

**Archaeological Investigation  
at the Keep Forebuilding, Walden Castle  
Saffron Walden, Essex**

**NGR: TL5390738720**

**ASE Project No: E8019  
Site Code: SW61**

**ASE Report No: 2013203  
OASIS No: 152845**



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**August 2013**

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**Abstract**

*Archaeology South-East was commissioned by Uttlesford District Council to undertake an exploratory archaeological investigation adjacent to the forebuilding of the keep of Walden Castle, Saffron Walden. Three small trenches were excavated at the foot of the extant forebuilding structure, at the northwest corner of the keep, each to a depth of c.1.0m.*

*All trenches contained similar sequences of chalk and flint rubble and clay silt layers of later post-medieval and modern date. These are interpreted as representing 19th and 20th century levelling and landscaping of the immediate vicinity around the keep. No deposit sequences were excavated to their full depth. Despite being positioned over the projected lines of previously demolished walls, in situ bonded rubble foundation remains were not encountered, though could still survive buried at greater depth. Residual medieval pottery was retrieved from the investigated post-medieval deposits, suggesting that in situ remains of this date have been disturbed by later wall robbing and/or landscaping activity.*

*The recorded archaeological deposits and features are judged to be of relatively low significance and value and that, having recorded the remains present, the proposed consolidation works to the keep forebuilding will therefore have only a minimal adverse impact upon the below-ground heritage resource in this part of the Walden Castle site.*

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## **1.0 INTRODUCTION**

### **1.1 Site Background**

- 1.1.1 Archaeology South-East (ASE), the contracting division of the Centre for Applied Archaeology (CAA), Institute of Archaeology (IoA), University College London (UCL) were commissioned by Uttlesford District Council (UDC) to undertake an exploratory archaeological investigation adjacent to the forebuilding of the keep of Walden Castle, Saffron Walden, Essex.
- 1.1.2 Archaeological works were undertaken on the recommendation of English Heritage and Essex County Council Place Service's Historic Environment team, advisors to UDC Planning on heritage matters.
- 1.1.3 The castle keep and inner bailey are designated a Scheduled Monument (SM 20671) and the keep is also a Grade 1 listed building (LB 1297737). Scheduled Monument consent for the archaeological investigation was granted by the Secretary of State for the Department of Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS), following the advice of Debbie Priddy, Inspector of Ancient Monuments for English Heritage.
- 1.1.4 A Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) for the archaeological work was prepared by ASE (2013) and approved by the ECC HE team. All archaeological work was undertaken in accordance with this document and the various standards and guidance set out by the Institute for Archaeologists (IfA) and the ALGAO *Standards for Field Archaeology in the East of England* (Gurney 2003).
- 1.1.5 The archaeological works comprised the manual excavation of three small trenches located to the immediate south and west of the forebuilding (Fig.1), in order to inform the design of consolidation works to the castle fabric. It was also intended that the trenches would be used for the foundations of three buttresses to be constructed to support the south wall of the forebuilding.

### **1.2 Location, topography and geology**

- 1.2.1 Walden Castle is located in the northeast of the historic core of Saffron Walden Town (Figure 1, NGR: TL5390738722). The keep and inner bailey of Walden Castle lie within the grounds of Saffron Walden Museum, the keep within an area of grassed park known as Castle Meadows.

1.2.2 The keep is located in the eastern half of the castle's inner bailey with the forebuilding projecting from its north-west corner. The keep and forebuilding are not accessible by the public and are separated from the museum grounds by a fence and hedge. There is open grassland on three sides of the keep and trees to the north. The immediate vicinity of the forebuilding was covered in tall weed growth at the commencement of the fieldwork (Figure 4).

1.2.3 The listing describes the standing building remains as:

*Remnant of tower-keep. Late C11 or early C12. Flint and mortar core of walls severely degraded. Rectangular plan, approx 12.3m square with NW projection of forebuilding. 2 storeys survive. Interior has a central pier base to support upper floors and ground floor semicircular arched recesses approx 2.0m deep on the N, S and W sides. S recess has some herringbone pitched flint work, also shuttering ridges in the soffit mortar of S, SW and N recesses. On first floor, a recess on W side has been interpreted as a fireplace (RCHM). The walls are breached through on SE corner, on site of stairs and tunnelled through at back of the N recess. A well, now covered, exists in the NW angle. Over this corner is a low projection built in the C18 as a semaphore station. Although a ruin, areas of original flat wall facing of simple flint work survive in several places ie. exterior, centre of N wall, outer face of pilaster buttress and adjacent wall on E side, interior, rear wall of recess in S wall and adjacent wall to E. Some of the walling is covered with ivy.*

1.2.4 The castle is situated on the top of a promontory known as Bury Hill. According to the British Geological Survey 1:50,000 scale geological mapping available online (BGS 2012), the natural bedrock geology is Chalk of the Lewes and Seaford Formations patchily overlain by grey glacial clay.

### **1.3 Aims and Objectives**

1.3.1 The aim of the archaeological excavation was to record, excavate, analyse and report on any archaeological remains present within the excavation trenches, thereby *preserving by record* those features/deposits threatened by the proposed repair and consolidation works.

1.3.2 Specific objectives were:

- To gain greater understanding of the construction and use of the medieval forebuilding and later alterations to which it has been subjected.

1.3.3 The results of this archaeological work were to be related to pertinent regional research objectives, as identified in *Research and Archaeology: a Framework for the Eastern Counties, 2. research agenda and strategy* (Brown and Glazebrook 2000) and *Research and Archaeology Revisited: a revised framework for the East of England* (Medlycott 2011).

#### **1.4 Scope of Report**

1.4.1 This report details the results of the archaeological excavation carried out between the 10th and 13th of June 2013 and has been prepared in accordance with the WSI. The work was carried out by Trevor Ennis with assistance from Samara King.

## **2.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND**

### **2.1 General background**

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

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

2.1.3 The castle, around which the town developed, was presumably built in the mid-12th century, as in 1141 Geoffrey de Mandeville was given permission to remove the market at nearby Newport to his castle at Saffron Walden. It is assumed that by 1141 the keep and its earthworks were well advanced, if not finished (Bassett 1982, 16). However, Geoffrey was forced to surrender the castle to King Stephen in 1144. The castle had inner and outer baileys, with the outer bailey to the west of Museum Street containing the parish church of St Mary and the original market place.

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

2.1.5 Buildings within the castle complex appear to have been maintained in the later medieval period as evidenced by repairs to the roof of a hall in 1393 (Cromarty 1967, 105). Documentary and archaeological evidence suggests that the castle had become ruinous by 1594 and that the fabric of the keep was regularly robbed up to the mid-18th century (Bassett 1982, 50). The keep was used as a barn in the later 18th and 19th centuries and repairs were made to the structure in 1796 which included the construction of a small turret above the forebuilding (Bassett 1982, 48-50).

