

CPAT Report No. 1648

Kenilworth Castle, Warwickshire




Archaeological Watching Brief



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Client name: English Heritage
 CPAT Project No: 2334
 Project Name: Kenilworth Castle, Warwickshire
 Grid Reference: SP 27965 72287
 County/LPA: Warwickshire/Warwick
 CPAT Report No: 1648
 Report status: Final
 Confidential until: March 2020

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8 March 2019	11 March 2019	12 March 2019

Bibliographic reference: Logan, W., 2019. *Kenilworth Castle, Warwickshire: Archaeological Watching Brief*. Unpublished report. CPAT No. 1648.



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 with the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists

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Summary

In March 2019 the Clwyd-Powys Archaeological Trust (CPAT) undertook a watching brief on behalf of English Heritage during the groundworks for a drain adjacent to the tearooms within the scheduled area at Kenilworth Castle, Warwickshire.

The groundworks revealed a 19th-century brick surface in front of the tea rooms, overlying an undated deposit containing industrial residues. Sandstone encountered in the base of the trench appeared to be a naturally derived rather than part of a structure. No artefacts were excavated in the course of the groundworks.

1 Introduction

- 1.1. The Clwyd-Powys Archaeological Trust (CPAT) was invited by English Heritage to undertake a watching brief during the groundworks for a drain adjacent to the tearooms at Kenilworth Castle, Warwickshire (SP 27965 72287). The castle is designated as a Grade I listed building (1035327) and as a Scheduled Monument (1014041), lying within a grade II* registered park and garden (100496).



Fig. 1 Location of groundworks (marked in red). Reproduced from English Heritage plan.

- 1.2. The groundworks were subject to Scheduled Monument Consent (SMC), which was approved in January 2019 with the inclusion of the following condition:

(8) Any works to which this consent relates shall be carried out under the archaeological supervision of Clwyd-Powys Archaeological Trust in accordance with their WSI.

(9) A report on the archaeological recording shall be sent to the Warwickshire Historic Environment Record and to Nicholas Molyneux at Historic England

within 3 months of the completion of the works (or such other period as may be mutually agreed).

- 1.3. A Written Scheme of Investigation (see Appendix 1) was produced by CPAT and submitted in support of the SMC application.

2 Historical Background

- 2.1. Kenilworth Castle is located in the town of the same name in Warwickshire. Constructed from Norman through to Tudor times, the castle has been described by architectural historian Anthony Emery as 'the finest surviving example of a semi-royal palace of the later middle ages, significant for its scale, form and quality of workmanship.' Kenilworth has also played an important historical role. The castle was the subject of the six-month-long Siege of Kenilworth in 1266, thought to be the longest siege in medieval English history, and formed a base for Lancastrian operations in the Wars of the Roses. Kenilworth was also the scene of the removal of Edward II from the English throne, the French insult to Henry V in 1414 (said by John Strecche to have encouraged the Agincourt campaign), and the Earl of Leicester's lavish reception of Elizabeth I in 1575.
- 2.2. The castle was built over several centuries. Founded in the 1120s around a powerful Norman great tower, the castle was enlarged significantly by King John at the beginning of the 13th century. Huge water defences were created by damming the local streams, and the resulting fortifications proved able to withstand assaults by land and water in 1266. John of Gaunt spent lavishly in the late 14th century, turning the medieval castle into a palace fortress designed in the latest perpendicular style. The Earl of Leicester then expanded the castle once again, constructing new Tudor buildings and exploiting the medieval heritage of Kenilworth to produce a fashionable Renaissance palace.
- 2.3. Kenilworth was partly destroyed by Parliamentary forces in 1649 to prevent it being used as a military stronghold. Ruined, only two of its buildings remain habitable today. The castle became a tourist destination from the 18th century onwards, becoming famous in the Victorian period following the publishing of Sir Walter Scott's novel Kenilworth in 1821. English Heritage has managed the castle since 1984. The castle is designated as a Grade I listed building (1035327) and as a Scheduled Monument (1014041).
- 2.4. The groundworks themselves are located to the east of the castle grounds, close to the west elevation of the tearoom. This building was formerly a stable block, referred to as Lord Leicester's Stables. It was constructed in the 16th century, replacing a smaller stable block dating from the 14th or 15th century. A considerable amount of buried archaeological structures and deposits, have been revealed by groundworks in and around the stables including the remains of medieval buildings predating the stables.

