



# Northern Curtain Wall, Carisbrooke Castle Isle of Wight

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## *Historic Building Investigation and Recording*

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## Summary

Oxford Archaeology was commissioned by English Heritage to undertake an historic building watching brief at Carisbrooke Castle on the Isle of Wight. The investigation was undertaken during the conservation of the outer face of the northern curtain wall as well as the Keep, and it was principally intended to record a number of exposed areas of the wall core where small voids had opened up by parts of the wall face coming away during the repair works.

The wall is generally constructed from rubble but there are some areas of larger coursed blocks and some areas have a flint face. Numerous phases of repair to the face are apparent including areas where a cement render has been applied over cracked former facing stones and then with small stones embedded in the render. Even in these areas the former facing stones are rubble rather than large ashlar blocks. In some areas this cement repair has come away to expose voids behind.

In the voids exposed the wall appeared to be of poor construction with loose rubble fill, relatively little mortar to bond it and numerous hollow patches. The voids and poor quality of the wall has allowed ivy and other vegetation to penetrate deeply into the wall and this has further weakened the structure. The deeply set mortar generally appears to be an ochre colour lime mortar but the shallower part of the wall (c.15 cm into wall) has a white mortar.

The recording was not intended to produce a comprehensive survey of the wall but a number of other features were noted including many putlog holes which would historically have been used to erect scaffolding against the wall, a substantial vertical joint and other evidence of different phases of construction. Although the recording was small scale in nature it has added to our overall understanding of the historic structure.

The main recording focussed on the northern curtain wall rather than the Keep because this was the area in which the voids were exposed.

## **1 INTRODUCTION**

### **1.1 Project Background**

- 1.1.1 In September 2018 Oxford Archaeology (OA) was commissioned by English Heritage (EH) to undertake recording works at Carisbrooke Castle on the Isle of Wight during a programme of conservation being undertaken on the northern curtain wall and Keep. During the initial clearance of vegetation a number of small voids had been exposed within the body of the wall and it was decided to use the opportunity to undertake a formal piece of archaeological recording.
- 1.1.2 The recording work was commissioned through Timothy Fagg (Project Manager, English Heritage) and in August 2018 a Written Scheme of Investigation was produced by Samantha Stones (EH Properties Curator, South).
- 1.1.3 Carisbrooke Castle is a Scheduled Monument (No.1015699) in the guardianship of English Heritage (EH). It is located on high ground to the south of Newport, close to the centre of the Isle of Wight.

### **1.2 Aims and Objectives**

- 1.2.1 The principal aim of this project was to take the opportunity afforded by the conservation works to the northern curtain wall, and the construction of scaffolding, to learn more of the construction and evolution of this part of the castle.
- 1.2.2 The information is being presented in the form of a written, illustrated report (the current document) and archive.

### **1.3 Methodology**

- 1.3.1 The recording at Carisbrooke was undertaken in the form of a small scale watching brief during the conservation of the outer face of the northern curtain wall and the external face of the Keep. Three visits to site were made to record a number of areas where part of the facing stonework had been removed (or come away) during the conservation to expose part of the core wall behind. Although the conservation works were being undertaken on the Keep as well as the curtain wall the main exposed voids were all on the curtain wall and therefore this formed the main focus of recording. The recording was all undertaken from the scaffolding against the wall, erected for the repair works, and there was no recording undertaken before the erection of this scaffolding. There was also no requirement for general recording of the wider wall (ie straight joints or other surface features) although some notes on any observations were taken.
- 1.3.2 The work comprised of two principal elements: a photographic record and a written, descriptive record. There was no existing metric survey (ie a detailed elevation) on which to base the recording although measurements were taken of the locations of the voids and a rough sketch of the wall was made to allow locations to be identified.
- 1.3.3 Digital photographs were taken using a camera with up to 24-megapixel capability.
- 1.3.4 OA is also currently undertaking a Conservation Management Plan for the overall castle and historical research for this has fed into the current report.
- 1.3.5 The on-site recording was undertaken on 25 September and the 3-4 October 2018.



## 2 HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

### 2.1 Introduction

- 2.1.1 As referred to above OA is currently undertaking a Conservation Management Plan for Carisbrooke Castle and much of the historical background below is either taken directly from that or based on research undertaken for that.

### 2.2 Outline history of Carisbrooke Castle

- 2.2.1 **Ownership:** The history of Carisbrooke Castle is tied with the manor of Carisbrooke and the Lordship of the Isle of Wight. The castle became the major stronghold during the medieval period and the lord of the castle and manor initially also governed the whole island. After the Norman Conquest the whole of the Isle of Wight was granted to William Fitz Osbern and later to his son Roger. After Roger rebelled against King William, the lordship returned to the Crown. In c.1100 the castle was granted to Richard de Redvers along with the lordship of the isle. The lordship remained with the de Redvers family until the death of Countess Isabella de Fortibus in 1293. In 1308, Edward II granted the castle and estates on the Isle of Wight to Peter de Gaveston but the Crown retained the lordship of the Isle. During the 14th-15th centuries the castle, the manor and the lordship was granted to a number of individuals, which reverted to the Crown several times. From the 13th century onwards a constable was appointed as warden of the castle and this title was changed to captain during the 16th century. Subsequently this title became known as the Governor of the Isle of Wight.
- 2.2.2 **Medieval origins:** During the late Saxon period, a rectangular earthwork enclosure was created on the castle site, prior to the Norman Conquest. After the conquest two defensive ditches were created within the late Saxon enclosure, and by 1136 a motte and bailey castle had been created, complete with stone outer walls and a shell keep. Internal buildings within the bailey were also constructed in stone during the late 11th-12th century and limekilns found to the west of the castle can be linked to this building phase. In the 13th and 14th century the castle's defences were strengthened, towers added to the main Gatehouse and a gatehouse added to the shell keep. The hall was also enlarged during this period and buildings constructed to the south of the motte.
- 2.2.3 **Post-medieval period:** The threat of a Spanish invasion in the later-16th century led to the castle being revamped as a military stronghold. The castle was converted into an artillery fortress with a series of bulwarks and batteries created outside the medieval earthworks. During the 17th century the castle became a prison for important Royalists, and King Charles I was imprisoned on the island from 1647-8. The castle subsequently became the occasional residence for the Governors of the Isle of Wight until the mid-19th century. Although some of the governors made repairs and alternations to the fabric of the castle, parts of it were in ruin by the time it was given to the Office of Works in 1856. Restoration work was undertaken soon after by Philip Hardwick, a London architect who refurbished the Constable's lodging and demolished the chapel of St Nicolas. In 1896, Princess Beatrice, Queen Victoria's youngest daughter became governor of the island after the death of her husband Prince Henry of Battenberg, who had previously held the title. Under the direction of Princess Beatrice, the castle had several alterations and renovations. In 1897, Percy Stone, an historian and architect, restored the Gatehouse and in 1898 this opened as the Isle of Wight Museum. Percy Stone also restored the Chapel of St Nicolas in 1904. In 1913, adaptations were made to the Constable's lodging for Princess Beatrice

who subsequently used the castle as her summer residence. After the death of Princess Beatrice in 1944, the Carisbrooke Castle museum moved from the Gatehouse to the hall and Constable's Lodge.