## **2.2 Previous archaeological work**

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

2.2.2 1970s investigations in Castle Meadow examined the nature of the below-ground deposits in and around the remains of the keep (Bassett 1982, 48-61). These revealed the presence of earthworks, made-ground and cut features relating to the construction, use and disuse of the castle keep.

2.2.3 A small trench excavated for a time capsule close to the museum recorded part of a vertical-sided pit or cellar sealed by chalk rubble and floor surfaces, undated, but probably medieval. These were sealed by a further chalk rubble levelling layer containing a sherd of pottery dating to the 16th or 17th century (Andrews 1987).

2.2.4 To the northwest of the keep, in the rear of the plot of 54-56 Castle Street, extensive 19th century terracing of the hillslope had removed any remains that



might have once been present, though slight remnants of the original topography survived in the southeast corner, behind the museum (Letch 2002).

- 2.2.5 Evaluation trenching carried out on the former chapel site on the corner of Castle Hill and Castle Street, a short distance northeast of the keep, identified the slight remains of a ditch, possibly the northern edge of the inner bailey ditch, largely removed by a post-medieval basement along the Castle Street frontage (Letch 2006).
- 2.2.6 Monitoring of foundation trenches for a house extension at 4 Castle Court, immediately northeast of the keep, recorded a probable pre-castle land-surface, or at least its subsoil, buried below c.1.2m of chalk-rich re-deposited material (Atkinson 2006). These deposits were interpreted as the mounding of excavated material around the keep presumably deriving from its associated construction works. A few small post-medieval features were also into the medieval re-deposited mound material.
- 2.2.7 More recent works have also been carried out within the inner bailey of the castle to the west of the keep. 2009 excavation and monitoring work carried out during rebuilding of the retaining wall to the rear of 30 Castle Street revealed a series of compacted sand, flint and chalk deposits, laid upon buried medieval topsoil and interpreted as the foundations of the mid-14th century inner bailey curtain wall (Ennis 2010). The surviving foundations were sealed beneath c.1.5m of levelling deposits which had built up when the castle grounds were landscaped in the 19th century.
- 2.2.8 Also in 2009, layers of post-medieval levelling and landscaping were recorded in percolation trial pits excavated within the Saffron Walden Tennis Club grounds during preliminary works for new toilet facilities (Ennis 2011). The pits contained residual sherds of 12th and 13th/14th century pottery most likely derived from occupation within the castle's inner bailey. Two small patches of mortared flint (context 9) of possible medieval date were found in one of the test-pits. Subsequent monitoring of the drainage groundworks recorded the presence of building foundation remains of possible medieval date (ibid). An undated pit and a sequence of undated demolition or make-up deposits, including crushed limestone and

plaster-like material were also noted to overlie a buried soil at a depth of c.1.5m.

## **2.3 Forebuilding**

2.3.1 Detailed description of the surviving fabric of the keep, related to its history, is made in Bassett 1982, 48-51. In essence, the original Norman keep comprised a basement with a hall above and probably at least one further chamber storey (*ibid*, 49). What is now the projecting 'forebuilding' was originally part of a range extending along the whole of the west side of the basement. Its original extents are projected on the basis of surviving fabric by Bassett (1982, plate 9) and by inference from historical references (*ibid*, 50). The projected extents of the forebuilding are also shown on Figure 1 of this report. It is probable that the stair access to the keep sat above this range, much of which was reportedly buried under the mound deposited around the foot of the keep until the later 18th century when this overlying material was cleared away as part of the general levelling and landscaping of the castle vicinity. It is likely that the ground-level entrance gap into the forebuilding was also created around this time.

2.3.2 Small-scale excavation took place in the forebuilding in 1978 (Couchman 1979, 70-72). The removal of over 1m of modern overburden revealed the remains of a probable 19th century or later lime kiln that utilised pre-existing parts of the keep's structure. Also revealed were two floors and a dry flint wall that respected brick-blocking of late 18th century or earlier date. The full sequence was not excavated down to the natural deposit.

## **3.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL METHODOLOGY**

### **3.1 Excavation**

3.1.1 Three trenches were hand-excavated to the immediate south and west of the surviving forebuilding walls (Fig. 2). Trench 1 measured 1.8m by 1.7m, Trench 2 was 1.7m square and Trench 3 measured 1.65m by 1.55m. Each trench was located beneath a projecting overhang of the extant wall remains, at a proposed site of a supporting buttress (Figure 5).

3.1.2 At the instruction of the client's structural engineer, the excavation depth of trenches was limited to approximately 1.0m. Consequently, none of the deposit sequences

were bottomed. In addition Trenches 1 and 2 were not excavated against the keep forebuilding walls, but a baulk of 0.1-0.2m left due to concerns about the integrity of the wall face.

3.1.2 The turf and topsoil in each trench was removed by hand and the underlying deposits excavated in stratigraphic order by ASE archaeologists. The trench sections were cleaned to observe and record stratigraphy. All artefacts were collected for identification and study.

### **3.2 Recording and Site Archive**

3.2.1 All encountered deposits, features and finds were recorded according to accepted professional standards in accordance with the WSI (ASE 2013) using *pro-forma* ASE record sheets. Deposit colours were verified by visual inspection. A full photographic record was made. Plan and section drawings were created at the appropriate scales.

3.2.2 The site archive is currently held at the offices of ASE and will be deposited at Saffron Walden Museum in due course.

## **4.0 RESULTS**

### **4.1 Trench 1**

4.1.1 Trench 1 was positioned in the gap in the west wall of the forebuilding and excavated to a depth of 1.0m. A sequence of eight stratified layers was recorded (Figures 3.1-3.2, 6 and 7), though the full sequence down to the undisturbed natural deposit was not excavated.

<b>Context</b>	<b>Type</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Max depth</b>
9	Layer	Mid-dark grey clay silt (topsoil)	0.35m
10	Layer	Mid greyish brown clay silt	0.20m
11	Layer	Mid grey clay silt	0.14m
12	Layer	Chalk flecked grey silt	0.05m
13	Layer	Grey silt	0.47m
14	Layer	Mid brownish grey clay silt	0.34m+
15	Layer	whitish grey chalk rubble	0.08m
16	Layer	whitish grey chalk rubble	0.38m

4.1.2 The lowest recorded deposit [14] was an apparently a mounded deposit of mid brownish grey clay silt along the south edge of the trench, the full depth of which was not determined. It included yellow-brown sandy mortar flecks and common small flints and gravel. Grey-white chalk rubble layers [15] and [16], the latter slightly silty, overlay [14]. Grey silt layer [13] above contained occasional flints of varying size and chalk and mortar flecks. The upper surface of [13] dipped down to the east, into the forebuilding interior. This 'dip' was occupied by thin lens of grey silt with chalk flecks [12], then mid grey clay silt layer [11] and capped with a deposit of greyish brown rubbly clay silt [10]. A 0.35m-thick layer of dark grey clay silt topsoil [09] completed the sequence.

