

ARCHAEO-TOPOGRAPHICAL SURVEY CAUS CASTLE, WESTBURY SHROPSHIRE A preliminary report

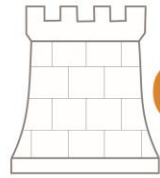


Caus Castle motte, viewed from the north-west

Michael Fradley and Giles Carey
December 2016

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It should be noted that Caus Castle is on private land and there is no access to the majority of the site discussed in this report.

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SUMMARY

A programme of archaeo-topographical survey was undertaken at Caus Castle on 19-20 March 2016 alongside a UAV photogrammetric survey of the same area and a targeted electrical resistance survey of a section of the outer enclosure of Caus (Carey 2016). This work was funded by the Castle Studies Trust (CST) to advance understanding of this well-preserved, yet poorly-researched site, and followed an earlier unfunded magnetometry survey of the outer enclosure in 2015 (Carey 2015).

The archaeo-topographical and photogrammetric surveys have recorded a number of previously unidentified features across the site, allowing a significant reinterpretation of the development of the medieval castle and associated settlement. Features in and around the inner bailey and motte of the castle are particularly well-preserved, allowing a re-appraisal of the layout of this area in the later phases of the castle's development. Earthwork features in the outer enclosure were less well preserved, although a number of important observations can still be made. A number of potentially important features outside of the castle and Scheduled area were also recorded.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The archaeo-topographical survey of Caus Castle would not have taken place without the initial work of Giles Carey, who was particularly tolerant of the author's casual approach to survey, and led the geophysical survey campaigns on site. Adam Stanford of Aerial Cam undertook the photogrammetric survey.

Mervyn and Helen Roberts of Caus Castle Farm, Westbury kindly granted permission for the survey to be undertaken on their land.

It should be noted that Caus Castle is on private land and there is no access to the majority of the site discussed in this report.

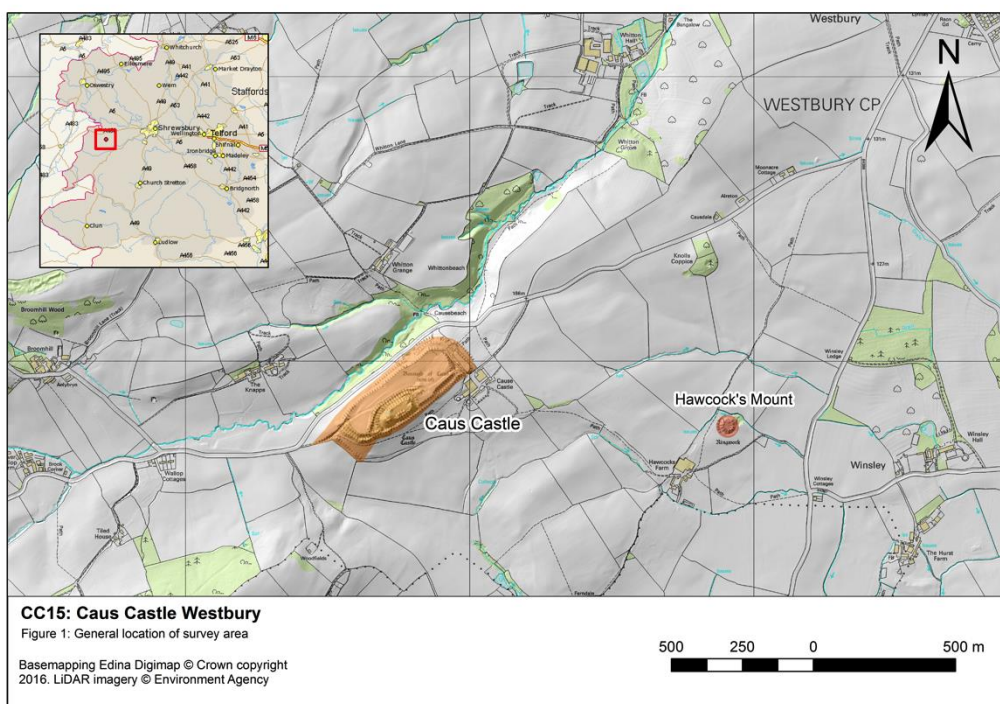


Figure 1. Location map

INTRODUCTION

This report presents the results of the archaeo-topographical survey of Caus Castle and a small area of adjoining land to the south-west. It combines the evidence of a ground survey, using a differential GPS and hand-and-tape techniques to create a hachured plan of earthwork forms across the site, and the digital 3D model created via a UAV-mounted photogrammetric survey. The site had previously been subject to basic surveys as part of its depiction on various Ordnance Survey map editions, but never part of a concerted archaeological investigation.

The results of the geophysical surveys in the outer enclosure of the castle are reported elsewhere (Carey 2015; 2016), but will be integrated as part of a formal academic paper into the castle and its wider context.

PROJECT BACKGROUND

Site Location

Caus lies at a height of between 200m and 220m OD, and the underlying soils of the area are recorded as well drained brown earths of the Barton association (Ragg et al 1984) overlying Downtonian Sandstone (BGS, nd).. The massive earthworks which contained the castle and borough are situated on a high ridge at the east end of the Long Mountain, with extensive views from its southern perimeter across the Rea Brook valley, although the site physically stands immediately over a smaller tributary valley running through from the hamlet of Wallop (Fig. 1). The topography of the survey declines from NE-SW, with the area to the immediate north of the inner bailey representing the highest part of the site, and the area to the west of the castle representing the lowest part of the site. This latter area of the outer bailey largely forms a narrow but flat-topped plateau, perhaps extending 60m across at its widest point.

Aims and Objectives

The key aim of the archaeo-topographical surveys was to assess the extent of upstanding archaeological earthworks across the site and feed this evidence into a prospective interpretation of settlement development at the site. While a number of researchers have made statement concerning the origins, development and contraction of Caus, there has not previously been any form of detailed archaeological investigation at the site prior to 2015. This non-invasive, integrated survey approach therefore is intended to provide a new benchmark of evidence-based research.

The surveys objectives were to identify any evidence to support or dispute the theory that the outer enclosure at Caus originated as an Iron-Age hillfort, to develop an understanding of the tree-covered mote-and-bailey castle, and assess any evidence of the borough settlement recorded at Caus in the medieval period. In order to complete the narrative, the survey was utilized to identify evidence of late-medieval and post-medieval redevelopment.