## 2.3 Northern Curtain Wall

2.3.1 The overall form of the motte and bailey castle was probably established in c.1100 by Richard de Redvers and by 1136 Richard's heir Baldwin de Redvers had added the stone curtain wall to the top of the existing bailey banks, as well as the keep to the motte. This is the date at which the castle was described in the *Gesta Stephani* as being 'ornatissima lapidum aedificata' (or 'built of most elegant stonework').

2.3.2 Due to the steeply sloping ground to the north of the castle and the position of the Gatehouse this side was less vulnerable to attack than the other sides and it was not considered necessary to construct any additional defensive towers. The strength of the natural defences also led to a primary postern gate being located in this elevation, adjacent to the base of the motte. This is the only such primary feature at the castle.

2.3.3 Percy Stone's *The Architectural Antiquities of The Isle of Wight* refers to repairs being undertaken between 1276 and 1286 to the curtain wall 'by the High Chamber'. This would have been during the Countess Isabella's period at Carisbrooke and presumably it relates to the northern section of the curtain wall.

2.3.4 There are also various general references to repairs to the curtain wall (although not necessarily the northern section) including:

- In 1294-8 when the walls repaired and brattices (timber projections) were added to the curtain wall (Gibbs, 2004);
- In 1307 when collapsed sections of the walls were rebuilt (Gibbs);
- In 1318-9 when masons work is reported to 'the walls of the castle for the defence of the castle' (Stone, 1891);
- In 1352 when battlements were repaired and fitted with wickets (probably timber shutters between merlons). The windows of the king's great chamber (or 'chamber of the countess) by the north curtain wall were also blocked at this time (Gibbs);
- In 1378-80 when further repairs were undertaken and addition of 'loupes' (probably similar shutters between merlons to the wickets; Gibbs). This was probably undertaken in response to French raids on the Isle of Wight in 1377.

2.3.5 By the late 13<sup>th</sup> century the principal complex of castle buildings had begun to be constructed immediately inside the northern curtain wall, including Countess Isabella's Great Hall, and the countess created three windows in the northern curtain wall, one of which survives (discussed further below).

2.3.6 In 1584-6 George Carey's constructed a mansion alongside the north wall, on the remains of earlier castle structures. The first floor of Carey's Mansion was lit by large windows cut through the curtain wall and it may be that the range immediately adjacent to the wall was a long gallery for exercise and recreation.

2.3.7 A plan from 1723 shows Carey's Mansion as being demolished (presumably meaning it was already roofless).

2.3.8 The fabric of the castle has undergone various phases of repairs in the 20<sup>th</sup> century and the current project has confirmed such works have been undertaken on the northern

curtain wall. These do not appear to be well documented however. A plan held at the Historic England Archive from 1920 (MP.CAR0044) records the locations of various repair works (repointing, rebedding, rebuilding, waterproofing wall tops) undertaken between 1912 and 1920 but no works are shown in this period for the outer face of the northern curtain wall or Keep.

- 2.3.9 A Plan from 1921 shows a small latrine projection immediately to the east of the postern gate and a stable immediately to the west of it. A further plan from 1923 shows a proposal to replace the stables with a ladies WC to add to the existing gents WC on the west side (see Fig 3).

## 2.4 The Keep

- 2.4.1 The stone shell keep which today overlooks the castle at Carisbrooke is believed to have been constructed by Baldwin de Redvers to strengthen the defences of the motte and bailey castle established in c.1100 by his father Richard de Redvers. The motte may originally have had a timber tower but in 1136 the castle was described in the *Gesta Stephani* as being 'ornatissima lapidum aedificata' (or 'built of most elegant stonework').
- 2.4.2 This was one of many keeps constructed in this period with a simple external stone wall (thus the name shell keep) but due to doubts over the structural strength of the earthwork it had lighter timber structures inside. The outer walls of the Keep may originally have been taller than they are today. The principal purpose of the Keep was as a last refuge where defenders could retreat when the castle was under attack and the walls had been breached but it would also have had various other functions. These uses may have included accommodation but probably not the castle's principal accommodation.
- 2.4.3 In 1135 Henry I died and his nephew Stephen took the throne despite the rival claim of Matilda. In the following year, as a result of Baldwin de Redvers supporting Matilda's claim, King Stephen besieged the castle at Carisbrooke which had recently been 'strongly fortified in stone' and it had to be surrendered when the well (presumably that in the Keep) ran dry. As a result the well was deepened and de Redvers' lands were only reclaimed in 1153.
- 2.4.4 *The Architectural Antiquities of The Isle of Wight* states that the castle accounts from 1318-19 refers to masons' work upon 'the Great Tower' (presumably the Keep) and to new brattices (small timber projections to aid defence) being added to the 'Great Tower'.
- 2.4.5 In the 14th century a small gatehouse with vaulted passage was added to the entrance to the Keep, on its western side, and it's most likely that this would have been undertaken in c.1335-6 when a series of improvements are known to have been made to the castle's defences. This was in a period of tension with France immediately before the outbreak of the conflict which became known as the Hundred Years War. The new gatehouse was buttressed on the exterior and had a platform roof which allowed access to cross-shaped loop holes in the walls. The south side of the Keep may also have been rebuilt in the 14th century.
- 2.4.6 Various repairs and other works to the Keep (or Great Tower) are also referred to in the accounts from the period 1378-85 including the clearing out of the well and the addition of a portcullis to the Keep gatehouse. In this period the Keep is also sometimes referred to in the accounts as the castle's 'dungeon' suggesting it was used as a prison.

- 2.4.7 The two main internal walls which survive today in the Keep are thought to date from the 16th century, confirming that the structure was used in this period but it appears to have become disused by 1635 when an anonymous visitor reported that although the Keep had housed watching and lodging rooms there was 'nothing therein now but the wall and a deep well of water in the midst thereof'.

### 3 DESCRIPTION AND OBSERVATIONS

#### 3.1 Introduction

- 3.1.1 The northern section of the curtain wall at Carisbrooke extends from the Keep (Pl. 9) at the north-eastern corner of the castle to a point just to the north of the gatehouse (Pl. 1), toward the north-west. A rampart walk (or wall walk) extends along the inner side of this area and this is accessed by a set of steps towards the western end; there are steps shown here on a plan of 1741.
- 3.1.2 The recent removal of vegetation from the outer face of the wall loosened or dislodged various areas of stonework, thus exposing numerous small 'voids'. Most of these are not deliberately formed voids (eg putlog holes) but instead are loose areas where spaces have been formed inside the wall, often from ivy roots. The four main voids have been given an identifying letter (ie VOID A) to help in the recording, although some of these are collections of small voids rather than a single opening. Also, there are numerous other voids such as putlogs or other small openings which may have been photographed but haven't been given a separate identification letter.
- 3.1.3 Although the conservation works were being undertaken on the Keep as well as the curtain wall the main voids were only exposed on the latter and therefore the recording focussed on this structure. The outer walls of the Keep were also inspected and photographs taken from the scaffolding but fewer observations were made in these areas.