3 Watching Brief

- 3.1. The work was carried out on March 6 2019 in accordance with the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists' (CIfA) *Standard and Guidance for an Archaeological Watching Brief* (2014).
- 3.2. The groundworks consisted of a single hand-excavated trench some 2.5m in length, 0.25m in width and up to 0.37m deep. The presence of several drains feeding into the north end of the trench meant that the base of the trench was filled with water. Three contexts were identified.



Fig. 2 View of the stables from the north-east, showing the location of the groundworks. Photo CPAT 4607-0006

- 3.3. The uppermost context was a surface (001) constructed from frogged bricks (size: 100mm by 80mm by 220mm), laid on edge and bonded with mortar. Removal of this surface revealed a rather soft, cohesive, reddish sand and gravel layer (002), >0.22m thick, containing frequent charcoal or possibly coal inclusions, but no artefactual material to indicate a date. Red sandstone (003) was encountered underlying this at the southern extent of the trenching. This did not appear to comprise part of a structure, and is likely to be bedrock, although it was difficult to confirm this within the rather confined limits of the excavated area.



Fig. 3 View of the trenching from the south-west. Photo CPAT 4607-0001



Fig. 4 View of the groundworks from the west following installation of the pipework. Photo CPAT 4607-0007

4 Conclusions

- 4.1. The watching brief revealed no significant archaeological deposits, uncovering a mid to late 19th-century brick surface in front of the tea rooms. The underlying deposit seemed to be rather industrial in date, with small hardened pieces of burnt material, probably coal residue, but without any associated artefactual evidence to indicate a likely date. Sandstone at the south extent of the trench appeared to be a natural outcropping, although this could not be confirmed within the confines of the trench. No artefacts were excavated in the course of the groundworks.

5 Sources

Online Sources

www.historicengland.org.uk/listing/the-list/list-entry/1000496 (accessed March 2019)

www.ourwarwickshire.org.uk/content/catalogue_her/lord-leicesters-stables-kenilworth-castle (accessed March 2019)

Published Sources

Morris, R. K., 2015, *English Heritage Guide Books: Kenilworth Castle*, English Heritage

6 Archive deposition Statement

- 6.1. The project archive has been prepared according to the CPAT Archive Policy and in line with the CIfA *Standard and guidance for the creation, compilation, transfer and deposition of archaeological archives guidance* (2014). The archive which will be digital only will be deposited with English Heritage. No artefacts were recovered in the course of this work.

