

Archaeological monitoring and historic building recording at Hedingham Castle, Castle Hedingham, Essex, CO9 3DG

March-April 2021



by **Mark Baister**
commissioned by
Mr and Mrs Lindsay

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1 Summary

A programme of archaeological monitoring and historic building recording was carried out at Hedingham Castle, Castle Hedingham, Essex, in advance of the installation of a new lightning conductor and the repair of a section of the keep's wall. The monitoring uncovered nothing of archaeological interest.

The section of keep wall is clearly the location of a repair or infilling. It is largely constructed of reused Tudor and Norman building materials, including bricks, tiles, limestone ashlar and clunch, all bonded in lime mortar. Its composite nature is in sharp contrast to the regular ashlar blocks facing the majority of the keep. At the top of the section of wall is a window opening.

Given the location of the wall section (immediately above the keep's first-floor entrance) it could be suggested that it is the location of a, since blocked, second-floor entrance into the fore-building. However, drawings of the keep from the 18th and 19th centuries fail to show any evidence of an entranceway or infilling in this location until 1831, around 100 years after the partial demolition of the fore-building. These same drawings also show the window-opening in this location with a carved stone surround, in much the same design as the other windows on the keep. There is no evidence of this surround today: the window-opening is formed by a brick arch and clunch.

Consequently then, it seems likely that this repair work is the result of the collapse of the carved window-surround and subsequent attempts to stabilise the section of wall. Although many of the window-surrounds on the keep have been the subject of repairs in this fashion, the damage here is by far the most extensive. This is almost certainly due to the presence of the void for the portcullis above the first-floor entrance.

2 Introduction (Fig 1)

This is the report detailing archaeological monitoring and historic building recording carried out at Hedingham Castle, Essex by Colchester Archaeological Trust (CAT). The monitoring was carried out on the 16th March 2021 and the historic building recording on the 16th April 2021. The work was commissioned by Mr and Mrs Lindsay in advance of the installation of a new lightning conductor on the keep and the repairing of a section of the keep wall.

As the site is part of the scheduled monument of Hedingham Castle (NHLE no 1002218), the archaeological monitoring condition was included within the Scheduled Monument Consent (SMC) for the lightning conductor by the Historic England Inspector of Ancient Monuments (HEIAM).

Additionally, a section of previously-repaired masonry on the west elevation of the keep is beginning to decay and urgently needs repairing. A further SMC has been issued for this work, with a historic building record of the to-be-repaired section of wall included as a condition.

All monitoring and recording work was carried out in accordance with the two SMC letters written by the HEIAM (HE 2021a, 2021b), detailing the required archaeological work, and a written scheme of investigation (WSI) prepared by CAT in response to the brief and agreed with the HEIAM (CAT 2021).

In addition to the SMCs and 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 (ClfA 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 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). 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. 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 fore-building 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.

4 Aim

The aim of the archaeological monitoring was to record the extent of any surviving archaeological deposits that could be impacted by the installation of the lightning conductor.

The aim of the building recording was to provide a detailed record and assessment of the section of wall prior to its repair. The building recording was carried out to Level 3 (Historic England 2016) which is defined as:

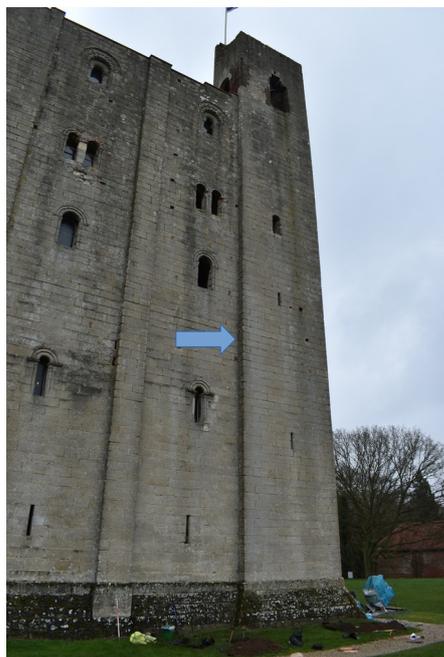
“Level 3 is an analytical record, and will comprise an introductory description followed by a systematic account of the building’s origins, development and use. The record will include an account of the evidence on which the analysis has been based, allowing the validity of the record to be re-examined in detail. It will also include all drawn and photographic records that may be required to illustrate the building’s appearance and structure and to support an historical analysis.

The information contained in the record will for the most part have been obtained through an examination of the building itself. The documentary sources used are likely to be those which are most readily accessible, such as historic Ordnance Survey maps, trade directories and other published sources. The record may contain some discussion the building’s broader stylistic or historical context and importance. It may form part of a wider survey of a number of buildings which will aim at an overall synthesis, such as a thematic or regional publication, when the use of additional source material may be necessary as well as a broader historical and architectural discussion of the buildings as a group.”

In particular the building record considered the:

- Materials and method of the initial construction and the later repair.
- Date(s) of the repair.
- Significance of the repaired wall section in the context of the keep and scheduled monument as a whole.

5 Monitoring results (Figs 1-2)



Photograph 1 Southern elevation of keep. Cable for lightning conductor located in corner labelled with arrow. Photograph taken facing north.

Two new cables for lightning conductors were installed on the eastern and southern sides of the keep's south-eastern tower. The cables were located as to be as unobtrusive as possible and were colour matched to the ashlar stone (Photograph 1).

