
**WALWORTH CASTLE
WALWORTH
DARLINGTON**

HISTORIC BUILDING RECORD



MAY 2022



**The Archaeological
Practice Ltd.**



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Frontispiece: Screen capture from a 3D model of Walworth Castle, viewed from the south-west, captured in May 2022 by Gianluca Foschi.

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SUMMARY

A programme of building recording has been carried out at Walworth Castle as part of a historic buildings recording project within the Bright Water Landscape Partnership programme. To accompany a written description of the building, enhancement of an existing ground plan was carried out by Peter Ryder, historic buildings consultant, and photographic recording undertaken in April 2022 by colour digital photography using a Panasonic DMC-FZ1000. The visual record of the building was further enhanced by means of a digital 3D laser scan of the North Range carried out in April, 2022. In addition, an attempt was made to research the history of the building through locally available historic maps and records.

The castle consists of four ranges surrounding a small courtyard, now roofed over. The south range is three-storeyed, with a projecting block (the former entrance) in the centre of its north side and taller round towers at its southern angles; two-storeyed ranges, set at a slightly skew angle, extend north, to be linked by the lower north-range, whilst the courtyard thus enclosed is now infilled by a single-storey block. Extending west from the north end of the west range is a long wing built as school accommodation in the 1950s, and replacing an older stable range.

The castle is an important building that has never been examined in detail; most accounts refer to it as a house of c. 1600 built by Thomas Jennison, although more recently it has been recognised that an earlier building is incorporated within. As noted by Pevsner, the gunloops in the south-west tower suggest a building date no later than the early 16th century; he also rightly points out that the change in alignment between the south range and the former courtyard and its wings is too great to be accidental, and must result from both parts following earlier structures which could be medieval in origin, potentially as early as 13th century.

Whatever the date of the pre-Jennison building, the south-west tower gunloops enable the house to be classified as either a castle or a fortified manor house. It is possible that a straight joint (actually a slight off-set) towards the west end of the south front, sometimes seen as indicative of a change of build, may instead simply reflect the hall/solar division of a medieval house, with the south-west tower placed at the corner of the medieval solar. The remainder of the south range would then have contained the hall, and perhaps service rooms at the east end, where there still appears to be evidence of pre-Jennison openings in the east wall.

The west range, set at its rather oblique angle to the south range, also has walls in excess of 1.0 m thick on the east and is also probably medieval. The former entrance block and east range appears to be part of the Jennison rebuilding of c.1600, while all that can be said of the much-altered north range is that it appears on the Tithe Map of 1835.

The only plans of the building traced are a set made by Trevor Welch, Chartered Architect of Bishop Auckland and acquired by the National Monuments Record in 1980; they are not wholly satisfactory as regards wall thicknesses (they show both towers as having walls of approximately the same thickness), and in addition there have been considerable alterations since they were made. Complications due to the Covid pandemic and the necessity to maintain a working hotel business severely restricted internal access to the castle during the period of investigation, thereby preventing detailed survey work to comprehensively update these existing ground plans of the Castle, an undertaking which would greatly assist in the interpretation of the building.

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 Project Background

Walworth, a township within the parish of Heighington, stands 7 km north-west of Darlington, on gently-rising ground commanding a wide prospect southward over the broad valley, or vale, of the Tees. Walworth Castle (centred upon NGR: *NZ 23135 18843*) is situated at the centre of the present-day hamlet of Walworth and is positioned immediately south of substantial earthworks associated with Walworth Deserted Medieval Village (DMV), which is a scheduled ancient monument (Monument No. SM 20872, HA 1011256; DHER H1568).

The bedrock here is Magnesian Limestone, a creamy and rather friable stone which here is not of sufficient quality to permit its use as ashlar or cut dressings. There are a number of limestone quarries in the immediate neighbourhood of Walworth which may have supplied material for construction of the castle and village.

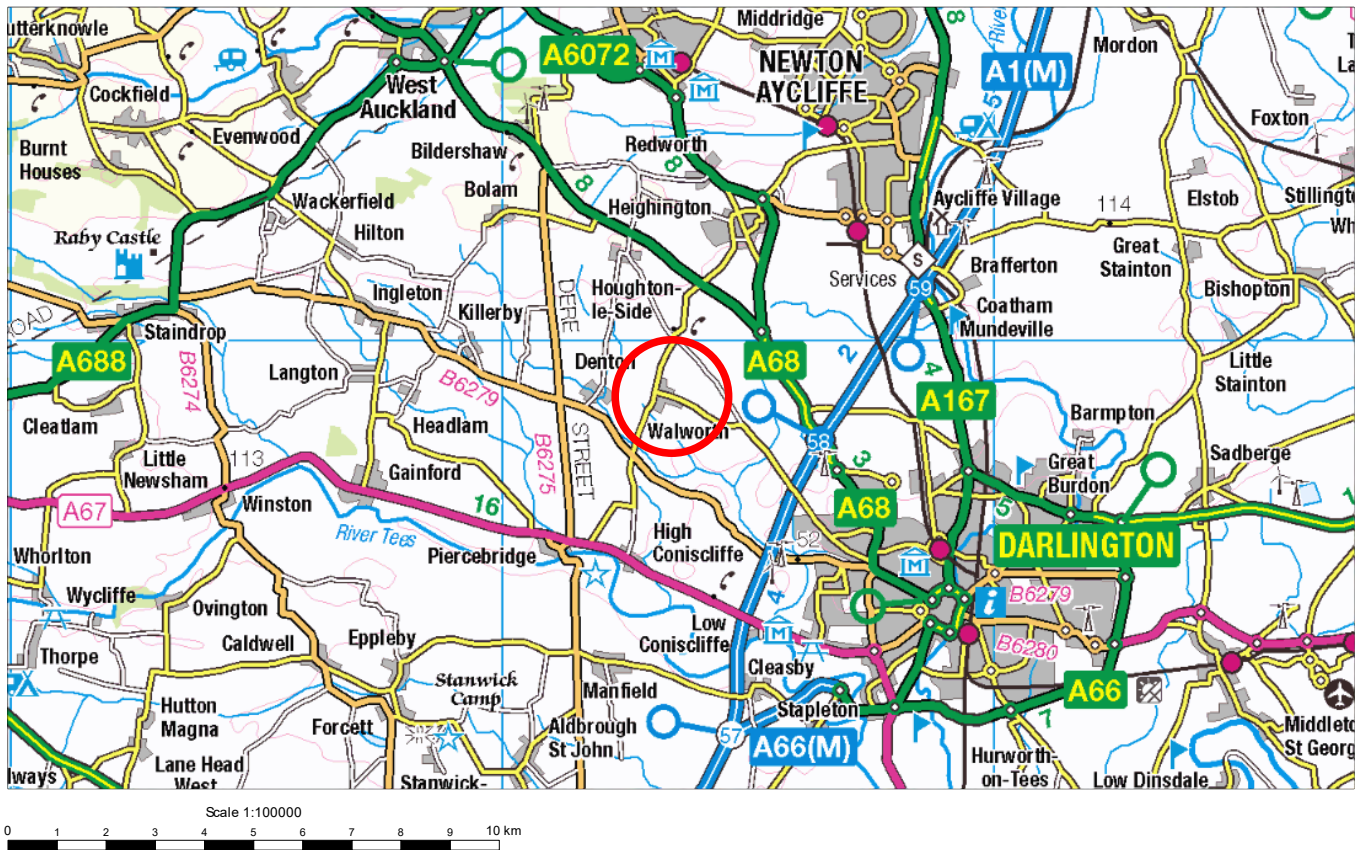
Walworth castle is one of several standing medieval buildings surviving within the Bright Water area. Occupying the rung below the great magnate castles, such as Raby Castle, Barnard Castle and Durham Castle, these buildings have similarly received little attention, with some having been recognised only relatively recently through the work of historic buildings specialist Peter Ryder.

Walworth Castle is an important building that has never been examined in detail; most accounts refer to it as a house of c.1600, although more recently it has been recognised (Pevsner & Williamson 1983, 482) that an earlier building is incorporated.

Accordingly, the current investigation and recording exercise has been carried out as far as possible in accordance with a Written Scheme of Investigation agreed for the Bright Water Landscape Partnership Built Heritage Lot 4 () Archaeology Project in January, 2020, designed to respond to Research Agenda Questions provided in NERRF Key Research Themes and Priorities: *Later Medieval research theme*: MD3. Medieval vernacular architecture; *Later Medieval research priorities*: MDi. Settlement; MDiv. Castles and defensive structures; MDxi. The medieval to post-medieval transition.

The overall approach of the Archaeological Practice regarding the Bright Water Landscape Partnership Built Heritage Lot 4 (Medieval and Early Post-Medieval Secular Settlement) Archaeology Project was guided by the following aims:

