

Archaeological evaluation at Hedingham Castle, Castle Hedingham, Essex, CO9 3DG

February 2022



by Sarah Veasey with Laura Pooley

with contributions by Dr Matthew Loughton and Adam Wightman
figures by Sarah Veasey

fieldwork by Nigel Rayner with Chloe Hill and Nicholas Pryke

**commissioned by Mark Baister, ECC Place Services
on behalf of Mr and Mrs Lindsay**

NGR: TL 78671 35819 (centre)

SMC reference no.: S00242290

CAT project ref.: 2022/01a

ECC code: CHHC22

OASIS ref.: colchest3-503689



Colchester Archaeological Trust

Roman Circus House,
Roman Circus Walk,
Colchester,
Essex, CO2 7GZ

tel.: 01206 501785

email: sv@catuk.org

CAT Report 1789

April 2022

Contents

1	Summary	1
2	Introduction	1
3	Archaeological background	1
4	Aims	4
5	Results	4
6	Finds	7
7	Discussion	9
8	Acknowledgements	9
9	References	9
10	Abbreviations and glossary	10
11	Contents of archive	10
12	Archive deposition	10
Appendix 1	Context list	12
Figures		after p12
CAT WSI		
OASIS summary sheet		

List of plates, photographs, tables and figures

Cover: The Norman keep

Drawing 1	Drawing Hedingham Castle dated 1665, the Tudor tower visible in the foreground (I/Mb 176/1/34).	3
Photograph 1	Test Pit 1: wall foundation F1 with construction cut F2 in the base, looking north-west	5
Photograph 2	Test Pit 2: later wall F4 with internal wall F5, looking south	6
Photograph 3	Test Pit 3: wall foundation F3, looking north- west	6
Table 1	Summary of the pottery and CBM.	7
Table 2	Quantities of pottery and CBM from specific contexts.	7
Table 3	Quantities of CBM from specific contexts.	7
Table 4	Approximate dates for the layers.	8
Table 5	Non-ceramic finds listed by context.	8
Table 6	Flint and animal bone by context.	8
Fig 1	Site location.	
Fig 2	Test-pit results.	
Fig 3	Test-pit sections.	

1 Summary

An archaeological evaluation was carried out at Hedingham Castle, Castle Hedingham, Essex. The evaluation consisted of three test-pits located to the south-west of the Norman keep. Two were positioned alongside the standing remains of turrets from a Tudor tower, and the third alongside a later wall built over the foundations of the tower. The aim of the evaluation was to expose the buried remains associated with these structures to allow a programme of Historic Building Record and Photogrammetry to take place to better assess the remains of the Tudor tower.

All three of the test-pits successfully exposed the buried remains. Test-pits 1 and 3 revealed that the turrets of the Tudor tower had substantial foundations 1.8-1.9m deep, and a possible construction cut for the western turret was also identified in the base of test-pit 1. The later wall in test-pit 2 was equally substantial, extending 1.35m below ground level. The excavation of test-pit 2 also revealed the remains of an earlier brick wall, aligned north/south, that is in all likelihood an internal wall within the tower.

2 Introduction (Fig 1)

This is the report detailing an archaeological test-pit evaluation at Hedingham Castle, Castle Hedingham, Essex carried out by Colchester Archaeological Trust (CAT) from the 3rd to the 4th February 2022. The work was commissioned by Mark Baister of ECC Place Services, on behalf of the landowners, to expose sections of the buried remains associated with a Tudor tower and later brick wall, to allow a programme of Historic Building Record and Photogrammetry to take place to better assess the remains of the tower.

The evaluation took place as part of a wider programme of investigation, initiated by the owners of the castle, to determine the preservation of the Tudor tower and later wall in order to provide information for an upcoming programme of conservation, and also to assess the potential to expose part of the tower to enhance it as a visitor attraction. This wider programme of investigation, including the Historic Building Record and Photogrammetry, was carried out by ECC Place Services.

As the site is located within the scheduled monument of Hedingham Castle (NHLE no 1002218), scheduled monument consent was received for the archaeological evaluation (SMC consent: S00242290) and a written scheme of investigation was prepared by CAT (2022), and agreed with the Historic England Inspector of Ancient Monuments (HEIAM), in advance of any work being undertaken.

In addition to the WSI, all fieldwork and reporting was done in accordance with *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MoRPHE)* (Historic England 2016) and with *Standards for field archaeology in the East of England (EAA 14 and 24)*. This report mirrors standards and practices contained in the Institute for Archaeologists' *Standard and Guidance for an archaeological watching brief (CIfA 2014a)*, *Standard and Guidance for the archaeological investigation of standing buildings or structures (CIfA 2014b)* and *Standard and guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials (CIfA 2014c)*.

3 Archaeological and historical background

The following archaeological background draws on the CAT Report archive and the Essex Historic Environment Record (EHER) held at Essex County Council, County Hall, Chelmsford, Essex, and accessed via Heritage Gateway (www.heritagegateway.org.uk):

Hedingham Castle, a ringwork castle with tower keep, was built by the de Veres, the Earls of Oxford, in the late 11th to early 12th century (NHLE no. 1002218, EHER 6787). The manor of Hedingham was granted to Aubrey de Vere in 1066 and the earthworks on which the keep now stands were likely erected in very short order after he was confirmed in his new lands. Sculpted out of a natural spur of land overlooking the northern bank of the River Colne, the earthworks

are extremely impressive even today. By excavating a deep ditch across the spur and scarping the natural slopes, the Normans enhanced an already very commanding location.

The castle earthworks consist of a ringwork with tower keep and two baileys – an inner bailey to the north-east and an outer bailey to the south-west (Fig 1). The inner bailey would have contained structures such as stables and barns, and today is the site of the current residence associated with the castle – a red brick mansion constructed in 1719. The outer bailey was larger in size and enclosed the early medieval settlement connected with the castle. Today the earthworks for the outer bailey are largely levelled and buried beneath the modern village, with only traces remaining (Medlycott 1999). It is likely that prior to the construction of the current keep, wooden buildings and defences would have stood on and around the earthworks, as they did with many early castles before their conversion to stone (Brown 2004).

The stone tower keep was added to the earthworks at Hedingham in the first half of the 12th century, probably to mark Aubrey de Vere III being made the Earl of Oxford (EHER 25226). The keep is one of the best preserved in northern Europe and, unusually for an Essex castle, is faced with blocks of ashlar limestone from a quarry in Barnack, Northamptonshire. Hedingham Castle has a close kinship with Rochester Castle, both being extremely similar in architectural style and of a similar date. Rochester is in a more intact condition than Hedingham, with both its fore-building and surrounding curtain wall surviving (although the keep at Rochester has no internal floors or roof).

As well as Rochester, the keep at Hedingham shares some of its architectural style with other keeps of a similar age in both Britain and France. Chambois Castle in Normandy is architecturally very similar to Hedingham. It differs in the lack of a true fore-building, with the keep having to be accessed by a wooden walkway, similar to the early English castles at Colchester and London. Castle Acre in Norfolk, although now in ruins, is an example of a similar castle with, like Hedingham, an associated planned settlement. Goodrich Castle, in Herefordshire near the Welsh border, has a keep of a similar age and style, although it is much smaller in size than Hedingham (Goodrich's keep has internal measurements of 5.5m x 4.5m, compared to Hedingham's 13m x 12m). Goodrich also had extensive fortifications added around the keep in the late 13th century which still survive.

Unlike many of its contemporaries, no trace of the rest of the original Norman castle survives above ground at Hedingham. The reason for this appears to be a great programme of rebuilding, carried out by John de Vere, the 13th Earl of Oxford, in or around 1496. A survey of the castle in 1592 shows the ringwork with Norman keep, a stone gatehouse, a Great Brick Tower, a brick turret, chapel, hall and pantries, kitchens, stone lodgings, well, and a curtain wall around two sides of the mound. The stone buildings were presumably survivors from an earlier period of the castle, possibly contemporary with the keep.

