closely reflects that of the medieval hilltop topology. Only the base of a single possible post-hole and a small pit, both of post-medieval date, were identified above the medieval re-deposited mound material. It is likely that some modern-period truncation has occurred, particularly when the former garage was constructed in the 1950s or 1960s.

Of additional interest was a fragment of flint walling that has been incorporated into the south wall of the existing dwelling. It contained lines of black glass bottles, and a piece of carved masonry perhaps derived from the castle. Further fragments of this wall were identified along the northern edge of the driveway and probably represents the surviving remains of the rear boundary of the 18th-century properties that once fronted onto Castle Street at this location.

INTRODUCTION

This report is an assessment of the results of archaeological monitoring of groundworks associated with the demolition of residential garaging and the construction of an extension to a residential dwelling at 4 Castle Court, Castle Hill, Saffron Walden (Fig. 1).

Essex County Council Field Archaeology Unit (ECC FAU) carried out the monitoring for the property owners, Mr and Mrs A. Snowdon. The archaeological works were carried out in accordance with a design brief issued by the ECC Historic Environment Management team (ECC HEM). A copy of this report will be deposited with the Essex Historic Environment Record (EHER) and a further copy will be uploaded to the OASIS database (<http://ads.ahds.ac.uk/oasis/index.cfm>). The site archive will be deposited at Saffron Walden Museum.

Both the fieldwork and the reporting have been carried out to professional standards and guidance issued by the Institute of Field Archaeologists (1999) and the ALGAO standards for fieldwork (Gurney 2003).

The report is structured to describe the background to the project, followed by an assessment of the results of the fieldwork, then a discussion of the further archaeological potential and significance of the vicinity. Appendices include context and finds information, details of the archive contents and the EHER summary. All illustrations are placed together towards the back of the report.

2. BACKGROUND

2.1 Location and Topography (Fig. 1)

The site is located within the property of 4 Castle Court, Castle Hill, Saffron Walden, Essex. It is bounded by Castle Meadows and the Saffron Walden Castle keep to the south and west, by the dwelling of No.4 and the adjacent former Methodist chapel to the north, and Castle Hill to the east (Fig.1).

The site of the new building extension is a c.7.6m x 5.4m area, in the southwest corner of the property, that was until recently occupied by a modern garage/shed structure. Minor clearance works were also undertaken on an area of modern levelling material in the northeast corner of the driveway, which is surfaced with tarmac.

The area of investigation, including the driveway, slopes noticeably down to the east and south east (approx. 69.6m at the west end of site and 68.1m above OD at the east). This is broadly consistent with the slope of the adjacent Castle Meadows.

2.2 Geology

The depth of the topsoil, where present along the southern and western edges of the site varied between 0.2 and 0.4m in thickness. The undisturbed natural geology of this vicinity is solid chalk.

2.3 History and Archaeology

The archaeological background for this and other parts of Saffron Walden has previously been given extensive and detailed discussion by Bassett (1982) and summarised/reviewed by Medlycott (1999). In view of this, only a summary of the most pertinent and previously unreported information is presented here.

General:

Saffron Walden, as a town, is a medieval development; founded in the 11th century around the castle (EHER 0408). The castle was built, c.1141, to dominate the area and its plan determined the subsequent street layout. The Castle consisted of an inner and outer bailey, both of which were ovoid. The inner bailey comprised the domestic and defensive buildings of which only the keep now survives. Within the outer bailey a church was built and two main streets established; Church Street and Castle Street. By the 13th century the town had changed hands from the de Mandevilles to the de Bohuns, around which time the outer bailey ditch was backfilled and in its place a large town enclosure, known as the Battle or Repell ditches, was constructed (EHER 0443). Within the enclosure new streets were laid and a market place established. This part of Saffron Walden is recorded on court rolls to be occupied by dye workers in the 14th century. Dye vats were apparently located within the bailey ditch.

By the post-medieval period, Castle Street was occupied by road frontage buildings and there are a number of extant listed buildings of 16th century and later origin (Medlycott 1999). E.J Eyre's 1758 map of the town (ERO T/M 123) provides a good depiction of the layout of occupation plots and buildings along and behind the Castle Street frontage, in the vicinity of the Castle Keep (Fig.4). As part of the urbanisation of this area of the town, the eastern end of the former inner bailey of the castle was redeveloped and the thoroughfare of Castle Hill constructed across it in the 1820s to provide a more direct north-south route (Bassett 1982, 61).

Cottages formerly occupied the Castle Street frontage to the north of the site. Perhaps following the creation of Castle Hill, it seems that an adjacent barn was used as a makeshift Methodist chapel from 1821 onwards. A map of 1834 (cf. Everett and Newman 1998) shows a building occupying the south of the site that is apparently not the chapel, but is presumably the barn. This map also depicts the original structure of 4 Castle Court and it appears that the barn lay within its property at this time but was replaced by the extant chapel in the mid to later 19th century. The cottages along the Castle Street frontage were reputedly demolished in the modern period to facilitate the remodelling of the junction of Castle Street and Castle Hill and the former chapel has had a variety of commercial uses during the 20th century (Letch, in prep).