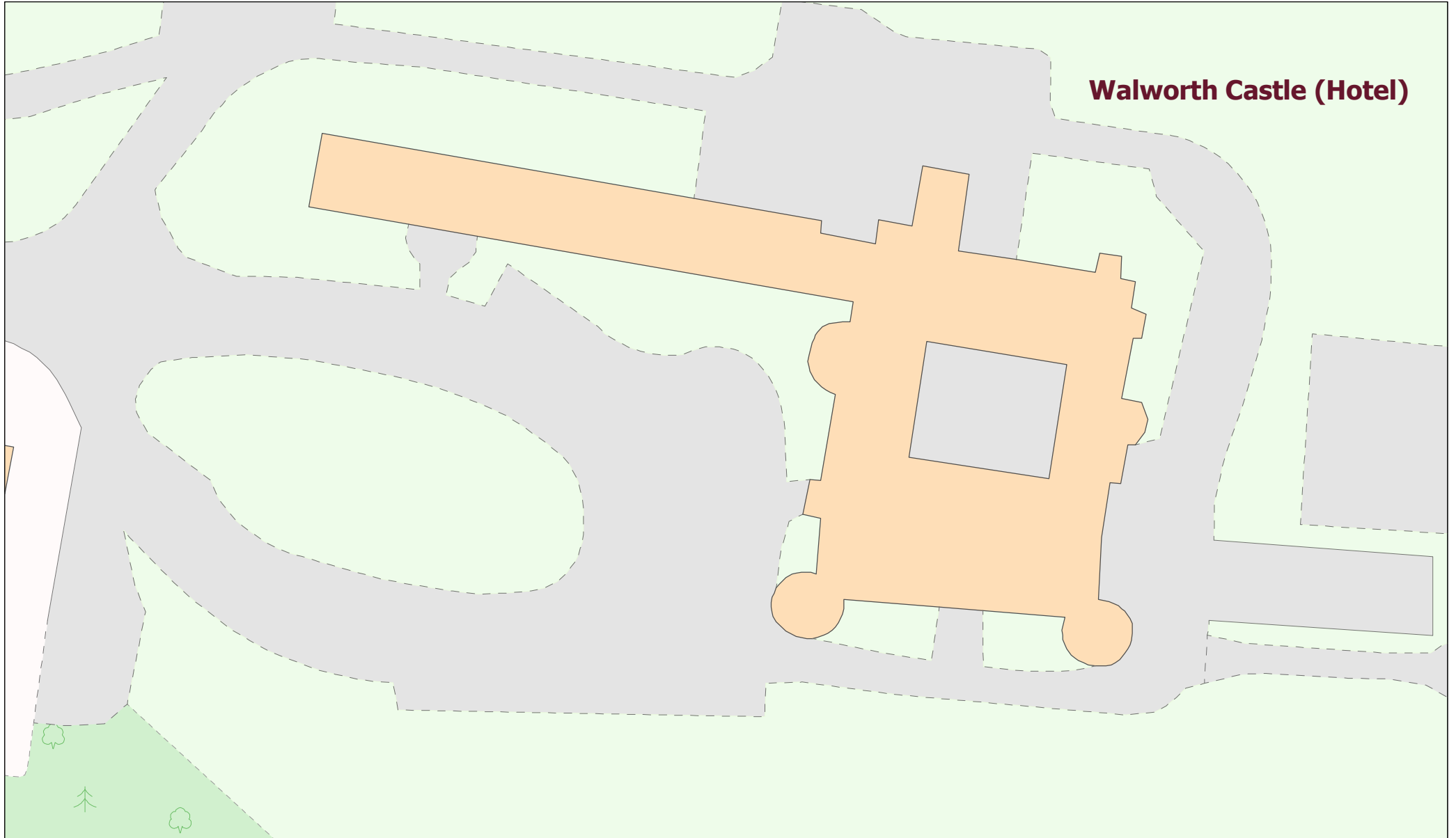
- Provide training in archaeological methods and techniques to volunteers wishing to investigate their area's past, equipping them with the relevant new skills.
- To define and identify the nature of archaeological remains on site, and date these if and where possible, establishing whether the features represent part of the medieval settlement.
- Further the understanding of the site and its environment by all members of the community.
- Reinforce and develop the volunteers' existing sense of place and belonging within the area.
- To provide a springboard for further community-led initiatives in the field of archaeology.



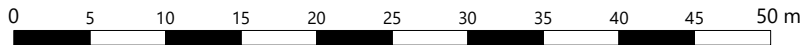
Illus. 01: Regional view, showing the location of Walworth (circled in red) to the north-west of Darlington in County Durham.



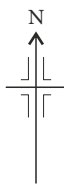
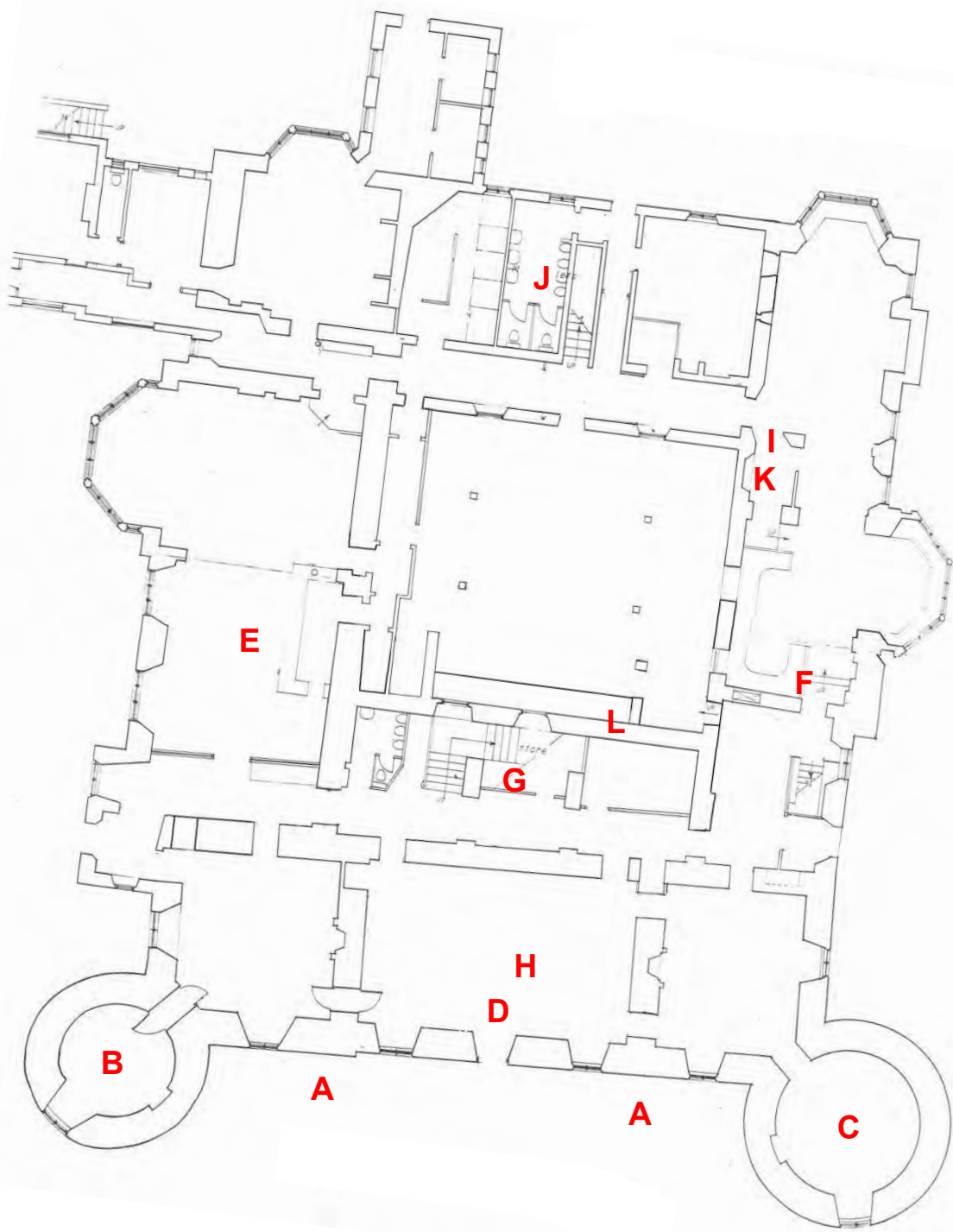
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Scale 1:500



Illus. 03: Modern Ordnance Survey Plan, showing Walworth Castle.



Scale 1:250



Illus. 04: Architect's plan as supplied, amended in some areas by PFR 2006 and 2022 using digital scan (Illus. 16). Keyed to Description of Castle Interior 2.4.

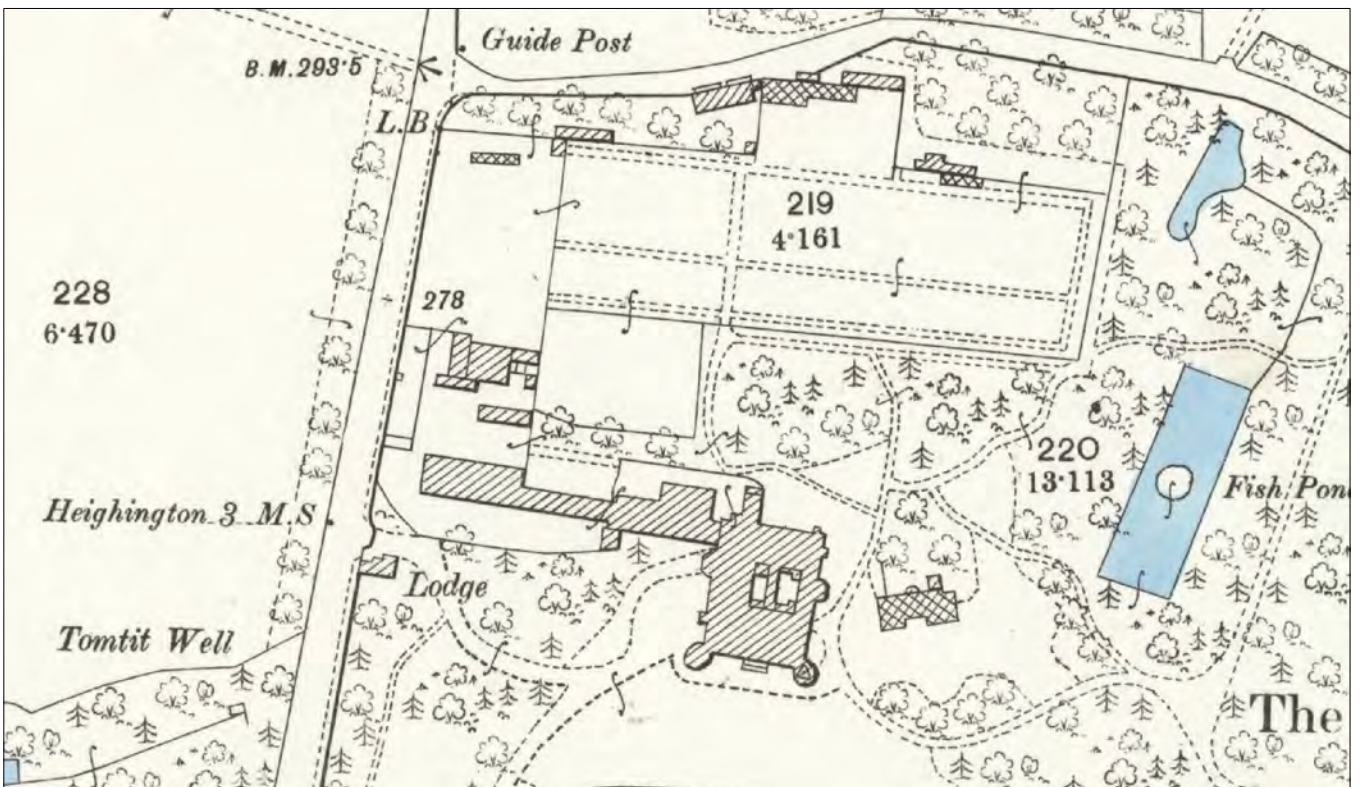


Illus. 05: Extract of the Walworth Tithe Plan c.1844 (DDR/EA/TTH/1/244), showing Walworth Castle.



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Illus. 06: Extract of the 1st edition Ordnance Survey, 6" series c.1859, showing Walworth Castle.

