

Pevensey Castle, Pevensey, East Sussex

Historic Building Watching Brief



**ASE Project No: 7284
Site Code: PEC15
ASE Report No: 2015134**

Dr Michael Shapland

October 2015



ENGLISH HERITAGE


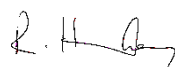
Pevensey Castle, Pevensey, East Sussex

Historic Building Watching Brief

NGR: TQ 6441 0476

**ASE Project No: 7284
Site Code: PEC15
ASE Report No: 2015134
OASIS id: archaeol6-209741**

By Dr Michael Shapland

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SUMMARY

In February 2015 Archaeology South-East carried out a historic buildings watching brief at Pevensey Castle, Pevensey, East Sussex. The work was commissioned by English Heritage, to be addressed as a condition placed on Scheduled Monument Consent (S00094993) relating to the undertaking of extensive conservation work to the fabric of the Outer Curtain Wall, between bastions 4 and 6.

Pevensey Castle is located on the East Sussex coast, first constructed c. 280-300 AD as Anderida, part of the network of Saxon Shore forts which extended from what is now Hampshire to Norfolk. Much of the original fort survives to its original height as the curtain wall of the later castle, whose inner bailey lies within the Roman enclosure's south-east corner. During the Anglo-Saxon and medieval periods the focus of settlement at Pevensey would probably have lain within the circuit of the Roman walls, not around the present extramural High Street.

The wall has a core of flint and sandstone rubble set in white mortar. Unlike the outer face, the inner face of the wall does not retain its original Roman ironstone and sandstone facing, but is patched with flint across much of its top third. Below, much of the Roman core is exposed to present ground level. The watching brief encompassed all those areas to be opened up and dismantled in as part of the repair work, including the taking of mortar samples. No breaks in construction or indications of phasing were encountered during the watching brief, beyond the original Roman work and the 20th century repairs.

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1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 In February 2015 Archaeology South-East (a division of the Centre for Applied Archaeology, UCL) carried out a historic buildings watching brief at Pevensey Castle, Pevensey, East Sussex BN24 5LE (NGR TQ 6441 0476; Figure 1). The site lies at between 7 and 9 metres above Ordnance Datum.

1.2 Pevensey Castle is a Scheduled Ancient Monument (National Heritage List for England no. 1013379). The work was commissioned by English Heritage, to be addressed as a condition placed on Scheduled Monument Consent (S00094993) relating to the undertaking of extensive conservation work to the fabric of the Outer Curtain Wall, between bastions 4 and 6. The following archaeological conditions were required in order that the proposed works accord with English Heritage conservation policy:

Archaeological Recording

(m) No building works shall take place until the applicant has confirmed in writing the commissioning of a programme of archaeological work during the project in accordance with a written scheme of investigation which has been submitted to and approved by the National Planning and Conservation Department. The WSI should include recording prior to, and during, removal of stonework.

(n) A final synthetic report shall be submitted that includes assessment of photographs prepared before, during and after works; plans and elevations showing the works; archaeological recording; and interpretation of the results of any mortar and other analysis. A copy of the report shall be sent to the County Historic Environment Record and to Paul Roberts at English Heritage within 3 months of the completion of the works (or such other period as may be mutually agreed).

(o) An entry will be submitted by the applicant to OASIS (On-line Access to the Index of Archaeological Investigations - <http://oasis.ac.uk/england/>) prior to project completion, and a digital project report shall be deposited with the Archaeology Data Service, via the OASIS form, upon completion.

1.3 A written scheme of investigation has been provided by English Heritage (2015). The repair work involved re-bedding loose masonry, repointing open joints, consolidation of friable mortars and the introduction of steel pins (hidden within a mortar fillet) to hold in place unsupported shelves of post-Roman flint face material. Deep roots associated with previous vegetation were removed, requiring dismantling and opening up of the historic masonry.

2.0 SCOPE & METHODOLOGY

- 2.1 The watching brief encompassed all those areas to be opened up and dismantled in as part of the repair work: the Outer Curtain Wall between bastions 4 and 6 (Figure 2). A drawn and digital photographic record was made of these areas prior to work commencing (Figures 4-6; Appendix 2); specifically, those areas where:
- Removal of deep-rooted vegetation involved partially dismantling the surrounding wall fabric;
 - A significant number of facing stones (c. five or more) were re-bedded;
 - Interventions were made into the wall's Roman core.
- 2.2 A digital photographic record was made of the exposed fabric during the dismantling of the historic fabric, and again following the completion of the repair work (Appendix 2).
- 2.3 Mortar samples were taken during the repair work. A record is made here of the elemental information about the mortar samples, and how the results inform understanding about phasing of works to the wall and across the site.
- 2.4 In general, analysis of affected fabric before and during works was intended to augment understanding of the construction and development of the fabric, including confirmation or otherwise of phasing.

3.0 HISTORIC BACKGROUND

- 3.1 The historic background of Pevensey Castle has been extensively discussed, principally in two recent excavation monographs (Lyne 2009; Fulford & Rippon 2011) and the English Heritage Guidebook (Goodall 1999).
- 3.2 Pevensey Castle is located on the East Sussex coast, on a former peninsula left landlocked by the retreat of the sea, whose shape determined the unusual ovoid plan of the fort. This was first constructed c. 280-300 AD as *Anderida*, part of the network of Saxon Shore forts which extended from what is now Hampshire to Norfolk. Much of the original fort survives to its original height as the curtain wall of the later castle, and retains substantial amounts of its facing stonework.
- 3.3 The fort remained an important central place following the departure of the Roman legions in 410, but passed from Romano-British to Saxon hands following attacks in the late 5th century. Under Aelle, it is thought to have formed an early power-centre of the incipient kingdom of Sussex, and gave its name to the vast extent of the Weald, the *Andresweald* (Welch 1978). During this time, and for some centuries after the Norman Conquest, the

focus of settlement at Pevensey would probably have lain within the circuit of the Roman walls, not around the present extramural High Street.

- 3.4 William the Conqueror landed at Pevensey in 1066; in his temporary fortification of the site lie the origins of the medieval castle whose inner bailey lies within the Roman enclosure's south-east corner. The latter dates mainly to the 13th and 14th centuries; the original Norman castle of earth and timber is thought to have occupied much of the eastern side of the Roman fort.
- 3.5 Pevensey's strategic location ensured its continued military occupation through until the mid-20th century. An artillery platform was installed in 1587, and the site was fortified during the Second World War with barrack-blocks within the mural towers of the inner bailey and machine-gun emplacements across the site camouflaged with flint to resemble its historic masonry.

4.0 RESULTS OF THE WATCHING BRIEF

Description of the Wall

- 4.1 The Outer Curtain Wall is substantially Roman in its surviving form, albeit with extensive alterations dating to the Anglo-Saxon period and after (Figure 2). It has a total length of c. 750 m, and stands to a height of up to 8.2 m – probably about 9.5 m when built – and 4.2 m thick at the base (Pearson 2003, 86). About three-quarters of the original Roman wall remains upstanding. It has two gates, one on its eastern side and one its western, and thirteen 'D'-shaped bastions, again concentrated on the fort's eastern and western sides.
- 4.2 The wall has a core of flint and sandstone rubble set in white mortar, and is faced with small, finely cut blocks of ironstone and sandstone set, in the external face of the wall, in a distinctive pink mortar. This is interrupted with regular bonding courses of brick, giving a polychrome banded effect familiar from a number of Imperial Roman contexts, not least the walls of British cities such as London and St Albans (Verulamium).
- 4.3 The walls are built on foundations of wooden piles topped with a layer of flint and chalk within an oaken lattice. Above, the rear of the walls are stepped back in a series of offsets so as to increase their structural resilience. They are thought to have been erected in sections, as evidenced by vertical breaks in construction at regular intervals around their circuit, but this has been questioned, and the possibility raised that these breaks are vertical fissures created by differential settlement of the wall (English Heritage 2015).

Repair Work

- 4.4 The subject of the present wall repair was a c. 60 m stretch between bastions 4 and 6 (Figure 3). Here, the Roman curtain wall stands to the level of its wall walk, above which the parapet has been refaced and battlements formed with roughly coursed flint rubble. Unlike the outer face, the inner face of the wall does not retain its original Roman ironstone and sandstone facing, but is patched with flint across much of its top third. Below, much of the Roman core is exposed to present ground level. This flint re-facing has been dated by a late 11th – early 12th century soil deposit a short distance to the south, which has been dumped against a low section of the flintwork (Lyne 2009, 43-4: Trench XII).
- 4.5 The majority of the repair work was limited to removing superficial vegetation, brushing the masonry and repointing open joints. These areas were not individually monitored by the attendant archaeologist, but were recorded by ‘before’ and ‘after’ photographs provided by the contractor (Appendix 2). These photographs involved the division of the wall into numbered sections across the wall’s top and middle lifts (Figure 3): this numbering scheme will be followed here. Work to the wall’s lower lift was confined to cleaning and weeding, obviating the need for a ‘before’ and ‘after’ photographic record.
- 4.6 Archaeological monitoring encompassed only those areas where the removal of deep-rooted vegetation involved the significant interventions to the wall’s fabric, as detailed above (section 2). This was limited to seven discrete areas: section nos 4, 5, 6, 7, 9/10, 13/14 of the upper lift and no. 4 of the lower lift (Figure 3). These will be discussed in turn.
- 4.7 Upper lift, section 4: a small tree with deep roots was removed from the wall, necessitating the removal of the outer skin of flint and concrete and the exposure of the Roman core. This consisted of flint laid in a pebbly white mortar, with occasional sandstone rubble (Figures 8 & 9).
- 4.8 Upper lift, section 5: the removal of shrubs and deep-rooted ivy exposed the Roman core, which here consisted chiefly of sandstone and ironstone rubble laid in a pebbly white mortar, with surprisingly little flint (Figure 10).
- 4.9 Upper lift, section 6: The removal of ivy cover necessitated the dismantling of the modern outer skin of flintwork. This exposed chiefly sandstone rubble with little ironstone or flintwork. It was laid in a pinkish pebbly mortar, implying this part of the wall’s fabric is a modern repair work (Figure 11).
- 4.10 Upper lift, section 7: Extensive repointing involved rebuilding the outer skin of flintwork to the wall. The Roman core consisted of sandstone and flint in a pebbly white mortar with no visible ironstone (Figure 12).
- 4.11 Upper lift, section 9/10: The removal of thick ivy and small shrubs involved the removal of the outer skin of modern flintwork. The Roman core behind

again consists of mixed sandstone rubble with very little flint or ironstone (Figure 13).

- 4.12 Upper lift, section 13/14: The removal of vegetation and loose outer flintwork revealed a long, narrow strip of the Roman core, which was revealed to be of sandstone and flint in equal measure (Figures 14 & 15).
- 4.13 Middle lift, section 4: Repair of loose outer stonework revealed mostly flint and frost-damaged sandstone. The mortar was pinkish and pebbly, suggestive of Roman work. Interestingly, the frost-damaged nature of the sandstone indicates this part of the wall had long been exposed to the elements, prior to the modern flint repair. Given the lack of maintenance work between the late medieval period and the early 20th century, this probably represents the wall's exposed inner face for much of that period, if not before (Figure 16).

Mortar Analysis

- 4.14 Six mortar samples were taken from the Roman wall core across the length under repair. They were found to be of a consistent light cream/brown colour, well-compacted, with a hydraulic lime to sand mix varying from 1:8.5 to 1:3.5 (Sandberg 2015).
- 4.15 In contrast, the outer face of the wall was extensively re-pointed with a pebbly, orangey, cement mortar during the 20th century, probably soon after the castle's acquisition by the Ministry of Works in 1925.

5.0 CONCLUSION

- 5.1 Repair works to the wall largely consisted of the removal of superficial vegetation and the re-pointing of its external fabric. In seven areas more intrusive works provided the opportunity to observe the wall's core, from which mortar samples were also taken. The fabric of the core largely consisted of sandstone rubble with frequent flint and sporadic ironstone, laid within a creamy lime and sand mortar.
- 5.2 The relative preference for sandstone over flint for the areas of the core which were observed was slightly surprising, given the greater availability of the latter material, and the greater versatility and value of the former. Very little ironstone, which was also used as a facing material, was encountered. It is unlikely that large quantities of sandstone were transported to Pevensey purely for use in the core; more likely is that this rubble represents waste generated by the production process of the inner and outer facing stones which still characterise the fort's exterior elevations. This further implies that the sandstone was processed on-site, but that the ironstone was dressed at source. No brick – the fort's third original facing material – was encountered within the core, as might be expected given its great value and utility.