4.1.3 Small quantities of late post-medieval pottery, brick/tile and animal bone were retrieved from various layers in this sequence, including lowest recorded deposit [14] which also contained a single oyster shell and a clay tobacco pipe bowl dating to 1840-1910. Layer 14 also contained residual medieval pottery. Topsoil [9] contained the greatest amount of artefacts, predominantly of 19h-20th century date.

## 4.2 Trench 2

4.2.1 Trench 2 was positioned against the east end of the south wall of the forebuilding and excavated to a depth of 1.1m. A sequence of five stratified layers was recorded but the undisturbed natural deposit was not reached (Figures 3.3, 8 and 9).

Context	Type	Description	Max depth
5	Layer	Light yellowish grey silty clay	0.65m+
6	Layer	Light whitish grey silty clay	0.25m
7	Layer	Medium reddish grey silty clay	0.21m
8	Layer	Mid-dark brownish grey clay silt (topsoil)	0.33m
19	Layer	Light brown clay silt	0.20m+

4.2.2 Light brown clay silt [19], containing small flints and chalk flecks, occupied part of the trench but was not botomed. A relatively substantial layer of light yellowish grey silty clay [05] containing common small to medium sized chalk fragments overlay both. This was in turn overlain by a similar whitish grey deposit [06] containing fewer chalk fragments. Approximately 0.3m of modern topsoil and vegetation [08], containing possible burnt deposit [07], finished the sequence.

4.2.3 Lowest recorded deposit [19] included a sherd of later post-medieval window glass along with animal bone and shell. Overlying deposits [05] and [06] contained modest quantities of pottery and bone, plus single fragments of glass and shell. While the pottery from layer [05] is all medieval, it is probably residual given the presence of later glass in the deposit below. Medieval pottery present in layer [06] is also residual. Part of a human mandible was found amongst the animal bone from layer [06]. Modern deposits [08] contained a small but varied range of pottery, tile, bone, shell, iron and glass fragments of 19th to early 20th century date.

### 4.3 Trench 3

4.3.1 Trench 3 was positioned on the south side of the forebuilding, against the projecting remains of the almost wholly-demolished west wall of the under-stairs cells, and excavated to a depth of 1.0m. A stratified sequence of four layers and a single cut feature was recorded, but the undisturbed natural deposit was not reached (Figures 3.4, 10 and 11).

Context	Type	Description	Max depth
1	Layer	Dark grey clay silt (topsoil)	0.35m
2	Layer	Light greyish brown clay silt	0.35m
3	Layer	Chalk rubble	0.35m
4	Layer	Light brown sandy silt	0.12m+
17	Cut	Pit, 0.4m+ x 0.20m	0.60m+
18	Fill of 17	Mid greyish brown clay silt	0.60m+

4.3.2 The lowest recorded deposit, light brown sandy silt layer [04], was not bottomed. It was overlain by chalk rubble layer [03] that became siltier and more fragmented toward its top. Above was light greyish brown clay silt [02] containing common chalk flecks. All three layers were cut by a vertically-sided pit [17], part of which was exposed in the northeast corner of the trench. In excess of 0.6m deep, its single fill [18] contained post-medieval pottery, along with tile, glass, roof slate and animal bone. Finally, a 0.35m thickness of clay silt topsoil [01] overlay the infilled pit.

4.3.3 Lowest layer [04] contained pottery, tile, bone and glass and is evidently 19th century in date. The overlying layers, including topsoil [01], contained similar artefact groups, along with occasional metalwork items. Pit [18] is similarly Victorian or later. Medieval pottery from layer [02] is evidently residual.

## **5.0 THE FINDS**

### **5.1 Introduction** by Elke Raemen

5.1.1 A small-sized assemblage was recovered during the excavation at Walden Castle, Saffron Walden. Finds were all washed and dried or air dried as appropriate. They were subsequently quantified by count and weight (Appendix 2) and bagged by material and context. Finds were all packed according to IfA guidelines. None of the metalwork requires X-radiography and nothing requires further conservation.

### **5.2 Pottery** by Luke Barber

5.2.1 The investigation produced 70 sherds of pottery, weighing 1950g, from 10 individually numbered contexts. The whole assemblage has been listed with basic quantification and spot-dates on an excel spreadsheet for inclusion in the archive. On the whole, the assemblage is characterised by medium sized sherds that exhibit only minor signs of abrasion. Despite this, it is quite clear that residuality is extremely high, particularly in regard to the medieval sherds. However, their condition does suggest that although residual, most have not been subjected to repeated reworking.

5.2.2 The earliest pottery is of medieval date. This period accounts for 27 sherds weighing 558g, giving a high average sherd size of 20.6g. Virtually all of this assemblage is residual, being recovered from contexts also containing Late Post-medieval wares. The only potential exception is layer [05], near the base of the sequence in Trench 2, where only medieval sherds (6/53g) were recovered.

5.2.3 Seven different fabrics were identified in the medieval assemblage: one with sand and rare flint (1/22g), one with sand and rare chalk (3/78g) and the others being tempered purely with quartz sand of different densities and grades. All of the sherds appear to be from cooking pots (oxidised and reduced) – no jugs and no glazing being evident in the assemblage. Feature sherds are few but include a club rim and wiping on the shoulder (context [02]), a flaring beaded rim with thumbled edge and concave flaring squared rim in two better fired sandy ware (context [06]) and a further club rim with slight internal bead in a similar sandy ware (context [14]). Decoration is limited to a wavy incised line on a cooking pot from [05] and oblique combing on an ill-sorted fine/coarse quartz tempered ware with sparse flints to 1mm

from context [06]. The latter is perhaps the earliest sherd in the assemblage, but taken as a whole the fabrics appear to equate to the numerous fabrics grouped under the Early Medieval Sandy Ware tradition (Cunningham 1982). The finish and firing of the majority of the current sherds, together with the notably absence of glazed jugs, would suggest most would comfortably fit within an early/mid-12th to early/mid-13th century date range. The few feature sherds present can be matched with similarly dated forms from Colchester, where the more developed High Medieval sandy wares were becoming common during the latter part of this chronological range (Cotter 2000). Certainly the firing of some of the current sherds would suggest at least an early 13th century date, though none need be later than 1250.

5.2.4 Only two sherds (48g), both residual in context [04], are of the early Post-medieval period. They consist of bodysherds in hard-fired fine unglazed earthenware and fine glazed Essex redware, both probably of 17th to early 18th century date.