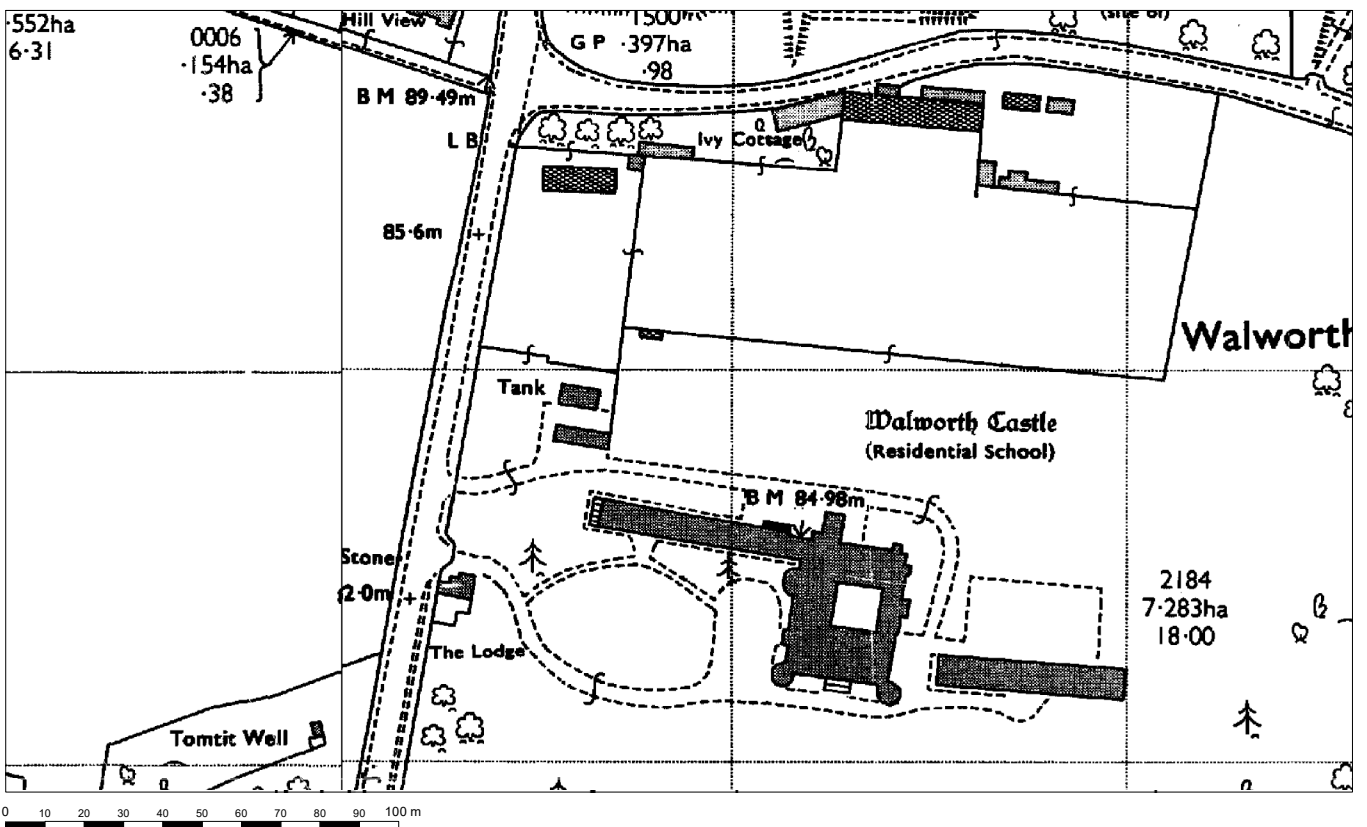


0 10 20 30 40 50 60 70 80 90 100 m

Illus. 07: Extract of the 2nd edition Ordnance Survey, 25" series c.1897, showing Walworth Castle.



Illus. 08: Extract of the 3rd edition Ordnance Survey, 25" series c.1918, showing Walworth Castle.



Illus. 09: Extract of the c.1970 edition Ordnance Survey, 25" series, showing Walworth Castle.

However, the outbreak of the Covid-19 pandemic soon after agreement of the WSI necessitated a change in approach, with the majority of on-site recording being carried out by a greater number of professionals, supplemented by additional approaches (notably aerial photography and 3D digital scanning), while an attempt was made to respond to the volunteer component of the project by providing online guides to building types of the Bright Water area and techniques used to record them.

1.2 Cultural Heritage Background

The oldest form of the Walworth place name, 'Waleberge', is thought to imply a settlement of the 'Welsh' or Old people (cf. the placename 'Wales' in South Yorkshire), suggesting an early foundation, although no pre-Conquest documentation survives to support such early settlement and there is only limited later medieval documentation relating to Walworth.

By the early post-Conquest period, however, a vill at Walworth was in the hands of secular lords, specifically the Hansard lineage, who held it from the late-12th century until the early 16th-century. It may have been part of the Wapentake of Sadberge, sold to the Bishop of Durham by Richard I; thereafter the Hansards held it from the Bishop for a Knight's fee of 40 days including service, latter commuted to £20 per annum. The principal surviving records for the manor house and its estate, including the village, are escheats or inquisitions post mortem, the surveys taken by the Bishop's officials, using locally enrolled juries, on the death of his baronial tenants-in-chief. Thus, an Inquisition Post Mortem of 1466 (cited by Surtees 1823, 316) itemised the manor as follows:

- *One chief messuage, with divers outhouses, two granaries, a stable, and sheepfold, value per annum 13s 4d*
- *Twelve cottages, 30s*
- *400 acres of arable land, £24*
- *200 acres of pasture, 100s*
- *20 acres of meadow, 23s 4d*

This would imply that there was still a settlement of at least 12 cottages at Walworth in the second half of the 15th century, along with the manor house and associated complex (which presumably relates to the site of Walworth Castle, where parts of the main house have been identified as originating in the Middle Ages). One of the Hansards may have 'planted' the village of Walworth, to the north of the manor house, although there are no historical records of this. Archaeological excavations carried out as a community project by the Archaeological Practice Ltd. in November 2019 in the grounds of Walworth North Farm, within the Scheduled site of Walworth Deserted Medieval Village, revealed significant remains including those of several medieval buildings - including an impressive corn-drying or malting kiln – relating to this period of Hansard ownership.

Subsequently, Walworth passed to the Ayscough family by marriage to the Hansard heiress during the reign of Henry VIII, and was subsequently purchased by Thomas Jenison c. 1579, by which time the village had clearly declined considerably; the licence for Jenison's purchase only lists six dwellings and six cottages. Thomas Jenison, Auditor General for Ireland, is recorded by the historian Hutchinson (1794, 252-3) as having '*erected the mansion house from out of a heap of ruins*', but it is not clear whether Hutchinson was relying on observations, verbal tradition, or some older documentary source for this assertion, which has been copied by later historians.

The castle and estate remained in the possession of the Jenison's heirs for the next 200 years. Consequently, Walworth did not benefit from the enduring institutional continuity and capacity for record-keeping provided by the Bishopric or Durham Priory and its successor the Cathedral Chapter, which has resulted in a wealth of documentary survival relating to settlements and estates held by those ecclesiastical bodies.

The interior of the castle was remodelled by the last Ralph Jennison c1740; he may also have been responsible for laying out and landscaping the grounds. In the early-19th century, the castle was sold to the Aylmer family who carried out considerable alterations. After the death of Edmund Aylmer in 1931 the Castle was let to tenants, until sold to Durham County Council in 1950, to be used as a special school; in the 1950s alterations, including re-roofing, and the destruction of some of the principal 18th century interiors, were carried out at a cost of £91,000. In 1980 the County Council sold the house, and it became a hotel, its present use.

1.3 Methodology

The photographic recording of the castle (see Section 3) was undertaken to accompany a 3D digital scanning survey (*Illus. 10-16*) and written description of the entire historic exterior. All elevations were photographed, as far as possible, face-on and from a consistent height and perspective, enabled by drone technology to achieve a rectified perspective at height – with most of the castle extending to three stories and the south towers to four. Where possible, ground floor record photographs included a scaled ranging pole. Where it was not possible to capture an entire elevation in a single photograph because of the constricted nature of the site, or to achieve greater detail, a series of partial elevations were recorded along with an oblique overall view of the full elevation. All photographs have been keyed to a location plan (*Illus. 21*) and to digital elevation scans (*Illus. 22-26*).

Unfortunately, covid and operational restrictions meant that it was not possible to carry out a detailed survey of the interior of the castle, although alterations were made to the existing ground plan – which is found to be substantially accurate – following early, pre-covid site visits in 2019.



Illus. 10: Digital scan of Walworth Castle, south facing elevation, May 2022.



Illus. 11: Digital scan of Walworth Castle, west facing elevation, May 2022.



Illus. 12: Digital scan of Walworth Castle, east facing elevation, May 2022.



