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DYFED ARCHAEOLOGICAL TRUST LTD



WISTON CASTLE

ARCHAEOLOGICAL RECORDING
1994

Commissioned by: CADW

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- 1.1 In October and November 1994, a short programme of archaeological recording was undertaken at Wiston Castle, Dyfed in advance of works to consolidate the remains of a shell keep and works to improve access to the monument. According to the brief circulated by Cadw three separate pieces of work were involved:

- i. The clearance of the collapsed rubble within the shell keep by archaeological methods to a level at or just above any medieval destruction deposits or intact structural features.
- ii. Excavation along a flight of existing earth-cut steps on the side of the motte to see if these can be reused or adapted to provide access up the motte for visitors.
- iii. The pre-excavation of the poached and eroded areas at the modern entrance to the bailey to the top of undisturbed archaeological levels.

- 1.2 The three pieces of work are described below.

2 THE SHELL KEEP (Figs. 1-9, Plates 1-6)

2.1 Introduction

2.1.1 Prior to excavation, the inside of the shell keep was filled with rubble up to a depth of at least 2.8m (Fig. 2). This rubble covered the inner face of the shell keep wall on the W and E sides where the wall was at its lowest, and dipped down steeply towards the centre of the keep forming a steep-sided depression which had the appearance of fairly recent disturbance.

2.1.2 The brief suggested that the rubble would be best removed in quadrants with standing baulks left to act as buttresses for the possibly unstable walls. The walls would then be made safe and the remaining rubble removed. This was found to be unnecessary as the walls were in good condition. Therefore, the rubble was removed to the desired level in the N quadrant up to Sections 1 and 2. These were then recorded and the rubble removed back to the next section lines. The layers and walls encountered are described below. All the wall elevations were photographically recorded with internal data levels at 119.99m and 121.49m. External data heights are 121.75m on the S and W sides and 121.20m on the E side. All heights are based on a datum of 119.86m. Scales are 1m.

2.2 The Shell Keep Walls

2.2.1 Three phases of wall building were recognised during the investigations. The main and earliest wall (17) of the keep formed an irregular polygon of which 13 sides survive. Three or possibly four northern sides have fallen away. The maximum internal diameter formed by this wall was c.12m (Figs 2 and 3). There was an arched door opening in the S side. The wall varied in thickness from 1.45 to 1.6m. It had a pronounced external batter increasing its thickness at the base to over 2m. At its maximum it stood to over 4m in height but was generally 2.5 to 3m high. It was bonded throughout with grey-white hard mortar. There were traces of a reddish-pink coloured plaster on internal faces of the wall. This plaster predated the later internal skin walls 19 and 21. A clear building level was visible in the internal wall face at about 1.7m above the excavation level. Externally, this building level corresponded with the top of the batter. Internally, above this building level, were numerous putlog holes. Five recesses were also apparent on the NW side of the keep (Figs. 3 and 4) as well as one on either side of the door opening. It seems likely that these were joist sockets although it was unclear to what period of the building they belong.

- 2.2.2 The second phase of wall building was represented by the cross wall 20 and a block of masonry (23) which was probably the remains of a flight of steps. These walls contained a smaller stone size than the main wall (17) and were bonded with a yellow-brown clay/mortar agent. Wall 20 had traces of white plaster on its surface but the wall had been heavily robbed and only stood to few courses in height at its W end (Fig. 9, Section 5) before completely disappearing. The lowest course of masonry of this wall was not reached in Test Pit 2 some 0.4m below the general excavation level.
- 2.2.3 The third phase of wall building comprised internal skin walls (19, 21 and 22) to the main keep wall, a cross wall (18), a further possible internal, though heavily robbed wall (25) and an extension to the steps (24). These walls were well built and bonded with a soft grey-white mortar. Extensive but patchy well-preserved white plaster was present on most of these walls. The internal skin walls were about 0.65m thick and mirrored the shape of the main wall. They effectively reduced the internal diameter of the keep by 1.3m to 10.7m. Wall 21 on the E side of the keep stood to the highest of these internal walls at over 2m above the excavation level (Fig. 5, Section 2). Test Pit 2 demonstrated that it continued to over 0.40m below this level (Fig. 9) - the bottom of the wall was not reached. Recesses on at the highest point of wall 21 may have been structural, though this is not certain as they were in a very poor state of preservation. Elsewhere, the internal skin walls had either fallen away with the N stretch of the main wall or had been robbed out. Test Pit 1 demonstrated that the inner skin wall on the NW side of the keep continued for only 20cm below the excavation level. It was founded on 29, a compacted layer of soil and stones (Fig. 4, Section 1). The robbing of this wall was in most places only partial but on the SW side of the keep it had been completely removed. The level at which the robber trench (14) thus created was detected indicates that the robbing occurred early in the sequence of rubble accumulation (Figs. 6 and 7). A few shards of window glass (Object 53) were found in the robber trench. Cross wall 18 is of an identical constructional technique to the skin walls. It was butt-joined to wall 19 but movement of the external wall has opened up a gap of 10cm on this joint. The wall had been partly robbed down to about 1m in height along most of its course and completely robbed at its E end. The only surviving face of the small piece of masonry 25 suggests that this wall was parallel to the entrance passageway and formed a right-angle with wall 18. The widening of the original steps (23) by the addition of 24 was necessary because building of the inner skin walls. It would seem from the section (Fig. 8, Section 6) that masonry 23 had been almost completely demolished prior to the building of 24.

2.3 The Shell Keep Floor Levels

- 2.3.1 The depths and nature of the original floors within the shell keep were examined in Test Pit 1 and 2 (Fig. 3). A possible floor level consisting of a thin, discontinuous charcoal layer (28) over redeposited subsoil (29) was revealed in Test Pit 1 some 20cm below the lowest course of inner skin wall 19 (Fig. 4, section 1). It is possible that layer 29 is the make-up of the motte, though it was not possible to confirm this. Test Pit 2 revealed a thin mortar layer, possibly a construction level or floor surface, butting against wall 21. Excavation did not continue beyond this level.

2.4 Rubble Fill of the Shell Keep

- 2.4.1 The many layers of the rubble within the shell keep can be divided into three categories: i) layers which accumulated slowly and comprising stones mixed with soil (1, 3, 6, 8, 11, 13, 16, 26, 27), ii) dense rubble, usually consisting of large blocks of fallen masonry (4, 7, 12, 15) and iii) detritus from stone robbing and other disturbances often comprising shattered pieces of mortar and small stones (2, 5, 9, 10, 14). The rubble fill of the keep was not completely cleared. Approximately 20 - 40cm of rubble remains. The surface of this remaining rubble is termed the general excavation level in this report. For ease of description the rubble layers are listed and described in numerical order:

1. Topsoil (Figs. 4 - 9). Very thin, often little more than a root mat, though thickening in the central hollow.

2. Compact layer of mid-brown silty clay and small stones (Figs. 4, 6 and 7). An extensive deposit on the W and SW side of the keep immediately below topsoil. It was very similar to layer 5 which slopes steeply down into the central hollow (Figs. 4, 5 and 7) and therefore these two are discussed together. The clue to the origin of these deposits lies in layer 5. Its steep slope into an unexcavated central hollow indicates it was upcast from this hollow or disturbance. Its nature was similar to subsoil and motte make-up. It is likely, therefore, that a central pit penetrating into top of the motte exists. The purpose of this pit is unknown but two possibilities present themselves: i) stone robbing of a central pier, ii) a treasure hunter's pit. Two clay tobacco pipe stems of 18th or 19th century date (Object 60) from immediately beneath layer 2 indicate that the digging of this central pit was a relatively recent event.

3. This is the main constituent of the rubble infill of the keep (Figs. 4 - 9) and comprises about 50% loose silty loam soil and 50% small- to large-sized stones with occasional pieces of mortar. Undoubtedly, this layer accumulated over a long period of time during the slow collapse of the surrounding walls. Of a similar nature to 3 are layers 11, 13 and 27 (Fig. 4), 6 (Fig. 5), 16 (Figs. 8 and 9) and 26 (Fig. 9). If the provenance of any artefact was uncertain it was assigned to layer 3 rather than the above listed deposits; this accounts for the large number of finds from this layer including local shale roofing tiles and large quantities of animal bone. A coin dated 1805 (Object 51) was found in the upper levels of layer 3 immediately to the N of Section 2. All other datable finds are medieval.

4. Collapsed wall (Fig. 5). The thickness of this wall, over 0.8m, indicates that it must have fallen from the main keep wall (17). The height of the collapsed section was 1.7m. A sherd of late medieval ridge tile (Object 61) was found on the surface of this rubble.

5. Layer (Figs. 4, 5 and 7). See description for layer 2.

6. Layer (Fig. 5) beneath collapsed wall 4, similar to 3.

7. Part of a collapsed wall (Fig. 5) only the top of which was revealed during the excavation.

8. Topsoil-like material (Fig. 5) underlying layer 5.

9. Layer of crushed and broken mortar (Fig. 4) - the detritus from the robbing of wall 18. This layer together with 10 show the depth to which rubble inside the keep had accumulated when stone off the top of wall 18 was robbed.

10. Similar layer to 9.

11. Layer similar to 3 (Fig. 4).

12. Layer composed almost entirely of loose rubble (Fig. 4).

13. Layer similar to 3 (Fig 4).

14. Robber trench (Figs. 3 and 7) filled with loose soil and mortar fragments. Window glass fragments (Object 53) were found in the fill.

15. Wall collapse (Fig. 9, Section 5; Fig. 8) from wall 24.

16. Layer (Fig. 9, Section 5; Fig. 8) similar to 3.

26. Layer in Test Pit 2 similar to layer 3 (Fig. 9).

27. Layer in test Pit 1 similar to layer 3 (Fig. 4).

2.5 Interpretation

2.5.1 Three phases of wall were identified in the excavation. Because of the limitations of the excavation, it is not clear whether the wall (17) of phase I would have supported a fully enclosing roof and floors. Certainly, the diameter of the keep would militate against this, though the massive walls surely indicate of structure of more than one storey. In phase II, the addition of a flight of steps and the presence of possible joist holes demonstrate the existence of, at least, a two storey structure. The decreasing of the internal diameter of the keep by the addition of the phase III inner skin walls may have been in response to an attempt to fully roof the keep. Even so, the still large diameter, 10.7m, would have required a central pier to support floors and perhaps roof. The local shale roofing tiles and ridge tiles found during the excavation show the nature of the roof and the window glass demonstrates the presence of first or second floor windows of some distinction. It is difficult to date these structural features from the evidence obtained during rubble clearance. However, the presence of a 14th century puzzle jug and a sherd of late medieval ridge tile may indicate that the keep was occupied later than the 12th and 13th centuries.