5.3 Frost-damaged sandstone was encountered beneath the modern flintwork in section 4 of the middle lift. This implies this part of the core was left as the wall's exposed inner face prior to the early 20th century, probably for much of the later medieval and early modern period. This is additionally useful indicating something of the conservation philosophy of (presumably) the Ministry of Works in the 1920s: not only was degraded stonework replaced, but new areas were created where the historic fabric was missing from the wall's internal face.

5.4 None of the areas for which the Roman core was exposed coincided with the vertical breaks in construction identified by Lyne (2009; Figure 2). No breaks in construction or indications of phasing were encountered during the watching brief, beyond the original Roman work and the 20th century repairs.

6.0 DEPOSITION OF THE ARCHIVE

6.1 The project archive will be deposited with English Heritage at Dover Castle, Kent, under the site code PEC15. The archive will comprise all survey material collected and produced in undertaking the project.

7.0 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

7.1 Archaeology South-East would like to thank English Heritage for commissioning the work, Andy Burrell of Carden & Godfrey Architects for providing photographs and additional information, and Colin Rose for his hospitality and assistance on site.

8.0 BIBLIOGRAPHY

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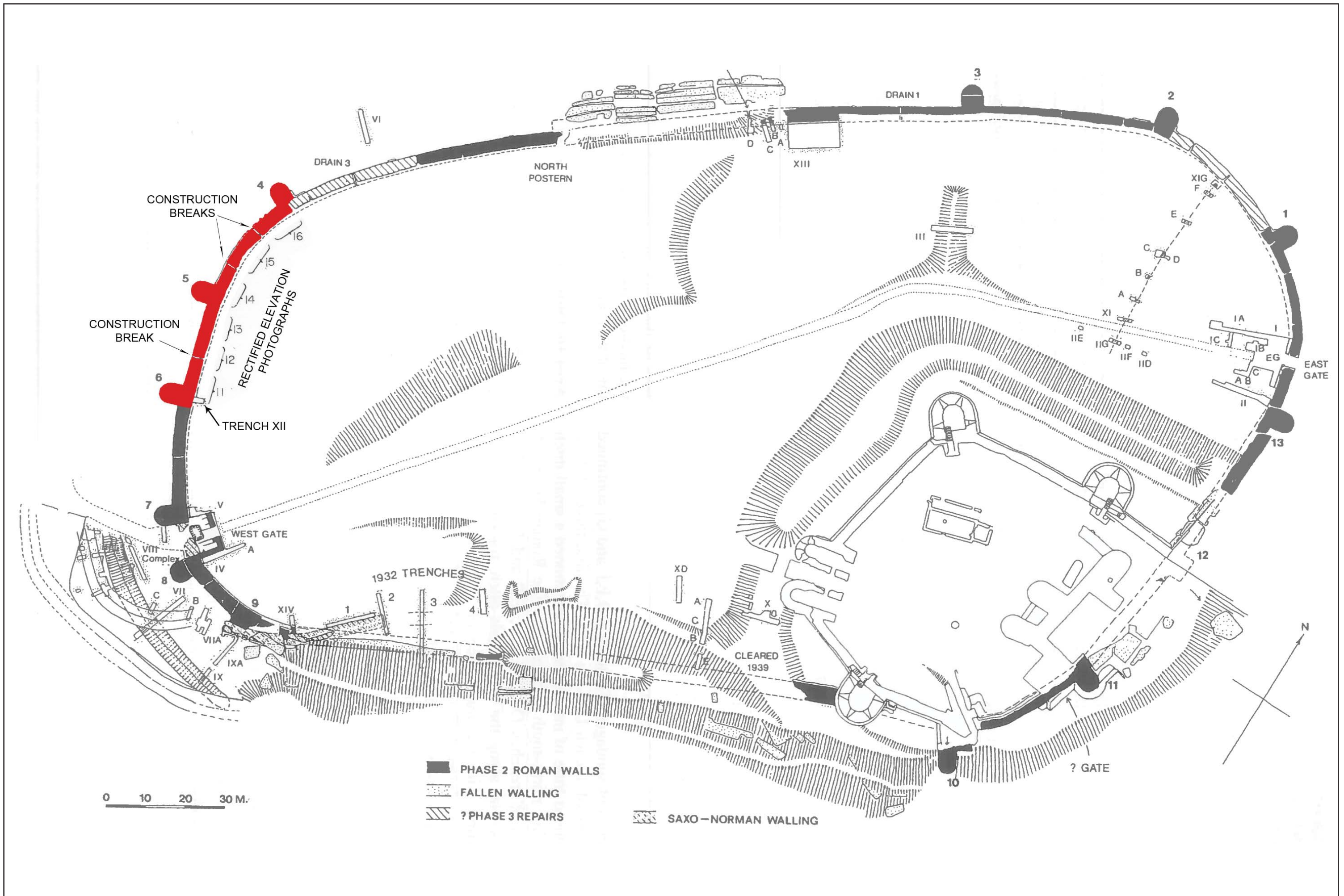
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Welch, M., 1978. 'Early Anglo-Saxon Sussex: from *Civitas* to Shire', in P. Brandon (ed.), *The South Saxons*, 13-35. Chichester: Phillimore.



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© Archaeology South-East		Pevensey Castle, Pevensey, East Sussex	Fig. 1
Project Ref: 7284	April 2015	Site location	
Report Ref: 2015134	Drawn by: MGS		



© Archaeology South-East		Pevensey Castle, Pevensey, East Sussex	Fig. 2
Project Ref: 7284	April 2015	Site plan, showing area of wall repair (based on Lyne 2009, 3)	
Report Ref: 2015134	Drawn by: MGS		



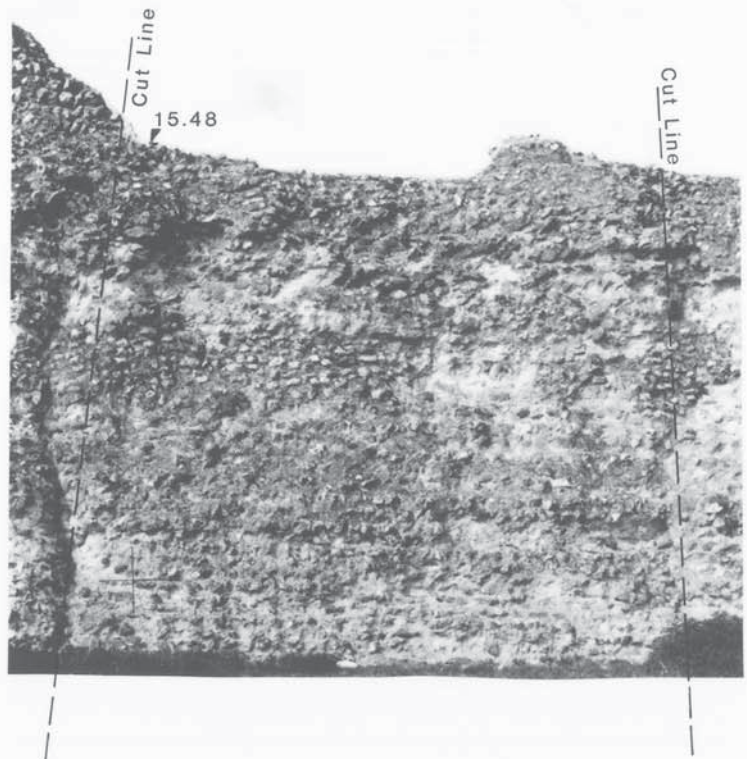
TOP LIFT (T)

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31 32 33 34 35 36 37 38

MIDDLE LIFT (M)