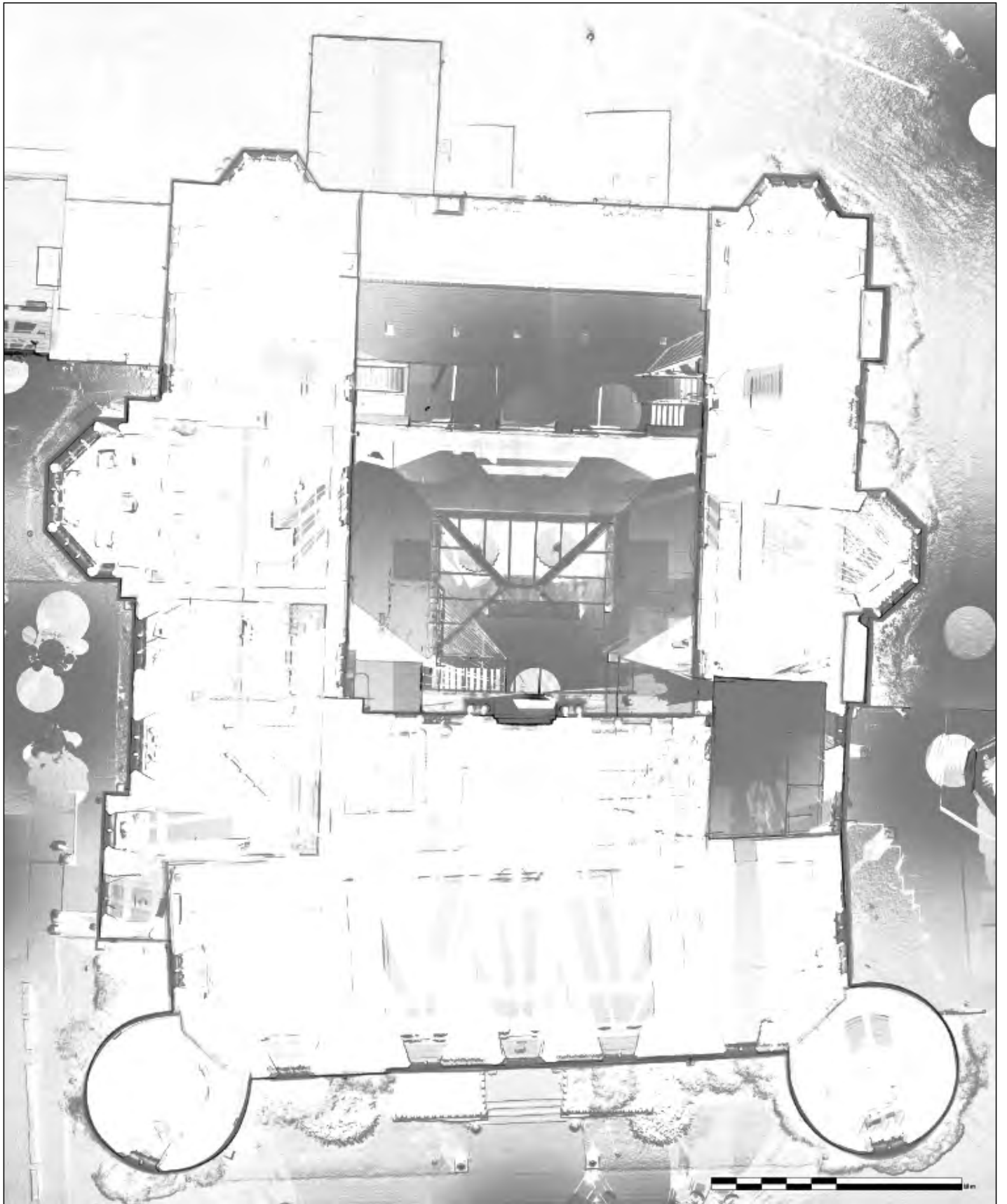
Illus. 13: Digital scan of Walworth Castle, north facing elevation, May 2022.



Illus. 14: Digital scan of Walworth Castle, north facing elevation of Renaissance facade, May 2022.



Illus. 15: Digital 3D scan of Walworth Castle from the south-west, May 2022.



Illus. 16: Digital scan showing plan of Walworth Castle, May 2022.

2. BUILDING DESCRIPTION

2.1 Introduction

The Castle consists of four ranges surrounding a small courtyard, now roofed over. The south range is three-storeyed, with a projecting block (the former entrance) in the centre of its north side and taller round towers at its southern angles; two-storeyed ranges, set at a slightly skew angle, extend north, to be linked by the lower north-range, whilst the courtyard thus enclosed is now infilled by a single-storey block. Extending west from the north end of the west range is a long wing built as school accommodation in the 1950s, and replacing an older stable range.

To the north of the house is a large walled garden of late-18th or early-19th century date, with now-ruinous greenhouses, and a heated garden wall to the east. To the west of house and gardens is a north-south road running from High Coniscliffe towards Heighington; a lane from Archdeacon Newton (and Darlington) joins this north-west of the Castle, and runs to the north of the walled garden. North-east of the Castle has been an ornamental lake or fish pond, shown on the 1838 Tithe Map (see *Illus. 05*), and filled in at some time in the mid-20th century before being re-excavated by the present owners; beyond it is 'The Rookery', quite an extensive area of woodland.

To the north of the lane to Archdeacon Newton are the extensive earthworks of the deserted medieval village, enclosing an apparent 'green' c 200m by 150 m; in the centre of the Green, on a slight eminence, stands North Farm, which includes in its farm buildings a former 12th century chapel (Ryder 1989, 63-4). The 'Bondgate' settlement is attached to the NE corner of the green, the line of its street being perpetuated by a footpath towards Heighington.

2.2 Historic England Listed Building description:

WALWORTH CASTLE; Listed Building Grade: I; List Entry Number: 1121175; Date first listed: 06-Jun-1952; National Grid Reference: NZ 23124 18828

NZ 2318 WALWORTH WALWORTH 16/139 Walworth Castle 6/6/52 GVI Mansion now hotel. Circa 1600, possibly by Thomas Holt for Thomas Jennison, incorporating an earlier structure; internal alterations c.1740; early C19 north range; west wing refronted 1864. Partly-rendered limestone rubble; snecked stone west front; Welsh slate roofs (not visible); brick and stone chimney stacks. Originally reversed U-plan; north range across rear enclosing courtyard. South front: 3-storey, 5-bay centre flanked by 4-storey round angle towers. West tower and bay west of straight joint possibly early C16 with earlier features. C19 central doorway and cross windows; four 3-light mullioned-and-transomed windows on top floor. Moulded parapet. Towers have cross windows and identical 3-light windows on top floor. Earlier features (loops, narrow trefoil- and round-headed windows) on west tower. Long, complex east wing with C17 features. 3-storey, 3-bay section with 6-light window on top floor. 2-storey section: central canted bay window with latticed casements and iron bars; tall flanking external chimneys; continuous string below parapet; 2-storey canted bay window on one-bay rear end. Refaced 2-storey west wing with C19. features: cross and mullioned-and-transomed windows; off-centre 2-storey canted bay window flanked by 2- and 3-bay sections; projecting 2-bay south section with Tudor-arched doorway. 3-storey set-back bay between wing and tower. C17 2-storey canted bay window on one-bay rear end. 2-storey, 5-bay north range with C19 mullioned windows and off-centre doorway. Courtyard: Some mullioned-and-transomed windows in east and west wings. 3-storey frontispiece, on south range, with paired columns and entablature (superimposed Tuscan, Ionic and Corinthian

orders) and top balustrade; scattered mullions, sashes and a C19 Venetian stair window. Interior has important mid C18 features: staircase with turned balusters; several rooms with Palladian plasterwork, some with Rococo details (ground-floor hall, saloon, upstairs room to east, circular rooms in east tower); reconstructed 1864 staircase. Short single-storey wing on north, long 2-storey wing on west and late C20 addition in courtyard are not of special interest. (N. Whittaker, *The Old Halls and Manor Houses of County Durham*, 1975).

2.3 Description of the Castle Exterior (see annotated Illus. 17-20 for feature locations)

Walworth Castle is an important building that has never been examined in detail; most accounts refer to it as a house of c.1600, although more recently it has been recognised (Pevsner & Williamson 1983, 482) that an earlier building is incorporated.

The house is approached from the west; most of the west front, formed by the west elevation of the west wing, is of mid-19th century date, but set back to the right and partly concealed by it is the west end of the taller south range, with a two-light mullion-and-transom cross window (Illus. 17, 'G') to each floor under a straight label. These are all of the mid-19th century, but occupy the positions of earlier openings (Illus. 17, 'H'); on the upper floors the south jambs of these predecessors are visible, and on the ground floor there is an older relieving arch (Illus. 17, 'I') above the head of the present window.

Then comes the circular south-west tower, with an assortment of interesting features. A vertical series of four windows face south-west; the lower three (Illus. 18, 'F1-3') are mid-19th century cross windows like those already described, but with remains of the jambs of wider predecessors on either side (Illus. 18, 'E1-3'), whilst the wider window on the top floor (Illus. 18, 'E4'), a three-light transomed window, looks a genuine 16th-century feature. However, there are also an earlier generation of openings. To the left of the first-floor window, and just outside the line of the jamb of its 16th-century predecessor, is part of the jamb and sill of a still older light (Illus. 18, 'B1') which in turn it had replaced. Below this, just above the ground-floor window, is a blocked circular loop cut through a single stone (Illus. 18, 'C1'). At the same level as this are two larger blocked windows, facing north-west and east, the former with a trefoiled head (Illus. 17, 'B2') and the latter with a round-arched one (Illus. 18, 'D'), both in hollow-chamfered surround; they have monolithic heads and large blocks in the jambs, and look contemporary with the wall. Above them, and set closer to junction with the walls of the main range, are two more circular loops (Illus. 17, 'C2'). Directly below them, just above ground level, are a pair of gun loops (Illus. 17, 'C3'), each with a circular opening at the top and bottom of a vertical slit, chamfered round. Their positioning, and the fact that they do not seem to relate to the present floor levels, and pre-date the 16th-century fenestration, argues strongly in favour of these being genuine medieval defensive features rather than later ornament.

The south elevation of the south range is of considerable interest, and too complex to describe in full detail. The present fenestration of the lower floors divides it into five bays; between the first and second is a slight offset that extends virtually for the full height of the wall (Illus. 18, 'A'), the wall face stepping back a few cm, with limestone quoins up to first floor level but darker gritstone ones (set a few cm further east) up to the second floor, and then limestone again, resuming the original line. Does this indicate the south-east angle of an original wing?

There is evidence of at least three phases of fenestration. On the second floor are four three-light windows (Illus. 18, 'E7, E10, E13, E16') like that in the south-west tower; that in the western bay set lower than the others, and the easternmost seems uncomfortably close to the south-east tower. There are fragmentary remains of larger windows (Illus. 18, 'E5, E6, E8, E9, E11, E12,

E14, E15') that look to be of the same date on the lower floors (which each have five rather than four openings), some replaced by 18th-century openings without cut dressings, which presumably held sashes, but these have in turn been replaced by 19th-century mullion-and-transom cross windows with ashlar surrounds (Illus. 18, '**F4, F5, F6, F7, F9, F10, F11, F12, F13**'), with which the doorway (Illus. 18, '**F8**') in the centre bay is contemporary. Apart from in the first bay the later windows do not closely follow the positions of their 16th century predecessors. There are several rough relieving arches (Illus. 18, '**K1-6**'), but it is not quite clear whether these relate to the 16th or 18th century openings.

The south-east tower very much matches the south-west, with a similar vertical series of windows (Illus. 18, '**F14, F15, F16, E20**') looking out to the south-east, but without any sign at all of earlier openings.

Coming round to the east elevation, the east end of the south range has a 19th-century window on the ground floor (Illus. 19, '**L1**') with a broad relieving arch above (Illus. 19, '**M**') that would appear to relate to a much larger opening. Low down on the left is what appears to be the sill and base of the right jamb of an older window (Illus. 19, '**N1**'), which would seem to predate this larger opening and probably the tower as well. On the top floor here is a broad window (Illus. 19, '**O**') consisting of a trio of two-light cross windows with broader flat mullions in between, seemingly 16th century, under a straight label; there would seem to have been a similar broad window on the first floor, now replaced by one of the usual mid-19th century windows (Illus. 19, '**L2**').