Site-specific and related:

The site is located within the former inner bailey and backs onto the keep of Saffron Walden Castle (SAM 20671), which is only 1.5m away, and it is therefore immediately adjacent to the scheduled area. Although no archaeological investigation has previously been undertaken within the property, excavations have been carried out in Castle Meadow (Bassett 1982, 48-61) and a short distance to the west at the rear of 54 Castle Street (Letch 2002).

The 1970s investigations in Castle Meadow examined the nature of the below-ground deposits in and around the remains of the keep. These revealed the presence of earthworks, made-ground and other medieval cut features, some of which lay only c.20m to the south of the 4 Castle Court site (Bassett 1982, 48-61) and no doubt extend across the intervening space. A short distance to the west of the Chapel site, in the rear of the plot of 54-56 Castle Street, extensive 19th century terracing of the hillslope had removed any remains that might have once been present, though slight remnants of the original topography survived in the southeast corner, behind the museum (Letch 2002).

Archaeological investigation at 63A Castle Street, to the west, on the opposite side of the road, identified the outer bailey ditch of the castle which was open through the 12th to 14th centuries (Ennis 2005). It is postulated that the eastward continuation of this ditch would have been located c.80m directly to the north of the 4 Castle Court site. More importantly, it is possible that the site driveway overlies the eastern part of the inner bailey ditch, which is speculated to have lain in close proximity to the rear of the keep (Bassett 1982, 19 and Fig.10).

Most recently, work has been carried out on the former chapel site adjacent to 1-3 Castle Court and immediately north of 4 Castle Court. Trial trenching identified the slight remains of

a ditch, possibly the northern edge of the inner bailey ditch, and an in-filled post-medieval basement along the Castle Street frontage (Letch, in prep).

3. AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

The general aim of the project was to investigate and record any surviving archaeological remains encountered during groundworks within the development area.

4. METHOD

The project comprised of monitoring and recording ground reduction following the clearance of the garage structure and of the machine-excavation of the foundation trenches of the new extension building. All such work was under continual observation by a professional archaeologist.

Exposed surfaces were cleaned and inspected for archaeological features, deposits and artefacts. Any contained features were excavated and recorded. Trench sections were cleaned as appropriate and inspected. Selected section faces were drawn at a scale of 1:20. Sketches were made of other representative parts of sections, as appropriate. A full written and photographic record was also made of all significant deposits and features. The site was surveyed in relation to the adjacent residential building and has since been related to the OS national grid. Levels were taken in relation to OS datum for the section drawings and post-medieval wall remains. Standard FAU methodologies were employed with regard to the recording.

5. FIELDWORK RESULTS (Figs. 2 and 3)

Inspection of the construction groundworks established that the site contained a significant quantity of deposits of archaeological significance dating to the medieval and post-medieval periods. These predominantly comprised substantial layers of material with a few cut features above. Apart from a degree of modern truncation of the upper part of this sequence, these remains were largely undisturbed and well-preserved. Where pertinent, the observed below-ground sequence has been related to that of the standing building, which will form the north wall of the new extension.

Context numbers are denoted by brackets in the text and further context information can be found in Appendix 1.

5.1 Ground reduction and foundation trenches

The footprint of the new building extension measured approximately 7.5m x 5.5m. This had previously been occupied by a modern garage, more-or-less surface-built on an insubstantial concrete raft. Ephemeral remains of a rubbish-rich silt soil (001) were observed to have underlain the garage base (Plate 1). Fragments of post-medieval and modern brick, tile, iron, glass and slag debris were collected from this deposit.

The surface of the underlying deposits was level and it appears that some ground reduction, below the level of topsoil, had taken place in preparation for the garage site. During further reduction and levelling of the new building footprint by some 0.2m, only a single feature, the base of a possible post-hole (018), was observed to cut mixed deposits of light brown silt and chalk fragments. The post-hole's shallow fill (017) contained fragments of post-medieval, bone, tile and pottery.

As exposed in plan, the mixed silt and chalk deposits underlying layer (001) and post-hole (018) comprised a chalk-rich area in the northwest corner of the building footprint, up against the wall of the existing dwelling, and a siltier soil (though still containing much chalk fragments) over the remainder (Plate 2). No clear edges of, or division between, these deposits was discernable. However, inspection of the foundation trench sections revealed greater detail of what was a substantial sequence of made-ground deposits (Fig.3).

0.6m-wide foundation trenches, defining an L-shaped plan of external wall positions, were cut by machine through the made-ground deposits (Plate 3) until solid natural chalk was reached; as specified by the LPA's building control officer. The rear (western) trench was excavated to a depth of approximately 1.2m while the front (eastern) trench was c.0.7m deep. The top of natural chalk was encountered at approximately 68.8m above OD across the building footprint.

Above the chalk was a 0.2m-thick layer of mid-brown calcareous silt with occasional chalk fragments and flecks and flint pebbles (007) (Plate 3). A single sherd of probably Roman pottery was retrieved from just above the natural chalk in the east-facing section of the rear foundation trench (Fig.3, Section 1). This deposit was present in all trench sections, except where truncated by post-medieval pit (010), and appears to represent the original top- or sub-soil and surface contour of the hill prior to construction of the medieval castle. A very slight yellowy light brown mortar-like layer (008), only c.5mm in thickness, lay between buried soil (007) and made-ground (006). This too was present consistently in all foundation trench sections. Similar mortar spreads were found in close proximity to the castle during the Castle

Meadow excavations, particularly in Trench A (Bassett 1982, 56-7) and presumably relate to construction of the structure of the keep itself.