#### 3.2 Outline description of northern curtain wall

- 3.2.1 The outer (northern) face of the northern curtain wall is largely constructed from uncoursed rubble but there is a substantial section of squared blocks towards the west end and other sections where the face is formed from flint. In areas there are surviving traces of a lime render (Pl. 13) which would historically have covered parts (or perhaps all) of the wall. At the lowest point of the wall, within the Keep ditch, is a primary postern gate (Pl. 10) and other features include several inserted windows that relate to former buildings on the inner side of the wall (Pl. 24-25). A number of putlog holes are visible (some infilled) as well as two buttresses and some partially surviving crenellations.
- 3.2.2 There is much evidence of a phase of repairs probably dating from the late Victorian or early 20<sup>th</sup>-century period (early 'Ministry of Works' repairs) comprising cement mortar with small stones embedded within this as a face. These facing stones are thin and of varying size (c.5 x 5 cm to 15 x 15 cm) and in places this coating covers over the older face (Pl. 28). In some areas where the face has come away the core of the wall comprises rubble with little if any mortar (discussed further below). Many areas of stonework have been dislodged by ivy or other roots penetrating into the core. Many other areas have either been repointed or covered in other secondary render and large sections of the coping which has been reformed.
- 3.2.3 As referred to elsewhere there is no existing elevation drawing of the curtain wall so identifying the locations of features in the text is difficult. This has been partly addressed by organising the description in terms of the nine levels of scaffolding erected in the current project against the wall. This provides an indication of the height of features and there are also a number of vertical or prominent features which can be used to identify the horizontal locations. For example there are several distinct kinks in the wall's

alignment, as well as a large vertical buttress and several windows. A rough sketch of the elevation has been produced and these features are marked on this (see Fig 4).

- 3.2.4 It should be noted that most of the nine levels (or lifts) of scaffolding only cover a relatively small length of wall.

### 3.3 Description of features and voids at each level of scaffolding

#### 3.3.1 *Scaffold Lift 1*

- 3.3.2 This is the lowest level of scaffolding and it is a small section located just to the west of the Keep and towards the bottom of the Keep ditch (Pl. 11). It is immediately above the postern gate through the curtain wall. At this level the lower half of the wall is generally of stone (mainly non-dressed and uncoursed) and the upper half is a large, somewhat irregular band of flint. The stones here are generally thin but not entirely so. There is no ashlar at this level and there are no voids or specific features to be covered in the current watching brief.

#### 3.3.3 *Scaffold Lift 2*

- 3.3.4 This is slightly wider than Lift 1 and again at this level there is a combination of flint and uncoursed stone (patches of each). There are various small irregular patches which could be evidence of former features (eg filled-in putlogs) but this is unclear. The western end of this lift coincides with a step or kink (Pl. 12) in the wall alignment (shown as Kink 1 on Fig 4) and here there is a partially surviving, thin lime render (Pl. 13). Towards the west end there is a small hole where it is possible to insert a stick which continues for 30 cm so clearly there is a void here behind the face.

- 3.3.5 **VOID A (A1 & A2):** At the top of lift 2, directly above the postern gate, there are two small voids within the bands of largely flint facing (Pl. 14 & 15). They are c.12 cm wide by 10 cm tall and 28 cm deep, each with a stone lintel over and c.1.5 m apart. They are at the same level as each other and they must be putlogs. These coincide with lift 3 and are thus visible from both above and below. There also appears to be a possible structural horizon in the wall here suggesting there was a construction lift at this point.

#### 3.3.6 *Scaffold Lift 3*

- 3.3.7 This extends westwards from a point close to the Keep as far as Kink 1, just beyond the tall buttress. There is a long section, above the Keep ditch, where this lift is adjacent to the uppermost section of wall (Pl. 16-20). At this level the wall is generally formed from small stones and with an irregular character although it is more consistent towards the top where it has been rebuilt. In some areas the wall coping has been entirely rebuilt, including a relatively modern section close to the Keep (Pl. 16).

- 3.3.8 There are some flints at this level but fewer than in the sections lower down. Similarly to Lift 2 there are some patches of render towards the western end, close to the buttress.

- 3.3.9 Towards the eastern end there are three shallow putlog holes (12 cm deep x 15 cm wide x 12 cm tall) and to the west there are further such holes. One of these is very deep (1.5 m deep x 20 cm x 20 cm) and there is a further shallower putlog beneath it. To the west of Kink 1 there are two further infilled putlogs (one hole above the other) close to the buttress.

- 3.3.10 Beyond (to west of) Kink 1 there is a patch of pointing with large gravel inclusions which is probably relatively recent (mid or later 20<sup>th</sup> century) but not part of current conservation works).
- 3.3.11 **VOID B:** Towards the east end of this section, close to steps up to the Keep and adjacent to a step in the parapet, there is a small irregular void in the wall (c.30 tall x 25 cm deep x 20 cm wide). This is in an area where there is a mix of flint and stone facing and the facing stones have been lost to expose a gap behind (Pl. 18-19). Here the deeply set mortar is an ochre colour while that closer to the face is a white colour. The white mortar extends c.15 cm in from the surface. This void strongly appears to continue laterally behind the adjacent areas where the face survives.
- 3.3.12 As referred to above there are two small voids (A1 & A2) at the level of lift 3 which are visible from above (lift 3) and below (lift 2). There is also another similar hole c.1.5 m to the east which is slightly higher (not visible at lift 2) but may also have been a putlog.
- 3.3.13 **Scaffold Lift 4**
- 3.3.14 This comprises a long section which extends westwards from the sloped coping by Kink 1 to the end of the scaffolding close to the Gatehouse.
- 3.3.15 The easternmost section of wall at this level (ie to the east of Kink 1) is largely uncoursed rubble, with very little flint, and there are two infilled putlog holes just above the scaffold lift. There are also fragments of old lime render to the face and traces of several types of mortar pointing here. Immediately to the west of Kink 1 there is a patch of infill which could have been a former embrasure although this is probably unlikely.
- 3.3.16 Immediately to the west of the buttress there is a 3-light mullioned window (Pl. 23), believed to have been the window from which the imprisoned King Charles I attempted to escape. This window appears to have been inserted in the 1580s phase of works, when Carey's Mansion was constructed further to the west. This window would have illuminated a room in the North Range just to the north of the earlier Great Hall.
- 3.3.17 Slightly further to the west there are two lower windows which also illuminated the North Range although they were earlier, having been inserted in the 13th century. One of these is a 2-light window (Pl. 24) while the other is a Gothic arch window, known as Isabella's window (Pl. 25) due to it having been inserted by the Countess to illuminate her private chamber and with a stepped window seat inside.
- 3.3.18 There is evidence of a grey mortar pointing with gravel inclusions in this area as well as a lighter mortar, again with gravel. Beyond (to west of) Isabella's window are two (or possibly three) putlog holes. One of these has a small arched top and the most westerly is only just above the banked ground level.
- 3.3.19 Around this point there is a low buttress (just below scaffolding) and an irregular structural break in the wall. The wall to the west of this is constructed from regular stone blocks with a slightly honeycombed character.
- 3.3.20 Approximately 15 m to the east of Kink 2 the scaffold steps up slightly for a stretch and c.1 m to the west of this is a 6-light window just above the ground/bank. This 6-light window relates to Carey's Mansion, inserted in the 1580s.
- 3.3.21 In this area the wall is mainly of squared blocks, with some rubble to the upper section; there is no flint here (Pl. 40). There are also two voids (not given reference letter) which

were presumably putlog holes (30 cm tall x 15 cm wide). Approximately 9 m to the east of Kink 2 there is a change in construction with fewer blocks and more rubble.