Archive summary

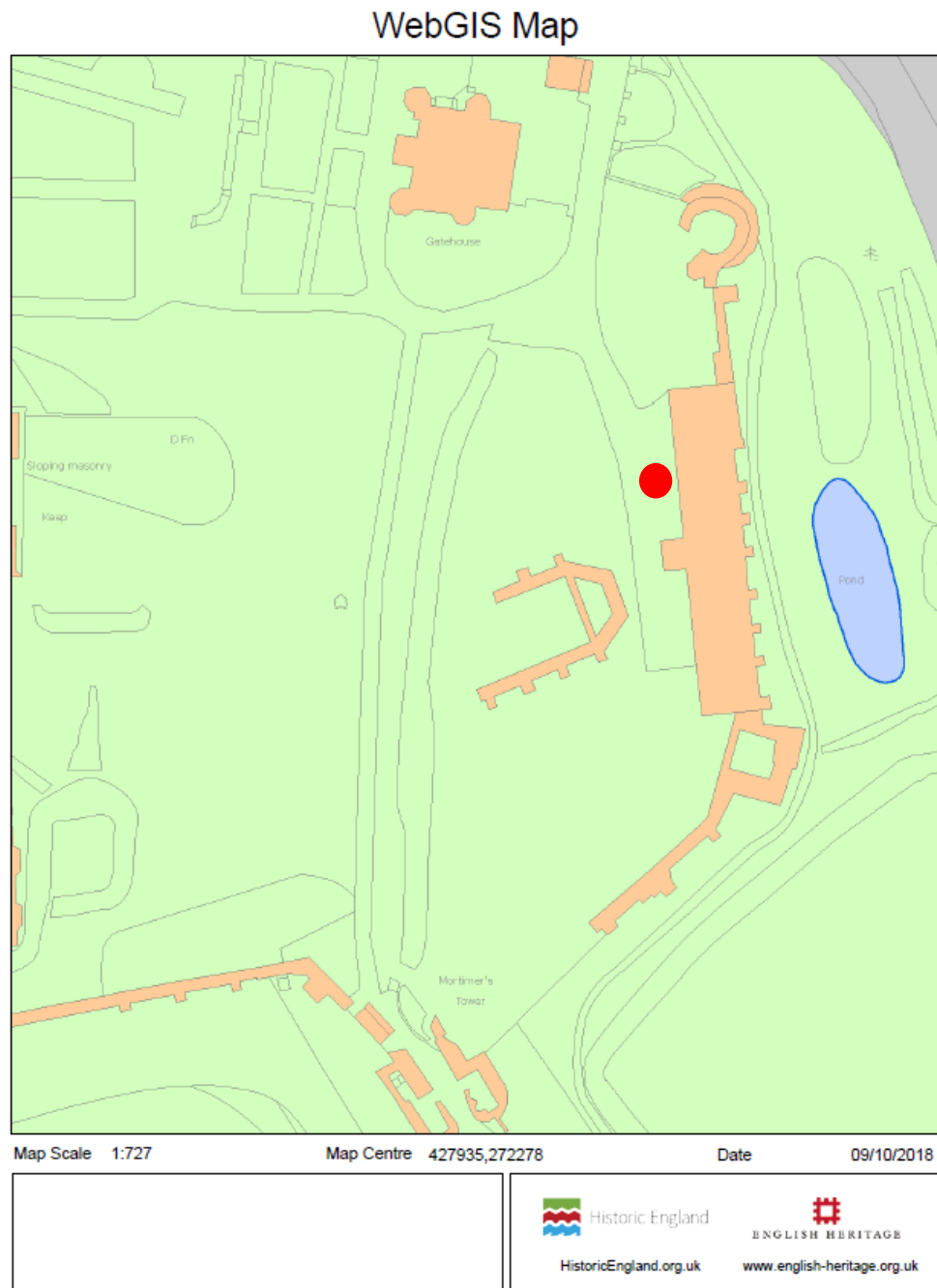
1 Watching brief visit form

7 digital photographs, CPAT film no 4607

Appendix 1: CPAT WSI 1999

7 Introduction

- 7.1. The Clwyd-Powys Archaeological Trust (CPAT) have been invited by English Heritage to undertake a watching brief during the groundworks for a drain adjacent to the tearooms at Kenilworth Castle, Warwickshire (SP 2794 7216).



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Fig. 1 Location of drainage works (in red)

- 7.2. Two rainwater gullies (Figs 1-3) outside the main entrance to Leicester's Stables (used as a tearoom) are frequently slow-draining and cause a large amount of silt to build up in the area, causing a significant slip hazard. The gullies are connected A through B, to soakaway 1 which, owing to its size and age, has insufficient capacity for the area of run off.
- 7.3. The proposals include the forming of a second connection at gully A, 20mm above the existing outlet going to soakaway 1, leading to an alternative, pre-existing drain run, which passes underneath the stables and out to a larger soakaway 2 (see Fig. 2), via inspection chamber C.
- 7.4. Gully hole A will need to be excavated to approximately 1000mm by 1000mm wide and 450mm deep to allow for a silt bucket and concrete surround, and to link the gully to inlet level in inspection chamber C. The existing surface brickwork will be re-laid on top. A watching brief will be maintained during these works.