After leaving the wall these cables entered very shallow (less than 100mm deep) trenches and were connected to four pads on the keep's southern side. These pads were hand-excavated under the supervision of a CAT archaeologist. Each pad was 800mm x 400mm in size, aligned north-east to south-west, and excavated to a depth of 400mm.

The pads impacted two layers (Photograph 3); a modern topsoil (L1, c 0.21m thick mid-brown/black sandy silt) which overlaid a makeup layer containing mortar and CBM fragments (L32, mid-brown/grey sandy silt). Fragments of modern glass and iron nails were recovered from L32, but were not retained.



Photograph 2 Excavation of pads for lightning conductor in progress. Photograph taken facing north.



Photograph 3 Easternmost pad for lightning conductor, showing layers. Photograph taken facing north-west.

6 Building recording descriptive record (Fig 3)

The section of wall in need of repair is located on the keep's western side, above the first-floor entrance and the remains of the fore-building (Photograph 4). The wall section measures 5.20m in height and between 1.21-2.43m in width, being narrower at the top and the base (Fig 3).



Photograph 4 The keep's western elevation. Section of recorded wall visible in centre of frame, with first-floor entrance below. Photograph taken facing north-east.



Photograph 5 Detail of wall section. Photograph taken facing north-east.

Whilst the majority of the keep is faced entirely in ashlar limestone, the section of wall detailed in this report has a much more mixed composition, including clunch, brick, tile, flint and sandstone, in addition to ashlar blocks (Fig 3). Most of the fabric is bonded with lime mortar, but there are substantial sections of cement mortar also present within the makeup. At the top of this section of wall is a window opening, measuring 1250 x 670mm in size, with a brick arch above. The base of this section of wall is around 490mm above the top of the first-floor entrance (Photograph 4).

Fig 3 shows the section of wall in detail and describes its fabric. Of note, the majority of the identifiable brick and tile within the wall appears to be Tudor in origin, so where any CBM is too fragmentary to be confident in assigning a date, it has been assumed to be Tudor. None of the bricks in the wall appear to contain frogs.



Photograph 6 Detail of reused Tudor brickwork in make-up of wall, bonded in cement. Photograph taken facing north-east.



Photograph 7 Detail of wall showing numerous masonry bee burrows. Photograph taken facing north-east.

Even a cursory examination shows that this section of wall is in a poor state of repair. While the ashlar blocks (as with elsewhere on the keep) are in a good condition and largely intact, the remainder of the softer building materials are much more weathered and damaged. The primary reason for this is undoubtedly the exposed nature of the wall section and the clear *ad hoc* nature of its construction – there are, for example, several large areas that appear to consist only of lime mortar, which no other building

materials present. Several of the bricks in the wall are on edge, and in places whole sections of brickwork have been taken from other structures (see discussion below), rotated 90 degrees (Photograph 6) and then added to the walls makeup.

In addition to the exposed nature and poor construction of the section of wall causing structural issues, it was clear, once in close proximity to the wall's surface, that there is also substantial damage from masonry bees burrowing into the exposed lime mortar (Photograph 7).

During the recording for this report, two bricks were removed from the wall section in order to check for cavities and the general condition of the wall behind the face. The location of these two bricks have been noted on Fig 3.

7 Discussion

The pads for the lightning conductor, due to their limited depth, exposed nothing of archaeological interest. The two layers observed broadly conform to the observations made during the monitoring in 2014-2015 (CAT Report 849). L1 is the modern topsoil covering the entire site, and L32 is similar in appearance, and probably equates, to the post-medieval layer L8 observed in TP2, abutting the side of the keep (CAT Report 849, 13).

The recorded section of keep wall, judging from its somewhat erratic make-up, is very obviously an area of repair or infilling. Although there are clearly several phases of more recent repair, including areas with cement mortar and post-Tudor brickwork, the majority of the material present in this section of wall is either Norman (the worked ashlar) or Tudor (the bricks and tiles) in origin.

It seems clear that the choice of these materials was a case of convenience. In particular, the ruins of the Tudor buildings atop the ringwork (see CAT Report 849, Fig 2) would have provided a ready source of materials, and are found re-used in many other aspects around and within the castle. The use of clunch within the wall is also a strong indicator of convenience and speed being the primary factors of interest when infilling the wall; clunch is notoriously unsuited for external architectural work, being a soft limestone. The ashlar used in the make-up of the wall could have come from any number of sources around the keep, but the most likely source is probably the partially ruined fore-building below.

Given the wall sections location directly above the first-floor access into the keep, a seemingly likely theory is that it represents the location of a second-floor access. Perhaps lending credence to this possibility, the keep at Rochester, with which Hedingham has a close architectural affinity, has a second-floor access into its (still surviving) fore-building.

At Hedingham, however, there is no clear evidence suggesting that the fore-building would have been three-storeys in height; scarring on the side of the keep seems to suggest it was only two storeys (Photograph 4). Perhaps, then, this area of infilling represents the location of a since-blocked access onto the roof of the fore-building?

If this wall section is the result of the blocking of a doorway associated with the fore-building, it seems likely that such an infilling would have occurred at the same time as the fore-building's partial demolition. In CAT's previous report on Hedingham Castle (CAT Report 849), the demolition of the fore-building was tentatively dated to between 1665 and 1738. Based on this, then, a similar date for the infilling of this section of wall would seem likely.