5.2.5 The majority of the assemblage is of the late post-medieval period (39/1344g). At 34.5g for the average sherd size the material is not heavily fragmented. Pottery of this period was found in most layers, even ones well down in the stratigraphic sequence. The material attests to activity between the late 18th to early 19th centuries, but, more notably, between the mid-19th and early 20th centuries. A typical domestic range of coarsewares are represented including unglazed earthenware (flower pots), glazed red earthenware (a bowl), Nottingham stoneware (a jar), English stoneware (bottles and a preserve jar) and Sunderland-type slipware (a bowl). Table and tea wares of the first half of the 19th century include a little creamware (3/31g), pearlware (4/13g) and blue transfer-printed whiteware (2/18g). Types more typical of the second half of the century include transfer-printed whitewares with green (1/37g) or polychrome decoration (4/80g: including a cross-join between contexts [08] and [09]) and plain refined whiteware (5/220g).

### **5.3 Ceramic Building Material** by Luke Barber

5.3.1 Forty-two pieces of ceramic building material, weighing 7951g, from 10 individually numbered contexts, were recovered. Of this total 21 pieces (5952g) are from bricks, 19 pieces (1404g) are from roof tile and two pieces (595g) are from drains. The assemblage has been fully listed on pro forma for the archive.

5.3.2 The brick is present in one of five different fabrics, most of which are tempered with fine to medium/coarse sand, occasionally with flint inclusions to 10mm. Both yellow (x3 fine sandy well-made fabrics) and red (x2 coarse sandy fabrics) frogless examples are present. Most are well-formed though often not highly fired. A few complete dimensions are present, with red bricks varying between 105 and 110mm wide and 60 to 64mm tall. Only one width (105mm) was recorded for the yellow types; however, these show notable variations in height with one group ranging between 27 and 37mm tall and the other, a more typical 64-67mm. All in all the brick assemblage would be in keeping with an 18th- to 19th- century date range. The brick was distributed throughout all three trenches but with notable concentrations in Trench 1 (context [13]) and 3 (context [18]).

5.3.3 The tile comprises material all of similar fabric. With the exception of a notably well-fired example tempered with abundant calcareous inclusions to 0.5mm (context [8]), all are medium fired and tempered with various grades and quantities of quartz. The majority of these appear to be from peg tiles and the remains of two circular peg-holes was noted in examples from context [2]. Most of these peg tile fragments are not diagnostic of date, particularly considering the mixed nature of the deposits they were recovered from. However, a post-medieval date is likely, though the coarser sanded examples (e.g. from [3] 1/24g, [4] 3/54g and [18] 1/110g) could be earlier. The assemblage also includes four definite pieces of pan tile in either a fine sandy fabric or similar with sparse calcareous inclusions (contexts [13] and [18]). These are almost certainly of mid-18th to 19th century type. The roof tile was recovered from all trenches and throughout the stratigraphic sequences.

5.3.4 Two fragments of buff salt-glazed drain from contexts [9] and [13] (Trench 1) were also recovered. These are almost certainly of mid/late 19th to mid-20th century date.

#### **5.4 Glass** by Elke Raemen

5.4.1 A small assemblage consisting of 57 glass fragments (wt 492g) was recovered from seven different contexts. The assemblage includes both early and late post-medieval glass. Fragments of early post-medieval date are however usually residual. Glass was all recorded in full on pro forma sheets for archive and data has



been entered onto excel spreadsheet.

5.4.3 The earliest material consists of a diamond-shaped quarry fragment in green glass, recovered from layer [19]. It is of probable early post-medieval date. Crown glass is well represented with a total of 30 fragments, recovered from layers [02], [04], [05], [19] and topsoil [08]. Most are from [04], which includes several edge fragments as well as a pontil mark ('bullseye'). Edge fragments were also recovered from topsoil [08]. These, as well as in some cases the bullseye, could be used for inexpensive windows, for example in a public house. However, in this instance it is more likely they represent cutting waste. Other window glass dates to the 19th century.

5.4.3 Apart from a modern bottle fragment (late 20th century) from topsoil [08], vessel glass is entirely of 19th- century date. Included are an ink bottle, various cylindrical bottles, a wine bottle, a phial and a meat paste jar, recovered from contexts [04], [08] and [09].

## **5.5 Bulk Metalwork** by Elke Raemen

5.5.1 A small assemblage of eight metal objects (wt 306g) was recovered. Included are pieces in iron, white metal and copper alloy. Intrinsically dateable objects are all of late Victorian to modern date. Building equipment includes a single general purpose nail (layer [04]) and a near complete hinge of 20th century date. Sheet fragments of 19th to early 20th century date, deriving from tins or cans (e.g. food or petrol) as well as a possible bucket were recovered from layers [03] and [08]. Topsoil [01] contained a sheet copper alloy two-hole button of late 19th- to early 20th-century date as well as a modern white metal stay-on-tab from a beverage can.

## **5.6 Registered Finds** by Elke Raemen

5.6.1 Two finds were assigned unique registered finds numbers. These were recorded in detail on individual *pro forma* sheets and were bagged individually. The clay tobacco pipe (RF <1>) was classified according to the London Bowl Typology (Atkinson and Oswald 1969).

5.5.2 The bowl, a complete AO33 (c.1840-1910), is lightly burnished and has been smoked. It displays moulded milling as well as a lyre and shamrock moulded in relief on either side of the spur. This type copied Irish pipes and was produced

specifically with Irish immigrants in mind.

- 5.5.3 The second find consists of a copper-alloy ring (RF <2>). This type of object, sometimes referred to as a “horse ring”, is common across a broad range of sites as well as periods. Although not necessarily deriving from a horse harness, identification as a strap guide is likely. It could be of medieval up to early 20th century date.

<b>Ctxt</b>	<b>RF No</b>	<b>Wt (g)</b>	<b>Object</b>	<b>Material</b>	<b>Period</b>	<b>Comments</b>
01	1	12	C Pipe	Ceramic	Pmed	AO33, shamrock and lyre
01	2	<2	Ring	Copper	Med/Pmed	external di 23mm; internal di 18.34mm

*Table 1: Summary of Registered Finds*

## 5.7 Geological Material by Luke Barber

- 5.7.1 Three pieces of stone were recovered during the excavation work. Context [6] produced a fragment of calcite from a large belemnite fossil, while context [18] produced two fragments (308g) of 19th century Welsh roofing slate.