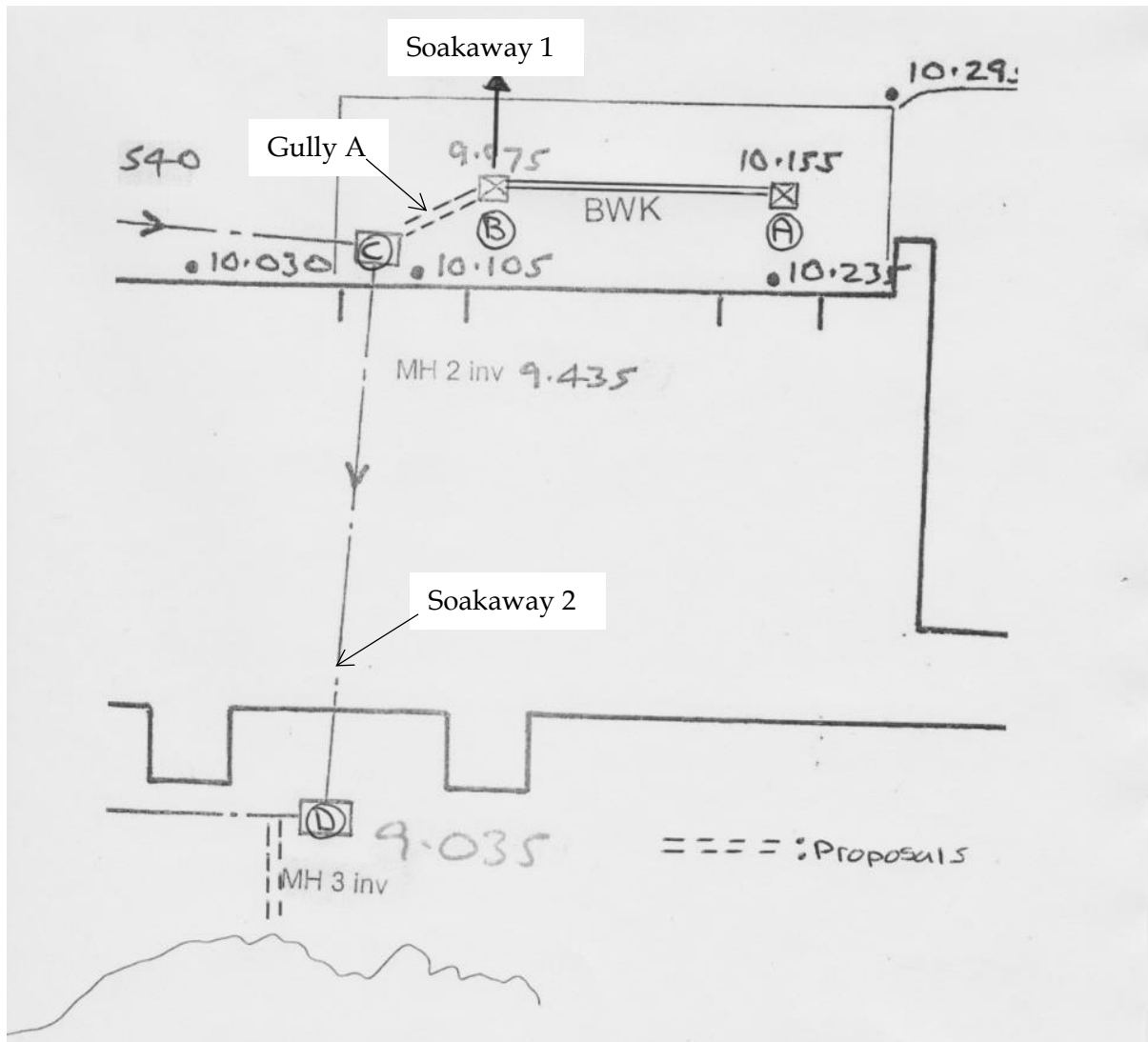


Fig. 2 Drainage layout



Fig. 3 Location of Gully A connection to be subject to the watching brief

8 Historic Background

- 8.1. Kenilworth Castle is located in the town of the same name in Warwickshire. Constructed from Norman through to Tudor times, the castle has been described by architectural historian Anthony Emery as 'the finest surviving example of a semi-royal palace of the later middle ages, significant for its scale, form and quality of workmanship.' Kenilworth has also played an important historical role. The castle was the subject of the six-month-long Siege of Kenilworth in 1266, thought to be the longest siege in medieval English history, and formed a base for Lancastrian operations in the Wars of the Roses. Kenilworth was also the scene of the removal of Edward II from the English throne, the French insult to Henry V in 1414 (said by John Strecche to have encouraged the Agincourt campaign), and the Earl of Leicester's lavish reception of Elizabeth I in 1575.
- 8.2. The castle was built over several centuries. Founded in the 1120s around a powerful Norman great tower, the castle was enlarged significantly by King John at the beginning of the 13th century. Huge water defences were created by damming the local streams, and the resulting fortifications proved able to withstand assaults by land and water in 1266. John of Gaunt spent lavishly in the late 14th century, turning the medieval castle into a palace fortress designed in the latest perpendicular style. The Earl of Leicester then expanded the castle once again, constructing new Tudor

buildings and exploiting the medieval heritage of Kenilworth to produce a fashionable Renaissance palace.