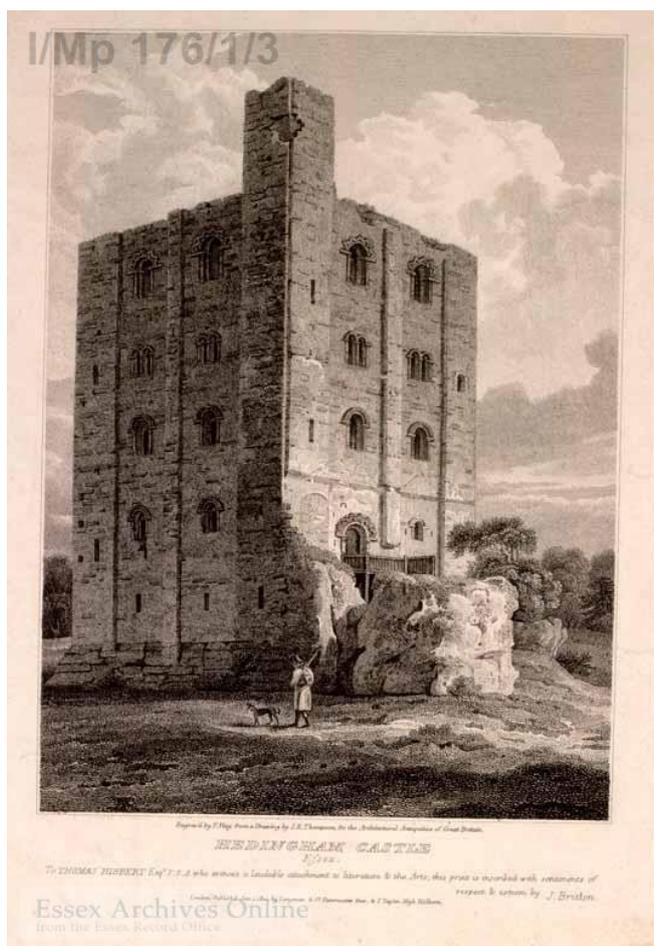
However, several 18th and 19th-century drawings showing the keep's western elevation seem to contradict this interpretation (Drawings 1-6).



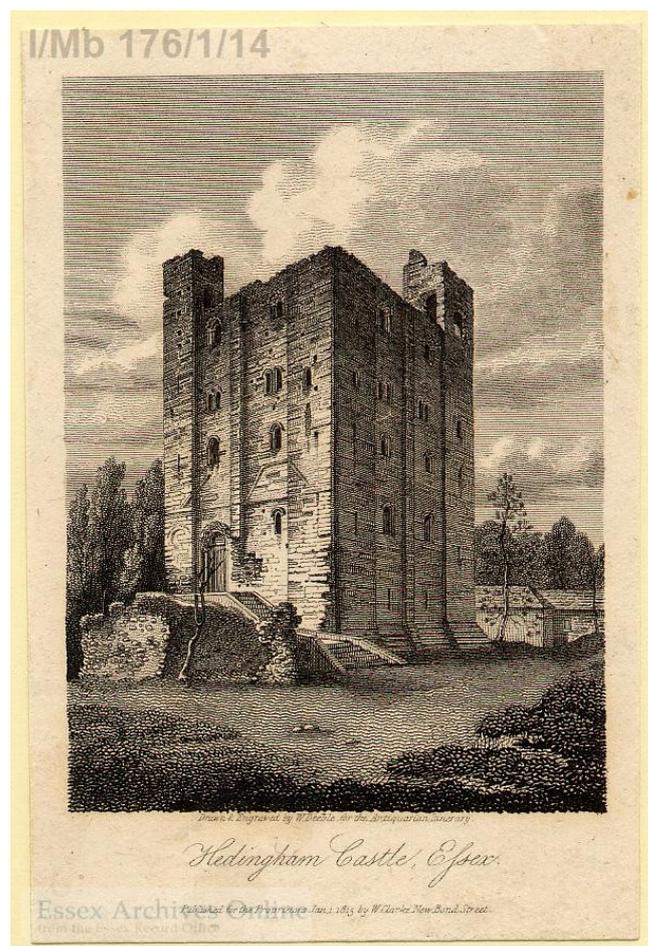
Drawing 1 1738 north-facing drawing showing the keep. The first-floor entrance and scar delineating the presumed top of the fore-building are both present, but no infilling or repair is visible. Image courtesy of Essex Record Office (ERO) I/Mp 176/1/2.



Drawing 2 1802 north-east facing drawing showing the keep. The ruined fore-building is visible, but there is no trace of any repair or infilling. Image courtesy of ERO I/Mb 176/1/5.



Drawing 3 1810 south-east facing drawing of the keep. No infilling or repair visible, and the window opening above the first-floor entrance clearly has a carved surround. Image courtesy of ERO I/Mp 176/1/3.



Drawing 4 1815 north-east facing drawing of keep. No infilling or repair visible. Image courtesy of ERO I/Mb 176/1/14.



Drawing 5 1818 north-east facing drawing. Infilling/repair possibly visible above entrance way, but drawing quality is inconclusive. Image courtesy of ERO I/Mp 176/1/23.



Drawing 6 1831 north-east facing drawing, showing the infilling/repair clearly for the first time. Also note the window above the first-floor entrance is now shown as smaller than in previous drawings, without a carved surround. Drawing courtesy of ERO I/Mp 176/1/24.

Judging from these drawings it would seem that the infilling does not appear on the side of the keep until 1831, well after the fore-building's demolition. All the previous drawings (apart from perhaps the 1818 example) show no indication of this section of wall being any different than the rest of the keep's ashlar facing.

Although attempting to determine the structural history of a building using exclusively artistic sources is difficult, it would appear that this section of wall is not, in fact, the result of an in-filled entranceway. For such a statement to be true would require multiple different artists over an almost 100-year period failing to depict either the infilling or a 'floating' unblocked entrance, which, even allowing for artistic license, seems unlikely.