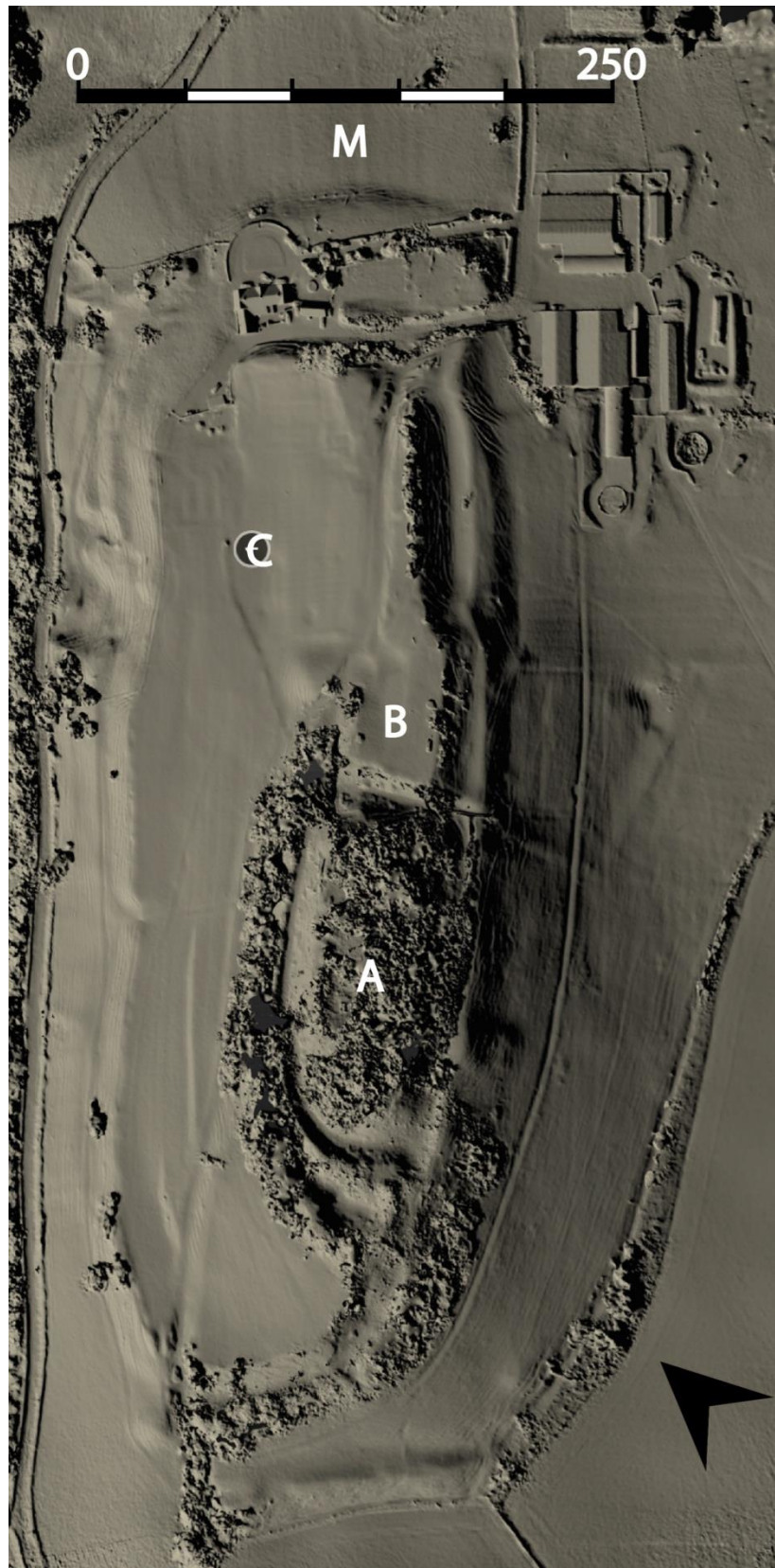


Figure 2. A near-vertical perspective on a digital model of Caus. The motte and inner bailey (A), outer bailey (B) and outer enclosure (C) are highlighted. Scale and orientation are approximate. (original model by Adam Stanford)

Archaeological and Historical Background

Caus is believed to be the site of a small multivallate hillfort (Fig. 2: C), situated on a prominent hill sometimes referred to as Caus Beach at the south eastern end of the Long Mountain (Scheduled Monument NHLE 1020147). It has been speculated that the castle may re-utilise the site of an earlier Iron-

Age hillfort (Shropshire HER PRN 00249), although no conclusive has been identified. The medieval motte-and-bailey castle developed at the highest point of this conjectured earlier enclosure, along the southeastern perimeter of the hillfort.

It has been suggested, from placename evidence, that Caus Castle superseded the ringwork of Hawcocks Mount, 1.2 km to the east (Barker 1981). Caus Castle is thought to have been built by Roger fitz Corbet in the late 11th or early 12th century taking the name from his ancestral home in Normandy. Roger's father, Corbet (derived from the French word for 'crow'), is thought to have been a follower of Roger of Montgomery (subsequently Earl of Shropshire) at the time of Norman Conquest, although his absence from Domesday Book would suggest that he died prior to 1086 and his estates inherited by his son, although the former may still have been alive in 1081 (VCH 1968, 311). The first documentary reference to the castle is in 1140 (Buteux, 1996: 2), although ambiguity in terms of the relationship and potential transition from Hawcock's Mount to Caus Castle casts uncertainty over which castle this source indicates. Documentary evidence survives for the borough, effectively summarised by the Central Marches Historic Towns Survey. King John granted a market charter on 10 April 1200, to Robert Corbet, with the charter for a fair granted in 1248. The town expanded through the 13th and 14th centuries, with 28 burgages recorded in 1274, 34 in 1300 and 58 in 1349 (Buteux, 1996: 2), reduced to 20 by 1455 and 10 in 1541 (VCH 1968, 310). The original Corbet line died out in 1347, and the barony passed to the Stafford family. The last recorded house in the borough is mentioned in 1614, although the castle had been subject to significant investment by the Stafford and Thynne families in the 16th and early 17th centuries, before it was surrendered to parliament after a short siege during the English Civil War (VCH 1968, 309).