To the right is the two-storeyed east wing, with two projecting chimney stacks (Illus. 19, '**P1-2**') and between them a big semi-octagonal two-storeyed bay (Illus. 19, '**Q**'); quite a number of 16th-century windows survive (Illus. 19, '**R1-2**'), and there is another bay (Illus. 19, '**S**'), with rather different mouldings, at the north end of the wing.

Another bay of the same character (Illus. 19, '**S**') is set at the north end of the east wing, and there are further old mullioned-and-transomed windows (Illus. 19, '**R3**') at first floor level in the inner walls of both wings, and traces of blocked openings below (Illus. 19, '**T**'), partly hidden by heavy pointing.

The architectural surprise of Walworth is the block added to the north side of the south range, or more especially its north front, a facade of three bays of which the centre is flanked by three superimposed pairs of columns, Roman Doric (Illus. 20, '**U1**'), Ionic (Illus. 20, '**U2**') and Corinthian (Illus. 20, '**U3**') in ascending order. On the ground floor is the original segmental-arched entrance (Illus. 20, '**V**') now reduced to a circular window); on the first floor a big sash window has been inserted (Illus. 20, '**W**') and on the second is an infilled panel (Illus. 20, '**X**') which may have held a coat of arms; at the top is a balustraded parapet (Illus. 20, '**Y**'). The flanking bays have been much altered, but two original three-light mullioned windows, with ovolo-moulded surrounds, survive on the top floor in the east bay (Illus. 20, '**Z1-2**'); below them is a large Georgian Venetian window (Illus. 20, '**Z3**'), and there are other 18th-century windows in the west bay (Illus. 20, '**Z4-5**'), although fragmentary remains of the 16th-century fenestration are still apparent (Illus. 20, '**Z6-13**').

2.4 Description of the Castle Interior (see annotated plan *Illus. 04* for feature locations)

The interior of the Castle was largely remodelled in the 18th, 19th and 20th century, and consequently is really beyond the scope of this enquiry. The walls of the south range (Illus. 04, '**A**') are generally around 1.0 m in thickness, whilst those of the south-west tower (Illus. 04, '**B**')

reach 1.7 m; there is said to be a mural stair of some sort within this thickness, and a tradition of rats being heard running up and down it, but there is at present no access. The walls of the south-east tower (Illus. 04, 'C') are c 1.0 m thick.

The overall plan also shows an interesting feature; whilst the south range (Illus. 04, 'D') is set more or less east-west, the alignment of the two wings (Illus. 04, 'E-F'), and of the former entrance block (Illus. 04, 'G'), is skewed several degrees towards the north-east, making that block of distinctly trapezoidal plan.

The earliest features are thought to be the work of the last Ralph Jenison c 1740, including the hall¹ (which occupies the central three bays of the south range on the ground floor (Illus. 04, 'H')) and the lower room in the south-east tower which has a spectacular 'Japanese' ceiling. The west range (Illus. 04, 'E') is largely of mid-19th century date, with some elaborate plaster ceilings, and the east range (Illus. 04, 'F') (now the bar) has been much altered in the 20th century. At its north end there is a blocked chamfered doorway (Illus. 04, 'I') on the west, which would appear to have opened into some structure on the site of the late-18th or early-19th century north range (Illus. 04, 'J'), yet a short distance to the south of it is a small round-arched window (Illus. 04, 'K'), now blocked, which looks genuine 16th-century (or earlier?) work, opening outwards, so possible there was only a small structure, possibly a stair turret, at the angle of the range.

The historian Hutchinson refers to a fine collection of c1600 heraldic glass in the Castle, but by the end of the 19th century only fragments remained, gathered together in a window under the stair and described by Boyle (1892, 666). Jackson (1989) states that this glass was offered to Bowes Museum in 1950 but that it '*has never since been seen*'. It is not clear how this relates to the heraldic glass at present in the Venetian stair window in the eastern bay of the former entrance block (Illus. 04, 'L'), at least some of which looks of some age.

There are cellars with stone walls and segmental barrel vaults beneath the central section of the south range, and the south ends of the east and west ranges, linked by brick-vaulted dog-leg passages. That beneath the east wing has had a stone vault, partly replaced in brick when internal partitions were inserted. There are few architectural features. Other than an ashlar four-centred and chamfered doorway from the western passage into the main cellar, which could be of 16th century date. Various internal partitions and wine bins have been removed in the later 20-th century.

2.5 Discussion

Walworth has sometimes been seen as a house built by Thomas Jennison c1600, but it is clear that, as Hutchinson implied, earlier fabric is incorporated. Pevsner & Williamson (1983, 483) recognise this, and see the gunloops in the south-west tower (Illus. 17, 18, 'C1-3' and Photo 16) as of c. 1530; Jackson (1989, 16) suggests that the round towers indicate a building date '*in the late 13th century or later*'; he also quotes a tradition that the south-east tower collapsed and had to be rebuilt. He also rightly points out that the change in alignment between the south range and the former courtyard and its wings is too great to be accidental, and must result from both parts following earlier structures.

¹ Jackson (1989, 6) records that the hall lost a vaulted ceiling (presumably 18th-century plasterwork) in 1951, at which time a smoke-blackened wall was revealed, which he conjectures related to a medieval hall with an open hearth.

Whatever the date of the pre-Jennison building, the gunloops in the south-west tower are certainly functional, and are themselves enough to enable the house to be classified as either a castle or a fortified manor house. It is possible that a straight joint (actually a slight off-set) towards the west end of the south front (Illus. 18, 'A' and Photos 24-30), noted by Pevsner & Williamson as indicative of a change of build, may instead simply reflect the hall/solar division of a medieval house. The south-west tower could have been placed at the corner of the medieval solar. The remainder of the south range would then have contained the hall, and perhaps service rooms at the east end, where there still appears to be evidence of pre-Jennison openings in the east wall (see Illus. 19, 'M' & 'N1-2' and Photos 53, 56).

The west range, set at its rather oblique angle to the south range, also has walls in excess of 1.0 m thick on the east (the west wall seems to have been wholly rebuilt in 1851), and is also probably medieval. The former entrance block and east range appears to be part of the Jennison rebuilding of c1600; all that can be said of the much-altered north range is that it appears on the Tithe Map of 1835 (see Illus. 05). By this period the principal approach to the Castle must have shifted from the north to the present western route.

Various architects have been suggested for the c1600 remodelling (Jackson 1989, 22) including Thomas Holt and his associates (favoured by the List Description), John Thorpe and John Smythson. The internal remodelling of c1740 may have been accompanied by the conversion of many of the windows to sashes; Mackenzie & Ross (1834, II, 172) record that '*the lower windows have been modernised*', and it will have been these that were replaced in the mid-19th century by the ubiquitous mullions-and-transom cross windows during the works carried out by John Harrison Aylmer.

In 1950/1951 Durham County Council carried out further alterations including the removal of internal walls in the west range, and the demolition of an old stable range to the north-west, which Mackenzie & Ross (op.cit 173) stated '*exhibit traces of antiquity in their mullioned windows and stone staircases*'.

The only plans of the building traced are a set made by Trevor Welch, Chartered Architect of Bishop Auckland (Illus. 04), and acquired by the National Monuments Record in 1980; they are not wholly satisfactory as regards wall thicknesses (they show both towers as having walls of approximately the same thickness), and in addition there have been considerable alterations since they were made.

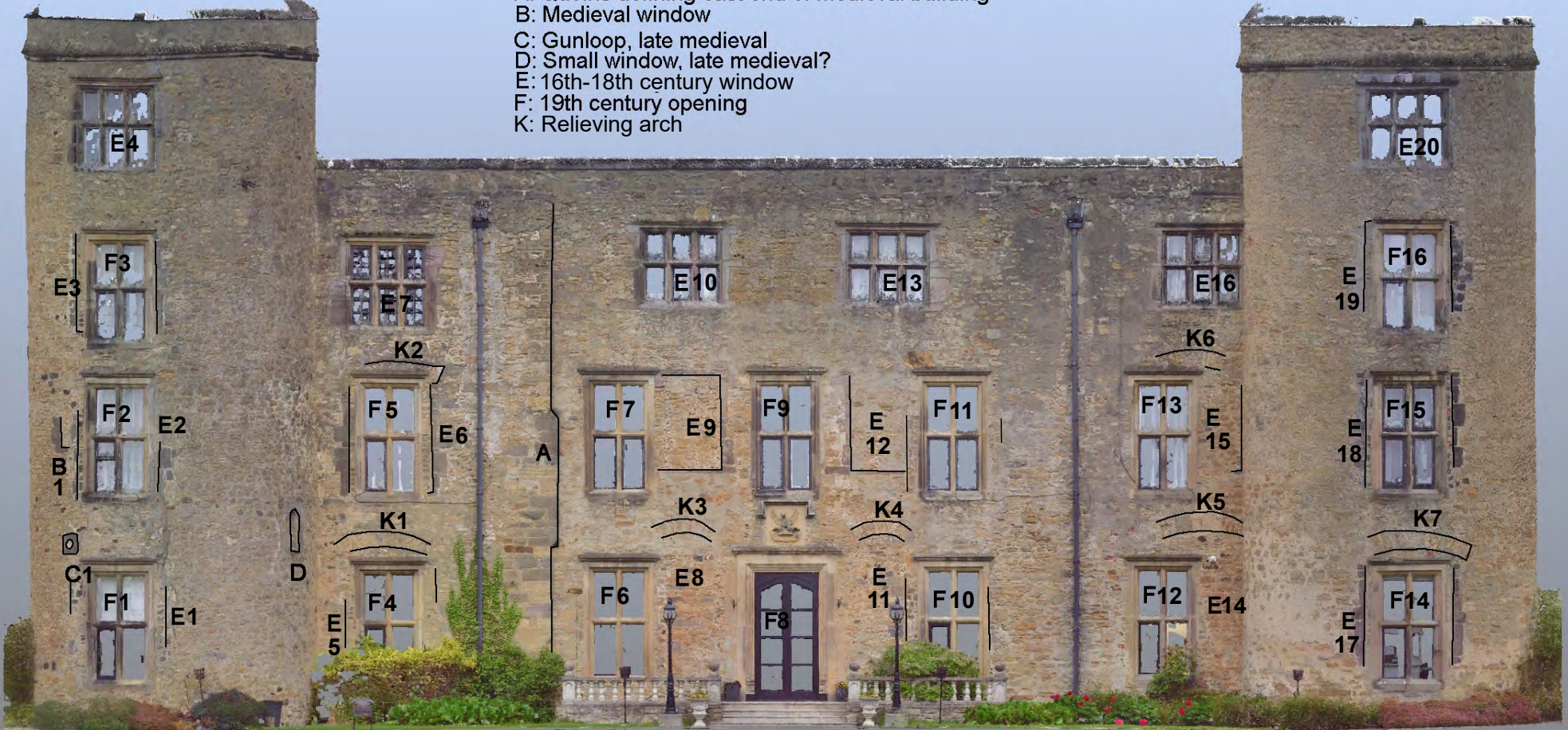
Complications due to the Covid pandemic and the necessity to maintain a working hotel business severely restricted internal access to the castle during the period of investigation, thereby preventing detailed survey work to comprehensively update existing ground plans of the Castle which would greatly assist in the interpretation of the building.