Described as the 'Great Brick Tower', it is this Tudor tower that is the focus of this current evaluation. Historical evidence shows that the brick tower was built in or around 1496, put into ruin by 1592, still-standing as a ruin in 1665, and completely demolished by 1719 (ECCPS 2021). An etching from 1665 shows the castle site viewed from the south-west, with the Tudor tower in the foreground and Norman keep behind (Plate 1). Also visible is a section of the curtain wall, and part of either the ruined gatehouse or a brick turret to the right (east) of the keep.



Plate 1 Drawing of Hedingham Castle dated 1665, the Tudor tower visible in the foreground (I/Mb 176/1/34)

Two excavations are known to have taken place in the grounds of the castle, both by members of the Essex Archaeological Society in the mid-19th century. The first was in 1853 under a Mr Harrod and Sir Beavor, of which no records survive. The other, in 1868 by the then owner Mr Majendie, was atop the ringwork and focused mostly on the western side of the keep, exposing several Tudor buildings including the Great Brick Tower, the stair turrets, two other brick towers, the Chapel, the Hall with pantries and cellars below, rubble foundations of the gatehouse, and the curtain wall.

No further archaeological work was carried out within the castle grounds until 1995, when the Royal Commission on the Historical Monuments of England (RCHME) conducted a survey of the keep and earthworks (Brown 1995). The bases of two stair turrets of the Great Brick Tower were still visible on the slope of the castle mound. The octagonal western turret measuring 2.1m by 1.1m deep internally and the almost square eastern turret 1.5m by 1.2m and 1.1m deep internally. The remains of the outer walling to the turrets was still visible in places and backed onto the curtain wall which pre-dated them, if only by a few years. The positions of several other buildings revealed during the 1868 excavation were also detected during this survey as slight earthworks. These include an almost square brick tower measuring roughly 8.5m by 8.2m, situated 25m south-west of the Keep; fragments of the Great Hall corresponding with a square angle cut into the ringwork bank; and fragments of another brick tower south of the Keep. Various other slight undulations south-east and east of the Keep are probably also the remains of buildings.

Geophysical investigations by the Colchester Archaeological Group in 2008, 2009 and 2014 exposed wall lines, and areas of interest corresponded remarkably well with the plan of the

1868 excavations. However, the extent of the brick tower still could not be ascertained (see ECCPS 2021, Fig 3).

The following is a summary of a Historic Building Survey carried out on the remains in 2021 in advance of the current test-pit evaluation (ECCPS 2021):

Close examination of the brickwork showed that the recorded structure is actually formed of two separate phases. The brick foundation of the turrets is an earlier phase, with regularly-spaced brickwork, laid in header- or English-bond, and bonded with darker, more compact lime mortar, with occasional inclusions of fired clay. This brickwork was measured and corresponded to the dimensions of 15th-16th century Tudor brickwork, both generally and also when compared to Tudor brickwork uncovered on the site during previous archaeological work, i.e. the bricks were handmade, thinner and longer than later post-medieval or modern bricks.

The wall on top of the foundations is distinctly different, with irregular spaced brickwork in a heavy mortar bedding. The mortar is lighter, more crumbly, and has no clear inclusions. Several sections of the wall appear as though they have been taken wholesale from an earlier structure and embedded into the later fabric (including some sections that are rotated 90 degrees). All the recorded bricks had similar dimensions to the brick foundation below, suggesting these re-used sections of brickwork were from structures of a Tudor date. Additionally, the wall has clearly been repaired on several occasions, there are multiple instances of cement mortar, and additional material, including sandstone, has been added to the wall at a later date. Aside from these clearly later repairs the wall appears to be entirely constructed of re-used Tudor brickwork.

The two turret foundations are not identical. The western foundation is octagonal in shape, while the eastern tower is square in shape, with a circular interior. This could suggest that the eastern tower contained a spiral staircase.

4 Aims

The aim of this evaluation was to excavate three archaeological test-pits to expose the buried remains of the Tudor tower and the later brick wall. A programme of Historic Building Record and Photogrammetry would then be carried out by other contractors, which would feed into a wider project to assess the preservation of the remains, to provide information for a programme of conservation and to assess the feasibility of exposing part of the tower.

5 Results (Figs 2-3)

Three test-pits were hand-excavated by CAT archaeologists. Test-pits 1 and 3 were positioned to the south-west of the Tudor tower foundations and test-pit 2 to the north of the later wall built on top of the foundations. A full context list can be found in Appendix 1.

Test-pit 1 (TP1): 1m by 1.75m

TP1 was located against the western turret of the Tudor tower, it had to be moved from the original location proposed in the WSI because of a tree-stump. It was cut through topsoil (L1, c 0.21-0.30m thick) and five make-up layers beneath (L2, c 0.18-0.25m thick; L3, c 0.10-0.17m thick; L4, c 0.18-0.41m thick; L5, c 0.32-0.66m thick and L6, not fully excavated but identified c 1.14-1.24m below current ground level [bcgl]).

Brick foundation F1 was located 0.45m below ground level, sealed by L2. It extended 0.75-1.4m from the turret, was 1.8m deep and was constructed of red bricks (dimensions: 220 x 105 x 50mm). At the base of the test-pit, a possible construction cut (F2) for the foundation was uncovered, sealed by L5 and cutting L6.



Photograph 1 Test Pit 1: wall foundation F1 with construction cut F2 in the base, looking north-west

Test-pit 2 (TP2): 1m by 0.80m

TP2 was located to the north of the later wall built on top of the Tudor foundations and within the Tudor tower. It was excavated through topsoil (L1, c 0.31-0.39m thick) and into a build-up layer (L8, encountered c 0.31-0.39m bcgl and dug to a depth of 0.55-1.05m).

The later brick wall, F4, was aligned north-west/south-east, constructed of re-used Tudor bricks and was 1.35m deep. It was likely constructed to support the edge of the earthworks.

At a depth of approximately 0.65m, north/south wall F5 was also revealed. Constructed of red bricks (dimensions: 230 x 110 x 55mm) it is likely that it is an internal wall within the Tudor tower that was truncated by later wall F4.



Photograph 2 Test Pit 2: later wall F4 with internal wall F5, looking south



Photograph 3 Test Pit 3: wall foundation F3, looking north- west

Test-pit 3 (TP3): 1m by 1m

TP3 was located against the eastern turret of the Tudor tower. It cut through topsoil (L1, c 0.48-0.59m thick) and two make-up layers beneath (L2, c 0.36-0.51m thick; L7, not fully excavated but identified c 0.90-0.95m bcgl).

Wall foundation F3 was aligned roughly east/west, was constructed of Tudor bricks (dimensions: 220 x ?? x 50mm) and extended 1.11m bcgl (totalling 1.9m deep). The foundation was noted to warp outwards slightly at the corner.

6 Finds**6.1 Ceramic and pottery finds**

by Dr Matthew Loughton

Fifteen sherds of post-Roman pottery and ceramic building material (henceforth CBM) were recovered from the test-pits weighing 3,387g with an EVE of 0.05 (Table 1). This material was recovered from five layers (Table 2).

Ceramic material	No.	Weight (g)	MSW (g)	EVE
Pottery	3	128	43	0.05
CBM	12	3,259	272	-
All	15	3,387	226	0.05

Table 1 Summary of the pottery and CBM.

Context	Description	No.	Weight (g)	MSW (g)
L1	Topsoil	2	100	50
L3	Bank make-up	3	200	67
L4	Bank make-up	2	169	85
L5	Bank make-up	2	749	375
L8	Build-up	6	2,169	362
Total		15	3,387	226

Table 2 Quantities of pottery and CBM from specific contexts.

Post-Roman pottery

Three sherds of post-medieval red earthenware pottery (128g), dating to c 1500-19th/20th century, was recovered from topsoil L1 and bank make-up L4. The only diagnostic sherd was a rim (0.05 EVE) from a tripod pipkin or a small handled jar or chamberpot dating from the mid-16th to the 18th century (Cotter 2000, 207, 210) which came from topsoil L1.

Ceramic building material (CBM)

Ten fragments of medieval/post-medieval peg-tile (1,202g) and two fragments of unfrogged brick (2,057g) came from four layers (Table 3). The first fragment of brick came from make-up L5. It had dimensions of ? x ? x 55mm, weighed 550g and included traces of a yellow sandy-mortar. The second fragment came from build-up L8 and was larger at 1,507g, with dimensions of ? x 110/115mm x 60/65mm and a sandy yellow mortar.