3.3.22 The area to the west of Kink 2 is uncoursed stone and rubble up to a distinct vertical joint c.2.5 m to east of Kink 3. To the west of this vertical joint the wall is largely constructed from larger coursed stone blocks, each one up to c.60 x 35 cm and with a more 'honeycombed' character than the smaller blocks to the east. These continue around Kink 3 up to a very slight kink (Kink 4). From here to the Gatehouse the wall is constructed from uncoursed rubble (small and medium sized) which was probably all historically rendered.

**3.3.23 VOID C:** This is located c.4.5 m to the east of Kink 2 and is in an area where the face has come away to expose a number of roots and small rubble stones bonded with soft light grey mortar with charcoal flecks (Pl. 29-30). Here there is no evidence of the ochre coloured mortar found elsewhere and it may well be that the whole patch is secondary rebuild. The void is c.60 cm wide by 45 cm tall and 15 cm deep. The top is c.1.1 m below the top of the wall. This area has a hard gravel cement-based mortar pointing and this partially survives around the edge of the void.

#### 3.3.24 *Scaffold Level 5*

3.3.25 This divides into two main sections: a western section close to the Gatehouse and an eastern section above the tall buttress and windows. Between these sections the height of the wall drops down slightly thus removing the need for scaffolding at this level.

3.3.26 The western section follows the pattern of the lifts below with rubble towards the Gatehouse (up to Kink 4, c.8m from Gatehouse and c.2 m beyond this) but then more squared blocks to the east of this (c.40 cm<sup>2</sup> on average). This is a clear constructional break. There is cement pointing with gravel inclusions around the larger blocks. There is a group of voids in this area (Void D, detailed below).

3.3.27 There are at least three clear putlogs in the section of wall closest to the Gatehouse, c. 15cm<sup>2</sup>, c.1m below coping and c.1.5 m apart.

3.3.28 The eastern section is generally constructed with a rubble face and larger blocks at the kink. There are no real patches of flint here although there are occasional isolated pieces of flint. Dressed stone blocks line the battlements here and also in the buttress that is losing its upper courses. There is a small hole with an arched top (presumably a putlog) with neat stonework around the opening and a deep void that extends through much of the wall. This is c.5-6 m to the west of the buttress. As mentioned above there is a structural break towards the western end of lift 4 and this continues up to Lift 5 although it is less clear towards the top due to rebuilding.

3.3.29 **VOID D (D1-D6):** towards the western end of the curtain wall, c.6 m from the Gatehouse and c.1-2m below the wall top, there is a group of five small 'voids' or areas where the face has come away (Pl. 31-38). These are mainly just below the scaffolding boards which form lift 5 but two of them partially straddle this line and one void is above it.

3.3.30 The lowest of this set of voids [D1] is a putlog hole which retains two of its square edges but which has grown through the loss of the other two edges (Pl. 34-35). This hole is c.1.45 m to the west of another visible putlog and there is another similar putlog beyond this to the east, again at the same height. It is 28 cm deep and ivy has clearly penetrated into the wall through this hole. In this hole (D1) there are traces of a lime render on the west side, beneath the cement skin over the top. This lime render is much lighter than the



- ochre lime mortar found in the core so presumably this was a later lime coating. In D1 it is particularly noticeable that many of the stones within the wall have no mortar on them at all, almost like a dry stone wall; it may be that it has been worn away or removed by ivy.
- 3.3.31 The uppermost void [D2] is 35 cm wide x 20 cm tall and is shallow, merely comprising an area where a patch of cement-based facing skim has come away (Pl. 32-33). Behind the cement skim fragments of the old facing stone have been exposed, extending into wall. The main mortar here within the wall is sandy and ochre coloured and there are two phases of secondary render: one is a hard smooth render and the other has gravel mixed into it.
- 3.3.32 Void D3 is also shallow and there is much ochre coloured mortar exposed c.10 cm into the wall (Pl. 31). There are old light coloured stones within the void but it appears that the stones were cracked/shattered and lost their face rather than the original face being recessed to here. The cement-based gravelly mortar is visible here, as well as older ochre mortar and at the west side there is a light coloured render beneath the modern infill.
- 3.3.33 Void D4 comprises a relatively deep void (up to 35 cm deep) and again there are many stones within this area without any mortar (Pl. 38). This appears to have been part of a larger area where the wall face had partially collapsed and was then reformed with a cement face.
- 3.3.34 Void D5 is a small opening but there is a gap behind and a void that spreads as far as D4.
- 3.3.35 Void D6 is similar to the other voids with a soft, deeply set ochre mortar, a shallower white lime mortar on the stones that would have formed the face and a hard cement skin covering over these stones. This void also has a dead ivy stem within it.
- 3.3.36 **Scaffold Level 6** is a short section by the Keep and it comprises similar uncoursed stone and a rebuilt coping (Pl. 41). There is a shallow, irregular void (c.25 cm wide x 30 cm tall x 15 cm deep) with white lime mortar. No ochre coloured mortar was noted but the void may not have been deep enough to reach this.
- 3.3.37 **Scaffold Level 7** is another short section adjacent to the Keep largely comprising uncoursed rubble although there is a step with ashlar quoins. There is a very small and shallow void where the face has been lost and this has white lime mortar within.
- 3.3.38 **Scaffold Level 8:** The western part of this lift is adjacent to the section with the sloped shoulder flanking the steps to the Keep and here the construction is of uncoursed rubble similar to that at Lift 7. Then extending around the Keep clockwise there is a large buttress formed from ashlar and incorporating a sloped shoulder and then a section with a rubble stone face and a garderobe outlet (Pl. 45). Nearby this is a clear area of rebuild. Beyond this the construction is largely uncoursed rubble stone with ashlar quoins. The walls are battered and there is extensive evidence of 20<sup>th</sup>-century repointing.
- 3.3.39 **Scaffold Level 9** is the uppermost level. The large buttress is again constructed from ashlar with a shoulder (as on level below) and then continuing clockwise there is rubble stone with gravel-rich mortar followed by more coursed stonework using stone with slight honeycombed character. There are putlogs at some of the angles.