Illus. 17: Interpretation of historic features in Walworth Castle, West Facing Elevation, annotated on digital scan.

WALWORTH CASTLE, SOUTH ELEVATION

- A: Quoins defining east end of medieval building
- B: Medieval window
- C: Gunloop, late medieval
- D: Small window, late medieval?
- E: 16th-18th century window
- F: 19th century opening
- K: Relieving arch



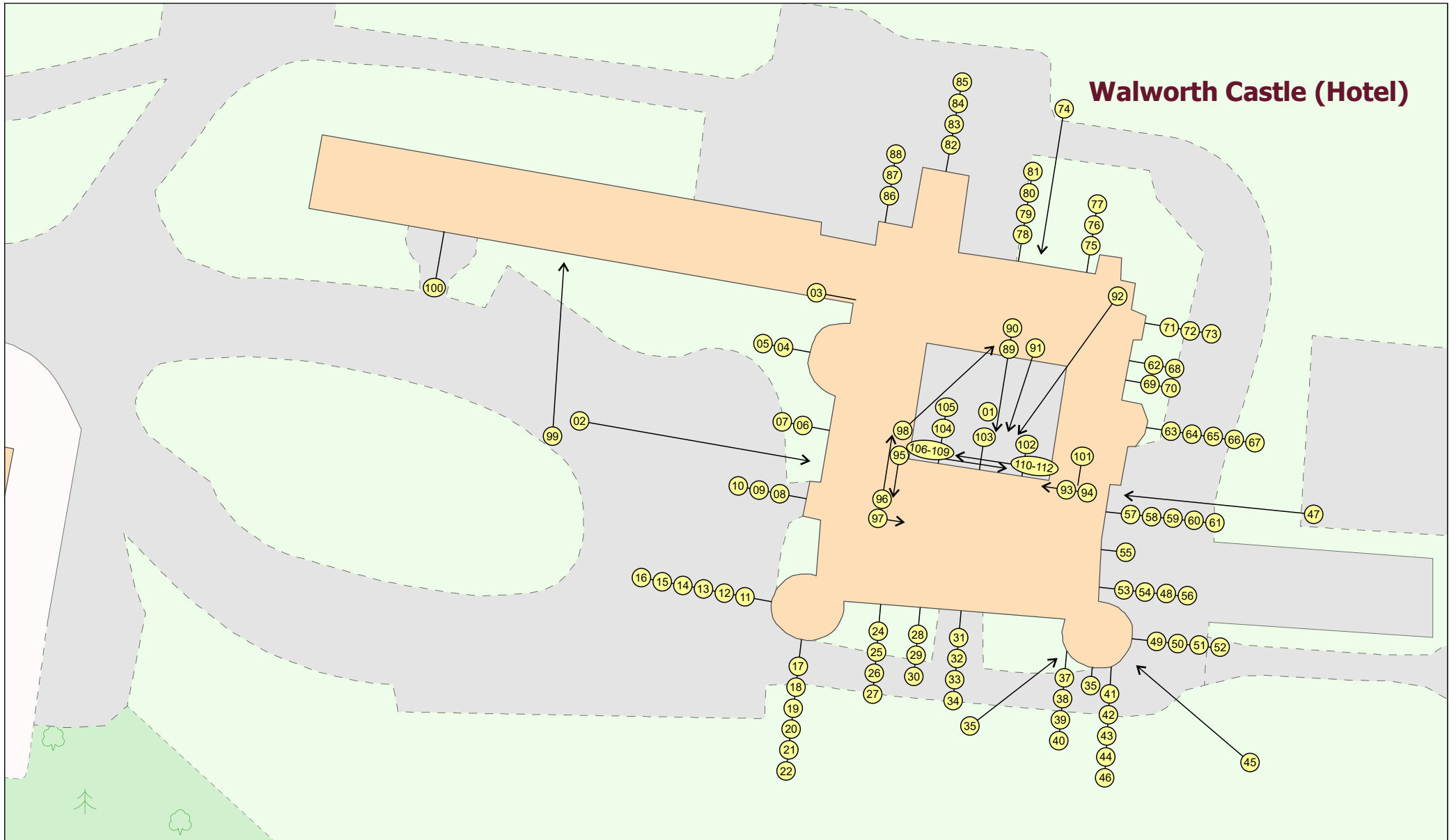
Illus. 18: Interpretation of historic features in Walworth Castle, South Facing Elevation, annotated on digital scan.



Illus. 19: Interpretation of historic features in Walworth Castle, East Facing Elevation, annotated on digital scan.



Illus. 20: Interpretation of historic features in Walworth Castle, North Facing Elevation of Renaissance Facade, annotated on digital scan.



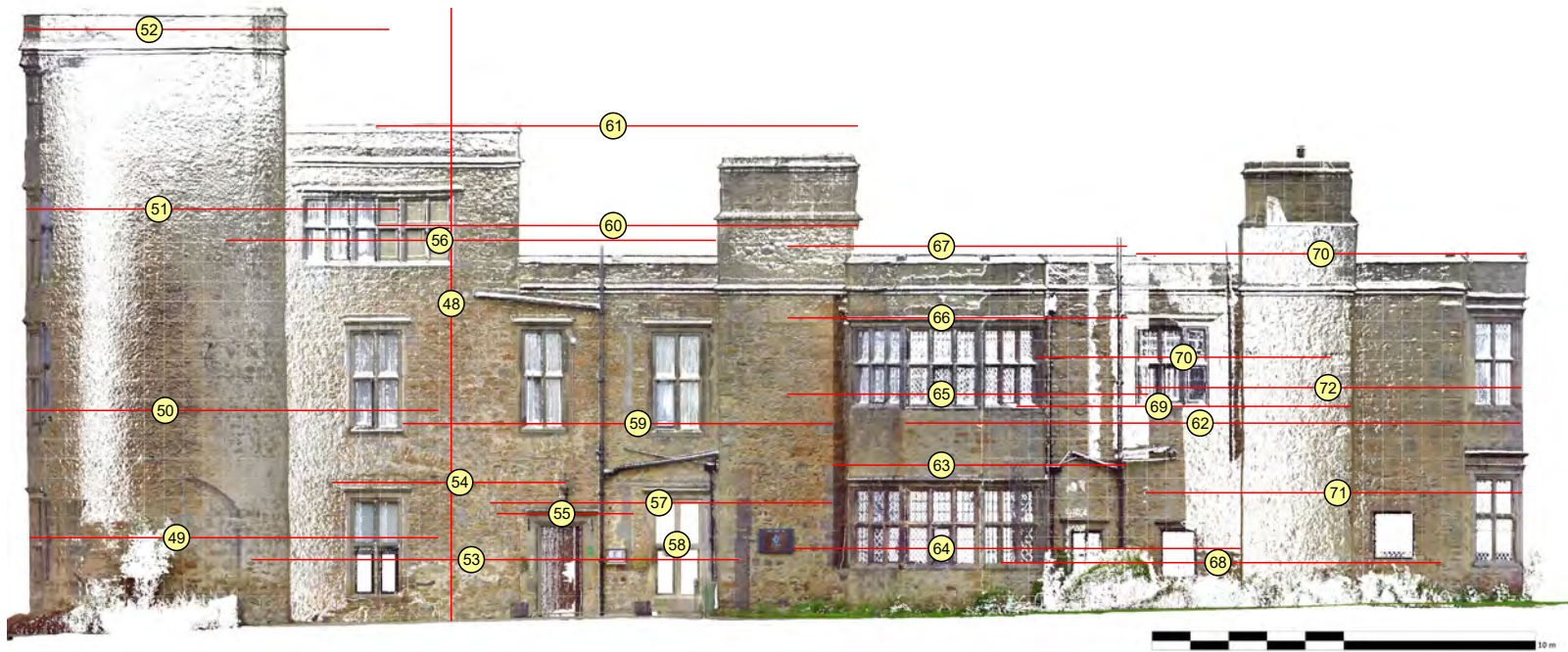
Illus. 21: Key plan, showing the location and direction of record photographs captured at Walworth Castle 2022.



Illus. 22: Key plan, showing the location of photographs captured in the west facing exterior elevation.



Illus. 23: Key plan, showing the location of photographs captured in the south facing exterior elevation.



Illus. 24: Key plan, showing the location of photographs captured in the east facing exterior elevation.



Illus. 25: Key plan, showing the location of photographs captured in the north facing exterior elevation.



Illus. 26: Key plan, showing the location of photographs captured in the north facing elevation of Renaissance facade.

3. THE PHOTOGRAPHIC RECORD – LOCATIONS AND DESCRIPTIONS

Photo number	Internal/ External	Description
01	Ext	Vertical aerial view of Walworth Castle
02-16	Ext	West facing elevations
17-46	Ext	South facing elevations
47-73	Ext	East facing elevations
74-88	Ext	North facing elevations
89-97	Ext	Renaissance facade
98	Ext	Roof
99-100	Ext	Western accommodation wing
101-112	Ext	Details of Renaissance facade

Photo number	Caption
01	Vertical aerial view of Walworth Castle, looking NNW.
02	West facing exterior elevation.
03	West facing exterior elevation, north end, first floor.
04	West facing exterior elevation, bay window, first floor.
05	West facing exterior elevation, bay window, ground floor.
06	West facing exterior elevation, north of reception entrance, ground floor.
07	West facing exterior elevation, north of reception entrance, first floor.
08	West facing exterior elevation, reception entrance, ground floor.
09	West facing exterior elevation, above reception entrance, first floor.
10	West facing exterior elevation, above reception entrance, upper first floor of west range and second floor of former manor house.
11	West facing exterior elevation, south of reception entrance, with former manor house and SW-tower ground floor.
12	West facing exterior elevation, south of reception entrance, with former manor house and SW-tower first and second floor.
13	West facing exterior elevation, south of reception entrance, with former manor house and SW-tower second floor.
14	West facing exterior elevation, former manor house and SW-tower.
15	Detail of north facing single window with trefoil head in first floor of tower.
16	Detail of gunloops in tower, facing north, ground floor.
17	South facing exterior elevation of SW-tower.
18	Detail of SW facing, cross window in ground floor of SW-tower.
19	South facing exterior elevation of SW-tower and west end of former manor house, ground floor.
20	South facing exterior elevation of SW-tower and west end of former manor house, first floor.
21	South facing exterior elevation of SW-tower and west end of former manor house, first floor.
22	South facing exterior elevation of SW-tower, third floor, with detail of three-light transomed window.
23	South facing exterior elevation of Walworth Castle.