2.5.2 The decline of the keep is documented in its rubble fill. Robber trench 14 testifies that wall 19 was robbed out fairly early in the process of rubble accumulation. Wall 25 was probably robbed at the same time. It would seem that rubble to a depth of about 1m above the general excavation level had accumulated before the other internal walls were robbed. At a very late stage in the collapse of the walls a pit was excavated in the centre of the keep in order to rob stone or search for treasure. The date of this disturbance may be as late as the 19th century. The bulk of the rubble within the shell keep seems to have accumulated from the 14th - 15th centuries to the 19th century.

3 THE EARTH-CUT STEPS (Figs. 1 and 9)

- 3.1 A pre-existing flight of earth-cut steps on the SW side of the motte was examined to see if it could be reused. Two trenches were excavated (Fig. 1). The steps were very shallow features and barely penetrated the motte's surface through the topsoil. The spoil from the cutting of the steps had been formed into a low bank to the SE. A section across the steps and bank is shown here (Fig. 9). The motte consisted of upcast subsoil - yellowish-brown silty-clay mixed with shattered shale. No structural elements were noted. It will not be possible to reuse the old earth-cut steps but their course could form a useful line of access. The investigations were therefore limited to the two trenches shown in order to minimise damage to the motte.

4 THE MODERN ENTRANCE (Figs. 10 and 11)

- 4.1 On the S side of the defensive circuit a gap through the bailey bank had been created, presumably in the recent past, for access. The core of the bank had been exposed and topsoil on either side was eroding. The exposed surface of the bank was cleaned and topsoil was removed for a considerable area on either side of the bank to allow for the construction of a hard-surfaced entrance. An area larger than requested (Fig. 10) was stripped of topsoil to ensure that the outer lip of the defensive ditch was cleared. Underlying archaeological deposits were not investigated though their surface characteristics were recorded.
- 4.2 The core of the bank (32) comprised a compacted silty-clay with much shattered shale. A line of five large stones (Fig. 11) did not seem to have a structural function; they may, perhaps, have defined a working limit during bank construction. Layer 32 to the S was the remains of the bank where it had been recently spread over the defensive ditch. The ditch itself (upper layer 33) was about 8m wide. To the N of the bank, two layers of bank wash were revealed below topsoil: layer 34, a compact deposit not dissimilar to the bank and 35, less compact and mixed with much topsoil. A quantity of medieval and post-medieval finds were found in the topsoil in this trench; these were separated into those from over the ditch and those from the internal area.

5 THE FINDS

5.1 Pottery and ridge tile

by D.F.M. Brennan

5.1.1 A total of 93 sherds of pottery was recovered from the excavation. 27 sherds are medieval. Of these, only 14 are from stratified deposits (Layers [3] and [27]).

5.1.2 The earliest datable vessel comes from layer 3, the rubble fill of the shell keep. This, a single sherd of Bristol Ham Green cooking pot, is late 12th to mid-late 13th century. From the same deposit comes the only other non-local English medieval import, the rim of a 14th century green-glazed puzzle jug (see report below). Associated pottery is medieval comprising sherds from 'local' cooking pots and glazed jugs in gravel-tempered ware. A chronological type series is not yet available for local gravel-tempered wares but their repeated occurrence with Ham Green wares would suggest a 12th century origin. Layer 27, a similar layer to 3, produced 2 sherds of 'local' cooking pot fabric.

5.1.3 All other medieval pottery is locally made and comes from topsoil contexts (1 and 36). Two sherds are from jugs of Llanstephan-type ware and come from context 36 within the 'Entrance' area. Llanstephan wares are considered to have a mid-late 13th century origin continuing into the 14th century.

5.1.4 The post-medieval pottery consists largely of 17th and 18th century material. The small assemblage is drawn from a number of non-local English sources, mostly North Devon, Staffordshire and Bristol. The only continental import is a single sherd of German stoneware from a late 17th or 18th century Westerwald tankard.

5.1.5 Three fragments of locally produced ridge tile were found on the site. These are in fabrics similar to the cooking pots and jugs. One green-glazed fragment of 15th or 16th century date comes from the surface of layer 4, the collapsed wall from the fill of the shell keep (Object 61). Another two unglazed fragments are from topsoil context 36.

5.2 Puzzle jug (Object 54). Fig. 12

by S. Jennings

5.2.1 A single rim sherd from one vessel was found on the site in context 3. The distinctive characteristics of its construction show that it is undoubtedly part of a puzzle vessel. The outer rim diameter is large, but the vessel is almost certainly a jug.

- 5.2.2 The fabric is a light buff in colour and is heavily gritted with small quartz and sparse red iron ore inclusions. Occasional larger rounded quartz grains up to 2.5mm in length are visible, as are a few larger pieces of flint, up to 3mm in length. The suspension red glaze has an even copper colourant on the flat top of the rim and on the outside. The glaze on the inner surface is pale yellow with green spots.
- 5.2.3 The surviving fragment was wheel made with subsequent additions and is pierced in two places. The hollow in the rim is nearly square and gives the appearance of having been thrown round something with a reasonable amount of substance. Both of the two circular holes penetrates both the outer and inner parts of the rim. As these holes were formed when the vessel was in a plastic state, it would seem likely that what ever had been used to form the hollow space had been removed by this time, rather than being left to burn out during firing.
- 5.2.4 Insufficient of the rim survives to be entirely sure of its configuration or the way the puzzle of how to drink from it was formed. The surviving moulded head applied to the rim edge could well be in the position of the spout, but given the size of the rim, it is possible that there were more than one of them. The larger of the two holes measures 7mm in diameter and is immediately to the right of the head with the other hole some 6.2cm further around to the right. Only part of this second hole survives in the broken edge of the outer rim, but it appears to be smaller in diameter. The corresponding hole in the inner rim edge is less than 2mm at its exit point.
- 5.2.5 The 'puzzle' can be created in one of two ways although the method of extracting liquid from a puzzle jug by sucking it up through a tube while holding the jug upright remains the same. Both types usually have hollow handles and are pierced at some point through the hollow rim. In one type a number of small areas are cut out of the vessel wall, usually in the region of the neck, so when it is tilted liquid runs out of the holes. In the other type there are two chambers, one is formed around the other with a space in between, and liquid is stored in this hidden space even though the vessel appears to be empty. The well known puzzle jug from St Aldgates, Oxford (McCarthy and Brooks 1988, 284) is constructed in this way, and is dated to the 13th century. Jugs with cut outs in the necks are usually dated to the 14th century. These have a hollow rim joining to a hollow handle which is attached to the body of the vessel below the cut outs in the neck, and a hole is made through the inside of the vessel to join up with the hollow at the base of the handle. The vessel is held upright and liquid is sucked up the hollow handle, through the hole at its base, around the hollow rim to the mouth piece. The holes in the rim act as an additional puzzle as these have to be found and blocked by the fingers before an airtight route for the liquid is formed. Unfortunately insufficient of

this vessel survives to indicate which of the two types is might be. It is broken so near the rim that there is plenty of room for cut outs, and not enough exists to give any indication of the necessary extra tube needed to fill a hidden chamber.

5.2.6 Puzzle jugs can date as early as the 13th century, and, examples of both the 13th and 14th century are known though they are more common after the 15th century. A likely origin for this example in the Bristol pottery industry, and it could date to the 13th or 14th century.

5.2.7 Reference : McCarthy, M. R. and Brooks, C. M., 1988
Medieval pottery in Britain AD 900-1600, Leicester University Press.

5.3 Animal bone

by S. Johnson

5.3.1 The animal bone from Wiston Castle came from three contexts within the keep; layer 3 and two contexts from the test pits. The test pit contexts produced only a few bones, but context 3 produced a large assemblage of around 80 identifiable bones and fragments. Some of the bones from the smaller species and smaller bones from the larger species were complete, but many has articulations and other diagnostic features missing.

5.3.2 Some of the bones had clearly been cut (eg the cattle femur from context 3), and others appear to have been gnawed.

5.3.3 Most of the bone from context 3 is from domestic animals, mostly cattle and sheep (roughly equal numbers of identifiable fragments) with a few pig and horse fragments and also a few bones of cat and dog. The only non-domestic animal represented in this context is rabbit.

5.3.4 Most of the bone was from adult individuals (where this could be determined) but at least one of the sheep mandibles was from a juvenile.

5.3.5 The assemblage from Test Pit 2 (context 26) included the humerus of a domestic fowl and a tibia which was closely comparable with fallow deer, although both articulations were damaged. Test Pit 1 (context 27) produced only two cat bones.

6 INDEX TO THE ARCHIVE

6.1 Paper Records

- 6.1.1 Thirty-seven context records, numbered 1-37
- 6.1.2 Eight context find records
- 6.1.3 Ten object records, numbered 51-61
- 6.1.4 Seven drawing records, numbered 101-107 (index to the drawings)
- 6.1.5 Forty colour slide records, numbered 201-240 (index to the colour slides)
- 6.1.6 Seventy-four colour negative records, numbered 301-374 (index to the colour photographs)
- 6.1.7 One Hundred and twenty-one black and white records, 401-521 (index to the black and white photographs)

6.2 Site Drawings

- 6.2.1 Seven gridded drafting film sheets

6.3 Photographic Records

- 6.3.1 Forty colour slides, numbered 201-240
- 6.3.2 Seventy-four colour negatives, numbered 301-374
- 6.3.3 One hundred and twenty-one black and white negatives, numbered 401-521

6.4 Finds

- 6.4.1 Three cardboard boxes of finds

Context 1 topsoil

POTTERY

No. sherds: 3
 Forms: Cooking pots.
 Sherd details: 1 rim, 2 body sherds.
 Fabric: 'Local' Gravel-tempered ware.
 Surface treatment: Unglazed, one sherd sooted externally.
 Decoration: None.
 Rim details: Upright rim with flat ?sloping top, now damaged. Rim diameter not established.
 Source: Dyfed. A precise origin is not determined as gravel-tempered cooking pots are thought to have been produced at several centres.
 Date: Medieval (residual). Dyfed wares were certainly produced during the 13th century although a 12th century origin is quite possible. The likely terminal date is sometime during the late 16th or early 17th century when North Devon Gravel-tempered wares arrive on the Welsh market (Papazian & Campbell 1992, 56).