Context	Description	No.	Weight (g)	MSW (g)
L3	Bank make-up	3	200	67
L4	Bank make-up	1	141	141
L5	Bank make-up	2	749	375
L8	Build-up	6	2,169	362
Total		12	3,259	272

Table 3 Quantities of CBM from specific contexts.

Conclusion

Table 3 summarizes the dating evidence for the layers which contained dateable pottery and ceramics.

Context	Description	Post-Roman pottery	CBM	Date approx.
L1	Topsoil	F40 (Tripod pipkin/small handled jar/chamberpot)	-	Mid-16th to the 18th century
L3	Bank make-up	-	PT	Medieval/post-medieval
L4	Bank make-up	F40	PT	c 1500-19th/20th century
L5	Bank make-up	-	BR unfrogged, PT	Post-medieval
L8	Build-up	-	BR unfrogged, PT	Post-medieval

Table 4 Approximate dates for the layers

6.2 Non-ceramic finds

by Laura Pooley

Fragments of post-medieval/modern glass, slate, clinker/coke, oyster shell, iron nails and a shotgun cartridge came from layers L1, L3, L4 and L8 (see Table 5).

Context	Finds no.	Description
L1 TP3	2	Glass: Seventeen fragments of a 19th-/20th-century glass jar and Codd bottle, 274.7g. Slate: One fragment, 11.2g. Clinker/coke: Two fragments, 17.9g. Oyster shell: One fragment, 2.8g. Shotgun cartridge: Used shotgun cartridge, late 19th/early 20th century, 13.0g. (KYNOCH PATENT GROUSE EJECTOR No 12 No 2090). Iron nail: Incomplete, 8.5g.
L3 TP1	1	Oyster shell: Two, 17.4g. Stone: Fragment of unworked limestone, 313.1g.
L4 TP1	6	Oyster shell: Three fragments, 12.9g.
L8 TP2	4	Glass: Fragment of post-medieval/modern glass, 1.3g. Iron nail: Complete, square-sectioned shank, flat round head (20.6mm), 68.3mm long, 18.4g.

Table 5 Non-ceramic finds listed by context.

6.3 Flint and animal bone

by Adam Wightman

Two flint flakes and an animal bone were recovered from L1 and L4 (summarised in Table 6). Both flint flakes could be prehistoric. Alternatively, they could be waste flakes from the process of shaping of flint nodules to use as a building materials in the medieval/post-medieval period.

Context	Finds no.	Description
L1	2	Flint: Small flint flake, hard-hammer struck, some probable edge-damage, but no edge modification.
L4	6	Flint: Thick, hard-hammer struck flint flake with no evidence of edge modification or damage. Animal bone: Large mammal vertebrae exhibiting evidence of butchery. The body of the vertebrae has oblique chop marks indicative of the removal of the ribs from the vertebrae

Table 6 Flint and animal bone listed by context.

7 Discussion

The test-pit evaluation at Hedingham Castle successfully uncovered the buried remains of the Tudor tower and later wall to allow a programme of Historic Building Record and Photogrammetry to take place.

The turrets of the Tudor tower would have both originally had an octagonal exterior, which can be seen in Plate 1 (see above). The octagonal exterior of the western tower is still visible, however, due to the deterioration of the brickwork and the lower modern ground level the eastern turret has lost this octagonal shape and appears more square. The eastern tower has a circular interior, perhaps an indication it contained a spiral staircase.

Substantial brick foundations were uncovered for both turrets during the evaluation. Located in TP1, brick foundation F1 was 1.8m deep. Extending out 0.75-1.4m from the above ground remains, the foundations are likely to be squarer and of a similar shape to those of the eastern turret. A possible construction cut for the foundation was also identified in TP1. Located in TP3, brick foundation F3 was 1.9m deep.

Two brick walls were observed in TP2. Wall F5 was aligned north/south and is likely to be an internal wall associated with the Tudor tower. It is truncated by later wall F4, a brick wall constructed to support the earthworks. Wall F4 is later in date than the Tudor tower but was constructed of reused Tudor brick, possibly from the remains of the tower.

Test-pits 1 and 3 were both cut through modern topsoil (L1) and layers of make-up beneath (L2-L7). Unfortunately none of the make-up layers could be closely-dated beyond 'post-medieval'. However, it is possible that layer L2 is associated with the 1868 antiquarian excavations of the Tudor tower and the turrets, as it does seal wall foundation F1 which was presumably exposed at this time. Furthermore, if F2 is the construction cut for the Tudor tower, then layers L3-L5 must post-date the construction of the tower, with L6 pre-dating it. If the Tudor tower was put into ruin by 1592, still-standing as a ruin in 1665 and demolished by 1719, then the layer of build-up within test-pit 2 (L8) also likely dates from the 17th into the early 18th century.

8 Acknowledgements

CAT would like to thank Mark Baister and ECC Place Services for commissioning and funding the work. The project was managed by C Lister and A Wightman. Fieldwork was carried out by N Rayner with C Hill and N Pryke. Figures are by S Veasey. The project was monitored for Historic England by Dr Jess Tipper.

9 References

Note: all CAT reports, except for DBAs, are available online in PDF format at <http://cat.essex.ac.uk>

- | | | |
|--------------------------|-------|--|
| Brown, A. | 2004 | <i>Allen Brown's English Castles</i> , new edition |
| Brown, M. | 1995 | <i>Hedingham Castle, Castle Hedingham, Essex</i> RCHME Request survey |
| Brown, N & Glazebrook, J | 2000 | <i>Research and Archaeology: A Framework for the Eastern Counties 2. Research agenda and strategy.</i> East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Paper 8 (EAA 8) |
| CAR 7 | 2000 | <i>Colchester Archaeological Report 7: Post-Roman pottery from excavations in Colchester, 1971-85</i> By J P Cotter |
| CAT | 2021 | <i>Health & Safety Policy</i> |
| CAT | 2022 | <i>Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) for an archaeological evaluation by test pitting at at Hedingham Castle, Castle Hedingham, Essex, CO9 3DG</i> By E Holloway |
| CAT Report 849 | 2015 | <i>Archaeological monitoring, test pits and building recording at Hedingham Castle, Castle Hedingham, Essex June 2014 – December 2015</i> by M Baister |
| CAT Report 1664 | 2021 | <i>Archaeological monitoring and historic building recording at Hedingham Castle, Castle Hedingham, Essex, CO9 3DG: March-April 2021</i> , by M Baister |
| CIfA | 2014a | <i>Standard and Guidance for archaeological evaluation</i> |
| CIfA | 2014b | <i>Standard and guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials</i> |

ECCPS	2021	<i>Hedingham Castle, Castle Hedingham, Essex, Tudor Tower Summary</i> , by M Baister
Gurney, D	2003	<i>Standards for field archaeology in the East of England</i> . East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Papers 14 (EAA 14)
Historic England	2016	<i>Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MoRPHE)</i>
Medlycott, M	2011	<i>Research and archaeology revisited: A revised framework for the East of England</i> . East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Papers 24 (EAA 24)
Medlycott, M	1999	<i>Historic Towns in Essex: Castle Hedingham. Historic Towns Assessment Report</i> by ECC

10 Abbreviations and glossary

Ashlar	finely dressed masonry
CAT	Colchester Archaeological Trust
CIfA	Chartered Institute for Archaeologists
clunch	relatively soft chalky limestone used as building material, most commonly in eastern England
EHHER	Essex Historic Environment Record
ERO	Essex Records Office
feature (F)	an identifiable thing like a pit, a wall, a drain: can contain 'contexts'
HEIAM	Historic England Inspector of Ancient Monuments
layer (L)	distinct or distinguishable deposit (layer) of material
medieval	period from AD 1066 to c 1500
modern	period from c AD 1800 to the present
natural	geological deposit undisturbed by human activity
NGR	National Grid Reference
Norman	the period from AD 1066 to AD 1154
OASIS	Online Access to the Index of Archaeological Investigations, http://oasis.ac.uk/pages/wiki/Main
post-medieval	from c AD 1500 to c 1800
section	(abbreviation sx or Sx) vertical slice through feature/s or layer/s
Tudor	the period from AD 1485 to AD 1603
turret	a small tower part of a larger tower
ws	written scheme of investigation