Looking at the available evidence, it would seem that this area of infilling is the result of a repair after the keep wall had become damaged in some fashion. Assuming that the drawings above are accurate representations of the wall's appearance, this damage occurred sometime between the years 1815-1831.

Given the location, there seems only one realistic cause for the damage. Immediately above the first-floor entrance is a void that would have housed the portcullis. The presence of this void appears to have resulted in the destabilisation of this section of wall.

This must subsequently have resulted in the collapse of the carved window-surround at the top of this wall section. While several other window-surrounds on the keep have also clearly collapsed and been the subject of repairs (Photograph 8), the presence of the portcullis void seems to have exacerbated the damage in this location, resulting in the extensive area of infilling visible today.



Photograph 8 Eastern elevation of the keep, showing repairs undertaken to other windows, including some with apparent collapse below. Photograph taken facing south-west.

During the fieldwork for this report, some work within the keep necessitated the removal of a section of plaster, exposing the interior of the brick arch surrounding the current window. This clearly showed that the current arch is inserted, as would be expected, into an earlier, original archway made of lime mortar and flint (Photograph 9). This arch would have housed the carved ashlar surround of the original window opening (visible in the drawings above). Observation from the interior of the keep made it very clear that the current brick arch is bonded onto the mortar and flint in only a very rudimentary fashion, with several gaps present (Photograph 10).



Photograph 9 Interior of window in section of wall, showing exposed brick arch. Photograph taken facing west.



Photograph 10 Detail of interior of brick arch above window, showing gap between it and the mortar and flint above. Photograph taken facing south-west.

Although somewhat unsightly against the regimented ashlar surrounding it, the rapid and convenient repair of this keep wall, carried out some 200 years ago, nevertheless forms part of the story of Hedingham Castle. Containing elements from the Norman, Tudor and more recent stages of the Hedingham's history, it is a microcosm of the constant evolution of scheduled monuments and the necessity of their preservation.

Although this repair is beginning to fail, it is hoped that the new repair work being carried out shortly will serve to reinforce and solidify this section of wall in a much more permanent fashion, preserving it for many more years to come.

8 Acknowledgements

CAT would like to thank Mr and Mrs Lindsay for commissioning and funding the work. The project was managed by C Lister, fieldwork was carried out by M Baister. Figures are by M Baister. The project was monitored for HE by Dr Jess Tipper. The text was reviewed and edited by Philip Crummy, director of CAT.

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Note: all CAT reports, except for DBAs, are available online in PDF format at

<http://cat.essex.ac.uk>

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10 Abbreviations and glossary

Ashlar	finely dressed masonry
CAT	Colchester Archaeological Trust
CBM	ceramic building material (brick, tile, tessera)
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
wsi	written scheme of investigation

11 Contents of archive

Finds: none

Paper record

One A4 document wallet containing:
The report (CAT Report 1664)
CAT written scheme of investigation
Original site record (trench sheets, sections)
Site digital photos and log
Inked sections

Digital record

The report (CAT Report 1664)
CAT written scheme of investigation
Site digital photographs, thumbnails and log
Graphic files
Survey data

12 Archive deposition

The paper and digital 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 Braintree Museum under project ref. CHHC21.

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Date: 13/05/2021

**Appendix 1:
Context list**

Context number	Finds number	Context type	Fill description	Date
L1	-	Topsoil	soft dark grey/brown sandy silt with occasional rooting	Modern
L32	-	Build-up layer	firm medium/dark grey/brown sandy silt containing mortar, chalk and CBM flecks	Modern/post-medieval

Appendix 2:
Full digital photographic record
(images on accompanying CD)

CHHC21_Photo graph_001.JPG Section of wall in need of repair. Photograph taken facing north-east.
CHHC21_Photo graph_002.JPG Section of wall in need of repair. Photograph taken facing east.
CHHC21_Photo graph_003.JPG Section of wall in need of repair. Photograph taken facing north-east.
CHHC21_Photo graph_004.JPG West wall of keep, showing section of wall in need of repair.
Photograph taken facing north-east.
CHHC21_Photo graph_005.JPG Section of wall in need of repair. Photograph taken facing north-east.
CHHC21_Photo graph_006.JPG Detailed shot of wall showing makeup. Photograph taken facing north-east.
CHHC21_Photo graph_007.JPG Detailed shot of wall showing makeup. Photograph taken facing north-east.
CHHC21_Photo graph_008.JPG Detailed shot of wall showing makeup. Photograph taken facing north-east.
CHHC21_Photo graph_009.JPG Detailed shot of wall showing makeup. Photograph taken facing north-east.
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CHHC21_Photo graph_012.JPG Detailed shot of wall showing makeup. Photograph taken facing north-east.
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CHHC21_Photo graph_016.JPG Detail of brick arch above window. Photograph taken facing north-east.
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CHHC21_Photo graph_018.JPG Detailed shot of wall showing makeup. Photograph taken facing north-east.
CHHC21_Photo graph_019.JPG Detailed shot of wall showing makeup. Photograph taken facing north-east.
CHHC21_Photo graph_020.JPG Detailed shot of wall showing makeup. Photograph taken facing north-east.
CHHC21_Photo graph_021.JPG Detailed shot of wall showing makeup. Photograph taken facing north-east.
CHHC21_Photo graph_022.JPG Detailed shot of wall showing makeup. Photograph taken facing north-east.
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CHHC21_Photo graph_026.JPG Detailed shot of wall showing makeup. Photograph taken facing north-east.
CHHC21_Photo graph_027.JPG Detailed shot of wall showing makeup. Photograph taken facing north-east.
CHHC21_Photo graph_028.JPG Detailed shot of wall showing makeup. Photograph taken facing north-east.
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CHHC21_Photograph_046.JPG Detailed shot of wall showing makeup. Photograph taken facing north-east.