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24

LOWER LIFT BRUSHED AND SURFACE VEGETATION REMOVED ONLY

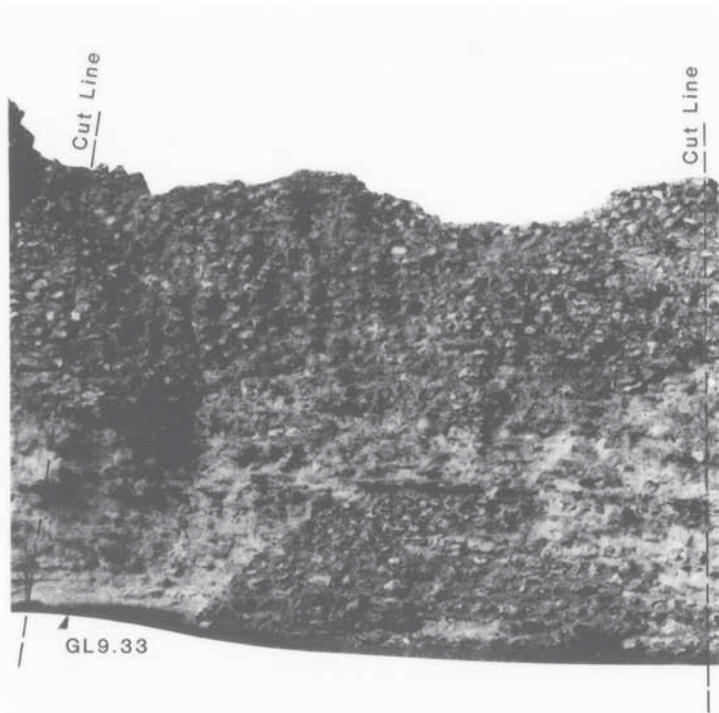


ELEVATION 11

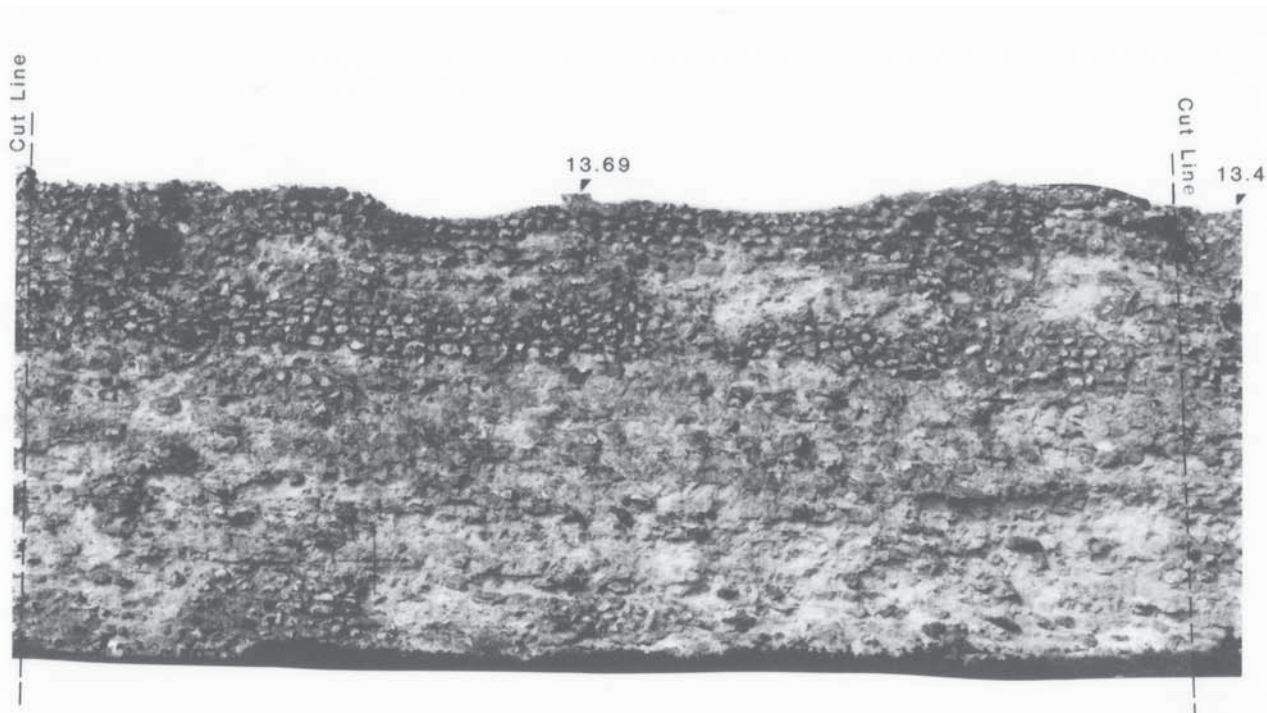


ELEVATION 12



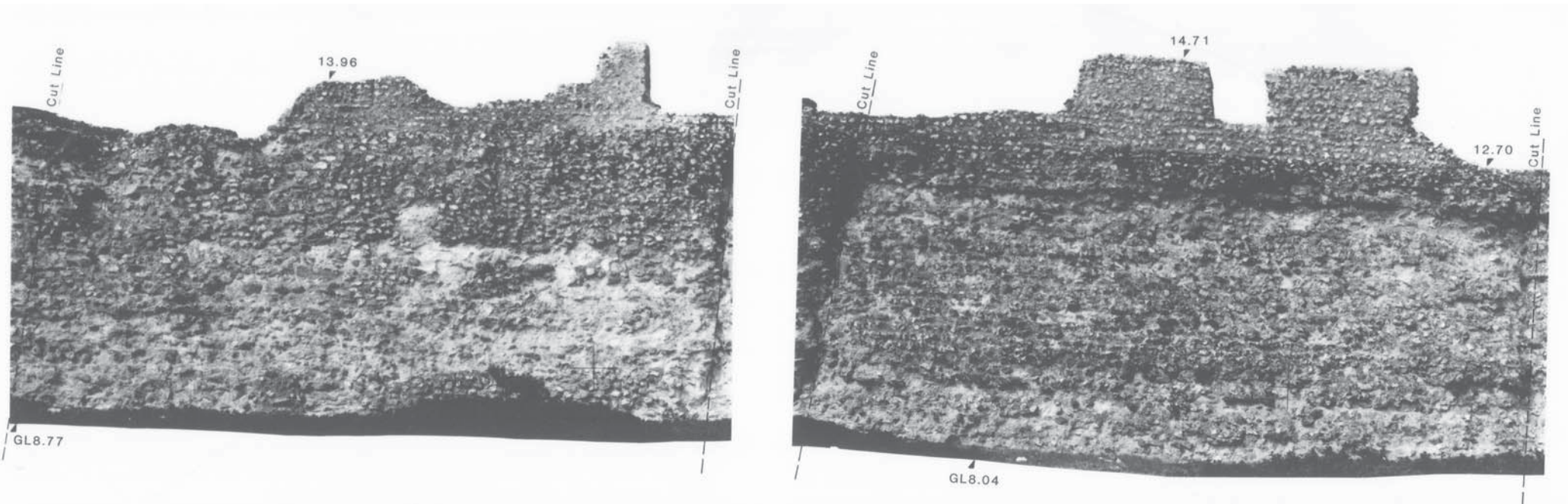


ELEVATION 13



ELEVATION 14





ELEVATION 15

ELEVATION 16



© Archaeology South-East		Pevensey Castle, Pevensey, East Sussex	Fig. 6
Project Ref: 7284	April 2015	1990 English Heritage Rectified Photographic Survey: Elevations 15 & 16	
Report Ref: 2015134	Drawn by: MGS		



External view between bastions 4 & 5



External view between bastions 5 & 6

© Archaeology South-East		Pevensey Castle, Pevensey, East Sussex	Fig. 7
Project Ref: 7284	April 2015	External elevations of repaired wall section	
Report Ref: 2015134	Drawn by: MGS		



© Archaeology South-East		Pevensey Castle, Pevensey, East Sussex	Fig. 8
Project Ref: 7284	April 2015	Top lift, section 4: view of exposed wall core	
Report Ref: 2015134	Drawn by: MGS		



© Archaeology South-East		Pevensy Castle, Pevensy, East Sussex	Fig. 9
Project Ref: 7284	April 2015	Top lift, section 4: record of removed modern flintwork facing	
Report Ref: 2015134	Drawn by: MGS		



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Project Ref: 7284	April 2015	Top lift, section 5: view of exposed wall core	
Report Ref: 2015134	Drawn by: MGS		



© Archaeology South-East		Pevensey Castle, Pevensey, East Sussex	Fig. 11
Project Ref: 7284	April 2015	Top lift, section 6: view of exposed wall core	
Report Ref: 2015134	Drawn by: MGS		



© Archaeology South-East		Pevensey Castle, Pevensey, East Sussex	Fig. 12
Project Ref: 7284	April 2015	Top lift, section 7: view of exposed wall core	
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© Archaeology South-East		Pevensey Castle, Pevensey, East Sussex	Fig. 13
Project Ref: 7284	April 2015	Top lift, sections 9/10: view of exposed wall core	
Report Ref: 2015134	Drawn by: MGS		



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Project Ref: 7284	April 2015	Top lift, sections 13/14: view of exposed wall core	
Report Ref: 2015134	Drawn by: MGS		



© Archaeology South-East		Pevensey Castle, Pevensey, East Sussex	Fig. 15
Project Ref: 7284	April 2015	Top lift, sections 13/14: record of removed modern flintwork facing	
Report Ref: 2015134	Drawn by: MGS		



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Project Ref: 7284	April 2015	Middle lift, section 4: record of removed modern flintwork facing	
Report Ref: 2015134	Drawn by: MGS		

APPENDIX 1: OASIS FORM

OASIS ID: ARCHAEO6-209741

Project details

Project name	Pevensey Castle, East Sussex: Historic Building Watching Brief
Short description of the project	<p>In February 2015 Archaeology South-East carried out a historic buildings watching brief at Pevensey Castle, Pevensey, East Sussex. The work was commissioned by English Heritage, to be addressed as a condition placed on Scheduled Monument Consent (S00094993) relating to the undertaking of extensive conservation work to the fabric of the Outer Curtain Wall, between bastions 4 and 6. Pevensey Castle is located on the East Sussex coast, first constructed c. 280-300 AD as Anderida, part of the network of Saxon Shore forts which extended from what is now Hampshire to Norfolk. Much of the original fort survives to its original height as the curtain wall of the later castle, whose inner bailey lies within the Roman enclosure's south-east corner. During the Anglo-Saxon and medieval periods the focus of settlement at Pevensey would probably have lain within the circuit of the Roman walls, not around the present extramural High Street. The wall has a core of flint and sandstone rubble set in white mortar. Unlike the outer face, the inner face of the wall does not retain its original Roman ironstone and sandstone facing, but is patched with flint across much of its top third. Below, much of the Roman core is exposed to present ground level. The watching brief encompassed all those areas to be opened up and dismantled in as part of the repair work, including the taking of mortar samples. No breaks in construction or indications of phasing were encountered during the watching brief, beyond the original Roman work and the 20th century repairs.</p>
Project dates	Start: 01-02-2015 End: 30-04-2015
Previous/future work	No / Yes
Any associated project reference codes	7284 - Contracting Unit No.
Any associated project reference codes	PEC15 - Sitecode
Type of project	Building Recording
Site status	Scheduled Monument (SM)
Current Land use	Other 8 - Land dedicated to the display of a monument
Monument type	SAXON SHORE FORT Roman

Project location

Country England
Site location EAST SUSSEX WEALDEN PEVENSEY Pevensey Castle,
Pevensey, East Sussex
Postcode BN24 5LE
Study area 4.00 Hectares
Site coordinates TQ 6441 0476 50.8184171118 0.334295651305 50 49 06 N
000 20 03 E Point
Height OD / Depth Min: 7.00m Max: 9.00m

Project creators

Name of Organisation Archaeology South-East
Project brief originator English Heritage
Project design originator English Heritage
Project director/manager Ron Humphrey
Project supervisor Michael Shapland
Type of sponsor/funding body English Heritage
Name of sponsor/funding body English Heritage

Project archives

Physical Archive Exists? No
Digital Archive recipient EH regional curatorial store at Dover Castle
Digital Archive ID PEC15
Digital Media available "Images raster / digital photography", "Text"
Paper Archive Exists? No
Entered by Michael Shapland (m.shapland@ucl.ac.uk)
Entered on 23 April 2015

APPENDIX 2: PHOTOGRAPHIC RECORD OF REPAIRS
(courtesy of Carden and Godfrey Architects)

For key to locations, refer to Figure 3

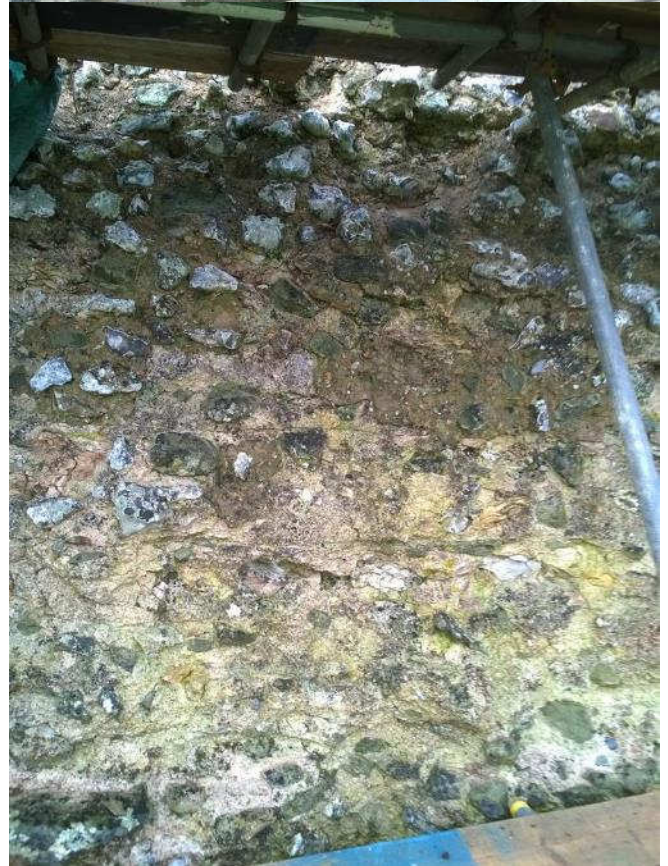
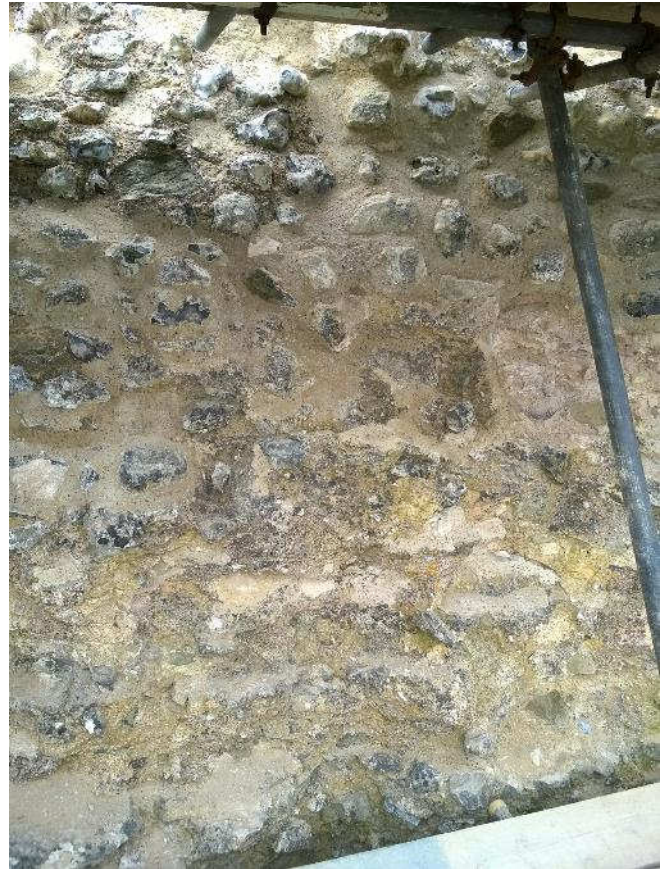
**Pevensey Castle Outer Curtain Wall Repairs
Phase 1 – Middle Scaffold Lift**