## 5.8 The Human Bone by Elissa Menzel

- 5.8.1 A single human mandible was recovered from context [06]. The bone is in a reasonable state of preservation, though partially fragmented and with weathering and cracking of the surface. The bone has been fully quantified and recorded on an excel spread sheet. Approximate age estimate (adult or infant) has been made based on dental eruption (Buikstra & Ubelaker 1994) and dental wear (Brothwell 1981.) Estimate of the sex of the individual has been made based on sexually dimorphic traits of the mandible (Buikstra & Ubelaker 1994.) Metric analysis was unable to be conducted due to post mortem damage. Assessments for pathological conditions have also been conducted; however, the scope of assessment may have been limited by surface damage to the bone.
- 5.8.2 The bone represents a single individual, likely an adult male (Buikstra & Ubelaker 1994:21), age 25-35 years old (Brothwell 1981: Figure 3.9.). Evidence of dental disease is present in the forms of calculus, alveolar recession, and enamel attrition. Two teeth exhibit multiple dental enamel hypoplasias likely caused by periods of metabolic stress (Roberts & Manchester 2005.) Dental disease and enamel hypoplasias are relatively common pathologies that afflicted a large proportion of

the population in the past.

- 5.8.3 The scope of investigation of the bone is limited due to its isolated nature. There is no potential for further study.

## **5.9 The Animal Bone** by Gemma Ayton

- 5.9.1 The assemblage contains 170 fragments of bird and mammal bones from 11 contexts. The assemblage derives from a series of debris layers the majority of which date to the post-medieval period and are likely to be residual. With this in mind, the assemblage was scanned and no in-depth recording was undertaken.

- 5.9.2 The majority of the bones derive from pigs and dogs although cats, domestic fowl, cattle, leporids, horses and sheep/goat are also represented. One pig humerus displays signs of butchery with the proximal end having been sawn off. A small number of neo-natal pig specimens suggests that suckling pig may have been on the menu.

## **5.10 The Marine Shell** by Elke Raemen

- 5.10.1 Eight shells were recovered (296g) from six different contexts. Most are valves from the common oyster (*Ostrea edulis*), including both left and right valves. Three were recovered from topsoil [09], including an example with signs of overcrowding and an example with evidence of parasitic activity. All are immature, apart from a right valve from layer [19]. Topsoil [09] also contained a near complete spindle shell (*Neptunia antiqua*), measuring 82mm long.

## **5.11 Overview of the finds assemblage** by Elke Raemen

- 5.11.1 A relatively small assemblage of finds was recovered from a series of debris layers of post-medieval and modern date, although medieval material is also present. The latter, consisting of pottery dating to early/mid-12th to early/mid-13th century, is largely residual, apart from six fragments from context [05]. The medieval pottery, consisting solely of cooking pots, suggests little reworking took place. Later pottery includes two bodysherds of probable 17th to early 18th-century date, residual in context [04]. The majority however is of late post-medieval date, encompassing a typical domestic group including coarsewares as well as table and tea wares.

- 5.11.2 Ceramic building material (42/7951g) consists of largely late post-medieval bricks, roof tile and drain fragments. Early post-medieval glass includes a diamond-shaped quarry fragment from [19]. The remainder of earlier glass (dated between the late 17th and mid-19th century) consists of crown glass. Late post-medieval glass is entirely of 19th century date, and consists of a typical domestic assemblage. Metalwork comprises a number of modern finds as well as some 19<sup>th</sup> century domestic refuse such as iron tin or can fragments. The only clay tobacco pipe fragment, a complete bowl (RF <1>), was found in topsoil [1]. Stone, where dateable, indicates again a 19th century date.
- 5.11.3 Animal bone includes bones mainly from pigs and dogs, although other animals are also represented. Other food waste consists of the ubiquitous small assemblage of mainly oyster shell. Human remains, consisting of a mandible and phalanx, were found amongst the waste.
- 5.11.4 The mixed nature of the deposits as well as likely late deposition date means that the current finds assemblages of little potential for further analysis. There are no inherently significant objects. The assemblage as it stands is recommended for discard.

## **6.0 DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSIONS**

### **6.1 Discussion**

- 6.1.1 A relatively thick sequence of stratified archaeological deposits are demonstrated to be present in the immediate vicinity of the castle keep forebuilding. These are in excess of 1.0m deep, though their full extent was not established.
- 6.1.2 Almost all of the recorded deposits appear to be layers of post-medieval to modern date. Given their location at the foot of the castle keep walls it is postulated that they relate to later post-medieval infilling and landscaping of the site. A single cut feature, partially exposed in the corner of Trench 3 is interpreted as a discrete pit of 19th century or later date.
- 6.1.3 Despite all three trenches being positioned on the projected lines of demolished walls of the forebuilding and other 'cells' along the west side of the keep (Figure 1),

no wall foundations were encountered within them. It is assumed that these walls had been reduced to a greater depth (and so only the lower parts of their foundations survive lower down in the ground), or had been removed altogether presumably during post-medieval demolition and reclamation of the keep fabric. However, no robber cuts are evident and the recorded layers are not obvious fill deposits within such workings.

6.1.4 Although either largely comprising or else containing significant quantities of chalk and stone rubble almost certainly deriving from the keep fabric, the generally horizontal and orderly nature of the deposition of these recorded layers is more suggestive of levelling and landscaping around the foot of the surviving structure after robbing of the walls had taken place. However, given the small extents of each trench interpretation of these deposits can only be tentative.

6.1.5 As mentioned above, the recorded deposits are of post-medieval date. While some contain sherds of medieval pottery these are residual in re-deposited material and attest to the previous disturbance of *in situ* remains of this date. The rest of the retrieved finds are post-medieval and predominantly of 19th century or later date. These presumably derive from the opportunistic discard of building debris and domestic rubbish, or else casual loss and discard on site. However, the presence of the fragment of human mandible in Trench 2 is less easily explained.

## **6.2 Conclusion**

6.2.1 While the results of this work add little to the understanding of the construction and use of the medieval keep and its forebuilding, they do provide some limited insights into their later exploitation as a ready source of building materials and into the subsequent landscaping and tidying of the site.

6.2.2 The archaeological deposits and features recorded are therefore judged to be of relatively low significance and value. It is considered that the limited consolidation works proposed will have only a minimal adverse impact upon the below-ground heritage resource of part of the Walden Castle site.

6.2.3 It is likely that remains of medieval or earlier date survive at greater depth, buried below these post-medieval deposits.

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

ASE would like to thank Uttlesford District Council for commissioning the work and both Deborah Priddy of English Heritage and Richard Havis of ECC Place Services Historic Environment team for their guidance and monitoring. The project was managed in the field by Adrian Scruby and in post-excavation by Mark Atkinson. The finds were analysed by Gemma Ayton, Luke Barber, Elissa Menzel and Elke Raemen and the report figures were prepared by Andrew Lewsey.