No. sherds: 1
 Form: Saucer or shallow dish.
 Sherd details: 1 rim.
 Fabric: White earthenware.
 Surface treatment: All-over glaze.
 Decoration: Blue transfer-print - The 'Two Temples II' (chinoiserie) border pattern.
 Rim details: Scalloped edge. Rim diameter not established.
 Source: Unsourced. The most likely origin is Staffordshire.
 Date: Post-medieval, 19th or 20th century.

GLASS

No. frags: 1
 Form: Container.
 Details: Base of vessel in emerald green glass with mould-decorated diamond pattern externally.
 Source: Unsourced.
 Date: Post-medieval, 20th century.

CLAY PIPES

No. pipes/stems: 1 stem.
 Details: Unmarked mouth-piece.
 Date: Post-medieval, probably 19th century.

STONE

No. frags: 1
Details: Small unworked fragment with vitrified
(glaze-like) surface.
Date: Not determined.

SMALL FINDS GIVEN OBJECT NUMBERS

COPPER ALLOY (Ae)

Obj. No: 56.
Siting description: From central hollow of Keep.
Object: Scale pan.
Obj. description: Saucer-shaped sheet metal disc with three
small circular piercings around the outer
edge for chain suspension.
Dimensions: Dia: 65mm.
Date: Uncertain though possibly medieval. A similar
scale pan was found at Bayham Abbey in a
medieval context (A.R. Goodall in Streeten
1983, fig.48, no.18).

IRON (Fe)

(Recommend conservation)

Obj. No: 55.
Siting description: From central hollow of Keep.
Object: Knife.
Obj. description: Almost complete knife with straight backed
narrow blade, broken near the tip. The handle
terminates in a shaped finial, the precise
shape obscured by corrosion products.
Dimensions: Incomplete length with handle 197mm. Length
of blade as extant 105mm. Depth of blade
14mm.
Date: Uncertain, though probably post-medieval. No
parallels found.

WOOD

Obj. No: 52.
Siting description: Central area of Keep.
Object: Button.
Obj. description: Large disc button with two central threading
holes for attachment. Lathe-turned.
Dimensions: Dia: 44mm.
Depth: 5mm.
Date: Post-medieval.

Context 3 rubble fill of the shell keep.

POTTERY

No. sherds: 1
Form: Cooking pot.
Sherd detail: 1 body sherd.
Fabric: Ham-Green cooking pot fabric.
Surface treatment: Unglazed.
Decoration: Narrow band of horizontal grooves.
Source: Bristol region.
Date: Medieval. Late 12th to mid/late 13th century.
Ham-Green cooking pots are a common find on sites in West Wales, especially from castle sites (Papazian & Campbell 1992, 32).

No. sherds: 8
Forms: Cooking pots.
Sherd details: 1 rim, 4 body and 3 base sherds.
Fabric: 'Local' Gravel-tempered ware.
Surface treatment: Unglazed, three sherds are sooted externally.
Decoration: None.
Rim details: Upright rim with flat top, rolled on its outer edge. Rim diameter: c.200mm.
Source: Dyfed. (See notes for context [1]).
Date: Medieval. (See notes for context [1]).

No. sherds: 2
Forms: Jug(s).
Sherd details: 1 handle, 1 base sherd.
Fabric: 'Local' Gravel-tempered ware.
Surface treatment: Traces of brown glaze externally.
Decoration: Base sherd possibly frilled or thumb-pressed externally.
Handle detail: Small rod handle of plain circular-section. Max. diameter: 20mm.
Source: Dyfed. (See notes for context [1]).
Date: Medieval. (See notes for context [1]).

SHALE ROOFING TILES

No. frags: 9
Details: Roofing tile fragments in local shale. Six fragments have peg/nail holes.
Dimensions: The most complete example measures 225mm x 177mm.
Date: Medieval?

STONE

No. frags: 1

Details: Small unworked calcified ?limestone fragment adhering to mortar. Traces of glaze-like vitrified deposit on stone surface.

ANIMAL BONE

See Table 1, below

SHELL

No. shells: 2
Type: Oyster.

SMALL FINDS GIVEN OBJECT NUMBERS

COPPER ALLOY (Ae)

Obj. No 51.
Siting description: Within top 30cm of layer [3] close to wall [21], 1m North of Section 2.
Object: Coin.
Obj. description: George III halfpenny. Irish [Ob: Profile facing right. GEORGIUS III DG REX. Rev: HIBERNIA - Harp in centre. In exergue 1805].
Date: 1805.

POTTERY

See separate report above by S. Jennings on this object

Obj. No: 54.
Siting description: See section 5 for approximate position.
Object: Puzzle jug rim.
Obj. description: Complex rim sherd with applied face. The etail of the eyes, nose and mouth are impressed (not moulded).
Fabric: Not identified to date.
Surface treatment: Bright green glaze externally.
Date: Medieval.

CLAY PIPES

Obj. No: 60.
Siting description: Top of layer [3] immediately below layer [2] near to entrance of keep.
Object: Two clay pipe stems.
Obj. description: Plain stem fragments.
Date: Post-medieval, 18th or 19th century.

Context 4 rubble fill of shell keep.

SMALL FINDS GIVEN OBJECT NUMBERS

CERAMIC RIDGE TILE

Obj. No: 61
Siting description: From surface of layer [4]
Object: Ridge tile/roof furniture.
Obj. description: Small ?edge fragment of ridge tile with part of a low triangular crest.
Fabric: 'Local' Gravel-tempered ware. Pink exterior with a blue-grey core. Tempered with a little quartz and rounded gravels, red-brown in oxidised areas and blue-grey in reduced areas.
Surface treatment: Olive green glaze on upper surface.
Source: 'Local', of possible Newport origin.
Parallels: Cf. Type R/M from Carmarthen Greyfriars (O'Mahoney, forthcoming).
Date: 15th/16th century.

STONE AND MORTAR

Obj. No: 57.
Siting description: From centre of collapsed wall context [4].
Details: May require specialist analysis.
Date: Medieval.

Context 14 robber trench fill.

SMALL FIND GIVEN OBJECT NUMBER

GLASS

Obj No: 53.
Siting description: From surface of [14].
Object: Window glass.
Obj. description: 13 fragments of window glass comprising three of greenish-blue and 10 of colourless glass. The ?earlier coloured glass is in an advanced stage of decay. Fragments are between 1 and 1.5mm thick with one fragment having a thickened rolled edge. The colourless glass is stable but has patches of iridescent surface weathering. Fragments are between 1.5mm and 2mm thick. One fragment has a thickened rolled edge.
Date: Medieval (Not closely dateable).

Context 26 layer in test pit 2.

SHALE ROOFING TILES

No. frags: 3
Details: Roofing tile fragments in local shale. Two fragments have peg/nail holes.
Dimensions: The most complete example measures 294mm x 205mm.
Date: Medieval.

ANIMAL BONE

See Table 1, below

SHELL

No. shells: 7
Type: 6 Oyster, 1 Common Whelk.

SMALL FIND GIVEN OBJECT NUMBER

IRON (Fe)

Obj. No: 58
Siting description: Layer in Test pit 2.
Object: Nail.
Obj. description: Two complete and four incomplete nails. Of the six, four have flat round heads with square-sectioned tapering shanks. One headless shank is clenched.
Dimensions: Complete nails measure (i) Length 52mm, head dia. 19mm. (ii) Length 33mm, head dia. 19mm.
Date: Medieval.

Context 27 layer in test pit 1.

POTTERY

No. sherds: 2
Form: Cooking pot.
Sherd detail: 1 body and 1 base sherd.
Fabric: 'Local' Gravel-tempered ware.
Surface treatment: Unglazed, base sherd sooted externally.
Decoration: None.
Source: Dyfed. (See notes for context [1]).
Date: Medieval. (See notes for context [1]).

ANIMAL BONE

See Table 1, below

SMALL FIND GIVEN OBJECT NUMBER

IRON (Fe)

Obj. No: 59
Siting description: Layer in Test pit 1.
Object: Nails.
Obj. description: Two incomplete nails both with flat rounded heads and square-sectioned tapering shanks.
Date: Medieval.

Context 36 topsoil over defensive ditch
('Entrance' area).

POTTERY

No. sherds: 4
Forms: Cooking pots.
Sherd details: 1 rim, 1 body, 2 base sherds.
Fabric: 'Local' Gravel-tempered ware.
Surface treatment: Unglazed.
Decoration: None.
Rim details: Abraded rim sherd of indeterminate profile and diameter.
Source: Dyfed. (See notes for context [1]).
Date: Medieval. (See notes for context [1]).

No. sherds: 2
Forms: Jugs.
Sherd details: 1 rim, 1 neck, 1 body sherd.
Fabric: 'Local' Gravel-tempered ware.
Surface treatment: Spots of glaze externally.
Decoration: None.
Rim details: Incomplete rim profile with inward-sloping top. Rim diameter not established.
Source: Dyfed. (See notes for context [1]).
Date: Medieval. (See notes for context [1]).

No. sherds: 2
Forms: Jugs.
Sherd details: 1 rim/handle, 1 body sherd.
Fabric: 'Local' Llanstephan-type ware. A fabric varying in hardness having a reduced grey core and oxidised buff-orange surfaces. Small calcareous inclusions are characteristic of the ware leaving tiny voids where these have leached out. Also contains 'Local' gravels and small amounts of sand.
Surface finish: Traces of thin green glaze externally.
Decoration: Slash marks along length of handle.
Rim/handle details: Simple hollow rim with plain lip. A wide strap handle springing from the rim has a row of vertical slashes where it meets the lip and vertical slashes along its length, centrally and along the sides (Slashing is functional as well as decorative - allowing entrapped air within the body to escape during firing thus preventing expansion and breakage). Rim diameter:
Source: Dyfed. An origin in or near Carmarthen, probably esturine (O'Mahoney, forthcoming).
Date: Medieval. A mid-late 13th century origin is suggested for Llanstephan wares found at Carmarthen Greyfriars (O'Mahoney, forthcoming), continuing into the 14th century.

No. sherds: 3
 Forms: Drinking cups (tygs).
 Sherd details: 1 body, 1 handle, 1 base sherd.
 Fabric: Red earthenwares. All are hard fired with few small black and red inclusions.
 Surface finish: Lustrous brown-black double glaze, unglazed areas fired purple.
 Decoration: None.
 Source: Unsourced. Many centres were producing fine drinking vessels of the type.
 Date: Post-medieval, 17th century.