Documentary evidence makes reference to a number of buildings and infrastructure features. These include the chapel of St. Nicholas, founded in the 12th or 13th century, still furnished in 1612 and probably used as a domestic chapel until the destruction of the castle (Shropshire HER PRN 05106). This has traditionally been located as opposite the inner gate of the castle. In addition, the chapel of St. Margaret has been recorded from documentary sources as founded in 1272 and last recorded in 1447, although its location is unclear (Shropshire HER PRN 05107). It has been suggested that the main interior street, running between East Gate and Wallop Gate was still in use as part of a field road in 1816, although a re-reading of the first Ordnance Survey edition would suggest that it shows a track leading from the eastern entrance in the outer enclosure to the castle, and a second track skirting around the north side of the outer enclosure (VCH 1968, 310).

Archaeologically the site has been subject to passing discussion (Beresford 1967, 188, 480-1; Higham and Barker 1992), but has never been subject to a recorded excavation or survey. The current report therefore represents the first detailed analysis of the archaeo-topographical form of the castle.

ARCHAEO-TOPOGRAPHICAL SURVEY

The ground survey of Caus was undertaken using a Trimble dGPS, with the results infilled with hand-and-tape methods in areas of high tree cover, as around the motte and inner bailey of the castle. The site was surveyed using the analytical earthwork survey approach (Bowden 1999), with earthwork feature identified visually, the top and bottoms of slope recorded, and the severity of slope indicated by a hachuring symbology. Interpretation is explicitly embedded into the data collection stage of this approach, with models of understanding of a site development evolving as the archaeo-topography is recorded. Adam Stanford of Aerial Cam produced the photogrammetric survey. For ease of accessibility the report will primarily use the model created by Adam Stanford to identify features visually, only using the hachure plan for the otherwise inaccessible motte-and-bailey area of the site.

RESULTS

The motte-and-bailey castle (fig. 3)

Due to dense tree cover the central castle area was not accessible to the photogrammetric and dGPS surveys, with coverage in this area relying on hand-and-tape methods of recording. The large circular motte stands at the south-west end of this area, at one of the highest points of the hill. It measures c.55m in diameter at its base and c.17m in diameter at its summit, standing c.12m in height. If at some stage a ditch had separated the motte from the bailey area to the north-west, then the motte base may have originally been a more oval shape. Several slight earthwork scraps divide up the summit of the motte, and at least two phases of overlying standing masonry recorded. A degraded terraced area was recorded partway up the slope of the south side of the motte, measuring c.40m in length and c.2m in width. This appears to be part of an access way to a rear entrance in the castle to the south-west of the motte, possibly the 'Wolvesgate' recorded in 1379 (VCH 1968, 309).

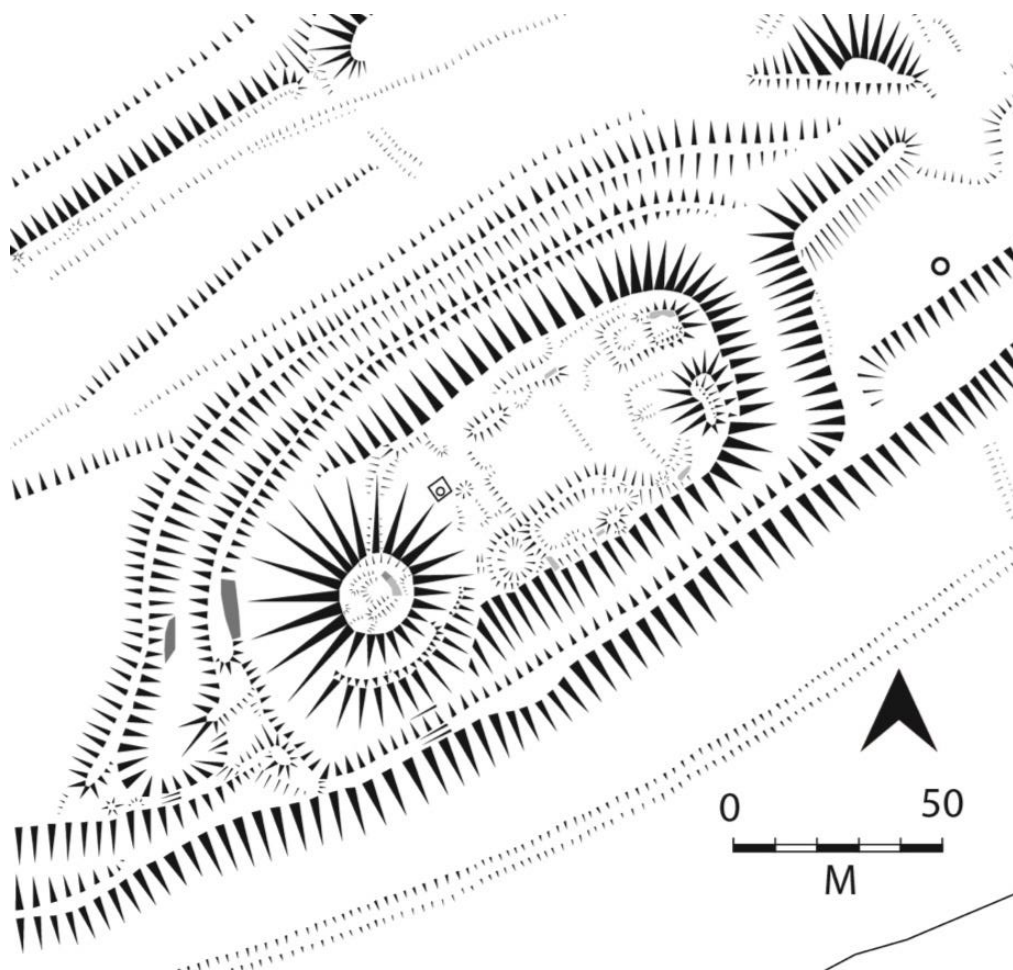


Figure 3. Hachure plan of the motte and inner bailey. A rectangular courtyard arrangement with flanking buildings can be seen in the inner bailey. A terrace on the south side of the motte links the inner bailey to a postern gate to the south-west of the motte.