CHHC21_Photograph_047.JPG Detailed shot of wall showing makeup. Photograph taken facing north-east.

CHHC21_Photograph_048.JPG Detailed shot of wall showing makeup. Photograph taken facing north-east.

CHHC21_Photograph_049.JPG Detail shot of window and surrounding arch and stonework. Photograph taken facing north-east.

CHHC21_Photograph_050.JPG Detailed shot of wall showing makeup. Photograph taken facing north-east.

CHHC21_Photograph_051.JPG Detailed shot of wall showing makeup. Photograph taken facing north-east.

CHHC21_Photograph_052.JPG Detailed shot of window showing arch. Photograph taken facing north-east.

CHHC21_Photograph_053.JPG Detailed shot of brick arch above window. Photograph taken facing north-east.

CHHC21_Photograph_054.JPG Detailed shot of wall showing makeup. Photograph taken facing north-east.

CHHC21_Photograph_055.JPG Detailed shot of wall showing makeup. Photograph taken facing north-east.

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CHHC21_Photograph_062.JPG Detailed shot of wall showing makeup. Photograph taken facing north-east.

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CHHC21_Photograph_065.JPG Detailed shot of wall showing makeup. Photograph taken facing north-east.

CHHC21_Photograph_066.JPG Detailed shot of wall showing makeup. Photograph taken facing north-east.

CHHC21_Photograph_067.JPG Detail of window. Photograph taken facing north.

CHHC21_Photograph_068.JPG Detailed shot of wall showing makeup. Photograph taken facing north-east.

CHHC21_Photograph_069.JPG Detailed shot of wall showing makeup. Photograph taken facing north-east.

CHHC21_Photograph_070.JPG Detailed shot of wall showing makeup. Photograph taken facing north-east.

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CHHC21_Photograph_080.JPG Detailed shot of wall showing makeup. Photograph taken facing north-east.

CHHC21_Photograph_081.JPG Detailed shot of wall showing makeup. Photograph taken facing north-east.

CHHC21_Photograph_082.JPG Interior of window after removal of plaster. Photograph taken facing west.

CHHC21_Photograph_083.JPG Detail of brick arch above window on interior of keep. Photograph taken facing south-west.

CHHC21_Photograph_084.JPG Detail of brick arch above window on interior of keep. Photograph taken facing south-west.

CHHC21_Photograph_085.JPG Window from interior of keep. Photograph taken facing south-west.

CHHC21_Photograph_086.JPG Detail of brick arch above window on interior of keep. Photograph taken facing south-west.

CHHC21_Photograph_087.JPG Detail of brick arch above window on interior of keep. Photograph taken facing south-west.

CHHC21_Photograph_088.JPG Window from interior of keep. Photograph taken facing south-west.

CHHC21_Photograph_089.JPG Scaffolding in place over section of wall. Photograph taken facing north-east.

CHHC21_Photograph_090.JPG Shot of keep showing scaffolding in place over section of wall. Photograph taken facing north.

CHHC21_Photograph_091.JPG Shot of keep showing scaffolding in place over section of wall. Photograph taken facing north-east.

CHHC21_Photograph_092.JPG Shot of steps to entrance showing scaffolding in place over section of wall. Photograph taken facing north.

CHHC21_Photograph_093.JPG Detail of damage to wall section. Photograph taken facing north-west.

CHHC21_Photograph_094.JPG Detail of damage to wall section. Photograph taken facing north-west.

CHHC21_Photograph_095.JPG Detail of worked stone and brick forming northern side of window surround. Photograph taken facing north.

CHHC21_Photograph_096.JPG Detail of worked stone and brick forming southern side of window surround. Photograph taken facing east.

CHHC21_Photograph_097.JPG Location of brick removed to check condition of section. Photograph taken facing north-east.

CHHC21_Photograph_098.JPG Location of brick removed to check condition of section. Photograph taken facing north-east.