No. sherds: 2
 Form: Jug.
 Sherd details: 2 handle sherds.
 Fabric: Red earthenware with few small black inclusions and some fine sand.
 Surface finish: Double brown-black glaze.
 Decoration: None.
 Source: Unsourced.
 Date: Post-medieval, probably 18th century.

No. sherds: 32
 Forms: Bowls (5), jug (1) and jar (1).
 Sherd details: 7 rim, 19 body and 6 base sherds.
 Fabric: Standard North Devon Gravel-tempered ware.
 Surface finish: All internally glazed in shades of olive green and brown.
 Decoration: None.
 Rim details: All can be paralleled.
 Source: North Devon.
 Date: Post-medieval. The 17th and 18th centuries are the main periods of importation into south and west Wales. Closer dating is difficult as vessel forms changed very little over a long period of production.

No. sherds: 1
 Form: Jug ?.
 Sherd details: 1 rim.
 Fabric: North Devon Gravel-free.
 Surface finish: Olive green internal glaze.
 Decoration: None.
 Rim details: Incomplete profile with plain rounded lip. Rim diameter: c.120mm.
 Source: North Devon.
 Date: Post-medieval. 17th/18th century.

No. sherds: 4
 Form: Dish.
 Sherd details: 1 rim, 3 body sherds.
 Fabric: North Devon Gravel-free.
 Surface finish: A white slip internally and externally at the

Decoration: rim has a clear overglaze, appearing yellow. Sgraffito decoration internally with incised 'S' marks at the rim.
 Rim details: A Type 1A dish (Allan 1984, 149). Rim diameter: c.240mm+.
 Source: North Devon.
 Date: Post-medieval. 17th-early 18th century.

No. sherds: 6
 Form: Plate/dish.
 Sherd details: 1 rim, 4 body, 1 base sherd.
 Fabric: Tin-glazed earthenware. A fine pinkish-buff earthenware containing small amounts of fine quartz sand.
 Surface treatment: Tin-glazed. Blue on white.
 Decoration: Blue painted decoration.
 Rim detail: Not enough survives to determine profile or diameter.
 Source: English, probably Bristol.
 Date: Post-medieval. Early 18th century.

No. sherds: 9
 Forms: Ale mugs.
 Sherd details: 6 body, 1 handle, 2 base sherds.
 Fabric: A hard buff fabric.
 Surface treatment: Mid-dark brown glaze inside and out, stopping short of the base externally.
 Decoration: Bands of horizontal corrugations.
 Source: Bristol or Staffordshire.
 Date: Post-medieval. Early 18th century.

No. sherds: 2
 Forms: Press-moulded dish & indeterminate hollow form.
 Sherd details: 2 body sherds.
 Fabric: Hard buff earthenware.
 Surface treatment: Both vessels have a white slip with clear overglaze, appearing yellow. The dish sherd is only a flake from the interior. The other sherd is glazed inside and out.
 Decoration: The dish has combed line decoration internally (appearing brown over red slip).
 Source: Bristol or Staffordshire.
 Date: Post-medieval. Late 17th-mid 18th century.

No. sherds: 1
 Form: Tankard.
 Sherd detail: 1 body sherd.
 Fabric: Light grey stoneware.
 Surface treatment: Grey-blue salt-glazed surfaces.
 Decoration: Cobalt blue bands.
 Source: Westerwald, Germany.
 Date: Post-medieval, mid/late 17th - early 18th century.

No. sherds: 5
 Forms: Tankards.
 Sherd details: 3 body, 2 base sherds.
 Fabric: Various buff and white.
 Surface finish: Buff, brown and white salt-glaze.
 Decoration: 1 body sherd with rouletted decoration.
 Source: English but centres unsourced.
 Date: Post-medieval. 18th century.

GLASS

No. frags: 14
 Forms: Wine bottles.
 Details: 1 rim, 10 body and 3 base fragments in olive green glass, some with iridescent surface weathering. The incomplete rim has a v-tooled string-rim close to the lip. All 3 base fragments have pontil scars.
 Source: English, probably Bristol.
 Date: Post-medieval. Early-mid 18th century free-blown forms.

CLAY PIPES

No. pipes/stems: 2 bowl fragments, 25 stems.
 Details: The two bowls are (i) Plain bowl with short spur. 18th century. (ii) Plain bowl with stamped heel. Stamped 3-line relief is poorly struck. IOS/HUG/---. Possibly Joseph Hughes of Much Wenlock, Shropshire, a pipe maker working between 1680 and 1720. His pipes are known from Carmarthen (Evans in Brennan, Evans, James and Dale-Jones 1994, 53 & Fig.22, No.75). All stems are unmarked.
 Date: Post-medieval. 18th century. (Identified stamp from Gill Evans' work on the Carmarthen pipes.)

SHALE ROOFING TILES

No. frags: 1
 Details: Roofing tile fragment in local shale with peg/nail hole.
 Date: Medieval?

POTTERY

No. sherds: 1
Form: Cooking pot.
Sherd details: 1 body sherd.
Fabric: 'Local' Gravel-tempered ware.
Surface treatment: Unglazed.
Decoration: None.
Source: Dyfed. (See notes for context [1]).
Date: Medieval. (See notes for context [1]).

No. sherds: 1
Form: Indeterminate.
Sherd details: 1 body sherd.
Fabric: 'Local' Gravel-tempered ware.
Surface treatment: Internal green glaze with traces of the same coloured glaze externally.
Decoration: Single groove externally.
Source: Dyfed. (See notes for context [1]).
Date: Medieval. (See notes for context [1]).

RIDGE TILE ?

No. frags: 2
Fabric: 'Local' Gravel-tempered ware.
Details: 2 edge fragments of ?ridge tile.
Fabric: 'Local' Gravel-tempered ware.
Surface treatment: Unglazed.
Source: Dyfed.
Date: Medieval.

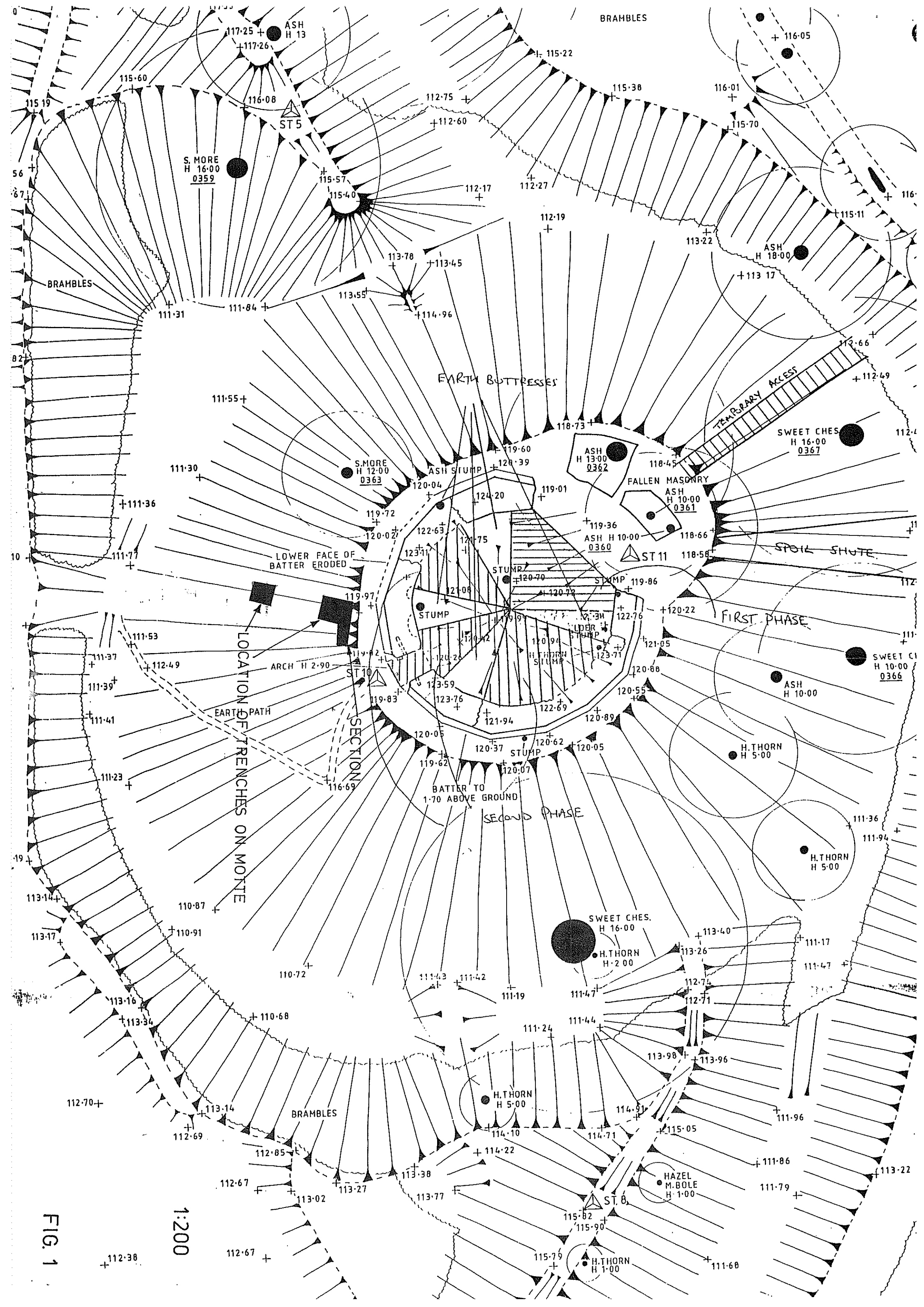
GLASS

No. frags: 1
Form: Phial.
Details: Base of chemist's phial in clear bluish-green glass. Free-blown cylinder base with slightly flattened sides. Low-pointed upkick with pontil scar.
Date: Post-medieval. Late 18th century.