## 4 CONCLUSION

- 4.1.1 The curtain wall at Carisbrooke is one of the key elements of the medieval castle illustrating its principal defensive function as well as providing dramatic views both towards the castle and from it.
- 4.1.2 A programme of conservation and repairs to the outer face of the northern section of the curtain wall, as well as the Keep, has been undertaken and this has led to the exposure of a number of gaps or voids within the wall, immediately behind the face. Oxford Archaeology (OA) was commissioned by English Heritage to photographically and descriptively record any temporarily exposed areas of the wall core. OA also took the opportunity to also make brief notes on the general construction of the wall and other features which were made more accessible by the scaffolding.
- 4.1.3 The exposed voids revealed that large parts of the core of the wall is crudely constructed with rubble and relatively little mortar. Extensive ivy has penetrated the wall and dislodged stones within it. The most prevalent deeply set historic mortar is a sandy, ochre coloured lime mortar but the shallower lime mortar (up to c.15 cm into wall) is generally white. In some areas the historic face appears to have been lost and a crude skin has been added with a cement-based 20<sup>th</sup>-century render and then small stones set within this. Some of this skin has been lost, thus creating the voids, and older stonework with cracked facing stones exposed behind. There are numerous other patches of secondary repair.
- 4.1.4 A considerable number of putlog holes were identified which would have been used to help erect the scaffolding when the wall was first constructed, or from subsequent phases of works.
- 4.1.5 As with major medieval buildings constructed with ashlar masonry, it is likely that the walls were raised in lifts relating to the scaffold levels shown by the putlog holes. With continuous curtain walls of rubble masonry they were typically built in separate sections, with individual lengths separated by vertical seams of ashlar blocks. It is probable that the rubble walling, just like ashlar faced masonry, was constructed from the outside in, with an external facing being laid in sections, and then infilled with smaller rubble and mortar. For a variety of reasons the internal mass of mortar could set and settle differentially, leading to gaps behind the wall facing, which could attract penetrating plants. These gaps provide opportunities to examine the character of the internal wall construction and its mortar, and cumulatively will add to our understanding of the built history of the castle.

## APPENDIX A      BIBLIOGRAPHY

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Young, 2010 *Carisbrooke Castle*, English Heritage Guidebook

Gibbs L *Carisbrooke Castle Conservation Statement*, 2004

### ***Maps held at Historic England Archive***

1723 Carisbrooke Castle site plan (MP CAR0003)

1920 HM Office of Works Record Plan showing progress of works (MP.CAR0044)

1921 Plan of Carisbrooke Castle (MP.CAR0054)

1923 plan of proposals for coach house, tea rooms and ladies WC (MP.CAR0064)





Source: Esri, DigitalGlobe, GeoEye, Earthstar Geographics, CNES/Airbus DS, USDA, USGS, AeroGRID, IGN, and the GIS User Community

Figure 1: Site location

CARISBROOKE CASTLE GROUND PLAN

N:\C\_invoice\_codes\CARISBS\Northern Curtain Wall, Carisbrooke Castle, Isle of Wight\mw\*20.06.19

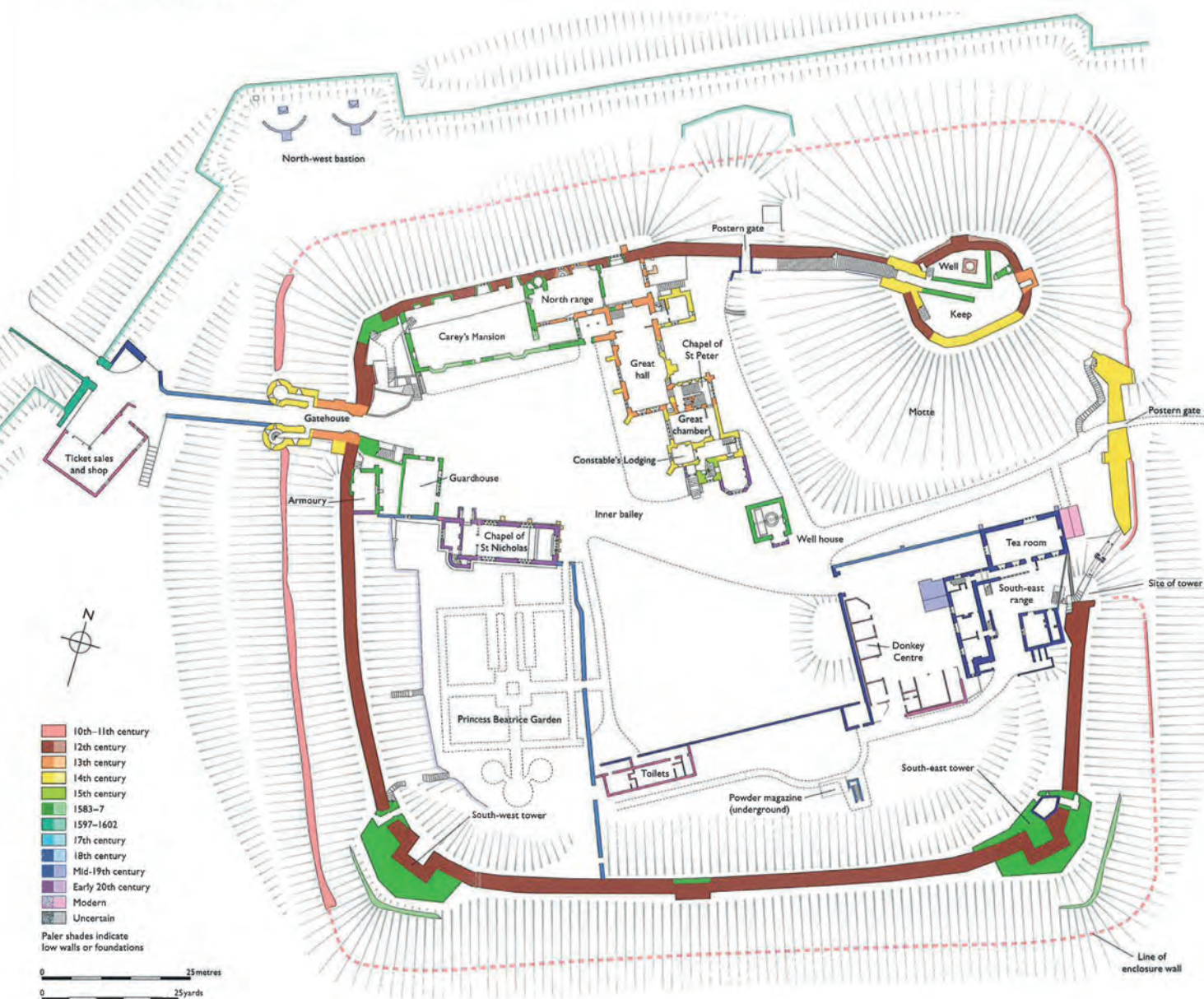


Figure 2: Plan of Carisbrooke Castle (from EH Guidebook)



Figure 3: Extract from 1723 site plan (MP CAR0003)