No ditch was recorded in the area between the motte and the bailey area, and the only traces of an enclosing rampart in the bailey were at the north-east end by the principal entrance into the castle. The rectangular bailey area measures c.70m by c.45m. The bailey area is divided into a number of small rectangular enclosed spaces around its perimeter by low earthen banks and masonry elements, with a large, presumably open, space in the centre, measuring at least 35m by 20m. Scatters of apparent building material were identified, including early post-medieval bricks, and some areas of mortared masonry *in situ* were recorded. The largest of the rectangular enclosed spaces was on the north, measuring c.24m by c.20m,

with a lower set, adjoining square enclosure measuring c.7m by 7m internally. At the north-west end of the bailey the enclosed areas adjoin two standing oval areas of rampart bank up to 3m in height, presumably representing the castle gatehouse. The intervening area between these two sections of rampart bank and adjoining enclosures measures 4m wide and 25m in length, and is likely to be the central passageway entrance into the castle bailey (Fig. 4). At the south-east end of the bailey, at the base of the motte, is a less well-defined rectangular enclosure roughly measuring c.30m by c.15m, which includes internally a well-preserved masonry-lined open well.



Figure 4. The entrance to the inner bailey viewed from the north-east, from a position in the outer bailey.

The castle is surrounded by a large ditch, varying in width from c.10-20m and up to 6m in depth. Around the south-western and north-western sides of the castle is a smaller outer ditch measuring c.7-14m wide, the outer of which partially consists of a counter-scarp bank. This outer ditch widens significantly on the south-western end as it reaches its terminus, at which stage a near-continuous stretch of bank runs up to the inner castle ditch, possibly indicating the existence of a rear entrance into the castle compound. Inside the inner and outer ditches of this area are a large face of rock-cut mudstone surface (Fig. 5), and possibly the origin of some of the masonry fragments still identifiable on the ground at Caus. The position of this rock outcrop suggests that it continues beneath the motte, and that the latter mound may have been built over an outcrop on the summit of the hill.



Figure 5. The rock-cut ditch on the west side of the motte.



Figure 6. An interpretive scheme of the castle layout, with the motte defined at the top of the complex, the inner bailey in the centre and the outer bailey at the bottom (A). This simple delineation would suggest that the outer bailey came into existence with the cutting of the second, outer ditch on the north side of the castle (shown in blue), but the evidence is so distorted that it is feasible that the outer bailey was an original feature of the first castle constructed on the site (original model by Adam Stanford).

One of the most interesting details recorded as part of the survey project are a number of slight depressions at the north-east end of the castle area. These seem to indicate the in-filled remnants of an outer ditch that would have enclosed a smaller outer bailey area (Fig 6: A). This interpretation is given

further support when considered as part of the wider castle layout, particularly its ditch system and the position of potential garden features on the south side of the castle discussed further below. It appears that this area of the castle has been heavily remodeled and the ground level potentially increased in height, possibly as part of the post-medieval investment in the site by the Thynne family. It has generally been assumed that the outer enclosure formed a large outer bailey to the castle, but this is potentially overturned by this new data.

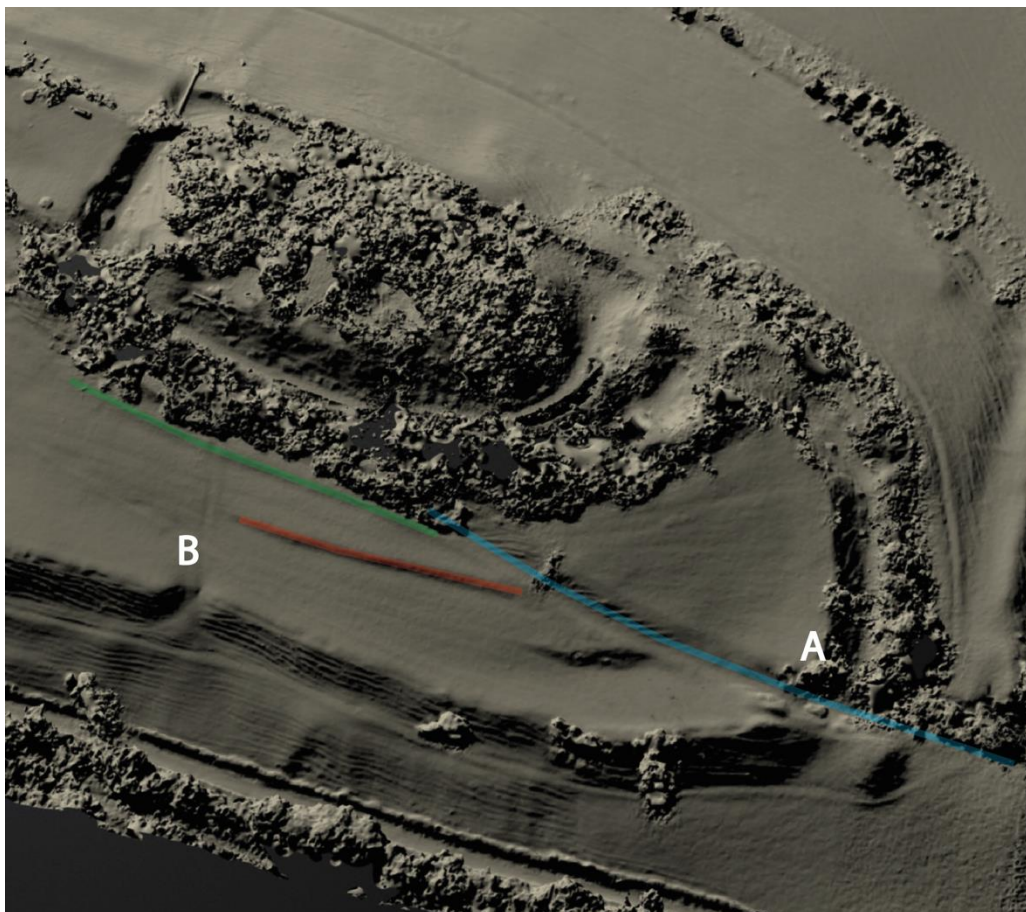


Figure 7. The western section of the outer enclosure. The deeply cut hollow-way (blue) into Caus through the Wallop Gate (A) appear to have been diverted slightly by the construction of the outer castle ditch, and replaced by a slighted terraced track (green). The function of large undated terrace (red) is unknown. A third entrance (B) into the outer enclosure possibly linked to the terraced track that can be skirting the outer rampart. The sharp terrace of another track bypassing Caus was recorded following the field boundary at the top right of the image (original model by Adam Stanford).