24	South facing elevation, west end of former manor house, ground floor, with east facing round arched window in adjoining tower first floor.
25	South facing elevation, west end of former manor house, first floor, with east facing round arched window in adjoining tower first floor.
26	South facing elevation, west end of former manor house, second floor.
27	South facing elevation, west end of former manor house, upper part of second floor and roof.
28	South facing elevation, centre-west part of former manor house, ground floor.
29	South facing elevation, centre-west part of former manor house, first floor.
30	South facing elevation, centre-west part of former manor house, second floor.
31	South facing exterior elevation, centre of former manor house, ground floor, showing entrance.
32	South facing exterior elevation, centre of former manor house, first floor, above entrance.
33	South facing exterior elevation, centre of former manor house, second floor, above entrance.
34	South facing exterior elevation, centre of former manor house, upper second floor and roof, above entrance.
35	View looking north-east towards the SE-tower.
36	South facing exterior elevation of SE-tower.
37	South facing exterior elevation of SE-tower and east end of former manor house, ground floor.
38	South facing exterior elevation of SE-tower and east end of former manor house, first floor.
39	South facing exterior elevation of SE-tower and east end of former manor house, second floor.
40	South facing exterior elevation of SE-tower and east end of former manor house, upper second floor and roof.
41	South facing exterior elevation of SE-tower, ground floor.
42	South facing exterior elevation of SE-tower, first floor.
43	South facing exterior elevation of SE-tower, second floor.
44	South facing exterior elevation of SE-tower, third floor.
45	View looking north-west towards the SE corner of Walworth Castle.
46	Detail of three-light transomed window, south facing, third floor of SE tower.
47	East facing exterior elevation of Walworth Castle.
48	East facing exterior elevation of Walworth Castle south end.
49	East facing exterior elevation of SE-tower, ground floor.
50	East facing exterior elevation of SE-tower, first floor.
51	East facing exterior elevation of SE-tower, second floor.
52	East facing exterior elevation of SE-tower, third floor and roof.
53	East facing exterior elevation, south end of former manor house, ground floor.
54	Detail of former arched openings in east facing exterior elevation, south end of former manor house, above later window and doorway.
55	East facing exterior elevation, entrance to former manor house, ground floor.
56	East facing exterior elevation, south end of former manor house, second-third floors.
57	East facing exterior elevation, centre-south of east range, ground floor.
58	Detail of cross window in east facing exterior elevation, centre-south of east range, ground floor.
59	East facing exterior elevation, centre-south of east range, first floor.
60	East facing exterior elevation, centre-south of east range, second floor, looking towards east facing elevation of renaissance facade second floor.

61	East facing exterior elevation of Renaissance facade second floor.
62	East facing exterior elevation of East Range, north end.
63	East facing exterior elevation of bay towards centre of East Range.
64	East facing exterior elevation of bay windows towards centre of East Range, ground floor.
65	East facing exterior elevation of bay windows towards centre of East Range, first floor.
66	East facing exterior elevation of bay windows towards centre of East Range, upper part of first floor.
67	East facing exterior elevation of parapet above bay at centre of East Range.
68	East facing exterior elevation, centre-north of East Range, ground floor.
69	East facing exterior elevation, centre-north of East Range, first floor.
70	East facing exterior elevation, centre-north of East Range, upper part of first floor.
71	East facing exterior elevation, north end of East Range, ground floor.
72	East facing exterior elevation, north end of East Range, first floor.
73	East facing exterior elevation, north end of East Range, upper part of first floor and roof, with detail of chimney stack.
74	View of Walworth Castle North Range, north facing exterior elevation.
75	North facing exterior elevation, east end of North Range, ground floor.
76	North facing exterior elevation, east end of North Range, first floor.
77	North facing exterior elevation, east end of North Range, upper part of first floor and roof, with Renaissance facade visible in background.
78	North facing exterior elevation, centre of North Range, ground floor.
79	North facing exterior elevation, centre of North Range, first floor.
80	North facing exterior elevation, centre of North Range, upper part of first floor.
81	North facing exterior elevation, centre of North Range, upper part of first floor and roof, with Renaissance facade visible in background.
82	North facing exterior elevation, showing extension projecting northwards from west end of North Range, ground floor.
83	North facing exterior elevation, showing gable of extension projecting northwards from west end of North Range.
84	North facing exterior elevation, above extension at west end of North Range, first floor.
85	North facing exterior elevation, above extension at west end of North Range, upper part of first floor.
86	North facing exterior elevation, west end of North Range, ground floor.
87	North facing exterior elevation, west end of North Range, ground-first floor.
88	North facing exterior elevation, west end of North Range, first floor.
89	North facing exterior elevation of former manor house, Renaissance facade, first-second floors, taken from roof of North Range.
90	Portrait view of north facing exterior elevation of former manor house, Renaissance facade, taken from roof of North Range.
91	Oblique view towards Renaissance facade of former manor house, taken from roof of North Range.
92	Oblique view towards Renaissance facade of former manor house, taken from NE corner of roof of North Range.
93	Oblique view of east facing exterior elevation of Renaissance facade second floor, from roof of East Range.
94	East facing exterior elevation of Renaissance facade second floor, from roof of East Range.
95	View looking south along roof corridor at west end of former manor house, second floor.

96	View looking north along roof corridor at west end of former manor house, second floor.
97	Detail of small door in west facing elevation second floor of former manor house, leading to west roof corridor.
98	View looking north-east across Walworth Castle roof, from East Range towards North Range.
99	View looking north towards modern accommodation wing, located on the west side of Walworth Castle.
100	Detail of south facing entrance doorway to modern accommodation wing.
101	North facing elevation of Renaissance facade of former manor house, within courtyard extension, east side.
102	North facing elevation of Renaissance facade, ground floor, from east side of conservatory.
103	North facing elevation of Renaissance facade, ground floor, detail of Venetian doorway from centre-south of conservatory.
104	North facing elevation of Renaissance facade, ground floor, from west side of conservatory.
105	North facing elevation of Renaissance facade, ground floor, west of entrance.
106	View looking east at columns on east side of door in Renaissance facade.
107	East view, showing detail of column pedestal on east side of doorway.
108	Detail of upper NW corner of column pedestal on east side of doorway.
109	Detail of lower NW corner of column pedestal on east side of doorway.
110	View looking west at columns on west side of door in Renaissance facade.
111	Detail of window on west side of door in Renaissance facade.
112	West view, showing detail of column pedestal on west side of doorway.



Photo 01. Vertical aerial view of Walworth Castle, looking NNW.



Photo 02. West facing exterior elevation.



Photo 03. West facing exterior elevation, north end, first floor.



Photo 04. West facing exterior elevation, bay window, first floor.



Photo 05. West facing exterior elevation, bay window, ground floor.



Photo 06. West facing exterior elevation, north of reception entrance, ground floor.



Photo 07. West facing exterior elevation, north of reception entrance, first floor.



Photo 08. West facing exterior elevation, reception entrance, ground floor.



Photo 09. West facing exterior elevation, above reception entrance, first floor.



Photo 10. West facing exterior elevation, above reception entrance, upper first floor of west range and second floor of former manor house.



Photo 11. West facing exterior elevation, south of reception entrance, with former manor house and SW-tower ground floor.



Photo 12. West facing exterior elevation, south of reception entrance, with former manor house and SW-tower first and second floor.



Photo 13. West facing exterior elevation, south of reception entrance, with former manor house and SW-tower second floor.



Photo 14. West facing exterior elevation, former manor house and SW-tower.



Photo 15. Detail of north facing single window with trefoil head in first floor of tower.



Photo 16. Detail of gunloops in tower, facing north, ground floor.



Photo 17. South facing exterior elevation of SW-tower.



Photo 18. Detail of SW facing, cross window in ground floor of SW-tower.



Photo 19. South facing exterior elevation of SW-tower and west end of former manor house, ground floor.



Photo 20. South facing exterior elevation of SW-tower and west end of former manor house, first floor.



Photo 21. South facing exterior elevation of SW-tower and west end of former manor house, second/third floor.



Photo 22. South facing exterior elevation of SW-tower, third floor, with detail of three-light transomed window.



Photo 23. South facing exterior elevation of Walworth Castle.



Photo 24. South facing elevation, west end of former manor house, ground floor, with east facing round arched window in adjoining tower first floor.



Photo 25. South facing elevation, west end of former manor house, first floor, with east facing round arched window in adjoining tower first floor.



Photo 26. South facing elevation, west end of former manor house, second floor.



Photo 27. South facing elevation, west end of former manor house, upper part of second floor and roof.



Photo 28. South facing elevation, centre-west part of former manor house, ground floor.



Photo 29. South facing elevation, centre-west part of former manor house, first floor.



Photo 30. South facing elevation, centre-west part of former manor house, second floor.



Photo 31. South facing exterior elevation, centre of former manor house, ground floor, showing entrance.



Photo 32. South facing exterior elevation, centre of former manor house, first floor, above entrance.



Photo 33. South facing exterior elevation, centre of former manor house, second floor, above entrance.



Photo 34. South facing exterior elevation, centre of former manor house, upper second floor and roof, above entrance.



Photo 35. View looking north-east towards the SE-tower.



Photo 36. South facing exterior elevation of SE-tower.



Photo 37. South facing exterior elevation of SE-tower and east end of former manor house, ground floor.



Photo 38. South facing exterior elevation of SE-tower and east end of former manor house, first floor.



Photo 39. South facing exterior elevation of SE-tower and east end of former manor house, second floor.



Photo 40. South facing exterior elevation of SE-tower and east end of former manor house, upper second floor and roof.



Photo 41. South facing exterior elevation of SE-tower, ground floor.



Photo 42. South facing exterior elevation of SE-tower, first floor.



Photo 43. South facing exterior elevation of SE-tower, second floor.



Photo 44. South facing exterior elevation of SE-tower, third floor.



Photo 45. View looking north-west towards the SE corner of Walworth Castle.



Photo 46. Detail of three-light transomed window, south facing, third floor of SE tower.



Photo 47. East facing exterior elevation of Walworth Castle.



Photo 48. East facing exterior elevation of Walworth Castle south end.



Photo 49. East facing exterior elevation of SE-tower, ground floor.



Photo 50. East facing exterior elevation of SE-tower, first floor.



Photo 51. East facing exterior elevation of SE-tower, second floor.



Photo 52. East facing exterior elevation of SE-tower, third floor and roof.