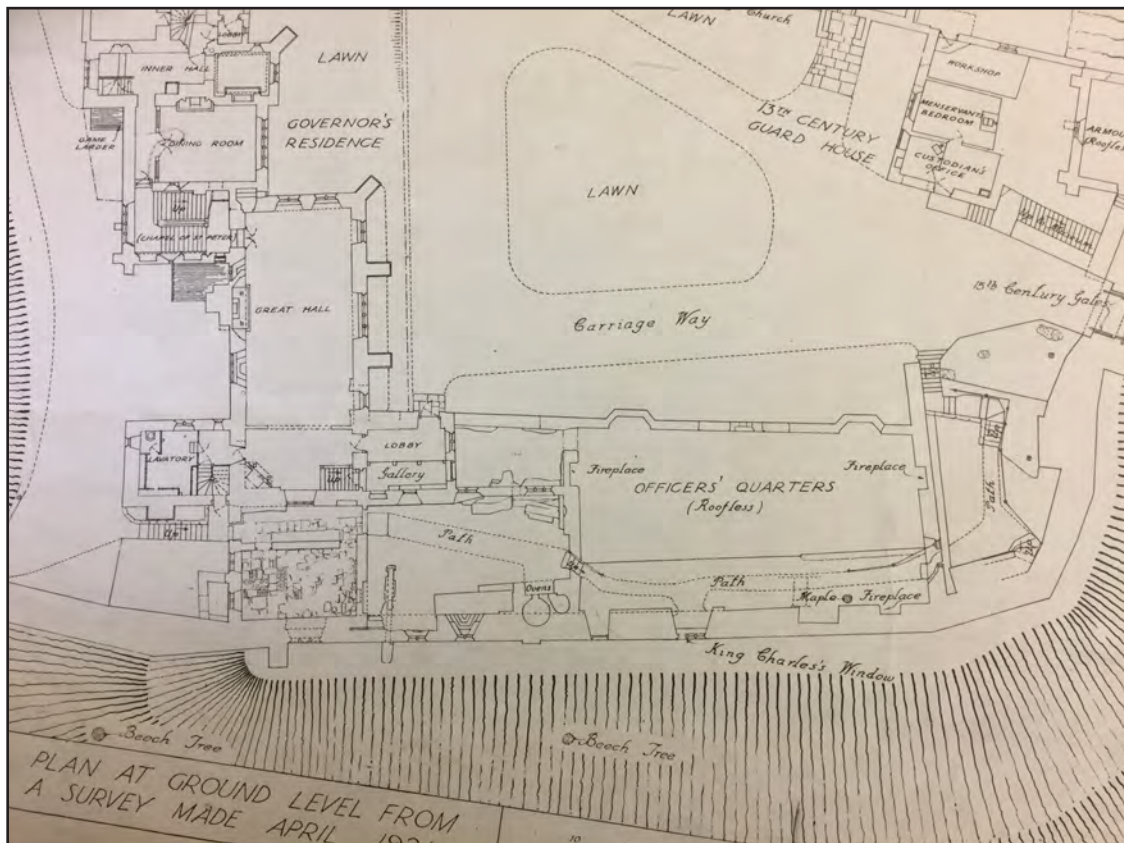


Figure 4: Extract from 1921 HM Office of Work Plan (MP CAR0054)