11 Contents of archive

Finds: none retained

Digital record

The report (CAT Report 1789)
 CAT written scheme of investigation
 Scans of original site records (trench sheets, sections)
 Site digital photographs, thumbnails and log
 Graphic files
 Site data
 Survey data

12 Archive deposition

The archive is currently held by the Colchester Archaeological Trust at Roman Circus House, Roman Circus Walk, Colchester, Essex CO2 7GZ, but will be permanently deposited with the Archaeological Data Service

© Colchester Archaeological Trust 2022

Distribution list:

Mark Baister, ECC Place Services

Dr Jess Tipper, Historic England Inspector of Ancient Monuments

Essex Historic Environment Record, Essex County Council



Colchester Archaeological Trust

Roman Circus House,
Roman Circus Walk,
Colchester,
Essex, CO2 7GZ

tel.: 01206 501785

email: sv@catuk.org

Checked by: Philip Crummy
Date: 13/4/2022

Appendix 1 Context list

Context	Test-pit	Finds no.	Context type	Fill description	Date
L1	All	2	Topsoil	Loose/soft moist very dark grey/brown sandy loam with charcoal flecks	Post-medieval
L2	1 and 2	-	Make-up	Soft moist medium/dark yellow/brown sandy silt with charcoal flecks, oyster flecks, brick flecks, tile flecks	Post-medieval
L3	1	1	Bank make-up	Soft moist medium yellow/brown sandy silt with charcoal flecks, oyster flecks, brick flecks, tile flecks	Post-medieval
L4	1	6	Bank make-up	Firm moist medium yellow/orange/brown sandy silty clay	Post-medieval
L5	1	5	Bank make-up	Soft moist medium yellow/orange/grey/brown sandy silt with charcoal flecks, oyster flecks, brick flecks, tile flecks	Post-medieval
L6	1	-	Bank-make-up	Soft moist medium orange/brown sand	Post-medieval
L7	3	-	Bank make-up	Soft moist medium yellow/brown sandy silt with charcoal flecks, oyster flecks, brick flecks, tile flecks	Post-medieval
L8	2	3, 4	Build-up	Loose/soft moist light/medium/dark yellow/orange/grey/brown sandy silt with charcoal flecks, brick flecks, tile flecks	Post-medieval
F1	1	-	Brick foundation	Brick foundation	Tudor
F2	1	-	?Foundation cut	Soft moist medium yellow/brown sandy silt	?Tudor
F3	3	-	Brick foundation	Brick foundation	Tudor
F4	2	-	Wall	Brick wall	Post-medieval
F5	2	-	Wall	Brick wall	Tudor

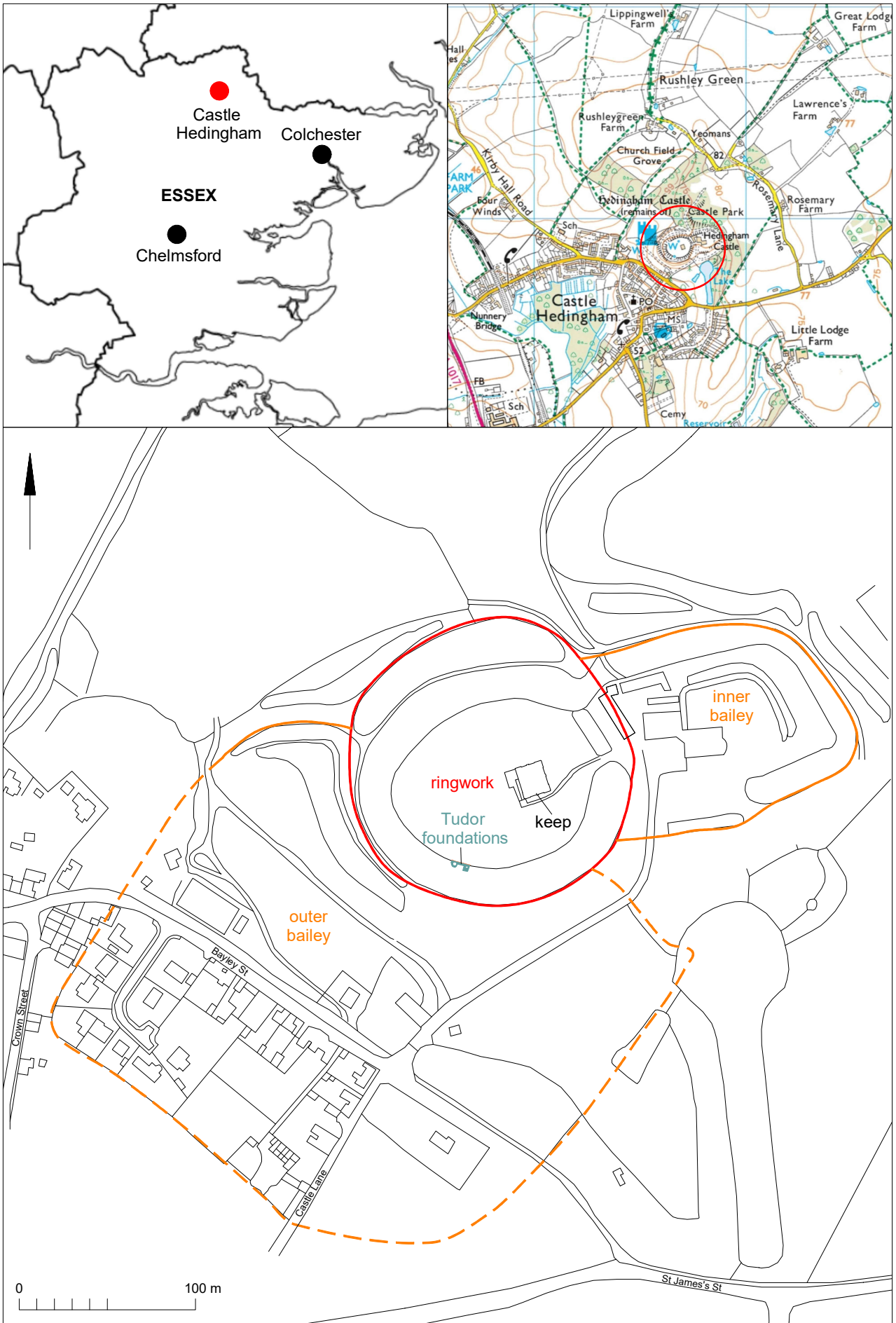


Fig 1 Site location.