TABLE 1. ANIMAL BONE

		Context 3	Test Pit 1 Context 27	Test Pit 2 Context 26
CATTLE				
Teeth		3		
Atlas		1		
Vertebrae		1		
Vertebrae	frags.	5		1
Scapula	prox.	1		
Humerus	dist.	1		
	prox.	2		
	shaft frag.	1		
Femur	dist.	2		
	prox.	2		
	shaft frag.	2		
Tibia	dist.	1		
Metatarsus	dist.	1		
Calcaneus		2		
Astragalus		1		
Phalanges		4		
cf CATTLE				
Rib	prox.	1		
	frags.	7		
SHEEP				
Maxilla		1		
Mandible		6		
	frag.	1		
Teeth		1		
Scapula	prox	1		
Pelvis	frag.	1		
Humerus	dist.	3		
Radius	shaft	6		
Femur	dist.	2		
Tibia	dist.	3		
	shaft			2
Metatarsus		1		
	dist.	1		
Metacarpus		2		
	prox.	1		
cf SHEEP				
Rib	frags.			2
Pelvis	frags.	3		
Tibia	shaft	1		
PIG				
Maxilla	frag.	1		
Mandible	frag.	1		
Humerus	dist.	1		
cf PIG				
Mandible	frag.	1		

		Context 3	Test Pit 1 Context 27	Test Pit 2 Context 26
HORSE				
Teeth		1		
Tibia	shaft	1		
cf FALLOW DEER				
Tibia	shaft			1
RABBIT				
Mandible		1		
Femur		1		
cf DOG				
Humerus	dist.	1		
Femur	prox.	1		
CAT				
Femur		1		
Tibia		1		
Metacarpus			1	
cf CAT				
Fibula			1	
DOMESTIC FOWL				
Humerus				1
UNIDENTIFIED FRAGS.		50		3



WISTON CASTLE · KEEP PRE-EXCAVATION PLAN

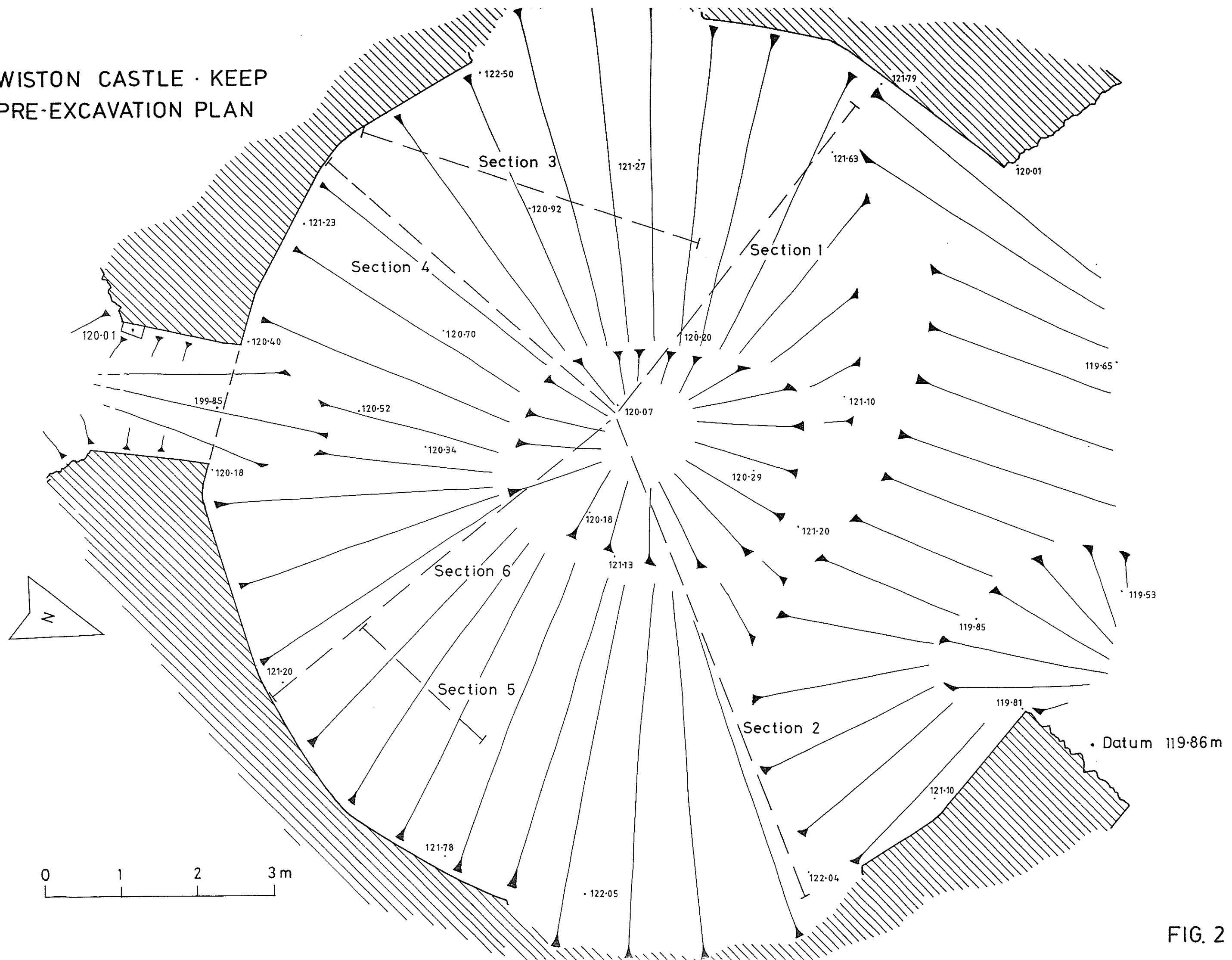


FIG. 2

TON CASTLE · KEEP
T-EXCAVATION PLAN

joist sockets?

Section 3

Section 4

Section 1

Section 6

Section 2

Section 5

Test Pit 1

Test Pit 2

Phase I

Phase II

Phase III

0 1 2 3m

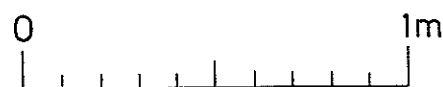
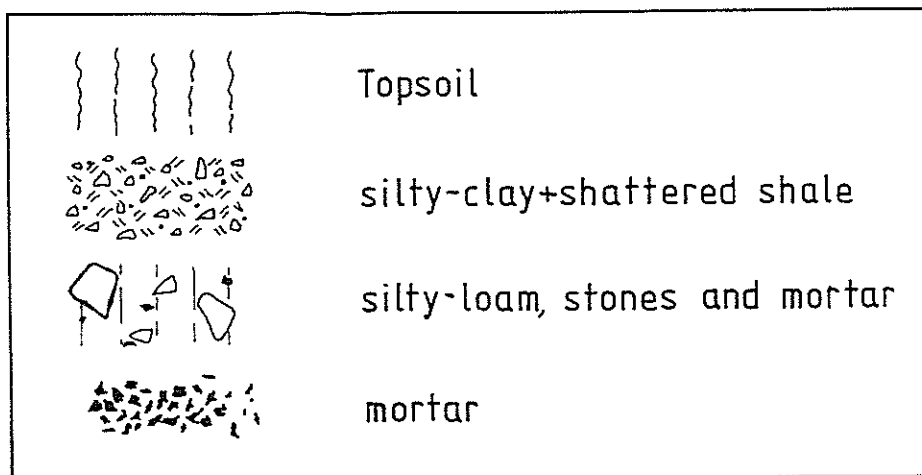
• Datum

17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25

119-76, 119-78, 119-79, 120-00, 121-09, 123-72, 121-79, 119-47, 119-99, 119-63, 119-62, 119-71, 119-68, 119-71, 120-01, 119-60, 119-73, 120-06, 120-01, 119-98, 123-36, 120-47, 119-67, 120-41, 119-96, 119-72, 119-84, 120-02, 119-71, 119-29, 121-47, 121-95, 121-84, 122-22, 119-77, 120-56, 122-51, 121-00, 121-79, 123-72, 119-99, 119-63, 119-62, 119-71, 120-01, 119-60, 119-73, 120-06, 120-01, 119-98, 123-36, 120-47, 119-67, 120-41, 119-96, 119-72, 119-84, 120-02, 119-71, 119-29, 121-47, 121-95, 121-84, 122-22, 119-77, 120-56, 122-51