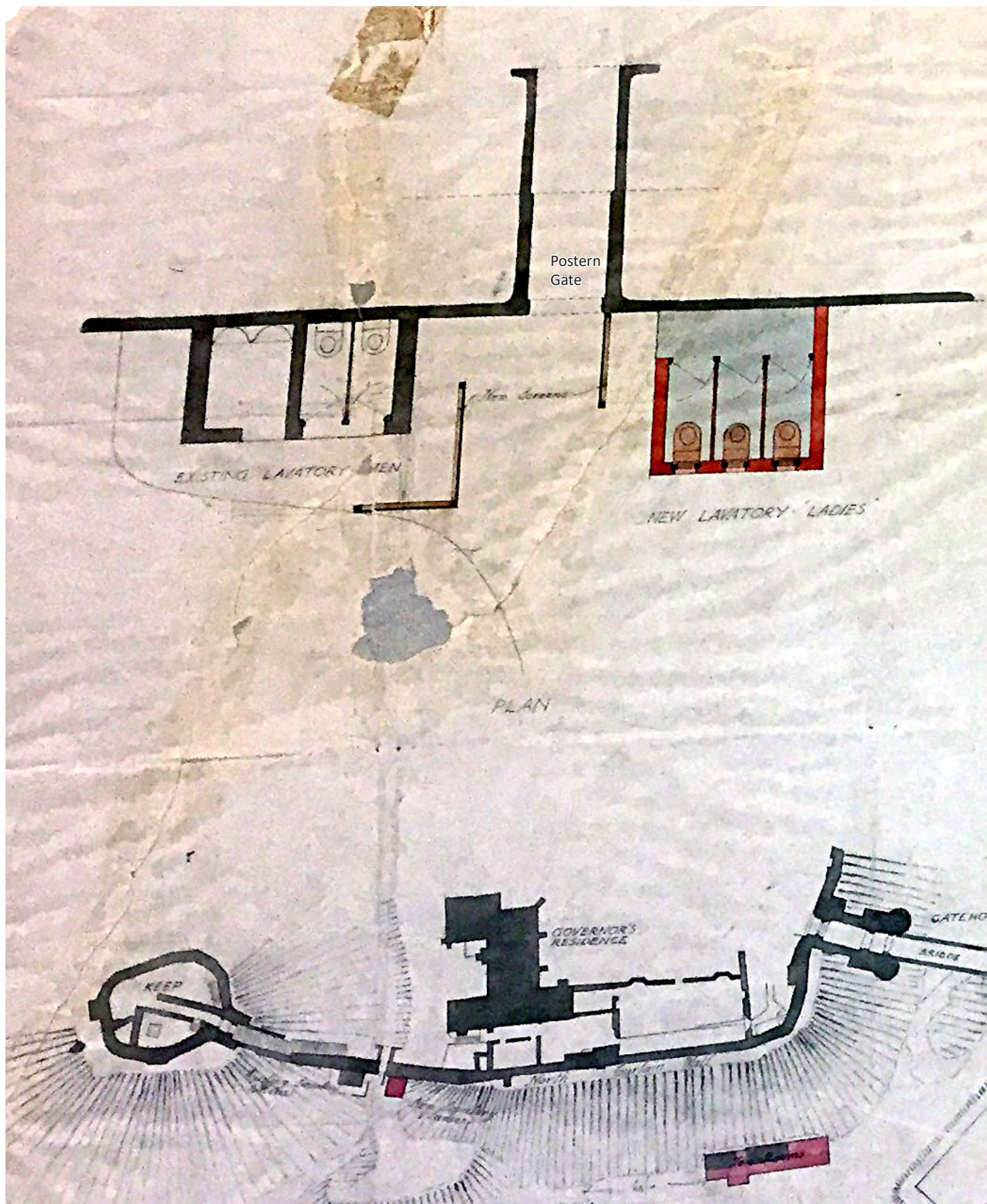


Figure 5: 1923 Proposal for coach house, tea rooms and ladies WC



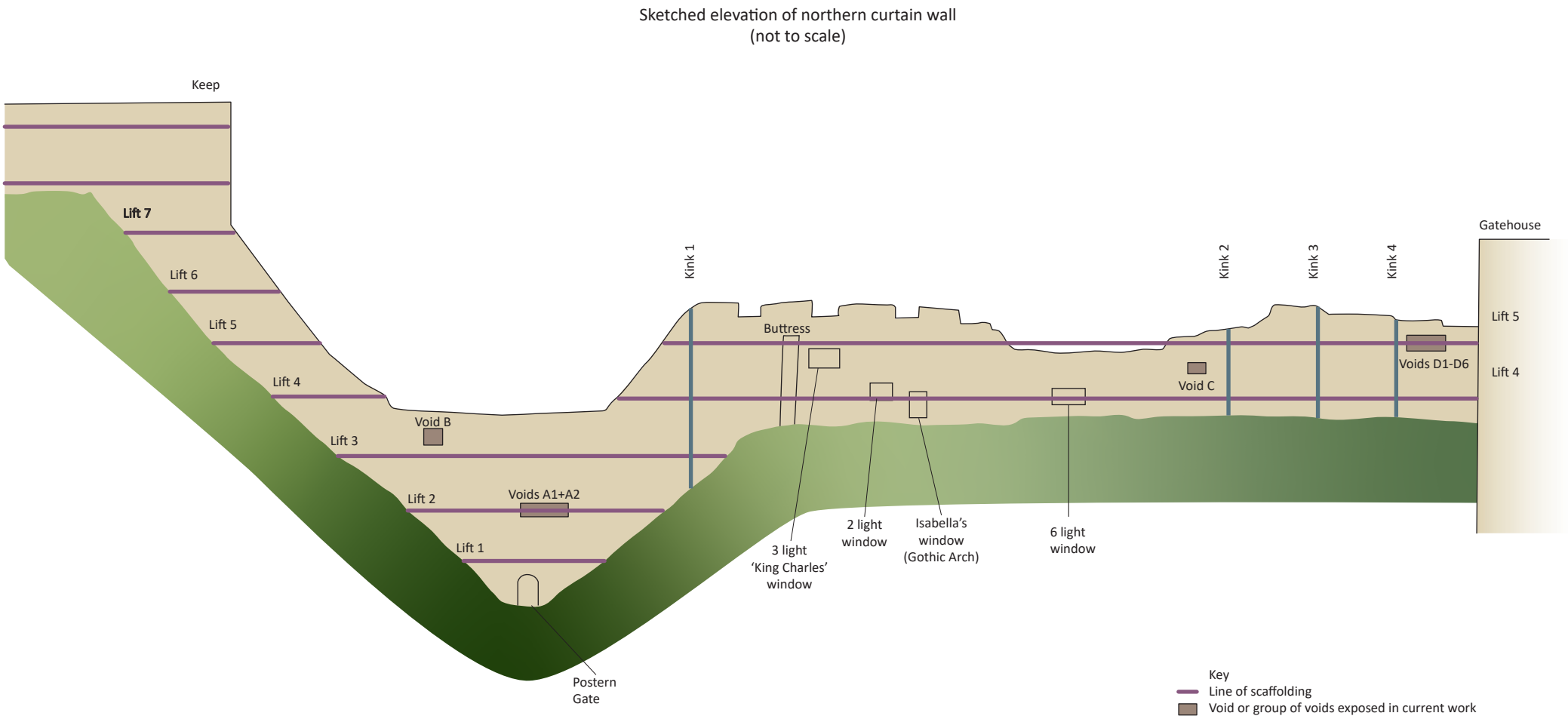


Figure 6: Sketch elevation of northern curtain wall



Plate 1: Gatehouse and adjacent section of curtain wall



Plate 2: North-west part of curtain wall



Plate 3: Western part of northern curtain wall



Plate 4: Central part of northern curtain wall



Plate 5: Central part of northern curtain wall



Plate 6: Central part of northern curtain wall



Plate 7: Northern curtain wall above postern



Plate 8: Eastern part of northern curtain wall



Plate 9: Keep from east



Plate 10: Postern at base of northern curtain wall



Plate 11: Northern curtain wall at level 1



Plate 12: Curtain wall at level 2



Plate 13: Traces of surviving render at level 2



Plate 14: Voids A1 & A2, level 2 curtain wall



Plate 15: Void A1 at level 2





Plate 16: Rebuilt patch at level 3



Plate 17: Curtain wall at level 3



Plate 18: Curtain wall at level 3



Plate 19: Void B at level 3



Plate 20: Wall top at level 3



Plate 21: Putlog holes at level 3



Plate 22: Quoins at level 3



Plate 23: 3-light window at level 4



Plate 24: 2-light window at level 4



Plate 25: Gothic arch window at level 4



Plate 26: Features at level 4



Plate 27: Construction break at level 4



Plate 28: Skim of 20th-century render with stones embedded (level 4)



Plate 29: Void C at level 4



Plate 30: Void C at level 4



Plate 31: Voids D2 & D3



Plate 32: Void D2

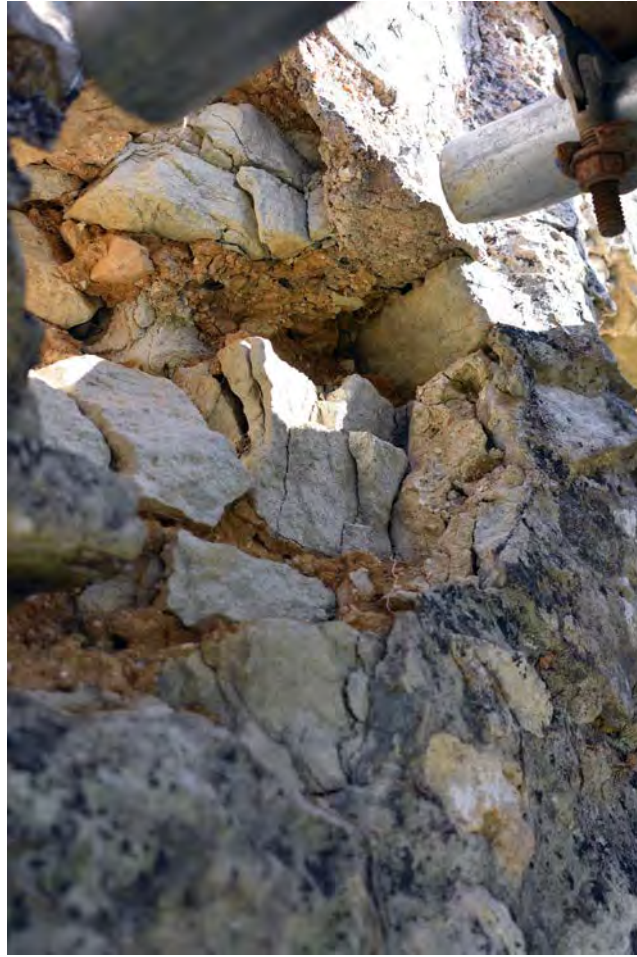


Plate 33: Void D2



Plate 34: Void D1 and putlog





Plate 35: Void D1 (former putlog that has expanded)