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**APPENDIX 1: Finds Quantification**

Cntxt	Pot	Wt (g)	CBM	Wt (g)	An. Bone	Wt (g)	Hum. Bone	Wt (g)	Shell	Wt (g)	Fe	Wt (g)	Glass	Wt(g)	Slate	W(g)
1	6	67	1	1206							3	280				
2	4	74	3	315	4	64							1	6		
3			1	24	4	14					2	<2				
4	9	88	6	110	68	254					1	11	37	258		
5	6	46	1	42	48	144			1	12			2	4		
6	9	172			50	231	1	49								
8	5	63	1	64	2	18			1	14	2	18	11	86		
9	21	1542	5	1243					4	234			1	108		
13	4	270	8	1619	13	60										
14	8	213	2	126	3	34			1	26						
18	3	22	14	3152	2	40							5	26	2	308
19					6	22			1	8			1	8		
<b>Total</b>	75	2557	42	7901	200	881	1	49	8	294	8	306	58	496	2	308



**APPENDIX 2: EHER Summary Form**

<b>Site name/Address:</b> Keep Forebuilding, Walden Castle, Saffron Walden	
<b>Parishes:</b> Saffron Walden	<b>District:</b> Uttlesford
<b>NGR:</b> TL5390738720	<b>Site Code:</b> SW61
<b>Type of Work:</b> Archaeological investigation	<b>Site Director/Group:</b> T. Ennis, Archaeology South-East
<b>Dates of Work:</b> 10th - 13th of June 2013	<b>Size of Area Investigated:</b> c. 12m sq
<b>Location of Finds/Curating Museum:</b> Saffron Walden	<b>Funding source:</b> UDC
<b>Further Seasons Anticipated?:</b> No	<b>Related HER Nos:</b> 409-12, 27151
<b>Final Report:</b> EAH roundup	<b>Oasis No:</b> 152845
<b>Periods Represented:</b> Medieval, post-medieval, modern	
<b>SUMMARY OF FIELDWORK RESULTS:</b>	
<p>Three c.2m sq trenches were excavated at the foot of the extant forebuilding structure, at the northwest corner of the keep of Walden Castle, in advance of consolidation/repair works. Each was excavated to a depth of c.1.0m.</p> <p>All three trenches contained similar sequences of chalk and flint rubble and clay silt layers of later post-medieval and modern date. These are interpreted as representing 19th and 20th century levelling and landscaping of the immediate vicinity around the keep. No deposit sequences were excavated to their full depth. Despite being positioned over the projected lines of previously demolished walls, <i>in situ</i> bonded rubble foundation remains were not encountered, though could still survive buried at greater depth.</p> <p>Residual medieval pottery was retrieved from the investigated post-medieval deposits, suggesting that <i>in situ</i> remains of this date have been disturbed by later wall robbing and/or landscaping activity. Other retrieved finds included pottery, brick/tile, animal bone, glass and metalwork, mostly of 19th century and later date.</p>	
<b>Previous Summaries/Reports:</b>	
Couchman, C. (ed.) 1979. 'Saffron Walden Castle' Work of Essex County Council Archaeology Section, 1978, <i>Essex Archaeol. Hist.</i> 11, 32-77	
Bassett, S.R. 1982 <i>Saffron Walden: excavations and research 1972-80</i> , Chelmsford Archaeol. Trust Rep. 2, Counc. Brit. Archaeol. Res. Rep. 45	
<b>Author of Summary:</b> T. Ennis	<b>Date of Summary:</b> August 2013

### APPENDIX 3: OASIS Form

#### OASIS DATA COLLECTION FORM: England

**OASIS ID: archaeol6-152845**

##### Project details

Project name	Forebuilding, Walden Castle: Archaeological Excavation
Short description of the project	Three trenches were excavated adjacent to the forebuilding of the keep in advance of building consolidation works.
Project dates	Start: 10-06-2013 End: 14-06-2013
Previous/future work	Yes / Not known
Any associated project reference codes	E8019 - Contracting Unit No.
Any associated project reference codes	SW61 - Sitecode
Type of project	Recording project
Site status	Listed Building
Site status	Scheduled Monument (SM)
Current Land use	Other 8 - Land dedicated to the display of a monument
Monument type	CASTLE KEEP Medieval
Monument type	LAYERS Post Medieval
Monument type	PIT Post Medieval
Significant Finds	POTTERY Medieval
Investigation type	""Full excavation""
Prompt	Scheduled Monument Consent

##### Project location

Country	England
Site location	ESSEX UTTLESFORD SAFFRON WALDEN Forebuilding of the keep, Walden Castle
Postcode	CB10 1JL
Study area	12.00 Square metres
Site coordinates	TL 53907 38720 52 0 52 01 30 N 000 14 36 E Point

##### Project creators

Name of Organisation	Archaeology South-East
----------------------	------------------------

Project brief originator	None
Project design originator	Archaeology South-East
Project director/manager	Adrian Scruby
Project supervisor	Trevor Ennis
Type of sponsor/funding body	District Council
Name of sponsor/funding body	Uttlesford DC