A 0.5m-thickness of chalk-rich light-brown calcareous silts (005 and 006) overlay buried soil horizon (007) and are those of which the upper surfaces were seen in plan (Plate 2) and cut by post-hole (018). Deposit (005) was confined to the southeast of the site and the more substantial (006) extended across the remainder of the building footprint area. No artefacts or other traces of human debris were observed in any of these deposits. These relatively substantial deposits of silt and chalk rubble appear to be derived from large-scale excavation of natural sub-soil and solid geology. The exposed sequence is similar to that recorded in the Castle Meadow excavations and is probably a further part of the material interpreted as having been mounded up around the base of the castle during its construction (Bassett 1982, 57). The absence of material artefacts and debris would seem to substantiate a relatively early medieval (earlier 12th century) date for the deposition of this material, preceding the occupation of this vicinity which follows the castle keep completion.

A large, silty chalk-filled, feature (004) cut the made-ground deposit (006) in the northwest corner of the site and bottomed onto buried soil (007). Similarly devoid of artefacts, and continuing below the foundations of the house, it is postulated that this too was of medieval date; though its function is undetermined.

The full depositional sequence was only observed along the southern and western edges of the site (Fig.3), on the very edge of the property boundary, beyond which the un-truncated top of the made-ground and topsoil remained; albeit heavily disturbed by roots of nearby substantial trees and scrub. Here, loose dark brown topsoil (002), containing a variety of 19th and 20th century debris, overlay the disturbed and degraded surfaces of the medieval deposits (003, 005 and 006).

Further 19th century remains were identified in the northeast part of the foundation trench sections, between the house and the chapel (Fig.3, Section 3). Here, under modern slab paving a sequence of deposits and features was recorded above and cut into medieval layers (006) and (007). The earliest, the base of a small pit (010), had been truncated by an extensive flat-bottomed cut (020). This appears to relate to minor terracing of the slope, perhaps to provide a level construction site for the house. The base of the cut was lined with a 0.14m thick deposit of compacted re-deposited chalk (012), on top of which wall foundation (015) (see below for further discussion) appeared to have been built, against the south side of the terrace cut. Chalky soil layers (013) and (014) filled the remainder of the cut and butted

the wall foundation. Pottery from these deposits has been dated to c.1830-40, or later, which may well provide an approximate date for the construction of the dwelling at 4 Castle Court.

5.2 Post-medieval wall

A 3.5m-long section of flint walling (009) was observed to be built into, and to comprise, the whole of the lower part of the south elevation of the original build of the dwelling (Plates 3 and 4). While the flint nodules were un-faced and randomly-coursed, a horizontal row of black glass bottle necks and a lower row of bottle bases had been built into the fabric, along with randomly placed fragments of stone and part bricks in a creamy soft sandy/chalky mortar. Of particular note is a large piece of carved shelly limestone high in the east end of the wall (Plate 4). This appears to be in the form of an animal's head, such as a lion (Plate 5), complete with nostrils, cheeks, mouth (infilled) and chin, and may be a water spout that once embellished the castle keep. It is likely that all the flint and masonry in this wall has been 'robbed' from the castle keep fabric.

Up to 1.3m of wall stood above ground and a further 0.75m of chalk and stone footing was observed in the north end of the rear foundation trench. The footing was cut into chalk fill (003). The wall was capped with a single course of red brick, the same as those of the chimney breast above. The east end corner had been squared and rendered but, following ground reduction across the new building footprint, its below-ground continuation was observed for some 0.3m further east. Further remains of this wall footing (015) were evident in both sections of the front foundation trench (Fig.2).

Another c.1.2m length of flint wall (019) was observed at the foot of a post-medieval brick wall in the northeast corner of the property, just north of the entrance off Castle Hill (Fig.2, Plate 6). Although this appears to be on a slightly different alignment to that built into the existing house, it was probably a truncated fragment of contemporary walling that, together, formerly bounded the rear of the occupation plots that fronted onto Castle Street. It is possible that these are the physical remains of that boundary depicted on the 1758 map (Fig.4). In between wall fragments (009) and (019), it is presumed that this boundary was removed when the chapel was built, as this appears to have been positioned at the very rear of the Castle Street plot. Further remains of its footings could survive, buried below the tarmac surface of the driveway, immediately to the south of the chapel.

6. FINDS AND ENVIRONMENTAL MATERIAL

6.1 Finds (by Joyce Compton)

Small groups of finds were recovered from four contexts. All of the material has been recorded by count and weight, in grams, by context. The largest assemblage proportion comprises pottery, which has been examined by Helen Walker. Quantification details for all of the finds, and for the pottery, can be found in Appendix 2. The finds are described by category below.

Pottery (by Helen Walker)

A small amount of pottery, twenty sherds weighing 438g, was excavated from three contexts. A single grey ware sherd excavated from the bottom of the sequence (layer 007) has been tentatively identified as Roman, but the possibility that it is of medieval (13th to 14th century) date cannot be precluded, as medieval fabrics found at Saffron Walden tend to be finer than those found in central Essex.