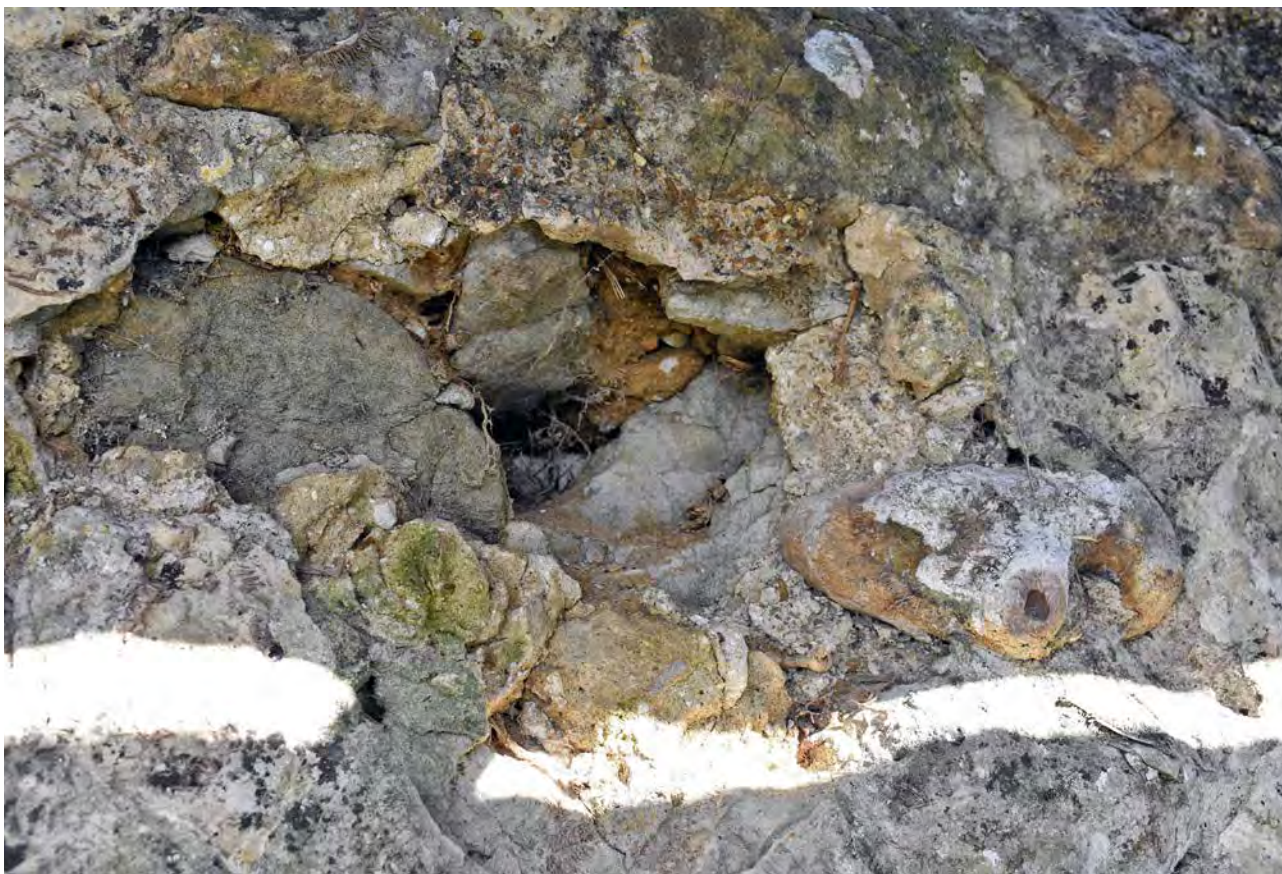


Plate 36: D6 (easternmost hole in set of voids)



Plate 37: Void D4 at level 5



Plate 38: Void D4 (uppermost hole in this set)



Plate 39: Pair of putlogs at level 5 t

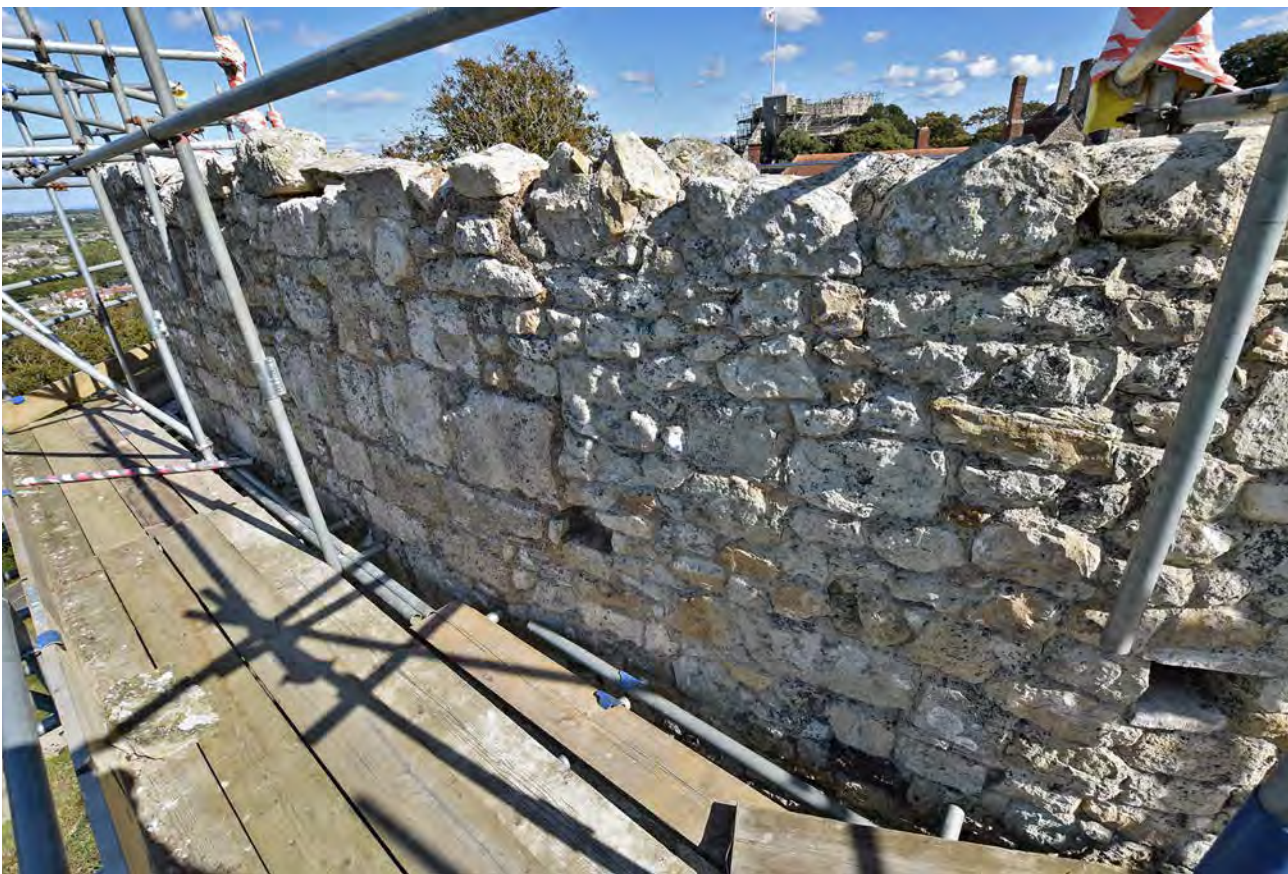


Plate 40: Construction break at level 5



Plate 41: Void at level 6



Plate 42: General view of wall by keep



Plate 43: Small void at level 7



Plate 44: General view of wall at level 8



Plate 45: Garderobe outlet at level 8



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