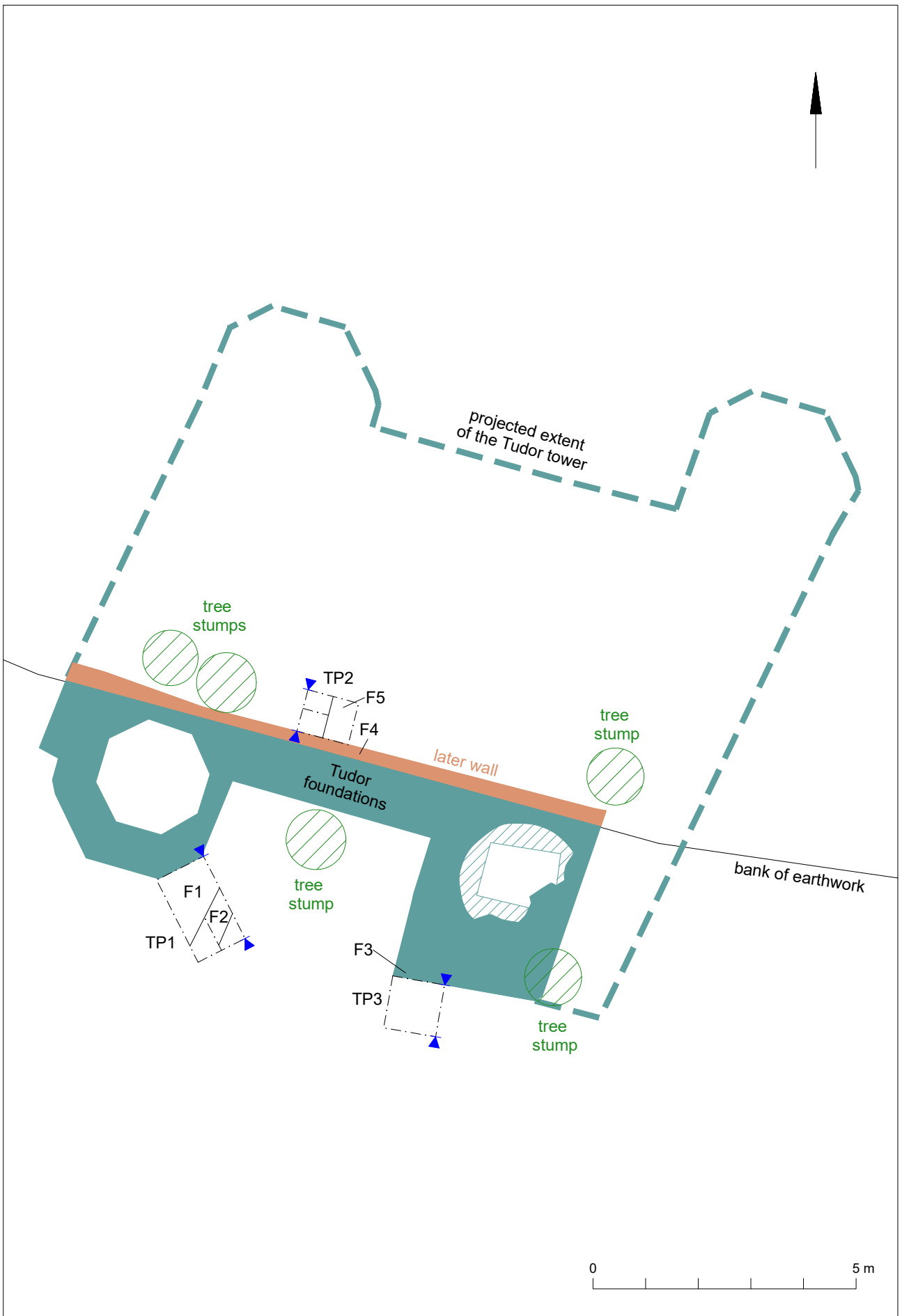


Fig 2 Test-pit results.

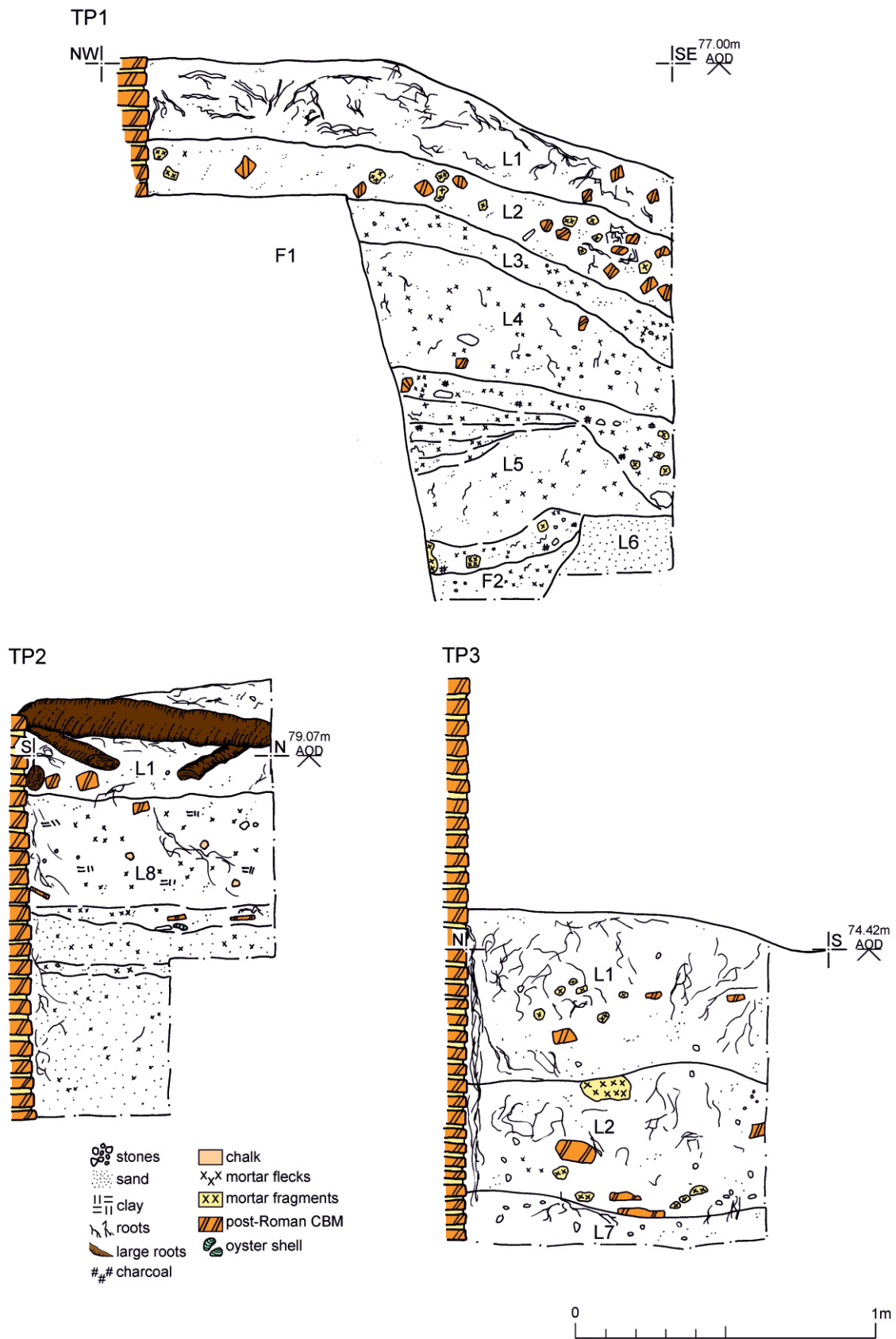


Fig 3 Test-pit sections.

Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) for an archaeological evaluation by test pitting at Heddingham Castle, Castle Heddingham, Essex, CO9 3DG

NGR: TL 78671 35819 (centre)

District: Braintree

Parish: Castle Heddingham

Scheduled Monument number: 1002218

Historic England SM consent number: pending

Commissioned by: Mark Baister (ECC)

On behalf of: ECC Place Services

Curating museum: Braintree District Museum/ADS Archaeology

ECC project code: tbc

CAT project code: 2022/01a

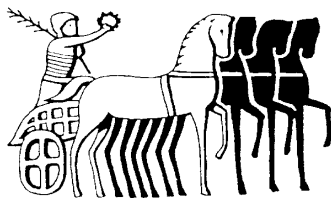
Oasis project ID: colchest3-503689

Contracts Manager: Chris Lister

Fieldwork Manager: Adam Wightman

Historic England Inspector of Ancient Monuments: Jess Tipper

This WSI written: 17/01/2022 (revised)



COLCHESTER ARCHAEOLOGICAL TRUST,
Roman Circus House,
Roman Circus Walk,
Colchester,
Essex, CO2 7GZ

tel: 01206 501785 opt 1

email: services@catuk.org

Site location and description

The site lies atop of the ringwork of the Scheduled Monument of Hedingham Castle in the village of Castle Hedingham, Essex (Fig 1). Site is centred at National grid reference (NGR) TL 78671 35819.

Proposed work

The project involves test-pits are to further determine the preservation of the tower/wall in order to provide information for an upcoming programme of conservation, and also to assess the potential to expose part of the tower to enhance it as a visitor attraction.

Archaeological background

The following archaeological background draws on the CAT Report 1664, the Tudor Tower Summary (ECC 2021) and the Essex Historic Environment Record (EHER) held at Essex County Council, County Hall, Chelmsford, Essex (accessible to the public via <http://www.heritagegateway.org.uk>).