Pottery dating to the 19th century was excavated from layer (013), comprising a fragment of flowerpot, a post-medieval red earthenware jar rim, and fragments from plates, dishes/bowls and the possible base of a teapot in modern white earthenware and yellow ware. Closely datable material includes part of a yellow ware footring bowl showing mocha decoration, produced from the 1830/40s to the late 19th century. There is also a modern white earthenware plate with blue shell-edging; its scalloped and moulded edges indicate a date between 1800 and the 1840s. In addition, there is a fragment of white earthenware bowl showing the remains of a pale blue, non-oriental transfer print, which precludes a date before the 1820s. This group of pottery is therefore likely to date from the 1830s to 1840s, although deposition may have been much later. Two further sherds of glazed post-medieval red earthenware and a flowerpot fragment were found unstratified (context 001).

Glass

A small sherd of slightly-weathered, post-medieval bottle glass was recovered from the fill of post-hole (018).

Brick and tile

Two contexts produced brick and roof tile fragments, totalling 236g. The largest pieces (218g) came from layer (013), but these are not closely datable within the post-medieval period. The pieces from the fill of post-hole (018) are too small for comment, but are likely to be contemporary with the bottle glass sherd found in the same context. The roof tile

fragment from layer (013) has a rodent paw print impressed while the clay was still wet, presumably made when the tile was laid out to dry before firing.

Animal bone

A single fragment was recovered from the fill of post-hole (018), comprising the proximal end of a rib from a large mammal, chopped at the distal end and sawn at the other.

Further work on any of the finds will not be required, due to the small amounts and recent nature of the material. None of the finds needs to be retained beyond the archiving stage.

The finds occupy less than one box.

6.2 Environmental remains

No deposits with perceived environmental potential were identified and so no soil samples were taken. All soils were chalky and free-draining, and no charred material was present.

7. CONCLUSIONS

Archaeological monitoring has established the presence of significant archaeological remains within the driveway area to the south and southeast of the house at 4 Castle Court. Below modern surfaces survives a sequence of up to 0.5m of deposits associated with the construction of the castle keep, which can be related across to similar deposits recorded during previous investigations in Castle Meadows. Remains of the pre-castle land surface lie below. Post-medieval standing structural and below-ground features are present, cut into medieval deposits, and provide insights into the 18th to 19th century development of the site and its vicinity.

Medieval

Collectively, these archaeological deposits give insights into the nature of the original hilltop topography and its subsequent development and use in the medieval period. The original hilltop appears to have been relatively flat, the upcast from the 12th century excavation of the castle keep foundations being mounded around the structure, both to enhance the incline and create the cellar of the keep. No indications of previous occupation or land use of this location were observed, other than the single sherd of probable Roman pottery in the buried soil.

No remains of the inner bailey ditch or bank were identified during the monitoring works. However, with reference to the 1877 1st edition OS map, which indicates the course of one or the other, it is possible to suggest that these could run across the east end of the site, beneath its tarmac driveway.

Post-medieval

Remains of the rear boundary of the 18th century occupation plots that fronted onto Castle Street survive as fragments of flint walling within the site. Much of its fabric is presumably derived from the castle keep itself and as such attests to its continuing degradation during this period. Part of this wall was incorporated into the rear wall of the original build of the existing house which, on the basis of both cartographic and archaeological evidence, appears to have been constructed in the earlier 19th century. It seems that the post-medieval development of this vicinity was perhaps triggered by the creation of Castle Hill. It is also possible that the house was closely associated with the early days of the adjacent Methodist chapel, giving over its barn for religious use in 1821 and then perhaps being the next door residence of its two women preachers, Charlotte Berger and Mrs Webster, from 1823 (Everett and Newman 1998, 23).

This work has demonstrated the potential of this vicinity for the survival of important Medieval and post-medieval remains that can be meaningfully related to a range of documentary and cartographic evidence. Where modern terracing has not occurred, stratified sequences spanning the 12th to 19th centuries may well survive.

Acknowledgements

This work was commissioned by Andrew and Jan Snowdon, whose assistance and co-operation throughout the fieldwork is appreciated. Staff of John Jossaume Plant Hire Ltd are also thanked. M. Atkinson carried out the fieldwork and reporting. A. Lewsey prepared the illustrations. Richard Havis of ECC HEM monitored the work on behalf of Uttlesford DC planning department.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