FIG. 3

WISTON CASTLE · KEEP SECTION 1



East

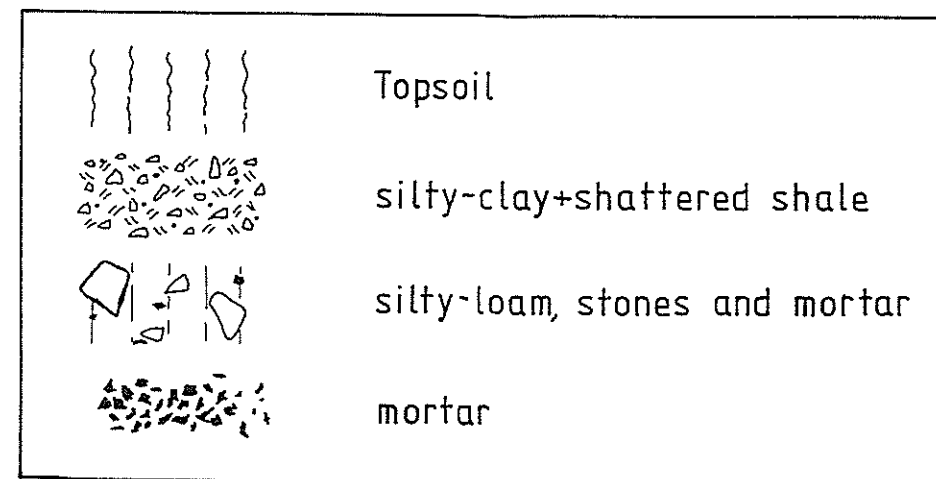
West

120.15 m

wall 18 immediately
behind section

Test Pit 1

FIG. 4



WISTON CASTLE · KEEP SECTION 2

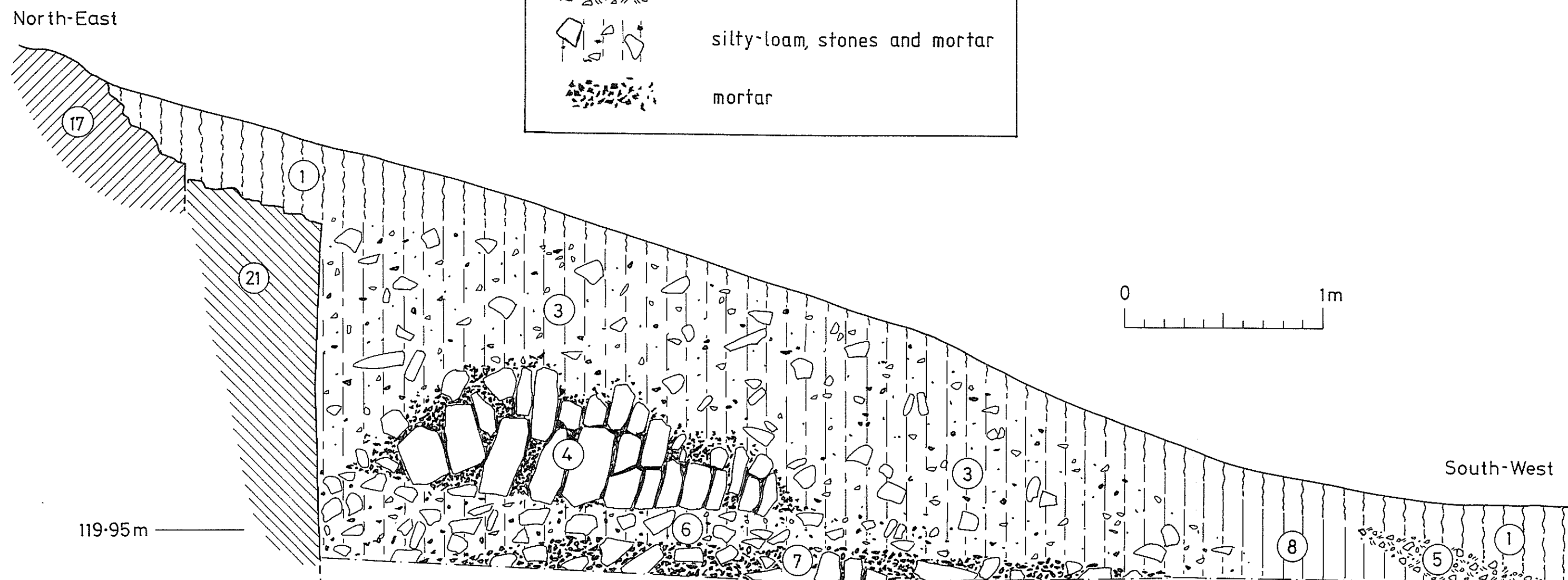


FIG. 5

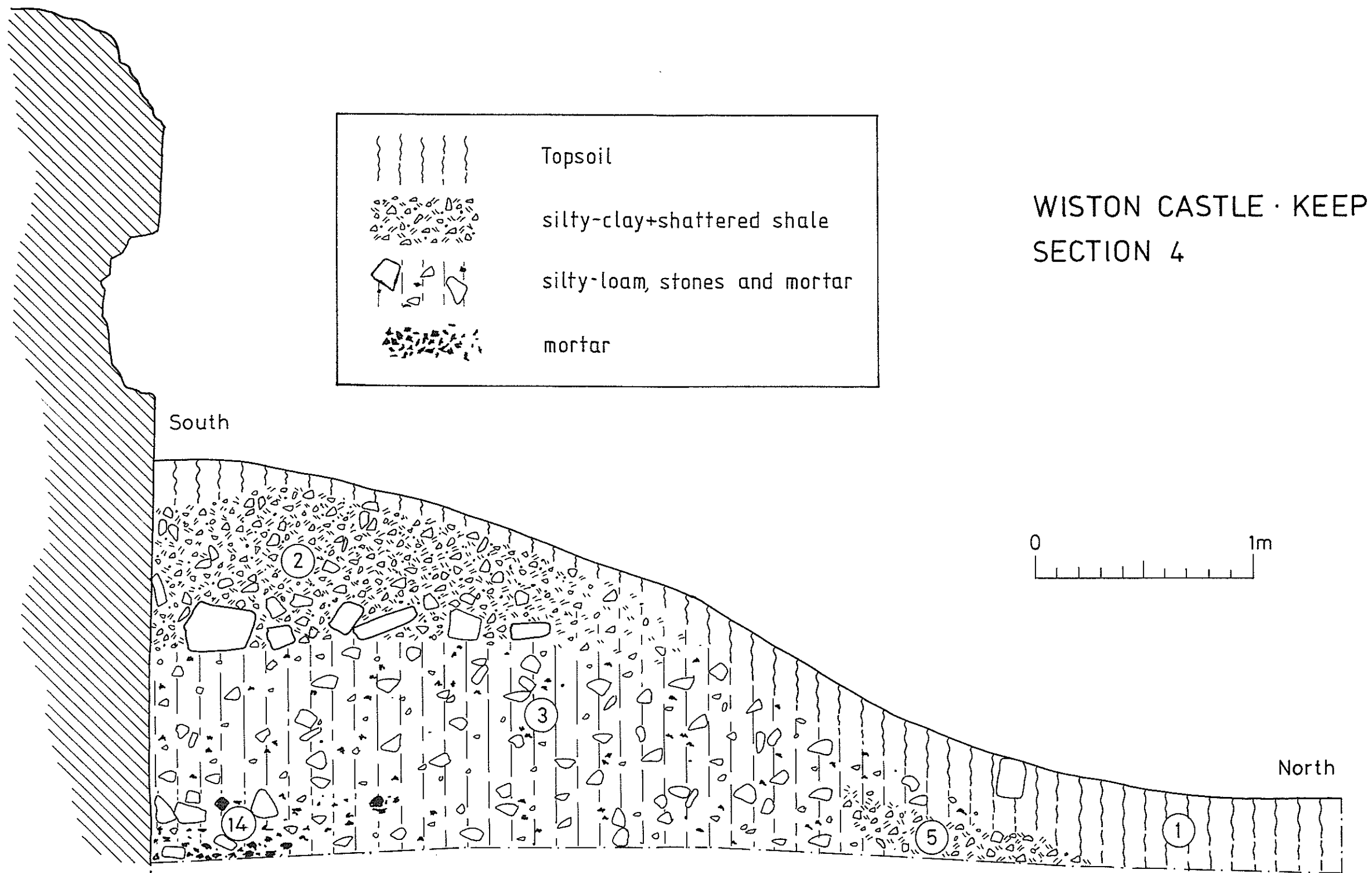


FIG. 7

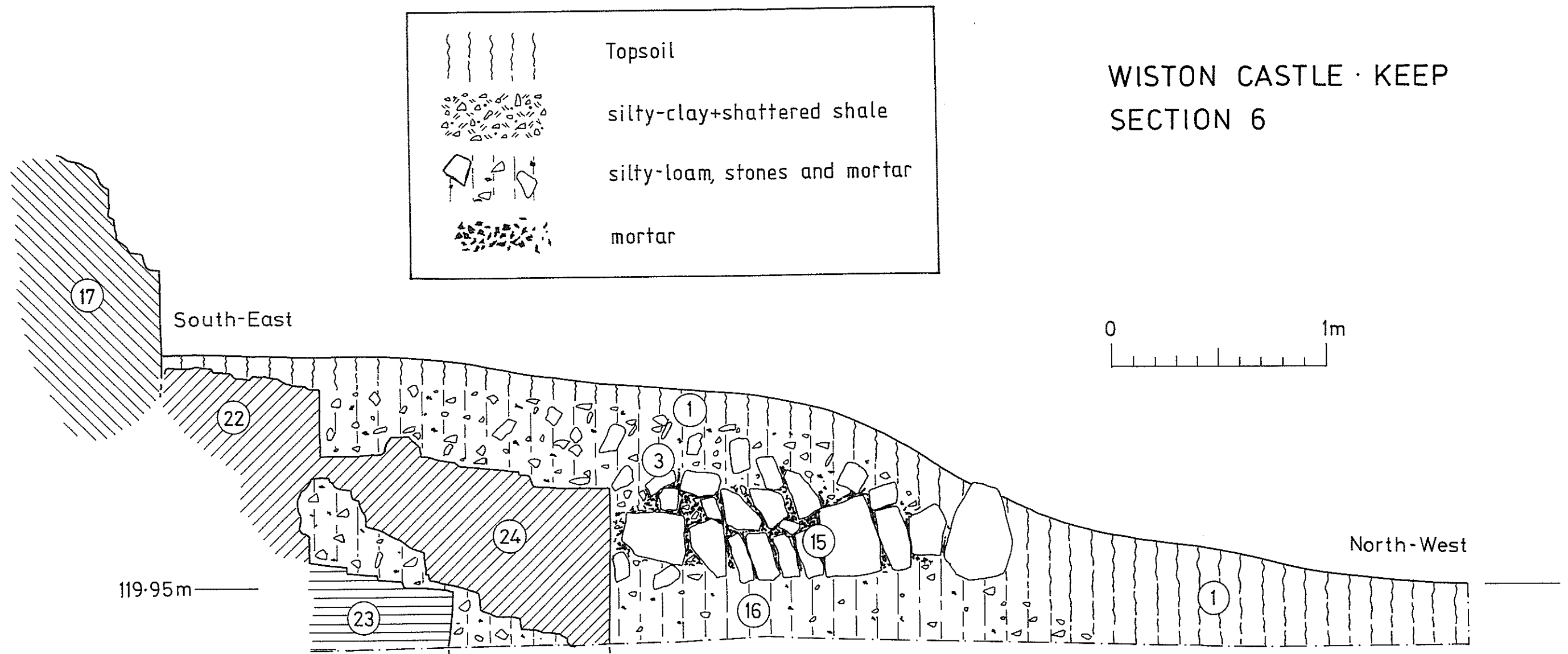
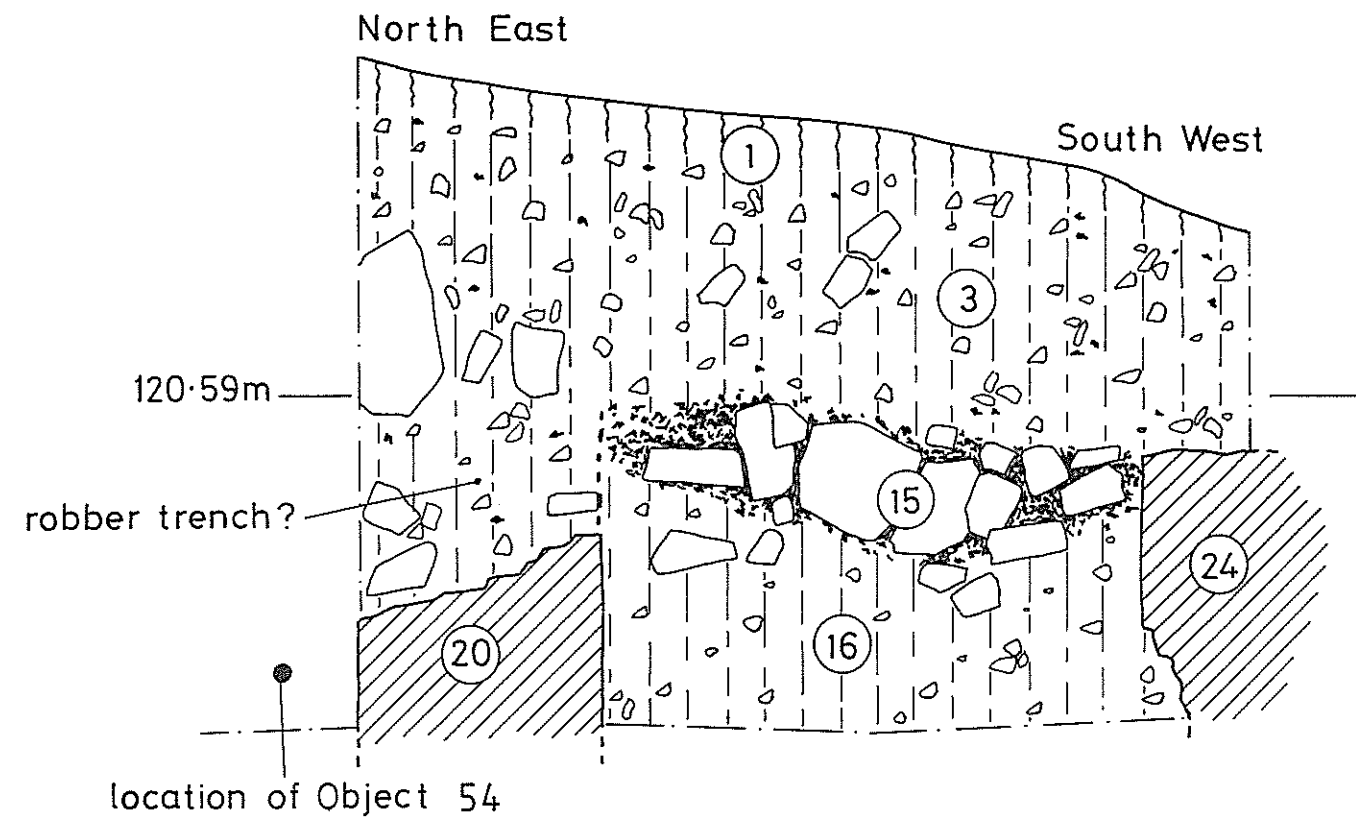
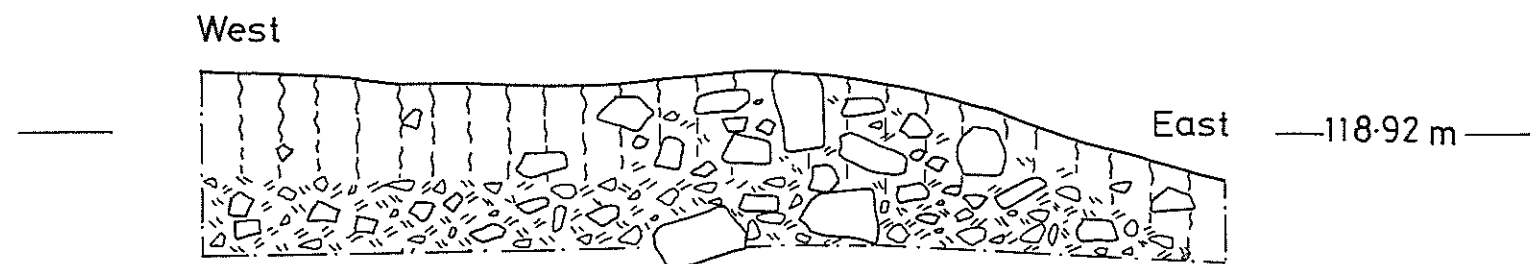
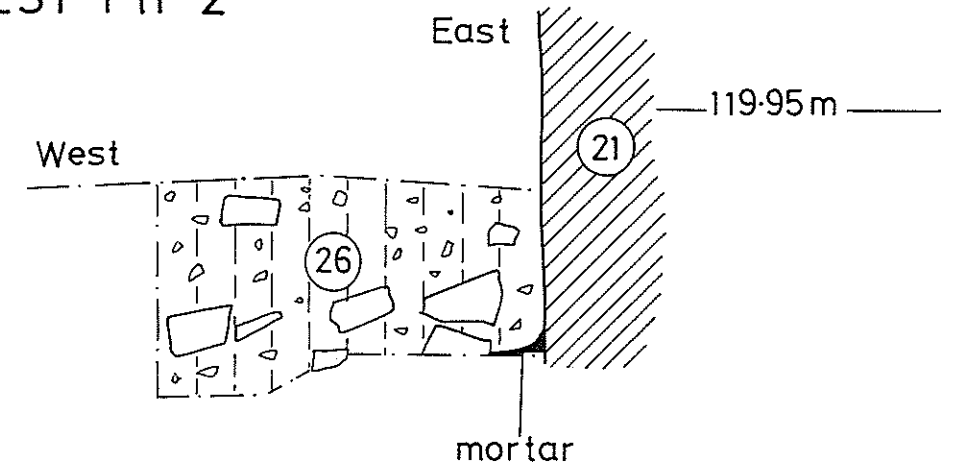


FIG. 8

WISTON CASTLE · KEEP SECTION 5



WISTON CASTLE · KEEP TEST PIT 2



WISTON CASTLE · MOTTE SECTION AT TOP OF STEPS

WISTON CASTLE

PLAN 6 12 OF 13.










1:500

DYFED ARCHAEOLOGICAL TRUST

DRAWN BY: K. MURPHY SEPTEMBER 1990

SURVEY BY: K. MURPHY, J. PURDUE, J. BRIGGS. MARCH 1990



	SURVEY STATION
	SPOT HEIGHT
	TELEGRAPH POLE
	ELECTRIFIED POLE
	INHABITED TREE
	SYCAMORE
	BAMBOO
	SWEET CHESTNUT
	MULTI-HOLE