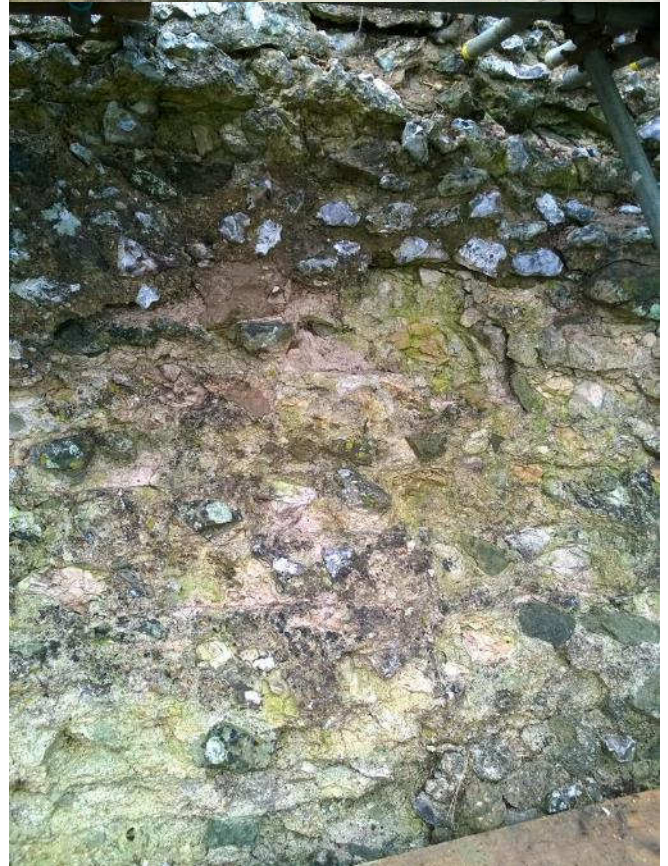
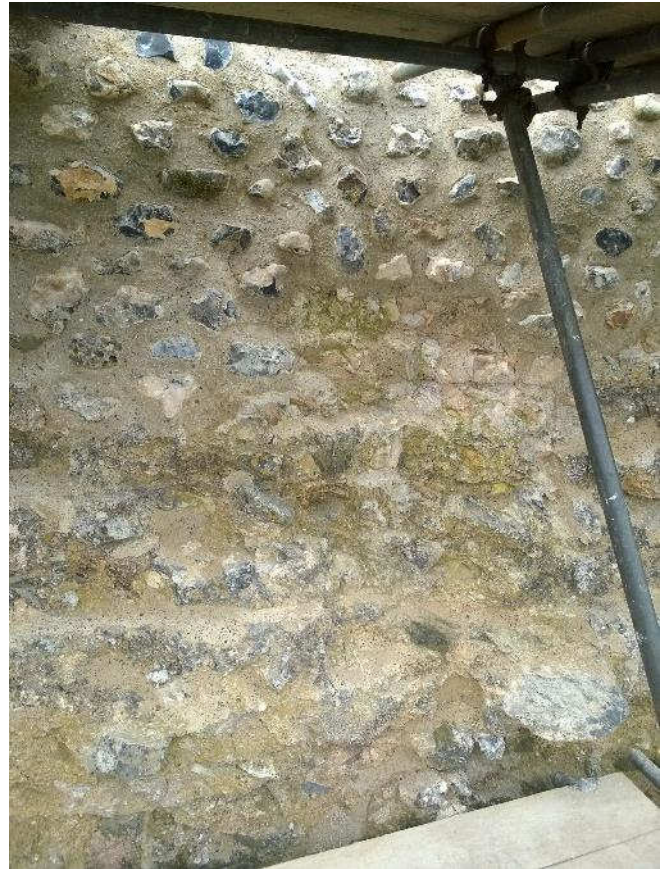
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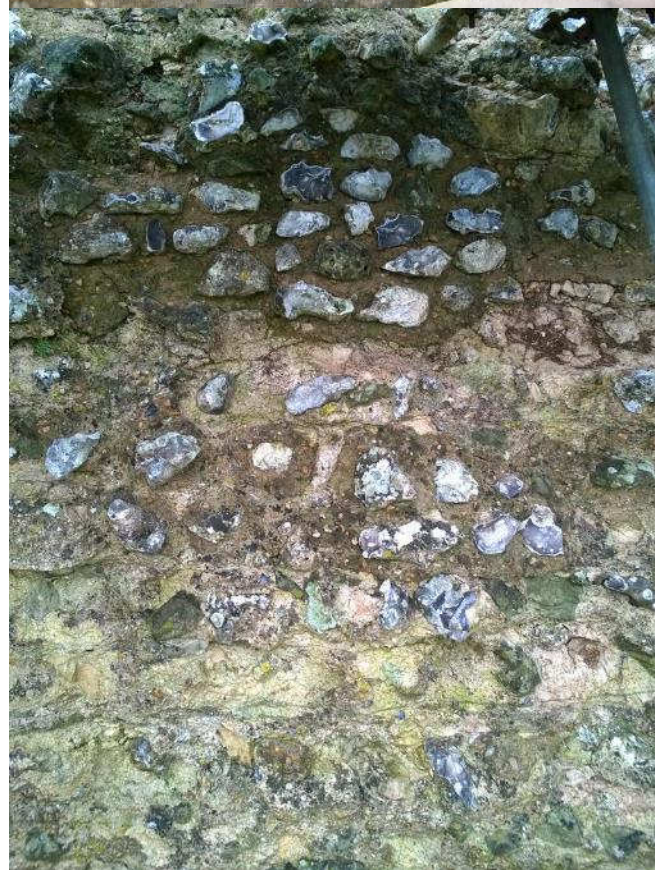
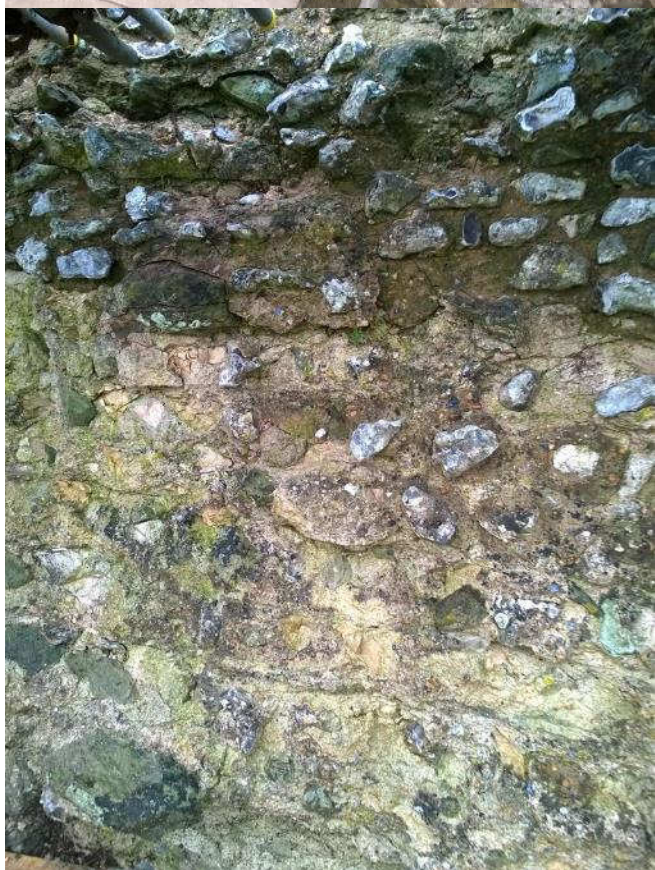
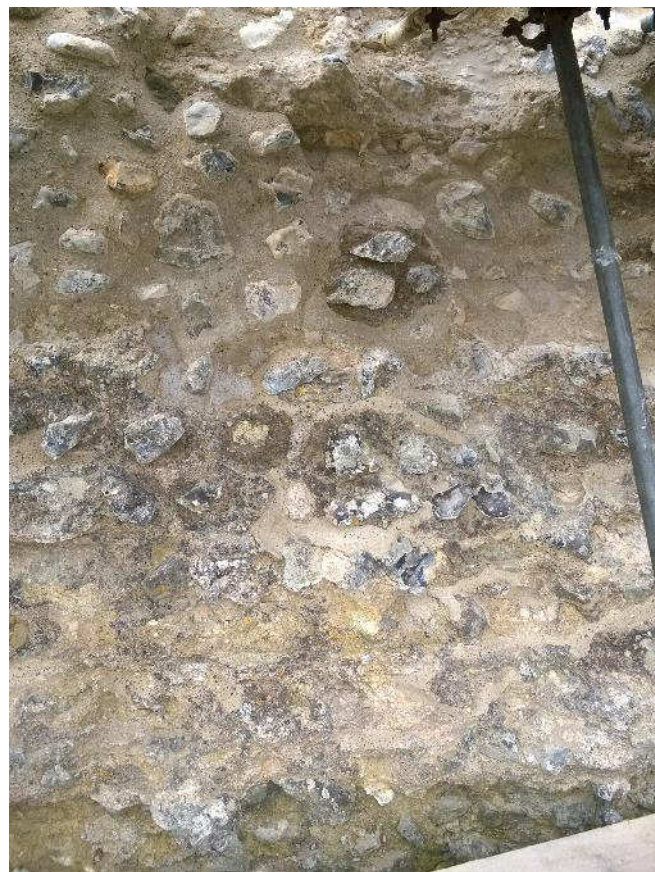
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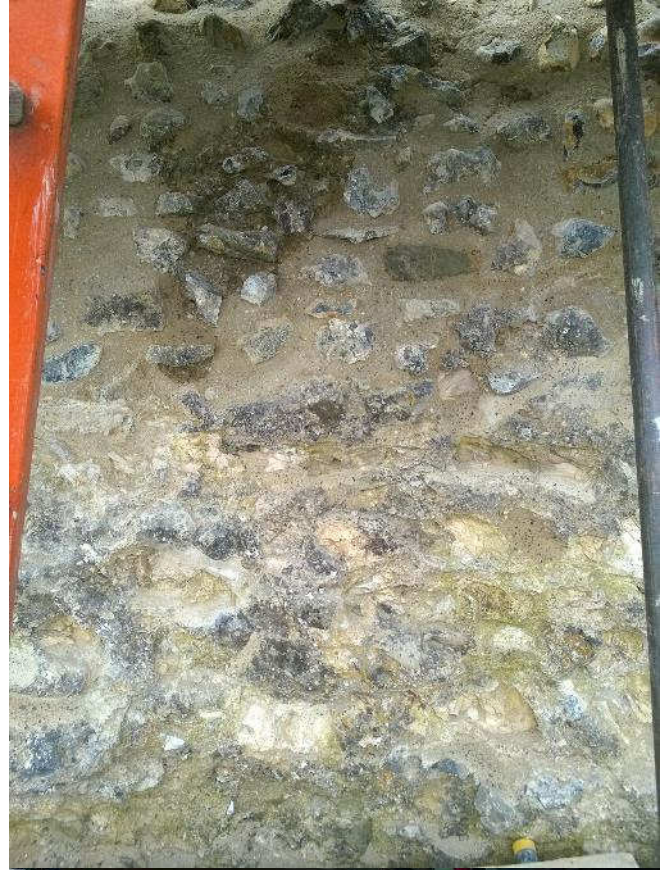
Bay 3A&B As Built (above) Existing (below)