The Outer Enclosure

The large outer enclosure consists of an elongated D-shaped area across a low hilltop area, with its long axis on a north-east by south-west alignment. It is roughly 415m long and 135m wide, enclosing an area of some 4.7 ha, including the area taken up by the footprint of the castle. The long side of the enclosure follows the high ridge of the hill, with most of the internal area sloping down to the north-west. There are also two prominent rounded knolls on the hill, with the first immediately north-east of the castle and the second immediately west of the western entrance into the outer enclosure.

Primarily a steep outer scarp, with only intermittent sections of a visible outer ditch, defines the enclosure. Along much of the north-west face of the outer enclosure there is a terraced area beyond the outer scarp. This may be the remnant of an in-filled ditch, although it appears to have functioned as a trackway c.8m wide skirting the edge of the enclosure. A ditch does exist on the south-west and south-east faces of the enclosure, beginning on the south side of the Wallop Gate (Fig. 8). The ditch has been utilised as the outer ditch of the castle where its perimeter follows the line of the outer enclosure, potentially supporting the conjecture that the castle was built within a late-prehistoric hillfort, although the awkward junction between the two ditches could also have resulted from a later remodeling of the castle defences. A section

of the ditch immediately west of the castle has also been carefully infilled to create a long terraced area. On the north-east side of the castle a number of major scarps survive, but this area has been heavily landscaped as the surrounds of Caus Castle Farm, and it is therefore difficult to identify any potentially original sections of rampart or ditch associated with the outer enclosure, although the rock-cut driveway past the modern farm seems likely to have originated as part of the enclosure perimeter. The surviving sections of track and hollow-way in the interior of the outer enclosure would suggest that the principal entrance on the eastern side of the outer enclosure was near the high point at the easternmost corner of the outer enclosure. The western entrance to the outer enclosure is less ambiguous, with a large steep hollow-way leading up to it, and with a surviving section of masonry at what is known as the Wallop Gate. A subtle opening along the north-west face of the outer enclosure may be the remains of a minor access way into the enclosure via the terraced track discussed above (Fig. 7: B).



Figure 8. The Wallop Gate with a hollow-way leading westwards out of the castle into valley beyond. The slight masonry mains of the gate can be seen on the left of this image.

There is little evidence of a rampart around the outer enclosure. On the north-side of the Wallop Gate there is a 60m long section of low embankment which may represent the base of masonry walling, potentially with a small structure built against its inner face. A 35m long trace of embankment on the rising ground to the south-east of the Wallop Gate may also indicate the existence of a section of rampart or masonry walling. This may suggest that a wall or rampart was raised only around the western entrance to the outer enclosure.

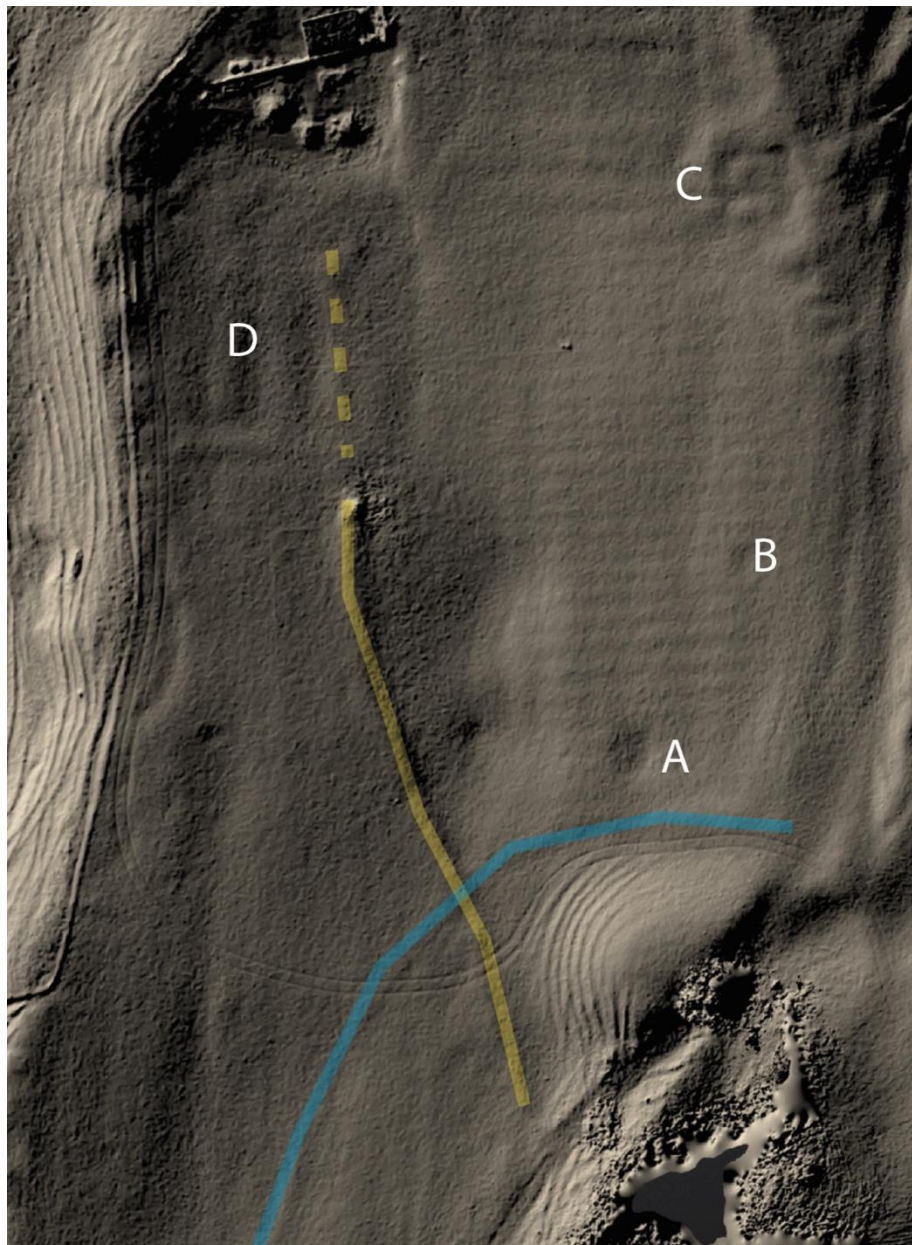


Figure 9. The eastern section of the outer enclosure. Possible structural remains can be identified (A and B) overlain by post-medieval ridge-and-furrow plough features, with large rectangular complexes also recorded (C and D). Some form of internal division or field boundary (yellow) curves across this area, while a track (blue) bypasses the castle and runs on toward the Wallop Gate. Note the issue of soil creep on the outer slopes on the right of the image (Original model by Adam Stanford).