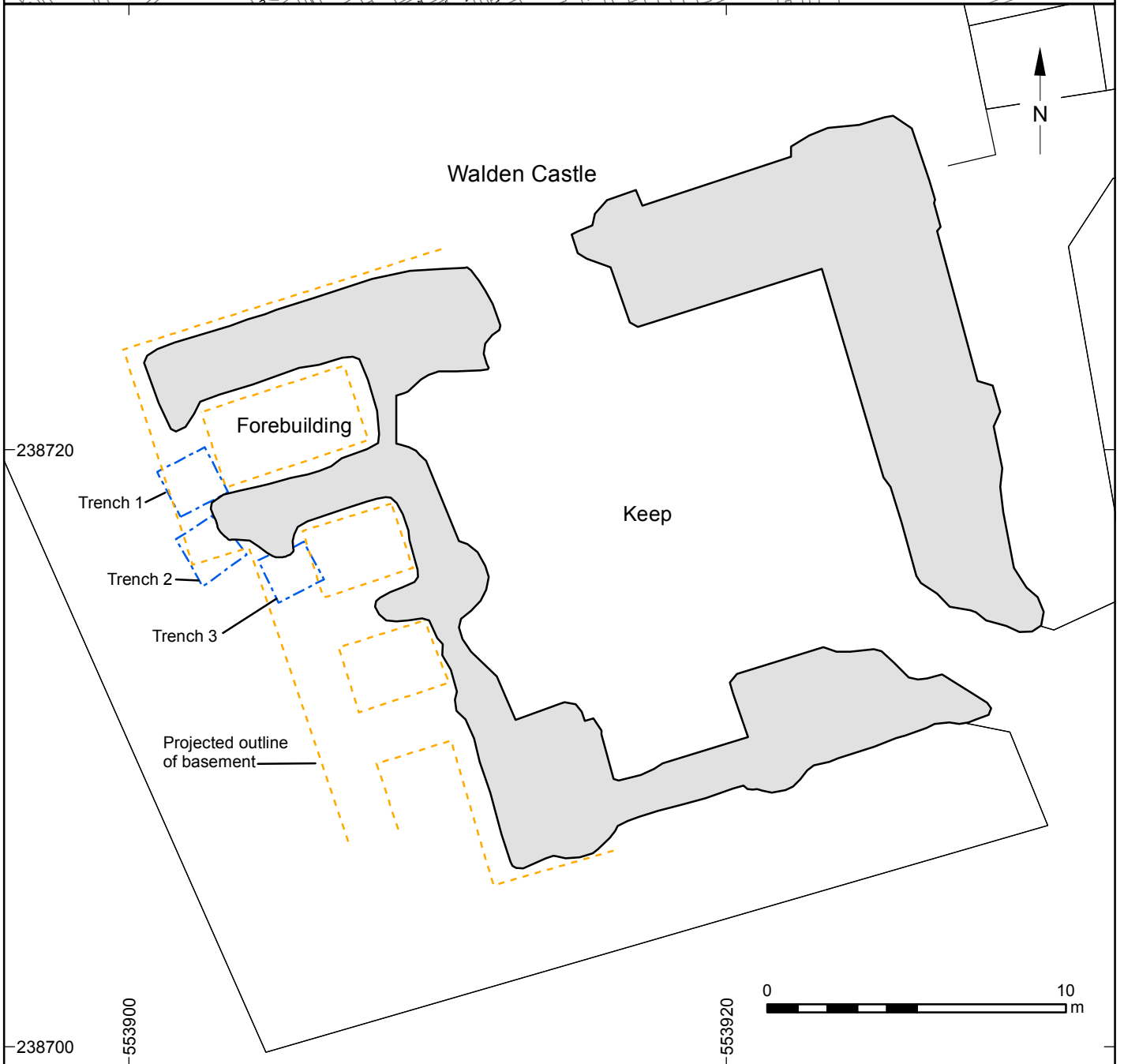
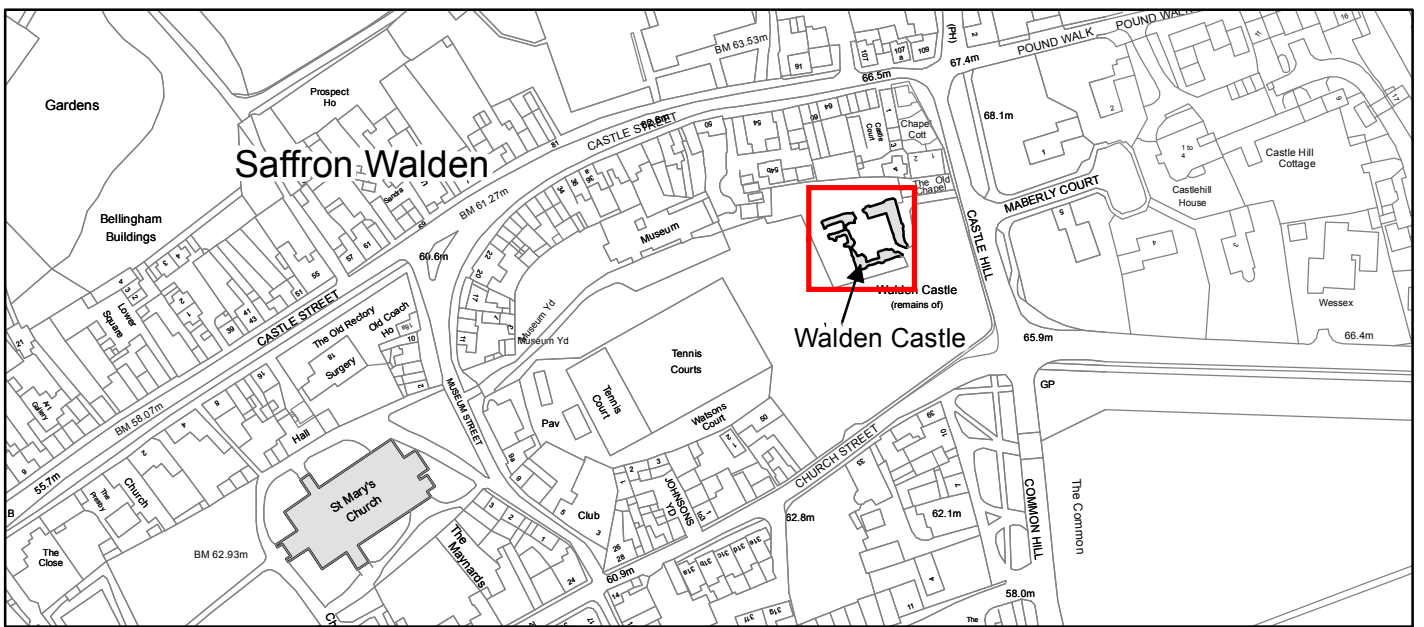
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**Project archives**