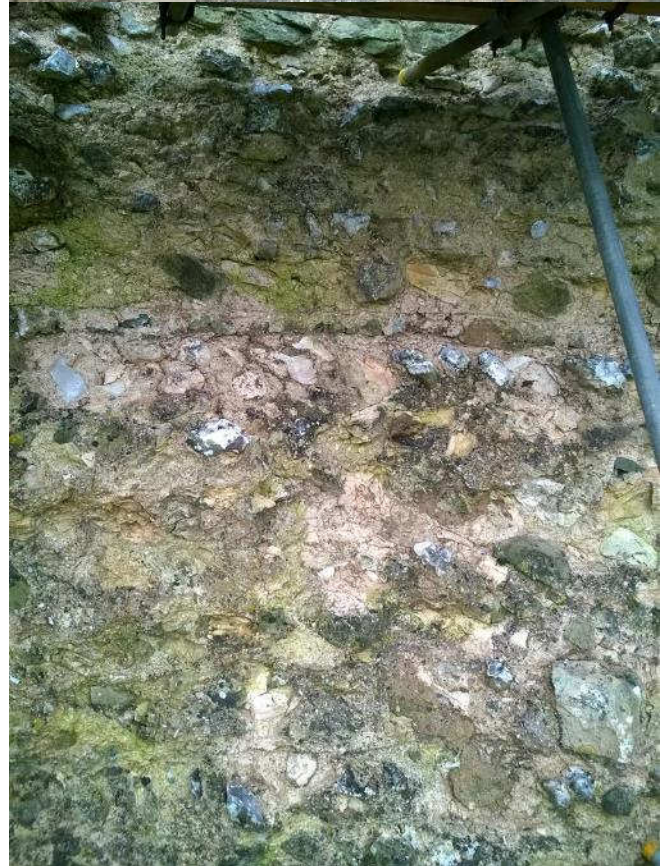
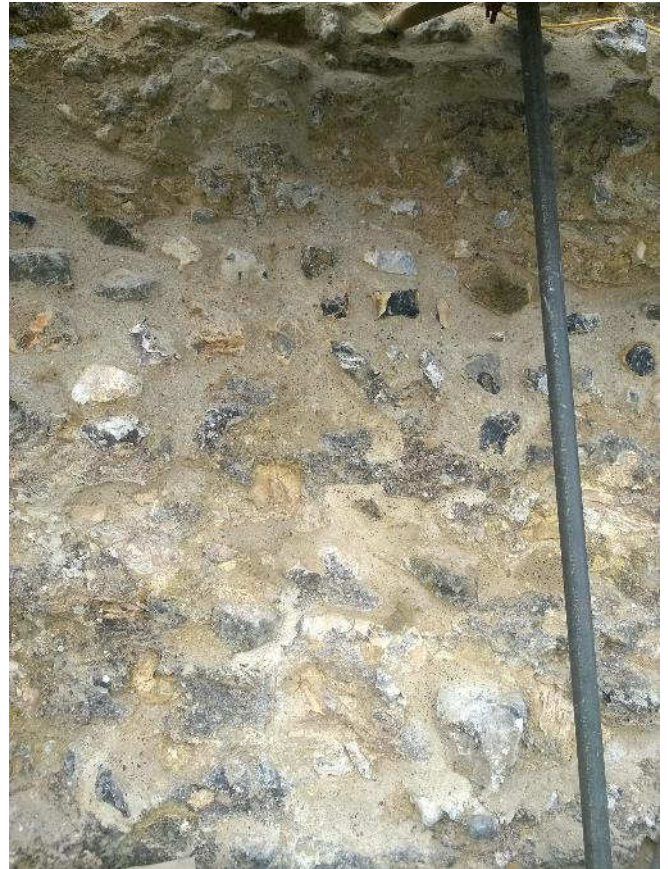
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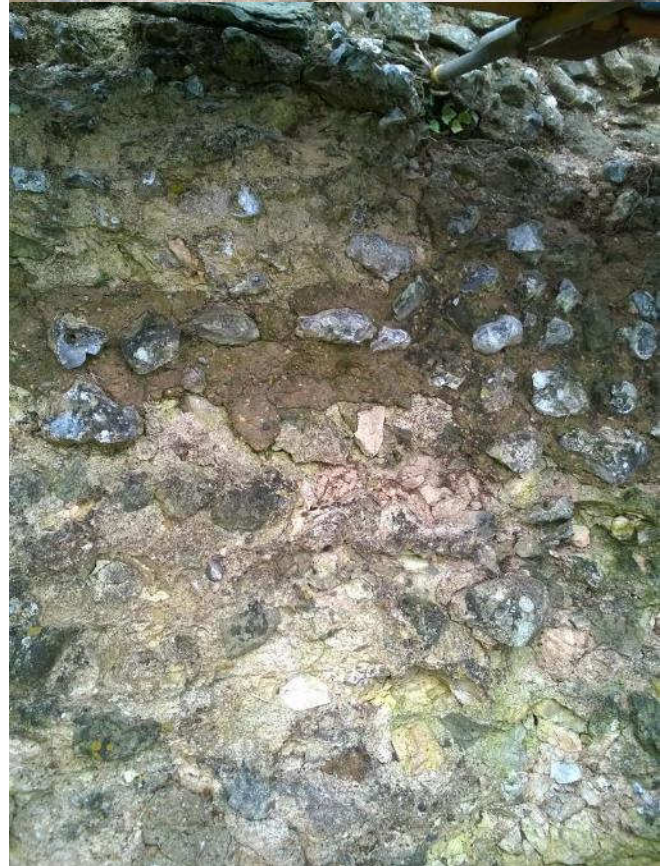
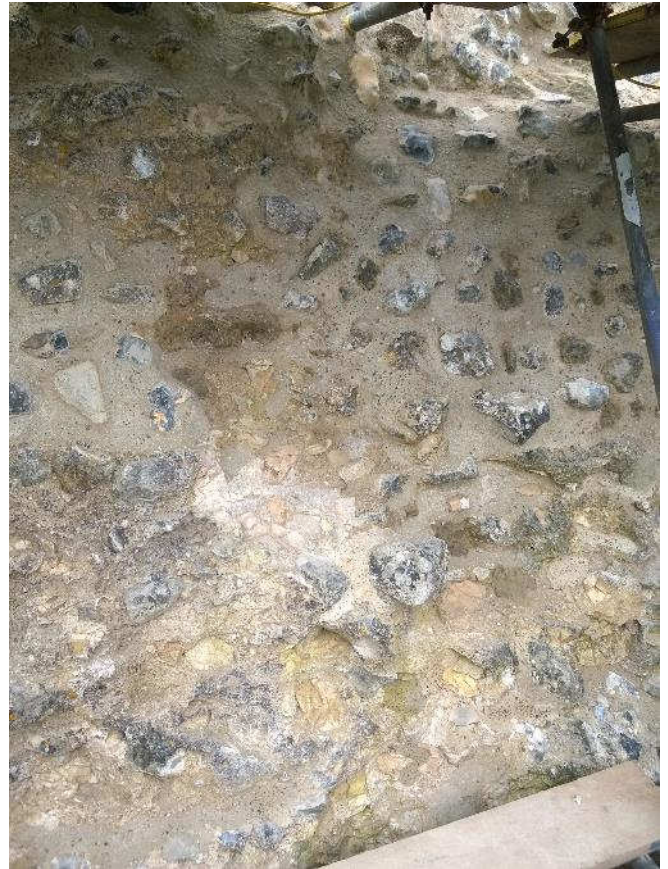
Bay 5A&B As Built (above) Existing (below)



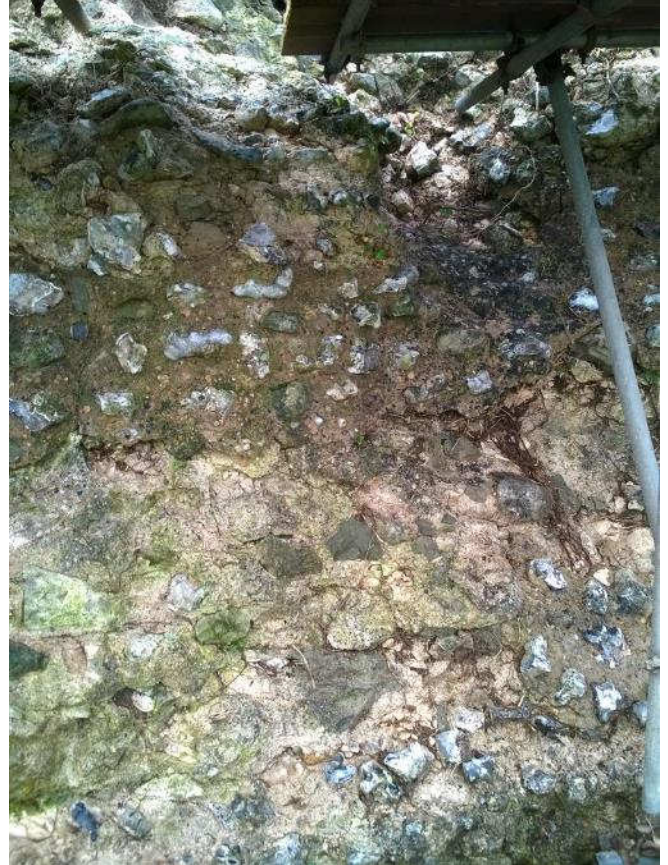
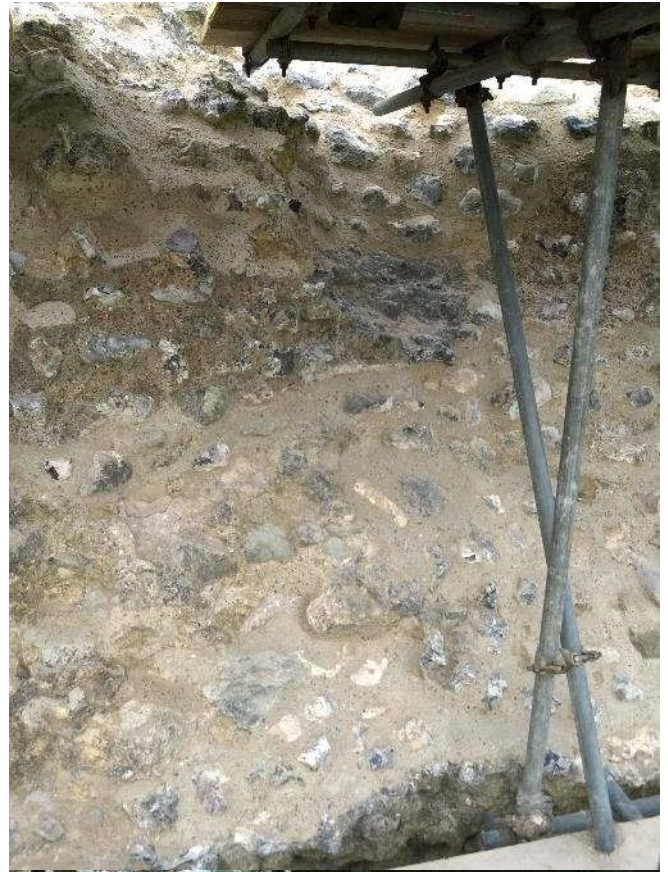
Bay 6A&B As Built (above) Existing (below)



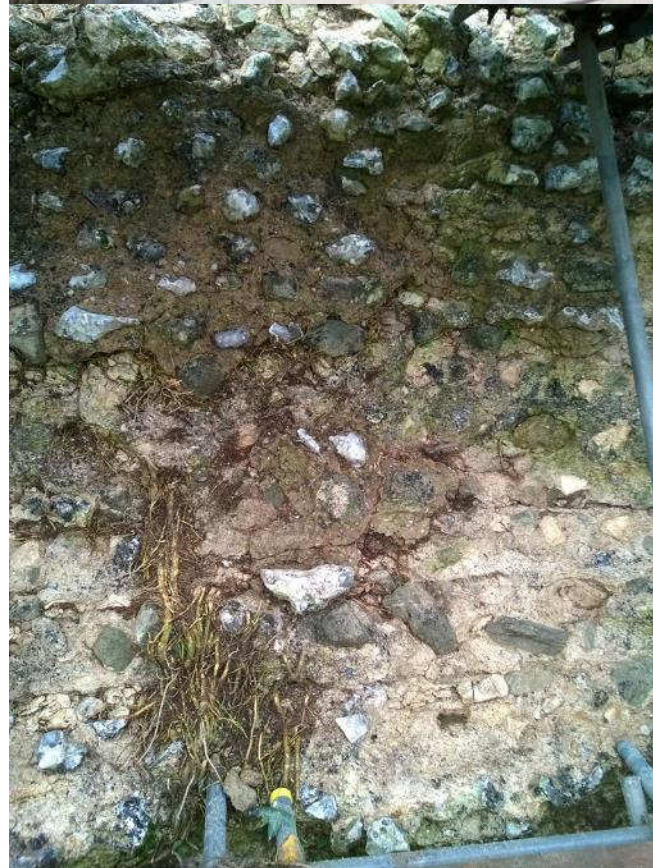
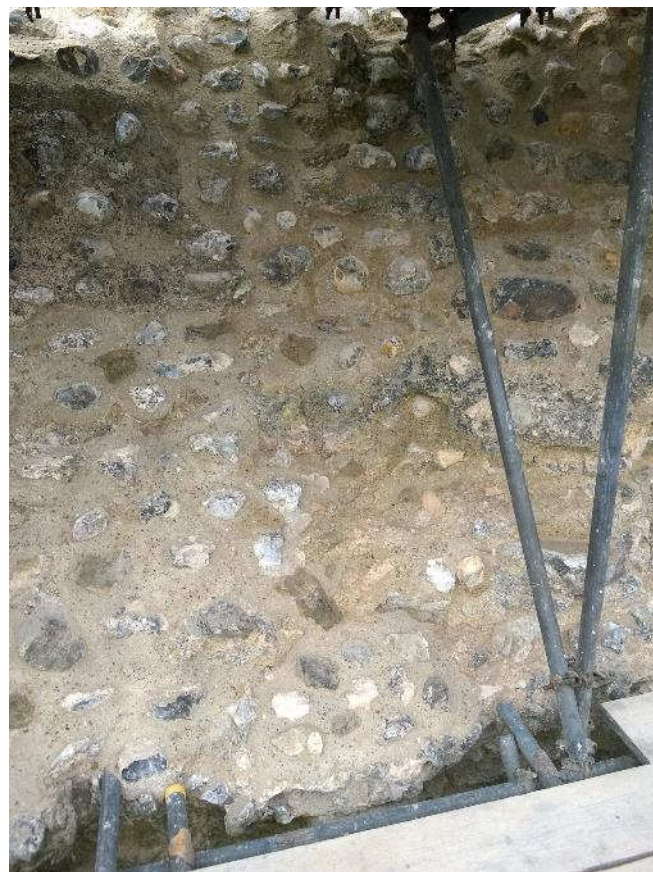
Bay 7A&B As Built (above) Existing (below)