Hedingham Castle is a Norman ringwork castle built by the de Veres, the Earls of Oxford, in the late 11th to early 12th century (NHLE no 1002218, EHER 6787). The manor of Hedingham was granted to Aubrey de Vere in 1066 and the earthworks on which the keep now stands were likely erected in very short order after he was confirmed in his new lands.

Sculpted out of a natural spur of land overlooking the northern bank of the River Colne, the earthworks are extremely impressive even today. By excavating a deep ditch across the spur and scarping the natural slopes, the Normans enhanced an already very commanding location.

The castle earthworks consist of a ringwork for the keep with two baileys – an inner bailey to the north-east and an outer bailey to the south-west (Fig 1). The inner bailey would have contained structures such as stables and barns, and today is the site of the current residence associated with the castle – a red brick mansion constructed in 1719. The outer bailey was larger in size and enclosed the early medieval settlement connected with the castle. Today the earthworks for the outer bailey are largely levelled and buried beneath the modern village, with only traces remaining (Medlycott 1999).

It is likely that prior to the construction of the current keep, wooden buildings and defences would have stood on and around the earthworks, as they did with many early castles before their conversion to stone (Brown 2004).

The stone keep was added to the earthworks at Hedingham in the first half of the 12th century, probably to mark Aubrey de Vere III being made the Earl of Oxford. (EHER 25226) The keep is one of the best preserved in northern Europe and, unusually for an Essex castle, is faced with blocks of ashlar limestone from a quarry in Barnack, Northamptonshire.

Hedingham Castle has a close kinship with Rochester Castle, both being extremely similar in architectural style and of a similar date. Rochester is in a more intact condition than Hedingham, with both its fore-building and surrounding curtain wall surviving (although the keep at Rochester has no internal floors or roof).

As well as Rochester, the keep at Hedingham shares some of its architectural style with other keeps of a similar age in both Britain and France. Chambois Castle in Normandy is architecturally very similar to Hedingham. It differs in the lack of a true fore-building, with the keep having to be accessed by a wooden walkway, similar to the early English castles at Colchester and London. Castle Acre in Norfolk, although now in ruins, is an example of a similar castle with, like Hedingham, an associated planned settlement. Goodrich Castle, in Herefordshire near the Welsh border, has a keep of a similar age and style, although it is much smaller in size than Hedingham (Goodrich's keep has internal measurements of 5.5m x

4.5m, compared to Hedingham's 13m x 12m). Goodrich also had extensive fortifications added around the keep in the late 13th century which still survive.

Unlike many of its contemporaries however, at Hedingham no trace of the rest of the original Norman castle survives above ground. The inner bailey curtain wall, the keep curtain wall and various domestic outbuildings were all replaced during the Tudor period. A survey of the castle in 1592 shows the grounds as they appeared at this time, with brick towers and turrets, along with the keep and still surviving Norman gatehouse. With the exception of a heavily-restored Tudor bridge, all these later brick structures and the stone gatehouse have been subsequently demolished, leaving a solitary keep towering over impressive earthworks.

Two excavations are known to have taken place in the grounds of the castle, both by members of the Essex Archaeological Society in the mid-19th century. The first was in 1853 under a Mr Harrod and Sir Beevor, of which no records survive. The other, in 1868 by the then owner Mr Majendie, was atop the ringwork and focused mostly on the western side of the keep, exposing several Tudor buildings including the great hall, a number brick towers and the chapel. Also briefly mentioned is the discovery of 'rubble foundations' of a 'wall which surrounded all the court', and a stone gatehouse tower to the east of the keep.

The fore-building of the keep is shown as being intact in the survey of 1592, but is now in a state of ruin. Sometime in the early modern period, two large entrances and doors were inserted into the north-eastern side of the keep, providing access into the basement from ground level.

On September 25th 1918, the Suffolk and Essex Free Press records a fire within the keep of Hedingham Castle while it was in use by the military:

"The interior of the ancient ruin was entirely burnt out. The old keep was built by the Earls of Oxford in the reign of King Stephen. This historical place which is visited by people from all parts of the country stands on commanding eminence was occupied by the military and used as a signalling station for aircraft. It is supposed the fire originated in a hut erected on the top for accommodation of the soldiers. The fire spread readily from one floor to another, entirely burning out the interior, only the massive walls remain intact."

No further archaeological work was carried out within the castle grounds after the 1800s excavations until 1995, when the Royal Commission on the Historical Monuments of England (RCHME) conducted a survey of the keep and earthworks (Brown 1995).

From June 2014 to December 2015 CAT carried out a programme of archaeological investigation at Hedingham Castle during extensive restoration and modernising works (CAT Report 849). The monitoring of new service trenches, the excavation of exploratory test-pits and a building recording survey of the partially demolished forebuilding were all undertaken during this period.

These works uncovered several Norman and Tudor foundations, including those interpreted as supporting curtain walls around the ringwork and inner bailey (see CAT Report 849; Fig 9). The foundations of the Norman gatehouse were also uncovered, along with evidence of later Tudor repairs to it.

Atop the ringwork evidence of significant Tudor landscaping was observed, with several layers of material used to build-up the ground-level quite substantially.

The test-pits within the keep itself identified the original floor and also a dumping of material within a burnt layer relating to the 1918 fire (detailed above).

Finally, the historic building recording of the fore-building made several conclusions, most prominently that the fore-building was a later addition to the keep (although not much later; it

was probably erected soon after the keep's completion), and that it was partially demolished sometime between 1665 and 1738, probably for its building materials.

In March-April 2021 archaeological monitoring and a historic building recording was carried out by CAT prior to the installation of a new lightning conductor on the keep and the repairing of a section of the keep wall (CAT Report 1664).

Project background

As the site lies within a Scheduled Ancient Monument the Historic England Inspector of Ancient Monuments (HEIAM) recommended archaeological evaluation by test-pitting be undertaken on the gauge the condition of the foundations in advance of an upcoming programme of conservation.

Requirement for work (Fig 1-2)

The required archaeological work will consist of an archaeological evaluation by test-pitting.

Three test-pits will be excavated. Each will measure 1m². Test pits will be excavated to either 1.2m safe working depth or to natural (whichever comes first). In order to achieve as much depth as possible the test-pits may need to be potentially expanded or partially relocated slightly on site to work around obstructions such as tree roots. Until recently several large trees were in this area.

Specifically, the test-pits are to assess the depth, preservation and stability of the tower's south-western turret abutting against the foundation and the area just to the north of the later wall built on top of the foundations.

Scheduled monument consent will be obtained before this work takes place.

Further area excavation may be required should significant archaeological deposits/features be identified that cannot be preserved in *situ*. This will be decided by the HEIAM and will be carried out in accordance with a further WSI.

General methodology

All work carried out by CAT will be in accordance with:

- professional standards of the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists, including its *Code of Conduct* (CIfA 2014a, b, c)
- Standards and Frameworks published by East Anglian Archaeology (Gurney 2003, Medlycott 2011) and the recent review updates on <https://researchframeworks.org/eoe/>
- relevant Health & Safety guidelines and requirements (CAT 2021)
- Historic England Scheduled Monument consent
- Hedingham Castle, Castle Hedingham, Essex: Tudor Tower Summary (ECC 2021)

Professional CAT field archaeologists will undertake all specified archaeological work, for which they will be suitably experienced and qualified.

Notification of the supervisor/project manager's name and the start date for the project will be provided to HEIAM one week before start of work.

Unless it is the responsibility of other site contractors, CAT will study mains service locations and avoid damage to these.

At the start of work (immediately before fieldwork commences) an OASIS online record <http://ads.ahds.ac.uk/project/oasis/> will be initiated and key fields completed on Details, Location and Creators forms. At the end of the project all parts of the OASIS online form will

be completed for submission to EHER. This will include an uploaded .PDF version of the entire report.

A project or site code will be sought from ECCHEA and/or the curating museum, as appropriate to the project. This code will be used to identify the project archive when it is deposited at the curating museum.

Staffing

The number of field staff for this project is estimated as follows: One CAT officer and two archaeologists for two days.