ALL MEASUREMENTS IN METRES

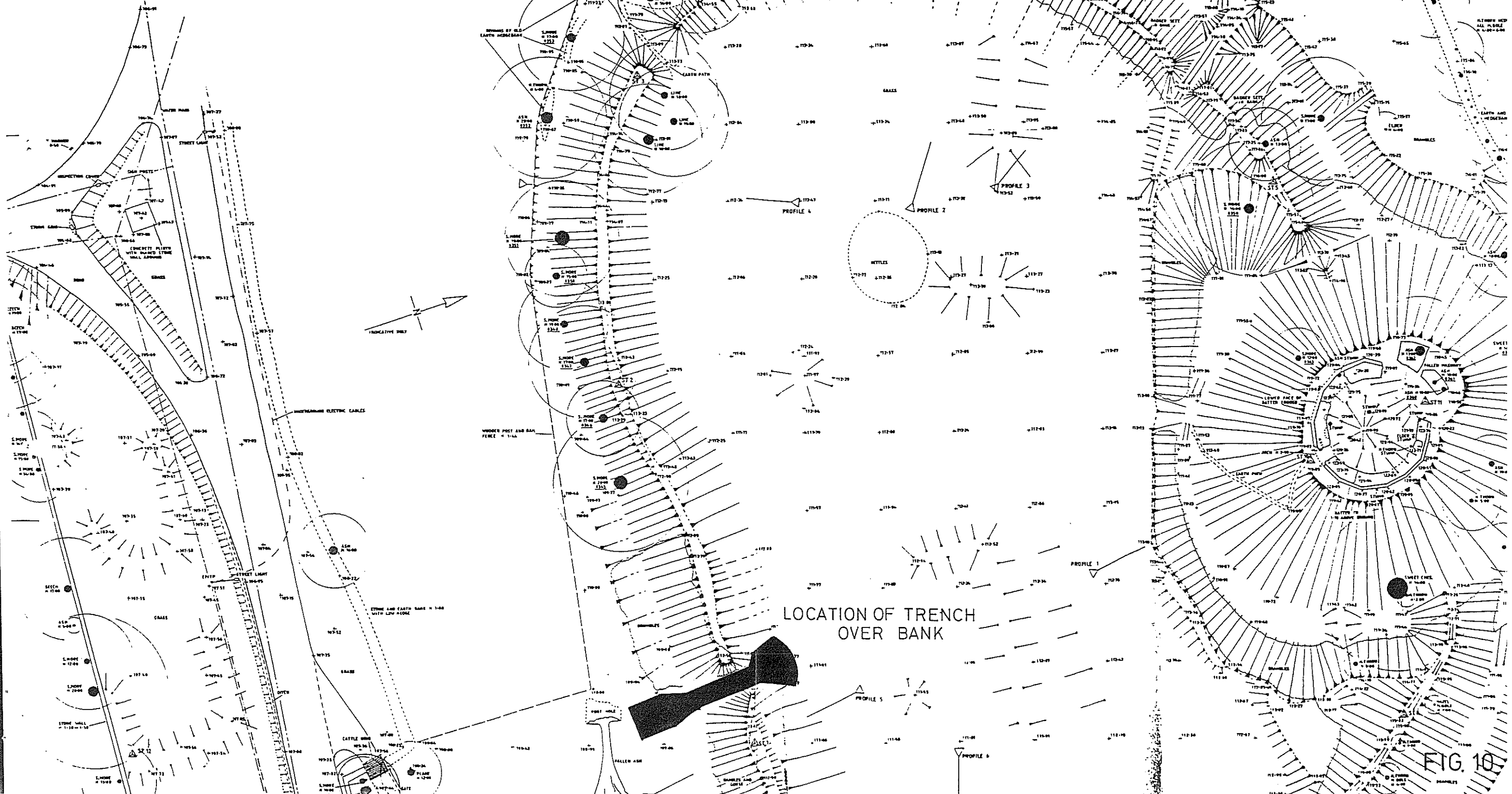


FIG. 10

WISTON CASTLE · TRENCH OVER BANK
PLAN AND SECTION

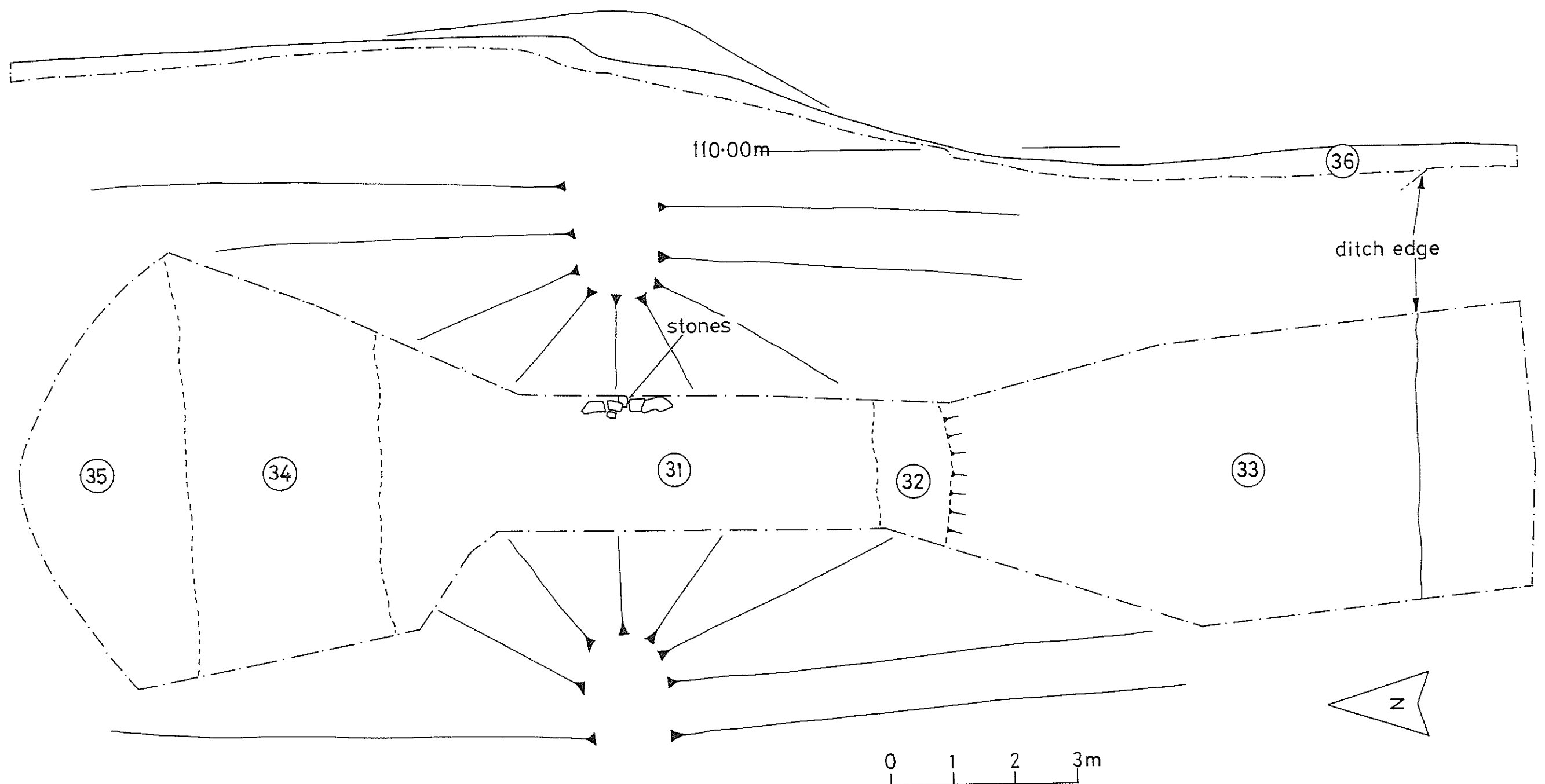
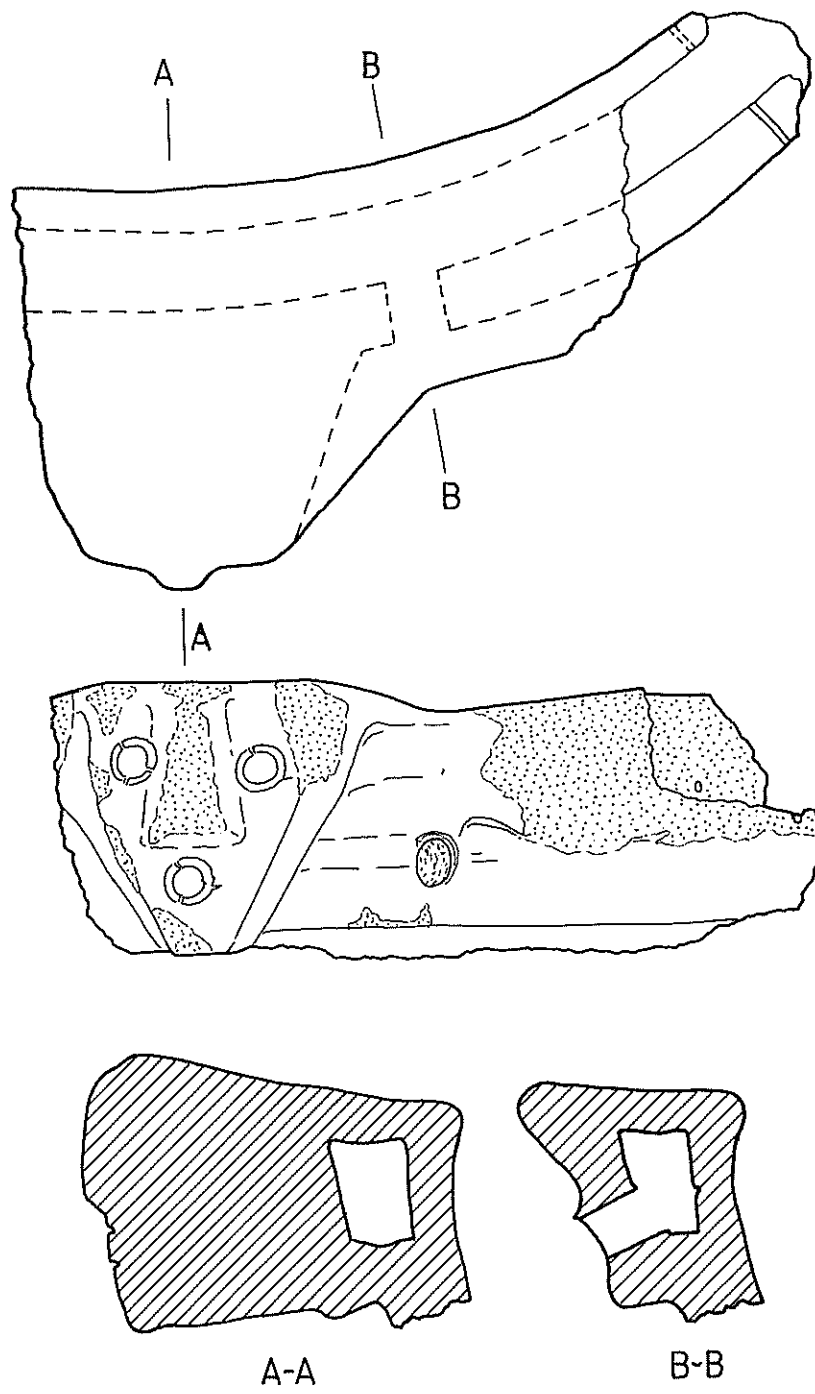


FIG. 11



scale 1:1

Fig. 12



Plate 1. Interior of the keep prior to excavation (ref. 403)



Plate 2. Section 2. Scale 1m (ref. 408)



Plate 3. Interior of the keep during excavation (ref. 418)



Plate 4. Interior to the keep after excavation (ref. 481)

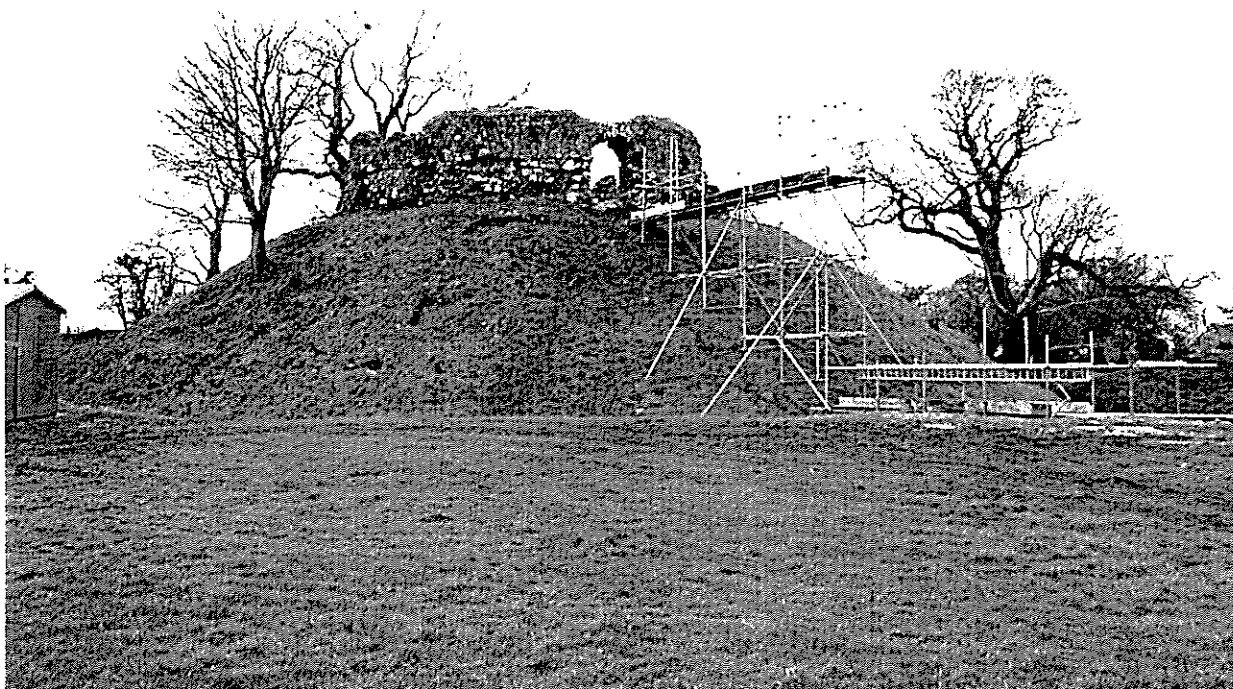


Plate 5. The keep and motte from the south-west (ref. 517)



Plate 6. The keep and motte from the south-east (ref. 519)

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Papazian, C. and Campbell, E., 1992 'Medieval pottery and roof tile in Wales A.D. 1100-1600', *Medieval and Later Pottery in Wales*, 13, 1-107.

Streeten, A., 1983 *Bayham Abbey*, Sussex Archaeological Society, Monograph 2.