- | | | |
|-----------------------------------|--------------------|--|
| Bassett, S.R. | 1982 | <i>Saffron Walden: excavations and research 1972-80.</i> Chelmsford Archaeological Trust Report 2 |
| British Geological Survey | Accessed July 2006 | http://www.bgs.ac.uk/geoindex/home.html |
| Brown, N. & Glazebrook, J. | 2000 | <i>Research and Archaeology: a Framework for the Eastern Counties, 2. research agenda and strategy</i> , E. Anglian Archaeol. Occ. Pap.8 |
| ECC HEM | 2006 | <i>Archaeological Work at 4 Castle Court, Saffron Walden.</i> ECC HEM brief, April 2006 |
| Ennis, T. | 2005 | <i>63A Castle Street, Saffron Walden, Essex: archaeological excavation and watching brief.</i> ECC FAU rep. 1448 |
| Everett, M. & Newman, H. | 1998 | <i>Saffron Walden: a pictorial history.</i> Philimore |
| Gurney, D. | 2003 | <i>Standards for Field Archaeology in the East of England</i> , E. Anglian Archaeol. Occ. Pap.14 |
| Institute of Field Archaeologists | 1999 | Standard and Guidance for archaeological watching brief (revised) |
| Letch, A. | 2002 | <i>Land at 54 castle Street, Saffron Walden, Essex: archaeological monitoring.</i> ECC FAU rep. 991 |
| Medlycott, M. | 1999 | <i>Saffron Walden: Historic Towns Project Assessment Report.</i> ECC Planning |

APPENDIX 1: CONTEXT DATA

| Context | Type | Description | Date |
|---------|-----------------|---|---------------|
| 001 | Unstratified | Dark grey-brown silt soil remnant under garage base | Modern |
| 002 | Topsoil layer | Dark greyish brown silt, 0.2-0.3m thick | Modern |
| 003 | Fill | Fill of 004. Silty re-deposited chalk, 1.4m thick. Cut by 009 | Medieval |
| 004 | Cut | Unidentified cut, 3.5m+ wide. Contains 003. Cuts 006 | Medieval |
| 005 | Layer | Yellowy buff brown chalky silt with chalk rubble, max. 0.75 thick | Medieval |
| 006 | Layer | Yellowy buff brown silt with chalk, max. 1.1m thick. Over 007 | Medieval |
| 007 | Layer | Reddish mid-brown silt with chalk + pebbles, 0.2-0.35m thick | Medieval |
| 008 | Layer | Thin yellowy light brown ?silt line, 5mm thick – more an interface? | Medieval |
| 009 | Wall | Flint wall built into extant dwelling, 5.5m long, 0.32m wide, 2.05 high | Post-medieval |
| 010 | Pit | 0.3m deep, 0.55m wide. Contains 011. Cuts 007 | Post-medieval |
| 011 | Fill | Fill of 010. Greyish silty loose chalk, 0.3m thick. Cut by 010 | Post-medieval |
| 012 | Layer | Re-deposited chalk rubble, 0.14m thick. Over/in 020? | Post-medieval |
| 013 | Layer | Greyish loose silt, chalk & tile rubble + pot, 0.2m thick. Over 012 | Post-medieval |
| 014 | Layer | Greyish loose silt with chalk & tile rubble, 0.27m thick, over 013 | Post-medieval |
| 015 | Wall foundation | Brick, flint and stone footing, 0.35m deep, truncated. Same as 009 | Post-medieval |
| 016 | Surface | Tarmac, paving slabs and rubble bedding, 0.10m thick. Over 014 | Modern |
| 017 | Fill | Fill of 018. Grey brown silt, 0.08m thick | Post-medieval |
| 018 | Post-hole | Shallow, oval cut; 0.3 x 0.24m, 0.08m deep. Cuts 006 | Post-medieval |
| 019 | Wall | Flint and occasional brick, 1.5m long, 0.2m high. Same as 009? | Post-medieval |
| 020 | Cut | Unidentified cut. 'contains' layers 012-014?. Cuts 011 | Post-medieval |

APPENDIX 2: FINDS DATA

Finds data

| Context | Feature | Count | Weight | Description | Date |
|---------|---------|----------------------|-------------------------|--|--|
| 001 | u/s | 3 | 80 | Pottery; base and body sherds, PMRE | 17th-19th C |
| 007 | Layer | 1 | 6 | Pottery; body sherd | ?Roman |
| 013 | Layer | 1 1 5 11 | 86 132 166 186 | Brick fragment Roof tile fragment with peg hole Pottery; rim and body sherds, PMRE Pottery; rim and body sherds, white earthenware, five with blue transfer-printed decoration; base and body sherds, yellow-glazed earthenware | Post med. Post med 17th-19th C Modern |
| 017 | 18 | 1 1 1 1 | 18 12 6 4 | Animal bone; rib, proximal end, large mammal, chopped and sawn Roof tile fragment Brick fragment Glass; green bottle body sherd, surface iridescence | - Post med. Post med. Post med. |

Pottery data

| Context | Feature | Count | Weight | Description | Date |
|---------|---------|-----------|------------|---|-------------------------|
| 01 | u/s | 2 | 77 | Post-medieval red earthenware, glazed, including the pad base from jar | 17th-19th C |
| | | 1 | 3 | Flowerpot | 19th to 20th C |
| 07 | Layer | 1 | 6 | ?Roman, sandy grey ware | ?Roman |
| 013 | Layer | 1 | 51 | Flowerpot fragment | 19th to 20th C |
| | | 4 | 115 | Post-medieval red earthenware including beaded jar rim and glazed sherds | 17th to 19th C |
| | | 4 | 54 | Yellow ware, footring bowl showing mocha decoration | 1830/40s to late 19th C |
| | | 7 | 132 | Modern white earthenware fragments from plates, one with blue shell-edging, bowls/dishes, some with blue transfer-printed decoration and a possible teapot with over-glaze painting | 1820s to 1840s or later |
| | | 20 | 438 | | |