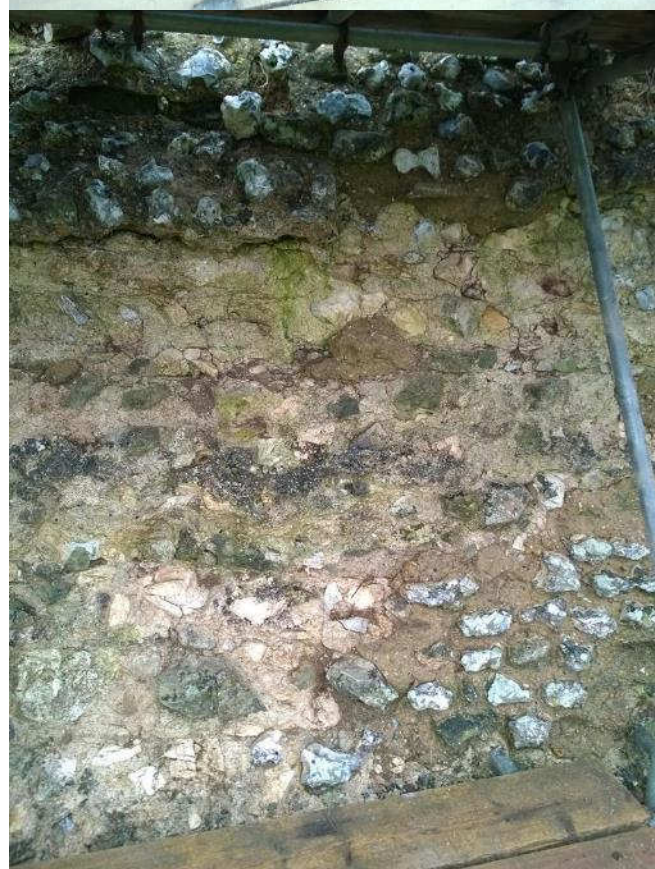
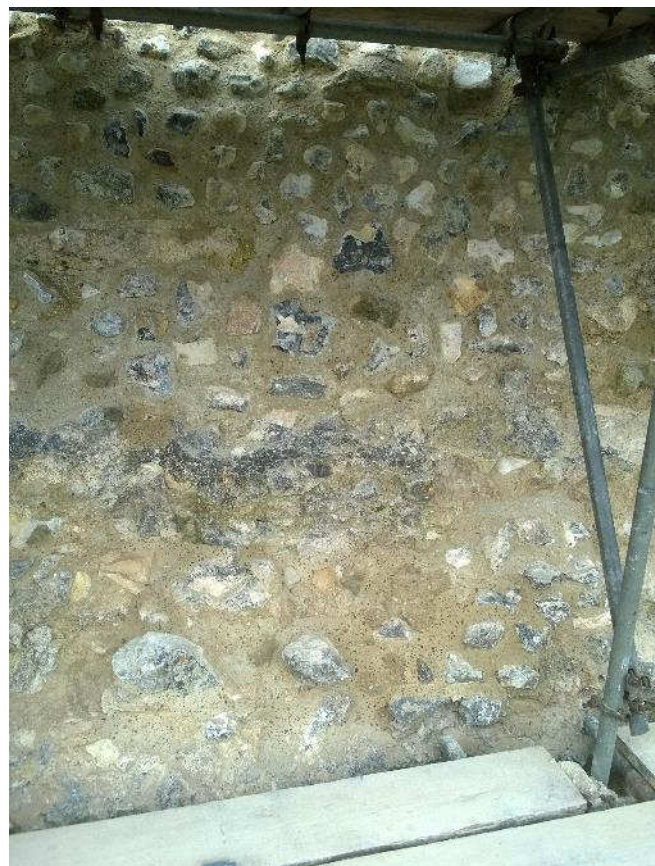
Bay 8A&B As Built (above) Existing (below)



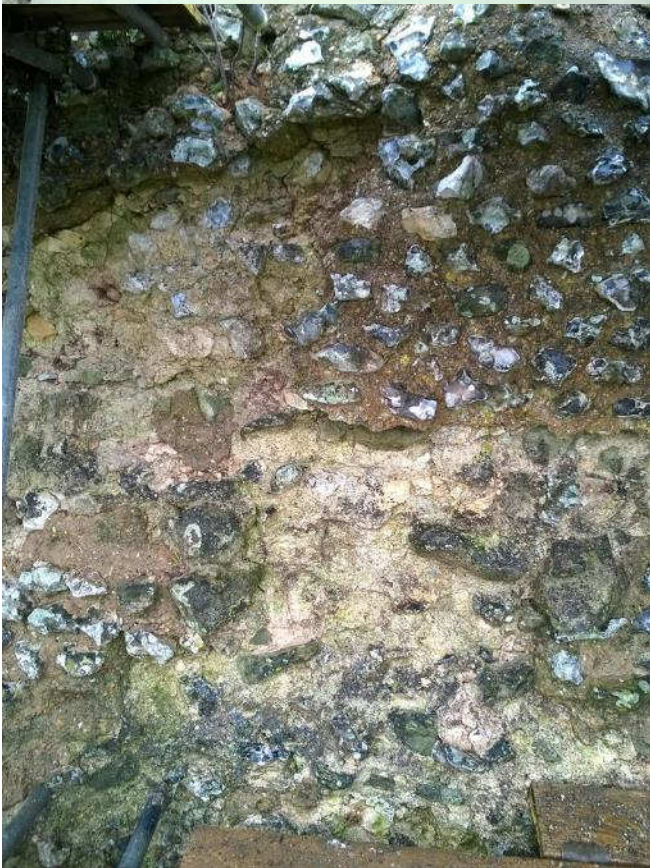
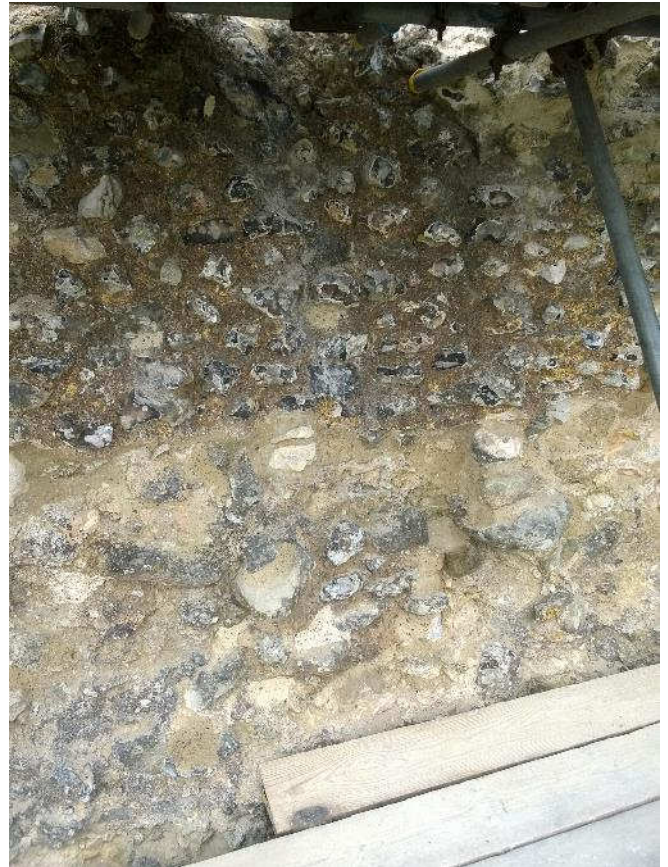
Bay 9A&B As Built (above) Existing (below)



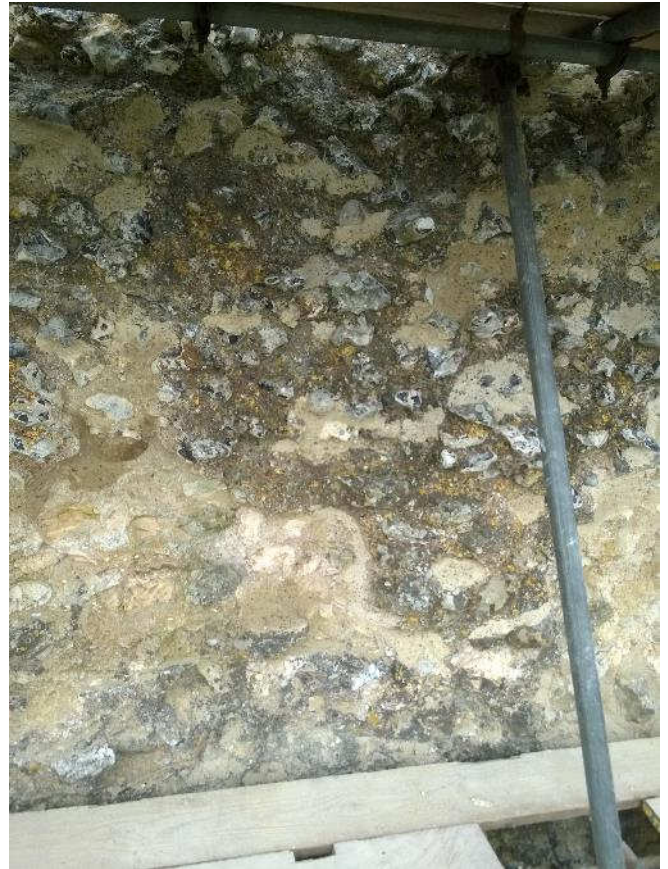
Bay 10A&B As Built (above) Existing (below)



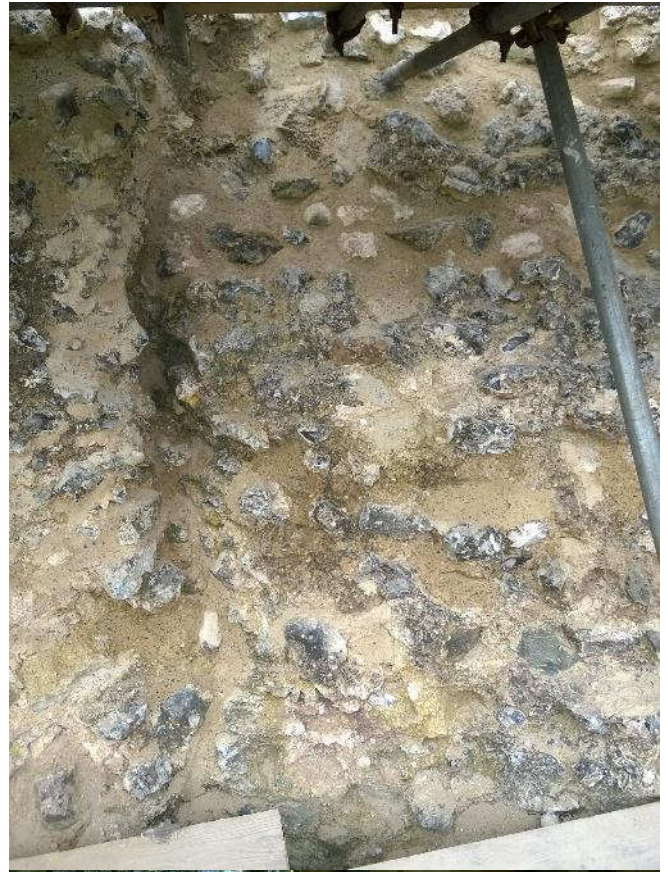
Bay 11A&B As Built (above) Existing (below)