In charge of day-to-day site work: Ben Holloway/Harvey Furniss/Sarah Veasey

Test-pit methodology

Turf will be removed by hand and then excavated to either the first significant level of archaeology or natural.

Areas will be cleaned by hand to ensure the visibility of archaeological deposits.

A representative section will be drawn of each test-pit, to include ground level, the depth of exposed brickwork/foundations of the tower and the level any other significant archaeological deposits start at.

A metal detector will be used to examine test-pits, contexts and spoil heaps, and the finds recovered.

Fast hand-excavation techniques involving (for instance) picks, forks and mattocks will not be used on complex stratigraphy.

Individual records of excavated contexts, layers, features or deposits will be entered on proforma record sheets. Registers will be compiled of finds, small finds and soil samples.

All features and layers or other significant deposits will be planned, and their profiles or sections recorded. The normal scale will be site plans at 1:20 and sections at 1:10, unless circumstances indicate that other scales would be appropriate.

Site surveying

The site and any features will be surveyed by GPS or Total Station where possible, unless the particulars of the features indicate that manual planning techniques should be employed. Normal scale for archaeological site plans and sections is 1:20 and 1:10 respectively, unless circumstances indicate that other scales would be more appropriate.

While the test-pits are open and remains exposed the ECC Place Services contracted surveyor will be visiting the site to take additional ortho elevations and drone photos to add to their existing photogrammetry survey and 3d model. The image acquisition and processing will meet standards set in Historic England guidance (2017).

The site grid will be tied into the National Grid. Corners of excavation areas will be located by NGR coordinates.

Environmental sampling policy

The number and range of samples collected will be adequate to determine the potential of the site, with particular focus on palaeoenvironmental remains including both biological remains (e.g. plants, small vertebrates) and small sized artefacts (e.g. smithing debris). Samples will

be collected for potential micromorphical and other pedological sedimentological analysis. Environmental bulk samples will be 40 litres in size (assuming context is large enough).

Sampling strategies will address questions of:

- the range of preservation types (charred, mineral-replaced, waterlogged), and their quality
- concentrations of macro-remains
- and differences in remains from undated and dated features
- variation between different feature types and areas of site

CAT has an arrangement with Val Fryer / Lisa Gray whereby any potentially rich environmental layers or features will be appropriately sampled as a matter of course. Trained CAT staff will process the samples and the flots will be sent to Val Fryer or Lisa Gray for analysis and reporting.

Should any complex, or otherwise outstanding deposits be encountered, VF or LG will be asked onto site to advise. Waterlogged 'organic' features will always be sampled. In all cases, the advice of VF/LG and/or the Historic England Regional Advisor in Archaeological Science (East of England) on sampling strategies for complex or waterlogged deposits will be followed, including the taking of monolith samples.

Human remains

HEIAM will be notified immediately if any human remains are encountered during the monitoring.

Following Historic England guidance (2018), if the human remains are encountered and are not do to be damaged by the test pits the project osteologist will be available to record the human remains in the ground.

If circumstances indicated it were prudent or necessary to remove remains from the site, the following criteria would be applied; if it is clear from their position, context, depth, or other factors that the remains are ancient, then normal procedure is to apply to the Department of Justice for a licence to remove them. Conditions laid down by the DoJ license will be followed. If it seems that the remains are not ancient, then the coroner, the client, and the HEIAM will be informed, and any advice and/or instruction from the coroner will be followed.

Human remains removed from site for analysis may be sent for radiocarbon dating.

Photographic record

Will include both general and feature-specific photographs, the latter with scale and north arrow. A photo register giving context number, details, and direction of shot will be prepared on site, and included in site archive. Digital site photographs will be taken and archived as per Historic England guidelines (2015a).

Finds

All significant finds will be retained.

All finds, where appropriate, will be washed and marked with site code and context number. CAT may use local volunteers to assist the CAT Finds Officer with this task.

Most of our finds reports are written internally by CAT Staff under the supervision and direction of Philip Crummy (Director) and Laura Pooley (Post-excavation Manager). This includes specialist subjects such as:

ceramic finds (pottery and ceramic building material): Matthew Loughton

animal bones: Alec Wade (or Adam Wightman, small groups only)
small finds, metalwork, coins, etc: Laura Pooley
non-ceramic bulk finds: Laura Pooley
flints: Adam Wightman
environmental processing: Bronagh Quinn
project osteologist (human remains): Meghan Seehra

or to outside specialists:

animal and human bone: Julie Curl (*Sylvanus*)
environmental assessment and analysis: Val Fryer / Lisa Gray
archaeometallurgy: David Dungworth
radiocarbon dating: SUERC Radiocarbon Dating Laboratory, Glasgow
conservation/x-ray: Laura Ratcliffe (LR Conservation) / Norfolk Museums Service, Conservation and Design Services

Other specialists whose opinion can be sought on large or complex groups include:

flint: Hazel Martingell
prehistoric pottery: Stephen Benfield / Nigel Brown / Paul Sealey
Roman pottery: Stephen Benfield / Paul Sealey / Jo Mills / Gwladys Monteil
Roman brick/tile: Ian Betts (MOLA)
Roman glass: Hilary Cool
small finds: Nina Crummy
other: EH Regional Adviser in Archaeological Science (East of England).

All finds of potential treasure will be removed to a safe place, and the coroner informed immediately, in accordance with the rules of the Treasure Act 1996. The definition of treasure is given in pages 3-5 of the Code of Practice of the above act. This refers primarily to gold or silver objects.

Requirements for conservation and storage of finds will be agreed with the appropriate museum prior to the start of work, and confirmed to the HEIAM.

Results

Notification will be given to HEIAM when the fieldwork has been completed.

An appropriate archive will be prepared to minimum acceptable standards outlined in *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment* (Historic England 2015b).

The report will be submitted within 6 months of the end of fieldwork, with a copy supplied to the HEIAM as a single PDF.

The report will contain:

- Location plan of trenches in relation to the proposed development. At least two corners of each excavated area will be given a 10 figure grid reference.
- Section/s drawings showing depth of deposits from present ground level with Ordnance Datum, vertical and horizontal scale.
- Archaeological methodology and detailed results including a suitable conclusion and discussion. Appropriate discussion and results section assessing the site in relation to the Regional Research Frameworks (Brown and Glazebrook 2000, Medlycott 2011, <https://researchframeworks.org/eoe/>).
- All specialist reports or assessments
- A concise non-technical summary of the project results.

An OASIS summary sheet shall be completed at the end of the project and supplied to the HEIAM. This will be completed in digital form with a paper copy included with the archive. A copy (with trench plan) will also be emailed to the Hon. Editor of the Essex Archaeology and History Journal for inclusion in the annual round-up of projects (paul.gilman@me.com).

Publication of the results at least a summary level (i.e. round-up in *Essex Archaeology & History*) shall be undertaken in the year following the archaeological fieldwork. An allowance will be made in the project costs for the report to be published in an adequately peer reviewed journal or monograph series.

Archive deposition

The requirements for archive storage shall be agreed with the Curating museum.

If the finds are to remain with the landowner, a full copy of the archive will be housed with the curating museum.

The archive will be deposited with Braintree Museum or an alternate repository (approved by HEIAM) within 3 months of the completion of the final publication report, with a summary of the contents of the archive supplied to HEIAM. Digital archives will be curated with the Archaeology Data Service, or similar accredited digital archive repository, that safeguard the long-term curation of digital records. Prior to deposition CAT's data management plan (based on the official guidelines from the Digital Curation Centre [DCC 2013]) will ensure the integrity of the digital archive.

Monitoring

HEIAM will be responsible for monitoring progress and standards throughout the project, and will be kept regularly informed during fieldwork, post-excavation and publication stages.

Notification of the start of work will be given HEIAM one week in advance of its commencement.

Any variations in this WSI will be agreed with HEIAM prior to them being carried out.

HEIAM will be notified when the fieldwork is complete.

The involvement of HEIAM shall be acknowledged in any report or publication generated by this project.