APPENDIX 3: ARCHIVE INDEX

SITE NAME : 4 Castle Court, Castle Hill, Saffron Walden (SW49)

Index to the Archive

File containing:

1. Research Archive

- 1.1 ECC HEM brief
- 1.2 ECC FAU written scheme of investigation
- 1.3 Client/archive Report
- 1.4 Transfer of title agreement

2. Site Archive

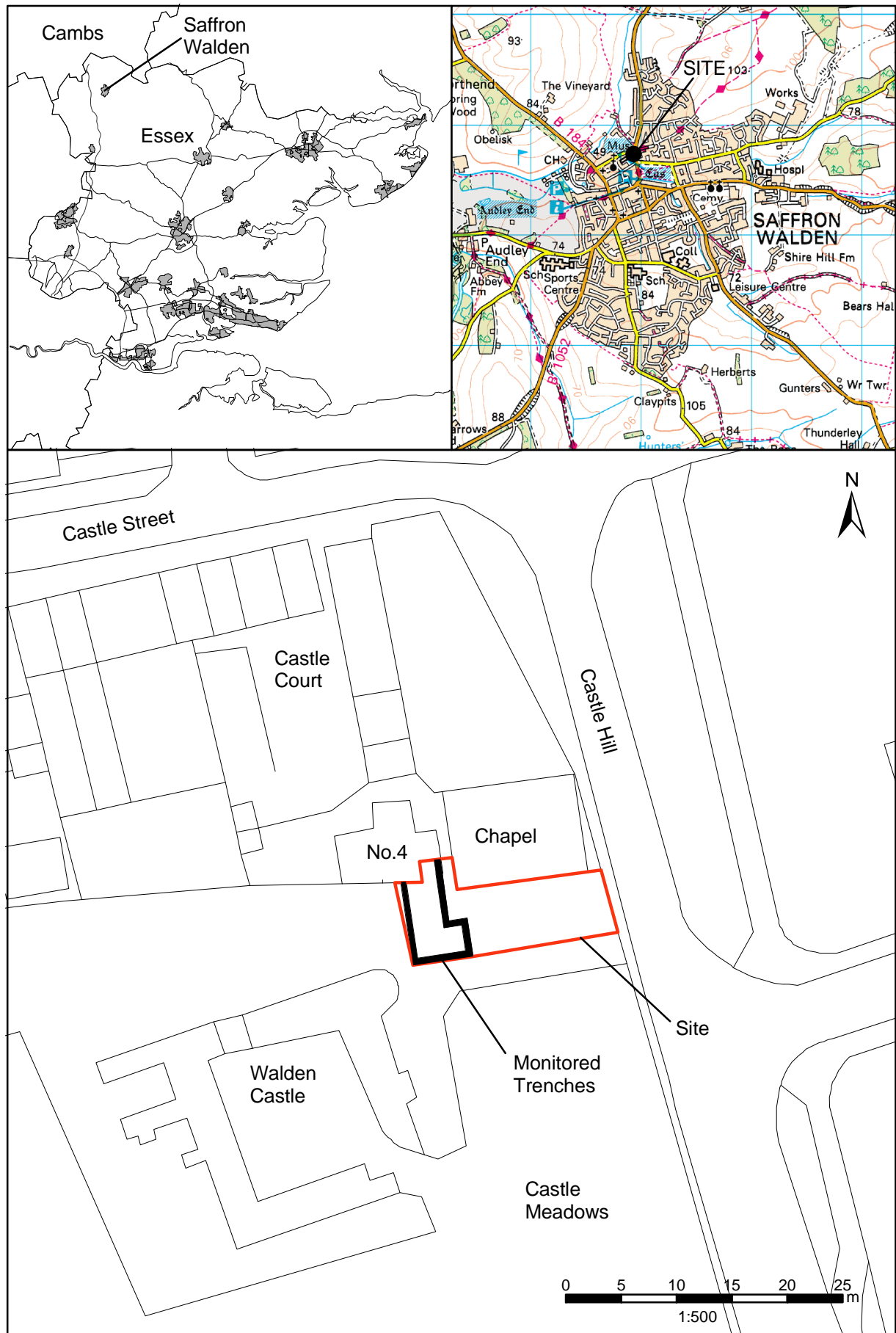
- 2.1 20 context sheets (+ 1 register sheet)
- 2.2 1 plan sheet
- 2.3 4 section sheets (sections 1, 2a-b and 3)
- 2.4 Photographic record (22 digital images and hard copies + 1 register sheet)
- 2.5 Miscellaneous plans, maps and notes

Not in file:

- 1 (part) box of finds

APPENDIX 4: EHER SUMMARY SHEET

| | |
|---|---|
| Site Name/Address: 4 Castle Court, Hill Street, Saffron Walden | |
| Parish: Saffron Walden | District: Uttlesford |
| NGR: TL 539 387 | Site Code: SW 49 |
| Type of Work: Monitoring | Site Director/Group: M. Atkinson ECC Field Archaeology Unit |
| Date of Work: 23rd to 25th January 2006 | Size of Area Investigated: Development area c.41 sq m |
| Location of Finds/Curating Museum: Saffron Walden Museum | Funding Source: Mr & Mrs A. Snowdon (owner occupiers) |
| Further Work Anticipated? No | Related EHER Nos: 0408 |
| Final Report: EAH round-up summary | |
| Periods Represented: Medieval, post-medieval, modern | |
| <p>SUMMARY OF FIELDWORK RESULTS:</p> <p><i>Archaeological monitoring was undertaken on ground reduction and the excavation of foundation trenches for an extension to the residential property. These works were located on the former site of a garage and lay only 2.5m from the northeast corner of Saffron Walden Castle keep.</i></p> <p>Medieval and/or earlier:</p> <p><i>A probable pre-castle land-surface, or at least its subsoil, remains largely in tact, buried below c.0.5m of re-deposited material. These chalk-rich deposits represent the mounding of excavated material around the keep during its construction (c.1141). The slope of the existing driveway of the property therefore closely reflects that of the medieval hilltop topology behind the castle.</i></p> <p>Post-medieval:</p> <p><i>Only the base of a single possible post-hole and a small pit, both of post-medieval date, were identified above the medieval re-deposited mound material. It is likely that some modern-period truncation has occurred, particularly when the former garage was constructed in the 1950s or 1960s.</i></p> <p><i>Of additional interest was a fragment of flint walling that has been incorporated into the south wall of the existing dwelling. Containing lines of black glass bottles and a carved piece of shelly limestone, possibly a lion's head spout, perhaps derived from the castle. Further fragments of this wall were identified along the northern edge of the driveway. It probably represents the surviving remains of the rear boundary of the 18th century properties that once fronted onto Castle Street at this location.</i></p> | |
| Previous Summaries/Reports: n/a | |
| Author of Summary: M. Atkinson (ECC FAU) | Date of Summary: August 2006 |



Mapping reproduced by permission of Ordnance Survey on behalf of the Controller of HMSO. Crown copyright. Licence no.LA100019602.

Fig.1. Site location plan

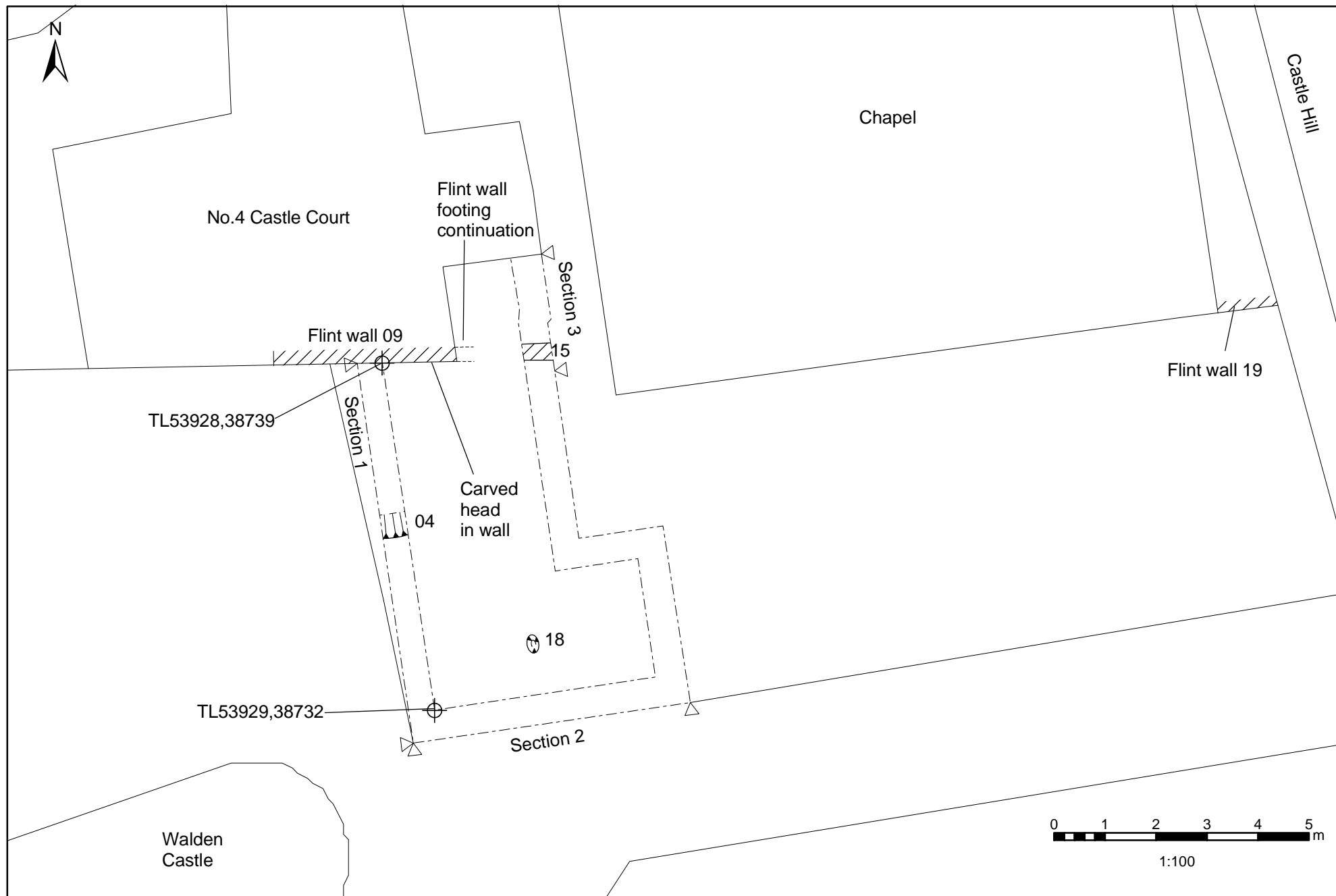
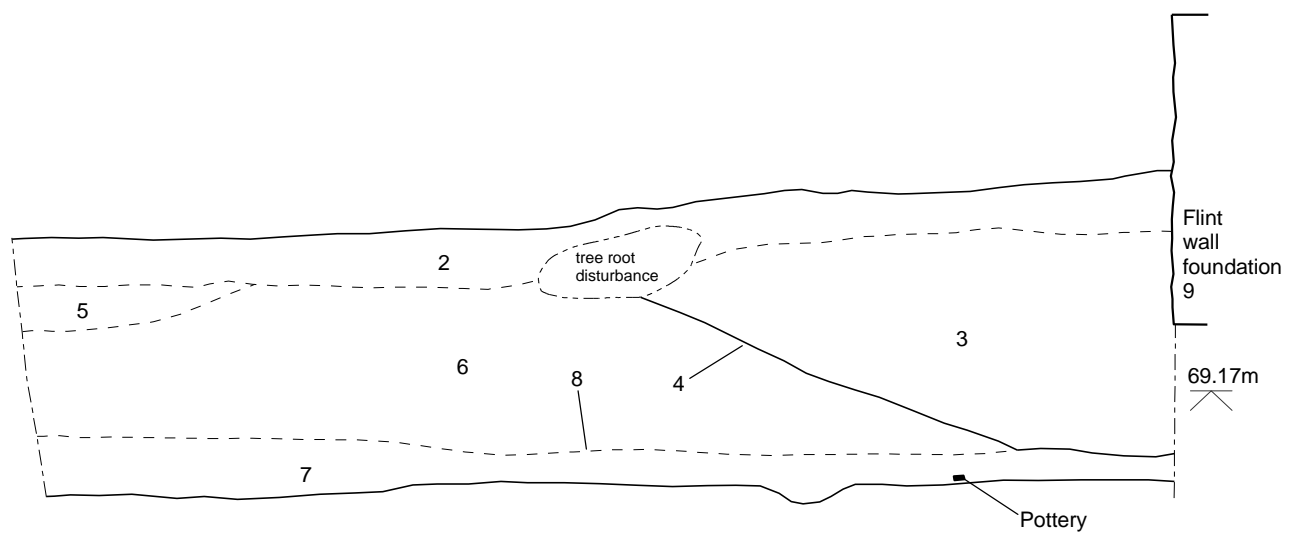