The outer enclosure is crossed intermittently by a hollow way from west to east, leading from the Wallop Gate to the suggested eastern entrance. As the track runs through the enclosure from the west it is clearly cut by the counter-scarp bank of the castle's outer ditch (Fig. 7). It appears to be superseded at this stage by a slight terraced track following the alignment of the castle's counter-scarp bank. The lack of erosion along the route of this later track would suggest a more durable surface was laid, or that there was a notable decline of traffic along the principal through-road of the outer-enclosure after the construction of this section of castle ditch. At the eastern end of the castle enclosure the track-way cuts southward up the slope, seemingly joining the outer ditch of the castle, and potentially the original hollow-way. At this stage it cuts deeply through a natural knoll on the hill, following on to the apparent eastern entrance into the castle enclosure. A second, smaller terraced track follows around the outer side of the knoll, running across the outer enclosure following the northern perimeter around to the Wallop Gate (Fig. 9: blue feature). This track runs through an apparent gate opening in a curving bank that runs across part of the eastern side of the outer enclosure. The track would appear to be a later addition to the outer enclosure, carrying minor

traffic around the castle, presumably at a stage when the main axial route through the enclosure was closed to movement.

The most convincing archaeo-topographical evidence for possible settlement features associated with the documented borough of Caus has been identified in the eastern section of the outer enclosure (Fig. 9-10). Post-medieval agricultural activity, particularly the development of an area of narrow ridge-and-furrow, as well as possible landscaping relate to the late redevelopment of Caus Castle in the 16th century. The recorded evidence of settlement consists of scarps or depressions that may have functioned as structural platforms (Fig. 9: A-B), as well as more convincing rectangular forms (Fig. 9: C). However, there is no evidence of defined burgage plots, and it cannot be ruled out that these features may pre- or post-date the development of the borough.



Figure 10. An ENE view across the eastern part of the outer enclosure, from a position in the outer bailey of the castle. The principal eastern entrance into the outer enclosure is located on the right of the image, between the deciduous trees in leaf. Note the north-facing slopes of the enclosure interior.

There are few notable earthwork features in the western side of the interior of the outer enclosure. The large scarp running north-east by south-west is the exception, generally following the alignment of the castle defenses and the perimeter of the outer enclosure. A number of denuded scarps on similar alignments may relate to cultivation in this area. The most obvious feature is a large scarp running for c.90m and facing toward the north-west. At its south-west end it fades as it interfaces with the hollow-way that crosses the site, although there is no clear stratigraphic relationship. At the north-east end of the scarp a narrow ditch runs past down to a potential third entrance into the outer enclosure. The ditch may be the remnant of a path or a drain linked to the castle ditches.

The environs of Caus Castle

On the northern periphery of the outer enclosure is cut by a number of large pits, possibly related to the quarrying of stone. The large quarry cuts through the apparent track, which ran beneath the northern rampart of the outer enclosure, indicating that the latter feature had fallen out of use. The quarries appear to connect to the modern lane that runs around the northern edge of the site. It was reported that stone was taken from the castle for road surfaces in 18th and 19th centuries (VCH 1968, 309), although it is not specified whether it was for this local road, or whether this was a new road or the surfacing of an existing lane. The development of this lane, following the easier gradient above the stream to the north and the slopes of Caus to the south, bypassed the medieval settlement completely, and presumably came into existence after its abandonment in the 1700s. Following this line of thinking, it would seem that the quarries were also worked in the post-medieval period.

The development of Caus Castle Farm and the landscaping of the area around it have largely masked the eastern perimeter, although it is possible to conjecture the alignment. This would appear to be more

complex that other sections of the outer enclosure perimeter, with at least two lines of rampart and ditch, and possibly a third perimeter line marked by the broad scarp east of Caus Castle. Unfortunately the scale of post-medieval remodeling relating to the farm and nearby quarries has confused the archaeo-topographical evidence significantly. It is possible to conjecture that this apparent elaboration represents the principal façade of the outer enclosure that, if it was accepted as an Iron-Age hillfort in origin, might be comparable to more complex sites such as the western façade of Old Oswestry hillfort. East of the outer enclosure is slight evidence of probable medieval ridge-and-furrow cultivation, buried at its western end by the terrace of Caus Castle Farm. There is also the trace of a slight hollow-way running parallel to, and presumably a forerunner of, the modern paved road to Caus Castle.



Figure 11. The section of ditch along the southern side of the outer enclosure, possibly in-filled to create a garden terrace c.1600. Cattle have heavily treaded the surface of this area. The farm buildings of Caus Castle Farm can be seen in the top right of the image.

A number of interesting archaeo-topographical features were recorded on the slopes of the southern side of the outer enclosure. A large angular enclosure defined by slight banks was recorded running down from the section of outer ditch relating to the proposed outer bailey discussed above. Importantly, this latter section of ditch has been in-filled to create a broad terrace (Fig. 11). Inside the angular enclosure are the slight traces of ditches defining two rectangular areas, while in the southern corner of the enclosure is a deep cut, potentially a structural platform or an area of localized quarrying. It seems probable given the rectilinear form of these features and their south-facing aspect that they represent formal garden earthworks associated with Caus Castle (Fig. 12). It is tempting to assume these are connected with its redevelopment c.1600 under the Thynne family, particularly given the remodeling of the outer castle ditch into a garden terrace suggesting a significant abandonment of the defendable potential of the site. It is also possible, given the location of these features, that the principal Thynne residence may have been built on the terrace of outer bailey looking down over this ornamental landscape, and the buildings of the inner bailey may have been kept as an ancillary complex.