References

Note: all CAT reports, except for DBAs, are available online in PDF format at <http://cat.essex.ac.uk>

Brown, A	2004	<i>Allen Brown's English Castles</i> , new edition
Brown, M	1995	<i>Hedingham Castle, Castle Hedingham</i> , Essex RCHME Request survey
Brown, N & Glazebrook, J	2000	<i>Research and Archaeology: A Framework for the Eastern Counties 2. Research agenda and strategy</i> . East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Paper 8 (EAA 8)
CAT	2021	<i>Health & Safety Policy</i>
CAT Report 849	2015	<i>Archaeological monitoring, test pits and building recording at Hedingham Castle, Castle Hedingham, Essex June 2014 – December 2015</i> , by M Baister
CAT Report 1664	2021	<i>Archaeological monitoring and historic building recording at Hedingham Castle, Castle Hedingham, Essex, CO9 3DG: March-April 2021</i> , by M Baister
CifA	2014a	<i>Standard and Guidance for an archaeological watching brief</i> . Revised October 2021
CifA	2014b	<i>Standard and guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials</i> . Revised October 2021
CifA	2014c	<i>Code of Conduct</i> . Revised October 2021
ECCPS	2021	<i>Hedingham Castle, Castle Hedingham, Essex Tudor Tower Summary</i> . By M Baister
Gurney, D	2003	<i>Standards for field archaeology in the East of England</i> . East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Papers 14 (EAA 14).

Historic England	2015a	<i>Digital Image capture and File Storage: Guidelines for best practice.</i> By S Cole & P Backhouse
Historic England	2015b	<i>Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MoRPHE)</i>
Historic England	2017	<i>Photogrammetric Applications for Cultural Heritage. Guidance for Good Practice.</i> By J Bedford
Historic England	2018	<i>The Role of the Human Osteologist in an Archaeological Fieldwork Project.</i> By S Mays, M Brickley and J Sidell
Medlycott, M	1999	<i>Historic Towns in Essex: Castle Hedingham.</i> Historic Towns Assessment Report by Essex County Council
Medlycott, M	2011	<i>Research and archaeology revisited: A revised framework for the East of England.</i> East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Papers 24 (EAA 24)
MHCLG	2019	<i>National Planning Policy Framework.</i> Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government.

E Holloway



Colchester Archaeological Trust,
Roman Circus House,
Roman Circus Walk,
Colchester,
Essex, CO2 2GZ

tel: 01206 501785 option 4
email: eh@catuk.org



Fig 1 Site location.

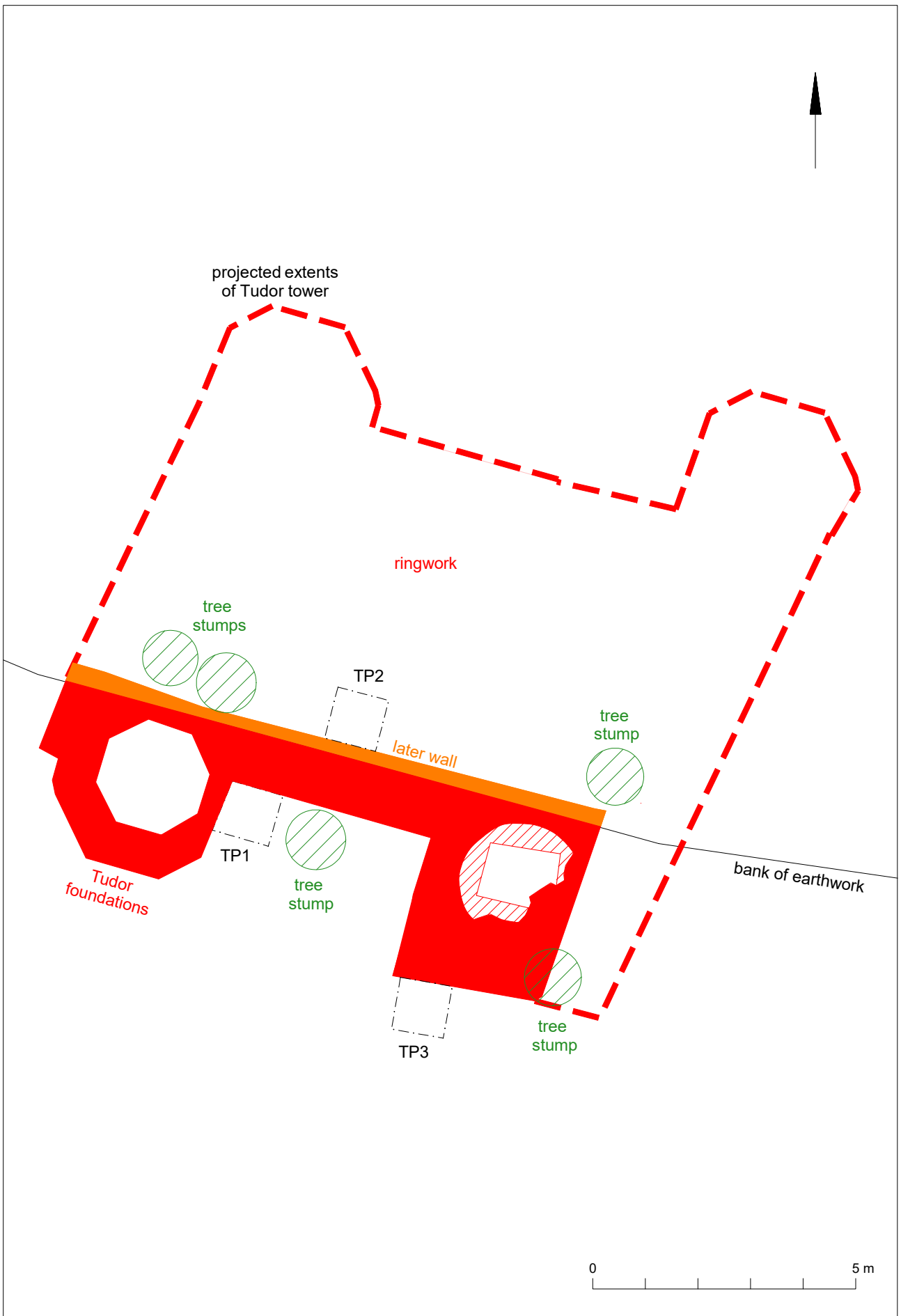


Fig 2 Test-pit locations.

Summary for colchest3-503689

OASIS ID (UID)	colchest3-503689
Project Name	Archaeological evaluation at Hedingham Castle, Castle Hedingham, Essex, CO9 3DG
Sitename	
Activity type	Evaluation
Project Identifier(s)	2022/01a
Planning Id	
Reason For Investigation	Heritage management
Organisation Responsible for work	Colchester Archaeological Trust
Project Dates	03-Feb-2022 - 04-Feb-2022
Location	Hedingham Castle, Castle Hedingham, Essex, CO9 3DG NGR : TL 78671 35819 LL : 51.9920764033064, 0.600884900765865 12 Fig : 578671,235819
Administrative Areas	Country : England County : Essex District : Braintree Parish : Castle Hedingham
Project Methodology	Test-pit evaluation
Project Results	<p>An archaeological evaluation was carried out at Hedingham Castle, Castle Hedingham, Essex. The evaluation consisted of three test-pits located to the south-west of the Norman keep. Two were positioned alongside the standing remains of turrets from a Tudor tower, and the third alongside a later wall built over the foundations of the tower. The aim of the evaluation was to expose the buried remains associated with these structures to allow a programme of Historic Building Record and Photogrammetry to take place to better assess the remains of the Tudor tower.</p> <p>All three of the test-pits successfully exposed the buried remains. Test-pits 1 and 3 revealed that the turrets of the Tudor tower had substantial foundations 1.8-1.9m deep, and a possible construction cut for the western turret was also identified in the base of test-pit 1. The later wall in test-pit 2 was equally substantial, extending 1.35m below ground level. The excavation of test-pit 2 also revealed the remains of an earlier brick wall, aligned north/south, that is in all likelihood an internal wall within the tower.</p>
Keywords	Tower Keep - POST MEDIEVAL - FISH Thesaurus of Monument Types
Funder	
HER	Essex HER - unRev - STANDARD
Person Responsible for work	S, Veasey
HER Identifiers	
Archives	Digital Archive - to be deposited with Archaeology Data Service Archive