Fig.2. Site plan

S

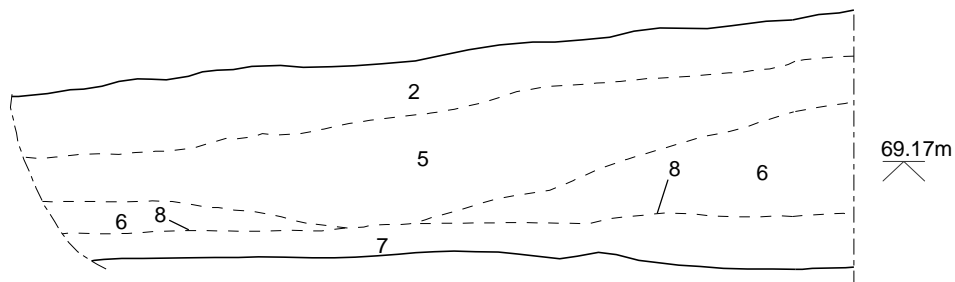
N



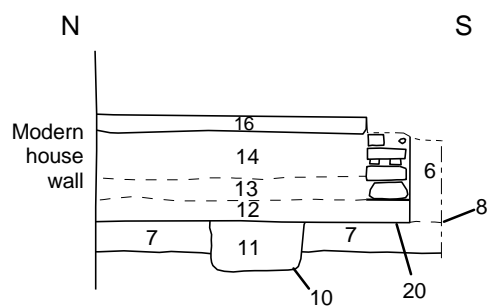
Section 1

E

W



Section 2



Section 3

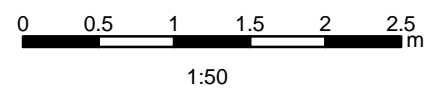


Fig.3. Foundation trench sections





Plate 1. Initial clearance of building footprint; looking southwest



Plate 2. Site reduced and foundation trenches cut; looking northeast



Plate 3. Rear foundation trench and flint wall 009; looking north.



Plate 4. Flint wall 009; looking north. Carved ?lion head spout in top right



Plate 5. Carved ?lion head spout in flint wall 009



Plate 6. Flint wall foundation 019, below later brick wall