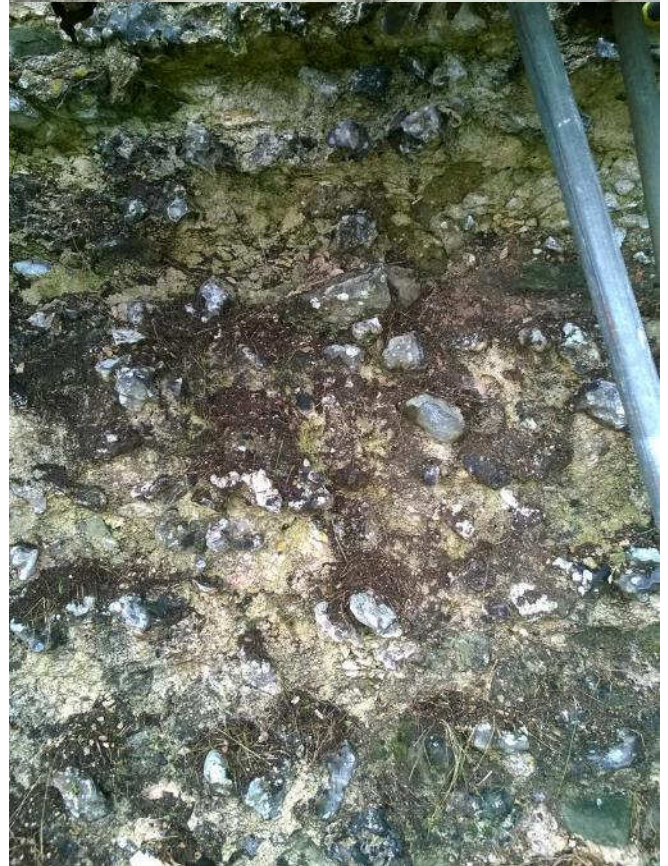
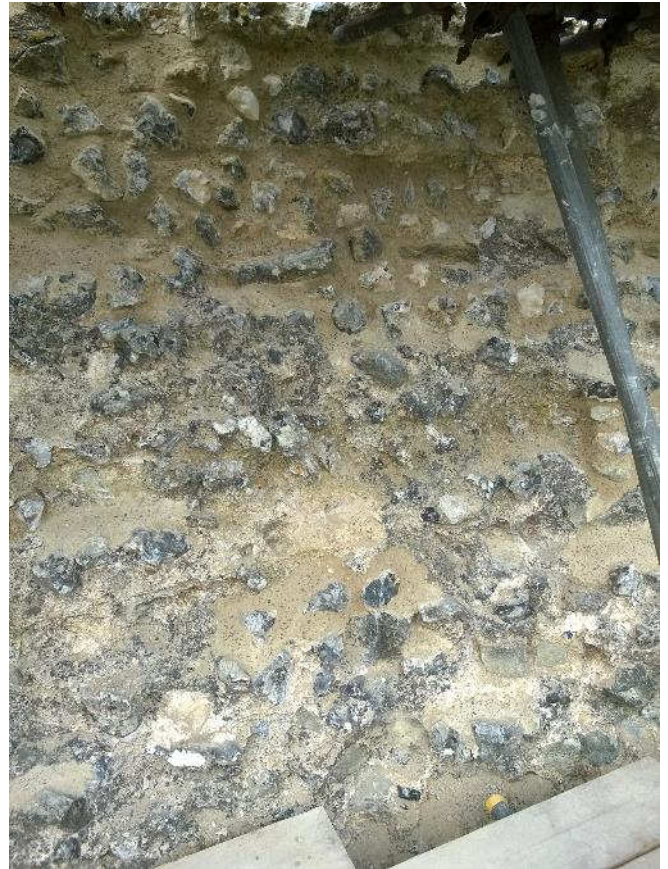
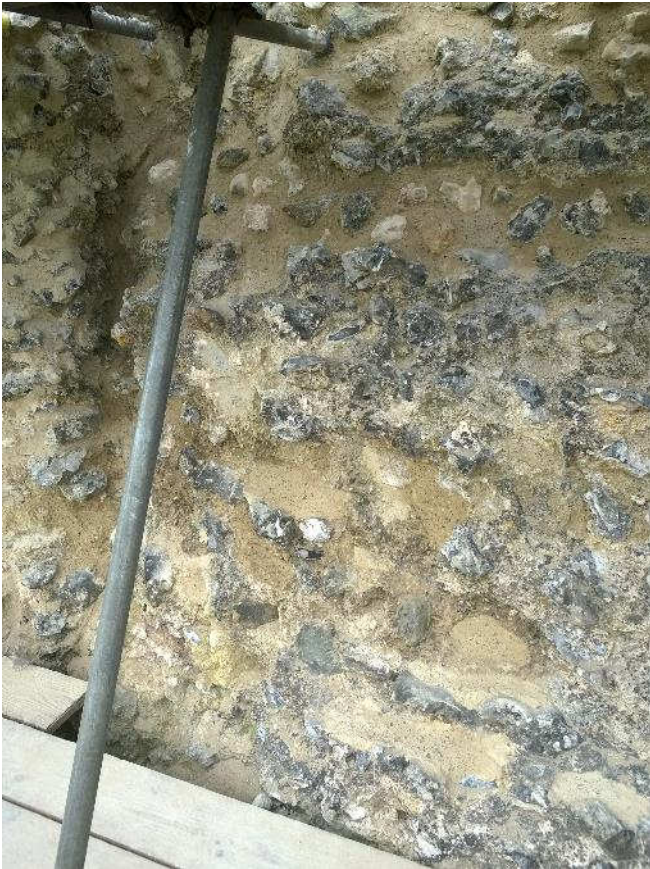
Bay 12A&B As Built (above) Existing (below)



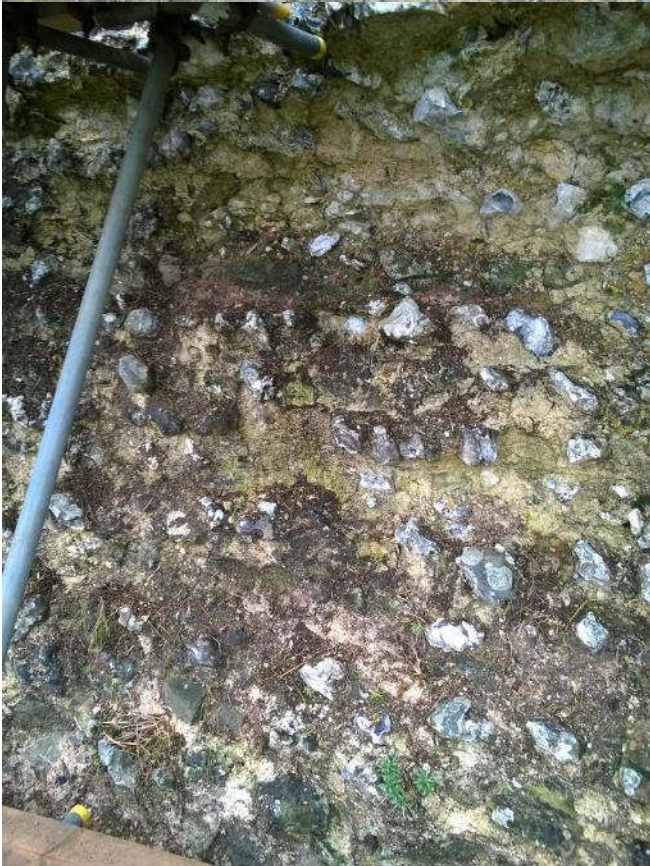
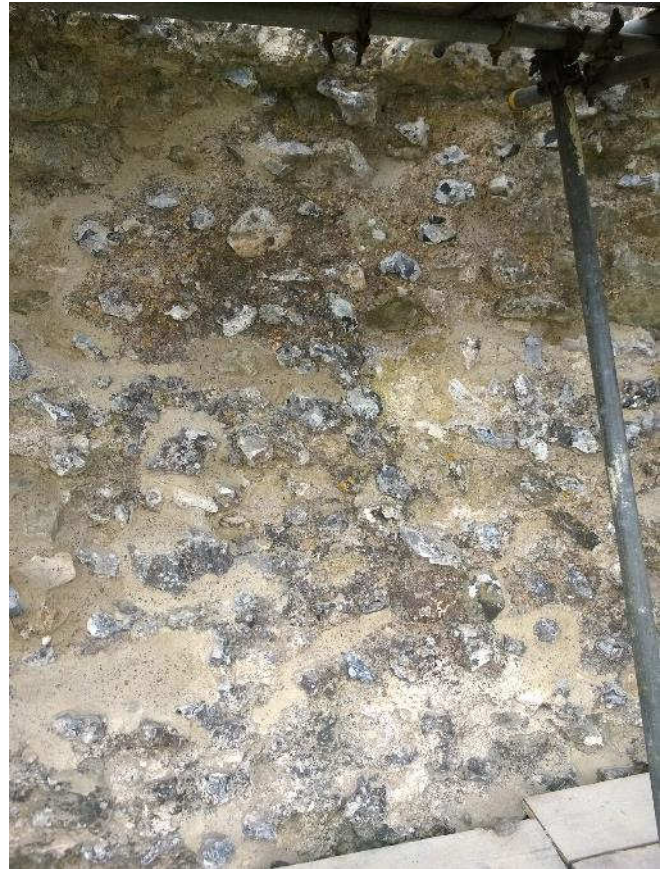
Bay 13A&B As Built (above) Existing (below)



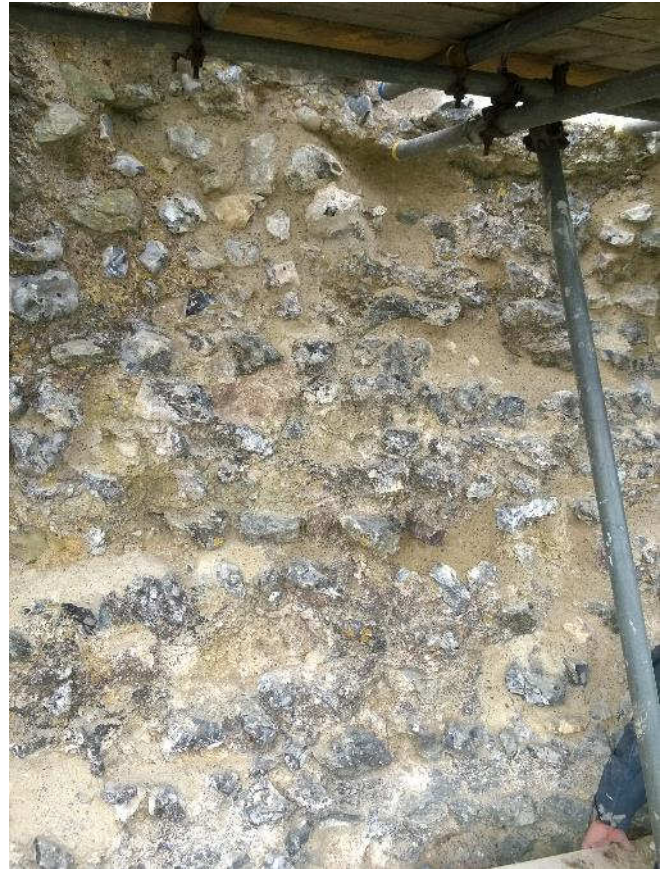
Bay 14A&B As Built (above) Existing (below)



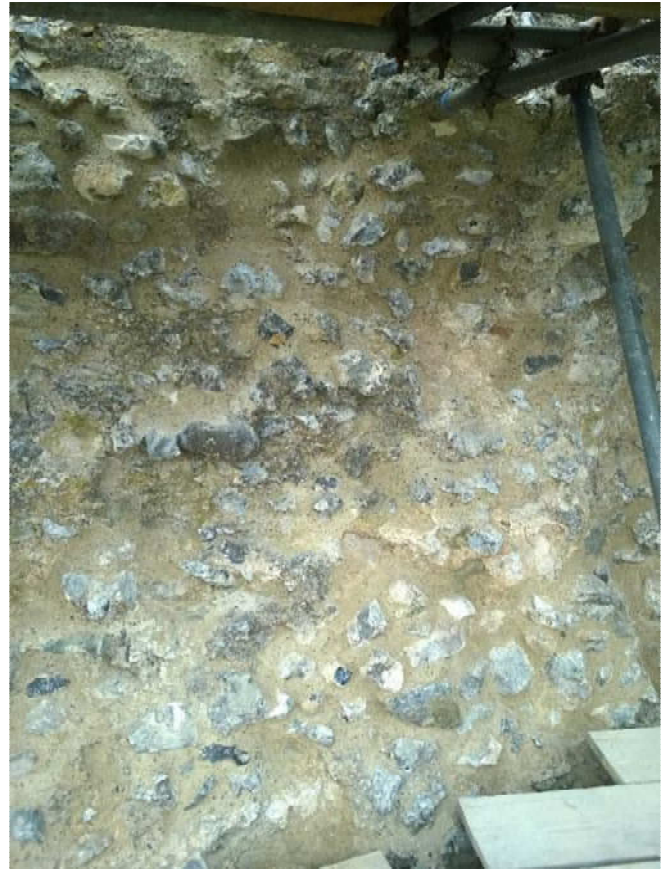
Bay 15A&B As Built (above) Existing (below)



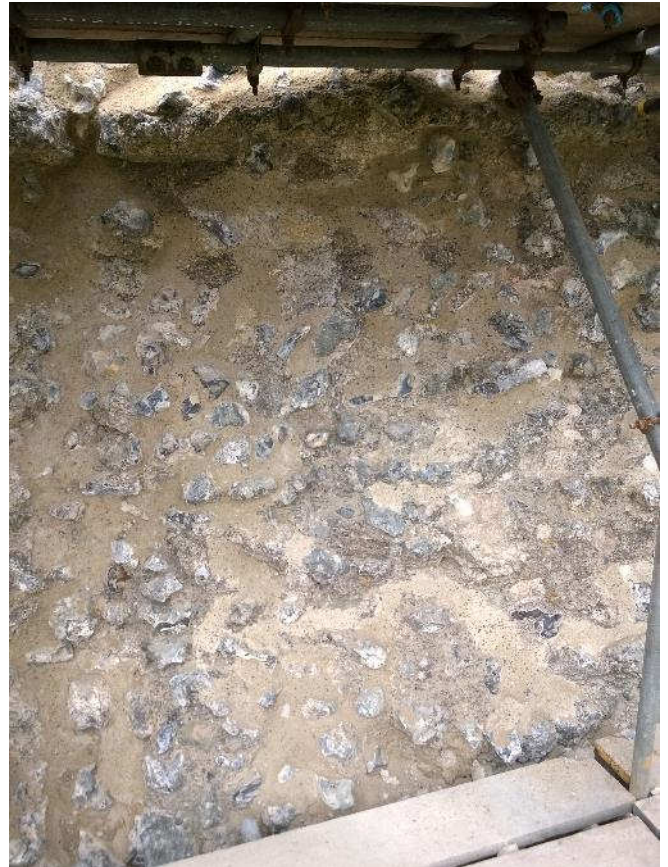
Bay 16A&B As Built (above) Existing (below)