- 8.3. Kenilworth was partly destroyed by Parliamentary forces in 1649 to prevent it being used as a military stronghold. Ruined, only two of its buildings remain habitable today. The castle became a tourist destination from the 18th century onwards, becoming famous in the Victorian period following the publishing of Sir Walter Scott's novel *Kenilworth* in 1821. English Heritage has managed the castle since 1984. The castle is designated as a Grade I listed building (1035327) and as a Scheduled Monument (1014041).

9 Methodology

- 9.1. The watching brief will be conducted according to the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists' (CIfA) *Standard and Guidance for an Archaeological Watching Brief* (2014). The watching brief will be undertaken to monitor groundworks associated with the construction of the new detached recreational building. The excavation of any archaeological features or deposits will be undertaken by hand using the conventional techniques for archaeological excavation:
- The presence or absence of archaeological features encountered during the ground works will be noted.
 - Where features of archaeological interest are identified during the ground works they will be systematically investigated by hand with sufficient work being undertaken to determine their date, character and function, using the conventional techniques for archaeological excavation and in accordance with CIfA Standard and Guidance.
 - All features will be located as accurately as possible on an overall plan of the development at an appropriate scale, showing boundaries depicted on Ordnance Survey mapping.
 - Contexts will be recorded on individual record forms, using a continuous numbering system, and be drawn and photographed as appropriate.
 - Plans will be drawn on permatrace to a scale of 1:10, 1:20 or 1:50, as appropriate.
 - All photography will be taken using a digital SLR camera with a minimum resolution of 8 mega pixels, including a metric scale in each view, with views logged in a photographic register.
 - In the event of human burials being discovered the Ministry of Justice will be informed. The remains will initially be left *in situ*, and if removal is required, a MoJ licences will be applied for under the Burial Act 1857.
 - In the event of finding any artefacts covered by the provisions of the Treasures Act 1996, the appropriate procedures under this legislation will be followed.
- 9.2. All artefacts and environmental samples will be treated in a manner appropriate to their composition and a sampling strategy will be developed as appropriate:
- All stratified finds will be collected by context, or where appropriate, individually recorded in three dimensions. Unstratified finds will only be

collected where they contribute significantly to the project objectives or are of particular intrinsic interest.

- All finds and samples will be collected, processed, sorted, quantified, recorded, labelled, packed, stored, marked, assessed, analysed and conserved in a manner appropriate to their composition and in line with appropriate guidance.
- arrangements to assess and study any artefacts, assemblages and environment samples.
- Any artefacts recovered during the evaluation will be deposited in the English Heritage collection.

9.3. Following the on-site work an illustrated report will be prepared containing conventional sections to include:

- Non-technical summary
- Introduction
- Site location
- Archaeological Background
- Watching brief
- Conclusions
- References
- Appropriate appendices on archives and finds

9.4. In addition to copies submitted to the client, a copy of the report will be provided to the regional Historic Environment Record.

9.5. The site archive will be ordered, catalogued, labelled and conserved and stored according to the UKIC Guidelines for the preparation of excavation archives for long-term storage and the *CifA Standard and Guidance for the Creation, Compilation, Transfer and Deposition of Archaeological Archives* (2014). The project archive will be deposited in the English Heritage collection within 12 months, while any artefacts will be deposited in the English Heritage collection, with the permission of the freeholder, Kenilworth Town Council.

10 Resources and Programming

10.1. The watching brief will be undertaken by a skilled archaeologist under the overall supervision of Nigel Jones, a senior member of CPAT's staff who is also a member of the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CifA). CPAT is also a CifA Registered Organisation (RAO No 6) and as such agrees to abide by their *Code of Conduct* (2014) and the *Code of Approved Practice for the Regulation of Contractual Arrangements in Field Archaeology* (2014).

10.2. All report preparation will be completed by or with the assistance of the same field archaeologist(s) who conducted the site work. Copies of the report will be deposited with the client and the regional Historic Environment Record within one month of the completion of on-site works.

10.3. The client should be aware that in the event that significant archaeological remains are revealed there may be a requirement for more detailed excavation and specialist

services. Any further work over and above the original watching brief and report would be the subject of a separate WSI and costing.

- 10.4. Requirements relating to Health and Safety regulations will be adhered to by CPAT and its staff.
- 10.5. CPAT is covered by appropriate Public and Employer's Liability insurance, as well as Professional Indemnity insurance.

N W Jones

5 November 2018