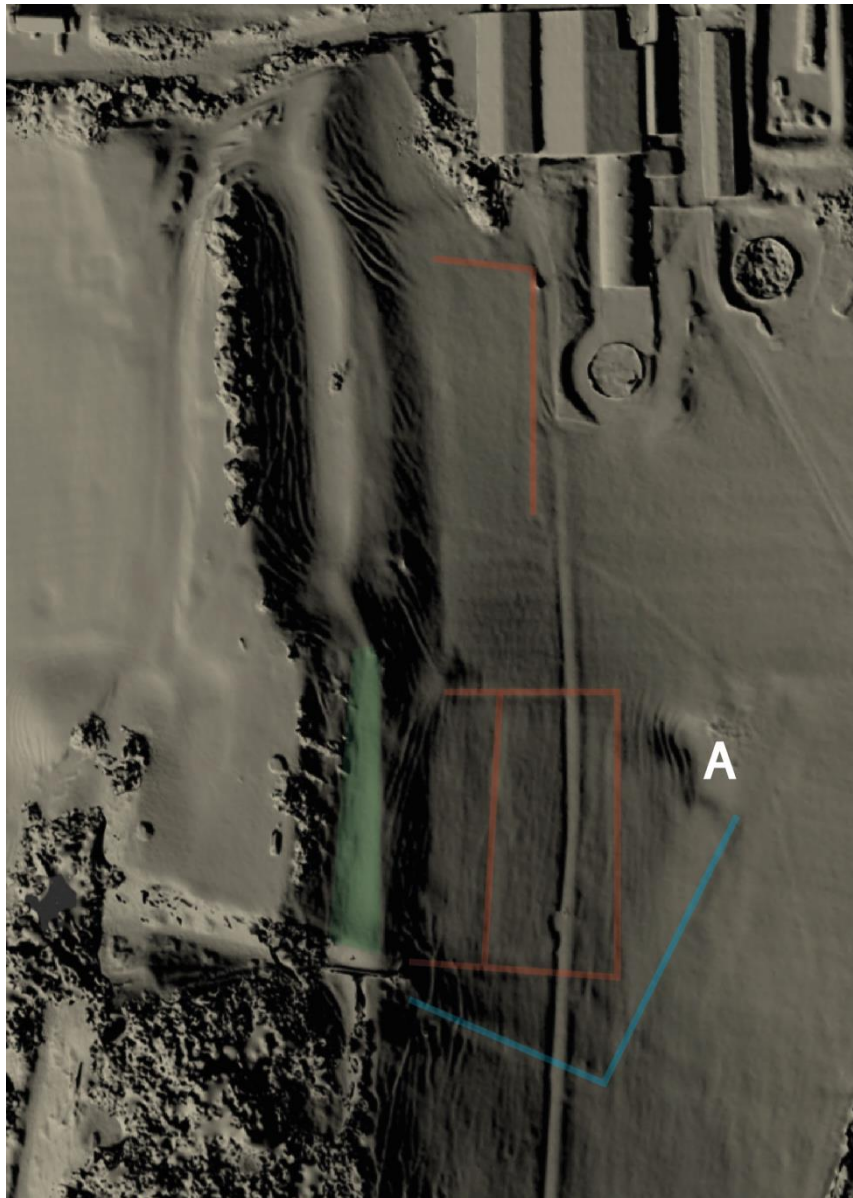


Figure 12. Ornamental garden features on the south side of the outer enclosure. The in-filled ditch of the outer enclosure (green) fronts on to two rectangular enclosures (red) with a third possibly to the NE. A larger, potentially earlier enclosure (blue) is also recorded, with a structural platform or quarry (A) at its terminus. Traces of post-medieval ridge and furrow cut over parts of this area, which in turn is cut by a deeply-terraced track running from top to bottom across this image (Original model by Adam Stanford).

A later sharply cut terraced track-way cuts across this area, running from the modern farm buildings of Caus Castle Farm around to the western approach to the outer enclosure. This may be an ornamental route linked to Caus Castle Farm, but alternatively may be an attempt to create a new road bypassing the undulating medieval route through the outer enclosure, prior to the construction of the modern road on the north side of Caus in the 19th century.

More unexpected was the identification of a deeply cut terrace running along parallel to the modern field boundary on the south side of Caus (Fig. 13). Running from the western side of the enclosure, the feature gradually reduces in size as the gradient of the hillside reduces. Its route cannot be detected beyond the environs of Caus, but given its orientation it is tempting to see it as the remains of a well-used route-way toward Hawcock's Mount. Interestingly, this deeply-incised track would have bypassed Caus, not unlike the possible track running parallel to the outer-enclosure perimeter on the north side of the site.



Figure 13. The sharp terrace of a track that runs along the south side of Caus, bypassing the settlement, and seemingly running eastward in the direction of Hawcock's Mount.

DISCUSSION

An Iron Age hillfort?

It has long been assumed that the outer settlement enclosure at Caus originated in the Iron Age as a hillfort enclosure, although no conclusive evidence has been collected to support this theory. Unfortunately the present survey is still unable to resolve this particular question. It is the absence of any morphologically distinct features commonly recorded on Iron Age hillforts that prevents any conclusive statement in favour of a late prehistoric construction date for the outer enclosure. The eastern ramparts and entrance into the enclosure have been completely remodeled by the development of Caus Castle Farm, preventing any detailed assessment. The western entrance appears to have been significantly remodeled in the medieval period with the development of the Wallop Gate, although the bifurcation of the western rampart at its southern end, creating a rampart, ditch and large counter-scarp bank, is a feature commonly found on hillfort sites. The rampart on the long northern edge of the enclosure consists of a minimal adaptation of the natural slope. There is little suggestion of a rampart bank, and while a terraced track recorded running parallel to the north of the enclosure edge could be the reconstructed form of an infilled outer ditch, this is an unconvincing interpretation on the basis of the available evidence. Adaptation of the southern rampart linked to the medieval castle prevents assessment of that aspect, although it would appear that there was no continuous outer ditch to the enclosure.

It therefore remains feasible that Caus Castle was developed on the site of an Iron Age hillfort. There are some broader points that encourage this idea, such as the north-facing aspect of the hill, which would appear an odd choice of location for the development of a virgin medieval settlement. It is hoped that future research might provide a definitive answer to the question of late prehistoric occupation at Caus.

Caus Castle

The motte-and-bailey complex of Caus Castle has not previously been subject to a detailed topographical survey, while the mature tree copse that covers this section of the site has prevented any assessment of

the site via aerial imagery. The massive motte of the castle is particularly impressive. Masonry features poorly re-set on the crest of the motte are likely to relate to the post-medieval erection of some form of folly, although traces of wall footings below confirms the likelihood that a masonry structure was built at some stage of the medieval period. The earthwork evidence also suggests that there may have been a doorway or access point on the west side of the motte i.e. that it could be reached from across the impressive western defensive ditches. More conclusive is the terrace constructed in the southern side of the motte, apparently creating an access way to a previously unrecognized western entrance to the castle bailey.