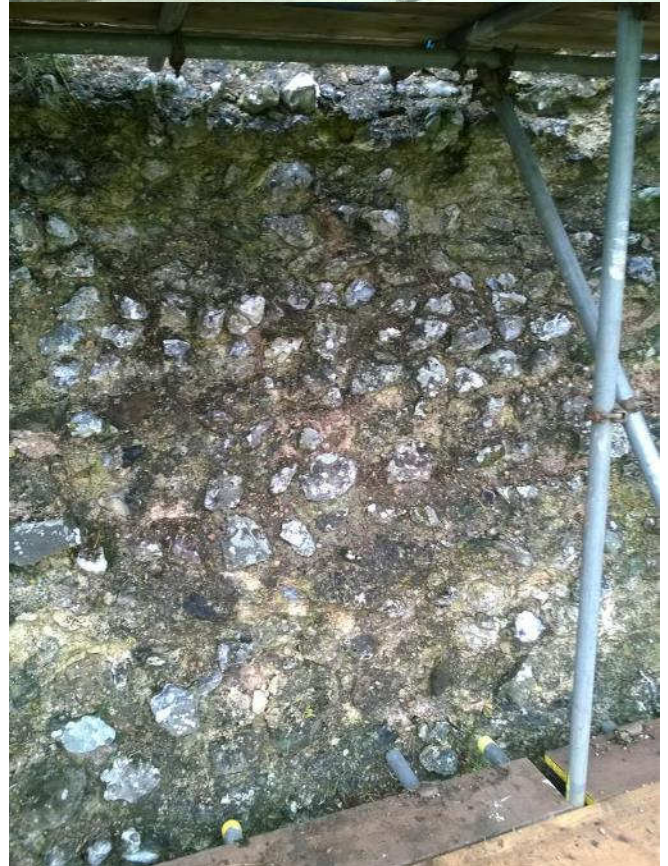
Bay 17A&B As Built (above) Existing (below)



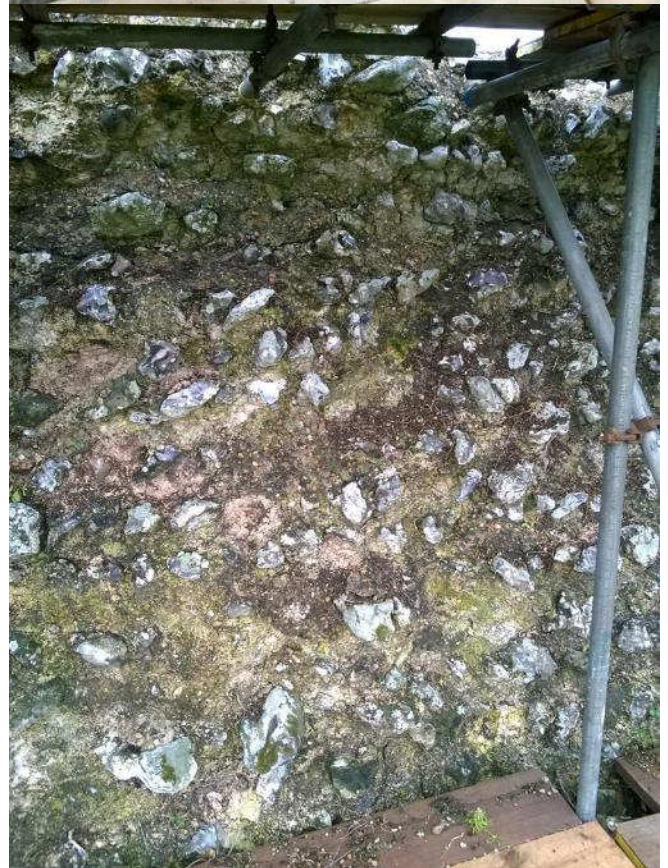
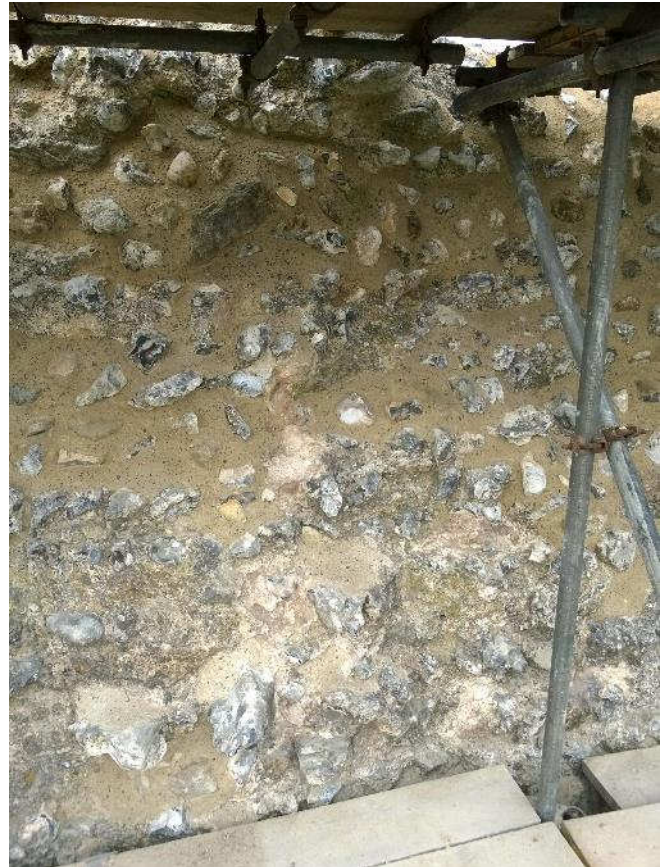
Bay 18A&B As Built (above) Existing (below)



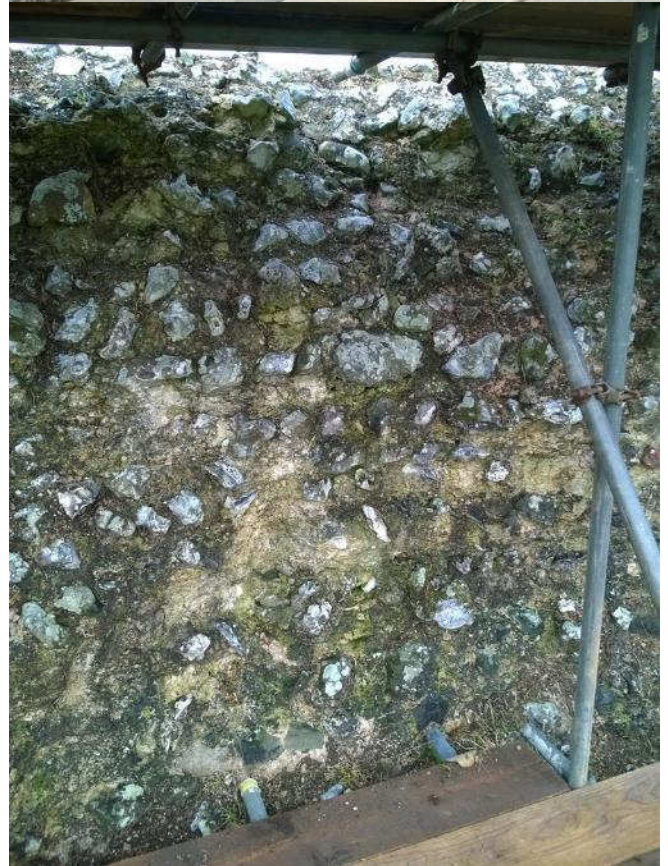
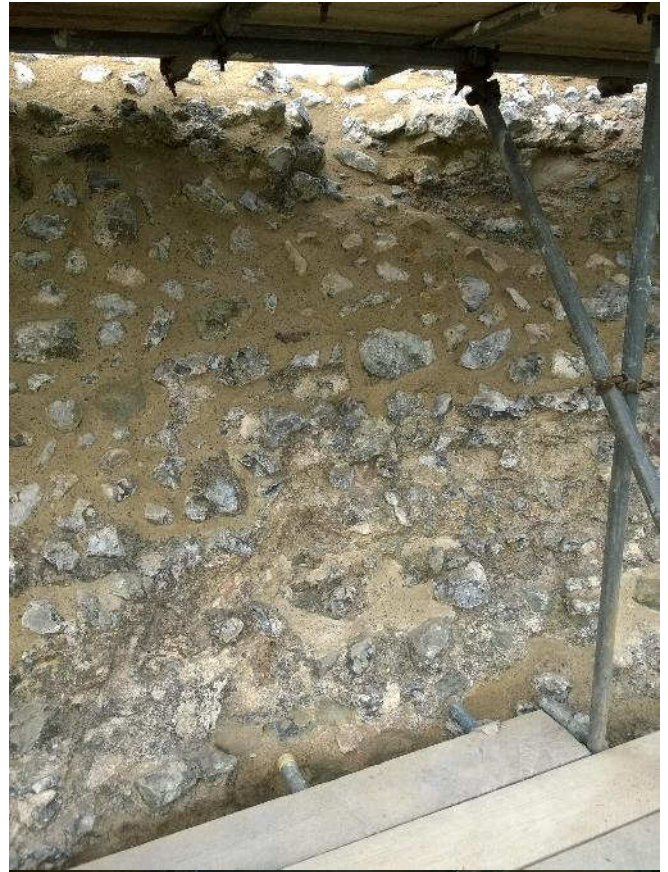
Bay 19A&B As Built (above) Existing (below)



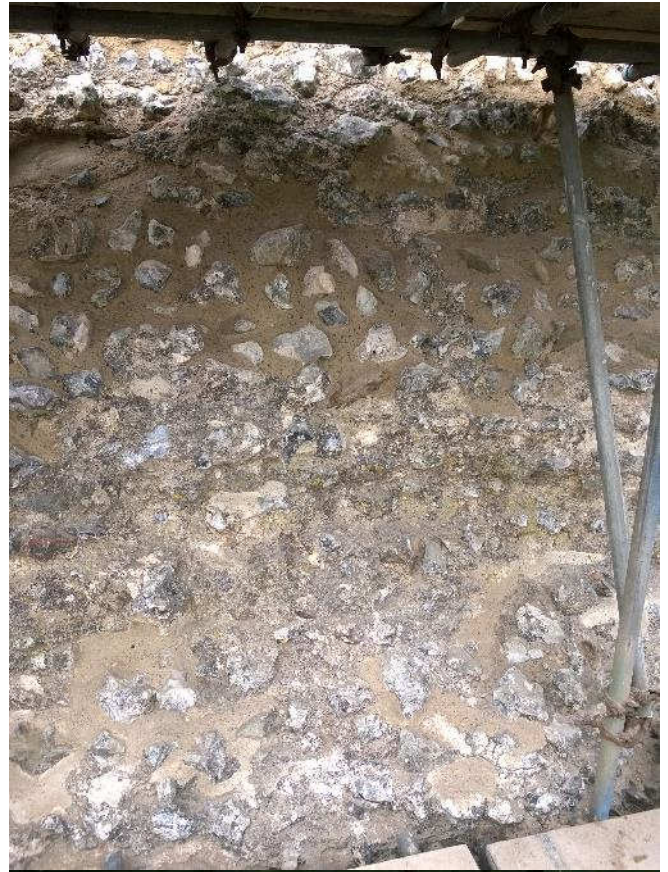
Bay 20A&B As Built (above) Existing (below)



Bay 21A&B As Built (above) Existing (below)



Bay 22A&B As Built (above) Existing (below)



Bay 23A&B As Built (above) Existing (below)



Bay 24A&B As Built (above) Existing (below)

Pevensey Castle Outer Curtain Wall Repairs
Phase 1 – Top Scaffold Lift



(No before photo available)



(No before photo available)





T5 After



T6 After



T5 Before



T6 Before



T7 After



T8 After



T7 Before



T8 Before





T13 After



T14 After



T13 Before



T14 Before



T15 After



T16 After



T15 Before



T16 Before



T17 After



T18 After



T17 Before



T18 Before



T19 After



T20 After



T19 Before



T20 Before



T21 After



T22 After



T21 Before



T22 Before



T23 After



T23 Before



T24 After



T24 Before



T25 After



T26 After



T25 Before



T26 Before



T27 After



T28 After



T27 Before



T28 Before



T29 After



T30 After



T29 Before



T30 Before





T35 After



T36 After



T35 Before



T36 Before



T37 After



T38 After



T37 Before



T38 Before

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