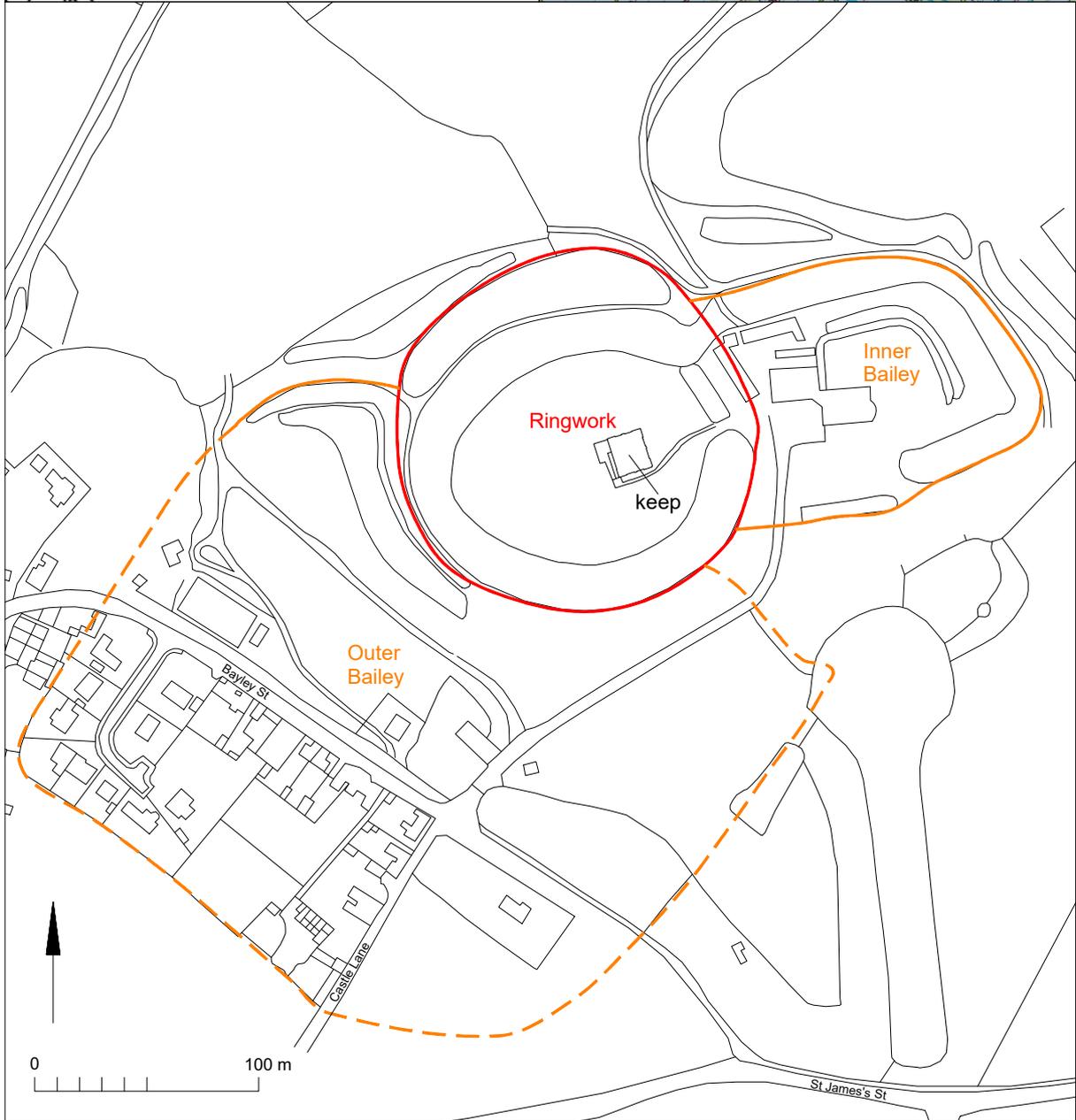
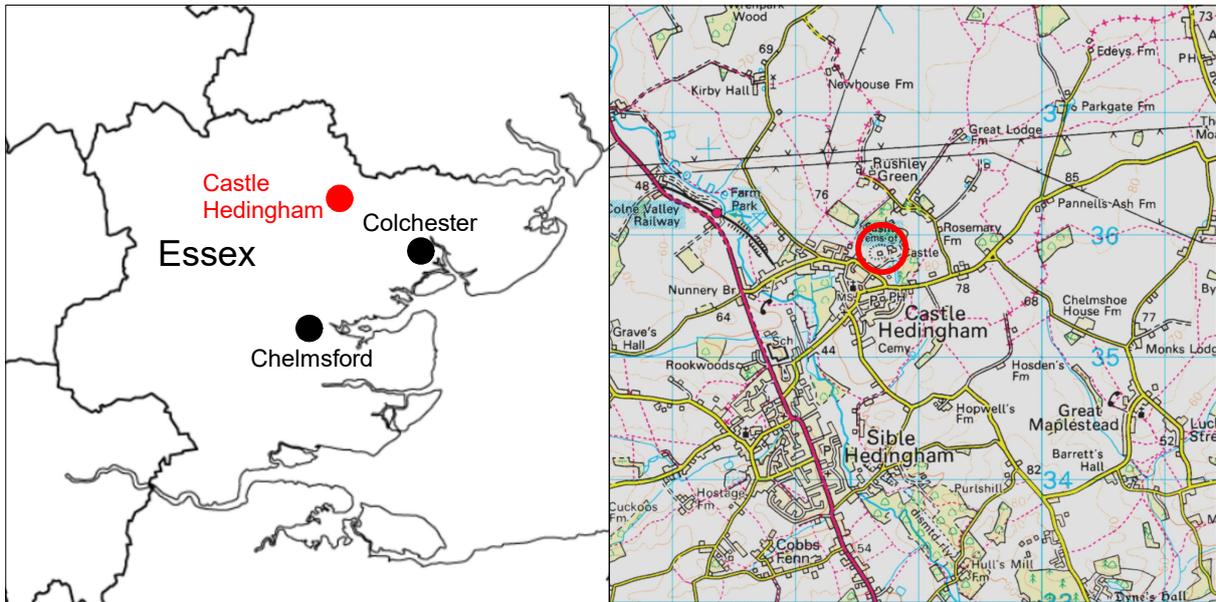
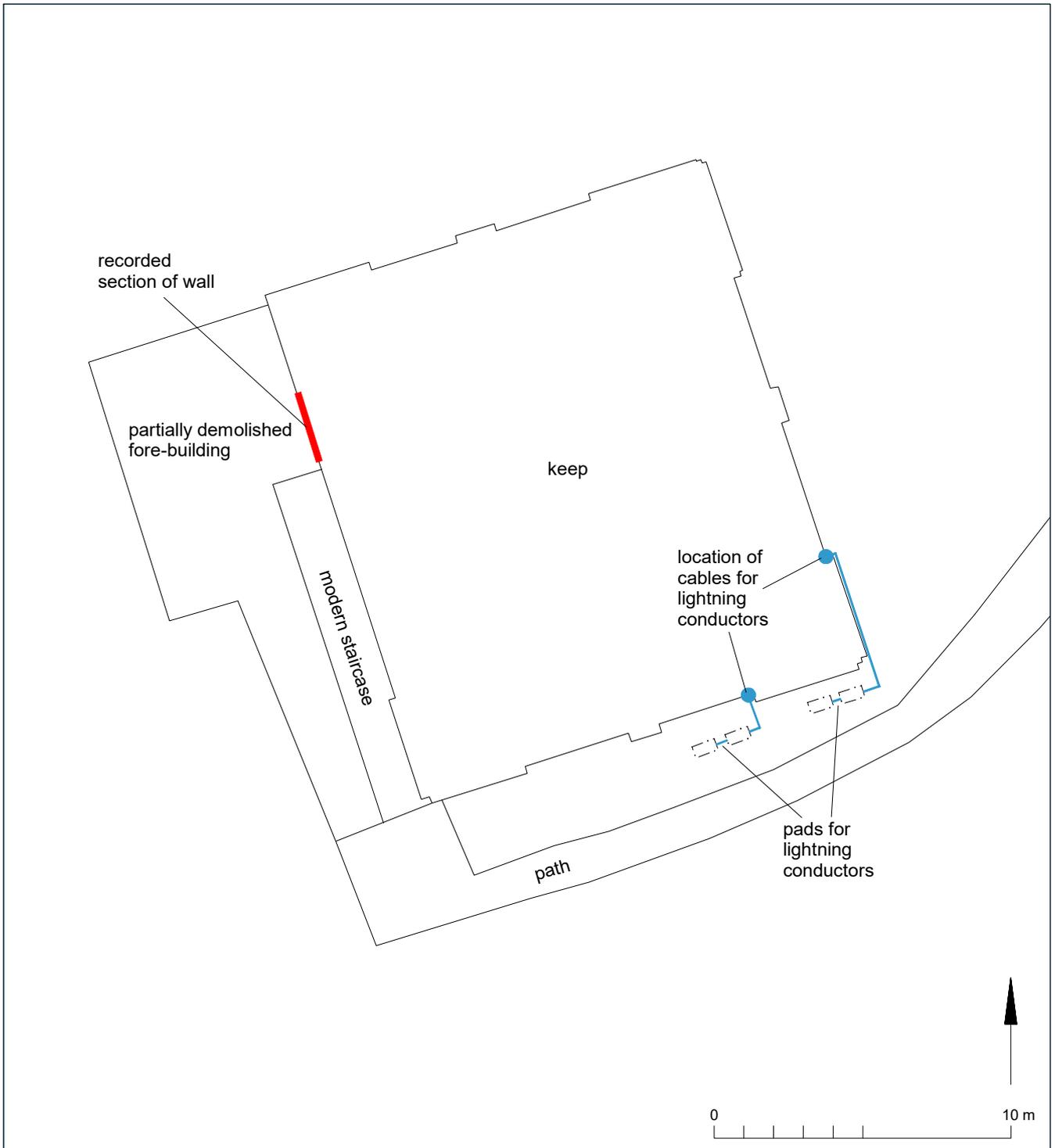