There is no evidence remaining of a ditch separating the motte from the castle bailey, although it is possible that such a feature has been in-filled as part the redevelopment of the bailey area. The recorded form of the castle bailey gives an indication of its forms in its later phases of its occupation, a sub-rectangular area with a series of structures around its edge demarcating an apparently open central rectangular courtyard. At its eastern end are two embanked areas, possibly the remnants of the original castle rampart, which mark the main the entrance to the castle, with a narrow entrance passageway surviving between the two sections of earth bank. It has previously been argued that twin D-shaped towers exist in this location. A reconsideration of the earthwork evidence would suggest it was a single tower frontage with curved corner, perhaps comparable to the Constable's Gate at Dover Castle, albeit the a doorway offset to the north.

The gate tower included a number of rectangular ground floor rooms to the rear, which form part of the courtyard suite of the bailey. There is no evidence of a rampart in any other part of the bailey, and they may have been removed as part of a reworking of the bailey to create a more open space, as appears to have been the case at major castles such as Wallingford Castle (Oxon.). The structures on the northern side of the courtyard are poorly preserved, although there are some areas of surviving walls outcropping among the earthwork features. On the southern side, the well-preserved remains of a long rectangular structure with a distinct ancillary building at its western end are almost certainly the great hall complex of the castle. On the southern side of the remains of at least one wall outside and perpendicular to the outer wall face of the hall, which may be evidence of a buttress, or possibly an additional structure built into the slope of the castle ditch. As with the motte, south-facing windows in the hall structure would have afforded extensive views across the Rea Brook valley and to the Corbet hunting grounds on the Stiperstone Hills. At the western end of the bailey at the base of the motte are the remains of the deep shaft of a well-built, stone-lined well, possibly built into the remnant of a ditch that may have originally been cut between the motte and the bailey. The amorphous earthwork evidence possibly indicates that the well was set internally within a large rectangular structure, potentially some form of fore building to the motte.

The castle is enclosed by a single ditch on its southern side, increasing to a double-ditch on its other three sides. This second outer ditch is likely to have been a later addition to the castle complex as it cuts across the original hollowed track that crosses the large outer enclosure of Caus, unless this was a feature that had developed prior to the construction of the castle (i.e. as part of an earlier Iron-Age hillfort). The southern section of the outer ditch also includes an outer counter-scarp bank, as well as traces of a terraced track parallel, possibly replacing the earlier hollow-way cut by the ditch.

The most important addition that the present survey has made to the understanding of Caus Castle is the potential outer bailey enclosure at the north-east end of the castle complex. That an inner and outer bailey existed at the castle is confirmed by their appearance in documentary records during the medieval period (VCH 1968, 309-10), but it has been generally assumed that the large outer enclosure formed the outer bailey. The identification of the smaller outer bailey, largely masked by late medieval and early post-medieval landscaping, overturns this earlier hypothesis. This area may also be the site of the principal mansion at Caus dating to the period of re-investment in the sited in the 16th century, although further work is needed in this area. It may be possible, however, to tentatively begin to speculate on the location of various structures discussed in accounts relating to Caus Castle. Reference is made above to the 'Wolvesgate' postern on the south-west side of the castle, while stables and kennels are recorded in the

outer bailey in the 14th century, with this area also possibly containing a barbican and associated structures linked to the main gate into the inner bailey (VCH 1968, 309).

The Borough of Caus

The results of the survey would suggest that the bulk of evidence relating to the documented borough settlement at Caus was largely confined to the eastern section of the outer enclosure. Unfortunately later landscaping and agricultural activity have further masked the evidence in this area. This has left only traces of structural platforms and other slight features associated with the settlement. These features also appear to cluster toward the southern part of the site, and more features may be buried beneath the apparent terracing along the line of the south-eastern rampart. This is not surprising given that the north-facing aspect of the site would have given the settlement limited exposure to sunlight, particularly compared to the slopes on the south side of the enclosure. This may have had an impact on the long-term sustainability of the settlement, particularly as it would have inhibited the growth of horticultural products on burgage plots. Space along the south side of the enclosure may therefore have been at a premium, and at its largest there may have been properties in the castle bailey, as well as possibly in extra-mural locations to the east of the outer enclosure in the area now occupied by the modern farm.

FUTURE RESEARCH

A number of areas in and around Caus should be highlighted as high potential areas for future research. Further geophysical survey, particularly electrical resistance, is encouraged in the castle interior to further elaborate on the arrangement of buildings and the scale of sub-surface deposit survival. In the inner bailey such a survey may indicate whether there was formerly a ditch separating this enclosure from the adjacent motte. The suggested outer bailey could have even greater potential, not only in terms of confirming the existence of an outer ditch enclosing this area, but also the layout of late medieval and post-medieval buildings that may have been raised in this area once it was landscaped. The adjacent 'gardens' would also benefit from additional geophysical data.

At a broader level there is a clear need for further research into the wider settlement patterns of this region in which to set Caus. This should include all forms of settlement, including castle sites such as Hawcock's Mount and the various fortifications further up the Rea Brook valley, as well as settlements such as Westbury, Worthen and smaller dispersed habitations. A more informed understanding of the medieval landscape will allow researchers to draw even more from the range of evidence provided by this CST-funded programme of research.

CONCLUSIONS

The integrated archaeo-topographical survey of Caus has significantly advanced understanding of this major medieval complex. It has provided a range of details about the form of the motte-and-bailey castle and its development, including the investment made in developing it as a residence and associated gardens by the Thynne family c.1600. A number of significant interpretations have been developed in relation to the main castle site, particularly the identification of a possible outer bailey, the structural layout of the inner bailey, a potential entrance at the rear of the castle and the late development of ornamental gardens associated with the site. In association with geophysical survey of the site, it has also allowed the elements of the medieval borough settlement to be identified, which seem to be largely confined to north-west end of the outer enclosure. Some of the project questions cannot be conclusively answered, in particular as to whether the outer enclosure originated as an Iron-Age hillfort, although several new observations have been made on the subject. The survey has also raised a number of new questions for future research to explore, and it is clear that Caus still has a major research potential for future studies of the medieval landscape.

It should be noted that Caus Castle is on private land and there is no access to the majority of the site discussed in this report.

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The photogrammetric survey model by Aerial Cam can be explored at:

<https://sketchfab.com/models/f9b556632b7d496eb25acab738eeb987#>

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