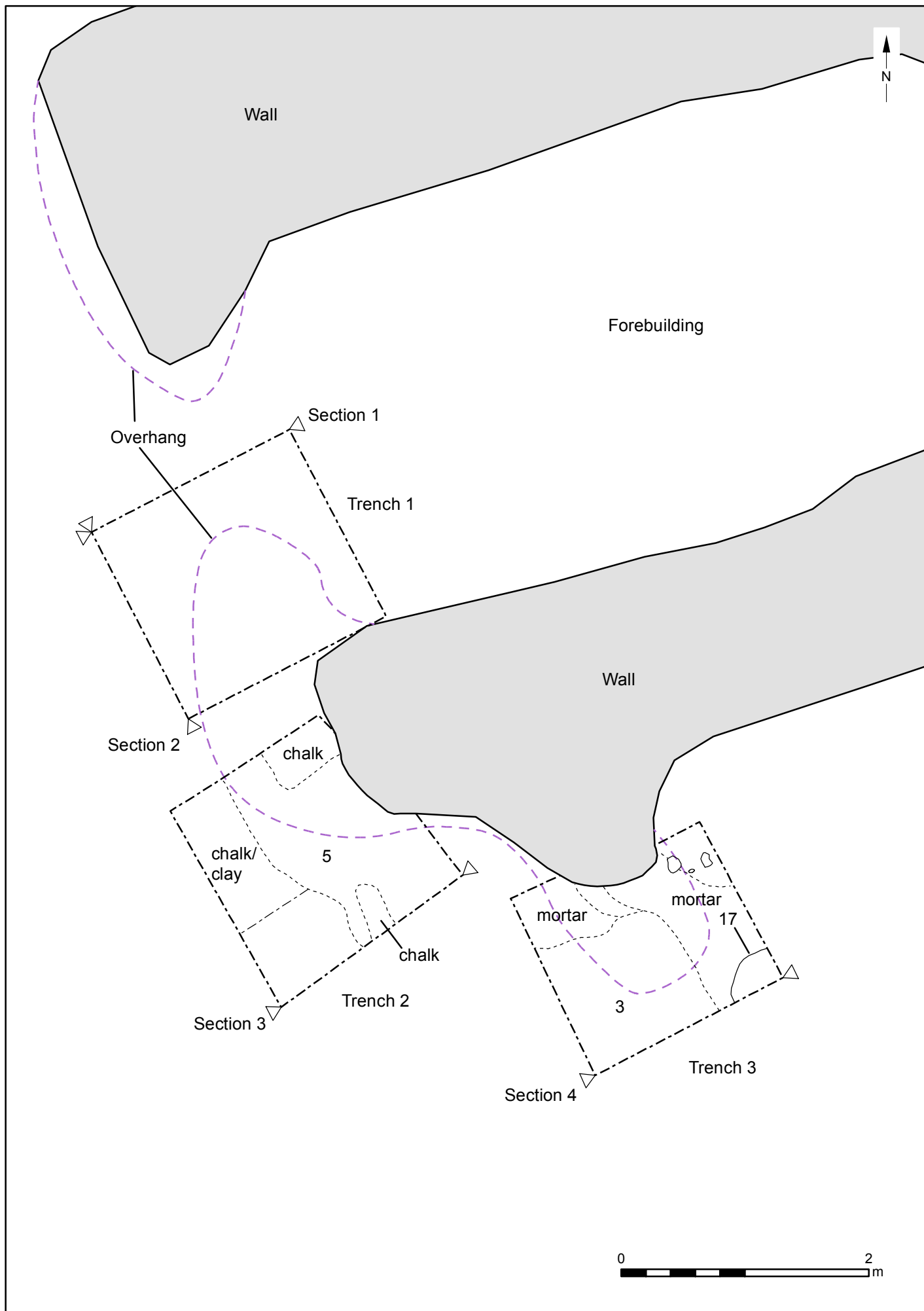
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Physical Contents	"Animal Bones", "Ceramics", "Glass", "Human Bones", "other"
Digital Archive recipient	Saffron Walden Museum
Digital Contents	"Animal Bones", "Ceramics", "Glass", "Human Bones", "Metal", "Stratigraphic", "other"
Digital Media available	"Images raster / digital photography", "Spreadsheets", "Text"
Digital Archive notes	on CD-Rom with paper archive
Paper Archive recipient	Saffron Walden Museum
Paper Contents	"Animal Bones", "Ceramics", "Glass", "Human Bones", "Metal", "Stratigraphic", "other"
Paper Media available	"Context sheet", "Drawing", "Miscellaneous Material", "Plan", "Report", "Section"

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Entered by	Mark Atkinson (mark.atkinson@ucl.ac.uk)
Entered on	23 August 2013

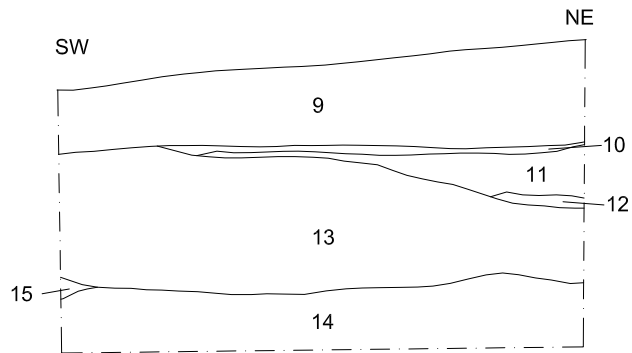


© Archaeology South-East		Walden Castle	Fig. 1
Project Ref: E8019	July 2013	Site Location	
Report Ref:	Drawn by: APL		

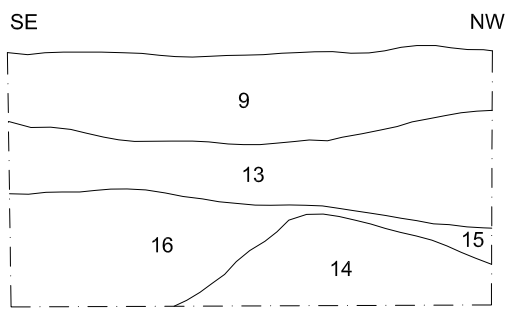


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Project Ref: E8019	July 2013	Trench locations	
Report Ref:	Drawn by: APL		

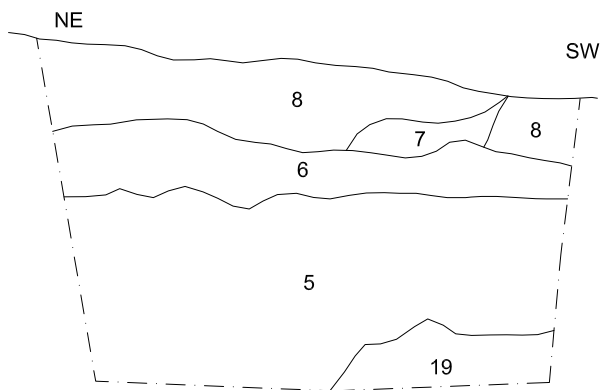
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Section 1



Trench 1,  
Section 2



Trench 2,  
Section 3



Trench 3,  
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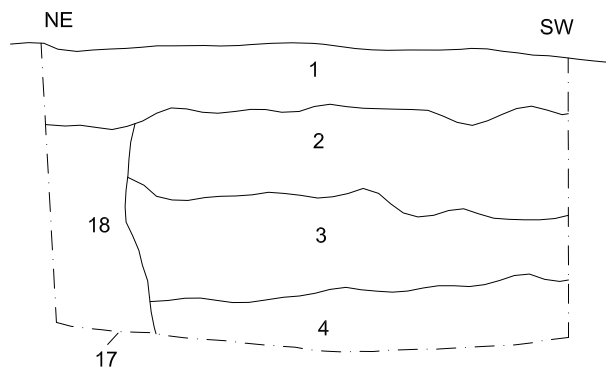




Figure 4: Keep forebuilding prior to investigation



Figure 5: View of Trenches 1-3 in relation to keep remains



Plate 6: Trench 1. General view looking west (1m scale)



Plate 7: Trench 1. Southeast-facing section (1m scale)





Figure 8: Trench 2. General view looking northeast (1m scale)



Figure 9: Trench 2. North-facing section (1m scale)



Figure10: Trench 3. General view looking northwest (1m scale)



Figure 11: Trench 3. Northwest-facing section (1m scale)

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