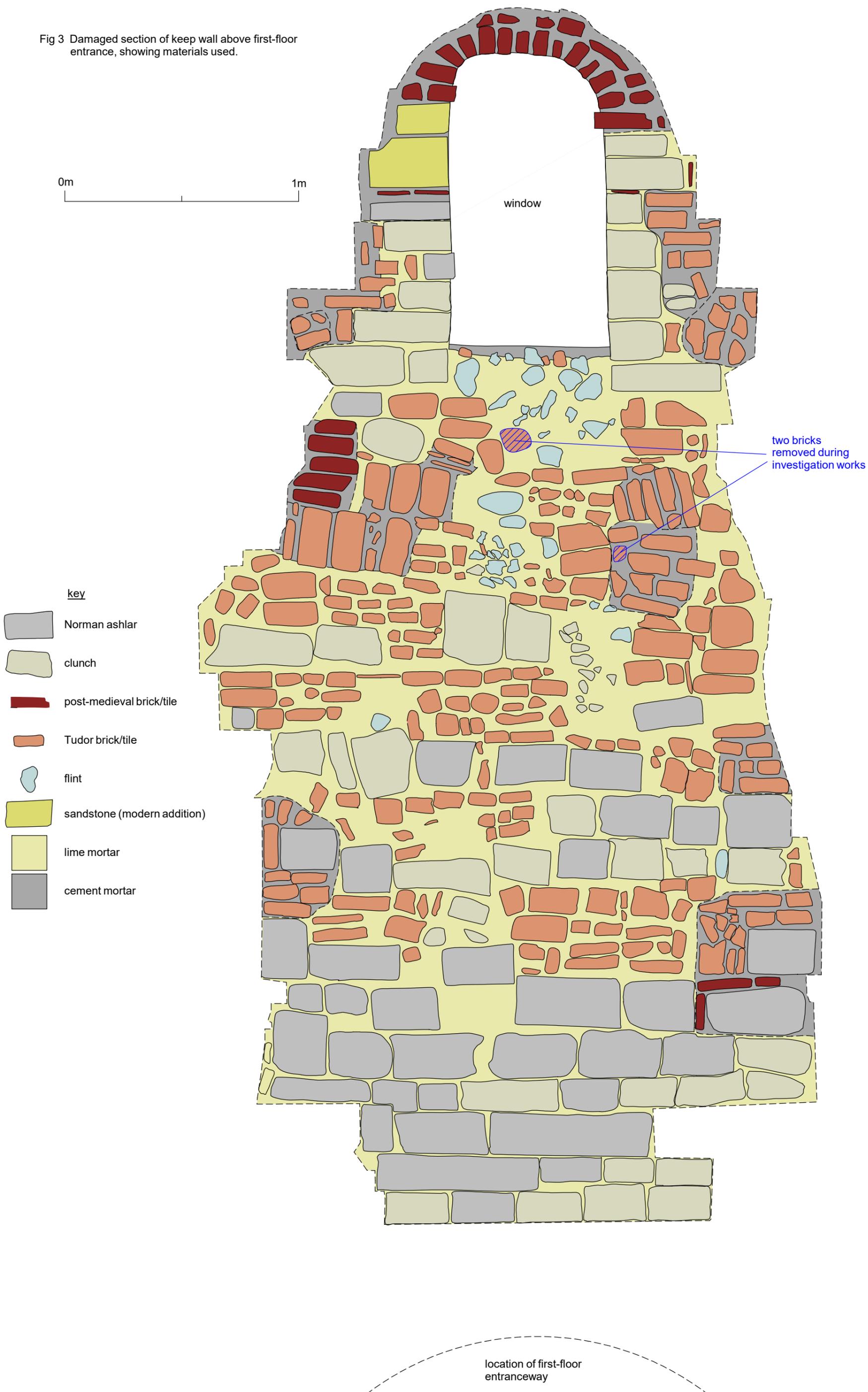
Fig 1 Site location.