Photo 53. East facing exterior elevation, south end of former manor house, ground floor.



Photo 54. Detail of former arched openings in east facing exterior elevation, south end of former manor house, above later window and doorway.



Photo 55. East facing exterior elevation, entrance to former manor house, ground floor.



Photo 56. East facing exterior elevation, south end of former manor house, second-third floors.



Photo 57. East facing exterior elevation, centre-south of east range, ground floor.



Photo 58. Detail of cross window in east facing exterior elevation, centre-south of east range, ground floor.



Photo 59. East facing exterior elevation, centre-south of east range, first floor.



Photo 60. East facing exterior elevation, centre-south of east range, second floor, looking towards east facing elevation of renaissance facade second floor.



Photo 61. East facing exterior elevation of Renaissance facade second floor.



Photo 62. East facing exterior elevation of East Range, north end.



Photo 63. East facing exterior elevation of bay towards centre of East Range.



Photo 64. East facing exterior elevation of bay windows towards centre of East Range, ground floor.



Photo 65. East facing exterior elevation of bay windows towards centre of East Range, first floor.



Photo 66. East facing exterior elevation of bay windows towards centre of East Range, upper part of first floor.



Photo 67. East facing exterior elevation of parapet above bay at centre of East Range.



Photo 68. East facing exterior elevation, centre-north of East Range, ground floor.



Photo 69. East facing exterior elevation, centre-north of East Range, first floor.



Photo 70. East facing exterior elevation, centre-north of East Range, upper part of first floor.



Photo 71. East facing exterior elevation, north end of East Range, ground floor.



Photo 72. East facing exterior elevation, north end of East Range, first floor.



Photo 73. East facing exterior elevation, north end of East Range, upper part of first floor and roof, with detail of chimney stack.



Photo 74. View of Walworth Castle North Range, north facing exterior elevation.



Photo 75. North facing exterior elevation, east end of North Range, ground floor.



Photo 76. North facing exterior elevation, east end of North Range, first floor.



Photo 77. North facing exterior elevation, east end of North Range, upper part of first floor and roof, with Renaissance facade visible in background.



Photo 78. North facing exterior elevation, centre of North Range, ground floor.



Photo 79. North facing exterior elevation, centre of North Range, first floor.



Photo 80. North facing exterior elevation, centre of North Range, upper part of first floor.



Photo 81. North facing exterior elevation, centre of North Range, upper part of first floor and roof, with Renaissance facade visible in background.



Photo 82. North facing exterior elevation, showing extension projecting northwards from west end of North Range, ground floor.



Photo 83. North facing exterior elevation, showing gable of extension projecting northwards from west end of North Range.



Photo 84. North facing exterior elevation, above extension at west end of North Range, first floor.



Photo 85. North facing exterior elevation, above extension at west end of North Range, upper part of first floor.



Photo 86. North facing exterior elevation, west end of North Range, ground floor.



Photo 87. North facing exterior elevation, west end of North Range, ground-first floor.



Photo 88. North facing exterior elevation, west end of North Range, first floor.



Photo 89. North facing exterior elevation of former manor house, Renaissance facade, first-second floors, taken from roof of North Range.



Photo 90. Portrait view of north facing exterior elevation of former manor house, Renaissance facade, taken from roof of North Range.



Photo 91. Oblique view towards Renaissance facade of former manor house, taken from roof of North Range.



Photo 92. Oblique view towards Renaissance facade of former manor house, taken from NE corner of roof of North Range.



Photo 93. Oblique view of east facing exterior elevation of Renaissance facade second floor, from roof of East Range.



Photo 94. East facing exterior elevation of Renaissance facade second floor, from roof of East Range.



Photo 95. View looking south along roof corridor at west end of former manor house, second floor.



Photo 96. View looking north along roof corridor at west end of former manor house, second floor.



Photo 97. Detail of small door in west facing elevation second floor of former manor house, leading to west roof corridor.



Photo 98. View looking north-east across Walworth Castle roof, from East Range towards North Range.



Photo 99. View looking north towards modern accommodation wing, located on the west side of Walworth Castle.



Photo 100. Detail of south facing entrance doorway to modern accommodation wing.



Photo 101. North facing elevation of Renaissance facade of former manor house, within courtyard extension, east side.



Photo 102. North facing elevation of Renaissance facade, ground floor, from east side of conservatory.



Photo 103. North facing elevation of Renaissance facade, ground floor, detail of Venetian doorway from centre-south of conservatory.

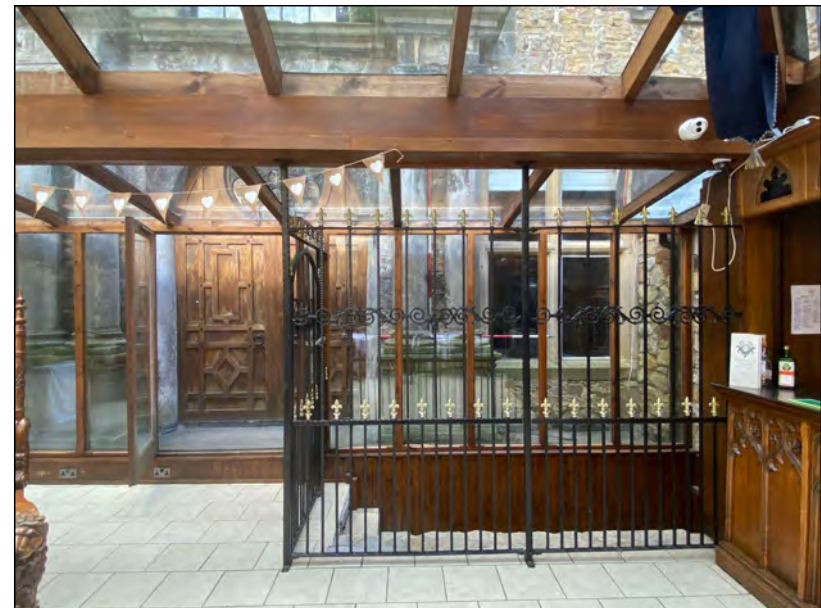


Photo 104. North facing elevation of Renaissance facade, ground floor, from west side of conservatory.



Photo 105. North facing elevation of Renaissance facade, ground floor, west of entrance.



Photo 106. View looking east at columns on east side of door in Renaissance facade.



Photo 107. East view, showing detail of column pedestal on east side of doorway.

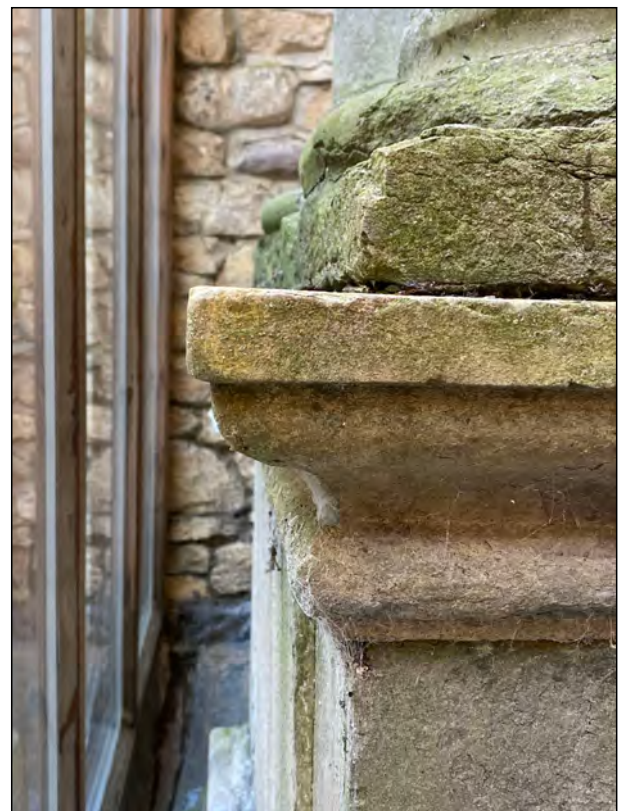


Photo 108. Detail of upper NW corner of column pedestal on east side of doorway.



Photo 109. Detail of lower NW corner of column pedestal on east side of doorway.



Photo 110. View looking west at columns on west side of door in Renaissance facade.



Photo 111. Detail of window on west side of door in Renaissance facade.



Photo 112. West view, showing detail of column pedestal on west side of doorway. 69

4. CONCLUDING DISCUSSION

Walworth Castle consists of four ranges surrounding a small courtyard, now roofed over. The south range is three-storeyed, with a projecting block (the former entrance) in the centre of its north side and taller round towers at its southern angles; two-storeyed ranges, set at a slightly skew angle, extend north, to be linked by the lower north-range, whilst the courtyard thus enclosed is now infilled by a single-storey block. Extending west from the north end of the west range is a long wing built as school accommodation in the 1950s, and replacing an older stable range.

The castle is an important building that has never been examined in detail; most accounts refer to it as a house of c. 1600 built by Thomas Jennison, although more recently it has been recognised that an earlier building is incorporated within. As noted by Pevsner, the gunloops in the south-west tower suggest a building date no later than the early 16th century; he also rightly points out that the change in alignment between the south range and the former courtyard and its wings is too great to be accidental, and must result from both parts following earlier structures, which could be medieval in origin, perhaps as early as the late 13th century (suggested by Jackson 1989, 16).

Whatever the date of the pre-Jennison building, the gunloops in the south-west tower enable the house to be classified as either a castle or a fortified manor house. It is possible that a straight joint (actually a slight off-set) towards the west end of the south front, sometimes seen as indicative of a change of build, may instead simply reflect the hall/solar division of a medieval house, with the south-west tower placed at the corner of the medieval solar. The remainder of the south range would then have contained the hall, and perhaps service rooms at the east end, where there still appears to be evidence of pre-Jennison openings in the east wall.

The west range, set at its rather oblique angle to the south range, also has walls in excess of 1.0 m thick on the east and is also probably medieval. The former entrance block and east range appears to be part of the Jennison rebuilding of c. 1600, while all that can be said of the much-altered north range is that it appears on the Tithe Map of 1835.

The only plans of the building traced are a set made by Trevor Welch, Chartered Architect of Bishop Auckland and acquired by the National Monuments Record in 1980; they are not wholly satisfactory as regards wall thicknesses (they show both towers as having walls of approximately the same thickness), and in addition there have been considerable alterations since they were made. Complications due to the Covid pandemic and the necessity to maintain a working hotel business severely restricted internal access to the castle during the period of investigation, thereby preventing detailed survey work to comprehensively update these existing ground plans of the Castle, an undertaking which would greatly assist in the interpretation of the building.

5. REFERENCES

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