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Fig 2 Detailed plan showing areas of archaeological investigation.

Fig 3 Damaged section of keep wall above first-floor entrance, showing materials used.



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OASIS ID: colchest3-417120

Project details

Project name	Archaeological monitoring and historic building recording at Hedingham Castle, Castle Hedingham, Essex, C09 3DG
Short description of the project	A programme of archaeological monitoring and historic building recording was carried out at Hedingham Castle, Castle Hedingham, Essex, in advance of the installation of a new lightning conductor and the repair of a section of the keep's wall. The monitoring uncovered nothing of archaeological interest. The section of keep wall is clearly the location of a repair or infilling. It is largely constructed of reused Tudor and Norman building materials, including bricks, tiles, limestone ashlar and clunch, all bonded in lime mortar. Its composite nature is in sharp contrast to the regular ashlar blocks facing the majority of the keep. At the top of the section of wall is a window opening. Given the location of the wall section (immediately above the keep's first-floor entrance) it could be suggested that it is the location of a, since blocked, second-floor entrance into the fore-building. However, drawings of the keep from the 18th and 19th centuries fail to show any evidence of an entranceway or infilling in this location until 1831, around 100 years after the partial demolition of the fore-building. These same drawings also show the window-opening in this location with a carved stone surround, in much the same design as the other windows on the keep. There is no evidence of this surround today: the window-opening is formed by a brick arch and clunch. Consequently then, it seems likely that this repair work is the result of the collapse of the carved window-surround and subsequent attempts to stabilise the section of wall. Although many of the window-surrounds on the keep have been the subject of repairs in this fashion, the damage here is by far the most extensive. This is almost certainly due to the presence of a portcullis void behind the wall facing in this location.
Project dates	Start: 16-03-2021 End: 13-05-2021
Previous/future work	Yes / Yes
Any associated project reference codes	1002218 - SM No.
Any associated project reference codes	CHHC21 - Related HER No.
Any associated project reference codes	2021/03e - Contracting Unit No.
Type of project	Building Recording
Site status	Scheduled Monument (SM)
Current Land use	Other 8 - Land dedicated to the display of a monument
Monument type	CASTLE Medieval
Significant Finds	BRICK Medieval
Significant Finds	BRICK Post Medieval
Significant Finds	CLUNCH Post Medieval
Significant Finds	ASHLAR Medieval
Methods & techniques	"Photographic Survey","Measured Survey"
Prompt	Scheduled Monument Consent

Project location

Country	England
Site location	ESSEX BRAINTREE CASTLE HEDINGHAM Hedingham Castle
Postcode	C09 3DG
Study area	0 Square metres
Site coordinates	TL 78699 35868 51.991986013283 0.6030295953 51 59 31 N 000 36 10 E Point

Project creators

Name of Organisation	Colchester Archaeological Trust
Project brief originator	HISTORIC ENGLAND
Project design originator	Mark Baister
Project director/manager	Mark Baister
Project supervisor	Mark Baister
Type of sponsor/funding body	Owner

Project archives

Physical Archive Exists?	No
Digital Archive recipient	Braintree Museum
Digital Archive ID	CHHC21
Digital Contents	"none"
Digital Media available	"Survey", "Text"
Paper Archive recipient	Braintree Museum
Paper Archive ID	CHHC21
Paper Contents	"Survey"
Paper Media available	"Miscellaneous Material", "Report", "Section", "Survey"

Project bibliography 1

Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title	Archaeological monitoring and historic building recording at Hedingham Castle, Castle Hedingham, Essex, CO9 3DG: March-April 2021
Author(s)/Editor(s)	Baister, M
Other bibliographic details	CAT Report 1664
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Description	A4 bound report with clear plastic front and opaque black card back.
URL	http://cat.essex.ac.uk/summaries/CAT-1664.html
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Entered on	13 May 2021

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